

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

June - July 2011

Newsletter No. 31

## 26 June Visit to St John's Anglican Church, Finch Street, Malvern East

Sunday 26 June 2p.m.

Members are invited to visit the

Anglican Parish of St John the Evangelist

5 Finch Street, Malvern East (close to Dandenong Road)

The tour will be conducted by Hazel Shankley, long time parishioner, and author of the Centenary history of the parish, "Born in the Boom"

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

(Don't forget to read all parking signs carefully)



Finch Street Malvern East c1940 Reg No MP4505

## 30 July Book Launch 'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer'

Saturday 30 July 2011 2.30pm

St. Andrew's Uniting Church Gardiner - Wesley Hall, Corner of Burke Road and Malvern Road, Glen Iris - Melway Map 59 H7 (The Hall is at the side of the Church)

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for the launch of Anne Jackson's new book, 'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer'.

Philpott was one of Malvern's earliest residents. In 1856 he is described in the rate books as the owner and occupier of a brick house of nine rooms, out-houses and a gardener's house of two rooms. He occupied his property, Rosehill, until 1874. Sale notices mention two organs, including a small Courcelle organ which was housed in the bluestone chapel. Anne will talk about William Philpott and his family, Rosehill and the organs, and the early years of cricket in Victoria.

Bookings essential. RSVP: Lorraine 9885 9082

The new book will be available at the Launch for the special price of \$5



Bluestone chapel, 19 Mayfield Avenue, Malvern 1992.  
Reg No MP9000

## Malvern Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Malvern Historical Society Inc was held in May. At the meeting Lorraine Sage was re-elected President. Also re-elected were Jane Nigro - Vice President and Acting Secretary, Robin Brown - Treasurer and Committee members - Bruce McBrien, Faye Pattinson, Pat Brincat and Francesca Di Mattina. Graham Thurston was also warmly welcomed onto the Committee. Graham only recently became a member of the Society. After the formal part of the evening everyone enjoyed a fascinating talk by our guest Speaker, Rod Ingham, Project Officer Yarra Riverkeeper Association.

Lorraine Sage – President 9885 9082

## Di Foster - Royal Historical Society of Victoria Award of Merit

The Malvern Historical Society would like to congratulate Di Foster who recently received an Award of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Di has given outstanding service to the Malvern Historical Society, a member Society of the RHSV, and to the Stonnington Local History Service. Since 1986 Di has made an outstanding contribution to local history relating to the former City of Malvern and the City of Stonnington. Di was nominated by the Malvern Historical Society Committee and the nomination was supported by David Tuck, Local History Librarian, Stonnington History Centre. Well done Di!



## Membership passes a Milestone!

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Kaitlin Maskel, Jane Brewster, Ken Sheahan and Alan and Pauline Courtney, our 200th member!

## Aldworth Girls' Grammar School

Ellen Craig was granted permission to open the **East Malvern High School and Kindergarten for Girls**, in **St John's Parish Hall** in June 1897. At the end of 1899, the **East Malvern High School for Girls** ceased operating in the St John's Parish Hall and opened at number **22 Finch Street East Malvern**. In 1905 **Ellen Craig**, her mother and sisters moved to the corner of **Finch and Coppin Streets, East Malvern**, and a boarding school of 12 students began. After 1905 the school was no longer called the **East Malvern High School for Girls**. The boarding house and the school house, at the corner of **Coppin and Clarence Streets**, were to be known collectively as **Aldworth Girls' Grammar School**.



