

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

January 2018 - Newsletter No. 71

Twilight Walk Thursday 8 February 6.30pm

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our walk through the Urban Forest in Malvern East and the area on the eastern side of Belgrave Road. Hear about the Outer Circle Railway and how this part of Stonnington developed.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 Members: Gold coin.

Remains of Waverley Station c1940.
Stonnington History Centre MP5239



Wednesday 21 February History Matters: A Capitol site of urban development and suburban transformation

Simone Sharpe, Historian, Stonnington History Centre, will present an historical examination of the changes in the use of the former cable tram engine house site on the corner of Toorak Road and Chapel Street – from transport-related power generation, to commercial food production as the Capitol Bakeries, to retail and entertainment as the Fun Factory, then to a high-density residential zone.

Drawing on a range of sources including council records, newspapers, photographs and correspondence, Simone will use this site as a case study to illustrate the transformation of South Yarra from a suburb with pockets of working class industry to one now more associated with conspicuous consumption.

Wednesday 21 February, 10am – 11am. Book online or telephone 8290 1360.



Cable tram engine house 1929
Stonnington History Centre SHC70029

Twilight Walk Thursday 28 February 6.30pm

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our walk along Wheatland Road in Malvern. Did you know that at one time there was a shortage of bricks and there were requests to Malvern Council to build weatherboard houses in designated brick areas? Come and learn more about how this Malvern street developed.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 Members: Gold coin.

Naragin, 61 Wheatland Road Malvern c1906.
Stonnington History Centre MP43



Sunday 25 March Pets in the Park 11am - 4pm

Can you help? Members of the Malvern Historical Society Committee are busy planning our stall at the City of Stonnington's Pets in the Park in Central Park, Malvern East. We hope you can join us. You'll be able to help us share our local history books and brochures, and get the chance to talk to a wide range of people and to hear the local history stories. If you can help for an hour or two sharing Stonnington's local history just give Lorraine a call: 9885 9082

Malvern Historical Society 2018 financial year

Just a reminder, the Malvern Historical Society 2018 financial year runs from 1st Jan - 31 Dec. You will have recently received a renewal / new membership / gift membership form. Unsure if you're financial for 2018? Just contact Lorraine: 98859082 ljsage@comcen.com.au

Thank you to all the members who have responded already, your subscriptions and donations are always appreciated.

Lorraine Sage, President.

2018 Diary dates:

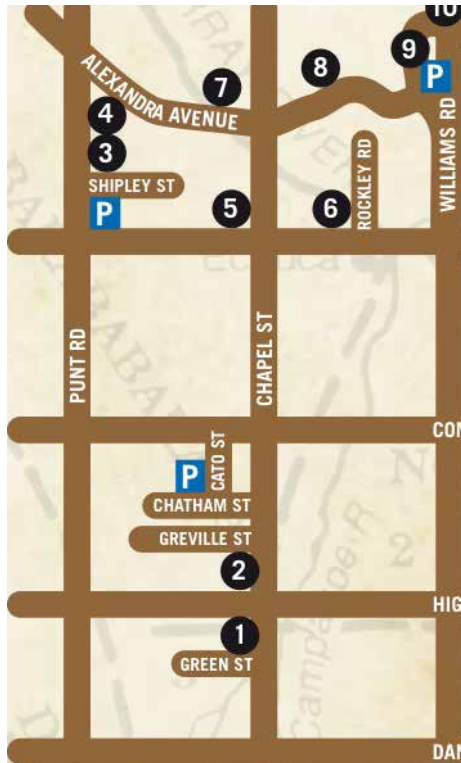
21 February Malvern Town Hall (postponed)

16 May Annual General Meeting Phoenix Park Community Centre Malvern East

Stonnington Indigenous Marker No 5 Aboriginal campsite

Corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road

(Melway: 58 E3)



During the 1830s this area was surrounded by tea-tree scrub and favoured as a frequent camping place for Aboriginal people from the local clans and those visiting from the Gippsland area. However, at that time, when European settlers were first arriving in Melbourne, there was long-standing enmity between the local Boonwurrung people and the Ganai peoples of Gippsland. The Ganai people called the Boonwurrung ‘thurung’ meaning tiger snakes ‘because they came sneaking around to kill us’. The Boonwurrung referred to the Ganai and other non-Kulin people as ‘mainmait’ or ‘berbira’ meaning ‘no good’, ‘foreign’ or ‘wild men’.

