

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!*

April - May 2010 Newsletter No. 24

## MayDay Blue Shield Australia

During the month of May, archives, libraries, museums and cultural heritage sites across Australia are encouraged to participate in MayDay – a national campaign for the protection of cultural heritage from disaster. The MayDay concept is promoted in Australia by Blue Shield Australia. [www.caara.org.au](http://www.caara.org.au)

## 2 May Glenferrie Road Walk

Sunday 2 May 2pm (Station Street to High Street)

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential

Cost: Non members \$5 Members-Gold Coin

(+ optional \$5 for Walk Book 1)

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

A.F. Alway and Son Estate Agency,  
Station Street Malvern c1918  
Reg No 1253



## 5 May Malvern Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker, John Hawker

Wednesday 5 May Time - 8.00.p.m

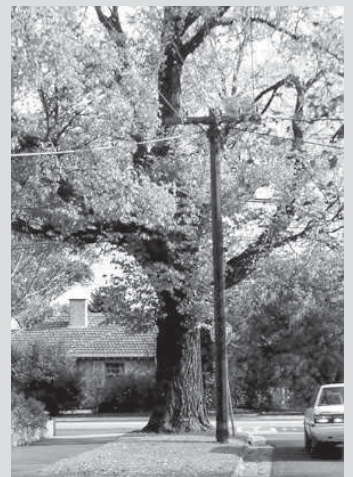
Wesley Hall - St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Gardiner (the Hall is on the south side of the Church). Corner of Burke Road and Malvern Road, Glen Iris

RSVP: President Lorraine Sage 9885 9082

Following the AGM, John Hawker, Horticulturist with Heritage Victoria, will give an illustrated talk on "Historic Trees in Stonnington".

(Note change of venue from earlier notice)

Charles Washington Umphelby planted this elm tree on the corner of Glenferrie Road and Sorrett Avenue to mark the birth of his daughter Ethel in 1869 Reg No 14188



## 23 May Bus Trip "Tracking the Tracks - 100 years of Electric Trams in Stonnington"

Sunday 23 May 2pm - 4pm

The Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust was formed in 1908 to construct and operate municipal electric tramways. The first tram left the Malvern Tram Depot in Glenferrie Road on 30th May 1910.

Tour guide - Tram enthusiast from Malvern Depot!

Find out more on our May bus trip as we explore the tram routes.

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential

Members \$8 Non members \$12

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Laying tram tracks, Dandenong Road  
Armadale 1911 Reg No 1616



## Online Index to The Argus Newspaper

An online index to The Argus newspaper for the decade 1870-1879 has just been published on the National Library of Australia's website. The Argus was a major Australian metropolitan daily, published in Melbourne from 1846 to 1957. It is the primary resource for data on 19th century Australia and is widely recognised as the general Australian newspaper of record for this period. <http://www.nla.gov.au/argus/>

## Cold Blo

The early house **Cold Blo** stood on the site of the present **Malvern Tram Depot** in **Coldblo Road**. **Cold Blo**, a five-roomed, brick home, was erected on thirteen acres of land fronting **Barkly Road (now Glenferrie Road)** in 1855 for the **Hon. Robert Wilmot Sitwell**. **Sitwell** "enriched the grounds of the home with rare exotics and the choicest fruits in amongst the large fernery and fountain. He planted an avenue of poplars along **Barkly Road** and had three orchards with apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherries, strawberries, grapes, figs, plums etc... which were interspersed with vegetables included asparagus".

In 1861, **Sitwell** sold **Cold Blo** to **William Saurin Lyster** for £550 who then sold the home to **George Edward Cowley** in 1864 for £650. At the time of the sale by **Sitwell**, the home included a coach house, stables, piggery and fowl yard. **Cowley** owned the home until 1868 when **Alfred Edward Clarke**, broker, purchased **Cold Blo** for £550. **Clarke** extended the home to eight rooms and subdivided the property in 1892 into sixty seven housing allotments forming the "**Coldblo Estate**" and **Coldblo Road**.



**Cold Blo, residence of A.E. Clarke in Glenferrie Road. c1880 Reg No 138**



**Dot Sparrow's garden at Cold Blo 1911 Reg No 1308**

After the stock market crash of 1892, the ownership of **Cold Blo** was with the **Commercial Bank of Australia** who then sold the property to the **Vincentian Order** in 1901. The **Vincentians** did not occupy the home but leased it to a number of people including **Wade Sparrow**, a teacher, who occupied the home between 1907 and 1911. **Mr Sparrow** conducted a school called **Roxburgh College** in **Cold Blo**.

