

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! October - November 2011 Newsletter No. 33

26 October East Malvern Walk

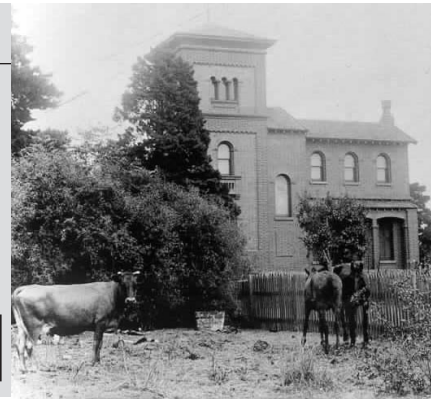
Wednesday 26 October 6.30pm

Join the Malvern Historical Society for a walk around the Glen Iris and Malvern Park Estates in East Malvern (area bounded by Darling, Malvern Road and Waverley Roads)

Cost: Members: Gold Coin Non-members: \$5 (+ optional \$5 for Walk Book)
Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Coronal, Waverley Road, East Malvern 1920
Reg No 2630



13 November Armadale Walk

Sunday 13 November 2pm

The November walk will cover the Brocklesby, Huntingtower and Mercer Estates in Armadale (area bounded by High Street and Glenferrie, Malvern and Kooyong Roads)

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

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082



Kelmescott, Huntingtower Road, Armadale 1900
Reg No 5208

'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer'



On Saturday 30 July, Cr. Anne O'Shea, Chairperson of the Stonnington History Committee, launched Anne Jackson's new book, 'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer'

A large group of members and friends from a wide range of backgrounds, enjoyed a fascinating talk by the author Anne Jackson with additional material from John Maidment.

Cr Anne O'Shea spoke about the importance of preserving Stonnington's local history. The book gives an intriguing insight into the world of early Malvern, Melbourne and Victorian cricket. Special thanks to Faye Pattinson, Jane Nigro, Bruce McBrien and David Hunter who helped in many ways to make the afternoon a success.

'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer' is available at the Stonnington libraries and Jeffreys Books and Stationery, 140 Glenferrie Road Malvern for \$10. It will also be available as an e-book on the Malvern Historical Society website later in the year.

Lorraine Sage, President 9885 9082



Welcome to the Committee

David Hunter was recently welcomed on to the Committee of the MHS. David is a young person who is very interested in local history. I am sure that David will make a great contribution to our committee.

Welcome David and I look forward to working with you at the various activities that the Society undertakes.

Lorraine Sage - President

Toorak Station Tower

At the southern end of **Toorak Station platform 1**, concealed by trees and shrubs, stands an old brick tower. Its woodwork is rotting away, the roof gutters are rusted through, its windows are open to the weather and nesting pigeons. At platform level there is a bricked up doorway and beside it is a metal, once locked flap concealing a recess. Lift the flap and you will find, among the cobwebs and dust, two cloth-covered electric wires. Facing the street above is a bricked-up loading bay opening.

What was it for?

It was a milk lift. By the early 20th century, most of Melbourne's milk came from Gippsland. It travelled by train at night, arriving at Toorak station before dawn. The milk cans were unloaded and trundled into the lift in the tower. The operator pressed a switch under the metal flap and, hey presto, the milk rose to the upper level where it was loaded into the milk carts for immediate distribution.

It was the unenviable task of the **Prahran City Health Inspector, Reg Rogers**, to check the quality of the milk before distribution. The authorities were concerned about the watering down of milk and the cream content. Not so **Dr R.H. Fetherston**, the **Prahran Medical Officer of Health**. He was worried about the bacterial content. He had made reducing infant mortality a mission in life and impure milk was the most important contributor to infant death, particularly from summer diarrhoea. Tuberculosis, a major cause of infant mortality, was also carried in milk until tubercular testing of herds became compulsory.

For more than twenty years Fetherston campaigned for compulsory pasteurization of milk. He held public meetings in the Prahran and Melbourne Town Hall and raised the subject wherever possible. The bill for compulsory pasteurization finally passed Parliament in December 1943, but by then Fetherston was six months dead.

