

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

June 2021 - Newsletter No. 90

7 July Family History Club Wednesday, 7 July 2pm

Whether you're a beginner or experienced family history researcher, join the friendly group to meet fellow enthusiasts and explore the many genealogy resources available.

Spaces are limited and bookings are required. Every person attending the event must be registered with a ticket for contact tracing purposes. This is a COVID-Safe event and Victorian Government public health requirements apply. QR code check-in, physical distancing and regular hand sanitisation are required. Face masks must be carried and worn according to DHHS requirements (unless a lawful exemption applies). Please stay home if you're unwell, have been a close contact of someone unwell or awaiting results of a Coronavirus test. Please note, depending on restrictions around indoor public gatherings, this event may be rescheduled and/or move to an online (Zoom) event.

Stonnington History Centre Exhibition Space

1257 High Street, Malvern (behind Malvern Library) www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History



Alex Faill with his sister, 10 Manning Road Malvern East
c1930 Stonnington History Collection MP7557

31 July Glenvale Road and Valency Road, Glen Iris area walk Saturday 31 July 10am

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our first local history walk for 2021.

Hear about the early homes, St Roch's Church and the development of the Glenvale Road and Valency Road area.

All welcome!

Members: Gold coin, Non members \$5

Bookings: Lorraine Sage 9885 9082

Email: ljsage123@gmail.com

'Highfield' Burke Road, Glen Iris 2000
Stonnington History Collection MP13853



Message from the President

After over twelve months without any face-to-face activities the Society is now beginning to return to our face-to-face activities. Our first activity was our Annual General Meeting which was held at Phoenix Park Community Centre. The meeting was very successful with our Committee being re-elected and a new Committee member Heather Kasa elected to the Committee. A report of the Meeting is contained in this Newsletter. We had a Local History Walk planned for May but alas we had to postpone it as our last lockdown commenced the day before. We were very sorry about that as it was our first walk for eighteen months. With all the uncertainty about restrictions and COVID 19 it is very difficult to plan for face-to-face activities but the Committee is remaining positive and feel sure that we will gradually get back to having events for our members. Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships and although we have had no activities for over a year it is great to know that you are all so interested in helping to preserve the history of our local area. We hope to be able to keep you all interested in our history, there are a great number of stories to tell. You can learn more about our history on our Facebook page.

Keep safe, take care and I look forward to seeing some of you at the various events that we hope to plan for later this year

Lorraine Sage - President Tel: 9885 9082 Email: ljsage123@gmail.com

Malvern Historical Society Inc - Annual General Meeting 2021

Due to a year like no other, and Covid 19, our Annual General Meeting for 2020 had to be deferred a number of times. We finally were able to hold a meeting face-to-face for the 2019 Financial Year and the 2020 Financial Year. This meant that we were able to comply with all the Consumer Affairs Victoria requirements. The Malvern Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting was held on 19 May 2021. Although the Society has not been able to hold face-to-face activities for the last sixteen months the support for the Society has not lessened. Our membership numbers have been maintained and a number of new members have joined the Society which has given the Committee much encouragement in what has been a very difficult year for people in just so many ways. The Committee continued to produce our Newsletter every two months, thanks to Jane Nigro our Editor and various people who have submitted articles to be included in the Newsletter. Our thanks also to MBE – Malvern who were able to continue printing the Newsletter. Facebook has continued to grow thanks to the work of Nikki Cooper. We have had a successful year purchasing a number of items related to the Stonnington area for the Stonnington History Collection, thanks to the great work of Di Foster - thanks Di.

The thanks of the Society was extended to the following for their help during the past two years - Jim Cranage, Cranage Partners, Chartered Accountants, 31 Station Street, Malvern for reviewing our financial books for 2019 and 2020, Ron Polak and the staff of MBE Malvern, 45 Glenferrie Road, Malvern for undertaking all our printing requirements and Linda Tassone of Jeffreys Books, 140 Glenferrie Road, Malvern for selling our various publications. We would also like to thank the City of Stonnington for their financial assistance during the year, Simone Sharpe, Janet Buick, Ainslee Meredith and Julia Tregear from the Stonnington History Centre for their endless assistance and the help they so graciously give when answering the Malvern Historical Society's questions. Thank you to all the members of the Society who supported our various activities during the year.

