CITY OF STONNINGTON POST-WAR & MODERNIST HERITAGE STUDY 2025



THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY: POST-WAR ADDENDUM

Prepared for the City of Stonnington
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A: INTRODUCTION

A1 Project Background & Brief

Background

In 2006, the City of Stonnington adopted a Heritage Action Plan that facilitated a series of municipality-wide gap heritage studies. The first round of studies had a thematic basis, focusing on Churches and Halls (2011), Hotels (2011), Shops (2011), Stables and Dairies (2011), Flats (2013) and Heritage Places (2014), while the next round of studies focused on housing from three historical periods: Inter-war (2015), Victorian (2017) and Federation (2018). The next Heritage Action Strategy Plan, adopted in December 2018, was to encapsulate a new series of suburb-based reviews, which covered (2022), Toorak, Kooyong and Armadale (2023), Prahran and Windsor (2024) and South Yarra (2025). These studies identified a relatively small number of places from the post-war period (three in Malvern, twelve in Toorak, Kooyong and Armadale, and one in Prahran and Windsor). It was recommended, both in the *Malvern Heritage Review* and the panel report for the *Toorak, Kooyong & Armadale Heritage Review*, that completion of a dedicated municipality-wide post-war heritage study would be desirable and appropriate, forming the logical follow-up to earlier studies covering the Victorian, Edwardian and Inter-war periods.

Brief

The *City of Stonnington Post War & Modernist Heritage Study* was conceived as a multi-stage project, with three discrete components. Chief amongst these was a Thematic Environmental History (TEH) Addendum covering the post-war period. This would be developed from the *City of Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006) and a previous addendum, the *City of Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (2009), expanding upon existing thematic discussions and providing new thematic discussions as necessary.

A2 Study Team

The TEH Addendum was undertaken by Simon Reeves, director and principal of Built Heritage Pty Ltd.

A3 Acknowledgements

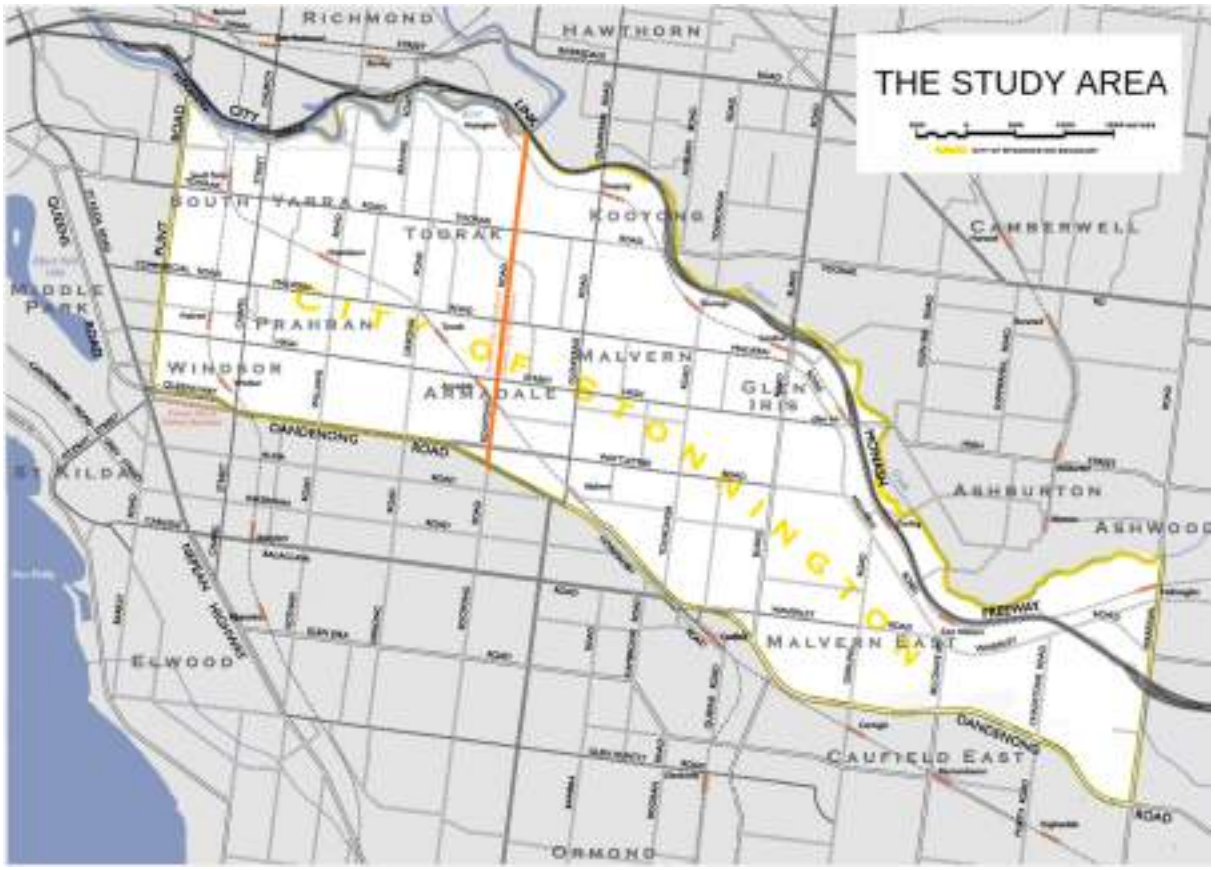
During research for the *TEH Post-War Addendum*, several individuals provided invaluable assistance.

We would like to acknowledge City of Stonnington staff members Thomas Appleford (Senior Strategic Planner, City Futures), Bijan Bologna (Strategic Planner, City Futures) and Simone Sharpe (Team Leader, Stonnington History Centre) for facilitating access to archival material, responding to various queries, and providing feedback on earlier drafts of the report.

Finalisation of Section 2.1 of the TEH Addendum, covering post-wart presence and impact of First Peoples, benefited substantially following feedback from Ned Valent (Aboriginal Liaison Office, City of Stonnington) and representatives of the traditional owners, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. We are also indebted to Gunditjmara elder, Uncle Jim Berg, for kindly allowing us to reproduce an image from his evocative series of photographs taken while boarding at Helen Baillie's Punt Road hostel in 1956.

We are also grateful to Ellen Coates (Collections Librarian & Volunteer Coordinator, PMI Victorian History Library, Prahran) for providing useful information, insight and unique pictorial material. We would also like to thank Tony Lee (Founder, Robin Boyd Foundation) for sharing his wide knowledge of post-war architecture in the study area, and the late Richard Peterson (heritage consultant *emeritus*), for reviewing and providing feedback on Section 2.6.3. We are also grateful to J Dale Fisher junior and David Clerehan for sharing information on their respective architect fathers, J Dale Fisher and Neil Clerehan, who each maintained a long and noted professional and personal links to the study area in the post-war era.

Special thanks to Michael Rogowski, co-founder of Soda Sisters in Chapel Street, Prahran, for allowing the reproduction of a rare vintage photograph of the venue, from his private collection.



Map of the study area, showing the present-day extent of the City of Stonnington (delineated in yellow), with the former boundary between the City of Prahran and the City of Malvern along Kooyong Road (delineated in orange). Note also tiny strip of the former City of Prahran, in south-west corner, now within the City of Port Phillip. Source: Context Pty Ltd, City of Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006); adapted for clarity, 2024.

B: METHODOLOGY

B1 Overview

The brief for this project required the preparation of a Thematic Environmental History (TEH) Addendum focusing on the municipality's development during the post-war era, which has been defined as the period spanning 1945 to 2000 inclusive.

The *TEH Post-War Addendum* would serve as a continuation, expansion and update of the original *City of Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), and to its previous addendum, the *City of Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (2009). The *TEH Post-War Addendum* was conceived to flow logically from its two predecessors, while still remaining legible as a stand-alone document. To underscore commonalities between these three iterations, the individual thematic discussions in the *TEH Post-War Addendum* opens, where applicable, with relevant material quoted from either or both of the two earlier versions, formatted as indented and italicised text. The source of quoted material is indicated by footnoting, as well as by citing the original thematic reference number in square brackets, which differs from the current numbering system used in the *TEH Post-War Addendum* (see section **B2** below).

By definition, a TEH is not intended as a chronological history of a municipality, nor to provide definitive or encyclopaedic coverage of the innumerable people, community groups, congregations, events and activities that may have had some impact therein. Rather, a TEH is intended to provide a snapshot of how various themes have shaped its physical environment over a period of time. As such, it is not necessary for a TEH to mention every church, school, community group or any other manifestation of any given theme. Where specific examples have been cited in the text, they are often intended only to illustrate a particular theme or a pattern of development. It should not be inferred that any example that has been cited is deemed to be any more important or significant than any other example that may have existed in parallel.

B2 Reformatting

The City of Stonnington's original TEH (2006) and its first update (March 2009) were both formatted in accordance with what was then the industry standard: the thematic framework codified by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC), which identified a series of themes with numerical designation. During 2009, the Heritage Council of Victoria developed a new counterpart, known as *Victoria's Framework of Historic Themes*, which was published in February 2010. Intended as a standard template for statewide adoption, the new *Victoria's Framework* comprises nine thematic categories that collectively encapsulate virtually every type of human activity that might impact on the development of the physical environment. These themes, listed below, adopted a new numerical code system that did not correlate to the earlier AHC framework

1.0 Shaping Victoria's environment

2.0 Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes

3.0 Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

4.0 Transforming and managing the land and natural resources

5.0 Building Vitoria's industries and workforce

6.0 Building towns, cities and the garden state

7.0 Governing Victorians

8.0 Building community life

9.0 Shaping cultural and creative life

Under *Victoria's Framework*, each of these nine themes is divided into more specific sub-themes, providing a second rung for more detailed analysis. For example, the sub-theme 8.*0 Building Community Life*, is divided into six sub-themes to cover spiritual life, education, health and welfare, community organisations, commemoration, and marking the phases of life. Each of these six sub-themes is numbered sequentially, following a full stop after the initial theme number (eg, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and so on).

The themes and sub-themes defined by *Victoria's Framework* provide a firm structure for any new TEH, but it is sometimes necessary to introduce a third rung (what might be referred to as "sub-sub-themes") to cover more specific manifestations of a given sub-theme. This was found to be especially relevant for the *TEH Post-War Addendum,* where the post-war era included certain thematic manifestations or building typologies (eg, development of drive-in infrastructure) that were virtually or entirely unknown before WW2. Thus, the *TEH Post-War Addendum* added a third rung of thematic categories that have been numbered sequentially, following a second full stop after the initial theme and sub-theme designation (ie 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.2.3, etc) In some cases, titles were informed by so-called "prompts" listed in *Victoria's Framework*, which are indicative only and are not considered as a closed set. In other cases, titles were based on more specific sub-themes mentioned in the City of Stonnington's two early TEHs. Where appropriate, the same title (or a version thereof) has been used here to maintain the connection, and corresponding discussions in the earlier TEHs have been cross-referenced by citing the previous designation in square brackets, eg **[2006: 10.6.1]**

B3 Additional research

Although the two earlier iterations of the City of Stonnington TEH contained some discussion of thematic manifestations in the post-war period (notably in sections about public housing and high-rise apartments), these were considered to require minor expansion and updating. Most discussions, such as retailing, sports and social interactions, had little coverage of the post-war era and a few discussions, such as banking and hotels, provided no coverage of the period at all. Thus, additional research was necessary.

To flesh out the *TEH Addendum (1945-2000)*, it was considered appropriate to rely principally on published secondary sources, and especially what might be termed the standard local history books pertaining to each of the two former municipalities: Lynne Strahan's *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989) and Sally Wilde's *The History of Prahran: 1925-1990* (1993). Each of these has been supplemented by a follow-up publication to continue the municipal history to the point of council amalgamation: Sally Wilde's *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000) and Alleyn Best's *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005). Other publications considered to fall under this umbrella of standard local history sources included booklets published between 1985 and 2005 by the (now-defunct) Prahran Historical & Arts Society, notably Betty Malone's *Discovering Prahran* series and others devoted, thematically, to local schools, churches hotels, and the development of retailing on Chapel Street. Reference has also been made to publications that provide broader statewide coverage of specific themes, notably *Vision & Realisation* (1973), the three-volume survey of the Department of Education, and more recent books and articles covering the history of specific communities (eg the Jewish, Greek and LGBTIQA+ communities) in Melbourne.

It is noted that, in making reference to published secondary sources such as these, factual content has been accepted at face value. The time and cost allowances for this project did not allow for the work of other writers or historians to be rigourously fact-checked in order to guarantee faultless accuracy.

Reliance on primary sources was kept to a minimum. From the outset, it was not deemed appropriate to rely on any primary sources that were not readily accessible to the interested reader, such as unpublished manuscript or typescript material (eg letters, reports and memoirs) available only in public or private collections. For the most part, primary sources have only been utilised where they can be found online: a broad range of historic photographs, maps and architectural drawings, runs of magazines and newspapers, government publications, annual reports and so on, which have been digitized and made available online by institutions such as the National Library of Australia, National Archives of Australia, State Library of Victoria, University of Melbourne Archives, RMIT Design Archives and the Stonnington History Centre.

B4 Examples and their Definition

In the *TEH Post-War Addendum*, each thematic discussion is followed by a brief list of examples: specific buildings, elements or places that are considered to be demonstrative of that theme. Examples have been selected simply to illustrate the geographic and chronological spread of a particular theme and it should not be misconstrued that any listed place is necessarily more important than any other, or that inclusion in the list means that a place must be considered for statutory heritage protection. To underscore this non-selective approach, the lists of examples are varied and include some places that are already included on the heritage overlay schedule (either as an individual heritage place or as part of a heritage precinct), as well as some places that have been demolished.

C: THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY POST-WAR ADDENDUM (1945-2000)

1.0 SHAPING VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Tracing climate and topographical change

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

1.2 Tracing the emergence of Victoria's plants and animals

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

1.3 Understanding scientifically diverse environments

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

1.4 Creation stories and defining country

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

1.5 Living with natural processes

1.5.1 Responding to floods

Long before WW2, flooding was a serious recurring issue in the north of the study area, fronting the Yarra River and Gardiners Creek. In the City of Prahran, where low-lying land extended as far south as Toorak Road, early drainage channels along public and private land and major roads were ultimately enclosed as underground drains. Development of flood-prone land was curtailed, as when inter-war subdivision of the *Winton Park Estate* in Malvern East specifically excluded swampy areas below Thornbury Crescent, which became part of the golf links.[1] This trend continued in the post-war era, as when St Kevin's College built on riverside land in Toorak in the late 1950s but earmarked the low-lying areas for sports fields.

After the disastrous Yarra River floods of 1934, which severely impacted Prahran (and other suburbs), the City Surveyor predicted that events of such magnitude could be expected once every fifty years.[2] Almost on schedule, the next major flood took place in early February 1989 when torrential rains wrought havoc across Melbourne but with a focus on the inner south-east: according to a contemporary statement made by the State Emergency Service, the worst hit suburbs were South Yarra, Toorak, Prahran, Armadale and Windsor (along with Caulfield, St Kilda and Elwood, south of the study area).[3]

As Betty Malone recalled, "a miniature creek formed and flowed down between the houses in this part of Toorak [Washington Street], duplicating the original which is now channelled underground".[4] Vindicating concerns about flooding that had been expressed when the building was originally built in 1972, "the library [on the south side of Toorak Road] was marooned for some hours, and underground car parks had cars floating in the water".[5] Road traffic and tram services were severely disrupted by the flooding, while the alignment of the Sandringham railway line resembled a canal, as far south as Windsor Station (*Fig 1.01*).

The Trak Cinema on Toorak Road, which occupied basement space on the north side of the street, often experienced water damage during heavy rainfall. As an eyewitness recalled in 2020: "whenever there was a severe downpour, and storm water drains and pipes filled to capacity, water would come tumbling from the ceiling and flood the auditorium (mostly after hours), leading to the carpets being replaced many times over the years".[6]

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1 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 271.
2 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 18.
3 Innes Willox, "Downpour causes chaos", *Age*, 8 February 1989, p 1.
4 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 17.
5 Sally Wilde, *A History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 216; Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Three* (2000), p 33
6 Ross Simpson, comment dated 14 June 2020. "Trak Cinema, 445 Toorak Road, Melbourne", *Cinema Treasures*. <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/38312>

In the City of Malvern, post-war flooding of Gardiners Creek defied easy patterns of prediction. As Lynne Strahan observed, "the tempestuous creek flooded not every decade, but every five years", noting three separate floods in 1970 alone, and more over the next eight years.[7] In the 1980s, the second stage of the South Eastern Freeway allowed for major flood mitigation measures when, as Strahan noted, "much of the creek between its junction with the Yarra and Tooronga Road was encased in a concrete strait-jacket as if it were nothing more than an irritating drain".[8]

As late as the 1980s, Jack Chia's Como Centre development would be conceived around the limitations of its flood-prone site north of Toorak Road, incorporating elements such as a canal, dock and decorative water basin that, as Sally Wilde pointed out "turned the main drain, and the fact that the site was liable to flood, into a feature rather than a drawback. The scheme began to be dubbed Chia's Little Venice".[9] Today, a diagonal pathway along the north side of the Como Centre, linking River Street and Chapel Street (and extending west to form the angled cul-de-sac of Forrest Hill) marks the alignment of the long-standing flood drainage easement. Parts of this area, including the north end of Claremont Street, land between Malcolm Street, River Street and Tivoli Road, across Toorak Road to Clara Street, Surrey Road and the aptly named Drain Street, are covered by an LSI (Land Subject to Inundation) overlay.

Examples:

Toorak/South Yarra Library, 338-344 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Yuncken Freeman, 1972-73) – *HO174*

Como Centre, 299 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1988)

1.5.2 Responding to fires after 1945

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the study area contained four fire stations that were designated according to a system of suburban zoning and numerical sequence established in 1891 by the newly-formed Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB). The City of Malvern, within Zone C, was served by facilities known as Malvern No 24 on High Street (1893) and East Malvern No 26 on Dandenong Road (1902), while the City of City of Prahran, within Zone D, had Prahran No 27 in Albert Street, Windsor (1892), South Yarra No 28 in Davis Street, South Yarra (1894) and East Prahran No 29 on the corner of Williams and Aberdeen Street, Prahran (1894).[10] In the early twentieth century, these Victorian-era stations began to be replaced, with a new Malvern No 24 built at 2 Willis Street, Armadale (1906) and a new South Yarra No 28 at 33 Garden Street (1916). East Malvern No 26 and East Prahran No 29 both closed in the later 1910s.

At the end of WW2, the study area was served by three fire stations: Malvern No 24 on Willis Street, South Yarra No 28 on Garden Street, and a newer facility on Albert Street, Windsor, designated as Windsor No 35, which was erected in 1941 to replace the old Prahran No 27. With the closure of South Yarra No 28 in 1959, the two other facilities in Malvern East (*Fig 1.02*) and Windsor continued to serve the study area for several decades. In 1988, Malvern No 24 was transferred from Willis Street to a former factory building at 90 Waverley Road, Malvern East, where it remained into the twenty-first century. Windsor No 35 was replaced in 1993-96 by a new building on the same site designed by architects Edmond & Corrigan, who were engaged by the MMFB to design a series of new facilities across the metropolitan area.

In 1965, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) established its administrative headquarters in a purpose-built office complex in Milton Parade, Malvern (see **5.8.1**)

Examples:

Malvern Fire Station No 24 (former), 90 Waverley Road, Malvern East (1988)

Windsor Fire Station No 35, 156-172 Albert Street, Windsor (1993-96)

7 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 8.
8 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 9.
9 Sally Wilde, *A History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 116.
10 Sally Wilde, *Life under the bells: A History of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne, 1891–1991* (1991), pp 109-110.

1.6 Appreciating and protecting Victoria's natural wonders

1.6.1 Developing nature reserves after 1945 **[2006: 10.6.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In the study area, public interest in the natural environment was stimulated by the threat to the Gardiners Creek Valley from the proposed freeway in the 1970s.*
>
> *When extension of the freeway along Gardiners Creek was proposed in the 1970s, community and council concern led to the establishment of the Gardiners Creek Valley Study which examined many impacts of the proposed freeway construction. The community was represented by the Gardiners Creek Valley Association which was formed in 1977 to preserve the valley and adjacent houses from an extension of the South Eastern Freeway… Although they were not able to stop the freeway, the association and other activists were able to influence the program of restoration of parts of the valley to reflect some idea of the original natural environment. The establishment of the Urban Forest was also a concession to the loss of open space which would have not been gained without community activism.*
>
> *When ultimately the road was built as an arterial road, the Country Roads Board paid the City of Malvern compensation for lost parkland and damage to its park facilities. Some of this money, that which was not required for repairing facilities, was spent on landscaping areas of parkland, and the Malvern Valley Plan was established to direct this work.*[11]
>
> *In 1979 the Outer Circle Railway land between Gardiners Creek and Dandenong Road was offered to Council for low rent by the MMBW and the Railway Construction Board, and in 1980 the Council took this opportunity to propose the development of the land as an 'urban forest'.*
>
> *The first concept plan was developed by the Forests Commission in association with Malvern City Council and funding from the Department of Sport & Recreation. Planting began in late 1983 with the involvement of Council, contract workers, local schools and community groups.* [12]

Re-establishment of nature reserves along Gardiners Creek unfolded gradually from the mid-1980s, as Lynne Strahan has succinctly summarised:

> *The Malvern Council… was drawn into the renovators' orbit, recommending in March 1986 that future creekside planting, using indigenous species and regenerative techniques, should aim to produce 'bushland', with consideration 'to incorporation of wetlands'. Carefully erased over a century, the swamps were to be revived. The second report of the Malvern Valley Plan (1986) envisaged 'a continuous area of aesthetically valuable creekside landscape from Great Valley Road to Scotchmans Creek, a stretch which also has the advantage of being continuously protected by cuttings or sound-mounding from the noise of the Arterial Road and the railway'.* [13]

The Glen Iris Wetlands, comprising three separate bodies of water linked by bluestone channels and a weir on Hedgeley Dene Drain, was filled in Spring 1989 and continued to be developed with a range of aquatic plantings and native trees and shrubs (*Fig 1.03*).[14] Developed on the former site of the municipal depot, the wetlands retained a small timber cottage that had been relocated to the depot site in 1917 from Orchard Street, Armadale.[15] In mid-1991, the cottage was relocated again, from the wetlands to a site in Rushworth.

Examples:

Urban Forest, off Hylsop Parade, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1980-83)

Glen Iris Wetlands, off High Street, Glen Iris (1988-89)

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11 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 197.
12 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 198.
13 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 11.
14 City of Stonnington, "Glen Iris Park Wetlands Fact Sheet", 3pp typescript, undated (c.2008). http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/Glen_Iris_Wetlands_Fact_Sheet.pdf>
15 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 50.



Figure 1.01:
The Sandringham line at Windsor Railway Station (looking north-east towards city) flooded after severe rainstorm in February 1989
Source: www.victorianrailways.net (photograph by Mark Bau)



Figure 1.02:
Malvern No 24 Fire Station, 2 Willis Street, Armadale photographed shortly before the service relocated to Waverley Road in 1988
Source: Item MP7307, Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)



Figure 1.03:
Glen Iris Wetlands, off High Street, Glen Iris photographed in early 1991; note relocated timber cottage.
Source: Alleyn Best, The History of Malvern: A Supplement (2005), p 50 (photographer uncredited)

2.0 PEOPLING VICTORIA'S PLACES AND LANDSCAPES

WARNING: First Peoples are advised that this chapter contains material which may be considered culturally sensitive, including the names and images of deceased persons.

2.1 Living as Victoria's original inhabitants [as First Peoples]

From An Indigenous History of Stonnington (2006):

> *The indigenous story of Stonnington in the twentieth century becomes primarily one of 'white' activism in Aboriginal issues. The Melbourne suburbs with significant concentrations of Aboriginal families in the 1900s were primarily Fitzroy, Footscray and Northcote. Prahran (and Malvern) was not known for being a suburb of Aboriginal residence, a point made by historian Sally Wilde (1993: 230) in her history of Prahran from 1925-1990… However, there is an interlude in this otherwise non-Indigenous story, when many Aboriginal people did reside, temporarily, in South Yarra during the 1940s and 1950s with a pro-Aboriginal white activist Helen Baillie.*
>
> *Stonnington has a long history of pro-Aboriginal … activism, beginning with Helen Baillie and continuing with regular meetings of the white activist groups Action for Aboriginal Rights (AAR) held in members' homes in Stonnington, through to the current [in 2006] Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation.*[1]

The contribution of the aforementioned Helen Baillie, who operated a hostel for First Peoples from her own house in South Yarra, has been memorably recounted in the posthumously-published memoirs of the late Henry "Banjo" Clark (1923-2000), a Gunditjmara man who boarded with Baillie in the 1950s. His evocative first-hand recollections are worth quoting at length:

> *At that time, one old Christian lady was a great help to us Aboriginals in any sort of trouble like that. Her name was Helen Baillie, but we always called her Miss Baillie. She was a nurse from a well-to-do family who had once been farmers in the Western District, and she devoted her life to helping Aboriginals in every way possible. I don't think her family really approved. She used to pay lawyers out of her own pension to act for us if we was in trouble with the law. If black children were sick, she'd take them to hospital. She even went as a delegate to a government convention in Canberra to speak up for better conditions for Aboriginal people. She was an unsung hero for us blackfellahs. She loved everyone.*
>
> *Miss Baillie bought a big old house on Punt Road in South Yarra during the 1940s. It was number 462, I remember, just over the top of the hill, near where it meets Toorak Road. She opened it up to all Aboriginal people, and made everyone in need welcome. It was a lovely old house, built of grey stone, with roses growing all over one side. There was a lot of fruit trees in the garden, and some people would lie under the apricot tree and eat the fruit. Many Aboriginals lived there with her, and any whitefellahs that needed help too… She'd often have the police banging at her door because the neighbours would complain about all the drunks and the noise. Eventually that was why everyone had to move from that house in the1950s. But Miss Baillie put up with a lot because she had such a good heart, and she loved all Aboriginals.*
>
> *Miss Baillie did more than anyone I knew of at that time for Aboriginal people, never stopping to think about herself. And yet she has been so much forgotten.*[2]

Another eyewitness to Baillie and her hostel was fellow Gunditjmara man Jim Berg (born 1938), who boarded there in 1956. In a contemporary quote, Baillie herself mentioned "Jimmie Berg, aged 18, from Nyora, South Gippsland", describing him as "the one boy who is doing well. He is in regular work as a builder's labourer and always pays his board regularly".[3] Berg, whose recollections of life at Baillie's hostel (*Fig 2.01*) are documented in an evocative interview from 2006, recalled purchasing clothing from shops on nearby Toorak Road, and working on local construction projects that included a block of flats on Punt Road and new buildings at the Alfred Hospital (just outside the study area).[4]

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1 Ian Clark and Laura Kostanski, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington: A Report to the City of Stonnington* School of Business, University of Ballarat, 30 June 2006, pp 95-96.

2 Banjo Clark, *Wisdom Man* (2003), quoted in Clark and Kostanski, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington*, pp 96-97.

3 Quoted in Richard Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians: A History Since 1800* (2005), p 296, quoted in Clark and Kostranski, p 100. Broome did not cite the original source for Baillie's quote.

4 Clark and Kostanski, Appendix 1.1. pp 119-172.

Primary sources confirm that Helen Elizabeth Jacqueline Baillie (1893-1970) took up residence at 462 Punt Road in 1941 with her sister Julia and their widowed mother Mary, who had all previously shared a house in Camberwell. Following Julia's marriage in 1943, and Mary's death three years later, Helen had the large house to herself - as noted by Clarke and Kostanski, "once her mother had died; she turned her Punt Road home into a *de facto* hostel for Aboriginal people".[5] It operated as such for about twelve years, ceasing when Helen sold the property in 1958 and left South Yarra to live in Fitzroy North and then in Box Hill.[6]

Baillie's establishment of a *de facto* hostel for First Peoples sprung from an ongoing concern that dated back as far as 1933, when she became a foundation member (and inaugural secretary) of an activist organisation known as the Victorian Aboriginal Group (VAG). Other office holders are known to have lived in the study area after WW2: Professor G W Paton, who was briefly vice-president in the 1940s, resided in Kooyong Road, Toorak, while longtime treasurer Miss V M Leeper (1900-2001) lived at 11 Kensington Road, South Yarra, for most of her long life. She was also secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of the Native Race (NAANR), a spin-off formed in 1951, which met at her house during that decade. In parallel, annual meetings of the VAG were held in Toorak, in the Quaker Meeting House at 631 (formerly 133) Orrong Road, and this continued after the group merged with the NAANR in 1961.[7]

During the 1950s, there were other manifestations of local concern for First Peoples. In 1956, the Prahran Central Mission held a so-called Aboriginal Week "in an endeavour to direct the community's attention to the needs of the native race and to their accomplishments".[8] Early the following year, the mission organised a concert at the Prahran Town Hall to raise funds for First Peoples communities in the Warburton Ranges, which included an address by Pastor Doug Nicholls, and a performance by the then well-known 22-voice "aboriginal choir" under the direction of tenor Harold Blair.[9]

While the VAG seems to have ceased by the mid-1960s, another activist group emerged from the study area in the early 1980s, styled as Action for Aboriginal Rights (AAR). Officially headquartered in Malvern, the group's members and office holders are known to have lived (and met) locally, including longtime treasurer Helen Sprigg, who resided in Young Street, Glen Iris.[10] In 1984, the AAR held a fundraising dinner at the Malvern Town Hall which included an address by poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal (then known as Kath Walker) and an exhibition of art by Ngarrindjeri artist Trevor Nickolls.[11]

By then, First Peoples art had already caught the attention of the commercial galleries that thrived in South Yarra and environs (see **9.3.1**). While Gallery A in Toorak Road held an exhibition of "contemporary Aboriginal bark paintings" as early as 1964, these only became more common in the later twentieth century, typified by a 1980 showing of "Aboriginal bark paintings, tiwi poles and Yirrkala carvings" at the Realities Gallery in Jackson Street, Toorak.[12] Many others followed. In 1989, Yuwaalaraay artist Biggibilla (formerly Graham Rennie) (*Fig 2.02*) became an artist-in-residence at the newly-established Elm Road Artists' Centre in Glen Iris (see **9.3.1**) and, the next year, mounted a solo exhibition at the Malvern Arts Centre in Burke Road and also featured in a group exhibition at Gallery Art Naïve in Malvern Road, South Yarra.[13] During the 1980s, cultural performances by First Peoples also took place at the Toorak/South Yarra Library (*Fig 2.03*)

The longstanding tradition of local activist groups continued with Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation, which emerged from a course that took place in 1998 at the U3A (University of the Third Age). The course was attended by fourteen people, eleven of whom joined forces to form the new activist group. Incorporated in January 1999, the group held monthly meetings at the Prahran Neighbourhood House and, in its first year, expanded to have thirty paid-up members.[14]

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5 Clark and Kostanski, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington*, p 100.
6 "Auctions, real estate, etc", Age, 6 September 1958, p 34.
7 See *Age* 22 November 1954, p 9; 3 December 1955, p 20; 22 November 1957, p 3; 15 November 1958, p 8; 20 November 1963, p 2.
8 "Aboriginal week at Prahran", *Age,* 23 June 1956, p 13.
9 "Concert", *Age*, 2 February 1957, p 2.
10 The postal address of the AAR was PO Box 300, Malvern, and the suburb was also cited in the colophon of two resource kits that were prepared and published by the group in 1987 and 1992.
11 Clark and Kostanski, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington*, p 102.
12 "Art Notes", *Age*, 26 November 1964, p 5; "Galleries", *Age*, 5 December 1980, p 46.
13 "Biggibilla CV: Phygital Art Works & Martial Arts", <https://biggibilla.net/biggibilla-cv>
14 Clark and Kostanski, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington*, p 102.



Figure 2.01:
Helen Baillie photographed with some of the boarders at her hostel, 462 Punt Road, South Yarra
Source: Ian Clark and Laura Kostanski, An Indigenous History of Stonnington (2006) (photograph by Jim Berg; reproduced with his permission)



Figure 2.02
Yuwaalaraay artist Biggibilla, photographed at Elm Road Artists' Centre in Glen Iris, c.1990
Source: Item MP8000, Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)



Figure 2.03:
First Peoples performers at the Toorak/South Yarra Library (date unknown, c.1980s)
Source: Item PH61184, Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)

Examples

Baillie House (former First Peoples hostel), 462 Punt Road, South Yarra (1946-1958)

Leeper House, 11 Kensington Road, South Yarra

Quaker Meeting House (former), 613 Orrong Road, Toorak – *demolished*

Prahran Neighbourhood House, 246 Malvern Road, South Yarra

2.2 Exploring, surveying and mapping

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

2.3 Adapting to diverse environments

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

2.4 Arriving in a new land

2.4.1 Accommodating migrants after WW2

In 1946, the United Nations established a body, the International Refugee Organisation, to address the plight of people in Europe who had left their homelands during WW2 and, now unable or unwilling to return, were accommodated in makeshift camps across the continent. In July 1947, the Australian government became a signatory to an agreement to accept a substantial intake of both refugees and so-called "displaced persons" (ie, those who had been deported from their home countries), and swiftly initiated a major project to provide migrant hostels across the country. In late 1949, it was announced that one such facility would be established near Holmesglen station and, early the following year, tenders were called for "erection of timber-framed hostel for New Australians".[15] Opened in mid-1951, the hostel was located on the north-east corner of north-east Warrigal Road and Power Avenue and, while technically located just beyond the east boundary of the study area, its influence would still resonate westwards.

In parallel, there were also several non-government initiatives to provide accommodation for migrants in the study area proper. In 1948, members of Melbourne's Jewish community founded the Warsaw Committee to assist and accommodate newly-arrived European migrants. Initially based in Hawthorn, the Warsaw Centre (as it became known) relocated to South Yarra in mid-1951, to a large Victorian-era house at 466 Punt Road (*Fig 2.04*). As this type of migration began to abate towards the end of that decade, the premises ceased to operate as a hostel and were adapted for use by other Jewish welfare and social groups (see **2.5.1**). Around the same time, the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) established a hostel in Malvern East that was intended specifically to accommodate migrant workers recruited from the United Kingdom (see also **3.5.1**). Located at 74 Finch Street, this was another large Victorian-era house that had latterly operated as a guest house before being acquired by the MMTB in late 1950, re-opening the following year as Warwick House. This, too, proved a short-lived venue and closed in 1952.

This sub-theme would resume locally from the later 1950s, spurred by a new government initiative known as the "Bring out a Briton" scheme, which encouraged churches, welfare organisations and other groups to sponsor the re-settlement of individual migrant families from the United Kingdom. A typical example in the study area, well-documented by surviving material held by Museums Victoria, was initiated by the East Malvern Methodist Church on Burke Road.[16] In 1959, the church acquired a nearby house, at 371 Wattletree Road, which was intended to accommodate a succession of sponsored migrant families. The first of these were Jack and Norah Herron from Northern Ireland, who, along with their four children, took up residence in June 1960. Others followed, including James and Mary Ward and their three children. By mid-1964, more than forty people had occupied the house in succession.

15 "Tenders accepted or received", *Construction,* 25 January 1950, p 17.

16 Ward/Barlow Family Collection, Series MM129961, Museums Victoria, Melbourne. The digitized material including photographs, correspondence and even a contemporary sketch plan of the house at 371 Wattletree Road.

Examples

House (former Warsaw Centre), 466 Punt Road, South Yarra (1951-58)

House (former Warwick House MMTB Hostel), 74 Finch Street, Malvern East (1950-52) – *demolished*

House (former Church Migrant House), 371 Wattletree Road, Malvern East (from 1959)

2.5 Migrating and making a home

2.5.1 Creating migrant communities **[2006: 3.5.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Prahran's cosmopolitan character really developed in the 1950s and '60s, as immigrants arrived from all parts of Europe. They occupied the old working-class houses and newly built Housing Commission flats in the suburbs of Prahran and Windsor abandoned by Australian-born residents moving out to new suburbs. Post-war immigrants provided much of the workforce for the study area's thriving industrial sector, then based in Prahran. One of the largest European groups was the Greeks. Their strong presence in the study area is evidenced by the St Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church, which was converted from the former Mount Erica Methodist Church, and the Greek community centre in High Street, Malvern. By the 1980s, many Greeks had moved out to Malvern. This pattern of migration is demonstrated by St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Epping Street, Malvern East, which has a large congregation, and a Greek Senior Citizens Club meets at the Malvern Town Hall.*
>
> *Since the 1970s the European immigrants have been joined by people from Turkey, the Middle East, Asia and South America…. One significant group in Prahran is the Khmer, most of who came as refugees from Cambodia. The Khmer Language Cultural Centre was established in Prahran in 1980s. From the 1970s a strong Indian community has formed in Prahran and Malvern.*[17]

Betty Malone stated that, while European migrants settled in Windsor from the 1920s, their numbers rose significantly from the mid-twentieth century.[18] By the mid-1960s, Greeks were already the largest migrant group in Prahran.[19] Theirs was the first non-Anglo community to develop a visible physical presence in the study area after WW2: by 1970, this was evidenced by Greek language signage on shops at Prahran Market (*Fig 2.05*) as well as completion of the distinctive Greek Orthodox Church in Barry Street, South Yarra.[20]

By then, a comparable diaspora already thrived in the adjacent municipality, with 2,000 Greek residents in the City of Malvern by 1971, anticipating establishment of St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church, occupying a number of different buildings from the mid-1970s.[21] Although some *kafenios* (male-only cafés, serving coffee, wine or ouzo, with limited food) operated in Prahran and Windsor at that time, more formalised Greek restaurants boomed from 1980 with two new tavernas in High Street (Kastraki at No 166 and Lemnos at No 455), Patra in Chapel Street, and then others further afield, such as Plaka in Malvern and Mandalis in Armadale. By then, Prahran had one of the largest Greek populations of any Melbourne suburb.[22]

Citing the 1966 census, Sally Wilde noted that British migrants were Prahran's next largest migrant group after Greeks, followed by "significant numbers of Germans, Italians, Poles, Hungarians and Yugoslavians, in that order".[23] The local German population was substantial enough for the Australian German Welfare Society, founded in 1954, to establish its headquarters in South Yarra by the end of that decade (see **8.4.3**). By the mid-1970s, a German Baptist congregation held its services at the former Church of Christ at 220 High Street, Prahran.[24] This established local community clearly a factor when the German Club Tivoli, a social group dating back to the pre-war *Melbourne Deutscher Turnverein*, moved into the study area in 1989, taking over premises on Dandenong Road originally built in the 1970s for the City & Overseas Club.

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17 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 46.
18 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 48.
19 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 73.
20 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area One* (1998), p 42.
21 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 267.
22 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 48.
23 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 73.
24 *Melway Street Directory of Greater Melbourne*, Edition 6 (1973), p 251, and Edition 7 (1974), p 351.

Italian presence was evident in local businesses such as the D'Andrea family's fruit shop at the Windsor end of Chapel Street, which re-opened after wartime hiatus and thrived, for three generations, into the late twentieth century.[25] The rising Italian population bolstered attendance at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Fitzgerald Street.[26] It also prompted a new church, St Frances Xavier on High Street (1964), one of the first post-war churches in the City of Prahran and perhaps the first in Melbourne to reflect the principles of the Second Vatican Council (aka Vatican II).

Development of a local Swedish community was bolstered when Melbourne's Swedish Lutheran Church relocated its headquarters into the study area in 1956, in the former *Toorak House* at 21 St Georges Road. The grand residence not only accommodated religious services (in the former ballroom) but also holiday celebrations and other community events (*Fig 2.06*), as well as a mission for Scandinavian seamen (see **8.4.3**) and, at various times, consular representation for both Sweden and Iceland (see **2.6.1**). The local Hungarian community burgeoned by the late 1950s, when the Roman Catholic diocese bought *Elgin*, a grand Victorian residence at 21 Elgin Avenue, Armadale, initially for use as a hostel for the Hungarian Youth Club, and later as the Hungarian Catholic College.[27] During the 1960s, one of Melbourne's first Hungarian restaurants opened in Prahran: Transylvania, at 130 Greville Street. A Hungarian Festival took place at the Prahran Town Hall, and a Hungarian Senior Citizens' Group also emerged in the area.[28]

In the 1966 census, 15,697 residents of Prahran cited birthplaces in Europe, 1,133 in Asia and 797 in Africa, forming what Wilde described as "a diverse and highly dynamic cultural mix".[29] Over subsequent decades, the mix became even more diverse. In the late 1970s, a Slavic Evangelical Baptist congregation took over an older church in Tooronga Road, Malvern East, its members from Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Yugoslavia.[30] Reflecting such diversity, facilities arose that were aimed at migrants in general rather than specific groups. The Prahran Migrant Centre opened in 1981 in the former Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria Street and moved to the Grattan Gardens Community Centre in 1999. Aside from the support services and cultural or recreational activities based at Victoria Street, the Migrant Centre co-sponsored (with the City of Prahran) an annual Prahran Multicultural Festival, first held in 1992.

By the end of that decade, the diversity of post-war migrant settlement was evident in what Wilde described as an "enormous variety of ethnic clubs and societies" (see **8.4.3**).[31] In addition to those already mentioned, multicultural communities who met locally for socialising and support include Czechs, Poles, Koreans, Cambodians and Somalis.[32] The Western Thrace Turkish Islamic Association, formed in Melbourne in 1971, opened its *Prahran Masjid* (ie, mosque) at 16 Kent Street, later moving to Union Street, Windsor.

At the end of the twentieth century, Asian communities constituted the largest migrant group in the study area. By the mid-1990s, there were three Chinese social groups in Prahran alone – two based at the Prahran Migrant Centre and the other, the Prahran Chinese Elderly Association, in Greville Street, which practised Tai Chi in the Princess Gardens.[33] With almost 2,000 Prahran residents speaking Sinitic languages at home, this Chinese diaspora, variously hailing from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and other places as well as China itself, had become the largest group of non-Australian-born residents in the area.[34]

Examples:

Swedish Church/Community Centre (*Toorak House*), 21 St Georges Road, Toorak (from 1956) – *HO99*

House (former Hungarian Youth Club Hostel), 21 Elgin Avenue, Armadale (from c.1959) – *HO36*

Church of SS Constantine and Helen, 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra (Theo Tsochatzis, 1970)

25 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 144.
26 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area One* (1998), p 42.
27 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 35.
28 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 72; Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 23.
29 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 73.
30 Bruce Coldham and Stan Marks, *Malvern Sketchbook* (1980), p 10.
31 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 286.
32 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 23.
33 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), pp 9, 23.
34 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), pp 22-23.

Lemnos Taverna, 445 High Street, Prahran (1981) – *retains original signage, 2022*

Prahran Migrant Resource Centre (former), 24-26 Victoria Street, Windsor (1981-99) – *HO113*

German Club Tivoli, 291-295 Dandenong Road, Prahran (from 1989)

2.6 Maintaining distinctive cultures [and communities]

2.6.1 Links to homeland: consular presence after 1945

Consular presence in the study area, which followed an irregular pattern before WW2, became more visible and widespread in the second half of the twentieth century. As of 1946, some twenty countries had consular presence in Melbourne, mostly in inner-city offices.[35] Post-war expansion in the study area began in the late 1940s, when a Latvian Consulate (which had briefly operated from a Toorak Road flat in the 1920s) was re-established in a large house on Orrong Road. By 1951, it had been joined by the Spanish Consulate, relocated from Canterbury to Toorak into a large inter-war house at 6 Power Avenue. The later 1950s saw three consulates established in South Yarra, just outside the border of the study area: an Italian Consulate in Domain Road, and counterparts for Portugal and the USA, which shared a converted Edwardian house near the corner of Commercial Road and St Kilda Road. During this time, a Latvian Consulate was re-established in Armadale, initially in Barnato Grove and then Hampden Road, where it remained for over a decade. In the early 1960s, a West German Consulate began operation from a large two-storey house at 480 Punt Road.

Irrespective of the actual locations of their offices, a number of Melbourne's consuls (often, wealthy émigré businessmen serving in an honorary capacity) maintained private residence in the Toorak area. George Nopenaire, a woolbroker who was Belgian consul from 1953 to 1962, occupied an architect-designed riverfront house on Yarradale Road that he and his wife had built just before WW2. Other consuls known to have resided in Toorak during the 1950s included John Pietzcker (Switzerland) in Lansell Road, Frank Berger (Austria) in Ellerslie Place, Howard Lamburd (Sweden) in Linlithgow Avenue, Hamilton Sleigh (Finland) in Wallace Avenue and Gerald Veling (Netherlands) in Church Street. Timber merchant Edvard Alstergren, who became Norwegian Consul in 1966, was then living in Towers Road. His like-named son, appointed simultaneously as vice-consul, went on to build a new family home in Grange Road, which reportedly combined both Scandinavian and Spanish influences.[36]

By 1970, the Latvian and West German consulates in Armadale and South Yarra had been joined by three newcomers in Toorak: Honduras at 60 Washington Street, Iceland at 2 Montalto Avenue, and Sweden at 21 St Georges Road (in *Toorak House*, owned by the Church of Sweden since 1956). With subsequent transfers of those for Sweden, Iceland and Honduras, only three consulates still remained by the mid-1970s: Latvia in Hampden Road, Germany in Punt Road, and Turkey, newly opened at 44 Caroline Street. From the 1980s, consular presence in the study area flourished anew, with outposts for China (Irving Road, Toorak), Iceland and Mauritius (both at St Georges Road, Toorak), Dominican Republic (Kooyong Road, Toorak), Seychelles (Commercial Road, South Yarra) and Lebanon (Wellington Street, Windsor). By 1990, there were nine in total, the longest-running being those for Latvia and West Germany, still in the same premises they had occupied since the early 1960s.

Examples:

West German Consulate (former), 480 Punt Road, South Yarra – *HO355 (Caroline Street Precinct)*

Alstergren House, 55 Grange Road, Toorak (c.1970) – *built by Norwegian consul*

Swedish Consulate (former) (*Toorak House*), 21 St Georges Road, Toorak – *HO99*

Chinese Consulate (*Greenwich House*), 75-77 Irving Road, Toorak – *HO63*

35 Addresses and dates of consulates were derived from listings in various editions of the *Sands & McDougall Victorian Directory* (up to 1974) and the *Melway Directory of Greater Melbourne* (1968 onwards).

36 "Blend of Spanish and Scandinavian", *Australian Women's Weekly*, 23 August 1972, pp 56-59.



Figure 2.04:
Warsaw Centre (Welfare House) 466 Punt Road, South Yarra used by the Jewish community for over forty years from 1951.
Source: Australian Jewish Herald, 18 November 1960, p 5 (photographer uncredited)



Figure 2.05:
Greek fishmonger's shop at Prahran Market, with window signage in Greek, 1970
Source: Item MH71203.9 Stonnington History Centre (photograph by Thomas E Meier)



Figure 2.06:
St Lucia Festival, marking start of Scandinavian Christmas season, held at the Swedish Church in Toorak, 13 December 1960
Source: H2001.40/162 State Library of Victoria (photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

2.6.2 *Developing a Jewish community after 1945*

Jewish settlement was evident in the study area long before WW2. In the early 1920s, a Hebrew school held Sunday classes in the Toorak Bowling Club's rooms in Mandeville Avenue, and the subsequent opening of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation's new synagogue on Toorak Road West (just outside the study area) reflected a wider catchment extending east across South Yarra and Toorak. The 1947 census recorded 2% of the City of Prahran's population as "Hebrew", and with 1% of the City of Malvern.[37] By 1961, these figures had doubled to 4% and 2%.[38] At the end of the twentieth century, Jewish population in the combined City of Stonnington was 10%, the second largest total of any municipality after the adjacent City of Glen Eira.

As of 1945, there were no purpose-built synagogues in the study area: aside from Toorak Road West, the nearest ones were in Caulfield and St Kilda. Still, Jewish High Holiday services took place in other local venues, notably the New Empire Ballroom at 386 Chapel Street (re-opened in 1949 under Jewish ownership). Another early sign of an active post-war Jewish community in the study area was the Warsaw Centre at 466 Punt Road (*Fig 2.04*), a two-storey house purchased in 1951 as a hostel for Jewish migrants (see **2.5.1**). In 1958, when such migration had somewhat abated, it was adapted as a community hub, dubbed Welfare House. The upper level provided office space for the Australian Jewish Welfare & Relief Society, as well as related groups such as the Melbourne Jewish Aid Society, Jewish Mutual Loan Company, and Social Service Council, while "most the ground floor is taken up by the Sheltered Workshop, the Welfare Society's latest venture". The society would remain there until 1992, when it relocated to new premises in St Kilda. [39]

From the 1970s, physical evidence of a growing Jewish community emerged in Malvern East and Armadale. The Sassoon Yehuda Synagogue in Darling Road, the first purpose-built example in the study area, opened in 1976. The next year, members of Melbourne's Liberal Jewish community, affiliated with the Temple Beth Israel in St Kilda) acquired a grand residence in Kooyong Road, Armadale (formerly the Melbourne Bible Institute) as a new day school. Dedicated in December 1977, the King David Primary School & Kindergarten commenced with the 1978 school year.[40] At the same time, Yavneh College, an Orthodox Zionist school founded in Caulfield in 1962, developed a new purpose-built secondary campus in Mercer Road, Armadale, officially opened by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, in June 1979. The King David School expanded, establishing a second campus in Orrong Road in 1984. Four years later, Yavneh College vacated and sold its Armadale property when the school relocated to a new campus in Elsternwick. The intervening few years saw Melbourne's Hasidic community establish a local presence, with the opening in 1987 of a Chabad House in Glenferrie Road, Malvern, incorporating a synagogue and other facilities.

