

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

September 2018 - Newsletter No. 74

22 September Local History Walk - Ethel Street Malvern Area

Saturday 22 September 9.30am

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our walk in the area close to Ethel Street, Mary Street and Lara Street Malvern. Ethel Street was created as part of the subdivision of the Tooronga Station Estate in 1890.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Members: Gold coin. Non members: \$5



Tooronga Station Estate Malvern c1890
Stonnington History Collection MH15408

3 October Stonnington History Centre - Victorian Seniors Festival

The Stonnington History Centre is proud to be a part of the Victorian Seniors Festival in October.

Guided tour of the Stonnington History Centre 3 October

The Stonnington History Centre manages the historic records of Stonnington Council and the former municipalities of Malvern and Prahran, and is housed in the Italianate villa *Northbrook* (designed by Charles D'Ebro and built in 1888-89).

Come on a behind-the-scenes tour of the working archives of the Stonnington History Centre, hear about some of the people who used to live in historic *Northbrook*, and learn about the programs, precious records and resources available for conducting your own research.

Wednesday 3 October, 10am – 11am. Bookings required.

Book online or telephone 8290 1360.

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre>



Northbrook 2016

10 October Local History Walk - Central Park to Hedgeley Dene Gardens Malvern East

Wednesday 10 October 10am

Join members as we explore two beautiful local Malvern parks. Central Park was acquired by Malvern City Council in 1906, and it has remained faithful to the original design concept. Hedgeley Dene Gardens, a linear park, developed from 1925.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Members: Gold coin. Non members: \$5

Lake and pavilion, Hedgeley Dene Farm c1880
Stonnington History Collection MP7344



12 October Guided tour of Malvern Town Hall

Come on a guided tour of the Malvern Town Hall with the Mayor Councillor Steve Stefanopoulos.

Explore the beautiful interior architecture of Malvern Town Hall, which features Queensland maple panelled walls, terrazzo floors, intricate plaster ceilings and walls, and elaborate Victorian style staircase. Commence the tour with an illustrated talk showcasing historic photographs of the Malvern Town Hall from 1886 in the Council Chamber.

Friday 12 October, 10am – 12.00pm.

Bookings required. Book online.



Malvern Shire Hall 1885
Stonnington History Collection MP5018

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre>

Bailliere's Gazetteer and Road Guide 1879

Gardiner Shire

Gardiner Shire is bounded by a line commencing at the centre of the Kooyong-Koot creek, at the N. W. angle of allotment 19, parish of Prahran and county of Bourke; thence up the said creek to the N. E. angle of allotment 188, of the same parish; S. to the main road from Melbourne to Dandenong, opposite the S.E. angle of allotment 179; N. W. by the said road to opposite the S. W. angle of allotment 53, parish aforesaid and N. to the starting point. Population, 1,403; dwellings, 320; ratepayers, 409; estimated total value of rateable property, £327,000.

Prahran

Prahran (County of Bourke) is a borough town, suburban to Melbourne, in the parish of Prahran, and electoral district of St. Kilda. It is situated about 3 miles S. E. from the centre of Melbourne, between the Kooyong-koot creek and Hobson's bay, on the E. of the Dandenong road via St. Kilda, and S. of the Gardiner's Creek road, on the great Dandenong road, and on the Melbourne and Brighton railway (there being two stations, one in Greville-street, near the centre of the town, and the other in Chapel-street at its upper end). Prahran was proclaimed a municipal district in April, 1855; it has about 20 principal streets, many of them flagged and metalled. There are several mills and manufactories in Prahran. The new Wesleyan Grammar School, on the Punt-road, and the Church of England Grammar School, on the St. Kilda- road, are within the municipality. Much of the surrounding district is taken up for villa sites, many of the gentlemen having business in Melbourne finding it a convenient distance from town, and easy of access by means of the trains and cars, which run regularly both ways. There are several dairy farms in the district, but the greater portion of the inhabitants are employed in Melbourne. St. Kilda lies to the W. S. W. of Prahran, at a distance of about half a mile, and, with the hamlets of Gardiner's Creek road and Windsor, and the suburb of South Yarra, may properly be said to form portions of the township. There is a post and money-order office, a police court, and a spacious and elegant town hall, used for municipal purposes, and for concerts, bazaars, &c. It is built of brick and stuccoed, and has a fine square tower surmounted by a dome, and having a clock in it with a dial on each of its four sides.

