

PRINCESS



ALEXANDRA



**HERITAGE
PEOPLE
SERIES**

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

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CONTENTS

The background of the entire page is a faded, grayscale image of a classical building. It features a prominent portico with a pediment supported by columns. In the center of the portico, a statue of a woman in classical attire is visible. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a lawn in the background.

INTRODUCTION

TIMELINE

GALLERY

ESPLASH

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Name: Alexandra
Born: 1 December 1844 Denmark
Died: 20 November 1925
Married: 1863 St George Chapel
Spouse: King Edward VII

Princess Alexandra was the Queen Consort of the United Kingdom, the British Dominions from 1901 and the Empress of India until 1910. Her husband was King Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria.



History of Alexandra

The township of Alexandra was originally referred to as *Red Gate Diggings*, along with other names that included *Red Gate*, *Eglinton* and the *Mount Pleasant Run at Eglinton*. 'Red Gate' referenced a red painted gate located along the old chock and log fence that once separated the Eglinton and Mount Pleasant sheep runs. 'Diggings' referenced alluvial and deep reef gold mining established around the area of the gate and ford over the Ultima Thule Creek (UT Creek) located just metres away. This gate was located along the only track in and out of the district at that time.

The gold rush to Alexandra commenced almost immediately after the discovery of a broken piece of crystal showing gold was found on the track over Mount Pleasant by Alex McGregor and Sandy Don. Early town surveyor John Downey pegged and registered the claim for them at the Jamieson Warden's Office in June 1866.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Naming of Alexandra

In early 1867 the quickly developing township of *Red Gate Diggings* was to be officially proclaimed *Eglinton*. This was the name written on surveyor John Downey's 1867 survey map and in his field note book (No. 1). However when the proclamation forms reached the government of the day in Melbourne, the name had been changed to *Alexandra* (after Queen Alexandra (Queen Consort of England)). The name Alexandra was ratified on 24 April 1867.

Early examination of the original survey map supplied to the government is reported to have shown a small slip of paper covering the name *Eglinton*. The slip had the name *Alexandra* written on it. The reason for this change and who was responsible - is unknown.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



Princess Alexandra

Alexandra was born *Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julia* at Copenhagen, Denmark in 1845, one of five sisters. One of her siblings later became the Queen of Norway and another the Empress of Russia. Often referred to as “Alix” by family and friends, she and her siblings would often sit with Hans Christian Anderson who would read them bedtime stories.

When she was 16 years old, she was chosen as the future wife for the Prince of Wales (Albert Edward). They married 16 months later (1863) at St George Chapel, Windsor Castle. In 1901 after the death of Prince Edward's mother Queen Victoria, he ascended to the throne as King Edward VII, King of England. Princess Alexandra was then known as 'Queen Consort' (wife of a reigning King) of England. She was described at this time as being a beautiful and slender lady with a perfect complexion. She was noted as having lovely mannerisms befitting a Queen and an extremely good fashion sense.

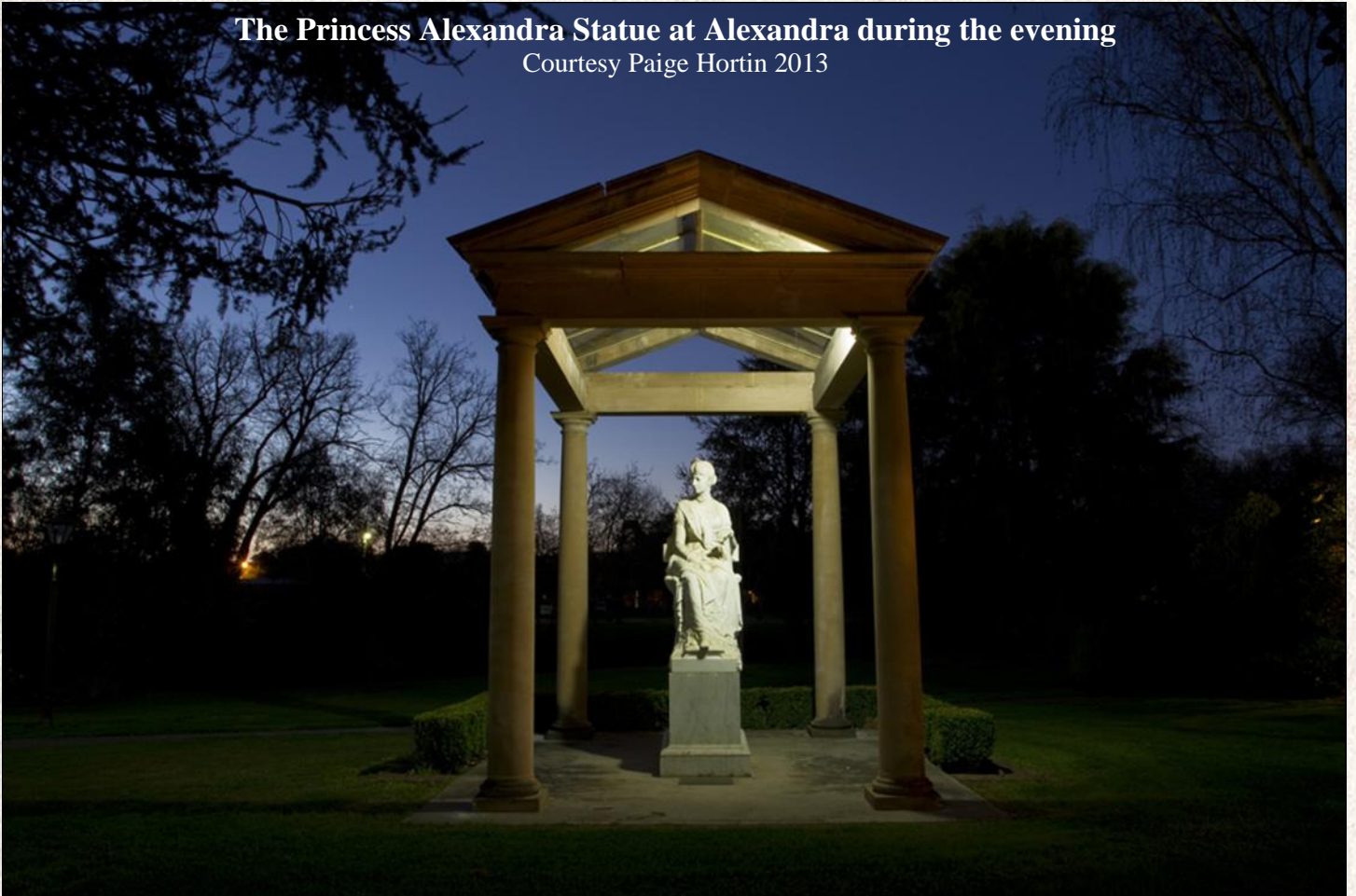
They had six children, however their sixth child (Alexander John) died within 24 hours of birth. Their second son (George) became King George V after his father's death.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

