

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

December - January 11/12

Newsletter No. 34

## 24 January Twilight History Walk, Rose Street Armadale

24 January 7pm

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Members Gold Coin, Non-members \$5

(+ optional \$5 for History of Rose Street Booklet)

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Harborough School, Rose Street,  
Armadale 1914 Reg No 8427



## 2012 Tour of Heritage Victoria's Artefact Conservation Laboratory

Members of the Malvern Historical Society are invited to join a tour of Heritage Victoria's artefact conservation laboratory, which is responsible for the preservation of artefacts recovered from archaeological sites throughout Victoria.

4 Harper Street, Abbotsford.

No cost is involved. Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential. If interested phone Lorraine 9885 9082

## 15 February Guest Speaker City of Stonnington Mayor, Cr John Chandler

Wednesday 15 February 7.30pm

Cr John Chandler, Mayor of the City of Stonnington, will talk about architecture and local government at the joint Malvern Historical Society and Prahran Historical and Arts Society meeting.

Council Chamber, Stonnington City Centre, Corner High Street and Glenferrie Road, Malvern

Gold coin donation.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

## Additional Diary Dates

Sunday 18 March Celebrating Malvern Bowling Club's Heritage

Saturday 24 March Pets in the Park, Central Park Malvern East

## Malvern Historical Society – Message from the President

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Society and its work. If anyone has any suggestions for activities or memorabilia you may like to donate to the Collection please let us know. If you have received this issue of the newsletter free by email you may like to consider becoming a financial member of the Society!

I look forward to the continuing support from Members and Supporters of Stonnington's Local History.

Lorraine Sage, President 9885 9082

## Blind Cricket

On the 7th April 1928 a playing field in Kooyong Park was inaugurated as the world's first permanent sports ground for blind cricketers when the first ball was bowled at a competition between the Victorian Blind Cricket Association and interstate teams. Mr William Paterson, a volunteer worker and advocate for blind people for over 60 years, was instrumental in acquiring and developing this sports ground and clubhouse on behalf of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind (now called Vision Australia Foundation).

## Malvern Cricket Ground

The Malvern Cricket Ground has been a centre of community activity since it was set aside as a public recreation reserve in 1862. Since this time the ground has been used by several long-established sporting clubs, as well as numerous organisations including Malvern Council, the Malvern Poultry Show and the Malvern Horticultural Society.

The ground has been used for open air cinemas, Air Raid Precaution training during World War II, sports days by



Malvern Cricket Ground 1907 Reg No 1114



View of the Pavilion (grandstand) Malvern Cricket Ground 1930 Reg No 109



Municipal cricket match between the Caulfield and Malvern Councillors and Officers 1894 Reg No 1060

local schools and for celebrations of the Centenary of Local Government in Malvern in 1956.

In June 1888, the cricket ground was the test site of the first Australian-made motor vehicle, the Thomson Steam Car. Malvern Cricket Club, the fourth oldest cricket club in Victoria was founded in 1859. In January 1892, an all-Australian side took on the English touring side led by Dr. W.G. Grace, considered the world's greatest cricketer at the time.

The Malvern Harriers, formed in 1892, used the ground as its home from 1922 to 1976. A variety of cross-country runs and athletic events have been staged at the ground, including an attempt on the world 1500 metre record by Olympian John Landy.

Malvern Lacrosse Club, one of Melbourne's most successful lacrosse teams, has used the ground since the club was founded in 1903 and the grandstand is named after Charles Franklin Lansbury (1906-1989) who served lacrosse across all levels of the game.

The grandstand was designed in 1925/26 by architects Hudson and Wardrop.

## The Most Famous Malvern Cricket Club Match

### (History of Malvern J.B. Cooper Malvern, 1935)

The most famous cricket match, in the annals of the Malvern Cricket Club, was the two-days' match in which the then greatest cricketer in the world (W. C. Grace) played, and in which he was bowled first ball. The dates of the match were January 21 and 22, 1888. [Recent research by Malvern Cricket Club shows that the match was held in January 1892]