At the meeting Lorraine Sage was re-elected President. Also re-elected were Jane Nigro - Vice President, Ann Ahin - Treasurer, Pat Brincat - Minute Secretary, and Committee Members - Marisa Costa, Francesca Di Mattina, Dianne Gardiner, Bernadette Wood. Heather Kasa was elected as a new Committee Member.

Lorraine Sage - President Tel: 9885 9082 Email: ljsage123@gmail.com

Gabriel Hermes Collection donation

The Stonnington History Centre has received a significant donation of local business records and related materials from Gabriel Hermes. The records relate to several stores that operated throughout the twentieth century in Prahran, including Treadways (at 233-243 Chapel Street, also known as the Treadways Colosseum), Read's and Moore's department stores (on the corner of Chapel Street and Commercial Road), and Waltons, which also operated on the Colosseum site. Gabriel worked in a variety of roles for these stores, from despatch boy to carpet manager, as well as being a tram driver in Malvern for 36 years. Having lived in South Yarra and Prahran his whole life, Gabriel has also served as President of the Prahran Historical & Arts Society.



Black-and-white photograph of four models posed on a balcony at the former Read's/Moore's department store [undated]. Gabriel Hermes Collection, Stonnington History Collection 71036

Items held in the Treadways, Read's, Moore's and Waltons sub-collections range from company financial records, to customer transaction records such as receipts and cheques, correspondence, training manuals, advertising materials, brochures and business cards from interior furnishing suppliers, store packaging samples, name badges, photographs, and in-house publications.

There are also records and objects relating to other businesses in the area, such as Patersons and RetraVision Prahran Discount Centre (where Gabriel also worked), Tandy Electronics Prahran, Edments, Philmark, Vandenberg's Photo Shop, Althea Sportswear, and A.B.C. Coin & Stamp Supply.

Photographs of Read's depict shop windows, staff, models, and promotional events in the store, and include several photographs of American shop window dressings, presumably used as inspiration. Read's department store was founded by Jacob W. Read in the early 1880s. The business was sold to Charles Moore in 1902, who rebuilt the store premises in 1914. Moore's store closed in 1977 and the building was redeveloped as Pran Central in 1978.

As evidence of the business operations of department stores which have since closed, and consumer behaviour in the twentieth century, the collection will be of interest to those researching Prahran's commercial and social history. We thank Gabriel for his generous donation.

Ainslee Meredith, Local History Technician, Stonnington History Centre



Gabriel Hermes with his donation at the Stonnington History Centre 2021

2 Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern

Sir Robert Menzies was the Prime Minister of Australia 1939-1941 and 1949-1966. Sir Robert was the Member of the House of Representatives for Kooyong from 1934 to 1966. He founded the Liberal Party in 1944 and he was Australia's longest serving Prime Minister.

Following Sir Robert's retirement as Prime Minister in January 1966, he and his wife, Dame Pattie Menzies, lived at 2 Haverbrack Avenue Malvern, until Sir Robert had a heart attack and died in his home on 15 May 1978.

Demolition of 2 Haverbrack Avenue Malvern June 2021
Image: Di Foster



Archway of Welcome

Gail Kelly has shared an image of a decorated Malvern arch and a letter sent to her great grandfather, John Thomas Smith, Ardie Road, Malvern East in 1920. John was appointed Curator of Parks and Gardens, City of Melbourne. He was a member of the Tree Planters Association. The photo was presented to J T Smith, Curator, to mark the Malvern Council's appreciation of the talent displayed in the design and construction of the Archway of Welcome for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his visit to Malvern 25 May 1920. It is signed by the Mayor of Malvern, L W Holmes.

A newspaper article at the time described the event:

'His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, visited the State Government House Glenferrie Road on Friday May 18 1920. A loyal welcome was offered to the Prince by the Mayor of Malvern Counsellor L W Holmes and the Counsellors on behalf of the citizens of the vice regal city of Malvern. Several thousands of people assembled at the intersection of Kooyong Road and Albany Road Toorak to cheer the Prince as he passed on his way to the State house. A decorated arch of great beauty spanned the roadway. This was the meeting point between the civic authorities and the Prince. There, in full official uniform was the Mayor and there too the Town Clerk, Mr B Crosby.

Enthusiastic cheers continued until such time as the Mayor, with all the Counsellors of Malvern, stepped up to the motor car and presented to the Prince an address.

