

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

March 2020 - Newsletter No. 84

22 March Pets in the Park, Central Park, Malvern East

Sunday 22 March Central Park Malvern East 11am - 4pm

Can you help - especially between 11 am and 3 pm? 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, Burke Road, 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



Bandstand, Central Park, Malvern East c1923
Stonnington History Collection MP2600

31 March Golden Quadrant and Glenvale Road Glen Iris area Walk

Tuesday 31 March 10.30 am

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our walk in the Golden Quadrant and Glenvale Road Glen Iris area to hear about the development within this triangle bounded by High Street, Malvern Road and Burke Road.

Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082

Members: Gold coin Non members: \$5 All welcome!



Highfield, Burke Road Glen Iris 1991
Stonnington History Collection MP11420

27 May You can take the boy out of Malvern, but you can't take Malvern out of the boy!

Stonnington History Centre Exhibition Space Wednesday 27 May 5.30pm – 6.30pm

A life-long resident of Malvern, Des Tobin has been a youth worker, sportsman, business executive in the funeral industry, and a writer. Des will reflect on life in Malvern in the 1940s and 1950s and talk about his biography *Just a man called Phonse: The anything but ordinary life of A.V. (Phonse) Tobin*. Bookings required. 8290 1360.

Una Watson and Alan Bradley's wedding Malvern 1941

Bookings open 10am on 1 April.

Stonnington History Collection MP61317



18 April - 23 May Fashion on the ration

Stonnington History Centre Exhibition Space 1257 High Street, Malvern (behind Malvern Library)

'Fashion on the ration' tells the stories of Australian women's experiences during the Second World War, using costumes, accessories, photographs and ephemera. Presented by the Dressing Australia Museum of Costume and the Stonnington History Centre, this exhibition commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Exhibition hours: Wed – Sat 12pm – 5pm Free entry. (More details on Page 3)

Your Society!

We're just wondering....are you interested in joining the Malvern Historical Society committee, making sure that Stonnington's history is kept alive? We would love to hear from you. Maybe you'd like to be a part of our discussions and decisions. Maybe you would like to be part of our enthusiastic team. Maybe you'd like to help us on tour days, greeting people, helping out with our suppers, and sharing our photos and books at community events. Maybe you have administration skills that you are happy to use. Or do you love the thrill of the chase when it comes to researching many of the interesting Stonnington people or places so we can share the stories in the newsletters and on our walks? If you are interested in joining the Committee or can suggest someone who might like to, please have a chat with members of the Committee. No pressure! Our present Committee would make you very welcome. We'll help you with the nomination form and ideally this will be completed by 2nd May. Lorraine 9885 9082 Jane 0438 515 631 Ann 0414 453 510 Pat 0438941601

Congratulations RHSV President Richard Broome

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were delighted to hear that Royal Historical Society of Victoria President, Emeritus Professor Richard Broome FRHSV FAHA, was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division for his significant service to education in the field of history, and to historical groups.

Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition 1 May - 14 June 2020

The first Toorak Village Sculpture Festival in 2002, curated by Ken Scarlett, featured 61 sculptural works by 50 Australian artists. 45 shop windows along Toorak & Grange Roads were used. The exhibition attracted a huge number of visitors, extensive media coverage, and sparked discussion of sculptural works as well as exciting the traders.

<https://www.toorakvillage.com.au/sculpture-history/2002-exhibition>

All sculpture submissions must be original, and made in Australia within last 2 years. The 2020 exhibition starts on 1 May.



Toorak Village c1985 Stonnington History Collection
PH13908

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 with 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. Enquiries: history@stonnington.vic.gov.au or 82901360



Blackwell children at Crosby, 353 Glenferrie Road
Malvern c1914 Stonnington History Collection MP2363

Taking Local History to the Community

Warren Doubleday, Manager of the Melbourne Tram Museum collection was our engaging guest speaker at our February meeting. The audience appreciated the depth of his knowledge on Melbourne's old and extensive tramway systems. Thanks also to Pat and Jane who lead twilight local history walks around Bates and Turner Streets in Malvern East.

