

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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

August - September 2014 Newsletter No. 50

24 August Organ Concert in the Malvern Town Hall

Sunday 24 August 2014 2pm

Join members of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia — Victorian Division, local theatre organist Tony Fenelon and the Melbourne Detachment of the Navy Band, (an extremely versatile group of talented musicians), for a concert in the Malvern Town Hall.

More details: www.melbournetheatreorgan.com.au

Compton Organ 2014



30 August Pop-up Museum of Childhood Treasures

Saturday 30 August 2pm

Do you have a teddy bear, toy, photograph or other item from your childhood? You're invited to include them in our Malvern Historical Society Pop-up Museum of Childhood Treasures. Just bring in a childhood treasure, use materials provided to write a label and add it to the display. Enjoy seeing other people's items and sharing their stories. This very temporary display will last only a couple of hours!

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

**** Members Only Event **** RSVP: Lorraine 9885 9082



Joy Duckett c1924 Reg No 22907

20 September I've Been Wondering Why.....Bus Trip

Saturday 20 September 2pm - 4pm

Ever wondered who called Stonnington mansion in Glenferrie Road an 'ugly villa', where Victoria's first bowling green was or our local links to the first wireless, a convict, a bushranger, an Indian princess and Mothers' Day chrysanthemums? Find out the answers to these questions and many more on our Spring bus trip around Stonnington.

Numbers strictly limited.

Bookings essential

Members \$8 Non members \$12

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

The Rane of Pudukota c1920 Molly was the daughter of Mr. Theodore Fink and lived in Sorrett Avenue Malvern Reg No 521



History Matters The University of Melbourne Archives

Wednesday 1 October. Bookings open at 10.00am on 1 September. Learn more about the University of Melbourne Archives, one of Australia's largest non-government archival collections open for public research. Curator Katie Wood highlights material relating to the City of Stonnington. www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

Congratulations: 50 issues of Local History News!

Congratulations to the Malvern Historical Society on publishing their fiftieth edition of their fine newsletter. More than a government grant, more than a win in VCAT - nothing galvanises a local history group like its own newsletter. Few people attend committee meetings, but all members read the newsletter. And as anyone who has ever been involved in preparing such a beast can attest, there's a lot of focused endeavour needed to create such a relaxed and informative read. For this we can thank Jane Nigro, who has compiled the newsletter from the start.

David Tuck Team Leader, Stonnington History Centre

We'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in the production of the first fifty issues of Local History News, especially our writers, proof readers and deliverers! Thanks also to the Stonnington History Centre and the MBE Malvern staff for all they contribute towards making the newsletter so successful. Thank you to the City of Stonnington for their ongoing support.

Lorraine Sage President - Malvern Historical Society

Tales from the Courts

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

Gaol the only available option ...

Frank Perchard, vagrancy. The prisoner was brought to Prahran from Dandenong by some people who found him in the bush in a helpless condition. Upon arrival, a cabman allowed him to sleep in his cab. The following day he was found starving in the street; when in court, he appeared idiotic and the Bench sent him to gaol for three months in order that he might be taken care of. *Prahran Telegraph*, 11 September 1880

Alternatively 'Out of sight ...'

Louisa Kingston, charged with having no visible means of support. She was seen in Chapel street in such a condition from the effects of drink and old age that she could hardly walk. She said she came from Woodend and had nowhere to go. The magistrates advised her to leave the neighbourhood.

Prahran Telegraph, 11 September 1880

Hear no evil ... or else

Bernard Byers, charged with disgraceful conduct, making use last Sunday of disgusting language in the hearing of people coming out of the Malvern Independent Church. Fined one pound or 14 days imprisonment and warned that for a like offence the highest penalty the law allowed would be inflicted.

Prahran Telegraph, 11 September 1880

Geoff Currey

The Malvern City Hall Organ

The Malvern 3/17 Compton organ was originally installed in 1930 in the Paramount Astoria Theatre, in the Old Kent Road in London. The console, featuring 5 ranks, was purchased in 1966 and transported to Australia. Organs have several sets of pipes. Each set of pipes is called a 'rank', which can make different sounds. The Theatre Organ Society of Australia (Victorian Division) acquired the organ in 1969 and in 1974 three further ranks were purchased, along with the traps unit - drums, cymbals and effects.

