

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

June 2022 - Newsletter No. 94

## Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition 2022

The Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition is an innovative annual event where the arts are linked with business to form a unique cultural experience. It is presented by Toorak Village Traders, with support from Stonnington Council. Until 12 June you'll be able to see contemporary sculptural works in shop windows, arcades and along Toorak Road.

There are also 11 permanent sculptures purchased by the Toorak Village businesses from previous shows. All of the 2022 sculptures are for sale and Australian made, including 11 unique sculptures by 8 Aboriginal artists from Walkatjara Art Uluru.

[www.toorakvillage.com.au/sculpture](http://www.toorakvillage.com.au/sculpture)



Clarice. Artist: Anne Anderson

## 28 June The band movement in Victoria and the brass bands in Stonnington Guest presenter: Jeremy de Korte

**Tuesday 28 June 7.30 pm Malvern Town Hall Upper Foyer**

Join members at the Malvern Historical Society for our June talk on the band movement in Victoria and the brass bands in Stonnington. Locally, the Malvern Military Band was in existence around the early 1900s. It then appeared to restart as the Malvern Town Band in 1907. It became the Malvern City Band and was in existence together with the Malvern Tramways Band. Malvern Council subsequently adopted the Malvern Tramways Band as the Municipal Band.

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

**This is a free event. Supper provided. Bookings essential**

**RSVP: Heather:0407 865 098, Lorraine:ljsage123@gmail.com.**

**It is essential that all members and visitors register their attendance to ensure sufficient seating is provided. All welcome!**

Guest presenter Jeremy de Korte has been involved with the community band movement for nearly thirty-five years and is currently a Life Member of the Southern Area Concert Band and a member of the Stonnington City Brass band. As well as this, Jeremy serves as one of two Vice-Presidents of the Victorian Bands' League, the representative body that oversees the band movement in Victoria. In his role at the VBL, Jeremy looks after the History and Archives of the League, work that involves the collection, maintenance and interpretation of physical and digital items, as well as building links with other institutions. In recent years, Jeremy has collaborated with the Melbourne Tram Museum and the Royal Australian Air Force Band on various projects and the VBL Archive has been cited by other bands within their historical works.

Jeremy publishes much of his research on the Australian band movement through his blog, "Band Blasts From the Past" and enjoys delving into the Trove archive to tease out the little stories that make up the rich history of the band movement in this country. He is also in the process of building up his collection of physical items including a collection of vintage postcards showing our bands and band rotundas, as well as photographs and small badges. Outside of his involvement with community bands, Jeremy is currently employed part-time at Sandringham College where he works in the dual roles of a Teacher-Librarian at the school's Senior campus, and also as an Instrumental Music Teacher - Upper Strings.

This presentation will show a short history of the band movement in Victoria including notable developments and events in the Victorian band movement. The presentation will also focus on the local area and the many intricacies and little stories surrounding the bands in the City of Stonnington.



Malvern Brass Band c1910  
Stonnington History Collection MP221

## **27 July Stonnington History Centre - History Matters Janet McCalman on Vandemonians**

**Wednesday 27 July 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm**

Author and historian Janet McCalman will share stories of Tasmanian convict settlers and their place in Victoria's colonial history.

This event will be presented via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID will be sent to the email address you registered with one hour before the start of the session. Free event, bookings required. Bookings open at 10 am on 1 June. Contact: 8290 1360

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History>

## **Open House Melbourne 2022**

Open House Melbourne is a public architecture organisation that puts together an annual program of talks, tours, and interviews that explore issues, challenges and success stories of Melbourne's built environment. At the heart of the program is the Open House Weekend, on the 30 and 31 July. Significant buildings and sites across the city will be open so people can learn about how the built environment and urban planning initiatives and issues influence culture and shape the future.

<https://openhousemelbourne.org/>

## **Malvern Historical Society Inc – Annual General Meeting 2022**

The Malvern Historical Society Inc. Annual General Meeting was held on 18 May 2022. Although the Society has been able to hold very few face-to-face activities during the last year due to all the lockdowns, our membership has continued to increase with a number of new members. The Committee continued to produce our newsletter during the year and our thanks were extended to Jane Nigro who produces the newsletter. We also continued to buy articles that had great importance to Stonnington on eBay thanks to Di Foster, one of our members, who has a great knowledge of the history of the area. We have received numerous very positive comments on the excellent material that appears on our Facebook page due to the wonderful work undertaken by Nikki Cooper who keeps the Facebook page up to date.

