

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

August - September 2013

Newsletter No. 44

28th August Stonnington's Subdivision Plan Collection

Wednesday 28 August 10am

Members Only event.

Members joined Di Foster, Local Historian, at the Stonnington History Centre for a talk on early Malvern subdivision plans. The History Centre holds a large collection of land subdivision plans dating back to c1850. These plans represent the intentions of developers and real estate agents and although some estates did not eventuate as shown on the plan, the collection provides an extremely valuable source of information and evidence about the subdivision of the municipality over time.



Town Hall Estate 1890
Reg No 5456

7 September Prahran Market Historical Talk

Saturday 7 September 11am

Prahran Market, in conjunction with Gabriel Hermes, Prahran Historical and Arts Society President, are excited to present a talk about 149 years of Market History. As early as 1867, Prahran Councillors spoke to market gardeners in Malvern, East Brighton, Cheltenham and Oakleigh to elicit support for a proposed market. Tickets are free, but limited. Bookings essential. Call 8290 8220



New market buildings' foundation stone 1923 Reg No 9310

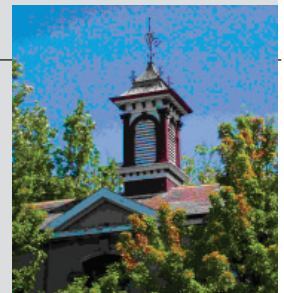
8 September Opera in the Mansion Mandeville Hall Toorak

Sunday 8 September 2pm

Join members of the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust when they perform at Opera in the Mansion, Mandeville Hall, Toorak.

Refreshments included. Adults: \$50 Loreto Past Pupils / Seniors: \$35

Enquiries: Steve 9823 8157 or steve.stefanopoulos@loretotoorak.vic.edu.au



Tower on stables at Mandeville Hall 2004 Reg No 12089

22 September Stanhope Street Malvern area walk

Sunday 22 September 2pm

Join members of the Society for a walk around the Stanhope, Pine Hill, Winter's and Coonil Estates, Malvern (bounded by High and Thanet Streets and Glenferrie Road).

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Members Gold Coin, Non-members \$5 (+ optional \$5 for walk book)

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082



Congregational Church
Malvern c1900 Reg No 4

2 October Trove: full text newspapers available online

Wednesday 2 October

10.00am - 11.00am

Stonnington History Centre

Learn how to use the National Library of Australia's database of scanned newspapers for your historical research. Bookings open on 1 September. Enquiries: 8290 1360

Malvern Mayor, Cr Ernest Ingram Thompson 1911 Reg No 8604
Photo taken from The Prahran Telegraph, which was incorporated with the St Kilda Advertiser and the Malvern Argus.



CR. E. I. THOMPSON.

The Commins and Lionnet Families



Members of the Commins and Lionnet families c1960
Reg No 55032

The Commins and Lionnet family connection with Australia dates from when Theophile Lionnet came from Mauritius to Bendigo during the gold rush era in the mid 19th century. Theophile married Jane Bone, from Cornwall, after which they returned to Mauritius. Some of Theophile's grandchildren migrated to Australia after World War II and his descendants are now living throughout Australia. Family researcher Pierre Commins believes his family were the first Franco Mauritians to arrive in Australia after the Second World War. Their story is represented in the book *Mauritian Heritage: an anthology of the Lionnet, Commins and related families* by Edward Duyker.

Pierre Commins lived in Malvern from 1949 until the 1990s. His grandmother, Mrs Cecile Lionnet, purchased three houses in Armadale, Glen Iris and Malvern in the 1950s and 1960s to facilitate the migration of her children and grandchildren to Melbourne. The first property, purchased in 1950, was 15 Inverness Avenue, Armadale, the second in 1951 was 9

Viva Street, Glen Iris and the third purchased in 1962 for her daughters Emily, Cecile and Louise Lionnet, was in Wheatland Road, Malvern.

Pierre's cousins Richard and Serge Lionnet lived in Claremont Avenue, Malvern and his sister, Maryse Duyker, lived at 18 Horace Street, Malvern. The Commins family lived at 5 Childers Road, Malvern from the mid 1950s until the mid 1990s. Pierre's mother was Madelaine Commins (nee Lionnet). Madelaine was killed crossing Wattletree Road while on her way to St Joseph's Church in Malvern. Due to this tragedy the Commins family organised a petition to establish the pedestrian crossing opposite Cabrini Hospital.



