

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* October - November 2006 Newsletter No. 3

## 8 October OCTOBER HERITAGE WALK

Tooronga Closer Settlement Estate, Glen Iris (bounded by Tooronga & Burke Rds, High St and Gardiners Creek)

Sunday 8 October 2006 at 4pm.

Meet cnr High and Edgar Streets

Non-Members \$5

Members Gold Coin Donation (+ optional \$5 for Walk Book)

Enquiries Steve on 0418 546 103



Glen Iris Valley Progress Association  
Hall 1910 Reg No 93

## 15 October SPRING INTO GARDENING VICTORIA GARDENS

High Street Prahran Sunday 15 October 11am – 4 pm. Malvern Historical Society display and sales table. If you can help for an hour between 12noon and 4 pm we would love to hear from you! Jane 0438515631

## 27 October VISIT TO THE HAROLD HOLT SWIM CENTRE

In 1966 Malvern Council commissioned architects Kevin Borland and Daryl Jackson to design a new swimming complex. The Centre was opened by the Prime Minister, John Gorton in March 1969. It is one of the earliest buildings in Victoria of the Brutalist style.

Glen Blamey, Project Architect, from Peddle Thorp Melbourne and Lincoln Ponton, Marketing Team Leader from Harold Holt Swim Centre will lead a tour of the Centre.

Friday 27 October 10.30am Bookings essential. Roxanne 9885 7194



Construction of the diving tower 1969  
Reg No 5357

## 12 November NOVEMBER HERITAGE WALK

Town Hall Estate, Malvern  
(bounded by Glenferrie, Malvern & Tooronga Rds and High St)

Non-Members \$5

Members Gold Coin (+ optional \$5 for Walk Book)

Sunday 12 November 2006 at 4pm

Meet: Under the Town Hall Portico, Glenferrie Road

Enquiries Steve on 0418 546 103



Kinnoull Sorrett Avenue 1960 Reg No 1707

## 27 November 120<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE MALVERN SHIRE HALL

The MHS Inc celebrates the 120th Anniversary with a visit to the Stonnington City Centre (Malvern Town Hall). Stonnington Local Historian Di Foster will present a slide show and talk in the Council Chamber.

Meet under the portico in Glenferrie Road at 9.45am.

Bookings essential. Roxanne 9885 7194



Illustration of the proposed Malvern Shire  
Hall, 1885. Reg No 5018

## Prahran Historical & Arts Society Diary

### Dates

Jenni 9509 9978

#### 29 October

Walk The Avenue and  
Lewisham Road, Windsor  
Walk at 2.00 p.m.

#### 9 November

Prahran Historical & Arts  
Society AGM. at the Grattan  
Gardens Community Centre

#### 3 December

Prahran Pub Crawl at 2pm

#### 4 February

Chapel Street, South Yarra.  
Walk at 10.30am

The Malvern Historical Society is very pleased to have received **Stonnington Council Community Grant funding for 2006/2007**. Our planned projects include the collecting of oral history with a multicultural theme, another bus trip in 2007, publicity pamphlets for the Society and eighteen uses of Northbrook for meetings and working bees.

We are also happy to announce that the **East Malvern Community Bank** has provided funding for Walk into History 4, due to be published in 2007 and to cover the costs of graphic art work for the next six issues of this newsletter.

Funding for postage for our August-September newsletter was provided by **Australian Heritage** magazine.

East Malvern  
**Community Bank** Branch **Bendigo Bank**



300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044



## Who's Who in Stonnington - Judith Dynan (nee Hawting)

"My father's name was William Charles Hawting. He came to Australia from England in 1911 when he was only three years old. The ship was named the Gothic, and it sank on its return voyage. My mother, Mary O'Donoghue, who lived next door to him at 8 Belgrave Road had earlier lived in Bendigo and had traveled twice a week on the steam train to study singing and piano at the Conservatorium.

Bill bought a butcher shop in Malvern Road, Darling and, shortly afterwards, proposed to my mother. They were married at St Mary's, East Malvern, and built their home at 11 Merville Avenue on the corner of Berrima Avenue.

