

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

December 2022 - Newsletter No. 97

From the President

As another year draws to a close, we reflect on what has been achieved during the year. The Malvern Historical Society has had a good year with a range of activities that have been enjoyed by many people. We say thank you to all those who have participated in our activities.

Membership fees are due on 1 Jan 2023. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. We hope that you will all be able to renew your membership and we look forward to seeing you at one of our activities next year.

The Committee wishes each of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the coming year. May we all be able to celebrate this time with our families and enjoy the holiday period. Keep safe, and have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

Stonnington History Centre 2023 Calendar

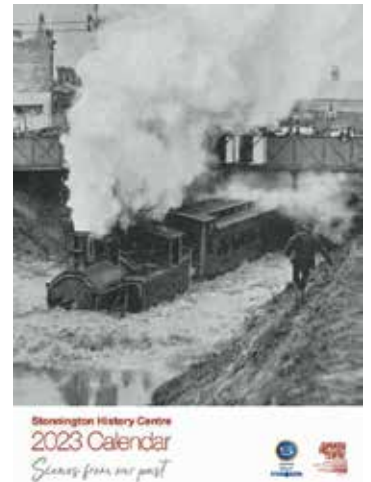


Showcasing a stunning and important collection of photographs of our past, the Stonnington History Centre's 2023 calendar has been carefully curated with many of the images sourced from the History Centre's collection.

You'll look forward to every month of the year as it captures a unique photo of the people, public places, parks and gardens, occupations, transport and events that have shaped Stonnington over the years.

The calendars are printed locally at MBE in Glenferrie Road, on 350gsm paper stock, and include Victorian public holidays, school term dates and moon phases.

They will make a great Christmas gift and are exclusively available at Stonnington's libraries for \$25 (incl. GST).



2023 Membership

The Malvern Historical Society is 'Keeping Stonnington's History Alive' in many ways. When you become a member you are helping to preserve our history for present and future generations. Since 1972, the Society has actively collected, promoted and shared the history of Stonnington with the local community, schools and family history researchers. The Society supports the work of the Stonnington History Centre at Northbrook through liaising when discussing the purchase of historic items for the Stonnington History Collection, and through publicising the Stonnington Collection and the work of the Stonnington History Centre.

Membership of the Malvern Historical Society becomes due on 1 January 2023. Members receive our newsletter and enjoy our activities and regular walks within Stonnington. And best of all, your membership offers excellent value and it is used to purchase items for the Stonnington History Collection!

Membership is only

- Family/Household Membership: \$20
- Single Membership: \$13
- Student: \$6.50

When you renew your membership can you please make sure to complete the membership form and forward it to the Society by email or mail so that we have a record that your subscription has been paid. It can be very difficult for the Treasurer to know who has paid when all she receives is the monthly bank statement with entries that just say direct debit!!

For enquiries and changes to your details, please contact Lorraine (President) 9885 9082 ljsage123@gmail.com

You'll find the renewal/new member form on Page 8 of the newsletter.

New members

The Malvern Historical Society would like to welcome our new members, Alison Dennison and Patricia Downs.

Sharing Stonnington's local history with the community

Lorraine and Jane attended the November meeting of the South Metro History Group hosted by the Brighton Historical Society.



Malvern Historical Society Committee November 2022



MHS members welcome the return of the Harold Holt Swim Centre dive pool, October 2022 (Image: Peter Nigro 2022)



Lorraine and Jane attended the Morning Tea hosted by the Member for Southern Metropolitan Region, David Davis MLC. (Image: Ann Nield, History Monash)

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

Documents and photographs from the latter half of the twentieth century

The Stonnington History Centre and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria actively collect documents and photographs from the latter half of the twentieth century. If you have memorabilia that your children won't appreciate ... don't despair, you can donate it to the SHC if it relates to the Stonnington area or the RHSV if it relates to the broader Melbourne and Victorian history.

What were you doing in the 70s, 60s or 50s? The SHC and the RHSV are both looking for photos (interior, exterior), posters, booklets, flyers, leaflets, pamphlets, stickers, minutes of meetings ... anything that will help future researchers and family historians understand those decades. It might be about your family or workplace, what you did in your free time, your education, your car, your social life, what you bought, your clothes or your home and garden. There is a caveat that not everything may 'fit' their collections and they will advise people that their material would sit better with another institution.

If you have material relating to Stonnington and the former Cities of Malvern and Prahran please contact the SHC history@stonnington.vic.gov.au Tel: 82901360.

If you have material relating to Victoria please contact the RHSV collections@historyvictoria.org.au or message them on Facebook.



Bobsy-Die Goodtime Folk outside the Marvel's Potato Factory, near Moira Street Glen Iris c1980
Stonnington History Collection MP6583

Mercer House (Associated Teachers Training Institution)

The Stonnington History Centre has received a donation of items relating to the Mercer House Associated Teachers' Training Institution (MH71203).

