

# ALEXANDRA LIBRARY



1891 TIME  
CAPSULE



**HERITAGE  
SERIES**

---

**ALEXANDRA LIBRARY  
1891 TIME CAPTULE**

---

**CONTRIBUTORS**

---

Alexandra Library  
State Library Victoria  
National Library Australia  
Libby Kotschet

Ross & Nancy Coller  
Sandra Cumming  
Allan Layton  
Leisa Lees  
Kathie Maynes  
Pam Thompson  
David & Debbie Hibbert

---

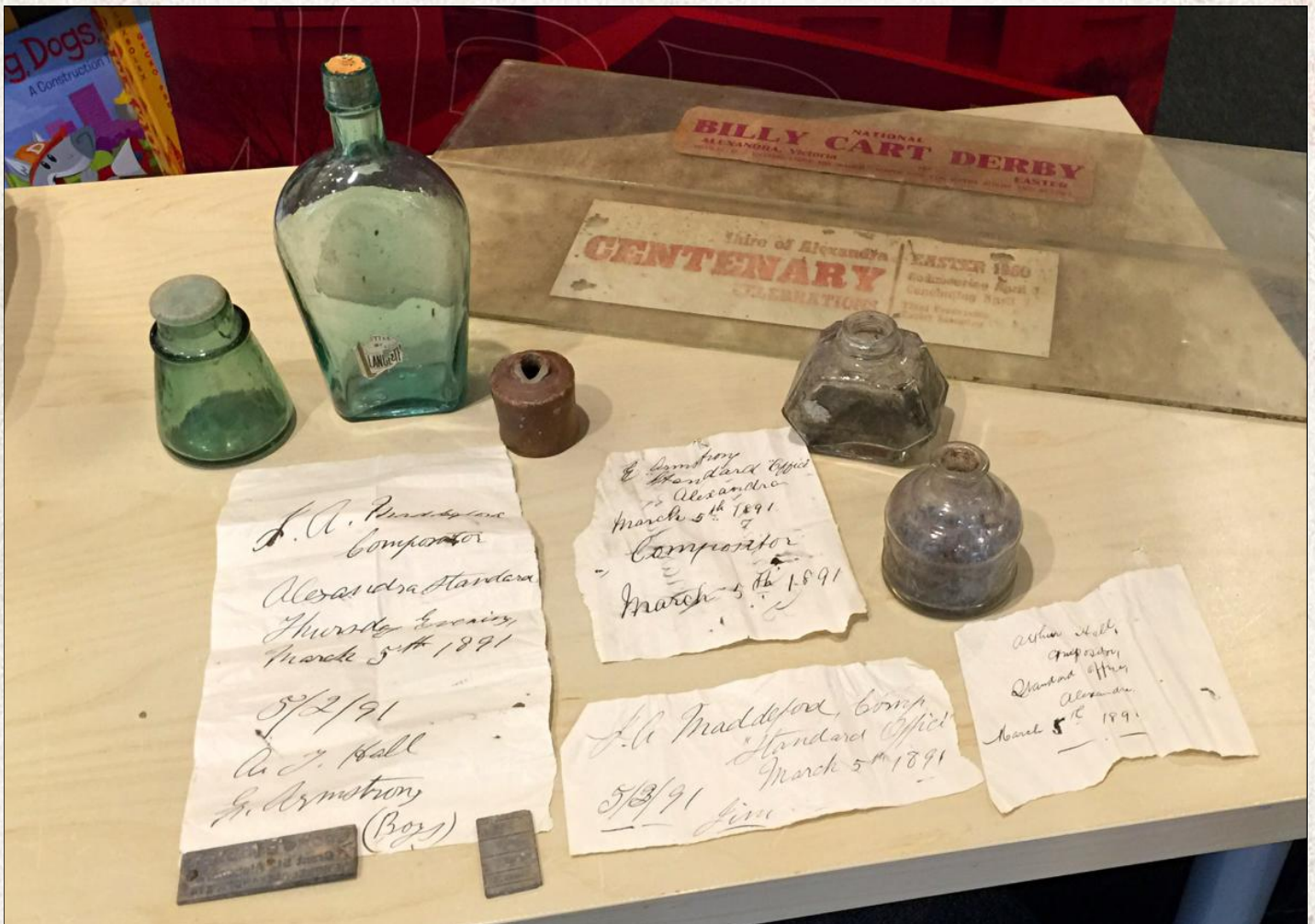
*Standard Office  
5/3/91  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891*

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

**Name:** Alexandra Time Capsule  
**Planted:** 1891  
**By:** Alexandra Standard workers  
**Uncovered:** March 2005

In March 2005 a time capsule bottle was found hidden in a wall cavity at the Alexandra Library. The capsule was uncovered when a section of brick wall was removed to make way for a door.

