

ALEXANDRA



& DISTRICT
CITIZENS

YOUTH CLUB



**HERITAGE
GROUP
SERIES**

ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Alexandra & District
Citizens Youth Club

Established: 1964

Ceased: 13 April 2002

A youth club established by passionate Alexandra locals to provide activities for local youth. Early meetings were held in various locations including Darmody's Hotel, the football shed and the St. Mary's Hall.



Alexandra Community
Youth Club reunion 1986
Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

Club formation

A possibility of running a club for the youth living in and around Alexandra was first conceived by Mr Max Porter in 1964. He then found other interested persons, including Mrs Nan Stillman, then shortly afterwards a youth club was officially formed. The first President of the Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club was local Max Porter.

Once established, girls met twice weekly under the supervision and leadership of Ann McGorlick, with the aid of Gaylene Goodman. Boys met under the supervision and leadership of Ray Norris, along with Morrie Smith, Ken Johnson, Brian Gunton, Mick McCarty, Ken Smedley and Trevor Hibbert.

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Early years

All the early club meetings took place at Darmody's Hotel and club activities were spread around various locations which included the old football shed, the St. Mary's Hall and the Shire supper rooms.

Due to the initial popularity of the club, a fund was established to raise money for the purchase (or construction) of a hall that would be suitable for the clubs activities.

By 1977 the club had raised just over \$23,000, which was then used to purchase the old Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows (MUIOOF) Hall.

Early club fundraising activities included:

- Champagne balls
- Talent quests (with Bob Gillespie's Brass Band)
- Fashion parades
- Popular girl quests
- Catering for weddings
- Combined pensioners and speedway balls

Purchase of the Hall

The newly purchased hall became known as the 'Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club Hall' (ADCYC Hall) and was officially opened on 13 April 1977 after being relocated to its new home near the corner of Downey and Bayley Streets—beside the property of Kath Chanter who owned the corner block at that time.

After being relocated, the hall was partially renovated using the left over money from the club's very successful fundraising activities.



1967 Member 46

Courtesy Leisa Lees 2015

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Early club activities around this time included:

- Baton twirling
- Boys and girls cooking sessions
- Ballet lessons
- Tap dancing
- Numerous excursions

Baton twirling sessions was run by Betty Church, Chris Kidd, Elizabeth Brook, Sophia Kwiecinski and Sharon Allen. The cooking sessions were run by Ann McGorlick and assisted by her daughter Julie Lax. Ballet lessons were run by Sue Hill and tap dancing was run by Sandra France's.

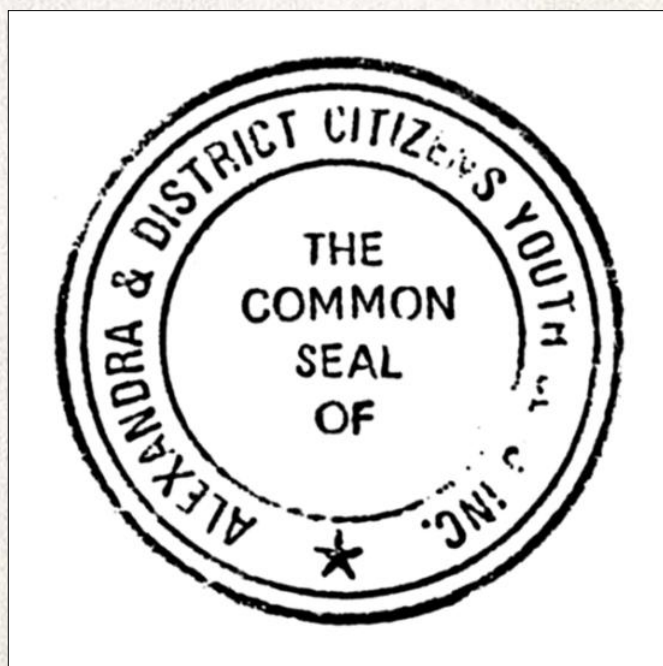


Excursions and functions

Club excursions were extremely popular with the youth and destinations included attractions such as:

- Melbourne Zoo
- Shepparton Star Bowl
- Luna Park
- Taggerty Pioneer Settlement
- Marysville Fun Park
- Gumbuya Park
- Puffing Billy

Excursion supervisors and organisers included Carol Hewitt, Daryl Harvey, Ma Hewitt, Evelyn Hoskin, Val Hall, Sandra McGorlick, Sue McCarty, Dennis Jones and John Norbury.