My father had a beautiful singing voice and began to perform publicly. He won many competitions including the Sun Song Test. He was unable to enter the Sun Aria because he was not born in Australia.

My father became a Catholic before he married my mother and they both sang in the St Joseph's and St Mary's choirs and, later at Holy Eucharist. and the St Francis Church in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. He sang in that choir for many years, and was their principal soloist. He also sang at the St Patrick's Day concert in the Melbourne Town Hall for about six years running at the request of Dr Percy Jones. His more serious singing was at concerts at the Assembly Hall, the Athenaeum and the Melbourne town Hall, where he once did a concert with Sir William McKie, who was the city organist after Dr Price (who lived in Dandenong Road near Chadstone and taught me piano for a short time when he was over ninety years old).

My father began singing on Radio 3LO in the very early days before a proper studio was built – the walls were hung with hessian to improve the quality of the sound. Before these performances a programme would be worked out, usually with a theme such as songs of the sea, love songs, selections from a sing cycle or German lieder. Each song would have to be timed with my father's big alarm clock ticking away next to the piano.

East Malvern was an outer suburb in those days. The Ashburton forest was a picnic spot and the "Balwyn Wildlife Sanctuary" was our equivalent of the Healesville Native Zoo. Even after the Malvern City engineer, Oscar Flight, tamed Gardiners Creek, we were not allowed to play there, especially after Jennifer Hand, one of the girls from my school, was drowned near the East Malvern Golf Links.

The streets were full of activity in the 30's and 40's. At night the clink of the milk bottles heralded the milkman with horse-drawn sideless cart (our horse knew where to stop without being told). The postie came twice a day and once on Saturday. The baker came every day with bread still hot from the oven, in a beautifully decorated cart from Charleston or Calander's Bakeries. There was a wonderful step on the back which the boys rode on, if they got half a chance. The butcher boys rode bikes, each with a big wicker basket on the front. There must have been others selling fruit and vegetables, because my mother used to buy apples by the bucket at the door. The groceries came once a week and there would be a paper cone of lollies for the children. The woodman delivered in winter and the iceman in summer. We had a refrigerator, but I always envied the children opposite because they had half a block of ice delivered every time. It was such fun watching the iceman chip a block in half, with chips flying everywhere, and if you were lucky you would get a chunk. Then he would wrap the block in hessian to carry it in to the ice chest.



Malvern Council Depot 1927 Reg No 5191

The gutters were swept regularly by a man or two with huge, strong bristled brooms, and their horse plodded along slowly, sometimes with a chaff bag under his nose, pulling a green cart with MCC stamped on it in big letters and all manner of tools hanging on the back. The "bottle-o" came by occasionally calling loudly, but by far the most exciting event was the arrival of the road gang with the steamroller.

The Hedgeley Dene Gardens have always attracted people of leisurely pursuits and, during the school holidays, there was a steady procession of children to my father's shop asking for meat to bait their lines for yabbies. My father, always young at heart, entered into the spirit of the occasion and often had to admire the catch afterwards.

Source: Extracts from Judith Dynan's recollections (1987). They were donated to the Archives together with a scrap book of copies of programmes and news cuttings related to the baritone William Hawting.

## Who's Who in Stonnington - Charles Washington Umphelby

Charles Washington Umphelby was born in 1826 near London and emigrated from England in 1842. Umphelby, a wine merchant, settled in Malvern in 1866 when he purchased Nerrena (later known as Sorrett) on the east side of Glenferrie Road.



Charles Washington Umphelby (undated) Reg No 9541

To surprise his wife and to mark the birth of his second daughter Ethel, Umphelby planted a majestic line of pine trees, eucalypts, red roses and geraniums along the carriageway that became Sorrett Avenue, and an elm tree on each side of the green entrance gates. Today only one tree remains at the entrance of Sorrett Avenue. Around 1883 Umphelby sold Nerrena and purchased the Waiora site.

Umphelby built his new house (later known as Waiora) in 1886/7, on 3 acres (1.2 hectares) on the west side of Glenferrie Road. The 11 roomed house with stables and coach house, was named Cawood, after an early family home in Ouse Tasmania. Within a year, Umphelby accepted an offer of 10,000 pounds for the property from Bowes Kelly, partner of the new Broken Hill mining company.