The teams were the English players (12) and the Malvern team of 22 players. Why, it was asked, had a leading team of English cricketers, brought out by Lord Sheffield and Dr. W. G. Grace, come to play a match on the Malvern Cricket Ground, with a rural club. The explanation was that the Shire President (Councillor A. E. Clarke) was an influential member of the Melbourne Cricket Club. He prevailed on Lord Sheffield and Dr. Grace to make the Malvern Cricket Ground famous among outside metropolitan cricket grounds by allowing the English team, for the occasion twelve men, to play upon it. President Clarke claimed the game played in its charming surroundings, within the shadow of St. George's Church, would suggest to the Englishmen a likeness to a cricket match on the outskirts of an English village. On the first day of the match the weather was warm, and the atmosphere was close. Rain clouds threatened a wet wicket, but the clouds cleared away before the adjournment for lunch. A fine afternoon followed. The ground reserved was well filled by the ladies of Malvern, quite gay in brightly colored summer frocks, a charming note of mixed colors, against the pervading green of turf and trees. In bright sunlight under a blue Australian sky the cricketers moved over the turf clad in their white flannels.

On the toss of the coin, Captain Daly cried "Heads," and won the toss from Dr. W. C. Grace. Daly sent the English team into the field. The local team of the Malvern Cricket Club was strengthened by the inclusion of some All Australia Eleven



View looking east from Malvern Town Hall, 1895 Reg No 5100

## The Most Famous Malvern Cricket Club Match continued

cricketers, Horan, Boyle, Mailer, Haddrick, Burton, Turner, and others, not all of whom were residents, like Horan, of Malvern, nor were they usually identified as playing with the Malvern Cricket Club. 'Tommy Horan's' persuasiveness was credited with their inclusion. In their first innings, the Malvern twenty-two made 197 runs. The scores were: C. Hyde, 4; F. Burton, 0; R. Mailer, 45; Thomas Horan, 37; H. Williams, 0; A. Haddrick, 59; C. Williams, 1; R. Speary, 8; C. N. Daly, 0; R. Home, 8; E. Turner, 2; J. Wallace, 0; E. Blazey, 1; A. Aitken, 1; H. F. Boyle, 5; O. Williams, 8; P. Yeatmann, 4; C. Letcher, 3; W. Williams, 0; A. R. Clarke, 0; W. Furneaux, 1; C. T. Handfield, 6; Sundries, 4.

The Englishmen were lucky in securing the wicket of the All Australia Eleven's captain, H. F. Boyle, for five. Members of the Malvern Cricket Club were "sticky" in their play. The famous occasion and the prestige of W. G. G. disconcerted them. In the second innings of Malvern, F. Burton was not out for 11, G. Williams 7; C. N. Daly, 4; Leg bye, 1—two wickets for 23. The game was then declared a draw. The scores of the Englishmen in their first innings were as follow, O. G. Radcliffe, b. Letcher 16 R. Attewell, c. Letcher, b. Williams 4, G. Lohmann, c. Burton, b. Letcher 6, R. Peel, l.b.w., b. O. Williams 1, A. Stoddart, c. E. Turner, b. G. Williams 22, W. G. Grace, c. and b. Letcher 0, H. Phillipson, c. Wallace, b. O. Williams 16, J. W. Sharpe, c. O. Williams, b. Letcher 20, R. Abel, n.o 20, C. McGregor, c. and b. Letcher 4, J. Briggs, c. and b. Wallace 22, G. Bean, c. Speary, b. O. Williams 5. Sundries 7:— Total 143

When the teams adjourned on the first day, lunch was served in the Shire Hall. Shire President Clarke occupied the chair, supported on his right hand by Lord Sheffield, and on his left hand by Dr. W. G. Grace. At the close of the match, on the second day, President Clarke invited both teams to the Shire Hall, where, over a glass of wine, "good-bye" was said to the Englishmen. On the first day the teams played until six o'clock, but only in the morning of Friday, January 22. Incidents of the game were that Hyde suffered an injured finger, and retired hurt. Dr. Grace told him that he would, if recovered, allow him to resume his innings on the following day. Stoddart made a powerful straight drive, which hit the ball out of the ground, and it landed in High Street.

## Tales from the Courts

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

### Neglected Children

James McLaughlan and Albert Smith were charged with stealing pigeons from Frederick Dixon, son of Mr E J Dixon. Both youths were charged with being neglected children. The charge against McLaughlan was dismissed but Albert Smith was sentenced to a month's imprisonment [and] ordered to be sent to the Reformatory until seventeen years of age.

**Prahran Telegraph, 8 May 1880**

A lad named William Murphy, whose father is dead and whose mother recently received a sentence of three months imprisonment, was ordered to be sent to the Industrial Schools for three years as a neglected child.