The St Kilda-based Temple Beth Israel fostered ongoing links with the study area. When synagogue in Alma Road was renovated in 1990, some High Holiday services, including Yom Ha'atzmaut and Purim, were held at the Prahran Town Hall. A proposal for an offshoot liberal congregation in the study area culminated in July 1994, when the Armadale/Malvern Reform Congregation, known by its Hebrew name as Kehillat David HaMelech, held its first Shabbat service at the King David School in Kooyong Road.

Examples:

Warsaw Centre/Welfare House (former), 466 Punt Road, South Yarra (1951-92)

Sassoon Yehuda Synagogue, 71-73 Darling Road, Malvern East (1976) – *demolished*

King David School (former) (*Armadale House*), 117 Kooyong Road, Armadale (from 1977) – *HO67*

2.6.3 *Developing a LGBTIQA+ community after 1945*

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2009 Update):

> *The establishment of [licensed venues for the LGBTIQA+ community] has led to several other gay and lesbian businesses opening in the Commercial Road area including Hares & Hyenas, which was Melbourne's first gay and lesbian bookshop…*

37 *Census of the Commonwealth of Australia*, 30 June 1947. Vol 1, Part 2 (Victoria: Analysis of Population in LGA), p 179.
38 *Census of the Commonwealth of Australia*, 30 June 1961. Vol 1, Part 2 (Victoria: Analysis of Population in LGA), p 59.
39 "The centre of social services", *Australian Jewish Herald*, 18 November 1960, p 5.
40 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 239.

> *The opening of these hotels and venues in South Yarra is no mere coincidence; anecdotal evidence suggests that South Yarra and Prahran, like St Kilda, have long been popular places for the gay and lesbian community to live, a fact that may be partly attributed to the development since the 1920s of enclaves of flats, which provided accommodation for single people not readily available in other parts of Melbourne.*[41]

While LGBTIQA+ individuals resided and socialised in the study area existed long before WW2, they would become exponentially visible over the second half of the twentieth century. Documentation of an emerging post-war LGBTIQA+ community in the study area, primarily focused on the South Yarra area, can be traced back as far as 1959, when same-sex couple Wally and Ian opened the Devil's Inn, an upstairs coffee lounge at 156 Toorak Road.[42] A gay-friendly late night venue with live music, it operated for two years. Further along Toorak Road, at No 132, was the Ad Lib Café, opened in 1964 by lesbian entrepreneur Val Eastwood, famous for her eponymous café in Swanston Street that was a seminal meeting place for Melbourne's queer community in the 1950s. On the opposite corner of David Street was Her Majesty's Hotel, run by openly gay Ron "Maisie" Philp whose "uniquely hospitable" Saloon Bar, known as Maisie's, catered to a mixed crowd of gay men, lesbians and others.[43] During the 1960s and '70s, several other local hotels were also known to be meeting-places for various specific groups under the present-day LGBTIQA+ banner (see **5.6.1**).

It was at Her Majesty's Hotel where another entrepreneurial lesbian, Jan Hillier, held a birthday party in the mid-1960s. With attendance exceeding all expectations, Hillier was inspired to commence what became a regular series of "camp dances" for members of Melbourne's LGBTIQA+ community (see *Fig 2.07*). These were held at various local reception centres, initially the celebrated South Yarra venue known as Nine Darling Street and later at the Village Banquet Hall (formerly Stardust) in the new Trak Centre on Toorak Road (see **8.6.1**).[44] Hiller's "camp dances" operated in parallel with a similarly peripatetic event known as Spangles. Initially operating from a church hall on the south-west corner of Punt and Toorak Roads (just outside the study area), it then transferred to the Windsor Regis, a former picture theatre at 28 Chapel Street, before relocating to St Kilda, then to an unspecified venue on Toorak Road, South Yarra, and then back to St Kilda.[45] Contemporaneous with these rival "camp dances" was the Mae West Club on Oban Street, South Yarra (see *Fig 2.07*), an early drag venue that opened in 1969. Operated by Robert Cameron, who performed there in the guise of "Giselle", the club closed in 1972 after Cameron joined the cast of drag revue *Les Girls*.[46]

Jan Hillier (who lived in Anderson Street) and Robert Cameron (who lived on Toorak Road) were only two of many LGBTIQA+ individuals known to reside in South Yarra in the early post-war decades.[47] Among the more well-known of these were actor Frank Thring (*Fig 2.08*), architect Guilford Bell, artist Martin Shannon, and aural surgeon Dr Jean Littlejohn and her partner, bookseller Margaretta Webber, all of whom lived in the western edge of the study area. Still more resided in the part of South Yarra west of Punt Road (ie, the present-day City of Melbourne) but would also have spent time in the study area proper, including stage designer John Truscott, educationist Dorothy Ross (headmistress of Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School from 1939 until 1955) and designer Freddie Asmussen, the flamboyant head of Myer's display department.[48] Many other gay men and lesbians would have been drawn to the area, not least for its culture of minimalist apartment living (see **6.7.7**). As noted in an ALGA guide, "flats were an intrinsic part of camp life. Living alone or sharing with a 'friend', camp women and men found refuge from prying eyes of family. They could entertain and decorate to their hearts content".[49]

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41 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (2009), p 10-11.
42 "Found – the Devil's Inn", *ALGA Bulletin*, No 49 (17 July 2011), p 4.
43 *South Yarra: Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives History Walk*, 4pp guide to accompany walk on 24 January 2016, p 2. <http://queerarchives.org.au/app/uploads/2020/10/History-Walk-2016-South-Yarra.pdf>; see also Richard Peterson, "The Australia, the Woolshed, and Sexual Gaze", *La Trobe Journal*, No 87 (May 2011), p 40.
44 Michael Hurley, "Aspects of gay and lesbian life in seventies Melbourne", *La Trobe Journal*, No 87 (May 2011), p 49.
45 Michael Hurley, "Aspects of gay and lesbian life in seventies Melbourne", *La Trobe Journal*, No 87 (May 2011), p 49.
46 Graham Willett, Angela Bailey, Timothy Jones & Sarah Rood, *A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects* (2021), p 138.
47 *South Yarra: Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives History Walk* (2016), p 3.
48 Graham Willett, Wayne Murdoch & Daniel Marshall (eds), *Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne* (2011), pp 67-69, 81-82. Additional information provided by Richard Peterson, October 2024. Webber and Littlejohn lived at 13 St Leonards Court, Bell at 92 Caroline Street, Shannon at 22 Lang Street, and Thring at 524 Toorak Road.
49 *South Yarra: Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives History Walk* (2016), p 3.

In the 1972 edition of the *Gray Guide*, a handbook to worldwide gay-friendly places published in the USA, the few pages devoted to Melbourne identified "South Yarra suburbs" as a focus for LGBTIQA+ visitors.[50] Toorak Road was recommended for "pleasant strolling from South Yarra station to Punt Road", citing the aforementioned Devil's Inn, Ad Lib Café and "Maisie's Bar", as well as the Saloon Bar of the Toorak Hotel ("all Saturday is recommended") and the Regent Cinema ("midnight movie Friday"). In the early 1970s, a map of Melbourne hung on the wall of the city headquarters of Society Five, a pioneering gay activism and support group, which was marked up to indicate the location of local "beats" (ie, meeting-places for gay men), which included one such site at Como Park, South Yarra.[51]

The 1970s also saw some of the first local businesses that were owned and/or operated by, or aimed at, the LGBTIQA+ community. Long before the opening of the Hares & Hyenas bookshop (1991), Skorus Books at 409 Chapel Street (c.1972) (see *Fig 2.07*) was a lesbian-owned business that stocked material not easily found anywhere else, including publications on women's and gay liberation, and gay male pornography.[52] While Skorus Books proved a short-lived venture, a subsequent counterpart, the gay-oriented adult bookshop known as Beat Books, was destined for greater longevity. Opened in 1978, it initially occupied premises at 116 Greville Street before relocating to 159 Commercial Road in 1981. Referred to as "the first openly gay shopfront in Melbourne", the business remained in operation into the twenty-first century.[53]

More formalised meeting-places for the LGBTIQA+ community did not become a visible presence in the study area until after 1980, when male homosexuality was decriminalised in Victoria. That year saw the opening of Soda Sisters at 382 Chapel Street (*Fig 2.09*), an American-style diner run by five gay men who shared a house in Armadale.[54] In 1981, the opening of Cloud Nine, a licensed supper club at 72 Commercial Road, marked the start of a proliferation of licensed venues along that strip in the later 1980s and '90s (see **5.6.1**) (*Fig 2.11*). In 1985, the first issue of a new gay newspaper, the *Melbourne Star Observer*, included a map of the city and inner suburbs (*Fig 2.10*), noting gay venues, gay-friendly businesses and potential pick-up sites. Six places were flagged in South Yarra and environs: the aforementioned Soda Sisters along with one hotel, two adult bookshops, two florists, two printing companies, and, mysteriously, the Prahran CAE.

Commercial Road's two gay bookshops – Beat Books at No 159 and Hares & Hyenas at No 135 – were duly joined by many other gay-owned and/or gay-friendly retailers along the strip. These included a succession of cafés, coffee shops and restaurants, some lasting longer than others: Café 151 at No 151 (1993), Café Curo at No 133 (1993; later Dick's Restaurant & Bar), Oscar Wilde's Café at No 147 (1994; later Ramjet's), the Blue Elephant at No 184 (1994), and the Outlook Internet Café at No 196 (1997). By that time, there were reportedly no fewer than 34 gay-owned businesses along this stretch of Commercial Road (*Fig 2.12*).[55]

From the late 1980s, businesses and services aimed at a LGBTIQA+ clientele boomed at the nexus of Chapel Street and Commercial Road. As noted in Heritage Victoria's survey of LGBTIQA+ heritage, "there was a gay pharmacist, a medical clinic, a male beauty salon, a gym, and clothing stores directed at the newly emerging gay consumer".[56] Retailers of that era that remain fondly remembered to this day include designer Michael Jan's Handworks craft shop at 121 Commercial Road (1992), Drop Dead Donkey giftware at 203 Commercial Road (1993) and Bang! clothing at 41 Cato Street (c.1996). Just off this hub, discretely located in a side street along the railway line, were two saunas for gay men: one known only as 55 Porter Street (c.1987) and the other, two doors along, as Ten Plus (c.1994). In the mid-1990s, the ALSO Foundation (a pioneering gay support group, founded in 1980 as the Alternative Lifestyle Organisation), transferred its headquarters to 35 Cato Street. Around the same time, the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre relocated to 6-8 Claremont Street, South Yarra, consolidating services previously accommodated in multiple buildings in Collingwood. Related groups duly followed, including the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre, the Lesbian & Gay Switchboard (now known as Switchboard) and the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives (now AQuA).

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50 *Le Guide Gris* (1972), pp 16-17, cited in Willett, Bailey, Jones and Rood, *A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects* (2021), p 145.
51 Willett, Murdoch & Marshall (eds), *Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne* (2011), pp 112-113.
52 Willett, Bailey, Jones and Rood, *A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects,* p 14.
53 Willett, Bailey, Jones and Rood, *A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects,* p 122.
54 Garry Whitelaw, "For those who can remember", *Lost Gay Melbourne,* Facebook group posting, 1 November 2015. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=727835357360153&set=gm.1011261432228287>
55 Nicole Brady, "Prahran's Queen of Streets", *Age,* 3 July 1996, Metro supplement, p 4.
56 Willett, Bailey, Jones and Rood, *A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects* (2021), p 122.



Figure 2.07: Ephemera relating to some places in South Yarra with early LGBTIQA+ associations: advertising for Mae West Club in Oban Street and Skorus Books in Chapel Street, and a poster for one of Jan Hillier's dances, at the Trak Centre
Source: ALGA (now Aqua), South Yarra: Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives History Walk (2016)



Figure 2.08: Actor and confirmed bachelor Frank Thring, photographed in 1959 at his tastefully-decorated home at 524 Toorak Road
Source: Item MM 130228 Museums Victoria (photograph by Laurie Richards)



Figure 2.09: Interior of Soda Sisters (with its five co-founders) 382 Chapel Street, South Yarra (c.1980)
Source: Private collection, courtesy Michael Rogowski (photographer unknown)

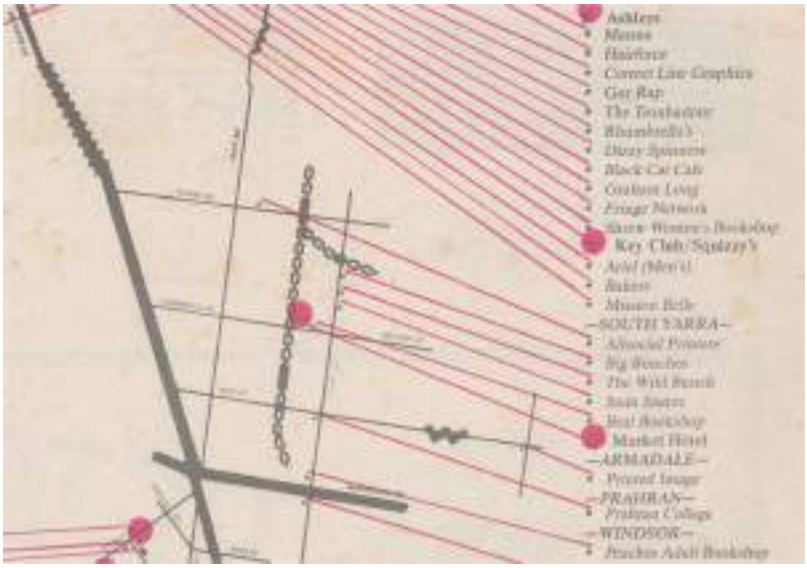


Figure 2.10:
Detail of a map of LGBTIQA+ venues and meeting-places in Melbourne by the mid-1980s, showing those in South Yarra, Armadale, Prahran and Windsor
Source: Melbourne Star Observer (27 October 1985)



Figure 2.11:
Image captioned by its photographer "Not so early one Sunday morning, an elderly lady tries to make sense of three drag queens on their way home from an all-night party in the gay night club district of Commercial Road"
Source: Item 204/12/00026 National Library of Australia (photograph by Ian Kenins, 1998)



Figure 2.12:
Advertisements in an LGBTIQA+ magazine in the late 1990s, promoting various gay owned/operated businesses on Commercial Road
Source: Focus, Spring 1999

The Midsumma Festival, an annual LGBTIQA+ event from 1988, invariably included events that took place in this part of South Yarra, such as art exhibitions, cabaret, live music and a street party on Commercial Road. Within Melbourne's LGBTIQA+ community, the neighbourhood was sometimes referred to as "Southside", to distinguish it from the group of counterpart venues in Collingwood, Abbotsford, Richmond and Clifton Hill that were collectively considered as the "Northside".

Examples:

Her Majesty's Hotel/Maisie's Bar (former), 134 Toorak Road, South Yarra – *HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

Mae West Club (former), 12 Oban Street, South Yarra (1969-72) – *HO137 (Hawksburn Railway Station Precinct)*

Skorus Bookshop (former), 409 Chapel Street, South Yarra (c.1972) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Beat Bookshop (former), 116 Greville Street, Prahran (1978-81) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Soda Sisters (former), 382 Chapel Street, South Yarra (1980) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Beat Bookshop, 159 Commercial Road, South Yarra (1981 onwards) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Cloud Nine Supper Club (former), 72 Commercial Road, South Yarra (1981)

Men's Sauna, 55 Porter Street, South Yarra (c.1987) - *demolished*

VAC/Gay Men's Health Centre (former), 6-8 Claremont Street, South Yarra (1994) – *demolished*

2.7 Promoting settlement

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

2.8 Fighting for identity

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

3.0 CONNECTING VICTORIANS BY TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Establishing pathways

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

3.2 Travelling by water

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

3.3 Linking Victorians by rail

3.3.1 Improving the suburban rail network after 1945 **[2006: 4.4.3]**

By the end of WW2, the rail network that traverses the study area was already well established. The most recent additions to local railway infrastructure had taken place in the former City of Malvern where, as Lynne Strahan observed, the demand for public transport was higher:

> *As a dormitory suburb with little industry, Malvern was more dependent on public transport than industrial suburbs where work and living places were often closely associated. Apart from the extension of the Darling railway line to Glen Waverley and more efficient services on existing lines, the network had not changed since the end of WW1.*[57]

Extension of the railway line saw new stations opened at East Malvern (1929) and Holmesglen (1930), which represented the last major additions to the study area's rail network for almost two decades. The first major improvement of the post-war era was replacement of the old Cremorne Bridge (1884) over the Yarra River. Work began in 1944, with the first stage finished in 1946 and the completion (including demolition of the old bridge) in early 1947.[58] While built to accommodate two extra railway tracks from Richmond Station, these would not be completed until 1960. From the mid-1950s, the Glen Waverley line was duplicated in stages. The part traversing the study area was mostly completed between 1955 and 1957, with the final stretch, from East Malvern via Holmesglen to Glen Waverley, opened in 1964.

Construction of the South Eastern Freeway prompted changes to railway infrastructure, starting in 1969-70 with a new railway bridge at Heyington, due to the realignment of the Yarra River.[59] Further freeway works over the next decade necessitated replacement of most train station buildings on the Glen Waverley line: East Malvern, Glen Iris, Tooronga and Heyington in 1975, then Darling in 1979. During this time, goods sidings associated with stations at Windsor, Armadale and Toorak, dating back to the late nineteenth century, were all decommissioned as part of a broader network-wide review of such facilities. The land was eventually redeveloped in various ways, including several reserves and public housing. Otherwise, the parts of the Sandringham and Frankston lines passing through the study area underwent few major changes in the second half of the twentieth century.

This era saw some smaller-scaled but noticeable upgrades to rail infrastructure, such as removal of pre-war signal boxes, installation of new signal equipment, and the replacement of hand-operated railway gates with boom gates. The last development was pioneered in the study area: the automatic boom gates installed at Toorak Road, Tooronga, in 1956 were the first in Victoria.[60] Similar upgrades unfolded gradually over the next three decades, with some level crossings in the study area still getting boom gates installed as late as the mid-1980s, such as Windsor (Union Street) on the Sandringham line, and Kooyong (Glenferrie Road) and Gardiner (Burke Road) on the Glen Waverley line.

57 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 241.
58 "Work begins on new railway bridge", *Argus,* 2 August 1944, p 7; "First section of new Cremorne Bridge", *Argus,* 5 June 1946, p 15; "Nearly finished", *Age*, 10 January 1947, p 3.
59 Dacre Smyth, *The Bridges of the Yarra* (1980), unpaginated (Section 14: Heyington Railway Bridge)
60 GJM Heritage, *The Victorian Railways: A Thematic History* (2024), p 63.

Examples

Automatic boom gates, Toorak Road, Malvern (1956) – *demolished*

Heyington Railway Bridge, off Heyington Place, Toorak (1969-70)

Darling Railway Station, Clynden Avenue, Malvern East (1979)

3.4 Linking Victorians by road in the 20th century

3.4.1 Creating highways and freeways after 1945 **[2006: 4.3.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In the 1950s the State Government began considering ways of easing congestion on Melbourne's roads, and in the 1960s the Metropolitan Transport Committee recommended a plan that provided for 307 miles of freeways and arterial roads. Two freeways were to impinge on the study area, but the F2, which was to follow the railway line through Prahran, was not built, owing to strong local opposition to the proposal. Although there was also considerable public opposition to the second freeway proposal, the South-Eastern Freeway – now known as the Monash Freeway – leading from Punt Road to the south-eastern suburbs was eventually constructed in stages over four decades commencing in the 1960s.*
>
> *The Monash Freeway had its origins in Melbourne's first freeway, the section of the South-Eastern Freeway stretching along the northern Yarra bank from Hoddle Street to Grange Road, which was opened in 1962. An extension to Toorak Road was completed in 1969. During the 1970s the Mulgrave Freeway approached Melbourne from the south-east. Neither freeway crossed the study area, but plans were made to link the two freeways through what was called the 'C3 route', which followed the Gardiners Creek valley on the Malvern side. The use of the valley as a road corridor had been suggested as early as 1929, in the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission's Report. However, 45 years later the prospect of a freeway going through the then City of Malvern sparked unprecedented protest in the community and a number of activist groups formed. They protested against the proposed demolition of hundreds of houses that were in the path of the freeway, the loss of large areas of parkland and sports grounds, damage to the natural environment and the noise and pollution the freeway would produce. These protests delayed construction of the freeway for several years, during which time traffic congestion increased in Malvern's streets, highlighting the reason for the freeway proposal. The linking section was eventually completed in the early 1990s, and the name of the whole freeway was changed to the Monash Freeway in 1999.*
>
> *Other major improvements were made to traffic flow on Dandenong Road, which formed a bottleneck at Chapel Street where it originally connected with the much narrower Wellington Street that intersected with Punt Road and St Kilda Road at St Kilda Junction. Although St Kilda Junction is outside the study area, it was the funnel through which traffic on two of the municipality's busiest thoroughfares – Punt and Dandenong Roads – passed, to join traffic from St Kilda Road. From the 1950s remedies were sought for the increasing traffic congestion at this major junction, but it was not until 1968 before the opening of the major intersection works. This included a new partially sunken roadway (Queens Way) passing under Punt Road and St Kilda Road that connected Dandenong Road (which had then terminated at Chapel Street) to Queens Road and thence to the city. The associated ramps and concrete walls became a feature of the modern traffic management environment, and created a barrier that effectively divided Wellington Street from Windsor.*[61]

The first official highway in the study area was Dandenong Road, which became part of Highway One when the national route numbering system was adopted in 1955. The passing of the *Country Roads Act 1958*, allowed for declaration of major thoroughfares as either Main Roads or State Highways. Punt Road, the western border of the study area, was declared a Main Road in 1960, and, five years later, as Metropolitan Route 29. Others similarly designated at that time comprised Burke Road (Route 17), Glenferrie Road (Route 19), High Street (Route 24), Williams Road (Route 25) and Toorak Road (Route 26). However, Punt Road became the study area's second highway, when the new *Transport Act 1983* amended the definition of State Highway, which saw Punt Road declared as the Hoddle Highway in 1994.

61 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 63-64.

As car ownership boomed in the post-war era, major roads across the study area remained problematic. As Sally Wilde noted, "the result was a growing strain on the main routes through suburbs like Prahran. None of the major through-roads was wide enough and problems were compounded by on-street parking… By the 1960s, the difficulties of widening any of these major streets proved insurmountable".[62] A bold solution was proposed in the form of the F2, a new metropolitan freeway that would have traversed the study area, east of Punt Road, roughly aligning with the railway, although this did not eventuate.[63]

Realisation of the South Eastern Freeway, summarised in the quoted text, had a profound impact on the physical environment of the study area. The section south of Toorak Road, completed in the 1980s, involved resumption of land occupied by public reserves, sports facilities and housing.[64] Entire neighbourhoods were displaced; some suburban streets were truncated (eg, Kyarra Road) and others (eg, Parkway Road, Meaden Court, Craigmore Street and Downer Street) vanished from existence. While public recreation reserves were later re-established, with new pavilions and sports facilities, there were still casualties such as the Glen Iris Croquet Club, which disbanded permanently after its venue was absorbed by the freeway works.

Examples:

Dandenong Road, Windsor (from 1955) – *part of national Highway One*

St Kilda Junction, St Kilda Road and Queens Way, Windsor and St Kilda (1968)

3.4.2 The influence of the motor car on Victoria's way of life after 1945

The post-war boom of car ownership had a major impact on the physical development of Melbourne, and the study area was no exception. Between the wars, parts of the study area had already attracted businesses linked with car ownership. Petrol stations, automotive dealers, and motor mechanics sprung up along the main east-west thoroughfares of Commercial Road, Malvern Road and High Street, on Dandenong Road, and the north end of Chapel Street, and this trend resumed from the late 1940s. New car dealers emerged, often initially in makeshift premises. Just after WW2, Arthur Allan purchased a grand Victorian house at 652 High Street, which became Allan's Auto Sales with a bunting-strewn car yard in front of the mansion.[65] Commercial Motors Pty Ltd, based on Commercial Road since the 1920s (*Fig 3.01*), extended its premises in the mid-1950s with a glass-fronted showroom at No 110. That decade saw South Yarra Car Sales establish its early presence at 566 Chapel Street, followed by newcomers along Malvern Road, typified by Rite Way Motors (No 421) and Warmington's Used Cars (No 597-605), as well as others elsewhere.

Abolition of wartime petrol rationing in early 1950 hastened a new era of purpose-built petrol stations. In the study area, these initially appeared along the two highways that marked its south and west boundaries: Dandenong Road and Punt Road (the latter typified by an architect-designed example at No 412-414, built 1954). A revealing addition to early post-war automotive infrastructure was the workshop opened in Prahran by Kellow-Falkiner, Melbourne's pre-eminent car dealership with flagship pre-war premises on St Kilda Road and branches elsewhere. In 1950, the firm built a "modern and spacious service station" at 93 Commercial Road intended exclusively for servicing Bentley and Rolls Royce cars, fitted with specialist equipment imported from the UK.[66] This was an early manifestation of what would become a sub-theme of prestige vehicle ownership amongst wealthier residents of the study area.

Other early responses to the car ownership boom included widening of Punt Road and installation of traffic lights near local schools, both addressed in the late 1940s.[67] However, car parking would soon emerge as the pressing issue. In the municipal centenary year of 1955, it was conceded that "Prahran has a severe traffic problem on Saturday mornings".[68] A year earlier, the council had proposed building an underground carpark to relieve congestion near the Town Hall, but it was deemed too expensive.[69]

62 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 96.
63 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 98.
64 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 49.
65 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Six* (2003), p 33.
66 "Announcement of special interest to Rolls-Royce and Bentley owners", *Age*, 28 August 1950, p 6.
67 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), pp 37, 209.
68 *City of Prahran: One Hundred Years. The Past, the Present and the Future, 1855-1955* (1955), unpaginated.
69 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 85.



Figure 3.01:
Commercial Motors Pty Ltd
108-126 Commercial Road, Prahran,
photographed c.1955,
showing new showroom (right)
Source: Prahran News
22 April 1955, p 3
[centenary supplement]
(photographer uncredited)

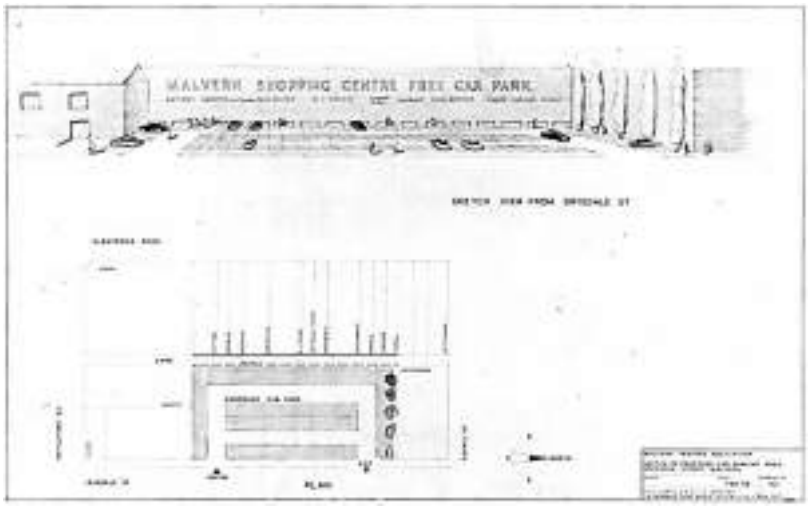


Figure 3.02:
Malvern Shopping Centre
Free Car Park
9-15 Drysdale Street, Malvern
(R A C Curtis, 1958)
Source: Lynne Strahan,
Private & Public Memory, Fig 68



Figure 3.03 (above)
Preston Motors Pty Ltd
1175 High Street, Malvern
Source: Southern Cross,
3 June 1964



Figure 3.04 (right)
Gilbert's of Malvern,
33 Tooronga Road, Malvern,
as rebuilt c.1964
Source: Southern Cross,
3 June 1964

While open car parks were perceived as a more viable solution, they were not always simple to provide. When the City of Malvern planned its first off-street carpark in 1958 (*Fig 3.02*), the intended demolition of three houses caused such a community backlash that the scheme was revised.[70] The City of Prahran doubled its budget for purchasing carpark land, but a plan in 1960 to compulsorily acquire property behind Chapel Street, to accommodate 104 cars, did not eventuate.[71] Instead, the council accepted an offer from a local manufacturer to lease vacant land in Izett Street, next to the firm's factory, with space for 80 cars.[72]

Expansion of motor-related businesses boomed during the 1960s. Older facilities were routinely upgraded, typified by the Preston Motors showroom in High Street, Malvern (*Fig 3.03*) and H E Gilbert's petrol station in Tooronga Road, Malvern (*Fig 3.04*). While entirely new petrol stations had initially been drawn to the perimeter highways, others began to appear along the established retail strips. The Angle Service Station at 892 High Street, Armadale (1961), named for its awkward site at the corner of Cheel Street and Sutherland Road, stood at the western edge of the retail strip in a striking architect-designed two-storey modernist building (*Fig 3.05*). A counterpart at the eastern end of Toorak Village, at 427 Toorak Road (c.1968) was an outlet of the Ampol chain, built to the company's standard ranch-style design.[73] For the next few decades, it was one of only two petrol stations along this stretch of Toorak Road – the other being the former Tivoli Service Station at No 325, later redeveloped and re-branded by Shell in 1979.

Businesses aimed at prestige cars increased from the mid-1960s. Racing driver turned entrepreneur Bob Jane (founder of the eponymous tyre franchise) rebranded South Yarra Car Sales as an authorized dealership for Jaguar, Alfa Romeo and Daimler, while fellow racing legend Alan Moffatt began business from a workshop at 711 Malvern Road, devoted to maintenance of touring cars including his own Mustang Trans Am.[74] The early 1970s saw John Ould Motors open at 837 High Street as an accredited BMW dealer, while what was then Melbourne's only Porsche dealership, founded in the 1950s by Norman Hutchinson and taken over by his son Alan in 1972, moved into a new purpose-built showroom at 681 Chapel Street in 1974 (*Fig 3.06*). By then, prestige automobiles were so synonymous with this part of the study area that an observer wryly noted in 1974, "today it is customary for the Jaguar to rub shoulders with the Rolls Royce and the Mercedes Benz as they cram every available parking space outside the boutiques of Toorak and South Yarra".[75]

Regardless of a car's make, parking remained an ongoing concern in such parts of the study area. While new retail complexes began to incorporate onsite carparks, in podiums, rooftops or basements (see **5.3.4**), the issue remained a thorny one for local councils. As Sally Wilde noted, "Time and time again throughout the 1970s and '80s, councillors and council officials struggled to find a solution to Prahran's parking and traffic problems".[76] The City of Malvern also grappled with the issue. In 1976, it opened a carpark in Edgar Street, Glen Iris, to serve the Harold Holt Swim Centre, while its original off-street carpark behind Glenferrie Road was rebuilt in 1983 as a two-level parking structure.[77] The City of Prahran also upgraded parking facilities around the new Prahran Market – a building uniquely providing a rooftop observation booth for a parking attendant to aid motorists via a loudspeaker (*Fig 3.07*).[78]

Writing in 1984, Betty Malone stated that "today, the large carparks behind Coles New World [on Chapel Street] and near the market house well over 1,000 cars and there are many small [car] parks in strategic areas".[79] Parking near Chapel Street was further improved by a new carpark at the Windsor end, officially opened by the Mayor in October 1987, and another in Little Chapel Street, completed in 1994. Four years later, the Prahran Market carpark was redeveloped as a multi-level complex for 687 cars, bringing an end to the era of the rooftop parking attendant. The huge Como Centre on Toorak Road prompted comparably huge parking solutions: the centre's own multi-level Como Centre Car Park at 664 Chapel Street, dwarfed by an eight-storey parking garage at 11-17 Daly Street, completed in the early 1990s.

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70 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), Figure 68.
71 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 85.
72 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 86.
73 Michele Summerton & Daniel Catrice, *The Motor Garage and Service Station in Victoria: A Survey*. Unpublished report prepared for Heritage Victoria, February 1997, p 213.
74 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Seven* (2004), p 43.
75 Brian Carroll and Arno Roger-Genersh, *Toorak and South Yarra Sketchbook* (1974), p 18.
76 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 98.
77 *Malvern News Sheet*, November 1983.
78 "Parking supervisor at Prahran Market", photograph, c.1980. Item PH61520, Stonnington History Centre.
79 Betty Malone, *Chapel Street, Prahran: Part Two, 1919–1984* (1984), p 69.



Figure 3.05:
Angle Service Satation
892 High Street, Armadale
(Hassell & McConnell, 1961)
Source: Item H91.244/3040,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 3.06:
Hamilton's of South Yarra
Porche Dealership
681 Chapel Street, South Yarra
(1974)
Source: Age, 30 July 1975, p 8.



Figure 3.07:
Parking supervisor's booth
Prahran Market (c.1980)
Source: Item PH61520
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

In the late twentieth century, high-end car dealerships sustained a conspicuous presence in the study area. Bib Stillwell, another former race driver turned prestige car dealer, opened a new showroom at 145 Williams Road (c.1989) as "the ultimate BMW dealer", while John Blair Motors, long established at the nearby corner of High Street and Williams Road, became an Alfa Romeo specialist and built a new a showroom designed by award-winning architects Ashton Raggatt McDougall. By then, the area's original prestige car dealers, Kellow Falkiner, had increased its Commercial Road presence, with three discrete premises at Nos 65, 93 and 103. Meanwhile, the 1990s brought an end to many local services stations including those at the ends of retail strips in Toorak Village and Armadale, their respective sites redeveloped for apartments.

Examples:

Kellow Falkiner Workshop, 93 Commercial Road, South Yarra (1950) – *demolished*

Angle Service Station, 892 High Street, Armadale (1961) – *demolished*

Hamiltons of South Yarra Porsche Dealership, 681 Chapel Street, South Yarra (1974) – *demolished*

Multi-storey carpark, 9-15 Drysdale Street, Malvern (1983)

John Blair Motors (former), 403-417 High Street, Prahran (Ashton Raggatt McDougall, 1991)

Multi-storey carpark, 11-17 Daly Street, South Yarra (c.1992)

3.5 Travelling by tram

3.5.1 Expanding tramway routes and infrastructure after 1945

The tramway network within the study area, laid out from the early 1900s, was fully developed well before WW2. Two major metropolitan tram lines traversed the study area from north to south (Chapel Street and Glenferrie Road) and four others extended east from Punt Road (Toorak Road, Commercial Road/Malvern Road, High Street and Dandenong Road/Wattletree Road), traversing the City of Prahran and terminating in the City of Malvern (except for the Malvern Road route, which continued northwards up Burke Road, to Camberwell and Balwyn. Another route passed through Balaclava and entered the study area at Waverley Road, Malvern East, terminating at Darling Road – the closest that trams would come to the Chadstone area (now Malvern East). Post-war changes to these tram routes were few, and invariably prompted by other capital works. In the late 1960s, upgrading of St Kilda Junction, including the new Queens Way by-pass, dictated reconfiguration of tram lines along Wellington Street, linking St Kilda Road and Dandenong Road. The existing lines remained in use as work on Queens Way continued, and it was only after new lines were added to the new by-pass that the older ones on Wellington Street were decommissioned and removed.

In the early 1950s, the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramway Board (MMTB) embarked upon a scheme to recruit migrant workers from the United Kingdom and began acquiring large houses across Melbourne for use as staff hostels (see also **2.4.1**). The first of these was located in the study area: the former Warwick Guest House at 74 Finch Street, Malvern East. Purchased by the MMTB in December 1950, it was renamed Warwick House and its first occupants, thirty men slated for training and employment at the tram depot at Kew (not Malvern) arrived in August 1951.[80] As migrant workers began to find lodging elsewhere, the hostels were no longer needed. Only seven men remained at Warwick House by August 1952, when it was announced that all hostels would be sold.[81]

During the post-war period, alterations were also made to the MMTB deport in Malvern, notably provision of a second entrance on Glenferrie Road to allow trams to arrive and depart without the need for shunting.[82]

Examples

Reconfigured tram route, Queens Way, Windsor (c.1968)

House (former Warwick House MMTB Hostel), 74 Finch Street, Malvern East (1950-52) – *demolished*

80 "New busman's holiday", *Argus*, 21 August 1951, p 5.
81 "Tram board will relinquish hostels", *Age*, 19 August 1952, p 3.
82 "Tram entrance", *Age*, 20 August 1969, p 2.

3.6 Linking Victorians by air

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

3.7 Establishing and maintaining communications

3.7.1 Improving postal services after 1945

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History Addendum (2009):

> *In 1901 the newly formed Commonwealth Government established the Postmaster-General's office (PMG), which took over all responsibility for phone, telegraph and postal services and embarked on a building program. As a result new post offices were built at Malvern, Windsor and Glen Iris.*[83]

Under the new PMG Department, post offices across the study area were systematically replaced in the early twentieth century, with new buildings at Windsor, Toorak, Malvern, Armadale, Tooronga, Prahran and Glen Iris. By the end of WW2, the only Victorian-era post office still in operation was at 162 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1892), which finally closed when a modern replacement was built further east at No 96-100. Opened in December 1949, this was the first purpose-built post-war post office in the study area (*Fig 3.08*). By then, several other post offices operated from shopfronts in established retail strips. Pre-war examples at Kooyong, Malvern East, Prahran East and Central Park were latterly joined by designated as Malvern South (1948) at 125 Station Street, Malvern, and Chadstone (1957) at 742 Waverley Road, Malvern East.

When Chadstone Shopping Centre opened in October 1960, it had its own post office at the south end of the garden plaza, designated as Chadstone Centre PO. The earlier local facility, in a shop in 742 Waverley Road, was soon replaced by new premises just around the corner at 556 Warrigal Road: a modern two-storey building officially opened on 8 December 1964 by Harold Holt, then Federal treasurer (*Fig 3.09*). By the early 1970s, Toorak Village's Edwardian post office – one of the oldest still in use in the study area – also needed updating. Instead of building a replacement elsewhere (as was done further west along Toorak Road), the old post office was demolished and a new one built on the same site. The site was cleared in 1973 and the new post office, a two-storey Brutalist-style concrete building, completed in 1974-75 (*Fig 3.10*).

In the 1980s and '90s, Australia Post embarked on a consolidation programme that saw post office services relocated and surplus premises sold. Those in the study area to be de-accessioned included purpose-built pre-war branches at Windsor, Armadale and Glen Iris, and the Brutalist-style one in Toorak Village. In all cases, services were re-established in nearby shopfronts. The pre-war buildings at Windsor and Glen Iris, and the post-war building on Warrigal Road, were all adapted for other uses, but those at Armadale and Toorak Village, occupying prime positions on major retail strips, were sold and the sites redeveloped.[84] The early post-war post office on Toorak Road was also razed during this time, replaced by a new two-storey commercial block that incorporated a smaller post office.

Examples:

Malvern South Post Office (former), 125 Station Street, Malvern (1948) – *HO156 (Claremont Avenue Precinct)*

South Yarra Post Office, 96-100 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1949) – *demolished*

Chadstone Post Office, 556 Warrigal Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1962-64) – *demolished*

Toorak Village Post Office, 454 Toorak Road, Toorak (1973-75) – *demolished*

3.7.2 Developing electronic means of communication after 1945 **[2009: 4.6.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History Addendum (2009):

> *Following the war, a £5 million plan to modernise Victoria's postal and telephone services was announced, and new automatic exchanges were constructed throughout Melbourne.*

83 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (2009), p 6.
84 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 48.



Figure 3.08:
South Yarra Post Office (1949)
92-100 Toorak Road, South Yarra
Source: Item ID 9815622
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 3.09:
Chadstone Post Office (1962-64)
556 Warrigal Road, Malvern East
(formerly Chadstone)
Source: Item ID 30103083
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 3.10:
Toorak Village Post Office (1973-75)
454 Toorak Road, Toorak
Source: Item ID 30632772
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)

An automatic exchange at Williams Road in Toorak, constructed circa 1945 [sic; see below] is believed to have been one of the first new exchanges built in accordance with the plan. The exchange, which was situated near to the existing manual exchange on Toorak Road, was in operation by April 1946 and the number of subscribers to the service expanded rapidly. A further automatic exchange was proposed for South Yarra, but negotiations over location delayed progress on the project. In the interim, as one of the three largest manual exchanges in metropolitan Melbourne, the exchange at Windsor was [announced to be] converted to automatic under the plan. This was later replaced by a massive new automatic exchange in the 1970s.

As the numbers of subscribers grew a new automated telephone exchange was finally under construction in Punt Road (falling just outside the City of Stonnington) in 1951, and had opened for operations in 1954. Built according to a similar design to an earlier exchange on Inkerman Street in St. Kilda, the Punt Road exchange served as the local exchange for South Yarra, which by this time as a result of apartment development had the highest residential density (and hence numbers of subscribers) in Melbourne.[85]

While Toorak's new exchange at 268 Williams Road, designed in 1942 and completed in 1944, predated the statewide upgrade of telephone facilities announced in late 1945, the scheme would include other automatic exchanges to serve the study area. The two-storey exchange on Malvern Road, Armadale (1950) was the next to be built therein, while the larger one on the west side of Punt Road, South Yarra (1949-53), was just over the border of the study area but still served telephone subscribers living or working further east. The same applied to a small exchange at Glen Iris (1950), near the corner of High Street and Barina Road in the City of Hawthorn, intended to relieve congestion in Malvern.[86] The statewide upgrade of telephone facilities after WW2 also involved conversion of the old exchange at Peel Street, Windsor – then one of Melbourne's largest – from manual to automatic. However, while this was announced in 1948, with completion slated for "late 1951 or early 1952", it was not until 1958 that the exchange finally became fully automatic – indeed, one of the last exchanges in Melbourne to do so.[87] The ageing facility would be more fundamentally upgraded in 1972, with construction of a vast seven-storey building on the adjacent site (*Fig 3.11*). At the time, it was considered that this would continue to serve local needs until at least the mid-1990s.

Examples:

Telephone Exchange, 1096-1098 Malvern Road, Armadale (1950)

Telephone Exchange, 160 Peel Street, Windsor (1972)

3.7.3 Making, printing and distributing newspapers after 1945

In the post-war era, the principal local newspapers within the study area were those known for the longest time as the *Southern Cross* (City of Prahran) and the *Chadstone Progress* (City of Malvern). While, typically for that time, each underwent sporadic name changes, both were published continuously across the second half of the twentieth century. Coincidentally, both emanated from suburbs outside the study area. The *Southern Cross* sprung from an Elsternwick newspaper founded in 1949 by Peter Isaacson, ex-RAAF pilot and former *Argus* aviation reporter. With wartime paper rationing still in place, Isaacson realised that his ration would increase if his output expanded, and split his newspaper into multiple titles. One, circulating in the City of Prahran, was first known as the *St Kilda Prahran News*, then the *Prahran & Malvern News* (1951), *Prahran News* (1952), *Southern Advertiser* (1959) and finally *Southern Cross* (1962). While Isaacson's masthead predominated in the City of Prahran during these decades, several local rivals came and went, including the short-lived *Prahran & South Yarra Local* (1952-55) and the *Prahran Times* (1959-68). The former, subtitled as "circulating through Prahran, South Yarra, Armadale and Toorak", maintained its offices at 35 Cato Street, Prahran.

A counterpart in the City of Malvern appeared in 1953 as a spinoff venture for Progress Press Pty Ltd, the Ashburton-based firm that had taken over production of that suburb's original local newspaper, founded by the Ashburton Progress Association in 1946. Initially known as the *Malvern Press*, the new masthead went through a few iterations before it was reconfigured and rebranded in 1960 as the *Chadstone Progress*, by which name it would be known for more than two decades (*Fig 3.12*).

85 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (March 2009), p 7.
86 "New exchange for Glen Iris", *Argus*, 15 September 1950, p 3.
87 "Windsor automatic by 1952", *Argus*, 17 July 1948, p 1; "Collins Street Calling", *Age*, 6 August 1958, p 1.

During this nascent phase, the *Chadstone Progress* remained published from Ashburton, and the *Southern Cross* from Brighton, where Peter Isaacson Pty Ltd had relocated in 1949. The *Southern Cross* would not be based within the study area until 1966, when operations shifted to a new building at 48-50 Porter Street, Prahran. That year, Progress Press Pty Ltd moved from Ashburton to Glen Iris (6 High Street, just outside the study area), thence to Moorabbin in 1972. While the *Chadstone Progress* was never headquartered in the study area, and the *Southern Cross* only from 1966, each newspaper had a local press office at the Chadstone Shopping Centre, being among the original tenants when the complex opened in October 1960.[88]

Two emerging local publications of the 1970s became memorable in different ways. The *Malvern News Sheet*, a "free community access paper", began in 1973 as a joint venture of the Malvern Community Association and Citizens' Advice Bureau, each issue compiled, printed and hand-delivered by volunteers.[89] At the other end of the journalistic spectrum, the *Toorak Times* was a weekly tabloid founded in 1972 by controversial businessman Jack Pacholli. Initially based in St Kilda Road, it soon transferred to the study area proper, into a terrace house in High Street, Prahran. The *Toorak Times* was not to be confused with the *Toorak Tatler*, a review of "life and commerce in Toorak and South Yarra", published from 1972 from the Franklin Carrack Publishing Company in Toorak Village, at 428 Toorak Road. Pacholli's publishing interests duly expanded to include such titles as the *Southerner* (1978), the *Alternative Gig Guide* (1979), the *Tiger Rag: A Paper for the Workers* (1980) and the *Toorak Sunday Times* (1984), some for wider than just local distribution.

Other publishers based in the study area also produced serials for wider circulation. In 1969, independent weekly *Postscript* moved from Richmond to South Yarra, continuing as the *Postscript Weekender*, published from the office of Regal Press at 5 Claremont Street. Kuchmar Publishing, based nearby at No 48, produced such specialist serials as the *Brides Catalogue* and the *Victorian Builders' Trade Directory*. Vance Media Pty Ltd, operating at 549 Malvern Road, published flooring and furnishing magazines, while another Toorak-based firm, Pastoral Review Australia Pty Ltd, produced the *Australian Dairy Journal* in the 1970s and '80s.

The 1980s and '90s brought major changes to local newspapers. From 1983, the *Chadstone Progress* altered its name several times before becoming the *Malvern Caulfield Progress* in 1988. After publication was taken over by the Leader Newspaper Group in 1993, it re-emerged as the *Malvern Prahran Leader*. The next year, Peter Isaacson's *Southern Cross* was also acquired by a media conglomerate, which continued publication under the original name, with separate editions for various suburbs. Council amalgamation in late 1994 saw the *Malvern News Sheet* expand coverage across the former City of Prahran. Renamed as the *Stonnington News Sheet* (and later the *Stonnington Community News*), it folded in 2000. That year, the *Malvern Prahran Leader* also changed its name one more time, becoming the *Stonnington Leader*.

Examples:

Offices of the *Southern Cross* (former), 48-50 Porter Street, Prahran (1966) - *demolished*

Offices of the *Toorak Times* (former), 3 High Street, Prahran

3.7.4 Broadcasting after 1945

Broadcasting has maintained a recurring presence in the study area in the post-war era dating back as far as September 1959, when radio station 3AW broadcast a weekly music programme, the *Jazz Showcase*, live from the new Embers nightclub in Toorak Road.[90] While evidently a special one-off event, rivals 3UZ developed the concept into a regular slot and, early the next year, began weekly transmissions from a temporary studio installed at Embers.[91] Initially known as *Modern Music*, the show continued over some months in 1960, and was briefly revived in 1962 under the name *Floor Show*. Embers also caught the attention of television network 9 when, in December 1960, American singers Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Torme performed there separately while touring Australian together for a series of concerts. Their respective appearances at Embers were taped for television, and subsequently broadcast as two GTV9 specials in January 1961.

88 "Chadstone opens Tuesday 4th October" Age, 19 September 1960, p 8.
89 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), pp 74-75.
90 "AW jazz session from nightclub", *Age*, 3 September 1959, p 26.
91 Jan O'Connell, "The clubs with no beer: Melbourne's 1950s nightclubs", undated blog entry, <https://meandmybigmouth.com.au/nightclubs-melbourne-1950s/>

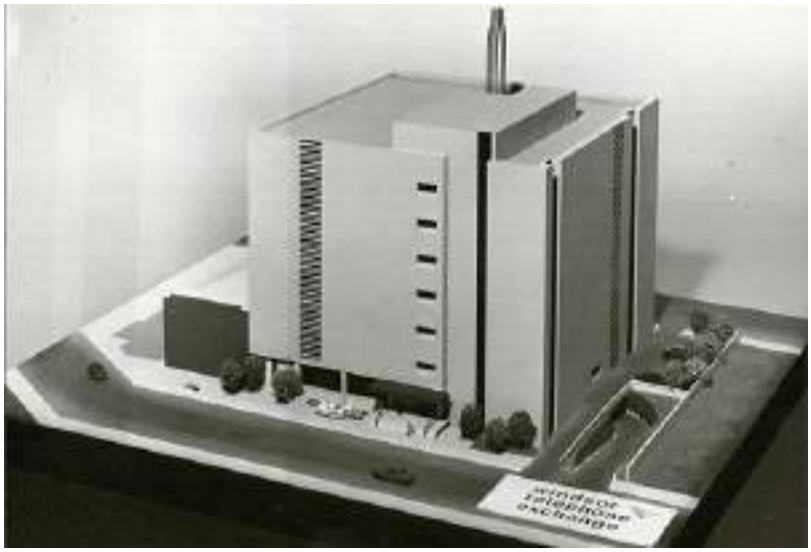


Figure 3.11:
Architects' model of the new Windsor Telephone Exchange (1972) 160 Peel Street, Windsor
Source: Item ID 30587076, National Archives of Australia (photographer uncredited)


62,000 GUARANTEED CIRCULATION

CHADSTONE PROGRESS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1960

Chadstone Progress is something new

Figure 3.12:
Masthead (and introductory article) from inaugural issue of the Chadstone Progress newspaper, published 28 September 1960
Source: Item HT 38883, Museums Victoria



Figure 3.13:
3UZ remote studio (1960) Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone)
Source: Item ID 30103083, National Archives of Australia (photographer uncredited)

Around the same time, a more visible local manifestation of radio broadcast emerged at the opposite end of the study area. In October 1960, 3UZ commenced transmitting from a remote studio at the new Chadstone Shopping Centre, which took the form of a freestanding glass-walled pavilion in the landscaped plaza on the north side of the complex (*Fig 3.13*). Starting with a half-hour midday slot known as "Radio Chadstone", these local broadcasts quickly became popular with both listeners and bemused shoppers. Later, the service expanded into a six-hour "top 40" countdown on Sunday afternoons, which attracted crowds of onlookers even though the shopping centre itself was not open. Such broadcast had ceased by the mid-1960s, and the subsequent fate of the glass-walled studio, nicknamed "the fishbowl", remains unconfirmed.

