

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

October 2024 - Newsletter No. 105

## 20 November Dr Fiona Gatt 'The forgotten class? Shopkeepers of nineteenth-century Melbourne'

Wednesday 20 November 7.30 pm

Venue: Malvern Town Hall, 1251 High Street Malvern - Upper Foyer. Lift available.

Join Members of the Malvern Historical Society for our November meeting. Guest speaker, Dr Fiona Gatt, will speak on 'The forgotten class? Shopkeepers of nineteenth-century Melbourne'.

Shopkeepers played a vital role in the functioning of nineteenth-century Melbourne society. In this presentation, Fiona Gatt investigates and compares the shopkeepers who operated in three distinct, representative suburbs of nineteenth-century Melbourne: genteel Malvern, inner urban North Melbourne and industrial Footscray.

Dr Fiona Gatt is a professional historian who works on commissioned histories for clients such as the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. She teaches history at La Trobe and Deakin universities and is currently working as Postdoctoral Research Associate in Property History at the University of Sydney.

Bookings are essential so that sufficient seating is provided. All welcome!

RSVP: Jonathan Mobile: 0420 986 884 Email: malvernhistorical@yahoo.com



Dr Fiona Gatt (2024)

## Family History Club

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

[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/Family-History-Club](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/Family-History-Club)

Wednesday 6 November 2 pm - 3.30 pm

Wednesday 4 December 2 pm - 3.30 pm

Cost: Free event, no bookings required.

Contact: Stonnington History Centre 03 8290 1360

Location: Stonnington History Centre, 1257 High Street, Malvern 3144



Joy Duckett c1924  
Stonnington History Centre  
PH22907

### Malvern Historical Society - Executive Committee 2024

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

Newsletter Editor: Jane Nigro  
Design/Printing: MBE Malvern



Lindsay Bros. provision merchants, Dandenong Road  
Malvern c1900 Stonnington History Centre MP6547

## News from the Society

Our President, Lorraine, who is continuing to recuperate with family in Morwell, remains actively involved in our Committee discussions. The Society is delighted to welcome Margaret Black to the Committee. Margaret is already showing her range of skills and her interest in Stonnington's history. Thanks Margaret for organising our upcoming Malvern Theatre night, with dinner at the Racecourse Hotel. The Committee would like to also thank MHS member Bernadette Wood who organises the Mailchimp mail out for each of our events. The Society was well represented at the visit to Victoria's Parliament House to celebrate History Month as the guest of David Davis MP, Member for Southern Metropolitan Region. Our members enjoyed morning tea, a tour of Parliament House and the chance to catch up with members of other history groups.

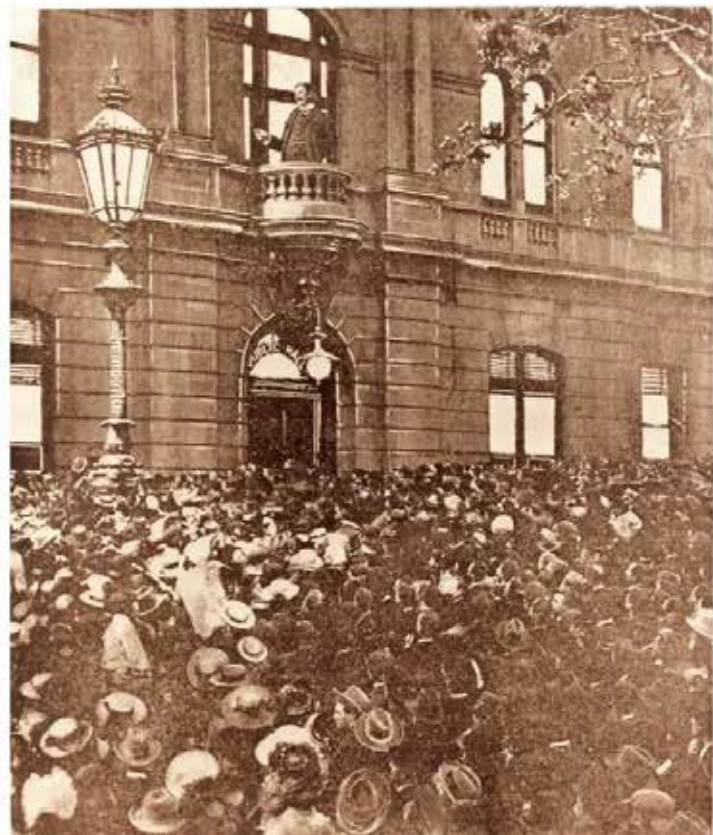
There are now 7289 Facebook followers who are enjoying all the images Nikki Cooper is posting each week. Thanks Nikki! Recent popular posts have related to the Fun Factory, corner Toorak Road and Chapel Street, South Yarra, and the Myer family home 'Cranlana' in Clendon Road Toorak.

