

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

November 2018 - Newsletter No. 76

## Monday 10 December Local History Walk - Monaro Road Kooyong

**Monday 10 December 6.30 pm**

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our twilight walk along Monaro Road in Kooyong. In June 1840, Peter Ferrie became the first freeholder to settle in this area after he purchased land on the north east corner of Glenferrie and Toorak Roads.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Members: Gold coin Non members: \$5

*Zeerust c1920 Stonnington  
History Collection MP7832*



## Family History Club at the Stonnington History Centre

Curious about your ancestors? Whether you're a beginner or an experienced family history researcher, come and join the popular monthly group where you'll meet fellow enthusiasts and explore the many genealogy resources available at the Stonnington History Centre. The Club is proving to be VERY popular and great fun, with some really good researchers as well as absolute beginners. It's for anyone's family history no matter where, families rarely seem to stay in the one place. First Wednesday of the month from 2 - 4pm

*Johnny, Nelly and Iris Kerr c1918  
Stonnington History Collection MP11048*



## Meet the author: Daniel Oakman

Members of the Society enjoyed meeting Daniel Oakman, the author of *Oppy - The Life of Sir Hubert Opperman* at a recent event held at Jeffreys Books in Glenferrie Road.

Hubert Opperman was a Malvern Post Office delivery boy in the 1920s.

*Ann Ahin and Daniel Oakman  
Jeffreys Books 2018*

Image: Colin Jones



## Taking Local History to the Community

The Malvern Historical Society has certainly been visible in the community in November. Earlier in the month Marisa, Jane and Ilya loaded up the car and delivered over 600 copies of our little picture book *Back when* to kindergartens and childcare centres in Stonnington. We were able to do this due to the generosity of the East Malvern Community Bank - Bendigo Bank who had recently funded our second reprinting of the book.

On Sunday 18th, members and supporters of the Society distributed our range of Central Park brochures, puzzles and copies of *Back when* to the very large, enthusiastic crowd at the East Malvern Food & Wine Festival. Thanks especially to Roxanne, Sue, Marilla, Anne, Jim, Bronwyn, Marisa, Jane, Francesca, Ann, Ruth and Peter Norman.

## The Declaration of the Armistice

At the Malvern Council meeting, following the declaration of the Armistice, the National Anthem was sung, and a resolution of gratification at the cessation of the war was passed with patriotic fervour. At the same meeting Councillor Henderson mentioned that in connection with the Seventh War Loan, the quota allotted to Malvern was £345,000. The sum raised was £276,000. Mr. Charles Wood, of Matson Lodge, Hopetoun Road, Malvern, expressed a wish to the Council to present a war memorial in honour of Malvern residents who had lost their lives fighting in the Great War. The Council accepted his offer.

The granite memorial bears the inscription:—

*In Memory of Those Brave Men Residents of Malvern,*

*who gave their lives in the Great War 1914—1919.*

*Erected by a Grateful Englishman.*

**Memorial Malvern Town Hall, c1932**  
Stonnington History Collection MP144



On Sunday afternoon, March 18, 1922, the gift was the subject of a ceremony at which about 3,000 persons were present. On the various panels are recorded the names of the fallen, but unfortunately the list does not contain the names of all the men who enlisted from Malvern, and who were killed. All the missing names are to be found on the many honour boards displayed in the churches and State schools of Malvern and other public institutions, as for instance on the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust Honour Board there are the names of 140 men. The ceremony of unveiling that honour board was performed by General Williams on September 28, 1918. A memorial service and a church parade was held on October 13, 1918, in memory of those tramway men, in the Central Park of Malvern. To commemorate the landing at Gallipoli a service was held in the Town Hall on Anzac Day, April 25, 1922, and the service has been continued to be held on each recurring anniversary.

*History of Malvern, from its first settlement to a City (1935) J.B. Cooper*

## Malvern Soldiers' War Memorial from 'A Grateful Englishman'

The Memorial was designed in the Gothic style, the ground plan taking the form of a cross. The whole of the superstructure is carried out in dressed grey Harcourt granite. The four faces of the central pier have polished panels bearing the names of the fallen soldiers cut in sunk and gilded lettering. The architects were Messrs. Beaver & Purnell, and the stonework was carried out by the well known firm of Chambers & Clutten. Originally situated at Malvern Cricket Ground (1922), it was moved to the corner of Malvern Town Hall in 1932 (pictured). It was relocated to Central Park in 1992.

