

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! December 2010 - January 2011 Newsletter No. 28

27 January High Street Armadale Walk

Thursday 27 January 7pm

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

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

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082



Kempton's Boundary Store. South-east cnr. High Street & Kooyong Road, 1880 Reg No. MP4541.

Di Foster- Living History!

Around 25 years ago a local resident, Di Foster, approached the Malvern Historical Society looking for information on the history of her home in Ash Grove East Malvern. Her enthusiasm and energy immediately grabbed the Society's attention and she was soon not only a member but found herself on the Committee. Di only left the Committee in 2009!

Di was soon answering enquiries, taking walks and organising the archives. In 1988 she was actively involved in the formation of the original Malvern History Committee. Her achievements include planning all the moves as the collection has grown out of a small room into the outstanding Stonnington History Centre in 2009. After sixteen years as a Stonnington Local Historian Di is retiring from Stonnington's Council.

The Society will miss her enthusiastic answering of our enquiries, her knowledge of all the links that make up Malvern and Stonnington's history, and her friendship.



Book launch of *The Literature of Malvern, 1993*
Reg No. 7766
Cr Bert Healy, Irene McGinnigle, Prof. Weston Bate,
Di Foster, Ian Mc Laren, Jane Nigro

Enjoy your retirement Di! Best wishes from Malvern Historical Committees and Members 1987 - 2010.

Malvern Historical Society Projects

The Society has recently purchased two books for the Stonnington History Centre collection, **The Feisty Phoenix. Country Women's Association of Victoria 1928-2008** by **Brenda Stevens-Chambers** and **Beleura, Mornington Theatre of the Past** by **Anthony Knight**, which has information and photographs relating to **Grosvenor** in Toorak.

Society funds are committed to the following projects: Six more Stonnington landmark brochures, Anne Jackson's history of William Philpott, scanning of Stonnington's Local Newspapers and updating of the Malvern Historical Society website www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern

Great Christmas Gift Ideas!

The Stonnington's Thematic Environmental History is available for the reduced price of \$20.00 at the Stonnington Service Centres and all the Stonnington libraries. The hard cover book, which includes over 170 photographs from the Stonnington History Centre Collection, would make an ideal Christmas gift for family and neighbours. It is also for sale at Jeffrey's Books, 140 Glenferrie Road Malvern for \$30. All the Malvern Historical Society publications are available at Jeffrey's Books and the Stonnington Libraries. An annual subscription to the Malvern Historical Society also makes a great gift!

Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months enquiries have been received relating to ballrooms, daguerrotype images, the warehouse in Belson Street in the 1970's, the Myross Hospital in Malvern and Lady Maude Harvie. The Harvie family lived at 92 Stanhope Street from around 1918 until 1967. Members of the family included architect, Edith Ellison Harvie and Lady Maude Harvie who was associated with the Purple Cross Society.

There have also been enquiries relating to the Brooks and Maben families, Nott Street Malvern East, Bonview Road, Henry Sutton, Surrey Road South Yarra in 1931, David Muntz, 5 Bates Street Malvern East and Arthur and Gus Powell. Robert Gustavus (Gus) Powell was a horse trainer and owner. From around 1926 to 1934, Gus Powell stabled and trained the champion steeplechaser, 'Mosstrooper' on a property on the corner of Dandenong Road and Emo Road, where there was a paddock yard and stable. A photos of Gus and Mosstrooper can be viewed on the Picture Australia website.

<http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>

Oliver Gilpin's Warehouse, Belson Street, Malvern East

The buildings in **Belson Street** were built as store-rooms/warehouse for successful draper, **Oliver Gilpin**. Oliver Gilpin (1874-1942), is the man credited with creating the first major drapery chain store business in Australia. Gilpin opened his first drapery store in **Korumburra** in 1895. In 1910 the family moved to their new home, **Kia Ora**, in **Finch Street, East Malvern**. The large block at the corner of **Central Park Road** extended to Belson Street. The grounds were described as spacious and contained a tennis court, artificial lake, fernery, summer houses and a croquet or bowling green.

The Malvern Heights Bowling Club (1912-1917) was formed adjacent to the house. Around 1917 the family separated and moved from Finch Street, but the business continued to run from the office in Belson Street. Around 1920 Gilpin subdivided his garden and created two blocks facing Central Park Road. Gilpin remarried and returned to live at **Kia Ora** in 1921.



Fire at the Belson Street warehouses. 1973
Reg No 13502

In 1924 plans had been submitted to council for an eight motor vehicle garage on Gilpin's property. In 1929 further plans were submitted for alterations to warehouses situated at 1,3, and 5 Belson Street, East Malvern, including a second floor and basement and plan for escape stairs. A valuation diagram in 1953, shows the warehouse basement extending under the house in Finch Street.