The Society has recently delivered copies of the 18 brochures in the Explore Stonnington series, and the two iSpy brochures (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/publications/>) to the PMI Victorian History Library, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran. They are to be distributed at PMI events.

## Local Council elections 1903

'Mr G Fairbairn, the successful candidate, returning thanks at Malvern Town Hall' *The Australasian* 17 October 1903

George Fairbairn, the Reform League candidate, won the City of Malvern Toorak seat at the Council elections.



Election result announcement 1903  
Stonnington History Centre MP7608

## RHSV supporting local history in Stonnington!

A big thank you to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), and their volunteer Glenda Beckley, for including information about the Malvern Historical Society in their recent newsletter!

**MALVERN:** We organise walks, talks, children's puzzles, pamphlets, and newsletters. We have published award-winning books and brochures, produced photos for displays, designed plaques, and provided guest speakers and guides for schools and community groups. Our newsletter, *Local History News - Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* is produced bi-monthly and the Society is active on social media. Malvern Historical Society welcomes volunteers and invites them to be part of the activities. The Society maintains strong links with the Stonnington History Centre and the community.

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



*RHSV History News* Issue 374 October 2024  
<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/publications/history-news/>



Parliament House visit 2024  
(Image: Robin Ahin)



MHS Members' Dinner at the Malvern Vale Hotel 2024  
(Image: Marilyn Rudd)

## Alec Leslie Brice

In early July, the Stonnington History Centre was sent this charming photograph in a letter from Townsville. It had been found in the pages of a second-hand book, picked up in a Townsville op shop. The photo had been taken in the Muntz Studio in Malvern so, luckily, the finder thought the Stonnington History Centre would be a suitable home for this lovely image.

Fortunately, there were a few clues on the back.

Our first port of call in any research is the Stonnington History Catalogue. This quickly showed that we held two Malvern building plans drawn by architect Alec L. Brice in 1923 and 1925 in Beamsley Street and Park Street respectively. This Alec Brice could not have been the little boy in this photograph but a search of Ancestry.com revealed that the architect Alec Leslie Brice and his wife Stella had a son, also named Alec Leslie Brice, born in Caulfield in 1920. Success!

Searches of the Electoral Rolls, Victorian Rate Books, Post Office Directories, the Public Records Office of Victoria and the wonderful TROVE newspaper database revealed the rest of the story; and long connections with Stonnington.

When this photograph was taken in 1925, the Brice family were living in a house named 'Yutha' at 176 (later numbered 104) Bambra Road, Caulfield. The family consisted of Alec (1890-1946) and Stella Brice (1886-1962) with their children William "Ward", Marjorie and the young Alec Leslie (1920-1989). Alec Snr was a relatively well-known and successful architect and builder from Adelaide. The family had moved to Melbourne around 1919, and initially, the family prospered – Alec Snr had offices in Collins Street, regularly advertising his business in the newspapers.

He seems to have designed and built many houses in the Stonnington area.

