

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

September 2016

Newsletter No. 63

## Monday 19 September Kooyong Road Armadale walk 2pm

Join members of the Society for a walk along Kooyong Road, between High Street and Malvern Road, Armadale. Find out about the architecture, the early owners of the properties and the stories surrounding the development of the various estates.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Members: Gold coin.

Non members:\$5 All welcome!



**James Munro (undated)**  
Reg no 13066

## City of Stonnington Community Grant

The Malvern Historical Society committee would like to thank Stonnington Council who have announced that our City of Stonnington Community Grant application for 2016/17 has been successful. We have received a \$5120 grant for the printing of our newsletters, updating of the website, laminating of display photos, and the printing of pamphlets and puzzles for school children. Council also agreed to our request for in-kind use of council meeting rooms.

## Wednesday 12 October History Matters - Stonnington History Centre 10am - 11am

### Sorrett Avenue: From open land to urban streetscape c1890 to c1950

Local historian Di Foster will trace the development of Sorrett Avenue from c1890 to c1950. Sorrett Avenue was once the carriageway leading to a grand 1850s house.

Stonnington History Centre (behind Malvern Library)

Bookings are required. Book online or phone 8290 1360 .

[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre/Events](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre/Events)



**Stables, rear 14 Sorrett Avenue Malvern  
1989 (Photo: Di Foster) Reg no 13825**

## Tuesday 18 October Visit to the Stonnington History Centre's Resource Room 2pm

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society on Tuesday 18 October at 2pm for a visit to the Stonnington History Centre's Resource Room and a tour of the archives.

RSVP needed before 17 October.  
Lorraine 9885 9082. Numbers strictly limited. Afternoon tea.

Did you know?

Researchers visiting the Resource Room can access:

- Microfiche copies of the Sands & McDougall postal directories using the new electronic microform readers
- PDFs of the rate books, valuation records, voters' rolls and council minutes for the former cities of Malvern and Prahran on the computers
- Genealogical records on microfiche and/or CD Rom – births, deaths and marriages records for Victoria, plus selected discs for Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland; inquest and immigration indexes
- Collection of old photographs available for browsing
- Real estate files containing sales notices and/or brochures of most streets in Stonnington
- Free Wi-Fi for Stonnington library members

Also please note the disability access is limited. The City of Stonnington may take photos or film at events held at the Stonnington History Centre.

[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/privacy-statement](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/privacy-statement)



**Northbrook 2015**

## Remembering the XVI Olympiad, Melbourne 1956

During the 1956 Melbourne Olympics two events, the 50k Walk and the Marathon, passed along Dandenong Road, the southern boundary of the former Cities of Malvern and Prahran, while the Try Boys' Society building in Cromwell Road, South Yarra, was used as a training venue for the wrestling.

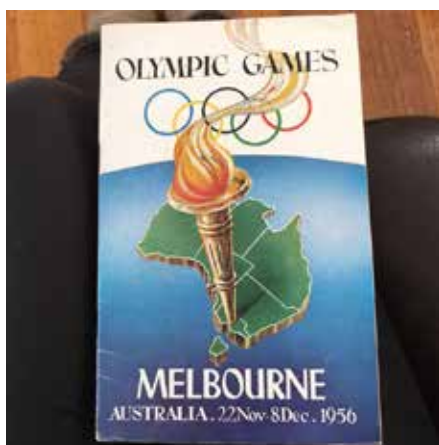
Two Church Services were held at Como Park, South Yarra on 25 November 1956. The following was reported in *The Argus*, Saturday 24 November 1956:

'A highlight of the Olympic festival tomorrow will be two great Christian services in Como Park, South Yarra. At 3 p.m. a service of Christian Witness will be sponsored by the Victorian committee of the World Council of Churches. And at 10.30 a.m. there will be a Pontifical Mass sponsored by Archbishop Mannix. Cardinal Gilroy will preside at the Mass, and Archbishop Carbone, Apostolic delegate, and archbishops and bishops from many States will assist. The International Olympic Committee will be represented by Mr. Avery Brundage. Other guests will include the Governor. Sir Dallas Brooks, and Lady Brooks, Mr. Bolte, Premier, and Mrs. Bolte. Sir Prank Selleck, Lord Mayor, and Lady Selleck. Prince Jean and Princess Josephine, of Luxembourg, and Mr. Cahill, Premier of N.S.W. The Mass will be broadcast through 3LO.