As with Embers nightclub in South Yarra, Chadstone Shopping Centre attracted not only radio broadcasters but also a television network. When Melbourne's fourth channel, ATV0, commenced operation in 1964 from a new purpose-built studio complex in Nunawading, its early programming included a number of items that were telecast from Chadstone, including a tenpin bowling tournament, three episodes of *The Women's Hour* and four episodes of *The Children's Show*.[92] In October 1966, the network recorded and transmitted an entire ten-part cookery series, entitled *Graham Kerr at Chadstone*, where the famous celebrity chef prepared dishes before a live audience in the shopping centre's auditorium.

Channel ATV0, which was rebranded as Network Ten in 1980, would establish a more significant presence in the late twentieth century when it relocated its headquarters from Nunawading to South Yarra, taking up space in the new Como Centre on the corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road. While more complex television programmes continued to be filmed at Nunawading, the new studio at the Como Centre was used for news, current affairs and panel shows. One of the first major broadcasts from the network's new home was a Deafness Appeal Telethon, hosted by Bert Newton, which took place on Sunday, 5 July 1992.

Examples:

Embers Nightclub, 59 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1960) – *demolished*; *site within HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

3UZ remote studio, Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1960) – *demolished*

Network Ten Studios, Como Centre, 299 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1992 onwards)

92 "Western themes for first women's show", *Age*, 24 September 1964, p 27.

4.0 TRANSFORMING AND MANAGING LAND & WATER RESOURCES

4.1 Living off the land

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

4.2 Living from the sea

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

4.3 Grazing and raising livestock

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

4.4 Farming

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

4.5 Gold mining

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

4.6 Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources

4.6.1 Exploiting natural resources for building materials **[2006: 6.2.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *From the early 1840s, small operators were working in the low-lying parts of South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor, but the northern end of Chapel Street from Toorak Road to the river became the major centre of brick production. The longest running works were on the corner of Toorak Road, where Robert Davis quarried clay for three decades. His brickworks were the forerunner of the Australian Gas Retort and Firebrick Manufactory, later the South Yarra Firebrick Company, which continued operations into the 1970s.*[1]

While the extractive industries of quarrying and clay-pits maintained a notable presence in the northern part of the study area in the nineteenth century, this declined from the early twentieth century. Writing of such activity in the City of Prahran, Sally Wilde noted that "brickmaking had passed its peak by 1925 as suitable clay was progressively used up".[2] However, a few firms survived into the post-war era.

Founded in Hawthorn in 1899, the City Brick Works Company expanded by acquiring further land flanking Gardiners Creek – one area on Toorak Road and the other on Tooronga Road (just outside the study area). These sites, flanking the municipal boundary and developed with clay-pits and kilns, operated in tandem into the post-war era. The Toorak Road site closed in the early 1950s, when production was consolidated at Tooronga, and the former claypit was leased by the City of Malvern as a rubbish tip. The old brick kilns, on Elizabeth Street, remained standing until the site was rezoned for residential use in the mid-1980s.[3]

The South Yarra Fire Brick Company, established at the north end of Chapel Street in 1869, was still there a century later. While the clay hole on the site had long since disappeared by the end of WW2, and the firm's early buildings along Toorak Road subsumed by retail development, manufacture of its signature product (specialist bricks for lining fireplaces, kilns and furnaces) continued from more recent factory buildings. Officially addressed as 624 Chapel Street, the huge property spanned 1.4 hectares, extending as far as River Street and Malcolm Street. Production finally ceased in the late 1970s and the site was subsequently acquired by developer Jack Chia, who eventually erected the Como Centre there.[4]

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1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 95.
2 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 145-46.
3 Bruce Coldham & Stan Marks. *Malvern Sketchbook (*1980), pp 48-49.
4 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 114.

Although the City Brick Works site on Tooronga Road, Glen Iris, was located just outside the municipal boundary, it still retained links with the study area into the late twentieth century. In 1987, by which time the firm was known as PGH City Bricks, it donated unfired bricks for a community art project at the R G Moss Library at Chadstone (now Malvern East) (see **9.3.2**).[5] The next year, the brickworks were taken over by a new firm, Melbourne City Bricks, which went on to open a clay products display centre nearby, within the study area, on the northeast corner of Tooronga Road and Carroll Crescent.[6] While the brickworks later closed, the display centre remained in operation into the twenty-first century.

Examples:

Brick mural, Chadstone Library, 80 Bowen Street, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1987-88) – *dismantled; components held in storage as of 2024*

Melbourne Brick Display Centre, 330-340 Tooronga Road, Glen Iris (1990s)

4.7 Transforming the land and waterways

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *During the 1960s the construction of the South Eastern Freeway (now the Monash Freeway) further altered the course of the [Yarra] river, removing a point of land near Yarradale Road.*
>
> *In the later twentieth century a new threat to Gardiners Creek emerged in the form of roads or, more particularly, freeway construction. The Gardiners Creek Valley Study Drainage Study Team Status Report (February 1977) describes re-alignment and erosion control works over the length of the creek between Toorak Road and Warrigal Road. These studies were carried out at the request of councils and the community to understand the impact of the construction of a freeway along Gardiners Creek, which was subsequently constructed as an arterial road, now the Monash Freeway. Roadworks of this kind have had major detrimental effects on Gardiners Creek, especially downstream of Burke Road.*[7]

Completion of the new Cremorne Railway Bridge in early 1947 (see **3.3.1**) prompted minor river-widening works, with stone pitchers being laid on the riverbank towards the end of that year.[8] The more significant re-alignment of the river, in anticipation of the new South Eastern Freeway, would, in turn, necessitate a new railway bridge to the north of Heyington Station, completed in 1969-70.

Examples:

Heyington Railway Bridge, off Heyington Place, Toorak (1969-70)

5 *Malvern News Sheet*, cited in catalogue entry "Mural - Chadstone Library", 1987-88. Item MH13900, Stonnington History Centre.
6 "About us", *Melbourne Bricks*. < https://www.melbournebrick.com.au/about-us>
7 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 21, 22.
8 "Workmen lay new stone on the river bank", *Age,* 30 September 1947, p 5.

5.0 BUILDING VICTORIA'S INDUSTRIES AND WORKFORCE

5.1 Processing raw materials

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

5.2 Developing a manufacturing capacity

5.2.1 Industrial expansion after 1945 **[2006: 6.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Food processing became an important industry in the study area during the early twentieth century and a number of the study area's food producers became household names including IXL, Table Talk biscuits, Kia Ora soft drinks and Red Tulip chocolates.*[1]
>
> *Prahran and South Yarra were also centres for clothing factories, knitting mills and milliners from the 1870s well into the second half of the twentieth century… New factories were still being opened in the 1940s and '50s, such as Newman's raincoat factory, which employed post-war immigrants. The Acme Knitting Mills, Dyers and Bleachers were still operating at 556 Chapel Street, South Yarra, in the 1980s, and the Sheraton Shirt factory in River Street, South Yarra, was still in operation in 1979.*[2]
>
> *A later, but major contribution to Victoria's building industry was that of the Housing Commission's factory at Holmesglen, which between 1946 and 1980 manufactured many thousands of prefabricated concrete houses as a quick and cheap solution to the post-war housing shortage. These houses and high rise apartments were built throughout Melbourne, including Prahran, and regional Victoria.*[3]
>
> *In the latter part of the twentieth century business restructuring, industry rationalisation, rising land values and the loss of tariff protection forced these industries out of the study area – either to more modern factories on cheaper land elsewhere, or, in the case of manufactured products that can no longer compete with imports, to oblivion* [4]

The Housing Commission's Concrete House Factory at Holmesglen, which began in 1946 from a former tank assembly plant on Warrigal Road (*Fig 5.01*), was one of the first new industries to emerge in the study area after WW2, but its scale and governmental ownership were atypical at a time when local manufacture was still characterised by small-scale private enterprise. In the City of Malvern, while pre-war industrial growth focused on the established strips of Malvern Road, Glenferrie Road and High Street, further expansion was curtailed by wartime restrictions. The Coggan Mica Company, doubtless securing an exemption because it would contribute to the war effort, built modern premises at 1247 Malvern Road, circa 1944, likely one of the last new factories in the study area until after WW2 (*Fig 5.02*). Rebranded as Peerless Mica in 1946, the firm initiated further expansion while one of the first entirely new factory buildings in the study area emerged nearby: the premises of confectioners Dollar Sweets Pty Ltd at 1463-65 Malvern Road (c.1948).

In the City of Prahran, expansion was more intensive due to the municipality's broader history of industrial activity. By the end of WW2, Chapel Street was the spine of a major manufacturing hub that spread along Toorak Road, Commercial Road and High Street and many side-streets, with firms occupying space above or behind shops on these retail strips, or modest premises off them. This maze-like network of small streets, flanking Chapel Street, was where major pre-war firms such as Table Talk biscuits and Kia Ora soft drinks thrived after WW2, alongside lesser-known names. The largest factories, clustered at Chapel Street's north end, also expanded from the late 1940s, including inter-war firms such as Hecla, Electrolux, Acme Knitting Mills, and the significantly older IXL Jam factory. Prahran's industrial heartland began to attract newcomers from the mid-1940s, when a new chocolate manufacturer, the Olgana Company (later to become Red Tulip) transferred operations to a former motor garage at 266 High Street. Soon after, a rival firm of confectioners Montague Bernard & Company, began production from the former Royal Theatre at 28 Chapel Street.

1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 97.
2 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 98.
3 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 99.
4 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 95.

With few manufacturers yet in position to build new factories, the use of older premises persisted. The Newman family's raincoat factory in High Street, begun in 1948, occupied rooms over a shop at No 1203. In the early 1950s, Dominant Lingerie moved from the city to an old factory at 116-118 Chapel Street, while shoe manufacturers K O Turner Pty Ltd took over the Rockley Dance Hall at 320 Toorak Road.[5] Many firms upgraded existing buildings in the 1950s and early '60s, typified by Interstate Buyers Ltd in High Street (*Fig 5.03*). Red Tulip also expanded its presence on High Street by acquiring a former woollen mill at No 253 (c.1953) and the OT cordial factory at No 181-87 (c.1965), and remodelling its original building at No 266, reopened in 1959 with a mural by artist Anne Graham (see *Fig 9.16*).[6] Dominant Lingerie rebuilt its Chapel Street factory, while Dollar Sweets enlarged its premises on Malvern Road. New factories proliferated from the mid-1950s, typified by those of Sunrise Confectioners at 56 Greville Street (c.1956), Robell Manufacturing Company at 6 Claremont Street (c.1957), and Fisher & Porter at 1457 Malvern Road, Glen Iris (c.1958).

In 1962, the City of Prahran's Chief Health Inspector urged the registration of local factories, and his report appended a list of manufacturers that gives a vivid snapshot of industrial growth by that time.[7] Most of the listed businesses were in Chapel Street, with fewer on Toorak Road, High Street, Commercial Road and Malvern Road, but many others in smaller side streets such as Almeida Crescent, Anchor Place, Cato Street, Cecil Place, Maddock Street, Maples Lane, Osment Street, Palermo Street, Porter Street and Yarra Place. The listed firms ran the gamut of activities from a paper cutter, peanut processor and plastic moulder, to makers of metal furniture, sausages and lampshades, through to many types of clothing. This boom of industrial expansion, spanning the middle-third of the twentieth century, was neatly summarised by Sally Wilde:

> *There used to be literally hundreds of factories in Prahran, particularly in the central and western areas, and they made everything from postcards to pyjamas. Their story is broadly of a marked rise in importance during the 1920s and 1930s to a peak in the 1950s, and a decline since the 1960s.*[8]

The final burst of industrial growth in the 1960s saw small factories and workshops proliferate in the study area, and particularly its western side. Typically one- or two-storey brick buildings on relatively small sites, such premises cropped up in small side streets off the main commercial strips, typified by Porter Street and St Edmunds Street off Commercial Road, Ellis Street and Windsor Street off Chapel Street, and River Street off Toorak Road (where Sheraton Textiles built its shirt factory at No 12, circa 1965), as well as similar locations further east, such as the railside cul-de-sacs of Como Street, Malvern and Paran Place, Glen Iris.

Local industry declined from the early 1970s, when the IXL Jam factory in Chapel Street closed after nearly a century.[9] In 1974, Sheraton Textiles relocated production to Traralgon, but retained its factory in River Street for administration.[10] The next year, Hecla ceased operation and its property was taken over by neighbours Electrolux, which, in turn, continued only until 1981, when the sites were bought by developer Jack Chia for the Como Centre. Sally Wilde noted that most of the industrial bakeries that had defined Prahran, including the Capitol Bakeries at the corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road, also closed by the late 1970s, while Table Talk Biscuits ceased production at its Charles Street premises in 1981.[11] The next year, the factory was acquired by another biscuit manufacturer, Beatrice Australia Ltd, which made boutique-style products using natural ingredients, although this ended in 1988 when the firm was acquired by Cadbury Schweppes.[12] That year, Cadbury Schweppes also took over two other brands with longtime Prahran connections: Kia Ora and Red Tulip. The latter's chocolate manufacture was consolidated at Scoresby (where the firm built a factory in 1976), and at Cadbury's headquarters at Ringwood, prompting closure of the original Red Tulip premises on High Street.[13] This decline of local industry was further underscored when the former Table Talk (latterly Beatrice Australia) factory in Charles Street was taken over in 1989 by a third manufacturer, Players Biscuits, which operated there for less than decade before the building was sold and converted into apartments.

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5 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 151.
6 "Modern art in Melbourne", *Age*, 1 October 1959, p 3.
7 Typescript list of factories appended to correspondence between City of Prahran's Chief Health Inspector and the State Government's Chief Inspector of Factories, 1962. Item PH61690, Stonnington History Centre, Malvern.
8 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 145.
9 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 156.
10 "No regrets on move", *Age*, 28 June 1974, p 25.
11 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), pp 149, 150.
12 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 150; "Chocolate chip cookies", *Age*, 21 August 1984, p 22.
13 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), pp 158.



Figure 5.01:
HCV Concrete House Factory
Warrigal Road, Malvern East
(formerly Chadstone)
(1946)
Source: Item ID H84.425/53,
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Lyle Fowler)



Figure 5.02:
Coggan Mica Company
1247 Malvern Road, Malvern
(c.1944)
Source: Item MP2402,
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

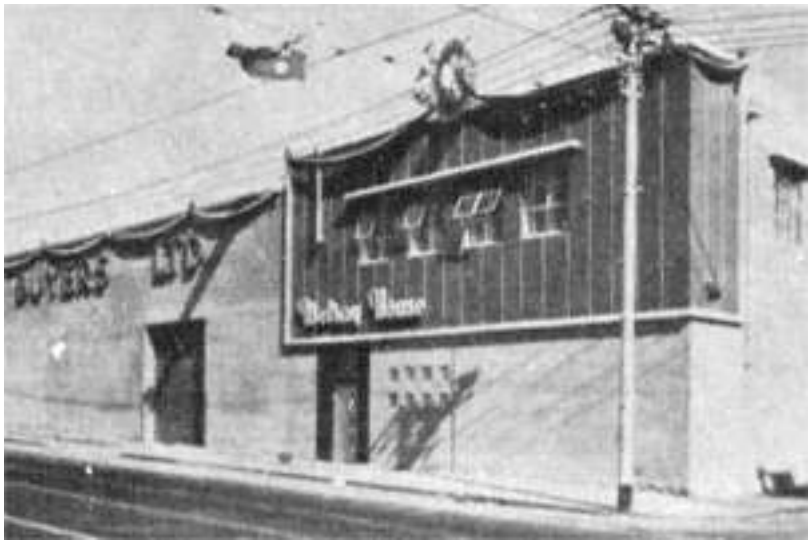


Figure 5.03:
Interstate Buyers Ltd
546-562 Malvern Road, Prahran
(rebuilt c.1950)
Source: Prahran & South Yarra Local, 22 April 1955, p 9
[Centenary Souvenir Issue]
(photographer uncredited)

Examples:

Dollar Sweets Pty Ltd factory (former), 1463-1465 Malvern Road, Glen Iris (c.1948)
– *HO399 (Malvern/Tooronga Road Retail Precinct)*

Interstate Buyers Ltd Factory (former), 546-562 Malvern Road, Prahran (c.1950)

Sunrise Confectioners factory (former), 56 Greville Street, Prahran (c.1956)
– *HO456 (Greville Street Residential Precinct)*

Red Tulip chocolate factory (former), 266 High Street, Prahran (rebuilt 1959) – *demolished*

Dominant Lingerie factory (former), 116-122 Chapel Street, Windsor (c.1965)

5.3 Marketing and retailing

5.3.1 Serving local needs after 1945

The pre-war tradition of consumers buying everyday goods from local shops, within walking distance of their homes, began to wane in the early post-war era. Predictably, a final burst of such development focused on the booming suburbs in the southwestern edge of the study area: Malvern East and what was then known as Chadstone (now part of Malvern East). Scattered shops emerged here and there: a corner grocery at 602 Waverley Road (c.1950), an attached pair alongside Holmesglen station at 550-552 Warrigal Road (c.1954) and a few others further south, at Mountfield Road (c.1956). Two longer retail strips – perhaps the last entirely new examples of their type in the study area – appeared in the mid-1950s. One, stretching along the south side of Waverley Road and down Warrigal Road, would comprise over a dozen shops (*Fig 5.04*). The other, on the west side of Chadstone Road, south of Armstrong Court, comprised ten shops, reported in mid-1956 as "now being built".[14] Both strips followed the familiar pre-war pattern, providing such basic needs as a butcher, greengrocer, chemist and confectioner.

Elsewhere, established local shopping strips underwent radical transformation as consumer needs changed. Of Armadale's retail hub, Betty Malone recalled: "until 1950, High Street was very much a local shopping centre".[15] Sally Wilde noted that the small retail hubs that developed near railway stations in the City of Prahran entered a period of decline in the 1950s, notably evident at Windsor and Hawksburn stations.[16] Of the latter, Betty Malone reflected:

> *Many who know Hawksburn well will remember the shopping centre as it was in the mid twentieth century. Even then, the newsagent and chemist near the hotel had been there for many decades. Ivy's flower shop was a landmark as was Brown's antiques, which still operates close to Mathoura Road.*[17]

Malone observed comparable decline in the shops near Toorak station, noting that "until the 1960s, Beatty Avenue was almost exclusively a local market, with butcher, hairdresser, boot repairer, milk bar, grocer, etc".[18] These and other railside shops slowly transformed as new businesses provided goods and services for other than daily needs. As Wilde put it, "butchers, bakers and dairies, delivering to those who were not close enough to walk with a full shopping basket, disappeared. In their place appeared specialists catering to the new customers who went everywhere by car".[19] By the late twentieth century, this pattern defined virtually all of the small local retail strips across the study area. Some retained a few once-ubiquitous shops, such as a milk bar, newsagent or licensed grocer, but these would be interspersed with premises of specialist trades and professionals. In the 1970s and '80s, the group of shops in Oban Street, near Hawksburn Station, was characterised by such varied tenants as the Mae West Club (an early drag venue; see **2.6.3**), the office of conservation architect Nigel Lewis (future author of the first heritage studies in the study area, see **7.5.2**), and *Market Import*, a homeware shop run by architect John Kenny and his wife Barbara (former proprietor of Giftmakers in Malvern; see **5.3.3**) specialising in items imported from Mexico and South America (*Fig 5.05*).

14 "Glen Iris line is very popular", *Argus*, 29 June 1956, p 17.
15 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 11.
16 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 142.
17 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 44.
18 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 24.
19 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 5.



Figure 5.04:
Local shops including chemist, post office and dry cleaning agency in Waverley Road, Chadstone (now Malvern East), c.1963
Source: Item 652880, National Archives of Australia (photograper uncredited)



Figure 5.05:
Market Import, a specialist shop at 6 Oban Street, South Yarra, in premises that were occupied by a dressmaker in 1945
Source: Belle March/April 1980, p 16
(photo by John Hay/Lewis Morley)





Figure 5.06:
Long-running corner milk bar, 319 High Street, Prahran with Peter Hronopoulos, its proprietor from 1965
Source: Items PH9429, PH9432, Stonnington History Centre
(photograph by David Tuck, 2001)

Wilde observed that, by the 1990s, the old-style corner shops of Prahran "were more likely selling lavender in terracotta pots than butchers or bakers".[20] Still, some such businesses continued serving local needs. A much-loved corner shop at 79-81 Chomley Street, under the same ownership for forty years, was nominated in 1994 as one of Melbourne's best milk bars.[21] Another at 319 High Street, opened in 1965 by Greek migrant Petros (Peter) Hronopoulos, was still under his proprietorship at the end of the twentieth century (*Fig 5.06*).

Examples:

Jenny's Milk Bar, 69-71 Chomley Street, Prahran – *HO386 (Chomley Street Precinct)*

Shops, 75-93 Chadstone Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1956) – *some with original shopfronts*

5.3.2 Developing specialised shopping centres after 1945 **[2006: 7.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *By the [late] 1940s, the [Toorak] Village had developed a special character, with a number of cafes, and speciality shops or 'boutiques' – sweet shops, dressmakers, milliners, florists – run by individual owners seeking to cater for the particular tastes of their wealthy customers. One famous boutique was 'Magg', an exclusive dress shop opened in 1949 by Zara Holt and Betty Grounds. The proprietors' husbands were a prominent politician and architect, respectively.*[22]
>
> *The Armadale shopping centre [in High Street], like many other small local centres, suffered decline from the 1950s as shopping patterns changed, but later re-invented itself as a specialised antique shopping and tourist centre. The first of many antique shops began appearing around 1940, and the old picture theatre became Sotheby's auction room for antiques and art in 1989. High Street now [as of 2006] has many antique stores and markets, plus a range of galleries, old and rare book specialists and restorers and wedding boutiques.*[23]

High Street's original and pre-war antique shop, the premises of A J Turner at No 1196, survived only briefly into the post-war era before it became a confectioners' shop in the early 1950s, and over a decade would pass before the strip would, as Betty Malone put it, become "reborn as an antique, tourist and restaurant area".[24] The rebirth of Toorak Village, by contrast, can be traced back to the late 1940s. Onset of this transformative phase is evident in the vivid memories of former local resident Bill Dane:

> *Do you remember, as I do, the individuality of speciality shops, each the creation of its owner who took a gamble on his or her ingenuity and style? The Village had so many of these in the years of the mid-century. There were several dressmakers, milliners and drapers. There were sweetshops and small cafes – the Nine Dragons Coffee House, the Blue Room, the Village Bakery, A A A Treble's Fish Café and Doro's Village Deli. There were florists' shops. My barber was Mr McIntyre, one of several old fashioned tobacconists and hairdressers. Mrs Ker, Mr Machar and Mr Bobansky had antique shops. Ray Ellis ran Les Enfants, a very famous children's wear shop. Mrs Cairns kept one of the earliest milk bars and Crooks National Stores had a branch opposite Ross Street.*[25]

One of these older style retailers, the Village Antique & Gift Shop at No 515, closed in the late 1940s and its site was redeveloped with modern two-storey premises comprising two shopfronts with upstairs offices and three flats. Completed in 1949, it became the new home for Betty Grounds and Zara Holt's aforementioned Magg boutique, along with a photographer, hairdresser, dentist, chiropodist and shipping agent. Similar renewal was already evident further west, where Vavjenezki's, a self-styled "high class confectionery" opened at 121 Toorak Road in 1947, with a striking façade by architects A S & R A Eggleston and an equally bold interior by designer Lester Bunbury (*Fig 5.07*).[26] This was duly followed by the showroom of interior decorators Gillam-Quigley, which opened nearby at No 125. These two bold new ventures represented a stark contrast to the pre-war florist's shop located between them, at No 123, which had been operated since 1890 by Miss Kemp and latterly continued by her assistant, Miss Schultz.[27]

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20 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 5.
21 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Six* (2003), p 23.
22 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 108
23 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 109.
24 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 12.
25 Quoted in Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), pp 16-17.
26 "Sweet shop", *Australian Home Beautiful*, February 1947, p 20.
27 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area One* (1998), p 14.



Figure 5.07 (right):
Vavjenezki's Sweet Shop
121 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(A S & R A Egglerston, 1947)
Source: Australian Home Beautiful, February 1947, p 20
(Drawing by Roderick McDonald)



Figure 5.08 (far right):
Vic Smith Electric Showroom
9 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Leslie J W Reed, 1953)
Source: Architecture & Arts, February 1955, p 60
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.09:
Village Walk Arcade and
Mutual Stores Supermarket
489-505 Toorak Road, Toorak
(John R Tovey, 1958)
Source: Age,19 September 1958, p 5



Figure 5.10 (right):
William Le Lievre Shop (c.1961)
1120 High Street, Armadale
Source: Australian House & Garden October 1967, p 112
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.11 (far right):
Gillam-Quigley Showroom
135 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Bell & Clerehan, 1962)
Source: Item H2003.100/622, State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

Subsequently, more of the older shops along Toorak Road would be replaced by modern architect-designed counterparts, typified by the showroom for Vic Smith Electric at No 9 (1953-54) (*Fig 5.07*), the s-called "Hardware Corner" at No 64 (1960) and lavish new two-storey premises of Gillam-Quigley at No 135 (1962), designed by society architects Bell & Clerehan (*Fig 5.10*). The era of modern shopping arcades began with the Village Arcade at No 462 (1955) and the larger Village Walk Arcade at No 489-505 (1956). The latter, by architect John Tovey, combined an arcade with a supermarket, representing the first suburban branch of city-based retailer, Mutual Store Ltd (*Fig 5.09*).[28] Tenants of the new arcade included the Magg boutique, which moved to No 501 (from No 515) and soon expanded with a second outlet at No 505. Operated by the redoubtable Zara Holt until 1976 (and thence by others well into the 1980s), Magg remained a lynchpin for specialist fashion outlets in the Village that included high-end footwear brand, Miss Geiger. The 1960s saw a range of even more progressive retail complexes emerge along Toorak Road, such as the South Yarra Arcade at No 101-105 (1965), a Mediterranean-themed courtyard complex at the rear of existing Victorian-era shops, and the Trak Arcade at No 445 (1969), which formed part of an expansive multi-use complex.

From the mid-1950s, Toorak Road not only developed as a major hub for high fashion but also Melbourne's leading epicentre for fine dining restaurants (see **5.6.3**) and commercial art galleries (see **9.3.1**). While the strip had long been a focus for hairdressers and florists, the post-war era saw the emergence of high-profile society counterparts. In 1967, Edward Beale commenced business as "Edward of South Yarra" from upstairs rooms at No 230, relocating two years later to a chic new fitout at nearby No 242. The year 1969 saw Lillian Frank initiate her well-known Toorak Village business in the Trak Arcade at No 445, and men's hairstylist Terence Marini open a salon at No 242, later moving to No 228. Destined also for celebrity status on Toorak Road was flamboyant florist Kevin O'Neill, who, in 1972, took over the long-running flower shop at No 123 and would eventually develop a clientele across the country and overseas, putting paid to any lingering memories that the shops along Toorak Road once served only local needs.[29]

High-end furnishing, homeware and interior design shops, pioneered on Toorak Road by Gillam-Quigley, became more prevalent in the later twentieth century. An early counterpart in High Street, dating from c.1961, was the two-storey showroom of leading Melbourne interior designer William Le Lievre at No 1120 (*Fig 5.11*). He would later be joined by others including Connie Verlinden (No 1202-1204) and Graeme Amos (No 1209-1211). By the early 1980s, shops devoted to designer furniture and homeware proliferated along both strips, typified on Toorak Road by Glass Menagerie at No 130 (c.1979) (*Fig 5.14*) and on High Street by Poccomela Living (No 1025), Matchbox (No 1046) and Bakka (No 1122), all of similar date.

While Toorak Road had its share of antique shops, it was High Street that emerged as Melbourne's premier precinct for such high-end second-hand goods. This burgeoned in the 1960s, with directory listings showing three new antique shops on High Street in 1963, doubling by 1967. Other to follow included Graham Geddes, destined to become a major name in Melbourne's antique trade, who fostered a notable presence on High Street in the 1970s, with four shopfronts at Nos 873, 861, 1113 and 1121. In 1980, Gary Kay opened Antique Decor at No 899, which became Australia's foremost stockist of antique light fittings with a clientele extending overseas. By then, it was acknowledged that "High Street is famous as one of the most important antique centres of Australia... The area already had some well-established antique shops but after the war [WW2] the whole thing grew 'like Topsy'. High Street now has similarities to some of the world's best antique centres, but with a distinctly Australian flavour".[30]

Meanwhile, Toorak Village physically expanded in the mid-1970s with completion of a small shopping mall, the Village Corner Square, at the rear of its eastern edge, fronting Grange Road. Its original tenants included Lilian Frank, who moved her salon from the Trak Arcade and remained there into the twenty-first century. Larger and grander retail complexes on Toorak Road were pioneered by local architect J Dale Fisher (based in nearby Wallace Avenue), who designed the Regent Centre at No 210 (1976) (*Fig 5.12*) and the New Village Walk at No 493 (1977; demolished). Others to follow included the Tok H Centre at No 459 (*Fig 5.15*) and South Yarra Square at No 177 (both 1980), the latter designed by Robert Grodski in a style evoking Rodeo Drive in Los Angles. Such complexes along Toorak Road, culminating in the vast Como Centre at No 299 (1986-88), also spread into the contiguous part of Chapel Street, typified by the Chapel Plaza at No 402-424 (1985) and the Colonnade Retail Centre at No 524-564 (1988).

28 "Mutual Store plans supermarket for Toorak", *Age*, 19 September 1958, p 5.
29 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area One* (1998), p 14.
30 Bruce Coldham and Stan Marks, *Malvern Sketchbook* (1980), p 28.



Figure 5.12:
Regent Shopping Centre,
210 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(J Dale Fisher, 1976),
Source: J Dale Fisher Architects



Figure 5.13 (far left):
Cuggi Boutique
139 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Ermin Smrekar, c.1977)
Source: Simon Reeves Collection
(courtesy the late Ermin Smrekar)



Figure 5.14 (left):
Glass Menagerie Shop
130 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Inarc Designs, c.1979)
Source: Belle, March/April 1980



Figure 5.15:
Tok H Shopping Centre
459 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Tompkins, Shaw & Evans, 1980)
Source: Item H2004.49/176,
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

The precinct's reputation as a hub for high-end consumerism, evidenced by slick new outlets for designer brands such as Cuggi (*Fig 5.13*), was boosted as two major Collins Street retailers established local presence in the late twentieth century. In 1979, the fabled department store, George's, became on the original tenants in the Jam Factory, followed eight years later by gentlemen's outfitters Henry Buck's, with a shopfront in Toorak Village. At the time, these were the first suburban offshoots for each name. In the later 1980s and '90s, Toorak Road continued to attract major brands: original or early tenants of the Como Centre included such international names as Walter Steiger footwear, and local designers such as Ken Done. In 1990, a branch of Olivia Newton-John's LA-based clothing franchise, Koala Blue, opened at the Jam Factory.

While the post-war revolution of retailing was most dominant in the hubs of Toorak Road and High Street, it also became evident on Malvern Road. At the Malvern East end, specialist retailers appeared from the early 1960s, when a teenage Barbara De Sailly opened Giftmakers at No 1383, selling art pottery and imported household goods from Scandinavia. The Toorak end of Malvern Road also witnessed some major post-war upgrades, such as a new modern supermarket at No 569, built in 1968 for local grocers Crittenden's, which had occupied the site since 1936 (*Fig 5.16*). Other new buildings proliferated in the 1970s and '80s, including an office and retail development at No 599 (1975) by architect J Dale Fisher, a showroom for emerging furniture chain Oz Design at No 478 (1987), and the new *Toorak Plaza* at No 537 (1988).

Examples:

Vic Smith Electrics Showroom (former), 9 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1954) – *HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

Toorak Village Arcade, 462 Toorak Road, Toorak (1955) – *demolished*

South Yarra Arcade, 101-105 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1965) – *HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

Village Corner Square, 1 Grange Road, Toorak (1974) – *part of HO173*

New Village Walk Shopping Centre, 210 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1977) – *demolished*

Kendall's Wine Shop (former), 85 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1981) – *HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

5.3.3 Developing Melbourne's leading shopping centres after 1945 **[2006: 7.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Chapel Street's popularity among suburban shoppers continued until the 1950s, when the car began to replace trams and trains as transport for shopping trips. Parking was difficult in and around Chapel Street, although the council did try to provide parking space… The opening of a new concept in shopping at Chadstone in 1960 further changed people's ways of shopping.*
>
> *In the late twentieth century various attempts to revitalise Chapel Street included conversion of Read's [department store] into Pran Central, and the former IXL Jam Factory into a shopping arcade. Central Chapel Street became a trendy centre of fashion and entertainment for the new population of professionals who now reside in Prahran and other inner suburbs… The Windsor Quarter at the south end of Chapel Street has in recent years developed a strong focus on art, music and alternative lifestyles brought about by a strong student presence.*
>
> *Over the years, Glenferrie Road and High Street shopping centre [Malvern] has rivalled Chapel Street.*[31]

If Chapel Street had been Melbourne's leading suburban retail hub in the first half of the twentieth century, the strip experienced varied success during the second half. As Betty Malone noted, "by 1945, the elegant Victorian shops and huge Edwardian emporiums remained, but all were growing older and shabbier. Chapel Street was ageing".[32] Attempts to update the older department stores proved to be badly timed: a major upgrade of the Charles Moore Read store in early 1960 was duly upstaged by the opening, in October, of the new Chadstone Shopping Centre. This, as Sally Wilde noted, "sounded the death knell of the big department stores on Chapel Street", shown by the successive closures of pre-war chains Treadway's (1964), and Foy's (1968), as well as a relative newcomer, Big W (also 1968).[33]

31 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 111, 113.
32 Betty Malone, *Chapel Street, Prahran: Part Two, 1919–1984* (1984), p 67.
33 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 143.



Figure 5.16:
Rear (carpark side) view of the new Crittenden's Supermarket 569 Malvern Road, Toorak (Chancellor & Patrick, 1967-68)
Source: Item H91.244/1487 State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 5.17:
Coles Variety Store (1969) 275-281 Chapel Street, South Yarra
Source: Item H2000.195/297 State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

Nevertheless, at least one of Chapel Street's longstanding department stores was able to significantly increase its local presence. The premises of G J Coles & Company at No 275-281, originally built in 1934 and remodelled again in 1940, was entirely rebuilt in 1969 as a new Coles Variety Store (*Fig 5.17*). Two years later, in an effort to revitalise the strip shopping experience, Friday night trading was re-introduced on Chapel Street.[34] Yet, such initiatives did little to prevent closure of the remaining retail giants: Charles Moore Read ceased operation in 1977, followed by Waltons in 1983 (which had taken over the former Treadway's premises) and finally Maples in 1987 – the last of Chapel Street's grand Edwardian emporia.[35] The latter was tellingly anticipated by the earlier closure, in the mid-1970s, of Maples' only other outlet in the study area, located, since 1914, in a similar but smaller building at 199 Glenferrie Road, Malvern.

If the once-grand department stores of Chapel Street and Glenferrie Road struggled after WW2, the smaller retailers thrived. When the City of Prahran celebrated its municipal centenary in 1955, many Chapel Street businesses drew attention to new or newly-upgraded premises (*Fig 5.18*). The new Prahran Chemist at No 255 styled itself as "the largest and most modern pharmacy in Australia", while Vealls appliances at No 299 advertised "the largest display of electrical goods Prahran has ever seen", and the Warren Leigh Frock Salon at No 28 (at the Windsor end) claimed "the most up-to-date and modern showroom in Chapel Street".[36]

Chapel Street's enduring post-war reputation as a fashion hub can be traced back as far as the late 1940s, when the Bloom family opened a chic women's wear shop, *Revue de Mode*, at No 259.[37] After establishing a city branch in 1950, the firm became Portman's and expanded nationwide, but its original Chapel Street premises thrived into the 1980s. Just Jeans, another household name in clothing chains, also emerged from Chapel Street, its first outlet opening at No 111 in 1970. This era also saw some of the older fashion chains update their premises: Wittner Shoes, which had maintained a shopfront at 261 Chapel Street since at least the 1940s, proposed a major interior and exterior renovation in 1971, by architect Rod Thorley (*Fig 5.19*). By that time, Glenferrie Road had also developed as something of a fashion centre, with a 1975 promotion (for "Malvern's Golden Mile") noting a proliferation of shops offering general apparel, formal hire, bridal wear and others devoted exclusively to denim clothing and imported Italian leather goods.[38] In parallel, Chapel Street and Glenferrie Road had attracted independent retailers that specialised in contemporary homeware, furnishings and furniture, characterised by striking window displays and, often, bold architect-designed facades and fitouts. Early exemplars included Thesaurus at 252 Glenferrie Road (1966) (*Fig 5.20*) and Design Enterprises at 491 Chapel Street (1968) (*Fig 5.21*), which were among the first shops in Melbourne to stock modernist furniture and household goods imported from Italy, Scandinavia and the UK.

Greville Street, off Chapel Street, developed a retail character of its own. As Betty Malone noted in 1999:

> *Those of us who watched the transformation of Greville Street in the late 1950s and early 1960s remember it as a strange, withdrawn place by day. There were used bookshops and second-hand stores, a Russian furrier… and cheap cafes where the food was good but the menu limited. It was the rebellious young people of that period who made the street their own, renting empty shops to use as apartments and patronizing the cafes, op shops and the old Station Hotel. They brought with them their new philosophies and their Beatles records. Their influence remains. Most young folk love Greville Street.*[39]

In the early 1970s, Greville Street had some of Melbourne's first shops specialising in health food, such as Life Force (biodynamic produce) at No 123, and the fondly-recalled Feedwell Foundry (wholefood bakery) at No 120 (*Fig 5.22*). These were supplemented by an array of retailers offering vintage goods: Gin & Jazz at No 147 ("kitschy '20s and '30s furniture") Chinoiserie (Tiffany lampshades), Vaudeville (silver tableware), Fantasia (vintage clothing) and Reflections (antique mirrors), as well as a fondly-recalled second-hand shop run by the flamboyant David "Pussy" Aboud.[40] The Beat Bookshop, specialising in publications for gay men (see, **2.6.3**) opened in 1978 at No 116 before relocating to Commercial Road in three years later. Such businesses, both serving and attracting the typically younger and more alternative consumer, would continue to define Greville Street for many years thence.

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34 Betty Malone, *Chapel Street, Prahran: Part Two, 1919–1984* (1984), p 72.
35 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 143-144.
36 *Prahran & South Yarra Local*, 22 April 1955 [Centenary Souvenir Issue], pp 16, 25, 26.
37 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 144.
38 "Make it a merry Malvern Christmas", *Age*, 4 December 1975, p 6.
39 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 11.
40 Alex McDonald, "Design in mind", *Age*, 8 December 1975, p 19.

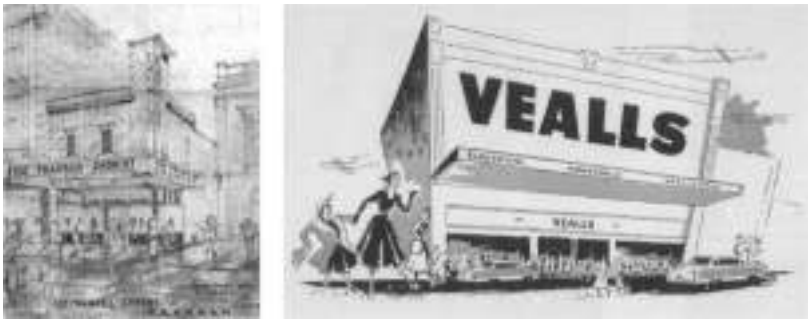


Figure 5.18:
Two of Chapel Street's modern retail premises in 1955: the new Prahran Chemist at No 255 (left) and the upgraded Vealls Appliance Showroom at No 299 (right)
Source: Prahran & South Yarra Local, 22 April 1955 [Centenary Souvenir Issue].



Figure 5.19:
Renovation of Wittner Shoes
261 Chapel Street, Prahran
(Rod Thorley, 1971)
Source: Victorian History Library, Prahran Mechanics Institute



Figure 5.20:
Interior fitout of Thesaurus Shop,
252 Glenferrie Road, Malvern
(John Bish, 1966)
Source: Cross Section, No 161
(1 January 1967, p 3.
(photograph by Nigel Buesst)




Figure 5.21:
Design Enterprises Shop (1968)
491 Chapel Street, South Yarra
Source: Item H91.244/5823,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

The later 1970s saw several ambitious efforts to re-establish larger shopping centres in Chapel Street. The former Charles Moore Read store, vacated in 1977, was refurbished and refitted by Toorak architect J Dale Fisher, re-opening in October 1978 as Pran Central. The Jam Factory, which officially opened exactly one year later, was lauded as a significant developing in retailing. However, poor timing played its part again. Retailers across the study area, and particularly in the established hubs of Chapel Street, Glenferrie Road and High Street, would be impacted by the expansive redevelopment of Chadstone Shopping Centre that followed its change of ownership in 1983. Smaller retailers on Glenferrie Road and High Street were further impacted by a local equivalent, the new Malvern Central Shopping Centre, which opened in 1987 beside the railway station.[41] The stock market crash in October of that year, hastening a recession that lasted into the early 1990s, had a crippling effect on retailing, not only in the major centres of Glenferrie Road, Chapel Street and High Street (where a third of shops were reportedly vacant by mid-1990), but across the study area (and nationwide). Even the ground-breaking Jam Factory on Chapel Street (*Fig 5.24*) was not immune, with many of its shops reported to be vacant as of 1991.[42]

Local councils swiftly sought to revitalise these ailing shopping precincts. In 1990, the City of Malvern commissioned a study to consider how local retailing might be improved, resulting in creation of the Malvern Business Council.[43] At the same time, the City of Prahran and the local Chamber of Commerce initiated a new "Main Street" programme that, based on North American precedents, aimed to revitalise strip shopping along Chapel Street.[44] Under the banner of the "Streets Ahead" campaign, the thoroughfare was divided into three zones, each defined by a particular character.

The southern zone, or "Windsor Quarter", had already developed a distinct flavour due to its high student population, with Malone noting that "bric-a-brac and opportunity shops, alternative bookshops, and cafes that serve breakfast all day are just some of the attractions".[45] This boom of second-hand shops peaked with the Chapel Street Bazaar at No 217, a vast indoor market resembling an uncurated museum of vintage goods, which opened in 1988 and thrived into the twenty-first century. Writing in 1999, Malone mused that, "many people would argue that Greville Street today, with its Sunday market, antiquarian bookshops, trendy fashions and many cafes, including the Feedwell [re-established in 1988 at No 95-97] (*Fig 5.23*) and the Continental [No 134; see **9.4.1**], is the most interesting street in central Prahran".[46] Considering Chapel Street as a whole, she reflected:

> *Today, at the end of the twentieth century, the impetus for development has been taken over by the South Yarra end of Chapel Street where old buildings house modern traders, and Como Centre and the twice-restored Jam Factory … attract out-of-town visitors. Chapel Street central has taken second place. The glorious past seems a long way from the discount shops, reject shops, the supermarket and the miscellany of goods and services offered at Pran Central.*[47]

Examples:

Portmans/Revue de Modes (former), 259 Chapel Street, South Yarra – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Prahran Chemist, No 255 Chapel Street, Prahran (1955) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Thesaurus (former), 252 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (1967) – *HO349 (Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct)*

Design Enterprises (former), 491 Chapel Street, South Yarra (1968) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Crittenden's Supermarket (former), 569 Malvern Road, Toorak (Chancellor & Patrick, 1967-68)

Beat Bookshop (former), 116 Greville Street, Prahran (1978-81) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Jam Factory, 500 Chapel Street, South Yarra (McIntyre Partnership, 1979) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Café Feedwell (former), 95-97 Greville Street, Prahran (1988) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

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41 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 44.
42 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 156.
43 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 44.
44 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 18.
45 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Four* (2001), p 48.
46 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 11.
47 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 10.





Figure 5.22 (far left):
The original Feedwell Foods (c.1971)
120 Greville Street, Prahran
Source: Item PH2205.6,
Stonnington History Centre
(photograph by Mardi Cook, 1972)

Figure 5.23 (left):
The new Café Feedwell (c.1988)
95-97 Greville Street, Prahran
Source: Item PH2205.82
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.24:
Interior of The Jam Factory
500 Chapel Street, Prahran
(McIntyre Partnership, 1979)
Source: Architecture Australia,
June 1990, p 49.
(photographer uncredited)

5.3.4 Creating car-based centres in the post-war era **[2006: 7.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In 1960 a 'new era in suburban shopping' was introduced with the opening of Melbourne's first regional shopping centre… The shopping centre was developed by Myer, with the first suburban Myer department store as its centrepiece, plus 72 shops, a supermarket, child minding facilities and other conveniences, all under one roof. Shoppers need not depend on trams or trains, because twenty of the thirty acres was given over to car parking. It is interesting that in 1960 it was assumed that the average woman was not a driver. The Malvern Advertiser suggested that housewives may like to take their driving lessons while travelling to or from the new shopping centre.*
>
> *Following its purchase by the Gandel Group in 1983, the Chadstone Shopping Centre was enlarged by 26% and further extensions have subsequently been made, increasing the number of shops to around 400 and adding an entertainment precinct. The present, much larger, centre bears little resemblance to the original centre as it opened in 1960.*[48]

As parking became more problematic in established shopping strips (see **3.4.2**), new retail developments sought to follow Chadstone's lead by creating car-based centres that provided onsite parking or otherwise addressed the special needs of consumers arriving by car. One of the first was the aptly named *Car Park Arcade* at 116-120 Glenferrie Road (1966), a two-storey block of shops and offices that, built in front of the City of Malvern's earlier off-street carpark, integrated an arcade to allow shoppers to access the main retail strip. At the south end of Glenferrie Road, flooring retailers J F & H Bramwell built new premises that aided the consumer-cum-motorist in a different way, styled as "Australia's only drive-in showroom" (*Fig 5.25*).[49] The Trak Centre on Toorak Road (1969) provided a breakthrough by incorporating a multi-level podium-style parking structure on its Jackson Street frontage. From the early 1970s, new retail developments increasingly provided onsite parking. Rooftop carparks emerged in small-scale commercial projects such as the single-storey block of nine shops on a corner site at 312 Toorak Road (1975), as well as the much larger counterparts such as the redeveloped Pran Central (1978) and the new Tok H Centre (1980).

Meanwhile, the original car-based shopping centre at Chadstone (*Fig 5.26*) thrived. Since the mid-1980s, its growth has had a major impact on the study area's south-eastern fringe. New additions, such as Chadstone Corner (*Fig 5.27*), not only absorbed original amenities as the garden plaza and auditorium, but also the original carparks. To provide more parking space, adjacent properties were duly acquired and razed: these included St Anthony's Parish School on Capon Street (closed 1979; demolished c.1985), Convent of the Good Shepherd (demolished 1986), the Chadstone Centre Motel (formerly Lodge Motel) at the west end of Virginia Grove (demolished c.1996) and Christ College on Castlebar Road (demolished c.1999). By the late 1980s, the name Chadstone was so synonymous with the shopping centre that residents petitioned for the suburb to be renamed as part of Malvern East.[50] Despite some opposition, this went ahead in 1991.

Examples:

Car Park Arcade, 116-120 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (1966) – *HO349 (Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct)*

Trak Centre, 443-449 Toorak Road, Toorak (Arkitekton Associates, 1969)

Block of shops (with rooftop carpark), 312 Toorak Road, Toorak (1975)

5.3.5 Developing markets after 1945 **[2006: 7.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Following a fire in 1950 the [Prahran] market was rebuilt, and it was modernised and redeveloped in 1981. The market gained an early reputation for good produce and remained popular over many generations as produce, stall holders and shoppers reflected the waves of immigrants after WW2. It worked in conjunction with Chapel Street in establishing Prahran as one of Melbourne's leading shopping suburbs.* [51]

48 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 113.
49 "J F & H Bramwell Pty Ltd", *Australian Home Beautiful*, July 1968, p 79. The prominent corner site was formerly occupied by the Ace motor garage and petrol station.
50 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), pp 42- 43.
51 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 109.



