

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

October - November 2010

Newsletter No. 27

## 3 October 2010 Re-enactment: The "Governor" Returns to La Trobe's Cottage

Sunday 3rd October 2010 2pm

See Charles La Trobe return to his refurbished Cottage on the 171st Anniversary of his first arrival in Melbourne in 1839. He will arrive with his wife Sophie at 2pm to be welcomed by John Pascoe Fawkner, Captain Lonsdale and the residents of Port Phillip. He will invite visitors to tour his Cottage until 4pm, to the accompaniment of colonial music.

**Cost:** Adult \$5, Concession \$4, Child \$3, Family \$10 – includes afternoon tea served in the courtyard.

**Location:** cnr. Birdwood Avenue & Dallas Brooks Drive (near the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Shrine) Melbourne.

**Enquiries:** 9656 9800 <http://foltc.latrobesociety.org.au>

Captain Lonsdale escorts Governor La Trobe to his Cottage 2009



## 10 October Spring Into Gardening at Victoria Gardens

The Committee would love to hear from anyone who can help for an hour or two at this very popular event.

It is held each year in the historic Victoria Gardens, High Street, Prahran.

Both our sales table and displays always attract an interested crowd.

Please call Lorraine 9885 9082.

## 3 November Visit to Presentation Convent, Windsor

Wednesday 3 Nov 2010 2pm

Presentation Convent Windsor was established following the arrival of seven Presentation Sisters from Ireland. They opened the school with 33 enrolments in 1874. The original school house, built in 1876 is still on the site.

RSVP Please call Lorraine 9885 9082.

*Please note there is a clearway on the north side of Dandenong Road from 3pm. We suggest parking on the south side of Dandenong Road.*



Turret Lodge as Presentation College, Windsor 1876  
Reg No 9102

## Marvellous Melbourne and Me

The Malvern Historical Society Committee were delighted to be present at the launch of the autobiography, *Marvellous Melbourne and Me*. Author, Bruce McBrien OAM is well known to Malvern Historical Society members. Bruce is a current committee member, a former President, and he has entertained us with his stories at talks and on walks and bus trips.

## Holy Eucharist Parish, Malvern East - 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holy Eucharist,

1241 Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly known as Chadstone), will be held over the weekend of 6/7 November 2010.

For more details phone 9571 8007.



First Communion Class, October 1953

## A Tale of Two Nightmen

In 1861, the people in the **City of Melbourne** produced 7,800 tons of night soil. It was collected by the nightman – a dirty, smelly, despised but indispensable and secure job. He needed no education, just muscle and a horse and cart. Our two very different examples are **David Hyslop** of **Malvern** and **William Pickering** of **Prahran**.

David was born in 1877 in **Ararat**, the second son of the draper, **John Park Hyslop** and his wife **Catherine**, both from **Scotland**. Around 1880 father **Hyslop** became a partner in the prosperous carting company, **Morley & Co.** and the family settled into a comfortable 2-storey, 7-roomed terrace house in **South Melbourne**.

Their good life came to a sudden end with the death of the father in 1883 when still in his thirties. Probate was valued at £5,381 and the will stipulated that income from the capital be paid to his wife to support and educate his children until they were 21 or the daughter until she married. **Mrs Hyslop** moved from house to house, first in **South Melbourne** and then in **Malvern** until she finally settled her family in **McKinley Avenue, Malvern** around 1891/92.

The family was dogged by misfortune. In 1884, **Henry** died aged 4, then 18-year old **Catherine** died in 1896, while **Mrs Hyslop** died in 1900 aged 49. Six years later, the eldest son, **George**, died in **South Africa**. The youngest brother, **John**, died in 1828 at 45, leaving **David** the sole survivor.

Despite his father's will, **Dave** left school at the age of 12 without learning to read or write, suggesting either learning difficulties or extreme disinterest. His first job was minding **William Ayre's** cows, and later he worked in **Ayre's** contracting business. **Ayres** had contracts with the **Malvern Council** and **Hyslop** gained valuable experience there.



