

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* April - May 2008 Newsletter No. 12

13 April Cold Blo and Mount Pleasant Estates, Armadale

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

Cost: Non –members \$5 Members: Gold Coin

(+ optional \$5 for NEW Walk Book 4)

Meet at the **Union Street Gardens**, Union Street, Armadale

Sunday 13 April 2008 at 2pm

For further information, please call Steve on 0418 546 103



*Laying tram tracks in Dandenong Road
Armadale Reg No 1911*

The **March Walk** was cancelled due to extreme weather on the day. The planned **May Walk** has been cancelled due to Mothers' Day. Both will be rescheduled later!

29 April MALVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 29 April 8pm

St Andrew's Church Hall, Corner Burke and Malvern Roads, Glen Iris. RSVP Jane 0438 515 631

(Members please refer to the enclosed notice for further details.)

Stonnington Local Historian Di Foster will talk about the **Stonnington Local History Collection**, her role and interesting recent additions to the Collection.

3 May 150th Anniversary Holy Trinity

During April and May, **Holy Trinity, Oakleigh Anglican Church**, (corner Dandenong and Warrigal Roads, Malvern East) will be celebrating 150 years of worship. The church was erected in 1858 and was part of a government grant of 2 acres reserved for Church of England purposes. The building was completed and opened for worship on Trinity Sunday 1858.

On Saturday 3 May there will be a **Back to Holy Trinity Day** with historical displays and tours. 10am – 4pm Refreshments available. All welcome! 95685161



*Holy Trinity Parish Hall, erected 1901
Reg No 8393*

17 May BUS TRIP Beyond the Fringe!

Join our **President Bruce McBrien** on a guided bus tour through **Toorak** and **South Yarra**

Saturday 17 May 2pm-4pm

Members \$10 Non members \$13

Supported by a **City of Stonnington Community Grant**

All welcome! Bookings essential.

RSVP Jane 0438 515 631



*View of Toorak Road looking west from
Glenferrie Road, 1912 Reg No 2234*

Medal of the Order of Australia

The Society congratulates **Mrs Betty Malone** who was awarded a **Medal of the Order of Australia** for service to the community through the research and documentation of the history of **Prahran** and surrounding areas. Betty has been a great supporter of local history in **Stonnington**.

Northbrook's Mulberry Tree

In 1959 a cutting was taken from a mulberry tree, planted in **Priory Park, Malvern, England** by **George Bernard Shaw** on the occasion of his 80th birthday. It was brought back to Malvern, Victoria and in April 1960 was planted beside the front entrance to **Northbrook** (behind the Malvern Library in High Street) by the Mayor Cr. John Johnson. The tree has flourished and now, 48 years later, is estimated to be over 12 metres high and 13 metres in width.

Recently **Stonnington Council** received a request asking if a cutting from the **Northbrook** mulberry tree could be taken and sent back to Malvern England. It seems that the original tree, planted by George Bernard Shaw in England in 1936, was blown over in a storm some years ago. The idea is to plant the cutting so that the new tree in England will be linked to the original tree!



Cr & Mrs Johnson and Cr Firman planting the mulberry tree 1960. Reg No 5061

Elusive Eleanor

A family in England has recently requested information on their grandmother, **Eleanor Evans**, who was variously called **Miss Nellie Evans, Miss Downing Evans and Miss Downie Evans**. They have provided us with the following information.



Eleanor Downing Evans c1896

The 1890s was the era of the Australian nightingales: Nellie Armstrong had been renamed Melba and was wowing audiences in London and America, while in Melbourne and other Victorian cities Amy Sherwin and Maggie Stirling were receiving excellent reviews in the local press, particularly in Table Talk.

Our Eleanor, also known as Nellie, was a singer, too, though she did not perform professionally. The daughter of a **Welsh Bard, William Downing Evans**, she came from Newport in Monmouthshire. Around 1893 she visited her sister **Elizabeth Woolley**, who lived in **Castlemaine**, the Victorian goldfields town, with her husband, **Dr George Talbot Woolley**.

Dr Woolley was a prominent member of the **Castlemaine Liedertafel**, a group of men whose performances received much praise in the Mount Alexander Mail. By 1895, Miss Nellie Evans's lovely singing voice was being noticed at concerts held in the **Mechanics' Institute** and **Christ Church**; then a women's choir was created, and she was the first female soloist invited to perform with the **Liedertafel**.

