

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

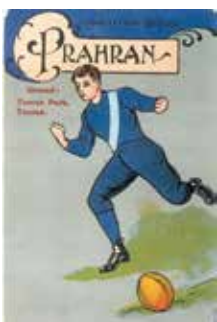
Sept 2019 - Newsletter No. 81

9 October Peter King Conserving your family photos

Wednesday 9 October: 10.30-11.30 am

Photographer Peter King explains how to look after your irreplaceable family photos, both prints and digital files. This very popular session is a must for family historians and custodians of treasured photographs.

Stonnington History Centre, Northbrook 1257 High Street, Malvern. Bookings essential: 8290 1360



17 October - 10 November Well played! Exhibition

Launch 16 October. Exhibition presented by the Stonnington History Centre

Discover stories of Stonnington's local sporting heroes and learn how our favourite games have changed over the decades. Stonnington History Centre Exhibition Space, 1257 High Street, Malvern (behind Malvern Library) **For more details see Page 3.**

Exhibition hours: Wed – Sat 12 pm noon – 5 pm, Sun 2 pm – 5 pm. Free entry.

Exhibition Launch: Wednesday 16 October, 5 pm – 7 pm

Guest speaker: independent journalist and world-renowned sports writer Gideon Haigh

16 October Historical Houses in South Yarra. Guest Speaker: Philippe Batters

Wednesday 16 October 7.30 pm Malvern Town Hall

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society when well known local identity, real estate agent Philippe Batters, will present an illustrated talk about historical houses in South Yarra. Philippe has lived in or close to the South Yarra area since 1954. His love of South Yarra has seen him build up a thorough knowledge of South Yarra's local history over the years. An entertaining speaker,

Philippe's presentation will include many fascinating South Yarra stories.

Malvern Town Hall, Corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern (Upstairs Foyer - lift available).

This is a free event. Supper.

Bookings essential: Lorraine 9885 9082 by 12 October. All welcome!

19 October Local History Walk Clendon Road Toorak

Saturday 19 October 10 am

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our walk along Clendon Road Toorak.

The walk will include the stories surrounding the development of the various estates and the mansions that lined the street in the nineteenth century.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 Members: Gold coin. Non members: \$5

All welcome!

Welcome - Dianne Gardiner

The Malvern Historical Society Committee are very happy to welcome Dianne Gardiner on to the committee. Dianne has already been sharing her enthusiasm with us all at a range of activities!



View over Fawkner Park from Toorak Road c1890
Stonnington History Collection PH7492p



Dunranven, Clendon Road, Toorak. c1904
Stonnington History Collection PH7814

Welcome to the City of Stonnington's new CEO

Mayor Cr Steve Stefanopoulos and City of Stonnington Councillors recently announced the appointment of Jacqui Weatherill as the new Chief Executive Officer of the City of Stonnington. Jacqui has a strong leadership record in the government sector and in Australian sport. For the past seven years Jacqui was CEO of Victorian Government entity, The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. Jacqui has also worked at a senior executive level in local government including the City of Boroondara and Benalla Rural City Council.

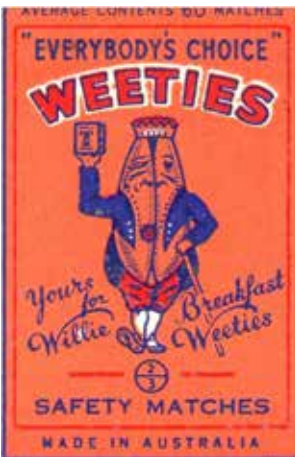
A council member of the Swiss based Federation of International Gymnastique (FIG) and President of the FIG Women in Gymnastics Commission, Jacqui commenced her position with the City of Stonnington in July 2019.



Jacqui Weatherill CEO, City of Stonnington with Cr Steve Stefanopoulos, Mayor, City of Stonnington 2019

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 2019/20. 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.



More Weeties!

We have recently passed the centenary of an iconic Australian product and character, one so strong that it has entered the vernacular as a word, and Malvern was very much involved in its creation. I refer to the product Weeties and the character 'Willie Weeties, the Cereal King'. The Fitzroy History Group has already publicised this centenary (*The Breakfast Cereal Kings: the Spry family in Fitzroy 2016*), but Stonnington should also, as it has a very strong claim.