Figure 5.25:
Bramwell's Drive-in Showroom (c.1967)
2-6 Glenferrie Road, Malvern
Source: Australian Home Beautiful July 1968, p 79.



Figure 5.26:
Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Chadstone (now Malvern East), as it appeared by the early 1970s.
Source: Item PH22737, Stonnington History Centre.
(photograph by Eric Skewes & Associates, 1972)

Figure 5.27 (below)
A later addition to the retail complex, Chadstone Corner (Buchan Group, 1995), which has itself since been demolished.
Source: AR Australia, Autumn 1996, pp 100-101
Stonnington History Centre.
(photographs by Rod Hyett)





The fire of Boxing Day 1950, which destroyed the grocers' arcade, three open sheds and twelve shops on Market Street, invited debate as to whether to rebuild as a traditional market or a modern shopping centre. In early 1951, the Council engaged two architectural firms, Leslie M Parrott & Partners and Alsop & Duncan, to prepare redevelopment schemes (*Fig 5.28*), although nothing came of this and, as Sally Wilde put it, "the market carried on cheerfully in improvised stalls".[52] In early 1954, the same two architectural firms jointly called tenders "for extension to the Prahran Market".[53] This was to be built in stages, with the first part, comprising a large steel-framed sawtooth-roofed structure with space for ninety stalls (*Fig 5.29*), opened in May.[54] Land for further expansion, and more parking, was acquired in 1956. However, it was not until 1971 that the City of Prahran announced a major redevelopment plan and, the next year, the commission was entrusted to architects Gunn Hayball Pty Ltd. Much debate ensued as to the extent of the project and it was ultimately decided to retain the historic façade, with a new market hall and other facilities to the rear. Completed in May 1981 at the cost of $6.5 million, the new market (*Fig 5.30*) won an RAIA Award in 1982.

The Prahran Market upgrade prompted a minor ripple effect of retail expansion in the immediate vicinity, including the Market Plaza (1979), a block of twelve shops on the other side of Commercial Road, and a new supermarket to the east of the market, on Elizabeth Street (c.1986). In the 1980s and '90s, various other markets emerged in and around Chapel Street. The Chapel Street Antique Market, opened in August 1982, occupied a double shopfront at No 461-463 and comprised stalls that were let to individual retailers. A more populist counterpart, the Chapel Street Bazaar, opened in 1988 at No 217, where vintage clothing, LPs, books and collectables were arranged in separate stall-like displays and sold on consignment. The era of open-air weekend markets began in the study area with the Greville Street Sunday Market in the Grattan Gardens, which first took place in December 1991. It was soon followed by the Chapel Street Sunday Market, initially held at the rear of the Como Centre before relocating to the Cato Street Carpark in early 1993, rebadged as the Prahran Rotary Sunday Market. In 1994, the Chapel Street Market took place for the first time on the rooftop carpark of the Chapel Plaza at 402-424 Chapel Street. This was followed, in December 1997, by the opening of a distinctive mini-market known simply as the Chapel Street Shops. Located at No 430-436, is comprised a cluster of sixteen individual lock-up stalls, designed to resemble bathing boxes.

Examples:

Prahran Market Redevelopment, 161-163 Commercial Road, South Yarra (Gunn Hayball, 1972-81) – *HO24*

Market Plaza, 168-180 Commercial Road, Prahran (1979)

Chapel Lane Huts (formerly Chapel Street Shops), 430-436 Chapel Street, Prahran (1997)

5.4 Exhibiting Victoria's innovation and products

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

5.5 Banking and finance

5.5.1 Establishing branch banks after 1945

The spread of branch banks across the study area after WW2 followed a similar pattern evident elsewhere in the metropolitan area. Changes in legislation saw the nationalisation of private trading banks and creation of savings bank subsidiaries. This caused a boom in the opening of new branches while the government-run State Savings Bank (SSB) expanded its own facilities to keep up with the private banks. Amalgamation of banks, a recurring theme in the later twentieth century, emerged in the early 1950s when the Union Bank merged with the Bank of Australasia to form the Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ). This rendered some branches defunct, a trend that Betty Malone observed in Chapel Street, where, in the mid-twentieth century, two pre-war bank premises were closed and adapted for other retail uses.[55]

52 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 138.
53 "Tenders, Contracts", *Argus*, 16 January 1954, p 29.
54 "Big changes in Prahran Market Plan", *Herald,* 21 April 1954, p 13 "; "Stalls have new look at Prahran", *Herald,* 7 May 1954, p 15.
55 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Four* (2001), p 24.



Figure 5.28:
The proposed Prahran Market, Commercial Road, South Yarra, (G H Alsop and L M Perrott, 1951) as envisioned to be rebuilt after fire damage in December 1950.
Source: Item PH22737, Stonnington History Centre.



Figure 5.29:
The extended Prahran Market, Commercial Road, South Yarra, (G H Alsop and L M Perrott, 1954) showing new sawtooth-roofed buildings and enlarged carpark.
Source: Item PH9001, Stonnington History Centre.
(photograph by Irvine McCarney)



Figure 5.30:
The redeveloped Prahran Market, Commercial Road, South Yarra (Gunn Hayball Pty Ltd, 1972-81)
Source: Item PH8863, Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)

Post-war bank architecture, defined by visual transparency that contrasted with pre-war solidity, emerged in the 1950s, typified locally by Bank of NSW branches at 113-115 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1957) and 166 Chapel Street, Windsor (1958).[56] Built on corner sites to replace older premises, these were designed by different architects but similarly expressed with glazed facades, a trend also evident at the new ES&A Bank branch at Malvern (1959) on the corner of High Street and Glenferrie Road (*Fig 5.31*). Local growth of the SSB boomed from the late 1950s, with renovation of a pre-war branch in Malvern East (1958), and new architect-designed premises at Tooronga (1964), South Yarra (1965), Malvern (1965), Prahran East (1966) and Glen Iris (1966). Befitting its site on the study area's most elite commercial strip, the South Yarra branch, at 114 Toorak Road, was a striking flat-roofed building with a hexagonal-planned glazed frontage (*Fig 5.32*).

Merging of banks, and the ensuing process of consolidation, rebranding and disposal of infrastructure, resumed in 1970 when ANZ Bank took over the ES&A. The merged ANZ expanded its Toorak Road presence, with an eight-storey computer centre at No 227 (1974), and a new two-storey branch at No 145 (1975) (*Fig 5.33*) that was bestowed with the status of "Area Office", a regional headquarters for all branches across the south-eastern suburbs. In 1976, the Bank of NSW replaced its branch at 383 Chapel Street with a new Brutalist-style building, soon re-branded after the 1981 merger with the Bank of NSW, creating Westpac. Some former Bank of NSW branches in the study area were remodelled or entirely rebuilt during the early Westpac era, including one at 156 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (1988).

The collapse of the SSB in 1990, and its takeover by the Commonwealth Bank, rendered some local branches defunct, including the striking premises at 114 Toorak Road, sold in 1994 and later demolished. Other banks continued to consolidate and relocate their services during the 1990s, typified by the closure of the ANZ's Malvern branch in 1997, after occupying the corner site (in two different buildings) for over a century.

Examples:

Bank of NSW (former), 166 Chapel Street, Windsor (1958) – *demolished*

ES&A Bank (former), 1284-1286 High Street, Malvern (Stuart McIntosh, 1958-59) – *HO58*

State Bank of Victoria (former), 114 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Stephenson & Turner, 1964) – *demolished*

ANZ Bank computer centre, 227 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1974) – *demolished*

Bank of NSW (former), 383-387 Chapel Street, South Yarra (1976) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

5.6 Entertaining and socialising

5.6.1 Establishing and expanding licensed premises after 1945 **[2009: 7.4.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History Addendum (2009):

> *Since the 1960s many new [licensed premises] have opened in South Yarra and Prahran, some providing live entertainment such as jazz or rock bands. Many of them occupied early hotels, which changed their name, image and style of service, often more than once, to appeal to new generations of residents and visitors from other parts of Melbourne. In 1988, 27 of the municipality of Prahran's 50 nineteenth-century hotels were still in existence, some rebuilt, many renamed and all modernised. The original South Yarra Inn, opened in 1853, has been through a number of guises - South Yarra Club Hotel, Hatter's Castle, Trakkers Inn - surviving a century and a half of changing community needs and tastes on its prominent site at the corner of Punt and Toorak roads. The former Duke of York Hotel in High Street became Edward's Tavern.*
>
> *Hotels in the [late] twentieth century also reflected changes in society and cultural attitudes. Whilst gay venues had existed in Melbourne since the early twentieth century… it was only after the legalisation of [male] homosexuality in Victoria in 1981 that venues began to openly promote themselves to a gay clientele. In the mid-1980s two nineteenth century hotels in close proximity in Commercial Road, South Yarra were purchased by gay businessmen and began to cater for the gay community. One, the Exchange* [sic] *opened its doors in 1986 and has operated continuously ever since [as of 2009], while the nearby Market Hotel (originally known as the Balmoral Hotel) opened soon after and, after several incarnations, is now a gay nightclub [Both venues ceased to operate as such in 2011].* [57]

56 "New Toorak bank", *Herald*, 7 June 1957, p 13; "Old landmark goes", *Herald*, 21 February 1958, p 25.

57 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1 Addendum* (2009), pp 10-11.



Figure 5.31:
ES&A Bank Branch,
1284-1286 High Street, Malvern.
(Stuart Macintosh, 1958-59)
Source: Architecture & Arts,
February 1960, p 21.
(photographer uncredited)

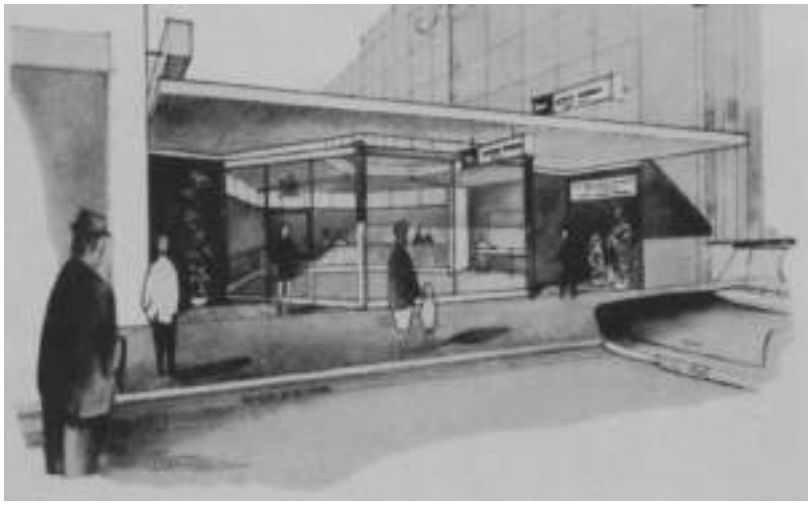


Figure 5.32:
State Savings Bank Branch,
114 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Stephenson & Turner, 1964)
Source: Progress, May 1964, np.



Figure 5.33:
ANZ Bank Branch (1976),
145 Toorak Road, South Yarra
Source: Item H2004.49/68
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

Betty Malone aptly summarised the post-war transformation of local hotels, noting that "after a period of decline, during which the hotels lost much prestige… [they] began a slow return to prosperity and favour. Enterprising new owners set to work to renovate the old buildings, to install modern facilities, to update their kitchens and to provide floorshows, rock bands and discos".[58] In another source, she pinpointed the start of this "slow climb back to popularity" to circa 1950.[59] The Park View Hotel at 42 Punt Road, razed in 1954 and rebuilt as modern three-storey premises (*Fig 5.34*), was the first entirely new hotel to the erected in the study area in fifteen years (since Armadale's Orrong Hotel, redeveloped in 1939).[60]

During the 1950s, an increasing number of local hotels began to offer food. From early 1966, when changes to licensing laws extended closing times from 6pm to 10pm, evening meals also became available. This ushered in a brave new era for local hotels, which, as Sally Wilde noted, saw many "transformed from pubs into taverns, with new decor, a welcome for women as well as men, and quite sophisticated meals".[61] One of the first local hotels to be thus transformed was the New Bridge Hotel at the corner of Toorak Road and Chapel Street. Given a Tudor Revival makeover, with half-timbered cladding and false mansard roof, it re-opened in the late 1960s as the South Yarra Arms (*Fig 5.35*). Another long-running corner pub, the Armadale Hotel on High Street, had already been twice refaced in the 1880s and the 1920s before a third facelift in the early 1970s saw it encased in a facade of fashionable clinker brick (*Fig 5.36*). Not all hotel renovations, however, were as radical. The Argo Hotel in Argo Street, South Yarra, which Malone cited as one of the first pubs in Prahran to be modernised, reopened in 1975 as the New Argo Inn, although its transformation was almost entirely internal.[62] The same was true of Morrison's Hotel in nearby Powell Street, which, following refurbishment in 1980, reopened as the Alexandra Hotel and, as Malone observed, "might look little changed, but the tasteful modern interior tells another story".[63]

Some local pubs did not survive post-war transition. The Star Hotel in Windsor, on the corner of Chapel and Wellington Streets, was demolished in the late 1960s for the reconfiguration of Queens Way.[64] Notley's Hotel in Toorak Road, dating back to 1854 (ie, one of the oldest hotels in the study area), proved problematic to upgrade; instead, it became part of the development site for the new mixed-use Tok H Centre, which opened in 1980. Hoping to replace the cherished local pub, the complex included a new counterpart, the Tok H Hotel. Writing in 1988, Malone observed that "it is modern and functions well as a tavern-type hotel, but the atmosphere of the old pub has gone – so, too, have many of the regulars".[65]

Local hotels that remained active were routinely upgraded in the 1980s and '90s, offering bistros, brasseries and courtyard dining areas as well as piano bars, function rooms and so on. In 1980-81, the Morning Star Hotel on Chapel Street was rebranded as the New Orleans Hotel, with new façade tiling and colour scheme and a themed interior with a "Bourbon Street Bar" and "French Quarter Courtyard".[66] Soon after, the Duke of York Hotel on High Street was refurbished and re-imagined as Edward's Tavern with an Edwardian-style interior.[67] At the same time, but catering for a different crowd, the Market Hotel on Commercial Road saw a slick contemporary refit (by designer Tim Standfield) described as "modern with a Japanese flavour, the colours predominantly grey, red and purple".[68] However, the most eye-catching transformation of a local pub was that of the Station Hotel at 96 Greville Street, which re-opened in 1988. Punning on its name and trackside location, the redeveloped venue included the Platform Brasserie, a miniature railway around the bar and, most memorably of all, a genuine VicRail locomotive bursting through the façade (*Fig 5.37*).[69] The latter remained a much-loved landmark until it was removed in 1995 when the hotel was remodelled once again, this time with a new restaurant, Café Byblos.

58 Betty Malone, *Chapel Street, Prahran: Part Two, 1919–1984* (1984), p 72.
59 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 47.
60 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 65.
61 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), pp 289-90.
62 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 50.
63 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 48.
64 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 30.
65 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 54.
66 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 50.
67 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 54.
68 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 54.
69 "Train in the wall signals a new era", *Age*, 6 May 1988, p 23.



Figure 5.34:
The former Park View Hotel (1954), 42 Punt Road, Windsor, photographed in the 1980s when known as "Up the Junction"
Source: Betty Malone, Prahran's Pubs (1988), p 73. (photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.35:
South Yarra Arms Hotel
252 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Remodelled c.1969)
Source: Betty Malone, Prahran's Pubs (1988), p 76. (photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.36:
Armadale Hotel
1066-1076 High Street, Armadale
(Remodelled c.1972)
Source: Item MP57182, Stonnington History Centre
(photograph by Di Foster, 2004)

Perhaps the last wholly new "corner pub" to emerge in the study area in the late twentieth century was HJ's, opened in December 1985 at the Jam Factory on Chapel Street. Described by Betty Malone as "spanking new and strategically placed in Garden Street", the venue (named from the initials of IXL founder Henry Jones) spread over two levels, providing casual bar and dining downstairs, with a piano bar and formal restaurant above.[70] It did not prove successful. Rebranded in 1989 as the Brat Pack Bar, "an American style sports and video bar", it closed in the early 1990s and the space adapted for retail tenancy.[71] The years also saw the end of some other local hotels. The South Yarra Arms was razed in 1992 for retail redevelopment, while the Turf Club Hotel on Dandenong Road closed in 1994 and became an outlet for liquor retailer Dan Murphy's. Two years later, the Tok H Hotel in Toorak, ending 140 years of the site's use as a hotel. [72]

While licensed venues specifically for the LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**) only became more visible after 1980 (coinciding with the decriminalisation of male homosexuality in Victoria), there were some earlier local hotels where members of the community would be drawn. As far back as the 1960s, the saloon bar of the Toorak Hotel at 463 Toorak Road was a known haunt for gay men, while lesbian women frequented the Imperial Hotel at 522 Chapel Street.[73] By the early 1970s, the South Yarra Arms Hotel at 252 Toorak Road was associated with trans women.[74] During these early years, a mixed crowd patronised Her Majesty's Hotel on Toorak Road, whose openly gay publican ran a fondly-recalled saloon bar known as "Maisie's".

The development of licensed premises along Commercial Road, specifically for the LGBTIQA+ community, predates the aforementioned Xchange (1986) and Three Faces (1990). This trend actually began in November 1981 with the opening of Cloud Nine, a licensed supper club at 72 Commercial Road (*Fig 5.38*) that operated seven nights a week and styled itself as "the club with a silver lining for gay guys and gay girls".[75] This was soon joined by the Market Hotel at No 143, which changed ownership in 1983 and, following renovations, re-opened as a gay pub in June 1984. The nearby Royal Exchange Hotel, at No 119, duly followed, unveiled in October 1986 as the Xchange (*Fig 5.39*). After the Market Hotel was rebranded as Three Faces in 1990, more licensed venues for the LGBTIQA+ developed along this part of Commercial Road, including the Diva Bar at No 153 (1995) (*Fig 5.40*) and Virgin Mary's Cocktail Bar at No 199 (1996). While the latter was named after the popular non-alcoholic cocktail, this was deemed offensive by religious groups, prompting an abridged rebranding as VM's. After a suspicious fire in 1999, the bar was refurbished and then re-opened as Chihuahua, continuing to serve a mostly LGBTIQA+ clientele.

Examples:

Park View Hotel (former), 42 Punt Road, Windsor (1954)

South Yarra Arms, 252 Toorak Road, South Yarra – *demolished*

Armadale Hotel (former), 1066-1076 High Street, Armadale – *HO400 (High Street Rail and Retail Precinct)*

Tok H Hotel (former), 459-465 Toorak Road, Toorak (1980)

Market Hotel /et al (former), 143 Commercial Road, South Yarra (1980s90s) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

5.6.2 Creating places to socialise: from dance halls to nightclubs after 1945 **[2006: 10.7.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Dancing has been a popular form of community activity for people throughout the study area during much of its history… In Prahran a popular dance hall was Leggett's Ballroom in Greville Street, which opened in 1920. It was neither exclusive nor parochial: people came from all over Melbourne to dances at Leggett's. After extensions in 1939, it became Australia's largest ballroom. Leggett's also provided dancing lessons, and kept up with the latest dance crazes until it closed in 1981.*

70 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 60.
71 See advert for "Bartenders, waiters, waitresses", *Age*, 28 January 1989, p 49 (Employment supplement).
72 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 13.
73 *South Yarra: Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives History Walk* (2016), p 3; see also Michael Hurley, "Aspects of gay and lesbian life in seventies Melbourne", *La Trobe Journal*, No 87 (May 2011), p 49.
74 Sue Cant, "Tanner in drugs for sex deal: QC", *Age*, 22 April 1999, p 3.
75 See opening night advertisement, *City Rhythm*, October 1981, p 8.



Figure 5.37:
Station Hotel,
96 Greville Street, Prahran
(Remodelled 1988)
showing the iconic locomotive
bursting through the street façade.
Source: Item PH10256,
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.38:
Advertisement for Cloud Nine,
72 Commercial Road, Prahran
(opened November 1981), one of
the first licensed premises in the
study area intended specifically
for the LGBTIQA+ community
Source: City Rhythm, October 1981.





Figure 5.39: (far left)
Advertisement for opening
of the new Xchange Hotel (1986)
119 Commercial Road, South Yarra
Source: Melbourne Star Observer,
12 September 1986, p 12.

Figure 5.40: (left)
Advertisement for the
new Diva Bar (1995)
153 Commercial Road, South Yarra
Source: Brother Sister,
26 January 1995, p 27.

While ballroom dancing was eventually to wane, the new forms of popular music in the post-war era and changes to licensing laws led to the emergence of nightclubs and, later, discotheques in the 1970s. The Toorak Café and Cabaret (situated on the north side of Toorak Road approximately where the Longford Cinema now is) was a well-known nightclub, which was later known as the Winston Charles, Playboy Club and Claridges. One of the best-known venues of recent times was Chasers in Chapel Street (which opened in 1979), another was Silvers, in the Trak Centre at 445 Toorak Road. Chasers has a long history as a nightclub and cabaret and for a time in the 1960s was known as the Copacabana, when it was popular with the Greek community.[76]

Surviving into the 1980s, Leggatt's Ballrooms stood out among pre-war dance halls in the study area, with virtually all others adapted for other uses in the post-war era. Examples such as the Bambalina Ballroom in Wattletree Road, and the New Empire Ballroom in Chapel Street, became more frequently used as reception venues for private dances and parties. When the latter finally closed in 1971, the premises re-opened as the Los Gitanos cabaret restaurant. The Toorak Café and Cabaret at 53 Toorak Road, a popular pre-war venue for live music and dancing, went through several post-war incarnations. Its rebirth as a nightclub, in the modern sense, dated back to late 1945, when it re-opened as the New Claridges, promoted as "a bright spot that Melbourne has needed" with nightly dinner dances and supper dances. The premises later became the Embers (1959) (*Fig 5.41*), promoted as "Australia's largest nightclub and restaurant", then the Playboy Club (1963) and finally Winston Charles (1967), said to be Melbourne's first fully licensed discothèque.

A slim guidebook of 1966 gives a useful snapshot of local meeting-places by that time. There were listings for cabarets such as Pinocchio's (3 Carter Avenue, Toorak) and the Music Hall (28 Chapel Street, Windsor), discothèques such as the Garrison (166 High Street) and the Paper Doll (156 Toorak Road), and dance venues such as Memphis (Glenferrie Road, Malvern) and two other sin South Yarra (Opus 66 in Moubray Street and Impulse on the corner of Toorak and Punt Roads) that were just outside the study area.[77] Memphis and Impulse (formerly Boston), both occupying church halls, were also well-known for live music (see **9.4.1**).

Few of these venues, however, survived beyond the early 1970s. The Music Hall in Windsor became a reception centre in 1971, while Winston Charles in Toorak Road closed the following year, its site later redeveloped as the Longford Cinema. By the mid-1970s, Pinocchio's and the Paper Doll had both given way to fine dining restaurants. Such closures, however, coincided with a new era of nightclubs. The former Garrison Disco on High Street, which re-opened in 1971 as the New Garrison, enjoyed only a brief existence, but Silvers Nite Club, which opened the following year in the Trak Centre on Toorak Road, achieved lasting popularity. Others included Love Machine at 14 Claremont Street (1974), with an interior by architects Denton Corker Marshall. The Sophisticates Club, an "over 25s" disco held on Sunday evenings, started in 1977 from the Octagon Motor Inn on Commercial Road but, by the end of that year, had relocated to its own premises at 226 Toorak Road. This was swiftly followed by Chasers at 386-90 Chapel Street, opened in late 1978 and reportedly modelled on New York's iconic Club 54. Younger residents of the study area were given an opportunity to join the nightclub scene from 1982, when a local Blue Light Disco (an initiative of the Victorian Police, founded in 1976 to provide alcohol-free nightclubs for underage youth) was held for the first time at the Malvern Town Hall.[78]

While disco music was famously declared dead in 1980, local nightclubs continued to evolve as fashions and music changed. In 1983, Love Machine re-opened as Broadway, then, in 1988 (with new interior by Tibor Hubay) as the Warehouse, which became one of Melbourne's best known clubs of the 1990s. Newcomers included ID's Nite Spot (1985) in the former Leggett's Ballroom in Greville Street – prompting Betty Malone to note that ID's Nite Spot and Chasers each took over defunct dance halls, thus demonstrating continuity of use over many years.[79] This era saw Commercial Road emerge as a major focus for nightclubs, with the opening of Soho at No 138 (1987) and rebranding of the nearby Market Hotel as Checkpoint Charlie's (1988) (*Fig 5.42*). The latter's "expensive dramatic transformation", as Malone put it, included two life-sized bronze figures reaching across the upstairs balcony, alluding to the venue's name (the crossing point between East and West Berlin). Two years later, Checkpoint Charlie became Three Faces, one of the first nightclubs in the strip for the LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**), renamed The Market in 1999.

76 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 205.
77 *A Night out in Melbourne*, May 1966, pp 24, 26, 27.
78 *Malvern News Sheet*, June 1982, cited in online catalogue entry for Item MH35567, Stonnington History Centre.
79 Betty Malone, *Prahran's Pubs, 1852 to 1988* (1988), p 60.



Figure 5.41:
"The Embers" Nightclub
59 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Kevin Borland, 1959)
Source: Item H91.244/580,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

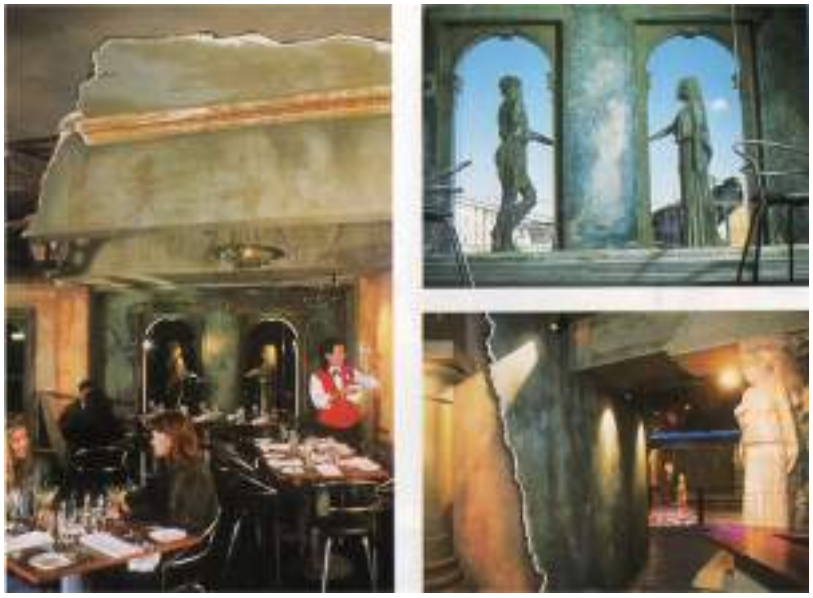


Figure 5.42:
Checkpoint Charlie's
143 Commercial Road, South Yarra
(Peter Brown & Associates, 1988)
Source: Architecture Australia
September 1988, p 98.
(photographs by David Simmonds)



Figure 5.43:
SALT Nightclub
14 Claremont Street, South Yarra
(Wood Marsh, 1999)
Source: Monument, No 34
(February/March 2000), p 16.
(photograph by Paul Barbera)

Rapid turnover of nightclubs was a recurring pattern of the 1990s. During that era, ID's Nitespot closed, the Warehouse was re-branded as SALT (*Fig 5.43*), and Soho went through a series of incarnations: Ministry of Sound, Uranus, AM:PM and finally, around 1999, the Commercial Lounge. Brand new venues emerged in parallel, such as the Candy Bar at 162 Greville Street (1996), and others in Chapel Street such as Revolver at No 229 (1997), Ibiza at No 199 (1998) and Onesixone [*sic*] at No 161 (1999). Most of these newer clubs, along with those in Commercial Road for LGBTIQA+ patrons, continued into the twenty-first century. So, too, would two of the much earlier nightclubs in the study area: Chasers in Chapel Street and Silvers at the Trak Centre, with the latter expanding in 2000 into the space occupied by the newly defunct Trak Cinema.

Examples

Embers Nightclub, 59 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1960) – *demolished*; *site within HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

(New) Garrison Discotheque (former), 166 High Street, Prahran (c.1966) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Love Machine/Broadway/Warehouse (former), 14 Claremont Street, South Yarra (1974) – *demolished*

Chasers Nightclub, 386-390 Chapel Street, Prahran (1978) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

5.6.3 Dining out: developing culinary culture after 1945

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The gradual relaxation of Victoria's restrictive liquor laws from the late 1960s revived the hospitality industry, and brought new opportunities for entertainment in the study area, particularly in Prahran and South Yarra. In the 1950s a few European chefs developed fine dining in restaurants such as Maxim's at a time when licensed restaurants were rare in suburban Melbourne. Maxim's was opened in the former Duke of Edinburgh Hotel in South Yarra in 1957, becoming a leading restaurant for Melbourne 'society', before moving to The Como Hotel in 1989.*[80]

Maxim's, at 60 Toorak Road (*Fig 5.44*), ushered in a new era of fine dining that transformed parts of the study area, notably South Yarra, and notably Toorak Road. This was apparent within only a decade of Maxim's opening, when a 1966 guidebook (*Fig 5.45*) listed six more licensed restaurants along the same strip: Café Edouard (No 93), Two Faces (No 149), Pickwick (No 176), Antonio's (No 306), Gini's (No 418) and Stromboli (No 422).[81] These high-end eateries alternated with unlicensed counterparts that ran a gamut from the Flight Deck (No 11), with an airplane-themed interior, to the Chuck Wagon (No 156), which advertised "American food". More exotic fare could be had at L'Escargot (No 278), the Kazbek (No 248), "specialising in barbeque steaks and shaslic", the Kowloon (No 266) and the Mandarin (No 313), likely amongst the first new Asian restaurants in the study area.

While Toorak Road was undoubtedly the wellspring for this dining revolution, the same guidebook listed some estimable venues elsewhere in the study area. Malvern Road had the Copper Inn (No 1332), a vegetarian buffet known as Cranks (No 1444), and La Bouillabaisse (No 1455), perhaps Melbourne's first French seafood restaurant. Fine dining was even possible further afield, with Chadstone Shopping Centre offering Bistro Shiraz, "beautifully situated opposite the garden plaza… a typical Continental bistro and a favourite eating house for many connoisseurs of fine food and wine in Melbourne".[82]

Toorak Road and environs, however, remained the epicure's epicentre, with more restaurants opening along the strip (or just off it) through the 1970s. In the middle of the decade, it was averred that "Toorak Road would hardly seem like Toorak Road without its copious quantities of restaurants".[83] Newcomers included Gloria Staley's high-end French restaurant, Glo-glo's (1973), in Carter Avenue, off Toorak Village, which was destined to become one of Melbourne's most hallowed fine-dining destinations for two decades. French cuisine, introduced locally by Maxim's, Antonio's and Two Faces, would proliferated with more venues on Toorak Road, including Deux Cent Dix (No 210), Mostly French (No 462) and Ellise (No 470), and others on Chapel Street and Glenferrie Road.

80 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 116.
81 *A Night out in Melbourne*, May 1966, pp 24, 26, 27.
82 *A Night out in Melbourne*, May 1966, p 14.
83 Brian Carroll and Arno Roger-Genersh, *Toorak and South Yarra Sketchbook* (1974), p 24.



Figure 5.44:
Interior of Maxim's
60 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(opened 1956)
Source: Ross Campbell,
Word of Mouth (1982)
(photographer uncredited)

Figure 5.45 (below):
A collage of advertisements for some restaurants operating in the study area by the mid-1960s.
Source: A Night Out in Melbourne, May 1966, passim





Figure 5.46:
Neptune's Fishbowl
312-314 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Romberg & Boyd, 1971)
Source: Item H91.244/739,
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)

While the Chuck Wagon on Toorak Road offered "American food" in the 1960s, ubiquitous American-style fast food outlets were relative latecomers to the study area. Local emergence of such enduring chains as McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut, which spread across Melbourne from the late 1960s, was preceded by two short-lived failures. Red Barn, an Ohio-based franchise that also sought to break into the Australian market, opened one of its trademark mansard-roofed outlets at 484 Malvern Road, Prahran, in 1970. This was joined by Neptune's Fishbowl (1971), a wholly Australian chain that opened at 312 Toorak Road in a whimsical building by Robin Boyd, with roof-mounted fibreglass sphere (*Fig 5.46*). It was not a success; no further outlets were built, and the South Yarra prototype was razed in 1975. The intervening years saw the first local outlet of Kentucky Fried Chicken open at 379 Chapel Street (c.1973), followed by a Pizza Hut at 255 High Street (1979). McDonalds, which took over Red Barn's sites after the latter was liquidated, replaced the defunct Malvern Road outlet with a new building of its own in 1978.

From the 1970s, local cuisine diversified considerably. One of Melbourne's first Japanese restaurants, Ibuki, began operation in 1975 at 367 Chapel Street, later moving to larger premises at 26-32 Toorak Road (*Fig 5.48*). The Vegetarian Inn at 19 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, opened in 1976 by a French couple who had studied Japanese macrobiotic cooking in Paris, rapidly rose to become the most highly regarded restaurant of its type in Melbourne.[84] By the decade's end, one could sample Swedish food in South Yarra (Smorgas, 175 Toorak Road), Indian food in Windsor (Taj Mahal, 69 Chapel Street), Lebanese food in Malvern (Daniel's Cave, 297 Wattletree Road) (*Fig 5.47*) and even Dutch food in Armadale (Woodchopper's Cabin, 974 High Street). Prahran's reputation for late night dining was secured when the Spaghetti Graffiti opened at 571 Chapel Street in 1980, one of Melbourne's first 24-hour restaurants. By 1982, parts of the study area had become so synonymous with fine dining that, in that year's edition of the *Age Good Food Guide,* one quarter of the suburban venues reviewed were in what is now the City of Stonnington, dominated by those in South Yarra – on or just off Toorak Road, High Street and Chapel Street.[85] While French food was still the most represented among the higher-end local eateries in the guide, there were also multiple outlets for Italian, Greek, Indian, Chinese and Japanese cuisine, as well one each for Indonesian and Armenian.

The later 1980s brought changes for fine dining in the study area, including some of South Yarra's most cherished venues. The long-running Pickwick Restaurant at 176 Toorak Road ceased operation in 1986, followed a year later by Two Faces at nearby No 143 (still one of few Australian restaurants with a high international reputation), with founding proprietors, Herman and Faye Schneider, opting to re-establish the venture in a new luxury hotel at Portsea. Two years later, Maxim's followed suit by moving along Toorak Road into the new Como Hotel further along Toorak Road, although much of its fitout, including the mural and chandeliers, was re-erected at the new address. The stock market collapse in late 1987 brought the crippling recession that impacted many businesses into the early 1990s, including high-end restaurants. Chief among local casualties was Glo-Glo's, off Toorak Village, which closed in 1989. Gloria Staley's son took over the premises, re-opening as the more casual Bookums, which proved short-lived. In 1989, the former Pickwick premises re-opened as Chinois, with a new fitout by Tibor Hubay (*Fig 5.49*). The next year, Chapel Street's original 24-hour eatery, Spaghetti Graffiti, was rebranded as Chapelli's. Post-recession recovery in the later 1990s brought still more new restaurants. These ran a gamut from fine dining venues with slick architect-designed fitouts, such as Lacota at 278 Toorak Road, South Yarra, and Antoine's at 963 High Street, Armadale (both 1994), to further fast-food outlets, notably a new Hungry Jack's outlet on the corner of Chapel Street and Commercial Road (c.1995) that was one of the chain's first 24-hour stores.

Examples:

Maxim's, 60 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1956-88) – *demolished*

Pickwicks/Chinois/New Chinois (former), 176 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1966, 1989)

La Bouillabaisse (former), 1455 Malvern Road, Glen Iris – *HO399 (Malvern/Tooronga Roads Retail Precinct)*

Neptune's Fishbowl, 312 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1971) – *demolished*

Daniel's Cave Restaurant (former), 297 Wattletree Road, Malvern East (c.1978)

Antoine's, 963 High Street, Armadale (1994) – *demolished*

84 "French zest for the vegetarians", *Age*, 7 August 1979, p 19.
85 Claude Forell (ed), *The Age Good Food Guide* (1982), passim.



Figure 5.47:
Two of the newer local restaurants of the later 1970s: (top) the Fish House Restaurant, 341 Chapel Street, South Yarra (opened 1976); Daniel's Cave, 297 Wattletree Road, Malvern East (opened c.1978)
Source: Restaurants of Melbourne (1978), pp 38, 43.
(photographers uncredited)



Figure 5.48:
Ibuki Japanese Restaurant
26-32 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(opened c.1980)
Source: Ross Campbell, Word of Mouth (1982)
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.49:
Chinois Restaurant
176 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Tibor Hubay, 1989)
Source: Architecture Australia, November 1989, p 84
(photograph by Neil Lorimer)

5.6.4 Creating picture theatres after 1945

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The arrival of the 'talkies' in the 1930s brought a new crop of [picture] theatres, including the Windsor on the corner of Peel and Albert streets, and the Village Theatre at Toorak Village. None of these theatres is still operating, but a few buildings, including the Victory and the Armadale, have survived with other uses.*[86]

By the end of WW2, the study area was well served by picture theatres. The oldest, erected in 1913 at 28 Chapel Street, Windsor, was also the first to close: in 1946, it was converted into a confectioner's factory. While other local cinemas survived into the early post-war period, the introduction of television in 1956 prompted successive closures starting with the Victory Theatre at 133 Wattletree Road, Malvern, which closed that year. It was soon followed by the Village Theatre at 441 Toorak Road (1959), the Empress Theatre at 219-223 Chapel Street (1959) and the Windsor Theatre at 174 Peel Street (1962).[87] Rather than being demolished, the defunct cinemas were adapted for new uses: the Victory as a supermarket, the Empress as an indoor sports centre and the Windsor as offices for Hoyts. The Village Theatre was being converted into a live theatre when, in 1962, it was damaged by fire and became the first cinema in the study area to be demolished after WW2. After the Regent Theatre at 210 Toorak Road closed in 1970, only two pre-war "picture palaces" still operated in the study area, at opposite ends of the Glenferrie Road retail strip: the New Malvern Theatre (No 1) and the Metro Theatre (No 235).

The first new picture theatre in the study area for over thirty years, the 554-seat Trak Cinema (*Fig 5.50*) opened in October 1969 within the new mixed-use Trak Centre on Toorak Road – fittingly, the former site of the Village Theatre. It was followed by the Longford Cinema, located further west at 59 Toorak Road, which opened in 1976. A project by local architect J Dale Fisher, it was not purpose-built from scratch but rather represented a major refurbishment of the former Winston Charles cabaret, creating a new cinema fitout in what had been the venue's principal dining and reception space (*Fig 5.52*). The Trak and the Longford, among the last single-screen cinemas ever built in Melbourne, operated successfully for many years, specialising in art house and cult films rather than first-release commercial features. The last two pre-war cinemas still operating in the study area were not so fortunate and both closed in the 1980s - the Metro in 1984 and the New Malvern in 1987. Both sites were cleared and redeveloped.

The multiplex cinema era emerged at the Chadstone Shopping Centre, where an eight-screen Hoyts complex opened in December 1986 as the first multiplex in the study area – and the first in Australia. Two others followed in the 1990s - both in South Yarra, and both linked to developments that had experienced mixed success. In 1992, a proposed refurbishment of the Como Centre was to include a twenty-screen cinema.[88] This, however, failed to obtain planning approval and, instead, a smaller three-screen complex opened there in 1994. In the interim, the ailing Jam Factory on Chapel Street was acquired by Village Roadshow, with plans to add a ten-screen multiplex.[89] When the venue re-opened in November 1995 (*Fig 5.51*), only eight screens were included, although six more were added in 1998, along with a luxurious 18-seat "Gold Class" cinema. At the end of the decade, these two South Yarra multiplexes were dwarfed by the progenitor at Chadstone Shopping Centre, extended in 1999 to provide seventeen screens.[90]

Examples:

Trak Cinema (former), 445 Toorak Road, Toorak (Arkitekton Associates, 1969)

Longford Cinema, 59 Toorak Road, South Yarra (J Dale Fisher, 1976) – *demolished*

Jam Factory Multiplex Cinema, 500 Chapel Street, South Yarra (Tibor Hubay, 1995)

86 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 207.
87 Dates of closure were sourced from online entries for various theatres <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/>
88 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), pp 19-20.
89 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 20.
90 "Hoyts Chadstone, 1340 Dandenong Road", *Cinema Treasures*, <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/31907>







Figure 5.50 (above):
Trak Cinema,
445 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(Arkitekton Associates, 1969)
Source: Wood World (Feb 1972)
(photographer uncredited)

Figure 5.51 (left):
Jam Factory Multiplex Cinema,
500 Chapel Street, South Yarra
(Tibor Hubay, 1995)
Source: AR Australia, Autumn 1996
(photograph by Neil Lorimer)

Figure 5.52 (below):
Longford Cinema,
59 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(J Dale Fisher, 1976)
Source: Cinema Record No 35 (2002)
(photograph by Brian Meir)





5.7 Catering for tourists

5.7.1 Accommodating tourists after 1945

Prior to WW2, those seeking accommodation the study area could choose from a number of local hotels that offered residential rooms, or the proliferation of guest houses that typically operated from defunct Victorian and Edwardian mansions. Both typologies continued to emerge in the early post-war period (*Fig 5.53*), typified by the new three-storey Park View Hotel at 42 Punt Road, Windsor (1954) and the Harleston Firs Private Hotel (c.1953), which occupied a grand Edwardian house at 10 Manning Road, Malvern.

One of the first new purpose-built modern hotels in the study area, conceived to coincide with the Olympic Games, appeared in South Yarra. When opened in February 1956, the St James Hotel at 35 Darling Street was lauded as "Melbourne's new luxury hotel", with "fifteen ultra-modern two-bedroom apartments".[91] Several other private hotels duly emerged in that vicinity, such as the Greenmark Motel at 52 Darling Street (1962) and the Avon Motor Hotel, around the corner at 120 Toorak Road (c.1961). The Greenmark occupied a five-storey block of bachelor flats, built in 1960 and partly adapted as a private hotel before being sold in 1966 and converted entirely for commercial accommodation, re-opening as the Motel Domain (*Fig 5.54*). During the decade, a few other motel-style complexes appeared elsewhere in the study area, such as the Chadstone Centre Lodge Motel (c.1965) on Virginia Grove, and the eight-storey Octagon Motor Inn (c.1970), just near the prominent corner of Punt and Commercial Roads.

The last decades of the twentieth century marked the local emergence of boutique hotels that often occupied grand pre-war mansions, typified by the Toorak Manor Hotel at 220 Williams Road, which opened in 1993.[92] A more unorthodox hotel conversion, also dating from the 1990s, saw the former Evancourt Private Hospital on Dandenong Road refurbished and re-opened as the Evancourt Motel. Entirely new hotels remained uncommon in the study area in the 1980s and '90s, with the glaring exception of the Como Hotel in South Yarra (*Fig 5.55*), the luxurious 107-room establishment that opened in 1988 as part of the vast Como Centre mixed-use development on the north-east corner of Chapel Street and Toorak Road.

Examples:

Park View Hotel (former), 42 Punt Road, Windsor (1954)

St James' Hotel, 35 Darling Street, South Yarra (1955-56)

Chadstone Centre Lodge Motel, 1-9 Virginia Grove, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (c.1965) – *demolished*

Octagon Motor Inn (former), 5 Commercial Road, South Yarra (c.1970)

5.8 Working

5.8.1 Working in an office after 1945

In the early post-war years, as demand for city office space increased, and rents skyrocketed, professionals began to look further afield, choosing to establish offices in the inner suburbs of Carlton, North Melbourne, East Melbourne and Jolimont, as well as along St Kilda Road. The western fringe of South Yarra, adjacent to St Kilda Road, was another drawcard. In the late 1940s, architect Garnet Alsop moved his city practice from William Street to a block of flats at 44 Walsh Street. The next decade saw Alsop joined by a succession of emerging architectural firms including Chancellor & Patrick, Smith & Tracey, Middleton & Talbot and Rosman & Sorel, all of which began practice from converted dwellings in South Yarra, west of Punt Road (just outside the study area).[93] However, it was Alsop who would be responsible for the first purpose-built architectural office in this enclave – on the east side of Punt Road, at No 376 (1958). A striking two-storey modernist building, it would remain occupied by his firm, and its decedents, for many years (*Fig 5.56*). Further east, the trend for adapting houses as offices was shown by a narrow cottage at 302 Toorak Road, South Yarra, which received an architect-designed makeover in 1959 to become an estate agent's office.[94]

91 "Luxury Hotel opens today", *Age*, 24 February 1956, p 12.
92 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 50.
93 *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various editions.
94 "Old firm converts old house", *Herald*, 20 March 1959, p 26.



Figure 5.53:
Advertisements for some traditional accommodation options in South Yarra in the 1950s, including two private hotels just outside the study area
Source: Where to go in Victoria: Hotels, Motels and Guest Houses (1958-59 edition), p 74.



Figure 5.54:
Motel Domain (c.1966), 52 Darling Street, South Yarra
Source: From a postcard, Simon Reeves Collection. (photographer uncredited)



Figure 5.55:
Como Centre, Chapel Street, South Yarra (Godfrey & Spowers, 1988), showing Como Hotel (low-rise curved portion overlooking gardens) with highrise apartments at left, and office blocks at right and rear
Source: Constructional Review, February 1989, p 44.
(photograph by John Gollings)

Early ambition for purpose-built office space was shown by a 1955 scheme for a modern two-storey building proposed in Greville Street, Prahran for a finance firm, Western Acceptance Ltd. Designed by Montgomery, King & Trengove, it was to have a fashionable curtain-walled façade and allowance for further storeys to be added in the future.[95] While the project remained unrealised, new office buildings that appeared in the study area in the later 1950s and early '60s followed a similar form: modestly-scaled blocks, invariably located on existing commercial strips, and rarely exceeding two storeys (*Fig 5.57*). A major departure from this trend was the new headquarters of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission at 600 Orrong Road, Armadale, completed in 1960 (*Fig 5.59*). Built on a large tract of former railway land near Toorak station, the huge four-storey complex, on a sprawling kinked plan, accommodated 500 departmental staff.[96] Railway land would attract comparable development elsewhere, as when the Country Fire Authority erected its new architect-designed three-storey headquarters on the north side of Milton Parade, Malvern, in 1966 (*Fig 5.61*).

During the 1950s and '60s, Toorak Road and environs remained a major focus for professional offices, with tenants of existing buildings including leading architects such as Brian O'Connor (No 16), Stephen Dorling (No 16), Kevin Pethebridge (No 24), Eric Rice (No 132), Harold Fredman (No 440) and Winston Hall (No 517). Several larger architectural practices were based in contiguous side streets. A few operated from adapted houses, including the partnerships of Guilford Bell and Neil Clerehan (5 Avoca Street) and R S Demaine, Russell, Trundle, Armstrong & Orton (1 Darling Street), while McIntyre & McIntyre occupied a purpose-built office block of its own design (6 Murphy Street). Shared with other professionals (including a barrister, estate agent and another architectural firm, Boilleau Henderson & Lodge), this complex (*Fig 5.58*) also incorporated squash courts at the rear (see **9.1.2**).

By the late 1960s, purpose-built office blocks along (or just off) major commercial strips remained relatively small in scale, typified by the three-storey building at 2 Wallace Avenue, Toorak (c.1969) that J Dale Fisher designed to house his own architectural office. However, a nearby project, completed around the same time, proved a typological breakthrough: the Trak Centre at 443-449 Toorak Road. A mixed-use development with shops, cinema and carparking, it was dominated by a ten-storey office tower, set back to the Jackson Street frontage, which was the tallest yet built in the study area (*Fig 5.60*)). Within just a few years, other multi-storey office blocks appeared further west on Toorak Road, such as the six-storey "prestige office block" at No 286 (1974), and the ANZ Bank's seven-storey computer centre at No 227 (1974), which ushered in a new era of high-rise commercial development in the study area.

The earlier post-war tradition of converting buildings into offices re-emerged in the later 1970s and '80s, in parallel with the rise of the heritage conservation movement. Many pre-war buildings in the study area were sympathetically adapted, including some refurbished by architects for their own premises. In 1979, Ian Burch and Bill Blaich converted a defunct factory in York Place, Prahran, into a loft-style office for themselves, followed in the 1980s by Neil Clerehan's reimagining of an old clothing workshop in Maddock Street, Windsor, and Bruce Henderson's award-winning renovation/restoration of the long-neglected South Yarra Post Office on Toorak Road. Clerehan and Henderson would continue to occupy their repurposed premises for many years, while the converted factory in York Place (*Fig 5.62*) would accommodate a number of other architectural firms, including Smith & Tracey.

Purpose-built offices proliferated in the 1980s and '90s, with smaller two- and three-storey blocks built along established commercial strips (sometimes with shops incorporated at street level), and others on prominent corner sites fronting Dandenong Road. Taller multi-storeyed office blocks would become more apparent in the northwest of the study area, where examples of six or more storeys began to multiply at the north end of Chapel Street, albeit dwarfed by the huge twenty-storey tower of the Como Centre, completed in 1988.

Examples:

Office building for Alsop & Partners (former), 376 Punt Road, South Yarra (Garnet Alsop, 1958)

Office building, 6 Murphy Street, South Yarra (McIntyre & McIntyre, 1962) – *demolished*

Office building for CFA (former), Milton Parade, Malvern (Buchan, Laird & Buchan, 1966) – *demolished*

Office building for ANZ Bank (former), 227 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1974) – *demolished*

95 "Office block for Prahran", *Herald*, 22 July 1955, p 12.
96 "Using old railway", *Herald*, 27 November 1959, p 25.



