

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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

June - July 2014

Newsletter No. 49

26 and 27 July Open House Melbourne

Open House Melbourne is a not-for-profit association that runs annual events providing the public with a free and rare opportunity to discover a hidden wealth of historic buildings.

The inaugural OHM 2008 event saw eight buildings open and more than 30,000 visits across the day. Since then the event has grown and in 2013 OHM provided access to 107 Melbourne buildings and welcomed 126,000 visitors. Stonnington Council is offering the rare opportunity to explore behind the scenes of the Malvern and Prahran Town Halls, to visit *Northbrook*, which houses the Stonnington History Centre's rich and interesting archives, and the Stables, home of Stonnington Brass.



City of Malvern Mayoral Ball 1959 Reg No 897

6 August History Matters: Conserving Your Family Photos

Wednesday 6 August 10am - 11am

Join photographer Peter King when he explains how to look after your irreplaceable family photos, both prints and digital files. This is a repeat of the very popular sessions held in 2013.

Bookings are required. The talk will take place at the Stonnington History Centre. Book online on the Stonnington History Centre website or call 8290 1360

Mrs Bradley c1910 Reg No 998



9 August 'Round Malvern (and a bit beyond) By Rail'

Saturday 9 August 2pm

Rail enthusiast, Ian Jenkin's talk 'Round Malvern (and a bit beyond) By Rail', will be an exercise in image interpretation of photographs of the Stonnington area and the conclusions that can be drawn from them. Ian will guide us through a visual circuit around Stonnington from a railway perspective; with the earliest image dating from circa 1860-61. The primary emphasis will be on the Malvern area including Gardiners Creek, traces of the Outer Circle railway, the Black Bridge and the extension of the railway to Glen Waverley and the Caulfield line with a focus on Toorak Station.

Wesley Hall - St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Gardiner (the Hall is on the south side of the Church). Corner of Burke Road and Malvern Road, Glen Iris

Gold coin donation RSVP: Lorraine 9885 9082
Bookings would be appreciated so that sufficient seating is provided.



Gatehouse, Gardiner Station, Burke Road, Gardiner 1917 Reg No 2686

Malvern Historical Society Inc - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Malvern Historical Society Inc was held on 21 May 2014. At the meeting Lorraine Sage was re-elected President, Also re-elected were Jane Nigro - Vice President, Robin Brown - Treasurer, Pat Brincat - Minute Secretary and Committee Members - Jane Brewster, Francesca Di Mattina and Graham Thurston. Janine Hurley and Faye Pattinson were not available for re-election to the Committee and were thanked for their contribution to the Committee over the last few years. The thanks of the Society was expressed to the following for their assistance and help during the past year Jim Cranage, Cranage Partners, Chartered Accounts, 31 Station Street, Malvern, for reviewing our financial books for 2013. Linda Tassone of Jeffrey's Bookstore, Glenferrie Road, Malvern, for selling our various publications, the staff of M.B.E. Malvern for undertaking all our printing requirements, the City of Stonnington and the East Malvern Community Bank - Bendigo Bank for their financial assistance during the year. After the formal part of the evening everyone enjoyed a very informative talk by our guest speaker Andrew Lemon. Andrew shared fascinating talk with many of his stories and history of early horse racing in Melbourne. Since the AGM we have had two very welcome additions to the Committee, Stella Barber and Neil Shepherd.

Lorraine Sage - President 9885 9082

Prahran Mechanics' Institute short history prize

The PMI Short History Prize is for works up to 15,000 words about any aspect of history in Victoria. First Prize is \$1000 : \$500 for the author and \$500 for their nominated historical group. Entries are judged by a panel from the Professional Historians Association. <http://www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#shp>. Enquiries may be directed to Tim McKenna, 9510 3393 or tim@pmi.net.au

Wanted: Australia's Missing Newspapers

The National Library of Australia needs your help! Is there a pile of old newspapers under your bed, in your shed or under the floorboards? Do you want to help preserve our social history for future generations? Well, they want to hear from you. The NLA hopes to find, collect, preserve and provide access to the nation's missing newspapers under the Australian Newspaper Plan, managed by the national, state and territory libraries. So regardless of where you live or the particular "Wanted" newspaper you find, they want to hear from you. Newspapers didn't just report the news. They told stories of their times, through ads, photographs, and even their design—stories the NLA wants to save for all Australians. <http://www.nla.gov.au/contact-us>



