

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

July 2020 - Newsletter No. 86

## From the President

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well in these unusual times and that you are slowly managing to get back to some of your regular activities such as going out for coffee, lunch or dinner with friends. Keep up the walking and speaking to people you pass on your walk. Good for everyone!!!

Thank you to all our members for your continuing support of the Malvern Historical Society and it is very encouraging that we keep getting new members and many members renewing their membership.

As you are aware social distancing rules continue to place constraints on any plans for meetings but as soon as restrictions allow us we will be back in action with activities.

We look forward to a time when we can get back to normal.

Lorraine Sage and the Malvern Historical Society Committee - ljsage123@gmail.com

## Congratulations Brenda Palmer OAM

Congratulations to our very own Brenda Palmer for her Queen's Birthday Honour Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to the community of Malvern. Brenda Palmer is a well known face both in Glenferrie Road and at Coles in Malvern and a long time member of the Malvern Historical Society. She is 88 years old and started working at Coles when she was 35 and in her words, 'I'm a checkout chick and proud of it!' When Brenda started in the job in 1967 'the Vietnam War was still raging, John Farnham released his first hit and the job looked very different to what it does now - not least in the pricing. A block of cheese was 24 cents, milk was 18c, baked beans were 14c and butter was 50c'.

Three years ago Brenda was flown to Perth to be a special guest at the Wesfarmers Ltd Annual Meeting. Wesfarmers' previous Managing Director Richard Goyder paid special tribute to Brenda during his farewell address when he said 'We have the most amazing people in our teams. They are the ambassadors for our businesses, the people who make the difference every single day. None of them is more amazing than the lady I am about to acknowledge. Brenda Palmer has worked as a check out assistant at the same Coles store in Malvern, in suburban Melbourne, for 50 years. She's 85 years old and is living proof that age is just a number. She starts at six every morning and, yes, people really do queue up just to be served by her at the check-out. Brenda, thank you, you are an inspiration!'

Congratulations Brenda!

*Thanks to Wesfarmers Ltd for the image*



**L to R: Richard Goyder AO, Rob Scott, Wesfarmers Managing Director, Michael Chaney AO, Wesfarmers Chairman, and Brenda Palmer 2017**

## Vale Norman Maddock

It was with sadness that we learnt of the recent death of former tramways veteran Norm Maddock. Norm always enjoyed working on the trams and in his retirement he worked tirelessly on his passion, the Malvern Tram Museum at the Malvern Depot. He was a great supporter of the Malvern Historical Society over many years.

In 2007 Norm was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for 'service to the Victorian tramways, particularly through the Malvern Tramways Museum and as a union official'. At the time of his death Norm was the sole surviving ANZAC veteran from the Battle of Crete.

## **A.W. Hinton & Son coach works**

In 1890 Arthur Whitley Hinton and his sons began building horse-drawn carriages at 49-51 Izett Street Prahran. The carriages were mainly for the delivery of milk but also for firms such as Buckley & Nunn, Fry's Chocolates and Herbert Adams Pies. In the beginning a blacksmith and a forge were also on the site. At one time signs on the front of the premises at 49 Izett Street, Prahran noted Est. 1890 A. W. Hinton, Coachbuilder Phone 1021 Windsor, motor bodies built to order, painted and trimmed, rubber tyres fitted to all vehicles. Awarded 1st and special prizes, Royal Agricultural Shows Melb. When the premises at 49 to 51 Isaac Street in Prahran was sold in 2020 there was still one original carriage on display.



Above: A.W. Hinton coach works c1900  
Stonnington History Collection SHC61145

Left: A.W. Hinton & Son coachworks c1933  
Stonnington History Collection PH2097

## **Tram pole 230 Glenferrie Road Malvern**

A new tram pole has been erected in front of 230 Glenferrie Road Malvern to replace an early pole that can still be seen nearby. The old pole may be the oldest tram pole still remaining from 1910 when the first electric trams left the Malvern Depot. Other than some later additions above the shop verandah, the pole itself is still in its original form retaining all its decorative rings and decorative top. It's not known if it's in its original position, it may have started its life as one of the poles in the middle of Glenferrie Road. An insulator can still be seen on the pole. Original tram poles can be seen in the 1910 image showing Glenferrie Road looking north from just south of Valetta Street opposite the entry to the Malvern Tram Depot. The fate of the early pole is still to be decided.