Diane Nicholas 2011



Brick Tower Toorak Station 2011

Victoria Cascajo

Victoria Cascajo was born in Madrid and began her dressmaking career at fourteen in the fashion house of **Balenciaga**, the famous Spanish haute couturier. She migrated to Australia in the early 1960s, with her husband **Mario Cascajo**, and worked at various fashion houses until establishing her own boutique in **Davis Street, South Yarra**, naming it **Balencia** as a tribute to her mentor.



Influenced by fashions in old movies Victoria made sketches of her designs, which she passed to artist Mrs Lin Phillips for full drawing. Her gowns and ready-to-wear clothing were an instant success, with her first collection selling out in a week.

In 1971 Victoria designed the gown that would give her world-wide acclaim.

Sonia McMahon, wife of the then **Prime Minister William McMahon**, saw Victoria's gown in a fashion parade in Sydney and ordered one in her size to wear to a state dinner at the U. S. White House with President Richard Nixon. The full-length cream gown caused a sensation with side splits to the upper thigh and open seams on the bodice and arms crossed with jewelled bands. The gown is now in the **Sydney's Power House Museum**.

Victoria moved her **Balencia** boutique to a larger premises in **Toorak Road, Toorak**. Over the years she employed 68 dressmakers, with her garments winning many race-day awards for their wearers. Victoria closed her boutique and retired from haute couture in December, 2010. Victoria's scrap book, two of her design sketch books, photographs and memorabilia have been donated to the **Stonnington History Centre**.

The History Centre has set up a new display in all four Stonnington libraries, featuring the fashion designer Victoria Cascajo from Balencia boutique in Toorak. The display will run from 25th August to mid November.

Search for old shops with 'intact interiors'

Rebecca Jones, a Museum Consultant, is currently working on an article for **Australian Geographic** magazine on intact shop interiors dating from the 20th century. She is looking for photographs of any shops that haven't changed very much in the past 30, 40, 50 years. becandroy@aapt.net.au

Tales from the Courts

Edited reports of proceedings in the Prahran and Malvern courts as published in contemporary issues of the **Prahran Telegraph**.

Council Kerfuffle

An action for keeping the peace was brought by **Prahran Town Councillor William Harrison** against **Councillor E J Dixon** arising from a violent altercation that took place between the two men at a meeting of councillors held to pass estimates for the year and [for] certain necessary works. Councillor Harrison claimed Councillor Dixon had accused Councillor Willis of corruption in relation to certain proposed works in **Tyrone Street, Toorak**, and that when he suggested that items on the agenda should be dealt with in their turn, Councillor Dixon threatened to punch him in the nose. He subsequently demanded a written apology from Councillor Dixon which was not forthcoming. The case was dismissed.

Prahran Telegraph, 17 April 1880

Also on the Nose

Mr John Hyland, 'reputedly a wealthy resident of South Yarra', proceeded against on three different cases of nuisance: a filthy earth closet which was running over; depositing night soil in a yard of premises occupied by him, and [having] a dirty yard and filthy nuisance. In these cases, **Dr Fetherston**, health officer, deposed that he had visited the premises and that he found in the house, which was in a most filthy state, some '10 lbs of rotten, stinking, filthy, putrid fish ... The yard was about knee deep with filth and mud, [and] in fact a boat could be floated on it.' After the decision to fine Hyland was given, 'the police quietly removed the defendant from the court, as he was rather excited'.

Prahran Telegraph, 16 June 1880.

Bargain Hunt comes to Armadale!

In August, episodes of the popular BBC series **Bargain Hunt**, were filmed at the **Malvern Antique Market** in High Street, Armadale. **Ken Giblin**, from the Antique Market, said to look out for the episodes on the LifeStyle channel in November, then later on Channel 72.

1008 High Street, Armadale 1984 Reg No 9133



Did William Philpott import two hares?

University of Adelaide scientist and vet **Philip Stott** has written to the Society with an unusual question. Philip has undertaken research work on the ecology of the European hare in Australia. He would like to know if he can assume **William Philpott**, the subject of Anne Jackson's recent book, is the same William Philpott who imported two hares on the ship '**Result**' on 8 January, 1860. The fate of these two hares is not known. Philip is looking for a connection between **William Philpott** of Malvern and **William Lyall MLA**, of **Harewood**, on **Westernport Bay**. Lyall reported on 16th February 1860 that he had three hares, but Philip can find no record of the importation of those hares. (Lyall did import some other hares on the '**Norfolk**' on 19th May 1860). Philip wonders if Philpott either imported the hares on Lyall's behalf, or gave them to Lyall after they were landed. Anne Jackson's book includes details on the relationship between William Philpott and William Lyall but with no mention of hares!