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Numerous functions were held in the hall and included:

- Birthday parties
- Engagements
- Anniversaries
- Re-unions

One major event organised by the Club around this time was a Country and Western concert. The event was held on 15 March 1975 at the Alexandra Showgrounds, with the well known Country and Western band - The Hawking Brothers - taking centre stage.

Time Capsule

At one point, Nan Stillman and other club members placed a summary of the club's activities in a Rotary Time Capsule. This was then placed under Mr Jack Shiels' home and was to be opened some years later. The unopened time capsule was later relocated due to flooding under Jack's home and was eventually opened. It is not known who took possession of the contents that related to the Youth Club, or where those contents are today.

Disco

By 1984 the club had purchased its own disco equipment, which was ably managed by Brad Strochnetter. The equipment was regularly hired out to other groups, providing a regular source of income for the club, and Brad was often employed to run the equipment during these events. Brad also provided musical entertainment once a month for the local youth, and this was later combined with the Blue Light Discos, which was then under the direction of Sergeant Ron Smith and others.

Reunion

In June 1986, the club held its 22nd re-union. The event entertainment included ballet and tap dancing which provided enjoyment for the large group of past and present members. A re-union cake was cut by the club's first treasurer, Mrs Ruth Heinze, with first president and life member Max Porter presenting Life Memberships to Rex Tate



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and Bill Hewitt. Life Memberships were also accepted on behalf of Mr Owen Jackson and Mr Reg Hatfield. They joined other Life Members Bill Cooper, Ann McGorlick, Nan Stillman, May Goschnick and Ken Smedley.

Life Memberships for Val and Evelyn

Members Val Hall and Evelyn Hoskin were also made Life Members at the 1986 event, however they were unable to attend on the night, and were not informed of their Life Memberships having been granted. In a sad twist of fate, the awarding of the Life Memberships to Val and Evelyn was not made known to them until 12 years later, which was after the passing of Evelyn.

Day to day operations

During its existence, the club was generally kept above its expenditure and able to keep its doors open, because of the dedication from early members such as Mrs Ina Hewitt and Patti McLachlan. However, as time went on, the club's future became more uncertain due to a lack of support. It became common for monthly meeting to only attracting only three, four or maybe five members. In efforts to keep things going, events such as lamington drives would be held and they would manage the hiring of the hall and the hiring out of their crockery, of which they had a large collection. In the latter years the club's viability was helped by the Blue Light Disco, held on the second Friday of each month. One of the most popular disco events was the 'Big Splash Swimming Pool Disco' held annually at the Alexandra swimming pool. The club found it harder to find parents wiling to participate in running events and supervising the youth. The club eventually went into recession around 1990.

Moving of the Hall

Then in November 1992 it was decided by the club that the hall be removed from its original location in Bayley Street, to its current resting place just below the Scout Hall in Grant Street. This move was made in agreement with the Alexandra Guides, who were meeting at that time in a small old building which was located just uphill from where the hall was proposed to be located. An agreement was made whereby both groups would share the hall in its new location. The relocation of the hall was successful and the agreement between the Youth Club and the Alexandra Guides came into force on 17 November 1992.

