

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

October - November 2013

Newsletter No. 45

## 13 November Finch Street Malvern East Twilight Walk

Wednesday 13 November 7pm

Join members of the Society for a walk along Finch Street Malvern East (between Wattletree Road and Dandenong Road). Find out about the architecture of the buildings, the stories surrounding the development of the various estates and the beginnings of one of Melbourne's early golf clubs.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential. Members: Gold Coin,

Malvern Heights Bowling Club, Finch Street, Malvern East c1912 Reg No 36



## 17 November History Matters: Writing About Our Past



Sunday 17 November 12.00pm-1.00pm Stonnington History Centre  
Stonnington's 2nd annual literary festival will feature Judith Buckrich, celebrated Melbourne historian and author of *Design for Living: A History of 'Prahran Tech'*. Judith will discuss the process of writing long historical and biographical works and her approaches to writing projects about Melbourne's history.

Numbers limited. Tel: 82901360 or book online

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/festival-program/>

Prahran Technical School c1927 Reg No 7482

## Public Records Office tours and talks

Each month, Public Record Office Victoria runs free tours of the archives and information sessions on various topics relating to records held in their collection and how to best access them. They hold 15 million items in their collection documenting the status, rights and entitlements of Victorians dating back to 1836. Bookings essential. Visit [www.prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar) or telephone 9348 5609.

Wednesday 6th November 2013

11:00am Tour of the archives. 1:00pm Introduction to family history research

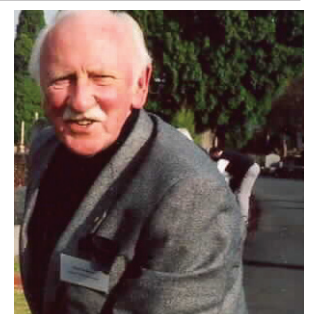
Thursday 21st November 2013

11:00am Tour of the archives. 1:00pm Reading 19th century handwriting

## Bruce McBrien

The Committee wishes to place on record the following Tribute to Mr Bruce McBrien who died suddenly on the 30th August, 2013. Bruce was a Member of the Malvern Historical Committee for over twenty years and is the Immediate Past President. The contribution that Bruce made to the Malvern Historical Society over all those years and beyond is truly outstanding. His wise counsel and friendship will long be remembered by those who have had the privilege of working with him. Bruce was always very positive and supportive in all that the Committee was endeavouring to do for the Society and history in Malvern. Bruce will be greatly missed and will be treasured by us all.

