

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive

February 2023 - Newsletter No. 98

1 March Family History Club

Wednesday 1 March 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

Wednesday 1 March 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday 5 April 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday 3 May 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday 7 June 2 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Mrs Olwyn Syle, 8 Winton Avenue, Malvern East c1950.
Stonnington History Collection MP60066



22 March History Matters: Creative ways to capture and share family stories

Wednesday, 22 March 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Every family has a wealth of unique tales to share. As we get older we may miss the opportunity to capture those stories for future generations. While not everyone wants to research and write a full-length family history book, there are many other creative ways to capture, research and share the stories of your family.

Join family historian Alison Dennison for a hands-on workshop on family stories. This workshop will cover why family stories are important, the practical considerations and challenges in gathering and sharing family stories, creative methods to capture, record and share family stories and how to add colour to the facts.

Participants are asked to bring the following items: writing materials, a small object of personal significance, and a couple of photos of personal or family significance.

Bookings are required for every attendee.

Malvern Library, 1255 High Street, Malvern

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History-Matters-Creative-ways-to-capture-and-share-your-family-stories



Maidment Family 1885
Stonnington History Collection MP5048

Trove

Towards the end of 2022, the Australian National Library announced that it may have insufficient funds to continue Trove from July 2023. See *The Conversation* 23 December 2022 <https://theconversation.com/troves-funding-runs-out-in-july-2023-and-the-national-library-is-threatening-to-pull-the-plug-its-time-for-a-radical-overhaul-197025>

Trove is a valuable research tool for the Malvern Historical Society, and for everyone sharing Australia's stories and identities. The government is currently reviewing its cultural policy.

If you are concerned about the impact insufficient funds will have on the future of Trove, please write to the Honourable Tony Burke, Minister for the Arts, PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 or email Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au



Visit to Holy Eucharist Church Malvern East January 2023

Members of the Society and others enjoyed a most enlightening visit to Holy Eucharist Church where we were taken on a journey telling us of the history of the Church and its surrounds. Ray Moore, a parishioner of long-standing, told the story with a video presentation and many little stories about the Church and its place in the community before taking us on a tour of the Church itself. The story of Holy Eucharist is a real part of the community and it was interesting to learn about the striking architect-designed building which celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. The thanks of the Society is extended to Holy Eucharist Parish for sharing their story with us. Thank you also to MHS Committee Members Dianne, who led the local walk, and Marisa, who provided a delicious morning tea.



(Images: Robin Ahin 2023)

From the President

A belated Happy New Year. It is hard to realise that the first six weeks of the year have already come and gone. We have commenced the year with a most successful visit to Holy Eucharist Church, Dandenong Road, East Malvern. The Committee is in the process of organising several activities in the coming months including visits to places of interest and some short walks. At the present time the Committee is very busy working on our new Website which is starting to take shape. This is requiring much time by the members of the Committee but when up and running will be a great tool for the members of the Society and the wider community to learn more about the wonderful history of the City of Stonnington. During the year we will be holding several events and activities to celebrate fifty years of the Society. We will keep you posted as plans develop. Thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2023; it is greatly appreciated. We look forward to a good year and to seeing many of you at our various activities.

Lorraine Sage: ljsage123@gmail.com

New members

The Society would like to welcome our latest new members Elaine Cleary and Lynn Mather.

Vale - Christopher Charles Edwin Gahan, OAM , JP (RET) 1941-2022

It is with deep regret that the Malvern Historical Society informs members of the death of Chris Gahan, former Prahran and Stonnington Councillor and Mayor, on 13 December 2022. Chris was first elected to Council at the age of 21. He served multiple terms as a Councillor and Mayor for both the former City of Prahran and the City of Stonnington.

From an early age, Chris was encouraged by his father, George Gahan, a former City of Prahran Councillor and Mayor himself, to take an active interest in Council.

