Stonnington History Centre
Northbrook, 1257 High Street
Malvern VIC 3144

www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

Key dates in Stonnington's history

1835	• Settlement of Melbourne began
1836	• Gardiner, Hawdon and Hepburn took up a pastoral run, Gardiners Creek Station
1837	• The first survey of Melbourne established the eastern boundary of Melbourne as Punt Road, surveyed an Aboriginal reserve, and established parishes, naming Prahran • George Langhorne established an Aboriginal Mission – boundaries Punt Road, Yarra River, High Street and Williams Road • John Gardiner built a house just north of the junction of the Yarra River and Kooyong Koot Creek (later known as Gardiners Creek)
1838	• First punt over the Yarra established at Swanston Street
1839	• Christmas eve flood destroyed brickyard settlement south of the Yarra River
1840	• First Crown land sales in the district: 22 lots between Yarra River/Gardiners Creek and Toorak Road • Solicitor Peter Ferrie purchased Crown Portion 21, 60 acres later known as Glenferrie, bounded by Toorak, Avenel and Glenferrie Roads and Gardiners Creek • James McAlpine born, thought to be the first white child born in the Gardiner district
1845	• First wooden bridge over the Yarra at Swanston Street (Balbirnie's Bridge)
1846	• Victoria Tannery established on the river, near Yarra Street
1847	• Construction of *Como House* begun
1848	• *Avoca* built, *Toorak House* begun
1849	• Crown land sales of land between Toorak and Commercial/Malvern Roads • Yarra floods
1850	• Crown land sales in Prahran and Windsor (Commercial/Malvern Road to Dandenong Road) • First stone bridge built over the Yarra at Swanston Street • Brickmakers established near Chapel Street
1851	• Independent Chapel built in Chapel Street (demolished c. 1883) • Separation of Victoria from New South Wales • Victorian gold rush • Hawksburn House built in South Yarra on 52 acres for James Cassell
1853	• Madame Latour's school opened in Prahran near corner of Chapel and High Streets • First purpose-built hotel in Prahran, the South Yarra Inn, opened on the corner of Punt and Toorak Roads. The current building on this site dates from 1892 • First Church of England service in Prahran held in a rented cottage in Chapel Street • Mt Erica Hotel opened in a bush setting, corner of Williams Road and High Street (rebuilt 1877). An adjacent vacant paddock was used for horse racing until 1865
1854	• Crown land sales in Gardiner Township

	- Prahran declared a Road District and boundaries defined - First school commenced in Gardiner District – a four-roomed cottage in Malvern Road, not far from Elizabeth Street - Church of England School House opened in Chapel Street, serving also as a church *Toorak House* became the Governor's residence; Toorak began to replace Fitzroy as the most fashionable district - In Gardiner, the Malvern Hill Hotel opened on the corner of Glenferrie and Malvern Road, the oldest hotel in Malvern, and the first recorded use locally of the name - Notley's Hotel opened in Toorak Village - Central Board of Health established - Prahran Mechanics' Institute established in Chapel Street, near Greville Street
1855	- Municipality of Prahran declared - First use of the name Malvern to refer to the district of Gardiner - South Yarra Waterworks established a stand pipe at the corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road
1856	- First Prahran council elected; Council met in the Mechanics' Institute - First meeting of the Gardiner District Road Board at Wattle Tree Hotel. The boundaries of this first District later became the boundaries of Malvern municipality - First road works started by the Gardiner Road Board – the construction of Malvern Hill Road (later called Hopetoun Road) - New Prahran Court House opened - Prahran volunteer fire brigade formed - Yan Yean reservoir built
1857	- First Church Street bridge opened - Government grant obtained for the construction of a school in Glenferrie Road for the Anglican Church *Prahran and St Kilda Advertiser* published – first known local newspaper
1858	- First Yan Yean water supplied to a stand pipe at corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road - Holy Trinity Church built at the corner of Dandenong and Warrigal Roads, the first purpose-built church in the former City of Malvern (still standing, known as Liddiard Hall) - Fire brigade building in Greville Street and wooden fire tower built. - Victoria Brewery opened in Chapel Street, later redeveloped as a Jam Factory *St Kilda Chronicle* began publication
1859	- First railway connecting Chapel Street (Windsor) from St Kilda to Brighton - Independent Church built in Malvern Road – now Chapel-off-Chapel. It replaced the much smaller church in Chapel Street - South Yarra and Prahran Rifle Corps formed
1860	- Construction of Prahran Town Hall commenced - South Yarra railway line opened, South Yarra and Prahran stations opened. *Prahran Telegraph* thought to have commenced publication (earliest extant copies date from 1866) - First school for deaf people opened in Peel Street, Windsor; founded by Frederick Rose, a builder - First general store in Glenferrie Road opened on the south west corner of