## Soldiers' Memorial in the Malvern Town Hall Foyer

In the foyer of the City Hall was placed a Malvern War Civic Memorial of great beauty as a reminder to all who enter the hall that 1,500 men from Malvern went to the war. The memorial is in white marble, and represents a soldier standing, and a woman sitting with a child on her knee. The soldier and the woman are both looking down on the Book of Remembrance, on which is engraved the names of the men who died in the war. A laurel wreath surrounds the arms of the A.I.F. The memorial was sculptured by Paul Montford. Fran Bader, Moorabbin Historical Society, has undertaken detailed research on Paul Raphael Montford (1868-1938). A copy of her research notes has been added to the Stonnington History Collection. One of her sources was Catherine Moriarty's *Making Melbourne Monuments: The sculpture of Paul Montford* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2013) which included transcripts/extracts of Paul Montford's letters, 1927-1929, to his brother Louis, a stone carver in England.



**War Memorial, Malvern Town Hall Foyer c1980**  
Stonnington History Collection MP5158

In 1927 Paul was commissioned to produce the Malvern memorial as well as the external sculptures of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. Fran noted that additional research has shown that the Malvern Memorial was rough carved by August Rietman from 1930 to 1931 in the original Box Cottage workshop in Ormond. The memorial was unveiled on August 23, 1931, by the Mayor, Councillor C. J. Waters. A memorial service was held in the City Hall before the unveiling ceremony, which was attended by the Mayor, Councillors, civic staff, the clergy of the diocese, and Sir Stanley Argyle, representing the State Parliament. Sir Stanley in his address, said that "Most memorials were not so much 'sermons in stone' as historical records, and he was pleased to see that the city fathers of Malvern had thought fit to place in the foyer of the town hall a work of art that would tell the future generation a story of sacrifice; a story that their children's children would read, and learn from it of the soul of the people of this country. It was a memorial of sacrifice; of the sacrifice of the men who went away, and also of the sacrifice of the fathers, mothers, sisters, and wives who stayed waiting at home, which sacrifice had not been recognised as it should have been. In that respect Malvern had taken the lead.

*History of Malvern, from its first settlement to a City (1935) J.B. Cooper*

## The Malvern Repatriation Local Committee

The Malvern Repatriation Local Committee was formed on October 28, 1918. The members who were appointed on the executive by the Defence Department were W. A. Sanderson, President; J. W. Hill, J. H. Moss, W. T. Williams, R. H. Stainthorpe, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer; Councillors F. H. Francis, M.H.R., and L. W. Holmes, the two last mentioned were Government nominees. In addition to these men, who were the executive, there was a sub-committee consisting of Councillor Waters and Messrs. F. Cason, J. Turner, and N. Jenkins. This sub-committee did excellent work. The Repatriation Local Committee started without any funds, and it had to depend upon local subscriptions, receipts from concerts, and such like efforts for its funds. Up to April 1, 1922, the Committee had collected the sum of £913/11/-. Cases to the number of 1,600 went before the Committee, and were dealt with in a sympathetic and helpful manner. Every soldier who enlisted from Malvern received on his return from the war a personal letter of welcome from Miss Ruby Stainthorpe, the honorary assistant secretary of the Repatriation Committee.



Armadale girls concert party 1918 Stonnington  
History Collection MP9782

## Naming of Bretonneux Square and Villers Square, Malvern East

Land was purchased by the War Service Commission in 1919 to be sold to returned servicemen and their families. The streets were named after WWI places of battle (Bretonneux, Fontaine, Villers) or Buddhist philosophy (Karma, Nirvana). The sale of allotments was administered by the Commonwealth Department of Repatriation, which offered low-interest loans to assist with house-building on this land. In October 1920 a meeting was held at the Melbourne Town Hall where it was decided that the city 'adopt' Villers-Bretonneux in France, 'in memory of the great Australian victory in August 1918'. A Villers-Bretonneux Appeal Fund raised well in excess of the 20,000 pounds it had aimed for, with much of the money coming from school children, following a drive by the Education Department. The money raised was used to rebuild the school in the French town, which may still have a plaque commemorating the donation from Victorian school children. Along with signs which read '*N'oubliez jamais L'Australie*' (Never let us forget Australia). Australian soldiers were instrumental in saving Villers-Bretonneux from two invasions by the Germans in April 1918, and about 1200 Anzacs lost their lives protecting the town. The French town has streets called Anzac, Melbourne and Victoria, so it is possible that this strong connection between Melbourne and Villers-Bretonneux led to the choosing of these names for the War Service Commission streets in Malvern East.

