

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

February 2024 - Newsletter No. 102

From the President

A belated Happy New Year. It is hard to realise that the first month of the year has already passed us by. We commenced the year with a very successful Mrs Hill's Allotment walk around the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club area. The Committee has commenced planning activities for 2024 which will include great speakers on very interesting topics, visiting places of interest and more short walks.

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2024 with a special thank you to those who have added a donation with their renewal. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the new memberships which just keep coming. It is great to see that there is a real interest by members of the community in our wonderful Stonnington history.

We look forward to another good year and to seeing many of you at our various activities.

Lorraine Sage: ljsage123@gmail.com

Family History Club in 2024

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. Find out more: www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On

- Wednesday, 6 March 2024 2 PM - 3:30 PM
- Wednesday, 3 April 2024 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Inaugural Volunteer Stonnington Expo - Malvern Town Hall Friday 15 March

The Malvern Historical Society will be part of the inaugural Volunteer Stonnington Expo at Malvern Town Hall on Friday 15 March 10 am - 2 pm. We're looking forward to seeing the Stonnington community there!

Booking via the QR Code.



History Matters: Telling Your Story – memoir writing workshop

Wednesday, 20 March 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Everyone has interesting stories to tell about their lives – but how do you choose which ones are worth writing down? In this workshop Dr Sian Prior, author of *Shy: a memoir*, and *Childless: a story of freedom and longing* (short-listed for The Age non-fiction Book of the Year 2022), will introduce you to some of the key skills and decisions involved in crafting an engaging memoir.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Who is your imagined reader, and what do they need to invest in your story?
- Which writing 'voice' (or voices) should you use to tell your story?
- What is the 'story' behind your 'situation'?
- How do you depict vivid 'characters' (including real people) on the page?
- How do you retrieve faded memories?
- What should you avoid when you're writing about the self?

Please bring writing materials to the workshop. Suitable for adult audiences. Bookings are required for every attendee.

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/History-Matters-Telling-Your-Story---memoir-writing-workshop-with-Dr-Sian-Prior



**William Ward Osborne with friends 1931
Stonnington History Centre MP12404**

The Members of the Malvern Historical Society are saddened to learn of the death of long-time member Sally Salter. Sally was an active, very generous supporter of the Society over many years. Our thoughts are with Sally's family at this sad time.

Hand-coloured engravings of Como and Armadale House

Thank you to Di Foster for organising the purchase of two hand-coloured engravings on behalf of the Malvern Historical Society. The engraving, 'Como, Toorak, The residence of Mrs C M Armitage' dates from c1886. The artist, Samuel Calvert (1828 -1913), was an English painter and engraver, who moved to Adelaide after his older brothers, John and William, migrated to South Australia in 1843. By 1850, Calvert had set up on his own account in King William Street, then moved to Melbourne as an engraver in 1853. Built in 1847, *Como* is a mix of Australian Regency and classic Italianate architecture. It was purchased by Charles Armytage in 1864. The family lived there for nearly a century.

The second engraving, 'Armadale House, the residence of The Hon James Munro, Boundary Road Armadale' dates from c1887. The artist is Albert Henry Fullwood (1863 - 1930). Fullwood was an English artist who attended Birmingham Institute on a scholarship. He migrated to Sydney in 1883. He worked for John Sands in Sydney and then as an illustrator for Garran, the publisher. He travelled extensively. In the 1880s he was actively painting with other well-known Australian artists at their camp at Sirius Cove in Sydney. Fullwood focused on etchings during this period. He contributed drawings to a range of newspapers and journals. In 1900, he moved, with his family, to first New York and then London, where he worked as an illustrator. When war broke out Fullwood joined the Allied Arts Corps. In 1917, he was posted to the London General Hospital, with fellow Australian artists Roberts, Streeton, George Coates and Miles Evergood. After the war, Fullwood returned to Sydney. Source: www.antiqueprintmaproom.com

Di has also recently purchased a number of items relating to Chapel Street, James Loton and a sales catalogue relating to *Yelvertoft*, 58 Caroline Street, South Yarra, on behalf of the Malvern Historical Society. *Yelvertoft*, 58 Caroline Street, South Yarra 1938 - Illustrated "catalogue of the well-known and interesting collection of Antique Furniture and Objets d'Art of English, Florentine, Dutch, French and Oriental Art, formed by the late May Brook(e)s, sister of Sir Norman Brookes". The brochure includes a list of approximately 11,000 items for sale, from a canary cage to a Rolls Royce. The sale went on for 3 days. The brochure also includes photos of the furnished rooms, the Rolls Royce, and a very rare photo of *Yelvertoft*, a bluestone house built c1860.