Watching the first car - Glenferrie Road looking north  
30 May 1910 Stonnington History Collection MP1247

## **eBay discoveries in June**

Di Foster recently purchased a range of items on eBay on behalf of the Society. They included a history of the Toorak - Prahran Rocket Club, a Prahran cigarette card, a 1949 Ham radio and an early postcard showing a house at 145 Dandenong Road Malvern. In 1925 it was occupied by W.H. McLean, an equine doctor. Formerly on the east corner of Ewart Street, it was one of many buildings demolished in the 1970s for the widening of Dandenong Road/Princes Highway.



145 Dandenong Road Malvern (undated)



Prahran football card (undated)

## New members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Sam Gyura, Juliet and Peter Lithgow, Geraldine Rivers, Helen Collinson and Heather Tasker.

## Ham radio licence

This recent addition to the Stonnington History Collection is a ham radio licence. It allowed an amateur radio operator to operate a radio, otherwise known as ham radio licence. 'An amateur radio operator is someone who uses equipment at an amateur radio station to engage in two-way personal communications with other amateur operators on radio frequencies assigned to the amateur radio service. Amateur radio operators have been granted an amateur radio license by a governmental regulatory authority after passing an examination on applicable regulations, electronics, radio theory, and radio operation. As a component of their license, amateur radio operators are assigned a call sign that they use to identify themselves during communication.

There are about three million amateur radio operators worldwide today. Amateur radio is a hobby and, by law, completely non-commercial. Individual amateur ham radio operators pursue the avocation for personal pleasure through building their own radio stations and communicating with their fellows globally, and for self-improvement via study and practice of electronics, computers, and radio and TV wave behaviour. Radio amateurs are 'amateurs' in the true sense of the word: pursuit of an activity only for the love of it.' Wikipedia 2020

The owner of VNK3NW licence in 1949 was Frederick Kenneth (Ken) McTaggart (1917-2004). According to this document Frederick held a licence in the UK the previous year. Frederick was the son of Cyril and Hilda McTaggart and brother to Jean. From 1943 to 1963 the McTaggart family lived at 4 Kenilworth Grove Glen Iris.

Frederick attended Melbourne High School, where he became a prefect in 1935 and in 1940 he completed a Master of Science at Melbourne University. As a scientist/chemist and author of numerous scientific publications, Frederick appears to have had a long and successful career working with the CSIRO, both in Australia and overseas.

## Grand United Order of Free Gardeners

James Nicolas is writing the history of the old Friendly Society Order known as the Grand United Order of Free Gardeners. They are the oldest of the friendly Societies having commenced in Scotland amongst the Curators & Master gardeners who formed their own guild for protection. The order started in Australia in 1864 in Melbourne and at its peak post - WW1 had over 30 lodges in Victoria alone. Now the only lodge that remains in Australia is in Box Hill. This order considered that gardening was a sacred profession and that the building and proper maintenance of well-ordered gardens was beneficial to the individual, and the community and society. Their ceremonies and symbolism all revolved around this profession. Interestingly, even until WW1 many of the great estates in Melbourne like Como, Ripponlea, the Alfred Hospital gardens, Botanical gardens etc had master gardeners who were Free Gardeners.