5 Childers Road c1950 Reg No 55057

Warwick Girls' School

An article in the July 1919 issue of the journal "The Graphic of Australia", includes photos with the title 'The children of Warwick preparatory school, Malvern, one of the foremost institutions of the kind in Melbourne. Warwick is under the direction of Miss Turner, who is exceedingly popular with the scholars.'

Warwick was established in 1895 in Manning Road by Miss K. Gregory, who was the principal until 1907. In 1908 the new principal, Adelaide Mary Turner, who had helped establish Warwick, moved the school to a larger premises, previously called *Walla Walla*, on the corner of Finch and Kerferd Streets, East Malvern.

Miss Turner pioneered the concept of 'open-air' classrooms and the school included boarders and day pupils. According to the prospectus, the school had a laboratory and library, with extensive sports grounds. It was divided into four Houses named School, Davington (after the English birthplace of Miss Turner's father), Gregory and Professor. With over 200 pupils the classes went from Kindergarten to Leaving Honours, with the younger grades including boys.

Miss Turner's younger sister, Ivy Victoria, supervised the boarding school and according to memoirs of previous students, she was regarded as the mother of the school. Family sources state that Adelaide and Ivy's mother, Ellen Turner, also lived at Warwick school for a time. The R.A.A.F. commandeered Warwick for use in 1942, which caused the closure of the school and the retirement of Miss Turner. The building was demolished in later years.



Florence and Douglas Ralph in their Warwick School uniforms
c1937 Reg No 7855



Warwick Girls' School East Malvern c1940 Reg No 60761

Drewe family, Prahran and Malvern

James Drewe was born at Bradford, in Wiltshire, England. He arrived in Melbourne in March 1854 with his wife, Sarah Ann Gauntlett, and son William Henry Drewe, who was approximately one year old. James and Sarah went on to have another five children, three sons and two daughters, most of whom were born in the Prahran/Windsor district. James Drewe worked as a journeyman before setting up his own business as a house decorator in Windsor c1856. He is listed as a paperhanger on the west side of Chapel Street, Windsor, between Peel and Union Streets, in the 1862 postal directory. He remained there until the mid-1870s. Sometime in the mid-1870s William Henry Drewe joined his father in the business, and they went into partnership as James Drewe & Son. Together they ran the Federal Paperhanging Warehouse. The address was originally known as 11 Dandenong Road in Windsor, and it was between Chapel Street and the railway bridge. It was renumbered 161 Dandenong Road c1890, by which time James and Sarah also had a property at 157 Dandenong Road.

In 1881 William married Jane Paterson. They had two children, Elsie Edith Drewe (b. 1882) and William James Drewe (b. 1884). William James Drewe later joined his father in the family business, which was listed at 161 Dandenong Road Windsor c1906. In 1911 William James Drewe married Daisy Mae Wells, and they had two sons, Royce Burrell Drewe (b. 1914) and Colin Geoffrey Drewe (b. 1916), and a daughter Claire (b. 1925) who passed away later the same year. The family lived in Alma Road, Caulfield in a house they named *Llandaff*. By now the family business, still operating as J. Drewe & Son at 161 Dandenong Road, was described as being 'decorators and importers'.



Federal Paperhangings Warehouse
run by the Drewe family,
161 Dandenong Road, Windsor c1906.

As well as working in the family business, William James Drewe also became an architect, and was very active around Malvern. It appears that he and his father went into land development, buying land and building houses to W. J. Drewe's designs, which were then offered for sale from W. H. Drewe. The Stonnington History Centre has a number of plans of houses where the owner of the land is listed as W. H. Drewe, of 60 Kooyong Road, with W. J. Drewe listed as the architect.

William and Daisy moved from Caulfield to Malvern, first to Wattletree Road then Thanet Street. From c1925-c1976 they lived at 42 Stanhope Street in an eight-room brick house of William's own design. The Thanet Street and Stanhope Street houses were also named *Llandaff*. As well as the houses mentioned above he apparently designed some bluestone churches around Melbourne, including in Malvern, Toorak and South Yarra, although these have yet to be identified. In 1938 the Drewes were invited to a Mayoral Ball held by the then Mayor of Malvern, Cr King, and Acting Mayoress Miss King, but were unable to attend.

