

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* August - September 2006 Newsletter No. 2

10 August

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute was established in 1854 as the area's first library service. It has specialised in the history of Victoria for 25 years, and provides services to genealogists, teachers, students, historians, authors and all others with an interest in history.

At 6.30pm on Thursday 10 August, the members of the Malvern Historical Society will have the opportunity to visit the PMI as a group, find out about the colourful history of the PMI and discover how the library can help you with your family history research. **140 High Street Prahran.** Light refreshments will be provided, all welcome. RSVP Jane on 0438 515 631.



Prahran Mechanics' Institute in Chapel Street 1900 Reg No. 8545

10 September



Opening Day Malvern Caulfield Recreation Club 1909 Reg No 1599.1

SEPTEMBER HISTORY WALK

"East Malvern War Service Homes Estate"

The Commonwealth Department of Repatriation offered ex-servicemen and women attractive conditions for the purchase of new homes. The East Malvern estate was one of the largest War Service estates in Victoria.

Sunday 10 September 2pm

Meet at the corner of Serrell Street & Bowler's Way, East Malvern.

Members: Gold Coin Non-members: \$5 All Welcome!

Enquiries: Steve 0418 546 103

**Working Bees Tuesday 22 August and Tuesday 19 September Join Di and the volunteers in the Archives. 10am-12noon
All welcome RSVP Roxanne 9885 7194**

Can You Help?

Spring into Gardening Sunday 15 October, 11am - 4pm Victoria Gardens, High Street (just west of Williams Road). Enjoy fascinating displays by local gardening groups, nurseries and florists. Live entertainment! The Society will be manning a stall and providing a display of photographs. The Committee would appreciate assistance for an hour or two during the day. (Roxanne 9885 7194) 'Spring Into Gardening' is held in the beautiful Victoria Gardens in Prahran, opened in 1885.

Do you have an email address?

Would you like to receive your copy of **Local History News- Keeping Stonnington's History Alive** via E-Mail? If so, please email the Society malvernhistorical@yahoo.com and let us know. The savings on postage and printing will go towards our oral history project. The digital nature of the 'electronic' newsletter allows the reader, at one click, to link to any WWW reference in our articles. It is also easy to forward the newsletter to others both locally and worldwide who may be interested in Stonnington's history!

Annual General Meeting

Congratulations to the following members who have been re-elected to the Committee of the Malvern Historical Society Inc.

President: Bruce McBrien, Vice-President: Jane Nigro, Hon Secretary: Robin Brown, Hon Treasurer: Peter Frawley, Committee: Bronwyn Worrall, Roxanne Dennis, Di Foster, David and Stan Stout.

We would like to thank Zena Roslen for her work on the Committee. Interested in filling a vacancy? Why not call Bruce on 9822 9185. The Committee meets once a month in the evening at *Northbrook*.

Coonil

Close to Darling station is the area which now includes Cairnes Crescent. Extending from Malvern Road to Gardiners Creek it was the site of an early house, first known as *Cassiobury*. It began as a 2 roomed weatherboard house built in 1857 on 15 acres of land. By 1863 the house included 13 rooms, kitchen and stables. Sometime after 1879, when the property was auctioned, its owner, John Bellin, Malvern Shire Councillor (1870-79), was jailed for five years for land speculation and fraud. In 1880 Arthur Langmore named the house *Coonil* and in 1886 he moved to his new mansion in Wattletree Road and also named it *Coonil* (now the site of Cabrini Hospital).

The adjacent allotment(s) also owned by Langmore were subdivided in 1891 as the Ledbury Estate. This included Moira, Coonil (now Clynden), Hurstmon, Illowa, Downer Street and Meaden Court.

Coonil was renamed *Craigmore* and around 1910, owner Henry Hartson subdivided the property and demolished the house. Five acres were sold to Frank Derrick and Olive Jane Stogdale who built *Yrrayne*, a large, two storey Federation style house fronting Malvern Road. In 1926/7, their land was subdivided and Cairnes Crescent created, named after local real estate agent Elliott Cairnes. In 1927 a Church of England Babies' Home was established at *Yrrayne*.



Photo of 'Coonil', showing members of the Edgcumbe and Henderson family c1890 Reg No. 1743

Darling Babies' Home

Emma Caroline Silcock was born in England in 1858. She was received into the Community of St Mary the Virgin as a novice in 1884 and became known as Mother Esther. Whilst still a novice, she had a fall and after six months in plaster it was decided that a warmer climate would help her recover, and she set sail for Australia. Members of the Church of England had formed "The Mission to the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne" and in 1888 Mother Esther took up the call from the Mission to come and work for them. Mother Esther founded the first Anglican religious order in Australia, the Community of the Holy Name. Their ministries included the House of Mercy at Cheltenham, a Children's Home at Brighton, St George's Hospital in Kew, St Ives' Hospital in East Melbourne and the Darling Babies Home.