'All Protestant churches will be represented at the afternoon service, which will also be attended by the Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks. The address will be given by the Rev. Gordon Powell. The Rev. Dr. G. Calvert Barber, chairman of the Victorian committee of the World Council of Churches, and Archbishop Booth will take part. The chairman will be the Rev. Rex Mathias. The Scripture lesson will be read by Sir Dallas Brooks. Musical items will be rendered by a massed choir and band under the direction of Mr. Fred Watsford and Bandmaster McLeod. Miss Virginia Paris and Mr. Stanley Clarkson will sing. Athletes competing in the Games will attend both services. The two services are expected to be the greatest demonstrations of Christian witness ever seen in Melbourne'.

*The Argus Saturday 24 November 1956*

In 1956 West Heidelberg became the site of the Melbourne Olympics athletes' village. The village was converted into a Housing Commission of Victoria estate following the conclusion of the games. The prefab houses, erected in West Heidelberg, were made at the Holmesglen factory on the corner of Warrigal Road and Batesford Road, East Malvern.



**The Marathon, Dandenong Road East Malvern 1 Dec 1956  
(Good Shepherd Convent can be seen on the right)  
Reg no 17403**



**Try Society, Cromwell Road South Yarra c1945  
Reg no 9593**



**Olympic Games, Melbourne Church Service, Como Park.  
1956 Image: J Fitzpatrick. National Archives of Australia.**

## **Prahran Mechanics' Institute - 39 St Edmonds Road Prahran**

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute and Librarian Tim McKenna have recently welcomed two new staff members, Ellen Coates, Collections Librarian, and Chris Moysey, Marketing and Communications. They will soon all be busy with the planning for the October Friends of PMI Library Book Sale. <http://www.pmi.net.au>

## **Malvern Historical Society on Facebook and Twitter**

There has been lots of interest in Malvern Historical Society on both Facebook and Twitter. Popular posts have included Toorak Village c1960, Holmesglen Concrete Factory, Chadstone Shopping Centre mall 1960, notable past Malvern residents and four images of Warrigal Road during the 1930s. We were astounded when the Warrigal Road images reached over 38,880 people!



**Warrigal Road East Malvern looking north 1936 (VicRoads)  
Reg no 8026**

It's interesting to read the comments and discussions that result. Some have related to Warrigal Road being called Boundary Road, and the tollway near Warrigal Road bridge. One person said there is a plaque on the City of Monash side of the bridge (1930) while another suggested the bridge over Gardiners Creek was widened in 1957/8 by jacking out one side. There were memories of Sennitts (later Streets) Icecream on the south side of Warrigal Road - do you remember the dry ice that the birthday cakes came packed in?

The photo of the Waverley Theatre resulted in lots of memories including 'I saw my first picture (movie) there in 1945 - "Lassie Come Home"...black and white until almost the end and it turned colour - and at interval an orange! icecream and a licorice stick' and another, 'my aunts, Margaret and Geraldine Austin were both Box Office girls at the Waverley during the Second World War'.

Many remembered the great bands at Nicabellas nightclub at the Angel Hotel in Dandenong Road Malvern during the 1970s-1990s.

**Myvora, Glenferrie Road Malvern c1920 (demolished)  
Reg no 670**

## **Punt Road South Yarra**

In the 1860s Punt Road was a wide dirt track. In this image the toll collector's hut can be seen on the south east side while men wait for the punt on the north bank of the Yarra. There is also evidence of cultivation on the side of the Punt Hill. An early homestead, *Yarrabank*, is visible on the east side (left of centre) with its slender pencil pine/cypress trees.