Armadale House, Armadale c1887



ABOVE LEFT: West side of Chapel Street Prahran c1906



ABOVE RIGHT: Loton's Grocery Store,
Malvern c1920 Stonnington History Centre MP6537



Como, Toorak. Artist: Samuel Calvert c 1886



Loton's grocers truck (undated)



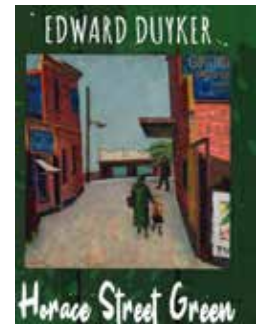
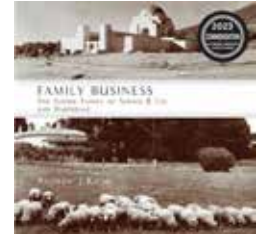
*Yelvertoft, 58 Caroline
Street South Yarra 1938*

Congratulations! Victorian Community History Awards Commendations.

The Victorian Community History Awards, presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, were announced on Friday 2 Feb at the Arts Centre in Melbourne. Three Stonnington projects received commendations:



- City of Stonnington's project, *Way Back When*, Stonnington's Young Voices of the Pandemic. Through interviews with young people in the City of Stonnington, this project captures the stories, observations and reflections of local children, and their experiences of living through COVID-19, in their own unique words. These are brought together in a short film that explores how children in Stonnington experienced the pandemic. <https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Visit-us/Stonnington-History-Centre/Young-Voices-of-the-Pandemic>
- The book *Family Business: The Simmie Family of Simmie & Co and Harpsdale* by Malvern local Andrew Kilsby tells the history of an entrepreneurial family from the 19th C to the present day, focused initially on three brothers who served in WWI. On their return to Australia, in 1924 they formed a building company - Simmie and Co - which operated across Melbourne between 1924 and 1978, being a prolific builder of churches, schools, housing, stadiums, public buildings, hospitals, theatres and a number of heritage listed buildings. In 1941 one of the brothers purchased the historic farm Harpsdale near Craigieburn, where he ran a successful farming enterprise, which has been managed by a son and grandson until today. Simmie & Co built a garage for Yellow Cabs on Malvern Road in 1926. There is a copy of the plan in the Stonnington History Centre. <https://stonnington.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/ARCENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=967934>
- In his book, *Horace Street Green*, Edward Duyker tells about growing up in Malvern. Edward Duyker captures a pathway through childhood and youth, in a large, culturally diverse family, via episodes and people: in a street, a parish, a college and a suburb. This book reflects on the commonplace and the significant. It is about the vulnerabilities, puzzles and formative influences of childhood. In *Horace Street Green*, award-winning historian and biographer Edward Duyker shifts his gaze to his own childhood and youth. Born in 1955, to a Dutch father and a Mauritian mother, he grew up the eldest of eight children in the Melbourne suburb of Malvern, now decidedly affluent, but once home to many struggling working-class families.



For more information about the Awards:

www.historyvictoria.org.au/victorian-community-history-awards/2023-victorian-community-history-awards-winners/

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

2024 subscriptions are due now

A friendly reminder to members who have not renewed their membership for 2024. The membership fees remain the same \$13.00 single, \$20.00 family, Full-time student \$9. We appreciate your continued support of the Society. New members are always welcome!

The new member/renewal membership form can be found on page 8 of the newsletter or on our website.

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

New Members

The Malvern Historical Society would like to welcome our new members Bill, Simon, Janne, Sandra, Marie, Fiona and Celeste.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive on Facebook!