In 1909 the **Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust** constructed the **Malvern Depot** facing **Glenferrie Road**. In 1911 a school building for the **De La Salle Brothers** was under construction at a cost of £2,000 on the remaining land of **Cold Blo** fronting **Stanhope Street**. In 1926 **Cold Blo** was demolished and in 1929 the **Stanhope Street** school building was sold for £7,000 to the **Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Trust**.

## Malvern's First Tram

The **Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust (PMTT)** was formed in 1908 to construct and operate municipal electric tramways. Cable trams had been running in **Prahran** since 1888. The Trust's first lines - along **High Street** from **Charles Street Prahran** to **Toorong Road Malvern**, and via **Glenferrie Road** and **Wattletree Road** to **Burke Road East Malvern** opened on **30th May 1910**. The following year a tea kiosk was built on the corner of **Wattletree** and **Burke Roads East Malvern** and visitors arrived by tram to hear the **Malvern Tramways Band** playing at **Central Park's** newly erected bandstand.

The first tram ran from the depot, which was designed by local architect **Leonard J. Flanagan**, in conjunction with the Trust's electrical engineers, **Noyes Bros. Pty Ltd**. The original depot was the first, and later the largest, of the depots constructed by Melbourne's municipal tramways trusts prior to the formation of the **Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board**. The **Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust** played a key role in facilitating suburban expansion south of the Yarra.

In 1911 the **PMTT** extended the **High Street** line west from **Charles Street** to **Punt Road** and opened a new line from **Wattletree Road** to the railway bridge at **Windsor**, via **Glenferrie** and **Dandenong Roads**. In 1912 the **Dandenong Road** line was extended from the railway bridge to **Chapel Street**, providing a connection with the **Windsor** and **Prahran** cable cars and the **High Street** line was extended west from **Punt Road** to **St Kilda Road** to connect with cable cars to the **City of Melbourne**.

Lines opened in 1913 included to **St Kilda Beach**, from **Malvern Town Hall** to **Cotham Road Kew**, **Balaclava Junction** to **Darling Road**, **Balaclava Junction (Caulfield)**, to **Brighton Road**, and **Hawthorn Road** to **Grange Road**, **Glenhuntly** via **Glenhuntly Road**. A 'grand union' junction was installed at **Balaclava Junction**. (A 'grand union' junction features



**Prahran Mayor Naylor laying the first rail in High Street, near Ivy Street 20 Oct 1909 Reg No 9112**

two tracks that cross at right angles and includes connecting curves on all four corners). In 1914 the **PMTT** opened the **High Street** line to **Glen Iris** and in 1915 a new line from **St Kilda Road** to **Burke Road, Gardiner** was opened. This was later extended into **Camberwell**.

In 1919 the **Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board** was formed to take over, operate and unify the various tramways, with the exception of two lines operated by the **Victorian Railways**. The Board decided to convert all cable tramways to electric traction. When the **Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust** was taken over by the Tramways Board, it was operating over 90 trams on 35 route miles of tramway.

**First tram, Malvern Tram Depot 1910 Reg No 1104**



## Alexander Cameron

**Alexander Cameron** (1864-1940), solicitor, and public servant, was born in 1864 near **Hamilton, Victoria**. He was educated at **Hamilton College**. He matriculated in 1881 and then attended the **University of Melbourne**. In 1885 **Cameron** was articled to **David Houston Herald**, a solicitor who later owned **Werai** at **92 Finch Street, East Malvern**. **Cameron** was admitted as a barrister and solicitor to the **Supreme Court of Victoria** on 1 September 1886.

On 29 June 1892 **Cameron** married **Mary Wright** at the **Toorak Presbyterian Church**, and they settled in **East Malvern**. From 1895-1898, Alexander and **Mary Cameron** occupied **Ilfracombe** at **15 Forster Avenue**, on the south corner of **Hilda Street**. At this time **Ilfracombe** was owned by architect and fellow **Malvern Councillor** and **Mayor**, **Sydney Herbert Wilson**. In 1899 the **Camerons** moved from **Forster Avenue** to their new home **Elaine** at **55 (later 87) Finch Street, East Malvern**. The **Camerons** lived at **Elaine** until 1926. It was a large Federation style house with two allotments in **Finch Street** and two in **Anderson Street**.

In 1902 **Cameron** was elected to the **Malvern Council**. He was a **Malvern Shire Councillor** (1902/03 and 1907/08). Also at this time he was appointed a Council delegate to the **Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works**. His main concerns were tramway services and building regulations in the suburbs. He used his legal knowledge and business ability to pave the way for the formation in 1907 of the **Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust** in order to construct an electric tramway linking the two suburbs. On 16 March 1908 both councils elected him Chairman of the Trust. In July 1919 **Cameron** was appointed full-time Chairman of the newly constituted **Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board**. Under **Cameron's** guidance the **Tramways Board** was to bring both cable and electric traction under a single control, extend the electric lines, and convert the existing cable-system to electric traction.