The Princess Alexandra Statue at Alexandra during the evening

Courtesy Paige Hortin 2013



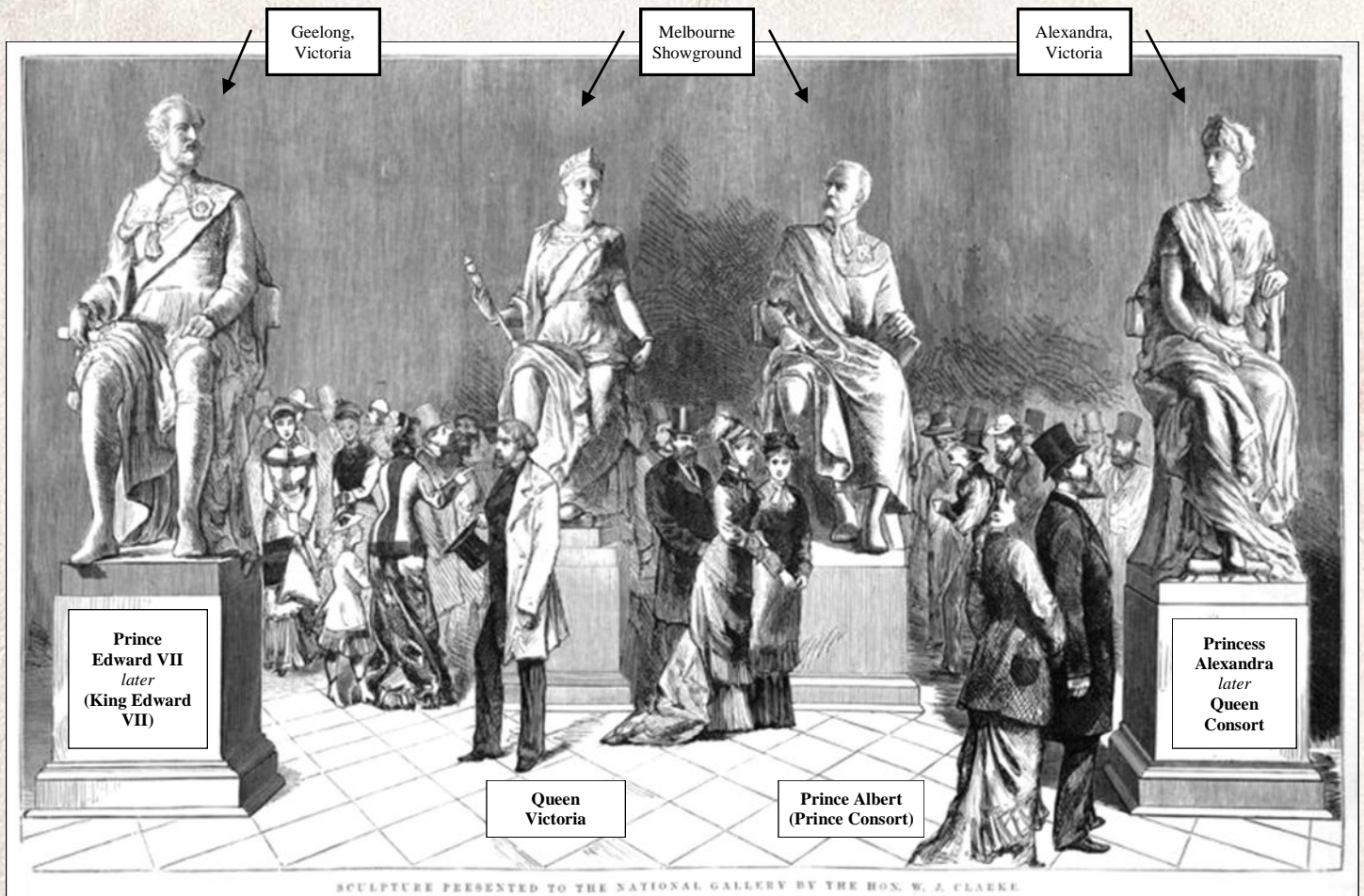
During her husband's reign, Alexandra was mainly restricted to charitable works and had little effective influence in the affairs of her day. She did however become widely known for her generosity, reportedly often embarrassing her financial advisors with her broad ranging expenditure.

Alexandra suffered from an increasing degree of deafness caused by hereditary otosclerosis. This led to her slowly withdrawing from public life and spending more time with her children and her pets. Princess Alexandra reached 80 years before dying of a heart attack in 1925 - just weeks before her 81st birthday.

Alexandra is remembered for her fine dress sense which was an example to women worldwide. She was also noted for her constant charitable work and even visited Joseph Merrick (the elephant man) who had led an horrific life - due to his afflictions. This was reminiscent of Diana the Princess of Wales, who often mixed with Aids' sufferers and those that were down and out.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



Sculptor Charles Summers

In 1876 Charles Summers was commissioned by wealthy landowner, stud breeder and philanthropist Sir William John Clarke to produce four statues: Queen Victoria, her spouse Prince Albert, their son Prince Edward (later King Edward VII), and his spouse Princess Alexandra of Denmark. All were crafted in Rome from white Italian marble, completed by August 1878, and accepted by the Museum of Art of the Melbourne National Gallery in November 1878. They, along with a number of other works which included Melbourne's Guardian Angel, were the last artistic works completed by artist Charles Summers. Charles died on 30 November 1878 in Paris – three weeks after what was considered a successful operation for an enlarged thyroid gland.

Today the Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (consort) statues are on permanent loan to the Royal Agricultural Society and are on display at the Melbourne Showgrounds. The King Edward VII statue is positioned at Geelong's Customs House on the corner of Moorabool and Brougham Streets. The statue of his wife Princess Alexandra is at Jack

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

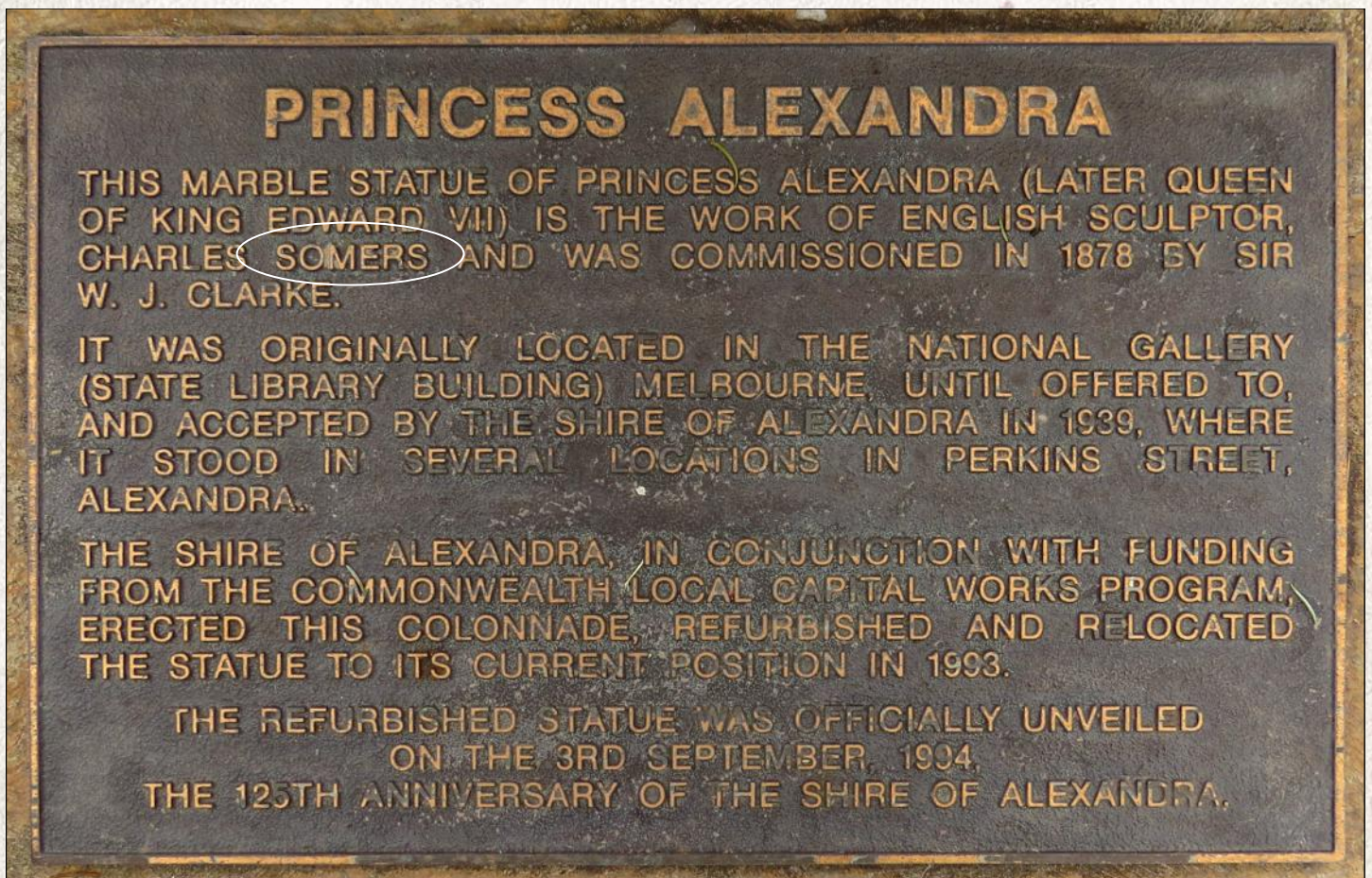
INTRODUCTION

Shiel Garden (opposite the Shire Offices) in the Central Victorian rural township of Alexandra.

Princess Alexandra gifted to Alexandra township

In the late 1930s the Princess Alexandra statue was offered to the township of Alexandra as a gift. After official acceptance, the statue was re-located in 1939 to Alexandra and placed beside the rear of the Shire Hall on Perkins Street before being moved to an open garden area located directly behind the library (near a former toilet block). The statue was officially unveiled at Alexandra on 28 July 1939 (with no colonnade).

In 1993 the Statue was cleaned and unveiled under a new Colonnade built by Con Appelman, which was financed under the Centennial Awards. The statue was also



**Memorial Plaque found at the feet of Princess Alexandra.
Note that 'Summers' is incorrectly spelt 'Somers'.**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

relocated to a new location in Jack Shiel Gardens (150 metres further east along Perkins Street). The official unveiling was conducted by the last serving President of the Shire of Alexandra, just prior to the 1994 amalgamation of the Alexandra and Yea Shires, creating the Shire of Murrindindi.

A plaque at the base of the statue described in some detail the statue, sculptor and the unveiling. Regretfully, the sculptor's surname (Summers) was misspelt (Somers).

