

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

July 2016

Newsletter No. 62

Wednesday 27 July Visit to Chapel off Chapel 10am

12 Little Chapel Street Prahran

The Council-owned former church, designed by Crouch & Wilson, was built in 1858-9. Extensions/alterations have been carried out over the years. Council has redeveloped the church and associated buildings as the Chapel off Chapel gallery and performance complex.

RSVP: President Lorraine Sage 9885 9082 before Monday 25 July



Malvern Road Gardens and the Congregational Church c1911 Reg no 9136

Wednesday 17 August History Matters: Managing your digital collection 10am - 11am

Stonnington History Centre Historian Simone Sharpe provides handy tips on how to store, protect and manage your collection of digital photographs and documents.

Stonnington History Centre, Northbrook (behind Malvern Library)

RSVP: 82901360



Carrington 58 Kooyong Road Armadale (undated) Reg no 14987

Thursday 25 August Malvern Presbyterian Church - Tour of Church and Hall 10 am

The Malvern Presbyterian Church, in Wattletree Road Malvern (west of Cabrini), was built in 1906. According to the National Trust, the church with its broad nave, sloping floors, porches, transepts and vestries, and built in red brick with cement detailing, is a rare design by architect Robert Haddon. The Trust has described the church as one 'of Australia's major Arts and Crafts churches'. Power point presentation. Morning tea.

RSVP: Lorraine 9885 9082 before Monday 22 August



Presbyterian Church Malvern c1910 Reg No 9707

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

The Society has been inspired by the guest speakers at the recent RHSV Local History Support Group seminars. Thanks to Nikki and Jane you'll now find the Malvern Historical Society on both Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook: Malvern Historical Society Stonnington

<https://www.facebook.com/malvernhistoricalsocietystonnington/?rc=p>

The biggest responses so far have been to 1960 photos of Chadstone Shopping Centre and a list of famous Malvern people. Did you know that you can see what's on our Facebook page without joining? Just click on <https://www.facebook.com/malvernhistoricalsocietystonnington/> and scroll down for some great images. (They'll ask you to just copy a code before you can view it)

Twitter: To view what has been added just search 'Malvern Historical Society Twitter' or sign up to Twitter and then type Malvern Historical Society into the search box at the top of your twitter.com Home timeline.



Two Malverns and a Mulberry Tree

A crowd of well-wishers watched the official planting of a special mulberry tree in Priory Park on Saturday 25 June 2016. The tree was the grandchild of the mulberry tree that George Bernard Shaw planted in the park in 1936 to celebrate his 80th birthday. A cutting from his tree sent to Malvern, in Melbourne, Victoria, had flourished to an immense 13 metres and it was a cutting from that tree that had been reared and was planted on Saturday by Di Foster, a representative from Malvern (Vic).

Bruce Osborne of The Friends of Malvern Springs and Wells welcomed the audience and thanked everyone who took part in the project. The history of the various trees and their place in the two Malverns' heritage was then outlined by former mayor Julian I'Anson. The audience was then delighted and surprised when 93-year-old Joan Fowler took the microphone and related how, as a 13-year-old girl, she went to Priory Park with her mother in 1936 and watched Shaw plant his mulberry tree.

Di put five spades of soil around the tree base, the same number that Shaw had put around the base of his tree 80 years earlier. Di then unveiled a handsome new plaque that commemorates the story of the planting by Shaw, the demise of his tree, and the exchange of cuttings between the two Malverns. The plaque was sculpted by local stonemason Catherine James.

The Friends distributed tickets to everyone for free refreshments at the Mount Pleasant Hotel that included a slice of mulberry pie made by Friends of Malvern Museum. The tickets also allowed free entry to a new two-part exhibition at Malvern Museum, entitled Two Malverns and a Mulberry Tree. One part relates to the history of Shaw and the mulberry trees; the other is about many of the other Malverns around the world, of which there are over twenty. Many people also bought copies of a handsome new limited edition booklet Two Malverns and a Mulberry Tree. It tells the story of Shaw in Malvern and the planting of his tree, how the cycle of exchanges brought it back to Malvern, a history of Malvern (Vic) and the friendship that has existed since 1910 between the two towns with the same name.



