

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

August - September 2011

Newsletter No. 32

## 17 August Chabad House 316 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

Wednesday 17 August 10.30am

Join Rabbi Shimshon Yurowicz and members of the Society for a visit to Chabad House in Glenferrie Road Malvern.

(close to Malvern Road)

In the past 25 years Chabad Malvern has grown into a thriving Jewish Community, with facilities and services that provide for over 1800 families in the area. Founded on the Chabad philosophy, it has built up campuses with a crèche, Synagogue, Ritual bath and is in the planning stages of a new building project to facilitate growing demand. Among other programs, it has an afternoon 'Hebrew' School, weekly classes for teens, adult education, camps and programs for senior citizens.

Bookings essential. RSVP Lorraine 9885 9082 by 15 August.

## 23 Sept Toorak House - Swedish Church 21 St Georges Road, Toorak

Friday 23 Sept 2.30pm

Toorak House is 'probably the oldest surviving mansion in Prahran - perhaps even Victoria' (*Prahran conservation study* 1983). Toorak House, constructed c.1848-51 was designed by architect Samuel Jackson, and erected for but never occupied by wealthy Melbourne merchant James Jackson. It served as Victoria's Government House from 1854 until 1876.

The mansion reverted to being a family home until it was pressed into service during World War II as the Women's Australian Air Force hostel. The property was bought by the Swedish Church in 1956.

Join members of the Society for a talk and guided tour of the ground floor of Toorak House.

Cost: \$10 per person, includes afternoon tea. Bookings essential.

RSVP Lorraine 9885 9082 by 22 September

Toorak House (undated) Reg No 6054



## 9 October Spring Into Gardening at Victoria Gardens



Sunday 9 Oct Spring into Gardening 11am-4pm

The Committee would love to hear from any members or supporters 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. Our sales table and displays always attract an interested crowd. Please call Lorraine 9885 9082. Any help appreciated!

This is your chance to be actively involved in Stonnington's local history!

Rotunda, Victoria Gardens (undated) Reg No PH 2458

## Visit to Mandeville Hall, Toorak

View the lavish interiors of one of Melbourne's most significant nineteenth century mansions on

Sunday 14 August 2011, Sunday 18 September 2011 and Sunday 23 October 2011. Bookings essential.

For further information, please contact Steve Stefanopoulos on 9823 8157

## Stop Press! East Malvern Community Bank Grant

The Malvern Historical Society is very pleased to announce that we have been successful in gaining a \$2000 grant from the East Malvern Community Bank. This grant will be used to update our award winning website [www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern)

East Malvern  
Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank



## Victoria's First Bowling Green, Gardiner Hotel, Dandenong Road, Malvern 1862

In 1862, **William Greaves**, hotel licensee and noted Melbourne cricketer, established Victoria's first bowling club and green adjacent to the original hotel on the north east corner of Dandenong and Glenferrie Roads, Malvern. First known as the **Gardiner Hotel**, then the **Railway Hotel**, the original building of nine rooms and stables was built prior to 1856. It was on the main stock route to Gippsland and became a favourite stopping place for travellers. Greaves also provided facilities for cricket and pigeon shooting.

### Frank Hardy

Frank Hardy, widely remembered as the author of '**Power without Glory**', lived in **Hillard Street East Malvern** from 1938 to the early 50's. During this time he wrote the controversial novel based on the empire and notorious activities of **John Wren** in **Carringbush**, a fictitious name for **Collingwood**. Wren was involved with betting, the police and the Labor Party. Frank Hardy was charged with criminally libelling **Mrs Ellen Wren**, wife of **John Wren**, in a section of the book which told of her having an affair with a bricklayer. The court proceedings dragged on and Hardy left Melbourne to avoid the hostility of the public. He returned to his home in **Hillard Street** in 1951, after being acquitted, to find a large crowd of about 700 people in the street. He was very concerned about this reception but found that he was being welcomed with applause from all present. He said at the time "I wasn't sure whether it was a lynching mob or not because during the court hearings I wasn't too popular with a few people!"