Today the professionally maintained and picturesque Jack Shiel Gardens includes a sturdy concrete walk bridge (opened 28 October 2011) that spans the Ultima Thule Creek, and a beautiful brick pathway that winds through the garden past the stunning Princess Alexandra Statue - which remains the centrepiece of the garden.

In April 2015, the statue and colonnade were restored by Object Conservator Samantha Hamilton. The shire media release read:

"The statue, made of white Italian marble has undergone restoration works to preserve her form. Object Conservator Samantha Hamilton completed the delicate work over a period of two months and used a number of techniques and instruments during the restoration. The statue was mechanically cleaned with a range of brushes, erasers and cloths to remove dirt, cobwebs, insect casings and surface markings. Graffiti, texta and crayon markings were removed and reduced with suitable solvents. Further cleaning removed ingrained dirt and reduced iron staining. It was decided that minor, non structural losses in the marble would be left as filling would detract from the natural beauty of the stone and mask the history of the object.

The surrounding colonnade was also cleaned, drainage issues at the base of the portico were addressed and structural repair works were carried out by IG Parker Stonemasons."

Princess
Alexandra



Sculptor
Charles Summers

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1 December 1844** Princess Alexandra born (Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julia) in Copenhagen, Denmark, one of five sisters.
- 24 September 1961** Albert Edwards was introduced to Princess Alexandra for the first time.
- 1861** Princess Alexandra was chosen as the wife of Prince of Wales, Albert Edward.
- 9 September 1862** Edward Albert proposed to Princess Alexandra.
- 10 March 1863** Crown Prince Edward married Princess Alexandra at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, United Kingdom.
- 8 January 1864** First child born: Albert Victor.
- 3 June 1865** Second child born: George Frederick Ernest Albert. He later became King George V (1910 - 1936).
- 20 February 1867** Third child born: Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar. Princess Alexandra contracted rheumatic fever during the pregnancy—leaving her with a permanent limp.
- 6 July 1868** Forth child born: Victoria Alexandra Olga Mary.
- 26 November 1869** Fifth child born: Maud Charlotte Mary Victoria.
- 6 April 1871** Sixth child born: Alexander John (born prematurely and died the following day).
- 1877** A statue of Princess Alexandra as well as three others were commissioned by Sir William John Clarke. The statues were located in the grounds of the State Library building (National Gallery). The English sculptor was Charles Summers.
- 30 November 1878** Charles died in Paris.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1901** Queen Victoria died. Prince Edward ascended to the throne as King Edward the VII.
- 22 January 1901** King Edward accession to the Thrown.
- 26 June 1902** King Edward VII Coronation.
- 1902** Australia releases a two sided coin celebrating the coronation of King Edward (later in this factsheet).
- 1901 - 1910** Queen Consort Alexandra (wife of the reigning King).
- 6 May 1910** King Edward VII died aged 68. He was buried St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle 20 May 1910.
- 20 November 1925** Princess Alexandra died of a heart attack at Sandringham aged 80.
- 28 November 1925** Princess Alexandra was laid to rest in an elaborate tomb beside her husband at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.
- 1939** The Princess Alexandra Statue was relocated from the grounds of the State Library of Victoria to Alexandra.
- 28 July 1939** The Princess Alexandra Statue was officially unveiled at Perkins Street, Alexandra. It was located behind the Library near the former public toilet block.
- 21 August 1970** The Alexandra Library wrote to the National Gallery of Victoria seeking information on the Princess Alexandra Statue.
- 4 September 1970** The National Gallery of Victoria responded to a request for information on the Princess Alexandra Statue. See later in this factsheet for their response.
- 1993** The Princess Alexandra Statue was repositioned to the new Jack



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Shiel Garden (150 metres from her former site behind the library). A new Colonnade was built by Con Appelman to protect it from the elements and it was officially unveiled 3 September 1994. A plaque located at her feet has 'Summers' incorrectly spelt 'Somers'.

2015

The Shire of Murrindindi commissioned object conservator Samantha Hamilton to restore the Princess Alexandra Statue. The colonnade was cleaned and structural repairs were made to make it safe. Drainage issues at the base were also addressed.

2009

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.

20 November 2014

The King Edward VII statue at Geelong was unveiled at its new location on a new plinth beside the Geelong Customs House. It was previously located at the Council depot where its head was stolen. The head was replaced at a cost of \$50,000 by sculptor Jane Valentine. The money was raised by the City of Greater Geelong and businessman Frank Costa.

April 2015

The statue and colonnade were restored by Object Conservator Samantha Hamilton.

25 October 2016

Rex Tate, who first promoted the Princess Alexandra Statue to Artworkz and was possibly the towns strongest admirer of her, passed away during the morning of Tuesday 25 October 2016 at Eildon's Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home. We first commenced work on this factsheet in 2009 - as the direct result of Rex's oral history. At that time, this factsheet was only our fourth, however as of Rex's passing, our factsheets number 349, with many being influenced by Rex.

24 April 2017

Alexandra celebrated their 150th year since the township was ratified as Alexandra 24 April 1867.

9 February 2024

Statue decapitated overnight. Police investigation commenced.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A 1864 portrait of Alexandra by Franz Xaver Winterhalter

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**King Edward VII and Princess Alexandra (Prince and Princess of Wales at the time)
with their second child - King Edward V - on his mother's knee**

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

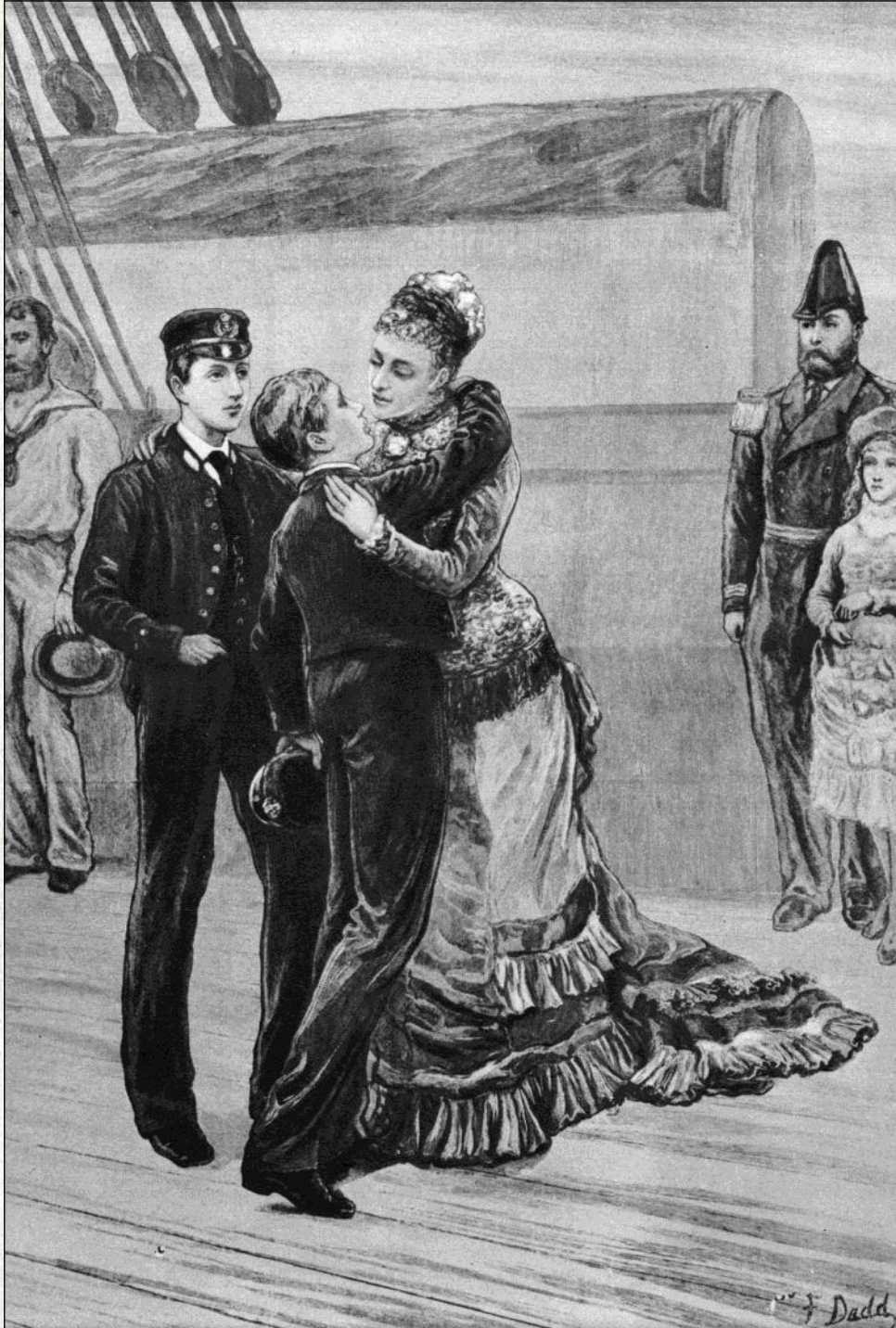


**Alexandra (right) with her mother (centre) and
eldest daughter Princess Louise (left) in 1893**

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**Princess Alexandra is welcomed home by her family after
a long voyage to West Indies**

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A young Queen Alexandra

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Alexandra, circa 1889

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Alexandra, circa 1890

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at the opening of the King's first Parliament on 14 February 1901.