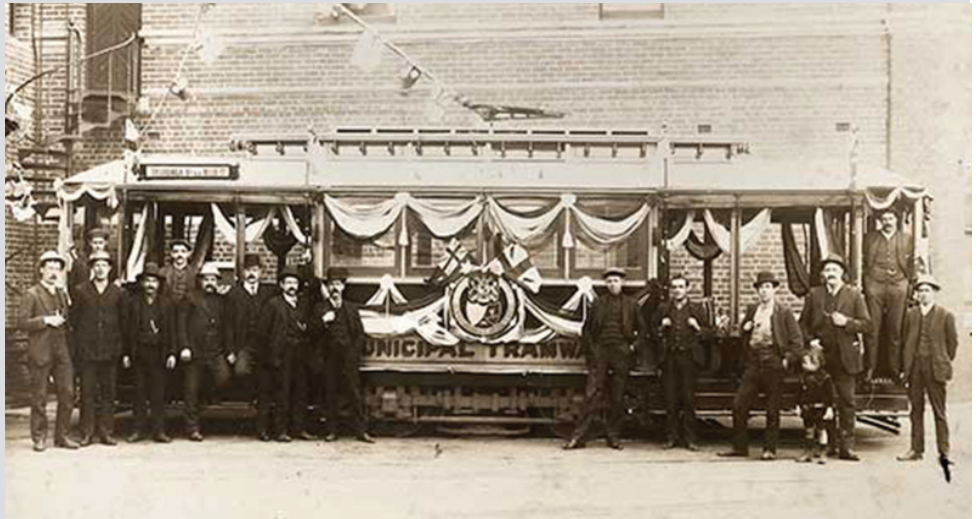
Lorraine Sage - President



Bruce McBrien 2005

## First Tram on the High Street to Tooronga Road route 1911

Eileen Matthews recently donated this photograph of the first tram to run on the High Street to Tooronga Road route. It is believed that the men in the photograph laid the tram tracks along High Street. The man standing third from the right is Joe Matthews. He also led the gang of men who laid the tram tracks in Dandenong Road. The young boy by his side is his son, Ernest James Matthews (Jim). The tram, decked out in flags and bunting, has a City of Malvern crest with the date 1911, above a partially obscured sign which reads 'Municipal Tramways'.



First Tooronga Road via High Street tram 1911. Reg No 60950



### Leslie Dalton

This photo was found inside a wallet given to Leslie Dalton by Malvern City Council during World War II. The Council sent wallets along with canteen orders, Christmas and birthday cards to all Malvern men and women on active service. Leslie Dalton can be seen in the back row, second from the right. The photo was taken at an Australian Air Force base in Australia. There is also a scanned letter to Malvern Council from Sergeant Leslie Dalton, dated 1942, sent from the Middle East, thanking the council for Christmas greetings and canteen orders.

Leslie Dalton and service men 1941 Reg No 60951

## Recollections of wartime East Malvern

Peter Game has shared his recollections of his family's air raid shelter with the Society.

"I can still remember growing up in wartime East Malvern, with blacked out windows and our car hauling a gas-producer in lieu of petrol. Our house was at the corner where Hedgley Avenue takes a right turn to enter Malvern Road. It has since been demolished to make way for another house. At the back were the Hedgley Dene Gardens where I would spend hours fishing for tadpoles in a pond just over our fence.

One day a man, whom I remember as blonde and very tall, arrived and began digging a large hole in our back yard. He was Swedish and he had been hired by my father to build us an air raid shelter. He assembled a large stack of sturdy timber beams. When he had finished digging he began work on the structure which was meant to protect us against the Japanese enemy. Because I was still only in my very early teens then my estimate of size may be open to question but from memory the interior was about six feet wide, 12 feet long and the ceiling was a few inches above head height. After he had finished the woodwork, the builder heaped dirt back on top of it to turn it into a bunker which was meant to save us from anything other than a direct hit. It was a very impressive structure to a small boy. But the Japanese never arrived, which was just as well, because one day, after a storm, the bunker filled up with water because the need for drainage seems to have been overlooked.

Later we moved to Glenbrook Avenue and I recall one day looking skyward as a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft flew over head. It was in this street that the war struck home when news came through that a member of a family living opposite us had been lost when one of our Naval ships was lost. At the same time as we took defensive measures at Hedgley Avenue, Melbourne Grammar where I was at school, dug slit trenches for the pupils. The senior school, in St Kilda Road, had been taken over by the Americans and many of the pupils had been evacuated out of Melbourne. The more stoic of us were shifted to an old mansion near Melbourne Grammar's preparatory school, Grimwade House, in Caulfield. There we were given air raid drill and I can recall a point very much stressed was that while sitting in the trench we were not to lean against the walls. The reason given was that a near miss by a bomb would jar the earth enough to injure anyone in contact with the trench sides".

Peter Game 2013

## Booth & Clague, family butchers

Arthur Cathie had a butcher's shop in Dandenong Road, Malvern, from c1885-1886. In 1886 he purchased a brick shop and dwelling on the north-west corner of Glenferrie Road and Wattletree Roads. He worked as a butcher there until 1903. By this time Cathie had married Caroline Booth. Upon his retirement c1904, Cathie's brother-in-law (Caroline's brother), Frederick Booth, and Booth's brother-in-law Arthur Clague (who had married Caroline and Fredrick's sister Eleanor), took over the business as part of a partnership. They renamed the butcher's shop Booth and Clague, with the address given as 104 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Cathie remained owner of the premises.