Local 1953 bookmark donated by Geraldine Fortuin

East Malvern Home Guard in 1940

Thanks to Mark for sending through the YouTube link to the clip of the East Malvern Home Guard in 1940. Enjoy the clip and marvel at the strategies that were in place to defend Malvern! Can you identify any of the landmarks in the background? www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwljPraF2wE

Searching the History Centre catalogue

We've added a new search feature to our online catalogue, an option that we have always wanted. It is deceptively simple. When you find what you were looking for in our catalogue, you will want to record exactly where this information is located, and probably share it with someone – perhaps your long-suffering partner. Until now, this involved recording the registration number and its prefix (e.g. MH 12345). While this remains a sound methodological practice, in addition you can now create a web link direct to that page. Once you have opened the full catalogue description of the item, look for this box

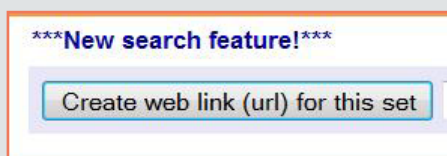


When you click on this option, you will create an internet address that looks something like this:

<http://tinyurl.com/lktffvf>

This web address will work for you for as long as the tinyurl company continues (a very long time, I hope!). It is your personal instant link to that record in our catalogue. You can copy and paste it into an email to send to yourself or other interested parties. But what if you have found a set of many records that are relevant? Do you need to create many individual tinyurls? The answer is a jubilant NO, provided you are searching from Advanced search, rather than Quicksearch. (Don't ask!)

Look for this box:

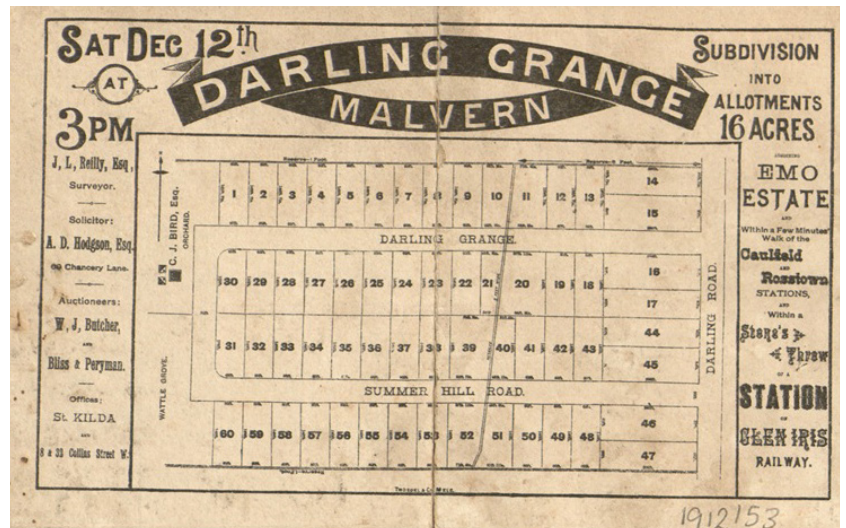


This will create a shortcut to that set of records. Cunning, n'est pas? In conclusion, when you are writing reports that you want to keep, continue to use the prefix and registration number. They are permanent, the tinyurls are (probably!) not. A tinyurl is a lively springboard back into your research, a bit like explorer bookmarks/favourites. Happy grazing!

David Tuck, Stonnington History Centre.

Darling Grange - Rothesay Avenue

A plan of subdivision 'Darling Grange Malvern, Saturday 12 December Dec at 3pm' has recently been added to the Stonnington History Centre catalogue. It relates to land adjoining the Emo Estate. The date has been confirmed from an auction sales notice in the Telegraph, St Kilda, Prahran and South Yarra Guardian of Saturday 12 December 1885. The Darling Grange land is described as being of 16 acres. Darling Grange is now known as Rothesay Avenue. Malvern East. The original plan is held by the State Library of Victoria. For a high resolution copy see <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/13096>