Their eldest son, Royce, married Dorothy Watson in 1940, and they moved to the bayside suburbs of Bentleigh then Brighton East. They had three children, the eldest of whom was Robert Duncan Drewe (b. 1943). The family moved to Perth in 1949. Robert Drewe went on to become a well-known journalist and author, and mentions his family's connection to Malvern in his first memoir, *The Shark Net: Memories and Murder*.

Simone Sharpe, Stonnington Local History Officer

Sources:

Victoria and its metropolis, past and present, p. 599.

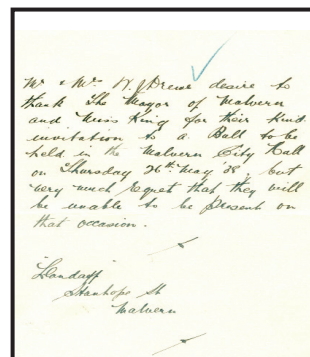
Sands & McDougall postal directories

Births, Deaths and Marriages CD Roms

Robert Drewe, *The Shark Net: Memories and Murder*, New York: Viking, pp. 127-129.

Malvern Standard, 3 Jan 1914, p. 1s

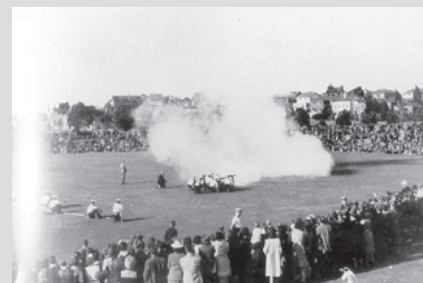
Malvern valuation cards



Letter from
Mr & Mrs Drewe to the City
of Malvern, 1938
Reg No 5447

The Victorian Navy Relics App

Friends of the Cerberus are creating a Victorian Navy Relics App for iPhone and Android Smartphones. The Victorian Navy Relics App shows the location and details of known relics of Victoria's Colonial Navy. Twenty-five vessels served between 1856 and 1901 to defend Victoria in the event of war with Russia, France or the USA. Items covered in the App, dating from 1786 to 1892, include bells, anchors, monuments, a figurehead, 90 cannon, including the one at Como Park, hundreds of smaller relics as well as 25 vessels. www.cerberus.com.au



Trafalgar Day - Como Park, 1944 Reg No 13556

Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the last few months we have received enquiries relating to Agnes Aiken who lived at one time in Darling Road, East Malvern, 1 and 3 Cawkwell Street Malvern, *The Olives*, in Wattletree Road, Malvern East, photos of the Honour Board from the Hawksburn State School Infant School building that now hangs at the Prahran RSL, *Kooralbyn*, a property in Orrong Road Toorak, properties in Stonnington Place Toorak and in Olive Street East Malvern and Denis Hines, an early Glenferrie Road barber. Students have been researching the history of St Mary's in Malvern East and early Malvern theatres. An interior designer rang the Society wanting to organise copies of early photos for the foyer of a new Stonnington building.



Interior of R. G. Moss Library in Chadstone
1964 Reg no 5550

We were asked if we had any information on William Henry (Bill) Bruce (1856-1923). Bill lived in Johnstone Street, Malvern and then later at 8 Kerferd Street, East Malvern. He was married to Annie Hewitt Logan. Bill and his brother John Joseph (Jack) Bruce, worked as road contractors for Malvern Council at one time.

We were asked to discover the fate of the mosaic that was on the wall of the Chadstone Library and the plaques from the buildings that were demolished in Bowen Street, Malvern East and from the newly redeveloped pavilions at HT King and Sr Zelman Cowan Park.

The search for information on William Philpott continues. The Society was recently contacted by Philip Defriez, a member of the Association of Cricket Statisticians, who has been researching early cricketers who went to English public schools. He shared information relating to William Philpott who we knew attended Tonbridge School and Cambridge University before emigrating to Australia. He attached the reference from the Tonbridge School register 1820-1893 (<http://openlibrary.org/books/OL6923650M>) and the Cambridge University reference (<http://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/acad/search.html>)

All the enquiries have been expertly handled by the Stonnington History Centre staff, Ellen, Simone and David!