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Queen Consort Alexandra to King Edward VII is seen here, second from left, entertaining the Tsar of Russia

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

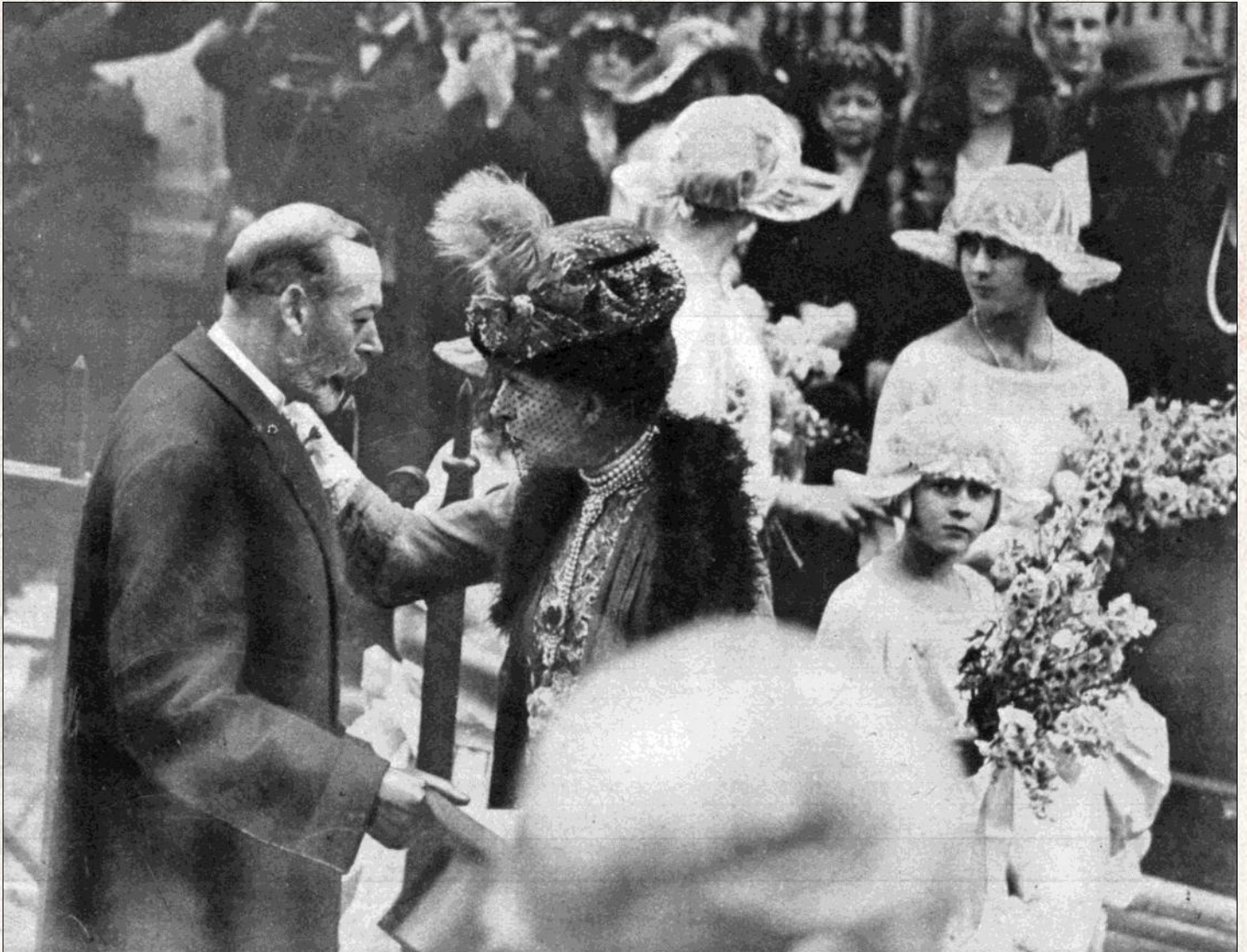


**Princess Alexandra (on the right) with her son King George V at the wedding of
Lady Mary Cambridge**

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Mother and son (King George V)

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



This image is taken in 1923, and includes four generations of British Royalty. Great grandmother, Princess Alexandra is on the right, and her second son, King George V on the left.

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Alexandra's son, King George V, at his favourite sport

Courtesy Wayne & Jo Miller 2011

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Princess Alexandra, as a married woman in her forties

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

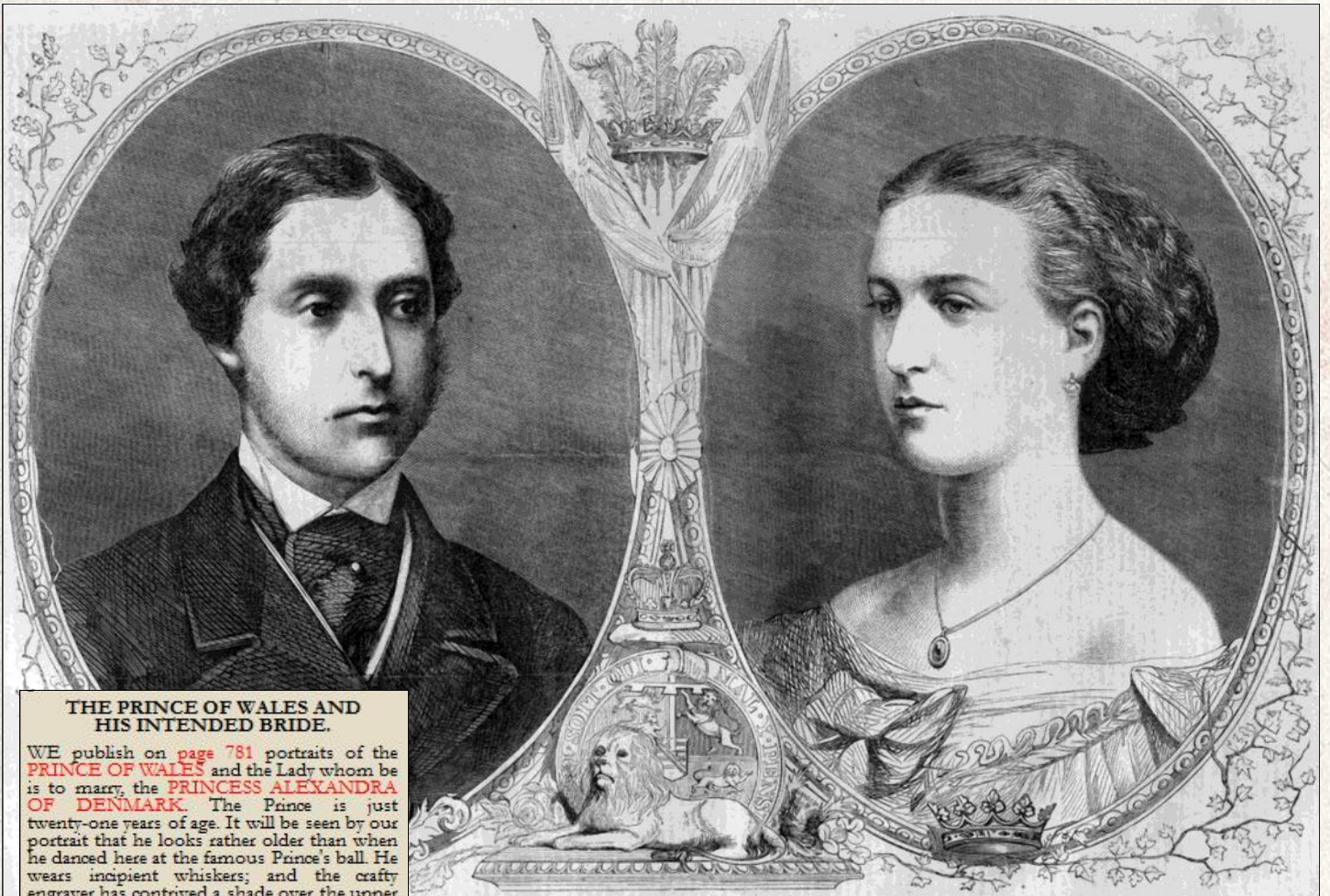
GALLERY



Princess Alexandra (left) with daughter Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



THE PRINCE OF WALES AND HIS INTENDED BRIDE.

WE publish on [page 781](#) portraits of the **PRINCE OF WALES** and the Lady whom he is to marry, the **PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF DENMARK**. The Prince is just twenty-one years of age. It will be seen by our portrait that he looks rather older than when he danced here at the famous Prince's ball. He wears incipient whiskers; and the crafty engraver has contrived a shade over the upper lip which may perhaps pass for a mustache. He is understood to have been kept busy since he left here, in study and travel, and has no doubt a well-stored mind.