Chris was actively involved in supporting the elderly and members of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The Chris Gahan Reserve, 19 Hornby Street, Windsor, is popular with the local community. When Windsor State School, Prahran Girls Tech, Ardoch-Windsor Secondary College were closed by the Government in 1994, Council acquired the land for a reserve.

In 2008, Chris retired from Council after more than 33 years of service.

The Society expresses our deepest sympathy to Chris' family.



Mayor George Gahan c1965
Stonnington History Collection
PH60151



Mayor Chris Gahan c1981
Stonnington History Collection
PH22974

<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/News-and-notices/2022/News-items/Christopher-Charles-E-Gahan-1945-2022>

STONNINGTON MEMORIES – No 1

A visit to *Hiawatha*, 43 Armadale Street, Armadale, more than 70 years ago

The home *Hiawatha* was located on a wide double block. It was located centrally and there were two narrow blocks on either side separated from the house block by fences and hedging.

The house was a large single-storey building in polychrome brick with a bay window at the front, a cast iron verandah, the entrance flanked by large urns on pedestals, and many bedrooms. At the rear were two-storey wooden stables approached by an asphalt drive.

There was a large mulberry tree in the right-hand block, beyond a low picket fence.

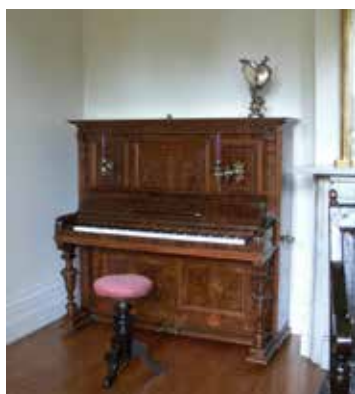
The house was occupied by my great-grandfather Albert Duckett (1862-1949) and his second wife Lillian. Albert was one of the sons of Edward Duckett who emigrated from Yorkshire in 1849 and built up a thriving hardware business in Lonsdale Street – Albert worked in the business. Lillian was the daughter of Hobart businessman Charles Davis (who started off in Australia as a convict!). My grandfather Teddy was brought up in this house and was educated at ‘Cumloden’ school nearby in East St Kilda. His mother Agnes Maria had sadly died in childbirth.

I can recall Albert sitting outside on the northern side of the house, probably shortly before his death later in 1949. Inside the house, I can recall a long hallway opening into a huge vestibule. The walls were covered in paintings and the rooms were heavily furnished. The dining room was the second room down the hall. Inside was a large walnut piano made by Richard Lipp & Sohn, Stuttgart which was a wedding present from Albert to his first wife Agnes. After Albert died, this was left to my grandfather and then to me. I learned piano on it for many years and it is now at my nephew’s house in Armadale. Over the fireplace was a huge oil painting of Hobart viewed from across the water and looking towards Mt Wellington. I wonder if this may have been a gift from Charles Davis in Hobart and whether it may have been painted by an accomplished colonial artist. Decades later I asked my great aunt Berenice what had happened to the painting and she told me that it had been cut up to make a screen. Ah, it could have even been a Piguénit, who often painted this subject.

I must have visited *Hiawatha* two or three times, but then the property was sold, the contents dispersed, and eventually it was demolished. Albert left the huge sum of £76,892 in his will, to his wife and five children. Lillian moved to a smaller house in Mathoura Road, Toorak, quite close to Toorak Road. I recall that when the Lipp piano arrived at our home at the time in South Caulfield, the wheels of the trolley broke under the weight! We also inherited a mahogany and marble washstand, a settee, some silver objects, an embroidered prie-dieu* and a beaded stool, and some ornaments. My grandfather Teddy used his inheritance to buy an attractively sited house in Rosella Road, Parkdale, with sea views following his second marriage to artist Sarah Amelia Coppel, a pupil of Max Meldrum.

*a piece of furniture for use during prayer, consisting of a kneeling surface and a narrow upright front with a rest for the elbows or books.