## Malvern Presbyterian Church

From around 1865 the Presbyterians were having religious meetings in East Malvern, and the influence of the Presbyterian community extended throughout Malvern where worship was conducted in private houses. Later there was a Presbyterian Church in Grace Street, another in Winter Street with the Rev. W. L. Morton acting as its minister. A timber Church hall in Pine Grove was the original church built in 1884-85 for the Malvern Presbyterians in Glenferrie Road. It was moved from Glenferrie Road to Pine Grove in 1885. Today the Malvern Presbyterian Church can be found in Wattletree Road, west of Cabrini. The present church was built in 1906 to accommodate the growing church membership and it was officially dedicated on 27th July, 1906. The seating initially accommodated 600 and the first minister was Rev. McCrae Stewart. For a time the church was named "The Young Men's Church House" and under Stewart's ministry the congregation increased greatly. The gates in front of the church were erected as a memorial to Mr and Mrs Stewart. The church organ was built by George Fincham & Son and was installed in the church when the building was completed in 1906. The organ was electrified in 1956 and later additions included a further bank of pipes, known as the "memorial pipes".



Presbyterian Church Malvern c1910 Stonnington  
History Collection MP9707

According to the National Trust of Australia, the church is a rare design by Architect Robert Haddon, built in red brick with cement detailing. The church has 'a broad nave, sloping floors, porches, transepts and vestries'. The west window 'is bisected by central mullions which rise into a diminutive turret capped by a wrought iron finial'. The Trust described the church as one of Australia's major Arts and Crafts churches. In 1921, the Governor, the Earl of Stradbroke, unveiled a wall tablet memorial to fallen soldiers in the Malvern Presbyterian Church. The monument stands 9 feet in height, and it is composed of dark grey Buchan marble. It bears the inscription, "To the glory of God and in enduring remembrance of our gallant soldiers who fell in the Great War, 1914-18." The names of 37 men are on the marble with the words, 'Their name liveth for evermore.'

**We honour the wartime service and sacrifice of our local municipality's military service people and locals who supported Australia's military cause including the following:**



**Henry Thomas Clive Alcock**  
Born Toorak in 1897, farmer  
Died Egypt 1916, aged 19



**Charles Henry Brear Groom**, born in Malvern  
Killed in action, France 1916, aged 21



**Robert Edmond Antill**  
Born London c1894, Cabinet maker  
Killed in action, Belgium 1917,  
aged 22



**Gerald James Darcy**  
Labourer, Windsor  
Killed in action, France 1917,  
aged 27



**Edward Beken Ashcroft**  
Labourer, Windsor, enlisted  
aged 19  
Died of wounds, France,  
May 1917, aged 21



**Alfred Garfield Hawkins**  
Clerk, Malvern East  
Killed in action, France 1916,  
aged 25

Photographs and accompanying information from the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia.



**Cecil Stanley Oliver**  
Builder, Oakleigh/Malvern East  
Died of wounds, France 1916,  
aged 23



**Robert Burns Riddell**  
Salesman, Toorak  
Died of wounds, London 1918,  
aged 28



**George Pagan**  
Farmer, Malvern East  
Killed in action, France 1916,  
aged 25



**Robert William John Rutter**  
Driver, Armadale  
Died of illness, Australia, 1918,  
aged 18



**Laud Rupert Somerville Provan**  
Accountant, Malvern  
Killed in action, France 1917,  
aged 24



**Philip Beauchamp Sewell**  
Medical practitioner, Malvern East  
Killed in action, France 1918,  
aged 24

## The gatehouse, *Stonington*, 336 Glenferrie Road Malvern

Karen Oliver recently shared her family's links to the gatehouse at *Stonington* in Glenferrie Road Malvern. She thinks her family moved there in about 1953. Karen and her twin sister Margaret were born in 1954.

Karen's father, Kenneth Stott's first job, prior to moving to the gatehouse at *Stonington*, was delivering ice blocks to homes with ice chests. He was offered the caretaker position for *Stonington* and the use of the gatehouse free of rent. Karen remembers her mother telling her that the back of the gatehouse was renovated with a bathroom and wash house added so that the family would be more comfortable. She also remembers her Dad telling her that there was a room above *Stonington's* front entrance, with the small windows, but he could never find the door. He did find a hidden staircase which he never went up as the stairs were rickety and he didn't think they were safe.

The family left the gatehouse in about 1956 and lived in Preston, Chadstone and then Boronia. After finishing his caretaker duties he became a chauffeur for the Premier's Department in Melbourne, driving many politicians including Billy McMahon, Henry Bolte and Steve Crabb, until his retirement in 1986. Karen remembers her parents saying they thoroughly enjoyed living in the gatehouse. In 1957 the Victoria Department of Education took over the property from the Department of Health.



