

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

November 2020 - Newsletter No. 87

From the President

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well as 2020 continues to be the “new normal” with the lockdown of COVID-19 and the new restrictions, which are hard on many people. Like everyone else all the various activities that we had planned for 2020 have been disrupted and have had to be held over until everything returns to normal, whatever that normal may be in 2021.

The Malvern Historical Society Committee is both appreciative and humbled by the support from so many of our Members during these challenging times. Thank you for your messages of support, the new members who have joined during 2020, the many people who have continued to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We really appreciate the support in these difficult times. This has meant that our Annual Meeting in May has had to be delayed until the restrictions are eased to allow us to meet again.

I need to mention that even though we have been in this present lockdown we have been busy with Facebook, Twitter, answering many e-mails and keeping an eye on eBay for local history items of interest and providing schools with our publication ‘Amazing History - Amazing Stonnington’. I also need to acknowledge that during this time of lockdown we have been very fortunate to receive a most generous bequest. The Executor of the Estate of Ronald Stewart Michael Macgeorge, who died on 8 September 2019, has advised that Mr Macgeorge, who was a long time member of the Society, has left a legacy to the Society. Michael wrote the popular publication *The Lives of Valentines* (see page 4). This is indeed a great boost for the Society in these difficult times. The Society is extremely honoured and extends our grateful thanks to Michael’s family for this wonderful bequest. We look forward to a time when we will be able to get back to having our activities once again for you all.

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

Malvern Tramways Cricket team

Robert Lainson recently shared memories of his late father Leonard (Len) John William Lainson. Len was born in 1914 in Clifton Hill and died in 1990. He served in New Guinea in WW2. The sketch (below right) was done by a fellow digger of Len’s in New Guinea. Robert thinks his father worked at the Malvern tram depot for close to 30 years, as both a driver and a conductor. Len was a member of the Malvern Tramways Cricket team.

Robert Lainson 2020



This photo was taken on the Malvern Cricket Ground in the mid 1930s. Len can be seen in the back row, 2nd from left. At one time he won both the Association and club batting trophies but instead of a trophy the award was 2 guineas for the Association and 1 Guinea for his club award. At the time his batting average was 46.



'Glenferrie Road - As Remembered and more' Dudley Lucas

The Society would like to thank Neil Lucas for donating his late father's handwritten notes on Malvern's history and also his memories of 'Glenferrie Road - As Remembered and more'.

This is a description of Glenferrie Road buildings, on the west side from Gardiner's Creek south to Dandenong Rd and back to the creek along the east side. The notes relate to the time between the late 1800's to the 1920's. We look forward to sharing these valuable descriptions with you in upcoming newsletters. Dudley Lucas was born in Malvern and joined the staff at Malvern Council as a junior boy in 1925. He was appointed Town Clerk for the Malvern City Council in 1951, a position he held until his retirement in 1973.

Neil has also donated a City of Malvern Centenary booklet from 1956. "It is with

a feeling of pride in the achievements of the past that we enter upon the celebrations of the Centenary of local government in the city of Malvern. I trust that all citizens, whether new or old, will join in the festivities of the month." S E Stevens Mayor October 1956. The booklet includes the order of events for the month including details about the bonfire and fireworks display, the procession of decorated floats, traders' vehicles and the council's mobile fleet, the Malvern Traders' Centenary exhibition in the City Hall, the floral festival at the Malvern Cricket Ground, the Massed Band recital, and the Arts Festival over five days. Neil also donated a number of newspaper articles.

Malvern Centenary 1956

Alan Gregory recently shared his memories of the Malvern Centenary celebrations and donated a range of related items.

In 1955 a group of citizens started the planning for the Malvern Centenary Arts Festival, an event to mark the Centenary of the City of Malvern. It was initially formed because the council lacked any program of activities. After the arts festival group started, the Council reluctantly came along and helped the committee. The Malvern Town Hall was given free for events and some funding was provided. The Town Clerk Dudley Lucas was supportive.