Mother Esther and the Mission established the Darling Babies Home at *Yrrayne* which was dedicated on 11 October 1927. In 1949, architect Marcus Martin was appointed by the Mother Superior to design a new facility. In 1950, stage one, including a kitchen, dining halls, laundry, food & fuel stores and a sun deck, was erected. In 1953, *Yrrayne* was demolished and stage two including an administration building, sisters' cells, sick bay, vestry and a small chapel dedicated to St Anne, was erected. The property was sold in 1967 to the Spastic Society who redeveloped the buildings into the Rattray Wood adult hostel, opened in December 1967 by the Lt Governor Sir Edmund Herring. A new hostel was erected in 2003 fronting Cairnes Crescent and demolition of the older buildings began soon after.

Who's Who in Stonnington - Henry Coor



Henry & Beatrice Coor 1956 Reg No. 9037

Henry Coor with his wife Beatrice, and children Sandra and Allan immigrated to Melbourne from London in June 1949. Henry was an upholsterer by trade, and after buying a house in Bentleigh sought employment with upholsterers who were established at 36 Glenferrie Road Malvern. Within a very short time, he bought their business and the freehold to establish his own business trading under the name "Henry Coor". During the 1950s Beatrice Coor worked with Henry in the (front) retail side of the business whilst he re-covered and re-upholstered lounge suites with his staff of upholsterers in the factory at the rear of the premises. Their daughter Sandra Coor spent school holidays helping her mother in the shop, as well as enjoying the matinees at Metro Malvern Theatre in the mid-1950s. Sandra also helped her father in the factory laminating tables for customers by hand (prior to factory assembled melamine) prefabricating foam rubber into boat cushions and manufacturing roller blinds. In 1956, Henry Coor realized his dream to demolish and rebuild a modern shop with a 20-square flat above and roof garden for the

Who's Who in Stonnington - Peter Ferrie

Peter Ferrie was one of the earliest freeholders to settle on land within the City of Stonnington. He was to have enduring memorials in the names of an important road and a suburb. With his wife Elizabeth and her sister, Miss Atherton, Ferrie arrived at Port Phillip on 18 September 1839 as a cabin passenger on the 'Caledonia' which had sailed from Leith in Scotland. Before the end of the year he had purchased land in Swanston and Bourke Streets in Melbourne and commenced practice as a conveyancer and solicitor. He also acquired five acres in Fitzroy which he divided into 80 lots for residential purposes and named two streets for himself and his wife - Ferrie and Atherton. In May and June 1840 Ferrie mortgaged some town land to obtain funds for the purchase and improvement of Portion 21 on the north east corner of the present Glenferrie and Toorak Roads. The cost for the 60 acres of land was 540 pounds.

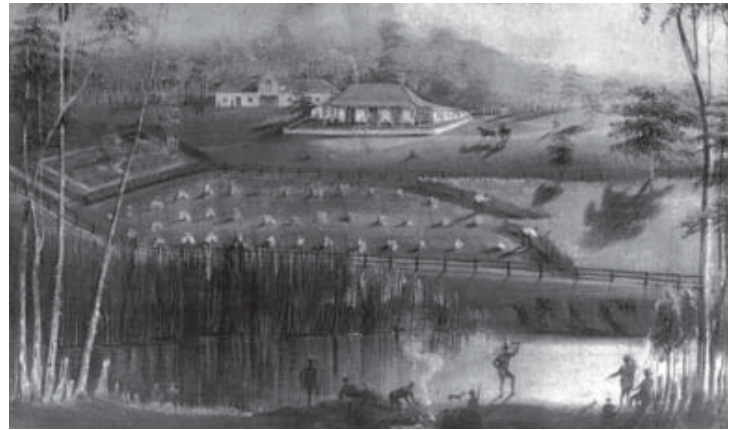
In 1839 James McAlpine had obtained a pasturage license for land on Kooyong Koot Creek (now Gardiners Creek) which including the land Ferrie was to buy. McAlpine neglected to renew the license on 1 July 1840 and it was taken up by Ferrie so he would have the use of the land around portion 21. Upon the land McAlpine had a large planting of potatoes, some milk cows and a stockyard. The Commissioner of Crown Lands gave him permission to remove the crops at a later date. Before he could do so, however, Ferrie's servants destroyed the plants, pulled down the stockyard and let the cows stray into the bush. McAlpine took action against Ferrie for 400 pounds damages and when the case came before Judge Willis on 12 January 1842, the jury with John Pascoe Fawkner as foreman, awarded McAlpine 141 pounds 15 shillings for the loss of the potatoes, said to be about 12 tons.