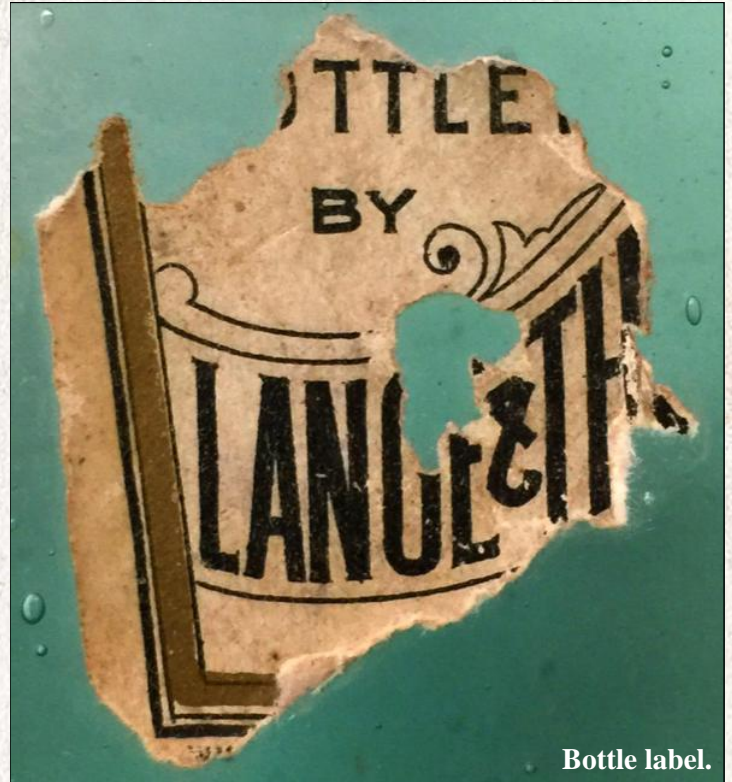


In March 2005, a time capsule (bottle containing notes) was discovered by construction workers at the Alexandra Library. The bottle was found hidden between two walls on the northern side of the Alexandra Library building. This wall was constructed 1891 as part of the second library extension - which saw the Library double its useable floor space. The extension abutted the wall of the Alexandra Standard Office which was located between the library and the UT Creek. Prior to 1891 the library (located on the corner of Grant and Perkins Streets) only consisted of the right 1883 section of building.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

As 1891 was the date shown on notes found in the bottle, the theory developed that the capsule was hidden during the 1891 construction phase of the second extension to the library. What is currently considered most plausible is that staff working at the Alexandra Standard Office noticed a dead space in the wall being built beside them and hatched a plan to hide a bottle containing handwritten notes in the space (as a time capsule for someone in the future to find). Then, later in March 2005 the bottle and notes were located when the wall was being partly dismantled to make way for an archway - allowing passage between the second extension (built 1891) and the new third extension built 2004/05.



Bottle label.

On Wednesday 9 March 2005 after the discovery of the time capsule, the Alexandra & Yea Standard published an article highlighting the amazing discovery. It described how the demolition of a section of the Library Wall (to make an archway) led to the discovery and mentioned how other items were found during construction works around the site. It described the contents of the 1891 time capsule as four handwritten pieces of paper in an old glass bottle. These notes are reproduced later in this factsheet.

Other items found at the library work site (dated in the mid 1900s) included:

- Two glass ink bottles.
- One clay ink bottle.
- One clag bottle.
- A printers block (Cooke's Motors Grant Street Alexandra, Phone 174).
- Two glass Louvre window panes with advertising stickers on them.

One of the glass Louvre advertising stickers was advertising the 1969 Centenary of Alexandra and another the 1959 Alexandra Billy Cart Derby. You can download the

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

Centenary Gallery [here](#) and the Billy Cart Derby Factsheet [here](#).

The old wooden Standard Office building where these creative workers laboured during 1891 was demolished circa 1968 and the Alexandra Standard business which had operated from there for decades moved further north to their new premises at 45 Grant Street.

Today the time capsule, three glass ink bottles and one clay ink bottle are kept in safe storage at the Alexandra Library. Artworkz were made aware of the time capsule and its contents 29 March 2016 by Library officer Libby Kotschet. We then conducted a photoshoot of the items and commenced work on this factsheet the following morning.

While many of the questions surrounding this amazing find now have plausible answers, we have not been able to identify the label on the bottle above. If you have any ideas or information on this bottle's contents and the label, please let us know. We would love to include the full label for our readers.

Interestingly, while this time capsule is one of the earliest time capsules buried in Alexandra, it is not the oldest. This title is given to the St. John's Church who buried a time capsule under the foundation stone of their original church built on the corner of Webster and Nihil Streets in January 1868, decades earlier.



Time capsule bottle.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 1883** The Alexandra Library was built.
- 1891** A second extension to the Alexandra Library was built.
- 5 March 1891** A time capsule was likely placed in the northern wall of the Alexandra Library's second extension during construction.
- 6 March 1891** The issue of the Alexandra and Yea Standard dated Friday 6 March 1891 carried no obvious mention of the time capsule or secret code as far as we have been able to ascertain.
- c1968** The Alexandra Standard Office was demolished.
- 1969** Alexandra celebrated its Centenary.
- 2004-2005** A third extension was built onto the Alexandra Library on land where the wooden Alexandra Standard building once stood and the 'Alexandra Standard' had been printed for many decades.
- 2004** A Time Capsule hidden 1891 was discovered by workers removing bricks from the northern wall of the second extension of the Alexandra Library to form a large archway.
- 9 March 2005** The Alexandra & Yea Standard published an article on the discovery of the Time Capsule in their Wednesday issue.
- 29 March 2016** Libby Kotschet of the Alexandra Library made us aware of the time capsule and where it was found. Photos were taken with an iPhone to be replaced with better images once a professional photoshoot could be organised.
- 30 March 2016** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 31 May 2016** Artworkz featured the time-capsule during its HistoryCafe night at the Alexandra Library in front of 40 people and the Shire of Murrindindi Chief Executive Officer Margaret Abbey. This was significant as it was our largest standard HistoryCafe to-date.
- 6 June 2016** Artworkz was shown a photo of the building of the second Alexandra Library extension 1891, showing men constructing the

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

front of the Library extension and the double brick wall from the outside - where the time capsule bottle had been hidden around a month earlier based on the progress of the building.

