

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! December 2014 - January 2015 Newsletter No. 52

20 January The Olives and Arama Estates Glen Iris Walk

Tuesday 20 January 7pm

(Within the area bounded by Wattletree Road, Tooronga Road, High Street and Burke Road, Glen Iris)

Join Malvern Historical Society members for a walk around the Olives and Arama Estates in Glen Iris.

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

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 All welcome!



Gertrude Ransom and daughter Marjory, The Olives, Wattletree Road East Malvern c1930 Reg no 6606

19 February Dr Ross McMullin "Pompey Elliott"

Thursday 19 February 7.30pm

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

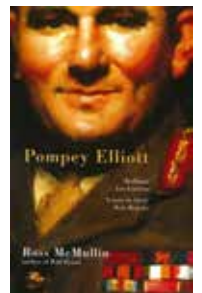
Ross McMullin, a historian and researcher at the University of Melbourne, has researched and written extensively about the impact on Australia of its involvement in the First World War.

Harold 'Pompey' Elliot was a remarkable Australian. During the Great War he was a charismatic, controversial and outstandingly successful commander. An accomplished tactician and 'the bravest of the brave', he was renowned for never sending anyone anywhere he was not prepared to go himself. His tempestuousness generated a host of 'Pompey' anecdotes that amused his men and disconcerted his superiors. Ross McMullin's outstanding award winning biography, Pompey Elliott, published in 2002, received a MUP Award for literature and a FAW Christina Stead Award.

This is a free event. Supper will be served

Bookings essential. Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Malvern Town Hall Cnr Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern (Upstairs Foyer - lift available)



25 February Tooronga Closer Settlement Estate, Glen Iris Walk

Wednesday 25 February 7pm

(Within the area bounded by Tooronga Road, Malvern Road, Burke Road and Gardiners Creek in Glen Iris)

Join Malvern Historical Society members for a walk around the Tooronga Closer Settlement Estate.

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

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings essential.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 All welcome!



Malvern Baths 1927 Reg No 329

Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your ongoing support to the Society over the last twelve months. During the year we had a number of interesting and exciting activities which have been supported by you all. Wishing you a happy and fulfilling New Year for 2015. Look forward to welcoming you all to our various activities during 2015.

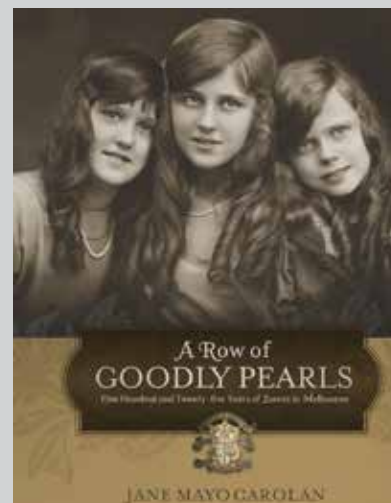
Lorraine Sage, President 9885 9082

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years of Loreto in Melbourne

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak is celebrating 125 years since the foundation of the first Loreto School in Melbourne. To mark this special year, *A Row of Goodly Pearls: One Hundred and Twenty-five Years of Loreto in Melbourne*, has been written by professional historian Jane Mayo Carolan. It is an intriguing history from 1889 covering many stories of kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary education for young women and men.

From their first Australian foundation in Ballarat, Loreto schools were established in Melbourne: Our Lady of the Angels, Albert Park (1889), Saints Peter and Paul's School, South Melbourne (1891), Central Catholic [Teachers'] Training College, Albert Park (1906), Loreto Free Kindergarten, South Melbourne (1912) and the Loreto Commercial College, South Melbourne (1963). In 2014 there are two remaining Loreto Institutions in Melbourne – Loreto Toorak (established in 1924) and St Mary's College at the University of Melbourne (established in 1918).

