

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* February - March 2010 Newsletter No. 23

## 14 February Moorakyne & Stonnington Estates Toorak Walk

Sunday 14 February 5pm

(area bounded by Glenferrie Road, Somers Avenue, Henderson Avenue and Toorak Road)

Meet at the corner of Glenferrie Road and Moorakyne Avenue Malvern

Cost: Non-members \$5 Members – Gold Coin (+ optional \$5 Walk Book 1)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!!**

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Aide de Camp, State Government  
House, Stonnington c1910 Reg No921



## 19 February Boroondara Cemetery Murder, Mayhem and Madness Tour

Friends of Boroondara(Kew) Cemetery twilight tour focuses on the memorials of some of the more notorious, infamous and criminal! Bookings essential!

For more details phone Pauline Turville 9817 1829

## St. Kilda Cemetery Tours

28 February Old Favourites and New Finds Tour

14 March Funerary Symbols and Cemetery History Tour

Bookings: 9531 6832

## 14 March Ardrie and Repton Estates Malvern East Walk

Sunday 14 March 5pm

(area bounded by Burke Road, Waverley Road, Fisher Street and Dandenong Road)

Meet at the corner of Wilmot Street and Howard Street Malvern East

Cost: Non-members \$5 Members – Gold Coin (+ optional \$5 Walk Book 1)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!!**

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Fiske Bros. Motors Pty./Ltd. and shops on the  
north east corner of Dandenong Road and  
Burke Road, East Malvern. c1930 Reg No 682



## 27 March Pets in the Park - Central Park Malvern East

Saturday 27 March from 11am to 4pm

City of Stonnington's Pets in the Park is a popular event held every year in Central Park Malvern East. The Malvern Historical Society stall and large display of photographs are always well received by both the adults and the children from the local community.

Can you spare an hour or two to help us?

This is an opportunity for our members and supporters to become actively involved in Stonnington's local history. We will be handing out "i Spy Central Park", a self guided tour of Central Park. All help appreciated.

Please phone Lorraine Sage,  
President on 9885 9082

The Board of Advice standing on the future site  
of Central Park, East Malvern. c1905 Reg No 920



## Malvern Historical Society- Message from the President

Thank you to all the Members who paid their subscriptions so promptly and to the Supporters who have chosen to become financial members. Thanks also for the extra donations members attached to subscriptions. All your ongoing support is appreciated. I look forward to hearing from members offering to help at Pets in the Park on 27 March! Lorraine Sage – President 9885 9082

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society has received research enquiries relating to the **Osborne family, Viola May Doherty, Larnokk**, an early private hospital in **Beaver Street, Korowa's** 120th anniversary next year, the **Cove and Tait families, Malvern Road Armadale, 558 – 562 Orrong Road Armadale, Mrs Marie Scott (nee Dulac)**, who lived in **High Street Malvern and Union Street, Armadale**, the widow of **Dr William Scott, Henry Ward Cauty, 12 Wattletree Rd, James McAlpine, Robert Power, William Harwood, Coronal, Irish National Foresters**, a **State Bank house in Railway Ave, Armadale, Lara Street**, boarding houses in **Armadale**, and the decorative rockeries in a number of **Stonnington** parks.

We have also been contacted by members of the Lyle family, the **Beamsley family** from **New Zealand**, the English descendents of **Mrs. Mary Anne Hardy** and owners of an early **Brisbane** home that shares its name, **Eulinya**, with **48-50 Irving Road**.

We were also offered a 6 piece 1930's couch and the opportunity to publicize a book on the non-conformist churches of the **Malverns, UK!** All our enquiries are passed on to **Ellen, Di and David**, the **Stonnington History Centre's** hard working staff! Thanks to **Ruth Dwyer** who sent information relating to **Peter Ferrie's** early property, **Glenferrie** and noted the correct spelling for prominent Chinese citizen, wealthy merchant in early **Melbourne**, and early **Malvern** resident, **Lowe Kong Meng**. An entry for **Lowe Kong Meng** can be found in the **Australian Dictionary of Biography Online** <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A050126b.htm> We have also recently been asked to provide material for an upcoming book on "Australia's famous coastal highway, Highway One".