Alan Gregory was the honorary secretary and John Fitzgibbon was the chairman president. Donated items include newspaper cuttings from the Malvern Advertiser. Of particular interest at the time was the large display corridor at the entrance into the Town Hall during the celebrations. It was put together by artist Clement Meadmore (1929-2005), who was renowned as an internationally famous artist and sculptor later residing in New York. The main innovator of the Malvern Centenary Arts Festival Committee was Dr Andrew Fabinyi, a well known figure in Australian publishing.

Donated items included a letter from Malvern Urban Council District, UK wishing the City of Malvern success with their celebrations and photos from the 1965 City of Malvern Ball.



From left: Town Clerk Dudley Lucas, Mrs Lucas, Miss Armstrong, Mrs Armstrong and Mayor, Cr Ted Armstrong at the Mayoral Ball 1963
Stonnington History Collection MP5527



City of Malvern Mayoral Ball 1965

Vale Ted Malsem

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Ted Malsem who was a valued Member of the Society from the mid 1970s. Ted was fascinated by the history of the Waverley Road Malvern East shops and Hughes Street where he and his wife Gwen had lived. Hughes Street was formerly known as Bismarck Street. He will be especially missed for his cheeky sense of humour!

Chadstone Shopping Centre

Chadstone Shopping Centre stands on the site of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, including the land once occupied by Chadstone, an 1856 weatherboard cottage on a 13 acres (5.2 hectares) farm at the corner of Chadstone and Dandenong Roads. The Convent of the Good Shepherd was built in 1883 next door to Chadstone (cottage). It offered academic, domestic and commercial training for girls aged 11 to 13. In 1958 parts of the Convent land were sold to Myer for the development of a shopping centre. In 1984, the Convent buildings were demolished and the car park at Chadstone Shopping Centre was extended.

Ken Myer returned from the United States of America with his vision for retailing and from 1958 thirty acres of pastureland were converted to the largest centre of its type in Australia.

Chadstone Shopping Centre was opened on 3 October 1960 by the Premier, (Sir) Henry Bolte. The £6 (\$12) million Centre included 72 shops, a three-level Myer department store, a supermarket, an upper and lower mall, radio station, exhibition hall, medical centre and child minding facilities.

In 1983, the Gandel Group acquired the Centre, which has had major expansions since that time, continuing its reputation as one of the largest shopping centres in Australia.

Chadstone, The Fashion Capital, as it is now known, encompasses some of Australia's best known fashion and lifestyle stores, including two department stores (David Jones and Myer) and almost 400 retail outlets. Stylish shopfronts, luxurious fixtures, the famous galleria and a unique collection of Australian sculptures are all features of Chadstone's décor. It also has a state-of-the-art entertainment precinct and another area for the local shoppers called "Chadstone Corner" which caters for their everyday needs.



Aerial view of Chadstone Shopping Centre c1960 Stonnington History Collection MP1077



The Mall, Chadstone Shopping Centre c1960 Stonnington History Collection MP825



Press conference for the £6 million Chadstone Shopping Centre. From left: G McCahon, M A Tolley, E A Watts (builder), S Evans, M Shaw (architect), K Myer, with a model of the new centre. c1960 Stonnington History Collection MP2225



3UZ Radio Station at Chadstone Shopping Centre 1960 Stonnington History Centre MP1591

New members

The Society would like to welcome our new members Jim Bland, Katherine Croagh, Anthony Gissing, Myrna Montague, Peter Norman, Julia Mauger, Amanda McDougal and her family, and Judy and Duncan Harris.

Persons depositing rubbish

Ross Wilkie has donated an original Malvern Council street notice.



City of Stonnington Community Grant 2020 - 2021

We were delighted to hear about our successful application for a community grant from the City of Stonnington. The grant will be used for the printing of our newsletters, updating of the website, display photos, and the printing of pamphlets and puzzles. Council also agreed to our request for in-kind use of council meeting rooms. *Lorraine Sage President*

Taking local history to the community.