**10 June 2016**

Artworkz featured the Time Capsule factsheet in eSplash151.

# LIN CUMMING COLLECTION

District imagery from yesteryear!



## GRANT STREET ALEXANDRA

The Alexandra Free Library and the Standard Machine Printing Works circa 1910.

This photo was taken by local photographer Lin Cumming after the second library extension was added 1891. The time capsule was hidden by this time and it is unlikely that Lin (or others) were even aware of its existence.



*5/3/91*

*Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891*

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## LOCATION FOUND 2005



**The building of the second stage of the Alexandra Library in 1891.  
The time capsule was hidden just before this time in the left wall.**

Courtesy Pam Thompson 2016

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## LOCATION FOUND 2005



**The archway where the time capsule was found. It is believed it was lodged between the two layers of bricks that make up this wall.**

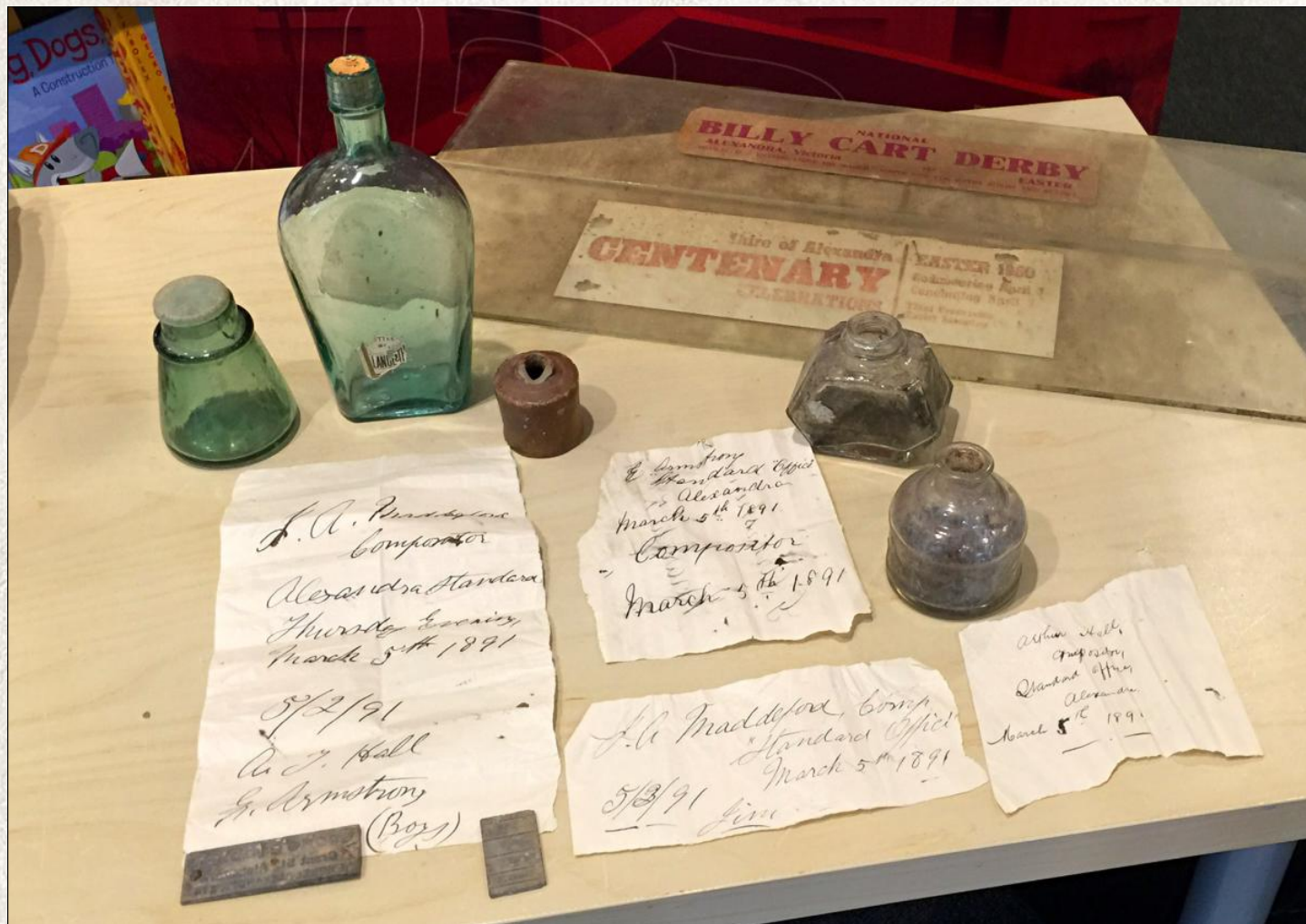
Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## ITEMS FOUND 2005