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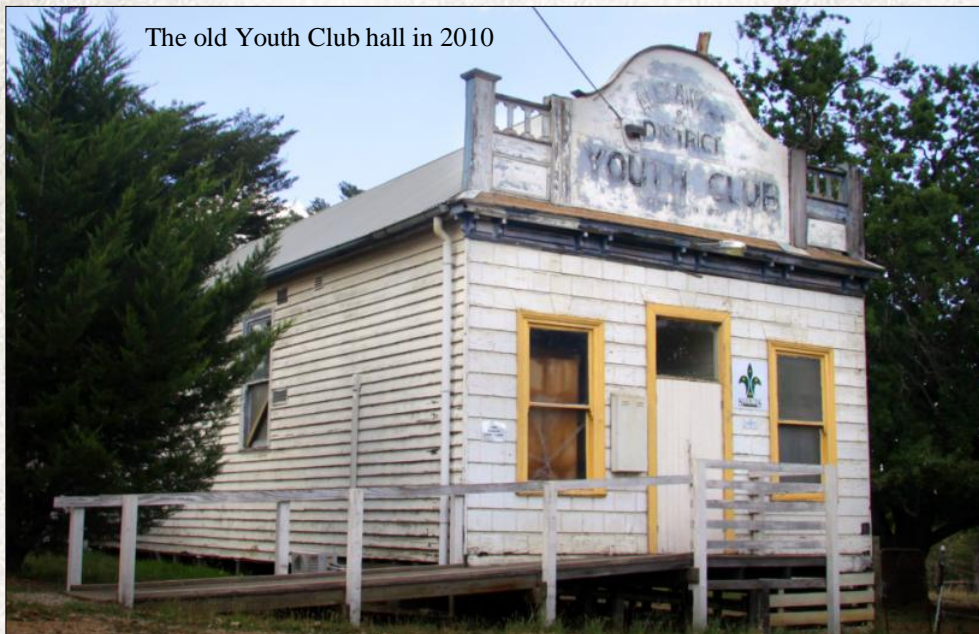
INTRODUCTION

End of an era

Both clubs continued after this time, however the Youth Club struggled with declining membership and a lack of general support from the community. The club was officially disbanded at a sausage sizzle held at the hall on 13 April 2002.

Throughout its history the club was indebted to its many dedicated volunteers. They were also supported by support groups including Apex, Rotary and Lions. Local businesses such as Redrops Tuckerbag, Fallons, Bus Service and Hewitt Bakery were also supportive of the club's activities. The Shire of Alexandra also helped out whenever possible with grants etc.

In 2014, Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet, with materials and history provided by Val Hall. This factsheet was first published in July 2018 in the Artworkz free eSplash eMagazine.



The old Youth Club hall in 2010

If you are able to help with any photographs of the club activities, the Blue Light Disco or have any further information on the club and its activities, we would love to hear from you.

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



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TIMELINE

- 1964** A small group of local people came together to form a youth club with activities for local youth. First President was Max Porter who was also the main one behind the idea. Once established, the club gained in popularity quickly.
- 1972** The club had over 40 girls involved in baton twirling.
- 1972** Meetings moved to Darmody Hotel to St Marys Hall.
- 1972** Officer bearers elected at the eighth annual meeting: R Strochnetter (President), W Cooper (Senior Vice President), R Norris (Junior Vic President), K Bristow (Secretary), Lynette Smith (Treasurer), Val Strochnetter (Media Correspondent). It was noted that efforts to find a building had not been successful.
- 1972** Became affiliated with the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs.
- 13 April 1977** The club's new hall on Bayley Street, was officially opened.
- 1984** The idea of a Blue Light Disco was started when Val Hall contacted Alexandra Police Sergeant Ron Smith seeking advice on youth trends. Ron floated the idea of the Blue Light Disco.
- 12 September 1984** A sub committee was formed to look at the idea of holding a Blue Light Disco in Alexandra.
- 26 October 1984** The first of six trial Blue Light Disco discos was held on Friday 26 October at Alexandra.
- Late 1984** Sound equipment was purchased by the Alexandra & District Youth Club. Financial help included form the Apex, Rotary and Lions Clubs in Alexandra.
- 24 September 1985** A new Blue Light Disco Committee was formed.
- 4 December 1985** The Blue Light Disco was incorporated. This was required as



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the Blue Light Disco name was copyright to the Victoria Police.

