

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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

October - November 2014

Newsletter No. 51

## 9 November Hedgeley Dene Gardens Walk

Sunday 9 November, 2pm

Join the Malvern Historical Society members for a walk through the Hedgeley Dene Gardens and surrounding streets.

Members: Gold Coin Non-members: \$5 (+ optional \$5 for Walk Book)

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Edward Buckland, Hedgeley Dene Gardens gardener. Undated. Reg No 12220



## 26 November Visit to the Victorian Telecommunications Museum

Wednesday 26 November, 10.30am

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society when we visit the Victorian Telecommunications Museum - Telstra Museum in Hawthorn. The museum display includes telecommunications equipment that was originally used by the former Postmaster-General's Department. Highlights of the interactive tour includes seeing telephone exchange equipment in action, the original Speaking Clocks and operating manual switchboards.

375 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn The tour takes one and a half hours.  
Bookings essential: Lorraine 9885 9082 Cost: \$5.00  
Bookings close Tues 18 Nov. Numbers strictly limited.



Neta Williamson at the Kooyong low vision clinic 1951 Reg No 60661

It is recommended that you use Public Transport. Parking is for one hour only around Burwood and Glenferrie Roads. The museum is close to both the Glenferrie Road tram and Glenferrie station.

## City of Stonnington Community Grant

The Malvern Historical Society would like to thank the City of Stonnington for our City of Stonnington 2014/2015 Community Grant. The grant will cover the hiring of a meeting room in the Malvern Town Hall for our February meeting and will provide funds for the copying of display photos, reprinting of brochures and puzzles, costs associated with the updating of the MHS website and the production of our bi-monthly newsletter.

## My Stonnington Home Research Portfolio gift vouchers

Ever wondered who walked the hallway floorboards before you?  
Or maybe you'd like to know the year that your house was built, and whether it has ever been extended?

The Stonnington History Centre can answer all these questions and more with the My Stonnington Home Research Portfolio. Using the material in its collection, the Centre can compile a dossier on the history of residential and commercial Stonnington properties. Each portfolio contains a summary report and copies of historic documents, including photographs or building plans if available.

Gift certificates are now available.

To find out more visit [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) or 8290 1360. This service costs \$250.00 and requires a minimum of 3 months notice.



1 Darling Road East Malvern 1974  
Reg No 13498

## Stonnington Library Displays

On 22 June 1994, the City of Malvern and the City of Prahran were amalgamated to form the City of Stonnington. It is named after one of its most famous mansions, *Stonington*, in Glenferrie Road, Malvern. This grand building was erected in 1890 as a private residence for John and Mary Wagner. It was named after Mary's birthplace, a city in Connecticut, USA. The mansion later served as the Vice-Regal residence for Victoria's Governors, during which time the spelling was changed to *Stonnington*. The residence has reverted to its original name, while the City has kept the unusual spelling.



**First Stonnington Council Meeting  
1996 Reg No 14099**

The City of Stonnington is contained within a combination of natural and man-made boundaries, being the Yarra River, Gardiners Creek, Warrigal Road, Dandenong Road, and Punt Road; an area of 25.62 square kilometres. The logo, which features two interlocking celebratory ribbons forming the letter 'S', represents the coming together of the two municipalities, and was adopted in 1995. The first election for the City of Stonnington was held on 16 March 1996, followed by the first meeting of the Council on 19 March 1996.

The City has witnessed many changes in its first twenty years. Some historic buildings have been transformed into vibrant public venues, such as Chapel Off Chapel in one of the City's oldest churches. *Northbrook* now houses the Stonnington History Centre, which holds the archives of the former municipalities, and is a recognised place of repository. Many facilities have been revamped, including the municipality's two public pools, all four public libraries, and sporting pavilions. A new emphasis on the environment has seen the revegetation of parts of the Yarra River bank as part of the Yarra River Biodiversity Project, improvements in the Tooronga Road Depot, and solar panels installed on some Council buildings.

The current displays in the Stonnington libraries relate to the 20th anniversary of the formation of the City of Stonnington in 1994. Each of the displays explores different aspects of the history, such as: the logos on stationery, crockery and clothing (Prahran crest to Stonnington logo, and Malvern crest to gargoyle to Stonnington logo); municipal and ward boundaries; and redevelopment of Council services. They will be on view in the libraries until December.

**Simone Sharpe Stonnington Local History Officer**

## Malvern Mulberry Tree Ambassador, Di Foster!

Malvern Historical Society member Di Foster recently visited Priory Park, Great Malvern, UK and met up with Friends of Malvern Springs and Wells members Cora Weaver and Bruce Osborne. The Friends are an independent voluntary group which promotes research, conservation and celebration of the Springs, Spouts, Fountains and Holy Wells of the Malvern Hills and of Great Malvern as a Spa Town. Di was able to see the recently planted George Bernard Shaw Mulberry tree replacement. We have been following the progress of this small tree since 2009 when it arrived in the UK. At that time it was one of six cuttings taken from the Mulberry tree growing in front of *Northbrook*, home of the Stonnington History Centre, which had been planted as a cutting from the original Priory Park tree in 1960.