However, by 1931 the couple seemed to have separated and Alec Snr was listed as having "no occupation" in the Electoral Rolls. Perhaps the Depression had destroyed his architectural business and like many others at the time, the stress for the family was too great. By 1935 Alec Snr was living in Inverloch, working as a commercial traveller and he was to stay there for the rest of his life. Stella initially stayed in Caulfield but soon moved to 1011 High Street, Armadale, where she retailed frocks – it's now the Rebecca Vallance shop. Son Alec and daughter Marjory lived with her, while her eldest, a drycleaner, lived at 322 Waverley Road, East Malvern. In the early 1940s, our young Alec moved to 21 Howson Street, Malvern; a house and street that was demolished in the 1980s to make way for Malvern Central.

Alec married Beryl Packham in 1942 and the couple were to spend the early years of their married life in the Howson Street house. They were to go on to have two boys, Neville and Norman.

Although I have not been able to find a photo of the grownup Alec, his 1942 WWII military records describe him as being of moderate height at nearly 5' 9", with blue eyes and brown hair and a fresh complexion. He was discharged from military service in January 1941 as he was in a 'reserved occupation'. What this 'reserved occupation' was is unknown but by the end of the war, Alec was described as an engineer and welder and was no longer working in sales.

Alec and Beryl had a major life change in 1957 when they moved from Melbourne to Rushworth and ran a shop until about 1964. The couple returned to Melbourne sometime before 1967 and lived with their accountant son Neville in Auburn and then Blackburn. By 1980, they had moved closer to their other son Norman, in Townsville, living in a typical comfortable Queenslander at 18 Third Street, Railway Estate. Alec died in 1989. At least some of his possessions ended up in a Townsville op shop.



21 Howson Street, Armadale. 1982  
Stonnington History Centre MP14967

## New Member

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The Malvern Historical Society would like to welcome our latest new member Ros.

## Malvern Council milk jugs

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Neil Lucas recently donated two small Malvern Council jugs. Neil's father, Dudley Lucas, was born in Malvern and joined the staff at Malvern Council as a junior boy in 1925. He was appointed Town Clerk for the City of Malvern in 1951, a position he held until his retirement in 1973. Dudley's album, covering the years 1951 to 1956, was donated to the Malvern Historical Society after he died in 1990 now in the Stonnington History Centre's collection. The album features photos, invitations, programs relating to Council activities, such as Mayoral Balls, official openings, receptions and celebrations that Dudley attended while the Town Clerk of the City of Malvern. Neil Lucas also worked for Malvern Council.



## Maryborough Railway Station - a Malvern link

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Maryborough, Victoria, certainly has a grand railway station. The current station was built at a time when there was a vision for a rail-connected Victoria. An original station dated from 1874 but, as part of the 'Octopus Act' of 1884, Parliamentarians began arguing the case for a grander station at Maryborough. A Queen Anne-style red brick building with stucco trimmings and Dutch-Anglo influences was erected in 1890-1, with 25 rooms, an ornate clock tower, Flemish gables, oak wall panels, a large portico, and the platform, the longest in country Victoria, covered by a spectacular veranda, with a hipped roof, part of which is glass. The veranda cast-iron columns act as down pipes for stormwater, which is stored in large underground tanks. The buildings were completed for £21,984. The tiled floors were done by Cawkwells of Malvern. The station is outstanding among Victorian railway stations, ranking second only to Flinders Street Station in size and architecture.

Mark Twain facetiously described Maryborough as "a station with a town attached".

Sources: Glenda James, Maryborough-Midlands Historical Society, Information Centre, Historic Railway Station, Maryborough

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/stories/a-station-with-a-town-attached>

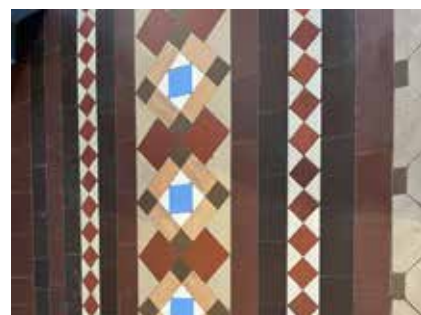
[http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nattrust\\_result\\_detail/67733](http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nattrust_result_detail/67733)



Maryborough Railway Station 2024 (Image: Jane Nigro)



Examples of  
Cawkwell's tiles.  
Maryborough Railway  
Station 2024  
(Image: Jane Nigro)



## Cawkwell's Tile Works, Malvern

In August 1857, Crown Portions 14 and 15, consisting of more than 14 acres of land at the corner of present-day High Street and Tooronga Road Malvern were purchased by Patrick Riley, William Moreton and Samuel George Isaccs. Eight months later, in April 1858, a subdivision of both allotments created Cawkwell Street, McArthur Street and Euston Street. Cawkwell Street, between High Street and Euston Street (formerly Barkly Street), was originally called Ararat Street.