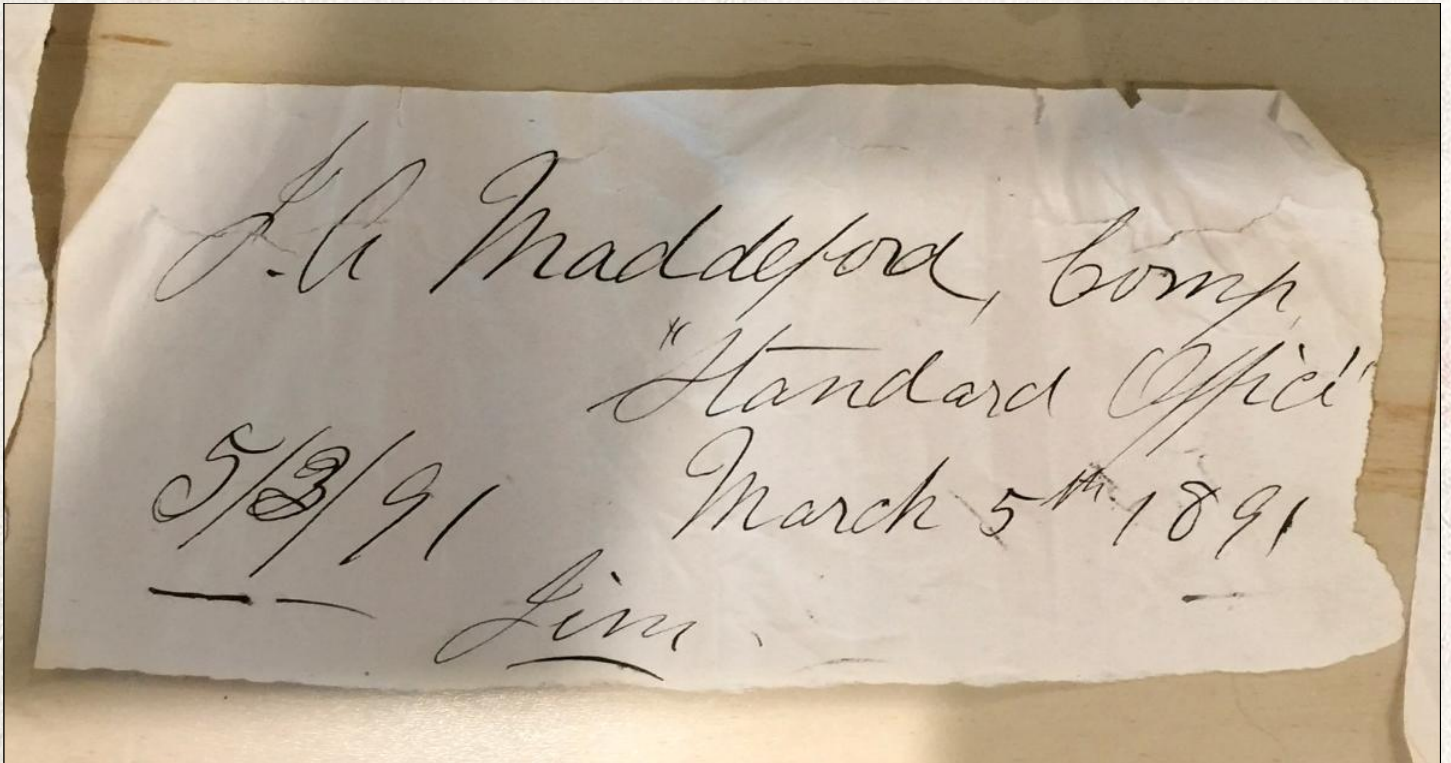


The Time Capsule (large bottle) and notes, along with other items located 2005 during construction works on the third extension to the Alexandra Library.

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1891 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS



### **Composer** (*seen here as 'Comp'*)

*"A person who arranges type for printing keys into a composing machine."*

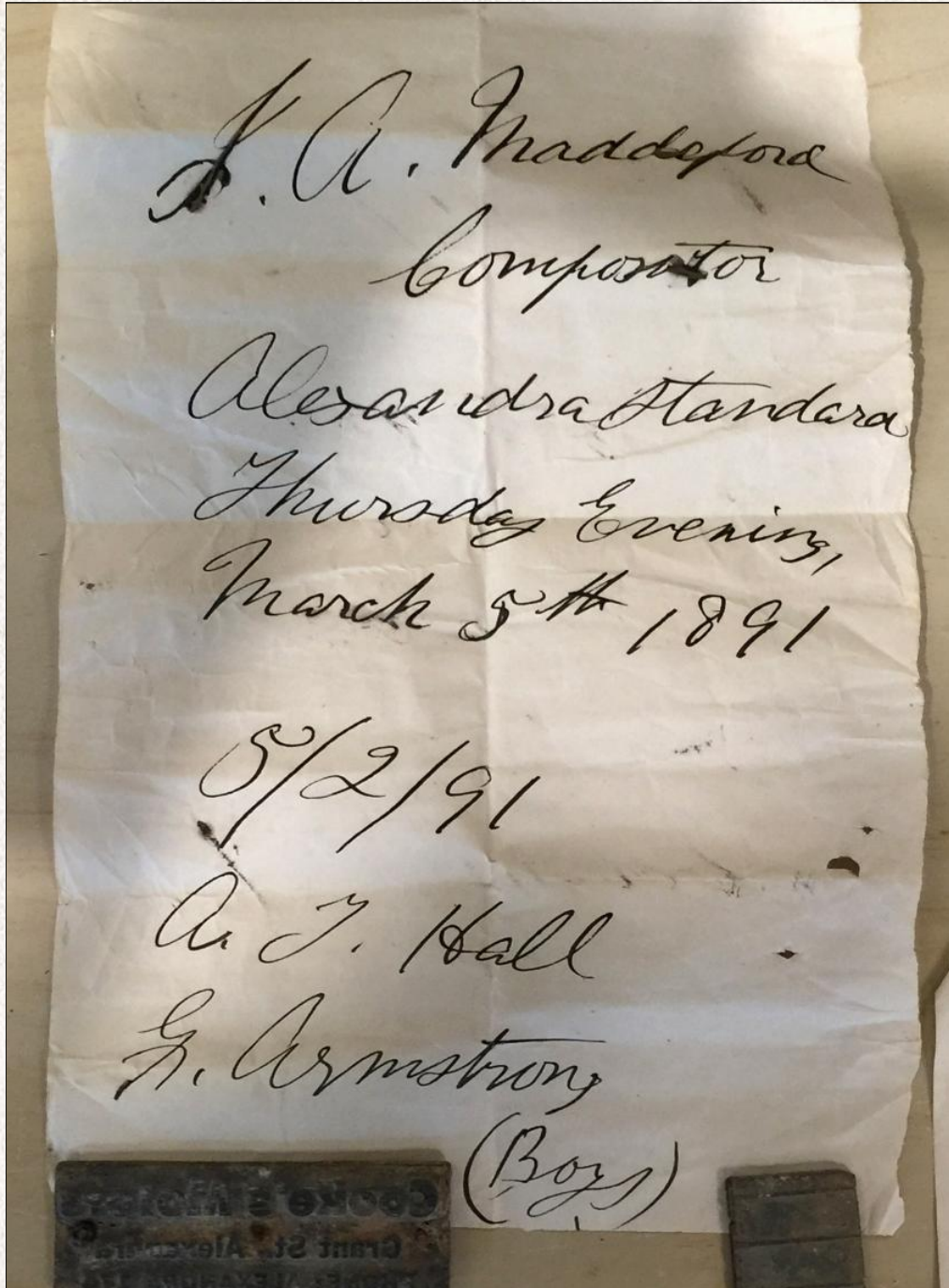


**"J.G. Maddeford Comp. Standard Office, March 5th 1891, 5/3/91, Jim"**

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1891 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS



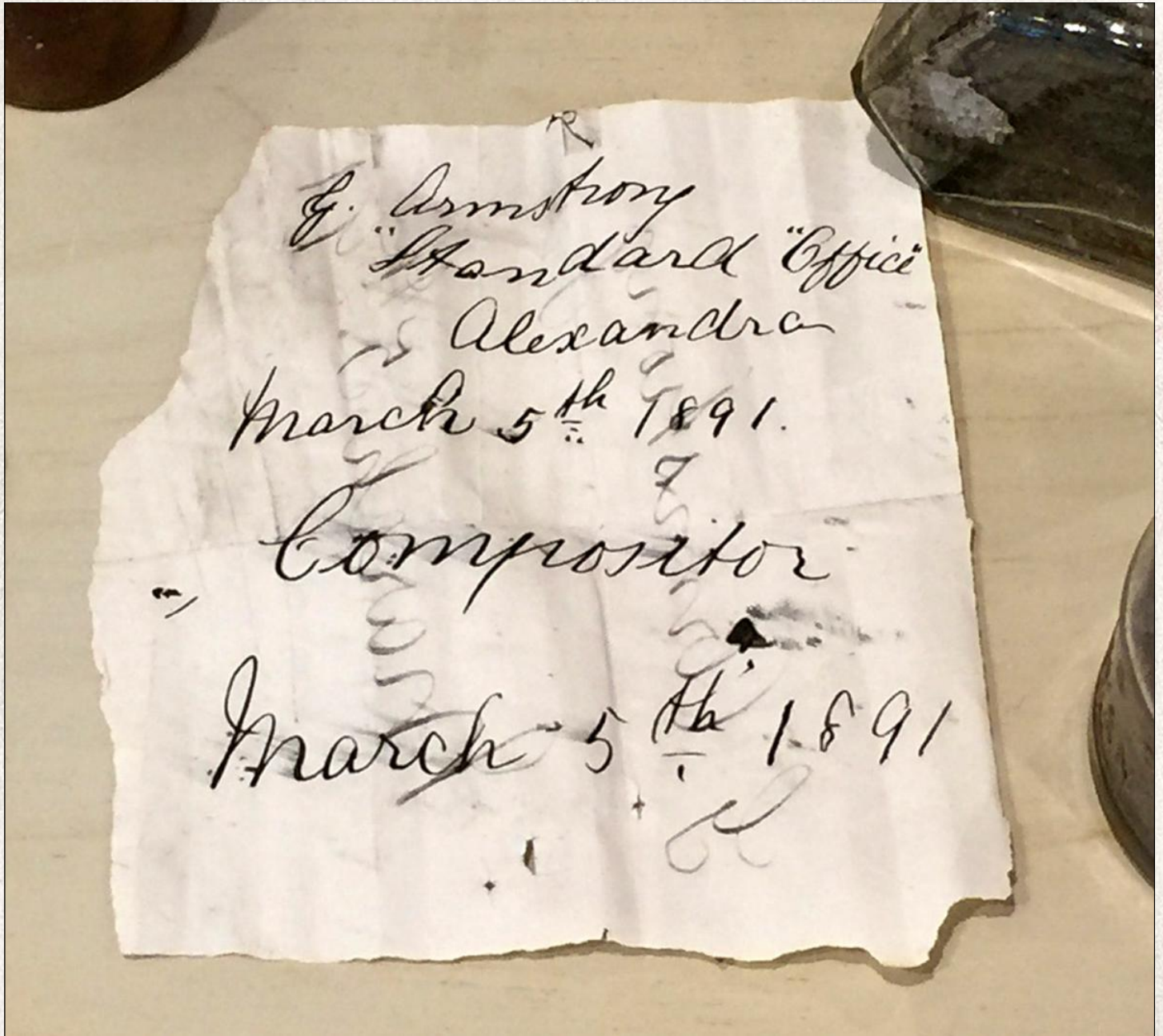
"J.A. Maddeford, Composer, Alexandra Standard, Thursday Evening,  
March 5th 1891."