Weeties was the brainchild of Bob Creaser. Bob travelled to the United States in the early years of the century, noticed the success of the newly introduced breakfast cereal Kellogg's Cornflakes, and decided that a similar product would be successful in Australia. At the time, Bob was living in Fitzroy, next door to an old established family of bootmakers, the Sprys. The Sprys showed some interest in Bob's proposal, and agreed to support him financially. Bob then moved his residence to Chatsworth Road, Prahran, and in 1918 opened a factory on the site of an existing bakery at 6 High Street Malvern. He called it Grain Foods Pty Ltd. In those days, the numbering on High Street started eastwards from Kooyong Road, but number 6 still exists, now an Australia Post Office (1006 High Street Armadale).

Bob registered Weeties as a trademark in 1918, under the Grain Foods address, and the first press advertisements featuring 'Willie Weeties' appeared in 1919, with the High Street Malvern address. In 1920, the company was amalgamated with Purina Crispies, Ltd, which belonged to the Spry family, and the new company was named Purina Grain Foods Ltd, whose Chairman, unsurprisingly, was Mr H. L. Spry. Purina had a factory in Smith Street, Collingwood, as well as in Sydney and Fremantle. The Sprys by this stage had decided to invest heavily in breakfast cereals, and owned two companies, Purina Crispies Ltd and the Cereal Co. It is not recorded if Bob Creaser joined the new company. After a fire in their Collingwood factory, the Sprys moved their factory to Best Street, North Fitzroy. They suffered another fire, also at Best Street, in the mid-1920's. They continued to advertise both products while the factory was being rebuilt, which leads one to assume that production may have also been available at the Malvern Road site at that time. Grain Foods Pty Ltd was wound up 1929 and the factory disappears from Sands & MacDougall at the same time. Purina was eventually taken over by Nabisco, a major American biscuit and cereal manufacturer. Weeties was later acquired by Uncle Toby's Oats, a subsidiary of Burns Philp, and later passed into the ownership of Nestle Foods where it currently resides. Weeties is still manufactured in Australia and New Zealand, although it is very hard to find now amidst the plethora of breakfast cereals in supermarkets. 'King Willie Weeties', however, still wears his crown! **Jerry Bell 2019**

(Sources: Sands & MacDougall Directories, Trove, Fitzroy History Society, Australian Government Trade Mark Journals"



The illustrations show two 1930's matchbox labels, made by the Commonwealth Match Works of Richmond, for 'Willie Weeties' and 'Spry's Cornflakes'

Well played!

17 October – 10 November
Stonnington History Centre
Exhibition Space
1257 High Street, Malvern
(behind Malvern Library)

Exhibition hours
Wednesday – Saturday
12pm – 5pm
Sunday
2pm – 5pm, free entry

* **Launch**
Wednesday 16 October
5pm – 7pm
Light refreshments provided

Guest speaker
Independent journalist and
world-renowned sports
writer Gideon Haigh

Discover stories of local sporting heroes and learn how our favourite games have changed over the decades.

With a former international grand slam tennis venue at Kooyong, one of the nation's oldest ongoing sporting clubs, the Malvern Harriers, and Prahran Football Club continuing to produce players for our national game, there's plenty of history still to be made in Stonnington's sporting arena.

Presented by the
Stonnington History Centre





Interior Town Hall, Prahran

Prahran Town Hall interior c1900



Chadstone Shopping Centre Westminster Australia Fine China plate c1960



Mt. Erica Methodist Church, High Street, Prahran

Mt Erica Methodist Church High Street Prahran c1925
The Mt Erica Church is now a Greek Orthodox Church, St Demetrios.

eBay discoveries

Di Foster recently purchased a range of items on eBay, totalling \$235, on behalf of the Society. The items include IXL Henry Jones pottery, interior Prahran Town Hall, Mt Erica church, Victoria Gardens, and Melbourne High School postcards, an original letter to Prahran Council, a University College Armadale event ticket, a Chadstone Shopping Centre Westminster Australia Fine China Plate, and Prahran Pioneers' Association and Try Society ephemera. Thanks Di, and a special thanks to our members who have added donations to their subscriptions during 2019 which have allowed us to make the purchases!