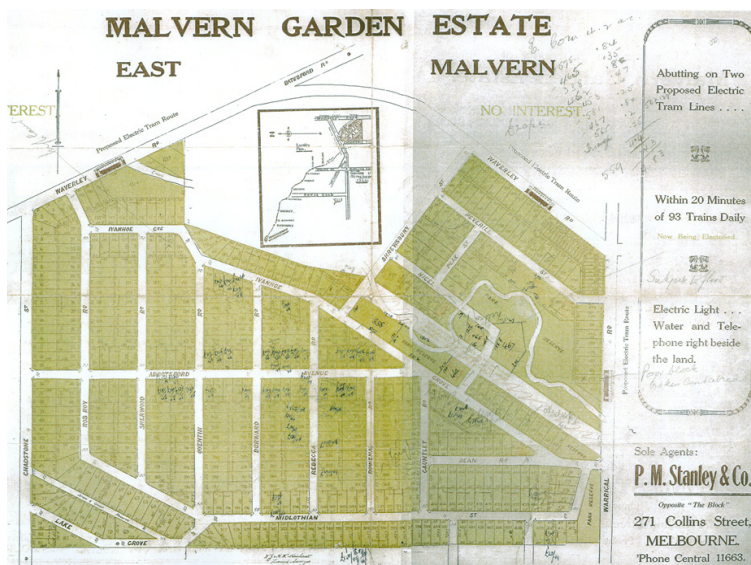
Between 1985 and 1992, extra ranks were added, including a rank of wooden tibia clausa pipes from the St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne organ which was undergoing refurbishment at the time. A xylophone, chimes, and a very rare harp celeste were also added during this period. By the time the organ was installed in the Malvern Town Hall, the number of ranks had climbed to 15. The organ was first played in the Malvern Town Hall in July 1992, and since then has had the following additions: a rank of Saxophone pipes, a rank of Vox Humana pipes, a Chinese gong and a Mirimba Harp.

melbtheatreorgan@gmail.com



Eva from Dubai and local girl Elsie enjoy the magnificent pipe organ as part of Open House Melbourne, with City of Kingston organist Scott Harrison. 2014

Sir Walter Scott in Malvern East?



Land between Chadstone and Warrigal Roads, south of Waverley Road, was subdivided in 1920, creating the Malvern Garden Estate in East Malvern. Many of the streets in this subdivision were named in honour of Sir Walter Scott, including Abbotsford (Scott's residence), Ivanhoe, Midlothian, Peverill, Peak, Gauntlet, Rob Roy, Quentin and Durward (his novels), and Rebecca and Rowena (main characters). As Waverley was Scott's first novel, it is possible that these other names were chosen in keeping with the theme established by the re-naming of Scotchman's Creek Road as Waverley Road in 1872. If you know who chose these names, and/or why they reference Scott, please contact the Stonnington History Centre.

Malvern Garden Estate 1922 Reg No 601

Memories of the Milkman



(First published in *Torch*, the newsletter of East Malvern RSL, in 1988)

'For some five or six years now, the dairy in Darling Road (East Malvern) has been an eyesore. Although this property was sold some time ago the site has been a great bone of contention, Council wrangling etc. and conjecture has been rife as to what would eventually take its place - town houses, flats or a nice little park for devoted parents to walk their small children. I strolled through the precincts of the 'now in the process of being demolished' dairy the other day and was delighted to see the original old stables, the bluestone pitchers, two forges, no doubt used for shoeing horses, and some of the milkman's horses' names chalked on the stable walls — Bessie, Daisy and Bobby are some that come to mind.

**Cranbourne Dairy Darling Road East Malvern
1937 Reg No 5083**

The memory of the 'milko' and his horse and cart, clip clopping through the early morning, returned me to the past when, just after the Second World War, I occasionally took a fine young lady, who lived in the vicinity of the Malvern Town Hall, to a movie or a dance and after taking her home to her front door (being an ex-serviceman my deferred pay did not run to a car) we would discuss politics or world affairs (rubbish at one or two in the morning). Then deciding to depart I would take my long walk home up and down High Street to Upper Glen Iris. Often near Finch Street, Edgar Street, Belmont Avenue or Osborne Avenue I would meet the milkman and offer pleasantries and enjoy a drink of lovely cold milk. Yes, nostalgia is such, and even if we now have flavoured milk, Rev or Skinny, the days of the billy can (a quart or a pint please milkman) come to mind when I see and hear the bulldozer and demolition experts at work'.

