

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive

September 2023 - Newsletter No. 100

The new Malvern Historical Society website!

The President and the Committee of the Malvern Historical Society are delighted to announce that our exciting new website is now accessible

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/>

The Malvern Historical Society acknowledges the generosity of the late Michael Macegeorge. Michael's bequest has funded the website.

Special thanks to everyone involved and to our enthusiastic and talented web designer Paul Churton, Web Dynamix www.webdynamix.com.au for his fantastic support throughout the project.

Enjoy exploring our new website. We look forward to receiving your feedback!



Message from the President

This edition of the newsletter celebrates a number of milestones in the life of the Society. This is the 100th edition of the newsletter. This is a great achievement and Jane Nigro, our editor, and all the people who have contributed articles over the years and proofreaders should feel very proud of being part of this most impressive publication. Another very exciting milestone is the completion of our new website which is up and running. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in all this work. Thank you for a task well done.

The Annual Meeting was well attended and Prof Graeme Davison gave a very informative presentation at the meeting. Thank you to Stonnington Council for providing the Society with the use of the Malvern Town Hall Upper Foyer through a Community Grant.

The Union Street Armadale walk was very well attended and enthusiastically enjoyed by our members and local residents. The walk was capably led by Dianne Gardiner and Duncan Crockett. We look forward to seeing you at our next walk and our other activities during the year.

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

Union Street Armadale walk August 2023 (Image: Robin Ahin)



4 October Family History Club

Wednesday 4 October 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Stonnington History Centre, 1257 High Street, Malvern 3144

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/Family-History-Club-2023>

Furieux family group c1915
Stonnington History Centre PH11446



New Members

The Malvern Historical Society would like to welcome our new members Rowena, Nick and Sebastian, Alison and Jonathan, Elizabeth, Anne, Jen and Mel, Rose and Andrew, and Richard and his family.

Malvern Historical Society Inc - Annual General Meeting 2022

The Malvern Historical Society Inc. Annual General Meeting was held on 17 May 2023. The meeting was well attended and we enjoyed a very interesting, educational and informative presentation on 'Marvellous Melbourne' including the impact on both Malvern and Prahran by Prof. Graeme Davison. This last year the Society has been able to hold several activities which have been appreciated by the people who were able to attend these events, such as walks and visits to places of historical significance in the Stonnington area. Our membership continues to grow with a number of new members. The Committee continued to produce our newsletter during the year and our thanks is extended to Jane Nigro who produces the newsletter. Thanks to Di Foster, one of our members, who has a great knowledge of the history of the area, we continue buying articles on eBay that have great importance to Stonnington. 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 us during the past 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 the staff from the Stonnington History Centre for their assistance and the help so graciously given 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, Committee Members - Marisa Costa, Francesca Di Mattina and Dianne Gardiner. New Committee Members - Duncan Crockett and Jonathan Wolf.

Our thanks were also extended to Heather Kasa and Bernadette Wood, who were not available for re-election to the Committee, for all their work for the Society, especially our thanks to Bernadette for all the time, work and effort that she has put into the new website.

The Society acknowledged the work and contribution that Patricia Brincat made to the Society while a member of the Committee and Minute Secretary and Walk Leader before her death earlier in the year.

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



Francesca Di Mattina and Prof. Graeme Davison May 2023 (Image: Jane Nigro)

The place of shopkeepers in nineteenth-century Melbourne

Malvern Historical Society is a proud member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV). In July 2023 the RHSV announced a new Historian-In-Residence, Dr Fiona Gatt. Fiona will be researching the place of shopkeepers in nineteenth-century Melbourne, comparing three suburbs in her research: North Melbourne, Footscray, and our own neck of the woods, Malvern! Fiona was raised in Malvern and attended Malvern Central School in Spring Road. She is looking forward to exploring the collection at the Stonnington History Centre.

Fiona welcomes any suggestions or insights from members of the Society and the general public. You can read more about her project at <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/new-rhsv-historian-in-residence/>.

Dr Fiona Gatt, Historian, researcher, casual academic <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-fiona-gatt-586b561ab/>

Albert Smith

Albert Charles Smith came out from England with his family in 1887. He ran the furniture store at 179 Glenferrie Road until he died in 1891.