Punt Road was made into a permanent 24 hour clearway on August 29, 2016. The clearways apply along both sides of Punt Road, from the Yarra River through to St Kilda Junction.



**View of the punt over the Yarra, looking south from  
Richmond towards Punt Hill, South Yarra c1861 Reg no 7490**

## **Heritage Protection for Individual Interwar Houses (Amendment C222)**

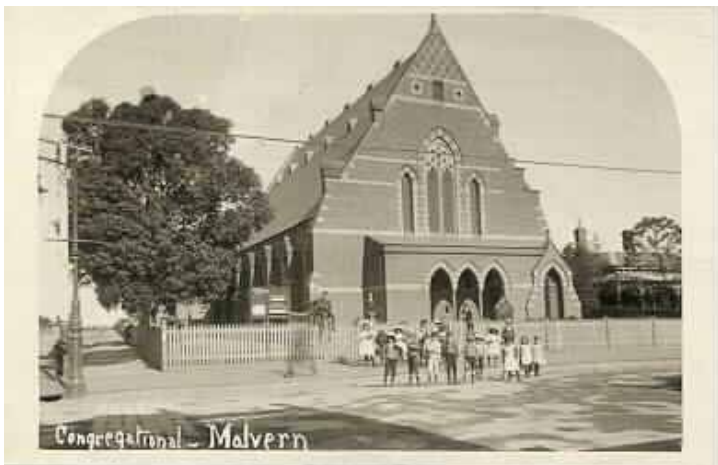
The City of Stonnington is currently reviewing submissions to Amendment C222 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme. The Amendment proposes to implement the findings of the Interwar Houses Study, which recommends the inclusion of forty-one individually significant interwar houses in the Heritage Overlay.

These houses are located in Toorak, Malvern and Armadale. Enquiries: Strategic Planning 8290 1395.



## Malvern Congregational Church

The Malvern Congregational Church was on the present site of Coles, Glenferrie Road, Malvern from 1885 until 1966. According to the Malvern Congregational Jubilee History, worship was first conducted in a wooden building in Union Street, on the west side of Glenferrie Road. Rev. James Moss was the minister when the fellowship moved to a new building in Glenferrie Road, between Wattletree Road and Gordon Grove in February 1873. In 1883 the building was re-opened as the Malvern Congregational Church. Land for a new church was purchased further north along Glenferrie Road, on the corner of Winter Street in 1885. The church was built to the design of architects Billing & Son. The Malvern Congregational Church was demolished in 1966 to make way for Coles Supermarket.



Congregational Church Malvern c1900 Reg no 4

## Reconciliation Action Plan

The City of Stonnington's Reconciliation Action Plan 2012-16 (RAP) advocates for a City in which connections are created and maintained with our Aboriginal community, cultural awareness is raised, history is respected and contributions are honoured. Council is currently in the process of developing the next Reconciliation Action Plan so that the City can continue to build respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Economic and Cultural Development team on 8290 1333 or email [ecd@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:ecd@stonnington.vic.gov.au).