Local author and archaeologist, Gary Presland, reconstructed how he imagined the landscape of Stonnington would have looked in the 1830s. It is possible to envisage the Aboriginal campsite from his description:

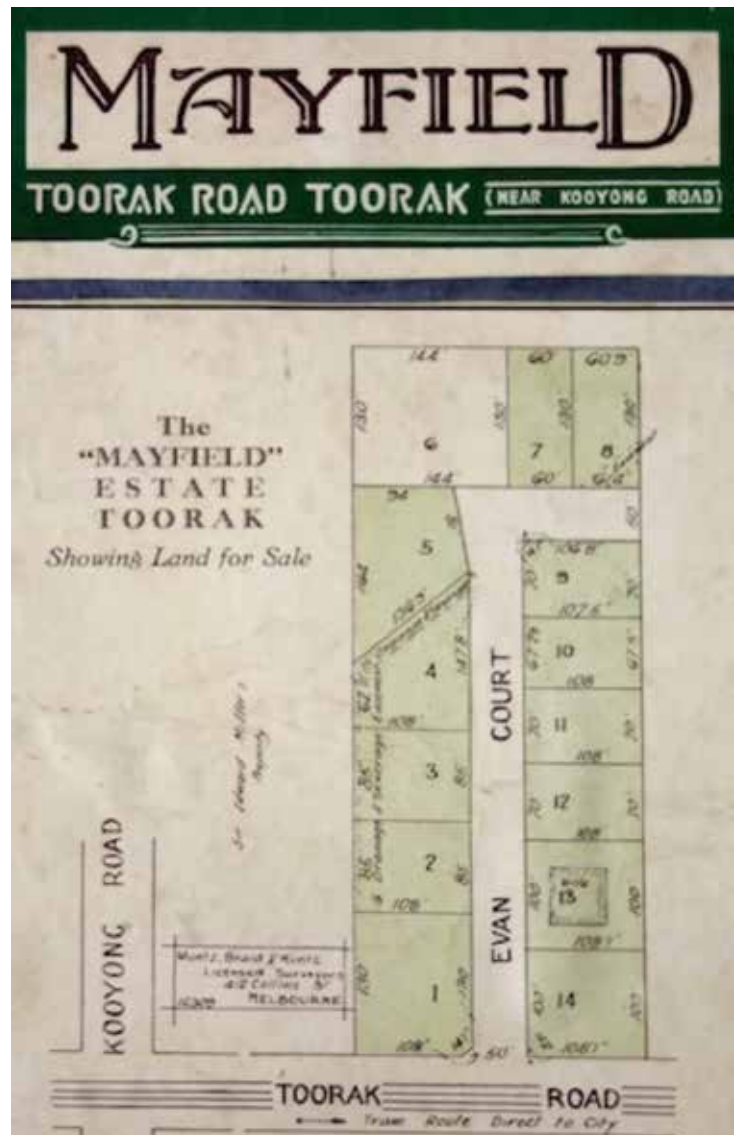
South of the Yarra River the countryside is flatter but there is a greater variety of plant life in a number of different environments. As we move south, away from the future settlement site, there is a range of different vegetation. In the South Yarra area, stretching as far as what will be the site of Hawksburn station, there are swampy lagoons covered in close growing ti-tree scrub. Much of the area between the river and the future location of Dandenong Road is swampy and prone to flooding, and in winter there is often water on the ground. In the area where Chapel Street and St Kilda Road will be, there is a thick wattle forest interspersed with mature gums. Parts of this forest will remain up to the 1860s, to be lost in the rapid growth of Melbourne until the last remnant is the Corroboree Tree in St Kilda junction (Presland 1985: 18-19).