Figure 5.56:
Alsop & Partners Office
376 Punt Road, South Yarra
(Garnet Alsop & Partners, 1958)
Source: Item H91.244/150,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 5.57:
Office and retail complex
149-153 Toorak Road, South Yarra
(David C Moore, 1958)
Source: Herald,
31 October 1958.



Figure 5.58:
Office building (and squash courts)
6 Murphy Street, South Yarra
(McIntyre & McIntyre, 1962)
Source: Item H2001.40/235
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)





Figure 5.59 (far left):
Official opening of State Rivers & Water Supply Commission Offices 590 Orrong Road, Armadale (Mackay & Potter, 1959-60)
Source: Item RWP/21486 State Library of Victoria (photographer uncredited)

Figure 5.60 (left):
Office tower at Trak Centre Toorak Road, South Yarra (Arkiteckton Associates, 1969)
Source: Item H91.244/245, State Library of Victoria (photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 5.61:
Country Fire Authority Offices Milton Parade, Malvern (Buchan, Laird & Buchan 1966)
Source: Item H91.244/831 State Library of Victoria (photograph by Peter Wille)

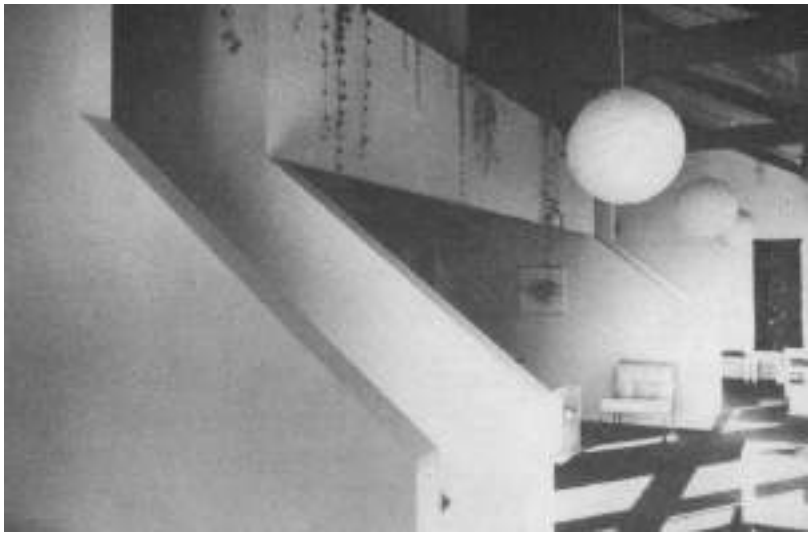


Figure 5.62:
Architectural offices (loft-style conversion of former factory), 1 York Place, Prahran (Ian Burch and Bill Blaich, c.1978)
Source: Architect, December 1979

6.0 BUILDING TOWNS, CITIES AND THE GARDEN STATE

6.1 Establishing Melbourne Town, Port Phillip District

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

6.2 Creating Melbourne

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

6.3 Shaping the suburbs

6.3.1 Expanding electricity supply services and infrastructure after 1945

In the late 1930s, the State Electricity Commission (SEC) proposed a series of new terminal stations around Melbourne. The only one within the study area, the Malvern Terminal Station, was developed on a large site on the south side of Waverley Road, near Gardiners Creek, and began operation in 1947. It was intended as a crucial element of a new 220,000 volt transmission line that would link Melbourne with the power stations at Yallourn. Stretching 120 kilometres, the new 220kv line would pass through a new terminal station built at Rowville before reaching the existing one at Malvern, thence to the pre-war counterpart at Richmond. Construction of the transmission line unfolded gradually between 1953 and 1956, during which time the Malvern Terminal Station was also enlarged and upgraded.

On completion of this new infrastructure, smaller facilities known as zone substations were provided to distribute electricity supply from the terminal stations to various groups of suburbs. During the 1960s, three of these zone substations were developed in the study area, designated as AR (Armadale), TK (Toorak) and EM (Malvern East). Substation AR, at 924 High Street, and Substation EM, at 56 Sycamore Street, both dated from the early 1960s, while Substation TK, at 230 Williams Road, followed towards the end of that decade. During this time, a zone substation was also built at Glen Iris (designated K, for Kooyong). While this served residents of the former City of Malvern, it was located just across the municipal boundary, at 324 Burke Road.

After the dissolution of the SEC in 1994, and the subsequent privatisation of electricity supply in Victoria, responsibility for existing infrastructure was split between several new retail distribution companies. In this way, the Malvern Terminal Station and zone substations at Toorak and Armadale were taken over by CitiPower, while the zone substation in Glen Iris and Malvern East were taken over by United Energy.

Examples

Malvern Terminal Station, 8 Shrewsbury Street, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1947 onwards)

Zone Substation AR, 924 High Street, Armadale (c.1962) – *HO400 (High Street Rail and Retail Precinct)*

Zone Substation TK, 230 Williams Road, Toorak (c.1967)

6.3.2 Creating public landscapes after 1945 **[2006: 8.7]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The [Victoria] Gardens became run-down after WW2, and it was not until 1989 that restoration works, again by the Friends group, began.*[1]
>
> *In 1979 the Outer Circle Railway land between Gardiners Creek and Dandenong Road was offered to Council for low rent by the MMBW and the Railway Construction Board, and in 1980 the Council took this opportunity to propose the development of the land as an 'urban forest'. The first concept plan was developed by the Forests Commission in association with Malvern City Council and funding from the Department of Sport & Recreation. Planting began in late 1983 with the involvement of Council, contract workers, local schools and community groups.*

1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 151.

W M Dane Park, adjacent to Heyington Station, is a good but rare example of revegetation in a small park in a highly urbanised setting. When the land was proposed for sale and development in the 1990s, a group of local residents including former long-serving Prahran Councillor Bill Dane, strongly objected to the sale of the land and supported its retention as a park.[2]

By 1945, the study area was well stocked with public reserves, some dating back to the late nineteenth century. The Victoria Gardens, long neglected after WW2 but revived in 1989 with re-landscaping and restoration of its fountain and statues, was one of several reserves to be rehabilitated in the later twentieth century.[3] Hedgeley Dene Gardens in Malvern, laid out in the 1920s, was also derelict by the 1970s but, after preparation of a restoration scheme in 1978, won the Victorian State Garden Competition in 1980.[4]

Transformation of the former Outer Circle railway corridor into a linear park, later dubbed the Urban Forest, demonstrated a recurring theme amongst post-war reserves in the study area. Adaptation of defunct sites had been presaged in the City of Malvern by the Sir Robert Menzies Reserve at the corner of Toorak Road and Elizabeth Street, officially opened in 1974 (by the ex-Prime Minister himself, then a resident of Malvern) on what had been municipal rubbish trip and, prior to that, a clay pit for the City Brick Works. Similarly, an old railway siding near Windsor station, decommissioned in 1977, re-emerged as a small public park in 1982. Kent Reserve, between Nash and Kent Streets in Glen Iris, was created on part of the former site of Gardiner State School, which closed in 1992.

W M Dane Park, near Heyington station, was one of several new reserves to emerge in the City of Prahran in the 1990s. Others included Dyeworks Park (1993) in Simmons Street, named for the industrial venture that once occupied the site, and the South Yarra Siding Reserve (1994) off William Street, another rehabilitation of defunct railway land.[5] After the closure of Prahran High School, its site was cleared and then landscaped to form an extension of the adjacent Orrong Park and Romanis Reserve. Enlargement of the venerable Victoria Gardens became possible by acquisition of a former boarding house at 359 High Street, which was demolished for a new playground.[6]

Examples:

Sir Robert Menzies Reserve, Toorak Road, Malvern (1974)

Windsor Siding Reserve, 104 Union Street, Windsor (1982)

South Yarra Siding Reserve, 17 William Street, South Yarra (1994)

6.3.3 The end of an era – mansion estate subdivisions after 1945 **[2006: 8.1.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

From quite early on, large estates were beginning to be subdivided, leaving the mansion surrounded by an acre or two of garden… However, the subdivision of the grand old estates in Toorak began to increase after the turn of the century and particularly after WW1 when rising labour costs made the costs of servants and other people to maintain the estates prohibitive.

This process of subdivision created a unique pattern of development, which can still be understood and interpreted today. Although the new subdivisions imposed new road patterns within the original grids, in many cases the new estates and streets bore the names of the old properties, while the original house was retained within its reduced garden. Often the old driveway to the mansion would become a new street… Often the mansion survived the first subdivision round only to succumb to demolition in a later subdivision... Throughout the second half of the twentieth century, the process of replacing Toorak's big old houses with big modern houses continued. Increasingly, though, old houses were being replaced by apartment blocks.[7]

2 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 198.
3 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Four* (2001), pp 22-23.
4 Timmah Ball, "Questioning colonial ideals at Melbourne's Hedgeley Dene Gardens", *Assemble Papers,* January 2022. <https://assemblepapers.com.au/2022/01/27/colonial-ideals-melbournes-hedgeley-dene-gardens/>
5 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Three* (2000), p 60, and *Discovering Prahran: Area One* (1998), p 40.
6 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Four* (2001), p 22.
7 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 124-125.

Changing economic and social conditions that triggered the sale and subdivision of mansion estates in the first half of the twentieth century intensified in the second half. As Di Foster noted, "After the War, with many owners not wishing to resume their lavish lifestyle, buildings remained 'in the hands of departments or institutions' or awaited 'the pick of the wrecker'."[8] The first mansions in this part of the study area to give way to post-war estates included *Palmyra* in Lansell Road (1951) and *Dalmeny* in Heyington Place (1953), their respective sites subdivided to form McMaster Court and Rostill Court. The later 1950s saw a boom of new cul-de-sacs, such as Bromley Court, Cleve Court, Duffryn Place, Forrest Court, Gawith Court, Leicester Square (off Glenferrie Road), Montrose Court, Nola Court, Selwyn Court, Theodore Court, Ultimo Court and Wannon Court. Most were relatively small subdivisions of less than ten lots, although Selwyn Court formed part of the larger *Glyn Estate* (1958), a 16-lot development straddling the major junction of Kooyong and Toorak Roads.[9] Demolition of *Wombelano*, also in 1958, facilitated the extension of Kenley Court as well as creating a row of new lots along Kooyong Road – one of which retained the mansion's entrance gates.

As Sally Wilde noted, "by the end of the 1950s most of the remaining big estates had been subdivided under the combined pressures of probate, depression and profit".[10] While the boom of mansion subdivision briefly slowed with the Credit Crunch of 1960-61, it resumed with vigour. If the viability of retaining mansions as private homes was decreasing, even those occupied by schools or institutions were fair game for developers. *Grong Grong* on Toorak Road, occupied by the PMG Department for two decades, survived WW2 only to be razed in 1964.[11] Grong Grong Court was another in a succession of new cul-de-sacs of the early 1960s, along with Gahan Court (1962), Matthews Court (1962), Eldene Court (1963), Lawrenny Court (1964), Maxwell Court (1965), Glendye Court (1965), Nareeb Court (1965) and Greenknowe Court (1965). While cul-de-sac estates predominated, some mansion sites were razed and redeveloped without a new street being formed, as with *Narveno* at the corner of Hopetoun Road and Stonnington Place, with new lots fronting both streets.[12]

As the subdivision boom abated in the later 1960s, fewer new cul-de-sacs emerged, typified by Heymount Court (1968) and Crestmont Court (1970), both off Heyington Place. Di Foster noted that, by the end of that decade, only two Victorian mansions remained in the heartland defined by Toorak Road, Orrong Road, High Street and Glenferrie Road: *Whernside*, off Albany Road and *Carmyle*, off Malvern Road, each surviving only because their vast grounds had already been decimated prior to WW2.[13] Only a few more cul-de-sac estates emerged, such as Highgate Hill (1972), on the original site of St Kevin's College (see **8.2.3**) , and a second stage of Crestmont Court (1974), the latter described as "one of the most expensive subdivisions in the history of Toorak".[14] By then, skyrocketing inflation had made it less financially desirable to acquire and subdivide mansion estates, while the parallel rise of the conservation movement also meant that grand historic houses could no longer be readily demolished without fear of fuss or opposition.

Examples:

House, 176 Kooyong Road, Toorak (c.1959) – *retains front gates from demolished Wombalano mansion (HO272)*

Crestmont Court, Toorak (1974) – *one of the last cul-de-sac estates in Toorak*

6.3.4 'The City of Real Homes' – development of Malvern East after 1945 **[2009: 8.2.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The last part of the study area to come under suburban development [was] the eastern extremity to Warrigal Road. Most of the area between Gardiners Creek, Warrigal and Waverley roads and the Outer Circle Railway reserve was sold to agent T M Burke, who subdivided and offered it as Malvern Meadows Estate. The Woodmason family kept a few acres near Warrigal Road, where in 1922 they built their large bungalow, Green Gables (formerly at 627 Waverley Road, now demolished).*

8 Di Foster, "Melbourne's Most Fashionable Suburb: A History of Toorak, east of Kooyong Road, 1840-1998", unpublished thesis, Monash University, 1999, p 76. Copy held by Stonnington History Centre.
9 "Subdivisional auction", *Age*, 29 November 1958, p 48.
10 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 40.
11 Di Foster, "Melbourne's Most Fashionable Suburb", unpublished thesis, 1999, p 76.
12 Di Foster, "Melbourne's Most Fashionable Suburb", unpublished thesis, 1999, p 77.
13 Di Foster, "Melbourne's Most Fashionable Suburb", unpublished thesis, 1999, p 91.
14 "Toorak kidnap fear", *Age*, 25 September 1975, p 1.

> *The proposed extension of the railway from Darling to Glen Waverley was expected to pass through the estate and stimulate development, but the financial burden of the Railway Construction and Betterment Tax imposed on the properties along the line discouraged home building. The line opened as far as Holmesglen in 1929 ... but the estate was used as grazing paddocks until after WW2.*[15]

A 1945 aerial photograph (*Fig 6.01*) shows the last tracts of undeveloped land in the study area in its south-eastern fringe, in what became Chadstone (now Malvern East). While some pre-war subdivision had occurred, these estates had only partly developed. The image shows dense settlement bounded by Dandenong Road, Warrigal Road and Castlebar Road, scattered housing further north (between Warrigal Road and Capon Street) and west (between Sydare Avenue and Chadstone Road, fading after Fenwick Street), and a few houses on Waverley Road. Otherwise, areas north of Castlebar Road, over Scotchmans Creek to Batesford Street, and across the railway to Gardiners Creek, all remained as remnant farmland.

Within a decade or so, all this land had been subdivided (*Fig 6.02*). The first new estates included a 48-lot subdivision (1948) between Sydare Avenue and the Outer Circle railway line, creating Hyslop Parade and Lang Court, and a 100-lot subdivision (1950) bounded by Warrigal Road, Waverley Road and Batesford Road, creating Mountfield Avenue, James Parade, Green Gables Avenue and Llanos Avenue.[16] In 1955, the land between Waverley Road and the SEC terminal was carved up to form Rotherwood Drive and Anfield Court.[17] Subsequent estates were much smaller: a row of ten lots on the west side of Chadstone Road (1956), intended for retail development, and what appears to have been the suburb's final residential subdivision, land along the north side of Virginia Grove (1959), abutting the new Chadstone Shopping Centre.[18]

Examples

Virginia Grove, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1959) – *the suburb's last residential subdivision*

6.3.5 Gentrifying the suburbs after 1945 **[2009: 8.2.4]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The 1950s saw an exodus of middle-class residents out of parts of the study area. This trend was reversed in the 1970s as the pressure for high rise development in South Yarra and Toorak brought young professionals seeking cheap houses for restoration. Many of Prahran's old cottages brought high prices, squeezing out working-class residents. The new occupants have renovated and extended the cottages, most endeavouring to restore their facades, some more sympathetically to the original than others. A number of the cottages have been completely rebuilt displaying some interesting post-modern architectural uses of the small sites.*[19]

Post-war gentrification in the study area was closely associated with neglected pre-war houses in Prahran and Windsor where, as Betty Malone wrote "after WW2, a few buyers saw the beauty and the advantages of a house close to the city and were prepared, if the old houses were structurally sound, as most of them were, to restore facades and the big high-roofed rooms to their former state, while modernising kitchen, bathroom, laundry and little pokey rooms at the back. Estate agents were quick to capitalise on this trend and Victorian and then Edwardian houses were soon eagerly sought".[20] By the mid-1960s, the trend was apparent in South Yarra and Toorak, in the densely-settled areas near railway lines, typified by a timber cottage at 16 Millicent Avenue, cheaply renovated in 1966 by the late Prime Minister's son, Nicholas Holt.[21] In 1969, a house at 19 Ralston Street, South Yarra, was offered for sale as a "solid but stodgy brick home" converted into "a delightfully modern townhouse".[22] That year, a businessman bought a "dilapidated Victorian cottage" at 57 Fairbairn Road, Toorak, and, after a radical makeover (*Fig 6.03*) over several years (with input from architect Daryl Jackson), sold the house in 1972 for three times what he had paid for it.[23]

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15 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 130.
16 Lodged Plan No 17977, 3 April 1948; Lodged Plan No 20123, 7 July 1950. <https://www.landata.online/>
17 Lodged Plan No 32071, 10 November 1955. <https://www.landata.online/>
18 Lodged Plan No 50174, 23 July 1959. <https://www.landata.online/>
19 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 131.
20 Betty Malone, *Chapel Street, Prahran: Part Two, 1919-1984* (1984), p 69.
21 "Country cottage in the suburbs", *Australian Women's Weekly*, 10 July 1967, pp 38-39.
22 "Imagination triumphs", *Age*, 28 July 1969, p 26.
23 "Toorak transformation", *Age*, 5 February 1972, p 31.



Figure 6.01:
Aerial photograph of Chadstone (now Malvern East) in 1945, showing the largely undeveloped land between Waverley Road (1), Dandenong Road (2) and Warrigal Road (3).
Source: Melbourne 1945 https://1945.melbourne/ (photographer uncredited)



Figure 6.02:
Aerial photograph of Chadstone (now Malvern East) in 1956, showing extent of subdivision and residential development on land between Waverley Road (1), Dandenong Road (2) and Warrigal Road (3).
Source: Project 250: Melbourne Outer Suburbs, Run 16, Frame 18, dated 9 February 1956. Central Plan Office, Melbourne via www.landata.online (photographer uncredited)

By then, such residential refurbishments were commonplace in the study area, not only in the close-grained parts of South Yarra (between the railway line and Punt Road) and Toorak (between Toorak and Malvern Roads), but also in Armadale and Malvern. A number of projects of the early 1970s involved input from up-and-coming young architects such as John Kenny, John Barker, Peter Clarke and Michael Peck, and were written up in newspaper articles. A few architects, including Peter Clarke and Barry Gray, purchased and renovated older houses for their own residences (see **6.7.3**). Yet, even the more low-budget renovations executed without architectural input could be praised for their ingenuity and style, as when a couple in South Yarra reimagined their "run-down old cottage" at 17 Albion Street with limited finances and a keen eye for Scandinavian simplicity (*Fig 6.04*).[24] While the renovation boom abated near the decade's end, some late local examples still garnered attention, typified by pre-war houses remodelled by architect John Kenny in Stuart Street, Armadale (*Fig 6.05*) and Murphy Street, South Yarra, both receiving RAIA citations.

Examples:

Holt House, 16 Millicent Avenue, Toorak (renovated c.1966)

House, 19 Ralston Street, South Yarra (renovated c.1969)

Youlden House, 57 Fairbairn Road, Toorak (renovated c.1969-72) – *demolished*

Troob House, 17 Albion Street, South Yarra (renovated c.1972)

6.4 Making regional centres

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

6.5 Living in country towns

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

6.6 Marking significant phases in development of Victoria's settlements, towns and cities

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

6.7.1 Post-war houses as a symbol of wealth, status and fashion **[2006: 8.4.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *As we have seen, houses are a measure of wealth and status and by the 1860s architects were in demand as more wealthy settlers moved into the study area.*
>
> *After the turn of the century, architects continued to have a major influence on the wealthy suburbs of the study area, particularly in Toorak, Armadale and Kooyong.*[25]

Toorak's status as a centre for the mansions of Melbourne's wealthiest citizens arose in the mid-nineteenth century, continued into the early twentieth century, and thence into the post-war era. Several fashionable "society architects", who had designed grand houses for this elite clientele in the inter-war era, continued to do so into the 1950s and '60s (such as Marcus Martin, Edward Billson, Geoffrey Summers, Lawrence Warner and Yuncken Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson), while the emerging generation of younger architects included some (such as Guilford Bell and O N Coulson) who would become no less sought-after in such a capacity. Bell, himself a South Yarra resident, undertook local commissions for such eminent dynasties as the Bailleau, Bardas, Clemenger, Rockman and Nicholas ("Aspro") families.[26] Some society architects, including Bell and Billson, also designed Toorak houses for the managing directors of major companies for whom they had previously designed (or would subsequently design) the firm's factories or office blocks.

24 "A Swedish-style cottage", *Australian House & Garden*, September 1973, pp 168-69ff.
25 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 134, 135.
26 Leon von Schaik, *The Life and Work of Guilford Bell* (1999), pp 294-298.



Figure 6.03 (above):
Before-and-after images of the Youlden House Renovation, 57 Fairbairn Road, Toorak (Daryl Jackson, c.1969-71)
Source: Age, 5 February 1972, p 31. (photographer uncredited)



Figure 6.04 (left):
Troob House Renovation, 17 Albion Street, South Yarra (c.1972)
Source: Australian House & Garden, September 1973, pp 168-69. (photographs by Bryan Ruffin)



Figure 6.05:
Ramsay House Renovation, Stuart Street, Armadale (John Kenny, 1975)
Source: Norman Day, Modern Houses: Melbourne (1976), p 76. (photographer uncredited)

Some post-war homebuilders retained conservative pre-war tastes, resulting in a sub-theme of palatial new houses evoking the glamour of an earlier era. Tom and John Freeman, from Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson, among Melbourne's leading exponents of Georgian Revival in the 1930s, continued to design such houses in the study area (*Fig 6.06*) until their respective deaths in 1962 and 1971. Their colleague Roy Simpson was an avowed modernist but still designed some local houses that melded progressive ideals with classical sensibility. Other top-rung modernists, such as Robin Boyd, Roy Grounds and Neil Clerehan, also designed houses in the area along these lines, as well as similarly-scaled but more overtly modernist houses (see **6.7.2**) for moneyed clients of more progressive taste (*Fig 6.07*). In the City of Prahran's centenary year of 1955, it could be conceded that "many of the big old mansions are giving way… but the new buildings that are going up preserve the atmosphere of dignity and good taste. Some of the finest examples of domestic architecture and garden treatment in Australia are to be found in Toorak".[27]

The notion that a post-war house could be both modernist and luxurious became notably evident in the local output of European-trained émigré architects, typically designing for wealthy self-made compatriots. In the 1950s and '60s, architects such as Anatol Kagan, Ernest Fooks, Michael Feldhagen and Kurt Popper became prolific in Toorak and South Yarra, designing large and glamourous residences for prominent manufacturers and company directors (*Fig 6.08 & 6.10*). However, it was the Polish-born husband-and-wife partnership of Holgar & Holgar that fostered an enviable reputation as preferred architects to wealthy émigré businessmen in this part of the study area. By Helen Holgar's own account, she and husband John designed over thirty houses in Toorak alone, from the early 1960s to the late 1980s (*Figs 6.09 & 6.11*).[28] Often palatial in scale, these were analogous to the grandest Victorian mansions, with vast living areas for lavish entertaining (in a few cases, incorporating a bandstand), sweeping formal staircases, commercial-scale kitchens and servants' quarters. Fitouts were no less luxurious, often including such features as conversation pits and sunken baths with gold-plated taps, and built-in furniture and light fittings either bespoke or imported, if not both.

In the late twentieth century, some of Toorak's elite homebuilders preferred a progressive modernist style, turning to architects such as Robert Grodski, Nic Boschler, Ermin Smrekar and Tibor Hubay. However, the more conservative tastes lingered in parallel. Porticos, pediments and shuttered windows recurred in many grand new residences from the later 1960s, typified by those at 1 Glendye Court (1967), 8 St Georges Road (1967) and 7 Whernside Avenue (1969). Classical sensibilities, whether overt or implied, persisted into the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Architects such as John Rosenthal, Wayne Gillespie and Nicholas Day carried on the stylised Georgian tradition of Guilford Bell, while Bell himself remained active in the study area until his death in 1992, with his last major residential commission being a Toorak mansion for cinema advertising tycoon Val Morgan junior. The lavish scale and luxurious appointment of such houses never abated, as shown by the vast residences built by millionaire businessmen John Gandel at 31 Albany Road (1988-90) and Leon Fink at 29-31 St George's Road (1989-91), which, at the time of construction, were among the largest and most expensive dwellings built in Melbourne after WW2.

Examples:

Fabian House, 23 Lansell Road, Toorak (Anatol Kagan, 1951) – *demolished*

Brett House, 3 Buddle Drive, Toorak (Grounds, Romberg & Boyd, 1955) – *HO653*

House, 25 Lansell Road, Toorak (O N Coulson, 1958) – *demolished*

Clemens House, 55 Clendon Road, Toorak (Yuncken Freeman, 1962)

Selwyn House (*Naliandrah*), 3 Glendye Court, Toorak (Holgar & Holgar, 1966-67) – *HO732*

Bloom House, 1 Glendye Court, Toorak (Theodore Berman, 1967) – *demolished*

Lasker House, 23 Linlithgow Road, Toorak (Holgar & Holgar, 1970) – *HO731*

Hallows House, 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak (Guilford Bell, 1975) – *HO737*

Fink House, 29-31 St George's Road (Theodore Berman, 1989-91) – *demolished*

27 *City of Prahran: One Hundred Years. The Past, the Present and the Future, 1855-1955* (1955), unpaginated.

28 Simon Reeves, "Gold-Plated Doors If You Want Them: Holgar & Holgar and the Architecture of Opulence", in Philip Goad and Annemarie Brennan (eds), *Gold: Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia & New Zealand*, No 33 (2016), pp 568-577.



Figure 6.06:
Hansen House,
4 Kent Court, Toorak
(Yuncken Freeman etc, 1953)
Source: Item 2018.0115.02267,
Yuncken Freeman Collection
University of Melbourne Archives
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 6.07:
Howden House,
23a St Georges Road, Toorak
(Guilford Bell, 1958)
Source: Item H91.244/5262,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.08:
Fabian House,
23 Lansell Road, Toorak
(Anatol Kagan, 1951)
Source: Simon Reeves,
Gentle Modernist: The Nine Lives of Anatol Kagan (2014), p 65
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 6.09:
Zyk House,
12 Torresdale Road, Toorak
(Holgar & Holgar, 1965)
Source: Holgar & Holgar Archive, Private Collection, Melbourne.
(photographer unknown)



Figure 6.10:
Bloom House,
1 Glendye Court, Toorak
(Theodore Berman, 1967)
Source: Item No H91.244/5354, State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.11:
Baker House,
57 St Georges Road, Toorak
(Holgar & Holgar, 1988)
Source: Holgar & Holgar Archive, Private Collection, Melbourne.
(photographer unknown)

6.7.2 Functional, eccentric, theatrical: post-war experimentation and innovation **[2006: 8.4.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The strong culture of patronage also led to some clients encouraging their architects to step outside the dictates of fashion and explore ideas and innovation in design and construction….*
>
> *In the 1940s, '50s and '60s, Roy Grounds and Robin Boyd were creating modern designs to fit in with the difficult topography of the sites. Boyd's Richardson House (10 Blackfriars Close) is constructed across a creek bed, while Grounds' Quamby (3 Glover Court, Toorak) is a block of flats that takes advantage of a slope overlooking the Yarra River. Grounds' innovative approach is also demonstrated by his own house at 24 Hill Street, Toorak, which Heritage Victoria describes as an experimentation in 'pure geometry', an approach he developed starting in 1930.* [29]

The theme of innovative residential architecture, which emerged in the early twentieth century through the work of Annear, Griffin and others, burgeoned from the late 1930s with important pre-partnership projects by Roy Grounds and Frederick Romberg, and two striking riverfront houses by Hugh Peck (c.1940) and Mewton & Grounds (c.1942). The challenge of building on Toorak's coveted but difficult riverfront sites resumed after WW2 with a bold new house in St Georges Road by Guilford Bell (1952). Around the same time, Rae Featherstone designed a few early modernist houses in Toorak that evinced structural innovation, including one on Lansell Road (1953) with a window wall set into a reinforced concrete frame.

Completed in 1954, Grounds' own house and Boyd's Richardson House (*Fig 6.12*) ushered in a new era of progressive residential architecture in the study area. Difficult topography continued to invite unusual design solutions, especially with the boom of cul-de-sac subdivisions (see **6.3.3**) creating blocks of awkward shape. Architects deftly rose to the challenge by conceiving houses in response to site geometry. The cul-de-sacs of Toorak are scattered with houses, designed by Anatol Kagan, Roy Grounds, Holgar & Holgar, David Moore, Winston Hall, Joe Palliser and others, with plans stepped or splayed to follow site boundaries. Some houses reflected this in their facades, typified by one at 1 Theodore Court (Grounds, Romberg & Boyd, 1958), with a splayed gable echoing its wedge-shaped plan (*Fig 6.13*), and others at 5 Theodore Court (Anatol Kagan, 1959) and 9 Nola Court (Holgar & Holgar, 1963), with curved facades following the street boundary.

While some architects prolific in the study area, such as Boyd, Bell and Clerehan, continued to design houses in a boldly functional and structurally adventurous mode, the 1960s introduced a more decorative approach recalling "eccentric and theatrical" style of Toorak's later inter-war houses. As early as 1960, Harry Ernest designed a pair of houses in Buddle Drive with metal façade screens (*Fig 6.14*), evoking the modernist homes of Beverly Hills, USA. A similar approach was evident in the work of émigré architects such as Ernest Fooks (*Fig 6.15*), but Holgar & Holgar became its leading exponents, designing houses in South Yarra and Toorak with façade screens, parabolic arcades and feature walls of textured blockwork or coloured tiling (*Fig 6.16*).

As increasingly divergent strands of modernism developed in the later 1960s and '70s, new houses in the study area continued to evoke this spirit of experimentation and innovation. This diversity encapsulated the idiosyncratic work of Andrew Reed, characterised by jagged forms, projecting masses and clinker brick (*Fig 6.17*), and architect Harold Shafer's own house (1977) (see **6.7.3**), with a convex street façade. Such leanings toward the eccentric and theatrical only increased as Post-modernism matured in the 1980s, demonstrated locally by some important projects by important firms, including a house in South Yarra by Ashton Raggatt McDougall (1983) and another in Armadale by Edmond & Corrigan (1987).

Examples:

Grounds House & Flats, 24 Hill Street, Toorak (Roy Grounds, 1953-54) – *HO60 (also VHR H1963)*

Richardson House, 10 Blackfriars Close, Toorak (Grounds, Romberg & Boyd, 1954) – *HO360*

Witten House, 5 Theodore Court, Toorak (Anatol Kagan, 1959)

Langley Houses, 4 and 5 Buddle Drive, Toorak (Harry Ernest, 1960)

Selwyn House (*Naliandrah*), 3 Glendye Court, Toorak (Holgar & Holgar, 1966-67) – *HO732*

Nevett House, 701 Toorak Road, Malvern (Andrew Reed & Associates, 1974) – *demolished*

29 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History*, (2006), p 139.



Figure 6.12:
Richardson House,
10 Blackfriars Close, Toorak
(Grounds, Romberg & Boyd, 1954)
Source: Item H91.244/4230,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.13:
Smith House (Shere),
1 Theodore Court, Toorak
(Grounds, Romberg & Boyd, 1958)
Source: Item H91.244/2822,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.14:
Langley House I,
4 Buddle Drive, Toorak
(Harry Ernest, 1960)
Source: Item H91.244/1924,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.15:
Adams House,
20 Lansell Road, Toorak
(Ernest Fooks, 1962)
Source: Item H2003.100/666,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

Figure 6.16 (below):
Selwyn House (Naliandrah),
3 Glendye Court, Toorak
(Holgar & Holgar, 1966-67),
Source: Item SH 891694,
Museums Victoria.
(model made by Tom Mayla)
(photographer uncredited)





Figure 6.17:
Nevett House,
701 Toorak Road, Malvern
(Andrew Reed & Associates, 1974)
Source: Australian Women's Weekly,
29 October 1975, p 104.
(photograph by Don McFedran)

6.7.3 Architects making homes for themselves after 1945 **[2006: 8.4.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Not surprisingly, a number of the architects who contributed to the urban landscape of the study area designed and built their own houses among those of their clients – perhaps to demonstrate their skill and talent to other potential clients. Roy Grounds at 24 Hill Street was one of a number of notable architects who called the study area home.*[30]

The first architects to design their own houses in the study area after WW2 included some stalwart pre-war practitioners who, having resumed practice after wartime hiatus, secured the means to build in Melbourne's most elite suburbs. William Balcombe Griffiths, a senior partner at Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson, designed his own house in Caroline Street, South Yarra, in the late 1940s, in a Georgian Revival mode typical of his firm's pre-war output. The early 1950s saw architects' own houses in Toorak by more progressive modernists who, like Griffiths, were named partners in major city firms. His colleague Roy Simpson designed a house for himself in Washington Street (1950-52) (*Fig 6.18*), while Race Godfrey and Geoffrey Mewton, both partners at Godfrey, Spowers, Hughes, Mewton & Lobb, designed their respective homes in Kenley Court (1953) and Myvore Court (1954). In the City of Malvern, Stewart Handasyde designed his own flat-roofed house in Winton Road, Malvern East (1954) (*Fig 6.19*), while Harold Freedman and William Munro, who both settled in Hyslop Parade around the same time, were amongst the early post-war resident of what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East).

Other architects designed houses for themselves in South Yarra in the late 1950s, notably Robin Boyd in Walsh Street (1957) and Neil Clerehan in Fawkner Street (1958) (*Fig 6.20*), but, from the early 1960s, Toorak seemed to exert a stronger pull. Architects who designed their own houses there included Frank Murphy (1962), Reg Grouse (1963), Theodore Berman (1968) and Walter Pollock (1970). That decade also saw some houses for husband-and-wife architects: namely, the South Yarra home of Geoffrey and Marcia Stott (1962) and the Toorak residences of Winston and Elizabeth Hall (1960-61) and Dale and Marjorie Fisher (c.1967).

Not all architects who lived in the study area designed new houses: a sub-theme emerged where pre-war houses were acquired and updated by new architect owners. One of the first was Guilford Bell, who, having lived in a flat in Washington Street, bought a Victorian terrace at 92 Caroline Street, South Yarra, in 1957, which he renovated over several decades. Others to follow included Toorak residents Barry Patten (of Yuncken Freeman), David McGlashan (of McGlashan & Everist) and Graeme Gunn, as well as Brian O'Connor and Robert Martin in South Yarra. The trend persisted in the 1970s when Barry Gray, Peter Clarke, David Denham and another architect couple, Henry and Elizabeth Retallick, rehabilitated older houses in the study area (see **6.3.5**). Others to design entirely new houses for themselves in the later 1970s and '80s included Harold Shafer in Dalriada Street, Toorak (1977), Ian McDougall in Grosvenor Street, South Yarra (1983) and David Cran in Oban Street, South Yarra (1986-88). From the early 1970s, Wayne Gillespie occupied a succession of townhouses of his own design, variously in Toorak, South Yarra and Armadale, before settling by 1977 in one of a group of five that he designed in Woodside Crescent, Toorak.

Many of these architects lived in the study area (or just outside it) for long periods. In 1967, Roy Simpson moved from Washington Street into the *Domain Park* flats on Domain Road (west of Punt Road), and, around the same time, Neil Clerehan moved from Fawner Street to a new house in Walsh Street (also west of Punt Road); both remained there for the rest of their lives. Clerehan and Simpson were among a handful of local architects, along with Guilford Bell, J Dale Fisher and Reg Grouse, who spent most of their adult lives living in (or just beyond) the study area, spanning (if not exceeding) the second half of the twentieth century.

Examples:

Simpson House, 60 Washington Street, Toorak (Yuncken Freeman etc, 1950-52) – *interim HO707*

Grounds House, 24 Hill Street, Toorak (Roy Grounds, 1953-54) – *HO60*

Handasyde House, 17 Winton Road, Malvern East (Stewart Handasyde, 1954) – *demolished*

Stott House, 391 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Geoffrey & Marcia Stott, 1962) – *demolished c.1995*

Shafer House, 1 Dalriada Street, Toorak (Harold Shafer, 1977)

30 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 139.



Figure 6.18:
Roy Simpson House,
60 Washington Street, Toorak
(Yuncken Freeman etc, 1950-52)
Source: Item H91.244/5228,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.19:
Stewart Handasyde House,
17 Winton Road, Malvern East
(Stewart Handasyde, 1954)
Source: Item SHC70711
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 6.20:
Neil Clerehan House I
18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra
(Neil Clerehan, 1958-59)
Source: Item H91.244/1555,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

6.7.4 Providing public housing after 1945 **[2006: 8.5.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The Housing Commission of Victoria was established in 1938 to improve the housing conditions of people living in poverty in the inner suburbs. Before WW2 the Commission embarked on a program of 'slum reclamation' and house construction. In 1946 the Commission acquired the Commonwealth Munitions Factory at Holmesglen in the east of the study area and began mass production of prefabricated concrete housing. This was a cheap and efficient solution to the post-war housing shortage.*
>
> *In the 1950s, concern over the reduction of population in the inner suburbs… provided new impetus for slum clearance – urban renewal as it became known – in the inner areas of Melbourne. The Commission identified several areas in Prahran in as need of renewal, and Council gave its support to the program. One Prahran Councillor was Horace Petty, who was also the Member for Toorak in the Legislative Assembly, and served as Minister for Housing from 1955 to 1961. Petty supported the Commission's plans to build high-rise apartment blocks as a way of renewing Melbourne's inner suburbs, including Prahran. Despite protests from residents, the first of Prahran's Housing Commission flats were completed in Essex Street in 1960. The largest of the Commission's development in Prahran is the Horace Petty Estate, which consists of three twelve-storey blocks and several four-storey blocks, completed in 1967.*[31]
>
> *The Ministry of Housing's Tillotson Terrace units [were] built as recently as 1988.*[32]

Ironically, while its Concrete House Factory operated in the City of Malvern from 1946, the Housing Commission of Victoria (HCV) undertook no estate work in that municipality. Its output in the study area focused wholly on the City of Prahran – not least because Horace Pretty, Hawksburn resident and local councillor, was Minister for Housing. Hence, a series of HCV estates unfolded in the City of Prahran, flanking Chapel Street but only south of Toorak Road. Its initial foray in Essex Street (1959-60), providing 63 dwellings in blocks of two- and three-storey walk-up flats, was followed by similar estates in Simmons Street/Malvern Road and De Murska Street/Crews Street (both 1962-63), with 45 and 74 units respectively. The De Murska Street project was notable for introducing, for the first time in Melbourne, a new design for duplex-style HCV flats, each unit spread over two levels (*Fig 6.21*).[33] The ambitious Horace Pretty Estate, on a vast site bounded by Malvern Road, Simmons Street and Bray Road, unfolded in parallel, completed in stages between 1964 and 1967 (*Fig 6.22)*. With over 600 dwellings, it was not only the largest HCV project in the study area but also the only one with onsite shops and a kindergarten. *Loxton Lodge,* a thirteen-storey block of 212 units in Union Street, Windsor, was also completed in 1967.

The Horace Petty Estate and *Loxton Lodge* overlapped with an innovative project that saw the HCV cooperate with private enterprise as part of a broader state government scheme to provide better quality housing in the inner suburbs. Working with a company known as Master Builders Associated Redevelopments Pty Ltd, the HCV developed *Gladstone Gardens* in Windsor. The first stage, completed in 1966, comprised a block of low-rise flats in Upton Road, which was followed by a series of similarly-scaled blocks along Union Street, east of *Loxton Lodge* (*Fig 6.23*). Departing from standard HCV designs, these were built in fashionable brown or beige brick rather than concrete panel, and heralded a significant change in direction for the HCV, which duly abandoned its high-rise flat programme in the early 1970s and focus instead on smaller human-scaled dwellings. Further public housing projects would not appear in the study area until the 1980s, after the HCV was restructured as the Ministry of Housing. The old estate in De Murska and Crew Streets, Windsor, was redeveloped, replacing old-style concrete walk-up flats with new terrace-style dwellings, while the award-winning *Tillotson Terrace* (1988), a townhouse cluster on former railway land off Orrong Road, Armadale, seems to have been the only wholly new development in the study area.

Examples:

Public housing, 2-16 Essex Street, Prahran (1959-60) – *demolished c.2024*

Public housing (*Loxton Lodge*), 49 Union Street, Windsor (1967)

Public housing (*Tillotson Terrace*), 1-19 and 2-28 Tillotson Terrace, Armadale (Denton Corker Marshall, 1988)

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31 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 141-42.
32 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 66.
33 Harry Perrott, "Housing Commission builds row houses", *Herald*, 6 December 1963, p 26.



Figure 6.21:
HCV estate at Windsor with terrace-style duplex flats on De Murska Street, and larger three-storey walk-up flats and highrise tower block beyond
Source: Annual Report of the HCV (1965-66), p 15.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 6.22:
Aerial view of the newly-completed Horace Pretty Estate, Prahran
Source: Annual Report of the HCV (1966-67), p 10.
(pho tographer uncredited)



Figure 6.23:
The innovative Gladstone Gardens lowrise development (left) in Union Street, Windsor, contrastsd with older HCV flats in the distance
Source: Annual Report of the HCV (1968-69), p 16.
(photographer uncredited)

6.7.5 Developing higher density living after 1945 **[2006: 8.6.4]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In the 1950s the approach to flat building changed when a pro-development Prahran Council encouraged it on a large scale, and little attention was given to aesthetics in design or the effect on the landscape. The western part of the study area was close to the city and attracted professional and business people. That Toorak or South Yarra was still a prestigious address is reflected in the rents for the time – almost double that for a flat in neighbouring Richmond.*
>
> *During the 1960s residents began to note with alarm the number of old houses in Toorak and South Yarra being replaced by apartment blocks of ever increasing heights. These new flats, together with the Housing Commission developments, restored the population of the City of Prahran to its pre-WW2 level by 1971, but the growing trend towards living alone meant that further high density housing stock was needed to increase population levels in inner suburbs.*
>
> *Until 1969, there were few planning controls regulating the construction of apartments – so long as the plans complied with the Uniform Building Regulations that regulated the area of the building in relation to the size of the block, the development could proceed. Wilde notes that by 1960 councillors had resigned themselves to pointing out that they had no power over development proposals, providing they were in accordance with the UBR's. Both Prahran and Malvern Councils passed by-laws in the post-war period attempting to limit flat development (as early as 1938 Malvern Council restricted flats to two storeys, with no more than four on one allotment), but to little avail as State Government policy at the time was generally in favour of higher density development. The consequence was a number of high-rise apartment developments up to ten stories in height, in Toorak and South Yarra particularly along Toorak Road.*
>
> *In 1969 local government authorities were finally given powers to develop their own town planning controls, and Prahran Council was one of the first to do so. Council commissioned a firm of town planners – Perrott, Lyon, Timlock & Kesa – to prepare a Residential Zoning Plan and Code. The resulting 'Perrott Plan', as it became known, set out height limits for various parts of the City of Prahran, with recommendations that flats in the high parts of Toorak and South Yarra be limited to 20 storeys. The plan prompted a huge public outcry. The outcome was the restriction of flats to three storeys.*[34]
>
> *The South Yarra Anti-High-Rise Group successfully campaigned for maximum heights of two storeys in residential streets, and led to the election to Prahran Council of people who opposed high-rise development. The fight to protect the character of South Yarra and Toorak has been continual, particularly since the raising of maximum building heights in some parts of the area in the 1980s. A number of multi-storey buildings have been allowed along Toorak Road.*[35]
>
> *In the early 1980s, in response to further pressure for development and the Metropolitan Strategy produced by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Prahran Council set maximum building heights as six storeys away from main roads. At the same time Singapore businessman Jack Chia proposed to redevelop the entire stretch of Chapel Street from Toorak Road to the river, including the old brickworks and Electrolux sites, with a huge luxury residential, hotel and commercial development, reaching to eighteen stories. After lengthy negotiations with Council, the State Government stepped in and gave approval for the scheme. By this time Jack Chia had withdrawn from the project because of financial difficulties. Eventually a modified version of the original plan, now known as Como Centre was built.* [36]

Apartments, which became a notable presence in the western half of the study area during the inter-war years (if rather less so in the east), were swift to resume after WW2. An early example, a two-storey duplex in Darling Street, South Yarra, designed by Yuncken Freeman Brothers Griffiths & Simpson, was modest in scale but far from typical in form and planning, garnering major press attention (see **9.3.3**). It was soon joined by John Rivett's equally celebrated *Caringal* in Tahara Road, Toorak (1948-51), a larger and more ambitious complex comprising an eight-storey tower block with three-storey wing, its progressive form and fitout evoking European precedents. The vast scale of the *Caringal* flats, however, remained somewhat anomalous at the local level, with subsequent apartment projects of the 1950s being of considerably more modest proportions.

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34 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History*, (2006), pp 146, 148.
35 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History*, (2006), p 199.
36 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History*, (2006), p 148.

Multi-dwelling complexes of the early 1950s tended to follow the lead of Yuncken Freeman's precedent in Darling Street. An early example in Canberra Road, Toorak (Roy Grounds, 1952) was similarly conceived as a two-storey block with a two-bedroomed flat at each level (*Fig 6.24*). Three-storey blocks soon followed, with individual flats sometimes split over multiple levels, as seen in two examples designed by Plaisted, Warner & Brendel and Anatol Kagan (both 1953). Such developments, often but not always with ground floor garages, proliferated in the later 1950s the late 1950s, albeit increasing in size to provide more units. Norman Brendel, an architect who had worked some of Toorak's earliest post-war flats, designed a large block on Williams Road (1957) that, comprising 24 units over three levels (and a partial fourth at one end), made it one of the biggest yet built in the study area. Still larger developments soon followed, such as the five-storey block on Domain Road (Bernard Slawik, 1959), with individuals garages at street level (*Fig 6.25*).

While the late 1950s saw a few architects propose six-storey blocks in this part of the study area, none was built and it was not until the early '60s that the first true high-rise development was realised in the City of Prahran: the eight-storey *Orrong Towers* at 723 Orrong Road (Herbert Tisher, 1960-61) (*Fig 6.26*). This was soon dwarfed by others, such as the ten-storey *Toorak* flats at 46 Lansell Road (Conarg, 1961-62). After that, complexes of seven, eight, nine or ten storeys proliferated on the major thoroughfares of the City of Prahran, notably Toorak, Williams and Orrong Roads (*Fig 6.27*). A thirteen-storey development at 381 Toorak Road, (Moore & Hammond, 1965) was claimed as not only the tallest block of flats in Toorak, but also the tallest building of any kind in the suburb. Similar projects soon emerged in Prahran proper, where the eight-storey *Toorak Park Towers* on Sydney Street (Sol Sapir, 1968), was soon dwarfed by its ten-storey neighbour, *Toorak Park Heights*, by the same architect and developer. Sapir, a notably prolific designer of flats (*Fig 6.28*) was one of many architects who became locally synonymous with apartment design in the 1960s and '70s. While some such projects were commissioned by private companies or individuals, others were conceived entirely by development firms that would act as developer, builder and sometimes also as designer. Several of these companies, notably C J Totterdell Pty Ltd and Watson James Pty Ltd, became noticeably active in the Toorak and South Yarra area during this period, as well as building firms such as L U Simon and A V Jennings.

In parallel, the 1960s saw the emergence of another form of higher density living: the villa unit. Introduced in the early 1960s, the earliest examples in the study area date from around that time, typified by a Bogle & Banfield scheme for seven own-your-own units in Huntingtower Road, Malvern. Many more followed, with those in the Toorak and Malvern areas often designed in a Georgian or Colonial Revival mode that reflected the local reputation for graceful residential architecture (see **6.7.1**). Some of these were designed by noted modern architects not known for such historicist leanings, such as a block of five units in Hopetoun Road, Toorak, by Michael Feldhagen (1964), a block of eight in St George's Road, Toorak, by Holgar & Holgar (1965) and a block of seven in Ferncroft Avenue, Malvern East (Moore & Hammond, 1968). Counterparts in a more overtly contemporary style include a complex at 29 Huntingtower Road, Armadale (Bernard Joyce, 1969), comprising a row of five units, each planned around a central private courtyard (*Fig 6.29*).

While the introduction of height restrictions curtailed high-rise apartment projects after 1970, this coincided with the emergence of another form of higher-density living: the townhouse. Spurred by the new *Strata Titles Act 1967*, townhouses arrived in the study area soon afterward, with high-profile examples in South Yarra and Malvern, designed by Graeme Gunn under the auspices of the new project housing firm Merchant Builders (see **6.7.6**). Other early townhouse complexes, including those at Rathmines Street, Toorak (1967) and Wattletree Road, Malvern (1968), anticipated a proliferation in the 1970s, '80s and later, including some designed by local architects Neil Clerehan and Wayne Gillespie.

