



The Meckiffs of Mentone

The name Meckiff is synonymous with Mentone, in particular with the Mentone Presbyterian Church. A sign in Mentone's main street points the way to the Hogben-Meckiff Oval and another not far away indicates where to find the Walter Meckiff Hall.

The story begins in 1910 when Frederick Whitehead brought his family to live at 36 Milan Street Mentone, in the holiday house he and his two sons had erected. Fred also had a nine-year-old daughter, Vera May. As a young woman in the early 1920s she could not help noticing a strapping young man who had moved into 44 Milan Street with his parents. His name was Walter John Meckiff. They were married in 1941 and moved into a house at 34 Milan Street next door to her parents. Walter's family lived just up the street, an illustration of the small town relationships that existed here in the twenties.

Walter and Vera had three children: Don, Ian and Margaret. All three went to the Mentone Primary School, the boys remembering the schoolyard trenches and the typhoid epidemic. Even though they did well at school the Meckiff name was to become associated mostly with sporting exploits from that time on.

Ian Meckiff commenced his cricket career as a left-arm spin bowler, his 'leggies' bamboozling many batsmen. In one game he took nine wickets for one run. He routed whole teams, took a hat trick, and his 200 wickets were gained at an average of just over 4.5. He played Test Cricket between 1957 and 1963 by which time he had changed from spin to fast bowling. His bowling action raised the ire of certain umpires who claimed he was throwing not bowling the ball which earned him the name "Chucker Meckiff". Then came the controversial match against South Africa at Brisbane late in 1963. Col Egar, the Australian umpire called him for throwing a number of times and the captain, Benaud, had no option other than to stop bowling him. This effectively ended Ian Meckiff's career. There were many who thought the authorities had conspired to do just that, but no-one would admit anything and Ian dropped out of the game.



Front: Vera and Walter
Rear: Ian, Margaret & Don



The Meckiffs were also tireless workers in the Mentone Presbyterian Church, Walter being Sunday Superintendent for some 31 years. Typical of the 1950's the church was experiencing a boom in church and Sunday School attendances and in 1956 produced a document "Advancing our Heritage". Centrepiece of the document was the vision of a new church and community hall. The title of land for the new hall at the rear of the church in Eblana Ave bears the names Walter Meckiff and Harry Roy as joint owners, land which they eventually gave to the church.

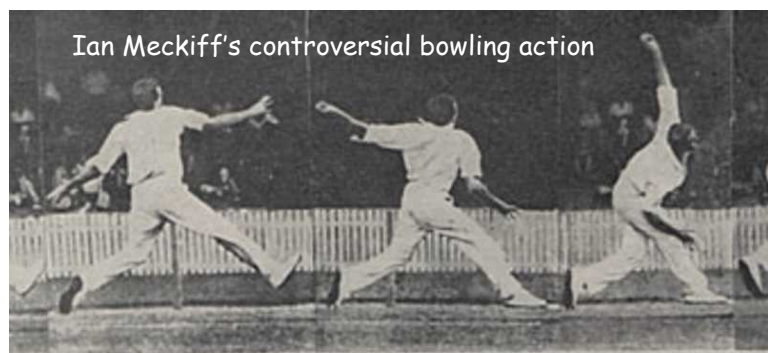
At 3pm on Saturday 25th July 1959 of the Davies Memorial Presbyterian Hall, Mentone was officially dedicated by the Presbytery of Melbourne South. The Hall was subsequently named the "Walter Meckiff Hall" in recognition of the devoted and sterling work of Walter Meckiff.

The Walter Meckiff Hall has served the church well for over half a century, but like all things old it has fallen into disrepair with faulty electrical wiring, leaking roofs, etc. The last major function in the hall was 10 years ago when 95 members of the Mordialloc Light Opera Company packed the hall to celebrate the 70th birthday of an esteemed member. It continued to be used by a dance school until 2015. Although little used for some years, the property has been valued at close to \$3.5 million.