Friendship Between the Malverns supper June 2016



Commemorative plaque 2016

In the evening there was a special Friendship Between the Malverns supper at the Mount Pleasant Hotel. Vice Chairman of Malvern Hills District Council, Cr Chris O'Donnell, welcomed the guests before presenting to Di Foster the gift of a crystal glass engraved with a Morgan car. Di reciprocated, giving Cr O'Donnell a handsome book from Malvern (Vic).

During the evening, local poet Myfanwy Fox read her new sonnet Mulberry Scion. The Deputy Mayor of Malvern, Cr Hannah Campbell sent a letter of friendship via Di to the mayor and citizens of Malvern (Vic). Di

passed to Cr Campbell a letter of friendship and gifts from her own mayor, Cr Claude Ullin. Di then gave an illustrated account of the history of her Malvern, which dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. It was all new information for the audience, who were delighted with her unique presentation. Cora and Bruce said afterwards that they were thrilled that their seven-year project had reached fruition and they are both looking forward to the newly-planted tree also reaching fruition.

Meanwhile, they have already begun a new project to link all the Malverns around the world in a union of friendship.

Friends of Malvern Springs and Wells 2016



Di Foster, Mulberry Tree planting June 2016

Malvern Historical Society Inc - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Malvern Historical Society Inc was held on 18 May 2016. At the meeting Lorraine Sage was re-elected President. Also re-elected were Jane Nigro - Vice President, John Isbel - Treasurer, Pat Brincat - Minute Secretary, and Committee Members - Francesca Di Mattina, Gilah Leder, Neil Shepherd and Graham Thurston. Stella Barber was not available for re-election and was thanked for her 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 Accountants, 31 Station Street, Malvern, for reviewing our financial books for 2015, Linda Tassone of Jeffrey's Bookstore, Glenferrie Road, Malvern, for selling our various publications, Ron Polak and the staff of M.B.E. - Glenferrie Road, Malvern, for undertaking all our printing requirements, the City of Stonnington for their financial assistance during the year and Ellen Porter, Simone Sharpe and Janet Buick from the Stonnington History Centre for their endless assistance and the help they so graciously give when answering the Malvern Historical Society's questions. After the formal part of the evening everyone enjoyed a very informative, illustrated and educational presentation by our guest speaker Mr. Miles Lewis. Miles is an architectural historian with a special interest in the cultural history of buildings. Miles's talk surveyed the evolution of the Melbourne mansion in the broader context.

Lorraine Sage President 9885 9082

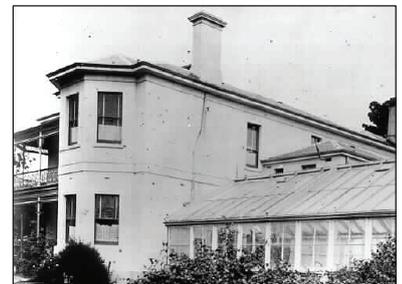
Soldiers of the Cross

The 1900 Salvation Army film *Soldiers of the Cross* was the first use of narrative drama on moving film anywhere in the world. It was made up of magic lantern slides, film, narrative and orchestral music.

While some of the original slides survived and are in the National Film and Sound Archive, none of the original film has been found. The film's larger scenes were filmed on the tennis court at *Belgrave*, corner Dandenong and Belgrave Roads, East Malvern.

Belgrave was built in 1873 for Robert and Elizabeth Benson on 14 acres (5.6 hectares). The Benson family gave the name to the township of Belgrave in the Dandenong Ranges.

Belgrave c1900 Reg no 399



Copy of *Soldiers of the Cross* slide.
Salvation Army Archives 2016

Twenty-six years of partnership – with no regrets

In the 1980's the Malvern Historical Society, like other historical societies, was struggling to attract new members, and active volunteers were starting to age. One of our Presidents announced 'Well I can't be President and as there is nobody else to take over, I think we should fold'! We weren't to know that Australia's Bicentenary would result in an amazing increase in interest in family and local history.

Our committee began to re-assess the future direction of the society and to think about how to make the collection safe for future generations. There were indications at this time that the State Government was planning the amalgamation of councils. Malvern Council staff were nervous about the future and began handing over historical items to members of the historical society. For a while we were just happy accepting everything. But when the items came to include large framed works, an early mayoral hat, mayoral albums, rare photographic blocks, early Council minute books and the significant building plan collection, dating from 1916, we knew it was time to formalise the arrangement.