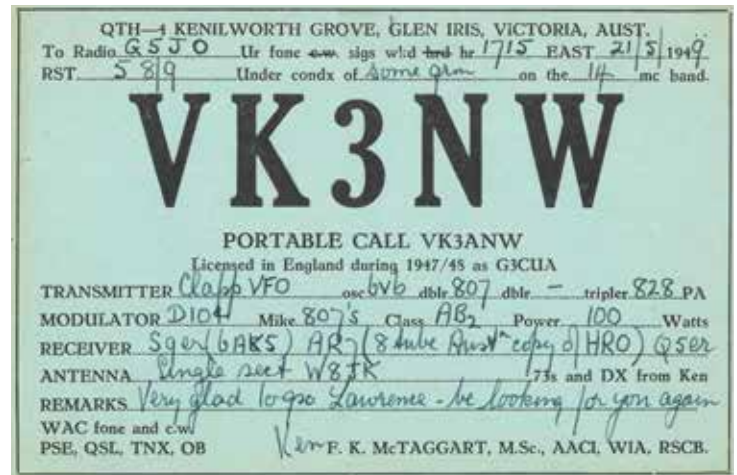
Locally, the old Prahran Dispensary Building in Chapel St has a memorial stone that notes, 'This stone was laid by Mr A Stuart Olive Branch Lodge Free Gardeners....'. It denotes the Olive Lodge. Another local Free Gardener's lodge was called The Southern Cross Lodge. Their master in 1887 was N Lamont. In 1888 *The Telegraph*, *St Kilda*, *Prahran & Sth Yarra Guardian* noted both lodges had a dinner at the Argyle Hall. The co-founder in Victoria of the Free Gardeners was a member of the Olive Lodge. His name was David Johnston. In 1896 Argyle Lodge of Free Gardeners was meeting at the Alma Hotel in St Kilda. By 1903 the Southern Cross Lodge were meeting at Cecil St Prahran. In 1907 there is a report of the Southern Cross Lodge in *The Malvern Standard* having an enjoyable evening. In 1909 the Olive Branch celebrated its 40th anniversary. Brother Donald Mackinnon M.L.A proposed a toast to the founders of the Order, Brother Andrew Kay was noted as having attended over 1000 meetings. Andrew lived in Bruce Street Toorak. By 1914, when he was housebound, members of Olive Lodge visited him with a piper and sang songs to cheer him up. He had been a master gardener at Como.

If you have any information James' email is [Cobrasfc@gmail.com](mailto:Cobrasfc@gmail.com) Tel: 0407511057

## Enjoy RHSV's History News

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria publishes its newsletter History News regularly throughout the year.

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/publications/history-news/>



8 Cecil Place, Prahran c1983  
Stonnington History Collection  
PH10265

James Nicolas 2020

## Orchard House, 6 Haverbrack Avenue Malvern

*Orchard House*, 6 Haverbrack Avenue, was sold in December 2008. At the time it was the earliest surviving house in the street. Soon after, the 7 bedroom house was demolished. Haverbrack Avenue was created in 1888 with the subdivision of the Haverbrack Estate. The subdivision of the Town Hall Estate, with 'business mansion and villa sites in the most valuable aristocratic part', created residential building allotments in Haverbrack Avenue and Embling Road, and commercial allotments in Glenferrie Road and Malvern Road. The original homestead *Haverbrack*, is shown on the 1888 sale notice. *Haverbrack*, a pre-fabricated iron house had been imported from England around 1854. The house was erected in Glenferrie Road by Scottish born Colin Campbell (1817-1903), pastoralist, politician, author, educationist and cleric. *Haverbrack* was used as the district's first Sunday School, before it held the first services for St George's Church. Following the 1888 subdivision, *Orchard House* was built in 1902 in Haverbrack Avenue, by civil engineer, George Higgins. Higgins' house is thought to have been named after *Haverbrack's* orchard, which was possibly on the site of the new house.

George Higgins was a Professor of Engineering at the University of Melbourne. Born in Tipperary, Ireland, George was the son of Irish-born Wesleyan minister, Rev. John Higgins (1819-1895) and his wife, Anne (Bournes) (1825-1917).