The thanks of the Society was extended to the following people who have continued to support the Society during the last twelve months - Jim Cranage, Cranage Partners,

Chartered Accountants, 31 Station Street, Malvern, for reviewing our financial books, Ron Polak and staff of MBE Malvern, 45 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, for undertaking all our printing requirements and newsletter design, and Linda Tassone, Jeffreys Books, 146 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, for selling our various publications. We would also thank the City of Stonnington for their financial assistance during the year and Simone Sharpe, Janet Buick, Ainslee Meredith and Julia Tregear from the Stonnington History Centre for their 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 - Minutes Secretary and Committee Members - Marisa Costa, Francesca Di Mattina, Dianne Gardiner, Heather Kasa and Bernadette Wood.

Lorraine Sage - President Tel: 9885 9082 Email: [ljsage123@gmail.com](mailto:ljsage123@gmail.com)



**Pat Brincat and Lorraine Sage May 2022  
(Image: Robin Ahin)**

## **Message from the President**

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and Matthew Ety-Leal gave a very informative talk on the history and influence that Cobb and Co had on life in Australia. The Committee is now planning activities for the members such as walks and events with speakers about our great heritage in Stonnington. We will keep you informed of the activities we organise. The members of the Committee are very keen to get our activities back up and running. Thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions. We are looking forward to meeting many of you at our activities. I am sure that we will have a variety of activities with something for all our members.

Lorraine Sage - President Tel: 9885 9082 Email: [ljsage123@gmail.com](mailto:ljsage123@gmail.com)

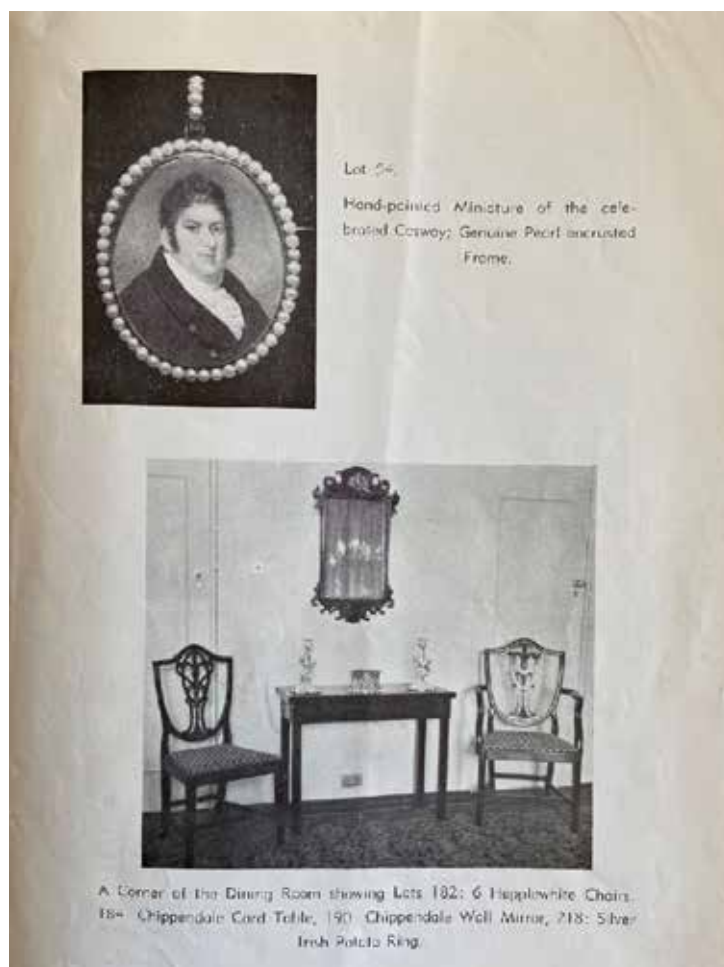
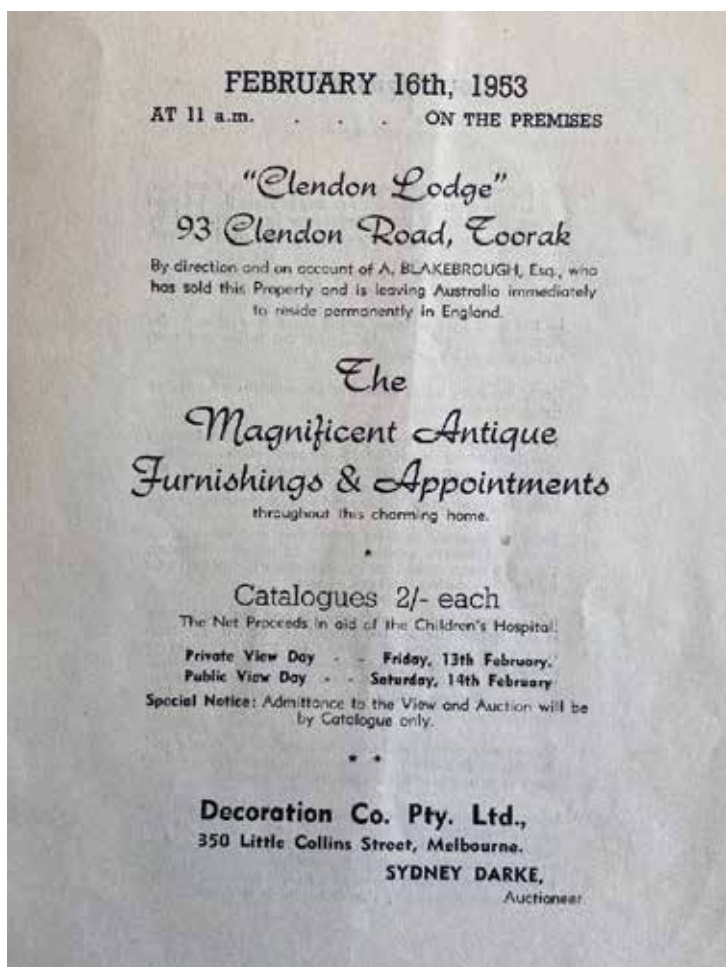
## Clendon Lodge