To place your order for *A Row of Goodly Pearls, One Hundred and Twenty-five Years of Loreto in Melbourne*, a limited edition, hard cover, full colour 450+ page book please go to: www.trybooking.com/FEJE or contact Steve Stefanopoulos, Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak, Heritage Collection and Records Manager at steve.stefanopoulos@loretotoorak.vic.edu.au or phone 9823 8157



A Row of Goodly Pearls cover

Dance at Northbrook 1914

Di Foster was exploring Trove when by chance she found an excellent description of *Northbrook*, home of the Stonnington History Centre: in the *Malvern News* Saturday 4 July 1914.

'A delightful dance was that given by Miss Pauline Higgins, at 'Northbrook', High-street, Malvern, on Tuesday, June 26, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Daly having kindly lent their beautiful home for the occasion. Miss Higgins, assisted by her mother and her sisters, received her guests in the large reception hall, which was decorated with groups of tall palms and foliage plants, and they then passed on to the ball-room, where Allietti's band discoursed sweet music for the dancers. 'Northbrook' is an ideal home for entertaining, as spacious verandahs surround the house on three sides, which were furnished with comfortable lounges and easy chairs, and proved a delightful resting place during the dances. In the drawing room, which was decorated with yellow narcissi and



Northbrook 1929 Reg No 5028

in the entrance hall, large fires burned and proved most acceptable for those who preferred the house, as the night was chilly. Supper was served in the dining-room at one long table and at a smaller one, and the effective autumn decoration of Iceland poppies and autumn leaves looked charming against the handsome oak panelled walls. Mrs. W. H. Higgins wore a beautiful black gown, with an overdress of net richly encrusted with moonlight beads. Miss Pauline Higgins looked charming in a modish frock of lobella blue chiffon satin with a Watteau tunic of a darker blue tulle, veiling cerise tulle. Miss Dorothy Higgins wore a very pretty frock of mist-blue satin, made with narrow pink bands around the skirt, over which fell a lisse overdress bordered with tiny rosebuds. Miss Felice Higgins was also very daintily dressed in ivory ninon, showing a border of tiny pink rosebuds, with a pretty draped sash of eau de nil. Mrs. M. J. Daly wore a handsome black jetted gown over geranium red satin. Miss Marjorie Williamson (who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Higgins at 'Mon Repos') wore a smart frock of violet accordion-pleated crepe de chine, with a double tunic of plain material, the corsage being simply relieved with ivory lisse.

Mrs. C. J. Lane wore black satin, draped with flounces of point d'Alencon lace. Miss Edith Lloyd looked very nice in malmaison pink liberty satin, with a double tunic of floral ninon. Miss Cissie Ryan's becoming frock of pastel blue mirror satin had a soft folded bodice of ninon and lace. Miss Trixie McIntosh wore a beautiful frock of petal pink crepe de-chine, with a rose design in embossed velvet, the V-shaped décolletage being edged with brown fur, relieved with an acid-green rose. Miss Lyn Wharton's quaint frock of fraise pink chiffon velvet, draped over a petticoat of ivory lace. Mrs. Hugh Devine looked well in black satin, draped high to a corsage of white shadow lace, veiling a band of deep geranium pink. Among others present were Mr. M. J. Daly, Mr. and Mrs. Meakin, Dr. Devine, Dr. T. P. Noonan, Mr. Harry Goddard, Dr. Willis, the Misses O'Donnoll, Mr. Herman Pfaff, and Miss Lottie Pfaff, Dr. Fogarty, Dr. Grantley Shelton, Miss Noel Geddes, Mr. Keith Anthony, Mr. Harry Shelton, and Miss Elsie Shelton.'

Valetta Street Malvern

Valetta Street Malvern was subdivided in 1885, as part of the Summerland Estate. The following year a builder, P. H. Newey, owned all the lots in Valetta Street. By 1887 three timber houses had been built. It would appear from the rate books that these houses were numbered 7, 9 and 11. In 1887 P. H. Newey is listed as the owner and Ann Nabb the occupier of number 9. In 1888 William Dew was the owner and occupier and the property was described as a four roomed weatherboard house with a Net Annual Value of £32.