*Orchard House* shared a rear boundary with *Killenna*, the Higgins' family home in Sorrett Avenue. The family had arrived in Melbourne from Ireland in 1870. In 1875, George enrolled at the University of Melbourne in Civil Engineering, completing a degree in civil engineering in 1877 and a degree in mining engineering in 1879. He returned as a Lecturer in Surveying, Civil Engineering and Hydraulic Engineering. George entered the Victorian Railways Dept as a student, and while there prepared competitive designs for the Swan Street, Victoria Street and Princes Bridges and the Drainage and Sewerage of Melbourne. Following a trip to California, Higgins was responsible for the construction of the first successful suction dredge in Australasia, used to reclaim the Elwood Swamp and the West Melbourne Canal and Dock. Source: *Varsity Engineer*, June 2011

Around the time of George's graduation, the Higgins family built *Killenna* a large house in Sorrett Avenue now demolished. George's brother Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), radical politician and Judge lived nearby at his mansion *Doona* (demolished) in Glenferrie Road. The Higgins electorate takes his name. A sister, Anna was among the first women to enter the university and another sister Ina, was a horticulturist, landscape gardener and feminist. Professor George Higgins died in 1943.

From the 1920s to the 1960s, 6 Haverbrack Avenue underwent various alterations and additions. Architects for these plans included Ballantyne & Wilson and Grounds Romberg & Boyd (1955). The same year 60' of land was excised from the property. The house was demolished after the 2008 sale.

Di Foster 2020

## Congratulations Helen Gobbi OAM

The Malvern Historical Society would like to congratulate Helen Gobbi, History Monash Inc historian and Vice-President, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Helen received her award for her 'service to community history'. Helen has contributed actively to History Monash Inc (formerly Oakleigh Historical Society) for over twenty years. Helen makes a huge contribution of her time to the group's exhibitions, research, writing, collecting and preserving archives, and as a member of the South Metro History Group.



6 Haverbrack Avenue Malvern 2008



George Higgins.  
*The Varsity*  
Engineer June  
1911 University  
of Melbourne  
Archives



Town Hall Estate 1890  
Stonnington History Collection MP5456

## Malvern's socially distancing bear

Malvern's socially distancing bear has been popping up on Twitter, all around Stonnington and beyond!

Malvern Historical@MalvernHistory  
<http://www.malvernwaters.com/nationalparks.asp?search=yes&p=7&id=428>



## The Track from Punt Road to Romania Reserve

A copy of *The Track from Punt Road to Romania Reserve. History of the Toorak-Prahran Cricket Club and its Predecessors*, Graeme Allen Fischer, self published 2010, was recently added to the Stonnington History Collection.

In 1964 Tony Young was the foundation president of the Prahran South Yarra Presbyterian Cricket Club, which entered a team in the South Suburban Churches Cricket Association.

In 1968 the club decided to go in separate ways and split into two groups. Tony Young and Bruce Morley formed Prahran Presbyterian. Brian Hilditch, Graeme Pybus and Peter Roache formed a club called South Yarra Presbyterian.

Within three seasons there was a name change of this second club to Punt Road Methodist. The club won its first premiership in 1973-1974 and it commenced its under-age program at the start of the 1975-1976 season. Prior to this the youth in the area played under age cricket for St John's Toorak.

## Malvern's First Post Office and Mr Mudge

John Butler Cooper wrote in his *History of Malvern* (1936): 'In May 1859, there was no post office, nor was there any postal delivery in Gardiner. The Gardiner Road Board's official papers were sent to the St. Kilda Post Office. Later arrangements were made for a post office, at Mudge's store, in the village. "Mr. Mudge" is to-day only a name, but while its owner strutted his brief hour across the stage of Gardiner, he was withal a villager, who did something for the hamlet itself, in addition to selling groceries to his neighbours.'

Mr Mudge was in fact, not just a name, but as I have just discovered, he was my great-great uncle – Burnet Patch Mudge. The 'village' Cooper refers to was centred in Malvern Road between the Malvern Hill Hotel and the Malvern Vale Hotel. Mudge's General Store and Post Office was located close to the corner of Elizabeth Street. Cooper goes on to note: 'In April, 1864, Mudge, in the interest of those who traded with him, and of the residents, who came to the post office, once a day, to collect any letters addressed to them, asked the Board to place two, or three, loads of gravel, in front of the post office, and store building. The Board refused to do so. Mudge applied for the position of Dog Inspector, and he also submitted an application to become the Board's official inspector of weights and measures. The Board declined to appoint Mr. Mudge much to the satisfaction of an opponent of Mr. Mudge's, Edward Clark.'