The Mayor's daughter, Doreen Malvern Holmes, presented a spray of Australian wattle blossom, which the Prince accepted with evident pleasure. In a few words to the Mayor, the Prince expressed his appreciation of the welcome.'

Prahran Telegraph 12 June 1920



SLV Pictures Collection, H42633/

Chadstone Park Primary School

Thanks to Kim Taunt who recently forwarded to the Society a copy of a photo taken at the opening of Chadstone Park Primary.

Chadstone Park Primary School was also known as Chadstone Park State School No. 4669. It took its name from the adjacent park. When the school opened in June 1953 with an enrolment of 199 students up to Grade 4, the Head Master was John Heffernan. Mr Heffernan was Principal only until September 1953, when he was replaced by Mr E. J. Elliott.

The school was officially opened by the Minister for Education, The Hon. A. E. Shepherd, on 11 June 1954. It was renamed Malvern Valley Primary School in 2002.

**Chadstone Park Primary School Official Opening
June 1954 (photographer not known)**



Wesleyan Methodist Church, Toorak - the Jubilee Church

The Malvern Historical Society recently purchased a postcard showing the former Wesleyan Methodist Church on the south east corner of Williams and Toorak Roads Toorak. The Stonnington History Centre holds records relating to the unauthorised partial demolition of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1985 - 1986. Included in the collection are 52 colour photos which can be viewed on the Stonnington History Centre database using record nos. PH10184 to PH10189. Court action was taken against the owners and contractors and transcripts used in the hearing are included in the Stonnington History Collection file.

National Trust Statement of Significance for Wesleyan Jubilee Church, corner of Williams and Toorak Road, South Yarra (c1987)

‘A dramatically-sited polychrome brick church, with stone details, designed by Percy Oakden and built in 1887, comprising a hexagonal preaching space, crowned by a wooden fleche, and aspidal termination sited above and undercroft. The nave was intended to be longer. This building is notable for its powerful use of brickwork, vertical proportions, simplified details and amphitheatrical interior. The building was illegally part-demolished in November 1985. Classified: 30/04/1981’



Unauthorised demolition of Wesleyan Methodist Church c1985 to 1986 Stonnington History Collection PH10189.11

The Wesleyan Jubilee Church, Toorak *The Argus* 16 March 1887

‘The new church lately erected at the intersection of Williams and Toorak Roads was opened on Sunday, the 13th inst., when the president of the Wesleyan denomination (the Rev. Henry Bath) and the Rev. H Millard conducted the inaugural services. A congregation of upwards of 500 persons attended the opening ceremonies. The church occupies a commanding position on the summit of one of the many little eminence’s peculiar to Toorak. The land upon which it is built, with a frontage of 110ft to Toorak Road, and 150ft to Williams Road was the joint gift of Messrs. J. Robb, C H. James, and John Whiting. Seen from a distance the church presents a most pleasing and altogether novel aspect, quite different from that of any other suburban church.

Being of two stories, and at present without a steeple, it almost has the appearance of the mansion of a private gentleman. On a nearer approach, however, the architectural beauties of the unique design are developed. The portion erected is of brick and stone foundations. The style of architecture is the early decorative Gothic. The architects are Messrs Terry and Oakden, of William Street, Melbourne, and the contractor is Mr. Slingo. All the staircases are of iron, and the requirements

of the Central Board of Health have been fully complied with. The interior is in excellent keeping with the exterior. The seats are arranged in a semi-circle, with floor on an inclined plane, raised dais, with reading desk, railing, &c , occupying the centre. A gallery, with cabinet organ, presented by Mr. Robb, is arranged with seats for the choir. The basement is intended for the Sunday school. Numerous iron stanchions support the ceiling. The arched roof, of blackwood and kauri pine, is especially admired for its beauty of design.

On Tuesday evening a tea-meeting was held in the schoolroom, when a very large assemblage partook of the good things provided by the ladies of the district. At 8 o’clock Mr. M. H. Davies, M L.A., took the chair at a meeting in the church, which was filled in every part. After a short prayer, the Rev. W. L. Blamires gave a historical sketch of the origin and rise of the church in Hawksburn and Toorak and mentioned the names of the various benefactors who had given liberal donations towards the erection of the structure. He also explained that a parsonage for the pastor had been secured in Cromwell Road.