Prahran Mechanics Institute -Victorian Seniors Festival events

Heritage Walks: Department Stores of Chapel Street

Sunday 13 October 2pm and Wednesday 16 October 11am

Cr Steve Stefanopoulos, Mayor of Stonnington and Vice President of the PMI will take you for a wander along Chapel Street exploring former department stores between Malvern/Commercial Roads and High Street. Approx 1 hour.

\$15 – \$20

<https://www.pmi.net.au/events/>

**Prahran Arcade 1891 Stonnington
History Collection PH9584**



Heritage Walk: Malvern Civic Precinct

Sunday 27 October 2 pm - 3 pm

Beginning at the base of the clock tower of the Malvern Town Hall, Stonnington Mayor, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos, will lead you on a walk and share the history of the Town Hall, the nearby Police Station and former Court House, St George's Anglican Parish (church, hall and vicarage) and much more. \$15 – \$20 <https://www.pmi.net.au/events/>

**Malvern Town Hall 1886
Stonnington History Collection MP677**



19 October Malvern Appreciation Day!

Malverns now exist around the world and their numbers are increasing. One project, masterminded by the Friends of Malvern Springs and Wells from Great Malvern, England, is aiming to bring about active friendship between all Malverns. In 2016 the Mayor of Malverne New York, Patricia Norris-McDonald declared the 19th October to be Malvern Appreciation Day. It is likely that the ancient Britains were responsible for naming Malvern, or moel-bryn meaning 'the bare hill'. The Malvern Hills dominate Worcestershire and Herefordshire. www.malvernwaters.com

Samuel Keith's memories

Tamara recently shared her late father's memories of the start of the Second World War. At the time her father lived in Serrell Street, East Malvern. "The war came to East Malvern very quietly. I do not remember any effect at all on our school affairs at Lloyd Street School. My last two years there were in 1939 and 1940. Indeed, and though it must have happened, I have no recollection of anyone at Lloyd Street ever mentioning the war. Recruiting was taking place for the AIF — the Australian Imperial Force — a volunteer army for service anywhere in the world. Caulfield Racecourse was taken over and became an army camp. On a still night a boy lying in bed in Serrell Street could hear the bugle playing the Last Post, conveying to the camp the message that the day was done. But there was as yet little fighting anywhere except at sea, and the general assumption was that when land and air fighting did come it would be well away from Australia, in Europe or Africa. Just as in the Great War, petrol rationing came but nothing else was rationed yet. That would come later. Meanwhile life in East Malvern continued very much as usual". (Undated)

Presentation Convent Windsor

In 1874, seven Presentation Sisters from Ireland established a parish primary school and a secondary school for girls at St Mary's Church, on the south side of Dandenong Road, East St Kilda. In 1875, the schools moved into a mansion called *Turret Lodge* on the present site of Presentation Convent Windsor, on the north side of Dandenong Road. At this time the school offered in addition a 'Select' [ie: fee-paying] school for primary, secondary and resident students. In this photo, the Parish School students are shown on the left hand side, Select School and staff can be seen on the right hand side.



Turret Lodge, Presentation College Windsor c1876 Stonnington History Collection PH9102

The present convent building, replacing *Turret Lodge*, was commenced in 1883. In 2000, the College was the oldest extant school in Prahran. In 2019 the decision was made for the school to close. Christian Brothers College St Kilda, diagonally opposite in Dandenong Road, announced that it will open its doors to all students from PCW when the 146 year old girls' school closes at the end of 2020.



Garden Street South Yarra

Kathie Harrison, the administrator for three local Facebook pages, Hawksburn State/Primary, Prahran High and Housing Commission Flats - I survived/ lived in the Prahran/South Yarra Commission Flats, recently sent through this c1950 photo of the Garden Street South Yarra boys. A similar photo of the Garden Street South Yarra girls appears in the Malvern Historical Society publication *Back when*.

