

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive

September 2022 - Newsletter No. 96

Vale - Patricia Brincat

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Patricia Brincat. Pat was a valued member of our Society and her vibrant presence will be greatly missed.

Pat passed away after a short illness on the 20 July 2022. Pat joined the Society approximately ten years ago. She loved history and it was not long before Pat became a member of the Committee. During her time on the Committee Pat became one of our Local History Walks leaders, During the last few years Pat has been our Minute Secretary. Pat was a very enthusiastic member of the Society and always made an effort to be involved in all the activities of the Society. Pat will be a sad loss to our Society and will be greatly missed by the members of the Society and the community at large. Pat's energy and dedication will be missed by so many.



Pat Brincat 2022
(Photo: Robin Ahin)

Lorraine Sage - President

Message from the President

The Malvern Historical Society has had an up and down time over the last few weeks, but we are managing to keep our activities going. Thank you to everyone who has sent us messages of congratulations on our 50th Anniversary which was on 31 July 2022. We have had wonderful messages from people who have connected with the Society through Mail Chimp, Facebook and Twitter. It has been a great journey and what is more amazing is that our Vice President Jane Nigro was in attendance at the first meeting and is still a member of our Committee, she just breathes and lives history (Jane was a very young 20 year old at the time). The Malvern Historical Society looks forward to the next 50 years. I am sure that it will be a different 50 years from the last 50 years. Thank you all for your good wishes.

The Committee was greatly saddened by the death at the end of July of our Committee member Patricia Brincat who died quite suddenly. Pat had been a Committee Member for approximately ten years. During that time she has been Minute Secretary, one of our Walk Leaders and involved in all the activities of the Society. We thank Pat for her great contribution to the life of the Society, We also express our deepest sympathy to the Brincat Family and our prayers and thoughts are with them at this very sad and difficult time.

The Society is now back organising face-to-face activities. We will keep you informed. If anyone is interested in being part of the Malvern Historical Society Committee please do not hesitate to make contact with the Society and we will be glad to talk with you about what is involved.

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

Death of Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, at the age of 96.

We send our sincere condolences to Her Majesty's family at this time.

She served for more than seven decades with dignity, courage and commitment.

Malvern Mayor Cr John Johnson, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth,
H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip and
Mrs Johnson at the State Reception March 1954
Stonnington History Collection MP7443



Armadale Street Armadale Walk April 2022
(Image: Robin Ahin)



Malvern Historical Society Members -Save the date!

Plans are underway for a Pre Christmas Members Get Together on Tuesday 29 November at 10am

Malvern Historical Society Child Safe Policy

Thank you to Committee Members Heather Kasa, Bernadette Wood and Dianne Gardiner who are working on the Society's Child Safe Policy. The Society is committed to creating a culture of child safety with zero tolerance of all forms of harm to children.

Family History Club Malvern Library, 1255 High Street, Malvern 3144

Wednesday 5 October 2pm - 3pm

Wednesday 2 November 2pm - 3pm

Wednesday 7 December 2pm - 3pm

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

Contact Stonnington History Centre: 8290 1360

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

**Tevendale children with their grandmother
(undated) Stonnington History Collection
PH61683**



Open House Melbourne 2022

The Stonnington History Centre welcomed many visitors keen to hear about Northbrook and the Stonnington History Collection. The Stonnington History Centre is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the City of Stonnington and the former cities of Malvern and Prahran. It is a branch of the Stonnington Library and Information Service and is open Monday to Friday for pre-booked appointments or you can email your enquiries to history@stonnington.vic.gov.au.

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Visit-us/Stonnington-History-Centre>



History Matters: Stonnington History Centre

Wednesday 9 November 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Speaker: June Factor 'Soldiers and Aliens'

This forgotten history restores to public memory the experiences of men, many recent immigrants and refugees, who either willingly or reluctantly joined the Australian army during WWII. One of these men was June Factor's father, Szulem Faktor, later known as Saul Factor. Despite fleeing Poland to begin a new life with his wife and young child in Australia, Szulem, a man of strong principles, felt that serving in the army was something he simply had to do. June Factor is currently the Honorary Senior Fellow, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, and an Honorary Associate, Museum Victoria.

Bookings are required.

Contact Stonnington History Centre: 8290 1360 <https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History>



City of Stonnington Community Grant 2022 - 2023

We were delighted to hear about our successful application for a community grant from the City of Stonnington for in-kind use of council meeting rooms, the Phoenix Park Community Centre conference room and the Malvern Town Hall Upper foyer. The Society looks forward to actively promoting and sharing Stonnington's history and supporting the Stonnington History Centre. **Lorraine Sage - President**

**Malvern Town Hall, Upper Foyer/Lounge c1927
Stonnington History Collection MP272**



Malvern Historical Society 1972 - 2022.

