

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

February - March 2012

Newsletter No. 35

25-26 February 2012 Lillirie Open Gardens Australia

Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 February 2012 – 10am to 4.30pm

Open Gardens Australia

Lillirie, 1089 Malvern Road, (between Hopetoun and Glenferrie Roads) Toorak

Entry fee: \$7 Children, dogs welcome. Water danger.

A formal circular gravel driveway flanked by borders of mixed plantings lead into a gracious, relaxed garden in an historic setting. Garden surrounds a large single storey Victorian house (1880's), set behind cast iron picket fence. Features include roses, citrus, herbaceous plantings and vegetable garden in tubs. Proceeds to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne'



Lillirie Malvern Road Toorak 2012

7 March Who's been sleeping in my Stonnington house?

Wednesday 7 March 10am -11am

The Stonnington History Centre are holding a seminar with the theme Who's been sleeping in my Stonnington house? Staff will explain how to undertake research to discover how old your house is, who the owners and occupiers were and what occupations they had. The Centre may hold other records relating to your home, such as original house plans, or letters to council from original occupants.

Bookings: 82901360

1-3 Cawkwell Street, Malvern 1992 Reg No. 12956



18 March Celebrate 100 years of the Malvern Bowling Club 1911-2011

Sunday 18 March 2pm - 5pm

Free bowls for the family all afternoon!

Devonshire Tea

Extensive display of both Malvern Bowling Club's history and the history of the surrounding district.

Enquiries: Barry 040 756 1077

Malvern Congregational Church 1900 (Coles Supermarket site) Reg No 4



24 March Pets in the Park Central Park, East Malvern

Saturday 24 March 2012 10am – 4pm

City of Stonnington's Pets in the Park is a popular event held each year in Central Park East Malvern. The Committee would love to hear from anyone who can help for an hour or two.

Both 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!



Malvern Rotary Club Central Park Kiosk 1960 Reg No 7014

Prahran Council's first election

An enquiry received recently by the History Centre from a descendant of William Oliver – a member of the first Prahran Council – prompted me to revisit the familiar story of the election of that council. Many readers will be aware of the curious ten months hiatus between the declaration of the Municipal District of Prahran on 24 April 1855 and the eventual setting up of a council on 25 February 1856. To my surprise, a newspaper clipping from the day prior to the election of 22 February showed that the make-up of the Council was very nearly quite different. The late historian Betty Malone has written an essay on the coming of local government to Prahran, published in 1982 by the historical society as *Early Prahran, 1850-1863*. Betty was an expert on the topic, having completed an MA thesis on it in the 1950s. Her charming literary style acts as a relief to the flowery and often impenetrable prose of J.B. Cooper, author of *The history of Prahran* (1924). Cooper's very detailed accounts of who said what, and who said what by way of reply, and what legal principles were invoked (sometimes with a Latin quote thrown in for good measure) at the succession of meetings that led to the election of a council can sometimes leave the unwary more confused than informed! By contrast, Betty's writing cuts confidently straight to the chase – it's big-picture, narrative history. Her thesis: incorporation as a municipality was initially opposed by many people, principally the wealthy landowners in South Yarra who feared that their rates would be used to subsidise the development of the swampy areas of central Prahran. By 1863, having accepted that they were not able to secede from the municipality, the professional class in South Yarra took control of the Council.

Yet the writing of history is selective – it's as much about what you leave out as what you include. Glancing at the article published in the *Argus* in late February 1856 under the heading 'Prahran Municipality', I felt vaguely uneasy about the names of the councillors tabled at a public meeting: Sargood, Snodgrass, Crews – no problem, but Crooke, Chomley, Foster and Berry were not at all familiar names as Prahran councillors. I re-read the article carefully:

"The Chairman declared the first seven gentlemen [as above] to be duly elected. The meeting clamoured for a poll; and the Chairman said that although he did not consider such a course desirable, still if the majority desired it, a poll might be had. The meeting decided in favour of a poll by a large majority. The Chairman announced the poll to commence at eight o'clock tomorrow (this) morning, and to close at four o'clock, to take place at the bowling alley." At the election on the following day, twenty candidates nominated for the seven positions. Of the seven men declared as councillors the previous day, only three were successful at the poll. The other four were replaced by Mason, Oliver, Pye and Izett: two publicans, a chemist and a brewer. Crooke, Chomley, Foster and Berry never served on Prahran Council.