Source www.stonnington.vic.gov.au

Mayfield Estate Toorak 1927

A copy of the 1927 Mayfield Estate Subdivision was recently found on the Kew Historical Society website. The subdivision included 14 allotments surrounding Evan Court (now Evans Court) in Toorak. The subdivision adjoined Toorak Road east of Kooyong Road and alerted prospective buyers to how the Toorak Road tram would take them directly to the city. This emphasis on existing transport routes was a feature of subdivisions during a period when car ownership was the preserve of the wealthy. An existing brick villa, *Mayfield*, is noted as already constructed on lot 13. The subdivision also notes that lots on adjoining land were owned by Sir Edward Miller. Today Evans Court extends beyond this subdivision through to Moonga Road.

www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au



UNESCO World Heritage Committee

On November 15th Australia was elected in Paris to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. Australia will serve a four year term, concluding in November 2021. Australia was a founding member of the World Heritage Convention in 1974 and has served four times on the World Heritage Committee, most recently from 2007 to 2011.

Valuable research on the former City of Malvern.



Rob Bower c2000

Over the past Twenty five years, Rob Bower, a long time member of the Malvern Historical Society and former Treasurer, has deposited detailed research relating to the former City of Malvern with the Stonnington History Centre. His extensive and thorough research, and beautifully organised and presented reports, are an invaluable resource for the staff at the Stonnington History Centre, and provide researchers with information on the first Crown land sales and subsequent land sales (dates and individuals involved), and the formation of streets (names, name changes, and individuals responsible).

Malvern 1840-1989: a history of the subdivision comprises Volume 1: Malvern roads and streets from the date plans were lodged and declared, includes index and location plan, and Volume 2: Crown grants, crown reserves, the General Law subdivision. There is also material on Malvern trades and businesses, and the development of rateable properties east of Burke Road and the Tooronga Estate. One report, *Malvern: Rateable Improvements 1856*, details Malvern's development 30 years after the start of local government in October 1856. The Wattle Tree Hotel, Gardiner Hotel, Malvern Hill Hotel, Butchers Arms Hotel, Turf Club Hotel and Race Course Hotel are also mentioned. Rob has deposited 7 photocopied maps of Malvern, East of Burke Road (1871, 1887, 1901, 1911, 1926, 1941 and

1956), photos showing the South Eastern Arterial Road Link redevelopment c1983 to 1994, from Tooronga Road Malvern to Warrigal Road Malvern East, and also an index to *The Australasian* (Jan to June 1894). The SHC catalogue has a link to the pdf of the typescript. Thanks Rob for all your valuable research!

Accessing the Stonnington History Collection

The Stonnington History Centre is part of the Stonnington Library and Information Service and holds a substantial collection of essentially paper-based and digital records relating to the history of the municipality of Stonnington and its predecessors, the cities of Prahran and Malvern. The collection includes books, photographs, ephemera, documents, building plans, maps, subdivision plans, newspapers and general local history information. Most of the more than 70,000 records can be found on the History Centre's catalogue, along with more extensive descriptions or histories for some items. <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Search-the-catalogue>

To request records for viewing and/or to make an appointment to discuss your research needs with a member of staff, please call the History Centre on 8290 1360, email history@stonnington.vic.gov.au or fill in the online form at <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre/Contact-the-Stonnington-History-Centre>.

Burkley Service Centre, corner Burke Road and Waverley Road, Malvern East



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Phillip and Peter at work on a car.

Burkley Service Centre c1975

Allen Jackson recently shared his family research relating to the south west corner of Burke and Waverley Roads, Malvern East.

Charles Jackson (Allen's grandfather) ran the Burkley Service Centre from approx 1972 to 1976. Charles had been working at and managing service stations and roadhouses since the 1950's in Strathmore, Frankston and Horsham before taking over at Burkley. This was to become a family business run mostly by Allen's grandfather, father and uncle. The family lived only a few blocks away in Tennyson Street and later in Belson Street, Malvern East. Until the 1960's there were shops on the south west corner of Waverley Road and Burke Road and these were demolished to make way for the garage. Charles Jackson also invented and patented the Parklok. This was an anti theft device that worked by locking the brakes and not releasing them.