Aldworth Girls' Grammar School 1914, corner of  
Coppin and Clarence Streets Reg No 421

### Excerpts from the "Aldworth Budget of News" 1918

#### The Bazaar - May 4, 1918

'As it is well known throughout the school, Aldworth is running the Sweet Stall at the Bazaar in the Parish Hall in aid of the **Malvern Red Cross** on May 4th. As the date draws near we are beginning to make arrangements to ensure the success of our stall. It has been decided to buy the bulk of our stock from **MacRobertson's**, at wholesale price. The funds, which we have raised in the school for this purpose, amount to £5.11.0. With these funds, and some promised donations of home made sweets our stall should be well stocked and we hope to raise at least £15. The boxes for the sweets are to be covered with pieces of dainty wallpaper, a large bookful (sic) of which has been kindly donated by **Mr Hooper**. The boxes will be made quite secure and easy to carry. As an additional means to make some money it is probable that there will be a girl going through the hall with a bottle of peas. People will be asked to guess the number of peas in the bottle. The person whose guess is the most nearly correct will win, as a prize, a large and prettily made box of sweets.'



Aldworth Girls' Grammar School  
student. c1918 Reg No MP398

#### September 1918

##### Form Vb notes

'We have lately received a letter from the Front from the soldier who got our last Xmas box. It was a very interesting letter. He said he was an **ANZAC**, and has been in the army since the beginning of the war. When he wrote he was in **England**, as he had been wounded. We are going to send him a box again this Xmas.'

#### Old Grammarian Notes

We wish to express our sincere sympathy with **Gwynedd Rusden** and with **Marjorie Morrison** in the loss of their brothers at the Front. **Corporal Rusden** fell on July 4th and **Lieutenant Morrison, M.C.** died of wounds on August 10th.  
**Thelma George, Hon. Sec**

#### Patriotic Notes

As the month of July was set apart for the **French Red Cross**, and as we wished to do our share towards helping our brave Ally, we contributed £8/3/8, including £1/3/9, the proceeds of a Fun Night given by Form Vb, on July 19th. At present our contributions are slightly diminished by the fact that the girls are fulfilling an obligation undertaken last year to collect a certain sum of money for a Chinese Mission child'.

#### Social – Extract from The Australasian

Over £40 was gained for the funds of the **Lady Mayoress's Patriotic league**, owing to the energy of **Malvern Girls' Branch of the Australian Women's National League** in organising an entertainment. It was held in the **Malvern Town Hall** on Thursday evening, June 13 and comprised a production of "As you like it" cleverly performed by pupils of **Aldworth Girls' Grammar School** under the able direction of **Miss Lucy Mackay**. **Miss Maise Cumming**, as **Rosalind**, was perfect and impersonated the character with grace.

#### December 1918

##### Patriotic Notes

For the last term of the year the girls evidently made up their minds to show what they could do. The collection every week has been well over the pound, very different to first term. The girls seem to realise that if our men are to be victorious, money must be provided. We have raised this year for patriotic funds £127.2. 8½d, which **Miss Craig** says is the most yet given by our school. Of our last term's subscriptions over twenty five pounds was raised by **Lesley Dunlop** at a bazaar she held in her own home grounds one Saturday afternoon. She is to be congratulated on such a splendid result.

## Glenburn, Elm Road, Glen Iris



Students at the College of the Bible c1912 Reg No MP1783



Female staff at the College of the Bible c 1925 Reg No MP1820

A brick house of fourteen rooms with stables had been erected for 'gentleman' **Samuel King** in **Elm Road** on the corner of **York Road**, in the **Burke Road Station Reserve**, in 1891. King, a successful boot manufacturer and one-time **Mayor** of **Brunswick**, was a prominent member of the Methodist church. In 1894 King sold the property, which included 180 feet frontage, plus another 700 feet of land, to **Wesleyan** minister, **Rev. Edwin Watkin**. Watkin leased the property to an accountant **James Ormond** in 1896. The following year, the house, named **Glenburn**, was purchased by **R. Campbell Edwards** for £2,150. Edwards, a tea merchant who dealt in real estate, was a well-known member of the Church of Christ. Under Edward's ownership, **Glenburn** had various occupiers including **Benjamin Maxwell**, **Joseph de Saxe**, **Robert Sperring** and **Hugh Anderson**. At times **Elm Road** is shown as **Glenburn Road**. In 1908, 'following a generous offer made by Edwards, the property was bought by the **Federal Conference of Churches of Christ**, for the price of £1,500.' From 1910, **Glenburn** on four and a half acres, with a frontage to **Gardiners Creek**, became the new **College of the Bible**. It provided accommodation and facilities for students. The College of the Bible offered theological education and ministerial training and in 1974 the name **Glenburn** was changed to **Campbell Edwards House**. The College of the Bible site was purchased by the Road Construction Authority in 1987 and two years later the College relocated due to the construction of the South-eastern arterial road link. **Malvern Council** purchased the property from the R.C.A. in 1989 and the following year offered a lease to the Elm Road Artists Group, which was refused. Twenty-six artists were working at **Elm Road** including painters, sculptors and ceramicists. The property was sold to MECWA in 1993. The old building **Glenburn**, was destroyed by fire in 1999.