Methodist Jubilee Church postcard (undated)

The treasurer then read the financial statement, which showed that subscriptions amounting to £2,1212s. 3d. had been received, with promises of £279 15s., making a total of £2,400 2s 3d. The chief subscribers were- Mr. J. Robb, £1,000, Mr. J. Whiting, £250; Mr M. H. Davies, M.L.A., £250, and Mr. S. Fraser, M.L.C. £150. The expenses had been to date £6,476 6s. Mr. [Matthew] Davies expressed his satisfaction at seeing on this occasion besides his Wesleyan friends so many of the leaders of other denominations, showing the goodwill existing between all classes. As regard the debt on the church they need never be afraid of debt. The Wesleyans seemed to have the faculty of arranging matters, and the energy to provide for the payment of their liabilities. He heartily congratulated them all upon the acquisition of that fine building, which he felt sure would prove a great blessing to the district.

The Rev. W. P. Wells said that 18 years ago, when he left that district, he earnestly wished to be able to build a church in that locality. His wish had now been fulfilled far beyond his hopes or expectations. The reverend speaker gave a vivid description of the state of society in countries rampant with infidelity and compared it with the condition of the people in Victoria, which country he characterised as the “gem of the world”. The Rev. Dr Watkin, after warmly complimenting Mr M H. Davies on his generous gift to the church said his ideas of building Wesleyan churches in the suburbs had hitherto been confined to structures of wood or iron, but after seeing this fine church attractive without and comfortable within, he confessed he had been converted. Some of the churches in the old country were hideously ugly. He remembered hearing an old minister lament that his church was not like anything in heaven above, or the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth. He alluded to the state of religion in France after the Revolution and said that he agreed with Bishop Butler’s remark that nations, like individuals, were sometimes stricken with madness. Mr. J. Whiting also addressed the meeting and expressed his satisfaction at having been able to assist in raising that edifice.

Selections of music were given at intervals by the choir. The amount of the collection was £87 17s. The meeting closed with the benediction.’



Communion set used in The Wesleyan Jubilee Church, Toorak Victorian Collections <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/565222602162f116f87a3c29>



Toorak Methodist Church football team
Malvern Historical Society member Anne Jackson recently found this postcard amongst her mother’s papers. The card had been sent to Anne’s grandfather’s sister.

Tramway Terminus Estate, Malvern East

On 13 November 1913 the tram line along Balaclava and Waverley Roads from Hawthorn Road to Darling Road was opened. Also in 1913, land north of Silverton Street in Hughes Street (named after William [Billy] Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia 1915-1923) and Fisher Street (named after Andrew Fisher, Prime Minister of Australia 1908-1909, 1910-1913, 1914-1915) was auctioned as part of the Tramway Terminus Estate. Land south of Silverton Street was auctioned in 1916. The early German street names, Bismarck (Hughes Street) and Fischer (Fisher Street) were renamed after WWI.



4D tram at the Darling Road Tram Terminus 1972
Image: Ron Scholten

New members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Carole Hynes and Steve Stefanopoulos.

Taking Local History to the Community

The Malvern Historical Society was pleased to be involved in the successful Genealogical Society of Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Zoom seminar on Early Melbourne Suburbs. Malvern Historical Society member, archivist Steve Stefanopoulos agreed to be the Malvern speaker, sharing information about the development of Malvern from around 1850 to the early 20th century.

Additions to the Stonnington History Collection

A set of 2020 St Roch's Parish notices was recently donated by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Michael Gallacher and Parish Secretary Clare Snell.

Thank you to Malvern Historical Society member Simon Seward and his wife Wendy who recently donated a copy of his autobiography *And Then I Grew Up*. Self Published 2020. Simon was born in 1934 in a maisonette his parents had leased in Punt Road South Yarra. Simon remembers the outbreak of World War Two for his school, Wadhurst, Melbourne Grammar School, was moved from South Yarra to Grimwade in Caulfield. He remembers his time as a newspaper boy on the corner of Toorak and Glenferrie Roads, until his brother told his parents! Simon met his wife Wendy Woolcott in the 1950s, they became an 'item' and married at Toorak Uniting Church in 1967.

Thank you to Di Foster who recently purchased postcards of the Malvern Tramways Band and St John's, Finch Street, Malvern East on behalf of the Society. See postcards below.