History Matters event at Northbrook 2015

The Malvern History Committee was created as an advisory committee to Council in July 1990 'to ensure that information pertaining to the Malvern area was collected, preserved, organised, made accessible and promoted to the community'. The committee was comprised of Councillor representatives, appropriate Council staff and members of the Malvern Historical Society. It was planned that all historical material pertaining to Malvern would be collected by one body and stored in one location, that all material would become readily accessible, and relevant Councillors would be involved in a forum meeting several times per year.

With the amalgamation of the City of Malvern and the City of Prahran in June 1994, the new City of Stonnington responded immediately to ensure the preservation of the City's historical assets. The Stonnington History Committee was formed, chaired by a City of Stonnington Councillor. Membership of the Committee consists of representatives from the Malvern Historical Society, the Prahran Historical and Arts Society, Stonnington Library & Information Service, Council officers, Prahran Mechanics Institute, two community representatives and the Stonnington History Centre Team Leader.

The benefits can be clearly seen. The Council has demonstrated to the Community its long-term commitment to the Stonnington Local History Collection through the provision of secure premises, permanent staff and ongoing funding. The Stonnington Local History Collection has become a valuable and important Council asset and is now the property and responsibility of the City of Stonnington. All historical assets of the City are under the management of the Stonnington History Centre, which is a branch of the Stonnington Library and Information Services.

Having the Collection professionally managed by the History Centre enables the promotion of local history information, the provision of a local history service and the ability for co-operative work on local history-based programs for both Council and the Society. By working in partnership with the Historical Societies, the opportunity exists for preservation grants and funding of special projects. Under the custodianship of the History Centre all items in the Collection are indexed, many in full text on the searchable online Catalogue. This enables ready access to the photos, documents, plans, family and local histories in the Collection. A far broader range of services and expertise is provided by the History Centre service than those traditionally provided by libraries. Archival storage areas and work rooms have been provided and an acquisition and preservation program is well established. See <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History>

The Malvern Historical Society remains an active community group within the City of Stonnington. As a result of our 'free by email' campaign, our bi-monthly newsletter Local History News - Keeping Stonnington's History Alive is seen by over 1000 interested people. The Malvern Historical Society continues to actively collect material relating to the area now known as the City of Stonnington, especially the former City of Malvern (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/enter.html>). Walks and talks are organised, and all research, photos and articles for the newsletter and displays are sourced from the Stonnington Local

History Collection. Through the acquisition of grants the Society is able to contribute funding for specific projects including the purchase of historic items, digitising of audio tapes, photographing of loaned items and the Trove scanning project.

Many new residents have moved into the City of Stonnington since amalgamation in 1994, and the original municipal boundaries have decreasing relevance. Like many volunteer groups in 2016, we struggle to find active volunteers for member activities and the committee.

The Society acknowledges that we need to embrace social media. While we no longer have the responsibility of maintaining a collection, answering all enquiries, processing all donations or maintaining premises, we still initiate our own new projects knowing they will be supported by the expertise at the Stonnington History Centre. Over the years members have raised concerns that we don't have a museum. The Stonnington History Centre has addressed this by having items on display at the History Centre, regular displays in all the libraries and, more recently, a pop up exhibition.

Looking back over the last 26 years, we have no regrets.

Jane Nigro
Vice President - Malvern Historical Society
malvernhistorical@yahoo.com

Ellen Porter
Stonnington History Centre Team Leader
history@stonnington.vic.gov.au

(The Society would like to thank the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for featuring our 'Twenty-six years of partnership – with no regrets' article in their History News publication Issue No. 323 April/May 2016)



Jane Nigro and Ellen Porter 2016

Kooyong Tennis Stadium, Glenferrie Road, Malvern, 1934

Don't worry about a little rain at Wimbledon! The first image shows tennis fans at the Victorian Championships at the Kooyong Tennis Stadium in 1934, before floods disrupted play. The second image shows the flood, with the stadium full of water from the Yarra River and Gardiners Creek.



Aerial view of Kooyong Tennis Stadium
December 1934 Reg no 1342



The Stadium at Kooyong 1st December 1934
Reg no 620

Royal Historical Society of Victoria exhibition 12 July - 22 August

The RHSV is hosting an exhibition presented by the Ephemera Society of Australia. View examples of labels, tins, typeface and lots more. Enquiries: 9326 9288 www.historyvictoria.org.au

7 Russell Street Toorak

In May the Stonnington History Centre received a very welcome donation of original house plans from David Crosby. David is a previous owner of 7 Russell Street, Toorak, an individually heritage listed house. The Stonnington History Centre has a huge collection of Malvern Council architectural drawings, but there were no surviving plans of this house. So we were thrilled to discover that these plans had survived and that the Crosby's were happy to donate them to the collection. Not only do the plans fill a gap in the architectural history of the area, but they are beautiful and illustrate the art of the architect J. F. W. Ballantyne. A photographic copy of an original watercolour of the house by Ballantyne was included in the donation.