## Charles Smartt



Charles Smartt and his family operated a furniture and general store at **181 Commercial Road, South Yarra**, during the late 19th, early 20th century until the early 1940s, operating as **C. Smartt**, **Mrs L. Smartt** and finally **Miss M. Smartt**.

According to the **Prahran Jubilee** history

and illustrated handbook, Smartt's shop carried a good selection of "everything useful and good which extensive trade can require". Smartt delivered goods to all areas of Victoria.



Harriet Smartt (Undated)



Photograph from the Prahran Jubilee History c1906  
Reg No PH7375

## Launch of Obituaries Australia

Obituaries Australia (OA) was launched in April 2011. The database results from a project by the group which supports the "Australian Dictionary of Biography" online. It aims to function as a high standard repository for the numerous published obituaries. It is a digital repository for obituaries published in newspapers, journals, magazines and bulletins. It includes all Australians as well as non-Australians who have made an impact on Australian history. Users of the OA database can search for obituaries using various criteria such as life dates, birth and death place, religion and occupation etc.

<http://oa.anu.edu.au/about-us/>

**Ellen Porter Local History Librarian**  
**Stonnington History Centre Ph: 8290 1360**

## Local newspapers from the olden days

For local history buffs such as ourselves, old newspapers are a wonderful source of information. Rate books and electoral rolls tell us who was here, newspapers tell us what they were doing. Numerous papers have come and gone in Stonnington over the last 150 years, and these are listed on the History Centre webpages:

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/explore-stonnington/history/stonnington-history-centre/local-newspapers/>

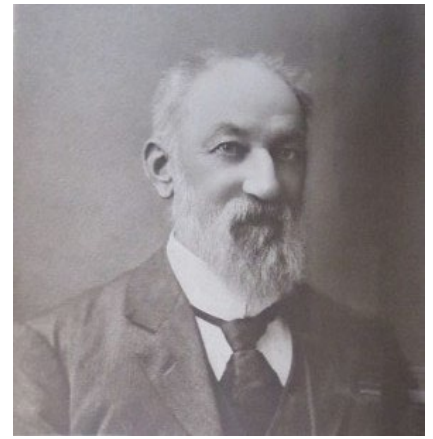
The earliest paper we know of was the **Prahran & St Kilda Advertiser** – we have copies of just two issues from 1857. A few years ago we ‘discovered’ a catalogue record for a **St Kilda/Prahran** newspaper in the **British Library** that we’d never heard of before. The **Toorak/South Yarra Library** now has a microfilm copy of the **St Kilda Chronicle**, 1857-1861.

Newspapers are not designed to last for hundreds of years, so microfilming is the standard way to prevent wear and tear. It can also improve access, as issues missing from your collection can be copied from other libraries. **The History Centre** is progressively microfilming all local papers, whether held by us or the **State Library**. This year we have added the **Southern Cross**, 1972-74, complementing the years 1975-1995 already filmed.