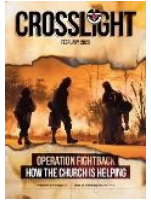
Proceeds from the forthcoming sale of the property will help to fund the new Cheltenham development, the remainder will be distributed for use in the wider church. I'm sure 'Wally' Meckiff would be thrilled to see his vision 'advanced'.



The Walter Meckiff Hall



Ian Meckiff's controversial bowling action



CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT are available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church.

Prayers of the People



We pray for all in need especially -

Rev Shirley Coxhell and family
Helen Cole
Joyce Curnow
Hala
Elna (Joan's sister)
Virginia (Nan's friend)
Betty Kneen
Pete, Christine, Ben, Bruce & Valda (Jo-ann & David's friends)

Stuart as he struggles with addiction
Jenny, Janine and June
Bartholomeusz
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Anita and Kingsley
Rosemary & Bob
Susan Bartell
Bronwyn

Gloria, Samson & Family
Barb Loosemore and brother
Isobel Churchward
Gemma and Teresa
Sybil Bond
Grace Fairbank
All our members who are suffering from COVID.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham, please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881**

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"

The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active for the time being.

Cheltenham-Mentone Members: Please bear in mind that although we are worshipping at Black Rock, the expenses of electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and Minister's stipend are still ongoing at Cheltenham.

MUTS: Our next MUTS meeting will be on Monday 8th August, 2022 - Discussion on Lectionary passages from Hebrews. On Zoom (see separate email) but you are also welcome to come to 1/10 Harpley St, Cheltenham if you want to be face to face. Contact Jenny or Grant Collins on 9583 6156 or jacngrant@gmail.com

Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**

Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download> Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230 Passcode: 836844**
You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.



Videos on the Internet



YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_LezegzNZi6nnQ to view a selection of **over 50** sermons and service preludes



Laughter is the best



St Thomas' Anglican, Bunyip



Our Op Shop needs help

Dear Cheltenham-Mentone Uniting Church,
Greetings! St Augustine's Op Shop in Mentone is inviting members of our local congregations to join our team of volunteers. It's fun opportunity to serve our community and be a loving presence in our shopping village. It also raises funds for your church: our op shop donates to your congregation already, and with each additional volunteer our donation will increase!

I wonder if you would be willing to let your congregation know that this opportunity is open right now? I've attached two documents - a sign advertising our venture, and a roster where people can choose what time/s might suit them. Then we will be in touch if you can please scan the sign-up after several weeks and email it back to me.

Thanks so much for partnering with us,

Libby Paddle
Secretary, St Augustine's
Op Shop
0403 424 404

*Click on image opposite to see full Roster.
Please contact Libby Paddle direct if you can help.*



St Augustine's Op Shop Opportunities

Shifts Available – Week of the month	Name	Phone
9.30am – 1pm or 1-4.30pm		
2nd Wednesday morning		
2nd Wednesday afternoon		
2nd Thursday afternoon		
2nd Friday afternoon		
3rd Monday morning		



invite you to join us at the 5th season

The Jewel by the Sea

2022

WRITTEN BY
Cheryl Threadgold

DIRECTED BY
Debbie Keyt

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
Kristy de la Rambelya



**1ST - 17TH
SEPTEMBER**

THURSDAY 1ST - VIP GALA NIGHT 8PM

A creative portrayal of Charles Hotson Ebden's time during the planning, building and life at Black Rock House, 1854-1861.

*Presented in intimate cabaret style in Tamar's Tearoom
BYO refreshments, nibbles, glasses, plates & napkins*



TICKETS \$30 Adults, \$25 Concession, \$20 Children (16 & under)

<https://www.trybooking.com/CBICE>

Enquiries - friendsofblackrockhouse@gmail.com

Black Rock House, 30-36 Ebden Ave, Black Rock