It seems that for at least part of her visit to Australia – she returned to England in 1897 – our elusive Eleanor stayed at a house called **Carn** in **Horsburgh Road, Malvern**, and studied singing under a **Signor Buzzi**. He was a light baritone who was noted for his operatic performances in Melbourne and who taught at Allan's Music House in Collins Street. One local paper said she was planning to study under Signor Chechi, Dame Nellie Melba's first singing teacher, but there is no evidence that she did so. Other newspaper clippings (undated) said that she had become almost essential at fashionable Melbourne 'at homes' – such as those held by

(Continued next page)

MRS. STAUGHTON AT HOME.

There was a great gathering at St. Neots, South Yarra, on Wednesday afternoon last, May 1, when Mrs. S. T. Staughton renewed her winter afternoon at homes. Flowers had been sent down from the Eynesbury gardens the day before in great abundance, and, with the addition of the electric light, they made the house look delightfully bright and cheery. The music-room especially was very much admired. The two large fireplaces and over-mantels were banked from base to ceiling with masses of gold and white chrysanthemums, while on either side were high jars filled with variegated bamboo and grasses. The recesses and the shelf all round the room were outlined with the same blooms, and here and there were placed graceful palms, with their holders draped with old-rose and pale-green art silk.

Some very good vocal music was sung during the afternoon, and among those who contributed were Mrs. M'Cartney O'Leary, Miss Rowe, Miss Maddocks, Miss Gertrude Jerrard, Miss Mais, Miss Downing-Evans, Miss Box, Mr. F. Hutcheson, and Miss Muir.

The company included Lady Holled-Smith (well dressed in black crêpon, with a moiré cap trimmed with jet and handsome guipure; black hat, with a white satin crown), Mrs. J. R. Hopkins, Madame Dejardin, Mrs. Fred Bird (in sage-green cloth smartly made up with pale shaded mauve velvet and tinted guipure; black toque, with tinted lace fans and flowers), Mrs. J. P. Ryan (in black satin, with a black chiffon and jet bodice ornamented with a tinted lace cape and violet velvet collar; violet velvet toque, with bunches of the flowers and lace), Mrs. Robert Harper, Mrs. Henry Harper, the Misses Muir, Mrs. Alex. Oliver and the Misses Robertson, Mrs. Balls-Headley, Mrs. W. Leonard, Lady O'Loghlin, Lady Murphy, Mrs. Martin-Burn, Mrs. Ogilvy, Miss Payne, Mrs. C. M. Lloyd, Miss Carter, Mrs. Manifold, Mrs. and the Misses Anderson, Mrs. Lewis Kiddle, Miss Elise Kiddle, Mr. J. A. Levey, Miss June Clapp, the Misses Beckx, Mrs. Gresswell, Mrs. Henry Box, Miss Box, Mr. Henry Box, jun., Mr. George Box, Mrs. Joseph Raleigh, Mrs. T. Price, Miss Price, Mrs. Herbert Power

(Undated)

Mrs Staughton, *St Neots*, 246 Domain Road South Yarra and Mrs Marcus Synnot at *Eurobin*, Denbigh Road, Armadale.

The State Library of Victoria records add to the story. At this time 'The Gaiety Girl' was playing at the Bijou Theatre in town, Professor Johann Kruse's concert was held in the city of his birth before he returned to Germany, and a reception was given for Mrs Elizabeth Houyet Howard, pianist, and George E Howard, violin cellist, and it is noted that Miss Evans was warmly cheered!

About this time Eleanor wrote her Melbourne address, *Carn*, Horsburgh Grove in the front of her scrapbook. The Stonnington Local History Service is trying to identify the property *Carn* in Horsburgh Grove Armadale and its occupants during this period. If you have any information please contact Stonnington Local History Officer, Di Foster 82901360

Mrs. Marcus Synnot signalled her residence at "Emolin," Denbigh-road, Armadale, and inaugurated her "at home" days for the season by an "afternoon tea" on Friday afternoon, July 19. In the drawing-room, where Mrs. Synnot received her guests, a bright fire was kindled, which gave a cosy look to the room. Tea and coffee were served in the dining-room, which looked pretty with an arrangement of pot-plants and cut flowers. Music was the principal feature of the afternoon, and some of the most enjoyable numbers were contributed by Miss Downie-Evans, who is now almost indispensable at smart musical "at homes." Many of the guests, Mrs. Frank Stephen, Mrs. Millar, and other favourite singers were prevented from contributing to the musical programme by severe colds, which are very prevalent at present.

(Undated)

Waverley Dairy

Kevin Coghlan managed the Waverley Dairy in Waverley Road on the west corner of Fisher Street from 1953 until 1969 when the dairy closed. It was the last independent dairy in Melbourne. The milk was purchased from the Cranbourne Dairy in Darling Road and delivered to homes by horse and cart. The family, including Noreen Coghlan and 4 children, lived above the dairy. Photos of the Coghlan family at the dairy can be found on the catalogue on the local history web site www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history. The East Malvern Community Bank is on the site of the former Waverley Dairy (300 Waverley Road, East Malvern). The Bank recently ordered enlargements of a selection of photographs from the Stonnington Local History Collection showing the surrounding streets and businesses. The bank, which heavily sponsors a number of the Society's activities, plan to put the photos on permanent display.