What an achievement! 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Malvern Historical Society.

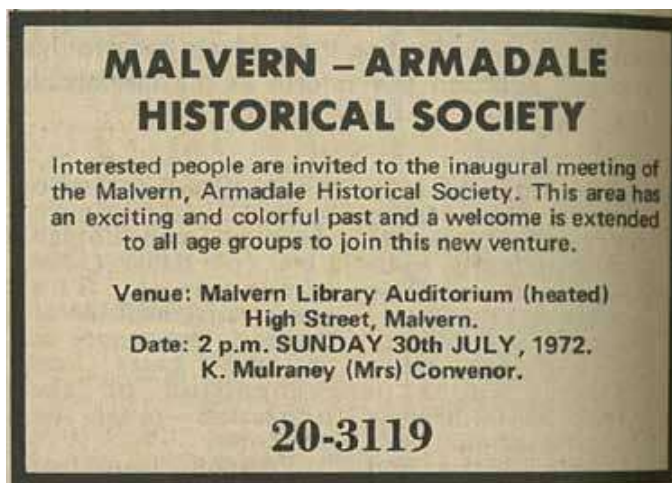
In 1972, an advertisement was placed in the local and daily newspapers inviting anyone interested to come to a meeting to form a new Malvern - Armadale Historical Society. A Committee was formed and soon activities were being planned. Over the past 50 years, enthusiastic Committee members have organised walks, talks and tours and designed bookmarks, books, jigsaw puzzles, children's puzzles, pamphlets and newsletters, and written articles for the Malvern and Stonnington local papers. The

Society has held slide shows, fashion parades, showed old films, held an art competition, published history books, brochures and booklets, produced sets of laminated photos for displays, held working bees, designed plaques, visited houses and places of interest, and provided guest speakers and tour guides for schools and community groups.

The Society has actively collected, promoted and shared the history of Malvern and, since 1994, the history of all of Stonnington. The Society has received thousands of donations of local significance. These donations now form part of the Stonnington History Collection at the Stonnington History Centre at Northbrook. The Malvern Historical Society actively supports the team at the Stonnington History Centre through the collection of local history material relating to the area known as the City of Stonnington, including the former Cities of Malvern and Prahran, and through publicising the Stonnington History Collection and the work of the Stonnington History Centre.

Throughout the past 50 years the Society has received excellent support from Council, including annual grants. The Society has supported many Council initiatives including the Council's park days and festivals. The Malvern Historical Society has also been an active member of the Malvern, later the Stonnington History Committee.

The Society produces a bi-monthly newsletter Local History News - Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! All planned activities are advertised in the newsletter, and on Facebook and Twitter. New members are always welcome. Funds raised through membership fees and donations directly benefit the Stonnington History Collection through the purchase of books and items of local history importance. The Society has been an active affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the South Metro History Group for many years.



**Malvern Historical Society
visit to Potters Cottage Eltham c1973**



**Celebrating the planting of the Malvern Historical Society's
10th Anniversary rose garden, Malvern Gardens 1982.**

Royal South Yarra Tennis Club visit

Members of the Malvern Historical Society and their friends enjoyed the recent visit to the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club. We were warmly welcomed by Jarrad Wright, Chief Operations Officer and Bec Mascaro, Events Team Member.

We heard about the history of the Club before taking a tour of the Clubhouse and grounds.

The visit finished with a delicious morning tea.

The South Yarra Tennis Club name was changed to Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club in 1938 following approval from the Government under the Victorian Companies Act. The Club was seen as a prestigious, leading Victorian Club at the time and it was felt being known as Royal was befitting of South Yarra's stature amongst private clubs.



L to R: Jarrad Wright, Lorraine Sage, Bec Mascaro, Jane Nigro 2022

Goldy's, 308 Toorak Road, South Yarra

Goldy's, 308 Toorak Road, South Yarra was owned by Brian Goldsmith for a couple of years around 1960 to 1962.

Olivia Newton-John began performing there while still in high school. At 14, she formed a singing group with three female friends, called the Sol 4. One of her formative early performances was with folk singer Hans Gorg in Goldy's, owned by her brother-in-law Brian Goldsmith. The cafe then became the Treble Clef Coffee Lounge.

The Seekers were a much-loved folk group that formed in Melbourne in 1962 and went on to sell over 50 million records. They played their first gigs at South Yarra's Treble Clef coffee lounge in 1962.

The Seekers achieved international success with songs like Georgy Girl, I'll Never Find Another You, A World Of Our Own, Morningtown Ride, and The Carnival Is Over. Australia has lost two remarkable singers with the recent deaths of Olivia Newton John and Judith Durham.

Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour

Each evening between sunset and sunrise names from the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour are projected onto the façade of the Hall of Memory (the dome). The projections are a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

William Ward Osborne's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Australian Hall of Memory on Monday 3 October at 11:46pm 2022, Monday 19 December at 12:51am 2022 and Thursday 6 April 2023 at 11:28pm

Malvern Historical Society Executive Committee 2022

President: Lorraine Sage

Vice President: Jane Nigro

Treasurer: Ann Ahin

Minute Secretary: Heather Kasa

Committee: Marisa Costa

Francesca Di Mattina

Dianne Gardiner

Bernadette Wood

Newsletter

Editor: Jane Nigro

Design/Printing: MBE Malvern

140 Milton Parade Glen Iris

The house in the photo, 140 Milton Parade Glen Iris, was built around 1914. The first owners were Mr and Mrs Patterson. In 1958 they sold the property to Edwin Bradley's mother and stepfather, Mr and Mrs J. Toovey. Edwin met the Pattersons just before his family moved in. Mr Patterson was a retired Printing Machine Engineer, employed by Sands and MacDougall Printers in Spencer Street, Melbourne. It is believed the property was sold again around 1983.

Thank you to Edwin Bradley for sending through this brief



140 Milton Parade Glen Iris (undated)

Real estate sketches by Margaret Picken

Former property illustrator Margaret Picken has generously donated a collection of her sketches of properties in the Stonnington area to the Stonnington History Centre. The sketches, 248 in total, were produced for real estate sales from 1983-2005 and have been digitised. They can be found in the History Centre catalogue at SHC71099.

Margaret trained and worked as a cartographic draftsman from 1968-1975 within the mining industry before becoming a 'pen and ink' sketch artist for the real estate industry in 1983. In this role, she was able to work from home while raising her family. The sketches were initially ordered by phone, and Margaret would then travel to photograph the houses with a Polaroid camera. Her two-year-old son would accompany her, and she would also make a 'thumbnail' sketch of the house while there. The photos were used to scale off a sketch in pencil and then that sketch was overlaid with drafting film and the 'pen and ink' was completed. Margaret used this process for the entirety of her 22-year career. She then delivered the sketches by hand to the real estate offices, with deadlines each week on a Tuesday. Later she began to use mobile phones and computers to scan and email her sketches. Her clients included Woodard's, Fletchers, McLaren and Argyle Partners.

As well as house sketches, Margaret produced floor plans, site plans and aerial plans. Around 2003, coloured photos began to be used in place of sketches and mainstream companies replaced sole traders like Margaret. She produced her last real estate sketches in late 2005.

The collection offers a window into the workings of a lost trade and craft, providing evidence of the changing techniques of real estate advertising over the past forty years. As several of the properties pictured in the sketches have since been demolished, they also provide important documentation of the architectural history of the area.

The file includes 248 sketches (SHC71099.1-SHC71099.248), a business card, history, CV, list of agency and private commissions, list of suburbs, and correspondence.

Ainslee Meredith, Stonnington History Centre



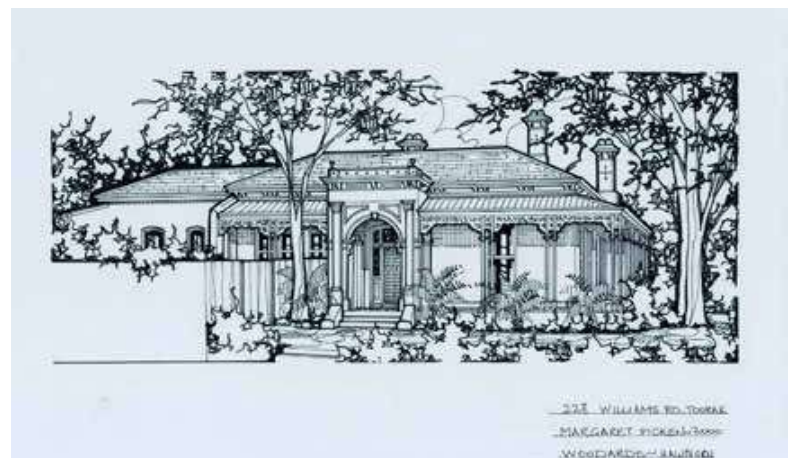
Above: 41 and 43 Clara Street, South Yarra

Top left: 7 Cressy Street, Malvern

Left: Palmer's Jewellery, 225 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

Bottom left: 30 Cummins Grove, Malvern

Below: 228 Williams Road, Toorak



Bid for UNESCO World Heritage Status for Australia's portable buildings

The RHSV and the Portable Buildings World Heritage Nomination Task Force are aiming to obtain world heritage nomination for Australia's unique stock of portable buildings.