David Hyslop's drays 1930 Reg No1137

At the same time Dave was dairying out in the countryside of **Darling Road, Malvern**. That is where he settled after his marriage to **Annie Tennant** in 1897. The couple had no children, but they later adopted **Annie's** sister's child, **Lilian** and her brother's daughter, **Mabel**. **Dave** acquired horses and drays and began contract work for the **Council**, including nightsoil collection. This involved collecting pans twice a week and disposing of the contents hygienically and cleaning the pans, all to be done during the night. At first the nightsoil was dumped and trenched into gardens as fertilizer but there was a limit to how much manure a garden needed. In 1907 he was accused of depositing "offensive matter" on land in **Carnarvon Road, Caulfield**, but he had permission from the **Caulfield Town Clerk** and insisted that he always trenched the rubbish in 3 feet of clay. He countered that it was **Caulfield** waste, which smelt worse than **Malvern's** because it was only collected once a week. Eventually a depot was established at **Oakleigh** where another complaint lodged against him proved unfounded. He seems to have been a well-behaved nightman.

**Dave Hyslop** was a tall, wiry man with boundless energy. He always showed determination and tenacity, working efficiently and reliably, so that his business expanded until he was supplying most of the council's horse power for earth moving and carting. At his peak, he had 50 heavy horses and drays. He was involved in road building, filling swamps and grooming land for the establishment of parks and gardens. He worked with the council's gardener, **Thomas Pockett**, levelling the ground for **Malvern Gardens**. He also regraded the **Malvern** section of the railway line. He was also a keen gardener, and his large garden at **107 Darling Road** was notable for its rows of brightly painted night pans, its ferneries, the glass house full of orchids and cages of birds, including peacocks.

**Hyslop** had a strong sense of responsibility and civic duty. In 1929 he was elected to **Malvern Council**, serving for 22 years, and as **Mayor** in 1936-37. He retired from **Council** in 1951. He partitioned off his spacious lofts to provide separate club rooms for the **Malvern Scouts and Cubs**. They met there for 20 years free of charge.

**Dave** was also a notable protector of property and thief-catcher. This career began in the 1890s at the cattle sales when he noticed a man stealing a watch. He went on to assist the police in the arrest of a man stealing cows (including one of his own), two men stealing from bicycles, a housebreaker; two girls who had stolen a horse and the goodies for their picnic, and two armed burglars. For the last, the grateful citizens of **East Malvern** presented him with a watch. Another time, he gave chase and overcame two men who had thrown a beer glass at a man in his garden, drawing blood. Dave got a bruised shin for this effort. His citizen's administration of the law sometimes went a bit too far, as when he fired shots at some lads who were robbing his fish pond. Dave's illiteracy eventually cost him dearly.



David Hyslop 1930 Reg No 6968



Mayor Cr David Hyslop and Mayoress, Mrs Annie Kate Hyslop 1936 Reg No 1150





David Hyslop with jinker 1930 Reg No 6965

**Annie** had always been his helpmate, taking care of his paperwork, but she had really been helping herself, transferring three blocks of land, five houses and a two-storey shop and dwelling, as well as money to her own name, leaving him only the family home. To add to the indignity, he was named as a co-executor responsible for ensuring that her will was carried out. He challenged the will in the **Supreme Court** but withdrew from the case because he was too old and frail to stand the strain. He died of bowel cancer soon after, in 1954. The house in **Darling Road** is still serving the community providing special accommodation.

By **Dave Hyslop's** time the pan toilet was in use, but until about 1875 the nightman in **Prahran** was faced with cesspools. He had to scoop the contents into his cart, known as the "ironclad". As well as working in the dark, he had only 6 hours to empty a cesspool and cart the contents to the official depot at **Moorabbin**. So, it is little wonder that he sometimes succumbed to the temptation to dump it locally.

The most colourful nightman in **Prahran** was **William Pickering**. He appeared regularly before the **Prahran Court** on a range of charges – spilling night soil, carting in prohibited hours or dumping it illegally, allowing his horse to wander or not registering his dogs. He was incorrigible. **Billy** was a chimney sweep as well as a nightman. He was

never intimidated by the court. Once, when he appeared in court covered in soot, the magistrate reprimanded him for not washing before appearing in court, to which he replied that he was not ashamed to 'stick to his colours'. When asked his name he stated, 'William Pickering, nightman and chimney sweep. You can put that down too, if you like.' (He was ordered to apologise.)