Seen through modern eyes, what was originally proposed does seem to be a startlingly undemocratic way of selecting councillors. It's open to conjecture what path Prahran Council would have taken in those early years if those nominations had succeeded, though the key issues of the day were clearly defined: roads, rates, rubbish, public health etc. In one sense it was hardly a victory for democracy, as only about one third of eligible voters actually cast a vote (or votes! – multiple votes were permitted according to one's property assets). Women of course were not expected to vote (though a few tried). Remember too that the colonial government's upper house – membership of the Legislative Council – was by nomination. Universal franchise was still a long way off.

David Tuck Team Leader Stonnington History Centre

Tales from the Courts

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

Geoff Currey

A Likely Story

Henry George Watson, alias Grant, "a man of gentlemanly appearance", who had just been discharged from gaol, charged with obtaining money and goods under false pretences by means of valueless cheques. He bought medicine from G H Prout, chemist of Hotham, and another chemist, Obbitson, residing at Toorak, in payment tendering valueless cheques. Likewise for his board and lodging at Inman's Family Hotel, King street. Sergeant Parkinson stated that there were a dozen previous convictions recorded against the prisoner. In defence he stated that he had recently recovered from a gastric fever and an attack of delirium tremens and did not know what he was doing. He had no intention of defrauding anyone and, if the bench would give him another chance, he would go to England. Sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour on each charge. Prahran Telegraph,

19 March 1881

The Slap

Dare vs Bangs and Bangs vs Dare. Cross cases brought by neighbours whose children occasionally quarrelled. F C Bangs had been assaulted by Alfred Dare, a boy about her own age. Mrs Bangs [had] slapped Dare whose parents then summoned Mrs Bangs for assault. The Bangs then summoned Alfred Dare for assault on their daughter. The magistrates fined each party 10 shillings and 21 shillings costs. Prahran Telegraph, 10 April 1880

Recent Acquisitions

Looking west along Glenferrie Road c1911

The postcard c1911 looks west along Glenferrie Road. During examination of the postcard under the magnifying glass I noticed a small crowd were gathered outside one of the shops. Curious to know what type of business was drawing the crowd on this day, I searched the Sands & McDougall Directory for 1910 and followed the list of businesses along the street, from the left - a dentist, house painter and decorator, fruiterer, saddler, baker, tailor, stationer, fish-monger, confectioner, boot importer and the shop with the crowd looks to be at 116 Glenferrie Road – W. G. Brown & Co. Pty Ltd, wine and spirit merchants – a popular business at the time.



Looking west along Glenferrie Road c1911 Reg No 60270

John Henry Borne

John Henry Borne was the son of Henry Charles Borne and Sarah (nee Smith). In 1867 John Henry married Sarah Eliza Ball, daughter of Joseph and Jane (nee Parkhouse) in Lincolnshire. Between 1868 1887 the Borne had eight children, Eliza Jane, Charles Frederick, Henry Parkhouse, Ada Maria, Francis John, Caroline Sarah, Louisa May and Robert Percy. John and Sarah operated a bakery and servant register in High Street, Armadale from 1888 to 1907. The Sands & McDougall Directory first record a bakery shop occupied by John H. Borne in High Street, Malvern in 1887. The shop is located on the south side, before Williams Street. The Armadale Hotel was on the opposite corner of Williams and High Streets. John H. Borne is noted at this location through to 1896, when two businesses were recorded for Borne, John H., baker and Borne, Mrs S. E., registry office. Both businesses are noted under these names at this location through to 1903, when the building is listed as 62 High Street. In 1905 the Borne were recorded at 66 High Street. This premises had been occupied for some years by R. Ross, a boot importer. In 1906 this building was numbered 68 High Street (in 2012 it is 1084 High Street). Mrs Sarah Borne operated a servant registry in High Street for some years. Newspaper advertisements are noted in the Mercury and Argus between 1890 and 1899 advertising both the servant registry and bakery in High Street, Malvern. John Henry Borne died in Bendigo in 1909, aged 73 and Sarah Eliza Borne died in Sale in 1913, aged 67.