The main street is a fine, wide, well-constructed street, and is lined on both sides with good shops. The town is lighted with gas, and water is laid on from the Yan Yean mains in Melbourne. The surrounding country is flat, and uninteresting, although the drive along the Gardiner's Creek road, which lies to the N. of Prahran, and runs nearly E. and W., is very pleasant. There is a deaf and dumb asylum, a benevolent society, an industrial home, a free municipal library, an assembly hall, a mechanics' institute, a debating club, and a musical society. The population of the borough numbers about 18,400 persons. It has an area of 2,400 acres and 3,896 dwellings. The geological formation is chiefly pliocene tertiary. Local newspaper, *Prahran Telegraph and Times*.



The Union Store of J. Lindsay, with Post Office and grocery store, Dandenong Road Malvern c1880 Stonnington History Collection MP120



Chapel Street looking south from the Prahran Town Hall tower 1875 Stonnington History Collection PH60771

Federation Houses Study Interim and Permanent Heritage Controls

The City of Stonnington has prepared Amendments C269 and C270 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

The Amendments implement the recommendations of the Federation Houses Heritage Study (GJM Heritage, 2017) which identified 40 individual places and two precincts. Four out of the 40 individual places from the Federation Houses Study 2017 have had planning scheme amendments progress ahead of this Amendment due to the imminent threat to the buildings. Within the Amendments a 'Federation House' is a building constructed as a dwelling, in the period between c1890 and c1918.

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Vision/Strategic-Planning/Planning-Scheme-Amendments/Amendment-C269-and-C270>



View looking north-east from the tower of the Malvern Town Hall 1912 Stonnington History Collection MP77

Exhibition: Service and sacrifice at home and at war, 1914-1918

Northbrook Pop-up Gallery, 1257 High Street, Malvern (behind Malvern Library) 25 October – 10 November
Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12pm – 5pm

The Stonnington History Centre's next exhibition will mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War. It will feature reproduction costumes from the Dressing Australia Museum of Costume, alongside original photographs, letters and ephemera from the History Centre's collection.

This exhibition will honour the local contribution to the war effort at home and overseas, remember those who died and celebrate the peaceful outcome of the Great War.

Exhibition launch: Wednesday 24 October, 5pm – 7pm

Guest speakers include Dr Helen Doyle and Don Farrands, author of *The Glass Soldier*.

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History/Stonnington-History-Centre>



Prahran Children's Patriotic League (undated). Stonnington History Collection PH13276

Rediscovered: the Aboriginal names for ten Melbourne suburbs

Recently ten previously forgotten Aboriginal names for 19th century sites and suburbs within Melbourne have been unearthed during research being undertaken at the Melbourne Museum. These include the names for Malvern (Kunan/w), Fitzroy (Ngár-go), Richmond (Quo-yung), and Collingwood (Yálla-birr-ang). These names were in a cache of notes made by Alfred William Howitt, an anthropologist and Gippsland magistrate. His jottings appear to be records of his conversations with William Barak, ngurungaeta (leader) of the Wurundjeri-willam, the traditional owners of what is now northern Melbourne, and Dick Richards, Barak's fellow Kulin countryman.

Howitt's palm-sized, leather bound notebooks, written in his barely legible hand, were not precise or verbatim records of these conversations but aids to memory. Held in the museum since the 1950s as a small part of his extensive collection, they are difficult to decipher. The names identify landmarks and perhaps sites of ancestral stories on land owned by Barak's clan and beyond. Aboriginal languages in Victoria had sounds not used in English which could easily confuse European scribes.

Take the name for the River Yarra. In 1876, Robert Brough Smyth recorded the Woiwurrung name for the river as "Birrarrung", but failed to say from whom or when it was collected. Many people will now recognise this in the name for the large green-space located close to Federation Square, Birrarung Marr. However many years earlier, Rev William Thomas made a sketch map of Aboriginal names for the rivers and creeks in the Yarra valley. He wrote "Yarra Yarra or Paarran" next to the outline of the course of the river.

Melbourne still uses a derivative of this word, Prahran, for one of its suburbs, although it does not border the Yarra River.