On 15 January 1841 Ferrie obtained a loan of 1000 pounds secured by a mortgage of portion 21 'known by the name Glenferrie together with the farmhouse and other buildings thereon'. When a census was taken in March 1841 Ferrie's household's return confirmed that he was occupying the land and had named it *Glen Ferrie*. The Port Phillip Directory for 1841 gave his address as *Glen Ferrie* Yarra Yarra. There were 18 residents,

16 of whom had arrived free, one born in the Colony and one Ticket of Leave. His nearest neighbour was John Gardiner who had squatted on land north of Kooyong Koot Creek in 1836.

In 1842 Ferrie sold some town land and began selling lots in Fitzroy but by 1843 he was in financial trouble and was unable to meet his commitments under the mortgage of *Glen Ferrie* and lost it. Other creditors were pressing him and on 13 March 1843 he assigned 37 lots in Fitzroy to a trustee for the benefit of his creditors. His later movements are obscure until 30 August 1854 when, living at South Yarra, he took action against the trustee alleging fraudulent disposal of some of the trust property. Some further sales of his land were recorded in 1855 and the last one took place on 13 April 1858, the conveyance of which was signed by an attorney on behalf of Ferrie.

In 1857 Glenferrie Road was named Barkly Road after the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly. In 1872 the road was re-named Glenferrie Road. The two streets in Fitzroy named for the Ferris disappeared when the area was re-developed by the Housing Commission.



Glenferrie c1850 Reg No. 8055

This original artwork is thought to have been painted in the 1840s to 1850s, when *Glenferrie* was owned by the Damyon family. This is one of two paintings that were in the possession of the family in Argentina. Descendants recently forwarded copies of both to the Archives.

family. Strong interest in the technical schools teaching upholstery as a hobby brought them a new enthusiastic group of customer who listened attentively to Henry's advice on the trade which had taken him a lifetime to learn. "Do it yourself" upholstery supplies, as the name became was the right business at the right time. In the 1950s, a simple "before and after" lounge suite in the window was all the advertising they needed. Conservative Melbourne was content with loose covers and wanted no radical change in upholstery. During this time Beatrice Coor "invented" the prototype of blister packaging. Coloured studs were sold loose, hessian measured by the yard, calico cut the length the customer wanted and flock and kapok weighed loose. Henry Coor passed away in 1972, Sandra married and Beatrice continued to run the retail side of the business, mostly as an interest, until her retirement in 1983. The family retained ownership of the property until



36 Glenferrie Road 1956 Prior to the redevelopment of the site by **Henry Coor**. Reg No. 9021

Stonnington Civic Leaders



The search for the missing Mayors continues. To help mark 150 years since the first meetings of the Gardiner Road Board (later known as the Malvern Council) and the Prahran Road Board (later known as the Prahran Council), the Stonnington Local History Service has published a list of Chairmen, Mayors and Councillors. The list is available on the Local History web site. While every effort has been made to ensure the list of Councillors is accurate it is a work-in-progress project. A photo of one of our missing Mayors of Malvern, William Edgar, was recently discovered on the Victorian Parliamentary Library website and a copy obtained. We were able to donate the VPL a copy of our photo of Malvern Mayor George Meares, missing from their collection.

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

If you can help us identify the Malvern Mayor in this photo please ring Di 8290 1360

Taking Local History into the Community

The Society has been represented at a meeting with Ho Lu from Stonnington Council's Leisure Department and the organisers of the Stonnington Council's Walking for Pleasure program and at the Naidoc Week Flag Raising Ceremony. Members attended a meeting of the local regional history group South Metro and an RHSV seminar on Copyright and Historical Societies. Roxanne and Jane have both been nominated for positions on the Committee of the Brighton Cemeterians, a new support group for Brighton Cemetery.

"A diverting history of Melbourne's murky river Yarra"

Kristen Otto, author of "A diverting history of Melbourne's murky river Yarra" will speak at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Library, 140 High Street, Prahran, at 7.00pm on Thursday 24 August. This is a free lecture presented by the PMI and PHAS. Refreshments provided, seats are limited and bookings are essential. Ph 9510 3393 or email library@pmi.net.au (a confirmation email will be sent to you).

Welcome!

Welcome to new members Maureen Henry, Dr R Benjamin and Stella Barber.

Donations to the Local History Collection

Silver tray donated by Pamela Swanson. The inscription notes that it was presented to Cr Ernest Johnson in recognition of his time on the Malvern Council 1959-1978

Large collection of photographs of Stonnington Council events from the Community Relations Department.

Docking Family photos loaned for copying by P. Munn



Phyllis Docking 1928 Reg No.

The 2006 Census

The next Census by the Aust Bureau of Statistics is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 8 August. Once again Australians will have the option to have their census information preserved. The information will be a valuable resource for future generations. By simply ticking "Yes" to the final question their information will be archived for release in 99 years. www.abs.gov.au/census

Members of the MHS were saddened to learn of the deaths of Jane Garden and David Fethers, both great supporters of the Society over many years.

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 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

Malvern Historical Society Inc (A7682)

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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:

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