Darling Grange Malvern 1885 Reg No 61168

Ken Phelan's memories of East Malvern



**Kenneth Richard Phelan
(1922- 2011)**

"The family occupied 13 Brunel Street in 1928 when I was six. We were enrolled at the Lloyd Street School. I attended the school until I was 12. Can't remember much about the early days. My first recollection is after Grade 4, when I was nine. My mother was asked to send me to a school in the Mallee, where cousins of ours lived. So that year I missed. On returning to Lloyd Street, I started in Grade 6. The teacher was Mr Loftus – a very kind teacher, who got me going again. Mr Loftus ran the school band, so I joined and became a drummer. A number of the boys played the fife. I also started to play sports. In Grade 7 my teacher was Miss Temple, a very young teacher. I was starting to pick up in learning after that tragic year – Grade 5 in the country. Eighth grade was run by Pop Eason, a very strict teacher. He picked me up a bit more. I finished up gaining my Merit Certificate. I forgot to say that this year was 1934 – the Victorian Centenary.

The school participated in the big ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, including the band. So I went and did that. After leaving Lloyd Street, I went on to Caulfield Tech to become a tradesman. During the time at Brunel Street, I and my three brothers attended Ewing Memorial Church Sunday School. This led us on to attending

Bible Class and Church, where I made some wonderful friends. I attended Church up until the time I joined the army at 19 years old, and fondly remember many of the members, especially Mr George McKinnon, who led the Sunday School. He wrote me many letters while I was in the front line.

I played cricket and football at school and used to watch the Ewing Memorial cricket team at Central Park. After the war, I played cricket for the next 20 years for the Church. During my time in Brunel Street, my mother got us interested in the Boy Scouts and Cubs, so we all became members of the 9th Malvern Scout Group. They used to meet in Oak Grove. 9th Malvern were the Champion group of Victoria. During the Scout Jamboree in 1934 at Frankston, the 9th Malvern were in a place of honour, receiving the Victorian Governor at the Jamboree. I left the Scouts at 17 years so I could play football. I played for two years for East Caulfield in the amateur league.

All my life I have looked back with great pride to being raised in East Malvern. I forgot to mention that when I was 11, I started a paper round with Alfie Wythe, the newsagent in Wattletree Road. My first paper round was from Hope Street in Burke Road to High Street Road. I worked in the paper shop for four years, getting five shillings a week of six days. During my time I also sold papers in the evening, the Herald daily and on Saturday the Sporting Globe and the Green Star, put out by the Argus. I finished up on 10 shillings and sixpence a week and the head boy. There was a time when I delivered meat for the butcher. All the time, of course, it was all by push bike. I bought a new Swastika bike from that bike shop in Dandenong Road, near Caulfield Station. Bike riding was a great way to get around. My brother, Ian, and I rode to Geelong and back one day".

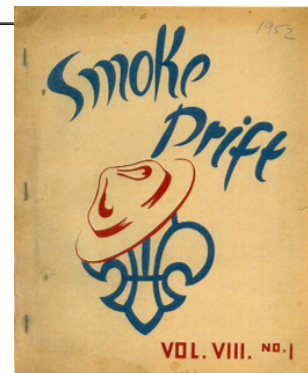
Ken Phelan



**Ewing Church cricketers at Central
Park 1939 Reg No 7176**

Smoke Drift 1st Malvern Scout Group newsletter

The Stonnington History Centre recently received a wonderful and quite extensive collection of newsletters from the 1st Malvern Scout Group, donated by former member Alan Wood. The 1st Malvern Scout Group was started by friends Roy McIndoe and Harry Coe in 1908, and is believed to be one of the oldest scout groups in Australia. It is not the longest-running, however, as it was temporarily disbanded around 1914 for a couple of years, for internal reasons. One of its first meeting rooms was in a loft in Winter Street, and later (in 1914) the loft of Frank Jenkins' house at 14 Sorrett Avenue. In 1922 the group met in the hall at St John's Church Finch Street East Malvern and then the Congregational Church in East Malvern, then from 1924-26 in the church hall in Epping Street. In 1926 it relocated to a barn at the rear of Councillor (and former Mayor) David Hyslop's house in Darling Road (from 1926 until 1953). In 1952 Malvern Council gave the 1st Malvern permission to build a hall in Belgrave Road, which was opened in 1953, and known to the Group as Hyslop Hall.



