

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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

December - January 2014

Newsletter No. 46

13 February Dr Barry Jones AO

Thursday 13 February 7pm

Annual combined Malvern Historical Society and Prahran Historical and Arts Society meeting.

Come along and hear a presentation by Dr. Barry Jones AO. Barry is an Australian writer, lawyer, social activist, quiz champion and former politician. He has also tried his hand at broadcasting on Melbourne radio. He had a long political career in both the Legislative Council and House of Representatives. This is a free event. Supper will be served.

Bookings essential: Gabriel on 9529 7442
Malvern Town Hall (Upstairs Foyer - lift available)
Malvern Town Hall, corner Glenferrie Rd and High St Malvern.


 Dr Barry Jones

18 February Observations on the upper classes in Melbourne, 1924-74

Tuesday 18 February 5:15 PM - 7:00 PM RHSV Lecture

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

Drinks: 5.15 PM. Lecture: 5.45 PM.

Paul de Serville is recognised as an authority on colonial society, notably in the Port Phillip District and Victoria.

Bookings and further details: 9326 9288

19 February Indexing the Prahran Telegraph, 1866 - 1875

Wednesday 19 February 10am - 11am

History Matters Stonnington History Centre

Discover aspects of life in Prahran not mentioned in previously published histories. Diane Nicholas, who has indexed the first ten years of the Prahran Telegraph, shares her findings.

Bookings are required. Book online on the Stonnington History Centre website or call: 8290 1360



2014 Diary Dates:

Saturday 22 March Pets In The Park at Central Park Malvern East

Wednesday 21 May Malvern Historical Society Annual General Meeting

St Joseph's Malvern 1915 -1919



St Joseph's Church. c1915-1919
Reg No 61002

Eileen Matthews recently loaned this early photo of St Joseph's Church. The handwritten details on the back of the photo include 'Fr O'Flynn. Fred Reynolds 4th back row; Margaret Johnstone 4th from left in second row. Reverend Father Michael O'Flynn and congregation on the steps of St Joseph's Catholic Church, Stanhope Street Malvern'. According to the church history, *The Story of the Church of St Joseph's Malvern 1908-2008*, Fr Michael O'Flynn was Parish Priest of St Joseph's Church from 1915-1919. He replaced Fr Simon Hegarty, who had resigned to take up a post as army chaplain during the First World War. Fr O'Flynn came from Dublin to fill the vacancy. In his short time as Parish Priest he organised the installation of the pipe organ, the formation of a choir, and the replacement of the primary school building. He passed away in his sleep in August 1919.

Searching for Prahran and Malvern electoral rolls

Former Toorak resident Dale O'Sullivan visited the History Centre recently with some material to donate for the Archives. Dale's father, Peter O'Sullivan, established the delicatessen in the 1940s now known as Cleo's at the entrance to Prahran Market in Commercial Road. Dale was very surprised to realise how important one particular item he was donating was – the only known surviving copy of the City of Prahran electoral roll for 1947-48. In fact, very few of these rolls have survived it's a very short list: 1856/57, 1857/58, 1861/62, 1862/63, 1881/82, 1886/87, 1892/93, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1914/15, 1916/17, 1931/32 (Windsor only), 1947/48, 1949/50, 1974/75, 1975/76, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1983/84, 1992/93, 1993/94.

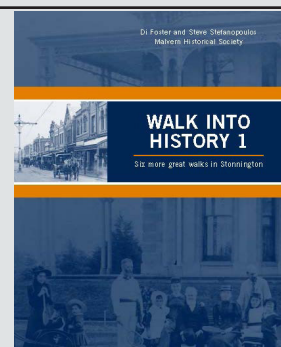
For Malvern, the situation is impoverished for the early years – here's the list of surviving electoral rolls: 1935/36 to 1941/42, 1944/45, 1947/48, 1949/50 to 1992/93 except 1973, 1979/80, 1984/85. Why are these lists so important? Apart from identifying where someone was living, they will often provide that person's number in the rate book; anyone who has spent time searching an unindexed rate book will immediately appreciate the value of this. Until recent times, the rolls also indicated a voter's property assets. From 1863 to 1983, only property owners could vote at municipal elections, and a system of plural voting prevailed, whereby voters were entitled to up to three votes depending on the value of their property holdings in the municipality. For example, in 1947/48, in Prahran (and maybe Malvern too), if your property was deemed to be worth up to £50 in rental per year (NAV), then you were entitled to a single vote. If your property had an NAV in the range of £50-£100, you got two votes. More than that and you were entitled to three votes. Plural voting was only abolished in 1969. Perhaps you own an electoral roll not on this list – if so, we would be grateful to be able to digitally scan it to add to the dvd lending set of rate books and electoral rolls currently being developed. You might even consider leaving pencilled instructions on such documents to donate them to the Stonnington History Centre after your time is up!