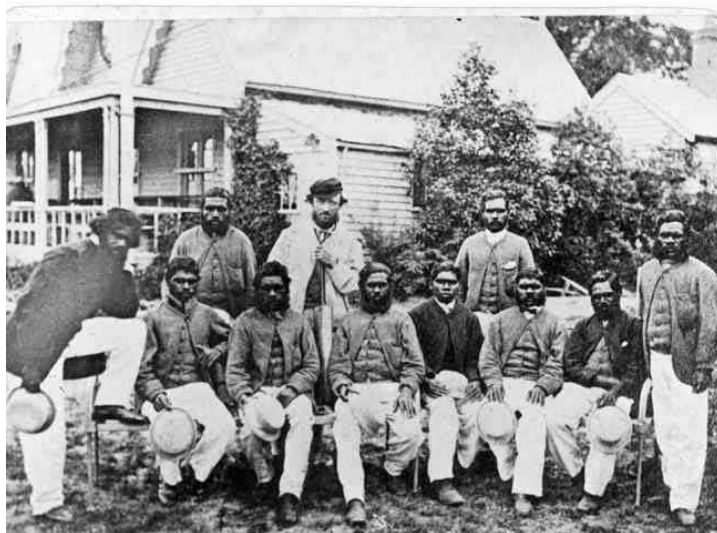


Red Gum showing where Aborigines cut off bark for a canoe.  
*Gleneagles, Kooyong Road, Toorak 1939 Reg no 159*

## Indigenous history of Stonnington for schools

A document has been put together for primary schools in the City of Stonnington to assist students and their families to learn about the local Indigenous history of the area. The project concept was originally brought forward by the Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation, and has been developed into a partnership called the 'Stonnington Indigenous Curriculum Project'.

The booklet and associated documents are available from: <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Live/Indigenous-Reconciliation-2016/Indigenous-Curriculum-Project>



The Aboriginal cricket team that toured England c1868.  
Reg no 12288

## Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL)

The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) retrieves, revives and strengthens Aboriginal languages for Victorian Aboriginal people. VACL was established in 1994 to address the issues of language loss and is the state body responsible for coordinating Community Language Programs throughout Victoria. Prior to colonisation there were approximately 250 Indigenous languages spoken in Australia (approximately 40 in Victoria). Some of these had several varieties, and there were altogether about 500 language varieties used across Australia. When two people met, they could identify the region each came from by the way they spoke. It was a bit like travelling across Europe and recognising which country each person comes from by their language.

## Stonnington History Centre's History Matters 2016 exhibition

Did you miss the Stonnington History Centre's History Matters exhibition at the Northbrook Pop-Up Gallery earlier in the year? A descriptive online catalogue can still be viewed at <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre/History-Matters-and-other-events/History-Matters-exhibition>

## St Paul's Anglican Church, Dandenong Road, Caulfield North

St Paul's founding congregation met together in the 1890s at evening prayer meetings in the drawing room at *Ellerslie*, a home on the corner of Hawthorn Road and Salisbury Street, Caulfield. In 1904 St Paul's first wooden church was built on the corner of Derby Parade and Salisbury Street and it was licensed as St Paul's Caulfield in 1904. In 1909 the church was put on wheels and moved by horse and cart to its present location in Dandenong Road. The hard red sand found on the site led to the precinct being given the name Red Hill. In 1910, following renovations, the church reopened as St Paul's, Malvern and Caulfield. The Vicarage was built in 1912. The parish hall, built in 1920–22, was the social hub of many activities through the years including concerts, dances, musicals, annual sale of gifts and afternoon teas. A new Louis R. Williams' designed brick church was completed in two stages and dedicated in 1958. Archbishop Frank Woods consecrated the new church in 1967. Beautiful stained-glass memorial windows were installed in the 1980s and in 1983 a full immersion baptismal font was installed. The new glass fronted foyer and cafe area and offices were completed in 1996.

The catchphrase Ring Out, Wild Bells! was coined after an injunction was served against the church after the bellringer performed his duty too vigorously at 7.30am on Sunday mornings! Robert Haddon's successful action in the Supreme Court in 1910, and against the appeal in 1911, resulted in St Paul's being perpetually restrained and ordered to desist from ringing the bells before 9am on Sundays and public holidays.

The annual Parish Fair was a feature of the parish and it was noted that the Malvern Municipal Band played at the fair in 1925 and the parish hired stalls from the Malvern Council. At one time the parish held weekly social dances with the venue alternating between St Paul's and St George's in Malvern.



