

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

April - May 2011

Newsletter No. 30

11 April Visit to the Glen Eira Historical Society

Monday 11 April 2pm

Members and friends are invited to visit the new Archives of the Glen Eira Historical Society

965 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South Vic 3162

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082



Derby Road, Caulfield looking north towards Dandenong Road 1923 Reg No MP711

4 May Malvern Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Rod Ingham, Project Officer Yarra Riverkeeper Association

Wednesday 4 May Time: 8pm

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, Rod Ingham, Project Officer Yarra Riverkeeper Association, will give a presentation on the health and future of the Yarra River. Rod is a geographer, environmental scientist and educator and has studied the history of impacts since the first European settlement.

The old ferryman. The boat served as the Williams Road ferry. The Argus 29 July 1931 Reg No PH9028



21 May 'Curious Curiosities' Bus Trip

Hop on our bus for a two hour journey to uncover

CURIOUS CURIOSITIES

in

Stonnington, Boroondarra and Melbourne

led by former Malvern Historical Society President Bruce McBrien and the Bus Driver of course!

Saturday 21st. May 2pm-4pm

Members \$8 Non-members \$12

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential. Lorraine 9885 9082

Supported by the City of Stonnington

Message from the President Lorraine

The Malvern Historical Society Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 4th. May, 2011 at 8.00.p.m. at St. Andrew's Uniting Church Gardiner, in the Wesley Hall, on the corner of Burke and Malvern Roads, Glen Iris. There are vacancies on the Committee and we would love to be able to fill these at the meeting. There are three vacancies; one of the vacancies is Minute Secretary. As members of the Society you are obviously interested in the history of Stonnington and this is an opportunity for you to extend your knowledge of the local history. Committee meetings are held monthly from February to November and usually are one to one and a half hours duration. We ask that you please consider joining the committee and offer yourself for nomination. For more details please give me a call. I hope you enjoy reading the 30th edition of Local History News.

Lorraine Sage, President. Phone 9885 9082

Coonil Crescent, Malvern 1854 - 1919

Crown Portion 43, on which **Coonil Crescent** is located, was sold at the sale of Crown lands on 23 February 1854. The allotment, of 15 acres, 1 rood and 24 perches, with a frontage to Wattletree Road, was purchased for £390 by a Melbourne land syndicate comprising **Thomas Fulton**, **Lachlan Mackinnon** and **Frederick Sargood**. **Thomas Fulton**, the principal of the syndicate, started the first iron foundry and engineering shop in Melbourne. Lot 43 was quickly subdivided into four sections which were sold to **Adolphus Heller**, **John Young**, **William Cooke** and **Michael Kidstone** in June 1854.

Each of the four lots were the subject of subsequent sales.