7 Russell Street, Toorak was built in 1934 for Mrs J. S. McDonald. The City of Malvern Heritage Study, 1992 describes it as 'A simple Old English style residence. The main gable roof is balanced with a projecting gable towards the street. This has a half timbered gable end. The roof has mixed coloured glazed terracotta tiles and the walls are of clinker brickwork. Georgian Revival double hung windows and shutters and a pergola are the other characteristics'.

Janet Buick. Local History Librarian, Stonnington History Centre



Reproduction of original watercolour painting of 7 Russell Street, Toorak by J.F.W. Ballantyne c.1933



7 Russell Street, Toorak by Nigel Lewis [photographer], City of Malvern, 1992. Reg no 13107

Interested in joining the Malvern Historical Society Committee?

We are hoping to attract a couple of Committee members who are happy to attend events, take on roles like booking venues and contributing ideas for events relating to Malvern and more generally to Stonnington. We meet at 6.00.p.m. on the third Wednesday evening of the month. We'd love to hear from you!

Lorraine Sage President 9885 9082

Snow in Malvern

While records show that snow fell in Melbourne in July 1882 and in some suburbs in June 1886, the last major Melbourne snowfall was in 1951.

The Stonnington History Centre has a number of images showing where snow fell in Glen Iris and East Malvern in 1951.



**Snow at Allen's Motors, Wattletree Road
Glen Iris 1951 Reg no 7703**

Northbrook Art Garden

The garden, presently associated with Northbrook, has been known as the Northbrook Art Garden since its development in the 1980s. In 1987 the City of Malvern was invited to take part in a cooperative educational scheme with the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and RMIT. The Northbrook (House) Art Garden, a project linking art, landscape and community in public open space design, evolved from this collaboration.

A design submitted by final year students of landscape design at RMIT met a specific brief and was accepted by Council. One of the requirements was that users of the site were to be consulted. With agreement from the local Bicentennial committee, Council resolved to use part of a bicentennial grant on the garden. This came with the proviso that a play and sound sculpture (designed by Julia Anderson) be added to the design. Other stipulations included further community consultation and active participation in garden construction by organisations, disabled people, schools and individuals.



Construction of Northbrook Art Garden 1989 Reg no 9337

A community committee, including representatives from garden clubs, the Bicentennial committee, general community, artists and Council, was formed. Using the concept design, the committee worked from these principles: to make 'Northbrook' more accessible and attractive to the public, to integrate the library, senior citizens centre and Northbrook, create special sites for Trompes L'Oeil, sculptures, commissioned sculpture, artistic paving, community plantings, amphitheatre and include a garden to unify the area. Over 350 members of the Malvern community contributed to the project, which was opened in December 1990.

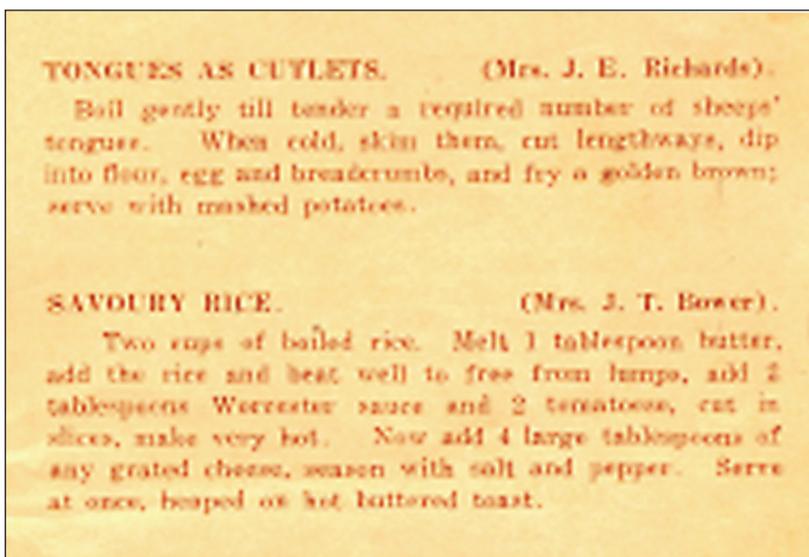
Jenny Saulwick, the artist who helped create Northbrook's art garden and a mural at Malvern Central School, passed away on 20 May 2016. Jenny donated all her Northbrook Art Garden drawings to the Stonnington History Centre a few years ago.