Frank Hardy, Hillard Street.  
'Southern Cross' 10 December 1980

### Everton and Little Everton

The lure of the goldfields brought **George Briscoe Kerferd** to Victoria in 1853. He settled in the district of Beechworth, where he worked as a miner before becoming a successful wine merchant. In 1864 he was elected to the **Victorian Legislative Assembly**. Soon after this he commenced a law course. During the 1870s **Kerferd** purchased 25 acres of land on a hill overlooking the Glen Iris Valley. By 1886 the property was described as a six roomed weatherboard house with kitchen, servants' room, store, stone dairy, stables, shed, fruit trees, vineyard and pasture. Kerferd named the house **Everton** after the village in England where his forebears had lived.



Everton, renamed **Little Everton**, after it was moved to Malvern Road, Glen Iris 1894 Reg No 1358

**Kerferd** was **Premier of Victoria** in 1874. In 1886, the year following his elevation to the **Supreme Court**, he commenced building a 13 room brick mansion, also to be known as **Everton**, to the design of architects **Dalton and Gibbins**. Kerferd died in 1889 and the property was sold to the **Hon. William Knox**. **Hon.** After the estate was sold, **George Briscoe Kerferd's** widow, **Mrs Ann Kerferd**, moved to the original **Everton** (the old timber house had been relocated to **Malvern Road** and renamed **Little Everton**) where she lived until 1915.



Drawing room at **Ranfurly** 1904 Reg No 7645

**William Knox** was the founding secretary of **Broken Hill Proprietary Company**, before becoming a partner in **Knox, Schlapp & Co.**, mine owners and engineers. **Knox** was a director of a number of companies and in 1898 he was elected to the **Victorian Legislative Council**. At Federation he was elected to the first **Parliament of the Commonwealth** as the **Member for Kooyong**. **Knox** was a **Councillor** for the **Shire of Malvern** from 1892-5 and 1902-10 and **Shire President** 1893-5.



**Ranfurly** 1920 Reg No 365

**William Knox** renamed **Everton**, **Ranfurly**. (**Ranfurly** was the family title, relating to the **Earl of Ranfurly** of Northern Ireland.)

He added another wing and a ballroom to **Ranfurly**. The **Melbourne Hunt Club** met at the property from 1897. **William Knox** died in **England** in 1913 and soon afterwards the property was bought by developers for subdivision.

**Miss Akehurst**, the Principal of **Korowa Girls' School**, purchased **Ranfurly** and the school moved from **Wattletree Road** in 1914. The mansion **Ranfurly** was used as a boarding school and classrooms until its demolition in 1974.

## Prahran & Malvern Court Reports

Police Courts and Courts of Petty Sessions started sittings at Prahran in 1856 and at Gardiner (Malvern) in 1859. A stipendiary magistrate or two or more honorary Justices of the Peace presided, normally including the Mayor or the Chairman of the Bench. These courts typically heard charges involving minor crimes such as drunkenness or domestic disputes, breaches of local government regulations and civil matters, including suits over debts and fraud (initially up to £20), as well as making committals to higher courts for more serious offences.

Reports of proceedings in these courts began to be published in local newspapers as soon as the courts were established. Diane Nicholas and I have been steadily working our way through reports on both the Prahran and Malvern courts which appeared in the Prahran Telegraph, producing edited summaries and an index of names. Diane's series starts in 1866 and has already reached 1875 while mine runs from 1880 to late 1882. These are being posted progressively to the Local History Catalogue maintained by the Stonnington History Centre.

You can look for the name of anyone who appeared before either court or who was mentioned as a witness or in some other capacity, by simply entering the name in Catalogue Quicksearch. If you get too many hits and need to narrow the search, use Advanced Search and enter the name in 'Any word', and limit the Title field to prahran court or malvern court. You might also have some luck locating cases under a specific subject heading in the Catalogue such as 'Neglected children' or 'Lunacy' and combining any keywords likely to have been connected with the proceedings of a court, as outlined above in Advanced Search.