Special thanks to Malvern Historical Society member Nikki Cooper, for all her engaging and interesting Facebook posts relating to Stonnington's history and related themes. Did you know that, due to her enthusiasm for our Facebook page, we have now passed 6.8k followers! Thanks Nikki!

<https://www.facebook.com/malvernhistoricalsocietystonnington>



Malvern Congregational Church

Thank you to the Heidelberg Historical Society for forwarding a photo of the Malvern Congregational Church, Glenferrie Road Malvern, on the corner of Winter Street, c1960. According to the Church's jubilee history, early church worship was conducted in a wooden building in Union Street in the 1860s. In February 1873, the church fellowship moved to a new building in Glenferrie Road, between Wattle tree Road and Gordon Grove. The Rev. James Moss was the minister. In January 1883, the building was re-opened as the Malvern Congregational Church.

In 1885, land for a church was purchased in Glenferrie Road on the south corner of Winter Street. The memorial stone was laid in 1886. The new church was built to the design of architects, Billing & Son. A second foundation stone was laid when the building was extended in 1889. The Malvern Congregational Church was demolished in 1966 to make way for Coles New World Supermarket.



**Malvern Congregational Church,
Glenferrie Road Malvern c1960**

Glenbrook Avenue Malvern East 1913

The Burrough family have donated a framed photo of the Hedgeley Dene area and Glenbrook Avenue 1913, looking north towards Wattle tree Road. The Burrough family lived at 11 Glenbrook Avenue for 30 years.



**Glenbrook Avenue Malvern East 1913
Stonnington History Centre MP2427**

Malvern Methodist Church Spring Road, Malvern

Thank you to Robert who recently donated material relating to the Malvern Methodist Church, Spring Road Malvern, including an Order of Service for a Masonic Church Service held on the 1 June 1958 and a centenary history of the Spring Road, Malvern, Methodist Sunday School 1860 - 1960.

On August 21 1889, the tender of builder J. H. Harrison was accepted for building the church in Spring Road. Mr. A. Dunn was the architect for the new church. On October 12 1889, the foundation stone was laid by T.E. Moran. The congregation moved from its former location in Malvern Road, at the corner of Elizabeth Street, and the new church opened in Spring Road on 16 February 1890. In 1891, the Sunday School building was completed. The builder was Mr. Ireland and the architect was Mr. H Nuttall. The church building has Gothic style windows. The roof is of slate.



**Malvern Methodist Church (Spring Road) c1910
Stonnington History Centre MP946**



**Order of Service,
Masonic Church Service 1 June 1958**

The Ballantyne and Stephens Families in Malvern c1900 Part 2

(Part 1 - Local History News Keeping Stonnington's History Alive! Issue No 101 Dec 2023)

The second son of James Ballantyne, Westmore William Stephens (Westie) (1866-1922), appears to have been a keen accumulator of property. When he died, aged 56, his probate papers showed an extensive list of properties including Kooyong, a residence of 14 rooms in Kooyong Road, Malvern, another property of 7 rooms in Kooyong Road, Malvern, a property with a Flete Street frontage, semi-detached brick houses, 97 and 99 Kooyong Road, Malvern, and six weatherboard shops, 8,10,12,14,16,18 High Street, Malvern.

James Ballantyne's daughter Min (1873-1922) had married Herbert Luke and she did not stray far, living in Grandview Grove Armadale. Another sister, Kittie (1870-1943), never married. She continued to live at the family home, *Wolverton*, until Sarah, her mother, died in 1923. She then owned her own home, *Brockenhurst*, 371 Glenferrie Road, Toorak.

Westmore Stephens' wife, his two sons and one of his daughters all died in 1922 and 1923, leaving my grandmother, Edith, as Chairman of Directors of Stephens and Sons. She negotiated the sale of the business and the Bourke Street, Melbourne, property, to Sydney Myer in 1925.

Outside his business interests, Westmore Godsen Stephens was involved in a number of organisations. His obituaries in the Melbourne daily papers revealed that he had served 6 years representing the Gipps Ward on the Melbourne City Council, he was a Board member of both the Melbourne Hospital and the Eye and Ear Hospital, the Government representative on the Heatherton Sanatorium Management Committee, Justice of Peace, President of the Baptist Union of Victoria on two occasions, Vice president of World Baptist Alliance Foundation and a board member of the Baptist Church, Armadale, until his death, Vice president of the Old Colonists Association which managed homes for elderly citizens, and a long time participant at the Armadale Bowling Club, where he was president for 4 years.