As if he hadn't had enough of the stuff, he was once fined for stealing the manure and street sweepings collected by the man contracted to clean the channels – **Billy** was given to strange and inexplicable acts. Another time he stole the morning's stock of the **Daily Telegraph** left for the newsagent to pick up – a curious action since **Billy** was illiterate. For this he spent a week in gaol. Dissolute and slovenly he may have been but he was not violent – only once when the police entered his property did he use force to remove them – resulting in the another penalty.

His next-door neighbour, **Mr. Henningham** complained to the **Council** about the stink coming from **Billy's** yard where he kept his night carts. The smell was 'very offensive' and also 'injurious to the health'. (At that time miasmas were believed to cause disease). The smell from the charred and rotting leg of a horse - a left-over from the fire at **Gunn's Livery Stable** - made matters worse.

**Billy** was quite original in finding illegal places to dump his night soil. He rented a piece of land behind the **Freemasons Tavern** in **Argo Street**, but the health inspector found several loads of night soil 'only partially covered over'. After a few locals had given evidence against him, he complained that people 'had a down on him, and would like to eat him up'.

One morning **Sam Willis** was having breakfast when he spied **Pickering** digging in night soil at the rear of the **Hawksburn State School**. That escapade cost him £2 or 2 weeks in gaol. He even dumped his muck on **Mr Armytage's** property, **Como**. He insisted that **Mr Armytage** had given him permission. So the case was adjourned for **Mr Armytage** to be called. His gardener came instead and said he had asked **Billy** repeatedly not to dump his stuff there.

In 1884 **William Hall**, a missionary for the **City Mission**, in his quest for souls to be saved, discovered **Pickering**. He wrote in his journal: 'a very sad case is that of **William Pickering** ... He is living with another man's wife – living in sin. I managed to get admission to his bedroom where he lies ill.' **Hall** read to him and prayed for him and thought his heart was touched. But he was even more shocked by the situation of 'the poor, wretched woman' for she was a Catholic with a husband and children. 'She is in a bad state, body and soul.' A few days later **Pickering** was 'in a bad state still, bodily as well as spiritually.' **Hall** accompanied him to the **Alfred Hospital** where **Pickering** was admitted. He visited him the next day and tried to preach to him, but 'he did not like to hear about his sin'. **Hall** also went back to the house where he found the woman under the influence of drink. The landlord had threatened to turn her out of the house. 'I procured her some meat. God help her.'

A few days later he found 'the **Pickering** bed of iniquity has been broken up. The woman has left the neighbourhood to the rejoicing of those who have been greatly annoyed by their orgies and daylight debauches.' On his next visit to the **Alfred** he found that '**Pickering** had passed into the eternal world – I fear, unprepared, after a life of sin.' I doubt whether **Billy** would have cared. He had died of an aneurism of the aorta and of exhaustion, aged 43.



107 Darling Road 1930 Reg No 1187

## Doweled Picket Fence

As part of the refurbishments to *La Trobe's Cottage*, **The National Trust of Australia (Vic)** is replacing the current fence. They are planning to reinstate a copy of **La Trobe's** original 'doweled picket fence', a common fencing style in the 1850s. One panel of this new fence will be on view on Sunday 3 October. The **Friends of La Trobe's Cottage** would be interested to hear of any examples of this type of fence that still exist or are visible in old photos.

Telephone: 9656 9800

## News from the Prahran Mechanics' Institute

**Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian History Library** is a successful applicant in the **Victoria 175 History Grants** program. The **PMI** will use the \$3800 grant to publish **Beginnings** by **Mr. Frank Hutchinson** – a chronological account of the first Europeans to visit or explore the state of **Victoria** and an account of the first European pastoral settlement of the various districts of the state. The book will be launched in the first half of 2010.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute's original site in  
Chapel Street 1900 Reg No 8545



## History Week 2010 (24-30 Oct)

To celebrate **History Week**, why not spend the week travelling back in time, discovering **Victoria's** past. Events range from fascinating walking tours and engaging discussions, to exhibitions and 'history in the making' events. Just visit the **Royal Historical Society of Victoria** website [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au) to find the lists of **Victoria** wide events. The **Prahran Mechanics' Institute** will be holding several events during **History Week** including a display for the 100th anniversary of the **Wireless Institute of Australia**, a film night depicting 'Historic Melbourne', a lecture on the history of **Victoria Barracks** by **Bruce Turner**, and the announcement of the **PMI's Short History Prize**.