John Maidment OAM



Above left: Entrance to *Hiawatha* with Berenice, Thelma and Noel Duckett sitting on the steps.

Above centre: Albert Duckett c1948

Above right: Lillian Duckett serving afternoon tea in the 1930s.

Far left: The Richard Lipp & Sohn piano, still owned by a family member.

Left: The wooden stables at the rear of *Hiawatha*.

Items of Stonnington historical interest and significance

Malvern Historical Society member, Di Foster, recently discovered these subdivision plans on eBay and the original engravings being auctioned by the Antique Print & Map Room, Sydney.

Thankyou Di for arranging their purchase. Thankyou also to the generous members of the Malvern Historical Society. Your subscriptions and donations allowed the Committee to make these purchases. They now form part of the Stonnington History Collection.

Prahran Town Hall

In May 1856, the Public Works Committee reported that land on the corner of Chapel Street and Greville Street was ideal for the erection of a courthouse and lockup. The Crown purchased the land for £300 and the single-storey, brick building, completed at a cost of £1,300, opened on 27 December 1856. In May 1860, the Committee was authorised to investigate the erection of a "Town Hall, Council rooms and Public Baths". Thirteen drawings were submitted for consideration, all of which were exhibited at the Mechanics' Institute to allow ratepayers the opportunity to express their opinion. Council's preferred design was drawn by architects Crouch and Wilson, who were awarded the £25 prize.

With an increasing population came the need for more space in the Town Hall. The first extension to the original building was completed in 1878. The new 'wing' along Greville Street accommodated a post office and a police station on the ground floor, and the public library on the first floor, next to the Post-Master's residence. The second major extension was completed in 1888 during the economic boom years. The Town Hall was severely damaged by a disastrous fire in January 1914. The fire started on a Sunday afternoon in the Colosseum department store in Chapel Street, and spread into the City Hall. The final expansion of administrative space occurred in 1926.



Engraving of Prahran Town Hall c1887 Albert Charles Cooke (1836 - 1902)



Hand-coloured engraving of Prahran Town Hall, Chapel Street, Prahran c1886 William Crothers Fidler (1857-1915)

Leura, Toorak Road, Toorak

Leura, located near the southwest corner of Toorak and Orrong Roads, Toorak, stood on eight acres of land. The original house on the estate is believed to have been owned by James Murphy from the early to mid 1860s. Robert Simpson, the owner from the late 1860s for the next three decades, rebuilt the old house in 1873. *Leura* was later owned by T.H. Payne.

George Alphonse Collingridge de Tourcey

George Alphonse Collingridge de Tourcey was a painter, printmaker, wood engraver, and founding member of the Royal Art Society of NSW and a founder of Australian Art, the first local magazine devoted to art. George Collingridge arrived in Australia in 1879 as an engraver for newspapers and went on to more success as a painter of local scenes with works winning the praise of art critics.

<https://www.daa0.org.au/bio/george-collingridge/biography/>



Hand-coloured engraving of *Leura*, Toorak - The Residence of the Hon R Simson c1887 (George Alphonse Collingridge de Tourcey)