24th Battalion (Kooyong Regiment)

After the First World War the defence of the Australian mainland lay with the part-time soldiers of the **Citizens Military Force**, otherwise known as the Militia. The Militia was organized to maintain the structure of the First AIF. These Militia units were also distributed in the same areas that had raised the original AIF units. Victoria's 24th Infantry Battalion was known as the "**Kooyong Regiment**" while its headquarters were in Surrey Hills. **Beryl Black** recently shared a photo of the 24th Battalion (Kooyong Regiment) with the Society. A copy has been sent through to the Camberwell Historical Society.



24th Battalion A.M.F. Band (Kooyong Regiment)

Wanted - an old photo of The Chateau, 49 Darling Street, South Yarra

Howard R Lawson was the architect and builder of numerous heritage-listed buildings in South Yarra.

49, 51 and 53 Darling Street were his first creations in 1922/24 and are of significant heritage value with two of them, **The Chateau** and **Avignon** referred to in **Stonnington Council Heritage Overlay 122**. No 49 Darling Street (in the past known as "The Chateau") is currently under threat of being demolished. Its front was significantly altered in the late 1960's. Does anyone have a photograph of The Chateau between 1924 and 1965. Please contact the **Stonnington Heritage Centre 82901360**.

Malvern Town Hall 1251 High Street Malvern

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H2288

Heritage Overlay Number: HO349 Level of Significance: Registered

The assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the **Malvern Town Hall** has now been completed and the **Heritage Council** has included the Town Hall in the **Heritage Register**.

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage

Extent of Registration

1. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 2288 held by the Executive Director being all of Crown Allotment 20E Parish of Prahran at Gardiner.
2. All of the building marked B1 on Diagram 2288 held by the Executive Director.
3. All of the feature F1 being the c.1927 Paul Montford War Memorial in the ground floor foyer.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The **Malvern Town Hall**, situated on Glenferrie Road, Malvern, was constructed in 1886 to a design by **Wilson & Beswicke**, with additions in 1890 by **Crouch and Wilson** and internal alterations in the mid-1920s.

The **Shire of Gardiner**, which was proclaimed in 1871, became the **Shire of Malvern** in 1878. By the mid-1880s, the shire had a steadily increasing population of over 2500, prompting the council to move to construct a shire hall. During the late nineteenth century, many municipalities in Melbourne erected grand public buildings, a reflection of the civic pride and post-gold rush wealth of the era.



WWI Memorial Malvern Town Hall Foyer 1930
Reg No 1112

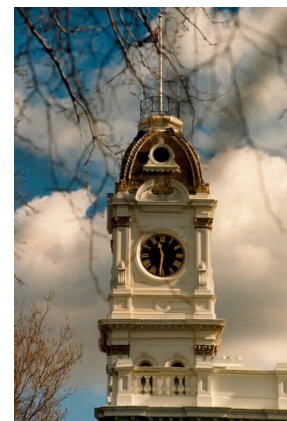
The Malvern Shire Hall was designed by John Beswicke of the architectural firm Wilson and Beswicke, who called for tenders for the building's construction in mid-1885. Beswicke was noted for his town hall designs, and following his work for Malvern, he designed town halls in Brighton (1886), Essendon (1886), Hawthorn (1888-9) and Dandenong (1890). The foundation stone was laid 22 September 1885 by **Alfred Deakin**, then the **Victorian Minister of Public Works**. The Shire Hall was opened on 26 July 1886 in front of a large crowd, and celebrated that evening with a banquet attended by 400 people. The Renaissance Revival style building was described as having a 'very commanding and handsome appearance', though only one of the two planned towers had been constructed. The building comprised shire offices and hall, library, hall-keeper's quarters and court house, which was entered from High Street. In 1892, Crouch and Wilson undertook works to complete the building, raising the clock tower, and adding the second tower to the extension to the north. In 1911, Malvern became a city, and by the 1920s the Malvern City Council resolved that the existing building was no longer suitable for the needs of the municipality. **Architects Hudson and Wardrop**, who were responsible for the Shrine of Remembrance (H0848, 1927-34)