David Tuck Stonnington History Centre

Making Stonnington Local History Publications available for everyone

Did you know many of the publications relating to Stonnington's local history have now been electronically re-published and are available online through the Stonnington History Centre website? Recent additions include the full set of Walk into History walk books. You'll now be able to download the individual walks when you're planning your own walk in the local area.

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/explore-stonnington/history/local-history-publications/>



Amazing History Amazing Stonnington

The Society is very happy to announce that our new local history puzzle book 'Amazing History Amazing Stonnington' has just been published. While it may have been planned with children between six and eleven in mind, its puzzles and beautiful pictures by graphic artist Anna Kortekaas make it fun for any age!

The new book is available from:

Jeffreys Books

140 Glenferrie Road Malvern Victoria 3144

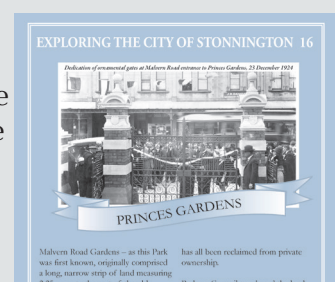
T 9509 5133 Email info@jeffreysbooks.com.au

or contact the Society for an order form.

Malvern Historical Society Committee

Stonnington's local history brochures

New weather proof local history brochure holders have been placed around the City of Stonnington. Look for the brochures in the Malvern Gardens, Central Park, Hedgeley Dene Gardens, Como Park, Princess Gardens, Edsall Street (close to Glenferrie Road), the corner of Castlebar Road and Woodlands Grove, Malvern East and Waverley Road (close to the corner of Bruce Street). The full set of the 18 Exploring the City of Stonnington local history brochures are available on the Stonnington History Centre website <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/explore-stonnington/history/local-history-publications/local-history-e-brochures/>. Hard copy brochures are also available from the Stonnington History Centre and the Prahran Mechanics Institute.



Can you help identify this cricket team or its players?

Late last year we received a request from a resident seeking information on this unidentified photograph of a cricket team. She has been in touch with the National Sports Museum at the MCG, which noted that coloured cricket knee pads were popular in the late 19th century, which gives an approximate date for this photograph. The Museum also noted that the number of people in the photo, the variety of uniforms worn, the wide range of ages (boys and men), and the inclusion of cricket balls suggests that this was an informal team rather than a formal or registered one. It may also have been a group who played cricket at a one-off event, such as a staff or social function.



Unidentified cricket team, late 19th century. Reg No 61056

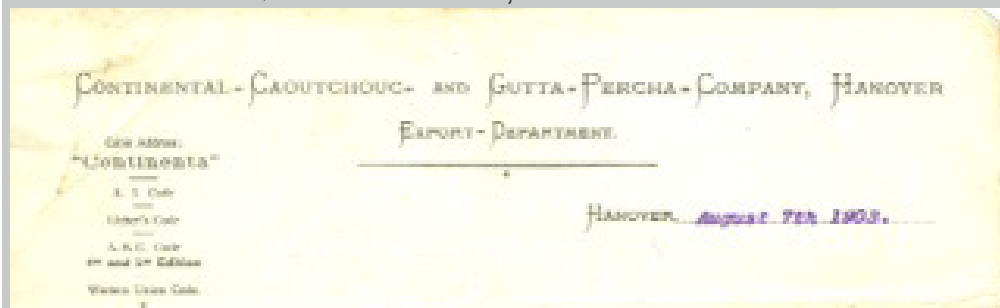
There may be a connection to the Woodmason or Ellis families of Malvern, Hawthorn and Kew; in particular, William Woodmason (1830-1892), George W. Woodmason (1863-1933), Charles Ellis (1860-1928) or Charles Burton Ellis (1886-1917). According to documents held by the Stonnington History Centre, Woodmason's Dairy had its own staff cricket team in the 1930s. If you have any information on this photograph, or can identify either some of the players or even the studio setting, please contact Simone at the Stonnington History Centre, by telephone at 8290 1360 or by email at history@stonnington.vic.gov.au.

Simone Sharpe Stonnington History Centre

Strictly Confidential 1903

Society member Peter Game has donated a fascinating old letter. It was sent from the Continental-Caoutchouc and Gutta-Percha Company, Hanover to a tyre factory in Windsor. The letter, typed on company letterhead, is dated 7 August 1903. It was sent to J. P. Wallace, manager of the Wallace Tyre Factory in White Street, Windsor and discusses possible future business arrangements. It is headed 'Strictly Confidential'.