St Matthew's Church, Prahran

'The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the now St Matthew's Episcopal Church, High Street Prahran, took place on Saturday, in the presence of a large concourse of people. This church has been in existence for the last 25 years and during that period no fewer than three others have sprung from it, St John's, Toorak, Christ Church, South Yarra and All Saints, St Kilda. The history of St Matthew's Church commenced in the old School room, Chapel Street and when the new School room was erected in Chapel Street at the rear of the site of the new church, they proceeded thither, and have occupied that building ever since. During the past few years and especially under the pastoral care of the present incumbent, there have been symptoms of fresh vigour amongst the members as well as a desire and necessity for a larger and more appropriate place of worship. Hence the present undertaking of a church to be designed by Messrs Terry and Oakden architects and in the early decorated Gothic style of the last century. The materials are bluestone and Malmsbury stone, while for tracery, mouldings, carvings, crosses and all portions requiring relief, Waurn Ponds freestone is used. The plan of the church is rectangular, not cruciform, and comprises a nave of 50 x 45f the principal entrances being through a narthex 7ft 6in wide and 30ft long. There are also in the plan an organ chamber, vestries, chancel, and baptistry, but it is not proposed to erect these at present. The floor is at least 2ft above the finished ground, and access to the porches is by means of steps. There is a slight incline on the floor, and the ground underneath is completely coated with Portland cement for the purpose of neutralising damp and effluent. The work is being carried out in a satisfactory manner. The cost of the building, as it is to be erected for the present, is £6,150.



Hand-coloured engraving of St Matthew's Church, 157a High Street, Prahran c1878

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the Bishop of Melbourne (Dr Moorhouse) and a large number of the clergy assembled in the School room, and, preceded by the trustees and the church building committee, walked in procession to the new building.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5935767>

The Argus 3 September 1877

St Matthew's from 1982

The interior of St Matthew's Church was badly damaged by fire in 1982. Reconstruction work was undertaken and some of the space was converted to office space for leasing. Today, St Matthew's Prahran is an Anglican Church that undertakes community work through Hope Prahran Limited.

www.stmatts.com.au

Malvern Park, Armadale 1886

MALVERN PARK, ARMADALE
Saturday, 20th March, 1886, at THREE o'clock, ON THE GROUND
HIGH STREET,
 Close to Railway Station, and opposite E. S. and A. S. Bank.
MUNRO & BAILLIEU
 20 VALUABLE FRONTAGES
 BUSINESS and RESIDENCE SITES,
 TITLE CERTIFICATE.
MUNRO & BAILLIEU,
 40 & 42 COLLING STREET EAST.

Malvern Park, Armadale 1886

Seymour Estate Malvern 1886

Seymour Estate Malvern
 3 MINUTES WALK FROM ARMADALE RAILWAY STATION, AND BETWEEN THE BANK AND THE SHIRE HALL.
 TERMS LIBERAL
AUCTION SALE NOTICES.
 Messrs Munro and Baillieu, in conjunction with Messrs K. Walker and Co, will sell this day at 3 o'clock, on the ground, 40 magnificent allotments in the Seymour Estate, Armadale. These are situated close to the railway station, and are surrounded by many of the finest mansions in the district. We would call attention to the particulars as announced.

Newspaper advertisement for Seymour Estate January 1886

Howson Street Armadale

Thank you to Marylyn Nolan for recently sharing photos of Howson Street, Armadale. The family lived in Howson Street from about 1957 to 1971. Marylyn remembers there was a Golden Fleece service station on the corner of the street, while the railway line was at the other end. The houses in Howson Street were demolished and the street ceased to exist when Malvern Central Shopping Centre was constructed on land in Wattletree Road, Armadale c1985.



Howson Street, Armadale (Images: c1965)

Tooronga Road State School Roll of Honour

The Tooronga Road State School wooden honour roll commemorates the former students who served in World War One.

‘On Saturday afternoon an honour board was unveiled at the East Malvern (Tooronga Road) State School by His Excellency the State Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, in the presence of a large attendance of pupils, parents, friends and representative citizens. The honour board is of an excellent design, and has inscribed upon it just on 400 names. The proceedings throughout were of an interesting character. Mr H. Bush, chairman of the school committee, presided. A parade of the senior cadets of the district was held on the school grounds.

Sir Arthur Stanley, who was welcomed on behalf of the school by Mr Greenwood MLA, said that in performing unveiling ceremonies of the kind he was on every occasion struck with the great meaning honour boards had for the people of the district or school, and the tradition they would keep alive in the years to come. They were peculiarly appropriate in a school because it was in the school that the first rudiments of patriotism, devotion and self-sacrifice were taught. Perhaps the greatest lesson that was taught was the silent lesson of self-sacrifice which the scholars would learn from the boys who had gone to the war and the girls who had nursed the sick and wounded soldiers.

