

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* February - March 2007 Newsletter No. 5

11 February FEBRUARY HERITAGE WALK

Jackson's Paddock, Toorak
(bounded by Toorak, Kooyong, Malvern, Hopetoun Roads)

Sunday 11 February 3pm

Meet corner of Malvern and Albany Roads Toorak

Members - Gold Coin Donation

Non-members \$5

(+ optional \$5 for New Walk Book!)

Enquiries Steve 0418 546 103



Garage and Chauffeur's accommodation for W.L.Baillieu, Albany Road c 1923

17 March PETS IN THE PARK

Can you help for an hour or two?

City of Stonnington's "Pets in the Park" is held in March each year at Central Park East Malvern .

The Society will be manning a history stall and providing a large display of photographs.

The Committee would appreciate your help with the sales table especially between 11am and 4pm.

Our local history displays are always well received by both the adults and children from our local community.

To find out more please ring Roxanne 9885 7194



Reginald C. Power with his dog Roy 1910. Reg No 511

18 March MARCH HERITAGE WALK

Brocklesby, Huntingtower and Mercer Estates, Armadale

(bounded by Glenferrie, Malvern and Kooyong Roads and High Street)

Meet corner of Malvern Road and Murray Street Armadale

Sunday 18 March 2pm

Members - Gold Coin Donation

Non-members \$5

(+ optional \$5 for New Walk Book!)

Enquiries Steve 0418 546 103



Kelmscott Huntingtower Road c 1900. Reg No 5208

INFORMATION NEEDED

Blocks of flats on Wattletree Road between Kooyong Road and Glenferrie Road have replaced 3 early homes. Around 1860 James Hunt's *Duncraig*, George and Louisa Thomas' *Leaton House* and District Surveyor Michael Callinan's *The Pines* were all built on the north side of Wattletree Road.

If you can help with information on these owners and their homes please ring Di or Ellen 8290 1360.

Who's Who in Stonnington - The Pryor Family



William Henry and Jane Pryor c 1915.

The Pryor family served the local Malvern community over a long period. William Henry Pryor (1849-1924) and John Pryor (1863-1933) were brothers from a large family of early Malvern pioneers who in 1886 purchased 64 and 66 McArthur (formerly Orchard) Street.

Both brothers worked as gardeners for the Malvern Council for over 30 years. William was a Trustee of the Spring Road Methodist Church and both William and John taught at the Sunday School.

William and Jane Pryor had 14 children, of whom 7 survived infancy. The family lived at 64 McArthur Street for about 30 years. For more than 40 years John and his large family lived next door at 66 McArthur Street.

The children of both families attended the Spring Road State School No. 1604. William and Jane's youngest son, George, was killed in action in 1916 during the Great War. His name appears on the Malvern War Memorial now located in Central Park. Both George Pryor and Charles Pryor, John's son, are listed on the W.W. I Honour Roll at Spring Road Church.

Various members of the Pryor family continued to live in Malvern until the early 1950s. During the 1960s L.J. Pryor, grandson of William Henry Pryor, was Principal of the Toorak Teachers College located at **Stonnington** in Glenferrie Road.