Thank you to Di Foster who recently purchased a 1953 Contents Sale Brochure for *Clendon Lodge*, 93 Clendon Road, Toorak, on behalf of the Society. The property is on the corner of Orrong Road, opposite St John's Anglican Church.

*Clendon Lodge* was designed by the office of Walter Burley Griffin in 1927. It is a two storey, rendered brick residence overlooking a near triangular front garden formed at the intersection of Clendon and Orrong Roads. The low pitched roof is clad with terracotta tiles with projecting gable ends and prominent deep overhanging eaves which return into the gables as sun hoods for the corner windows. The horizontality of the design is emphasised by the verandah roof and the repetitive treatment of ten separate windows on the first floor which echo the modular floor plan. The plan of the building is T-shaped. The main elevation comprises a projecting gabled wing and single storey verandah extending across the remainder of the facade. A stone-faced chimney is located at the junction of the projecting front section and the central front door, which itself is framed by coursed, rusticated stone piers. The same contrasting materials of rusticated stonework and smooth rendered brick are used elsewhere in the building's external walls and front fence. The interior combines elegant simplicity with function.

*Clendon Lodge* is of architectural significance to the State of Victoria as a most interesting example of the work of the extremely important architectural practice established by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony. Griffin and Mahony had come to Australia from America after winning the competition to design a new Federal capital for Australia in 1912. While Griffin was the Federal Capital director of design and construction, he also maintained a private practice in Melbourne. While it is not clear whether Griffin was himself responsible for the design of *Clendon Lodge*, the imprint of his style on the house is obvious. It demonstrates the influence of the Prairie style as brought to Australia by Griffin and adapted to suit local conditions.

<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/1159/download-report>



Stonnington History Collection SHC71104

## PMI Victorian History Library Inc

The PMI Library is a community owned and run library specialising in the history of Victoria. It is situated at 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran. There are over 30,000 books for loan and a professional information service for members. The PMI also hosts the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia (CATHS), Mechanics Institutes of Victoria (MIV) and the Victorian Railway History Library (VRHL).

## Louis Buvelot drawing of *Pine Hill*

The Stonnington History Centre has received a donation of a copy of a drawing by the artist Louis Buvelot.