Burnet Patch Mudge was born in Exeter England in 1831, the son of Parmenas Pearce Mudge and his wife Laura (Patch). Following his arrival in Melbourne he married Margaret Smythe in 1855. The family lived in Brighton then Dandenong, where six of their 12 children were born. In 1863, two months after taking up his position as postmaster at Malvern Hill (Gardiner), Burnet and his wife Margaret lost their infant son Charles. Two more children were born at Gardiner where the family home in Malvern Road was described as a 4 roomed wood house and shop. The family moved to South Australia following the end of his time as Malvern's postmaster.

Di Foster 2020



Malvern Post Office and General Store. Painting by Herbert Dickins  
Stonnington History Collection MP15279

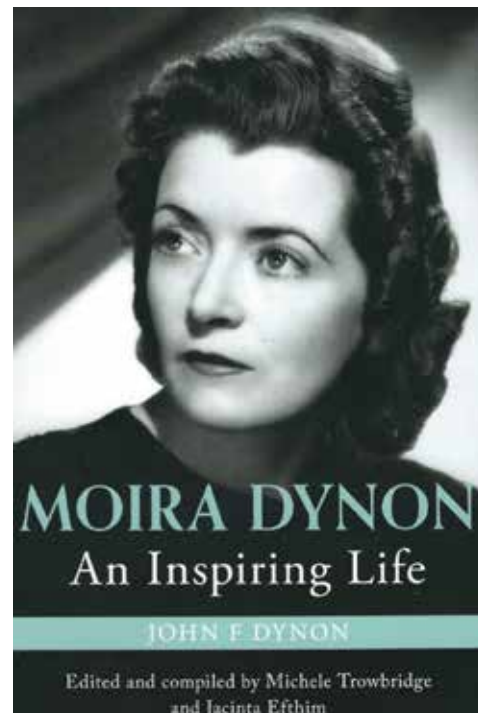
## Moira Dynon - An Inspiring Life

The Society recently acquired a copy of *Moira Dynon: An Inspiring Life*, John Francis Dynon, Michele Trowbridge (Editor), Jacinta Efthim (Editor) 2020 Publisher: Jacinta Efthim, PO Box 68 Black Rock Vic 3193

The biography of Moira Lenore Dynon (1920 -1976) contains a footnoted account of Moira's fascinating and inspiring life as a scientist, socialite, wife, mother and community activist. Moira graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1941 and was involved as a scientist in the mustard gas trials in World War II.

After marrying John F Dynon in 1950, Moira and John established the Malvern branch of the Australian Association for the United Nations. Both received honours from the Italian Government for their work in assisting Italian immigrants. They were officeholders in the Liberal Party before becoming outspoken critics of the ground of separation being included in Australia's first national divorce legislation in 1959. Moira made significant contributions to other causes including fundraising for the education and welfare of the Australian-Japanese children in Kure, Japan, aid to India (1964 – 1971) and her responses to various natural disasters.

Moira's work for better relations between Australia and India brought her into conflict with the Australian government. Considerable use is made of primary source documents: reports, newspaper articles, letters and telegrams including her significant correspondence with Australian prime ministers. Moira and her family lived at 29 Elizabeth Street, then 7 Haverbrack Avenue Malvern.



## W H Corless 17 Station Street Malvern

Kim Corless recently shared information about this State Library of Victoria photo. 'This is a photo of my great great uncle Wilfred Hamyln Corless and his wife Elizabeth at the front of his shop at 17 Station Street Malvern. Wilfred was born in 1880 and his daughters Winifred and Mabel were born in about 1904 and 1906, so the photo probably dates from about 1910. Wilfred was a painter and paperhanger'. Signs on the building read: Window Glass, House Repairs and Picture Framing. W.H. Corless. Painter & Paperhanger. Miss Bourke, Milliner.