But why film, when these days you could scan with ocr (optical character recognition, allowing keyword search)? For large broadsheet newspapers, microfilming is actually the preliminary step before scanning, due to size constraints. This may change as the machines improve –and become cheaper – some agencies already offer direct scanning of colour tabloids, like our own Leader. For archivists, it’s very reassuring to have a microfilm backup copy of a newspaper. We can’t know what problems can arise with our digital technology, but with microfilm, all you’ll ever need to read it is a light source and a magnifier. Ideally, we’d have the original paper, a microfilm copy, and a digital copy on the internet.

New titles are now regularly being added to the **National Library’s TROVE** site, following the outstanding success of their filming of the **Argus**, amongst others. The **Prahran Telegraph** 1866-1930 is our top priority for scanning, keeping in mind that it covered **Malvern** as well as **Prahran**. Our local historical societies have expressed interest in participating in this work. It opens up a brave new research world to us.

**David Tuck, Local History Librarian**  
**Stonnington History Centre Ph: 8290 1360**



**Henry Osment, former Prahran Mayor,  
owner of the Prahran Telegraph  
c 1890-1910.  
Reg No PH6230.**

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society has received enquiries relating to:

**William Lavell.** William was born in 1838 in Kent to an Irishman of the 51st regiment, British Army and his 17 year old bride Ellen Kenny. He embarked for Van Dieman’s Land on 22 Sept 1838. William, widowed twice, possibly survived by a third wife, had many children. During his life he experienced financial woes and a near miss from bushfire. He lived in various places in Gippsland including Zulu Creek, later moving to Malvern. He was a bootmaker on the west side of Glenferrie Road, between Stanhope and Union Streets, around the mid 1890s

**Thomas Leslie.** Thomas Leslie worked as a gardener for John Wagner at Stonnington, Glenferrie Road Malvern, in the 1890’s. The Leslie family lived in the lodge located at the main gate to the property.

**Christopher Anderton.** A member of the Anderton family in England is looking for information relating to the Christopher Anderton family who lived on the north side of High Street between Cawkwell Street and Tooronga Road Malvern.

**John Ellis Stewart.** John Stewart arrived in Australia in 1869. During his time in Melbourne, he lived in Prahran. He was a Foundation member of Committee and Hon. Secretary of the Royal Humane, Life Saving and Animals’ Protection Societies (RSPCA) and The Eye and Ear and Austin Hospital.

The Society has also received enquiries relating to Abel Hoadley, creator of the Violet Crumble bar, old station names, whether there was a station around the 1860s called Gardiner’s Creek Rd Railway Station, the history of 1483 Malvern Road (the site of the Malvern Squash Club since c1960), residential architecture in Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern, Malvern residents who served during World War One, geophysical surveys in Stonnington parks, *Coronal*, Lewes Drive, Malvern East and hiring of Holy Trinity Church Malvern East!

Following our request for information relating to St. Lorraine Rest Home, Sister Hargreave’s granddaughter contacted the Society. Her grandmother, Sister Elsie Hargreave purchased the property at 81 Finch Street, East Malvern in the late 1950’s or early 1960’s with a partner, believed to be Sr. Jean Beaufort. Later her grandmother bought out her partner and continued to operate St. Lorraine Private Hospital until around 1967-8.

## Donations to the Stonnington History Centre

The following research resources have been purchased by the **Malvern Historical Society** to support the work of the **Stonnington History Centre**:

- Melbourne postal directories on cd rom (4 discs) (**Sands & Kenny**; **Sands & McDougall**): 1857-1875
- **Pioneer index, Victoria** 1836-1888 [cd rom]
- Two missing issues of the **Victorian Historical Journal [RHSV]**
- **Jubilee history of Victoria and Melbourne** [2 vols on microfiche]. Originally published in 2 volumes and edited by T W H Leavitt with historian W D Lilburn, this publication has general history of the Colony, information about its buildings, industry and importantly its people.