James Riches, who occupied number 7 Valetta Street, purchased number 9 in 1890 and moved there with his wife Amelia. In 1939 William Stanley Loakes paid £850 for the property and lived there with his wife Gladys Margaret. In 1891 Miss Clara Murray, Principal of Malvern Ladies College, moved her school to a new weatherboard school room at 14 Valetta Street Malvern. In 1905 Malvern Ladies College had 31 students and six years later the school merged with Korowa Girls' School. The school hall in Valetta Street was taken over by the United Friendly Society. In 1925 major alterations were undertaken by architects Hudson & Wardrop, including the addition of a two-storey brick structure at the front and the replacement of the early timber hall at the rear. In 1931 Malvern Council accepted the application by Malvern & District United Friendly Societies Medical Association Dispensary for registration for their hall to be used for dancing. The building was used by various masonic lodges including The Malvern Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites, which celebrated its centenary in August 1986. In 1996 the building was sold and eventually converted to apartments. The front of the building retains the 1925 façade.



**The Pepper Pot Malvern's Palais de Dance, U.F.S.
Hall Valetta St (undated) Reg No 13672**



14 Valetta Street Malvern 1996 Reg no 12223

Stonington or Stonnington?

Di Foster recently discovered evidence through a Trove search that even back in 1937 there was confusion about the use of Stonington and Stonnington.

The *Argus*, Wednesday 17 November 1937, page 1: 'Old Vice-Regal Residence. Stonington or Stonnington'

'For years the former vice-regal residence in Glenferrie road, Malvern, which is to be sold at auction, has been known as *Stonnington*, but an officer of the Union Trustee said yesterday that the authentic spelling of the name was "*Stonington*". This was the name given to it by its owner, Wagner, whose name became famous as one of the partners of Cobb and Co.'s coaches. In Wagner's will it is named "*Stonington*" but the extra "n" had crept in before the property was bought by the Government in 1928. It was stated yesterday that the original cost of the property to the Government had not been reduced by the sale of portion of the grounds as the land sold did not belong to the estate purchased by the Government.

Stonnington, or *Stonington*, was acquired for the State by the Hogan Administration in 1928, the purchase price being £35,000.'



Stonnington kitchen c1906 Reg No 61032

Naming a street

Street names have many origins. Some may be named by (or after) the original owners of the Crown Land, or early land developers (including real estate agents). The original owner of Crown Portion 39 in the Parish of Prahran, William Donald, named a street after himself when he subdivided the land around 1860, while Matthew Neave, owner of Crown Portions 22 and 23A at Gardiner, named Elizabeth Street after his wife. Cairnes Crescent in Malvern East is named after Elliott Cairnes, the real estate agent responsible for subdividing and selling off land in the area in 1926/27. Others have been named after the grand homes that once stood on the grounds when a large estate was subdivided, including Tooronga, Belgrave, Huntingtower and Flete. Still others are named after prominent and/or noteworthy people in the area, including: Edsall Street (Mayor Edward Edsall); Stanley Grose Drive (after British Empire Medal recipient Stanley Grose); Cawkwell Street after Henry Cawkwell, owner of the Australian Tile and Terra Cotta Works he established on the corner of Tooronga Road and High Street; and Maben Place after William Maben, a carpenter and joiner operating a timber yard between the railway line and Wattletree and Glenferrie Roads.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure has an Office of Geographic Names, which provides guidelines for naming Victoria's streets, and these can be found at <http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/property-and-land-titles/naming-places-features-and-roads>. In keeping with the Anzac Centenary period (1914-1918) the government has introduced the Anzac Commemorative Naming Project, whereby the surnames of World War One service personnel may be used to name a roadway where appropriate, and as long as the existing guidelines are also met. The Stonnington History Centre has been asked to identify service personnel who lived near the laneways proposed to be named. So far, three previously unnamed laneways have been given new names using this process: Tevendale Lane behind Fairbairn Road in Toorak; Kestle Lane behind Beatty Avenue in Armadale; and Tinsley Lane behind a section of High Street in Armadale.