St Andrew's, Serrell Street, East Malvern, cookery book

The Stonnington History Centre was recently donated a cookery book published by St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Serrell Street, East Malvern. There is no date in the book so we cannot tell when it was published, however other small volumes of recipe books were published by various congregations of St Andrew's during the 1970s and 1990s. A few of these are held by the State Library.

The small recipe book contains advertisements from local businesses and each recipe has the name of the contributor. The cooks were predominantly women, with the exception of Mr J. Brownlie who provided his recipe for Prune pudding.

The content is full of good old fashioned fare and maybe we will try a few to see if they stand the test of time, with recipes such as Jellied sheep tongues from Mrs McLeod, Colonial pudding from Mrs Hall and Mrs Ballmer's exotic recipe Food-for-the-Gods.



New members

We would like to welcome our latest new members Marisa Cosra, Michelle Summons, Maurice Fanning, Pauline Malady, Elizabeth Wright, Ann and Robin Ahin and Harriet Coinfield-Fraser.

Taking Local History to the Community

Our visit to the Salvation Army Archives was a great success. Special thanks to Lindsay Cox who made us all so welcome. We were delighted to hear that Pat Grainger, Secretary, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society has received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to history preservation. Jane attended the RHSV June seminar 'Get up to speed on latest copyright issues, digital initiatives and aboriginal cultural heritage'. Thankyou to Alex Hume and the Glenferrie Road Malvern Business Association for including an article on the Malvern Historical Society in their recent newsletter.



Society visit Salvation Army Archives June 2016

Grill'd Malvern 217 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

For the entire month of July, Malvern Historical Society is on a Local Matters jar at Grill'd Malvern. We know that this will generate some extra support and increase awareness in the local community about the Malvern Historical Society. Don't forget to tell the friendly staff that you're there to support the Society. Enjoy your burger!

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

- Chadstone High School Parents Association minutes Chadstone High School (1985-1986)

- City of Malvern Building Permits 2763-2989, Building Permits 9001-10801

-Bernard recently sent this image to our Twitter account. The 1908 image shows George A Moore's butcher's shop on the corner of Chapel Street and Chatham Street, Prahran. George later became the licensee of the Waterfall Hotel at Mt Macedon.



Chatham Street and Chapel Street May 1908

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/Discover/History

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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 and a member of the South Metro History Group.

OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS

Stonnington History Centre, Email: history@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Tel: 8290 1360 www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History

Prahran Historical and Arts Society www.phas.org.au

Prahran Mechanics Institute www.pmi.net.au

Malvern Historical Society Inc P O Box 184, Malvern Victoria 3144

Date:

I would like to

- Join the Malvern Historical Society
- Purchase Malvern Historical Society Membership as a gift
- Renew Malvern Historical Society

Annual Membership Options

- Individual \$13
- Full time student \$9
- Family \$20

Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Member information

Name/s _____
Address _____
Suburb _____ Postcode _____
Phone _____ Mobile _____
Email (please print) _____ Signature _____

- Yes I'd prefer to receive the newsletter by email only.

Is this membership a gift? Yes No (please circle)

Name of recipient _____ Name of giver _____

Payment options

- Paying by Direct Transfer
Commonwealth Bank BSB No: 063187 Account No: 10104883 Account Name - Malvern Historical Society
*** Please make sure the message/reference box states your name and what the payment is for.
***We would appreciate the return of your completed form by mail or by email.

- Paying by Cheque
Please make the cheque payable to the Malvern Historical Society Inc. Kindly forward your cheque and completed form to the Malvern Historical Society.

- Paying by Cash

I would like to assist with:

- Committee and administration
- Newsletter
- Walks
- Talks
- Afternoon teas & suppers

Find out more:

MHS website www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern 0438 515 631
malvernhistorical@yahoo.com

STONNINGTON HISTORY CENTRE

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History 8290 1360 history@stonnington.vic.gov.au