**Smoke Drift
Reg No 61197**



Smoke Drift, the group's annual newsletter, was published from 1938 to 1988 (with the exception of 1987). It was compiled by the Rover Crews, with contributions from the Cubs, Scouts, Rovers, Leaders and parents, including summaries of activities throughout the year, jokes, puzzles and drawings. It was reproduced at the Scout Hall initially using hand operated machines, such as a mimeograph machine (also called a roneograph or roneo machine), before photocopiers became common. Copies were distributed at the annual Christmas concerts. Thanks to this donation, the Stonnington History Centre now has a copy of most issues. A full set of *Smoke Drift* is held by the State Library of Victoria.

Simone Sharpe Stonnington History Centre

1st Malvern Scouts 7 April 1939 Reg No 60548 Photo includes Scout Russell, Patrol Leader Owen, Patrol Leader Burton Clay, with young scout, at the Easter hike in Ferntree Gully

So I've Heard: Oral recollections of Malvern



**Bruce McBrien,
St Kilda Cemetery 150th
Anniversary celebration
2005 Reg No: 9004**

The Malvern Historical Society has recently been awarded \$2,418.20 under the Public Record Office Victoria Local History Grants Program for their 'So I've Heard: Oral recollections of Malvern' project. The grant will be used to convert all the audio cassettes to digital format, thereby guaranteeing their permanent survival beyond the life expectancy of magnetic tape.

Many individuals have been interviewed over the years including members of local Malvern groups like the Malvern Harriers Athletics Club and mecwacare. The late Bruce McBrien, a former President of the Malvern Historical Society, is one of the people interviewed over the years. He is pictured planting a tree at the St Kilda Cemetery on the occasion of the cemetery's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2005. These interviews are as much about personalities and attitudes as they are about events and give a broad picture of twentieth century life. Topics covered include biographical details, schools, entertainment and Malvern during the War years and the Depression.

The Stonnington History Centre (a branch of the Stonnington Library Service) has also been offered a grant under the same program to assist with scanning

a local newspaper, the *Prahran Chronicle*, published from 1882-1919. The funding should allow the first 25 years of the paper to be copied. The paper will then be made available on Trove, where the *Prahran Telegraph* is already available for the years 1866-1909. Both of these important preservation projects will ensure the ongoing care of these historical sources and enhance access for future generations. The Malvern Historical Society would like to thank both the Public Record Office Victoria and the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria, for their support of local history in Stonnington.



Mulberry Heaven



Cr and Mrs Johnson and Cr Firman planting the cutting from the English Mulberry tree, outside Northbrook 1960 Reg No 5061

The Malvern Historical Society was delighted to receive an update from the UK and to hear that our Mulberry trees in Priory Park, Malvern, Worcestershire, are now released from their confining pots of compost. They are celebrating their new found freedom by bursting out in leaves. This all bodes well for the formal unveiling, planned for when they are further established in their final home, so far from Malvern, Australia where they were born as grandchildren of the original George Bernard Shaw tree in Malvern, U.K.

The Malvern Australia, Mulberry tree is now enormous and can be seen outside the front door of *Northbrook* (behind Malvern Library). You'll find out more about the story of the mulberry tree cuttings on the Stonnington History catalogue.

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

One of the Mulberry trees planted in the UK in 2014



Tales from the Courts

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

'Well, he seemed sober to me ...'

G Wrattan, landlord of the Council Hotel, Malvern, proceeded against for supplying liquor to Bernard Byers when the latter was intoxicated. Carl Byers deposed that his father was like a madman on the day in question. He said Mrs Wrattan had served Byers three or four glasses and also a bottle of beer. He was with difficulty taken to the Prahran watch house, in such a state of madness that it was found necessary to put a straight waistcoat upon him, which required three constables and four civilians. Mrs Wrattan said he was quite sober when in the hotel. Donald McRay gave corroborative evidence that Byers was like a madman. Mrs Byers stated that she cautioned Mrs Wrattan not to supply her son with drink but was met with abuse. The Bench severely reprimanded the defendant and fined him 4 pounds and costs.