Hoyts Gardiner Theatre, Malvern Road, Gardiner c1954 Reg No 17269

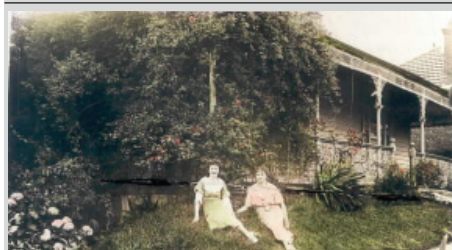
Denis Hines

Denis Hines moved into a shop on the east side of Glenferrie Road, Malvern c1896. Originally it had no street number, but it was numbered 133 in the early 1900s. It was described as a brick shop and dwelling, of five rooms. However, Glenferrie Road was significantly renumbered shortly afterwards (changing not just the direction of the numbers but also odds became even and vice versa), so that by the First World War his address was listed as 58 Glenferrie Road. He remained there until the early 1930s. Around 1933 he moved to 78 Glenferrie Road, which had six shops, where he remained until c1937. He was variously described as a tobacconist or as a hairdresser. A Trove search revealed one of his advertisements in the Malvern, Caulfield and Armadale Recorder in 1900.



Glenferrie Road, looking south c1910 Reg No 5076

The Olives, 253 Wattletree Road, East Malvern



Mrs Gertrude Ransom and her daughter
Marjory *The Olives*, East Malvern c1930
Reg No 6606

In 1863 and 1864 John Favel Green purchased 22 acres of land at the corner of Wattletree and Tooronga Roads. By 1865 a two roomed weatherboard house was built facing Wattletree Road. The property changed hands several times before being purchased in 1881 by merchant Reuben Horatio White. White Street was created in a subdivision of part of the land in 1888. White named the enlarged weatherboard house *The Olives*. The house was demolished around 1938. The garden included a wistaria, mandarin, walnut tree, fig trees and a persimmon tree.

National online heritage portal for Australia

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water, has officially launched Australia's Community Heritage. The website provides individuals and heritage organisations with the opportunity of freely sharing their local heritage at a centralised location. Historical societies around Australia are encouraged to create a free account and add information about their organisation and their district's heritage. The site can also be used to promote heritage-related events.

Australia's Community Heritage – www.communityheritage.net.au



Growth of the Prahran Malvern Tramway Trust - key dates

September 1912 The High Street electric line was extended from Punt Road to St Kilda Road. The repair shop was

September 1916 Opening of the extension in Cotham Road from Burke Road Kew to Union Road in Mont Albert. built at Malvern Depot.

September 1918 Opening of the extension in Burke Road from Camberwell Station to Cotham Road Kew.



Arrival of first tram at Gardiner Prahran Telegraph 1915 Reg No 14457

Australian Railway Historical Society - The Phoenix Foundry

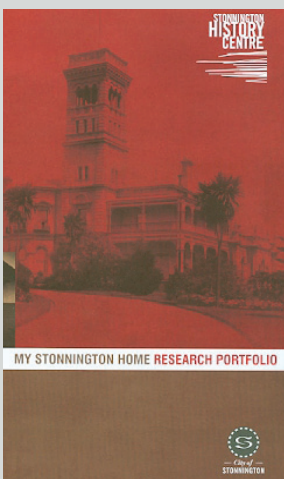
The Australian Railway Historical Society has recently launched a new book, *The Phoenix Foundry*, by Bob Buttrims and Dave Macartney. In the mid 1850s, during the transition from alluvial to reef mining, various iron works and foundries sprang up in Ballarat. They produced boilers and mining machinery. To supplement this income several companies experimented in the production of locomotives. Over the three decades, 352 locomotives were produced.
<http://www.arhsvic.org.au/>



Steam train at Darling Station c1913 Reg No 1378

Researching Stonnington Houses and Properties

Ever wondered who has walked the hallway floorboards before you? Or maybe you'd like to know the year that your house was built, and whether it's ever been extended. Do the original building plans exist? If you have a shop, what sort of businesses have operated from there before you, and who owned them? Are there any photographs?



My Stonnington Home Research Portfolio

The Stonnington History Centre has introduced a research service that uses material in its collection to compile a dossier on the history of your property, be it residential or commercial. Rate records, photographs, drainage and land subdivision plans, correspondence and building plans are some of the sources used. For a fee of \$220, Stonnington History Centre will compile a My Stonnington Home Research Portfolio containing a summary report and copies of historic documents, which may include photographs or building plans if available. To find out more about the My Stonnington Home service, phone the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360 during office hours, or use the online form. www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

New Members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Alison St John and Andrew Dixon.