There are a number of qualifying nineteenth-century portable buildings in Stonnington. These buildings were made in other countries and shipped to Australia and assembled here. At last count, there are 104 of these buildings still standing in Australia, more than anywhere else in the world. The majority of these buildings, 64 of them, are in Victoria, in part because the Gold Rush created an immense demand for buildings. More information can be found on the following link: www.portablebuildingsaustralia.org

Simone Sharpe, Team Leader - Historian, Stonnington History Centre, will be attending the RHSV briefing session and will research the portable houses within Stonnington. Two properties already researched include the Prefabricated Cottage, 18 Douglas Street Toorak, and 13 Tintern Avenue Toorak.

18 Douglas Street Toorak.

The pre-fabricated cottage at 18 Douglas Street, Toorak was designed by Robert Walker of Glasgow, and is of a type patented in 1852 as a system for the construction of portable houses of wood and iron 'suitable for emigrants'. The patented system consists of cast iron pillars with grooves or slots vertically on four sides, bolted to a base plate into which tongued and grooved boards are inserted to form walls. Other components of the system include a cast iron door and window frames and the timber doors and windows themselves. This cottage has probably been on the present site since 1856 and may have been brought to Australia by Robert Anstruther Balbirnie, the owner of the land at that time, when he made a trip to England in 1854. This two-room cottage has been hidden by a brick Edwardian addition at the front, and timber additions at the rear and at one side.



The pre-fabricated cottage at 18 Douglas Street, Toorak is of historic, scientific and architectural importance as the only known example of the Robert Walker patented system of wood and iron portable house construction in Victoria. It is of scientific (technical) importance for demonstrating the innovative methods of building construction in the mid- nineteenth century which were designed to cater for the needs of emigrants. The Robert Walker patented system could be erected quickly and cheaply, using a combination of cast iron and wood. The materials shortages caused by the gold rush in Victoria in the early 1850s created a demand for such houses which were imported into Victoria in the thousands at that time.

http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/reports/report_place/5044

13 Tintern Avenue Toorak

At the auction of Crown land in June 1849, lot 32, including 32 acres extending from Mathoura Road to Williams Road, was purchased by Thomas Colclough. Thomas built a house on his land and named the property Tintern, after Tintern Abbey in Wexford Ireland. The Abbey had become the Colclough family seat after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. It was granted to Anthony Colclough, an officer in Henry's army, in the mid 16th century. The Abbey remained in the Colclough family until 1959.

Lot 32 was divided into large estates by Thomas Colclough who retained about ten acres at the northern end where he erected a comfortable home. The house was replaced in the mid 1850s by a prefabricated iron dwelling. This house can be identified on Kearney's survey map of 1855.

Merchant, author and radical politician, William Westgarth remained at Tintern for two years, returning to Britain with his Scottish bride Ellison MacFie in 1857.

The property had a succession of owners and occupiers until the early 1880s when it was purchased from James Blair by James Williamson. Williamson remained until 1900 when the Estate was acquired by the Union Bank.

The Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works plan 972 for 1898 shows the exact footprint of the house and outbuildings on the property, prior to subdivision. The property contained stables, piggery, cow shed, dog and fowl yards, with acreage under grass. The driveway entered the estate from Toorak Road and an extensive garden surrounded the house where pathways meandered through an orchard and trellised fernery.



Land subdivision - Tintern Estate (undated)
Stonnington History Collection PH11236

Architect Walter Butler purchased Tintern in 1901. The brick house on the six-acre property was noted in the rate books at this time as having twenty rooms.

Walter Bulter subdivided the land and applied to the council to build a new road through Tintern Estate in March 1902; the road was to be called Tintern Avenue. Building allotments were advertised for sale by auction in September 1902.

The road was declared a public highway in December of that year and Tintern, along with unsold allotments on the Estate, was auctioned in October 1903. Lot 21, measuring 63' x 131', was purchased by builder Arthur Einsiedel in 1905.

By the following year, an eight-roomed brick house had been built on the property and sold to manager Michael Boland and his wife May.

Railway accident just west of Malvern Station

Thanks to Margaret Dunbar who has donated this undated photograph showing a railway accident between Malvern Station and the Glenferrie Road bridge. It is thought to be from the 1970s. The photograph was taken by Margaret's husband.



Tintern 1881. This watercolour painting, by artist William Tibbits, was originally commissioned by William Bailey, a merchant who owned Tintern from 1874-1882.

Stonnington History Collection PH10183

Kennith Cairns Muir

Victor Leeman (Coffee & Soul 124-126 Burke Road, Malvern East) recently shared a photo of his Great Uncle Kennith Cairns Muir (his Grandmother's brother).

Kennith is wearing the uniform of the 4th Malvern Scout Troop which later became known at the 1st Toorak Kilties. In September 1911 the First Toorak Troop (Kilties) Imperial Boy Scouts held a grand Scottish concert in the City Hall Malvern in aid of the troop fund. (Malvern Standard. 9 September 1911)



Kennith Cairns Muir c1910