James Ballantyne also contributed to many organisations outside his plastering business. He was a Councillor and President of the Shire of Caulfield, a Foundation and board member of the Baptist Church Armadale, a Director of the Victorian Permanent Building Society, Foundation director of Temperance & General Life Society, until his death a member and Trustee of the Independent Order of Rechabites and the Chairman of Directors of the Melbourne Builders Lime and Cement Company. James and his wife Agnes were also keen agitators for the Women's Vote.

The material for these family history notes is based on the research on the history of the Ballantyne and Stephens families I compiled as a Covid lockdown project. A copy has been lodged with the Stonnington History Centre. I drew on an oral history my mother recorded, a yearbook kept by WG Stephens and EL Ballantyne, material from my grandmother, the wills of various family members, and the History of the Ballantynes written by Keith Ballantyne, a grandson of James Ballantyne.

Andrew Lee 2022

Marriage of Ruby Doherty to Roy Dowsing 1940

Ruby Doherty's parents were Elsie and John Henry ('Jack') Doherty. Ruby had two sisters, Edna and Shirley. It is known that Roy's father was Francis Dowsing and that he had two brothers, Alfred and Allan. Before her marriage, Ruby was a well-known exhibition ballroom dancer at Leggett's ballroom in Greville Street, Prahran. Her husband Roy had sporting interests, playing for Melbourne Football Club during the war years. He was Assistant Secretary of the MFC during the 1950s. Roy also played cricket in Prahran, and was awarded many trophies in the 1930s by the Prahran Methodist Cricket Club. Its home ground was Fawkner Park. Roy's father, Francis, was at one time the Captain Coach of the Prahran Football Club.

At the time of their marriage, in 1940, both families lived in Prahran, Roy's family in Alfred Street and Ruby's family in St John Street. Ruby and Roy had two children, Ian and Robert.

Marriage of Ruby Doherty to Roy Dowsing 1940
(Photographer: Irvine McCartney, South Yarra)
Stonnington History Centre PH12367



Baptist Church, Kooyong Road, Armadale c1910
Stonnington History Centre MP52



Do you recognise these streets?

The Victoria Police Museum has sent the Society copies of glass slide images from the 1940s. They are keen to identify the streets in the photographs.

A policeman can be seen with his hat he has placed on the roadway. This was done in the 30s and 40s to indicate the exact location of a collision. It's understood that the two photos relate to the same incident.

Email: policemuseum-mgr@police.vic.gov.au www.policemuseum.vic.gov.au



50-52 Albion Street South Yarra

50-52 Albion Street, erected c1871, stands on the corner of Albion and Tyrone streets, with garden setbacks to the front and east side. In 1868 the land was owned by carpenter Edwin Samuel Giles Litchfield, who owned several properties in the area. Litchfield was rated for a 4-roomed timber house (in progress) in 1871, which appears to refer to the beginnings of 50-52 Albion Street. By 1873, Litchfield was rated £46 each for no. 30 and no. 32 Albion Street, for brick and timber houses of 7 rooms each. In 1874, one of the dwellings was referred to as *Clifton* in *The Age* when a furniture sale was held by William Dickson of 32 Albion Street. In 1879, William Watkins was rated £40 each for two 7-roomed brick and timber houses at 30 and 32 Albion Street. The numbering in Albion Street changed in 1891 from 30 and 32 to 50 and 52. At the time, the houses were owned by Emma Watkins. The two houses were being used as a single dwelling when they were offered for sale in November 1975. At some period in the 20th Century, the property was a boarding house.



50-52 Albion Street South Yarra 2017
Stonnington History Centre SH70282

Clifton is a two-storey building with sheer walls to the east and west sides and a single-storey wing to the rear (originally the conjoined service wings of the two dwellings). The front façade is distinguished by the enclosed porch at its centre, which once served as the entrance to both dwellings. The semi-detached origins of the house are indicated by the separate hip roofs to the two-storey section, though this is entirely hidden from view by a simple parapet with a moulded cornice, wrapping around the front and side elevations.