By 1885 **Arthur Grainger Langmore** was the owner of (part) Crown allotment 42 and in that year architects **Reed, Henderson & Smart** advertised for tenders for a 'residence for A.G. Langmore'. A two-storey Italianate style mansion was built for Arthur Langmore and his wife Jane, who then moved from their home **Coonil** in Lower Malvern Road, East Malvern, to their new home in Wattletree Road. In 1886 Langmore is rated as the owner of a house on 20 acres of land on lots 42 and 43 in Wattletree Road. Langmore named the house **Coonil** after his former home. By 1888 **Mrs Jane Langmore** is rated as the owner/occupier of a brick house and garden, stables, orchard, outbuildings, lawn tennis court and kitchen. Around 1890, during Jane Langmore's time in England, squatter, **Irving Winter-Irving**, occupied **Coonil**. Langmore returned to live at **Coonil**, however from around 1904, the property was leased to businessman, stockbroker and MLC, **Hon. Thomas Luxton**. Beginning with his election in 1894, Luxton served several terms as Mayor of the City of Prahran, and at the same time served on a number of boards and committees and was highly regarded for his charity work. In 1903 Luxton was elected to the Legislative Council. Around 1908 Coonil was leased to importer Samuel Frupp, before being sold the following year to businessman and MLC, **Frederick Hagelthorn**. The property included 20 acres of land fronting Wattletree Road, Thanet Street and Oxford Street, bordered by a 'magnificent line of pine trees'. As a Horsham banker and financial agent, **Frederick Hagelthorn** had been elected to the Legislative Council in 1907, where he held a number of portfolios until 1917. Hagelthorn pursued his intention to subdivide the land, retaining a garden allotment around the mansion. In 1910 the subdivision of the Coonil Estate created Coonil Crescent, Canberra Grove, Derril Avenue and the south end of Grace Street. Building allotments fronted all these streets, as well as a number in Wattletree Road and Thanet Street. Thanet Street had been created in 1885 as part of the Stanhope Estate. With the introduction of the Prahran and Malvern tram service down Wattletree Road in May 1910, the subdivision was timely. 'Every street on the estate is being formed, channelled, metalled In all there will be four new streets on the property. ... the land slopes gently from Coonil House, affording picturesque views of the hilly country of East Malvern and Glen Iris. ... The surveyors have departed from the ordinary rectangular form in devising the new streets. Coonil Crescent sweeps in a double curve from Wattletree Road along the front of the house. ... The allotments like the streets, break from the dull uniformity which mars much of the older suburban development' (Prahran Telegraph 9 April 1910). An unusual feature of the estate was the reservation of land by the vendor for a bowling green. Building restrictions prohibited wooden houses, and the terms of sale stipulated that no building could be erected, less than £600 in value and single dwellings only could be erected on each allotment. The mansion **Coonil** was re-named **Mangoplah** and remained on a reduced allotment with its entrance from Coonil Crescent. In 1919, Hagelthorn's defeat in politics combined with his dwindling finances, prompted the sale of his Malvern home.



Perspective sketch of villa, in Coonil Crescent Malvern. Edwin Ruck 1914.
Reg No MP15010



Malvern Bowling Club, Coonil Crescent
Reg No MP382

Prahran Mechanics Institute Short History Prize

Members of historical societies and family history groups throughout Victoria are invited to submit up to 15,000 words about a place or an aspect of a place in Victoria.

Prize: \$500 for the author(s) and \$500 for the associated historical group.

<http://www.pmi.net.au/about.htm>

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Chapel Street c1900 Reg No PH8545



Gotha, 24 Kensington Road, South Yarra

Suzanne Chambers has recently visited the Stonnington History Centre to allow us to copy a wonderful series of photographs depicting the mansion, *Gotha*, that once stood at **24 Kensington Road**. Suzanne's great grandfather, **Hugo Wertheim**, built the house in 1886. It was later known as *Hadleigh Hall*, and was demolished in 1935.

Many of these photographs show the interiors of the rooms – an uncommon and technically challenging theme. Waking up in the Morning Room (shown here) with all its clutter and busy wallpaper might not appeal to those favouring a quiet start to the day, but it was clearly very fashionable in late-Victorian times.

These interior shots do not reproduce well in a photocopied newsletter, but readers will be able to examine them online when they are catalogued to our database - www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history Just search the keyword **Wertheim**.



Gotha 24 Kensington Road, South Yarra



Morning Room, Gotha

Hugo Wertheim arrived in Australia from **Frankfurt** in 1875 with the intention of selling the sewing machines made by the family business in **Germany**. Today – when German craftsmanship is legendary – it is strange to note the Cyclopaedia of Victoria (1903) reporting that “one of the major battles fought by Mr Wertheim was that of overcoming the misconception universally prevalent in the year 1878 that all German goods must necessarily belong to the class styled “cheap and nasty”.

Ultimately it was for the manufacture of pianos rather than sewing machines that the name **Wertheim** became famous in the antipodes. Sensing other commercial opportunities, Hugo sent his son **Hubert** to **America** to learn the trade, and upon his return invested £25,000 into a piano factory in **Bendigo Street, Richmond** – later redeveloped as the television studios for GTV 9.