This letter is in reply to a letter dated 9 June 1903, presumably written by John Wallace, which was hand-delivered to the German company by Mr Bennett from CCGPC's English branch (not held by the History Centre). It would appear that the earlier letter had included Wallace's suggestions on improvements that could be made to the German tyres, which the Wallace Tyre Factory may have been importing into Australia, in addition to ones it was making itself in its Windsor factory. It is signed, but the signature is indecipherable. The Wallace Tyre Factory had a group of wooden workshops and offices in White Street, Windsor, and in the laneway running parallel to James Street. Its postal address was 11 White Street, Prahran in the early 1900s. It later moved to James Street.



Letterhead of letter to Wallace Tyre Factory 1903
Reg No 60961

Just revealed!

If you're quick you'll have the chance to view this old advertising sign before it is covered up by the construction of the new development next door. It's on the south east corner of High Street and Seymour Avenue Armadale.

Do you know of any other old advertising signs still visible within the City of Stonnington? Just let the Stonnington History Centre know on 8290 1360.





National Archives of Australia PhotoSearch

It's easier browsing or searching the National Archives of Australia collection of photographs these days. In their new PhotoSearch prototype, you have the option of searching by keywords and dates or simply browsing by tags and maps. But be warned, browsing of their photographs is addictive!

Arriving in Australia from Vienna in 1939, Mr L J Sterne of 14 Hedgley Avenue, East Malvern pioneered many branches of animated doll making in Australia. Formerly in the Austrian film industry, Mr Sterne knew little about doll making until he landed in Australia. In 1958 he employed 20 people, making dolls for Australia, India, the Middle East and South Africa.

<http://photos.naa.gov.au/> National Archives of Australia.
Image no. : A12111, 1/1958/16/265 Date: 1958

Tunnel under Malvern - another local legend?

A recent television programme on tunnels under Melbourne prompted tram enthusiast Ron to share a story he had heard. When he started to work at the Malvern Depot he became friendly with the Depot cleaner at the time, Allan Stone. When Allan found out that Ron was interested in the history of the P&M TT and the Tram Depot he took him aside one day to tell him an old story he had heard relating to a tunnel at the Depot. Allan told him that at one time years ago, when the Depot was being re-fitted out, they found a locked door and no key to open it.

When they did finally get it open they found another door right behind it but parts of the walls had collapsed. Allan said that he had been told that during the war years paintings were stored in the space for safe keeping. Due to the unsafe state of the walls they were not able to continue exploring further but Allan said he often wondered if this was the start of an early rumoured tunnel from under the Revenue Office at the Malvern Tram Depot to the Malvern Town Hall. No other evidence or mention of an early tunnel has ever surfaced.



First official tram leaving Malvern Tram Depot 30 May 1910 Reg No 1104

The Iron House

Jane Cannan and the
rush to Melbourne



Crescy Cannan

Foreword by Miles Lewis

Early sketches of Prahran

The Malvern Historical Society has recently purchased a new book for the Stonnington History Centre, Crescy Cannan's *The Iron House, Jane Cannan and the Rush to Melbourne* (Bugloss Publishing, Devon with Blooming Books Melbourne 2013). The book includes a number of Jane Cannan's beautiful sketches of Melbourne. The sketches are part of the National Library of Australia and the RHSV collections.

A number of the sketches can be viewed on the Stonnington History Centre website including sketches showing Toorak Road, looking east from Punt Road 1853, the Myall Hotel 1853 (it was once situated on the south east corner of Punt Road and Commercial Road), Domain Road 1853 and Scots Church South Yarra 1855. Jane's Cannan's short stay in Melbourne began in 1853 when she arrived with her husband who was managing the Melbourne branch of Morewood & Rogers, a British firm.

H. Arendsen & Sons Pty Ltd

Dutchman Hendrik Arendsen and his wife Clara came to Australia on their honeymoon, but were so enamoured with Melbourne that they decided to stay. Shortly afterwards Henrik set up a metal stamping business at 182 Little Collins Street (around 1912). Around 1921 he moved into premises at 4 Garden Street in South Yarra (just near the intersection with Chapel Street), and was living in Kew by this time. In the 1930s the Arendsens moved into a house at 88 Stanhope Street in Malvern. Their children included three sons – Henry, Lourens (Lawrence) and Johan (John) – and a daughter, Clarice Angelica. Arendsen's metalwork factory produced metal fastenings for belts (buckles), shoes, handbags and purses, candlesticks and photo frames.



Interior 1305-1315 Malvern Road Malvern, 2013

When he passed away in 1937 his two eldest sons, Henry and Lourens, took over the running of the business. Because the company manufactured metal products its operations were co-opted to assist with the war effort, and it was listed as an essential industry. In 1941 Henry and Lourens set up a public company called H. Arendsen & Sons Pty Ltd, and moved into large premises at 1305-1315 Malvern Road in Malvern, formerly occupied by the Yellow Cabs Company (taxis). This same year Wal (Bill) Feore joined the company, initially as an accountant. It employed a total of 225 staff, 100 men and 125 women, although this possibly expanded to about 300 later in the war. The factory was described as being of brick and fibro cement, 300 feet long and 95 feet wide. The company continued to make a small amount of its pre-war products for civilian needs using scrap metal.