**Prahran Telegraph, 8 May 1880**

W Kirschner, a boy of 11 years of age, whose mother had recently been sent to gaol, leaving him to exist the best way he could, sent to the Industrial Schools for two years.

**Prahran Telegraph, 26 June 1880**

Margaret Garvin and her three children, Bridget, Catherine and Walter, charged with being vagrants for sleeping in the open air. The husband had a week previously been gaoled for being illegally on the premises of a Mr Thompson. The woman was said to be hard-working and she and the three children were discharged and, through the charity of a few benevolent gentlemen, provided with funds for a week's rent.

**Prahran Telegraph, 17 July 1880**

**Geoff Currey 2011**

## Malvern Tradesmen's Institute

The Malvern Tradesmen's Institute, situated at 1163 High Street, Armadale, was home to the Malvern Tradesmen's Club. According to Cooper's History of Malvern, the Tradesmen's Club was formed in 1895. The club acquired land in High Street for £600 and erected the building for £2,500, which was opened in March 1921. James Lindsay, who owned a store on Dandenong Road in 1870, was a pioneer of the Club. Other early promoters were Isaac Mossop, Robert Martin and Wilton Page. Cooper notes that members of the club often sought and obtained office as Malvern councillors. The Club was incorporated in May 1905 and changed its name to the Malvern Club in 1918. The postcard promotes E. T. Ingram's bakery and confectionery businesses on Glenferrie Road, at 5 High Street and 4 Railway Road, Malvern.



Postcard showing Malvern Tradesmen's Institute  
Reg No 60167

## Stonington and Stonnington

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Stonington in Glenferrie Road Malvern was built in 1890 to the design of London-born architect Charles D'Ebros, as a private residence for John Wagner, a partner with A.W. Robertson in Cobb & Co. coaches. Wagner's residence was named Stonington after Stonington, Connecticut, U.S.A., the birthplace of Wagner's wife Mary. From 1901 the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was located in Melbourne. For the next thirty years, when State Government House was required as the residence for the Governor-General, Stonington became the Vice-Regal residence for seven Governors of Victoria. During this era the spelling of the name was changed to Stonnington.

The City of Stonnington takes its name from Stonington using the altered spelling from the Vice-Regal period. The residence in Glenferrie Road has now reverted to the original spelling. The confusion is long standing: a researcher recently found the following reference using Trove, (Sydney [Australia] Herald, 31 October 1833). *'the Penguin had arrived at Stonnington from the South Seas with 1125 Fur seal skins and 2300 Hair seal skins'*.

## Getting a Pound of Flesh

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In the 1870s, Charles Ousley had a butcher's shop at the south-west corner of Malvern and Williams roads. On a Friday afternoon in 1875, he was busy serving his customers, when a young man coolly lifted a sheep's carcass off its hook, slung it on his back, covered it with his coat and set off down Malvern Road. Ousley was immediately alerted and he unleashed his dogs and set off after the thief. Meanwhile, the ubiquitous Senior-Constable Marks had arrived and, baton in hand, was in pursuit of man and sheep. Close behind him came the hungry dogs, followed by the butcher and a string of men and boys. The thief turned into Cassell's Paddock (near Hawksburn Station) where he was soon arrested.

He was a young man named Frank McManus, already known to police and apparently given to bizarre thefts. Three years earlier Mr Wilcox, the dairyman, had met him in Chapel Street riding his horse and leading a bay horse. Wilcox recognised the animal as the Governor's horse. At about 9 pm Wilcox had noticed the horse was missing from his drying paddock where it was on agistment. McManus was arrested and charged with the theft of a horse valued at £15.

In court, McManus claimed that the horse had got into his father's paddock. It had escaped up Toorak Road but he had caught it and was taking it to the pound in Greville Street. After an adjournment it was established that his father, who lived in Hawthorn, did own a small paddock behind Terry's Brewery (now the Jam Factory). He had dropped his son off in Prahran about 6 pm. Sergeant Brown saw the lad with a group of young men near the Emu Hotel (now the Flying Duck) at a 11.45, but said he was sober. McManus was committed for trial but, even if his tale was not believed, it could not be disproved, so he was eventually discharged.

He was not as lucky with the sheep theft. Despite his plea that he had been drinking and didn't know what he was doing, he received a sentence of two months with hard labour.