Mrs Selina Annear

Mrs Selina Annear lived at 12 Albion Street, South Yarra. The semi-detached weatherboard house was owned by Henry Davis and later renumbered 22 Albion Street. Mrs Annear and her younger children John, Will and Lily, lived there during 1879 - 1881, with her daughter Ursula, a teacher in Ballarat, staying with her during school holidays. Ursula married Hugh Connell McKenzie at this house on 27 March 1879. Lily married William Wishart, Mayor of Kew 1906-07. One daughter, Marg Boulter, lived close by in Affleck Street. In 1881 Mrs Annear moved across the road to 3 Albion Road.

Mrs Selina Annear [undated] Stonnington History Centre PH62036



165 Stanhope Street Malvern

The house, on the corner of Tooronga Road and Stanhope Street, was built in the 1920s for my grandfather, Cyril Trezise, who operated a car hire business on the corner of High Street and Cawkwell Street. The premises later became an auto repair business – I think it was called Coins. Cyril died in 1932 when my father was just 12. My grandmother, Lillian, moved with her two boys to live with family in Caulfield but kept the house in Tooronga Road which was rented out.

My parents married during World War II and, for a time, lived with the extended family in Caulfield. I was born in 1947 and my brother in 1949, and my grandmother decided that we would all move back into the Tooronga Road house. When we moved in, there was a Cyprus tree hedge around the front and side of the house. It had to go and one of my father's first jobs was to cut down and uproot the hedge, replacing it with the picket fence shown in the photograph. My sister, Beverley, was born in 1952.



165 Tooronga Road Malvern c1950

I grew up in this house and went to Park Street and Spring Road schools. I always walked to school and, from about Grade 4 on, would often walk home for lunch. After school and at weekends, my best friend and I would walk for hours with our dogs down the streets and back lanes of the neighbourhood, exploring local parks as far afield as Hedgeley Dean and Central Park and wandering along Gardiners Creek. Dad was a keen gardener and was very proud of his azaleas, which put on a beautiful show in the front garden every spring.

After we all left home, my parents, continued living in the house. My mother, Sheila, died in 2012 aged 89 but Dad refused to consider moving into aged care. He was determined to stay there until the end. He passed away in Cabrini Hospital in 2015 aged 94. The house had been in the family since the beginning and the first time in its history that it came up for sale was after Dad died. Sadly, it was subsequently knocked down and replaced by three townhouses. So many memories. The photo was taken around 1950. It's hard to make out the figures in the picture, but I think it's my father, Jack Trezise, sitting on the front steps with my brother Ian in the pram and me on top of the brick pillar to the left!

Jan O'Connell (Trezise) 2023

Taking Local History to the Community

Thank you Duncan for enthusiastically planning and leading our two recent walks around Power's Paddock and Mrs Hill's Allotment, both in Toorak. The Malvern Vale Hotel proved to be a relaxing setting for our Members' pre-Christmas Dinner in early December. A large group of Malvern Historical Society members joined the Friends of the Urban Forest community group and members of Stonnington Council's Parks and Gardens and explored the Urban Forest, Waverley Road, Malvern East. Thank you Jonathan for organising this event. Later Mr Norm Darwin, who had earlier been a resident of Bruce Street Malvern East, shared his memories with Jonathan.

Norm remembers moving with his parents into 41 Bruce Street in 1952. At the time he was only a child. The site of the old Outer Circle Railway line and the area now known as the Urban Forest, Malvern East, were wasteland at the time. He remembers finding railway ballast and metal items linked to the railway. At the time local Scout troops conducted 'night manoeuvres' on the railway land. Norm now lives in country Victoria.

Society members enjoyed Greg Hill's talk on 'Victoria's Earliest Potteries' and the stories relating to the early clay pits in Malvern, Toorak and Prahran. Thank you to Christine Penpraze for donating copies of *Malvern sketchbook*. Drawings by Bruce Coldham. Text by Stan Marks 1980, and *Private and public memory : a history of the City of Malvern* Lynne Strahan 1989.



Images: Robin Ahin and Jane Nigro 2023.

MHS MEMBERSHIP 2024

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 _____

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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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