We now have now completed almost 600 entries, covering a wide range of cases. Some charges have a very modern ring like 'Driving while intoxicated' (carts and drays of course!) and 'failure to pay train fares', while others reflect issues peculiar to the age like disposal of the euphemistically named 'nightsoil' and cruelty to horses. All in all, the crimes and their punishments provide a rich reflection of the economic and social conditions of the times and prevailing assumptions about women, relations between the sexes, attitudes towards the old, unemployed and insane and what constituted 'respectability'. Well worth some browsing! To stimulate our readers' interest, we hope to publish excerpts from a few interesting or quirky cases from time-to-time in Local History News as 'Tales from the Courts'.

Geoff Currey

## Tales from the Courts

[Edited reports of proceedings in the Prahran and Malvern courts as they appeared in contemporary issues of the Prahran Telegraph.]

### **Cruelty to Animals**

James Dunn, gardener, charged with cruelty to an animal, to whit, a pure-bred goose, which died as a result of injuries inflicted by the accused. Dunn pleaded guilty and was fined five shillings. **Prahran Telegraph, 28 February 1880**

### **'Practising her profession'**

An elderly Irishwoman named Annie White, a confirmed vagrant, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment 'for practicing her profession'. Mary Lawrence remanded for a week for 'a like offence'. **Prahran Telegraph, 6 March 1880**

### **He loved 'not wisely but too well'**

Henry James, who had loved a young female friend 'not wisely but too well', had paid the female four shillings to purchase a drug designed to avoid the results. Proceeded against on the charge of having attempted to procure an abortion. Remanded for a week. **Prahran Telegraph, 6 March 1880**

And later ...

Henry James, charged on remand with having attempted to procure an abortion by supplying Mary Ann Wheeler with four shillings to purchase certain medicine supposed to produce 'the desired effect'. Let off on a technicality in that he did not actually do any 'procuring'. **Prahran Telegraph, 13 March 1880**

## Heritage Victoria Artefact Collection Online

Heritage Victoria's artefact collection can now be searched online. The database, designed to provide public access to the more than 60,000 artefacts held at **Heritage Victoria's Centre for Conservation and Research** in Abbotsford, can be accessed at [www.dpced.vic.gov.au/heritage/archaeology/material-and-artefact-conservation-about](http://www.dpced.vic.gov.au/heritage/archaeology/material-and-artefact-conservation-about)

Maritime archaeologists remove artefacts from historic shipwrecks to protect them from physical danger or from looting. Valuable shipwreck artefacts were handed in during 1993 when an amnesty was declared on artefacts from historic shipwrecks. During alterations to registered buildings or gardens, samples of materials, construction techniques or artefacts may be removed. Artefacts from all these sources are conserved in the **Heritage Victoria Centre for Conservation and Research (ph: 9415 4444)** and then kept in the collection and used for research, education, publicity and displays.



## RHSV Exhibition - Everard Studley Miller: member, historian, benefactor

The **Royal Historical Society of Victoria** is holding an exhibition 'Everard Studley Miller: member, historian, benefactor' until 2 September. The exhibition concentrates on Everard Studley Miller's historical and cultural interests, revealing his approach to photography as a tool of historiography and providing some details of his family background and lifestyle. While drawing mainly on resources held by the **RHSV**, the exhibition is also supported by the **National Gallery of Victoria**, the **Ian Potter Museum of Art**, the **University of Melbourne** and the **Australian Institute of Archaeology**.

**Everard Studley Miller** was born in 1886 in Melbourne, the younger of two sons of (**Sir**) **Edward Miller**, banker, and his wife **Mary Elizabeth**, née **Darlot**, and grandson of **Henry ('Money') Miller**. He followed the family tradition by working in the **Bank of Victoria**. He was interested in classical studies, family history, engineering, geography and photography. Throughout his life Miller collected small objets d'art and prints, particularly Arundel chromolithographs reproducing Italian Primitives. In increasingly poor health after World War II, Miller lived quietly at the family house **Glyn, 224 Kooyong Road, Toorak**, until his death on 5 July 1956. When he died, a sale of his extraordinary collection of antiques, fine arts and porcelain was held at the house. Through the conditions of his will he bequeathed property and money to the value of £170,000 to the **National Gallery of Victoria**. After **Glyn** was sold, the adjacent land was subdivided and **Selwyn Court** was created to the south of **Glyn**.