Rex E. Walsh East Malvern

The dairy buildings were demolished in 1988 and Dairy Park was established on the site by the City of Malvern.

Glenburn

In 1891, a brick house of fourteen rooms with stables, was erected for Samuel King, in Elm Road on the corner of York Road, Glen Iris. King, a successful boot manufacturer, was a prominent member of the Methodist Church. In 1894 King sold the property to Wesleyan minister, Rev Edwin Watkin. In 1897 the house, named *Glenburn*, was purchased by R. Campbell Edwards for £2,150. Edwards, a tea merchant who dealt in real estate, was a well-known member of the Church of Christ. In 1908, following a generous offer made by Edwards, the property was purchased by the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ, for £1,500. From 1910, Glenburn on 4 1/2 acres with a frontage to Gardiners Creek became the new College of the Bible providing accommodation and facilities for students. In 1940, the Chown Memorial Chapel was opened. The College of the Bible offered theological education and ministerial training and in 1974 the name Glenburn was changed to Campbell Edwards House.

The College of the Bible site was purchased by the Road Construction Authority in 1987 and two years later the College relocated due to the construction of the South-Eastern Arterial Road Link. Malvern Council purchased the property from the RCA in 1989 and the following year offered a lease to the Elm Road Artists Group, which was refused. Twenty-six artists were working at Elm Road including painters, sculptors and ceramicists. The property was sold to MECWA in 1993, and all buildings except Glenburn were demolished. Glenburn was destroyed by fire in 1999 and MECWA owned buildings now occupy the site.



**The College of the Bible, Elm Road, Glen Iris
c1918 Reg No 1794**

Guide to Victorian Aboriginal records

A new guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria, *Walata Tyamateetj*, which means 'carry knowledge' in the Gunditjmara language of western Victoria, is now available. *Walata Tyamateetj* is a detailed listing of Aboriginal public records held in Victoria. This guidebook hopes to improve access to government records about Aboriginal people, families, communities and culture. <http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/walata-tyamateetj>

Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months enquiries have been received relating to a coach builder's elaborate wooden ceiling in a home in Finch Street, Glen Iris, Clarice Parker and a house *Glenerie* in Cromwell Road, Hawksburn, early brands of bicycles, Reg Walsh who attended Malvern Grammar, Thomas Dealy Bruce, a market gardener c1900, who owned land close to Chadstone Road, Malvern East, architect Howard Lawson, the lamp posts in the Hedgeley Dene Gardens and *Maescelyn*, 18 Mercer Road Malvern, the home of Edward and Margaret Rigby (nee Glass) around 1913-1924.

Heather, a descendant of early Malvern settler James McAlpine, recently travelled to the island of Islay, the southern most island of the Inner Hebrides of Scotland, where James spent his early years. We were asked about an unsigned painting framed by the Savona Art Co of 216 High St Malvern for a Miss Kene of 2A Glendearg Grove Malvern. We have had a number of enquiries about the old East Malvern police station. One researcher is writing a book about the shooting murder in 1952 of Constable George Howell, who was stationed there. Information has been sought on a house in Rushmead Street, Malvern, the Malvern real estate agent, Elliott Cairnes, *Shipleigh House*, South Yarra, *Weeroona* in Waverley Rd East Malvern, *Green Gables*, on the corner of Waverley Road and Green Gables Avenue Malvern East and Francis and Hilda Hudd. There is a record relating to Vera Hudd having a small haberdashery shop on the corner of Wattletree and Tooronga Roads, Malvern for many years.

We received a request for information about George Holman Williams (1833-1918) who once lived at 659 Toorak Road. He was living there in 1878 with his wife Annie Pearce (1845-1915) and their six children, the eldest of whom, Robert George Pearce Williams, was born in 1864. George Holman Williams was a baker and they were still at that address in 1903.