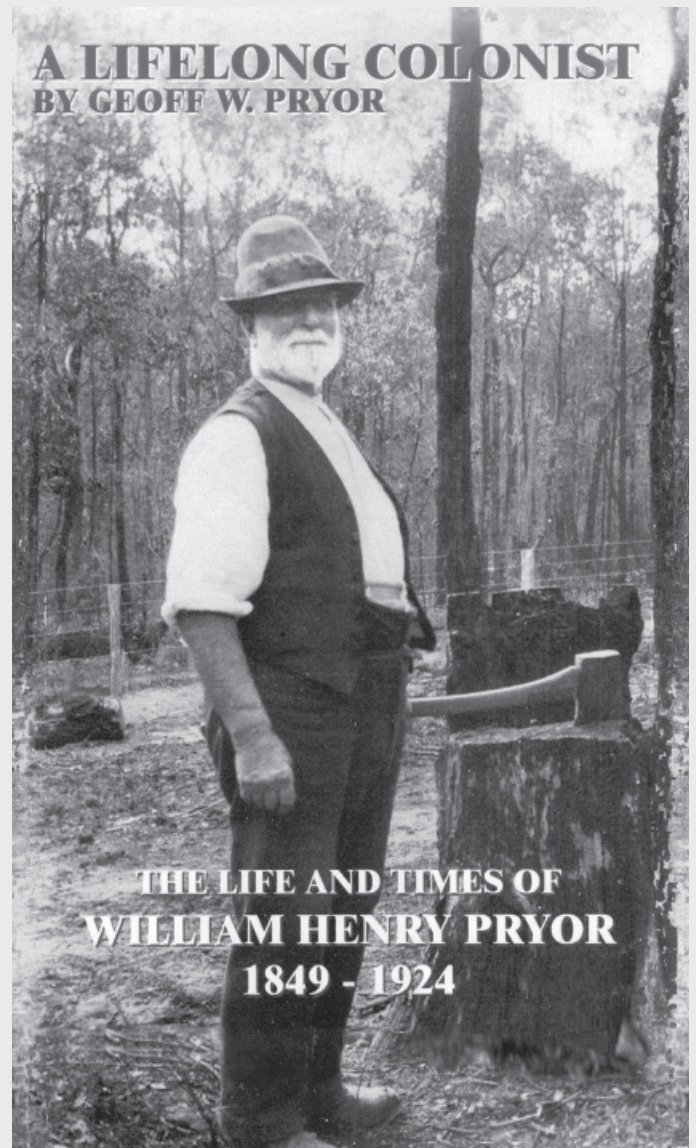
The Pryors have had a close relationship with Malvern for over 100 years. In October 2006 the laneway at the rear of shops in Malvern Road between McArthur and Cawkwell Streets was named Pryor Place.



Circuit Ministers and Spring Road Officers 1910. Reg no 945



William Herbert Pryor at work in his hairdressing salon. Malvern Road Tooronga c 1950.



To purchase a copy of the book on the history of the Pryor family please contact Jane 0438 515 631

Who's Who in Stonnington - Thomas W. Pockett O.B.E.

Thomas Pockett was born in England 150 years ago on 11 February 1857. He left school at an early age, obtained work in a nursery and by the age of 20 was foreman gardener on an English estate. He won his first prize for chrysanthemums at a Cheltenham flower show when he was 19.

Newly married to Louisa Bayliss, Pockett migrated to Australia, aged 21. Around 1882, Pockett obtained the position of head gardener at **Kenley** in Kooyong Road. Here he won the first prize offered by the Horticultural Society of Victoria, 'for the best arranged and best kept gentleman's garden within four miles of the Melbourne G.P.O.'

Around 1886 Pockett purchased land in Malvern Road at the corner of Shaftesbury Ave where he built his new home **Hatherley**. Many thousands of chrysanthemums were soon growing on vacant blocks surrounding the house.

In 1888 when Pockett relinquished his position at **Kenley** to concentrate on his chrysanthemums, he was approached by Malvern Council to prepare a plan for a Municipal Gardens, the site being a sandy barren paddock in High Street, on the corner of Spring Road. Pockett was then appointed Curator of Parks and Gardens for the Town/City of Malvern, a position he held for thirty years. During this time he designed both the Malvern Gardens and Central Park East Malvern.

Pockett designed Malvern's first public gardens in High Street with serpentine paths and no straight lines or formal angular beds. A row of English Oaks was planted each side of the drive, and palms, elms and flower-beds were planted. The lawns and planting were arranged so that long views could be obtained through the gardens. Pockett's design also included a fish-pond with artistic grotto work and handsome fountain.



Pockett family at **Hatherley** c 1883. Reg no 6512



Thomas Pockett and family 1912. Reg no 1667



Thomas and Louisa Pockett. Golden Wedding Anniversary 1928.

Pockett spent more than 70 years breeding and growing chrysanthemums and as he achieved world acclaim, displays of his prize-winning blooms became a feature of the Malvern Gardens. Varieties raised by Pockett were grown all over the world. His blooms were sold internationally and won prizes at leading flower shows. They still feature prominently on Mothers' Day each year.