## Norman Johnston Joinery Works

**Alfred Norman Johnston** was a builder by trade and constructed the 'works' himself. The business was thought to have been located in **Malvern East**, on the north side of **Moira Street**, between the railway line and **Gardiners Creek**. All joinery was made in the works for the building of houses by **Norman Johnston** in **Muswell Hill**, **Glen Iris Road**, **Brixton Rise**, **Fairview Grove**, **Tollington Avenue**, **Kerferd Road**, **Bourne Road**, **Dorrington Avenue** and **Valleyview Road**. A large sign above the timber shed reads **Designer & Builder Joinery Works, Band Sawing & Phone Numbers U2435 & U2208**.

Norman Johnston Joinery Works (undated) Reg No MP1303



## Memories of a Malvern Postman



Framed watercolour of Malvern Post Office and Malvern General Store  
Reg No MP15279

"The **Malvern Post Office** was situated near the corner of **Elizabeth Street** and **Malvern Road**. It was in an old building and seventy years ago it was the only Post Office in the district. It was also a store, with a butcher's shop next door. In the centre of the village there was a brick-yard at the corner of **Spring Road**; the **Methodist Church** was at the other end of **Elizabeth Street** which was removed to **Spring Road** in 1886.

The post mistress was **Mrs Wilson** and she sorted out the mail, which was brought from **Malvern Station** by the boy driver in a grocer's cart at 6.30 am. The postmen consisted of four boys from the ages of 14, who delivered the letters for 9/- per week and keep. I lived at **Richmond**, but it was too far to walk to **Malvern**, so we all slept in a square room in the yard away from the house; we were only allowed in the house for our meals; the beds were bunks attached to walls. We started work after breakfast, when the mail arrived the rounds were divided in four. 1) Boundary Road

(Kooyong Road) to the Gardiner's Creek, then along the Gardiner's Creek and Elizabeth Street to Malvern Road. 2) from Spring Road along Malvern Road to Boundary Road (Kooyong Road), then along Dandenong Road to Glenferrie Road to the Shire Hall, then down High Street east to Spring Road. 3) Spring Road to High Street, to Horace Street, Wattletree Road, Thanet Street to Dandenong Road to Glenferrie Road to Shire Hall. 4) Malvern Road to Tooronga Road, to Wattletree Road, to Thanet Street, to Caulfield Station, along Dandenong Road to Rosstown Station and Murrumbeena to Belgrave Road.

The Shire President's house 'Belgrave in Belgrave Road became my half-way house in two hours and a half's work. The house gave me a jug of milk, home-made bread and home-made butter. A forge was the only delivery on Dandenong Road between Burke Road and Belgrave Road. Coonil Smith House on Lower Malvern Road was the only delivery until High Street. We delivered to Judge Kerferd's Ranfurlie House, then up High Street to Burke Road, then Scott and Knox to Malvern Road, as there were no houses on the lower Malvern Road. Mr Seller's, Belmont House, was the only place between Malvern Road and High Street. There was a creek with a small bridge in Malvern Road near Tooronga Road. Mr Lewis lived in the corner house of Tooronga Road. Woodmason's cow paddock was on the north side of Malvern Road. From Burke Road to Tooronga Road on the west side was a Chinese Garden near Wrattens Malvern Vale Hotel. Thus finished a five hour walk of the largest round in Malvern. After dinner, the boys delivered telegrams, as the Post Office was the end of the line and, when a message came for Glen Iris Bacon factory for a side of bacon it cost 2/- postage rate, which the postmistress collected. The storeman of Glen Iris drove over to Malvern for a very small mail. There were two bridges at Tooronga Road, no bridge at Toorak Road, as it finished at Gardiner's Creek. One of the boys collected the letters at the corner of High Street and Burke Road, and one boy would take a walk to Malvern Station at 11.00 pm; 3 months was enough for me. But the fun we had in the bunk house is another story."