For further details please see [www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au) and click on the events tab.

P.M.I. 140 High Street, Prahran, Windsor, VIC 3181 Ph: 9510 3393

## Mulberry Trees Go Forth and Multiply

**Di Foster** has provided an update on our Mulberry tree sapling. The plan is for one to be planted beside the spring in **Priory Park, Great Malvern, United Kingdom**. "Hope" is just one of the six saplings being reared in secret locations throughout **England**.

The story does not end there. **Malvern, United States of America**, is the gateway town to the **Hot Springs National Park** in **Arkansas**. Following contact between **UK** and **USA**, they are now keen to have their own **George Bernard Shaw Mulberry Tree** planted in a key location in the town of **Malvern**. Discussions are continuing. (Refer to Newsletter No 22 Dec 09-Jan10 for more information on the amazing history of Northbrook's Mulberry Tree).

Di Foster and Dr Bruce Osborne admire "Hope", 2010.



## Taking Local History to the Community

**The Society** has again received excellent publicity in **Stonnington Council's** "Walking for Pleasure, September 2010 - February 2011" booklet. **The Society** has sent information about volunteering to Grade 3, **Lloyd Street, Primary School, East Malvern**. Their topic for research was "Help! I Need Somebody". **The Society** was represented at the **Stonnington Citizen of the Year** celebration at the **Malvern Town Hall** in August. Members and friends braved a wintry morning and heard a fascinating talk by **Philip Knightley** at **Zetta Florence, Armadale**. **Brendan, Catherine, Dorothy** and **Jim** welcomed us warmly to the **Friends House** in **Toorak**. We heard about the **Quakers'** history and work and were treated to a delicious afternoon tea. **The Society's** sales table and display at **Spring into Gardening** has received excellent publicity in the **RHSV** newsletter "History News". **The Society** look forward to working with **Dianne Panjari**, newly appointed **Stonnington Library Services Co-ordinator**.

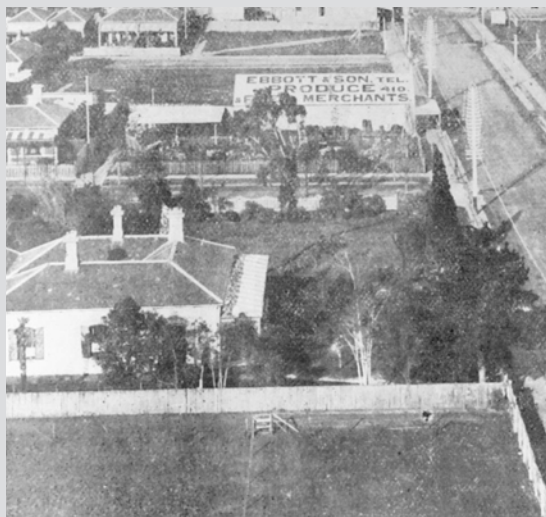


## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society has received enquiries relating to **Lindisfarne, 99 Manning Road, Malvern East, Mulders in Dandenong Road, Henry Kline, W.F.A. Rucker and Rosetta Rucker, Jordan Street, Malvern, and W. Baille** who lived at **4 The Avenue, Malvern East**. Other enquiries have related to **Thomas Mosley Agg, William John Philpott and Mary Millham**, the **“Pahran Gift” Foot Race**, the **Pooley** family and the **“Bluestone Chapel”** in **Mayfield Ave, Malvern**.

### Myora

We are often asked about the early house visible in early photographs of **Glenferrie Road**.