Phillip Jackson, Burkley
Service Centre,
Waverley Road
Malvern East 1974



Wildlife monitoring in Stonnington

Mature trees create an important habitat for native wildlife by providing tree hollows. Tree hollows can take up to 80–100 years to form naturally. In an urban environment Councils can speed up this process by constructing tree hollows. A recent Stonnington Council audit of tree hollows found micro-bats, a range of bird species, native mice and possums are making their homes across Stonnington. Fallen dead trees, nesting boxes and an island have been incorporated into the Glen Iris Wetlands to provide birdlife with safe nesting sites inaccessible to humans and their pets. A wide variety of birds visit the area, including black ducks, white-faced herons, white necked herons, little cormorants, little grebes and swamp hens. The Glen Iris Park Wetlands were established along Gardiners Creek as part of the redevelopment following construction of the South Eastern Arterial Road. They are located on High Street, Glen Iris adjacent to Gardiner's Creek Melway reference: Map 59 K9 and K10



Glen Iris Park Wetlands 1990
Stonnington History Collection MP7913

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/Parks-and-Gardens/Glen-Iris-Wetlands>

Reviewing the Stonnington Planning Scheme

The City of Stonnington is required to review its planning scheme within one year of adopting the Council Plan - by June 2018. The purpose of the Review is to evaluate the Scheme to ensure that it is consistent with, and gives effect to, state and local policy directions. Council's Municipal Strategic Statement is required to be consistent with the Council Plan. The Review focuses on the local provisions, which are individual to each Municipal Council. The review will focus on ensuring the scheme is aligned with new State Government policies such as *PlanMelbourne 2017-2050*, *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria and Homes for Victorians*.

<http://www.connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/Planningreview>

Rotarians' Dance at Northbrook

'To assist the Community Service Fund of the Melbourne Rotary Club, a very successful dance was held at *Northbrook* 247 High Street, Malvern, last Saturday night. Arrangements were carried out by Mr Reg. Pascoe (organiser), Misses Phyllis Nowack and Eresby Hamilton Smith (joint Hon. Secretaries), and the hostesses were Misses Sheelah Walker, Peggy Pascoe, Ida Glover, Enid Emerson, Betty Bernadau, and Phyllis Hackett. The hosts were Doug Pascoe, Bruce Perdriau, Ron Emerson and Bob Eggleston.

Miss Phyllis Nowack looked charming in a gown of Patou blue satin, with a train and headdress. Miss Eresby Hamilton Smith made a striking contrast in a gold and black figured lame frock. Massed arrangements of zinnias, asters, Easter daisies and phlox made the entrance hall and reception rooms delightfully gay, while green foliage decorated the ballroom.

Among the two hundred and fifty present were President of Rotary (Mr Fred Walker) and Mrs Walker, Mr and Mrs J.R. Nowack, Mr and Mrs Charles Garrard, Mr and Mrs Harry O'Kane, Mrs Hamilton Smith, Dr. and Mrs Fraser, and Mr and Mrs Fred Harold. Also present were Misses Edith Collie, Barbara Carson, Jeanette Paton, Ruth Hughes, Ina Harold, Betty Rumley, Dr. Ken Skues, John Perdriau, Norman O'Kane, Laurie Gill, L Beeson and S. Watkin.



Table Talk 29 March 1934

PlanningAlerts - OpenAustralia Foundation

PlanningAlerts is a free service run by the independent charity OpenAustralia Foundation. PlanningAlerts searches planning authority websites for development applications in your area. All you need to do is sign up to the service, specify the location you are interested in and then if any applications are lodged in the area you are sent an email with the details. contact@planningalerts.org.au

The OpenAustralia Foundation aims to support a nationwide open access public digital reference library for the purpose of making information relating to public bodies accessible and useful for all Australians.

www.openaustraliafoundation.org.au

Brenda Palmer, Coles' star checkout assistant!

Brenda Palmer is a well known face both in Glenferrie Road and at Coles in Malvern, and a long time member of the Malvern Historical Society. Brenda was recently flown to Perth to be a special guest at the Wesfarmers Ltd Annual Meeting.

Wesfarmers' Previous Managing Director Richard Goyder paid special tribute to Brenda during his farewell address when he said

'We have the most amazing people in our teams. They are the ambassadors for our businesses, the people who make the difference every single day. None of them is more amazing than the lady I am about to acknowledge. Brenda Palmer has worked as a check out assistant at the same Coles store in Malvern, in suburban Melbourne, for 50 years. She's 85 years old and is living proof that age is just a number. She starts at six every morning and, yes, people really do queue up just to be served by her at the check-out. Brenda, thank you, you are an inspiration!'