Herbert Dickins (undated)

## Taking Local History to the Community

The stall and photo display at **Pets in the Park** again created great interest. Thanks to our helpers on the day, **Roxanne Dennis, Denis Dowty, Margaret Robinson, Faye Pattinson, David Hunter, Jane Nigro** and **Lorraine Sage**. Many people took the time to have a close look at the 1964 Sands and McDougall Directory and we would like to again thank **Kevin Clements** for donating the Directory. Thanks also to **Trevor**, an **East Malvern Rotary** club member who helped us with setting up. **Lorraine Sage** and **Jane Nigro** represented the Society at the **RHSV History Victoria Support Group Seminar** at Narre Warren, the Annual General Meeting of the RHSV, at a recent meeting of the **South Metro History Group** and were present for the launch of **Frank Hutchinson's** book 'Beginnings' at the **Prahran Mechanics' Institute**.

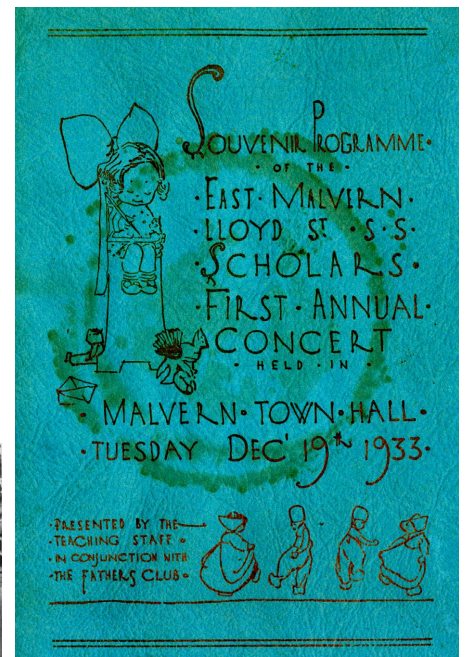
Members enjoyed a visit to the Archives of the **Glen Eira Historical Society** in April and explored Stonnington and surrounding suburbs when **Bruce McBrien** entertained us on our annual bus trip. Thank you to **Stonnington Council** for sponsoring this event. The Society was recently delighted to find a direct link to the Malvern Historical Society website on the "Our Centenary" page on the **Malvern Bowling Club** website. <http://www.malvernbowls.com.au/our-centenary-2/> **David Tuck** and **Ellen Porter** recently hosted the Inmagic Museum User Group meeting at the Stonnington History Centre.

## Recent additions to the Stonnington History Collection

- The following collection was donated by the **Brighton Historical Society**: dance program for the City of Prahran Ball given by the Mayor and Mrs. S.A.Chambers, City Hall 1906, Cheque book from the National Bank of Australasia, Malvern Branch 1926, **Miss Maisie Cumming** collection including her diary from 1913, her Elocution exercise book from 1918, and magazines from her school, **Aldworth, East Malvern, "Budget of News" 1918, Malvern and District Horticultural Society Rules 1929**, a copy of The Home Gardener which includes an article on prominent horticulturalist **Austin Frederick Mayor** and news from the Malvern and District Horticultural Society. And a souvenir program from the **East Malvern Lloyd Street State School Scholars First Annual Concert** at the Malvern Town Hall in 1933.
- 'Caulfield's Heritage' Dr Geulah Solomon 1989 and 'From sand, swamp and heath... A History of Caulfield' Peter R. Murray and John C. Wells, donated by the **Glen Eira Historical Society**.
- AAA Uniform Central**, 43 High Street Glen Iris donated copy of photo taken from the Malvern Town Hall in 1911
- Copies of **The Courier**, the St Andrew's Uniting Church Gardiner newsletter (Feb 2003-Nov 2006) donated by **Lorraine Sage**
- Copy of photograph of **37 Ardrie Road** Malvern East 1929 donated by **Jo De Garis**



37 Ardrie Road, Malvern East 1929



East Malvern Lloyd Street State School Scholars First Annual Concert at the Malvern Town Hall in 1933

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of Airdrie Porter, a valued supporter of local history in Malvern. Airdrie was a long time member and Committee member of the Malvern Historical Society. Our thoughts are with her daughter, Di Foster, and her family at this sad time.

### 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](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](http://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)