"5/2/91 A.J. Hall, G. Armstrong (Boys)"

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1891 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS

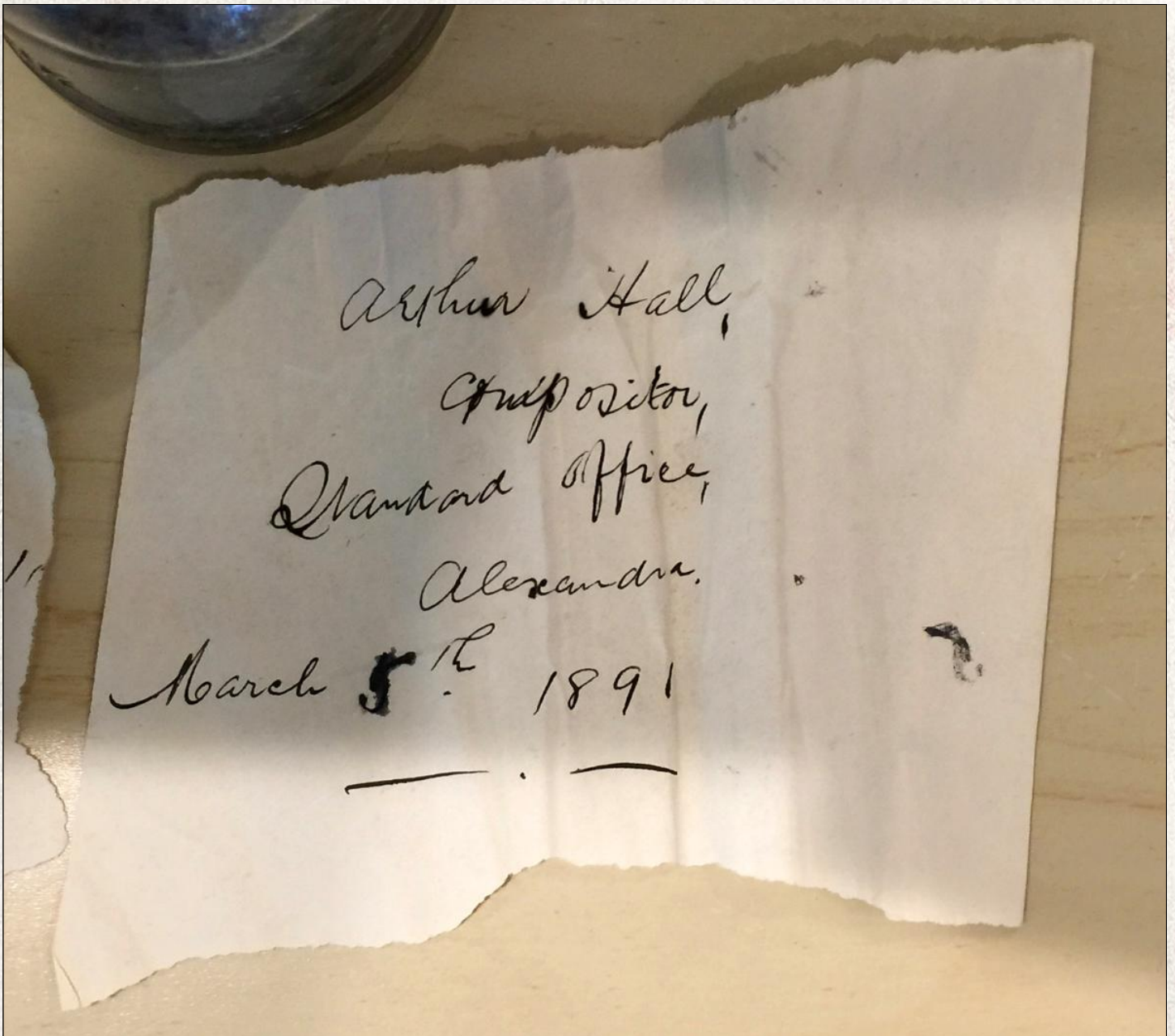


**"G. Armstrong, Standard Office, Alexandria, March 5th 1891,  
Composer, March 5th 1891"**

Courtesy Alexandria Library 2016.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## 1891 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS



**"Arthur Hall, Composer, Standard Office, Alexandria, March 5th 1891"**

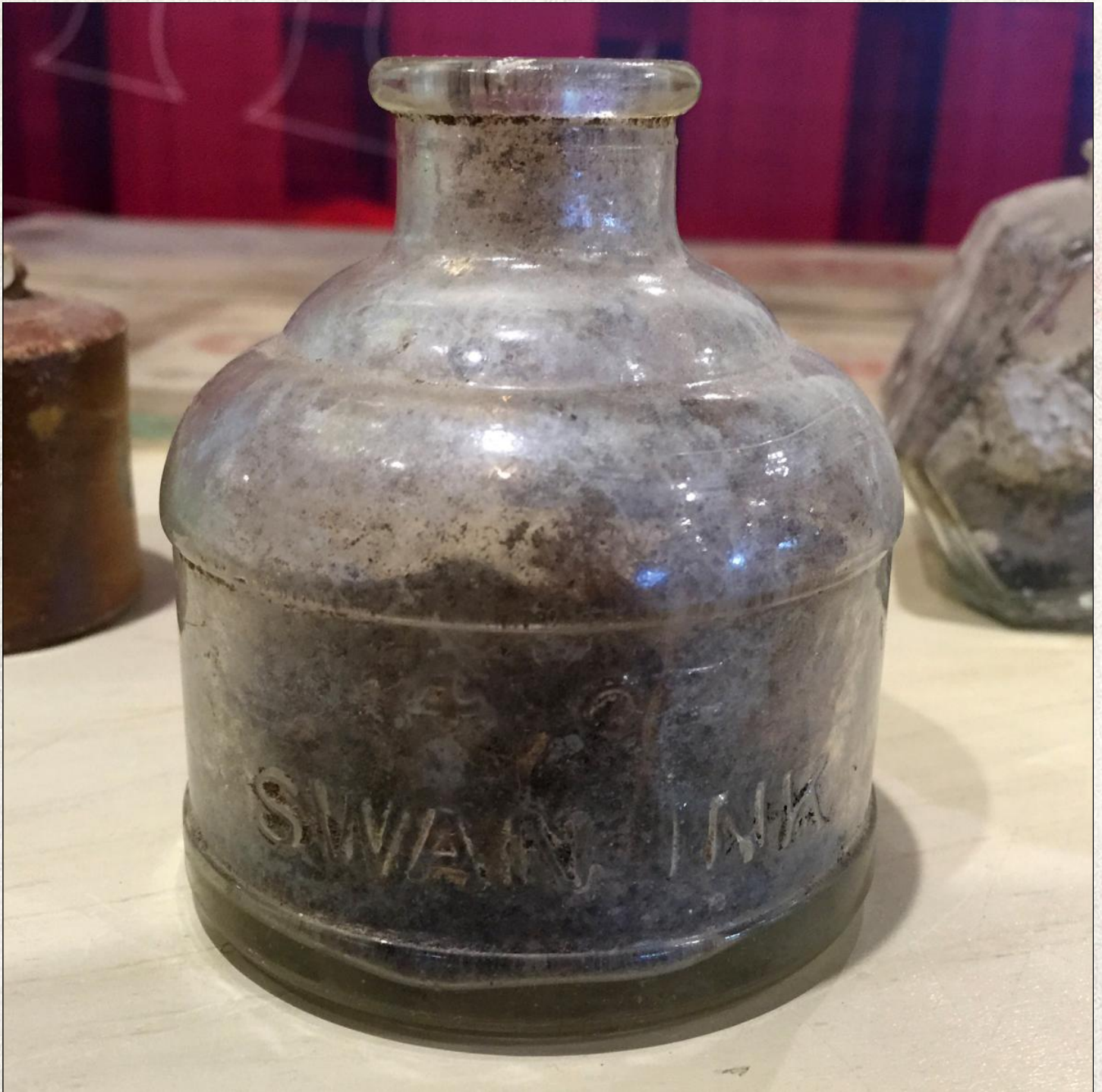
Courtesy Alexandria Library 2016.

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OTHER ITEMS FOUND



**Swan Ink Bottle.**

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.