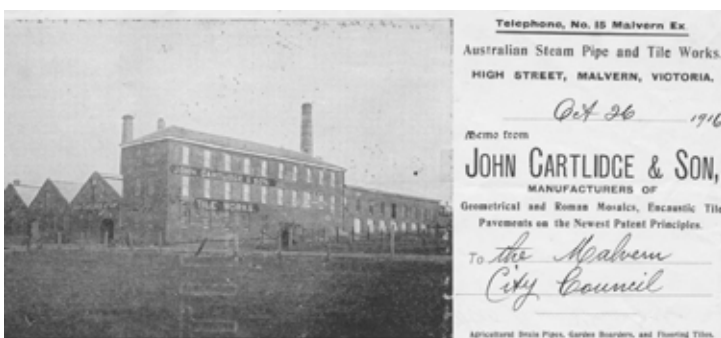
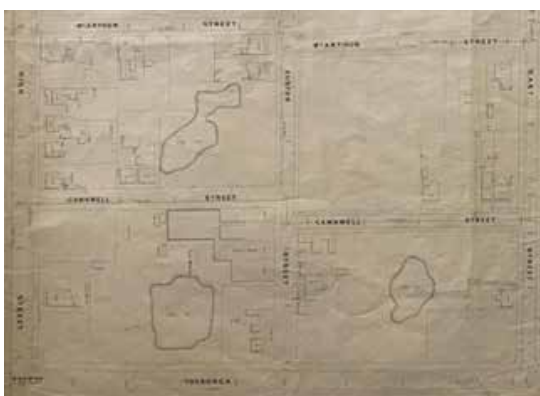
The subdivision created more than 90 small allotments, which were then sold to various purchasers. Between 1860 and 1886, many of the lots in Crown Portions 14 and 15 were sold to Henry Atkinson Cawkwell. In 1874, lots 22 and 23 on the west side of Ararat (Cawkwell) Street, were sold to Matthew Stephens. Stephens sold these allotments to Henry Cawkwell. Cawkwell had arrived in Victoria in 1853 and within twelve months started making agricultural garden pipes, and bricks. Within a few years, he had purchased large areas of land in the Gardiner Road District including part of Crown Portions 14 and 15, where the clay was excellent for tile making.

He established a large tile works, known as the Australian Tile and Terra Cotta Works and the Australian Mosaic Tile Works, at the corner of Nash's (Tooronga) Road and High Street, with himself as Managing Director. In 1870 Henry Cawkwell was elected as a member of the Gardiner Road Board and held the position of Councillor of the Shire of Malvern until 1875.

During the 1880s the business prospered and some of its craftsmanship was displayed at the 1880 International Exhibition in Melbourne, where 'H.A. Cawkwell of Malvern carried off a first award for encaustic tiles of excellent quality, being well made and durable'. The Victorian Railways Head Office building in Spencer Street features a fine example of nineteenth-century Cawkwell mosaic tiling in the former entrance. When this building was opened in 1893, marble and mosaic floors were very popular, but there were only two top-class local tiling suppliers, Walker's and Cawkwell's. Cawkwell's also supplied tiles for Parliament House, 'Valentines' (John Mark Davies' mansion in Malvern East), many Melbourne churches and the Maryborough Railway Station.

In 1882 two brick houses, each of 4 rooms, were built for Henry Cawkwell on lots 22 and 23 in Cawkwell Street. Esther Cartledge occupied one of the houses. Samuel Cartledge, a tilemaker, was listed as an occupier. Henry Cawkwell, the owner, was described as an encaustic tile-maker. It appears that Henry Cawkwell built a pair of houses for workers' accommodation. The houses were later numbered 1 and 3 Cawkwell Street.