At its peak, up to 400 people were employed at the factory, which was said to produce up to 2,000 pianos a year. Several factors led to the closure of the factory in 1935: the Depression, the eclipsing of the **Wertheim Player Piano** by the new fangled wireless, and the disinclination of the third generation of the **Australian Wertheims** to take over the business.

David Tuck, Stonnington Local History Librarian

Early Railway Gatehouses

In the early 1890s the Railway built two gatehouses at the **Kooyong Railway Station**, one on the north east of **Glenferrie Road** and one on the south west. Railway gatehouses were built to a standard weatherboard building, called a T3 - relating to its T-shaped plan with one room facing the railway in which the gate-keeper could sit and watch for trains. According to the 1891 **Sands & McDougall Directory** the first gate-keeper in the house on the north east side of **Glenferrie Road** was **Henry Dorey**, who remained gate-keeper for a few years until the job was taken over by his wife until 1898, when **Lawrence Spruhan** took over. By 1905 the gate-keeper was **Mrs Elizabeth Renowden**.

The first gate-keeper noted in the house on the south west side of **Glenferrie** was **Thomas Shaw** in 1892. By 1893 there is no gate-keeper noted on the west side. It appears that this property may have sat vacant until 1895 when the Railways contracted a Mr T. Wood to remove this gate-house, which was undertaken during the following year and relocated to **Canterbury Station**, where it sits today. The 1907 **Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works** plan shows the one gate-house on the north east of **Glenferrie Road**. There was also a gate-house further along on the south side of the line at the crossing of **Avenel Road** and **Talbot Crescent**. The **Canterbury Station** gate-house today is comprised of two gate-houses joined together.



The Canterbury Historical Society is keen to locate any photographs of the original Kooyong building. Unfortunately we do not hold any photographs in the **Stonnington History Centre**.

Ellen Porter, Stonnington Local History Librarian

Gatehouse at Gardiner Railway Station, on the south east corner of Burke Road. 1917

At this time the gatehouse was the home of the Howes family and there was a large sculpture of a kangaroo in the garden!

Federation of Australian Historical Societies

The Federation, which was established in 1977, has eight constituent members, one in each state and territory and is the national peak body representing the interests of about 1,000 historical societies and approaching 100,000 members throughout Australia. The FAHS: <http://www.history.org.au>

- communicates with governments and public officials to inform them about issues affecting historical societies and museums and to advocate the interests of historical societies and museums.
- produces a variety of guides and training materials to assist historical societies. The three most recent are the guide to heritage identification and protection (formerly the FAHS Heritage Handbook), the guide to heritage tourism and the guide to how to publish historical materials.
- organises the Australian Historical Societies Support Group.
- publishes an E-Bulletin and a Newsletter.
- is managed by a Committee comprised of delegates from each of its constituent member societies which meets quarterly by teleconference and annually face-to-face.

You can receive copies of the E-Bulletin and Newsletter by registering with the FAHS, or download them direct from the website. They contains matters of broad interest to historical societies. There are also very useful publications available free in electronic form.

Federation of Australian Historical Societies e-Bulletin No. 79 - 27 February 2011

Connections between history and Wikipedia

As Wikipedia became a mainstream source of information, the editing community of Wikipedia and the information professionals in the cultural sector [galleries, libraries, archives and museums - GLAMs] have come to an uneasy truce and acceptance of it and developed a partnership. Liam Wyatt wrote his history thesis on "The academic lineage of Wikipedia: connections and disconnections in the theory and practice of history" <http://www.wittylama.com/thesis> for which he was awarded the University of New South Wales University Medal for History. In it he argued that the knowledge sector had more in common with Wikipedia's originating principles and current practices than either admitted and there would be great benefit if the two communities could be brought together. Seeking to implement his theory Liam requested of GLAMs nationally and internationally the chance to volunteer as Wikipedian in Residence. All Australian institutions demurred but the British Museum agreed. The resulting residency project <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM/BM> produced good quality collaboration (with better content on Wikipedia and increased visibility for the British Museum) and spurred a global movement of GLAMs requesting to bring Wikipedia in-house. Liam has now been appointed by the Wikimedia Foundation as Cultural Partnerships Fellow to help build strong relationships with the GLAM sector globally.