	Wattletree Road
	• Henry Cawkwell established a large tile and terracotta works on High Street (corner Cawkwell Street). Demolished in the 1920s
1861	• Prahran Town Hall completed • Free library set up in Prahran Town Hall • Gas street lighting introduced in Prahran • Yarra in flood • Mavern Hill Water-Cure Establishment opened
1862	• St Kilda-Windsor railway closed • Victoria's first bowling green set up at the Gardiner Hotel, corner Dandenong and Glenferrie Roads
1864	• First toll house erected on Scotchman's Creek Road (later known as Waverley Road) by the Gardiner District Road Board
1865	• Prahran Racing Club's first race meeting at Fawkner Park • Prahran Bowling Club established, based in Izett Street • Prahran chapter of the Independent Order of Rechabites established: Perseverance Tent No. 34
1867	• Mandeville Hall built (now Loretto College)
1868	• Prahran (open air) market opened in Grattan Street • Alfred Hospital opened
1869	• Prahran Court House (cnr Chapel and Greville Streets) pulled down and materials used for new Court House behind Town Hall • First water pipe supplied water to a part of Gardiner District from the Yan Yean Reservoir, a five inch pipe along Toorak Road from Kooyong to Glenferrie Road
1870	• Prahran declared a Town
1871	• Gardiner Road Board became the Gardiner Shire Council • Prahran Council took over the Prahran Fire Brigade • First Rechabite hall in Prahran built in Chapel Street, near south corner of Grey Street (Perseverance Tent No. 34)
1872	• Street watering introduced to Toorak Road, High and Chapel Streets • First telegram received in Prahran Post Office • Open drain built to drain the South Yarra swamp • Twickenham Ferry started, running from Survey Paddock Richmond to Grange Road Toorak. Replaced by the MacRobertson Bridge in 1934 • Education Act passed for compulsory, secular and free education
1874	• Presentation Sisters established a parish primary school and girls secondary school in Dandenong Road, St Kilda
1875	• Spring Road State School opened in a new two-roomed brick building – Malvern's oldest surviving school • Presentation Sisters moved to *Turret Lodge* on Dandenong Road, Windsor • Armadale House built for James Munro (since 1977, King David School) • Governor leaves *Como* and moves to Government House in the Domain
1876	• Victoria Brewery buildings bought by Henry Jones for Australasian Jam Company (now the Jam Factory in Chapel Street)
1877	• Windsor State School opened in Hornby Street • South Yarra and Toorak attempted to secede from Prahran

