

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! February - March 2009 Newsletter No. 18

## 29 April Malvern Historical Society Inc -Annual General Meeting



Malvern Police Station, Glenferrie Road c1910

Wednesday 29 April 8pm

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall Gardiner, corner of Burke and Malvern Roads Glen Iris.

RSVP President, Lorraine Sage 9885 9082

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

## 20 May Malvern Library Talk

Wednesday 20 May 2.30pm at Malvern Library

Join Malvern Library in celebrating its 50th Birthday.

Activities will include 'Malvern Milestones', an illustrated talk by

Stonnington Local History Officer Di Foster on the highlights of early Malvern's history.

All welcome!

Regent Theatre, Malvern Road Gardiner 1936  
Reg No 8665



## 23 May Bus Trip Beyond the Bounds!

Join Immediate Past President Bruce McBrien on a guided bus tour to places of interest and hear the stories of East Melbourne and the eastern fringe of the City of Melbourne.

Saturday 23 May 2pm-4pm Members \$8 Non members \$12

Supported by a City of Stonnington Community Grant. All welcome! Bookings essential.

RSVP President, Lorraine Sage 9885 9082

## St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church Hall (former Peace Memorial Methodist Church)

Members of the **Methodist Church** held services in **Queens Hall**, opposite Caulfield Railway Station in 1906 until a small timber church was erected in **Epping St** in 1907. Church services were held in this church until 1921-22 when the **Peace Memorial Methodist Church** was built.

The foundation stone of the **Peace Memorial Methodist Church**, named to commemorate the end of WWI, was laid on **12 November 1921**. The arts & crafts style brick church, designed by architects **Arthur North & Louis Williams** and **Classified** by the **National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**, closed in 1976 and two windows were relocated to the **Ewing Memorial Church** in Burke Road East Malvern. In 1983, **St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church** relocated from the corner of Burke and Moama Roads to the **Epping Street Church and Hall**. The copper clad towers were added in 2001. The historic timber church hall in Epping Street was destroyed by fire 9 April 2009



St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church Hall,  
1988 Reg No14947

## Smith's Railway Hotel, Malvern



Kate Haley recently donated a small "Smith's Railway Hotel, Malvern" booklet to the Malvern Historical Society. The booklet dates from 1928-29 when **Smith** and **Rankin** were the publicans. First known as the **Gardiner Hotel**, then the **Railway Hotel**, the original building of 9 rooms and stables was built prior to 1856 on the east corner of Glenferrie and **Dandenong Roads Malvern**. At this time Dandenong Road was the main stock route to Gippsland and the hotel became a favourite stopping place for travellers. Early hotel licensee **William Greaves** was a noted Melbourne cricketer and he provided facilities for cricket and pigeon shooting. In 1862 **Greaves** established **Victoria's first bowling club and green** adjoining the original hotel. In 2009 the hotel is known as "**The Angel**".

## Calling for Social History Stories

[www.makingaustralia.com.au](http://www.makingaustralia.com.au)

A **new online history project**, soon to be **ABC TV series**, invites people from all over Australia to tell their personal and family history stories since 1945 online. You can upload your stories through photos, home movies, live web cams, sound recordings and text. They are particularly looking for stories that are engaging, unusual, amusing, uplifting or perhaps heartbreaking. The stories can be about anything but the TV series will be looking at the themes faith and religion, romance and relationships, parenting and childhood and the Australian home/a sense of place.



Where access to the internet is limited, people may want to engage the help of younger family members. Alternatively they can send via the postal system a written copy of their story along with some notes on any photos. You are urged to get started and upload material around mid-April. All stories will be showcased on the website.



**Malvern Presbyterian Fellowship**  
1956 Reg No 14929

**Harmoniques from Malvern Tramways Harmonica Band**  
at 3KZ talent quest c1955 Reg No 1763

**Elissa McKeand**  
Tel: (02) 8568 3100 [elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com](mailto:elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com)  
PO Box 283 Annandale NSW 2038



## Malvern Library 1959 - 2009

A public library was first established at the **Malvern Shire Hall** in 1886 but this had closed by 1918. While other municipalities had libraries, Malvern was the exception, with council reluctant to bow to community pressure. In the late 1940s one concerned group of women from the **Liberal Party** established their own free children's library. This operated

for some years above a shop in **Glenferrie Road**, before moving to the ballroom at **Northbrook**. This dedicated group raised funds for books and ran the Library voluntarily. The name 'Liberal' was dropped when the library was run from Council premises and the **Town Clerk, Dudley Lucas**, became its treasurer.

In 1955 pressure from interested community groups forced the Council to a Library referendum. One group, with the committee named **Library for Malvern Campaign Committee**, (later to become the **Malvern Arts Council**) was formed to campaign for the 'yes' vote, which narrowly won by a majority of only 9%. As a teenager, (**Dr**) **Alan Gregory**, was secretary of this committee.

**Malvern City Council** then moved to establish a first class library service. A site for the new library was available in front of **Northbrook** in High Street and **Stewart Handasyde** was engaged as the architect. The foundation stone, which is still in place, was unveiled in November 1957.