Louis Buvelot (1814–1888) was a Swiss landscape painter. He lived in Australia from 1865 until his death in 1888. By 1869 his reputation in Melbourne as the colony's leading landscape artist was established. As a teacher and advocate for the European tradition of en plein air painting, he influenced several members of the Heidelberg School of painters. The drawing shows a house at 'Pine Hill', Malvern. Matthew Bergin purchased the land (Crown Portion 44 in the Township of Gardiner, Parish of Prahran) at the first land sale in 1854. Before 1856, he built a 5-room weatherboard house with a kitchen on the north east corner of Wattletree Road and Glenferrie Road facing Wattletree Road.



In 1857, the solicitor Edward Charsley purchased the property along with lots 45 and 46, naming the property *Pine Hill*. The site then totalled 30 acres including stables. Charsley was a foundation member of the Victorian Law Society and a prominent citizen of Melbourne. By the time Charsley sold the property to the merchant Robert Sellars in 1877, the property included a brick and weatherboard house of 8 rooms, kitchen, offices and three detached rooms. The Charsley family moved from *Pine Hill* to *Hedgeley Dene* Farm in Wattletree Road.

The Pine Hill Estate was subdivided in 1886 to create building allotments in Wattletree and Glenferrie Roads and Edsall, Drysdale and Nicholls Streets. The subdivision initially kept the old house on 10 acres, but soon after this land was also subdivided for Pine Grove and Isabella Street.

A pencil inscription on the drawing reads: 'Malvern, Mr Charsley, 1869'. Several other pencil sketches, watercolours and paintings by Buvelot are held in the National Gallery of Victoria and other public and private collections. The reproduction can be found in the History Centre catalogue at SHC71235.

**Ainslee Meredith, Local History Technician, Stonnington History Centre Northbrook**

## Lost Lands Found in Stonnington

Lost Lands Found is a 4x4 metre living installation packed with indigenous flowers, grasses, herbs and lilies that once flourished throughout Victoria prior to European settlement. Less than 1% of this vibrant habitat remains today.

The space exists as a small window into the past, a place to pause, reflect and reconnect with the land and the unique native flora that once existed in Stonnington, now re-established within Central Park, Malvern East, close to the corner of Burke and Wattletree Roads.

Creator, Wemba Wemba-Wergaia educator and ecologist Dean Stewart, explains that Lost Lands Found intends to “revive some of the lost connections between people and place, community and earth in a real and intimate way (in order) to reconcile ourselves with the land.”

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/News-and-notice/2022/Media-releases/Lost-Lands-Found-in-Stonnington?fbclid=IwAR2Yz0m-JR4-GmcBipu3DhazpiUsFEgSaDGCda8nftgMoGayUIU4HuZGoXY>

## Museum of Chinese Australian History

Located in the heart of Melbourne's Chinatown, the Chinese Museum's five floors showcase the heritage and culture of Australia's Chinese community and include the Dragon Gallery display of the longest dragon in the world, and the interactive Finding Gold experience. The broad collection of materials reflects the social fabric and activities of the Chinese community in Australia from the 1850s to the present day. There is also a permanent Han dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE) exhibition.

Museum Entry:

Adult \$10, Child/Senior/Conc. \$8.50, Family pass \$24.50

22 Cohen Place, Melbourne

[www.chinesemuseum.com.au](http://www.chinesemuseum.com.au)



**Longwood, Chinese merchant Kong Meng's home in Elizabeth Street Malvern, c1890  
Stonnington History Collection MP90**

## Hedgeley Dene Gardens - Tollington Avenue Malvern East

The Hedgeley Dene Gardens were formed along an early watercourse that was once part of a sixty acre estate first sold by the Crown in 1856. The same year a weatherboard cottage of two rooms was built and a brick house of four rooms was under construction in Wattletree Road for owner William Harwood.

Meanwhile, solicitor Edward Charsley, the owner of *Pine Hill*, Malvern, bought and sold numerous parcels of land throughout the Gardiner Road District, including the property known as the Wattletree Hotel. Edward's family lived at *Pine Hill*. William Allington (1858-1859); Mary Francis (1859-1943); Annie (1862-1939); Helen Isabel (1864-1945); Amy Grace (1866-1928); Henry 'Harry' Percy (1869-1920) and Fanny Hamilton (1872-1924) were born at Gardiner/Malvern. The youngest child, Kate Dorothy, was born in 1876. Records show that most of the children were born at home at *Pine Hill*. Charsley's three sons were students at Melbourne Grammar School. In 1873 Charsley's first daughter, Emily, was married at St George's Church in Glenferrie Road, Malvern.