Other enquiries have related to weatherboard houses lost in the widening of Dandenong Road Malvern in the 1980s, Mell Street, Toorak, Winston Private Hospital in Burke Road Malvern East, tennis clubs that were operating in the South Yarra/Prahran area in 1945 and the Morgan family. The Morgan family lived at 10 Baldwin Street, Armadale, *Horeland*, Darling Road Malvern East and Stuart Street Armadale. At one time they were listed as Morgan Brothers Produce Merchants, 17 High St, Malvern. Local resident Elizabeth shared memories relating to the time when her family were living in the original E.S. & A. bank on the south east corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street Malvern, opposite the Malvern Town Hall. Her father was the last manager before the original bank building was pulled down in 1958.



**Williams' bakery in Toorak Road
Toorak Road c1906 Reg No 7347**



**E.S. & A. Bank, corner of High Street and Glenferrie
Road, Malvern 1907 Reg No 8061**



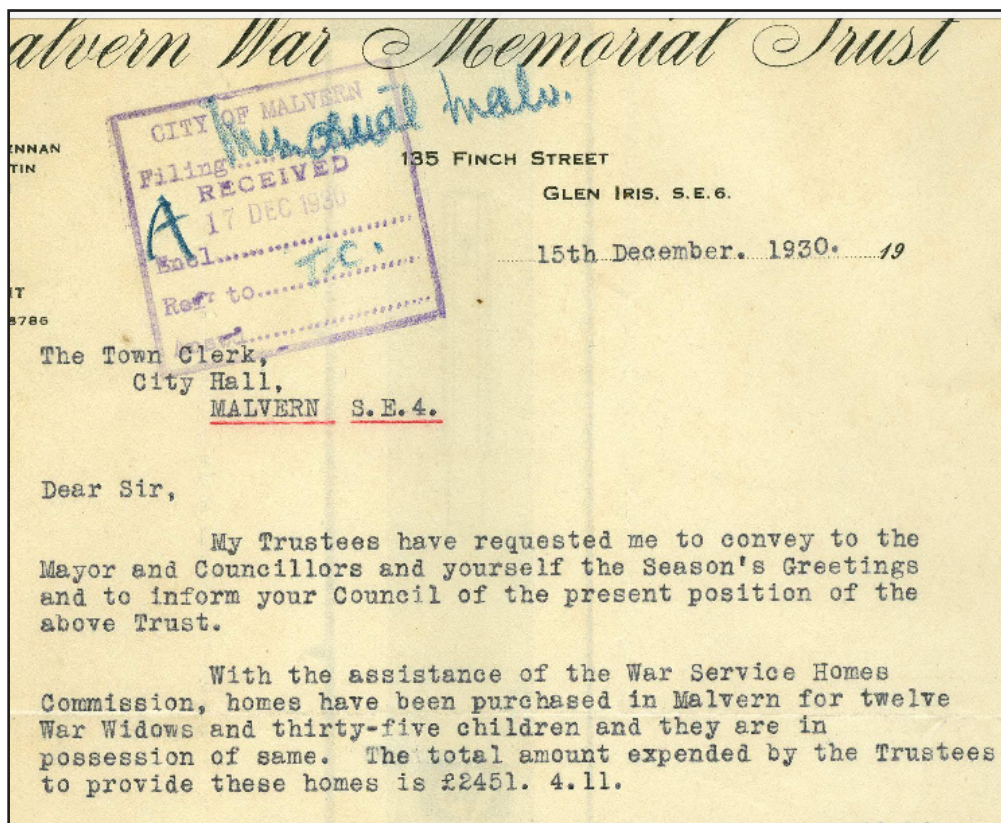
Malvern Mayoral Ball 1941 Reg No 5194

Marjorie, one of our members, remembers W. Bruce who was mentioned in an earlier newsletter. 'W. Bruce the builder lived on the corner of Wattletree Road and what we used to call Lower Malvern Road. The Bruce family were friends of my Mum and Dad and every year a number of our Malvern family friends camped on the foreshore at Rosebud West and amongst the hoard of kids we played with were Jim Bruce, (J.J) and Bill Bruce who was about my age. (I was born in 1926) We had a permanent booking as the Malvern Camp. Jim eventually partnered my sister Norma at the 1941 Malvern Mayoral Ball and then they started going out together until sadly my dear sister was killed in an accident. Jim joined the army as a Sapper (Engineer) but kept in touch with us for a long time.