were engaged in 1925 to design the alterations to the interior of the building, with municipal functions taking over the entire building. Opened in 1927 by the Governor of Victoria, Lord Somers, the works included new council chambers, a marble panelled foyer, the addition of a 'dignified' entrance portico and the enlarging of the town hall itself. The City of Malvern was amalgamated with the City of Prahran in 1994, and the building is now used as the Stonnington City Centre.

The Malvern Town Hall is an imposing two-storey Renaissance Revival style building comprising symmetrical facade with two-storey central portico and with French Second Empire style towers. The facade is rusticated at ground level with segmental arch headed windows and round-headed arched windows at first floor level. The clock tower and secondary tower feature mansard roofs with fish scale slates and cast iron walks. The parapet is adorned with balustrading and urns, whilst on the portico is a pediment with the City of Malvern's coat of arms. The remaining 1880s interior features include the terracotta tiled floor at the base of the timber staircase leading up to the first floor library and clocktower from Glenferrie Road and the library ceiling and fireplace. The interior dates mainly from the 1927 alterations, with 1990s office fit-out in the High Street wing. The foyer features a terrazzo floor, marble panelling, a central marble staircase, and an elaborate coffered ceiling, which is repeated in the first floor foyer. A war memorial statue, c.1927, by noted sculptor, **Paul Montford**, which depicts a uniformed man and a young woman with a baby is situated on



Exterior view of the Malvern Shire Hall 1886
Reg No. 677



Exterior view of the Malvern Town Hall clock-tower, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street. Reg No. 7966

the ground floor. The northern wing of the building retains offices from the 1920s alterations: the Mayor's room, meeting rooms, dining room and council chambers. The council chambers features timber panelling, curved tiered timber gallery, timber furnishings, and an enriched vaulted ceiling. The 1927 hall has a segmented vaulted ceiling, gallery seating, and the stage has a simple proscenium adorned by the council's coat of arms. The banquet room is a smaller, simplified version of the hall, and features a small stage with proscenium and the City of Malvern coat of arms, contemporary pendant lighting and panelled plaster ceiling decorative work. The site is part of the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.

How is it significant? The Malvern Town Hall is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant? The Malvern Town Hall is historically significant as a demonstration of the civic pride and post-gold rush wealth of the late nineteenth century. It is historically significant as representation of the changes of municipal functions in Victoria in the late nineteenth century and the interwar period of the twentieth century.

The Malvern Town Hall is architecturally significant as an outstanding and relatively intact example of a grand nineteenth century town hall building, built in a Renaissance Revival style with French Second Empire style towers and interwar internal decorative schemes. The Malvern Town Hall is an outstanding example from the group of late nineteenth century town halls which were constructed across Melbourne in the post-gold rush era. The Malvern Town Hall is significant for its association with noted architects Beswicke and Wilson for its nineteenth century design, and Hudson and Wardrop for the twentieth century alterations.



Malvern Town Hall, Heritage Council 2011

Heritage Council 2011

www.heritage.vic.gov.au/

Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society and the **Stonnington History Centre** have received enquiries relating to Victoria Gardens, the origins of the word 'Orrong', Baldwin Street Armadale, *Myrore* and *Grosvenor* in Toorak, a police station in Chanak Street, East Malvern, 2 Anchor Place Prahran, Thomas Morrow and the Morrrows Family Hotel, High Street Prahran, Clara Ellen D'Alton, who lived in Kooyong and at 739 Malvern Rd, Toorak, during the 1930's and 40's, and golf courses on Malvern Common (UK)!