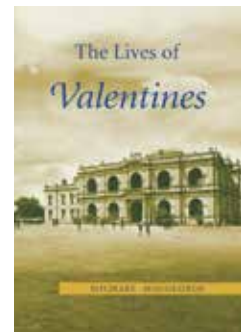
Di Foster was recently the guest speaker at a Men of Malvern meeting via Zoom. Di spoke about the Local History processes/programs currently in place within Stonnington. On behalf of the Society Di has also purchased a 1943 Malvern District Boy Scout book, a Grimes Dairy milk bottle, a Spotswood Nirvana Dairy Cream bottle and a College of the Bible booklet. (The Churches of Christ) College of the Bible was in Elm Road Glen Iris.

This term Year 2 classes at Toorak Primary School and Lauriston Girls' School have been enjoying Malvern Historical Society's puzzle book for Primary age children *Amazing History - Amazing Stonnington*.

Nikki Cooper has made sure the Malvern Historical Society Facebook page has kept everyone informed and entertained again. We recently reached 3,667 Likes on Facebook! The Society kept local history alive on Twitter during History Month in October.

The Lives of Valentines Michael Macgeorge 2004

Michael Macgeorge was the fifth of five brothers who attended Malvern Grammar School. Valentines, the historic and stately building, now the Malvern campus of Caulfield Grammar School, made a lasting impression on Michael. In 2004 he published *The Lives of Valentines* so he could tell some of the story of the building. Michael was fascinated by the story of the family of lawyer, politician, and land speculator John Mark Davies from the time he purchased 25 acres at the north east corner of Burke and Wattletree Roads Glen Iris in 1890. Leading Melbourne architect Thomas Watts was commissioned by Davies to design a mansion of 40 rooms. John and Emily Davies and their 11 children moved in to Valentines in 1892.



Memories of Malvern

Andrea Cooper recently shared her memories of growing up in Malvern Road, Malvern between Bride Street and Spring Road. 'I have such happy memories of growing up in Malvern Road. The baker delivering bread from his horse and cart - I always picked the horseshoe rolls. The milkman was also in a horse and cart delivering milk. He once picked me up and took me to school, wonderful sitting there as we trotted up the school driveway and he then dropped off our school milk. With so many horse and cart deliveries the local stables were busy. My mum used to go to Redman's butcher shop in High Street, now Say It With Flowers. It was a typical 1950/60's shop (my era) with sawdust on the floor. On school holidays when we went there Miss Redmond let me use the cash register to pay for our purchase - only cash in those days, how times have changed. Mr and Mrs Dollard owned the grocer shop next door, long before supermarkets. He was very tall and she must have been a little over 5 foot. No self service, you waited to be served. I remember Mr Dollard had a long stick with a hook on the end to pull down items, eg toilet paper, from the top shelves. Biscuits came in bulk in large tins which they stored under the front of the counter. I remember opening the Tic Toc biscuit tin and putting a couple in my pocket (a belated sorry for that). There was also the four piece packets of chewing gum on the counter. Mum always bought us a some when she shopped, I loved Juicy Fruit or PK. I have lots of memories of the shops on the corner of Malvern and Glenferrie Roads. There was Sennitt's Milk Bar (now Ionsky's) Bill Cowen's fruit shop (now Wen's Dog Grooming Salon) Mrs Taylor's sandwich bar (now The Feed Bag) and Mr Wilson's delicatessen (now Malvern Electronics). There was also Woodmasons Dairy and Iceworks and the stables, such happy memories.

Andrea Cooper 2020

Wildfell, Toorak Road Toorak celebrates its centenary 1920-2020

Wildfell, 614 Toorak Road, Toorak was initially numbered 10 Toorak Road, when it was built for Sam McGregor in 1920. The house, designed by architects Oakden, Ballantyne & Hare, was one of the first houses to be built on the Yar Orrong Estate. The owner, Duncan Robert (Samuel) McGregor married Anna Maria Kirk in 1913. Their daughter Helen was born in 1917. The McGregor family lived at Wildfell until 1954.

The Yar Orrong Estate (bounded by Kooyong, Albany and Toorak Roads) was part of the estate of William Bayles. It was sold by auction in May 1918. Three new roads (Yar Orrong, Barnard and Macquarie Roads) were created to allow the subdivision of the 15 acres into 25 allotments.