Myora. Looking south from the Malvern Town Hall, towards Stanhope Street, 1911 Reg No. 57003

A brick house of 9 rooms and outbuildings, later known as **Myora** was built in 1885 for **Frederick Heath** on land on the east side of **Glenferrie Road**, at the north corner of **Stanhope Street**. **William Gurling** owned the house from the 1890s. In 1923 the property was subdivided by **Gurling** and **Richard Ennis**. **Ennis** was a **Malvern Councillor** from 1930 to 1935. A section of the property at the **Stanhope Street** corner had been developed previously. According to the real estate sale notice, it was initially proposed to convert the house, then numbered **256 Glenferrie Road**, to shops and residences, on the recommendation of architect **Leslie Reed**. However, **Myora** was demolished in 1924 with **Agnes Tregarth** the last occupier of the house. The property was then owned by **Richard Ennis**. **Albert Weller** purchased lot 1 in the 5 lot subdivision and **Ennis** owned the remaining 4 lots. Lots 2-5 included the site of the house. **Albert Weller** was a **Councillor** for the **City of Malvern** 1904-1921, and **Mayor** 1905-1906.

In 1926, local architect **Leslie Reed** submitted plans for three shops. The shops were built on lots 1-3 and were numbered **260-264 Glenferrie Road**. **Alber Weller's** real estate agency at **264 Glenferrie Road**, was owned by the **Weller** family for over eighty years.

The same year, plans were drawn by architect **Leslie Reed** for a garage in **Glenferrie Road** for **Richard Ennis**. The garage, numbered 256 to 258, was built on lots 4-5. In the 1930s, **Embassy Motors** occupied the garage. The two storey garage was later converted into the homewares store, **Roost**. **Myora** is also visible in the 1910 photo on display in the foyer of the **Westpac Bank** in **Glenferrie Road**.

## Victoria Government Gazette - 1836 to 1997

Before **Victoria** separated from **New South Wales** in 1851 government notices, regulations, forms and orders relating to the **Port Phillip District** were published initially in the **New South Wales Government Gazette**, then the **Port Phillip Government Notices**, and later in the **Port Phillip Government Gazette** (from 1843). The first issue of the **Victoria Government Gazette** was published on 9 July 1851. Early issues were published once a week until 1854, when two issues a week were produced.

By the 20th century the frequency was almost daily, increasing to as many as nine or ten issues in a day. In the gazettes you can find information about land transactions, court notices, government appointments, bankruptcies, proclamation of acts, deregistration of medical practitioners, statistics, tenders, unclaimed letters and monies, reward notices, and more. This online archive of historic gazettes allows you to view an image of each page of each relevant gazette produced since 1836, browse gazettes by decade, year, month, day, and page-by-page, search gazette indexes by keyword, date, gazette number or phrase and download and print PDFs of entire gazettes. The search function on the **Victoria Government Gazette** site only accesses information in the gazette indexes. It does not search for information on individual pages.

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/about/>



## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

*Holmesglen College of Tafe Library.* A history, donated by the author, Faye Pattinson.

Treasures to share with school children, including a ruler from *The Colosseum, Prahran*, readers from the 1960s, old pegs and a dance card, **June 1937 Ball** hosted by **Cr Hyslop** and **Mrs. Hyslop**; discovered by **Pat Gaffney, Mecwa East Malvern Op Shop**.

Photo of **28 Vincent Street, 1917** donated by **Nancy Nunn**.

Selection of local real estate ads donated by **Margaret McNamara**.

**Jack Slattery's butcher's shop** photo, **313 Waverley Road**, four shops west of the corner of **Darling Road**, (undated) donated by **Loris Charlton**.

**Armadale School A Grade 1921** photo donated by **James Howe**.



28 Vincent Street 1917, donated by Nancy Nunn



Jack Slattery's butcher's shop,  
313 Waverley Road. Reg No 13908  
(Donated by Loris Charlton)



Dance Card, June 1937 Ball hosted by Cr Hyslop and Mrs. Hyslop



Armadale School A Grade 1921.  
(Donated by James Howe)

## Welcome New Members!

The Society would like to welcome our latest new member **Miriam Gleeson** and **Annette Cooper**.

### 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)

**P.O.Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 malvernhistorical@yahoo.com**  
**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)