We have been asked for material relating to David and Sarah Grace Mcauley, and their daughter Eliza. They lived at *Carween*, Hunter Street South Malvern around 1891. David is also listed at Grace Avenue, Malvern and 17 Ivy Street, Prahran. The Mcauley's buildings in Glenferrie Road, Malvern, are presumed to be have been built by David around 1891 and leased to Ritter & Co, for a boot warehouse. There has been an enquiry about 'Camp Pell' in Fawkner Park. The camp was set up as emergency housing during the war and perhaps named after a U.S. camp in the locality. Although the History Centre holds items relating to the park, it appears the camp was on the west side of Punt Road, therefore outside the Stonnington (old Prahran) municipality. However, people may remember the camp which was apparently constructed out of domed corrugated iron according to the enquirer.



Thompson's Store, Glenferrie Road

A photograph of a draper's store in Malvern was sent to the History Centre from Latrobe, Tasmania. It was discovered that the draper George Thomas Thompson had previously run the same type of business in Latrobe before setting up in Glenferrie Road, Malvern in 1926.

A former Gardiner Central School student visited to view the honour boards. He was hoping to find his name among the high achievers. Unfortunately he received his award in 1972, a year when no names were added to the boards.

All these requested have been researched and expertly answered by the Stonnington History Centre staff, Ellen Porter and Simone Sharpe.

National Cultural Policy

The Australian Government, **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**, is inviting comments on the 'National Cultural Policy'.

How do you think the Australian Government should support arts and culture in the 21st century?

(<http://culture.arts.gov.au/> until 21 October 2011)

Prahran Historical & Arts Society End of Year Dinner 25 November 2011

Friday 25 November at 6:30pm. All enquiries President Gabriel Hermes 9529 7442.

Taking Local History to the Community

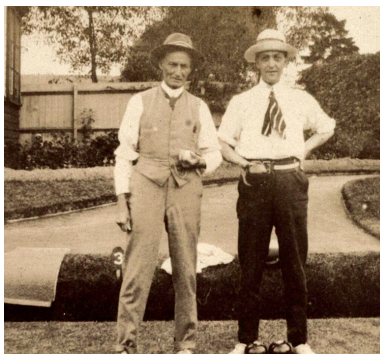
President, Lorraine Sage, represented the Society at the City of Stonnington Citizen of the Year award ceremony. Web designer **Shaun Ryan** continues to work on the updating of the Malvern Historical Society website. The Society would like to thank the Stonnington Leader for their excellent publicity at the time of the launch of the William Philpott book launch. Members of the Society were fascinated by the tour of Chabad House, the Jewish Synagogue in Glenferrie Road, Malvern. **Rabbi Shimshon Yurkowicz** spoke about the history and the services before taking us on a tour that included the Library, the Synagogue and the Ritual bath. **Per Anders Sandgren**, the newly arrived Vicar and Dean of the **Swedish Church** in Melbourne, was an enthusiastic tour leader for our visit to **Toorak House**, the Chapel and the gardens. If you missed this tour you may like to make a note that the Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar is held each year at Toorak House, on the first weekend in December.

Members of the **East Malvern Combined Probus Club** shared their memories when Jane Nigro spoke to the group in August. A number of the members arrived at the talk with donations of photographs and information. **June** and **John Barry** and **Jane Nigro** enjoyed their visit to **Lloyd Street Primary School** in East Malvern. Photos and memories were shared with Grade 6 teacher Ian Phillips and his Grade 6 class. The students' next task was to write up the story of their own lives, for someone to read in 2111! The Society is looking forward to working with **Laura Frost**, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's new Local History Officer.

The Victorian Government Bookshop, which includes an excellent collection of Victorian local history books, has recently moved. Sadly, it is now hidden away on Level 20, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street. It would be great if its next move was close to Swanston Street and Federation Square.

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- 'Marvellous Melbourne and me - Living in Melbourne in the 20th Century' donated by the author **Bruce McBrien**
- 'Born in the Boom - A History of the Anglican Parish of Saint John the Evangelist, East Malvern' **Hazel Shankley**. Donated by **Pat Brincat**
- **Malvern Bowling Club** -selection of early photographs loaned for copying.



Early Malvern Bowling Club Members



A.R. Burns 1949

New Members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members **Anne Mancini**, **Anne Prince**, **Sandy** and **Ernie Brigham** and **Peter King**. Peter has shared his excellent photography skills with the Society and the Stonnington History Centre for the past twenty years.

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

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 Tel: 8290 1360 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**