## Try Society Heritage Marker - Cromwell Crescent, South Yarra



Gymnasts' team at the Try Society Hall in Surrey Road, Hawksburn 1918 Reg No 8501

The **Try Society** was established in 1883 by **William Forster**, a successful leather merchant, to help street boys to improve themselves: success comes through trying, he taught. Rather than preaching at the youths, he offered them wholesome recreation and useful skills, hoping thereby to avoid "the corrupting influence of street associations". Their moral and social elevation should counter the appeal of the 'larrikin push'. **Forster** was also instrumental in setting up the **City Newsboy's Home** in **Melbourne**. Meetings of the **Try Society** were first held at his own home, then at the schoolroom at **St John's Church, Toorak**. When the need for larger, permanent accommodation became evident, land was donated by **Kensington Road** resident, **Margaret Hobson**, and money

raised by public appeal.

The **South Yarra** complex was progressively enlarged, and included library, printery, gymnasium, workshops, swimming pool, skittle alley and classrooms offering reading, writing, book-keeping, shorthand, elocution, singing, carpentry and boot repairing. The **Try Society** operated from on this site from 1887 to 1977. The buildings were demolished in 1995.

The **Try Society** continues to expand and diversify.

Try Society 1906 The two-storey buildings, (since demolished), owned by the Try Society in Cromwell Road. Reg No 7236



## Brian Dunlop

Well known Melbourne artist, **Brian Dunlop** died in December, 2009.

**Brian's** painting "**The Reading Lesson**" appears on the cover of **Private and public memory: a history of the City of Malvern**, by **Strahan, Lynne**. (North Melbourne, Vic: Hargreen Publishing Co 1989)

Cover of **Private and public memory: a history of the City of Malvern** by **Lynne Strahan** Reg No 7583



## ***James Small - Head of Household Staff at State Government House***

An English researcher, **S.Downing**, recently contacted the Society.

He has in his possession a photo of his grandfather, **James Small**, dated about 1912 – 1914. His grandfather can be seen seated in front of what he believes to be **Stonington**. The photo just says “believed to be Government House” and the man standing, behind the seated man (**James Small**) is thought to be the **Secretary of the Governor**.

The photo was taken by the **Muntz Studio, Glenferrie Road Malvern**. **James Small** and his wife **Mary**, who he had married in 1910, emigrated to Australia in 1912. **James Small** was **Head of Household Staff** at the **State Government House**. This is confirmed by a letter, dated November 1912, sent from **State Government House**.



Within the letter **Mary Small** writes “The weather....it is really beastly. We are going to **Macedon** next week all being well. Jim is not going until the 17th but as my room is taken for the first week in Dec. I think baby and I may as well go as I shall have more air there at any rate. Another Footman came out from England today, ..... so now Jim has four. I am busy packing up for **Macedon** and repacking my blankets etc with stuff for moths as there are swarms out here.” Three daughters were born to James and Mary in Australia. The eldest was born in July of 1912 while they were living at **41 The Avenue, Windsor, City of Prahran**. The researcher understands that his grandfather, **James Small** had to leave his position of **Head of Household Staff** due to arrival of his second child, who was born in **Skipton, Victoria**. **The third daughter was born in 1917**. The family returned to England in 1920. The third daughter, now aged 92 years old, still lives in England.

## ***Windella - 188 High Street, Malvern***

**Ed Duyker**, co-author, with **Coralie Younger**, of a book entitled ‘**Molly and the Rajah**’ (1991), has sent the Society an image from an album recently acquired by the **National Library in Canberra**. The album originally belonged to **Molly Fink**. **Molly** was born in **Sorrett Avenue, Malvern**, in 1894. She and her family moved to **Windella**, 188 High Street, Malvern in January 1906. **Molly** married the **Rajah of Pudukottai (also spelt Pudukota)** in 1915. Ed wondered if the photo shows **Windella** and suggests that the boy could be Molly’s younger brother **Oswald Charles Fink**. Ed also wanted to know if the house is still standing. **Stonington Local Historian, Di Foster** was able to provide the details to help Ed with his request.