In company with many other businesses, the Cawkwell empire collapsed during the economic slump of the 1890s, when virtually all building ceased. Henry Cawkwell died in 1895 and Ararat Street was re-named Cawkwell Street. Following Cawkwell's death, his properties were sold, many to Malvern's rate collector, Edward Yeatman and a number of allotments, between Tooronga Road and Cawkwell Street, to John Cartledge. The two brick cottages in Cawkwell Street were also sold. The MMBW plan of 1902 shows the tile works with three large clay pits, the substantial brick tile factory, an engine house and numerous other outbuildings and offices facing Cawkwell Street and Euston Street. The tile works lay idle until the business was taken over by a former employee and re-named John Cartledge & Son. However, Cartledge was unable to make a success of the business and the tile works were demolished in the 1920s. All that remains is the street alongside the original works named after the founder, featuring the two small brick cottages at 1 and 3 Cawkwell Street. The tile works were located across the road. After they were demolished single-storey detached houses were built.



Above left: MMBW Town of Malvern. Detailed Plan No. 1756, 1907.  
Stonnington History Centre MH9852

Above: Cawkwell's Tile Works [undated] Stonnington History Centre MP1450

Left: John Cartledge & Son 1916 Stonnington History Centre MH17036

Hand-drawn portrait of Henry Cawkwell 1880 Stonnington History Centre MP1664

## Thomas and Elizabeth Moran

In 1876 Thomas Edwin Moran commenced trading as a grocer in Queensbury Street, North Melbourne. By 1881 a branch shop had been opened in Fitzroy. The partnership between Moran and his cousin from New Zealand, Fred J. Cato, was immediately successful. The responsibility of directing the rapidly growing organization fell on F.J. Cato when Thomas Moran died in 1890, at the age of only 39 years. By 1898 there were 50 branch stores and 60 by 1906.

Thomas and Elizabeth Moran's house 'Carrington' was built in Kooyong Road, Armadale around three years before Thomas's death. 'Carrington' was designed by architect Alfred Dunn in 1887.

### 58 Kooyong Road Armadale

58 Kooyong Road is an important surviving two-storey Victorian mansion in this section of Kooyong Road, Armadale. The imposing two-storey style Italianate villa is of a relatively conventional design other than the pyramidal roof over the entry porch and upstairs bathroom. The building has a hipped slate roof, imposing stuccoed chimneys with elaborate mouldings and flue fins, bracketed eaves, cornices at eaves level as well as first-floor level and moulded arched window hood moulds. The building has a two-storey return cast iron verandah on the south-west side and the north-west corner is dominated by a wide projecting angled bay. A 1902 MMBW plan shows an additional outbuilding along with the existing shed, washhouse and outhouse. Also visible in the plan is a photo studio, trellis fernery, a stable building that extends across the rear boundary, and a coach house that is situated adjacent to the side street. The house still stands today on the corner of Inverness Avenue.

Elizabeth Moran, and her five children, Winifred, Leonard, Edith, Arthur and Frederick, continued to live in the house for many years. Mrs Moran kept cows at Kooyong Road and every year from 1896, the family and the cows went by ship to Portarlington, before travelling to their beach house 'Seacroft' in Point Lonsdale, where the family spent the summer holidays.

'Carrington' was sold after Elizabeth Moran's death in 1932. By 1935, H. M. Ramsay was listed as the owner of the house. Following a period of what was the likely use as a private residency, 'Carrington' became a guest house. From 1947 the property was known as the 'Kooyong Guest House', before being transformed for use as a private hospital between 1969 and 1974.