According to relatives, Booth and Clague had a falling out, and parted ways c1910. Booth and his family moved to Trafalgar in country Victoria, where he opened a new butcher's shop. They remained in Trafalgar until Frederick's death in 1963. Clague took over the running of the Glenferrie Road business, which became known as A. J. Clague, until 1914. Clague and Cathie remained in Malvern, and for some years they lived close to each other in Llaneast Street, not far from the butcher's shop. In 1914 Glenferrie Street was substantially renumbered, and the odd and even street numbering was reversed. The shop became 105-107 Glenferrie Road.

Arthur Cathie continued to own the shop until 1919, when it was sold to W.G. Brown. The butcher shop was operated by John M Clark from 1914 until 1920 and Robert Young took over the butcher shop in 1921. The premises were bought by the Bank of Australasia in 1923. The building in the old photograph was demolished, and replaced c1927 with the two-storey bank building that is still on the corner in 2013 (Dick Smith Electronics).



**Booth & Clague, family butchers c1900s  
Reg No 60869**



**ANZ, 105 Glenferrie Road Malvern 1984 Reg No 8551**

## Richard George Moss



A new Malvern branch library was opened in Chadstone on 20 May 1964 and was named the R. G. Moss Library. It was named after Cr Richard (Dick) Moss who had been a member of the Malvern Library Committee since its inception and who was a councillor for the City of Malvern 1940-63 and Mayor 1946-47. Cr Moss had a distinguished War record from the First World War and was awarded a Military Cross for bravery in action in France. For many years he took a great interest in Legacy and was actively engaged in welfare work. Cr Moss was a member of the East Malvern RSL, serving both as president and as a committee member.

**Mayor, Cr E. V. Johnson and Mrs Moss at the opening of the R. G. Moss Library 20 May 1964 Reg No 5568**

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the last few months we have received enquiries relating to the site of an early Baptist Church in Waverley Road Malvern East, servants at *Haverbrack*, the history of the old Fire Station (now the Willis Street Art Gallery in Armadale) and three enquiries relating to Valetta Street, Malvern. We were also asked for information on John Coughlan who was living in brick house of 7 rooms at 25 Epping Street Malvern East in 1931. Cath Coughlan continued to live at the address for some time, before ownership passed to the Misses Edith Lillian, Annie and Kathleen Coughlan, who are listed as the ratepayers in 1937. All the enquiries have been expertly handled by David, Ellen and Simone!

## Malvern Fire Station, 2 Willis Street, Armadale

The former fire station in Willis Street, Malvern, was designed by architects Oakden & Ballantyne for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It opened on 14 June 1906, and closed in 1988, when the fire brigade moved to Waverley Road Malvern East. A transcript of the newspaper article reporting the opening in the *Argus* can be found on Trove (The *Argus*, 15 June 1906). Before the development of a professional fire fighting service administered as the MFB, fire fighting was carried out by local volunteers. J.B. Cooper's *History of Malvern* (1935) notes:

'Up to the year 1882 the residents of Malvern had to rely upon themselves for protection from outbreaks of fire. In April, 1882, steps were taken to form a volunteer hose and reel fire brigade. A committee of ratepayers presented a petition to the Shire Council asking for funds with which to form the brigade. The Council found on enquiry that it had the power to bring a fire brigade into being, and also that the costs of the plant, and the brigade upkeep would be a liability of the Council and not of the Government. The Council decided to take no action. A section of the ratepayers of Malvern, led by M. Bishop and M. Reynolds, advertised that they would establish a fire brigade, and appealed to the residents for monetary assistance.

The brigade was eventually established. In October, 1886, the secretary of the brigade wrote to the Council for permission to use street water plugs, and asking further whether the brigade was not worthy of practical support? The brigade desired to march through the principal streets by torch light, and take up a financial collection. Permission to march was given but the Council refused to allow a collection to be made in the streets. This volunteer brigade, with occasional assistance from the Council and insurance companies, remained in being for some years. In November, 1888, the Council built, at the cost of £89/15/6. at the east end of the Shire Hall, a so-called fire brigade station, a large shed to house the firemen's reels, hose and tools. The creation of a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in February 1891, resulted in the disbandment of the Malvern Volunteer Fire Brigade at the end of the following April. The Board bought the reel, hose and hydrants for £178/2/6. The Council thanked the volunteers of the Malvern Volunteer Fire Brigade for their services. The members of the Brigade would