*Standard Office*  
*March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891*

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## OTHER ITEMS FOUND



**Ink bottle.**

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1899

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## ITEMS FOUND FROM LATER ERA



NATIONAL  
**BILLY CART DERBY**  
 ALEXANDRA, Victoria

EASTER

Boys 11 - 15 - ENTRIES CLOSE 20th MARCH.  
 WHOTE NOW FOR ENTRY FORMS AND RULES

**Louvre window blade from the Alexandra Standard Office window  
 advertising one of the Billy Cart Derby events. The derby was held annually 1959 - 1961.**

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## ITEMS FOUND FROM LATER ERA



Shire of Alexandra  
**CENTENARY**  
 CELEBRATIONS

EASTER 1969

Commencing April 3  
 Concluding April 7

Float Procession  
 Easter Saturday

**Louvre window blade unearthed at the Alexandra Library construction site 2005.**

Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

5/3/91

Standard Office  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1891

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## ITEMS FOUND FROM LATER ERA



REVERSED FOR EASY VIEWING



Printers block unearthed at the Alexandria Library construction site 2005.

Courtesy Alexandria Library 2016.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## COOKE'S MOTORS

Cooke's Motors have had a new garage erected. The building is quite an imposing one and is quite an asset to Alexandra. The building is of concrete and has big show windows, as well as a department for motor accessories. The building was erected by Clay, Buchanan and Stillman, contractors, of Alexandra.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 11 April 1952  
Courtesy National Library Australia

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF

## COOKE'S MOTORS

AS AUTHORISED LOCAL DEALERS FOR  
DE SOTO CARS AND TRUCKS. TRUCKS FROM 15 cwt  
TO 6 TON  
ALL PARTICULARS FROM COOKE'S MOTORS, 'phone 174.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 10 June 1953  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Cooke's Motors.**  
Courtesy Alexandra Library 2016.

## 1891 NEWSPAPER ISSUE

# Alexandra & Yea Standard

GOBUR, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS  
With which is incorporated THE ALEXANDRA TIMES  
ESTABLISHED 1864.

New Series, Vol. 9, No. 456  
THE ALEXANDRA & YEA STANDARD, FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1891.  
Price, Fourpence.

### BUSINESS NOTICES

**W. J. DAVIES,**  
GENERAL BLACKSMITH & SHOER,  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**CORNER HOTEL,**  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**ALL-UP HOTEL,**  
BOOKING OFFICE TO ALL PARTS OF THE COLONY.

**JUNCTION HOTEL, Tallarook**  
S. J. HOWE Prop.

**MINERS' EXCHANGE HOTEL,**  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**H. WOODS (late of Mansfield) PROPRIETOR,**  
GOOD STALLING, EVERY CONVENIENCE FOR MAN AND HORSE.

**CALEDONIAN HOTEL, YEA.**  
P. W. COULAN (late J. C. Sanders)

### BUSINESS NOTICES

**M. HALL,**  
GROCER, DRAPER,  
IRONMONGER,  
AND  
GENERAL STOREKEEPER  
Grant Street, Alexandria.

**FREDK. WHEELER,**  
Family and Dispensing Chemist, Surgeon Dentist  
ALEXANDRIA AND YEA.

**Wool**  
**YOUNGHUSBAND & CO.**  
LIMITED.  
Wool  
GRAIN  
HIDES  
SKINS  
TALLOW  
BARK  
SELLING BROKERS,  
MAKE CASH ADVANCES.  
MELBOURNE.

**Kruse's Insecticide**  
For the destruction of all Insect Pests.  
A LADY writes:—"Life be hush would be unendurable, but for Kruse's Insecticide."  
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.  
Sold Everywhere, in tins, at 1s. and upwards.  
AGENT FOR THE ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT—  
**F. WHEELER, Chemist,**  
Grant Street, Alexandria.

**Kruse's Fluid Magnesia**  
Cures Indigestion, Biliousness, and Nervous Headache.  
A SURE PREVENTION OF GOUT AND GRAVEL.  
Read Medical Testimonials wrapped with each Bottle.  
Of all Chemists, at 1s 8d, 2s 6d, & 3s 6d per bottle.  
AGENT FOR THE ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT—  
**F. WHEELER, Chemist,**  
Grant Street, Alexandria.

### BUSINESS NOTICES

**LOOK OUT LOOK OUT.**  
PUBLIC NOTICE.  
**H. OATES, TAILOR,**  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**T. A. Lawford,**  
STOREKEEPER,  
ALEXANDRIA.

**T. CARISON,**  
CONTRACTOR & UNDERTAKER  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**W. PARSONS**  
CENEMIST & DRUGGIST  
88 Bourke-st., Melbourne.

**JAS. HOSKEN,**  
PRACTICAL  
BLACKSMITH & FARRIER.

**J. MILROY**  
FOR THE SALE OF THE  
FINEST COGNAC WITH  
BOTTLES OF THE  
FAMOUS  
CHAMPAGNE  
WINE.

### BUSINESS NOTICES

**DR. COLE LITTLEPAGE,**  
DENTIST,  
CORNER HOTEL, ALEXANDRIA.

**DR. W. H. HALL,**  
DENTIST,  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**MISS W. H. HALL,**  
DENTIST,  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**MISS W. H. HALL,**  
DENTIST,  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.

**MISS W. H. HALL,**  
DENTIST,  
GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRIA.



**DOWNLOAD**

The issue of the Alexandra & Yea Standard published 6 March 1891. This issue came out just after the time capsule was planted and while no mention is made of the capsule, it makes interesting reading. Maybe there is a hidden message in it that we have not found!



*Artworkz*

*Serving the Community*

*L. A. Maddox  
Composer*