Borne bakery and servant registry office, High Street, Armadale c1900 Reg No 60301

Ellen Porter Stonnington Local History Librarian

Who's Who at the Stonnington History Centre?



Simone, David & Ellen

And more to the point – who do they work for? The relationship between the historical societies and the History Centre is often confused, and it's not hard to see why. In the olden days (read early 1980s), Jane Nigro, Di Foster and other members of MHS worked as volunteers in a room in Northbrook. After a while, to support local history research, Malvern City Council created a part-time position for a local history officer, and Di became a council employee.

Prahran Historical Society at this time was based in the old Prahran courthouse, and applied for occasional grants to fund professional staff to assist the volunteers working on local history. Then came municipal amalgamation in 1994, and a Local History Service was set up as part of the Library, funded by Stonnington Council. One part-time officer in Northbrook looked after Malvern history, and another was based in the Prahran RSL hall to look after Prahran history. Things stayed this way for far longer than expected: amalgamation of the local history collections did not happen until 22 September 2008 when the new History Centre in Northbrook was officially opened.

The History Centre currently has a staff of three part-time workers employed by the Library, assisted by volunteers. On the payroll are David Tuck, a librarian, who works on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Ellen Porter, also a librarian, who works on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Simone Sharpe, a PhD student and long-time Stonnington Library employee, who works on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Simone replaces Di Foster, who retired at the end of 2010. The Centre is open from 9 am to 4.45 pm each weekday – it's best to phone first before visiting.

David Tuck Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360

Stonnington Research Enquiries



Claremont Ave Malvern 1910 Reg 1357

During the past few months the Society and the Stonnington History Centre have received enquiries relating to Malvern Grammar, Tivoli Theatre, early bricks, The Gables, Malvern East, subdivision plans, Primrose Street, Windsor, and the Malvern Mayoral Arts Exhibitions that ran for two years in 1987 and 1988 – the question is why did they stop? A local author is undertaking research for her next book relating to early shop keepers in Glenferrie Road Malvern. A local artist is undertaking paintings around the Malvern laneways between Claremont and Soudan Streets and including Wheatland Road for an exhibition in April. There has been a request for information, images, artifacts relat-

ing to the pharmacy that operated at 3 (often cited as No 1) Claremont Avenue, Malvern. It was operated by Ernest Holloway Leete for decades from about 1905.

A researcher visited the History Centre in August last year looking for information relating to Gus Powell, owner and trainer of the steeplechaser Mosstrooper in 1927 – a horse whose record has never been broken. The query related to the date of construction and location of the stables on the property bordering Dandenong and Emo Roads. Although we located the permit book relating to the building it appeared a plan did not exist. Recently during the relocation of plans in the plan room, a project that is currently ongoing, many uncatalogued plans of garages and sheds turned up. One of the plans was for a 'shed' for Gus Powell, dated 1927, with the design showing a row of stables. The sketch provided information about the land size, a block plan with the exact location of the stables and a very good result for the researcher. Mosstrooper was trained by Powell at his property between 1926 and 1934. After this some of the frontage was sold and two brick houses built. Powell's daughters Violet and Olive were educated locally at Aldworth Girls' Grammar, Malvern East. In 1940 the remaining house and land was sold and it appears the Powells moved to Wyuna Road, Caulfield. The Victorian Museum holds a photo of Gus Powell on Mosstrooper at: <http://mview.museum.vic.gov.au/paimages/mm/001/001306.htm>