Albert Smith's Furniture Store
1890 Stonnington History
Centre MP8224

Local History in the Community

We recently held a very successful walk in the Union Street, Armadale area. Thanks to Duncan, Dianne, Ann and Robin for making the walk so successful! The Committee enjoyed a visit to the Stonnington History Centre at Northbrook. We were given a tour of the archives, and viewed some of the MHS' recent acquisitions. Many of these items were found by MHS member Di Foster, purchased using your subscriptions and donations, and deposited with the Stonnington History Centre for safekeeping and secure access.

Facebook page attracting lots of interest!

Who remembers clock traffic lights? There was still one of these at the corner of High Street and Tooronga Road, Malvern around 1960. The clock traffic light, or Marshalite, was designed in 1936 by Australian Charles Marshall. The Marshalite signal consisted of dials facing each street at an intersection, with a rotating hand pointing to coloured sections that denoted whether traffic in either direction should proceed, prepare to stop, or stop, and how much longer that phase had to go. In later years they were combined with conventional traffic lights at intersections. Variations existed for pedestrian crossings, with additional text instructing people to "Walk" or "Don't Walk". Marshalite signals were phased out in the 1970s. (Wikipedia)

Our recent Facebook post, showing an image of one of the clock traffic lights, has reached over 197,000 people after many of our Facebook followers shared it with their friends. Another post, asking if followers had memories of owning a Malvern Star bike, reached over 146,000 people. Thank you Nikki for selecting the images and text for the posts!

Did you know you can view our Facebook posts on our website Home Page? <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/>



Marshalite Traffic Control Signal Melbourne 1940-1960 (Image: Museums Victoria)

Rob Bower

Rob Bower was present at the first planning meeting for the formation of the Malvern Historical Society on 30 July 1972. Over the past fifty years, Rob, a former MHS Treasurer, has provided the Stonnington History Centre with detailed research relating to the former City of Malvern and the present City of Stonnington. His extensive research, always beautifully organised and presented, includes 'Malvern 1840-1989: A history of the subdivision', covering roads and streets, when the plans were lodged and declared, including Crown grants, and details of the General Law subdivision.

Rob's other research relates to material on Malvern trades and businesses, the development of rateable properties, maps of Malvern east of Burke Road, and an index to *The Australasian* (January to June 1894), and he recently donated an additional collection of his research notes, maps and real estate brochures. Rob received a Malvern Historical Society Certificate of Appreciation at our recent Malvern Historical Society 50+ years Morning Tea.

Thank you Rob for all your valuable research, support and friendship over many years!



Rob Bower 2023 (Image: Jane Nigro)



Rob Bower and RHSV President, Richard Broome August 2023 (Image: Robin Ahin)



Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Celebrating 50+ Years! 1972 - 2023



The Society would like to thank the RHSV President Richard Broome, for presenting the Malvern Historical Society Certificates of Appreciation





The Society would like to thank the Malvern Vale Hotel for providing the venue for the Malvern Historical Society 50+ Years morning tea (Images: Robin Ahin and Bernadette Wood)

The Malvern Antique Fairs and High Street in Armadale

In September 1959, the first of the Malvern antique fairs was held at the Malvern Town Hall. Maybe three or four years later, I undertook my first visit. The 69 tram passed the door and I often caught it from Caulfield at weekends to visit school friends. There was always a vast display of material as antiques in those days were highly collectable – and expensive. The displays extended not only throughout the main hall but to two adjacent halls, to the left and right. A catalogue was supplied and I have found a few copies in my collection.

The antiques on display included vintage furniture (always vetted to ensure it was older than 100 years, often with a gold BADA seal, which would have ruled out almost all Victorian furniture in the early days), china, porcelain, pictures and so on. I sometimes met people there with whom I had been to school, and sometimes saw famous faces. My great aunt Berenice Bottomley was seen there with Lillian Wightman, a couturier, to whom I was introduced.