The late twentieth century ushered in a new era of multi-storey flats that, while rarely exceeding four or five storeys, were otherwise grand in scale and offered unprecedented luxury. One early high-profile example was *Balara* at 404 Toorak Road (1989), a project by Toorak-based developer Gabor Hubay that comprised 22 units in a four-storey block. With large open-planned apartments, high-end kitchen and bathroom fitouts and facilities such as basement carparking, high-speed lifts and 24-hour security, it established a template for later developments that soon proliferated along Toorak Road and contiguous side streets. One of the largest was *Kinsgford* at No 376-380 (1993-94), an ambitious Becton project providing no fewer than 68 apartments in a sprawling four-storey complex on a one-hectare site. By the end of the decade, such developments were commonplace, typified by the *Kings* project at 332 Toorak Road (1999), an eight-storey block of 22 luxury flats (including a penthouse) at the prominent corner of Williams Road, and a massive seven-storey block of 57 flats at 427 Toorak Road (2000), adjacent to Toorak Village.



Figure 6.24:
Block of flats,
22 Canberra Road, Toorak
(Roy Grounds, 1952)
Source: Item H91.244/2079,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.25:
Block of flats,
259 Domain Road, Toorak
(Bernard Slawik, 1959)
Source: Item PIC WS 2760
Ba LOC PIC Album 1032/142
National Library of Australia.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 6.26:
Block of flats (Orrong Towers),
723 Orrong Road, Toorak
(Herbert Tisher, 1961)
Source: Foundations (1960)
.



Figure 6.27:
Block of flats (Kilpara),
703 Orrong Road, Toorak
(Yuncken Freeman, 1971)
Source: Item PIC WS 4185
C LOC PIC Album 1032/195,
National Library of Australia.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 6.28:
Block of flats,
283 Domain Road, South Yarra
(Sol Sapir, 1968)
Source: Item H91.244/4383,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 6.29:
Block of villa units,
29 Huntingtower Road, Armadale
(Bernard Joyce, 1969)
Source: Item H91.244/3312,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

Examples:

Flats (*Caringal*), 3 Tahara Road, Toorak (John W Rivett, 1948-51) - *HO104*

Flats, 22 Canberra Road, Toorak (Roy Grounds, 1952)

Flats, 5-7 Ascot Street, Malvern (Warmington & Matthews, 1961) – *HO696*

Flats (*Santosa*), 33 Albany Road, Toorak (Guilford Bell, 1961-65) – *HO741*

Flats (*Troon*), 746 Orrong Road, Toorak (Yuncken Freeman and John & Phyllis Murphy, 1961-62) – *HO744*

Flats (*Toorak*), 46 Lansell Road, Toorak (Conarg Architects, 1961-62)

Flats (*Heyington Gardens*), 2 Theodore Court, Toorak (Dr Ernest Fooks, 1962) – *HO735*

Flats (*Toorak Park Towers*), 7-8 Sydney Street, Prahran (Sol Sapir, 1968) – *HO779*

Flats (*Bracklyn*), 371 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Graeme Gunn, for Merchant Builders, 1970)

Flats (*Kilpara*), 703 Orrong Road, Toorak (Yuncken Freeman, 1971) – *HO743*

6.7.6 Speculative housing and the modern project home after 1945

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *After WW2 people finally began buying the blocks [in what was then Chadstone; now Malvern East] and hiring building companies, such as the Modern Home Advisory Service, to construct their cream brick houses.*[37]

The housing shortage of the immediate post-war years ushered in a new era of speculative builders and project housing companies. In the study area, early inklings were felt in the burgeoning Chadstone area (now Malvern East), where a modest house in Camino Terrace was erected in 1947-48 to a design prepared by a city-based firm styled as the Victorian Architectural Centre. Counterparts had appeared in Toorak by the early 1950s, when several new cul-de-sac estates (see **6.3.3.**) were developed collectively rather than by individual lot owners. In Bellaire Court, a small l group of simple modern houses was built to standard plans from the Home Planning Service, a firm operated by designer Stuart Hall.[38] More typical of Toorak's elite status were the seven two-storey houses in nearby Rostill Court, erected by developer/builder A W Dexter to Georgian Revival designs by Yuncken Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson (*Fig 6.30*). Lauded as "one of the few of its kind ever developed in Melbourne – speculative building for purchasers of large means", it marked the beginning of high-end project housing in the study area.[39]

Similar schemes resonated over the next decade, typified by those of developer/builder H J Fudge. In the late 1950s, Fudge subdivided part of the *Nareeb* estate to create an extension to Kenley Court, erecting four new houses. A few years later, he acquired the remainder of *Nareeb* and, after demolishing the mansion, subdivided the land and erected four more houses along Kooyong Road, to elegant neo-Georgian designs by architect Norman Brendel. Fudge and his development company, Kenley Pty Ltd, would remain active in the study area for many years, undertaking both individual dwellings and blocks of flats.

Businesses that offered standard house plans for purchase, such as the aforementioned Modern Home Advisory Service, Victorian Architectural Centre and Stuart Hall's Home Planning Service, were also represented by the locally-based Southern Planning & Design Company. Established by 1950 with an office at 109 Commercial Road, South Yarra, the company offered "residences, shops, factories and flats prepared to your individual requirements", claiming a back-catalogue of over 800 standard plans that catered to both conservative and progressive tastes (*Fig 6.31*).[40] While the firm was active across the broader metropolitan area, examples of its output have been identified within the study area itself, typified by those at 53 Thurso Street, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) and 21 Denham Place, Toorak, both dating from circa 1956.

37 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 130.
38 Di Foster, "Melbourne's Most Fashionable Suburb", unpublished thesis, 1999, Appendix 1, p 110.
39 "Dalmeny grounds now Rostill Court", *Herald*, 18 December 1953, p 12.
40 Southern Planning & Drafting Company, "Thirty home plans", undated folder. Reeves Collection.

Project housing of this more ubiquitous suburban type continued to proliferate in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East) as the final burst of post-war subdivision unfolded during the 1950s. Completion of the Chadstone Shopping Centre in 1960 provided a rare opportunity for promotion of project housing when a group of leading firms leased space for a display village – on the flat roof of the Myer Emporium.[41] Opened in early 1962, this rooftop village comprised five dwellings built to standard designs available from Beaumaris Constructions, Craig Davis Homes, Hallmark Homes, Wilson & Craig and Flexibuilt Homes.

High-end project housing recurred in 1965 with the local emergence of Merchant Builders, a firm that aimed to rehabilitate the reputation of project houses by offering a superior product with input from leading design professionals. All three co-founders, businessman David Yencken, builder John Ridge and architect Graeme Gunn, lived in South Yarra, and the firm was initially based in Glenferrie Road, Malvern, over the Thesaurus design shop.[42] Relocating in early 1967 to a small office block at 6 Murphy Street, South Yarra (see **5.8.1**), Merchant Builders completed some of its first projects in the study area: a seminal townhouse development at 17 Sorrett Avenue, Malvern (1967) (*Fig 6.32*), then others in South Yarra, at 93 Grange Road (1967) and 21 Kensington Road (1968).[43] Co-founder John Ridge took up residence in one of the Grange Road dwellings.[44]

In 1967, it was reported that Merchant Builders had already sold 100 dwellings across middle-ring suburbs that included Toorak, South Yarra and Malvern.[45] Local examples encapsulated those that were built to standard plans from the firm's broad range, as well as others that represented unique one-off designs commissioned by individual private clients. From 1970, the firm's remit expanded to embrace general contracting work, invariably involving architects who had designed its project houses. Examples include *Bracklyn*, a multi-storey block of flats at 371 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Graeme Gunn, 1970) (*Fig 6.33*) as well as such non-residential projects as the new clubhouse of the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club (Graeme Gunn, 1972), the rebuilt Prahran Market (Gunn Hayball, 1972-81) and the renovation of Kendall's Wine Shop at 85 Toorak Road (Cocks & Carmichael, 1981).[46]

If Merchant Builders ruled the high-end project housing market from the mid-1960s, rival firms were also active in the study area. One Moorabbin-based company, Nepean Ports Custom Builders, erected a display house in Heyington Place, Toorak, in 1968. An example of a standard plan known as the *Elite*, it was opened for public inspection while also serving as a private residence for the firm's managing director. A surprising number of better-known project housing firms, including Design 70, Leighton Homes, Hooker Home Units and Glenvill Homes, were (like Merchant Builders) headquartered within the study area. Leighton Homes, founded in 1965 with offices at 6 Claremont Street, offered well-designed houses by noted architect Peter Hooks and built local examples of several standard plans, including a *Lowline* in Toorak (c.1970) and a *Lodge* in Malvern East (c.1972). Design 70, initially based at 16 Toorak Road and later at 46 Nicholson Street, was most active in the outer eastern suburbs but also undertook local work that included a house in Elizabeth Street, Malvern (Cocks & Carmichael, 1969) (*Fig 6.34*). Hooker Home Units, a subsidiary of the well-known Hooker Corporation, commenced in 1970 from an office at 445 Toorak Road, and completed projects in the study area that included a multi-storey block of flats at the corner of Toorak and Irving Roads, Toorak (1970-71) and a large townhouse development in Monaro Road, Kooyong (Clarke Gazzard, 1972).

Glenvill Homes sustained a local resonance after its managing director, Michael Warson, took up residence in Toorak in the early 1970s and later opened an office at 1219 High Street, Malvern. The firm's work in the study area included *Hamilton Close* (1978), a cluster housing scheme off Hamilton Road, Malvern (*Fig 6.35*). The business still thrived locally a decade later, when, after the opening of a new display centre at Wantirna, Warson's son Len observed that "perhaps a reflection of the centre's success has been the substantial number of Glenvill Homes being built in the upper market suburbs of Toorak, Malvern, Kew and Brighton".[47]

41 "Building a house from sample", *Herald*, 30 March 1962, p 22.
42 *Merchant Builders: Towards a New Archive* (2015), p 39. In the 1960s and '70s, Yencken variously lived at 38 Powell Street and 269 Domain Road (both in the study area) and 56 Domain Street (just outside the study area). Gunn also lived at 38 Powell Street and later at 50 Park Street and 112 Millswyn Street (both just outside the study area). John Ridge lived at 31 Cunningham Street (in the study area) before moving to the townhouse at 93 Grange Road.
43 *Merchant Builders: Towards a New Archive* (2015), pp 66, 76.
44 *Merchant Builders: Towards a New Archive* (2015), p 24.
45 *Merchant Builders: Towards a New Archive* (2015), p 67.
46 *Merchant Builders: Towards a New Archive* (2015), p 30.
47 "Award tally 70", *Age*, 4 November 1989, p 4 [Glenvill Design Centre supplement].



Figure 6.30: (above)
Speculative housing development, Rostill Court, Toorak
(Yuncken Freeman etc, 1953)
Source: Herald, 18 December 1953, p 12.



Figure 6.31: (left)
Advertisement for the Southern Planning & Drafting Company based in South Yarra, which offered a range of standard house designs
Source: Australian Home Beautiful, December 1956, p 84.



Figure 6.32: (left)
Merchant Builders townhouses, 17 Sorrett Avenue, Malvern
(Graeme Gunn, 1967)
Source: H91.244/2944
State Library of Victoria
(photograph Peter Wille)



Figure 6.33:
Block of flats (Bracklyn) by Merchant Builders, 371 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Graeme Gunn, 1971)
Source: Item LTAD189/42/42 State Library of Victoria



Figure 6.34:
Project house by Design 70, 41 Elizabeth Street, Malvern (Cocks & Carmichael, 1969)
Source: H91.244/1574 State Library of Victoria (photograph Peter Wille)



Figure 6.35:
Contemporary promotion for Hamilton Close cluster housing 1-10 Hamilton Close, Malvern (Glenvill Homes, 1978)
Source: Age, 28 October 1978, p 9.

While Merchant Builders relocated its headquarters to St Kilda during the 1970s, it returned to South Yarra in 1983, occupying different premises in Murphy Street. By then, Graeme Gunn was no longer a director, but designs were sourced from other architects such as Barry Gray (like Gunn, a local resident) and Cocks & Carmichael. The latter was responsible for the design of a standardised project house known simply as the *Toorak* (1982), which took its name from the location of the display model on Hopetoun Road. A major departure from the preconceptions of project housing, it was a vast and luxuriously-appointed six-bedroom residence with billiard room, sauna and internal garden courtyard.

Examples:

House, 14 Camino Terrace, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (Victorian Architectural Centre, 1947-48)

Houses, 1 and 3 Rostill Court, Toorak (Yuncken Freeman etc, for A W Dexter, 1953)
– *surviving remnants of cul-de-sac development of seven high-end speculative dwellings*

Project house, 21 Denham Place, Toorak (Southern Drafting & Planning Company, 1956)

Speculative house, 170 Kooyong Road, Toorak (Norman Brendel, for H J Fudge, 1965)

Merchant Builders offices (former), 252 Glenferrie Road, Malvern – *HO349 (Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct)*

Townhouses, 17 Sorrett Avenue, Malvern (Graeme Gunn, for Merchant Builders, 1967) – *HO685*

Project house (*Elite),* 62a Heyington Place, Toorak (Nepean Ports Custom Builders, 1968)

House, 41 Elizabeth Street, Malvern (Cocks & Carmichael, for Design 70, 1969)

Flats (*Bracklyn*), 371 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Graeme Gunn, for Merchant Builders, 1970)

Project house (*The Lodge*), 19b (later 21) Hedgeley Avenue, Malvern East
(Peter Hooks, for Leighton Homes, c.1972) – *demolished late 1990s*

Townhouses (*Ledbury Village*), 1-3 Monaro Road, Kooyong (Hooker Home Units, 1972)

Cluster housing, 1-10 Hamilton Close, Malvern (Glenvill Homes, 1978)
– *HO182 (Moorakyne/Stonington precinct)*

6.7.7 Minimalist living in affluent suburbs after 1945

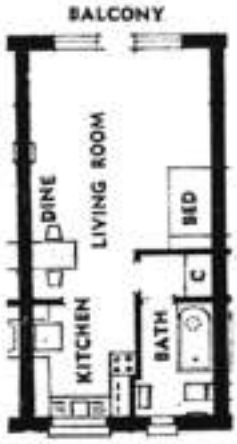
Notwithstanding the enduring reputation for palatial residences in certain parts of Toorak, South Yarra and Malvern, these same elite areas have also attracted much smaller dwellings where the diminished scale was a reflection of lifestyle or other factors, rather than reduced means. This trend was evident in Toorak from the early 1950s. Robin Boyd's Richardson House at 10 Blackfriars Close (1954), celebrated for its bold bridge-like structure (see **6.7.2**), was a relatively small house by local standards, conceived on a long and narrow tapering plan that originally provided only two bedrooms. The contemporaneous Fetter House at 39 Lansell Road (Edward Billson, 1954) was erected for a wealthy manufacturer and his wife for just the two of them: their only child, a daughter, had recently married. Befitting such limited needs (but by no means a limited budget), the Fetters' new split-level house was conceived with only one bedroom on its principal level, albeit with a small maid's room (a longtime Toorak prerequisite) provided in the sub-basement service area.

In parallel, similarly compact architect-designed houses emerged in the more closely-settled parts of South Yarra. While reduced scale may have been consequent to narrower blocks of land in that area, these houses may have provided only two bedrooms but were still artfully designed, often with open planning and integrated courtyards, and as lavishly appointed as any other house in the neighbourhood. Early examples included a tiny split-level house at 53 Darling Street (Geoffrey Sommers, 1953), which extended the full width of its narrow block and provided an open-planned interior with two bedrooms and a subfloor garage (*Fig 6.36*). This trend continued well into the 1960s, typified by uncommonly compact two-bedroom houses at 12 Fawkner Street (Peter Downie, 1964), 145 Surrey Road North (Geoffrey & Muriel Stott, 1966) and 29 Macfarlan Street (Chancellor & Patrick, 1968).



Figure 6.36: (left)
Two-bedroomed house,
53 Darling Street, South Yarra
(Geoffrey Sommers, 1953)
Source: H91.244/4538
State Library of Victoria
(photograph Peter Wille)

Figure 6.37: (below)
Typical block of bachelor flats with compact studio-style planning
42 Eastbourne Street, Prahran
(Bridge, Hayden & Assoc, 1962)
Source: Herald, 3 August 1962



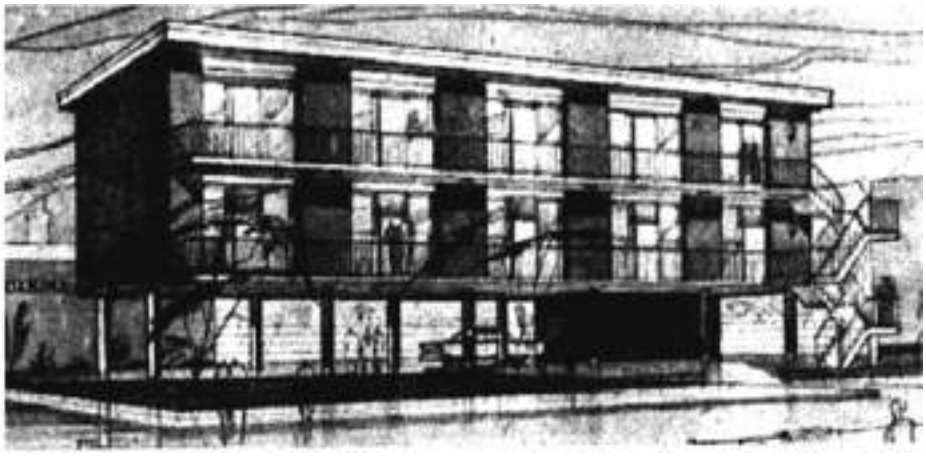




Figure 6.38:
Furniture designer Grant Featherston's "bachelor flat" in Moonbria, Tahara Road, Toorak, photographed in the late 1950s (note fold-down single bed)
Source: Keith Winser (ed), Furnishing Australian Homes (1959), p 21.
(photographer uncredited)

While the term "bachelor flat" was applied to some of Melbourne's first purpose-built apartment blocks in the early twentieth century, it duly came to refer to a specific sub-type, defined by tightly-planned dwellings for an unmarried person, with one bedroom or an open-planned space analogous to a bedsit or studio flat. Bachelor flats had flourished in South Yarra and Toorak as part of the broader apartment boom of the 1930s, and these remained popular after WW2, alongside newer counterparts. An early post-war example in Devorgilla Avenue, Toorak (L T Rayner, 1955), was a two-storey block of twelve units, "designed for simplicity and great economy of space", where "each flat consists of a bed-living room, modern kitchenette, dressing room and bathroom".[48] New blocks of bachelor flats were still marketed as such in the 1960s, typified by three-storey complexes at 352 Toorak Road, South Yarra and 62 Eastbourne Street, Prahran (both 1962), the former offering single bedroom flats and the latter (*Fig 6.37*) offering studio-style open planning .

The eponymous bachelor living in a bachelor's flat (or, indeed, in a compact one- or two-bedroomed house) generically referred to any unmarried person, albeit typically male. Prior to his marriage in 1965, furniture designer Grant Featherston occupied one of the compact studio flats at *Moonbria* at 68 Mathoura Road, Toorak, a pre-war block designed by Roy Grounds. A published photograph (*Fig 6.38*) show Featherston's tightly-planned living/sleeping space, with fold-down bed and kitchen alcove, furnished in a tasteful contemporary style that included some of the designer's own pieces. In parallel, this type of minimalist living also appealed to what might be termed the "confirmed bachelor" and others under the present-day banner of LGBTIQA+. The proliferation of tiny apartments in the South Yarra area, ideal for those for whom (at that time) a traditional nuclear family life in a suburban dwelling was not an authentic option, has been cited as a key factor why this part of the study area developed into a post-war epicentre for the LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**).

Examples:

House, 53 Darling Street, South Yarra (Geoffrey Sommers, 1953) – *demolished*

Fetter House, 39 Lansell Road, Toorak (Edward F Billson, 1954) – *interim HO712*

Bachelor flats, 10-12 Devorgilla Avenue, Toorak (L T Rayner, 1955) – *demolished c.2021*

Bachelor flats, 259 Domain Road, South Yarra (Bernard Slawik, 1959)

Bachelor flats, 42 Eastbourne Street, Prahran (Bridge, Hayden & Associates, 1962)

House, 12 Fawkner Street, South Yarra (Peter Downie, 1964) – *HO131 (Fawkner Street/Davis Avenue Precinct)*

House, 29 Macfarlan Street, South Yarra (Chancellor & Patrick. 1968)

6.7.8 Creating private gardens after 1945 **[2006: 8.3.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Gardens were an important element of the stately homes of Toorak, and some were designed by prominent gardeners.*
>
> *In the twentieth century Edna Walling was engaged to design the gardens of many Toorak homes.*[49]
>
> *In later years, swimming pools were an addition to many Toorak backyards.... In the mid-1960s private swimming pools were still enough of a novelty for several Toorak identities to open their backyards for a fundraising tour of Toorak swimming pools run by the Mercy Hospital.*[50]

The tradition of designed landscapes in larger private residences continued into the post-war era. Edna Walling, Melbourne's most sought-after landscape designer between the wars, became far less prolific after WW2, yet still maintained her earlier association with Toorak by undertaking later projects there. Notable among these was the landscaping of a new house in Stonnington Place (1960) for the Cuming family, who, two decades before, had engaged Walling to design the garden of their pre-war home in Kooyong Road.[51]

48 "Design for the sun", *Herald*, 4 November 1955, p 12.
49 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 133.
50 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 131.
51 Trisha Dixon & Jennie Churchill, *The Vision of Edna Walling* (1998), pp 141, 144.

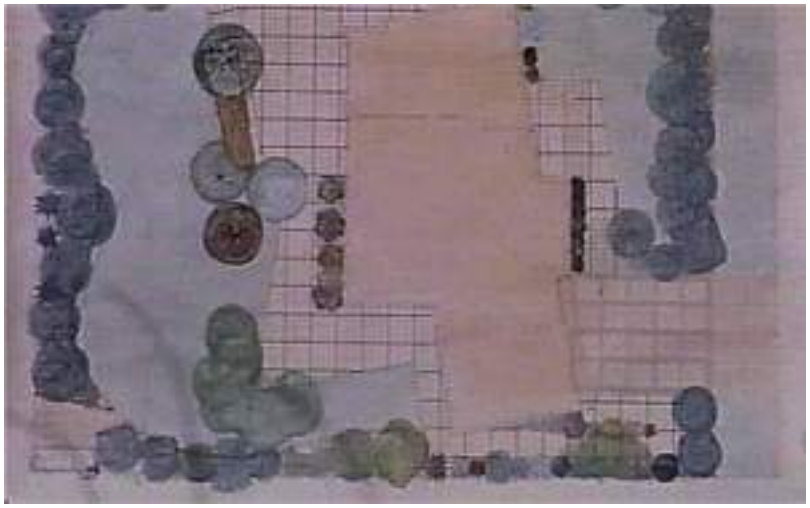


Figure 6.39:
One of several garden schemes for Stanley Korman House, 24 Kent Court, Toorak (Mervyn Davis, 1961-62)
Source: Item H42449/685, Mervyn Davis Collection, State Library of Victoria.



Figure 6.40:
Selwyn House (Naliandrah), 3 Glendye Court, Toorak (Holgar & Holgar, 1966-67), showing landscaping and architect-design swimming pool.
Source: Australian Women's Weekly, 27 August 1969, p 73 (photograph by Les Gorrie)



Figure 6.41:
Typical Paul Bangay design for a formally landscaped garden of unspecified house in Toorak
Source: www.paulbangay.com (photograph by Simon Griffiths)

Other residents of the study area turned to the emerging generation of younger landscape designers such as John Stevens and Mervyn Davis. Stevens, who began his practice in the early 1950s and became well-known for landscaping Roy Ground's own house at 24 Hill Street, Toorak (1954-55), later prepared garden plans for at least seven more houses in Toorak and one in South Yarra. Mervyn Davis, active from the late 1950s to the early '80s, undertook multiple commissions in Toorak (including the landscaping of developer Stanley Korman's house in Kent Court, see *Fig 6.39*) as well as others in Armadale and South Yarra. Ellis Stones and Gordon Ford, respectively the regular garden designers for project housing firms Merchant Builders and Hooker Home Units (see **6.7.6**), worked on the landscaping for some of those firms' local projects.

The post-war hankering for swimming pools saw the gardens of many houses in the study area – new and existing – updated accordingly from the 1960s. Often, these were ambitious custom projects of uncommon geometrical form with bespoke mosaic artwork, in some cases designed by the architects responsible for the house itself, as in several examples by Holgar & Holgar (*Fig 6.40*). The cabana, a poolside structure that provided lounge and ablution facilities, also proliferated across Toorak in the 1960s and '70s, with some examples as big as a small Victorian cottage in Windsor. Margery Pierce, daughter of Aspro magnate Alfred Nicholas, lived in a large house at 7 Trawalla Avenue (Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson, 1953-54); a decade after its completion, she engaged the same architects to design a large cabana alongside her new circular swimming pool. Not to be outdone, her brother Maurice Nicholas built a new house at 22 Hill Street in the later 1960s (designed by next door neighbour Roy Grounds) that included a sizeable Japanese-style cabana.

Since the 1980s, the best-known society landscape designer in the study area (if not Melbourne) is Paul Bangay, who, in 1986, opened a combined garden shop and design centre at 595 Malvern Road, Toorak.[52] He swiftly rose to become the pre-eminent purveyor of high-end landscaping for both new and existing residences in this part of the study area, and beyond. Among Bangay's early local commissions was the garden for a new townhouse in Rose Street, Armadale, designed by local architect Wayne Gillespie. Bangay's work, in his characteristically formal and elegant style (*Fig 6.41*), has since received wide coverage in journals as well as through his own series of lavishly illustrated books, starting with *The Defined Garden* (1996) and *The Boxed Garden* (1998).

Examples:

Grounds House & Flats, 24 Hill Street, Toorak (garden by John Stevens, 1954) – *HO60 (also VHR H1963)*

Cuming House, 29 Stonnington Place, Toorak (garden by Edna Walling, 1960)

Pierce House, 7 Trawalla Avenue, Toorak (cabana by Yuncken Freeman, 1965) – *interim HO704*

Selwyn House (*Naliandrah*), 3 Glendye Court, Toorak (Holgar & Holgar, 1966-67) – *HO732*

Townhouse, 51 Rose Street, Armadale (garden by Paul Bangay, 1987) – *HO130 (Armadale Precinct)*

6.8 Living on the fringes

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

52 "More ideas for Christmas shoppers", *Age*, 16 December 1986, p 20.

7.0 GOVERNING VICTORIANS

7.1 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

7.1.1 Expanding municipal infrastructure after 1945 **[2009: 5.5.4]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History Addendum (2009):

> *Throughout the nineteenth century, the municipal councils of Malvern and Prahran employed prominent architects to design their major public buildings, which were used as a means of expressing civic pride and progressiveness. This tradition continued into the twentieth century when prominent architects were engaged in the design of local government buildings.*
>
> *By the 1960s and '70s, a number of municipal buildings were in need of replacement, including the 'outmoded and inadequate' Malvern Municipal Baths, which had been built in 1927. The Malvern Council commissioned architects Kevin Borland and Daryl Jackson to design a new swimming complex for the city in the early 1960s. The resulting Harold Holt Swim Centre (so named after the 1967 death of Malvern's local member and then Prime Minister, Harold Holt) was one of the earliest Brutalist buildings in Victoria. Similarly, the municipality of Prahran displayed a willingness to embrace architectural innovation through their public buildings. The Toorak and South Yarra Library, built in 1973, was designed by leading modernist architects Yuncken Freeman.*[1]

The Town Halls at Prahran and Malvern, respectively built in 1860 and 1884, each underwent renovation and enlargement. By the end of WW2, the most recent phases of improvements had occurred in 1914 (when Prahran Town Hall was rebuilt after fire damage) and 1927 (when Malvern Town Hall added new council chambers, foyer and portico). Writing of the latter, Lynne Strahan reflected:

> *After its 1920s metamorphosis, the Town Hall's Copha-block outline remained unchanged apart from minor alterations — a parquet floor, a skin of refreshing paint, the appearance of a playful classical apparition in the foyer in the form of a statue of Cupid and Psyche. However, plans to improve staff conditions, aggravated by the increasingly bureaucratic tenor of local government, dated back to the 1940s.*[2]

This was also true of Prahran Town Hall, where, as Betty Malone put it, "as the 20th century wore on, the building grew shabbier".[3] A few relatively minor changes occurred, such as removal of a balcony (1953) and a timber structure atop the clock tower (1955). For the Royal Visit in 1954, the building was "painted pastel green, floodlit and strung with flags and bunting", in anticipation of the motorcade traversing Chapel Street en route from Government House to St Kilda.[4] Festivities continued when each municipality reached its centenary – Prahran in 1955 and Malvern in 1956 – with special events including receptions, processions displays and dinners. The City of Malvern held the Malvern Arts Festival, with recitals, exhibitions and an original piece staged by the local Ballet Guild, while the City of Prahran briefly converted the Grattan Gardens into an amusement park, but the milestones did not result in any lasting changes to the built fabric. Temporary changes were made to both Town Halls, but some time would elapse before either building was subjected to a major overhaul.

A 1957 scheme for a new office block at Malvern Town Hall was approved in principle, only to be delayed, then abandoned. In 1960, a toilet block was built at the rear, and tenders called the following year for major works including renovations to the hall and supper room, followed, in 1963, by a new kitchen.[5] The City of Prahran did not follow suit until the next decade, when, as Betty Malone noted, "major works in the 1970s transformed the town hall… A thorough renovation was undertaken and imaginative planning created a modern interior within an exterior that retained the historic ambience… the firm of Begg, Barrack & Douglas won an award for excellence for this work".[6]

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1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1 Addendum* (2009), p 8.
2 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 26.
3 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 9.
4 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 274.
5 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 26.
6 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), p 9.

This post-war trend for upgrading ageing municipal infrastructure was demonstrated by other examples across both municipalities. The City of Prahran rebuilt the Prahran Market not once but twice – initially, a temporary reconstruction after fire damage in 1950 and then a larger permanent redevelopment in the 1970s (see **5.3.5**). The council's rubbish incinerator, built in the Surrey Road depot in 1907, was likewise replaced by a new counterpart in 1965. Transformation of the City of Malvern's pre-war municipal pool into the new Harold Holt Swim Centre (*Fig 7.01*) was preceded by a new outdoor pool complex in the City of Prahran, officially opened in March 1964 (*Fig 7.02*). Among other wholly council-owned buildings developed in the 1950s and '60s included kindergartens (see **8.2.5**), infant welfare centres (see **8.3.2**), elderly citizens' centres (see **8.6.2**) and three municipal libraries (at Malvern, Armadale and what was then Chadstone; see **8.2.6**) that predated the more celebrated example on Toorak Road, completed in 1973.

Following the pre-war trend, many post-war council buildings were designed by architects who were often retained for subsequent projects. When the City of Prahran engaged Leslie M Perrott & Partners to develop a scheme for the fire-damaged markets in 1951, it marked the start of an association spanning two decades. The firm went on to design a bowls clubhouse in the Grattan Gardens (1961; see **9.1.1**), the branch library at Armadale (1962; see **8.2.6**), a rubbish incinerator (1965) (*Fig 7.03*), and the town planning scheme nicknamed "The Perrott plan" (1970; see **6.7.5**). Likewise, the City of Malvern gave repeat commissions to local architect Stewart Handasyde, whose output included a toilet block behind the Town Hall (1961), kindergartens (see **8.2.5**) and the municipal libraries at Malvern and what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East) (see **8.2.6**).

Since the 1970s, each council has departed from this tradition, using different architects for different projects as appropriate. The City of Prahran commissioned Windsor-based Neil Clerehan to design kindergartens in Armadale and Windsor (both 1973), while using Yuncken Freeman for the library (1972-73), Gunn Hayball for the rebuilt market (1972-81) and Begg, Barrack & Douglas for the Town Hall renovations (1980). The City of Malvern also approached Yuncken Freeman in the early 1970s when revisiting its earlier plans for a new office wing at the Town Hall, although the project again failed to proceed.[7] At the same time, the council began acquiring land opposite the Town Hall, on the north-west corner of Malvern Road and High Street, for a civic square.[8] Plans for the project were unveiled in 1982, although work did not begin for another four years, with the new City Square officially opened in 1989.

In the late twentieth century, several architects residing in the study area have acted as city councillors. Stuart Hall and J Dale Fisher, who both lived for many years in Toorak (and, coincidentally, had wives who were also architects), served as councillors to the City of Prahran from the late 1960s. David Cran, who worked in Neil Clerehan's office from 1971 and became partner in the firm's 1980s incarnation as Clerehan Cran, not only served as a local councillor from 1977 but also had a stint as Mayor of Prahran in 1984.

Examples:

Toilet block, rear Malvern Town Hall, 1251 High Street, Malvern (Stewart Handasyde, 1961) – *demolished*

City of Prahran Incinerator, Surrey Road, South Yarra (Leslie M Perrott & Partners, 1965) – *demolished*

Harold Hold Swim Centre, 1409-1413 High Street, Glen Iris (Borland & Jackson, 1969) – *HO364*

Toorak/South Yarra Library, 338-344 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Yuncken Freeman, 1972-73) – *HO174*

7.1.2 The impact of municipal amalgamation **[2006: 5.4.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The City of Stonnington was formed in 1994 as part of the then State Government's program of municipal restructure. It comprises the whole of the former two cities, with the exception of a small portion of Prahran between Queens Way and Wellington Street, which was excised and became part of the City of Port Phillip. Since amalgamation the new council has been conscious of the need to avoid dividing the city along the old Kooyong Road boundary. This desire has been reflected in the ward boundaries, which have been re-drawn three times; each time it has included wards that extend across the former municipal boundary.*[9]

7 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), pp 26-27.
8 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), pp 19-20.
9 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 86.



Figure 7.01:
Harold Hold Swim Centre,
1409-1413 High Street, Glen Iris
(Borland & Jackson, 1969)
Source: Item H91.244/620,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 7.02:
City of Prahran Swimming Pool
15-41 Essex Street, Prahran
(1963-64)
Source: Item PH14047,
Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 7.03:
City of Prahran Incinerator
Surrey Road, South Yarra
(Leslie M Perrott & Partners, 1965)
Source: Item H91.244/4089,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

Physical impact of council amalgamations was evident from the start of the process, when complex debates and discussions unfolded regarding boundary changes. At first, the City of Prahran mooted resuming parts of South Yarra within the City of Melbourne (ie, west of Punt Road), and the abutting strip of St Kilda Road.[10] The City of Malvern, meanwhile, wished to take the suburbs of Toorak and Armadale from the City of Prahran.[11] At one point, the City of Caulfield proposed merging with Prahran and Malvern, and another scheme would have seen Caulfield usurp the south-east corner of the City of Malvern, including what was then Chadstone, to form the new City of Gardiner.[12] Ultimately, in June 1994, it was declared that the Cities of Malvern and Prahran would unite as the City of Stonnington, save for the small southern strip transferred to the City of Port Phillip. The merger did not meet with unanimous support, as Alleyn Best noted:

> *Some of Prahran's Toorak residents were horrified at the thought of merging with Malvern, pointing out that "we've never shared anything with Malvern". A former Mayor of Prahran, Sandra Gatehouse, claimed that "Malvern and Prahran were poles apart philosophically and geographically and had nothing in common"…. Malvern's Mayor Ray Lang was equally blunt in rejecting Prahran: "[Prahran] is considered culturally incompatible with Malvern [with whom] we do not have an affinity", he retorted.*[13]

While emergence of the new City of Stonnington impacted residents and staff of the merged municipality (with 100 employees of the City of Prahran made redundant, and others at City of Malvern), the impact on the physical environment continued. With two Town Halls not required for administration, these functions were initially consolidated at Prahran, causing some dissent in Malvern, as Alleyn Best noted.

> *Malvern Town Hall also lost its aura of power. For Malvern residents, their town hall was no longer the traditional focus of local decisions relating to roads, rates, rubbish, planning permits and the growing field of human services provided by Council. All Malvern eyes had to turn to faraway Prahran, a suitor that Council and the majority of residents had rejected almost vehemently in the previous year's amalgamation consultation processes.*[14]

Council facilities across the study area, such as infant-welfare centres (see **8.3.2**) were subject to closure or consolidation, and libraries merged under the auspices of the Stonnington Library and Information Service, headquartered at the Toorak/South Yarra Library. Two long-time council depots, in Surrey Street, South Yarra, and Tooronga Road, Malvern, were retained as discrete branches of the City of Stonnington's waste transfer service. The merger also impacted facilities not owned by Council, with Malvern-based entities such as MECWA (see **8.6.2**) and the *Malvern News Sheet* (see **3.7.3**) seeking to expand their remits into the former City of Prahran. Many local groups amended their names to include the word "Stonnington".

Examples:

Infant welfare centre, 61 Nirvana Avenue, Malvern (c.1951) – *sold in 1995 and subsequently demolished*

City of Stonnington (former City of Malvern) Council Depot, 293 Tooronga Road, Malvern

7.1.3 Politicians and their places of residence after 1945 **[2006: 5.3.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Australia's longest serving Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, lived in Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern, after his retirement. The house was purchased as a permanent home for Menzies and his wife, Dame Pattie, by a group of wealthy businessmen. Dame Pattie moved to Kooyong after her husband's death in 1978.*
>
> *The federal politician who had the strongest association with the study area was Harold Holt… Holt and his wife, Zara, bought the house at 112 St George's Road, Toorak [in late 1956], and this was their main home until they moved to the Lodge in Canberra [in early 1966]. Holt disappeared from a Portsea beach in December 1967 and was presumed drowned. Ironically, his monument in the study area is the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre in High Street, Glen Iris.*

10 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 7.
11 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 11.
12 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 61.
13 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 59.
14 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 4.

The most recent and probably longest serving of the study area's politician residents is Lindsay Thompson, who has lived most of his life in Glen Iris... He represented local people in both houses of State Parliament for 28 years from 1955, during which time he was Minister of Education in the Bolte and later Hamer Liberal Governments, and Premier of Victoria in 1981-82. [15]

Robert Menzies, who lived in Rockley Road, South Yarra, while studying law in the 1910s, would later serve as Federal member for Higgins (ie, Malvern) but did not take up residence again in the study area until he retired in 1966, when he and wife Pattie moved to a large pre-war house at 2 Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern (*Fig 7.04*). They were still living there in 1974, when a new public reserve on Toorak Road (formerly the City of Malvern rubbish tip) was named in Menzies' honour and officially opened by the man himself. After his death four years later, his widow downsized to a smaller weatherboard house at 7 Monaro Close, Malvern.

Harold and Zara Holt's association with Toorak and South Yarra predates WW2, when the then-barrister occupied flats in Avoca Street and later St Leonards Court (west of Punt Road) while his future wife, then married to James Fell, lived in a Georgian-style house at 50 Washington Street. Following their marriage in 1946, the Holts resided in Washington Street for a decade before moving to the grander riverfront house on St Georges Road (*Fig 7.05*), which, after Zara's tasteful redecoration (with a mural by artist Barry Gray and what was claimed to be the first use of Japanese wallpaper in Melbourne), was opened to the public as a charity fundraiser in 1959.[16] After her husband's death in 1967, Zara resumed living in St Georges Road until she remarried in 1969, whence she divided her time between her new husband's farming property in southern NSW and smaller Toorak home: a modern flat-roofed brick house at 18 Millicent Avenue (*Fig 7.06*), built next door to the renovated Victorian villa of her son, Nicholas Holt, at No 16 (see **6.3.5**).[17]

While the Holts sustained long personal and professional links with the study area, it is less well known that Harold's immediate prime ministerial successor, John McEwen, was also a Toorak resident. McEwen, who lived in a grand pre-war house at 679 Orrong Road, had served as *de facto* deputy to both Holt and Holt's predecessor Robert Menzies, before taking over as caretaker prime minister after Holt's disappearance in December 1967. McEwen served in this interim role until an election took place in February 1968, when John Gorton became prime minister (with McEwen continuing to serve as deputy until his retirement in 1971).

State politician and longtime Malvern resident Lindsay Thompson lived at 9 Netherlee Street in the 1950s and '60s before relocating to 19 Allenby Avenue, where he remained until his death in 2008. Amongst other major politicians to live in the study area after WW2 was Horace Petty, a founding member of the Liberal Party who later served as Minister for Housing (1955-1961) and Minister for Public Works (1961-64).[18] A former councillor and one-time mayor in the City of Prahran, Petty lived at 12 Como Avenue, South Yarra, during the 1950s, later relocating to a flat in *Leith Lodge* at 595 Toorak Road, Toorak. Active in many local affairs, he was responsible for initiating post-war HCV housing estates in the City of Prahran, including the high-rise development on Malvern Road (1964-67) that was named after him (see **6.7.4**).

Examples:

Robert Menzies House, 2 Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern

Harold Holt House, 112 St Georges Road, Toorak – *demolished c.1969*

Dame Zara Holt House, 18 Millicent Avenue, Toorak (Campbell Woolstencroft, 1969)

John McEwen House, 679 Orrong Road, Toorak – *HO143 (Montalto Avenue/Stradbroke Avenue Precinct*)

Lindsay Thompson House, 19 Allenby Avenue, Malvern East – *HO388 (Stanley Gardens Precinct)*

7.2 Struggling for political rights

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

15 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 82.
16 Neil Clerehan, "Toorak portals opened to mortals", *Age*, 4 April 1959, p 8.
17 "With a dash of Dame Zara", *Australian Women's Weekly*, 22 July 1970, pp 18-23.
18 David Dunstan, "Petty, Sir Horace Rostill (1904–1982)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (2012), <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/petty-sir-horace-rostill-15087/text26289>



Figure 7.04:
House at 2 Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern, at the time it was acquired by Robert and Pattie Menzies.
Source: Item 30922076, National Archives of Australia.
(photograph by Keith Byron, 1965)



Figure 7.05:
Detail of aerial photograph of Toorak (c.1961) showing riverfront properties on St Georges Road, with Harold & Zara Holt's home at No 112 (third from below)
Source: Item H2008.41/58, State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Charles Pratt)



Figure 7.06:
Dame Zara Holt photographed in her boldly-decorated new house, 18 Millicent Avenue, Toorak.
Source: Australian Women's Weekly, 22 July 1970, p 21.
(photograph by Les Gorrie).

7.3 Maintaining law and order

7.3.1 Expanding police stations and court houses after 1945

At the end of WW2, the study area had police stations at Armadale, Malvern, Prahran, South Yarra, Toorak, and Windsor, and two courthouses integrated with police stations at Prahran and Malvern. All of these facilities dated from the late nineteenth century except for the combined complex at Malvern, which was erected alongside the Town Hall in 1929-30 and, as one of the more up-do-date facilities in the region, also served as the headquarters of the South-Eastern Police District, previously based in South Melbourne.

During WW2, the introduction of rationing and other restrictions prompted a spike in illegal activities in parts of Melbourne, and the areas around St Kilda Junction became associated with prostitution, gambling and the "sly grog" trade (ie, supply of alcohol from unlicensed premises). As noted in a history of local police presence, "prostitution boomed in Prahran and some of Melbourne's best known brothels were in Windsor, particularly in Wellington, Nelson and Green Street".[19] Among the more notorious local criminals were SP bookmakers Freddie "The Frog" Harrison and James Coates, the latter being shot dead in July 1949, his corpse found opposite the old Windsor Police Station on Union Street.

In the mid-1940s, it was proposed to merge police facilities at Toorak and Armadale and build a new station to serve both suburbs. In 1946, former railway land was acquired on the south-east corner of Malvern and Orrong Road and plans prepared for a two-storey Georgian-style building (*Fig 7.07*), which opened in June 1949.[20] In 1952, the ageing police station in Windsor was also replaced by a new one, built nearby at 49 Nelson Street (*Fig 7.08*).[21] While older facilities at South Yarra and Prahran both remained in use well into the post-war era, the latter was in urgent need of upgrade and, in 1963, a site for a new police station was acquired in Francis Street, off Malvern Road. Plans evolved as further land was acquired along Malvern Road towards the end of the decade.[22] In 1971, it was mooted to develop a regional 24-hour police complex, to include a courthouse and administrative offices for related police services. Work finally began in 1975 and the completed building *(Fig 7.09*) was officially opened by the Attorney-General on 6 April 1978.[23]

With the Malvern Road complex consolidating police presence from South Yarra and Prahran, the former stations in Osborne Street and Greville Street initially maintained a nominal "shopfront" service before ceasing operation entirely. The newer police station in Orrong Road also closed in 1980, but re-opened two years later to house administrative offices that could not be accommodated in Malvern Road. Prahran's redundant courthouse became occupied by the Prahran Historical & Arts Society before being taken over as office space for the Town Hall. The court room proper, still largely intact to its nineteenth century form, was used for film and television productions, as well as a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*.[24] By the mid-198 0s, Malvern's court house had also closed and the building became an annexe to the adjacent police station.[25] The courthouse complex in Prahran remained in operation for nearly twenty years before ceasing in the mid-1990s as part of the consolidation of government services during Jeffrey Kennett's tenure as Premier.[26] The police station at the same address continued, as did the Malvern's inter-war police station, which still remained a district police headquarters at the end of 1990s.

Examples:

Toorak Police Station (former), 634 Orrong Road, Armadale (Percy Everett, 1946-49)

Windsor Police Station, 49 Nelson Street, Windsor (Percy Everett, 1952) – *demolished*

Prahran Police Station (and former Court House), 396-400 Malvern Road, Prahran (Geoff Woodfall, 1975-78)

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19 Peter Aldred, Charles Cox and Ralph Stavely, *Policeman's Paradise* (1988), p 63.
20 "New Toorak police station likely", *Argus*, 12 March 1946, p 15; "New police station", *Sun*, 1 June 1949, p 8.
21 "Situations vacant", *Age*, 1 March 1952. The building stood on the north side of Nelson Street, which would be completely obliterated by the post-war reconfiguration of Queens Way.
22 "Property auctions", *Age*, 4 December 1969, p 9.
23 Peter Aldred, Charles Cox and Ralph Stavely, *Policeman's Paradise* (1988), p 82.
24 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Two* (1999), pp 7-8.
25 Auditor General of Victoria, *Special Report No 4: Court Closures in Victoria* (November 1986), pp 84. <https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/19860901-Special-Report-4-Court-Closures-in-Victoria.pdf>
26 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Four* (2001), p 10.



Figure 7.07:
Toorak Police Station
634 Orrong Road, Armadale
(Percy Everett, 1946-49),
Source: Item H92.20/2940,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Lyle Fowler, 1949)

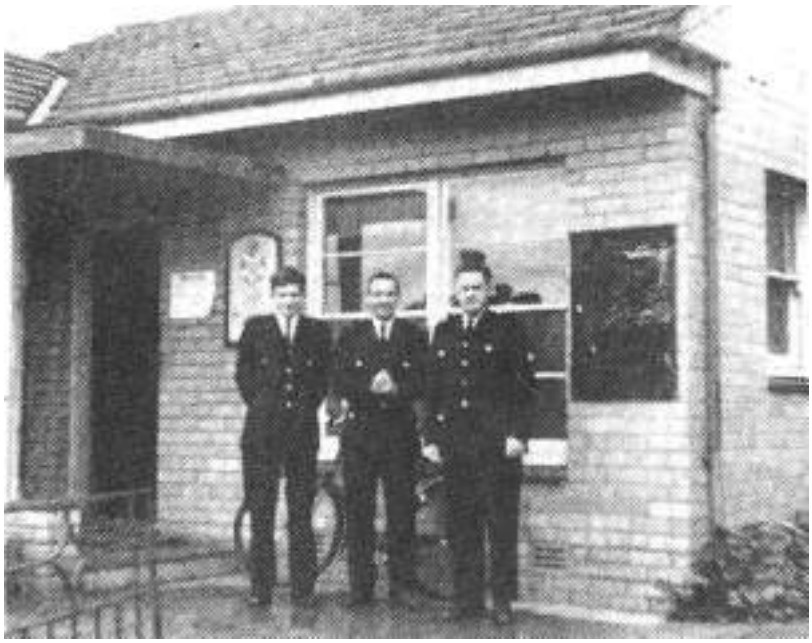


Figure 7.08:
Windsor Police Station
49 Nelson Street, Winbdsor
(Percy Everett, 1952),
Source: Peter Aldred, Charles Cox & Ralph Stavely, Policeman's Paradise (1988), p 19.
(photographer uncredited, 1965)



Figure 7.09:
Police Station & Court House
396-400 Malvern Road, Prahran
(Geoffrey Woodfall, 1975-78)
Source: Peter Aldred, Charles Cox & Ralph Stavely, Policeman's Paradise (1988), p 81.
(photographer uncredited, 1988)

7.4 Defending Victoria and Australia

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.