With the building under construction in 1958, the first **City Librarian, P. A. Thomas**, took up his duties in preparation for the new service.



Staff of Malvern City Library, 20 May 1959  
Reg No 5496

Local resident **Lindsay Thompson, MLC and later Premier of Victoria (1981-82)**, supported the cause for the new library and was a guest at the opening by **Mayor, Cr Sydney Hayes**, on 20 May 1959. **Lindsay Thompson** spoke on the generosity of the State Government to municipal libraries. **Alan Gregory** gave the first talk in the new Library's theatre.

The number of books on opening was 13,000. 11,600 members were registered in the first year and 292,000 books were issued. By September 1963, the Library had 15,593 members and plans were in hand to provide a branch library in the Chadstone area. In May 1963 the **Caulfield-Malvern Library Union (Caulfield-Malvern Regional Library Service)** was established. Since that time **Malvern Library** has undergone several renovations, including a major reconstruction in the 1980s when the library was temporarily housed at **Northbrook**.

The **Stonnington Library and Information Service** was created by the merger of the **Malvern Library Service and Prahran Library and Information Service** in June 1994.

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past two months the Society has received research enquiries relating to the **Vera Scantlebury Brown Trust**, the **Coor** family and business, the **Read** and **Huckell** families, **Urana Heale**, 20 Dixon Street, **Elizabeth Connelly**, **Bridget Walsh** and **Christina Comerford** who lived at **Umina**, Horace St, Malvern, **James Ferguson**, **Ardrie Park** and a vintage caravan built in **Darling Rd, Malvern East!**

An enquiry was also received from a gentleman who lived at **Heathfield, Kooyong Road Toorak** after his father had been appointed as **Deputy Manager** at the **Royal Childrens' Hospital**. He believes the house was used as night nurses' accommodation and accordingly one had to remain quiet for fear of disturbing the sleeping nurses! The family was initially housed on the ground floor in the billiard room which in fact was large enough to be divided up by curtains into about 4 rooms. There were also several large cork oak trees from which one could harvest large pieces of cork.



Heathfield, Kooyong Road 1944  
Reg No12515

## The first modern collapsible umbrella

Internationally acclaimed sculptor **Karl Duldig** and his wife **Slawa Duldig née Horowitz**, an artist and the **inventor of the first modern collapsible umbrella**, lived in Malvern East from 1955 to 1986. Graduates of the **Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna** their careers were interrupted in 1938 when, together with their baby daughter **Eva**, they fled from their homeland. After the war they became notable art teachers – **Karl** at **Mentone Grammar School** and **Slawa** at **St Catherine's Toorak**. The artists' daughter, **Eva de Jong-Duldig**, and her family, facilitated the establishment of **The Duldig Studio** in Burke Road Malvern East, as a public museum and art gallery which offers the community the opportunity to explore and enjoy fine art ([www.duldig.org.au](http://www.duldig.org.au)) The video of 'the invention of the pocket umbrella' was shown on a recent episode of the **New Inventors on ABC TV**. In case you missed it the link is <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors/video/> **Go to # 2 – Pocket Umbrella.**

## Taking Local History to the Community

The Society looks forward to working with **Councillor Melina Sehr**, Council's new representative on the **Stonnington History Committee**. Both our February and March walks proved to be popular. The money raised from the February walk is to be donated to the **Royal Historical Society of Victoria** to help with their work re-establishing historical societies affected by the bushfires. Thank you to **Kate Witteveen, Roxanne Dennis, Lorraine Sage, Denis Dowty, Jane Nigro and Gerald Davis** for making our stall and display at **Pets in the Park** so successful.

The Society would like to thank **Peter Norman, Chairman of the East Malvern Community Bank** for the very generous donation of **\$3605** to cover the cost of printing an additional 1000 copies of **"Back when..."** our new picture book for small children. The Society has also benefited from a recent initiative by the **Royal Historical Society of Victoria** that aims to make local history more visible in the community. The **RHSV** have donated **\$250** to cover the cost of a **Malvern Historical Society** roll up banner and stand and **\$50** for promotional material. The Society would also like to thank the members who so generously added donations to their annual subscription.

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

Research material relating to **Charles Rudd**, photographer, **Dudley Simpson** and **David Gillespie** provided by **Mr J. Gillespie**

Digital images of the **Coffey** family at **Viva Street Glen Iris** donated by **Leonie Marshall**

**Gardiner Central School** photos donated by **Barry Johnson**

Photographs of the **Cranbourne Dairy and the Rose Family** donated by **Bob Rose**

Copy certificate of title and rate record for **Langleas** and 3 photos of **Elizabeth Connelly** donated by **John Hamilton**

Digital images of **Haverbrack** donated by **Peter Allard**



Elizabeth Connelly (undated)  
Reg No 14072



Haverbrack 1904 Reg No 14068



William and Mabel Rose 1925  
Reg No15148

## Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome our latest new members **Barbara Quinn** and **MECWACARE**.

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Material for the articles has been researched from the **Stonnington Local History Collection**. The database contains over 38,000 records. To view enlargements of photographs and to read more, just go to the website. [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)

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 History Centre [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) • Tel 8290 1360

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)