'Carrington' 58 Kooyong Road Armadale (undated)  
Stonnington History Centre MP14987

### 'Seacroft' - Statement of Significance. Queenscliff Heritage Study 2009

'Seacroft was the summer residence of a prominent Melbourne family and, in its scale and the relative extent of its decoration, reflects this. It is the largest remaining private residence to be erected, prior to 1900, at Point Lonsdale and has more in common with the style and size of buildings erected at Queenscliff. N.A. Dunn, in her history of Point Lonsdale, has described Seacroft as being 'unusually imposing'. She mentions an upper storey and a windmill which was used as a navigation point.'

Seacroft was the Moran family beach house for many years.



'Seacroft', 38 Cheshunt Street, Point Lonsdale  
<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au>

## Otto Ihle, 24 Valetta Street Malvern



Beth Schiller has contacted the Society asking if any of our newsletter readers know anything about Otto Ihle. Records on Trove show that Otto Ihle lived at 24 Valetta Street Malvern in the 1890s. He advertised his services in furniture making in *The Age* in 1893 and 1896. Beth would love to make contact with Mr Ihle's descendants or anyone who knows about the history of his business.

The maker's card was discovered inside the sideboard.

[beth@schillers.com.au](mailto:beth@schillers.com.au)



## Stonnington's local newspapers

The Stonnington History Centre has original editions (hard copy) of some old newspapers, while for others there are only microform copies (microfilm or microfiche). For conservation reasons, the microform should be used where possible.

The local newspapers are progressively being made available online via the National Library's digitised newspaper database, Trove. Note that the *Melbourne Argus* (1848-1956) and *The Age* (1854-1954) have been digitised and may also be useful in coverage of significant local events.

Detailed notes where available regarding the publishing history of the local newspapers can be found on the Stonnington History Centre catalogue. The Centre staff have indexed the *Prahran Telegraph* for the years 1866-1875, covering court reports, council reports, editorials, public notices, and other items of interest. Its court reports for 1880-1882 have been indexed in detail, while advertisements have been indexed for a single issue in March and September of each year from 1866 to 1930. This information can be found on the local history catalogue.

Use the link below to see a list of all local newspapers held in the collection, and a link to the Trove database if it has been digitised. Newspapers distributed to the Stonnington area west of Kooyong Road are indicated as covering Prahran, and those distributed to the east of Kooyong Road are indicated as covering Malvern. Most are also held by the State Library of Victoria.

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



*The Prahran Telegraph Saturday 16 January 1915*

## Mount Erica Hotel Prahran

The Mount Erica Hotel is situated at 420 High Street, Prahran, on the south east corner of the intersection of High Street and Williams Road. A hotel was first erected on this site in 1853, for proprietor Benjamin Chamberlain. It was advertised as being 'one of the most attractive houses out of Melbourne', and 'no expense has been spared' [*Argus*, 17/09/1853, p. 6].

By December 1876, however, the 8 roomed brick hotel was reported to be in a 'dilapidated state'. Landlord and publican Robert Gyton, assured the licensing magistrates that he 'had instructed' architect Joseph Crook 'to prepare plans and specifications for a new hotel' [*Telegraph*, 9/12/1876, p. 3]. At the time he claimed to have only recently taken over the hotel, but the rate books show he took over from the previous publican c1872.

Joseph Crook invited tenders for the demolition of the original hotel and the erection of a new one in March 1877 and for bricklayers and plasterers later in the year. Gyton opened the new larger brick hotel, later described as having 14 rooms, on Saturday 27 October 1877.



**Mt. Erica Hotel (undated)**  
Stonning History Centre PH62182

## 'Hobson's Bay from Prahran' Robert Stewart 1864

This image of a photoprint of a published sketch shows the sparsely settled land between Prahran and Hobson's Bay in 1864. Sailing ships are shown anchored in the bay. Source: *Illustrated Melbourne Post* 25 October 1864 SLV. Pic ref: 923402



**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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

**MHS website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern) Tel: 0438 515 631 [malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)**

**Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)**

**P.O. Box 184, Malvern Vic 3144 Telephone: 0438 515 631 [malvernhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernhistorical@yahoo.com)**

**[www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://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](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au)**

**Tel: 8290 1360 [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)**

**Prahran Mechanics Institute Tel: 9510 3393 [www.pmi.net.au](http://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/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)

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