**Fire truck at the Fire Station in Willis Street  
1967 Reg No 7190**



**Malvern Fire Station Willis Street Reg No 7307**

have been wise had they accepted this farewell token of goodwill, without further comment. They had been asked to continue to function for a month as a brigade to cover the time before the Metropolitan Insurance Brigades assumed control. In the natural annoyance by being superseded, they displayed some pique and they refused to volunteer for the month's watch covering the period of transition. The secretary of the Brigade asked the Council for the use of a room in the Shire Hall wherein to hold the Brigade's final meeting. Permission was also sought for the captain of the disbanded Brigade to address the Council for the purpose of explaining why the members refused to volunteer when asked to do so, and, also, application was made for a map of Malvern, left in the room used by the Brigade. The Council, by motion, resolved, that the Brigade could have the map; that a room would be lent to them for the valedictory meeting and lastly the members of the Brigade had to suffer the chagrin of being told that, "No explanation is necessary." So passed, after a career of usefulness, the Malvern Volunteer Fire Brigade'.

In 1891 the Melbourne Fire Brigade became the main Fire Brigade in Melbourne. The first Annual Report gave the strength of the Brigade in 1891 as 59 permanent firefighters, 229 auxiliary firefighters, 4 steam fire engines, 25 horse drawn hose carts and 58 hose reels. There were only 33 horses and 48 stations in 1891, and the Brigade attended 816 calls and 485 fires. The Fire Services Museum has Australia's largest collection of fire brigade memorabilia including a year-round display of vintage fire vehicles and other appliances, helmets, 18th century uniforms and badges. 39 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne. (03) 9662 2907 <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~fsmvic/>

For 20 years, the Firestation Print Studio (formerly the Firestation Community Print Workshop and the Malvern Community Print Access Workshop) has welcomed professional and amateur printmakers to learn, print and exhibit in the old fire station. The Firestation is a non-profit organisation. You can sign on for regular updates via their e-newsletter. <http://www.firestationprintstudio.com.au/>

## Waverley Theatre, Malvern East

The Waverley Theatre at 92-98 Waverley Road in Malvern East was designed by architects Cowper, Murphy and Appleford in the Moderne or Art Deco style. It was commissioned by Waverley Theatre Pty Ltd, built by Hansen & Yuncken Pty Ltd, and opened on 26 December 1936. It could seat 1150 people. The entrance foyer terrazzo was in terracotta, brown, green and gold and was laid by the Genoa Terrazzo Co. Pty Ltd. The shopfitters were T. S. Gill & Son Ltd, of Chapel Street, South Yarra. It was fitted with electric lighting and gas heating.



**Interior of the Waverley Theatre 1936  
(State Library of Victoria)**

The theatre was the venue for some significant commemorative events organised by the City of Malvern. These included the Schools Coronation Picture Matinee, held on the afternoon of Tuesday 15 June 1937 to commemorate the coronation of King George VI, an Armistice Day commemoration in 1942 and Victory Commemoration celebrations on 6 June 1946, which included an afternoon programme for school children featuring cartoons, short films, and a presentation by the Mayor.

In 1953 the theatre was bought by W. A. & J. C. Johnson and continued operating until 1958. In 1959 it was taken over by Rosette Knitting Mills Ltd, although it is not known if it was used for this purpose. In 1963 it was bought by Sound & Film Enterprises of Australia Pty Ltd. The auditorium was converted into a sound recording studio, although it apparently remained relatively intact. In 1963 it was sold to Wilbur Henry Harman.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission (later Corporation) (ABC) took up a lease in October 1965. In 1965/66 the ABC commissioned W. L. Irwin, Johnston & Brendon Pty Ltd to substantially remodel the interior into rehearsal studios for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO). The Stonnington History Centre holds the plans of this redevelopment. The ABC bought the property in June 1972. Visitors to the ABC Studio at Waverley Theatre included producer Margaret Hetherington, the 1988 cast of Cinderella, the Royal Australian Navy Band, composers Felix Werder and Sir Malcolm Sargent, international conductors Ferdinand Leitner, Walter Susskind, and Fritz Rieger, Australian conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, violinist Isaac Stern, opera singers Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Rita Streich, and Dame Janet Baker, pianists Vladimir Ashkenazy and Tamas Vasary and the Malvern Symphony Orchestra (later the Stonnington Symphony Orchestra). In 1994 the property was sold to Greylord International Pty Ltd, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra relocated to Southbank. The theatre was then used as a function centre and as an indoor family centre.