The Camberwell Historical Society is seeking information on the Camberwell Chorale. The Chorale (originally The City of Camberwell Philharmonic Society was preceded by Camberwell Choral Society, directed by a Mr WJ (Grenville) Semmens. This group, apparently ran from 1921 to 1935, before it was absorbed into the Malvern Choral Society. Contact Trevor enquiries@chs.org.au

All of the enquiries have been answered enthusiastically by the Stonnington History Centre team Ellen, Simone and David! Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360



Malvern Choral Society 1930 Reg No 169

35th Issue of Local History News

I'm sure you are enjoying all the articles in the latest issue of Malvern Historical Society's Local History News where we get the chance to keep Stonnington's local history alive. We'd like to thank both the City of Stonnington and the East Malvern Community Bank for their continuing support. Thank you to Michele and Ray, MBE Glenferrie Road Malvern for their graphic design expertise and John Isbel for organizing the safe delivery of the newsletters! Thank you also to our researchers, writers and proof readers Jane Nigro, David Tuck, Ellen Porter, Simone Sharpe, Di Foster, Diane Nicholas and Geoff Currey who put together the bi monthly newsletter. A great effort!

Lorraine Sage and the Malvern Historical Society Committee

Toorak College - Strathcona Connection

A Camberwell Historical Society newsletter recently included an article by Glen Turnbull on the history of Strathcona, a girls' school in Canterbury. In 1921 Miss Henrietta Hughes and Mrs Florence Mabel Livingstone were on the staff of Toorak College when it was located at Stonnington, in Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Miss Hughes (who joined the staff in 1905) and Mrs Livingstone (who joined the staff in 1921) worked together at Toorak College before purchasing a house on a large block in Scott Street Canterbury. They opened their own school Strathcona on 12 February 1924.

Trove - the Malvern Standard.

Trove is a repository of Australian archival material. Whether you are tracing your family history, doing professional research, reading for pleasure, teaching or studying, Trove can help.

A great place to start is the Help section http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/newspapers_help

The Malvern Standard and other local papers can be found at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/rss/title/Victoria/169>
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/rss/title/Victoria/168>

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- *Toorak House The Swedish Church* in Melbourne Magnus Lonnberg 2000
- *Northern Lights in Southern Skies* Hakan Eilert and John Stanley Martin 1983
- Visiting cards for Cr Samuel Hattam JP, Mayor, City of Malvern donated by his daughter Samlyn Crockett
- Information relating to the Linehan family donated by Chris Linehan. Michael Joseph (Monty) Linehan and his brother Thomas Ambrose, opened University College, 33 Sutherland Road, Armadale in 1895. Before they opened their school Mr M.J. as he was known, was educated at Geelong Grammar School and the University of Melbourne and taught at Brighton Grammar. Mr T.A. was a former medical student who, according to the family story, left his studies when he found he couldn't stand the sight of blood. He was a competent musician and took up teaching at Xavier.
- Photos relating to the Grocke family donated by Bronwyn Worrall. The Grocke family were devout Lutherans who migrated from Prussia to South Australia to escape religious persecution. The congregation of 200 left from Klemzig, (near Brandenburg) accompanied by their pastor and set out for Australia so they could continue to practice their religion without interference. Members of the Grocke family later moved to Glen Iris and East Malvern.
- Syle family photographs loaned for copying by Ron Syles
- Photographs of the Bullen - O'Malley - McBeth family donated by John H. McBeth. The car, in the photo, a Chevrolet National Tourer, was purchased by John McBeth's grandmother Jean O'Malley in 1928 and it was one of the first cars in Hughes Street, East Malvern.
- Photograph of Oxonia, Forster Avenue Malvern East donated by Mavis Astley
- Complete set of St Roch's Church notices for 2011 donated by Rev. Father Ian Waters.
- Extensive research and photographs relating to 704 Toorak Road Malvern donated by Andrew Lemon



Grocke family, 24 Nyora Street , East Malvern



Ron and Wilma Syle at 8 Winton Road, East Malvern 1935 Reg No 60062



University College, Sutherland Road, Armadale c1921
Reg No 60272

Back row left to right: Eddie Higgins, Tom Linehan, Keith Gibbs, B.McNaughtin, Des Twomey, (?), John Mooney, Jim Linehan, Stuart McLean, John Corr, Roy Temple, John Woodward, Leslie Miles.