In 1877 Charsley purchased more than 40 acres, along with Harwood's cottages, on the south west corner of Wattletree and Malvern Roads, for £500. The family moved from their farm at *Pine Hill* to this new property east of Burke Road. (Extract from MH61181) By 1887 the *Hedgeley Dene* farmhouse in Wattletree Road on the site of the future Tollington Avenue corner had been extended from the 1856 building to include a "weatherboard and brick house of 12 rooms, kitchen, outhouses and garden".

In 1891 one hundred men formed the (Royal) Melbourne Golf Club and used two pieces of land in Malvern for an 18 hole course. One piece was bounded by Dandenong Road, Burke Road, Wattletree Road and Finch Street and the other was across Burke Road through *Hedgeley Dene*. The club moved to Black Rock in 1901 and the course was taken over by the Caulfield Golf Club. The new club changed its name to the Metropolitan Golf Club and moved to its present location in South Oakleigh in 1909.

The Maidment family ran the property as a dairy farm from 1902 and the waterholes and dam were known locally as Maidment's Lakes. In 1911 the land was sold and the Maidment family moved their dairy to Kardella Street. The *Hedgeley Dene* farmhouse was demolished and the *Hedgeley Dene* farm was subdivided by Alfred Sidney Baillieu. The subdivision of the Hedgeley Dene Estate created 142 building allotments in the newly created streets of Ferncroft Avenue, Hedgeley Avenue, Dene Avenue, Glenbrook Avenue and Tollington Avenue, as well as Wattletree Road and (lower) Malvern Road. While most of the land was subdivided for housing, a section was reserved for drainage.

Malvern Council purchased 8.5 acres of the Hedgeley Dene Estate in February 1911 for £500. Original trees, including poplars from the *Hedgeley Dene* farm, still survive.



Edward Charsley and family, *Hedgeley Dene* farm 1880s  
Stonnington History Collection MP7345



Maidment Family wedding at *Hedgeley Dene* farm 1907  
Stonnington History Collection MP223



Lake and pavilion at *Hedgeley Dene* Farm 1880s  
Stonnington History Collection MP7344

## 'Glenferrie Road - As I remember it and more' Dudley Lucas (cont)

In this issue, we include the last of the notes from former Malvern Council Town Clerk, Dudley Lucas' talk c1970. Dudley was born in Malvern and he was a member of the Malvern Council staff from 1925 until 1973. In this part of his talk, he describes the east side of Glenferrie Road, between St George's Church and Gardiners Creek.

Travelling north along Glenferrie Road the next building was the first school room in Malvern, attached to the St George's Hall. At one time this school was the only one in Malvern and it received a Government grant until the Spring Road School was built. Kate Langley, the school assistant at the St George's Anglican school, became the headmistress at Spring Road and all the pupils transferred with her. The Parishioners of the Anglican Church had purchased the land adjoining the Government grant and in 1865 had built the first portion of the bluestone St George's Church.

The house known initially as *Nerrena*, later changed to *Sorrett*, and then *Kinnoull*, was at the end of the tree lined drive which is roughly where Sorrett Avenue now runs. Only one tree on the Sorrett Drive still stands and that bears the historic plaque supplied by the Rotary Club of Malvern.

Further north along Glenferrie Road, a house, brought out from England by Colin Campbell, was erected in about the position of 2, 4, and 6 Haverbrack Avenue which took its name from the house name *Haverbrack*. It had galvanised iron walls and a roof, the corrugations being about 6 inches instead of the usual 3 inches. The walls bore many dents and holes as I remember it. These were said to have been caused by the Aborigines who objected to the intrusion of the whites.

Campbell sold his property to Mr Singleton, the Master in Equity. Singleton had a holiday home in the Dandenongs near Olinda and with cleared land down the hill, its position could be seen from Malvern. Singleton when in the holiday house would communicate with his family in Malvern through the use of morse code and a helio made out of a looking glass. During the First World War, this caused much concern and was investigated by the army. The *Haverbrack* land extended north to Embling Road and east to Spring Road. Our Lucas family moved to Spring Road in 1906 and we looked onto Woodmason's cows grazing on Singleton's land. On numerous occasions I was able to pick enough mushrooms to supply our family from the grazing land between our house and Glenferrie Road.