According to an interview conducted by Henry's granddaughter Nicole Arendsen, some of this scrap metal was provided by local jam manufacturers. Most of the company's production, however, was geared towards necessary war supplies, including metal fittings for packs, parachutes, gas masks and land mines, uniform fastenings and badges, and currency tokens for enemy aliens held in Australian internment camps. The factory had a concrete safe that could be used as an air raid bunker if needed, but the staff also dug trenches at the rear of the nearby Malvern Vale Hotel in case of attack. The windows had to be blacked out during the most intense period of the war, and fluorescent lights were installed, as the factory operated around the clock to meet its war contracts. After the war the company set up a staff cricket club, which practised at Kooyong Park, and a tennis club. They also returned to their pre-war products, and became renowned belt buckle manufacturers. They developed new products, including Hook-Flex metal fasteners for trousers and skirts and Handy-Angle metal shelving. Feore became a company Director in 1973 and Secretary in 1983, before retiring in 1988. For many years its large sign dominated Malvern Road. H. Arendsen & Sons Pty Ltd was deregistered in 2007. Its large Malvern Road site is currently occupied by a high-end car dealership, selling Jaguars and Land Rovers.

Sources:

Arendsen, Nicole, 'The effects of World War II on a local industry', an undated school project that included material sourced from interviews with her grandfather Henry Arendsen, and Bill Feore.

Hanks Jr, V. M., 'How are belt buckles like coins?', *World Coin News*, 17 January 1978, p. 21.

Malvern News Sheet, August 1988, p. 15.

City of Malvern, council documents. Sands and McDougall postal directories.

Simone Sharpe 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.

Just can't get enough CABBAGE!

John Brooks, stealing vegetables from the paddock of W. Bagshaw. Bagshaw said he was keeping watch in Andrew Street when two men drove up in a cart; he saw the prisoner go into the paddock and put some cabbages into a bag; he ran away when seen but was followed and subsequently arrested in a piggery. Fined £1 with 1 shilling damages. John Grove, arrested for being concerned in the robbery, was let off with a caution as he had been remanded for 10 days in the Melbourne gaol. *Prahran Telegraph*, 8 April 1882

Geoff Currey

Taking Local History to the Community

An intrepid group of walkers braved the light rain and enjoyed the twilight walk along Finch Street Malvern East. The Stonnington History Centre was recently loaned a collection of photograph albums and scrapbooks relating to the Miller family and the houses they owned in Malvern. One of the family members collected wedding photographs and put together scrap books covering many Malvern social events. The Society contributed half of the cost of the copying of the photos and related material. Paul Dee, Librarian at the State Library of Victoria, gave an informative talk on the National Library of Australia's digitised newspaper database, Trove, at one of Stonnington History Centre's recent free talks. The talk covered the history of the establishment of Trove and the wide range of sources it offers. He demonstrated its use in family and other historical research inquiries, and explained the benefits of creating an account (including being able to correct mistakes in the scanned text). If you have not yet discovered this wonderful free Australian resource, visit <http://trove.nla.gov.au> and see for yourself. The Malvern Historical Society and the Stonnington History Centre are applying for Public Records of Victoria Local History Grants for projects including funds to digitise the entire Memories of Malvern oral history collection, currently stored on the old, quickly dating, magnetic audio cassette tapes. The oral history collection includes the MECWA Centenary Life Stories Project, an initiative of MECWA Community Care, back in 2000. The project aimed to acknowledge the community spirit, particularly the voluntary work, of senior members of the local community. Participants in the project were people who resided or had other close community links in the area embraced by the Higgins Electorate. The second application relates to scanning the *Prahran Chronicle*, 1882-1906. The paper covered a wide audience. In 1886, the bannerhead read: "St Kilda Chronicle and Prahran, Toorak, South Yarra, Windsor, Armadale, Malvern and Caulfield Record. Both the Malvern Historical Society and the Prahran Historical and Arts Society are already committed financially for the next few years with the scanning of the Prahran Telegraph (this financial year doing 1891-1910). The paper was published until 1930.

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Information on Laurel Martyn contributed by Alan Gregory. Laurel, with her Ballet Guild, performed at the Malvern Arts Festival in the Malvern Town Hall in 1956. This was one of her last performances as a dancer. It was the premiere of the Australian ballet Mathinna.
- Complete set of St Roch's Church notices for 2012 donated by Rev. Father Ian Waters.
- This photo was taken at the letterbox for 1862 Malvern Road, with part of the house at 1864 Malvern Road visible. It was taken by Mabel Munro. Mabel was a member of the Carnegie Camera Club. The photo was donated by Jean Munro



'Our postman in the 1960's' Reg No 60991

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**