In March 1923 **Cameron** travelled overseas to investigate traffic problems and his investigations confirmed his long-held opinions that electric trams were superior to buses and that overhead wires were preferable to the underground conduit system. **Cameron's** term of office was extended from the original five years. In 1935, **Cameron** first learnt of his retirement from the Board in the press!

Described as 'Short and burly, affable and homely', **Cameron** was known for his friendliness, and his enthusiastic dedication to his work. 'He talks and thinks trams', wrote an interviewer in 1928. He was president of the **Club Cameron of Victoria** and a member of the **Melbourne Scots** and the **Rotary and Yorick clubs**. Among his club associates he was well known as a golfer, fisherman, 'bridge-maestro', raconteur and philosopher.

He died at his home in **South Yarra** on 23 February 1940, survived by his wife; their only son had died in infancy. (Additional material available from Australian Dictionary of Biography Online: <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au>)



**Members of Prahran & Malvern Tramway Trust, Thomas Luxton; S. Bangs, W. Knox; W. H. Lewis; H. S. Dix; Alex. Cameron and W. O. Strangward 1908 Reg No 1449**

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

Thanks to **Roxanne Dennis, Lorraine Sage, Bronwyn Worrall, Robin Brown, Margaret Robinson, Francesca Di Mattina, Jane Nigro, Gerald Davis** and **Beth Mursel** who enthusiastically answered questions at **Pets in the Park!**

## Taking Local History to the Community

The **Malvern Historical Society Committee** has agreed to commit funds towards the **Stonnington History Centre** project to copy photographs from the **Malvern Tramways Museum** collection. The Committee also agreed that the **Malvern Historical Society** website ([www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern)) needs updating and work has commenced on this.

**President, Lorraine Sage**, has attended the **City of Stonnington Management Workshops**. These workshops strongly stress the need for the Committee to be diligent in management and governance issues. A big thank you to **Stonnington Local History Officers Ellen Porter, Di Foster and David Tuck**, to **Anne Rasmussen, Co-ordinator, Stonnington Library and Information Service** and to volunteer **Julia Tregear** who all worked so hard after the damaging storm hit **Malvern and the Stonnington History Centre at Northbrook** in March. They have been able to save all the water affected material. The February and March local history walks went well thanks to **Steve Stefanopoulos, Lorraine Sage, Roxanne Dennis and Jane Nigro**. Thanks also to **Ursula Whiteside** who added many stories about growing up in the **Wilks Avenue** area. **Roxanne** and **Jane** attended the March meeting of the **Stonnington History Committee** chaired by **Cr Melina Sehr**. Items for discussion included membership of the Committee, Indigenous heritage and an update on the **Prahran Mechanics Institute**. The Society has held discussions with **Westpac Malvern**, the **Office of Kelly O'Dwyer MP** and **Tobin Bros**. All have planned to make Stonnington's local history more visible in the community.

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Plans and photos donated by **Friends of Gardiners Creek**.
- Collection of material relating to children's activities at the old **Chadstone** and new **Phoenix Park Libraries**.
- **Stonnington Council** collection relating to the **City of Malvern's** recreational activities.
- Original **Prahran** rate and valuation ledgers have been permanently relocated from off-site storage to the Stonnington History Centre.



**Malvern Mayoress, Mrs Joan Alway with debutantes including Joan and Betty Alway 1936 Reg No 5608**

- Newspaper articles from the **Herald Sun** and social pages from 1947 editions of **The Age** donated by **Michelle Lewis, mecwacare**.

- Papers from the family of **Miss Ethel Mavis Kemp**.

- A set of 6 silver tea spoons with the **Warwick College for Ladies** emblem, donated by **Judy Jennings**. **Judy**, her mother **Betty Alway** and her sister **Joyce (Moran)** all attended **Warwick** in **Finch Street East Malvern**. **Betty** was a **Dux of Warwick** and the spoons may have been part of her prize. **Joyce** was a great supporter of the **Malvern Historical Society** over many years. **Judy's** grandfather **Jack Alway** played the trumpet in the **Malvern Band**.



**St Joseph's Primary School c1919  
Ethel Kemp back row on left.  
Reg No 256**

## Welcome New Members!

The Society would like to welcome the following new members **Meredith Holmes, Janis Kerr, Korowa Anglical Girls School, Steve Stefanopoulos, Bronwen Merrett, Sally Joy, Pam Herrington** and **Barbara Murrhly**.

### 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



City of  
**STONNINGTON**

## 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)