Prahran Telegraph, 25 September 1880

Madame Patti given the run around

Theophilus Perry, a groom in livery, charged with being drunk and disorderly. The prisoner was engaged by Madame Patti to drive her home from the Opera House to her residence at the Esplanade, St Kilda but [he] was so intoxicated that he did not know where he was going and the lady, who was much frightened, was taken to Toorak and driven around in every direction, until rescued by the police. Perry was fined 20 shillings.

Prahran Telegraph, 18 September 1880

Geoff Currey

Trevor Hart

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of foundation member Trevor Hart. Trevor was an enthusiastic supporter of Malvern's local history for over forty years. He was instrumental in the formation of the Caulfield Historical Society and he had a wide range of history interests including the ANZ Bank archives and museum, the RHSV, the GSV, the Port Phillip Pioneers' Group and the Camberwell Historical Society. During his career he was an archivist at Camberwell Grammar School, the University of Melbourne Archives, Rio Tinto Business, Ruyton Girls' School and Eltham College. He was very knowledgeable on a wide range of history aspects, and his keen sense of humour was appreciated by all his friends and colleagues. Just weeks before his death, Trevor sent the MHS a copy of the 1911 booklet *Souvenir of Prahran and Malvern*, published by the Prahran & Malvern Tramways' Trust to celebrate the opening of the electric tram service in Prahran and Malvern.



Souvenir of Prahran and Malvern 1911 Reg No 5425

Jane Nigro Vice President

Taking Local History to the Community

Jelena Grozdic spoke with great enthusiasm about the PROV and included Malvern photos and records in her recent talk. Thank you to Sergeant Col Clausen for showing Jane N, David and Steve around the Malvern Police Station, prior to the renovations in the old cell area. In one section of the station, evidence was found of the early police residence. Lorraine and Jane N represented the MHS at the recent meeting of the Stonnington History Committee. Also present were Cr Claude Ullin, Tom Moloney - Community Representative, Indigenous History, Tim McKenna - Prahran Mechanics' Institute, Connie Gibbons - General Manager, Social Development, Tony Oulton - Manager, Leisure and Libraries, Dianne Panjari - Library Services Coordinator, David Tuck - Team Leader, Stonnington History Centre and Claire Thompson - Library Administration Officer.

The Year 1 class at Malvern Valley Primary School just loved finding their work in our last newsletter! We'd like to thank Steve Stefanopoulos who spoke on behalf of the MHS at the Royal Commonwealth Society luncheon in May. We're looking for the lady (Ruth?) who was in the audience for our February talk in the Malvern Town Hall and whose father, L A Cooke, was the Principal of Dandenong High School. The speaker would love her to give us a ring so he can make contact again (Contact Jane N - 0438 515 631)

The MHS has applied for a Stonnington Community Grant 2014/15 to cover the costs of a number of projects including designing and reprinting brochures, newsletter publishing, mounting displays and preparing displays of photos. Our second request is for funding for our 'Reading the news: scanning the Prahran Telegraph' project. The primary goal is to scan a further 2,500 pages of the local newspaper, covering approximately 6 years of the paper. Over the past two years, MHS has contributed \$8,000 to this ongoing project, but now has no further funds available for this work. If this application is successful, the entire run of this newspaper, 1866-1930, should be available online for our community and others by June 2015.

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

-Notes and photographs relating to interviews conducted with residents of Greek descent in Valetta Street, Malvern, donated by Anne Mancini who was responsible for the project.



-A notebook, two prayer books and a wallet belonging to Neill B Campbell donated by the Monbulk Historical Society

- Collection from the estate of Margaret Towl, a former student of Warwick Girls' School, donated by Elizabeth Blackett-Smith. The collection includes a Warwick prospectus (undated); school pin; school sports program (1940); school reports; newspaper cutting; school reports during Margaret's attendance at kindergarten 1938-1939, and for Form I, 1940, and Form II, 1941. There is also a program for a sports event held at Malvern Cricket Ground on the afternoon of Friday 11 October, 1940. Margaret Towl competed in some events for the Under 8s. The range of events included races such as: flat, egg and spoon, siamese (perhaps three-legged races), needle threading, sack, flag, skipping, flower-pot, ABC, obstacle, slow bicycle, scooter, and barrel.

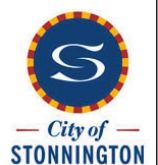
Warwick students running a stall at the Malvern Town Hall 1941 Reg No 993

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



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Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)

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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