Diary date: Annual General Meeting 20 May 7.30pm

20 May Malvern Historical Society AGM and guest speaker.

Lower Level Phoenix Park Community Centre

22 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East

2020 Annual Subscriptions now due

Reminder- membership fees for 2020 are now due. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their 2020 membership. Thank you also for your generous donations. If you're looking for your renewal/new member form you'll find it on page 8 of the newsletter. We really appreciate your continuing support! Unsure if you're financial for 2020? Just contact Lorraine Sage, President ljsage@comcen.com.au 9885 9082

Fashion on the ration

18 April – 23 May
 Stonnington History Centre
 Exhibition Space
 1257 High Street, Malvern
 (behind Malvern Library)

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

Launch
 Friday 17 April
 3pm – 5pm
 Light refreshments provided

How did Australian women manage to be fashionable – whether in uniform or work attire – on 112 ration coupons a year, when a simple day dress would cost 12 coupons?

Fashion on the ration tells stories of Australian women's experiences during the Second World War using costumes, accessories, photographs and ephemera. Meet women in the Australian Women's Land Army, those who made jam, knitted socks or partnered unknown 'warriors' at dances, and those who were swept off their feet by the 'American Invasion'.

Presented by the Dressing Australia Museum of Costume and the Stonnington History Centre, this free exhibition commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.



Nareeb Court Toorak

A valuable collection of material recently donated to the Malvern Historical Society, for inclusion in the Stonnington History Collection, includes documents, drawings, title certificates and rare photos featuring the construction of a house at 4 Nareeb Court Toorak in the 1960s. Nareeb Court had been created in 1965 following the sale and demolition of *Nareeb* mansion and the subdivision of the 5 acre Nareeb Estate.

Nareeb, Kooyong Road Toorak

Around 1884, Irish-born philanthropist and piano manufacturer Octavious Charles Beale (1850-1930) purchased five acres of land on the east side of Kooyong Road in Toorak. Around the same time Beale established Beale and Co. piano and sewing machine importers.

In 1888 Beale commissioned architect William Salway to design a mansion for his family on the site in Kooyong Road later known as *Nareeb*. The mansion was initially named Sommariva. The building included thirty-four lavishly decorated rooms and extensive stabling. Almost as soon as the estate was developed the name was changed to *Oma*. In 1890 Beale sold *Oma* and moved to Sydney where he established Australia's first piano factory in 1893.



Nareeb (Oma) Image SHC

Oma was purchased by James Grice (1846-1932), a wealthy merchant, pastoralist and company director. Grice, a keen horseman and Chairman of the V.A.T.C., lived at *Moondah Mount Eliza* and used *Oma* for his town house.

Simmons family

In 1906 Grice sold *Oma* and the property became the home of Western district squatter Walter George Simmons (1826-1916) and his wife Alice nee Swain (1857-1935). Walter Simmons and his brother Edward were the chief shareholders in the Oriental mine, which in the 1880s was one of the richest gold-mines in Victoria. Walter Simmons was associated with the Nareeb Nareeb squatting run near Glenthompson, between Hamilton and Ballarat, and he named his Toorak mansion *Nareeb*.