The following account of the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, the future Queen of England, will doubtless be read with interest;

"Princess Alexandra, who was born December 1, 1844, is the second child and eldest daughter of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, heir-expectant to the Danish throne, and of Princess Louisa of Hesse-Cassel. She is gifted, as will be seen by our portrait, with no inconsiderable share of beauty, and is described as being very accomplished, having received in her family, which is generally esteemed as a model of all domestic virtues, the most careful and complete education. Princess Alexandra is a Sous-Lieutenant in the Danish Army. Many journals in France and Belgium, in commenting upon the account given of the Royal family of Denmark, stated that the Almanach de Gotha had committed an amusing mistake in describing Princess Alexandra as a Sous-Lieutenant in the Danish Army. It appears, however, that there was no mistake at all in the matter; for, however extraordinary it may appear to us, the illustrious intended bride of the Prince of Wales does actually hold the commission described in the Danish Army."

Princess Alexandra with her future husband, the Prince of Wales

Harpers Weekly December 6th, 1962

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Two-sided 1901 Coronation Coin

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Two-sided 1901 Coronation Coin

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Two-sided 1902 Coronation Coin

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Two-sided 1902 Coronation Coin

**Australian
Coronation
Celebrations
Medal 1902**



EDWARD VII

King and Emperor
Accession 22.1.1901
Coronation 26.6.1902
God Save The King

Australian Commonwealth Celebrations

Courtesy Shannon Carnes 2015

**Australian
Coronation
Celebrations
Medal 1902**



**Alexandra * Coronation * Edward VII
1902**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Ornamental plate from the early 1900s held at the Alexandra Library and photographed by Artworkz 29 March 2016.

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**A small vase owned by an Alexandra local and made available
for photographing 11 April 2016.**

Courtesy Thelma Edwards 2016

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Queen Alexandra's Motto.



Ask God for what you want.
Thank God for what you get.
And never grumble.

W. E. Mack, London, N.W. 3.

Princess Alexandra Motto 1920c

Ask God for what you want.
Thanks God for what you get.
And never grumble.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

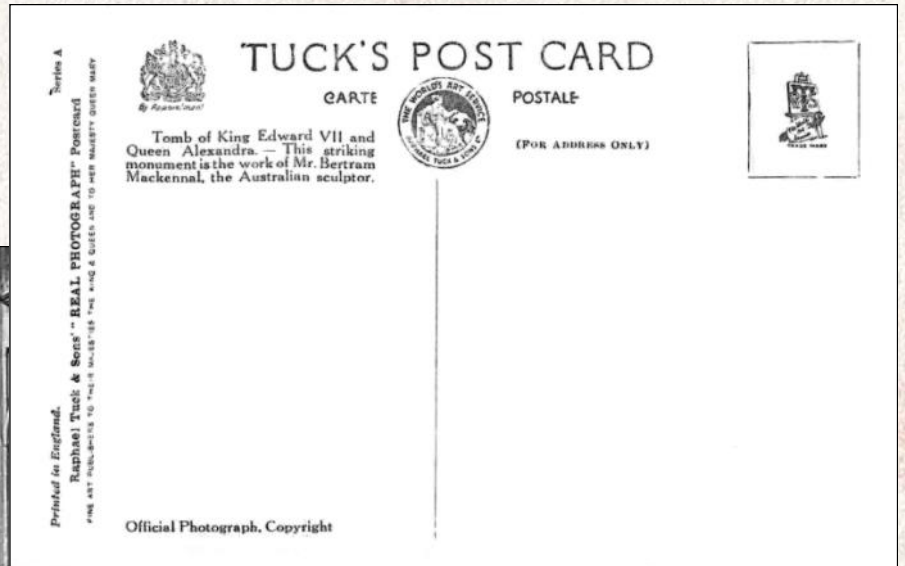
GALLERY



Bust of Sir Redmond Barry by Charles Summers (1825-1878) located at the State Library of Victoria. Sir Redmond Barry was a friend and also an employer of Summers. He was also a Patron of the State Library, Supreme Court Justice, Chancellor of the Melbourne University and the judge who sentenced bushranger Ned Kelly to death.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A postcard of the Memorial Tomb of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

The monument was the work of the Australian sculptor Bertram Mackennal, who also sculptured statues of King Edward VII for London, Melbourne, Calcutta and Adelaide.

Bertram was the first Australian artist to be knighted and was created a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order in 1921.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



This statue of Prince Albert Edward (1877) was commissioned by Sir William John Clarke and carved by Charles Summers, founding member of the Victorian Society of Fine Arts 1856.

Percy Everett, Chief Architect of the Public Works Department, persuaded the National Gallery of Victoria to gift the statue to the people of Geelong in 1939. It was sited on the Geelong waterfront near the King Edward Sailors' Rest, a building designed by Everett.

In 2013 the City of Greater Geelong Council, with generous financial support from Mr Frank Costa OAM, commissioned Jane Valentine to fully restore the badly damaged statue. A new head, arm and toe were carved from matching white Carrara Italian marble – source of the original work over 135 years earlier.

The restored statue was unveiled in this location by Mayor Darryn Lyons on 20th November 2014.

Prince Edward VII of Wales (later King Edward VII) statue at Geelong. The statue was crafted by sculptor Charles Summers who was commissioned by wealthy landowner, stud breeder and philanthropist Sir William John Clarke to produce a set of four white marble statues in 1877.

Photographs © Shez Tedford 2020

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**Queen Victoria statue at the Melbourne Show Grounds.
The statue was crafted by sculptor Charles Summers who was commissioned
by wealthy landowner, stud breeder and philanthropist Sir William John Clarke
to produce a set of four white marble statues in 1877.**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**Prince Albert (Consort) statue at the Melbourne Show Grounds.
The statue was crafted by sculptor Charles Summers who was commissioned
by wealthy landowner, stud breeder and philanthropist Sir William John Clarke
to produce a set of four white marble statues in 1877.**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**Princess Alexandra was decapitated during the night of 8–9 February 2024.
A police investigation was initiated, fingerprints dusted for and
DNA taken from discarded objects nearby.**



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

On 21 August 1970, the Alexandra Library wrote to the National Gallery of Victoria requesting information on the Princess Alexandra Statue. It read:

"I would be very grateful if you could give me some information on a statue of Queen Alexandra which I understand was for some time in the foyer of the Public Library and Gallery in Swanson Street. Apparently it was offered to and accepted by Alexandra Shire about 1939 and has since resided opposite the Shire Offices in Perkins St, Alexandra. Members of the public often express interest in the statue and as there is no plaque of identification on the statue. I wondered if you would have any record of its history such as who the sculptor was and for whom the state was commissioned. I would appreciate any information you are able to trace in this regard.

Yours faithfully,
Alexandra Librarian.

"Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 21-8-70. I would like to apologize for the delay in answering. Queen Alexandra is a marble statue by the English sculptor Charles Summers. It was presented to the National Gallery by Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart, in 1878, together with three other statues by the same artist, representing Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales, (Queen Alexandra's husband). They stood in the south hall of the gallery on the present State Library building.

Summers (1872 - 1878) was an exhibitor at the Royal Academy. He came to Western Australia in 1853 to look for gold. In 1864 he was in Melbourne where he designed the Bourke and Wills monument and made other sculptures. He returned to London in 1868. I have been shown the statue of Queen Alexandra which you have in Perkins Street, and thought is a most attractive work.

Hoping that this answers your questions

Yours sincerely
Dr. Ursula Hoff
Assistant Director"



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THINGS NAMED AFTER THE PRINCESS

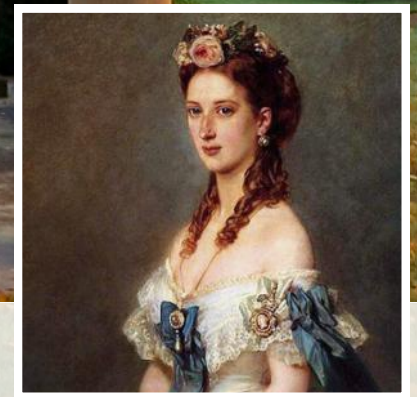
- Princess Alexandra statue (Alexandra, Victoria)
- Alexandra Canal (Alexandria, NSW)
- Alexandra township (north central, Victoria)
- Alexandra Bridge (Cataract Gorge, Launceston)
- Alexandra Lookout (Cataract Gorge, Launceston)
- Alexandra Gardens (Melbourne)
- Alexandra Avenue (South Yarra)
- Alexandra Parade (Collingwood)
- Alexandra Street (Saint Kilda East)
- Alexandra Fountain (Bendigo)
- Alexandra Headland (Queensland)
- Princess Alexandra Hospital, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland (Tertiary teaching hospital on Ipswich Road)

eSPLASH
MEDIA
ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

JACK SHIEL GARDEN, ALEXANDRA - MAY 2015



Beautiful Princess Alexandra.