The building was identified as one of the 15 most important cinemas remaining in Melbourne in a study completed by Daniel Catrice in 1991. The theatre was later classified by the National Trust. See [http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/natrust\\_result\\_detail/66876](http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/natrust_result_detail/66876). However, due to the significant changes it had undergone over the years it was not considered sufficiently intact to be added to the Heritage Register. In 2000 the building was converted into 24 flats and three shops, plus carparking space. The State Library of Victoria holds theatre programmes and newsletters. It also has photographs of the interior of the theatre taken by Lyle Fowler in late 1936 (prior to its opening to the public).

See <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/imagestudio/gid/slv-pic-aaa45335>.



**Rehearsal of Royal Australian Navy Band  
at the A.B.C. studio Waverley Theatre 1976. Reg No 5166**

## New Member

The Society would like to welcome our latest new member Alison Dennison.

## Taking Local History to the Community

The Pine Hill Walk around the Stanhope Street area in September went well thanks to our enthusiastic leaders Jane B and Pat. Jane N received a generous donation from the Ladies Probus Club of Malvern after recently addressing their group. The MHS is receiving excellent publicity in the latest Walking for Pleasure brochure. The MHS Committee recently committed \$2,175 towards the copying of the Ahearn collection. The collection, which includes numerous photo albums, newspaper cuttings and family documents, was recently loaned to the Stonnington History Centre for copying. Rose from the Prahran Historical and Arts Society happily took a selection of MHS brochures for their PHAS stall at Spring into Gardening. Thanks Rose! Thanks to Lorraine and Pat for entertaining staff from St John's Regional College in Dandenong with a walk and a display. The College recently sent \$150 and Deputy Principal Quentin Smith said 'thankyou for providing such wonderful and knowledgeable tour guides for our staff Wellbeing Day last Friday'. The MHS continues its commitment to the National Library Trove newspaper scanning project, with the Committee agreeing to commit \$4000 towards the project this year. The MHS is very happy with the results so far from this joint MHS, PHAS and Stonnington History Centre partnership which provides funds for the scanning of all issues of the *Prahran Telegraph*. You are now able to use Trove to search the *Telegraph* from 1866-1889. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>. There are another 40 years of the *Telegraph* to go before we move on to other Malvern and Prahran titles. During a recent Trove search it was noticed that the bannerhead from 13 December 1902 read *Prahran Telegraph*, with which is incorporated the *St Kilda Advertiser* and the *Malvern Argus*.



This photo appeared in the recent Middle Park History Group's September newsletter! Jane Nigro (centre) with Diana Phoenix and Meyer Eidelson

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

Photo of Clague's butcher's shop, Glenferrie Road, Malvern donated by Carmel Reisinger. Frederick John Booth, who part-owned the shop, was Carmel's great grandfather.

Notes relating to *Palmyra* (also known as *Heimath*), Lansell Road, Toorak and Marian Rennick who married Frederick Pirani and later James Barrett, donated by Peter Game.

A 1979-1980 City of Malvern budget brochure for ratepayers donated by B.Gorr. (Total Malvern Council expenditure for the year was \$7,166,030!)

Memorabilia to show school children donated by Ruth O'Dea.

Memories of Darling Road Uniting Church, East Malvern, donated by Marlene Davis. Marlene also donated family history notes and local craft items.