1878	• Gardiner renamed Malvern • South Yarra-Windsor railway sold to the government • Prahran Town Hall extensions along Greville Street for post office and police station on ground floor and library on first floor • St Matthew's Church of England opens in High Street Prahran • Hawksburn State School opened
1879	• Prahran becomes a City • Toorak, Armadale and Malvern railway stations open on the new Oakleigh line. • *Prahran Chronicle* begins publication
1881	• Prahran Market moved from Grattan Gardens to the present site • First public lighting by gas in Malvern: 12 gas lamps costing £8 per year • First planting of street trees in Malvern
1883	• Salvation Army commenced operations in Victoria Street, Prahran (the first purpose-built Salvation Army building in Australia • Convent of the Good Shepherd (convent and reformatory school) built in Dandenong Road, next door to Chadstone cottage • Try Boys Society established by William Forster in his house in South Yarra
1884	• Armadale State School opened • First asphalt footpath laid in Malvern
1885	• Hon Alfred Deakin lays the foundation stone of the Malvern Town Hall, 14 years after the municipality was declared • Elizabeth Fry Retreat opened in South Yarra, founded by the Swinborn family. It ran until 1977 • Victoria Gardens, Toorak Park and Grattan Gardens officially opened on the same day
1886	• Official opening of the Malvern Town Hall • Land adjacent to Spring Road School declared a recreation reserve (now Malvern Gardens)
1887	• Try Society begins operating from the Cromwell Crescent site (closed 1977)
1888	• Land boom in Melbourne • The Town Hall Estate (diagonally opposite the Malvern Town Hall) was sold by auctioneers Munro and Baillieu • New Court House and Police Station opened cnr Macquarie and Greville Streets • Prahran Town Hall renovated to use the old Court House as Council Chambers • Prahran divided into four wards • Prahran State School in High Street opened • Prahran Bowling Club reformed on Council land in Grattan Gardens • Cable tram along Chapel Street opened • Malvern Gardens laid out by Thomas Pockett • Construction of Methodist Church in Spring Road • St Joseph's Church opened in South Yarra
1889	• Land boom continued • Cable tram in Toorak Road from Chapel Street to Irving Road opened • Hawksburn railway station opened • Fire tower built in Macquarie Street (decommissoned c. 1900) • Foundation stone laid for St Joseph's Catholic Church in Stanhope Street, Malvern • *Northbrook* built for Donald Munro, auctioneer and Malvern Councillor (1891-

	1903)
	• Rechabite Hall built in Little Chapel Street
1890	• Electric lighting introduced in Prahran • *Stonington* mansion in Glenferrie Road built for John Wagner, one of the owners of Cobb & Co. Coaches • Railway line extended from Burnley to Glen Iris • Malvern Gardens officially opened • Additions to the Malvern Town Hall included an extended Glenferrie Road façade, and a second tower to be used as a fire look-out for the station at the rear of the town hall • Toorak State School opened • Outer Circle Railway Line from Oakleigh to Camberwell opened
1891	• Floods after one week of rain in July • Fire Brigades Act established a professional (ie: non-volunteer) fire brigade • Melbourne Golf Club was established in East Malvern with an 18-hole course. (included Hedgeley Dene watercourse. Clubhouse in Turner Street; closed 1907) • Prahran Market building in Commercial Road opened
1892	• Windsor fire station built • Valentines mansion built for John Davies, MLC. Used as a school since 1923, now owned by Caulfield Grammar
1894	• Braille Library founded in former South Yarra Methodist Chapel (cnr Commercial Road and Margaret Street)
1896	• Burnley Ferry commenced operation, crossing the Yarra River between Williams Road, South Yarra, and Burnley Street, Richmond. It ran until 1944. • Herbert Thomson of High Street Armadale manufactured the first Australian steam powered motor car
1898	• Salvation Army leased *Belgrave* mansion on Dandenong Road for use as a Girls' Industrial Home (relocated to Camberwell in 1912)
1899	• Floods and snow in August • St Anthony's Primary School (for the children of the Parish) opened at the Convent of the Good Shepherd (it closed in 1979)
1900	• Macquarie Street fire tower building decommissioned • Old Age pension introduced in Victoria • Demonstration at Malvern Town Hall to support women's suffrage
1901	• Sir George Sydenham Clark became the first Victorian Governor to take up residence at *Stonington* • Malvern became a Borough in February and a Town in April
1903	• Yarra floods • First Malvern Star bicycle made by Thomas Finnigan at 185 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (in 2013, occupied by Readings Books)
1905	• Melbourne High School – the first state secondary school – established in Melbourne cbd (later moved to South Yarra) • Steam powered bus service ran for seven months (from December) between Prahran railway station and Malvern town hall. Mechanical unreliability prompted a return to horse drawn vehicles
1906	• Prahran Pioneers commemorate 50 years of local government • Princes Gardens, Brookville and Rockley Gardens sites purchased by Prahran Council