Kelly had made his fortune when Broken Hill became the world's greatest silver mine. He purchased a share in the new mine for 150 pounds in 1884 and within ten years the share was worth 1,500,000 pounds. Kelly was appointed a member of BHP's first Board of directors in 1885 and served continuously for 46 years. He was a member of the Malvern Council from 1893-1902.

Kelly and his new bride, Mary, moved into Cawood in 1888, and re-named the house Waiora, a Maori word meaning 'living waters'. By 1889 the house had been enlarged to 17 rooms, including the addition of a billiard and smoking room. Staff included the children's nurse and governess, cook, housemaid, coachman and gardener. In 1902 the Kelly family moved to Moorakyne, a much larger mansion in Glenferrie Road (now demolished). From 1912 to 1959, the building was variously run as a convalescent hospital, private hospital and nursing home.

In 1959 the Mental Health Authority purchased Waiora and established the Malvern Clinic, the first day hospital for psychiatric patients in Victoria. In 1996, the old house was restored and Very Special Kids opened Australia's first hospice and respite care home for children with life-threatening illnesses.



Waiora c1900 Reg no 5025

Descendants of Charles Umphelby have in their possession a large painted portrait of their ancestor. The painting has been professionally photographed and framed (with funding by Malvern Historical Society) to match the original. The project was the initiative of Hugh Forster, Umphelby's great great grandson, with the intention of returning the copy of the portrait to the old house.

The Malvern Historical Society donated the portrait to the present custodians of Cawood, David Agnew and Sister Margaret Noone and Very Special Kids.

## 50 YEARS AGO- City of Malvern – Centenary Celebrations 1956

As the City of Stonnington celebrates 150 years of Municipal Government, we look back on how the Malvern Council commemorated its Centenary in 1956.

The Mayor at the time, Cr Stanley E. Stevens, presided over a multitude of festivities and functions with the aim of ensuring the citizens of Malvern took pride in their city. It was noted that the "Gardiner Road District Proclamation (6th October, 1856) was one of the very early acts of the Government of the newly created Colony of Victoria" A good reason to have a very big fireworks display!

A month-long program of events was scheduled, commencing with the holding of a Special Council Meeting and Centenary Dinner (to which politicians, as well as Councillors, were invited) Other activities included: church services, a naturalisation ceremony, a ball, golf competitions, a Traders' procession and exhibition, receptions, a Floral Festival, 5-day Arts Festival, a Chinese Dragon and a huge bonfire!

Decorative buntings, banners, lights and signs were hung around the Town Hall area, and the part of Wattletree Road, where the first meeting of the Gardiner Road Board had been held at the "Wattle Tree Hotel" 100 years before.

Centenary medals were made for Malvern schoolchildren, special Centenary booklets and brochures were published and widely distributed in Victoria, as well as overseas. (A stipulation being that "all printing for the Centenary be first class ..")



Toorak Teachers College students singing in Malvern Gardens. 1956 Reg No 1830

A "Malvern Centenary City Hymn" was written specially for the occasion.

The local and national newspapers were notified with a two-page feature appearing in the Australian Women's Weekly. Publicity for the Centenary generated letters of congratulation, donations of historic mementos, as well as a family wishing to migrate from "Mother Malvern" in England, to our Malvern, Australia. Many may be aware of our namesake in the UK, but there are actually a number of places around the world sharing the name 'Malvern'- In 1956 some of those known included: 1 in each of England, New Zealand and South Africa, 4 in the USA, as well as 2 others in Australia. Complimentary photo albums were sent to the other Malverns "... as a pictorial record of the [Centenary] month."

A search went out to discover the oldest Malvern resident. One (Mrs Margaret Wilson) was duly found, but it was also noted that another type of living landmark of old Malvern still existed. An English Elm tree (one of an original two) stands at the corner of Glenferrie Road and Sorrett Avenue; planted by the Umphelby family in 1869. It is still standing today, in 2006, to witness another milestone in our history.