Gilpin lived at the Finch Street house with his third wife from 1928 to 1936. By this time, Gilpin's chain of drapery stores had grown to 94 branches. The business was taken over by **Foy & Gibson** in 1944. **Kia Ora** was used as a private residence before being taken over by the **PMG** as offices. By 1973 the house was vacant and derelict. In that year, shortly after the whole block including the house in Finch Street and the warehouse in Belson Street were sold for redevelopment, the buildings were destroyed by fire.

Proposed Scanning of Stonnington Newspapers



William Knox and friends, including Mr. Knowles
(The Prahran Telegraph reporter) at "Ranfurlie"
c1900 (Photographer David Muntz) Reg No MP1832

Local history buffs would have to be living in a cave not to have heard about the scanning of the **Melbourne Argus** by now – it has created a sensation. **The National Library** has had a test version of the database available on the internet for a year or so (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>), long enough to thoroughly test the keyword search function. It works so well, it's like having an automatic index to the entire paper, word by word.

People are finding all sorts of things that only serendipity would have permitted in earlier times. Don't get too excited if you are looking for Smiths or Jones's, but if you can think of a much less common word related to your enquiry, you should definitely check the Argus. The automated transcript will inevitably contain lots of nonsense, but don't let that put you off – there will in general still be enough to steer you in the right direction. Readers are invited to show their appreciation by correcting the text of the transcripts online – a useful and satisfying task for people caught up in their research.

Wouldn't it be fantastic to have our local newspapers accessible and searchable in this way? Well, in fact, the first steps have already been taken. **The State Library** has allocated funding over three years to scan one local newspaper for each library service in **Victoria**. **The Prahran Telegraph** (1866-1930) is number 51 in a list of 53 papers to be copied, and they are about half way through the implementation cycle. All being well, we may be able to search the paper using the TROVE search engine in a couple of years time. **The Telegraph**, by the way, had substantial **Malvern** content, including the reports of the local court, **Malvern Council**, local clubs and organisations, commercial advertising, community announcements, electoral rolls etc.

But what about the other local papers? There were lots of them, as shown in the list on the History Centre website. Another excellent candidate for scanning is the **Malvern Standard** for the years 1906-20 and 1930-31. This paper also has substantial coverage of **Prahran** happenings, as indicated by its full bannerhead title: "with which is incorporated the **Prahran Chronicle, St Kilda Chronicle, South Yarra Gazette**". It provides us with an alternative view of local events to **Osment's Telegraph** for the same period. Recalling how different the news seems on any given day in **The Age** compared to **The Australian** newspaper, for example, demonstrates the value in having access to parallel accounts of events. More primary source allows better historical research.



The copies of the **Malvern Standard** held by the **State Library** are in excellent condition, and should scan beautifully. As microfilm, it occupies only 7 reels (compared to the Telegraph's 30 reels), and is therefore not prohibitively expensive. It would make an ideal project for local history groups to initiate.

David Tuck, Stonnington Local History Librarian

large hall (30 ft x 100 ft) at the back. The hall was variously known as **Victorian Hall** and also **Parslow's Hall**. The upstairs area was occupied by the **Malvern Club** and it included a large billiard room, reading room, lounge and bar, as well as a large club room of 30 ft x 70 ft. On August 22nd 1907, 450 ratepayers met there to discuss Malvern Council's scheme for the **Malvern Tramways**.

Eli's wife Louisa died in 1909, and just five months later, on 10th July 1909, Eli died suddenly at his home, aged 65. He was still a councillor when he died. Eli did not leave a Will and having no children, his then only surviving sister, **Christina Haig**, was appointed to administer his estate.

His assets listed for probate included the **97 Glenferrie Road**, property of 33 ft x 130 ft with a 2 story brick shop and dwelling occupied by the deceased at the time of his death, valued at £2,060, the **Victorian Building** property of 52 ft x 130 ft comprising **Victoria Hall**, 1 large and 2 small shops and Club Rooms, valued at £4,540 and furniture at **Victoria Hall, Malvern Club** and **87 Glenferrie Road**, valued at around £500.

The auction notice for the sale of his Victoria Hall property, on 5th November 1910, read:

*Victoria Buildings, Glenferrie Road, the estate of the late Eli Parslow, Malvern.
Magnificent pile of buildings standing on land 52 x 130 immediately opposite the Post Office and.. ... 3 fine shops, with the well known Victoria Hall at the rear measuring 30 x 100 overall, completely fitted with stage, scenery, dry curtains, dressing room etc, and the Lodge room 30 x 70 on the mezzanine floor; recently occupied by the Malvern Club and including a large billiard room, reading room, lounge and bar and large club room. The Victoria Hall is returning fully £280 per annum, the shops are let at £150 per annum and the clubrooms have been returning £150 per annum, a total of £580 per annum.*

Parslow's Drapery was taken over by **Hattam & Co., Drapers**.