Thank you to Christine Dargie, Communications Manager, Wesfarmers Ltd for sending Richard Goyder's words of tribute and the image.

L to R: Richard Goyder AO, Rob Scott, Wesfarmers Managing Director, Michael Chaney AO, Wesfarmers Chairman, and Brenda Palmer.



PROV Step inside the 'cool room'

The repository at the PROV Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne holds 100 kilometres of records across 12,000sqm and two levels. Tucked away in the corner of the ground level you will find the cool room, also known by staff as 'the fridge' – a 276sqm space kept at 6 degrees Celsius and 30% humidity (as opposed to the 20 degrees of the repository and 45-50% humidity). Photographs, negatives, microform, and motion picture films are stored within the cool room to increase their life span by around one hundred years. Examples of some of the series stored in the cool room include the Public Transport Corporation photographic collection and film reels, the State Bank collection, and Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works films and photos.

When a photograph that's stored in the cool room is ordered, a member of the Access Services staff will retrieve the record and leave it to sit in a middle room between the fridge and the repository. The record needs to be stored here for 24 hours to bring it slowly down to room temperature, avoiding any damage. PROV staff have also concentrated on digitising glass plate negatives which are generally the oldest and most fragile parts of the photographic holdings. www.prov.vic.gov.au



Claremont Avenue looking towards Malvern Station. (undated)

PROV. VPRS 12800/P3 item ADV 0729

Stonnington History Centre - Pinterest

Discover more of the history of Stonnington through Stonnington History Centre Pinterest.

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/ourstonnhistory/>



Member of the Tulloch family at their Paran Lodge dairy Stonnington History Centre MP7006

Dudley George Simpson (1922-2017) conductor and composer

Dudley Simpson was born at 33 Washington Avenue, Malvern East, to postman Charles Simpson and his wife Edna, on 4 October 1922.

He attended Melbourne Boys' High School, and served in New Guinea during the Second World War. It seems he lived at Washington Avenue until he married in 1950, when he appears to have moved to Elsternwick.

He later moved to England, where he composed the incidental music for the Dr Who TV series until 1980 (but not the Dr Who theme), and the music for many other BBC shows.

He returned to Australia in 1987, living in NSW. He passed away on 4 November 2017.

Additional information:

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2017/nov/14/dudley-simpson-obituary>

Victorian Sands and McDougall directories

Further to our article in the last issue of the newsletter, more volumes of the historic Victorian Sands and McDougall Directories have been released and are now available to search or browse on the State Library Victoria website.

One in every five directories, dating from 1860 to 1974, are now available. This is fantastic news for local and family history researchers.

<http://cedric.slv.vic.gov.au>

Church Street Bridge 1924



Church Street Bridge 1924

Stonnington History Centre Collection SHC70010

The Stonnington History Centre has recently purchased an oil painting, *Church Street Bridge*. It was painted in 1924 by Ernest Buckmaster. The painting shows the Church Street Bridge looking north-west across Richmond and South Yarra. It appears to have been painted from a position to the east of the swamp area below *Como*.

2018 Australian Heritage Festival

The Australian Heritage Festival program in Victoria is coordinated by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The Festival begins on 18 April, the International Day for Monuments and Sites, and will run until 20 May.

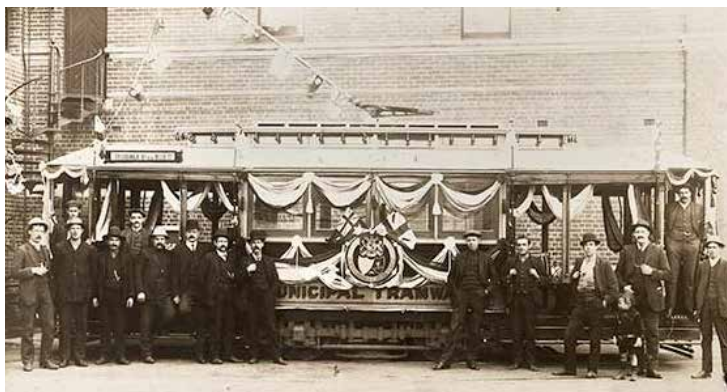
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/nsw/2018-australian-heritage-festival/>