The Princess Alexandra statue and colonnade underwent restoration works at the skilful hands of conservator Samantha Hamilton. The outcome is excellent for our community. Well done to all involved.



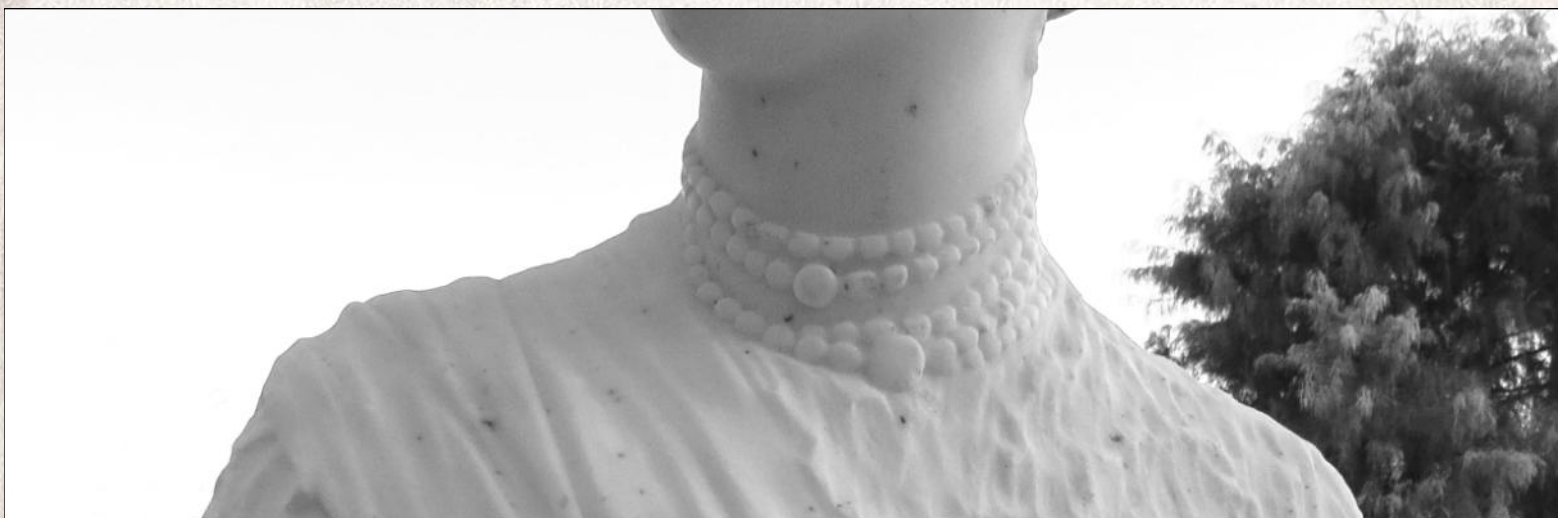
The unkept Princess Alexandra Statue in one of her locations, directly behind the Alexandra Library November 1965.





Holding a pendant. (Inset) Asian writing can even be seen on her fan

- PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STATUE -



Significant detail was crafted into the white Italian marble used for the statue



Holding a pendant. (Inset) Asian writing can even be seen on her fan





Cloth draped over the Princess's back

OUR HIDDEN MEMORIALS

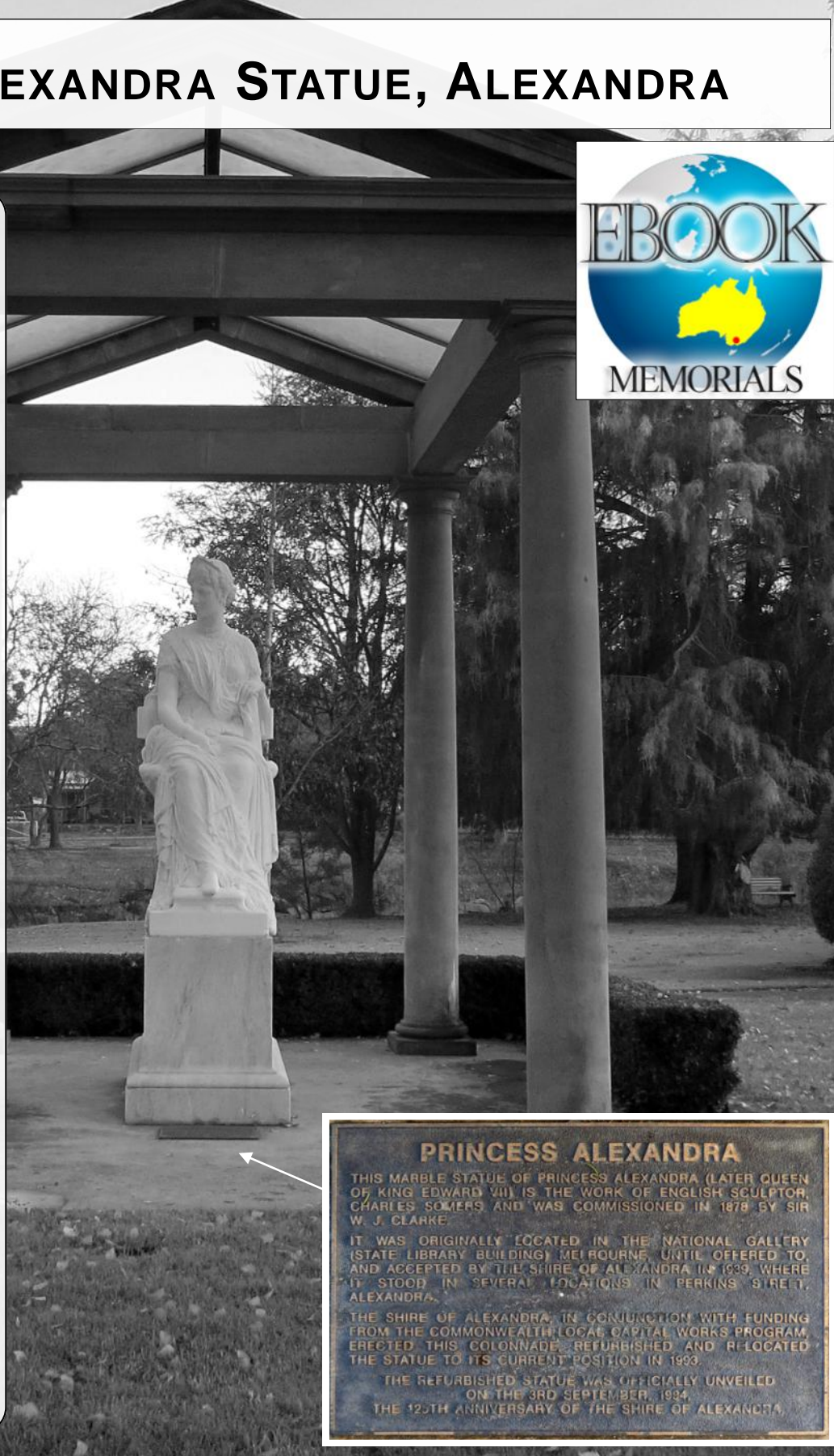
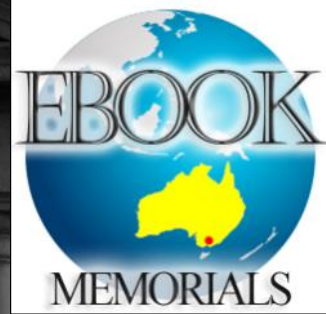
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STATUE, ALEXANDRA

**Princess Alexandra Plaque
May 2015 - with 'Summers'
misspelt 'Somers'.**

"This marble statue of Princess Alexandra (Later Queen of King Edward VII) is the work of English Sculptor Sir Charles Somers and was commissioned in 1878 by Sir W. J. Clarke. It was originally located in the National Gallery (State Library building) Melbourne, until offered to, and accepted by the Shire of Alexandra in 1939, where it stood in several locations in Perkins Street, Alexandra.

The Shire of Alexandra in conjunction with funding from the Commonwealth Local Capital Works Program, erected this colonnade, refurbished and relocated the statue to its current position in 1993.

The refurbished statue was official unveiled on the 3rd September 1994.
The 125 anniversary of the Shire of Alexandra."



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
THIS MARBLE STATUE OF PRINCESS ALEXANDRA (LATER QUEEN OF KING EDWARD VII) IS THE WORK OF ENGLISH SCULPTOR, CHARLES SOMERS AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1878 BY SIR W. J. CLARKE.
IT WAS ORIGINALLY LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY (STATE LIBRARY BUILDING) MELBOURNE, UNTIL OFFERED TO, AND ACCEPTED BY THE SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA IN 1939, WHERE IT STOOD IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN PERKINS STREET, ALEXANDRA.
THE SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH FUNDING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH LOCAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM, ERECTED THIS COLONNADE, REFINISHED AND RELOCATED THE STATUE TO ITS CURRENT POSITION IN 1993.
THE REFINISHED STATUE WAS OFFICIALLY UNVEILED ON THE 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1994.
THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA.