**Thank you to Simone, Ellen and David for enthusiastically
handling all the enquiries!**

Malvern War Memorial Trust - Can You Help?

The Stonnington History Centre records show that after World War One the Malvern Council made the decision to support the building of homes for war widows rather than a memorial hall or such like. A letter from the Malvern War Memorial Trust to Malvern Council dated 15 December 1930 reports that homes have been purchased in Malvern for twelve war widows and 35 children. The Stonnington History Centre records do not indicate where these houses were located. They are not discussed in J.B. Cooper's *History of Malvern*. If you have any information relating to the Malvern War Memorial Trust or where the Trust homes were in Malvern, please contact the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360



Memories of 'An Old Timer'

Extract from Malvern News Sheet History 1980

I was born in the front bedroom of a house in Barkly Avenue, Malvern on 10.1.1908 and am now 72 years. I remember when peace was declared in 1919, I was eleven years old at the time and everybody went mad that night. They marched abreast the full width of Glenferrie Road, seeing how how much noise they could make. There were single track trams there at that time and one came along trying to get through the crowd but about 100 people pulled the pole off the wire and rocked the tram until it was derailed. The steel poles holding the overhead wire for the trams were all in the centre of the road. My Dad worked for the Malvern City Council for 49 years and retired about 1932 and he told me when I was very young that Angliss the butcher had a slaughter house where the Malvern railway is now and Woodmason Dairy used to run a herd of cattle around their dairy at Malvern. Williams Nursery was on the corner of Barkly Avenue, and Glenferrie Road, and on the corner of Llaneast Street, a Dr. Wills used to have a big house with a row of huge pine trees across the front. Speaking of pines, there was a chap called 'Tiger' Kelly who used to chop all trees round Malvern and he was good at his work and pretty to watch as he only carried a hand saw and about four razor-sharp axes with him. My father also told me that the oldest shop in Glenferrie Road, was or is on the south west corner of Wattletree Road. I think Moran & Cato ran a grocery shop there as far back as I can remember. Behind Williams Nursery there was Coughlin's Dairy, who used to break their wild horses into the milk carts on the streets, and milk was always delivered in a billy left on the front porch. There are other memories I have and I could ramble on but I am no writer.



Williams Nursery owned by Walter Webley, south corner of Glenferrie Road and Barkly Street Malvern 1922 Reg No 2657

Anon. 1980

New Members

We would like to welcome our latest new members **Karen Monette and Pauline Loakes**

Taking Local History to the Community



The MHS were very happy to support the City of Stonnington and the Stonnington History Centre when the Malvern Town Hall and Northbrook were open during the *Open House Melbourne* weekend. We'd like to thank Glenys, Francesca, Anne, Karen, Alex, Lorraine, Bronwyn, Gregor, Jane B, Pat, Charles, Denis, Robin, Neil, Janine, Heather, Sammi, Margaret, Roxanne, John, Fay and Jane N for volunteering enthusiastically. We also enjoyed working with Stonnington Brass, who had their home in the Northbrook stables open for the weekend and the Theatre Organ Society of Australia — Victorian Division who filled the main hall with music throughout the weekend. A special thank you to Stonnington Council's Ninetta Innocca and Natasha Milton who looked after all the volunteers so well over the weekend.

MHS volunteers Sammi, Neil, Robin and Heather, Malvern Town Hall 2014

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Information and scanned copies of photographs relating to the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust donated by Ron Scholten
- Local residents recently alerted us to the advertisement on the wall of 871 Dandenong Road Malvern East



Country scene, Mason Motors advertisement 2014



Mason Motors advertisement, 871 Dandenong Road Malvern East 2014



Laying tram tracks, Dandenong Road Armadale 1911 Reg No 1616

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
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Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)

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The Malvern Historical Society Inc is a member of the Stonnington History Committee, an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, a member of the South Metro History Group and has been appointed by the Public Record Office of Victoria as a Place of Deposit for non-permanent public records.

OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS

Stonnington History Centre, Email: history@stonnington.vic.gov.au Tel: 8290 1360 www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history
Prahran Historical and Arts Society, P.O. Box 8649, Armadale VIC 3143 Tel: 9529 7442 www.vicnet.net.au/~phas