Everard Studley Miller  
(RHSV Collection)

**Glyn**, a grand Edwardian mansion, was completed in 1908. Prominent architect **Rodney Alsop**, of the firm **Klingender & Alsop**, designed the building as a new home for **Edward Miller** on the site of an earlier home, also known as **Glyn**. The design of **Glyn** reflected the involvement of its architect in the Arts and Crafts movement. This involvement is reflected in the leadlight windows, repousse metal door furniture and carved woodwork all in a eucalypt theme, the beaten metal light fittings and the wrought iron gates.



*Glyn*, 224 Kooyong Road, Toorak 2006 Reg No 9542

'Everard Studley Miller: member, historian, benefactor' Exhibition  
Royal Historical Society of Victoria  
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne  
10 am - 4 pm, Monday to Friday until 2 September

## Stonnington Research Enquiries



Bobsy-Die Goodtime Folk group, Morvels Potato Factory,  
Moirs Street, Darling 1980 Reg No 6583



Former residence of Oliver Gilpin, 84 Finch Street,  
Malvern East 1911 Reg No 7579

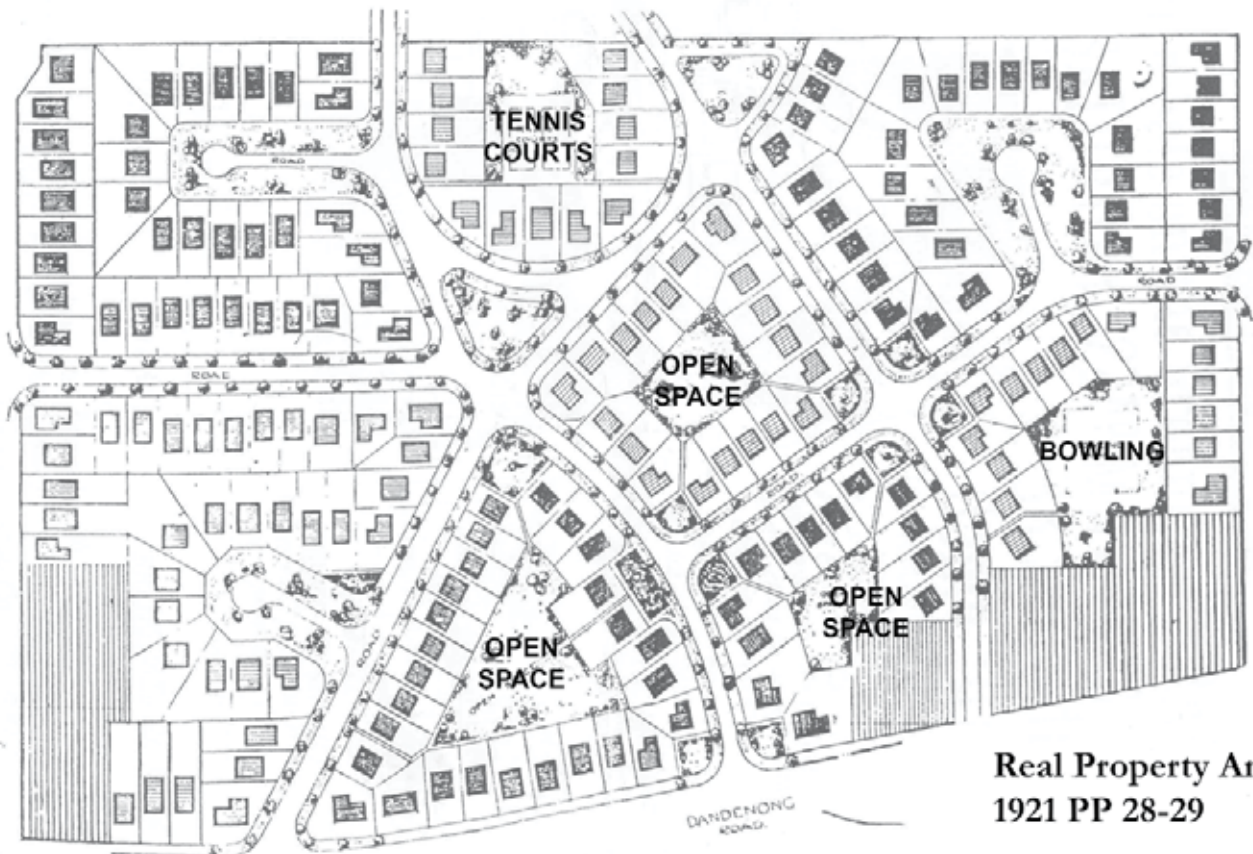
We received responses to the **Norman Johnston Joinery Works** article in the last newsletter from the **Johnston** family and from the **McBeth** family who later owned the property. By 1980 it was known as **Morvels Potato Factory**.