Prahran and Malvern Tramway Employees Band

The Prahran and Malvern Tramway Employees Band was formed in 1911 at the home of Charles Snelling and included players from other local bands. The most notable of the band's many competition successes were the New Zealand Nationals in 1926 under Harry Shugg and six consecutive South Street Ballarat contests under Harry Philpott (1960-1965). Since 1932 the band has practised in the Malvern band-room, the 'Northbrook' stables, in High Street Malvern. The band was re-named the Malvern Municipal Band in 1946 and Stonnington City Brass in 2000.



Saint John the Evangelist 5 Finch Street, Malvern East

The first St John's, a timber church, was opened in Derby Road Caulfield in November 1883. From 1884 to 1885 classes for the Caulfield Racecourse School (later Malvern Primary School) were conducted in the church. Land was purchased on the west side of Finch Street, Malvern East, and the earlier site in Caulfield was sold for £1875. In December 1888 Saint John's Caulfield held its last services and the wooden church building was moved to Finch Street close to Dandenong Road. The foundation stone of the new brick church was laid in December 1920 and the Gothic style St John the Evangelist Church, designed by Purchas & Teague was opened in 1922. As soon as the new brick building was in use, the wooden church became a Sunday School and Parish Hall. The wooden church was moved and then gave further good service at St. James's, High Street, Glen Iris.



During the early part of the twentieth century the church congregation rapidly expanded. A branch Sunday School and a mission church (now All Saints Malvern East) were established, and plans were made for a larger church on the Finch Street site. On Wednesday 14 April, 1920, the last services in the original brick church were held. For the next two and a half years, while the new church was being built, services were held in the parish hall. On 16 December, 1922, the present church, incorporating much of the material from the older building, was consecrated as a Peace Memorial Church. An unusual feature of the ground plan is that the chancel is at the west end of the church, the reverse of the traditional position.

www.saintjohns.org.au

Stonnington Heritage Review

The Stonnington Heritage Review is a proactive suburb-by-suburb program of works designed to identify and protect valued heritage properties, precincts and places.

Three processes are undertaken to complete a suburb heritage review:

1. a street-by-street assessment of properties not currently included in the Heritage Overlay
2. an update of older citations for places already within the Heritage Overlay
3. implementation of heritage controls for places recommended for heritage protection by the assessment.

The Stonnington Heritage Review is informed by the priorities set out in the Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2029 adopted by Council in December 2018.

What is a Heritage Overlay?

A Heritage Overlay is a planning scheme control contained within the Stonnington Planning Scheme (Clause 43.01).

It is the mechanism which allows Council to conserve and enhance heritage places and ensure any development does not affect the significance of the heritage place.

Inclusion of properties and precincts in the Heritage Overlay triggers a planning permit for demolition, alterations and additions, and new buildings.

Timing of the Heritage Review

The Stonnington Heritage Review will be completed over several years.

Malvern has been selected as the first suburb to be reviewed and the assessment of the suburb will be completed in 2021.

Other suburbs programmed for assessment in 2021 are Armadale, Kooyong and Toorak. The remaining five suburbs that make up the City of Stonnington (South Yarra, Prahran, Windsor, Glen Iris and Malvern East) will be assessed progressively between 2022 and 2024.

How to get involved:

If there is a heritage place or precinct you would like to nominate for consideration in the Review, Stonnington Council would like to hear from you.

Please note: Affected property owners and occupiers will be able to make a submission (object or support) to any proposed heritage controls.

To learn more or to nominate a property, precinct or place, contact the City Strategy team on 8290 1395 or email strategicplanning@stonnington.vic.gov.au

National Film and Sound Archive www.nfsa.gov.au

The National Film and Sound Archive is Australia's 'living' archive – the custodian of over 3 million items that are collected, preserved for future generations and shared in many diverse ways. Established in 1984, but dating back to the 1930s, the NFSA is Australia's premier audiovisual archive and a place of engagement with Australia's audiovisual production, past and present.

Enjoy the Curated Collections, the Collection Stories and of local interest, the Opening of the Prahran - Malvern Tramway 30 May 1910

<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/curated/opening-prahran-malvern-tramway-1910>



5 George Street Prahran 1993
Stonnington History Collection PH61893
(also on Victorian Heritage Database)



Watching the first tram in Glenferrie Road Malvern 30 May 1910
Stonnington History Collection MP1247

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)

P.O. Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 malvernhistorical@yahoo.com

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

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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