The Associated Teachers' Training Institution was opened on 1 March 1921 in Clyde House, 182 Collins Street, to provide teacher training for Victorian independent schools. The Institution moved to Mercer House at 11 Mercer Road, Armadale, in 1946, where it continued to train primary and secondary school teachers until 1975, when it was absorbed into Toorak Teachers College (now Deakin University).

The 14-roomed house at 11 Mercer Road was built c1880s. It was used as a WAAF Hostel during World War Two. From 1979, the property was used as a new secondary school for Yavneh College, before being sold and demolished in 1989. The site, 7-11 Mercer Road Armadale, was then redeveloped into units.

Textual material includes a copy of the booklet *Mercer House: The Story of the First 50 Years 1921-1971*; a Mercer House prospectus; an invitation and program for the 1972 Presentation of Diplomas at the Malvern Town Hall; invitation, guest list and program of service for the Jubilee Dinner, 5 March 1971; a sketch of Mercer House by Rodney Heath; a guest list for the Mercer House Reunion (2007); and stories of students' lives after Mercer House. There are also colour and black-and-white photographs taken of students and staff at Mercer House. The items were collected by Thomas E. Meier, who taught at Mercer House in the early 1970s before returning to his native America, and Colin McMillan, a former student. The photographs have been digitised and can be found in the History Centre catalogue at MH71203.01-MH71203.25. The collection fills in a gap about Mercer House in the History Centre Collection. It will be of interest to researchers in educational history as well as past students of Mercer House.

Ainslee Meredith, Stonnington History Centre



**Mercer House tutorial
1971 (Image: Thomas E
Meier) Stonnington History
Collection MH71203**



**Mercer House (Associated
Teachers Training
Institution), Mercer Road
Malvern (Image: Thomas E
Meier)**

**Stonnington History
Collection MH71203**



**Mercer House assembly
1970 (Image: Thomas E
Meier) Stonnington History
Collection MH71203**



**Mercer House 1971
*Mercer House - The Story of
the First 50 Years 1921-1971*
Norman H Dobson, Monash
University**

Yarravale, Bruce Street, Toorak

Yarravale was built on Crown Grant land. Both land and house were purchased by Mrs Rachel Sawyers in 1854 and remained in the Sawyers family until 1917.



**Early Toorak and District E.M. Robb, Melbourne: Robertson
& Mullens.
Stonnington History Collection PH2392**

Sport in Stonnington

Did you know that over half of the sports featured at the Commonwealth Games are played in Stonnington? The local sports clubs can be found on the Active Stonnington website. www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/active/Home



**Malvern Lacrosse team (undated)
Stonnington History Collection SHC70002**

Items of Stonnington historical interest and significance on eBay

Malvern Historical Society member, Di Foster, spotted and purchased over 20 items from 1904 - 1915 relating to the Malvern Presbyterian Church, 161 - 163 Wattletree Road, Malvern.

The items are in great condition considering their age.

They relate to meetings of the Malvern Presbyterian Church Mens' Bible Class, the Malvern Bible Class Grand Concert, an Athletic Club Grand Concert ticket, a Church Order of Recital, Parish Records and the 1911 Annual Report. Many local names are listed. The Rev. Donald Mcrae Stewart was appointed Moderator of the Presbyterian Church General Assembly and Secretary of the Board of Management. He occupied a number of Malvern houses including 21 and 44 Winter Street, Glenmore, 29 Winter Street and Struan in McKinley Ave. In 1903 he received a call to take charge of the Malvern Presbyterian Church, where he fulfilled the remainder of his active ministry. In April 1915, he accepted a commission as Chaplain to the 21st Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, and he saw active service on Gallipoli Peninsula. He was on board the 'Southland' when the vessel was sunk by a German submarine. From Gallipoli, he went to France with the Australian troops, and after service there, he returned to Australia in September 1916. He was mentioned in despatches for conspicuous service with the AIF. At the time of his death, Donald Stewart was the Senior Military Chaplain of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The Malvern Presbyterian Church collection has been added to the Stonnington History Collection.



**Presbyterian Church Malvern c1910
Stonnington History Collection MP9707**



**Malvern Presbyterian Church,
Wattletree Road, Malvern c1900
Stonnington History Collection MP1244**

Family History Club

Our Family History Club is returning to in-person meetings at the Stonnington History Centre in 2023. If you are curious about your ancestors but don't know where to start, the Family History Club can help. Experienced family history researchers are also welcome at our friendly monthly sessions. Meet fellow enthusiasts and learn from our knowledgeable staff on the first Wednesday of the month at 2 pm from 1 February 2023. No bookings are required.