**Diane Nicholas 2011**

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

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During the past few months the Society has received enquiries relating to a Minister of the Prahran Independant Church, Maitland Street, Glen Iris, the Tivoli Theatre, Glenferrie Road Malvern, advice on restoring stain glass windows, the family of Louis William Ralph Holmes, Gardiner Central Honour Boards, Stokell in Adelaide Street Armadale, Kiribilli in King Street Glen Iris, cemeteries close to Malvern around 1859, the origin of the naming of Serrell Street and an architectural model of Frances Eileen Hattam family home, 6 Redcourt Avenue Armadale. The Hattam family lived in the house from 1933 until early 1983.

Information was requested relating to Thomas Dealey Bruce, a market gardener, who is included in the 1903 census living in Dandenong Road Murrumbeena (East Malvern). It is believed that the name of his property was Oakville. Thomas is buried in the Oakleigh Cemetery. One of our readers responded to Diane Nicholas' article on the Milk 'Depot' at Toorak Station in the last issue saying she is interested in organising the restoration of this building.

Recently we were asked whether local member Robert Menzies resided in the area now known as the City of Stonnington when he was Prime Minister of Australia. A member of his family has provided the following details. Robert Menzies lived at 10 Howard Street, Kew, 26 Reid Street, Balwyn and The Lodge, Canberra/Windsor Hotel (suite) in Melbourne while he was Prime Minister. Sir Robert and Dame Pattie Menzies lived in Haverbrack Avenue Malvern from 1966 until his death in 1978. Dame Pattie remained living in Haverbrack Avenue after 1978.

Bruce Mc Brien responded to a number of the articles in the Oct/Nov 2011 issue. He commented that the Malvern Town Hall's architect John Beswick's own whimsical home still stands in Harcourt St, Hawthorn. He also remembered Camp Pell in Royal Park near the zoo. It was set up in domed corrugated iron huts to house US Army personnel including Edward Joseph Leonski, who murdered three women (known as "The Brownout Murders") and it was the mud from Camp Pell on his boots (a sample of which was left behind at the scene of one of the murders) that led to his identification, trial and eventual hanging.



**6 Redcourt Avenue Armadale 2009**



**Malvern Councillors 1930 (Cr. Louis Holmes, front left) Reg No 7756**

## Celebrating A Decade

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Rejoice! Rejoice! At last, the first ten years of the Prahran Telegraph, 1866-1875 have been indexed. There are now only 55 years to go! This indexing project has now added 6,597 items to the history data base. In addition, several other odd issues of early papers have been indexed. They were odd issues which turned up in the State Library of Victoria – two issues of the Prahran & St Kilda Advertiser from 1857, two issues of Coo-e-e from 1898, Prahran Times of 1901 and the short-lived Prahran & South Yarra Local of 1955. A search of 'Prahran' in the British Library catalogue came up with the St Kilda Chronicle of 1858-1861 and one issue from 1886. This is on CD-ROM awaiting indexing by someone with better eyesight than mine.

We began by indexing the classified advertisements which accounted for 2,174 entries. These are very repetitive so only two issues a year were indexed, in March and September. Then the indexing of the rest of the paper started. It includes editorials, articles, reports of meetings, council business, court reports and letters.

The result is a wealth of names of people, organisations and businesses which provide a valuable resource for the family or local historian. Check your family name – you could find them chasing someone for debt, running a business, in the Insolvency Court, writing to council about the puddle at their gate, or even charged with drunkenness or worse.

The recurring issues in these first ten years were drainage, roads, sanitation, water supply and building regulations. The big drainage issue was the swamp in Chapel Street, but the council was also bombarded with requests for improved drainage of streets. The watering of Chapel Street in summer to settle the dust was an ongoing issue, usually revolving about the eternal question, "Who pays?" Restrictions on the use of Yan Yean water are an eye-opener - hoses were not to be used for watering gardens. In fact, in 1875, taps with screw attachment were banned. People were taken to court for wasting precious Yan Yean water.

In those pre-WC days, the disposal of human excreta was a huge problem. Cases of overflowing cess pits and spilt night soil appear regularly in the court reports. We can trace the progression from the hole in the ground to the cesspit, to the earth closet with a pan and finally in 1875, the council offering the option of a pan emptying and cleansing service (at a quarterly cost to the homeowner).

Sometimes, though not often, the Council reports include who said what in a debate. This is particularly true for the building regulation uproar, when battle lines were drawn between Cr. Harrison, the architect who drafted the regulations, and Cr. Crews, erstwhile estate agent and MP, who opposed them and Harrison vehemently. The enmity between these two councillors was probably exacerbated by Crews, the total abstainer's disapproval of the clever but alcoholic Harrison.