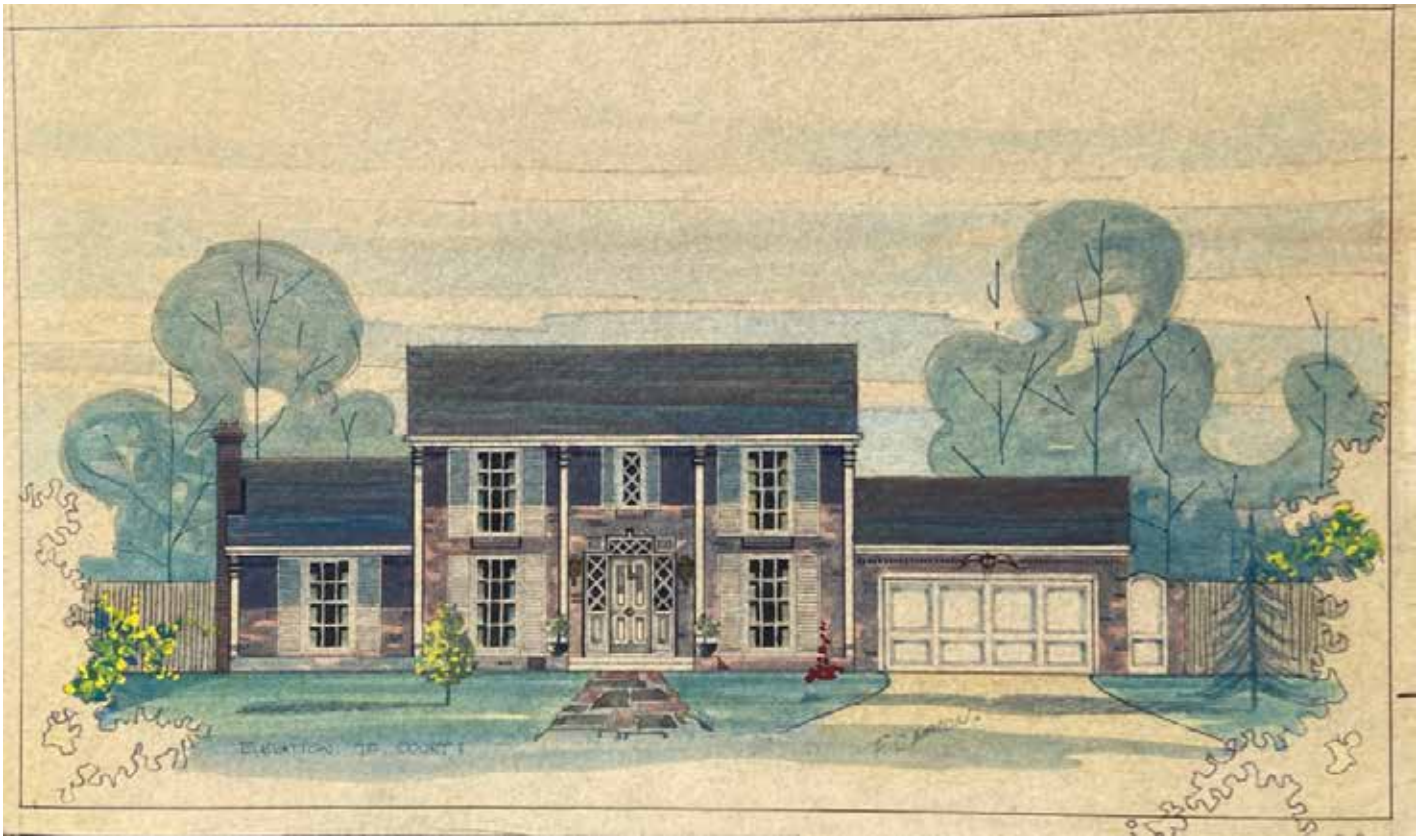
1920 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Tourer

This Rolls Royce, known as *Nareeb*, was the Simmons family car. It was only ever driven by the chauffeur who also doubled as the estate's gardener.



Nareeb stables c1960s Image: SLV

The Simmons family owned *Nareeb* in Toorak for almost 60 years. When the property was sold in 1964, the house had no electricity, it was lit by gaslight and the kitchen still had a huge fire stove. The National Trust opened the property to the public before it was demolished. Leonard Joel held a sale of *Nareeb's* furnishing, pictures, art, china and even the gas light fittings. The mansion was demolished, and Nareeb Court was created.



Francis Mason architect's drawing 4 Nareeb Court Toorak, 1968

Nareeb Court

Following the 1965 subdivision the allotments in Nareeb Court were soon sold. No. 4 Nareeb Court was built for the Jago family in 1968 on lot 10, 3 blocks from Kooyong Road. The house was designed by architect Francis Mason. The family moved into the house in 1969.

By 1974 sixteen houses had been erected in the new street, most of which were designed and built by building companies including Kenley Pty Ltd and Fudge builders. No. 9, the last house to be built in the street was designed by architects Holgar & Holgar. This house has since been demolished. *Di Foster February 2020*

Nareeb Court c1970



eBay discoveries in February

Di Foster recently purchased a range of items on eBay on behalf of the Society. They included a Toorak postcard showing St John's Church, Toorak Village (intersection of Toorak and Grange Roads), the Yarra River and one that appears to show Irving Road looking north to the Toorak Uniting Church c1950. Di also purchased a Letterpress printing image - W. Jennings Prahran metal c1885. Thanks Di and a special thank you to members who add donations to their subscriptions which allows us to make these valuable purchases. Special thanks to Fiona Davey, Firestation Print Studio, for printing off copies of the the W. Jennings c 1885 block for the newsletter.