(Source: Australian Library and Information Association -Feb 2011)

Edward Charsley and Hedgeley Dene Gardens

Edward Charsley arrived in **Melbourne** in 1854. In 1858, Edward Charsley, a solicitor purchased **Lot 163 in Waverley Road East Malvern**, at the first sale of **Crown Land**. Charsley and his wife Emily lived at **Pine Hill, Malvern**, close to the present site of **Cabrini Hospital**, prior to 1877.

In 1877 the Charsley family moved from their farm **Pine Hill** to **Hedgeley Dene Farm** in **Wattletree Road**, east of **Burke Road**, with their children **Emily, Alice, Edward, Herbert, George, Mary, Annie, Helen, Amy, Harry, Kate** and **Dolly**. Charsley's farm was named **Hedgeley Dene** after '**Hedgerley**', the village near **Beaconsfield** in **Buckinghamshire**, Edward's English birthplace.

Solicitor Edward Charsley was a foundation member of the **Victorian Law Society** and a prominent citizen of Melbourne. **Hedgeley Dene Gardens** were formed along an early watercourse that was once part of Hedgeley Dene Farm. The farmhouse was situated in **Wattletree Road** close to the present site of **Tollington Avenue**.



Lake and pavilion, Hedgeley Dene Farm c1880 Reg No MP7344.



Charsley family at Hedgeley Dene Farm c1880 Reg No. MP7345.

From 1892-1894 the farm of 60 acres was tenanted by **James Henry Moorhead**. From 1902, the **Maidment family** ran a dairy farm and the waterholes and dam on the property were known locally as **Maidment's Lakes**. From 1891 to 1907 the waterholes were used as water hazards by the (Royal) **Melbourne** and **Caulfield** (later Metropolitan) **Golf Clubs**.

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Copies of photographs donated by former Malvern Councillor, **Joe Lewit**. Some of the photos show the Milk Bar at **273 Wattletree Road**, one up from the intersection of Tooronga Road, on the north-west corner. The milk bar was owned and run by Joe's parents **Julian and Maria Lewit**. At the time the photos were taken, Joe was 13 and going to **Malvern Central School** in Spring Road, and his younger brother Michael was 6 and attending **Tooronga Road State School**. Joe remembers the corner shop was a grocer's shop, then their milk bar, and up from there on the other side, across the narrow side passage, was a pharmacy. Other shops in that strip were a haberdashery, a men's hairdresser and a newsagent. The **273 Wattletree Road** building was a weatherboard shop and dwelling. Behind the shopfront was a living room, then a bedroom, a kitchen, another smaller bedroom, and a bathroom that had a bath with an over bath instant gas water heater, plus a cold water only hand basin. Off the kitchen was the back door leading to the back yard. There was a store shed opposite and behind the bathroom of the house was an outdoor laundry. Further back in the yard were old stables that served as another storage area and on the back fence was the outdoor toilet.