**The Armstrong Family at Darling Road c1953
Stonnington History Collection MP1565**



**Priddle Family c1940
Stonnington History Collection MP250**

150 years of Public education in Victoria

www.vic.gov.au/150-years-public-education-victoria

Education Act 1872

The Education Act 1872 made Victoria the first Australian colony (and one of the first regions in the world) to offer free, secular, and compulsory education to children. The 1872 Legislation required all children aged 6–15 years to attend school unless they had a reasonable excuse.

1890

Melbourne Teachers' College opened as the Training College in 1890. It was a leading force in Victorian teacher training. In 1913 it was expanded beyond primary training to secondary, kindergarten and other specialised areas.

1907

Emmeline Pye, teacher and lecturer, was one of the pioneers of kindergarten education in Victoria. She opened the first state-funded kindergarten in Brunswick, Victoria in 1907.

1912

The Victorian Education Department became more fully involved in technical education after the Education Act 1910. The first of the new colleges opened in 1912 in Collingwood. The history of TAFE in Victoria stems from both technical colleges such as the Ballarat School of Mines, established in 1890, and the Mechanics Institute tradition.

1913

The Primary School Nursing Program began in Victoria in 1913.

1930

State Schools' Relief was founded in 1930 during the Great Depression, by Anton Vroland, a head teacher from Elsternwick State School.

Stonnington's two oldest schools, still in operation today, are Malvern Central School and Windsor Primary School. Malvern Central School, was established in 1875 as Malvern State School No. 1604. Prior to 1875, classes were held in the old courthouse and the schoolhouse at St. George's Church. The school began on its current site in Spring Road, Malvern, in a two-roomed building. It was later expanded and the tower was added, with these works completed in March 1891. It has also been referred to as Spring Road School. It is no longer a Central School.

Windsor Primary School No 1896, Hornby Street, Windsor, opened in 1877. It opened as Prahran South Primary in September 1877 but was renamed Windsor in 1891. Between 1994 and 2001 the school amalgamated with Hawksburn and Prahran Primary Schools and was renamed Prahran Windsor Primary School. In 2001, it became known as Stonnington Primary School and in 2017 it reverted to its original name, Windsor Primary School.

Victoria's oldest school which is still in operation today is Bacchus Marsh Primary School. It opened in 1850.

140 Milton Parade Glen Iris

Thank you to Edwin Bradley who recently sent through a brief history of 140 Milton Parade, Glen Iris. 'The house was built c1914 and the first owners were Mr. & Mrs Patterson. They sold the property to my Mother and Step Father, Mr. & Mrs J. Toovey, in 1958. I met the Pattersons just before we moved in. Mr Patterson was a retired printing machine engineer, employed by Sands and MacDougall Printers in Spencer Street, Melbourne. I believe the property was sold around 1983. Edwin Bradley 2022

140 Milton Parade, Glen Iris (undated)



Spring Road School Malvern 1890
Stonnington History Collection MP2622



Preparatory Grade, Windsor Primary
School 1940
Stonnington History Collection
PH10619



Heritage Victoria is now digital

Heritage Victoria is now completely digital. It means what took weeks to research can now take seconds. If you are looking for the heritage status of properties in Victoria, enter a property address and find out if a property is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, the Victorian Heritage Inventory, or is protected by a Heritage Overlay.

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/heritage-listings/is-my-place-heritage-listed>

Stonnington's Voices of the Pandemic projects

In 2021, the Stonnington History Centre commissioned Way Back When Consulting Historians to interview ten young people about their experiences of COVID-19.

COVID-19 has changed our lives in countless ways. It has had an impact on everyone in our community, including young people. Stonnington's Young Voices of the Pandemic project captures the stories, observations, experiences and reflections of local children and young people, in their own unique words.

Our participants were aged between 7 and 14 years old at the time of the interviews. They recall how they first heard about COVID-19; show drawings of the virus; reflect on Melbourne's lockdowns and how they spent their time; talk about getting vaccinated and share what they want future generations to know about living through the pandemic.

Launched at Stonnington's recent [untitled] literary festival, the Young Voices of the Pandemic short film can be viewed on the Stonnington History Centre's website at <https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Visit-us/Stonnington-History-Centre/Young-Voices-of-the-Pandemic> and on YouTube. Hear some of the hilarious and heart-warming ups and downs of this extraordinary period in history through the eyes of children and young people. Alternatively, make an appointment to visit the Stonnington History Centre to read full transcripts of the interviews.

The City of Stonnington also wants to find out what our older people in Stonnington think about the COVID-19 pandemic, and what it has been like for you. We will be working with Way Back When, a team of professional oral historians, who would like to talk to you about your household, your neighbourhood, your interests, your family and your friends, what changed for you during the COVID-19 pandemic and what stayed the same.

We think it's really important that your experiences of this time are recorded so that people in the future will know what it was like.