Charles Tevendale (service no. 1196) lived at 6 Fairbairn Road in Toorak, which means that his house overlooked the laneway in question. He was 20 when he enlisted in the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion in 1914, where he served as a sergeant. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, the date now recognised as Anzac Day. Albert Richard Kestle (service no. 600) was born in regional Victoria c1890. He was a driver, living at 18 Eileen Street, Armadale. He enlisted in the AIF in 1916, aged 28, and served with the 12th Australian Machine Gun Company. He was killed in action in Belgium in September 1917 (having served for only a year). He left behind a widow, Myrtle Alice Kestle. Walter Noel Tinsley (service no. 7600) was born in Richmond in 1898. He was an electrician, aged 18, when he enlisted in 1917. His parents gave permission for him to serve, since he was under 19 years of age. He lived at 8 Clendon Road in Armadale. He was appointed as a Sergeant in the 8th Battalion AIF when he was wounded in France in 1918 (he was gassed). He returned to Australia in 1919. However, he remained in the military and served again in WWII, this time earning a Distinguished Service Medal (DSO) for gallantry at El Alamein. He was living in Glenferrie Road, Malvern by this time. He achieved the rank of Brigadier later in life. He died in 1969.

Simone Sharpe Local History Officer



Brigadier Walter Tinsley, Commander, Royal Artillery, Rabaul, New Britain, October 1945 (Australian War Memorial - photo 097912)

Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months we have received enquiries relating to the 1860s toll gate on High Street at Gardiner's Creek, whether there was ever a registry office in Malvern and the Gascoigne hospital in Bates Street, Malvern East 1949/1950. One researcher took a trip to Melbourne recently and walked around High Street in Prahran looking for a property with links to a family member, Abe Nathan. While the house in question was long gone, he was amused to find that the site had recently been part of Channel 9's The Block programme! One of the society's supporters had a happy surprise when she noticed that one of the photos in our last newsletter was of her 'dear old mum, Neta Williamson'. The photo showed Neta learning how to use the Telstra large-key telephone at the Kooyong Low Vision Centre. She would go there every Monday and it was the highlight of her week. Her volunteer driver, Peter Nathan, drove her to and from for many years and they were great mates. He used to collect two other ladies on the same trip and it amused him greatly when they greeted one another as they got into the car because one of the ladies, whenever the other two asked how she was doing, always replied, "OK but a bit of a sniff". So they used to call her "Bit of a Sniff" and it stuck, for all their time together.

Malvern Choral Society

The Malvern Choral Society's first concert was held in July 1925 and their final concert was in December 1954. At the time the *Argus* reviewed the concert and mentioned that the Society was to be disbanded. Val Wilkinson recently shared information and photos relating to the Malvern Choral Society and her own family. 'My mother, now in her 91st year, can remember attending concerts of the Malvern Choral Society as a young child. Her father and mother were both involved. Her father, Foster Nutting, was the deputy conductor and also played the organ as accompanist when required. He was very good friends with Herbert Davis who was the founder and conductor of the society. Also of interest, my great-grandmother lived in Finch Street East Malvern from about 1920 to about 1930. It was 63 Finch Street, on the corner of Kerferd Street. The house is still there and can be identified by the verandah and the corner timber fretwork on the verandah posts. My great-grandmother's name was Jane Dentry.'



63 Finch Street Malvern East. Jane Dentry with her daughters Doris, Thelma Simpson (a friend), Alice and Marjorie.

The Malvern Rate books digitization project

The Malvern Rate books were previously scanned in black and white and placed on microfiche. Some annotations were hard to read, therefore, to prepare them for being placed on disc, the History Centre is having them rescanned in colour. While the project will be some months in the undertaking, once the books have been placed on disc, they will be available for lending in the library.