The Rev. Colonel-Chaplain Macrae Stewart, in dedicating the board, said the boys who made the best soldiers were those who had received the best training in the schools, in the churches, and Christian homes. During the course of the proceedings addresses were delivered by Mr Edgar, M L.C., the State Commandant (Brigadier-General Brand), the headmaster of the school (Mr H. J. Backer), Mr J. Lewis (former head teacher of the school), and Mr H. Rush (chairman of the school committee)’.
Malvern Standard (Vic), 5 April 1919



Tooronga Road State School Roll of Honour
(Image: Sandra Brown 2017)

<https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/display/111525-tooronga-road-state-school-roll-of-honour>

Land records of historical significance

A large and significant transfer of land records from the library of the Registrar-General’s Office has just been transferred into PROV custody. Many researchers will be familiar with the breadth and complexity of Victorian Government land records. Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) has a large number of these records in the collection, including Soldier Settlement files, Parish Plans, and Applications for Certificate of Title. Land records are some of the most viewed record types in the North Melbourne Reading Room.

Records included in this transfer include Registers of Crown Grants, General Law Plans of Subdivision, Application Examiner’s Notes for General Law land conversions, and the full set of Memorial Books for General Law deeds.

For more information about this transfer, including a full list of land records transferred, please see the article on the website <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/land-records-historical-significance>

A family history research tool for the 21st century

Nineteenth century family history resources are plentiful, but it can be a challenge to find information on people who lived in the 20th and 21st centuries. That's why the Ryerson Index can be a wonderful help to family history researchers. It's a research tool for finding information about deceased family members and friends: a free online index of Australian newspaper death and funeral notices.

www.slv.vic.gov.au

Funeral procession for fireman William Plunkett passing the Star Hotel, north-east corner of Dandenong Road and Chapel Street, Windsor 1926
Stonnington History Collection PH23405



The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)

RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne, Vic, 3000 Tel: 9326 9288 office@historyvictoria.org.au

Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) was formed in 1909 and is a community organisation committed to collecting, researching and sharing an understanding of the history of Victoria. With the support of a large number of volunteers, the RHSV provides a full program of activities such as lectures, seminars, excursions and exhibitions for the benefit of members and the general public. The RHSV publishes six newsletters per year, a reviewed journal and books of historical interest. The RHSV has over 1000 individual members, as well as taking on the role of the umbrella organisation for more than 300 local and specialist historical societies throughout Victoria, including the Malvern Historical Society

RHSV membership is open to those who have an interest in history. The RHSV has an extensive collection. Search the RHSV collection for manuscripts, books, images, ephemera, vertical files and the Pioneer Register. <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/search-collection/about-the-collection/>

The RHSV maintains links with State and local government through membership of advisory committees and boards. It is also a member of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

The Grange Road Wetlands, Main Yarra Trail, South Yarra.

The Grange Road Wetlands clean and filter urban stormwater coming from South Yarra and Toorak. Vegetation in the wetlands absorbs nutrients and settles sediments in its ponds before the water reaches the river. The Wetlands are accessible via the Main Yarra Trail, close to the corner of Grange Road and Alexandra Avenue, Toorak. The swampy environment is home to a range of fauna including frogs, aquatic birds (including Australian Wood ducks, white-faced herons, little cormorants, little grebes and swamp hens), mammals, turtles, water skinks and invertebrates.

Clean-out works in December 2022 commenced at the Grange Road Wetlands in South Yarra.

Nearby, the MacRobertson Bridge was built in 1934, although a bridge at Grange Road was proposed as early as 1884.



Aerial view of Yarra River, looking west from around St George's Road/Heyington c1931. Stonnington History Collection PH6001.1

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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