Jason Gibson and Helen Gardner Deakin University, Stephen Morey La Trobe University

Source:<https://theconversation.com/rediscovered-the-aboriginal-names-for-ten-melbourne-suburbs-99139>

Walter Burnley Griffin shops

This image shows shops, designed by Walter Burley Griffin, on the north west corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street Armadale c1950 (Peter Wille) Stonnington History Collection MP4518. (Original image: SLV)



Malvern Appreciation Day 19 October

Today there are a number of places around the world with the name Malvern. The Friends of Malvern Springs and Wells from Great Malvern England, is actively making the links between all of these places. In 2016, the Mayor of Malverne New York, Patricia Norris-McDonald, declared 19 October as Malvern Appreciation Day!

Origin of the name

Malvern derives its name from the English place near the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire. During the reign of Edward the Confessor, St Werstan established a religious cell which led to the founding of the medieval Great Malvern Priory in England. St Werstan is now the Patron Saint of Malvern's springs and wells. The Malvern Hills in England are a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. www.malvernwaters.com

Malverns in Australia include

Malvern Victoria. In 1856 Charles Skinner, whose family came from Ledbury, England near the Malvern Hills, bought land and planned a village. The area was formally named Malvern in 1878. It is now part of the City of Stonnington.

Malvern South Australia. Malvern in the City of Unley was a planned settlement dating from the late 19th century. Malvern in Victoria and the Malvern in Adelaide are pronounced differently.

Malvern New South Wales. Malvern lies in Croydon, 10km from the centre of Sydney. The Malvern Hill estate is a residential estate of Federation and Interwar houses, with a defined shopping street called The Strand.

Malvern Western Australia. Malvern Springs is a new township development half an hour from Perth.

Recently, cuttings from the Mulberry Tree in front of Northbrook in High Street Malvern, Melbourne, were sent to Malvern, in Barbados.



Charles Skinner (undated)
Stonnington History Collection MP142



View looking northeast towards the Malvern Hill Hotel, and the corner of Malvern Road and Glenferrie Road c1870s
Stonnington History Collection MP1239



June Cheesman taking delivery of the mulberry tree cuttings in Barbados 2018 (Image: www.malvernwaters.com)

Higgins Community Service Award winner - Pat Brincat

The Malvern Historical Society recently nominated our Secretary, Pat Brincat, for a Higgins Community Service Award for her wonderful work as a volunteer within the Stonnington community. She has certainly made a significant contribution volunteering her time, her skills and and her enthusiasm to both the Malvern Historical Society and Girl Guides Victoria. Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Federal Member for Higgins, recently hosted the Higgins Community Service Award Ceremony at the Banquet Hall in the Malvern Town Hall.

(L-R) Charles Brincat, Patricia Brincat and Lorraine Sage, Higgins Community Service Award Ceremony 2018



Gideon Rutherford

Gideon Rutherford was born in Tongue, Scotland on 8 April 1819. He arrived at Port Phillip in 1841 with his brother, Andrew, and together they moved sheep overland from NSW. Gideon married Mary Ann McCrae in Geelong in January 1847. He went into business with Robert Power as auctioneers and stock salesmen. Gideon was a founding member of the Gardiner Road Board (the predecessor of Malvern Council), and he was its first Chairman (1856-1858), (the equivalent of Mayor). He was a Member of the Legislative Council for the Victorian Parliament in November 1859 resigning in September 1860. [See: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/re-member/details/698-rutherford-gideon>]. He passed away on 3 December 1860 aged only 41.



Gideon Rutherford (undated)
Stonnington History Collection MP6614

Following his passing, the *Argus* reported that during a meeting of the Gardiner Road Board: 'the chairman be requested to convey to Mrs. Rutherford, on behalf of the inhabitants of Gardiner, an expression of their sympathy. The late Mr. Gideon Rutherford was the first chairman of The Gardiner Road Board, and he had been connected with it ever since its formation. Both as chairman and member of the Board, his services were highly valued by the inhabitants of the district.' [*Argus*, 11 December 1860, p. 5]

A letter sent to Mrs Rutherford from Richard McClure, Chairman of the Gardiner Road Board on behalf of the Board, dated 10 December 1860 reads as follows:

'Madam, I have the honour, at the request of the inhabitants of the Gardiner Road District assembled at a public meeting on Saturday last, to convey to you the expression of their sympathy and deep regret in your late bereavement. I have also on behalf of the members of the late and present Board to express to you sentiments of esteem and respect entertained unreservedly and collectively by them for your late husband. Mr Rutherford had been connected with the Gardiner Road Board since its first commencement, and from his kind and gentlemanly manner as well as from his honesty and integrity of purpose in his capacity of Member of the Board, had endeared himself to all classes of the community within the district. Having been associated with Mr Rutherford in connexion with the District during the last four years, I may be permitted to add my own testimony to his worth. With every sentiment of kind consideration and respect for yourself and family, I have the honour to remain, Madam, your most obedient servant, Richard McClure, Chairman' ([Gardiner Road Minutes Book, 22 December 1860])

The Stonnington History Collection includes an exhaustive family history [MH 6110], which contains copies of original documents including birth and death certificates, land titles, wills and probate documents.

Simone Sharpe Team Leader, Stonnington History Centre Northbrook

The Heart-in-Hand symbol

Three wooden stands have been found in Stonnington Council storage. Each feature the heart-in-hand symbol. According to Museums Victoria, this is a symbol used by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Heart in Hand is a symbol of charity. It refers to the help which an Odd Fellow gives to a brother in need, and the spirit in which help is to be given. Friendly Societies were community and interest based organisations which attracted members who wished to insure themselves and their families against poverty caused by sickness or death. They were self-help organisations with local lodges. <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2783>

In 1991 Geoffrey Blainey noted that in the second half of the nineteenth century, Melbourne became the hub of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Lodges were opened in many suburbs and country towns in Victoria, including Prahran (1858), Toorak (1888), and South Yarra. At one time, the main office of the lodge was located in Prahran. Geoffrey Blainey, (1991). *Odd Fellows : a history of IOOF Australia*, 1991 Allen & Unwin.



Wooden stand 2018



Detail from the stand 2018

Tivoli Theatre 116 Glenferrie Road Malvern

The Tivoli Theatre, which opened in 1911 in the Victoria Hall building in Glenferrie Road, was the first cinema in Malvern, The *Malvern Standard*, October 1911, reported that ‘The re-opening of the Tivoli Theatre, Malvern, after extensive alterations and improvements, took place on Thursday evening, when over 800 were present at the invitation of the management and some splendid pictures were shown. The Theatre has now a comfortable dress circle erected, from which an excellent view of the pictures can be secured, in fact the view of the screen from any portion of the theatre is all that could be desired, and those even in the back seats get a splendid view of the different pictures.

Cr Wilks, Mayor of Malvern, said he had much pleasure in declaring the theatre open. The Theatre had been remodelled, with about £1000 spent on alterations and improvements. He said the citizens of Malvern should be proud to have gentlemen in their midst who would invest their money in the city. The theatre was now equal to any picture theatre in Melbourne. The building could be said to be fire proof, as the only small aperture where there could be any possibility of fire getting through was the opening through which the light was thrown on to the screen, but the son of Mr Perry, the manager, had invented an automatic shutter which absolutely prevented any possibility of fire whatever. His Worship also made further complimentary references to the theatre as well as to the splendid class of pictures which were to be shown. Mr Perry, in responding for the Amalgamated Pictures. Ltd., thanked His Worship for the remarks he had made, and a motion of thanks to His Worship was carried unanimously. All the pictures shown were of a splendid nature, the lighting was good, and the subjects specially well chosen for the enthusiastic audience.

In January 1912 the *Prahran Telegraph* reported “that the employees of the Prahran and Malvern Tramways ave recently formed a band under conductor Mr. W. Ryder, late principal cornetist of the world-famous Besses o’ the Barn Band.

Their initial concert was to be at the Tivoli Theatre, Glenferrie Road, Malvern, on Thursday evening when a special programme of biograph pictures were to be screened during the evening by the management of the theatre, the Amalgamated Pictures Ltd. It was planned that Mr. Ryder would render selections which were sure to be appreciated by all music lovers, for that gentleman has the distinction of winning a world championship as a cornet soloist at the competitions held at Cambridge Hall, Southport, England.”

The Tivoli Theatre closed in 1921.