Pockett also helped with the design of other public gardens including those in Kew, Richmond, Hawthorn and Caulfield. In 1918 when Pockett retired from Malvern, he and Louisa moved to Healesville where Pockett established a successful nursery. In 1945 he was awarded the O.B.E. for services to horticulture and his world-wide success with chrysanthemums. Other members of the family, including Thomas' brother George and his children William, Rose and Jack, and grandson Tom, also made a contribution to horticulture. As well as Malvern's public gardens, Pockett's other long-standing legacy is the many miles of street trees planted throughout the municipality.

Photographs and memorabilia commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Pockett (1857-1952) will be on display at the Customer Service Centre Malvern Town Hall Mon 26 Feb to Fri 9 March.

DONATIONS TO THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Desmond Zwar. *The Dame - Life and Times of Dame Jean McNamara-Medical Pioneer* (1984) (Donated by Dame Jean's daughter)

Lindsay Thompson. *I Remember. An Autobiography* (1989)

Neal Bascomb . *The Perfect Mile. Three Athletes. One Goal. And Less Than Four Minutes to Achieve It. Roger Bannister, John Landy and Wes Santee.* (2004)

Tom Frame . *The Life and Death of Harold Holt.* (2005)

D.E. and I.V. Hansen. *St Margaret's Berwick- Castle in the Air, the First Sixty Years 1926-1986.* (1996) (Donated by the School)



The Rt Hon. Prime Minister Harold Holt, Dame Zara Holt and Malvern Town Clerk Dudley Lucas. 1956 Reg 8633

LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

A small selection of local history photographs can be found on display in the window of Vacuum Cleaner World, 48 Glenferrie Road in Malvern. Thank you to David Trapler for his support.

INFORMATION NEEDED

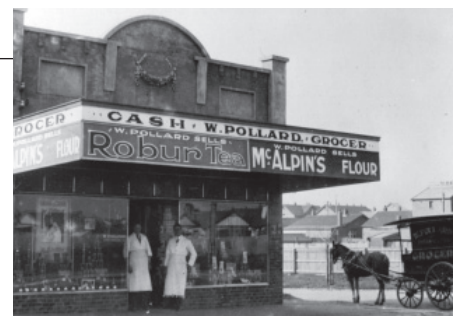
A researcher is looking for information on architect Howard Ratcliff Lawson (1886-1946). Lawson was responsible for a large number of bungalows and flats in the late 1910s and 1920s, particularly in the Alexandra Ave/Darling Street area in South Yarra. Other residential dwellings include the two storey bungalow at 326 Wattletree Road East Malvern, on the corner of Belson Street. A number of the original plans for the houses he designed can be found in the Stonnington Local History Collection.



326 Wattletree Road 1994.

TAKING LOCAL HISTORY INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Society would like to thank Peter Norman and the East Malvern Community Bank for providing their meeting room for our display and supper on the evening of our January heritage walk. Thank you also to Irene for leading the walk, Roxanne for arranging the publicity in The Age and Bruce, Peter and Jane for their involvement on the evening. We welcomed visitors from across Melbourne including a number who came with photographs and memories to share. Bruce McBrien, President of the Malvern Historical Society, accepted an East Malvern Community Bank cheque for \$6303.00 to cover the cost of the next walk book publication and the Local History News graphic design work provided by Melissa from MBE Malvern.



William Pollard, grocer. Waverley Road c 1920. Reg no 6541

Welcome new members!

Welcome to new members R & E Fraser, M Aitken, A Balla, J Bokor, J & B Thomson, R Nash and B Bowness

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Photos from the Stonnington Local History Collection appear with their reference number. To view an enlargement and to read more go to the web site below. Material for the history articles has been researched from the Stonnington Archives.

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library/history/catalogue/historysearch

SPONSORED BY:

East Malvern
Community Bank Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044

Malvern Historical Society Inc (A7682)

P.O.Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 malvernhistorical@yahoo.com
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.

OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS:

Stonnington Local History Service 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