W H Corless 17 Station Street Malvern SLV  
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/158905>

## C A Clarke 239 Dandenong Road East Malvern

C A Clarke Pty Ltd were fuel merchants at 239 Dandenong Road East Malvern, on the east corner of Clarence Street from the 1930s. The numbers in Dandenong Road have since changed.

C A Clarke regularly advertised in The Herald in 1932.



The wording on the advertisement includes - offer best fuel at reduced rates with prompt and courteous delivery service anywhere in the City and South of the Yarra. Clarke's guarantee of weight quality and description gives you the right to return, at their expense any fuel received from them, if you are not satisfied, either before or after you commence to use it.

IS THAT FAIR ENOUGH? TELS. U7415, U7416

## Malvern Tramways Band 1924.

Shared by Warren Doubleday, Manager of the Melbourne Tram Museum collection.



Malvern Tramways Band 1924. Price 1/-

## Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Australia's environment is essential to our cultural identity, our way of life, our economy and the prosperity of our society. The EPBC Act plays a significant role in the protection and management of our environment and heritage. Australia's World Heritage properties and National Heritage places are covered by the EQPBC Act 1999, which requires that an independent review of the operation of the Act, and the extent to which its objects have been achieved, be conducted at least every ten years. A review was done in 2009, and now another is underway, by Professor Graeme Samuel AC, and is to be completed by October 2020. [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/review](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/review)

### Upcoming History Matters events

**Wednesday 29 July 11am - 12 pm.**

Journalist Andrew Dodd will delve into the life of architect, J.J. Clark. J.J. Clark was one of the most fascinating of Australia's colonial architects. He designed some of the most elegant and important public buildings in Melbourne and interstate, including the Melbourne Treasury Building and Melbourne City Baths.

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History-Matters-JJ-Clark-Architect-of-the-Australian-Renaissance>

**Wednesday 26 August 11am - 11.45 am**

This session will be presented by Way Back When Consulting Historians, Lucy Bracey and Fiona Poulton. We are currently living through one of the most significant events of our generation. COVID-19 is disrupting daily life for people across the globe, but it is not the first time that thousands of people all over the world have experienced a major event like this, caused by a dangerous disease. Similar events from the past will be explored and considered within their Australian contexts. The session will be presented via Zoom.

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History-Matters-Diseases-of-the-past>

*Simone Sharpe Team Leader - Historian Stonnington History Centre*

### Cranbourne Dairy staff

Joy Lindsay recently shared this photo of the Cranbourne Dairy staff in the 1940s. Her father, Jim Mitchell, can be seen 2nd from right. Joy remembers visiting the the milk bar often with her mother for a real dairy milkshake. Richard Dixon's daughter, Jan, has identified her uncle, Fred Dixon, in the photo, third from the right in the back row.

In 1934 William and Mabel Rose purchased land on the west side of Darling Road adjoining Rothesay Avenue and erected a new dairy and home for their Cranbourne Dairy. The business had moved from Preston to Craigmore Street East Malvern in 1930. The business was sold to Richard Dixon in 1939. The dairy operated until the late 1970s and the site was sold in 1981. The buildings were demolished in 1988 and a park was established on the site by the City of Malvern. The land and the cost of development came from Arterial Road Link compensation funds.

Dairy Park was opened on the old dairy site on 26 November 1989.



Above: Cranbourne Dairy, Darling Road East Malvern 1937  
Stonnington History Collection MP5083

Left: Cranbourne Dairy 1938  
Stonnington History Collection MP15114



**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](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern) Tel: 0438 515 631 [malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)**

**Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)**

**P.O. Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 [malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)**

**[www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://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](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au)**

**Tel: 8290 1360 [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History)**

**Prahan Mechanics Institute Tel: 9510 3393 [www.pmi.net.au](http://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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