The original mansion, Yar Orrong, remained on three acres of land with its entrance off Albany Road. Ada and Elizabeth Bayles lived in the family home until 1939 when the property was sold to developer Harold Edward Bastings. The mansion was demolished, its gardens were cleared, and Eden Court was created.

Di Foster 2020



Above: Wildfell, 614 Toorak Road Toorak 1920
Stonnington History Collection MP8394

Far left: Yar Orrong Estate 1918 Stonnington History
Collection MP531

Left: Helen McGregor at Wildfell 1925 Stonnington
History Collection MP8395

Below: Wildfell, 614 Toorak Road Toorak, Di Foster
2020



A photo tells a story

This rare 1873 photo (below) is one of two from an album that once belonged to the Simson family, early Australian pastoralists. For over 150 years, the Simson family connections spread a wide net in Melbourne, western Victoria, NSW and beyond. The photos, in excellent condition given their age, were purchased from a local fine arts dealer and are now part of the Stonnington History Collection. The photo shows the Simson family in the garden of St Monans, the family's new 'town house' in Williams Road, South Yarra. The family includes pastoralist Colin William Simson, his wife Margaret (née Smith) and six of their nine children. Three more children were born to Colin and Margaret within a few years of the photo being taken. Other children (possibly cousins) also appear in the photo. Simson named the house after his birthplace in Scotland.

Colin William Simson (at right) was born in Scotland. In 1851, age 23, Colin left Scotland and followed his older brother Robert to Port Philip, hoping for success at the gold diggings. After working with Robert at Carngham a pastoral property west of Ballarat, the brothers became business partners. When gold was found at Carngham in 1857, there was a rush of several thousand miners. Colin eventually took a share and managed the Mount Ross section of Langi Kal Kal near Trawalla, Victoria. In 1858 Colin purchased York Plains Station, 38,000 acres, south east of Warracknabeal.

In 1862 Colin and his new wife Marguerite Smith took up Mungadal a property near Hay, NSW.

Marguerite was born in Hobart Town where her father Frederick held the position of Postmaster General for Tasmania and Hobart Town. In 1871 with his success as a pastoralist and with a growing family, Colin Simson purchased more than 2 acres of land in Williams Road, South Yarra. While their new house was being built, the family lived in Caroline Street, South Yarra. Nine children were born to Colin and Margeurite Simson between 1862 and 1876. By 1872 St Monans, a single storey Victorian villa with veranda, extensive gardens and stables, became the Simson's Melbourne home.

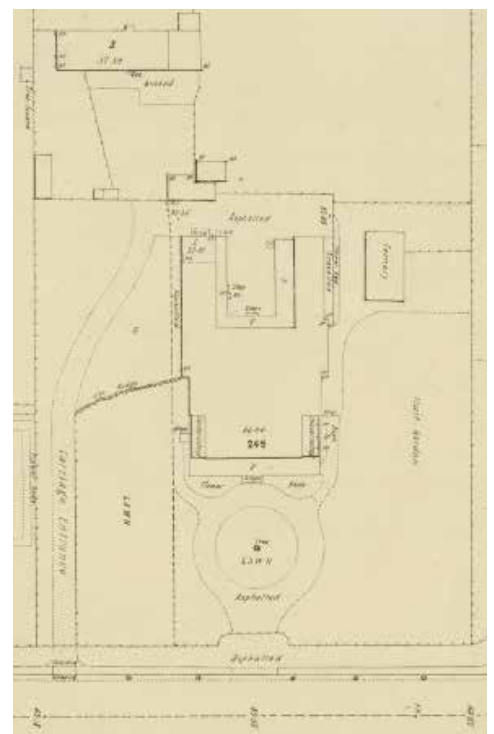
Colin Simson spent his time between Melbourne, Sydney and Hay, where he was active in local and municipal affairs. He was one of the founders and President of Hay Pastoral Association and his champion sheep won prizes at the Hay show. In 1877 Simson was elected to Parliament, serving as a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for Balranald until 1880. He was instrumental in a bill which authorised the construction of the Junee-Hay railway line. While Parliament was sitting the family spent time in Sydney where John and Irene, his last 2 children were born.