97 Glenferried Rd is now numbered 104-106, and in 2010 is occupied by Goldie's Boutique. 'In 2010 **Elliot's Photo Centre** fronts the present arcade, the site of the former **Victoria Hall**.

Research information for this article was provided by Frank Maguire 2010

'Stucco and Shopping: Melbourne's Nineteenth Century Commercial Terraces'

PROVENANCE Issue No 9 – 2011, the **Journal of Public Record Office Victoria, Christine Graunas'** article, 'Stucco and Shopping: Melbourne's Nineteenth Century Commercial Terraces', is based on primary research on municipal records held at PROV, as well as newspaper advertisements, and secondary sources. This article takes the reader on an excursion through the wonders of Melbourne's inner suburban high streets with their well-preserved commercial terraces, dating from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. The article includes examples from Stonnington shopping strips, and is available online.

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/provenance/no9/StuccoShopping1.asp>

Albert Smith's furniture Store 179 Glenferrie Road Malvern 1890 Reg No MP8224



Muntz Photographic Studios

Well-known photographer, **Mr. David Livingstone Muntz**, established **Muntz Photographic Studios** in **Glenferrie Road, Malvern** around 1898. David was the tenth child of **Thomas Bingham Muntz**, Shire Engineer of both **Malvern** and **Prahran** and Mayor of Prahran. David ran Muntz Studios in Malvern for 25 years until his death in 1923. He was photographer to **Malvern Council**, many State Governors, and many other schools and colleges, including **Scotch College**, and **Queens College**. David's daughter, **Mrs F. Foenander**, continued to run the business after his death, using both the name of the studio and the name of her late father. Muntz Studios was run by **Geoffrey Baker** in the 1950s and the business name was in use for some years after that. More than 100 photos taken by the Muntz Studios are held in the **Stonnington History Collection**.

Victorian Verbosity

Some 19th century journalists thought the more words the better, particularly if obscure. The author of the court reports for the **Prahran Telegraph** was one of them. Here is an example from the issue of 27 March 1875:

*"TWO IMBIBERS.- Why men who by overzealous imbibition have "unsettled reason from her throne" should always receive the priority of the magisterial attention is a mystery that no man not admitted to the arena of the **Temple of Themis** may attempt to penetrate; but 'tis ever thus, and so it came about that **John Newton** and **Henry West**, having fuddled themselves the previous day, had the honour of heading an unusually long list of entries on the police sheet on Monday morning, and to pay a crown each for that high privilege."* Which translates as: **John Newton** and **Henry West** headed the court list and were fined 5/- each for drunkenness.

Diane Nicholas 2010

Taking Local History to the Community

Our stall and photographic display were enjoyed by the large crowds at Spring Into Gardening in October. Thanks to Roxanne Dennis, Carol Tobin, Susan Herbert, Jane and Peter Nigro, Lorraine Sage and Pat Brincat for making the day so successful. There was great interest in our six new Stonnington Landmark brochures. Prahran Market is so impressed they are adding the Prahran Market brochure to their own website! Thanks to Stonnington Local History Officers Di Foster, Ellen Porter and David Tuck for their help with this project. A Certificate of Appreciation has been presented to the East Malvern Community Bank to acknowledge their ongoing support of the Society. Members enjoyed a visit to the historic Presentation Convent Windsor in November. The Society has been represented at meetings to discuss Stonnington Council's Walking Policy and the development of Council's new Arts and Cultural Strategy. President Lorraine Sage represented the Society at the launch of the history of the Prahran Library. Congratulations to MHS member Stella Barber on the publication of *The Pride of Prahran – a History of the Prahran Library, 1860-2010*. Lorraine Sage attended Waverley Historical Society 40th anniversary celebration. There has been very good interest in Stonnington's Thematic Environmental History at the reduced cost of \$20.00.

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Victoria & its Metropolis Vol. 2 donated by Mrs Crothers.
- Commemorative booklet, "An Enduring Legacy (The contribution of John Sharkey and David Murden to Holmesglen 1982-2010), copy of Holmesglen Library History and recording of the launch of the Holmesglen Library History including comments made by both Marion King, Head Librarian and Bruce Mackenzie, Director, material donated by Faye Pattinson.
- Photographs of the Methodist Church, Burke Road Glen Iris donated by Mrs Pam Fox.
- Material relating to Villers Bretonneux donated by Paul Rankin.
- MEG- Malvern East Group newsletters from Ann Reid.
- Bandwagon, Stonnington City Brass News donated by Wesley Brown.
- Brighton Cemeterian Newsletters 2010.



Methodist Church Burke Road Glen Iris c 1965.
Reg No M1100

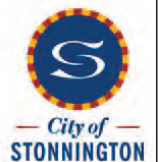


Gardiner Methodist Sunday School, 1914 Reg No M57173

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

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 • Tel 8290 1360
Prahran Historical and Arts Society P.O.Box 8649, Armadale Vic 3143 Tel: 9509 9978 www.vicnet.net.au/~phas