## Malvern East Police Station



**13 Chanak Street Malvern East.**

The Malvern East Police Station at 13 Chanak Street was known as the Caulfield East Police Station until 1902. It stayed at this address until January 1936 when it was relocated to 265 Dandenong Road, Malvern East. 13 Chanak was later converted into two brick villa-flats. The Sergeant lived on the premises while some of the young policemen boarded in the house opposite so there was no excuse for them being late to work! A number of Sergeants and their families lived at the police station with Sgt F Jordan (1902-1910), Sgt Arthur Dawkins (approx 1926-1930) and Sgt Arthur Claud Welch (1931-1934) being three of the long term residents. If anyone has any stories, information or photos relating to the Malvern East Police Station when it was in Chanak Street or Dandenong Road, please contact Nikki on 0423 116340 or nikkijcooper@hotmail.com.

## Stonnington Research Enquiries



**Conservatory Central Park Malvern East  
c1970s reg No 57262**

During the past few months enquiries have been received from: Gardening Australia requesting information on Central Park, Burke Road, Malvern East; from a member of the Albury & District Historical Society requesting information relating to Abraham Nathan, who lived in Prahran, Albury and later in Wagga and from Don Osborne who is writing a book on the shooting murder of Constable George Howell, who was stationed at the East Malvern Police Station in 1952. One researcher is looking for a photo of Harold Tippet, an Australian officer who died as a result of service on Gallipoli during WWI.

We were asked about the: toll gate in High Street, close to Gardiners Creek; the Coonil Estate subdivision; the

naming of Malvern and Waverley Roads in Malvern East; whether there are any photos of the original hotel where the Angel Tavern now stands in Dandenong Road Malvern; if there are records relating to marriages in Armadale in 1945; and house details were requested for properties in Rushmead Street, Malvern, Albion Street, South Yarra (1863 - 1888) and Finch Street, Glen Iris. An American researcher made contact requesting information relating to an obituary for William Cameron Nimmo who died in Malvern in 1922.

A local resident sent photos of a gazebo in the garden of 2-4 Myrnong Crescent, Toorak. He is hoping that someone will know something about its history. 2-4 Myrnong Crescent was built for Mrs A. H. Page, with A. G. Oliver shown as the designer and builder. There is no date on the plans for the house in the Stonnington History Centre.

We were recently asked whether we had any photos of the interior of *Stonington*, Glenferrie Road, Malvern to help with the identification of a piece of furniture. It is believed that a member of the Markille family purchased the piece in the photo when *Stonington* ceased to be the Governor's residence. The piece of furniture was in the Malvern Hill Hotel when the Schrader family moved in around 1964.

Bob, a cycling enthusiast, contacted the society to enquire about the details he'd found on an old racing bike dating from 1935 - 1940. It has a painted brand "Eastern Star" and an original transfer label saying 'Built By C.Cramer, Malvern Rd Toorak'. This was a manufactured waterslide transfer so obviously there was an established business in Malvern Road, whereas painted labels can be at the whim of the owner. Bob intends to return the bike to running condition including replacing the wooden rims that have been totally eaten hollow by termites!

**Thanks to the Stonnington History Centre staff, Ellen, Simone and David for handling all the enquiries.**



**Gazebo, 2-4 Myrnong Crescent  
Toorak 2014**



**Furniture from Markille's Malvern  
Hill Hotel**

## Glendearg Malvern Tennis Club.

A new local tennis club has recently been formed. The Glendearg All Saints Malvern Tennis Club, is a result of the merging of the Glendearg Malvern Club and the All Saints East Malvern Tennis Club. The All Saints East Malvern Tennis Club was formed in 1921 and was located next to All Saints Anglican Church on the corner of Darling Road and Olive Street in East Malvern. It operated from the Olive Street courts from 1921, including time in the 1950s under the guidance and Presidency of the legendary Len Pratt. The sale of the All Saints Church and courts last year forced the tennis club to look for new facilities. The Glendearg Malvern Tennis Club has occupied their site (hidden away at the rear of 256 Wattle tree Road Malvern, close to Tooronga Road) since the 1940s. Do you know of anyone who may have any photos relating to these early tennis clubs? Just let the Stonnington History Centre staff know on 82901360