Glenferrie Road Malvern looking south towards St Paul's Caulfield North 1969 Reg no 8885

When a local school, Lovell House Girls' School, a branch of the Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School, closed down in 1923 the school was reregistered as St Paul's Preparatory School. Forty boys and girls were enrolled. The girls wore hats that had the Korowa Girls' School ribbon. Each year the 12 year old girls would compete for a scholarship to Korowa. Today the parish of St Paul's is described as small in area with half in Malvern and half in Caulfield.

*Ring Out, Wild Bells : celebrating a journey of God's people, St Paul's Anglican Church, Malvern and North Caulfield 1904-2004.* Robin Ryan 2004.

## Malvern Presbyterian Church hall

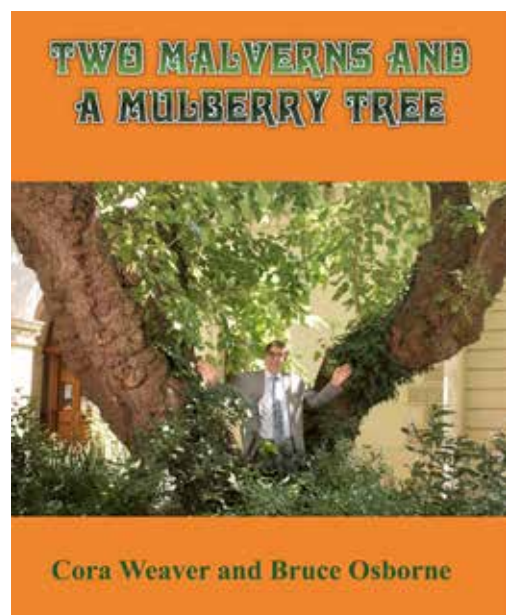
The hall was originally built in 1884-85 in Glenferrie Road Malvern as the Malvern Presbyterian Church. It was situated on the east side of Glenferrie Road, between Edsall Street and Wattletree Road. Around 1903 the building was moved to Pine Grove. In recent years the hall has been demolished.



Church Hall Pine Grove Malvern 1989 Reg no 7705

## Two Malverns and a Mulberry Tree

Cora Weaver and Bruce Osborne's new book contains the story of one Mulberry tree and its links to both Malvern in England and Malvern in Melbourne.



Cora Weaver and Bruce Osborne

## Lower Malvern Road Glen Iris 1929

The State Library of Victoria collection includes this 1929 image of Lower Malvern Road Glen Iris.



The title is inscribed in black ink on the original glass negative. A wooden picket fence and gate can be seen on the left and the road curves to the left at the top of the image. We're wondering where it may have been taken!

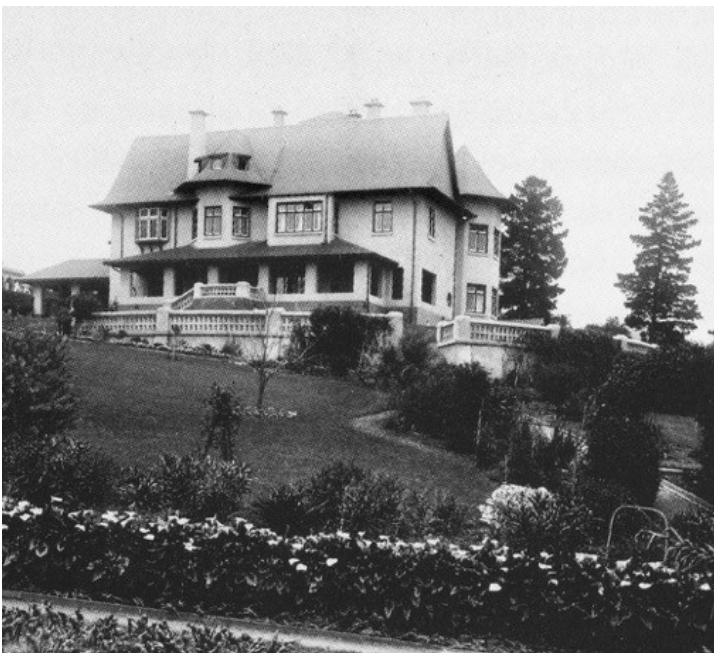
## Glyn, 224 Kooyong Road, Toorak.