Back row (L-R) Daniel Sherry 54 Garden St, Alan McCrorey 41 Garden St. Front Row (L-R) Robert Bunday 56 Garden St, Ray Berger 65 Surrey Rd (corner Garden St), Gerald Sherry 54 Garden St and Ronald Berger 65 Surrey Rd.

Pattenbringan 7 Gawith Court, Toorak



Pattenbringan, Gawith Court Toorak (undated)

The large villa residence known as *Pattenbringan* (also ‘*Patten-bringan*’) was built in 1889-90 for Hugh Wilson in Heyington Place to a design by the notable Melbourne architectural firm, Reed, Henderson & Smart. The Melbourne architectural firm of Reed, Henderson & Smart operated from 1883 until 1890, succeeding the previous partnership (Reed and Barnes) of Joseph Reed (1822-1890) and Frederick Barnes (1822-1883). The firm was responsible for a number of prominent and notable buildings in early Melbourne, including the Melbourne Public Library (1854), *Ripponlea* (1868) and the highly acclaimed Melbourne Exhibition Building (1878).

Tenders were called for in September 1889 for a residence at Toorak for H.T. Wilson (*Argus*, 28 Sept 1889). Hugh Wilson is listed in the 1889/90 City of Prahran rate books as the owner of vacant land. The following year, a nine-room brick house is listed. The new house was built on the elevated south bank of the Yarra, with views across the river to Richmond. It lies close to the railway line which was constructed in 1879. The name *Pattenbringan* comes from a place name in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The MMBW Detail Plan No.

929 dated 1905, shows the substantial house and grounds of *Pattenbringan* facing Heyington Place. The main entrance was on the south-east side of the house, accessed by a return verandah. The paddock on the south side of the house block, marked with a ‘manure box’, possibly belonged to the house. The present-day Duffryn Place is the former lane behind this paddock and possibly marks the original boundary of *Pattenbringan*.

Hugh Thurburn Wilson, the first owner of *Pattenbringan*, was a successful banker, the manager of the Union Bank of Australia. He emigrated to Victoria from Scotland around 1877. He and his wife Annetta were amongst the exclusive list of invitees to the

opening of the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne in 1901. Hugh died in 1933 at home at *Pattenbringan*, aged 81. After his death, there was an executor’s auction of the property. Hugh left no family as his wife Annetta and her adopted daughter had been lost at sea when the steamer *Waratah* sank in 1909. By 1949 the property was owned by Dr and Mrs Arthur Joyce. The *Argus* newspaper reported in 1949: ‘The beautiful garden of *Pattenbringan*, the home of Dr and Mrs Arthur Joyce, in Heyington place, Toorak, made an ideal setting for the late afternoon party they gave on Saturday in perfect weather’ (*The Argus* 10 Oct 1949).

The house is described as a single-storey house with walls finished with cement render. The complex roof is clad in slates. There is a fine set of wrought and cast-iron gates at the current vehicular entrance on Gawith Court. *Pattenbringan* is a house that demonstrates the transition from the Italianate to the Queen Anne Revival. The canted bay window, cement-rendered walls and verandah set below the eaves were all common for Italianate houses of the 1880s. Its gable-hipped roof, timber verandah detail and medieval gable treatment all belong to the innovative design that Reed, Henderson & Smart were known for in the 1880s.

Scotchman’s Creek bridge.

The Society recently purchased a copy of *Apart From the Roads & the Aqueducts - the Bridges & Civil Works of Harold Irwin*. Patrick Irwin 2019 (Publisher: Patrick Irwin).

Harold Irwin, a civil engineering contractor, was born in 1882. In the 1920s the latest technology in reinforced concrete was used when the rising number of motor vehicles resulted in the need to replace early timber bridges. Harold, considered a construction pioneer, was responsible for a large number of country Victoria’s crossings. Between 1911 and 1938 Harold, foreman Tom Scott and a team of labourers, built more than 20 bridges and water supply projects across the state. One crossing was the Waverley Road crossing of Scotchman’s Creek in Malvern East. The project involved the re-direction of the creek and would have involved major earthwork. Today Scotchman’s Creek has been reduced to a culvert under Waverley Road where the Monash Freeway passes overhead.