1907	• State Parliament passed the Prahran and Malvern Trust Constitution Bill, allowing tramway construction • Land acquired by Malvern Council for Central Park • Foundation stone laid for municipal destructor at Prahran Council's Surrey Road Depot • Prahran Council takes over control of Prahran Market • Yarra floods
1908	• 'Safe' milk distributed to selected infants by the Lady Talbot Milk Institute, set up to supply safe, pasteurised milk to mothers unable to breast feed their babies. Prahran Council allocated £100 to this service in 1909
1909	• Art Gallery opened in Prahran Town Hall • The Commonwealth takes over the old age pension
1910	• First electric tram in district: High Street from Tooronga Road to Charles Street Prahran opened, run by the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust • Prahran's first cinema, the Lyric Theatre, opened in Chapel Street • Windsor telephone exchange opened • Tooronga Estate (100 acres) purchased by the state government for the Tooronga Closer Settlement Scheme (subdivided 1911)
1911	• Malvern declared a City • Prahran & Malvern Tramways Employees Band formed (now Stonnington City Brass) • High Street tram route extended from Charles Street to Punt Road • Floods in February caused by increase in paving, needing an enlarged main drain in Prahran
1912	• Land acquired by Malvern Council for Hedgeley Dene Gardens
1913	• New creche built in Princes Street, Prahran • Yarra floods • Prahran Technical School opened • Love & Lewis built a new department store in Chapel Street.
1914	• High Street tram route extended to Malvern Road, Glen Iris • Prahran Free Lending Library opened • New department store built for Charles Read, corner Chapel Street and Commercial Road (PH9192 ; PH12160) • Colosseum department store in Chapel Street and Prahran City Hall destroyed by fire • World War I commenced; German street names changed in Prahran
1915	• Malvern Road tram route opened, St Kilda Road to Burke Road • Prahran Mechanics' Institute moved into its new building at 140 High Street • Main Drain in Prahran completed • Park Street Infant School opened, part of Malvern Central School in Spring Road • Gardiner State School opened (closed 1992)
1916	• Floods affected the Yarra boatsheds • Gardiner State School redefined as a Central School (classes to year 8)
1917	• Yarra floods • First Victorian infant welfare centre established by Dr Isabella Younger Ross in Richmond
1918	• Prahran Children's Library opened

	• Braille Library and Hall opened in Commercial Road, Prahran
1919	• Influenza epidemic; Armadale State School used as hospital
	• 16 houses for war widows built by volunteers at Victory Square, Armadale (demolished in the early 1970s)
	• *Prahran Chronicle* ceased publication after 40 years
1920	• RSL Hall built in High Street, Prahran
	• Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust (running 90 trams on 35 route miles) taken over by the Tramways Board
	• Prahran Council and Malvern Council both introduced a Baby Health Service on makeshift premises
	• Leggett's Ballroom opened in Greville Street (closed 1976)
	• 17 acres of land purchased by the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria, now known as the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, once home to the Australian Open
1921	• 35 acres of Como land bought by Prahran Council to form Como Park
1922	• Electrification of railway line through Malvern
	• First attempts at town planning in Prahran
1923	• Infant Welfare Centre opened in Malvern Road, Prahran
	• Children's playground opened in Gladstone Gardens
	• Princes Gardens extended
	• Yarra floods disrupted construction of new Church Street bridge
	• Prahran Market extended to the west
1924	• New Church Street Bridge opened
	• Electric trams from Toorak to Richmond via Chapel Street opened
	• East Malvern War Service Estate subdivided land into 78 allotments between Serrell Street and Belgrave Road
	• Mayor of Malvern opened a begonia show using wireless, the first transmission in Australia
	• Development by Malvern Council of Hedgeley Dene Gardens, formerly used as quarry and rubbish tip
	• Children's playground opened in Princes Gardens, including the wading pool
1926	• Cable tram routes on Toorak Road and Chapel Street closed
	• Prahran post office moved from town hall to corner Macquarie and Greville Streets
1927	• Electric trams along Chapel Street started
	• Malvern municipal swimming pool opened on the site of the present Harold Holt Swim Centre
	• New municipal wing added to Malvern Town Hall, including council chambers and mayoral rooms
1928	• Melbourne High School relocated to Forrest Hill, South Yarra
	• Malvern Baby Health Centre opened in Barkly Avenue
	• Railway line extended from East Malvern to Glen Waverley
1929	• Children's Library moved to old Post Office building, Chapel Street, then to Greville Street
	• Channel cut in the Yarra River to expedite flood drainage creating Como Island (now Herring Island)
1930	• *Prahran Telegraph* ceased publication after 70 years
1931	• *Stonnington* decommissioned as Government House, following the Governor General's relocation from the Domain to Canberra