June 1986

A reunion was held for the Youth Club to celebrate its 22nd Birthday. Four members were awarded Life Memberships at the event. These included Rex Tate and W. Hewitt. Shoulder sprays were also awarded to Betty Hewitt and Sylvia Tate.

11 May 1986

A meeting was held to consider the ongoing viability of the club. The meeting was attended by Mr Peter Cameron of the Victorian Associated Youth in Council.

1986

A pool disco held by the club attracted over 70 children.

1986

Officer bearers: Val Hall (President), John Norbury (Vice President), Dennis Jones (Vic President), Susan McCarty (Assistant Secretary), Sandra McGorlick (Treasurer).

June 1986

At the club's 22nd birthday celebrations, Rex Tate and Bill Hewitt were awarded Life Memberships. Shire President Thomas Marr was in attendance and posed for a photograph with both Life Members.

8 August 1986

A fashion show fundraiser was poorly attended with only around 40 people attending.

Circa 1990

The Youth Club was put into recess.

16 October 1992

A Friday night 'End of an Era' disco was held, attracting over 100 youth. Car stickers were handed out during the event.

17 November 1992

The Alexandra Guides and the Alexandra and District Citizens Youth Club entered into an agreement to move the hall from Bayley Street to the McKenzie Reserve precinct below the Scout Halls. A Guardian Committee was formed with representatives from both groups overseeing the management of the building asset.



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- 1994** The first 'Big Splash Swimming Pool Disco' was held.
- 13 April 2002** A Sausage Sizzle was held at 12.30 pm at 23 Bayley Street, Alexandra for the purpose of disbanding the club and to hold an awards ceremony.
- July 2014** Ted and Val Hall made available the history of the club for Artworkz to compile a factsheet on.
- December 2014** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 24 February 2017** Artworkz first published this factsheet in eSplash168.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

ALLAN WEEKS COLLECTION

District imagery from yesteryear!



ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT YOUTH CLUB

The Alexandra & District Youth Club was founded in 1964 and is seen here in its old location in Bayley Street. It was later relocated to the southern end of Grant Street, below the site of the current Scout Hall. Here it was managed under an agreement between the Alexandra Girl Guides and the Youth Club.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rex Tate (left) and Bill Hewitt (right) being presented with Life Memberships by Life Member Max Porter (centre) during the Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

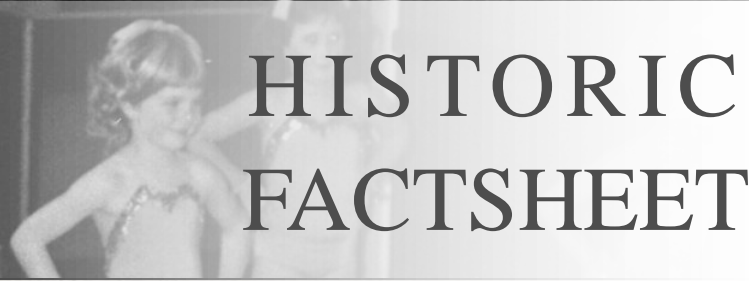
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Rex Tate (left) and Bill Hewitt (right) being presented with Life Memberships by Life Member Max Porter (centre) during the Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014



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**Life Member and first President, Max Porter, hosting the
Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion**

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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GALLERY



Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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GALLERY



Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion entertainment

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion entertainment

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion entertainment

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion entertainment

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion entertainment.

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014



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Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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Alexandra & District Citizens Youth Club 1986 Reunion

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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GALLERY



Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

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Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014



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GALLERY



Professional Photographer Allan Weeks at the Eildon Blue Light Disco in 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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GALLERY



Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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Eildon Blue Light Disco 1986

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014

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The Life Membership badge awarded to Val Hall in 1986, but only received by her 12 years later when the award was brought to her attention. The badge is labelled VAY-C (Victorian Association of Youth Clubs).

Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2014



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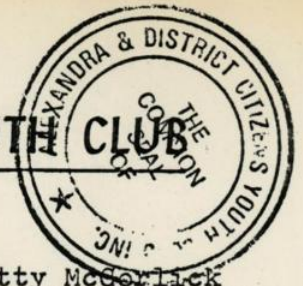


The Youth Club hall in 2010

OTHER

OTHER RELATED ITEMS

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT CITIZENS' YOUTH CLUB



Hon. President..... Mr Bill Hewitt

Hon. Treasurer..... Mrs Betty McCerlick

Hon. Secretary..... Mrs Christine Kidd

RE --- MOVEMENT OF THE A.D.C.Y.C. HALL

ALEXANDRA, Vic. 3714

The ADCYC Committee together with
The Alexandra Guide Association
do here-by agree to the below conditions, re-locating the ADCYC Hall from
Bayley St - to the Scout/Guide Land: McKenzie Reserve, Grant St, Alexandra.

1. Guardian Committee to be formed from President and Secretary of both groups. Youth Club has casting vote.
2. A.D.C.Y.C. name on front of hall to be retained; and plaque of Foundation and/or life members to be displayed inside hall.
3. Provision for hall to be used by Youth Club; if ever partially or fully reformed.
4. Building to be moved at no cost to Youth Club, Committee or Members.
5. Land - when vacant, must be left in clean condition. Access to sewerage and water connections to be retained.
6. Youth Club requests that, at any time, it may extend on to the building at its own cost. Any extensions must be compatible with surroundings.
7. Youth Club retains the use of room on the left-hand side of entrance for storage of equipment.
8. Maintenance, SEC, etc; to be resolved by Guardian Committee. Major maintenance to be shared equally between both groups.
9. Rental of Hall: if any, to be handled by the Guardian Committee.
10. Hall to be used for Blue Light Discos. Junior and Senior when required - no rental to be charged for discos or youth activities.
11. The Blue Light Disco Committee have sole responsibility for setting up of and putting away of, the disco equipment. Blue Light Committee to have the only key/s to the Disco equipment storage area.
12. The Alexandra Guide Association - to be assured of secure tenure of the hall: with a long lease -- say 99 years -- and a nominal rental - eg 50c per week.
13. Should, at any time, the Youth Club lapse due to lack of support - the control of the building to become the responsibility of the Alexandra Guide Association - with the proviso that if at any stage the Youth Club does reform - this control goes back to the Guardian Committee.
14. If: at any time, the Alexandra Guide Association do become responsible for this hall - it is on the understanding that the Blue Light Discos and any of their special functions still be held in this hall - with the usage of all kitchen facilities.

Dated at..... Alexandra..... this..... 17th day of..... 11th month..... in the Year..... 1992.....

THE COMMON SEAL OF ALEXANDRA &
DISTRICT CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB INC. WAS
HEREUNTO AFFIXED BY AUTHORITY OF THE
COMMITTEE IN THE PRESENCE OF:

J. W. Hewitt..... CHAIRMAN

Christine Kidd..... SECRETARY



J. W. Hewitt..... TRUSTEE

Christine Kidd..... TRUSTEE



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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1967 Member Badge

Courtesy Leisa Lees 2014

ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT CITIZENS YOUTH
CLUB INC

Dear Val & Ted,

The Committee of the Alexandra & District Citizen's Youth Club request your attendance at a

"Sausage Sizzle"

Saturday 13th April, 2002, at 12:30 pm,

at 26 Bayley Street, Alexandra.

This occasion is being arranged for the following purposes:

- Presentation of Awards.
- Disbandment of the Youth Club.

Your attendance would be sincerely appreciated, and ask that you advise Ina Hewitt on 57721997 by 11th April, of your availability.



Artworkz

Serving the Community