Placing deck reinforcement Scotchman’s Creek 1924 (Irwin Collection)

Giuliano's Fruiterers 80 Glenferrie Road Malvern

Giuliano's Fruiterers was located at 80 Glenferrie Road near the corner of Wattletree Road from about 1958 until it closed in 1998. John (Giuseppe) Giuliano opened the store as a young man of 19 years having only arrived in Australia from Italy three years earlier. Like many of the migrants from the Aeolian Islands in Sicily he chose the fruit and vegetable business. For forty years he would get up at 3.30 am every day to go to the Footscray markets then back to his Malvern shop. The family lived behind the shop for a few years and often the Nonna would cook delicious food for lunch the smells of which wafted down the hallway into the shop itself. The shop was especially busy on Saturday mornings when it would close at noon. It was one of many fruit shops in Malvern during this time, a typical migrant success story. **Grace Mottram 2019**



Taking Local History to the Community

Wendy Eldridge, Co-ordinator of the Friends of PMI, and the Friends of PMI Victorian History Library, recently hosted a very successful two day History Showcase at the PMI. Thanks to Malvern Historical Society members Lorraine, Pat, Marisa, Bernadette, Ann and Jane who shared Stonnington's history with visitors to the event.

Malvern Historical Society President Lorraine and Rosemary and Margaret from the RHSV, at the PMI event.

From the Collection

-Alan Gregory has donated a copy of a speech he gave to a Prahran Council gathering at the Prahran Town Hall c1990.

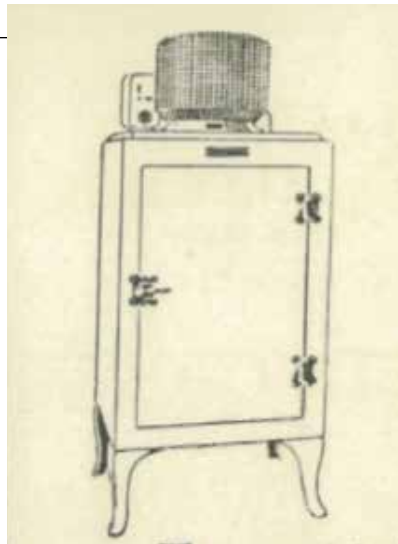
-Meryll Williams - Rainy Day Books, The Basin, has donated a 1932 Associated General Electric three year warranty for Mr A Palfreyman, Lansell Road Toorak, for a new refrigerating machine.

-Elizabeth Smith has donated a Victorian Cricket Association program for a Smoke Concert in December 1911.

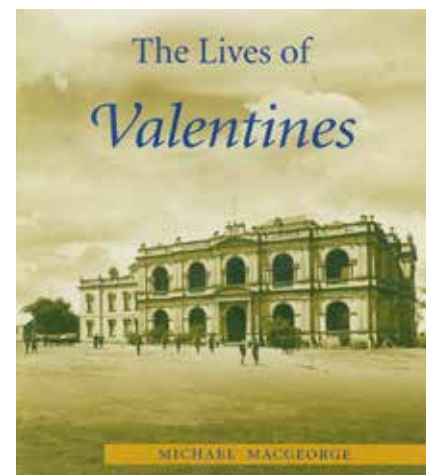
-The Society recently purchased a copy of *Along the Line - Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories* Glen Eira Historical Society 2019 for the Stonnington History Collection.

During 2017 the Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale stations and their familiar landscapes were demolished to make way for a new elevated railway. Glen Eira Historical Society's new publication covers the history of these stations together with Caulfield and Oakleigh stations and the communities they all served. The book includes the history of the township of Rosstown, later Carnegie, William Murray Ross' part in the development of the failed Rosstown Railway and sugar beet works, the Boyd family of artists links to Murrumbeena and over 40 personal stories.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gehs/>



Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of Michael MacGeorge, a valued member of the Society. Our thoughts are with Michael's wife Nina and his family at this sad time. Michael was the author of *The lives of Valentines*, (2004). It is a history of *Valentines*, a Glen Iris mansion, now the home of the Malvern Campus of Caulfield Grammar School.



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

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

*Financial year: 1 Jan - 31 Dec

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

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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