PIANOFORTE TUNER AND REPAIRER
..... FISHER STREET EAST MALVERN S.E.5

11/3/1952
Town Clerk,
City of Malvern.

Dear Sir,

As a rate payer living at the above address, I desire the co-operation of your Council in the matter of compelling the proprietor of Waverley Dairy to cease the practice of allowing either of his two horses to roam the neighbourhood during the hours when people, (myself and family included) are sleeping. Being an indifferent sleeper, I am constantly disturbed by the noise of clattering hoofs in the street and in the lane alongside my bedroom window.

In addition, these horses have a strong liking for eating roses over our front fence. It is most disheartening to find this happening after much time and effort has gone into cultivating a garden.....

This matter is not a mere fad with me. I must have conditions conducive to rest at night and such is not the case when a horse is stamping around the immediate proximity for hours on end night after night. Canterng hoofs on the cobble stones in the lane which sets the dogs barking, is especially disruptive of sleep. We are thoroughly fed up to such an extent that we have contemplated selling our home to move elsewhere..... The horses in question are a public nuisance and to some extent a menace to traffic on Waverley Road and side streets.

Trusting that the Council is able to adopt preventative measures against future occurrences of ("loose horse play").

I am,

Yours faithfully

[Name withheld]



Bernadette Coghlan and Kevin Logan outside Waverley Dairy 1965
Reg no 12153



Milkman's horse, Waverley Dairy 1969

Taking Local History to the Community

Lisa Stafford, Research & Development Officer Social Planning, City of Stonnington, spoke about **Stonnington Council's Reconciliation Action Plan 2007-2010** at the March meeting of the **Stonnington History Committee**. A report was given on the renovation work at **Northbrook**. It is progressing extremely well and **Di Foster, David Tuck** and **Ellen Porter** are now all based at **Northbrook**. The **Stonnington Local History Collection (Prahran)** was moved from the **Prahran RSL** to **Northbrook** during February.

A very good crowd enjoyed our Sunday afternoon history walk in February. This was the first time we had held a walk in the area bounded by **Tooronga, Wattletree and Burke Roads and High Street**. Steve's talk on the day concentrated on the range of architectural styles. **Pets in the Park in Central Park** was held on a hot, windy Saturday in March. Our eight picture display boards attracted great interest all day. A special thank you to **Roxanne, Zena, Gerald, Lynette, David, Jane and Steve** who manned the sales table and answered questions throughout the day. Robin and Jane continue to plan and design the **children's brochures** for Glenferrie Road and Central Park. Lorraine and Jane are working on the planned **toddler book** with **Annette and Lily** from the **Stonnington Library** and **Mary** from the **Stonnington Toy Library**.

Information Wanted!

In 1973 **Mrs Foxcroft**, an elderly **Hughes Street Malvern East** resident, remembered as a girl watching the **Light Horse** exercise their horses in the **Maroora Street swamp**. If you have any further information please contact **Stonnington Local Historian Di Foster** 82901360

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

City of Malvern New Testament 'Souvenir of Peace' The Great War 1914-1918 donated by **Robert Turnbull**

Two pencils with the following advertisement "**You Ring U9736 We'll Deliver Fox and Gates, Superior Butchers, 643 Dandenong Road Malvern**" (the present site of the Angel Tavern bottle shop) donated by **Jill Miller**

Set of **St Roch's 2007 Church notices** donated by **Rev Father Ian Waters**

Bronze medallion commemorating the opening of the **Malvern Shire Hall, 26 July 1886** donated by **Colin Musto**

'**The Art Class- Memories of the Malvern Artist Society around 1970**' donated by **Betty Malone**

Photographs of the **mulberry tree** at **Northbrook** donated by **Jean Barrie**

Slide of Waverley Dairy horse 1969 loaned for copying by **Ted Malsem**

'**A Curious Tale**' a story of a family who once lived at **6 Karma Ave Malvern East** and a selection of photographs including **12 Karma Avenue Malvern East** donated by **Ken Dickenson**



Hudson Terraplane outside 12 Karma Ave c1952

Welcome New Members!

Rosemary Howard, Tony Buzzard & Pam Craig, Kate Witteveen, Helen M Travis and Sherrill Lister

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 read more go to the website below. Material for the history articles has been researched from the Stonnington Archives.

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

SPONSORED BY:

East Malvern
Community Bank Branch **Bendigo Bank**



300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044

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:

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