We were recently emailed a copy of this photo showing the south elevation of *Glyn*, Kooyong Road, Toorak. At the time the garden extended south to Toorak Road.

*Glyn* was designed in 1908 by the noted architect Rodney H. Alsop for Sir Edward Miller.

The house was constructed in the Arts and Crafts style, finished with a distinctive render with pebbles pushed into the surface. It had a terracotta shingle roof. This part of the garden later became the site of Selwyn Court.

*Glyn* is noted to be of significance by Heritage Victoria.



*Glyn*, 224 Kooyong Road Toorak (undated)

## Public Records Office Victoria (PROV)

PROV is pleased to announce that you can now search for the PROV collection through the National Library of Australia's Trove website. Bringing together content from libraries, museums and archives, Trove has over 475 million Australian and online resources available to the public.

## Stonnington research enquiries

Enquiries have been received relating to Bernard Hillberg and Caroline (nee Kay). Caroline died at Malvern. Her three children Emanuel Bernard, Thelma and Leonard all lived at one time in the Malvern area. A master student from the Melbourne School of Design asked about architect Joseph Thomas Crook. One family researcher asked about her great-grandmother who had been married at a house known as *Graystones*, in Tooronga Road, East Malvern in 1920.

A number of old photos were sent through relating to Richard Harding (1827 - 1909). It is thought that he lived at *Edgecumbe*, Winter Street, Malvern in the 1890s and that his son, also Richard Harding, lived

at 4 Brookville Road, Toorak around 1909. Around 1922 members of the Harding family lived at 124 Finch Street East Malvern.

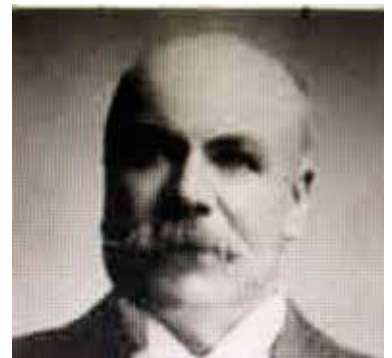
One researcher is looking for images of Thomas Amott. Thomas opened a butchery at 331 Malvern Road, Prahran in 1896. The Prahran rate book for 1896 notes Amott at 330 and 332 Malvern Road. He is then rated at 332 Malvern Road through to 1898. He was a Prahran Councillor in 1898-1900 and a Life Governor of the Alfred Hospital.

## RHSV - A Walk in the Flagstaff Gardens

Join tour guides from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on a guided walk through the Flagstaff Gardens – the historic heart of the City, every Monday at 11.00am and 2.00pm. Visitors will climb Flagstaff Hill to consider its place in Melbourne topography and pre-European history as well as its early role as a burial ground, Flagstaff signalling station and magnetic and meteorological observatory. Bookings: 9326 9288



Richard Harding



Thomas Amott

## Former Congregational Church, 66 to 72 Peel Street, Windsor

The former church building was constructed in 1858 as the second United Methodist Free Church in the Melbourne Circuit. The designing architect is unknown. An earlier galvanised iron building on the site was originally owned by the Independent (or Congregational) Church, who sold it to the United Free Methodists. From about 1866, however, the majority of the congregation, together with the Rev. Middleton, joined the Congregational Church.

The only known surviving United Free Methodist Church in Victoria, this building has a pillastered stuccoed facade distinguished by the use of Greek Revival parapet block composition in place of the more usual pediment. The facade is largely intact, but the Georgian windows have been replaced. The porch may date from the period when the Congregationalists took over the building.