**Association of Eastern Historical Societies President, Glen Turnbull** has sent the **Anderton** family details about **Christopher Anderton's** links to the **Wantirna** area, following the request in the last newsletter.

During the past few months the Society has received overseas enquiries from **U.K.** relating to **Valentines, Grovenor** and **Stonnington** ballrooms and from **Oklahoma, U.S.A.** asking whether we know of an early **Malvern** newspaper, the **Malvern Meteor**. Stonnington Local History Librarian **David Tuck** could find no record of this publication in either the **Stonnington Local History Collection** or in the **State Library of Victoria**. Enquiries have also been received relating to **Fulham, Vickery Street**, Victoria's first bowling green in **Dandenong Road**, an oral history project relating to **Malvern Meadows Malvern East**, the **Good Shepherd Convent in Oakleigh**, and the fence detail recently illegally removed from 84 Finch Street, Malvern East.

(Refer to Local History News, Newsletter No 28, for the article and photo relating to the Gilpin property at 84 Finch Street and the warehouse.) **Ellen Porter** and **David Tuck, Stonnington Local History Librarians**, have enthusiastically answered all the enquiries.

Plan A - An Example of the "Gridiron" Subdivision. (See Page 28)



Real Property Annual  
1921 PP 28-29

Real Property Annual 1921 (pp28-29) This is thought to be a concept plan for the present Villers and Bretonneux Squares and Nirvana Avenue area of East Malvern -the War Services Homes Estate. Copy donated by Paul Rankin

**Flete, 2 Flete Avenue Armadale**



Flete, 2 Flete Ave. Armadale 1992 Reg No 12934

*Flete* was built on more than 6 acres (2.5 hectares) of land fronting Kooyong Road for Judge Hartley Williams in 1882-83.

The 13 roomed Italianate villa was designed by architect Thomas Watts. Hartley Williams, the Australian born son of Sir Edward Eyre Williams of Como House, was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court on the death of Sir Redmond Barry in 1881. Williams sold *Flete* to auctioneer, Stratford Strettle in 1889. Williams re-purchased the property in 1894, the same year he was knighted. When Captain Charles Lawrence purchased *Flete* in 1902, the property included a conservatory, pavilion, tennis court and stables.

In 1920 the estate was subdivided into 22 allotments and Flete Avenue and the north end of Moorhouse Street were created. The house was described as having wide

verandahs on three sides, noble halls with marble tile floor, large drawing, dining and breakfast rooms, five large bedrooms, dressing rooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, scullery, pantries and cupboards, and maid's quarters.

Flete was sold to barrister John Latham and his wife Eleanor in 1921. Latham became Australia's Deputy Prime Minister in 1932; from 1935 until his retirement in 1952, Latham was Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. Sir John and Lady Latham lived at *Flete* until the Second World War. In 1943 the house was occupied by the WAAF and three years later the property was purchased by the Melbourne Bible Institute, re-named Lawry House and used by students as a Women's Hostel.