	• Prahran's first and only milk pasteurisation plant installed at Cotswald Dairy • 720 unemployed men work on Alexandra Avenue and Como Park • 9 hole golf course laid out on south side of Gardiners Creek
1932	• Golf course extended; Sustenance workers construct new creek bed from Scotchmans Creek to Warrigal Road
1934	• Extreme Yarra floods; large area in vicinity of Gardiners Creek severely flooded and Toorak Road bridge swept away • MacRobertson Bridge completed and Twickenham Ferry closed • 13 hole golf course opened • Robert Menzies elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Kooyong, a position he held until his retirement as Prime Minister in 1966
1935	• East Malvern Golf course extended to 18 holes over 110 acres
1937	• Poliomyelitis outbreak • Women permitted to join the Prahran Bowling Club, 72 years after the Club's inception
1938	• Housing Commission of Victoria established • Black Bridge on the Outer Circle Line removed
1944	• Burnley Ferry ceased operation
1946	• Prahran Mission established in Chapel Street • Holmesglen Housing Factory established to make prefabricated concrete houses (closed 1980; now part of Holmesglen TAFE)
1951	• Armadale Library opened, 699 High Street
1955	• Centenary celebrations of the establishment of local government in Prahran
1956	• Centenary celebrations of the establishment of local government in Malvern
1957	• Construction of Cabrini Hospital to replace the old St Benedict's hospital • Toorak Teacher's College opened
1959	• Opening of Malvern Library in High Street • Malvern Elderly Citizens Welfare Association (MECWA) established • Armytage family sold Como House to the National Trust
1960	• Chadstone Shopping Centre opened (72 shops, department store and supermarket etc)
1961	• Toorak Library opened in Toorak Village
1962	• Armadale Library moved to 578 Orrong Road
1964	• Chadstone Library opened in Bowen Street • Prahran swimming pool opened
1967	• Horace Petty housing estate in South Yarra completed, comprising 614 flats • Raleigh/De Murska Street housing estate in Windsor completed, comprising 212 flats • South Yarra Library opened in old South Yarra Post Office • Christ College (a Catholic teachers' training college) opened at Kildara College
1968	• Christ College relocated to new buildings a the Convent of the Good Shepherd. Relocated to Fitzroy in 1999, by which time it was part of the Australian Catholic University • Union Street housing estate in Windsor completed, comprising 212 flats
1969	• Opening of Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Pool on original Municipal pool site in High Street, Malvern
1970	• South Eastern Freeway opened

1973	• Toorak/South Yarra Library opened in Toorak Road, replacing two separate branches • First issue of the *Malvern News Sheet*
1978	• New Court House built in Malvern Road; Greville Street court closed
1979	• Cr Ann Morrow elected as Malvern's first female mayor
1981	• Children's Library moved from Greville Street to main Prahran Library
1982	• Holmesglen TAFE established
1984	• Cr Mary Duffy elected as Prahran's first female mayor
1985	• Urban Forest opened – part of the former outer circle railway line • Convent of the Good Shepherd demolished for car park space at Chadstone Shopping Centre
1988	• Official opening of the final stage of Malvern Valley Golf Course • Substantial additions to Harold Holt Swimming Centre • Premier John Cain opened final section of South Eastern Arterial Road Link • Sun and Moon statues designed by Paul Juraszek installed in Malvern City Square
1989	• Opening of Malvern City Square
1990	• Dunlop Pavilion and Peverill Park officially opened
1991	• Olive Miller Nursing Home for Malvern Elderly Citizens' Welfare Association [MECWA] opened • Darling Park, Glen Iris Park, T. H. King Pavilion and Glen Iris Wetlands officially opened • The name of Chadstone changed to East Malvern • Chadstone High School closed
1992	• Cenotaph moved from Malvern Town Hall corner to Central Park • First performance on the Compton Pipe Organ in the Malvern Town Hall • Gardiner Primary School closed
1993	• Council purchased the Chadstone High School site • Kildara Convent and School closed
1994	• Malvern and Prahran Councils amalgamated to form the City of Stonnington. Government appointed three Commissioners to manage Stonnington municipality prior to a new council being elected

Stonnington History Centre, 2015