In 1977, the Peel Street Church became part of the Uniting Church together with St. George's (ex-Presbyterian) in Chapel Street and the Hotham Street Church (ex-Methodist) to form the East St. Kilda Parish. The final service in the Peel Street Church was held in December 1979. The former Church building was sold by auction in May 1980 and has since been converted into a private residence. The original ceiling has been restored, the roof replaced, and a mezzanine added at the rear.

This former 1858 Church has state historical significance as the only known surviving United Methodist Free Church in Victoria. It has architectural significance as a very early church in the district, with distinctive features including the Greek Revival parapet and round arched windows. The architectural integrity of the church has been reduced due to alterations to the windows (formerly Georgian) and additions to the rear and probable internal alterations relating to its conversions to residential use.



Former Congregational Church Peel Street  
Windsor Reg no 61952

## The Australasian Decorator & Painter (1905-1924)

The State Library of Victoria has digitised *The Australasian Decorator & Painter* (1905-1924), a trade journal that would be of interest to anyone owning a house from that period.

[http://digital.slv.vic.gov.au/R/?func=collections&collection\\_id=3266](http://digital.slv.vic.gov.au/R/?func=collections&collection_id=3266)



### Glorious news! Separation at last!

On 11 November 1850 the people of Victoria, then known as the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, received the news that the British Parliament had passed legislation granting the separation of the district from New South Wales. It was a colonial era version of Brexit! The announcement was received rapturously by the local community which saw several days of celebrations.

### Facebook favourite of the week!



Over 11800 people saw this image in the first 48 hours!  
Toorak Road Malvern looking east from Milton Parade c1970  
Reg no 2730

## New member

We would like to welcome our latest new member Leonie Burrows.

## Taking Local History to the Community

Thank you to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, the RHSV, Michael O'Brien MP and The Friends of Cheltenham Cemeteries for advertising the recent History Matters talk. Thanks to all of Simone Sharpe's detailed research, the talk was full of valuable information.



In July The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Federal Member for Higgins, recognised local volunteers. MHS Vice President Jane Nigro received an award for her contribution to the local community. Lorraine and Jane represented the Society at the recent South Metro meeting which was held at Box Cottage Museum, Joyce Park, Jasper Road, Ormond. The cottage is an exact reproduction of a small pioneer cottage. William and Elizabeth Box and ten children lived in the little cottage from 1865 to 1914.

Also on display at Box Cottage is a barn area with an historic dray, ploughs, and market garden equipment.



Chapel off Chapel 2016

The Society would like to thank Chapel off Chapel's Team Leader Cate Crowley, and Business Manager Gary McMahon, for the warm welcome we received during our visit. Gary is certainly very knowledgeable about both the Chapel and the Theatre's history. [chapeloffchapel.com.au](http://chapeloffchapel.com.au)

Grill'd in Glenferrie Road Malvern have counted up all the tokens and the Malvern Historical Society came 2nd in July! Very soon they'll be handing over a \$100 donation to the Society. Teachers and students from Malvern Valley Primary School recently spent time visiting the Stonnington City Centre. They left with lots of information, stories and Society publications.

Society members and visitors were

amazed by the architectural detail to be seen in the Robert Haddon designed Malvern Presbyterian Church. Minister Phil Daffy shared the fascinating history and then guided us around as we viewed the details inside the Church. Worth a visit! <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/124816/download-report>

It was a full house for Gary Presland's fascinating talk at the RHSV in August, 'The nature of Melbourne's urban history'.

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

Helen Gobbi, President, Oakleigh & District Historical Society donated a Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre opening programme.



The high diving tower on the occasion of the official opening of the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre 1969  
Reg no 5371

### 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](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History)

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### Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)

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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 and a member of the South Metro History Group.

### 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/Discover/History](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History)

Prahran Historical and Arts Society [www.phas.org.au](http://www.phas.org.au)

Prahran Mechanics Institute [www.pmi.net.au](http://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](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern) 0438 515 631  
[malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)

STONNINGTON HISTORY CENTRE

[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History) 8290 1360 [history@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au)