There was no way I could afford anything for many years as prices were very high indeed, best suited to residents of Melbourne suburb SE2. It wasn't until 1978 that I purchased a set of mahogany country Chippendale dining chairs from John Rosenberg, of Moorabool Antiques in Geelong. A few years later, I had to sell a Georgian dining table to Syd Broadway of Adam Antiques. I thought I had got a good price, but it was seen at a subsequent fair with a far higher asking price. As time went on, I could afford further small pieces, mainly blue and white china. I must have been to dozens of these fairs over the years. Sometimes they were held in the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton, but filling that vast space was problematic.

One recalls that High Street in Armadale, just down the road from the Town Hall, was the epicentre of Melbourne's antique trade with many opulent shops lining either side. I recall Anne Blamires, whose shop had biblical texts hanging from the walls, and then Bill Johnston of Kent Antiques, whose shop I wasn't game to enter. Often the proprietor stood near the front entrance and glared at anyone passing through the door. In the late 1970s, container loads of antiques were arriving in Melbourne from Britain and I would sometimes sneak out from work at lunchtime to peruse what had arrived. I found a wonderful Georgian mahogany bow-fronted chest of drawers at what seemed to be a very affordable price. I paid for it by cheque but when it was delivered they said the price had been a mistake but would have to stick to the arrangement! More recently, I bought many delightful Victorian and Edwardian ceramic tiles from Granny's Market, in Armadale, which closed a few years ago. They were stored at the back in cardboard boxes and, rummaging through the (often dirty) material, one could find some examples of arts and crafts design from Minton, Wedgwood, et al.

John Maidment OAM 2023

J.J. Savage & Co boat builders

This photo, showing the premises of J.J. Savage & Co., boat builders, was taken from the Church Street Bridge. The boat builders were located on the south bank of the Yarra, east of the Church Street bridge. Adjacent to the boatworks is the Zenith Rubber Mills. The photo was donated to the Stonnington History Centre by J.J. Savage & Sons (Aust) Pty. Ltd, boat builders since 1898.



J.J. Savage & Co 1914
Stonnington History Centre PH8550

Malvern Star

Edna James recently shared a photograph of her uncle and aunt, Charles and Rose Hurren. Charles and Rose can be seen setting off from Melbourne in 1948 to sell Malvern Star bicycles. Charles worked for Bruce Small and became a lifelong friend, eventually moving to the Gold Coast with Bruce, where he retired and built a home on the Isle of Capri. At one time Charles won a trip to the UK due to the number of successful sales he had achieved.



Rose and Charles Hurren 1948

Henry Bournes Higgins

Barrister Henry Bournes Higgins purchased land in Glenferrie Road, on the corner of School Street (Stonnington Place) in 1883. Higgins became one of Australia's most radical lawyers and social reformers. Higgins was one of the Founders of Federation, a member of the Victorian and then the first Federal Parliament, a High Court judge and the second President of the Federal Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Throughout his legal and political career, he was a recognised authority in Equity and Constitutional Law. He is perhaps best remembered as the maker of the historic Harvester Judgement, which set a minimum living wage for unskilled workers.

Doona, Higgin's two-storey mansion designed by architect William Salway, was built around 1885, prior to Henry's marriage to Mary Alice, the daughter of Dr George Morrison. Henry Higgins died in 1929 at Heronswood, the family's summer retreat at Dromana. Within a few months, *Doona* was sold, and soon after, the house was demolished.



***Doona*, Glenferrie Road, Toorak c1886
Stonnington History Centre MP1418**

Successful application for a Stonnington Council Grant 2023-2024!

Malvern Historical Society	Keeping Stonnington's history alive	The publication of Stonnington History News (six issues) and three talks on Stonnington's local history at the Malvern Town Hall.	Full funding	\$2,340	\$555.15
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Victorian History Showcase at the PMI in August



Thank you Lorraine, Ann, Francesca, Robin, Jane and Jonathan for assisting at the MHS table. (Images: Jane Nigro)



Malvern Historical Society - Executive Committee 2023

President: Lorraine Sage
 Vice President: Jane Nigro
 Treasurer: Ann Ahin
 Committee: Marisa Costa, Duncan Crockett, Francesca Di Mattina, Dianne Gardiner, Jonathan Wolf

Newsletter:

Editor: Jane Nigro
 Design/Printing: MBE Malvern

MHS MEMBERSHIP 2023

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

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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