Middle row left to right: Hugh Ryan, Williams Lloyd, Peter Billis, Davern Wright, Brian Gibbs, Arthur Mathers, Charlie Miles, John Gorden, George Aspenall.

Front row left to right: John Billis, (?), Edward Prevot, B. O'Neil, (?) Alan Myers, Mr. M. J. Linehan, Mr. T. A. Linehan, Basil Sims, Tom Carrick, (?).



Oxonia, Forster Avenue Malvern East
(Undated) Reg No 60061



O'Malley family 1933
Reg No 60116

Taking History to the Community

Lorraine Sage and Jane Nigro attended a morning tea at the Stonnington History Centre where David Tuck, Team Leader, welcomed Simone Sharpe and thanked volunteers for the contribution they had made during 2011. Thank you to Lex Niebour for allowing us to use his Spring into Gardening photo in Issue 34 of the Newsletter. An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the January twilight walk when we explored the Rose Street Armadale area. Thank you to Lorraine Sage, Faye Pattinson, Francesca Di Mattina, Pat Brincat and Jane Nigro for making it such a success.

The Stonnington History Centre will be setting up a display at the Phoenix Park Library for the 10th anniversary of the Phoenix Park Community Centre and Library. All the other Stonnington Libraries feature changing local history displays throughout the year.

An Item of Interest from the Philpott Research

The Public Record Office holds Educational Records for all of Victoria and includes information relating to the first denominational school in Malvern. Of particular interest are the personal papers of Richard Hale H Budd, educationalist (1816–1909). Information on the first inspection of a school in Malvern was found in these papers including a report by School Inspector Geary who visited the newly built school on the afternoon of 20 May 1858. The form he filled out includes the following information with his remarks 'Present were 22 pupils with a total of 57 on the roll. It was noted the building was a newly erected brick schoolroom also used as a place of worship. Organization was as good as can be effected in so small a school. Discipline very good. Instruction very fair considering the kind of school. Schools of this kind are not generally so forward as those in the town. The master appears to know his business. The assistant teacher was absent'.



The original 1858 school, close to St George's Malvern Pre 1925

Digital Recorder for Oral History

Our thanks go to the East Malvern Community Bank, who have recently funded the purchase of a digital recorder for interview purposes for Malvern Historical Society. This is a marvellous tool that will replace our reliance on the dinosaur magnetic tapes used until now. Magnetic tapes are time bombs heading to self-destruct – all the many interviews recorded over the years by MHS must progressively be transferred to digital format if the information is to survive. This is a labour-intensive and costly process. Using the you-beaut digital recorder, all future recordings will by-pass this step, being formatted as either .wav or .mp3 files, ready to go anywhere.

David Tuck 82901360

The Prahran Telegraph 1914 -1918



Find over 256,254,916 Australian and online resources: books, images, historic newspapers (including The Prahran Telegraph 1914-1918), maps, music, and archives. www.trove.nla.gov.au

Australian Generations Oral History Project

Australian Generations will pioneer new ways of creating, interpreting and presenting oral history. Life history interviews with 300 Australians born between 1920 and 1990 will create a digital audio archive of 1500 hours of recordings which will be hosted by the National Library of Australia. Funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage award ('Australian Generations: Life Histories, Generational Change and Australian Memory'), this project is a partnership between historians from Monash and La Trobe universities, the National Library of Australia and ABC Radio National. Participants required. Contact <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/>

New Members

We would like to welcome our latest new members **Lauren & Tom Maidment** and **Stephen Gillespie & family**.

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of John Gillespie, a valued supporter of the Malvern Historical Society. John had been a member of the Society from the 1970's. Our thoughts are with Stephen and 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 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)

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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