Ellen Porter Local History Officer

Remembering Georges

A new book, *Remembering Georges*, by Annette Cooper, was launched in November in the elegant halls that once housed Georges Department Store. When Georges closed its doors on 5 October 1995, it had been trading for 115 years. The department store, situated in the 'Paris End' of Collins Street, is still remembered fondly. The book documents the memories of staff and clients before the living connections fade. Annette is a member of the MHS. *Remembering Georges* is available from Jeffreys Books, 140 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern.

Telephone (03) 9509 5133 or email info@jeffreysbooks.com.au

Meaby's Garage Glen Iris



Leslie Prince was a mechanic who worked at Meaby's Garage, Malvern Road Malvern. He developed a tow truck from a Talbot car, and started the Melbourne Towing Service in 1928. This photo was published in Harold H. Paynting and Malcolm Grant (eds), *Wheels in Victoria, 1824-1984 : a record of wheeled transport through a century and a half of technological change* ([Melbourne] : Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, [1988])

Leslie Prince, Meaby's Garage, Glen Iris Photo taken before 1955 Reg No 61060

VicRoads Photographic Collection

The PROV has received an exciting new photographic transfer of black and white photographs and negatives from VicRoads dating from 1923 to 1962. VicRoads and their predecessor agencies recorded Victoria's developing road infrastructure through photographs to ensure future generations of engineers, town planners and researchers could have a visual representation of this part of the state's formation. Photographs from this new collection will be digitised by PROV over the coming months.

Public Record Office Victoria <http://prov.vic.gov.au>

Construction of the South Eastern Mulgrave Arterial Road Link, looking east from Warrigal Road. VicRoads 1987. Reg No 7780



Taking Local History to the Community

Many members and local residents enjoyed our walks in November and December. Thanks to Pat B and Jane B for leading the groups. The Telstra Victorian Telecommunications Museum visit proved to be very interesting. Lorraine and Jane N represented the Society at the plaque unveiling when the Bowen Gardens were formally renamed the Richard Moss Reserve. Lorraine and Jane N represented the Society at the Victorian Community Awards ceremony. We would like to congratulate the Duldig Studio, Burke Road, Malvern East, for the Commendation they received for 'Art behind the wire; the untold story of refugee families interned in Australia during the Second World War'. The Awards are managed by PROV and RHSV. Lorraine, Pat and Jane N attended the East Malvern Community Bank's 'Community Forum' in November. Ideas for increasing community involvement in East Malvern were discussed with great enthusiasm! Jane N recently gave a talk to the Camberwell Historical Society and attended a meeting of the RHSV Local History Support Group. Lorraine represented the Society at the recent South Metro regional history group, held at Middle Park. The orchid collection that we all admire in the Conservatory in Central Park, Malvern East, recently featured on an ABC's Gardening Australia programme.



Cr John Chandler, Lorraine Sage, Robin Brown and Shane Williams, plaque unveiling Richard Moss Reserve 2014

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- City of Prahran 'Important Emergency Information booklet' donated by Betty and Peter Game
- Notes from a recent talk on the History of Ashburton, donated by the speaker, Neville Lee.
- East Malvern 1959 'A' Grade Premiers photo donated by John McBeth. (below)



- *Western Thrace Turks in Australia* Feyyaz Saglam, Australian Western Thrace Turkish Association 2009. Translated from Turkish by Gundogdu Gencer, Ayse Aday and Baki Yigit.

After the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire following World War 1, Western Thrace became part of Greece. Beginning in 1969, many Turkish-speaking people from this region migrated to Australia. After several such emigres settled in Prahran, others were attracted to the area, and a Western Thrace community gradually developed.

The first premises of the Association was in Osborne Street, South Yarra. From 2007 a purpose-built centre in Union Street, Windsor became the home for the Association.



Osborne Street Sth Yarra c2014

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
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