**Partly completed new clubhouse for the Glendearg  
Malvern All Saints Tennis Club 2014 (John Richards)**

## **'An excellent bowling green' at the Gardiner Hotel, Malvern Hill 1862**

It is believed that Malvern had the first bowling green in Victoria, on the corner of Glenferrie Road and Dandenong Road. The Gardiner Hotel, on the main road between Melbourne and Gippsland, was a well known hotel in the early days. Its licensee was a noted Melbourne cricketer, William Greaves. The hotel became popular as a resort for huntsmen and all-round sportsmen and was where Greaves formed the first successful bowling club in the suburbs of Melbourne. He placed an advertisement in the sporting paper "Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle" in 1862. It read 'WILLIAM GREAVES begs to thank his sporting friends for the patronage he has enjoyed during the three months he has been in the GARDINER HOTEL, MALVERN HILL and to inform them that he has at considerable expense made a very excellent bowling green which he believes to be the only one in the colony. Every facility will be afforded gentlemen who are desirous of practice at cricket, bowls or pigeon shooting. The Gardiner Hotel is about a mile from the Chapel Street Station, Prahran, and there is a good road all the way. There is also an excellent stock of wines and spirits'.

There was also a related article in the same issue which noted "Several attempts have been made during the last two years in the suburbs of Melbourne to initiate a bowling club, but owing to the difficulty and expense of preparing a green, they have not been successful. "As smooth as a bowling green" is a common expression in England, and without a perfection of smoothness the game cannot be played with enjoyment. We are glad to see an announcement in our advertising columns that William Greaves, the cricketer, has succeeded in making a first class 'green' in close proximity to his house, the Gardiner Hotel, in Malvern Hill. He already has fifteen members of the bowling club, and as his hotel is within an easy distance of the Chapel Street Station, we have no doubt but the patronage he will receive from the lovers of the gentle game during the ensuing summer will remunerate him for his outlay.'

## **John G. Heywood**

A great great grandson of John G. Heywood recently contacted the Society. Heywood had a long association with the district. The Wattle Tree Inn, erected prior to October 1854 on 10 acres of land fronting present day Wattletree Road, Malvern, included eight rooms with stables. The hotel hosted the first elections for the Gardiner Road Board (later Malvern Council) and was also the venue for the first meetings of the Board in November 1856. The hotel's first licensee was Thomas Griffiths in 1855, followed in 1861 by John George Heywood, who was largely responsible for the establishment of the Caulfield Race Course. Racehorses were stabled at the inn and trained on the sandy land. The hotel was a popular meeting place for hunt clubs, whose prey included foxes, hares, kangaroos, dingoes and deer.

John Heywood later became the publican of the Turf Club Hotel. The original hotel was a weatherboard single-storey building built in 1871 in Dandenong Road, East Malvern, opposite the entrance to Caulfield Racecourse. Heywood was the hotel's publican until the turn of the century. The early timber hotel was replaced by a two storey brick building in 1923. Dan Murphy's took over the hotel building in 1994 and it was later demolished.

Heywood was active in the local community. He was a member of the Gardiner Road Board / Malvern Shire Council from 1869 to 1889. He was Chairman in 1870, the first President of the Shire in 1871 and again in 1881-1883.

**Gardiner Chairman and President, Cr John George Heywood c1881 Reg no 625**



## **Wanted!**



Over thirty years ago the north side of Dandenong Road in Malvern, between Glendearg Grove and Tooronga Road, was widened and a 2.3m noise wall was constructed. Forty houses, numbered 701-779, were demolished. Do you have a photo of any of the houses in Dandenong Road?

**Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360**

**Hansoms and four wheeler cabs in Dandenong Road Malvern after the races c1890 Reg No 710**

## Malvern's link to wireless transmission history



An important event in Malvern Town Hall's history occurred in 1924 when the Mayor, Councillor C. J. Waters, J.P. was invited to open a Begonia Flower Show by 'wireless'. The occasion was a notable one in the history of wireless transmission in Australia. The method employed to open the show was through wireless waves of telephonic sound. The Mayor declared the Begonia Show open by speaking into a wireless microphone at Ferncroft Avenue, East Malvern, in the home of Mr. Howard K. Love, the President of the Wireless Institute of Australasia. The Mayor's message was immediately transmitted to the Town Hall. His voice was heard by those present at the flower show through the medium of a loud speaker. It was the first time in Australia that the wireless telephone had been used in that way.