On the north corner of Malvern Road was Woodmason's dairy, later to become the Iceworks, with the stable for the milk cart horses next door.

Further north we come to *Stonington*. That stately mansion is now the domain of Dr Campbell and the Toorak Campus of the Victoria College. John Wagner, a partner in the coaching firm of Robertson and Wagner (the historical pioneer transport firm of Cobb and Co), purchased a piece of land 300 x 300 feet out of a market garden and orchard owned by Peters Cousins and Henry James and thereon built a palatial home for himself and family. On the creation of the Commonwealth in 1901, the State Government House in St Kilda Road was taken over by the Federal Government for the Governor General. The Victorian Government required a home for the State Governor and they leased *Stonington* from the Wagner Estate for £1000 per annum. Well I remember long John Gardiner, the over 6 ft tall constable who used to be on duty at the main gate.

Earlier I mentioned that we lived in Spring Road. Ours was the first house built on the subdivided land extending to Ascot Avenue to which the northern boundary of the Malvern Gardens fronted. Our cow, Strawberry, used to graze on the land fenced in by a three wire fence. Lady Carmichael, the wife of Sir Thomas Carmichael, the Governor, used to walk their children and the nanny to the Malvern Gardens taking a short cut through the paddock. Strawberry was usually very docile but on one occasion took exception to the red parasol Lady Carmichael was carrying and decided to show her annoyance by



**Kinnoull Sorrett Avenue Malvern c1950**  
Stonnington History Collection MP57



**Haverbrack Glenferrie Road Malvern 1904**  
Stonnington History Collection MP14067



**W. Woodmason, Ice Supply Glenferrie Road Malvern. c1923**  
Stonnington History Collection MP1316

charging at the quartet who scattered and made for the nearest fence pronto. Strawberry lost the race by pausing to inspect the sun shade that had been discarded by the fugitives. The sun shade was retrieved by an aide the next day.

Next to and quite close to *Stonington* was the luxurious home of Bowes Kelly, *Moorakyne*. Bowes Kelly is described as having been a man with a generous heart and a well filled purse. Fortunes had in mining ventures smiled on him in a wonderful and very material way. *Moorakyne's* land extended to Hamilton Road and when the property was sold by Miss Bowes Kelly the house was demolished and the land subdivided. Essington Lewis, who I think was connected with BHP, owned a large home in Hamilton Road that originally faced Toorak Road.

From Toorak Road to the railway, the land was subdivided and several homes had been erected when I first remember it. The last large tract of land, extending from the railway to the creek and from Glenferrie Road through to Toorak Road, was Chinese market gardens. The first parcel of land facing Glenferrie Road became available and the council began negotiations to purchase it. At the same time, William Patterson, at one time in charge of the Titles Office and a staunch friend of the Blind, was also endeavouring to purchase a position. By agreement, the council purchased the whole of the land and for 250 pounds sold the land now occupied by the Association for the Blind to William Patterson. A condition of sale was that it would revert to the Council if at any time it ceased to be used for the purpose of assisting the Blind. That condition has since been lifted by the Council. The remaining market garden, occupied by Chris Witt, was purchased by the Council at a later date. One amusing incident affecting Chris Witt, that I recall, was when the house caught on fire.

The Brigade attended but the Chinese would not let them near the house as all their money was hidden in it. Eventually, the police restrained the Chinese whilst the fire was extinguished fortunately before it reached the cash box.

Returning to Glenferrie Road, development occurred near the railway when it was constructed and Kooyong Station was built.



**Governor of Victoria, Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael and Lady Mary Carmichael 1908  
Stonington History Collection MP1669**

## War saving streets

In May 1940 the Australian Government launched its Savings Certificates scheme which encouraged civilians to invest in the national war effort. War Savings Streets were street-based savings groups that participated in the national war savings campaign during World War II.

<https://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01582b.htm>



**War saving sign  
Redcourt Avenue Armadale  
(Image: Steve Stefanopoulos 2021)**

## Malvern Historical Society Executive Committee 2022

President: Lorraine Sage

Vice President: Jane Nigro

Treasurer: Ann Ahin

Minute Secretary: Pat Brincat

Committee: Marisa Costa

Francesca Di Mattina

Dianne Gardiner

Heather Kasa

Bernadette Wood

## Newsletter

Editor: Jane Nigro

Design/Printing: MBE Malvern

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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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

East Malvern Community Bank Branch
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