Toorak postcard (undated)

Letterpress printing is the art of printing from a raised surface such as type or blocks. The pieces of metal cast with an image in relief on the upper surface are known as type, while a block is an illustration or drawing that has been engraved on a thin metal plate and mounted on a wood or metal base to match the height of type. A block can also be an engraving directly on a wood block. A configuration of lines or pages of type and/or illustrative matter imposed and locked up in a chase and ready for printing is called a forme. When a forme has been locked into its chase it is ready for printing. The chase is placed on the bed of the printing press and the forme is inked, by hand or mechanical means. A sheet of paper is fed into the press and a platen or cylinder impresses the inked forme onto the paper. <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/1323>



Letterpress printing image -
W. Jennings Prahran metal c1885



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SEE OPINIONS OF THE PRESS :—

The days of pocket sewing machines have arrived, and we may safely expect those of pocket gas-cooking stoves to follow suit shortly. Indeed, Mr Jennings, stove manufacturer, of High-street, Prahran, has already almost succeeded in formulating such an idea; at any rate the unique little stove we were shown on Thursday is as near the desired thing as will meet all requirements. The stove we refer to is manufactured by Mr Jennings to supply a useful article, and at a nominal cost. In this he has succeeded, judging from the trial we have witnessed. It is very small, being 8in. deep by 8in. wide and 10in. long. It cooked, in our presence, a ½lb. steak and boiled a kettle of water, the steak taking fourteen minutes, and the kettle, which contained about five cups of water, boiled in ten minutes. It is estimated that the stove will burn less than one pennyworth of gas per hour—a sum which fully proves its worth. It is provided with a neat kettle, pan and gridiron, and it is sold at the ridiculously low price of 12s 6d. It bears the name of the "Star," and forms a neat little apparatus. We would advise householders to visit Mr Jennings' factory and inspect the novel invention. — *Prahran Telegraph*.

PRICE—

No. 1 size (cook for two persons), 12s 6d.
No. 2 size (cook for three persons), 17s 6d.
No. 3 size (cook for five persons), 30s.

SOLE MANUFACTURER:

J. JENNENS,
Gas Stove & Colonial Oven
Factory,
38 HIGH STREET EAST,
PRAHRAN.

The Telegraph October 1886

New Members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Terry Ryan, Tony and Margaret O'Grady, and Jeremy de Korte.

Facebook - 3000 reasons to celebrate!

We're celebrating here in Facebook land as we now have over 3000 page likes! We've had a few very popular posts in recent weeks, the two most popular being a photo of Warrigal Road and Batesford Road in Holmesglen c1953 and one of a train in flood waters in South Yarra in 1907 which was very apt considering all the rain we've had recently. Warrigal Road brought back lots of memories of life in the 50s with comments about Chadstone Charlie's Chariots car yard, the road being only two lanes wide with no gutters or footpaths, and a number of mentions about there being no red light cameras back then!

A photo of a Paterson's Quality Cakes delivery van in 1920 was also popular as apparently it was THE cake shop for wedding cakes and there were many comments reminiscing about the cakes which were sold there. Who remembers the triple layered sponge cakes, the cakes topped with rolled chocolate, chocolate eclairs, brandy snaps, custard tarts, coffee creams as well as their wedding, birthday and christening cakes and even their sausage rolls? Yum!! If you'd like to check out our Facebook page all you need to do is search for Malvern Historical Society - Stonnington.

Hope to see you there! *Nikki Cooper*



Flood waters South Yarra 1907 Stonnington History Collection PH491



Paterson's Quality Cakes delivery van c1920
Stonnington History Collection PH2096

From the Stonnington History Collection

Set of 2018 St Roch's Parish notices donated by Fr Michael Gallacher and Parish Secretary Clare Snell

Another benefit of going to museums and exhibitions? You may live longer!

Results of research published recently in the British Medical Journal show a connection between 'receptive arts engagement' and mortality, where 'receptive arts engagement' is defined as 'going to museums, art galleries, exhibitions, the theatre, concerts or the opera'.

To read the paper in detail, follow this link <https://www.bmj.com/content/367/bmj.16377>

Prahran Mechanics Institute - Collection Corner

The PMI History Library has a growing collection of family histories and they are always looking for more. to add to their collection. Family histories contain an absolute wealth of information that can be vital to everyone from historians to film producers. Family histories are labours of love, and the dedicated researchers who write them often don't think beyond their completion or distribution to their immediate family. Family histories, however, deserve a life beyond the family they are about. www.pmi.net.au

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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