The Prahran Court reports reveal an alarming amount of drunkenness and the misery, aggression and family violence that resulted. A striking feature of the time was the litigiousness of the poor. Neighbourhood squabbles, marital differences, insults, or foul, abusive or insulting language could all finish in court. But Prahran was small and the magistrates, most of whom were councillors, knew their people and were rarely hoodwinked by unlikely tales. The policeman on the beat picked up larrikins, vagrants, unlicensed hawkers and naughty girls. He recognised and caught wanted men, broke up quarrels and sometimes came off damaged.

On the positive side, people were willing to pitch in to help a fellow citizen in need. They held benefit concerts for those in need, particularly "respectable" widows with children. The less respectable were sent out of the district or to gaol. We hope that among the dross, you will find a gem of family or local history.

Diane Nicholas 2011

## Taking Local History to the Community

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A special thanks to Stonnington Council for their 2011 /12 grant which allows the Society to keep taking local history to the community. Thanks also to St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church for providing the Society with such an ideal meeting place.

Lorraine Sage, Faye Pattinson, Francesca Di Mattina and Jane Nigro were warmly welcomed by the Prahran Historical and Arts Society at their Christmas Dinner. Lorraine represented the Society at afternoon tea to welcome the Prahran Historical and Arts Society to the Grattan Gardens Community Centre in Prahran. Thank you to Francesca Di Mattina, Faye Pattinson, Lorraine Sage, Jane Nigro and Robin Brown who led and supported our Forster Avenue area walk in October and our Mercer Road area walk.



## Taking Local History to the Community

In October, Francesca Di Mattina, Roxanne Dennis, Annette Cooper, Jane and Maddy Brewster, Denis Dowty, Lorraine Sage and Peter and Jane Nigro all contributed towards making our stall at Spring into Gardening a great success. The Malvern Historical Society recently supported the Stonnington Council initiative to extend the heritage markers project. These markers actively promote local history within the community for both residents and visitors.

Jane Nigro represented the Society at the 2011 Victorian Community History Awards Ceremony held in Queen's Hall, Parliament House. Bruce McBrien, (Past President and present Committee member of the Malvern Historical Society) was awarded a Commendation for a Print Publication for *Marvellous Melbourne and Me: Living in Melbourne in the 20th Century*. Greg Eccleston, a supporter of local history in Stonnington, received the Judge's Special Prize for Excellence for his 'Early Navigators of Bass Strait, 1770-1803' Map.

Anne Jackson, author of 'William Philpott – Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer', represented the society at a piano recital in the bluestone chapel in Mayfield Avenue, Malvern. The bluestone chapel formed part of the original Philpott property. A special thank you to Roxanne Dennis who has indexed issues 1-32 of *Stonnington History News*. Thanks to the *Local Blue Pages* who have provided a free listing for the Malvern Historical Society ([localblue.com.au](http://localblue.com.au))

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Extensive research notes compiled for Anne Jackson's recent book on William Philpott.
- Mr Keith Wilson kindly loaned us for copying his scrapbooks relating to the Malvern Bowling Club
- *Fruit salad on Sundays*: a memoir by Joan Boundy, donated by her son, Bill Healy
- Newsletters from MEG (Malvern East Group) who aim to protect existing neighbourhoods and the amenity of residents. (<http://malverneastgroup.freehostia.com/meghome.php>)
- Selection of booklets, pamphlets and copies of photos relating to St Andrew's Gardiner donated by St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church.
- Betsy Thain – Gewin (Betsy Hooper) has donated her Warwick (Finch Street, East Malvern) collection to the Malvern Historical Society. Her collection includes a copy of the Warwick magazine, Green and Gold, the pocket from her blazer, her school tie, a photo of the boarders in 1938, informal photos of the boarders, notes of her own memories of her time at Warwick and a copy of her book *Were You Really Born on King Island*, published in 1993. Betsy was one of about eight King Island girls who boarded at Warwick when she first arrived as a 12 year old in 1938
- The Society has recently purchased a copy of *A Melbourne Doctor and his Generation--Leonard Bell Cox, 1894-1976; Neurologist, Orientalist, Art Collector, Gardener*, by Volkhard Wehner (2004)



Warrick Boarders 1938



Gardiner Presbyterian Church from the tennis courts 1936

### 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)

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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, 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)