7.5 Protecting Victoria's heritage

7.5.1 Creating the National Trust **[2006: 10.5.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In 1954 the sale and subsequent demolition of Werndew, the Toorak mansion built in 1887 by banker Jenkin Collier, spurred into action a number of prominent Melbourne people, who had been watching in dismay as one by one Melbourne's beautiful and historic buildings were demolished to make way for modern development. The outcome was the formation of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) founded in May 1956. If Werndew was the spur, Como was the catalyst for the founding of the Trust. Charles and Caroline Armytage's last surviving daughters were still living at Como, but were having difficulty maintaining the large property. They dreaded the thought of Como's demolition or conversion into a nursing home, and welcomed the suggestion that it could become the first property of a newly formed National Trust. The sisters agreed to sell Como to the Trust for less than half its value, and also gave a sizeable cash donation to the Trust. Como thus became the flagship and headquarters of the National Trust. It was first opened to the public in July 1956, and has become one of the Trust's and Melbourne's most visited heritage sites.*
>
> *Many early influential members of the Trust were residents of Toorak and South Yarra. For fifty years [as of 2006] the Trust has worked to protect historic buildings and the natural environment, and to educate the public to appreciate and conserve Victoria's heritage. Another Trust acquisition in the study area was the Toorak mansion Illawarra. Many more sites in the study area have National Trust classification. Como and Illawarra demonstrate the opulent lifestyles of the wealthy, and the notions of heritage that motivated the Trust's founders. The Trust, and the heritage movement generally, has since developed a wider view of what constitutes Australia's heritage.*[27]

Since its inception, the Victorian branch of the National Trust of Australia has maintained an enduring association with the study area. The local imperative to preserve historic buildings, while spurred by the demolition of *Whendew* in 1954, had been anticipated the previous year by publication of a trailblazing book, *Early Melbourne Architecture 1840-1888*. Subtitled *A Photographic Record*, it was compiled by a group of noted Melburnians that included brothers John and Tom Freeman, who were not only keen admirers of Victorian buildings but also architects (co-founders of Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson) and residents of South Yarra, where they shared an elegant nineteenth century townhouse at 60 Avoca Street. Their book illustrated a dozen buildings in Toorak and South Yarra, which became the first places in the study area added to the National Trust's nascent register.[28] Classified in mid-1958, these places included two houses flanking the Freeman brothers' own home in Avoca Street - *Avoca Lodge* at No 64 (National Trust file B219) and *Pateley* at No 56 (B222) – along with a pair of shops at 22-24 Toorak Road (B223), another shop at 58 Toorak Road (B224), and the grand mansions of *Como House* (B225), *Toorak House* (B226) and *Trawalla* (B227).

In the late 1950s and '60s, the Trust continued to classify buildings in the study area, focusing on nineteenth century houses, churches and civic buildings. This recognition, however, was no guarantee of survival. Despite being classified by the Trust, several mansions succumbed to post-war redevelopment, including *Avoca Lodge* and *Nareeb* (both early additions to the Trust's register, yet demolished in the mid-1960s), and *Alencon* at 24 Mercer Road, Armadale, which followed in 1974. The Trust ensured that the ornate gates from *Nareeb* (*Fig 7.10*) and *Alencon* were retained and re-erected elsewhere: the former on the Domain Road side of Royal Botanic Gardens (just outside the study area) and the latter in front of another house on Malvern Road.[29] The rendered gateposts and flanking walls at the *Nareeb* site were retained *in situ* when a new house was built on the site in 1965, designed in a suitably neo-Georgian mode by architect Norman Brendel.

27 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 196.
28 Maie Casey, Joan Lindsay, D A Casey, John R Freeman, Tom D Freeman and Allan R Henderson, *Early Melbourne Architecture, 1840–1888* (1953), pp 148-161.
29 Brian Carroll and Arno Roger-Genersh, *Toorak and South Yarra Sketchbook* (1974), p 50.

The first twentieth century building in the study area to be classified by the National Trust was *Fawkner Mansions* at 250 Punt Road (1910), one of Melbourne's first purpose-built apartment blocks, which was added to the register in 1973. By the early 1980s, the Trust's concern for twentieth century buildings had increased exponentially, with many new classifications in the study area including the *Caringal* flats in Tahara Road, Toorak (1948-1951), the first post-war building in the study area to be thus acknowledged. Others followed as more recent heritage became a higher priority in the late twentieth century: the former ES&A Bank in Malvern (classified 1992), the Harold Holt Swim Centre in Glen Iris (classified 1999) and the Toorak/South Yarra Library (classified 2000). All three examples were only around thirty years old at the time of their respective classification.

In the 1990s, the Trust was involved in some high-profile battles to save endangered buildings in the study area, although classification, activism and publicity did not always avert demolition. *Monterey*, a remarkable Japanese-influenced bungalow at 16 Chesterfield Avenue, Malvern, was demolished in October 1993, only a few months after being classified. Among other casualties were two important inter-war houses in Toorak: the former Smith House in 12 Whernside Avenue Toorak (1934), a pioneer example of the Functionalist style by Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson (demolished c.1991) and the former Warner House at 14 Glen Road (1925), considered one of Melbourne's finest and most intact Spanish Mission houses (demolished 1993). Despite its best efforts, the Trust was also unable to save the Wesleyan Methodist Church on the corner of Williams and Toorak Roads (demolished 1993, following partial and unauthorised demolition in 1986) (*Fig 7.11*), the modernist fire station in Albert Street, Windsor (demolished 1996), and one of Walter Butler's finest houses, *Kamillaroi* at 45 St Georges Road, Toorak (demolished 2000).

Examples:

Jon and Tom Freeman House, 60 Avoca Street, South Yarra – *HO355 (Caroline Street Precinct)*

Gateposts from *Nareeb* (former), 170 Kooyong Road, Toorak – *retained for new house on same site, 1965*

Gates from *Alencon* (former), 1090 Malvern Road, Malvern – *relocated from demolished mansion, 1974*

7.5.2 *Designating historic sites* **[2006: 10.5.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The people of the study area have made a commitment to preserve their history, and both Malvern and Prahran formed strong and active historical societies, with comprehensive collections, many of which are now available on-line via Council's website… [1257] High Street, Malvern, Northbrook, the house of failed land-boomer Donald Munro, was purchased by Council in 1945, and used by the Malvern Library. It now houses the Stonnington Local History Collection, and [as of 2006] is used for community functions.*[30]

While *Early Melbourne Architecture 1840-1888* may have been the first attempt to identify places of cultural significance in the study area, there were other early inklings of concern for the local historic environment. The weekly newspaper column of the *Age* Small Homes Service (SHS), initiated in 1947 with Robin Boyd as inaugural director and columnist, often drew attention to threatened buildings across the suburbs, which included those in the study area. Architect and South Yarra resident Neil Clerehan, writing in the column in 1950 (filling in for an overseas Boyd) mourned the loss of Melbourne's mansions, stating that "perhaps the most tragic evidence of this 'evolution' is in Kooyong Road. Here, in what was one of Melbourne's loveliest gardens, jazz-moderne villas are rising to obscure the original dwelling".[31] Presciently, Clerehan urged formation of a local branch of the National Trust, which would not happen for six more years (see **7.5.1**).

During the 1960s, Clerehan and others architects who wrote for the SHS column, or for similar property columns in other newspapers, were among the first to flag the significance of early modern architecture from the 1900s to the 1930s, which included some key examples in what is now the City of Stonnington. In 1960, when Harold Desbrowe Annear's proto-modernist house, *Troon,* at 746 Orrong Road (1916) was razed for high-rise flats, Clerehan lauded it as "one of Melbourne's most important houses", wryly adding that "it is not even old enough to have been noticed by the National Trust".[32]

30 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 196.
31 Neil Clerehan, "Pattern of destruction", *Age*, 19 September 1950, p 5.
32 Neil Clerehan, "End for a landmark", *Age* 8 February 1960, p 10.



Figure 7.10:
The front gates at Nareeb, 170 Kooyong Road, Toorak, as recorded by the National Trust's photographer in 1965, before the house was demolished and the gates re-erected elsewhere. The gateposts and wall were retained when a new house was built.
Source: Item H84.276/3/46A, State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Colin Caldwell)





Figure 7.11:
Two views of the Jubilee Wesleyan Methodist Church, Williams and Toorak Roads, Toorak at the time of its unauthorised partial demolition, 1986.
Source: Item PH10184.1/4 Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 7.12:
Paling House, 246 Kooyong Road, Toorak (Walter Burley Griffin, 1924) in process of demolition, 1968
Source: Item H84.276/3/46A, State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

In the early 1960s, two of Walter Griffin's distinctive Knitlock concrete houses – both located in Toorak – were offered for sale by the families who had commissioned them, prompting concern for their futures. Writing in 1962, architect and *Herald* property columnist Harry Perrot championed the significance of the Salter House at 16 Glyndebourne Avenue.[33] The following year, SHS director Jack Clarke did the same for the Paling House at 248 Kooyong Road, urging its preservation.[34] While the former house was sold, sympathetically extended and would eventually secure local heritage protection, the Paling House was less fortunate, and was demolished in 1968 (*Fig 7.12*). Two years later, incumbent SHS director, architect Graham Whitford, still mourned the loss.[35]

While the National Trust was active in identifying and assessing significant places in the study area in the 1960s and '70s, concern for historic preservation also emerged from within. In 1970, a Malvern resident unilaterally nominated a local building to the National Trust: an inter-war attic-storey bungalow at 4 Grace Street associated with author Graham McInnes "and the tarnished popularity of his acerbic novelist mother, Angela Thirkell".[36] While the Trust ultimately declined to classify the house, the nomination still showed a grass-roots interest in the preservation of local history. Such interest was also apparent when pre-war shops on Beatty Avenue underwent refurbishment that involved removal of the original ornate verandahs. A local resident expressed interest in salvaging the cast iron columns and subsequently incorporated them into a new carport at her Edwardian house in nearby Glassford Street.[37] Concern for local history formalised with formation of the Malvern Historical Society in 1972, followed a year later by its Prahran counterpart. Both groups began issuing newsletters, with that of the Prahran Historical & Arts Society first published in 1979 to coincide with the City of Prahran's centenary.[38]

While the City of Malvern's purchase of *Northbrook* represented a notably early example of a local authority expressing concern for historic built fabric, the process of identifying and assessing such places for statutory heritage protection did not commence in the study area until the *City of Prahran Conservation Study* (1983). Prepared by local heritage consultant Nigel Lewis & Associates (based in Oban Street, South Yarra), the study documented numerous properties using a standard Building Identification Form that anticipated the present-day heritage citation format. In the later 1980s, the City of Malvern initiated a similar scheme, with reports recommending a number of Urban Conservation Areas (ie, heritage precincts). However, the introduction of statutory controls was abandoned following extensive community consultation.[39] In 1990, a National Estate grant was secured to undertake a more intensive heritage study that would review earlier recommendations and identify further places and areas across the municipality.[40] The *City of Malvern Conservation Study* (1992), also undertaken by Nigel Lewis, was similarly abandoned due to the extent of ratepayer opposition.

Council amalgamation in the mid-1990s compelled merged municipalities to complete heritage reviews that considered and consolidated earlier studies and recommendations. The first such review in the study area, initiated in May 1996, was the *City of Stonnington Heritage Review* by Bryce Raworth. Its introduction noted:

> *since the creation of the City of Stonnington in 1994, it has been apparent that there is an imbalance across the municipality in which heritage is recognised and protected within the planning scheme, with relatively few buildings and areas in the Malvern area presently affected by urban conservation controls. In addition, although the Prahran area of Stonnington already has conservation controls in respect to many buildings and areas, there remain a number of sites of acknowledged significance which are still not protected.*[41]

Examples:

House, 4 Grace Street, Malvern – *HO375 (Coonil Estate Precinct)*

House, 27 Glassford Street, Armadale

33 Harry Perrott, "Unique house in Toorak for sale", *Herald*, 4 May 1962, p 21.
34 Jack Clarke, "For sale – a prophesy" [*sic*], *Age*, 14 October 1963, p 10.
35 Graham Whitford, "Should we demolish?", *Age*, 6 April 1970, p 20.
36 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 61
37 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 25.
38 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 112.
39 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), pp 32-33.
40 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), pp 33-36.
41 Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, *City of Stonnington Heritage Review* (December 1996), p 1.

8.0 BUILDING COMMUNITY LIFE

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

8.1.1 Providing, upgrading and consolidating places of worship after WW2

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *The formation of the Uniting Church in Australia, in 1977, from the amalgamation of the Congregational and Methodist Churches and some of the Presbyterian Churches, together with falling church attendances, resulted in a number of redundant church buildings in the study area. Some have been adapted for re-use – the former Prahran Independent Chapel in Malvern Road is now the Chapel off Chapel Performing Arts Centre.*[1]

According to the 1954 census, the Cities of Prahran and Malvern each had a population of nearly 50,000, with the Church of England as the most represented denomination in both municipalities, at 39% and 37% respectively. In the City of Prahran, the next largest religious groups were Catholics (15%), Presbyterians (10%), Roman Catholics (7%) and Methodists (6%), while the City of Malvern had a subtly different mix of Presbyterians (16%), Catholics (14%), Roman Catholics (4%) and Methodists (9%). Other denominations (and those identifying as no religion) were present in much smaller numbers. Both municipalities had about the same proportion of Brethren, Church of Christ, Salvation Army and Seventh Day Adventist adherents. However, Prahran had almost twice as many people of the Lutheran, Greek Orthodox and Jewish faiths as Malvern, whereas Malvern had twice as many Congregationalists as Prahran.

The first hitherto unrepresented denomination to emerge in the study area after WW2 was the Society of Friends (Quakers), which, in 1952, relocated from their city premises in Russell Street to a large house at 631 Orrong Road. Adapted as a Meeting House, for both worship and social activities, it was still one of only two Quaker venues in Melbourne at the end of the twentieth century. Otherwise, the early post-war decades saw some of the more established churches, especially in Toorak, upgrade their existing facilities. In Toorak, St John's Church of England added the Buxton Memorial Hall (1956), while the nearby Presbyterians, on the other side of Toorak Road, built a modern parish centre (1961) with three halls, offices and other facilities. The Prahran Presbyterian Church, at 15 Cromwell Road, was rebuilt in 1964, replacing its red brick building with a modern cream brick complex that not only provided a place of worship but also a community hall and consulting rooms for the incumbent minister's psychology practice, known as the Cairnmillar Institute.[2] This trend was rather less evident in the City of Malvern where older congregations had already begun to decline after WW2. As Strahan noted, "of the old established churches, only the Gardiner Church of Christ was still expanding in a material sense, completing an extensive building program in early 1959".[3] Nevertheless, one of the smaller denominations in the study area, the Plymouth Brethren, substantially enlarged their pre-war premises, the Gardiner Gospel Hall at 91 Carroll Crescent, Glen Iris, in 1964.

If older congregations in the City of Malvern were dwindling, that municipality otherwise became the focus for new church buildings in the study area. The late 1950s and early '60s saw a boom of purpose-built places of worship for fledgling churches that had met in halls or other makeshift venues, as well as new congregations formed to serve growing areas. Centred on the eastern edge (including Malvern East, Glen Iris and what was then known as Chadstone), the boom included the Methodist Church in Alma Street (1958), St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Serrell Street (1958), All Saints' Anglican Church in Olive Street (1960) (*Fig 8.01*), St James' Anglican Church on the corner of High Street and Burke Road (1960) (*Fig 8.02*) and the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Eucharist on Dandenong Road (1961-62), the last described by Lynne Strahan as "a latecomer in the [Catholic] processional calendar".[4] Later still, however, was the Roman Catholic Church of St Frances Xavier at 35 High Street, Prahran (1964), one of the first post-war churches in the City of Prahran (*Fig 8.03*). A few others followed, such as the new Baptist Church in Surrey Road, South Yarra, (1968), comprising a modest hall-like addition to the rear of an existing Victorian villa.[5]

1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 185.
2 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 49.
3 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p151.
4 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p143.
5 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 71.

The 1960s otherwise saw churches across the study area enter a new era of consolidation and transformation that lasted several decades. This emerged locally as early as 1963, when the Mount Erica Methodist church in High Street, Prahran was sold to a growing Greek Orthodox congregation (see **2.5.1** and **8.1.2**). The next few years brought closure of the Congregational Church on Glenferrie Road, Malvern, which was razed for a new supermarket, and the Baptist Church on the corner of Chapel and Wilson Streets, South Yarra, which became a photographer's studio. In the early 1970s, the small Wesleyan chapel in Grandview Grove, Prahran, was demolished for a block of elderly persons' flats, maintained by the Methodist church.[6]

The Uniting Church in Australia, which absorbed most of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches across the nation, began selling of its surplus buildings in the late 1970s and early '80s. Some were taken over by other religious groups, as when the Methodist Church in Epping Street, Malvern, became a Greek Orthodox Church, while others were converted for non-ecclesiastical use. The Congregational church in Peel Street, Windsor (originally an Independent Church, built in 1858), was auctioned in 1980 and adapted as a residence.[7] Its counterpart on Malvern Road, Prahran, was acquired by the local council and became a Neighbourhood Centre and, later, part of the Chapel-off-Chapel development. The grander and prominently-sited Wesleyan Methodist Jubilee Church, on the corner of Williams and Toorak Roads, stood vacant until it was partly demolished in 1985, remaining in a ruinous state for another decade (see **7.5.1**).[8] By that time, the Uniting Church had consolidated its local activity and administration in a three-storey building at 211 Chapel Street, formerly used as the Prahran Methodist Mission, as well as nine churches that were retained across the study area: three in Malvern East, two in Malvern, two in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East), and one each in South Yarra and Toorak.

The Uniting Church was not alone in dealing with redundant buildings from the late 1970s, with many other denominations beset by dwindling congregations. Attendance at St Matthew's Anglican Church had already declined by 1982, when the church was severely damaged by fire. Its restoration, however, allowed for most of the building to be adapted as lettable office space while retaining a small area for worship, thus ensuring the building's survival.[9] Less adaptable were the corresponding Anglican congregations of St Martin's in Toorak and St Alban's in Armadale, which merged in 1984.[10] Other premises to be vacated by dwindling congregations in the late twentieth century included two Baptist Churches in Malvern East (2 Lloyd Street and 66a Tooronga Road), and the Anglican Mission Hall in Spring Street, Prahran. In 1997, the Roman Catholic Parishes of Prahran and South Yarra merged, whereupon the Church of St Frances Xavier on High Street – one of the "newest" churches in the study area – became a centre for the deaf community.

Examples

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (former), 54-56 Serrell Street, Malvern East (Keith Reid, 1958)

All Saints' Anglican Church, 1a Olive Street, Malvern East (Louis Williams, 1959-60) – *demolished*

St James' Anglican Church, 1461-1467 High Street, Glen Iris (Bogle & Banfield, 1960) – *HO408*

Church of the Holy Eucharist, 1241 Dandenong Road, Malvern East (Alan G Robertson, 1961-62)

Church of St Frances Xavier (former), 25-35 High Street, Prahran (Smith & Tracey, 1964)
– *HO456 (Greville Street Residential Precinct)*

8.1.2 Post-war places of worship as a marker of ethnic origin **[2006: 10.2.4]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *Other changes in the churches of the study area reflect the arrival of new ethnic groups. In the 1960s the Greek community purchased the old Baptist Church in Charles Street, Prahran, but it collapsed under the weight of a new roof in 1968. By then Prahran had a second Greek Orthodox Church in the former Mt Erica Methodist Church, bought in 1963. In 1970 the Greek community opened their new purpose-built Orthodox Church of St Constantine and St Helen in Barry Street, South Yarra.*

6 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 27.
7 Jill McDougall, *Church Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 19.
8 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Five* (2002), p 42.
9 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 32.
10 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), p 40.

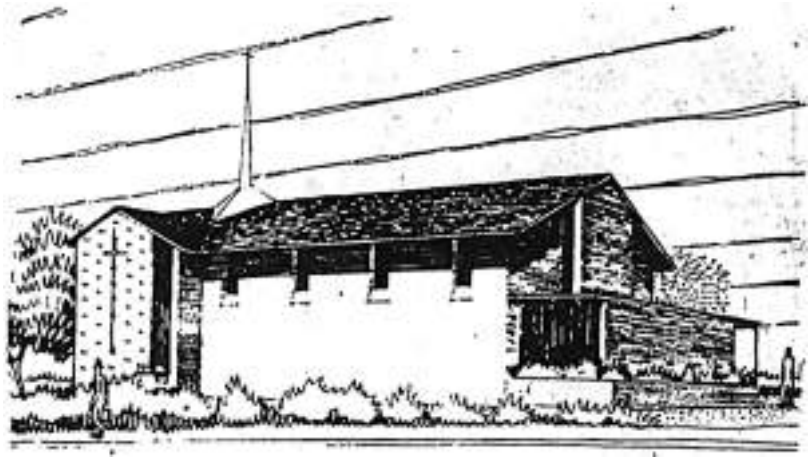


Figure 8.01:
All Saints' Anglican Church
1a Olive Street, Malvern East
(Louis Williams, 1959-60)
Source: Age, 13 February 1960, p 8.



Figure 8.02:
St James' Anglican Church
1461-1467 High Street, Glen Iris
(Bogle & Banfield, 1960),
Source: Item H2003.100/274,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 8.03:
Church of St Frances Xavier
25-35 High Street, Prahran
(Smith & Tracey, 1964)
Source: Item H91.244/4548,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)

Melbourne's small Swedish community did not appear to have any particular attachment to the study area when the Swedish (Lutheran) Church planned to move from South Melbourne to larger premises... The property the Church bought was Toorak House, the former nineteenth-century Governor's residence... The Swedish Church had a tradition of ministering to Scandinavian seamen, and was also a cultural centre for Scandinavians. These roles were continued when the Church opened at Toorak House in 1956.[11]

The 1954 census showed the City of Prahran to have twice as many Lutheran, Greek Orthodox and Jewish people as the City of Malvern, reflecting the former municipality's larger migrant presence. The Swedish Lutherans, which bought *Toorak House* in 1956 and adapted its ballroom as a 150-seat chapel, established a precedent for other multicultural congregations to utilise existing buildings, as demonstrated in the 1960s by the two early Greek Orthodox churches in Prahran, and from the early 1970s by their counterpart in Malvern, St Catherine's, which initially occupied a former Baptist Church at 65 Tooronga Road. In the mid-1970s, German Baptists met at the former Church of Christ at 220 High Street, Prahran, Hungarian Baptists shared the South Yarra Baptist church at 12 Surrey Road, and a Russian Orthodox Church (Ecumenical Patriarchate) occupied a small timber chapel in Moore Street, South Yarra (*Fig 8.04*).[12]

At the end of the decade, St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church relocated to a former Brethren chapel at 4 Burke Road, and its former home on Tooronga Road was taken over by a Slavic Evangelical Baptist congregation, whose members hailed from Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia.[13] During the 1980s, the Hungarian Baptists of South Yarra transferred to another Baptist Church, at 2-4 Lloyd Street, Malvern East (demolished) and St Catherine's found its third and final home in the former Methodist Church at 3B Epping Street. In adapting pre-war churches, these post-war multicultural congregations have made only relatively minor changes to the exterior, typified by a miniature onion dome and wooden Russian Orthodox cross added to the Moore Street chapel, although they tend to remain identifiable by signage in other languages.

With increasing migration from the Middle East, Asia and Africa in the late twentieth century, there was a more visible local presence of hitherto underrepresented religious groups outside the Western tradition. From the early 1980s, the Tibetan Buddhist Society routinely held events at the Toorak/South Yarra Library that included meditation sessions and public lectures by visiting overseas teachers such as the Venerable Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche.[14] During this period, similar events were took place at the Prahran Migrant Resource Centre at 24 Victoria Street, Windsor, including guest lectures arranged by the Hindu Society of Victoria and the Ramakrishna Bakta Mandal (followers of the Hindu mystic Sri Ramakrishna).[15] Around 1990, the Western Thrace Turkish Association established a mosque in an Edwardian house at 16 Kent Street, Prahran, which relocated in 1999 to larger premises in a former factory at 109 Union Street, Windsor.

While the trend of multicultural congregations utilising existing buildings has dominated the post-war era, some did develop purpose-built places of worship. The Greek Orthodox Church of SS Constantine and Helen (*Fig 8.05*), opened in 1970 in Barry Street, South Yarra, was evidently the first. Others include the Sassoon Yehuda Synagogue at 73 Darling Road, Malvern East (1976), which was the first purpose-built local example of its typology in the study area. In 1987, another purpose-built synagogue opened in the Malvern area as part of the new Chabad House (for the Hasidic Jewish community) at 316 Glenferrie Road. These new buildings provided tangible evidence of the Jewish faith in the study area, where services had been held in various existing premises (such as the New Empire Ballroom and the Prahran Town Hall) since the 1950s.

Examples:

Church of SS Constantine and Helen, 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra (Theo Tsochatzis, 1970)

Russian Orthodox Church, 39-41 Moore Street, South Yarra (c.1973)

Sassoon Yehuda Synagogue (former), 71-73 Darling Road, Malvern East (1976)

Prahran Masjid (ie, mosque), 16 Kent Street, Prahran (1990) – *demolished*

11 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 185.
12 *Melway Street Directory of Greater Melbourne*, Edition 6 (1973), p 251, and Edition 7 (1974), p 351.
13 Bruce Coldham and Stan Marks, *Malvern Sketchbook* (1980), p 10.
14 See eg, *Age*, 6 March 1982, p 14; 11 February 1984, p 14 (Saturday Extra supplement), 22 February 1986, p 2.
15 See eg, *Age* 26 April 1985, p 6; 26 July 1985, p 9 (Weekender supplement).



Figure 8.04:
Russian Orthodox Church
39-41 Moore Street, South Yarra
Source: Jill McDougall,
Church, Community & Change
(1985), p 66
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.05:
Greek Orthodox Church of
SS Constantine and Helen,
27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra
Source: Jill McDougall,
Church, Community & Change
(1985), p 65
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.06:
Malvern Valley (formerly
Chadstone Park) Primary School
1a Abbotsford Avenue,
Malvern East (formerly Chadstone)
Source: Item MP6776,
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

8.2 Educating people

8.2.1 Making education universal: free secular state education after 1945

At the end of WW2, the study area was served by eight state primary schools established between 1875 and 1923. One of these, the Tooronga Road Central School in Malvern, was partly subject to wartime occupation by Melbourne High School boys and, in 1946, their vacated portion was taken over by the Malvern Girls' School, a new specialist state secondary school (see **8.2.2**), while primary classes resumed in the remainder of the building. It was also in 1946 that the Education Department acquired land for a new primary school in Abbotsford Avenue, in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East), acting on advice from a local citizen's group that a residential boom was imminent.[16] Opened in June 1953, the Chadstone Park Primary School (now called Malvern Valley Primary School), would be the only new post-war state primary school to be established in the study area (*Fig 8.06*).

The 1950s and '60s saw most local schools thrive and expand, some with improvements that were notable at the time. When Malvern Primary School opened a library in 1947, it was staffed by the first full-time school librarian appointed by the Education Department.[17] In 1953, Windsor Primary School became one of the first schools in Victoria to have a canteen, and counterparts soon appeared at others, such as Malvern East (1958) and Gardiner Central (1961).[18] Other new facilities included a library at Toorak Central (1956), an art room at Malvern East (1961) and a woodwork room at Gardiner Central (1961).[19] Near the end of the decade, a general purpose room was built at Windsor Primary School (1967) and a gymnasium at Malvern Primary School (1968) – in both cases, amongst the first schools in Victoria to have such facilities.

Some local state schools were extended due to more localised post-war population changes. In the 1960s, increasing migrant settlement in Prahran saw six new classrooms added at Windsor Primary School.[20] Hawksburn Primary School, where pupil numbers declined in the early post-war era (from over 1,000 to under 700 by 1965), witnessed an enrolment spike on completion of the nearby HCV flats in 1967.[21] As a result, a new two-storey classroom block was built on the Cromwell Road frontage.[22] Expanding suburbia in the south-east of the study area resulted in new classrooms built at Chadstone Park Primary School (1968).[23] Soon after, a Remedial Education Centre opened at Armadale Primary School, "due to the changed social structure of the Armadale community which has affected the population of the school".[24] By then, Prahran Primary School had occupied its building for over eighty years and, with the ageing building defying simple upgrading, it was decided to simply build a new and modern school building to the rear, opened in 1972.

When declining enrolments prompted closure of Prahran West Primary School in 1990, it was the first state school to cease operation in the study area in over a century. Pupils transferred to the Windsor counterpart, which became Prahran Windsor Primary School.[25] This anticipated the major consolidation and closure of state schools under Jeff Kennett's period as Premier in the early 1990s. Hawksburn and Gardiner Central, both closed 1993, were the only two casualties among local primary schools, although the phase had a more profound impact on local high schools (see **8.2.2**). Closure of Malvern Girls' High School, also in 1993, allowed Tooronga Road Central School (by then known as Malvern Primary School) to take over the entire site that it had shared with the girls' school since 1946.

Examples:

Malvern Valley (formerly Chadstone Park) Primary School. 1a Abbotsford Avenue, Malvern East (1954)

Classroom block, Hawksburn Primary School, Cromwell Road, South Yarra (1967) – *demolished*

New wing, Prahran Primary School, rear, 67 High Street, Prahran (1972) – *demolished*

16 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 481.
17 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 352,
18 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, pp 352, 441.
19 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, pp 352, 399, 441, 455.
20 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 361.
21 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 210.
22 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 344.
23 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 481.
24 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 382.
25 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), pp 211-212.

8.2.2 Providing state secondary and technical education after 1945 **[2006: 9.5.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Melbourne High School [in South Yarra, opened 1927] was to remain the only state high school in the study area until after WW2.*
>
> *A girls' high school was established in Malvern in 1946 on part of the Malvern Primary School No. 2856 site. A freestanding domestic arts centre was built in 1945 as part of the Malvern Girls' High School in the form of a single-storey brick house, purpose-built to provide a model domestic interior for teaching purposes. In 1961 a double-storey building was constructed for a library, cookery centre and music room. Malvern Girls' High continued to use the building until the end of 1993 when it reverted to Tooronga Road Primary School. At that time, Malvern Girls' High School merged with the Richmond Girls' High school to form the Melbourne Girls' College.*
>
> *With the post-war baby boom came higher expectations for education, but people of the study area had to campaign for new state secondary schools to accommodate them. [Local resident] Win Vears remembers the campaign for a high school in Prahran [anticipated to accommodate 1,000 students]. That figure of 1,000 enrolments was reached and surpassed within a decade of the school's opening in the mid-1960s.*
>
> *Chadstone High School was opened for the children of the new housing estates at the area's south-eastern end. A few other high schools were also built in or near the study area in the 1960s and '70s, including Ardoch High School [1977] – a school that adopted an alternative approach to education – in a converted 1920s village of town houses just outside the study area on the south side of Dandenong Road.*
>
> *Demographic changes and the trend towards private school education in the wider community in recent decades have led to a fall in the number of children enrolling in state secondary schools. In the 1990s many schools across the state were closed or amalgamated including Chadstone, Prahran and Ardoch... Prahran High was also demolished, the site once again becoming part of Orrong Park.*[26]

The first new post-war secondary school in the study area, Malvern Girls' High School, would be defined by atypical expansion, as shown by the model house (1945) and cookery centre (1961), which denoted its niche curriculum. Melbourne High School also saw atypical expansion after WW2, but these changes – akin to a prestigious private school - denoted its unique status as a selective-entry male-only state school. George Langley, appointed principal in 1949, initiated a scheme to upgrade and expand facilities. Little was realised before he retired in 1956, although that event itself saw the main building's stairwells enlivened with stained glass windows by Alan Sumner and a mural by Len Annois. Work soon began on a swimming pool and gymnasium (1958), duly followed by a three-storey circular-planned library (1965) (*Fig 8.07*), additional classrooms (1968) and a junior science block (1970).

In 1947, it was announced that construction would soon begin on a new building in Hornby Street, Windsor, to serve as a Girls' Technical School for the junior (ie, pre-tertiary) students of the Prahran College of Technology, who had hitherto been accommodated in various other buildings in the area.[27] While plans were completed in 1948, the new three-storey building (*Fig 8.08*) would not been officially opened until the municipal centenary year of 1955. At that time, it was stated that, with 17% of the City of Prahran's population under the age of fourteen, "this means that the future will have an accent on education".[28] The municipality then had no fewer than 22 schools, yet still lacked a generic state high school. The first in the study area emerged in the City of Malvern, when Chadstone High School opened in February 1963. Two years passed before one came to the City of Prahran where, as Sally Wilde put it, "the first non-selective, fully co-educational secondary school… was something of a late starter".[29] Prahran High School began in 1965 from classrooms in the grounds of Armadale State School before relocating to new premises in Orrong Road in late 1966 (*Fig 8.09*).[30]

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26 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 168-69.

27 "£60,000 school to be built at Prahran", *Age*, 20 September 1947, p 2; "New Prahran School", *Argus*, 25 September 1948, p 5. See also Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 218.

28 *City of Prahran: One Hundred Years. The Past, the Present and the Future, 1855-1955* (1955), unpaginated.

29 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 228.

30 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 229.



Figure 8.07:
Library, Melbourne High School
1 Forrest Hill, South Yarra
(PWD Architects, 1965)
Source: Item H91.244/4826
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 8.08:
Girls' Technical School
24 Hornby Street, Windsor
(Percy Everett, 1949-55)
Source: Item PH10901
Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.09:
Prahran High School
Orrong Road, Prahran (1965-66)
Source: Item 31500682
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)

In 1971, the Girls' Technical School in Prahran altered its remit, turning co-educational in 1971 and renaming itself the Prahran Technical School (becoming Windsor Technical School in 1980, to avoid confusion with its parent college). During the 1970s, the two post-war state secondary schools expanded, with a new assembly hall at Chadstone High (1974) and a new library at Prahran High (1979, designed by architect Greg Burgess). Melbourne High School and the Malvern Girls' High School continued to upgrade facilities in a manner befitting their unique programmes. In the late twentieth century, each built an indoor sports centre intended for joint student and public use: a modest indoor stadium/community hall at Malvern East and a grander four-storey complex at South Yarra, fronting Chapel Street. The latter also incorporated a new library and other facilities.

The late twentieth century was otherwise an unprecedented era of change for state secondary schools. In 1988, Windsor Technical School merged with Ardoch High School (just outside the study area, on the south side of Dandenong Road) to create Ardoch-Windsor Secondary College, split between the two campuses. However, the subsequent consolidation of state education under Premier Jeff Kennett not only bought about the premature closure of the Ardoch-Windsor Secondary College (1992) but also the Chadstone High School (1991), Prahran High School (1993) and Malvern Girls' High School (1993). While these schools technically merged with others in adjoining municipalities, none of the consolidated campuses remained in the study area.[31] Thus, at the end of the twentieth century, the indomitable Melbourne High School survived as the only government secondary school in the new City of Stonnington.

Examples:

Girls' (later Windsor) Technical School, 24 Hornby Street, Windsor (Percy Everett, 1948-55) – *demolished*

Chadstone High School, corner Rob Roy Road and Ivanhoe Grove, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1962-63) – *demolished*

Library (former), Melbourne High School, 1 Forrest Hill, South Yarra (PWD Architects, 1965) – *part HO2*

8.2.3 Expanding private education after 1945

The study area has long been a heartland for private schools. While a few date back to the late nineteenth century, such as Sacre Coeur Girls' School in Glen Iris and the original Malvern Grammar School, most emerged in the early twentieth century. Invariably, they originally occupied mansion properties that, during the post-war era, would be subject to intensive and prolonged phases of expansion and upgrading.

The end of WW2 ushered in a new era for private schools as the long tradition of privately-owned facilities became outmoded. In 1946, Glamorgan Preparatory School in Toorak ceased upon the retirement of Isabel McComas, its headmistress for sixty years, and the property became a campus of Geelong Grammar School. Lauriston Girls' School in Malvern, run by the no less indomitable Miss Kirkhope for three decades, was one of the last privately-owned non-denominational schools in Melbourne when, in 1948, ownership passed to a non-profit limited guarantee company, and plans for physical expansion were mooted. The long-running Malvern Grammar School, having already been re-constituted in the 1920s as Malvern Church of England Grammar School, was rebranded again in 1948, becoming Malvern Memorial Grammar School. However, it was the Korowa Anglican Girls' School in Glen Iris that was one of the first local private schools to actually complete a new building after WW2: a middle school classroom block, officially opened in February 1949.

With rising post-war enrolments, many private schools soon felt constrained by their pre-war locations. In 1948, the junior school at St Catherine's Girls School in Toorak transferred to another site further along Heyington Place and, the following year, De La Salle College in Malvern contemplated re-establishing itself on a new site in Ashwood. From the early 1950s, both schools embarked upon programmes to extend their campuses by purchasing nearby properties. With this era coinciding with the belated withdrawal of wartime building restrictions, private schools could finally embark upon long-delayed plans for expansion. Early examples included the Malvern Memorial Grammar School in Willoby Street, which replaced its old timber gymnasium with a new architect-designed counterpart in 1954, St Catherine's in Heyington Place, which built a new assembly hall in 1956 (*Fig 8.10*), and Glamorgan Preparatory School, which extended its Victorian-era premises in 1958 with a new two-storey classroom wing (*Fig 8.11*).

31 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 70.



Figure 8.10:
Assembly Hall,
St Catherine's School
17 Heyington Place, Toorak
(Mockridge, Stahle & Mitchell, 1956)
Source: Item H91.244/3725,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 8.11:
New classroom wing,
Glamorgan Preparatory School
14 Douglas Street, Toorak
(Buchan, Laird & Buchan, 1958)
Source: Item H91.244/837,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 8.12:
Senior School, St Kevin's College
31 Moonga Road, Toorak
(Seabrook, Hunt & Dale, 1959-60),
Source: Item H2001.40/122,
State Library of Victoria.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)

The first private school in the study area to develop an entirely new campus was St Kevin's College in Toorak. After moving from East Melbourne in 1932, the school acquired a large house on Orrong Road and vacant riverside land in Heyington. The latter served as playing fields until the late 1950s, when the 14-acre site was developed with a multi-storey senior school block (*Fig 8.12*), opened in February 1960. The rest of the decade saw many other large private schools, including Lauriston, De La Salle, Korowa and Loreto (Mandeville Hall), expand facilities with new purpose-built classroom blocks, sports pavilions, assembly halls and chapels. This boom of private school expansion was characterised by the involvement of some leading architects of the day, often retained for repeat commissions over a number of years. Among these firms were Buchan Laird & Buchan (Glamorgan), Mockridge, Stahle & Mitchell (St Catherine's), Seabrook, Hunt & Dale (St Kevin's), Bogle & Banfield (Korowa) and Daryl Jackson Evan Walker (Lauriston).

Not all local private schools saw such lavish expansion. Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School, long established west of Punt Road, made a modest foray east into the study area with *Morris Hall*, a two-storey boarders' annexe at 100 Caroline Street (1965).[32] During that decade, Presentation College in Windsor phased out its primary classes to become solely secondary, with a government grant allowing the addition of a new library and biology room in 1970.[33] Subsequently, larger private schools such as Korowa, Lauriston and De La Salle all continued to grow. In 1972, St Kevin's College developed a new junior school on Lansell Road, prompting sale of its original site on Orrong Road, while the Heyington campus increased with a middle school building (1982), pavilion (1990) and an administration, arts and library wing (1996-97).

The late twentieth century brought two new private schools to the study area, both affiliated with the Jewish community (see **2.6.2**). In 1977, members of the Temple Beth Israel, the Liberal Jewish synagogue in St Kilda, founded the King David School, which opened with the following school year from premises at 177 Kooyong Road, Armadale. Yavneh College, an Orthodox Zionist school founded in Caulfield in 1962, began developing a new purpose-built secondary campus in Mercer Road, Armadale, opened by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, in June 1979. Both schools continued to grow: the King David School established a second campus in Orrong Road in 1984, while Yavneh College soon outgrew its Armadale site and, with little scope for expansion, relocated in 1989 to larger premises in Elsternwick.

Examples

St Kevin's College, 31 Moonga Road, Toorak (Seabrook, Hunt & Dale, 1959-60)

Korowa Anglican Girls' School, 10-16 Ranfurlie Crescent, Glen Iris (Bogle & Banfield, 1964)
– *HO351 (Dorrington Estate Precinct)*

Lauriston Girls' School, 38 Huntingtower Road, Armadale (Daryl Jackson Evan Walker, 1967-68)

8.2.4 Developing tertiary education after 1945 **[2006: 9.5.3]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The Technical School that originated in the Mechanics' Institute building [in 1870] was also part of the evolution of higher technical education in the study area, following the introduction of TAFE and the expansion of the tertiary sector in the 1970s and 80s. The Prahran College of Technology specialised in art and design, but broadened to a more general curriculum. After a complicated process of re-namings, amalgamations and splits, various functions were taken over by other institutions and universities, and the old college site became the Prahran campus of the Swinburne University of Technology.*
>
> *At the other end of the study area, Stonington has also played a role in the development of Victoria's tertiary education system... From 1957 to 1973 the property was the Toorak Teachers College, which had been founded in Glenbervie (11 Glenbervie Road) in 1951. It was one of the new primary teacher training colleges set up to address the teacher shortage during the 'baby boom'. The Toorak Teachers College became the State College of Victoria - Toorak Campus, then the Toorak Campus of Victoria College, one of the new Colleges of Advanced Education in 1973. Following the elevation of Victoria College to university status in 1992, Stonington became a campus of Deakin University.*[34]

32 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 244.
33 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), pp 236, 237.
34 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 170, 172.



Figure 8.13:
New buildings,
Toorak Teachers College
336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern
(Yuncken Freeman, 1967)
Source: Item 2018011501239,
Yuncken Freeman Collection,
University of Melbourne Archives
(photographer uncredited)

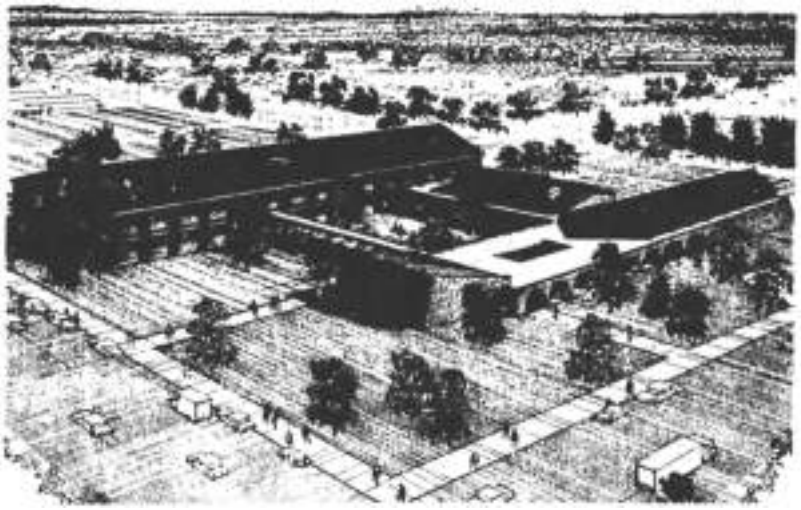


Figure 8.14:
Perspective sketch of Christ College,
17 Castlebar Road, Malvern East
(formerly Chadstone)
(Civil & Civic Pty Ltd, 1967-68)
Source: Age, 2 March 1968, p 21.



Figure 8.15:
Building A (1967)
Prahran College of Technology
128-160 High Street, Prahran
Source: Item H91.244/5311
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)

Emergence of Toorak Teachers' College in the immediate post-war era, based in Glenbervie Road from 1951 and then *Stonington* from 1957 (*Fig 8.13*), provided early evidence of a recurring theme of teacher training in the study area. The Education Department had begun acquiring large houses in the City of Prahran for such purposes in 1949, when *Noorilim* at 373 Dandenong Road was became *Frank Tate House*, a hostel for trainee teachers.[35] In the early 1950s, *Larnook* at 519 Orrong Road became Larnook Domestic Arts Teachers' College, which expanded over the road into a second house, *Sebrof* at No 514, where a separate hostel was built.[36]

In 1957, a large house at 174 Punt Road was converted to a hostel for male student teachers, which was soon enlarged to double its capacity. By the early 1960s, facilities on Orrong Road increased when No 520 became the Minimbah Hostel for high school teachers. In 1967, the year that major additions were made to the Toorak Teachers' College, a counterpart for Roman Catholic teachers, known as Christ College, began from makeshift premises in the grounds of Kildara College at Malvern, transferring in 1968 to a new purpose-built complex (*Fig 8.14*) in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East). By the early 1970s, nearby Chadstone Park Primary School was being used as a training school for students from the Burwood Teachers' College.[37]

Transformation of the Prahran Technical Art School into a post-war tertiary institution unfolded gradually as new courses were introduced after WW2, such as furniture making (1953) and secretarial studies (1955). This era saw junior female students move into the new Girls' Technical School in Hornby Street (see **8.2.2**), while the original site on High Street expanded with two new trade blocks (1961, 1963), then the six-storey Building A (1967) (*Fig 8.15*), anticipating its rebranding as Prahran College of Technology. With a focus now entirely on tertiary studies, the school's junior male students joined the females at Hornby Street in 1972.

Tertiary colleges across the study area underwent further name changes as state education reforms brought restructure and consolidation. Formed in 1973, the State College of Victoria (SCV) united Toorak Teachers' College with others at Frankston, Geelong and Clayton. Clayton merged with Larnook in Armadale to form Rusden College, with the Orrong Road site becoming Larnook School of Home Economics. Prahran College of Technology became Prahran College of Advanced Education (CAE), while Christ College in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East) also became associated to the SCV via affiliation with the Institute of Catholic Education.

In 1981, Prahran CAE and the SCV colleges at Toorak, Burwood and Rusden (Clayton and Armadale) were united to form Victoria College, but with trade courses at Prahran continuing under the new auspices of Prahran College of TAFE. The next year, a second TAFE College emerged in the study area at Holmesglen, in the former HCV Concrete House Factory on Warrigal Road (see **5.2.1**). While Holmesglen TAFE was still known by that name at the end of the twentieth century, its Prahran counterpart merged its two parallel streams in 1992 to become the Prahran campus of the Swinburne University of Technology, coinciding with the former Toorak Teachers' College becoming a campus of Deakin University.

The late twentieth century otherwise brought the closure of several local tertiary education facilities. The Larnook School of Home Economics had ceased by the mid-1980s, when its properties on opposite sides of Orrong Road were sold. Two long-running Christian theological colleges also departed the study area. The Melbourne Bible Institute, founded in Prahran in 1920 but operating from 117 Kooyong Road, Armadale, from the 1940s, relocated to Lilydale in 1977.[38] The College of the Bible, headquartered in Glen Iris since 1910, moved to Mulgrave in 1989. In 1991, the Roman Catholic counterpart, Christ College in Malvern East (formerly Chadstone), became a campus of the Australian Catholic University, which continued until 2000. By then, the student hostels operated by the Education Department had ceased operation (with *Frank Tate House*, on Dandenong Road, sold to Monash University in 1991), except for *Minimbah* at 520 Orrong Road.

Examples:

Minimbah Teachers' Hostel (former), 520 Orrong Road, Armadale (c.1963)

Christ College, 17 Castlebar Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (Civil & Civic, 1967-68) – *demolished*

Building H, Prahran CAE (former), 25-35 St John Street, Windsor (1978)

35 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 42
36 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Six* (2003), p 38; Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 37.
37 L J Blake (ed), *Vision & Realisation* (1973), vol 3, p 481.
38 Jill McDougall, *Church, Community & Change: Religion in Prahran, 1836-1984* (1985), pp 19-20.

8.2.5 *Developing Kindergartens after 1945*

Various kindergartens emerged in the study area in the inter-war era, encapsulating those associated with churches, others formed by residents' groups or private individuals, and the relatively few council-owned facilities. One of the first new kindergartens to emerge after WW2 was typical: the Alma Play Centre, which opened in December 1945 in rented space in the Methodist Church Hall in Alma Street, in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East), before moving, the next year, into an ex-army hut relocated to the nearby corner of Bowen and Fenwick Streets. A more unusual initiative in the City of Prahran was the Municipal Day Nursery, formed in 1947 when the Council took over an existing service founded three decades earlier by the Prahran, South Yarra & Toorak Creche Society, operating from a building at 17 Princes Close.[39] By then, the City of Prahran had two purpose-built pre-war kindergartens at South Yarra (Cliff Street) and Windsor (Earl Street) before tenders were called in August 1951 for a third, which opened in Canterbury Road, Toorak (*Fig 8.16*), beside the Brookville Gardens, in August 1952.[40] At that time, a counterpart in the City of Malvern was already nearing completion at 15 Orchard Street, Armadale. Known as the Malvern Memorial Free Kindergarten, it opened in February 1953. These virtually contemporaneous facilities were the first two new pre-school centres to be built in the study area after WW2.

In 1955, community directories for the respective municipalities listed five pre-schools in the City of Prahran and eight in the City of Malvern, but only the two cited above occupied new premises.[41] The next decade saw a boom of purpose-built kindergartens that began with new homes for the Alma Play Centre in Fenwick Street, Chadstone (now Malvern East) (1957) and Sunnyside Kindergarten in Cooinda Place, Malvern East (1958) (*Fig 8.17*), which had occupied a Methodist church hall. An onsite pre-school was provided at the new Chadstone Shopping Centre (1960), while another, known as the John Mackenzie Kindergarten, was integrated into the new parish centre at Toorak Presbyterian Church (1961). In Prahran, the Horace Pretty Estate Kindergarten (c.1967) formed part of the new high-rise HCV development on Malvern Road. In 1971, the foundation stone was laid for a standalone annexe for the City of Prahran's Day Nursery, at 33 Izett Street (*Fig 8.18*), which opened the next year. Subsequently, Windsor-based architect Neil Clerehan was engaged to design two new kindergartens, in Earl Street, Windsor and Fulton Street, Armadale (both 1973).[42]

Co-operative pre-school facilities emerged in the later 1970s, such as the Wattletree Child Care Co-operative at 256 Wattletree Road, Malvern (1976) and the Prahran College Community Child Care Cooperative (1979), which sprung from an earlier initiative to provide child care for students of the Prahran CAE. From 1986, it occupied space at 47 Green Street, adjacent to the campus, before relocating in 1997 to a purpose-built centre at 131 Union Street, Windsor. By 1990, directory listings recorded seventeen pre-school centres across the study area: four each in South Yarra and Malvern East, three in Toorak, two each in Armadale and Malvern, and one each in Prahran and the suburb then still known as Chadstone (now part of Malvern East).