Film Fails to Sell Property at 116 Glenferrie Road Malvern

“A titled and edited film of the property, shown at an auction at Scott’s Hotel yesterday, failed to attract an acceptable offer for Malvern Chambers, 116-118 Glenferrie-road, Malvern. The property of three stories, which comprises shops tenanted by G. J. Coles Pty. Ltd., and a pharmaceutical chemist, together with four factories, was passed in at £33,000. The reserve was not disclosed. Rents from the property total £1710 a year and it was stated that these could be increased to £2087 with approval of the Fair Rents Board. Land area is approximately 52 feet by 130 feet.”

The film showed views of the property, general surroundings and street traffic. Mr. S. Macdonald, proprietor of Brownbill & Co., who auctioned the building, was the photographer.

Associated auctioneer was Williams & Co. Pty. Ltd. South Yarra.” *The Age*, 19 October 1950.

From 1933 until 1964, 118-120 Glenferrie Road was occupied by the Coles G. J. Ltd fancy goods store. In 1969 the Malvern Rate Books record for 116 Glenferrie Road showed that 116 Glenferrie Road included the Car Park Arcade, with eleven shops.



Postcard of Glenferrie Road looking south to Wattletree Road. 1913.
Stonnington History Collection MP 7915



116 Glenferrie Road Malvern c1963
Stonnington History Collection MP61270

Taking Local History to the Community

The Society was represented at the recent South Metro History meeting hosted by the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society. Members of the Committee were guests of Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP at the 2018 Higgins Community Service Awards when local volunteers were recognised and celebrated. Members of the Committee recently enjoyed afternoon tea with members of the St Joseph's Malvern Parish and Year 9 boys from De La Salle College who had been interviewing older members of the Parish.

Society members and friends were warmly welcomed by Sr Catriona and archivist Barbara Kowalski when we visited the Kildara Centre in Stanhope Street Malvern. The Society received excellent publicity when we were part of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute's 'Pop Up' initiative. Thanks Steven Haby, Ellen Coates and Chris Moysey-Barke for making us so welcome. Thanks also to local residents Charlie and Graeme who have been typing up local history research notes.

The Society was represented at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Moving Forward Seminar, hosted by the RHSV Local History Support Group. We've now passed 400 followers on Twitter and have 2032 Facebook followers. Thanks Nikki for making sure the Malvern Historical Society is connected with such a large audience!

New member

The Society would like to welcome our latest new member Pauline Drake Noden.

Dunham Brothers' produce store in Windsor

Mr John Dunham and his wife arrived in Australia in 1852. They resided first in Collingwood before moving to Andrew Street Prahran. John remembered that at one time Mr Rule, a grocer, and Mr Thomas, a draper, moved to the corner of Chapel and High Streets, and the residents at the time thought it was an unwise step for them to move into the bush. Shortly after his arrival in Prahran, Mr Dunham tried his luck on the Bendigo gold fields, leaving a carpentering job to do so. But luck did not come Mr Dunham's way and he re-traced his steps towards Melbourne. In 1869 he bought a hay, corn, wood and coal business in Chapel Street, near High Street, which he carried on for some years. He leased a 100 ft square piece of land on the site of the Savings Bank, where he remained for seven years in business. Mr Dunham noted "I bought the Church of Christ, which is at present occupied by the *Chronicle* newspaper and printing office. In buying the Church it proved one of the best speculations I have made in my life." He later purchased a private house, adjoining the *Chronicle* office. Mr Dunham continued on with the hay and corn business, before it was carried on by his two sons, as John and Frank, Dunham Bros, 140 Chapel Street, Windsor. In 1882 Mr Dunham retired from the business.



**Dunham Brothers' produce store Windsor c1906
Stonnington History Collection PH7377**

City of Stonnington Community Grant

The Malvern Historical Society committee would like to thank Stonnington Council who have announced that we have been successful and we will receive a grant within the City of Stonnington Community Grant application process for 2018/19.

We are planning to use the 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.



**Brenda Gurner at Glyndebourne, Kooyong Road Toorak 1908
Stonnington History Centre MP1607**

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 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 Mechanics Institute Tel: 9510 3393 www.pmi.net.au

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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I would like to

- Join the Malvern Historical Society
- Renew Malvern Historical Society

Annual Membership Options

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

Date:

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.

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.

I would like to assist with:

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

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