By 1886 Colin Simson had acquired Carmyle, as a town house in Melbourne for his family. Carmyle's previous owner, Scottish pastoralist Archibald Fiske, was a colleague of Simson. The newly built (1879) mansion on six acres of land in Toorak, was situated on the north east corner of Boundary (Kooyong) Road and Malvern Road. The property included a large cellar, tennis court and pavilion, stables and coach-house.

Di Foster 2020



The Pastoralist Review 15 March 1905



St Monans Williams Road South Yarra 1896 MMBW SLV



St Monans Williams Road South Yarra 1873



Simson family c1884

Memories of the area close to Milton Parade

Sue Duffy recently shared her memories. 'Our family lived between Toorak Road and Tooronga Road, off Milton Parade, for approximately 20 years, between 1951 and 1971. My earliest memories of Gardiner's Creek are taking our dog for a daily run and a swim in the creek near Johnson Oval. I would go with my Father and brother in the early 1950's pre the freeway. My Mother came to the rescue of a young boy that had fallen in the creek, near the footbridge, in the late 1950's. As he was stuck in the mud, my Mother asked us to run to the Oval where footy training was being held and the players carried over one of the goal posts for the boy to grab whilst he was being pulled out. We then took him back to our place where he was given a warm bath and a change of clothes whilst waiting for his parent. In the early 1960's we would go to the park with neighbouring friends to play. We would find sheets of tin along the fence with the railway line, near Tooronga Station, and pretend they were sleds as we went down the embankment. Great fun! My brother and his friends would walk up the storm water drain, near the footbridge over Gardiner's Creek, to about High Street. We girls were too scared because we thought there may have been rats or the water may come suddenly down the drain. In the late 1960's I was taught to drive, by a sibling, between Johnson Oval and the pylons. Many wonderful memories of the park and friends. I love reading your articles as they bring back wonderful memories.



Toorak Road, looking east at Tooronga c1970
Stonnington History Collection MP2730

Sue Duffy (Lovell) 2020

Ham Radio licence - Part 2

We included an article, Ham Radio licence, in our previous issue of the newsletter. Thank you to Mike Trickett, Secretary of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia Inc. (CATHS) for contacting the Society to offer a correction relating to the information in the article.

Mike wrote 'I have been a licenced Amateur Radio Operator for over 50 years, and thought I should contact you and offer a correction to the illustration shown. It is not an actual Licence, but is a QSL card. (In Amateur Radio talk, "QSL" is shorthand for "Receipt of Message") The QSL card has been made out to G5JO (Lawrence) - an Amateur Station in England. It would normally have been posted to him in those days. It would seem that Ken didn't get around to posting it. Under normal conditions, the English station would have also sent one of his cards back to Ken - the exchange of QSL cards being a confirmation that a contact took place. Most amateurs would proudly display the card they had received on the wall of their radio room. There were often competitions between amateurs for such awards as making contact with 100 different countries, working all Continents, or all states of the USA, etc. A QSL card from the operator in a foreign country was needed to verify each contact for the award'. Thanks Mike!

A wireless first

In 1924 the Mayor, Councillor C.J.Waters, J.P. opened a Begonia Show by "wireless" at the Malvern Town Hall. The occasion was a notable one in the history of wireless transmission in Australia. The method employed to open the show was by wireless waves of telephonic sound.

The Mayor declared the Begonia Show open by speaking into a wireless microphone at Ferncroft Avenue, East Malvern, in the home of Mr. Howard K.Love, the President of the Wireless Institute of Australasia. The Mayor's message was transmitted to the Town Hall. His voice was heard by those present at the show through the medium of a loud speaker. It was the first time in Australia that the wireless telephone had been used in that way.



Ferncroft Avenue and Wattletree Road junction in centre of picture, 1912. Stonnington History Collection MP5259

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

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*** 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

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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

Prahan 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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