If you are happy to talk about COVID-19, we will arrange a chat, most likely online over Zoom. It will take approximately 30 minutes and will be recorded. Afterwards, you will receive a copy of the recording and you can tell us if you are happy for us to keep it for the future.

We'd also like to make a film about your experiences during the pandemic, and we might include parts of your interviews in the film we make, just as we did for our Young Voices project.

If you live in Stonnington, are aged over 65 and would like to be part of our **Older Voices of the Pandemic** project, contact Simone at the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360 or email history@stonnington.vic.gov.au



Young Voices of the Pandemic



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+ INFORMATION SERVICE



Malvern City Band

Jeremy de Korte, a guest speaker at a Malvern Historical Society meeting during the year, has developed a blog post/article on the Malvern City Band, rivals to the Malvern Tramways Band. When researchers look at a typical brass band from the era of the early to middle 1900s they will find that there are a range of stakeholders who were involved with the band, certainly the musicians and bandmaster, but also the Ladies' Auxiliary, the local council, and supporters. It was probably the relationships with local councils that was most important to a band. The council allocated some funding, sometimes helped with a band hall, and gave permission for bands to use parks and bandstands.

<https://bandblastsfromthepast.blog/2022/07/31/a-band-a-council-correspondence-and-financial-records-a-case-study-of-the-malvern-city-band/L>



**Bandstand (rotunda) at the Malvern Cricket Ground, High Street, Malvern 1910.
Stonnington History Collection MP1023**

Morning tea at the Malvern Vale Hotel

Malvern Historical Society members joined President, Lorraine Sage and the Committee, for morning tea and to hear about the history of the Malvern Vale Hotel and other drinking establishments in Stonnington. We received a warm welcome from members of the Brown family, General Manager, Chris Boghdadi and the staff.



Committee members enjoying the morning! (Images: Ann and Robin Ahin 2022)

Did you know....

The Malvern Vale Hotel dates back to 1865 when Matthew Stephens owned the hotel, known then as the Butchers Arms Hotel. Stephens had purchased land on the north side of Malvern Road in 1854 and established a butcher's shop. In the 1870s Matthew's son Richard took over the running of the hotel, which was later renamed the Council (Club) Hotel. From 1889, when John Coleman took over the hotel, it was known as the Malvern Vale Hotel. John Coleman's obituary in 1940 describes the publican as 'an exemplary citizen and hotelkeeper'. Coleman's descendants tell stories of the boxing ring in the hotel's stables and the SP bookie. A robbery at the hotel in the 1950s made headlines in *The Sun* newspaper. The Brown family have owned the Malvern Vale Hotel for many years.

The Angel Tavern, 641 Dandenong Road, Malvern, was first known as the Gardiner Hotel (1856) then the Railway Hotel, William Greaves, the hotel licensee, was a noted Melbourne cricketer who provided facilities for cricket, pigeon shooting and huntsmen at the hotel. In 1862 Greaves established Victoria's first bowling club and green adjoining the hotel.

Do you remember the Armadale Hotel?

The former Armadale Hotel, 1112 High Street, Armadale, was established in the 1860s. It started as a 4 roomed 'beer house'. In 1865 Alexander (and Mary) Smith, who owned a nearby brickyard, purchased the property. It became known as the 'Halfway House Hotel', then the Highbury Hotel. The hotel closed in recent years, the building was reconstructed and it's now occupied by a supermarket.

Have you ever wondered about the history of the Prahran Hotel?

From its pioneer days of the 1850s, Morrow's Family Hotel carried the name of the original owners, the Morrows, ensuring its place in local history and memory. Throughout its early years, the hotel was a beacon for travellers, a gathering place for local events and cattle sales, it was a meeting place for clubs and it was even used for coronial inquests. While modernised and renamed the Highbridge during the 1940s it held its place as a distinctly local hotel, frequented by loyal patrons over many years. It was transformed into the Prahran Hotel (82 High Street, Windsor) in 2000.

Do you remember the Turf Club Hotel?

The original weatherboard single-storey Turf Club Hotel was built in 1871 in Dandenong Road, opposite the entrance to Caulfield Racecourse. John Heywood, a prominent racing personality, was the hotel's publican until the turn of the century. In 1879 the railway line severed the direct route from the racecourse to the hotel. Around 1923 the timber hotel was replaced by a two-storey brick building. Dan Murphy's took over the hotel in 1994 and the building was later demolished.



Malvern Vale Hotel,
1321 Malvern Road,
Malvern c1980
(Brown family)



Armadale Hotel c1950
Stonnington History
Collection MP2236



Morrow's Family Hotel
1867 Stonnington History
Collection PH60949



Turf Club Hotel, Dandenong
Road East Malvern 1880
Stonnington History Collection
MP5212

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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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

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**

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