The house in **High Street** was initially numbered 188, then changed to 1318. It was built as one of a row of houses. In 1902 **Windella** was known as **Morven** as shown on the **MMBW** plan. When the plan is enlarged, it is clear that the front steps and verandah footprint match Ed’s photo. Di’s research will assist the **National Library’s Pictorial Collection** in cataloguing the image. The house, **Windella (Malvern)** was purchased by **De la Salle College** in 1966 and later demolished. The last remaining house in the row can still be seen opposite the **Malvern Cricket Ground**.

## ***STOP PRESS!!***

### **Reel to Reel Tape Recorder Required**

The **Stonington History Centre** needs to borrow an old reel to reel tape recorder to listen to an old collection of reel to reel audio tapes. Please call the **Stonington History Centre** on **8290 1360** if you can help.

### **Organ Recital at St John’s, Finch Street Malvern East**

**Sunday 21st February, 2.30pm**

**Bruce Fethers, Brian Simpson, and Rosemary Fethers.**

The **St. John’s** pipe organ which dates back to 1887, has recently been refurbished (**Bruce** and **Rosemary’s** great grandfather, **James Fethers**; lived in **Finch St**, and was the first **Choir Master** at **St. John’s**).

## Taking Local History to the Community

**Phyllis Munne** was a surprise guest at the start of the January walk. **Phyllis** appeared on the front page of our last newsletter in the **Shaftesbury Avenue** photo with the caption "12 year old bridesmaid, **Phyllis Docking**, 1933" **Phyllis** entertained us with her memories of growing up and going to school in the area. The Society arranged the enlarging and laminating of a set of photographs for the **Hawksburn State School No. 1467** reunion in January. The new set of eleven **Heritage Markers** have been erected around the **City of Stonnington**. There are now over 86 heritage markers throughout **Stonnington** including markers for the **Salvation Army**, **Chadstone High School** and **Cambridge Street Armadale**. Library users will be able to enjoy the new local history display cases that have been purchased for all four **Stonnington Library** branches. Historian **Stella Barber** continues to undertake detailed research on the history of the **Prahran Library (1860-2010)**. The wool tapestry, that hung for many years in the **Prahran Library**, is now displayed in **Prahran's old Court House**.

In our last newsletter we asked for suggestions for what the initial **S.M.A.N.A.M.R.C.** might stand for. **Trevor Hart** has put forward the suggestion that it may relate to a **Rifle Club** in the **South Melbourne** area. We'll pass this on to the **Barnes family**.

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Photo of the painting of **Lydia Umphelby (nee Marzetti)** donated by **Hugh Forster**
- Family photo albums loaned for copying by **David Ross-Soden**. The **Ross-Soden** family lived at **Mandeville Hall** and at **Grong Grong**.
- 1910 cash book from the **Malvern Tramway Band New Zealand Tour 1925**, donated by the family of **H.Snare**, a member of the band.
- **St Roch's Church** weekly notices for 2009 donated by **Rev Father Ian Waters**.
- Photographs of **Valentines, Caulfield Grammar School 2009**, taken by **Michael Peluso**.
- **Lynn Elder, Holy Trinity: A pioneering church on the crossroads - A history of Oakleigh Anglican Church 1858-2008 (Holy Trinity Church is in the City of Stonnington)**
- **Peter Cuffley & Cas Middlemiss, Hung out to Dry: Gilbert Toyne's Classic Australian Clothes Hoist (Gilbert Toyne ran his business from premises in Dandenong Road East Malvern)**
- **McComas Taylor** – Extensive documentation for a history of **Hopetoun Road, Toorak; 1850-1950**
- Collection of books, brochures and ephemera related to **Malvern England**
- Research material on the **Austin** and **Embling** families provided by **Tony Michael** and the **Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Group**.



Lydia Umphelby



Grong Grong c1910

## Welcome New Members!

The Society would like to welcome the following new members **Peter Game, Alex Safran and Bernadette Polak, Gabriele and Michael Bujor, Beverley Lines, Rev Colleen O'Reilly and Rev Walter McEntee, Gerald Davis and Nicholas and Anita Fothergill.**

### 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)