Waiora, 321 Glenferrie Road Malvern c1900
Stonnington History Centre Collection MP5025
(Special Kids 2018)

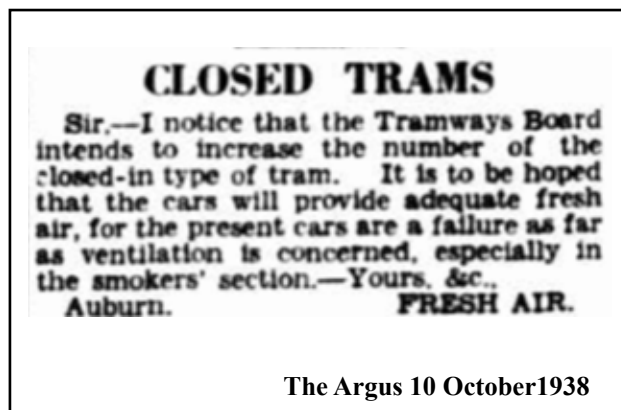
Tram lights

In the early days of the Prahran and Malvern Tramway Trust, when street lighting was poor, it was decided that a fairy light system would help passengers see what type of route the tram was travelling along the road. Some of the route numbers and colour lights used on the local services included St Kilda Road and Burke Road two white lights, St Kilda Road and Glen Iris two red lights, St Kilda Road and Malvern Town Hall one red and one white light, and between St Kilda Road and Gardiner one green light.



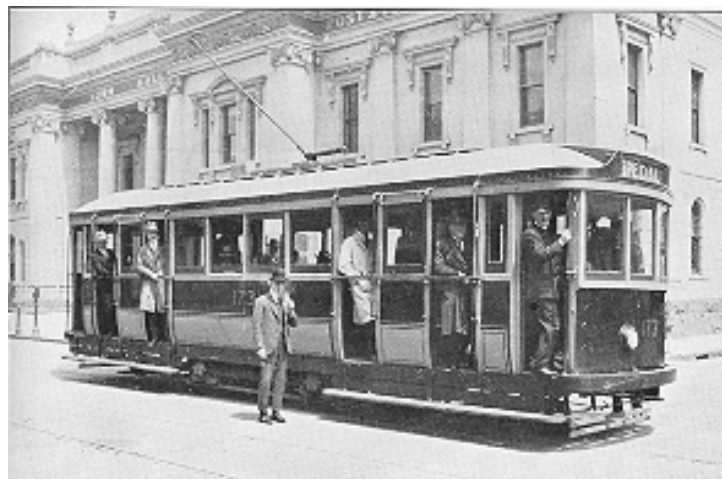
First Tooronga Road via High Street tram 1911
Stonnington History Centre MP60950

Closed in trams



The Argus 10 October 1938

The women's section on trams often had a door both ends to keep out the smoke coming from the main boarding areas.



The first electric tram in Chapel Street c1927
Stonnington History Centre PH12713

The Convent of the Good Shepherd Oakleigh

The Convent of the Good Shepherd Oakleigh was built in 1883, at the corner of Dandenong Road and Castlebar Road, Oakleigh. At the time this section of the former City of Malvern was known as Oakleigh.

The Convent offered academic, domestic and commercial training for girls aged 11 to 13, who were deemed by the Children's Court to be in need of care, and also provided care for older girls and women.

Fraser Faithful, Archivist, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, has recently shared a copy of a section of *Fifty Golden Years 1863-1913*, the Convent of the Good Shepherd Oakleigh's Annals (Convent diary). The section was written by Marion Miller Knowles c1912-13 and includes the following stories.

Midnight visitors

'One night, when everyone had retired to their dormitories and all was quiet, a loud thud and a noise like shuffling footsteps was heard from one of the rooms downstairs. The Sisters became alarmed thinking that someone had broken into the Convent. More loud noises like the sound of strong efforts to open the door and chairs being knocked down were heard. Two of the older girls, armed with brooms, agreed to go down to investigate. Only half of the stairs had been descended when there was another loud noise and the girls retreated frantically upstairs. When there was no further noise two of the Sisters concluded that the intruders had escaped and they descended followed by the girls. The Sisters were opening the door gently when two forms rushed from the room knocking the hand held lantern. While the girls screamed, the nuns burst into laughter as the identity of the burglars was revealed- two calves from the Convent's farm!'