Taking Local History to the Community

Grill'd Malvern's Local Matters July Competition has been run, the tokens are counted and Kristy Mason from Grill'd Malvern is very happy to announce that the MHS are to be presented with a \$100 donation so that we can continue our great work. Grill'd has certainly helped raise our profile within the community! Jane N recently addressed both the Middle Park History Group and the St. James Glen Iris Evening Group. Pat Brincat was a very well informed and enthusiastic tour leader for our visit to St Mary's Malvern East. Jane N and Jane B have been busy working on the children's puzzle book with graphic artist Anna Kortekaas. The final draft of the updated content for the MHS website has been proofread by Pete and Steve. The Society would like to wish well known local East Malvern identity, Val, from Bookaburra Printing in Waverley Road, all the best on her retirement. Val has been a great supporter of local history in Stonnington. The Committee would like to thank everyone for their messages and letters congratulating Jane on her recent RHSV Award of Merit; a great honour for Jane N and for the Society. Thanks to Ursula Zamecnik, Prahran Mechanics Institute, Victorian History Library and the Stonnington History Centre staff who are making sure the full set of the eighteen City of Stonnington Local History Brochures are available for the general public. They are also available as e-brochures. www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

The City of Stonnington has passed on its sincere thanks to our team of MHS and PHAS volunteers for their assistance with the Open House Melbourne weekend. Council was delighted with the level of interest shown in our historic buildings, with more than 860 members of the public visiting over the weekend. The very enthusiastic team of volunteers included Heather, Gwen, Jane E, Francesca, John, Andrew, Pat, Charles, Gabriel, Margaret R, Bill and Helen, Denis, Beverley, Roxanne, Anne, Lorraine, Jane B, Faye, Michael, Steve, Alex, Barry, Rose, Jane N, Pete, Poppy, Janine, Chris, June and John. It was a pleasure working with the Stonnington History Centre staff Simone, Ellen and David and Council staff Jan, Ninetta and Natasha!

Jane N and Di Foster are the MHS representatives on the City of Stonnington Heritage Reference Group. The Reference Group meets as required and includes a Councillor and Council Strategic Planning, Property, Cultural, Urban Design, Statutory Planning and Stonnington History Centre representatives. It also includes Heritage Advisors, a Heritage Data consultant and representatives from Heritage Victoria, the National Trust, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, PHAS and MHS.



Slide show at Northbrook 2013

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of Noel Fethers. Both Noel and her husband David were loyal supporters of the Malvern Historical Society over many years. Their Fethers photograph collection is a very important part of the Stonnington History Collection. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Material for the articles has been researched from the **Stonnington 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

Seniors Festival 2013 Stonnington Heritage Walks

All Walks:

Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Cost: \$20 Adults / \$15 Seniors and National Trust & Local Historical Society Members

Includes: 40+ page "Walk into History" book with 5 other heritage walks in Stonnington

Bookings/Further Information Phone: Steve 0418 546 103

Malvern East Heritage Walk - Sunday 6 October

Walk through the tree lined streets of Malvern East and learn about Queen Anne style architecture in the Gascoigne and Waverley Estates.

Bounded by Wattletree, Burke, Dandenong and Tooronga Roads.

Meet Point: Central Park Conservatory, Malvern East



Malvern Mansions Heritage Walk – Saturday 12 October



Walk through the tree lined mansion estates of Malvern and see where the Governor of Victoria once lived.

Bounded by Toorak, Malvern and Glenferrie Roads and Elizabeth Street.

Meet Point: Stonington, 336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

Kooyong Heritage Walk – Saturday 19 October

Learn about the two Jacobean style mansion "Glenferrie" and "Thanes" and the many 1920s and 1930s homes.

Bounded by Gardiners Creek and Toorak and Glenferrie Roads.

Meet Point: Kooyong Train Station



Malvern East Spanish Mission Heritage Walk – Sunday 27 October



Explore the Spanish Mission style houses that line the concrete roads, and a large brick and concrete house with a tower, built on the ashes of a former timber home.

Bounded by Gardiners Creek and Waverley and Darling Roads.

Meet Point: Coronal house, Lewes Drive, Malvern East