The Yooralla Society owned the property from 1978 until it was sold in 2001. *Flete* is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and is listed on the Register of the National Estate.



## Taking Local History to the Community

A very successful visit to **St John's, Finch Street, East Malvern** was organized by **Pat Brincat**. Special thanks to **Hazel Shankly** who spoke on the history of the Church. **Lorraine Sage, Francesca Di Mattina, Jane Nigro, Graham Thurston** and **John Isbel** all helped with the sorting of a deceased estate collection in **Netherlee St. Glen Iris**. Items were collected for the **Stonnington Archives**, the **RHSV** and the **Garden History Society**. The Society has committed \$1000 towards the copying of historic **Stonnington Brass** photos. **Stonnington Local History Librarians Ellen Porter** and **David Tuck** will co-ordinate the project. Lorraine and Jane attended the **RHSV Local History Seminar** at **Tatura**. Lorraine and Jane met with **Marty Palmer, Barry O'Sullivan, Paul Holtschke** and **Tony Gamble** from the **Malvern Bowling Club** to discuss the Club's Centenary celebrations.

The Society would like to thank the **Waverley Road Malvern East Shopping Centre Traders** (No 3 Tram Terminus), who continue to actively support local history in Stonnington. The **East Malvern Community Bank** (300 Waverley Road) has a permanent display of early local history photos and distributes copies of our latest newsletter. **Lockie Butchers and Friendly and Fresh Fruit Shop** (307 Waverley Road) are distributing our **i Spy** and **Stonnington Landmark** brochures, children's puzzles and membership forms.

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Selection of early children's books, newspaper cutting and knick-knacks, suitable for showing to school groups, donated by **Pat Gaffney, mecwacare East Malvern Opportunity Shop**, 299 Waverley Road, East Malvern.
  - **Altona - A Long View (1988)**, Susan Priestley donated by **Owen Hyde, Altona Laverton Historical Society**
  - **The Duldig Studio – a History**, 2011 **Helen Kiddell**,
  - Research notes relating to **Marathon. Malvern Road Toorak**, loaned for copying by **Joanne Van Den Eynden**, author of **A Marathon Achievement** (1996)
  - Recollections and sketches of **Evans Court Toorak** donated by **Anne Mancini**
  - Photos of **Central Park Road, Malvern East**, loaned for copying by **Lee Gilmour**
  - Photos of **Mount Pleasant Dairy** in **Mt Pleasant Grove, Armadale** donated by **Barry Cox**. The dairy and house are listed in the **Sands & McDougall Directory** as **13 Osment Street, Armadale**. Barry's father was photographer, **Stan Cox** who owned **Filmpro Photo Service**. His photography business was on the whole top floor of the eastern side of the **Kings Arcade, High Street, Armadale** from 1936-1956.
- Material from the **Estate of Maurice and Fay Stratton** donated by **Wendy Jones**. Fay's father was local **Malvern Methodist Minister, William Jennings**. Fay was a trained singer, a competent floral artist, a member of the **Malvern Probus Club** and delivered **Meals on Wheels** in Malvern. Maurice enjoyed a rewarding Public Service career interrupted only by his war service in **New Guinea** and the **Pacific Islands**. He was involved in the preparation of Victoria's first Pipeline Act following the discovery of oil in Bass Strait in 1965. Maurice loved photography and gardening and he won many awards for his roses and chrysanthemums.



60 Central Park Road 1996 Reg no 60028



Mount Pleasant Dairy c1954 Reg No 50114

## New Members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new member **Corinne Withycombe, Lifestyle Co-ordinator, mecwacare**. Corinne is looking forward to sharing the newsletters with **mecwacare** residents.

### 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 60,000 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, Email: [history@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au) Tel: 8290 1360 [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)  
Prahran Historical and Arts Society, P.O. Box 8649, Armadale VIC 3143 Tel: 9529 7442 [www.vicnet.net.au/~phas](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~phas)