An Unexpected Visitor

'On one occasion, around 1890, a Sister answered the front door bell and spoke to an elderly man with a quiet voice and a respectable appearance. He was remarkably well dressed. He wore a 'Bell-topper', carried a silver topped umbrella, new gloves and wore an elegant suit in an up-to-date style. He wished to speak to the Mother Superior. He was conducted to the parlour to wait. The Mother Superior was not available and two of the Sisters were asked to interview the gentleman. The Sisters listened as he spoke about wishing to attend Mass in the Convent Chapel. As the conversation continued he revealed his identity. He was Harry Power the bushranger! Frightened, the Sisters excused themselves quickly and went in search of the Mother Superior. Alarmed for the safety of her convent, she hurried to the parlour, where Power shared his story and the way he had turned his life around. He was to become a frequent visitor to the Convent.'



Convent of the Good Shepherd c1900
Stonnington History Centre - MP418



Dairy herd, Convent of the Good Shepherd c1900
Stonnington History Centre - MP5080



Convent of the Good Shepherd c1900
Stonnington History Centre - MP419



Family History Club

First Wednesday of the Month, 3-4.30pm

7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June

Curious about your ancestors?

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced family history researcher come and join our friendly monthly group where you can meet with fellow enthusiasts and explore the many genealogy resources available.

Stonnington History Centre
Northbrook, 1257 High Street,
Malvern Phone 8290 1360

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre

New members

We would like to welcome our latest new members Pamela Vassalotti and Marilyn Rudd.

Taking Local History to the Community

Pat and Lorraine have given two presentations to the residents of Regis Aged Care Malvern East as part of their Life Style Program. Thanks to Pat, Lorraine, Marisa and Jane, our recent walk leaders and helpers, for sharing the local history with members and residents in the Manning Road, Malvern East and the Benson Street Toorak areas. If you would like a copy of any of our walk notes just send the Society an email malvernhistorical@yahoo.com If you would like to help with the research for an upcoming walk let us know.

Lorraine has attended the recent meetings of the Stonnington History Committee. Grill'd Malvern, 217 Glenferrie Road Malvern have counted up all the tokens for the month of November and were very pleased to present Ann from the Malvern Historical Society Committee with a cheque for \$100. Thanks Grill'd, we appreciate your ongoing support. Thank you to Roxanne, Marisa, Marg, Diane, and Lorraine for making our stall at the East Malvern Food and Wine Festival in Central Park, Malvern East in November such a success.

Additions to the Stonnington History Centre Collection

By our Deeds: Reflections on terms in the Mayoral Office.

A series of interviews were conducted in 2016 by journalist Andrew Dodd with nine former mayors of the municipality of Stonnington, and the former municipalities of Prahran and Malvern.

Those interviewed were Ann Morrow (the first female mayor of Malvern), Chris Gahan, John Chandler, Barry Fenton, Ann O'Shea, Ray Lang, Leonie Hemingway (nee Burke), Melina Sehr and the late Claude Ullin. The interviews provide an insight into the nature of the tier of local government.

Cr Ray Lang, Kiddicare Centre, Glen Iris 1993
Stonnington History Collection MP62093



Sacre Coeur: 125 years 125 stories (Bounce Books 2013) donated by Sacre Coeur

The glass soldier : not all of him shall die Don Farrands. 2017 Big Sky publishing.

The book has been written using the diaries of the author's grand-father Nelson Harold Ferguson.

Nelson was one of the WWI veterans who took up residence in the war services homes in Karma Avenue, Malvern East. He often met up with his war comrades and sat in Villers Square.

"Every single house in Karma Avenue, and in the streets surrounding it, was now the home of someone in all likelihood very troubled or in pain: a returned soldier. The sorrows of war sat in each home. The Ferguson children, like all the children in the neighbourhood, knew no different. They saw limping and sunken-eyed returned soldiers in the street every day." (p 221)

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 65,000 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

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- Paying by Cash

I would like to assist with:

- Committee and administration Newsletter Walks Talks Afternoon teas & suppers

Find out more:

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