(Top) Princess Alexandra. (Bottom) Jack Shiel Gardens centre garden area.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STATUE

The Naming of Alexandra

Reference to certain documents and plans in the Land Office, Melbourne, has brought to light some facts concerning the naming of Alexandra, which have more than ordinary interest at this time, when a statue of Queen Alexandra is about to be unveiled in Perkins Street. In brief they are as follows:—

A. McGregor and S. Don discovered gold in quartz, on the bullock dray track from Thornton to Yea, not far from McKenzie's homestead, in June, 1866. As they were first discoverers of a goldfield (there being no mining between their find and Yea at that time), they received a reward—to each £75. They named their claim "Eglinton," which was that of a run and homestead (occupied by Henry Johnson, on the Yea side of McKenzie's Mount Pleasant run), and also of a creek (now Johnson's Creek.) Other claims were soon being worked from McGregor's and Don's claim in the direction of the U T. Creek; and there were alluvial diggings along that creek for several miles.

THE NAMING.

The track ran along what is now Grant Street till it came within a few yards of the U.T. Creek, where it turned up the stream and led to a crossing place near the junction of the present Webster and Perkins Streets. There was a chock-and-log fence (the boundary at one time between the Mount Pleasant and the Eglinton runs) along the bank of the creek. In this fence stood a gateway (painted red), through which the track passed not many yards from the turn. The track became, after crossing the creek, almost a straight line to the neighborhood of the present Josephine cutting (so named after Henry Johnson's sister). There was a rush in the second half of 1866 to the Red Gate diggings (that name, contracted to "Redgate" for the field, appearing for the first time in "Bradshaw's Guide" in May, 1867.) Richard Vining erected a small building in the vicinity of the turn of the track from Grant Street up the creek, and other buildings rapidly followed. Thereupon John Downey was instructed to survey a town and a parish. The Shire Hall at the junction of the present Grant

and Perkins Streets is on allotment 1 of section 1.

The title-page of Downey's Field Book, No. 1, runs thus: "John Downey's Field Notes. Survey of the Township of Eglinton on the U.T. Creek, Upper Goulburn River, Surveyed by John Downey, Government Contract Surveyor, Jan., 1867." His finished plan, with the title, "Township of Eglinton, Upper Goulburn River, County of Anglesey," was dated February, 1867. A proclamation in the Government Gazette in the following month (March) begins: "Sale of Crown Lands in fee simple at Alexandra, on the 5th April, 1867." This shows that the name had been changed. Downey's plan has now a slip with the word "Alexandra" on it gummed over "Eglinton."

The new name was that of a Danish princess, the "Rose of Denmark," who, about four years earlier (the exact date being March 7, 1863), had married the Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VII).

Alexandra & Yea Standard
28th July 1939
National Library Australia

Alexandra was nearly called Eglinton instead!

Alexandra & Yea Standard
28th July 1939
National Library Australia



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STATUE

Mount Pleasant Run at Eglinton

1848

Comprised of two sheep runs

GOLD FOUND - START OF GOLD RUSH

*Pegged and registered June 1866 at the Jamieson Warden's court by John Downey
on behalf of Alex McGregor and Sandy Don)*

Red Gate

6 December 1866

Population circa 300

Eglinton

February 1867 (Downey's Field Book No. 1)

Population circa 600

Alexandra

30 March 1867

Population circa 600

Redgate Diggings

24 April 1867, 30 March 1867

Population circa 600

McKenzie Diggings

8 July 1867

Population circa 600


Mount Pleasant Diggings

1870

GEELONG STATUE

PRINCE EDWARD VII STATUE
31 JANUARY 2020
© SHEZ TEDFORD
PUBLISHED 17 FEBRUARY 2020
ESPLASH229

Early statues were often made from pure white marble, a white rock that resulted from the metamorphism of pure limestone or dolomite protolith.



ALBERT EDWARD
PRINCE OF WALES
(KING EDWARD VII)

A companion to Alexandra's Princess Alexandra Statue

Did you know that the Princess Alexandra statue at Alexandra is one of a set of four marble statues, and while no longer together, all statues in the set can be viewed.

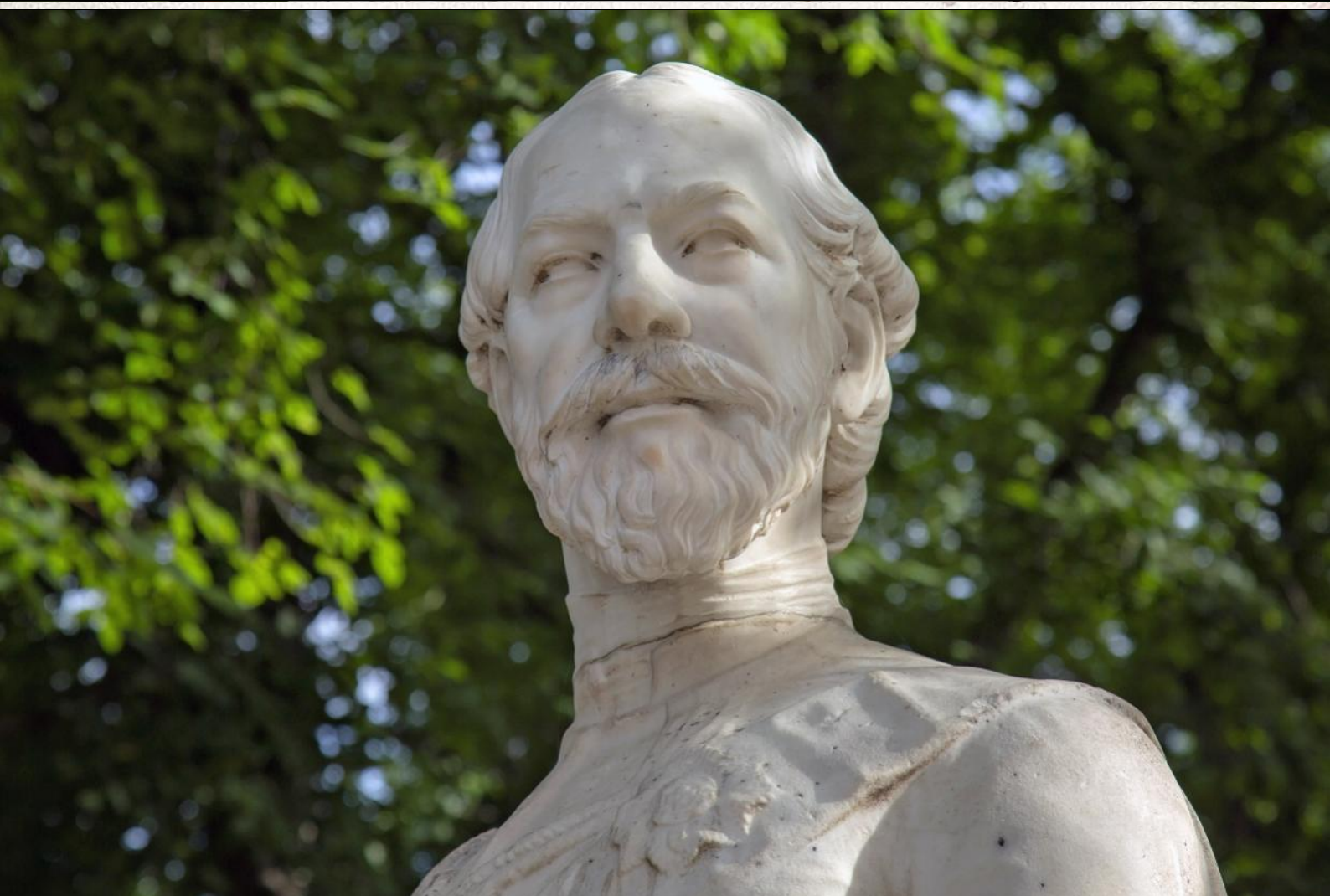
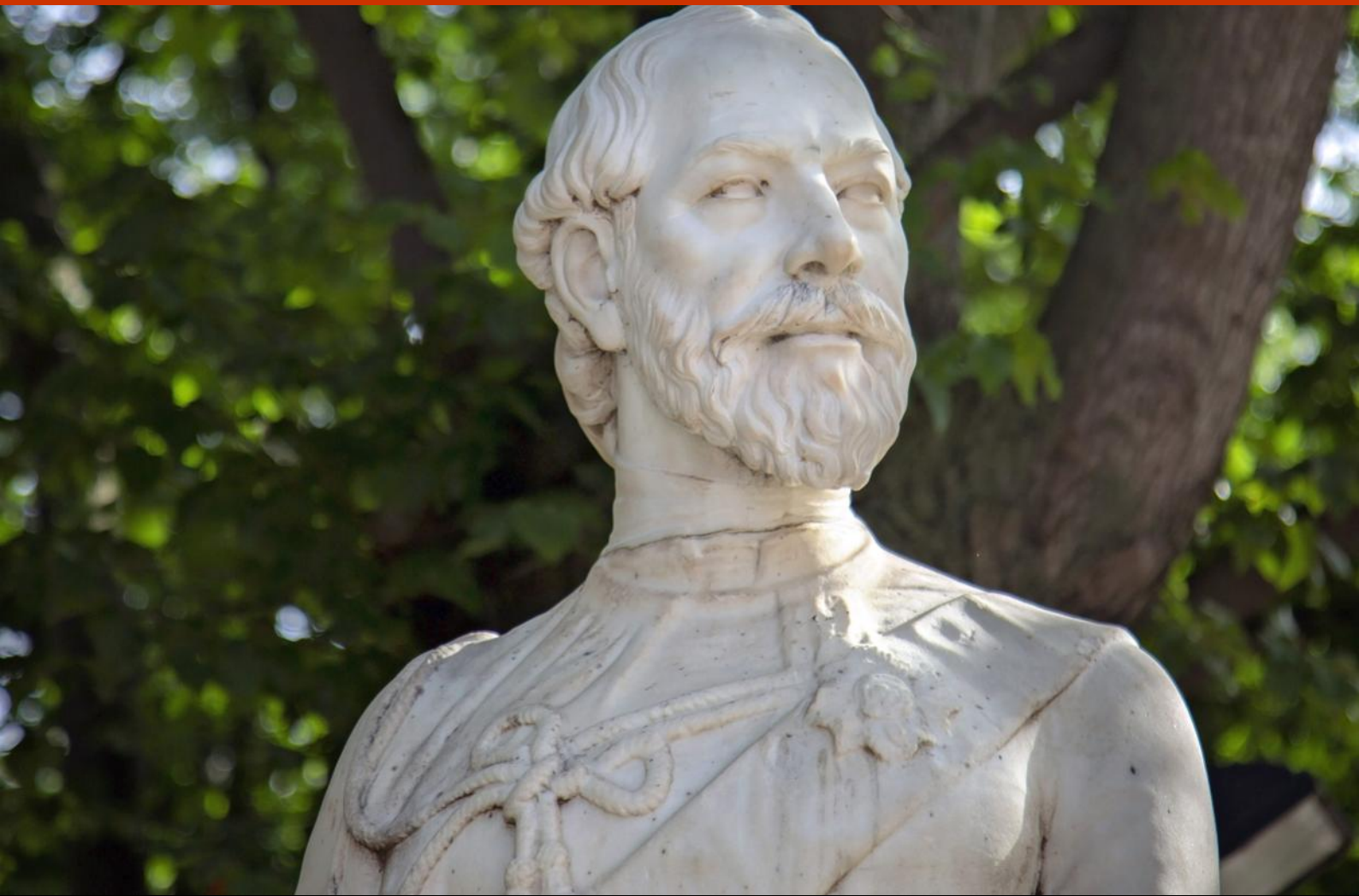