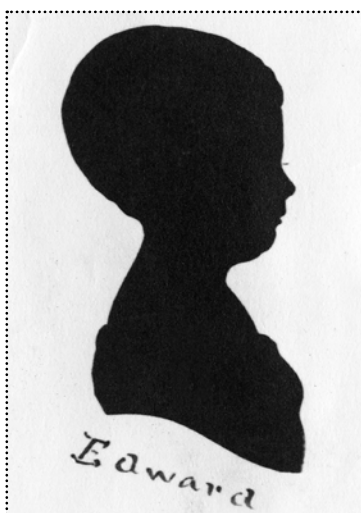
Joe (age 12) and Michael (age 5) Lewit outside 273 Wattletree Road Malvern East 1958

- Copy of photo of **Thomas Howe** donated by his son **James Howe**. It shows **Thomas Howe**, standing with his car in front of the shop belonging to his father, **James Howe** at **434 Waverley Road Malvern East**. The photo is believed to have been taken in the late 1930's. Thomas Howe worked there as a barber before the Second World War. The family lived in rooms above the barber shop before moving to **10 Dene Ave, Malvern East**. After WW2 Thomas' wife worked in the laundry in **Lower Malvern Road**. She remembered it as very hot, hard work.



Thomas Howe, 434 Waverley Road Malvern East c 1939

- **Community: Building Modern Australia (2010)**. Edited by **Hannah Lewi** and **David Nichols**. Donated by **Helen Stitt**.
- **The Gardener's Gamble: A social history of Australia through the Dawson family (2010)** by **Helen Laidlaw**. (Purchased by the Malvern Historical Society)
- Copy of photo of **Tivoli Theatre, Glenferrie Road Malvern**, donated by **Barry Cox**. Barry's father took the photo in 1916-17 when he was about 16 years old.
- Copies of silhouettes of the **Charsley family (1828)** including Edward Charsley as a child donated by **Ron Barratt**.
- Photograph of **96 Emo Road** donated by the **Phelan** family.



Silhouette of Edward Charsley 1828



Tivoli Theatre Glenferrie Rd Malvern



96 Emo Road Malvern East c1924

Georges of Collins Street, Melbourne

A local researcher is wondering if anyone has any memories or anecdotes about the old **Georges Department Store** that they would like to share. She is hoping to put together a collection of personal recollections.

Call **Annette: 0423-506 863**

Prahran Historical and Arts Society – 2011 Committee

The **Malvern Historical Society** looks forward to working with new **Prahran Historical and Arts Society President Gabriel Hermes** and his Committee.

Contact details for PHAS:

Telephone: 95297442

Email: prahranhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.au

P.O.Box 8649, Armadale Vic 3143

Children in Garden Street, South Yarra c1951 Reg No PH10222



Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society has received enquiries relating to a search for descendants of John Wagner of Stonnington, Hillard Street, Redcourt, Orrong Road Armadale, St Andrew's Kindergarten in Serrell Street Malvern East, the Staughton family residence, St Neots, at 246 Domain Road South Yarra, John Ellis Stewart, George Self Smith, 19 Kingston Street, Malvern East and ideas for historical buildings where a bride could have her wedding photos taken!

Taking Local History to the Community

The Society has received excellent publicity in **Stonnington Council's Walking for Pleasure** March-August 2011 brochure. The Malvern Town Hall Walk was well attended. **The Reverend Canon Dr Colleen O'Reilly** kindly allowed the walkers to visit the grounds of the Vicarage and the beautiful interior of **St George's Anglican Church**. A large group explored the East Malvern War Services Homes Estate on our March Walk. Our walks this year have been very enthusiastically led by **Pat Brincat, Francesca Di Mattina** and **Robin Brown** with assistance from **Lorraine Sage, Jane Nigro** and **Faye Pattinson**. Lorraine and Jane represented the Society at the **RHSV Victoria Support Group Seminar** at Narre Warren in March. Jane represented the Society at a meeting of the **Association of Eastern Historical Societies**. Lorraine and Jane met with members of the **Malvern Bowling Club** who are planning their centenary celebrations.

New Members

We would like to welcome our latest new members **Marilla James, Carrie Arbuthnot, Graham Thurston, Brendan Shawcroft, Mitty Costello** and **Roy Cunliffe**.

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Material for the articles has been researched from the **Stonnington Local History Centre Collection**. The database contains over 54,000 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)

**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 • Tel 8290 1360
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