Centenary Ball 1956 Reg No 8632



Tom Cathie and Joe Martin outside Malvern Town Hall 1956 Reg No 8636

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## STONNINGTON HISTORY COMMITTEE

At the September meeting items discussed included plans for an event to mark the anniversary of the first meeting of the Gardiner Road Board (later Malvern Council), the publishing of the Thematic Environmental History of the City of Stonnington, the future of the mansion estate Stonnington and the future amalgamation of the Stonnington Archives at one location. Projects being undertaken include the microfilming of the Malvern Council Minutes (1879-1912), the transcribing of the first Prahran ratebook 1856/1857, the scanning and cataloguing of photos from the Prahran Council Annual Reports and the indexing of the Malvern News Sheet from 1973.

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## TAKING LOCAL HISTORY INTO THE COMMUNITY

Talks have been given to two local community groups, Malvern Ladies Probus and Stonnington Life Activities Club and the History Fair at Dallas Brooks Hall visited. In October a walk around the Malvern Town Hall environs is being planned for the Balwyn Life Activities Group and a talk is to be given to Stonnington Ladies Probus. Committee members attended the RHSV Seminar on Historical Society Membership and in October we are hosting an event for the RHSV which will include a walk, a tour of the Archives at Northbrook and afternoon tea.

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## INFORMATION NEEDED!!

Bruce Everett, President of the Malvern Baseball Club is researching the history of the Club which met first in 1898. Members of the MHS Committee recall a time when baseball games would be played just before cricket matches. If you can help with any information please contact Bruce 0407 535 835

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## DONATIONS TO THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION



**1964- 5 Student photographer, Paul Beeching, and the original High School, 1962. Reg No 5228**

Spring Road Methodist Church memorabilia and photos donated by Mrs Harrison.

Copies of "Phoenix", the Chadstone High School magazine, including a special 25 year edition donated by Roslyn Gibson, daughter of David Perry, Principal of Chadstone High.

Scanned Maidment family photos of Hedgeley Dene Farm Wattletree Road, East Malvern. From 1902, the Maidment family ran a dairy farm and the waterholes and dam on the property were known locally as Maidment's Lakes. Donated by Suzanne Golomb.

A copy of "The Boy From Malvern - The Life and Times of Sergeant George Bertie Pryor" by Geoff W. Pryor has been purchased. The Pryor family is closely linked to Malvern's history, including the author's father L.J. Pryor who was Principal of Toorak Teacher's College during the 1960's.



**Geisla, Hewby & Lauri in front of Kardinia 1921 Reg No 9503**

Two recent donations relate to Kardinia in Dundonald Ave, home to both the Officer and the Borbidge families. The house was built in 1888-89 on lot 33 in the Glen Iris Station Estate for Martha Officer. In 1967 Kardinia was demolished and replaced with villa units.

Scanned photos from the Officer family album. They were taken at Kardinia in 1913 by Hugh Officer, aged 15. Donated by Hugh Forster, a member of the Officer family.

Scanned photos of Kardinia from a family photo album thought to have been originally owned by the Borbidge family, loaned for copying by Brian Magree.

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## Welcome new members!

Welcome to new members Pat Campitelli and Anne Kemp.

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## Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

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Photos from the Stonnington Local History Collection appear with their reference number. To view an enlargement and to read more of the related history go to the web site below, select a history index and enter your search. Material for the history articles in this issue has been researched from the Stonnington Archives.

**[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library/history/catalogue/historysearch](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library/history/catalogue/historysearch)**

### **Malvern Historical Society Inc (A7682)**

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[www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern)**

The Malvern Historical Society Inc is a member of the Stonnington History Committee, an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, a member of the South Metro History Group and has been appointed by the Public Record Office of Victoria as a Place of Deposit for non-permanent public records.

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### **OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS:**

Stonnington Local History Service [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) • Tel: 8290 1360 • Tel: 8290 7160  
Prahran Historical and Arts Society P.O.Box 8649, Armadale Vic 3143 Tel: 9509 9978 [www.vicnet.net.au/~phas](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~phas)

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