- UNCOVERING A DELIGHTFUL SET -

You may not be aware that the Princess Alexandra statue is one of a set of four statues that once stood together in Melbourne. Researcher Allan Layton has found all of them, and photographer Shez Tedford has photographed the Geelong Prince Edward VII statue.

In 1877 sculptor Charles Summers was commissioned by wealthy landowner, stud breeder and philanthropist Sir William John Clarke to produce four statues (Queen Victoria, her spouse Prince Albert, their son King Edward VII and his spouse Princess Alexandra of Denmark). All were crafted from white Italian marble and gifted to the City of Melbourne. Originally located in the South Hall of the gallery in the State Library building, they were later moved to the grounds of the Melbourne State Library (National Gallery). They represent the last major works created by Charles Summers. He died on 30 November 1878 in Paris following an operation for an enlarged thyroid gland.

Today the Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (consort) statues are on permanent loan to the Royal Agricultural Society and are on display at the Melbourne Showgrounds. The King Edward VII statue is at Geelong's Customs House (corner of Moorabool and Brougham Streets) and the statue of his wife Princess Alexandra is at Jack Shiel Garden (opposite the Shire Offices) in the Central Victorian rural township of Alexandra.

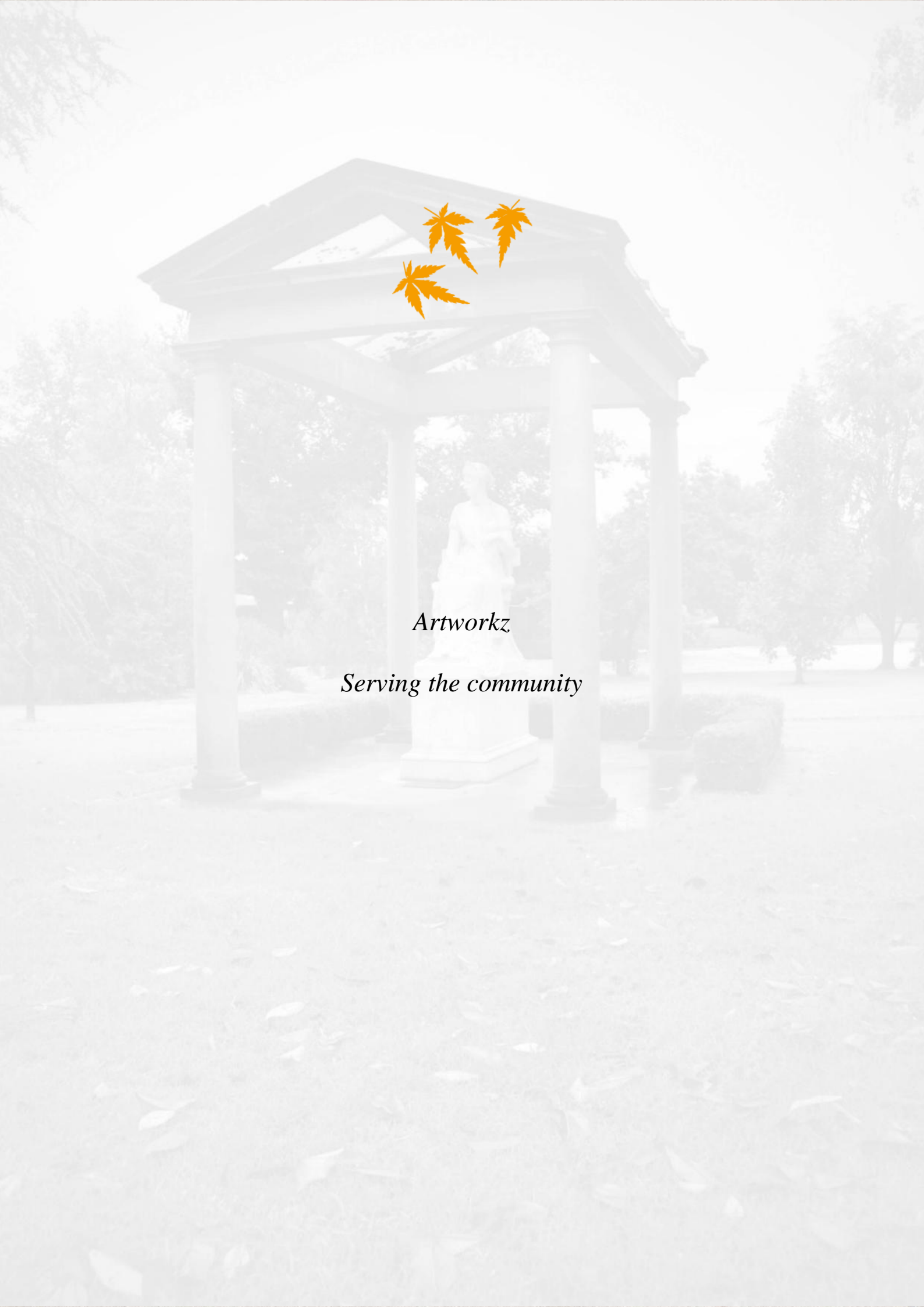




Shez Tedford, our photographer on the spot in Geelong, visited and photographed the Prince Edward VII statue on the final day of January and told us that she found the Statue very interesting. She knew the statue was there under majestic elms, and being at a major intersection she had driven past it more times than she could count, but it was only recently she realised the connection with the Princess Alexandra statue at Alexandra. Princess Alexandra was the wife of Prince Albert Edward VII (King Edward VII) and their statues once stood together with Edward's parents, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at the Melbourne National Gallery (est. 1861 and Australia's oldest and most visited museum).

Shez also mentioned how she noticed the crack around Prince Edward's neck, which was the result of a replacement head being created and fitted to the statue after the Prince lost his head to vandals. Some reports have indicated that the head looks too large to some people.





Artworkz

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