*Stonington*, 336 Glenferrie Road  
Malvern c1953 Image: Karen Oliver

## *Stonington* and *Stonnington*

*Stonington* was built in 1890 as a private residence for John Wagner, to the design of London-born architect Charles D'Ebro. Wagner was a partner with A.W. Robertson in Cobb & Co. coaches. The residence was named *Stonington* after Stonington Connecticut, U.S.A., the birthplace of Wagner's wife Mary. Wagner lived with his family at *Stonington* until his death in 1901. From 1901 the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was located in Melbourne. For the next thirty years, when State Government House in The Domain in South Yarra was required as the residence for the Governor-General, *Stonington* became the Vice-Regal residence for the Governor of Victoria. Seven Governors lived at *Stonington*. During this era the spelling of the name was changed to *Stonnington*. The Victorian Government purchased *Stonington* (and its contents) in 1928 for £35,000. *Stonington's* association with education began when St Margaret's school used the property from 1931-1938. The mansion was also used as an after-care centre for polio patients and following the outbreak of World War II, the house and grounds were used by the Australian Red Cross as a convalescent hospital. From 1953 the Health Department occupied the site. Since 1957, the site has played an important role in tertiary education in Victoria. It was home to Toorak Teachers' College from 1957 to 1973, the State College of Victoria - Toorak from 1973 to 1981 and in 1981 it became the Toorak Campus of Victoria College. Victoria College merged with Deakin University in 1992. Deakin University sold the property to private developers in 2006. The residence has now reverted to the original spelling. The City of *Stonnington* takes its name from *Stonington*.



*Stonington* c1960 (Irvine Green)  
*Stonnington* History Collection MP7213

## Kildara c1948

The Society would like to thank Sue Carrick who attended Kildara, a Catholic Girls School in High Street, Malvern, from 1946-1948. Sue recently brought in the original of this photo of all the Kildara students c1948. Photographer Peter King has copied the photo and it is now a valuable addition to the *Stonnington* History Collection.



## New members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Kate Brown, Anne Seares and Elizabeth Brown (U3A Stonnington).

## Taking Local History to the Community

During our recent walk members of the Society were delighted to meet the new Museum Director at the Duldig Studio, Lyndel Wischer. Thanks to Lorraine and Pat for leading our two recent walks. Congratulations to both the Duldig Studio (Project: Reaching out to our communities-expanding public programs) and the Victoria - Tasmania Synod Archives, Uniting Church of Australia (Project: Museum cataloguing) for their recent Museums Australia - Victoria awards. The Society was represented at the RHSV-PRO Victorian Community History Award ceremony. Congratulations to MHS member Greg Eccleston who won the History Publication Award for his book *Granville Stapylton: Australia Felix 1836, Second in Command to Major Mitchell*

Congratulations to the Stonnington History staff, Simone, Janet, Jack and Julia for the fantastic 'Service and Sacrifice at Home and at War, 1914-1918' exhibition which presented a unique portrait of the way extraordinary Australians contributed to the war effort at home and overseas. The exhibition also included the Stonnington History Centre's amazing new digital surface table, with a large interactive touch screen which meant that all the images could be scrolled through and zoom into to see the details. One highlight was the large Honour Board. It was printed by Ron Polak. MBE Malvern, on A0 sized fomecor, using Stonnington History Centre research material and featured gold coloured text on a stock image marble photograph background. The Stonnington History Centre were delighted with how well it came out, looking even more realistic than was hoped. This honour board listed the names of casualties of the First World War, including those who died of wounds or disease, as reproduced in

Helen Doyle's *Suburbs at War*. This list of 797 men with links to the Stonnington municipality is not complete, but is as accurate as possible. There were local men who died while serving with the British Army, but it has not been possible to identify them all.

The Committee was pleased to see that a recent planning application for 1268-1270 Glenferrie Road Malvern included Condition 14 - which noted that Archival quality photographic records of the original pressed metal ceiling were required.

1268-1270 High Street 1984  
Stonnington History Collection MP9209



## From the Stonnington History Collection

April-Kaye Ikinci has recently donated *Draft 5a: conversations about Early FSPW to 1996* with contributions by Caz Willis, Stephanie Campbell and April-Kaye Ikinci. 2018. It is a history of the Malvern Community Print Access workshop, later renamed the Fire Station Print Workshop, and currently known as the Fire Station Print Studio.

Tram enthusiast Ron Sholten has shared many images of the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust (PMTT) trams. Neil Lucas has recently donated a collection of newspaper cuttings relating to Sir Robert Menzies and a copy of *A Place in History*, a Stonnington Heritage Markers Project booklet.

Di Foster recently found two badges of local interest on eBay. One is a 1929 Ardrrie Park East Malvern Garden Fete admission tin badge and the second is a Presbyterian Womens and Mothers Union badge for a Fete held at *Norla*, Irving Road Toorak in 1929.



The Malvern Historical Society was saddened by the recent passing of Neil Shepherd (former MHS Committee member), Diane Nicholas (MHS member and Stonnington History Centre volunteer), Cheryl Newsome (East Malvern Community Bank) and Joan Hunt (RHSV) who all actively supported local history in many ways. Their contributions will be greatly missed. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends at this time.

**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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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**