Cr Charles Waters, Mayor, City of Malvern 1923 Reg No 646

## Additional Diary Dates including Stonnington Heritage Walks - History Week 2014

**Sunday 19 October** The Ephemera Society of Australia's next fair will be held at the Camberwell Civic Centre in the Camberwell Library Complex. 10am - 3pm. For more details contact Amanda 9428 8023

**Saturday 18 October Dairies and Farms in Malvern East Walk**

Meet at Dairy Park, Darling Rd, Malvern East

**Sunday 26 October 20th Century Toorak Mansions Walk**

Meet outside Malvern Hill Hotel, cnr Glenferrie & Malvern Rds, Toorak

Time: 2:00 – 4:00pm. Cost per walk: Adult \$20, Seniors/MHS/PHAS/National Trust members \$15 (includes 40+ page walk book) For more information /bookings contact Steve Stefanopoulos 0418 546 103 <http://stonningtonheritage.tumblr.com>

## World War I research project at the History Centre

The History Centre has commissioned Helen Doyle to write a history of the impact of World War I on life in Malvern and Prahran. Helen started researching this in August, and hopes to have the work completed early in the new year. It will be a brisk canter to the finish line! The local newspapers – all now available online using the Trove search engine – will be an obvious primary source. These papers have been available for many years on microfilm, but of course you couldn't keyword search them, and they were difficult to navigate and hard on the eyes. Enter the brave new digital world!

Helen has also been using the various databases and websites dedicated to WWI themes that have sprung into existence lately, including the AIF Project website, the Anzacs website, and the Grave Secrets website. Then there are those hardy perennials to be explored -- the websites of the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia. These online resources sites have been useful in profiling from a broad perspective the men and women of Malvern and Prahran who served in World War I. Who were they, and where did they come from? What were their religious affiliations? Which brigades did they join? Helen reports that there are two parallel streams emerging to the research, which are integrally connected: (a) profiling those who joined up, and (b) examining the impact in the Cities of Malvern and Prahran of all manner of things concerning the war, the war effort and wartime conditions.

She is attempting to construct a detailed picture of people, organisations, charities, wartime activities, local council activities, and 'notable' incidents relating to the period 1914-1918 within the Cities of Malvern and Prahran. So far, evidence of patriotism and loyalty is much more clearly evident than that of opposition to the war and to conscription, though it is likely – but as yet unfounded – that some of the primary docs are not painting a full picture of goings-on. More progress next issue!

David Tuck, Stonnington History Centre



'Presented by the Council on behalf of The Citizens of the City of Malvern, as a tribute to the memory of H. McCarthy, and appreciation of the great sacrifice in giving him to his country in the Great War 1914-1919. Signed and sealed by the Mayor (L. Holmes) and Town Clerk (F. Hughes) 'Reg No 9817

## Taking Local History to the Community

Our September bus trip 'I've Been Wondering Why' was enjoyed by everyone. We're hoping to include many of the fascinating stories we heard in upcoming newsletters. The Malvern Historical Society recently hosted a meeting of the South Metro history group. The St Kilda, Middle Park, Brighton, Moorabbin, Glen Eira, Port Melbourne and Sandringham historical societies were all represented at the meeting.

Lorraine and Jane N attended City of Stonnington's Heads Up seminar 'Social media and non-profits'. Jane N spoke to the Camberwell Historical Society about the history of Malvern. A range of our local history books are on sale at Jeffreys Books, 140 Glenferrie Road Malvern 9509 5133 [info@jeffreysbooks.com.au](mailto:info@jeffreysbooks.com.au) Jane N had the opportunity to share copies of *Back When* and *Amazing History Amazing Stonnington* with the Grade 3 class at St Roch's Glen Iris.

Thanks to David Hurford and Barry O'Sullivan who recently arranged for our 'Gardiner Hotel, Malvern Hill 1862' article to be added to the Malvern Bowls Club website (<http://www.malvernbowls.com.au>) under the 'Our History' tab. The City of Stonnington Walking for Pleasure Schedule: Heart Foundation Walking Program can be viewed via: [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/sport](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/sport)



South Metro history group meeting at Malvern 2014

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Series of 24 photos of the East Malvern Tennis Club (c1984) showing the club rooms, courts and adjacent land.



East Malvern Tennis Club c1984  
Reg No 61233

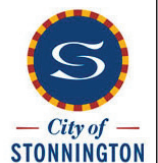
- Copy of *The First Decade: East Malvern Combined Probus Club Inc 2004-2014* (including a concise history of the Chadstone Men's Probus Club 1983-2012) by Rudi Griss, Club Historian. Donated by the East Malvern Combined Probus Club.
- Copy of *Celebrating Springs of The Malvern Hills 2012* donated by the authors Bruce Osborne and Cora Weaver.
- *The Gardener's Gamble: a Social History of Australia Through the Dawson Family* Helen Laidlaw, Cedar Ridge Books, Kiama, N.S.W. 2010. John Dawson was a Lincolnshire gardener and the book follows the story of John, his wife Mary and their nine children after settlement. The history includes chapters on Charlotte (nee Dawson) and her husband, William Busby Jones and their home *Brocklesby* in Malvern.

### 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  
300 Waverley Road, East Malvern  
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[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)