Members of the Darling Road Methodist Church at the Floral Carpet Competition at the Malvern Cricket Ground in celebration of Malvern's Centenary. Included in the photo are Mrs Schumer, Lena Jenkins, Daisy Hawkes, Ruby Dunn, Mary Ilton, Mollie Frier, Maureen Enniss, Elsie Roberts, and Eunice Trainor, 1956 Reg No 6640

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](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)

East Malvern  
Community Bank® Branch Bendigo Bank

300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044



**Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)**

**P.O.Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 [malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)  
[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)



# Get into Art in Stonnington

Sunday 10 November 12-4pm

Three local community art galleries invite you to a

## FREE FAMILY OPEN DAY

Attractions include

**EXHIBITIONS & CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES**

Kinross Arts Centre



Kinross Arts Centre &  
Manse Gallery Café  
603 Toorak Rd, Toorak  
T: 9829 0340



THE DULDIG STUDIO

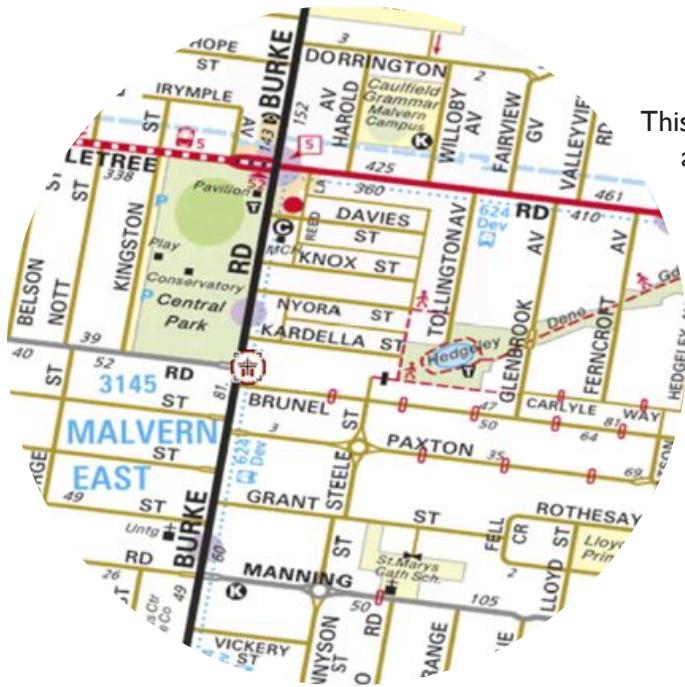
The Duldig Studio  
92 Burke Rd, East Malvern  
T: 9885 3358



Firestation Print Studio  
2 Willis St, Armadale  
T: 0425 242 672

Supported by





### << The Duldig Studio

Inspiring creative journeys

Melway 59 H11

This house museum displays sculptures, paintings and decorative arts in the original residence, studio and sculpture garden of the eminent sculptor Karl Duldig (1902-1986) and the artist/inventor Slawa Duldig (née Horowitz).

### Exhibitions

'A Malayan Bungalow'

2013 'Clay for Kids'

2pm Awards to be presented by

The Mayor of Stonnington Cr Matthew Koce

### Activities

Clay modelling in the sculpture garden

[www.duldig.org.au](http://www.duldig.org.au)

### Firestation Print Studio >>

An open access print studio

Melway 59 B8

### Exhibition

'Fungus meets Ferrite'

Artworks by contemporary artist Sue Top

### Activities

12:30pm and 2:30pm Printing with gelliplates for children.

1pm, 2pm and 3pm Demonstrations of printmaking techniques such as collograph, linocut and etching pulled through the gallery's hand presses.

[www.firestationprintstudio.com.au](http://www.firestationprintstudio.com.au)



### << Kinross Arts Centre

Melway 59 A4

Features an art gallery, artist's studios and the delightful Manse Gallery Café, all housed within a heritage building. Established in 2004, Kinross Arts Centre is a cultural and social hub for visitors and artists alike. Located in the grounds of Toorak Uniting Church, the Centre promotes Australian visual and performing art in a unique historic setting.

### Exhibition

'Contemporary Indigenous Art' from Central Australia

### Activities

Studio tours; floor talks; art sales; raffle; 'Make your own Animal Crown' craft activity for children; coffee and delicious food in the Café and garden courtyard.

[www.toorak.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.toorak.unitingchurch.org.au)