Examples:

Sunnyside Kindergarten, 5 Cooinda Place, Malvern East (1958) – *HO358 (Villiers-Bretonneux Precinct)*

John Mackenzie Kindergarten, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak (1961) – *part HO110*

City of Prahran Day Nursery (Rotary Wing) (former), 33 Izett Street, Prahran (1971-72) – *demolished*

Hornbrook Children's Centre, 47 Earl Street, Windsor (Neil Clerehan, 1973)

8.2.6 *Participating in self-improvement: local libraries after 1945*

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The Toorak and South Yarra Library, built in 1973, was designed by leading modernist architects Yuncken Freeman... The Toorak and South Yarra library was opened in a ceremony led by Mayor of Prahran, Councillor Bill Dane, on the 19th August 1973.*[43]

39 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), pp 191-92.
40 *City of Prahran: One Hundred Years. The Past, the Present and the Future, 1855-1955* (1955), unpaginated.
41 *Ruskin All-About: Prahran* (1955), pp 35, 36; *Ruskin All-About: Malvern* (1955), p 26.
42 Harriet Edquist and Richard Black, *The Architecture of Neil Clerehan* (2005), p 161.
43 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Update 1* (2009), p 8.



Figure 8.16:
Brookville Free Kindergaren
53 Canterbury Road, Toorak,
photographed on the day of official opening, 26 August 1952.
Source: Item PH22771
Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.17:
Sunnyside Kindergarten
5 Cooinda Place, Malvern East
(Stewart Handasyde, 1958)
Source: Architecture & Arts, November 1959, p 86.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.18:
City of Prahran Day Nursery
(Rotary Club Wing)
33 Izett Street, Prahran (1971-72)
Source: Sally Wilde,
The History of Prahran (1994), p 198
(photographer uncredited)

At the end of WW2, the Cities of Prahran and Malvern each operated a library service in space set aside for the purpose when their respective town halls were built in 1860 and 1884. Prahran's library thrived into the twentieth century: when a dedicated children's library was established there in 1918, it was the first of its kind in Victoria. As its popularity burgeoned grew, it relocated from the Town Hall to the Courthouse just around the corner and thence, in 1944, to larger premises in a double shopfront at 177-179 Greville Street. By contrast, the City of Malvern's library service proved less successful, where, as Strahan put it "the city fathers had been lukewarm about bookishness", and criticism of the library's outmoded holdings resonated into the 1940s.[44] True to form, the first post-war improvement to Malvern's library service was not initiated by the Council itself but rather by the local branch of the Liberal Party, whose women's section mooted a children's library "to plug the notorious gap left by a gap left by Council's apathy in bookish matters".[45] Accommodated within the Liberal Party's branch rooms at 227 Glenferrie Road, the new Malvern Children's Library opened in 1949 and proved a great success, serving 3,000 children by the early 1950s.

In the City of Prahran, improvements unfolded during the tenure of Edna Hayes, who was Chief Librarian from 1952 to 1975.[46] Creation of branch libraries was an early priority: the first opened on High Street, Armadale (1951), followed by one in the former Village Theatre on Toorak Road (1961), then a third in the old South Yarra Post Office (1967).[47] Despite its sluggish start in such matters, the City of Malvern secured the first purpose-built municipal library in the study area. Opened in 1957 at 1255 High Street, the modern building (*Fig 8.19*) was designed by Stewart Handasyde, who was the Council's regular architect at that time. He went on to design additions to the building in 1962 and, the following year, the new branch library at Bowen Street, Chadstone (now Malvern East) (*Fig 8.20*). At the same time, the City of Prahran engaged its own architects, Leslie Perrott & Partners, to design the first purpose-built library in that municipality: the new Armadale branch, at the corner of Orrong and Fulton Roads (*Fig 8.21*), which opened in 1963.

The later 1960s saw increased pressure on library services in the City of Prahran. After fire damage to the Village Theatre in 1961, the Toorak branch had moved to a nearby shopfront, which was hardly adequate. With the shop occupied on a short-term lease, and the South Yarra branch threatened by road development, the Council opted to consolidate both branches in a purpose-built facility. In August 1972, the foundation stone was laid for a modern building at the corner of Toorak and Cromwell Roads, designed by Yuncken Freeman. Officially opened a year later, it was known as the Toorak/South Yarra Library.[48]

At the time that the City of Stonnington was established in 1994, all four of these post-war purpose-built libraries (two each in the former Cities of Prahran and Malvern) still remained in operation.

Examples:

Armadale Branch Library (former), 578 Orrong Road, Armadale (Leslie Perrott & Partners, 1963)

Chadstone Branch (R G Moss) Library (former), 80 Bowen Street, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (Stewart Handasyde, 1963-64) – *demolished*

Toorak/South Yarra Library, 338-344 Toorak Road, South Yarra (Yuncken Freeman, 1972-73) – *HO174*

8.3 Providing health and welfare services

8.3.1 Providing public and private health care after 1945 **[2006: 10.4.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *Although there are no public hospitals in the study area, the Alfred Hospital [established 1871] is just outside its borders, on land donated by Prahran Council. The land was not in the original subdivision plan, but was later ceded to the Prahran municipality for recreation purposes. The Alfred Hospital has cared for and employed many residents of the study area.*[49]

44 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 92.
45 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 207.
46 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 214.
47 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 215.
48 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 216.
49 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 194.



Figure 8.19:
Malvern City Library
1255 High Street, Malvern
(Stewart Handasyde, 1957)
Source: Item MP5492
Stonnington History Centre
(photograph by Kitter Jepperson)



Figure 8.20:
R G Moss Library
80 Bowen Street, Chadstone
(now Malvern East)
(Stewart Handasyde, 1963-64)
Source: Item MP5549
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.21:
Armadale Branch Library
578 Orrong Road, Armadale
(Leslie Perrott & Partners, 1963)
Source: Item H91.244/5311
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)

The pre-war tradition of resident doctors and small-scale private hospitals continued into the post-war era. Respective 1955 editions of the *Ruskin All-About* guide listed 13 medical practices in the City of Prahran and 21 in the City of Malvern.[50] These typically occupied pre-war houses or rooms above shops in retail strips, with purpose-built clinics seemingly unrepresented. Among the first of these in the study area were those at 87 Chatsworth Road, Prahran (1959) (*Fig 8.22*) and at the Chadstone Shopping Centre (1960). Local medical practices would occupy adapted dwellings for many years, but the custom of doctors practicing out of their own homes gradually declined. Betty Malone cited a late survivor in Dr George Lillies of Armadale, still practicing in the 1960s from his large Victorian house at 878 High Street.[51] Nicknamed "the old doctor", he carried on a practice that his father had taken over from another doctor in the 1880s. Dr Lillies' death in 1965 thus marked the end of an era for a local doctor's residence-cum-clinic over eighty years.

Small private hospitals in the pre-war vein, often also based in former dwellings, thrived after WW2. In 1955, community directories for the respective municipalities listed five such facilities in the City of Prahran and six in the City of Malvern.[52] One of the latter, destined for a weightier post-war presence, was St Benedict's Hospital in Coonil Crescent, Malvern. Founded in 1920 by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital was taken over in 1947 by the Cabrini Sisters. Intending to update the ageing facilities, a major fundraising scheme was launched to develop a multi-storey hospital block on the site. Designed by Stephenson & Turner, the new St Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital (*Fig 8.23*) was officially opened in May 1958. In the early 1970s, the same architects designed the Cabrini Medical Centre, a separate two-storey block on Wattletree Road, one of the first of its type in the study area. Other purpose-built private hospitals appeared in the 1960s and '70s, such as the Evancourt Hospital (1963), a 36-bed facility on Dandenong Road, Malvern East, and The Avenue Private Hospital, a multi-storey block in Windsor (1974). This era saw many older pre-war private hospitals upgraded or rebuilt, such as Malvern Private Hospital in Wilton Vale Crescent, which expanded in 1972-73 to become a modern 42-bed facility, complete with a purpose-built matron's house.

While the study area never had a public hospital proper, some government medical facilities emerged in the early post-war era. The Commonwealth Department of Social Services opened Coonac Rehabilitation Centre in 1948, in the mansion of that name at 65 Clendon Road, Toorak, which operated into the 1990s. In 1951, as a response to the tuberculosis threat, the Department of Health established the Prahran Chest Clinic, initially housed in the Council's pre-war health centre in Little Chapel Street before moving to a Chapel Street shopfront in 1964, then, at the end of the decade, to the new municipal health centre at 240 Malvern Road.

During the 1970s, a new era of private medical clinics was demonstrated by such examples as 290 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (c.1975) and 139 Surrey Road North, South Yarra (1977). From the 1980s, as elective cosmetic surgery and other aesthetic procedures gained popularity, the study area attracted specialist clinics. One of the first, Dr Bryan Mendelson, opened a cosmetic surgery practice in 1986 in a new office block at 109 Mathoura Road, remaining there for four decades. In 1988, dermatologist Dr Daniel Lanzer commenced practice at 872 High Street, Armadale, expanding to provide cosmetic, laser and liposuction surgery. In 1993, a facility known as the Victorian Paramedical Skin & Body Centre opened at 14 Toorak Road, South Yarra, promoted as one of Australia's first centres for pre- and post-operative care of cosmetic surgery patients. The later 1990s saw Dr Greg Goodman transfer his St Kilda Road practice to the Trak Centre in Toorak Road, Dr Simon Rosenbaum open his "Image Centre" at 5 Avoca Street, South Yarra, and Dr Douglas McManamny launch his Aesthetic Surgery & Laser Centre from a converted house in Malvern East, before relocating to a palatial architect-designed clinic at 1810 Malvern Road (*Fig 8.24*).

Examples:

St Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital, 181-183 Wattletree Road, Malvern (Stephenson & Turner, 1958)

Medical clinic, 87 Chatsworth Road, Prahran (1959) – *demolished*

City of Prahran Municipal Health Centre (former), 240 Malvern Road, Prahran (c.1970) – *demolished*

Medical clinic, 290 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (c.1975) – *demolished*

Aesthetic Surgery & Laser Centre, 1810 Malvern Road, Malvern East (c.1997) – *demolished*

50 *Ruskin All-About: Prahran* (1955), pp 33, 34, 35; *Ruskin All-About: Malvern* (1955), p 26.
51 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Eight* (2005), p 52.
52 *Ruskin All-About: Prahran* (1955), p 32; *Ruskin All-About: Malvern* (1955), p 25.



Figure 8.22:
Medical clinic (1959)
87 Chatsworth Road, Prahran
Source: Item H91.244/5377
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 8.23:
St Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital
181-183 Wattletree Road, Malvern
(Stephenson & Turner, 1958)
Source: Foundations,
June 1961, p 44
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.24:
Aesthetic Surgery & Laser Centre
1810 Malvern Road, Malvern East
(c.1997)
Source: Australian Jewish News,
26 October 2007, p 14.
(photographer uncredited)

8.3.2 Developing infant welfare centres after 1945

The Cities of Prahran and Malvern each embraced the infant welfare movement during the inter-war era, respectively erecting centres at 240 Malvern Road, Prahran (1923), and 6 Barkly Avenue, Malvern (1928). However, it was only after WW2, with the onset of the mid-century baby boom, that new facilities would burgeon across the study area. The first post-war centres, dating from c.1952, were built at 55 Canterbury Road, Toorak (City of Prahran) and 61 Nirvana Avenue, Malvern (City of Malvern). The next few years saw the City of Malvern build two more centres at 22 McArthur Street, Malvern, and 6 Fenwick Street, Chadstone (now Malvern East), opened respectively in February 1954 and June 1957. The City of Prahran, which ran a branch facility in a converted house on Orrong Road, Armadale, replaced this with new purpose-built premises around the corner, at 4 Fulton Street (1954).

In May 1962, the City of Malvern called tenders for a new infant welfare centre at 7 Winter Street (*Fig 8.25*), intended as a replacement for the pre-war facility on Barkly Avenue (subsequently demolished for a carpark behind the Glenferrie Road shops).[53] In 1968, the City of Prahran built its fourth and last post-war centre, in Bowling Green Street, Windsor. By then, the City of Malvern had five centres including the one based since 1921 in a former fire station on Dandenong Road. This seems to have closed in the early 1970s, coinciding with another infant welfare centre in a converted house at 116 Burke Road. With the creation of the City of Stonnington in 1994, infant welfare services were consolidated across the new municipality, with those in Nirvana Avenue, Malvern, and Bowling Green Street, Windsor, both sold in 1995.[54] The former was demolished and the latter was remodelled as a private office block.

Examples:

Infant welfare centre, 61 Nirvana Avenue, Malvern (c.1951) – *demolished c.1996*

Infant welfare centre, 6 Fenwick Street, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1957) – *demolished*

Infant welfare centre (former), 150 Union Street, Windsor (1968) – *now an office building*

8.3.3 Helping others – missions, charity work and welfare after 1945 **[2006: 10.3.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *In 1887 the Toorak and South Yarra Try Boys' Society built its own hall on land in Surrey Road donated by Mrs Margaret Hobson. A similar club for girls was started in 1895. After the Try Society broadened its interests and moved elsewhere its building was used as a gymnasium until its demolition in 1995.*
>
> *In 1885, the Swinborn family opened a refuge and training centre for women, mainly ex-prisoners and alcoholics. The centre, called the Elizabeth Fry Retreat after the English Quaker social reformer, was in Argo Street, South Yarra. It was run by the Swinborns until after WW2, when it was taken over by the Melbourne City Mission. It closed in the 1970s and the site is now the Argo Reserve.*
>
> *As social attitudes changed and single mothers were no longer ostracised by society but supported with government benefits introduced in the 1970s, the Methodist Babies Home [founded in South Yarra in 1929] changed its function and its name. As Copelen Family Services, run by the Uniting Church, the emphasis was on supporting families in caring for their own children, by providing temporary care in nurseries. Eventually it was decided to consolidate Uniting Church family services and locate them elsewhere. In the early 1990s the Copelen Street site was sold for residential development.*
>
> *The Prahran Methodist Mission was formed in 1946 when the Prahran Methodist Church sold off its property and bought the former Holt's Chambers, a commercial building in the heart of the Chapel Street shopping centre. The building became the Mission's worship centre, and also the centre of a huge network of services to the needy. Services included clubs for women and children, craft centres, day nurseries, chiropody and dental services, firewood for the elderly, a cafeteria providing cheap meals for anyone and free meals for the destitute and homeless, an opportunity shop, rehabilitation for alcoholics and drug addicts and support for other people marginalised by society. The Mission became part of the Uniting Church in 1977.*[55]

53 "Tenders", *Age*, 30 May 1962, p 34.
54 See real estate listings, *Age*, 12 August 1995, p 42, 25 November 1995, p B25.
55 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), pp 186, 188-90.

The Try Boys' Society, Elizabeth Fry Retreat and Methodist Babies' Home were all typical of the charitable institutions in the study area that emerged in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century but, as needs and attitudes changed over time, revised their remits after WW2. In 1950, the Try Boys Society initiated a hostel for homeless boys in a renovated house next to its Surrey Road headquarters. Initially housing only eight boys, the hostel was replaced in 1963 by *Foster Lodge*, a larger purpose-built facility at nearby 53 Cromwell Road. The Melbourne City Mission, which took over the Elizabeth Fry Retreat in 1943, "changed both the name and the policy in 1957, and transformed it into a hostel, bright, attractive and comfortable, for troubled girls from the courts".[56] Renamed *Swinborn Lodge*, the old building at 83 Argo Street was fully renovated, with the large laundry areas ("where girls were once compelled to work under drab conditions") converted into individual bedrooms. The Methodist Babies' Home in South Yarra expanded its facilities after WW2, adding a play centre in the 1950s, a toddler's cottage and new commercial kitchen fitout in the 1960s, and a day care centre in the early 1970s, after its rebranding as the Copelen Street Family Centre.

The early post-war era saw new welfare facilities emerge in the City of Malvern affiliated with organisations based elsewhere. In 1946, a convalescent home for WW2 servicewomen, initially known as the Kooringa Red Cross Home (later the Lady Dugan Red Cross Home) began operation in a house at 1 Hamilton Road, Malvern. The Darling Babies' Home, established in the 1920s as an offshoot of a long-running children's home in Brighton, occupied *Yarraryne*, a large house on the corner of Malvern Road and Cairnes Crescent. While funding for upgrading the premises was secured before WW2, the scheme stalled due to wartime building restrictions and other issues, and it was not until 1952 that the first stage of the rebuilding project was completed.[57] The second final stage, commenced soon after, was officially opened by Sir Dallas Brooks in May 1954. Around that same time, *Myra House*, an existing girls' home in Kew, operated since 1945 by a Roman Catholic lay organisation, the Legion of Mary, relocated to a house at 66 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Formed in 1946, the Prahran Methodist Mission (*Fig 8.26*) was one of few such facilities to develop entirely in the post-war era and, moreover, survive into the twenty-first century. Such was the increasing demand for its services that the mission's kitchen, which provided low-cost meals, was upgraded and extended in the late 1960s.[58] Upon creation of the Uniting Church in Australia, the three-storey premises at 211 Chapel Street were rebranded as the Uniting Church Prahran Mission. Another new charitable group to establish itself in the study area after WW2 was the War Widows Guild. In 1955, ten years after it was founded, the organisation bought an 18-roomed Victorian mansion in Caroline Street, South Yarra, for its headquarters. The building was refurbished to become Caroline House, with meeting rooms, workrooms, a small museum and, on the upper floor, five residential flats for war widows.[59] The guild remained there until 1967, when the property was sold and the funds used to develop purpose-built accommodation elsewhere.[60]

During the 1960s, as welfare organisations began to depart from the pre-war pattern of institutionalisation, a number of family group homes were established in the study area, invariably in existing houses. After the Presbyterian Church's Kildonan Home in Burwood closed in 1960, a number of suburban group homes were initiated as a replacement, including one at 141 Finch Street, Glen Iris. Others to follow in the Malvern area included those at 8 Coonil Crescent and 9 Ailsa Avenue, both opened in 1967, respectively by St Vincent de Paul and the Orana Home. This trend was still apparent into the early 1980s, when the Berry Street Babies' Home (based in East Melbourne) opened a family group home at 51 Highbury Grove, Prahran.

Notwithstanding these family group homes, the late twentieth century was more strongly characterised by cessation of long-running welfare facilities. This was locally apparent from the late 1960s, with closure of the Darling Babies' Home (1967) and *Myra House* (c.1970), both in Malvern, then *Swinborn Lodge* (1974) in South Yarra. In 1970, the Lady Dugan Red Cross Home, also in Malvern, was taken over by the state government and re-opened as the Lady Dugan Children's Home, which closed only six years later. Discontinuation of these facilities escalated in the late 1970s, '80s and '90s, with local casualties such as Copelen Family Services, the Try Society, and several family group homes. Some defunct sites found other uses, with the Try Society building in Surrey Road adapted as a gymnasium (see **9.1.2**), but most were demolished for new residential development, including the Lady Dugan Children's Home, Copelen Family Services and *Foster Lodge*.

56 "Further expansion of City Mission", *Age*, 22 October 1965, p 16.
57 "Babies' home wing opened", *Argus*, 6 October 1972, p 4.
58 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 196.
59 "Old house, new heart", *Argus*, 31 August 1956, p 9.
60 "Caroline House to sell", *Age*, 10 April 1967, p 11.

Examples:

Prahran Methodist Mission (former), 209-215 Chapel Street, Prahran (1946) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Darling Babies' Home (former), 2005 Malvern Road, Malvern East (1954) – *demolished*

War Widows Guild Home & Offices (*Caroline House*) (former), 74 Caroline Street, South Yarra (1955) – *HO355 (Caroline Street Precinct)*

Try Society Boys' Hostel (*Foster Lodge*) (former), 53 Cromwell Street, South Yarra (1963) – *demolished*

8.3.4 Providing facilities for the disabled after 1945 **[2006: 10.3.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *Both the Victorian School for the Deaf and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind had their origins in the study area…*[61]

Provision of facilities for disabled people, pioneered by the Victorian School for the Deaf (1860) and Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (1866), continued into the twentieth century and well after WW2. One of the first such facilities to emerge in the post-war era, founded in 1949 by a newly-formed body then known as the Spastic Children's Society of Victoria (now Scope Australia), was the Marathon Centre in Toorak, a so-called "special school" named after the grand house that it occupied at 795 Malvern Road. Seven years later, the society opened a hostel in Armadale for children with cerebral palsy. Known as the Huntingtower Day Centre, it occupied a large house at 2 Huntingtower Road that was adapted for the purpose by architect Marcus Martin. From the early 1960s, the centre expanded by acquisition of nearby houses at 189 Wattletree Road (adapted as the first of several group homes) and 6 Huntingtower Road (for staff accommodation). In 1975, fundraising commenced for the construction of an indoor swimming pool on the property.

In parallel, facilities for the blind burgeoned in the City of Malvern. The Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School, founded by local resident Phyllis Gration, opened at Wonga Park in April 1960 before relocating, later that year, to Gration's private residence, a large Victorian-era villa at 49 Thanet Street, Malvern (*Fig 8.27*). A few years later, it transferred to a larger property on the opposite side of the street, at No 12-16. This period also saw expansion of property in Glenferrie Road, along Gardiners Creek, which was purchased in 1927 by the Association for Advancement of the Blind as playing fields for blind cricket (a sport pioneered in Prahran five years earlier). In November 1965, tenders were called for a new recreational centre designed by architect Oakley & Parkes.[62] Opened the following year, it was initially known as the Blind Citizens' Community Centre but was renamed the H M Lightfoot Centre in 1978. The foundation stone for a new building, known as the Vision Resource Centre, was laid by the then premier, John Cain, in October 1987.

As Alleyn Best has pointed out, proliferation of such facilities in the eastern half of the study area reflected a statistic that the City of Malvern had one of the highest per capita percentages of disabled people.[63] Nevertheless, the late twentieth century brought changes to these local institutions across the whole study area. In 1979, the Spastic Children's Society of Victoria closed the Marathon Centre in Toorak, followed in 1991 by the Dame Mary Herring Hostel (as it was then known) in Armadale. At the end of the decade, the Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School (by then known as Seeing Eye Dogs Australia) and the H M Lightfoot Centre (by then under the auspices of Vision Australia) still remained in operation.

Examples:

Marathon Centre, 795 Malvern Road, Toorak (1949) – *demolished*

Huntingtower Day Centre, 2 Huntingtower Road, Malvern (1956) – *demolished*

Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School I, 49 Thanet Street, Malvern (c.1960) – *house relocated outside study area*

Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School II, 12-16 Thanet Street, Malvern (c.1965) – *demolished*

Blind Citizens' Community Centre (former), 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong (Oakley & Parkes, 1965-66)

61 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 189.
62 "Tenders", *Age*, 23 November 1965, p 20.
63 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 72.



Figure 8.25:
Infant Welfare Centre
7 Winter Street, Malvern (1962)
Source: Item MP13485
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.26:
Methodist Goodwill Centre
(Prahran Methodist Mission)
211 Chapel Street, Prahran,
photogprahed in the 1970s
Source: Jill McDougall,
Church, Community & Change
(1985), p 27.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 8.27:
Phyllis Gration's former home,
49 Thanet Street, Malvern,
which accommodated the
Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School in
the early 1960s, prior to moving
over the road to No 12-16.
Source: Item MP6979,
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

8.4 Forming community organisations

8.4.1 Forming associations for mutual aid and self-help after 1945

One of the first new community organisations to appear in the study area after WW2 was a Prahran branch of the Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce), formed in 1954.[64] The Rotary Club emerged locally the next year, again in Prahran branch, followed by branches at Toorak (1957), Malvern (1959) and what was then known as Chadstone (now Malvern East) (1975).[65] None of these had purpose-built clubrooms, but held meetings and events in existing premises such as the pre-war kiosk in Central Park, home of Malvern Rotarians until the building was razed in 1973. Seven years later, a memorial sundial was unveiled in the park to mark the 75th anniversary of Rotary International.

Such organisations have had an impact not only on the community but also on the physical environment. In 1971, Prahran Rotarians donated $5,000 for a new building in Izett Street as an annexe for the council-owned child care centre, acknowledged by naming it the Rotary Wing of the Prahran City Council Day Nursery.[66] Malvern Rotarians helped to build a scout hall for the Third Malvern troop (1965) and also raised funds for additions to the Dame Mary Herring Centre (1975) and the rebuilding of the McArthur Street Children's Day Centre (1990).[67] Following the death of former Mayor of Malvern and respected Rotarian George Pepperell in October 1991, the local branch erected a memorial gazebo in the T H King Oval at Glen Iris.

Other community organisations known to have been active in the study area in the later twentieth century include branches of the Apex Club in Prahran and Malvern, and a branch of the Lions Club at what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East). Masonic lodges also thrived locally after WW2, continuing to operate from established pre-war premises. One of the local Masonic Halls, at 1127 High Street, Armadale, was subject to an architect-designed upgrade in the late 1960s, with a new front wing creating a boldly modernist street frontage (*Fig 8.28*). However, this did little to bolster membership and the property was sold in 1973.

Examples:

Malvern Masonic Hall, 1127 High Street, Armadale (Chancellor & Patrick, 1967-68) – *demolished*

City of Prahran Day Nursery (Rotary Wing) (former), 33 Izett Street, Prahran (1971-72) – *demolished*

Rotary Memorial Sundial, Central Park, 148 Burke Road, Malvern (1980) – *HO133 (Gascoigne Estate Precinct)*

8.4.2 Forming and expanding women's organisations after 1945

A number of existing women's organisations, well established prior to WW2, became more notably active in the study area in the post-war period. Chief among these were two women's groups associated with the Jewish community (see **2.6.2**). The Victorian chapters of the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW) and the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), respectively founded in 1927 and 1935, drew many members from South Yarra, Toorak and Prahran as well as the adjoining suburbs of Caulfield and St Kilda East in what is now the City of Glen Eira. In the early post-war years, the south-western corner of the study area became an important focus for activities of both groups. A perfunctory trawl of contemporary Jewish newspapers reveals that the NCJW regularly held fundraising balls at the Prahran Town Hall, jumble sales at the Rechabite Hall in Little Chapel Street, "Picture Nights" at the New Windsor Theatre in Albert Street, and a range of other events, including dinner dances, lectures, luncheons and meetings, at the New Empire Ballroom on Chapel Street.[68] The WIZO also held similar events at the New Empire Ballroom, as well as others in the South Yarra area, such as dinner dances at Embers Nightclub, "Picture Nights" at the Regent Theatre, and card parties at the Warsaw Centre at 466 Punt Road.[69] Both groups also held meetings and receptions in the private homes of various group members who lived in the study area.

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64 *Prahran Centenary Celebrations: Souvenir Guide, 100 Years of Progress* (1955), p 42.
65 The former Rotary Chadstone is now officially known as Rotary Chadstone/East Malvern.
66 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 197.
67 "Rotary Club of Malvern: History", <https://www.rotarymalvern.org.au/page/history>
68 See eg, *Australian Jewish News*, 12 December 1947, p 12; 9 September 1949, p 16; 27 Feb 1948, p 14; 11 August 1950, p 18; 29 May 1953, p 11; 4 June 1954, p 11.
69 See eg, *Australian Jewish Herald*, 16 October 1953, p 6; 23 June 1961, p 11; 10 August 1962, p 11;.

Founded in 1928, the Victorian chapter of the County Women's Association (CWA) established a noted presence in the study area after WW2 when, coinciding with the group's 21st anniversary in 1949, it relocated its state headquarters to *Ultima*, a grand Victorian-era house at 3 Lansell Road, Toorak (*Fig 8.29*). For many years thence, it not only accommodated the CWA administration but also other events including its balls, dinners, fashion shows and, each December, the annual "country fair".

The emergence of second-wave feminism in the 1960s, which resonated into the 1970s and beyond, brought several initiatives into the study area. In September 1974, it was reported that the Prahran Women's Group had recently been founded by Jean McLean, who was then union director at Prahran CAE (later to become a leading ALP politician).[70] The group's early initiatives included the establishment of the Prahran Women's Centre in a former house at 341 High Street, which offered confidential advice, counselling and medical referrals. Coinciding with the designation of 1975 as International Women's Year, the group organised a Women's Festival at the Prahran CAE, with special guest speakers across a wide range of disciplines.[71]

Subsequent developments of the 1980s included the Prahran Neighbourhood House Women's Collective, which staged a photography project at the Prahran Market in 1985, and a Malvern Women's Group, also in existence by that year.[72] The year 1986 marked the inaugural Malvern Women's Day, co-founded by a group of local women including Glenview Avenue resident Louise Zygier. An annual occurrence thereafter, Malvern Women's Day encapsulated a range of events and activities that included an Open Day (typically held at one of the larger local girls' private schools, such as Korowa or Lauriston) with workshops, guest lectures and tours, as well as functions and exhibitions at the Malvern Town Hall.[73]

Examples:

CWA Headquarters (former *Ultima*), 3 Lansell Road, Toorak (1949 onwards)

Prahran Women's Centre (former), 341 High Street, Prahran (1974 onwards)

8.4.3 Forming migrant organisations after 1945

The presence of organizations to provide support services and social interaction within multicultural communities has been a recurring sub-theme in the study area in the post-war period, developing in parallel with the communities themselves (see **2.5.1**). Early manifestations include the Australian German Welfare Society, which was formed in 1954 and based in South Yarra by the end of the decade, initially at 89 Caroline Street and later moving to 242 Toorak Road.[74] When Melbourne's Swedish Lutheran Church transferred its headquarters in Toorak in 1956, into the former *Toorak House* at 21 St Georges Road (see **8.1.2**), the large property also became home to two related organisations: the Swedish Seamen's Mission and the separate Norwegian Seamen's Mission, each of which had its own priest (*Fig 8.30*).

While many migrant-specific organisations subsequently appeared across the entire study area, they have been most prolific in the former City of Prahran, and especially the suburbs of South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor. Among those to emanate from that area in the later twentieth century were the Western Thrace Turkish Islamic Association, the Greek Senior Citizens' Group of South Yarra, the Prahran Chinese Elderly Association, the South Yarra Indo-Chinese Association and the Prahran Latin American Association. When the new Prahran Migrant Resource Centre opened at 24 Victoria Street, Windsor, in 1981, its facilities were not only utilised by many of these local groups but also others from beyond the municipal boundaries, such as the Bengali Association of Victoria (founded 1983).[75] By the early 1990s, the western half of the study area was home to what Sally Wilde described as an "enormous variety of ethnic clubs and societies".[76]

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70 "Two health centres open for women", *Age*, 19 September 1974, p 16.
71 "Celebrities at women's festival", *Age*, 11 February 1975, p 20.
72 "Women 150", *Age* 6 March 1985, p 24.
73 "Sidelines", *Age*, 2 November 1988, p 24 (Accent supplement); "Etc", *Age*, 26 August 1995, p 19 (EG supplement). See also Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 31.
74 See advertisements eg, *Age*, 24 August 1966, p 31; 25 February 1970, p 49.
75 Dr Asim Kim, "Bengali Association of Australia: Early days", *Sankalan* (2020), p 4. <https://bav.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Sankalan-2020.pdf>
76 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 286.



Figure 8.28:
Malvern Masonic Hall
1127 High Street, Armadale
(Chancellor & Patrick, 1967-68)
Source: Item H91.244/1287
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 8.29:
State headquarters of the
Country Women's Association,
3 Lansell Road, Toorak,
showing the neatly-landscaped
grounds that hosted an annual fair.
Source: Rose Postcard P.2375,
Item H32492/3374,
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Rose Stereograph Co)



Figure 8.30:
Pastor Wistrum photographed in
1965 at the Sjømannsmisjon
(Scandinavian Seamen's Mission)
at the Swedish Church,
21 St Georges Road, Toorak,
Source: Item 8275280
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)

The last decade of the twentieth century brought changes. In 1992, the Australian German Welfare Society, by then based at 320 Toorak Road, left the study area after thirty years, when its offices relocated to Albert Road, South Melbourne.[77] In 1999, the new Grattan Gardens Community Centre in Prahran provided a new home for many of the multicultural groups and organisations that formerly operated from the Prahran Migrant Centre, including the South Yarra Indo-Chinese Association and the Prahran Latin American Association (rebranded, respectively, as the Stonnington Chinese Association and the *Groupo Primavero*).

Examples:

Swedish Church/*Sjømannsmisjon* (*Toorak House*), 21 St Georges Road, Toorak (from 1956) – *HO99*

Prahran Migrant Resource Centre (former), 24-26 Victoria Street, Windsor (1981) – *HO113*

Grattan Gardens Community Centre, 40 Grattan Street, Prahran (1999)

8.4.4 Providing places for young people: Scouts and Guides after 1945

Dating back to 1907, the First Malvern scout troop was not only the first to be founded in the study area, but also the first in Australia.[78] Many others emerged over the next three decades, as well as several Girl Guide companies in South Yarra affiliated with private girls' schools in that suburb. While the first purpose-built scout hall appears to have been one in Fairbairn Avenue, Toorak (1922), it was more common for these early troops to meet in existing premises, such as private houses, schools and church halls.

The rise of scouting in the early post-war era is demonstrated by the emergence of the Prahran Boy Scouts Local Association, founded in 1950 with the Mayor of Prahran as its president.[79] In the early 1950s, several new scout halls appeared in the study area, albeit focused on its eastern half. After prolonged fundraising and local agitation, the First and Second Malvern troops each acquired new premises: the latter in the Milton Gray Reserve, off Cummins Grove, Malvern (1952), and the former off Belgrave Road, Malvern East (1953). Around the same time, the 14th Malvern troop built a hall at the corner of Carroll Crescent and Tooronga Road in Glen Iris. Meanwhile, the City of Prahran proposed a new hall in Henry Street, Windsor, as a joint facility for the senior citizen's club and scout troop, respectively during the day and at night. Known as the Will Sampson Hall, these shared premises were officially opened in August 1956.

By 1955, there were ten scout troops in the City of Prahran, and eleven guide companies, but, apart from the Second Prahran Scouts and First Armadale Guides (sharing the pre-war scout hall in Fairbairn Street), all others met in makeshift venues that included church halls, the gymnasium of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (Tenth Prahran) and the Prahran Health Centre on Malvern Road (Sixth Prahran).[80] While the later 1950s and early '60s saw a minor boom in construction of scout halls, this focused on the City of Malvern. Two halls were built in what was then Chadstone (now Malvern East), in Bowen Street (c.1958) and Ivanhoe Grove (c.1961), as well as new premises for the Eighth Malvern (1962), Thirteenth Malvern (1963) Ninth Malvern (1965) and Third Malvern (1965). More limited expansion in the City of Prahran was shown by new scout halls behind the police station on Orrong Road, Armadale (c.1963) and another on Balmoral Street, South Yarra (c.1968).

In the late twentieth century, some local troops discontinued or merged, while others relocated. When the Eighth Malvern troop ceased operation, its hall in Oak Grove was taken over by the Thirteenth Malvern. In 1991, the pre-war timber hall at Oak Grove was demolished, and its 1965 replacement was refurbished and remodelled, re-opening in July 1992.[81] By then, there were eight scout troops and one guide unit in the City of Malvern.[82] By contrast, few troops remained in the City of Prahran, namely those associated with the two purpose-built post-war halls in Orrong Road, Toorak, and Balmoral Street, South Yarra, and the converted house on Williams Street, Prahran, occupied by the Second Prahran troop since 1940

77 "History", *Australian German Welfare Society*. <http://www.germanwelfare.org.au/english/page5.php>
78 Lynne Strahan, *Private and Public Memory: A History of the City of Malvern* (1989), p 111.
79 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 254.
80 *Ruskin All-about: Prahran* (1955), pp 37, 38.
81 *Local History News* [Malvern Historical Society], No 72 (March 2018), p 8.
82 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 71.

Examples:

Scout Hall (Second Malvern), Milton Gray Reserve, off Cummins Grove, Malvern (1952)

Will Sampson Memorial Hall, 102 Henry Street, Windsor (1956) – *demolished*

Scout Hall, 51A Ivanhoe Grove, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (c.1961)

Scout Hall, 15 Balmoral Street, South Yarra (c.1968) – *demolished*

8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating

8.5.1 Remembering the impact of war

After WW2, existing WW1 memorials in the study area (including the City of Malvern's granite pillar, then located near the Town Hall) were updated with new plaques or inscriptions to acknowledge recent events, and this trend would continue after successive conflicts of the late twentieth century. Commemoration of war in the post-war era has otherwise taken varied forms. The East Malvern Hockey Club, in Central Park, planted a tree in the vicinity of their clubrooms "to commemorate our clubmates who fell in the 1939-45 war".[83] Several of the major private boys' schools in the study area erected memorials to former students who had fought in WW2. In 1948, a Marian shrine was unveiled at De La Salle College, and a memorial tablet at the Malvern Memorial Grammar School. Three years later, these were followed by memorial gates at St Kevin's College in Toorak.[84] In 1956, Melbourne High School installed a stained glass window (commissioned from leading artist Alan Sumner) to commemorate its fallen.

The most common local manifestations of war commemoration were honour boards, a pre-war tradition that carried into the post-war era, with new boards erected in churches (eg Armadale Baptist Church, Malvern Presbyterian Church and St Peter's Church, Toorak), schools (eg De La Salle College) and RSL clubrooms, as well as both Town Halls, the Masonic Lodge in Prahran, and the MMTB tram depot at Malvern. At least two churches are also known to have compiled a WW2 Book of Remembrance, while some installed memorial windows, such as St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Glen Iris (1950) and Toorak Presbyterian Church (1953). Commemoration of WW2 was also expressed in the nomenclature of new community facilities erected in the early post-war era, typified by the Armadale Memorial Kindergarten (1952) and the Buxton Memorial Hall, alongside St John's Church in Toorak (1956).

In 1992, the pre-war granite war memorial alongside the Malvern Town Hall was relocated to Central Park.[85] The end of that decade saw the unveiling of a dedicated memorial to those who had served in the Vietnam War (1955-1975) and died there, or since their return. Known as the Stained Glass Garden, this was unveiled in May 1997 outside the Chapel-off-Chapel Arts Centre in Prahran.

Examples

Buxton Memorial Hall, St John's Anglican Church, 510 Toorak Road, Toorak (1956) – *part H0109*

Stained Glass Garden, Chapel-off-Chapel (former Independent Church), 246 Malvern Road, Prahran – *HO75*

8.5.2 Remembering significant events and people

Commemoration of significant events, milestones and individuals via memorials, monuments, plaques and other elements in the physical environment has been a recurring theme in the second half of the twentieth century. Installation of such memorials in schools, churches and other institutions, while widespread in the first half of the twentieth century, tended to became less so after WW2. An early post-war example was the memorial bell at St John's Anglican Church in Malvern East, which was dedicated to longtime congregants James Bonwick (died 1956) and wife Amy (died 1951).

83 "East Malvern Hockey Club", *Monument Australia*. <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww2/display/32085-east-malvern-hockey-club>

84 "Memorial shrine", *Advocate*, 3 June 1948, p 22; "Memorial tablet unveiled", *Age*, 29 November 1948, p 2; "A school honours the dead", *Argus*, 1 May 1951, p 7.

85 "War Memorial from 'A Grateful Englishman'", photograph, c.1936. Item MP114, Stonnington History Centre.

Memorials to significant people, places and events and have also been erected in local parks. Central Park in Malvern contains numerous examples from the later twentieth century, including a sundial erected to mark the 75th anniversary of Rotary International in 1980 (*Fig 8.31*), a plaque commemorating the opening of the "Peace Mile" walk of May 1991 (*Fig 8.32*), and another recording the naming of the sports oval after Olympic medallist and former Malvern resident John Landy in 1997. Semi-public memorials on private property are typified by a plaque at Melbourne High School that commemorates the formation of a local Key Club (an offshoot of the Kiwanis Club) in 1980, and another at St John's Anglican Church in Toorak, marking the centenary of the building's dedication in 1983.

Some memorials commemorate tragic events that often have both local significance and a broader resonance. While the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Pool in Glen Iris is well-known as a tribute to a Prime Minister (and onetime Toorak resident) who disappeared whilst swimming at Portsea in 1967, this was predated by another memorial to a serving politician who died in tragic circumstances. In 1954, a tree was planted in the Malvern Gardens in memory of state politician Trevor Oldham and his wife Kathleen (*Fig 8.33*), who died in a plane crash the previous year while flying to England for the Coronation.[86] While Oldham was Leader of the Opposition at the time of his death, he was well-known in the study are as member for the electorates of Malvern and later Glen Iris. Commemoration of other individuals who died prematurely has continued in the later twentieth century. Penpraze Park in Malvern, a public reserve opened in 1983, was later named for Ronald Penpraze, a member of the park management committee who died in a car crash in 1986. After George Pepperell, Mayor of Malvern for 1989-90, died only one year out of office, aged 67 years, a memorial gazebo was erected at the T H King Oval at Glen Iris.

More recent memorials to tragedy include two unique examples from the late 1990s. A memorial garden and metal plaque in front of the police station in Malvern Road, Prahran (*Fig 8.34*), is dedicated to Sergeant Gary Silk and Senior Constable Rodney Miller (respectively officers at St Kilda and Prahran), who were shot and killed on 16 August 1998 during a botched stakeout in Moorabbin. The previous year, a memorial to victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic was created on Commercial Road, Prahran, which had developed as a precinct for Melbourne's LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**). Known as the *Avenue of Peter Pan and Wendy*, the memorial (*Fig 8.35*) comprised a metal plaque with weeping mulberry and flowering cherry trees, and was unveiled in September 1997 to coincide with the annual Diversity street party on Commercial Road.[87]

Examples:

Various post-war memorials, Central Park, 148 Burke Road, Malvern – *HO133 (Gascoigne Estate Precinct)*

Avenue of Peter Pan and Wendy, forecourt, 164 Commercial Road, Prahran (1997) – *removed*

8.6 Marking the phases of life

8.6.1 Celebrating life's milestones

Before WW2, the study area's elite residents celebrated life's milestones, such as birthdays and weddings, in the ballrooms or reception spaces of their grand homes in Toorak and South Yarra. Commercial venues for such events emerged in the inter-war era and the best known was a converted Victorian villa in South Yarra referred to only by its address: Nine Darling Street. Opened in 1922, it became the most desirable reception venue in the study area (if not Melbourne), and held that status until it closed in 1990. A counterpart in the east of the study area, *The Gables* in Finch Street, Malvern East, similarly occupied a grand pre-war house, and remained a popular local venue for celebratory events from the 1930s into the 2000s.

The post-war era saw pre-war dance halls re-emerge as reception centres, such as the Bambalina Ballroom on Wattletree Road (later Arleigh Receptions) and the New Empire Ballroom on Chapel Street. In 1964, the former Eton Hall ballroom, at 146 Commercial Road, was transformed into a modern reception centre by caterer Paul Lynch (later famed for Lynch's Restaurant in South Yarra) with an interior fitout by well-known Toorak architect O N Coulson.[88] Other new facilities, such as Allison House at 78 Williams Road, Prahran (c.1964), followed the lead of Nine Darling Street and The Gables, adapting grand pre-war houses.

86 "Memorial to Mr Oldham", *Age*, 8 October 1954, p 3.
87 "Ageless avenue", *Brother Sister*, No 135 (26 June 1997), p 5; *Brother Sister*, No 141 (19 September 1997), p 5.
88 "Building facelift", *Herald*, 7 February 1964, p 21.







Figures 8.31, 8.32 and 8.33:
Some post-war memorials in Central Park, Malvern (clockwise from left) the Rotary Sundial (1980), and plaques commemorating the City of Malvern's participation in the Peace Mile (1991), and the deaths of Trevor and Kathleen Oldham (1954).
Source: Monument Australia, www.monumentaustralia.org.au
(photographs by Sandra Brown)



Figure 8.34:
Plaque in memory of slain police officers Gary Silk and Rodney Miller, Prahran Police Station, 396-400 Malvern Road, Prahran
Source: Wikimedia Commons https://commons.wikimedia.org/
(photograph by Cuddy Wifter, 2007)



Figure 8.35:
Unveiling of HIV/AIDS memorial, Avenue of Peter Pan & Wendy (1997), Commercial Road, Prahran
Source: Brother Sister, No 141 (19 September 1997), p 5.
(photographer uncredited)

By 1970, directories listed six reception centres in the study area, representing perhaps the highest concentration of such venues in the inner metropolitan area (compared with five in St Kilda/Elwood).[89] Yet, more would follow. The year 1972 saw the former Music Hall Theatre Restaurant at 28 Chapel Street, Windsor, re-open as Windsor Regis Receptions, and another commence operation in the Trak Centre on Toorak Road, initially known as Stardust Receptions and later as Lincoln Village Receptions. Both attracted a varied clientele. The Windsor Regis and Stardust were both early venues for the so-called "camp dances" that were held in the early 1970s for Melbourne's LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**).[90] With the Windsor Regis offering kosher catering from the outset, and the Lincoln Village following suit after a change of ownership in the 1980s, the two venues became popular with the Jewish community for bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs, Chanukah dinners, and fundraising events for the many Jewish charities.

Examples:

Reception Centre, 9 Darling Street, South Yarra – *demolished*

Reception Centre for P B Lynch & Company, 138 Commercial Road, Prahran (1964) – *demolished*

Windsor Regis Receptions (former), 28 Chapel Street, Windsor (from 1972)

8.6.2 Growing old and retiring in the post-war era **[2006: 10.3.4]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *Malvern Elderly Citizens Welfare Association [known in 2006 as MECWA Community Care] was established in 1958 by a group of people concerned for the aged in their local district. Care of the aged had traditionally taken place in the family, and people without family support relied on charity, because governments provided few aged-care facilities. With the support of Malvern Town Clerk Dudley Lucas, MECWA's founders took on the responsibility of providing meals on wheels, and building and running retirement villages, nursing homes and day centres. Most of its early volunteers were gathered from local churches. They raised money through opportunity shops, lamington drives and social functions.*
>
> *MECWA's early headquarters were in the newly-built Elderly Citizens' Centre next to the Malvern Cricket Ground (demolished), where volunteers prepared and despatched meals on wheels. Their first opportunity shop opened at 136 Wattletree Road in 1964. MECWA had a number of wealthy and influential members and links with 'establishment' people. Under the patronage of people such as former Liberal Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, MECWA could attract large donations for their fundraising appeals. The organisation's first hostel, MECWA House, opened on Warner's Lane [6 Warner Street] in 1973.*[91]

The first formalised senior citizens' group in the study area, predating MECWA by three years, emerged in the adjacent municipality: the Prahran Old Folks' Club. Formed in 1955 by a group of local businessmen, it initially developed without financial support from the council, although donations allowed the trustees to purchase a house at 19 Upton Road, Windsor, as the first clubrooms. Subsequently, meals for club members were prepared and served at the Will Sampson Memorial Hall, a council-owned facility in nearby Henry Street that opened in 1956. Council support for such initiatives increased when a former Mayor of Prahran, George Furnell, became convenor of the new Toorak-South Yarra Elderly Citizens' Club. Provision of a place to meet and serve meals was a high priority and, in June 1959, the club took over space in the Try Boys Society's building in Surrey Road, where a new kitchen and other facilities were added.[92] Six months later, the opening of the new elderly citizens' centre behind Malvern Town Hall signified the first purpose-built example of its type in the study area (*Fig 8.36*). It was soon joined by a counterpart in the City of Prahran, at 78 Osborne Street, South Yarra (1963), named after George Gahan, a founding trustee of the Prahran Old Folks' Club. The early '70s saw other centres open in the Grattan Gardens, Prahran (1970), Fisher Street, Malvern East (1973) and Quentin Road, Chadstone (now Malvern East) (1974).

89 *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria* (1970), pp 187-88 (Trade and Professional Section).
90 Michael Hurley, "Aspects of gay and lesbian life in seventies Melbourne", *La Trobe Journal*, No 87 (May 2011), p 49.
91 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 190.
92 "Club", *Age*, 10 June 1959, p 2.

While the Prahran Old Folks' Club and MECWA pioneered social and support facilities for senior citizens in the study area, dedicated accommodation would be introduced by others. The residential flats provided at the headquarters of the War Widows Guild, in Caroline Street, South Yarra (1955-56) (see **8.3.3**), was one of the earliest post-war examples. Housing for elderly people was spurred thereafter by new Commonwealth legislation, the *Aged Persons Homes Act 1954*, which could allow funding for capital works. Glenloch Homes, a spin-off of a private hospital in Cheltenham, acquired land at 674 High Street, Prahran and, in 1957, called tenders for a two-storey block of self-contained flats (*Fig 8.37*) that became the first Glenloch Home for the Elderly.[93] In December 1959, the Mayor of Prahran laid the foundation stone for a three-storey block of elderly person's flats at 6-12 De Murska Street, Windsor – reportedly the first time that a municipal council had initiated purpose-built accommodation for its own aged residents.[94]

After the opening of its High Street flats in 1960, Glenloch Homes expanded across the City of Prahran, with residential facilities in Armadale, at 5 Wattletree Road (1961), 16 Sunderland Road (1971) and 45 Sutherland Road (1974 and 1984), and another at 1 Baker Street, Malvern (1992).[95] Comparable expansion by MECWA, illustrated by the opportunity shop (1964) and *MECWA House* (1972) (*Fig 8.38*), continued with a second opportunity shop in Malvern East (c.1974), a day care centre at the corner of Burke and Manning Roads (1983), and substantial expansion of *MECWA House* that saw the facility re-open as the Olive Miller Nursing Home (1991).[96] In 1993, MECWA acquired *Glenburn* mansion in Elm Road, Glen Iris (then owned by the City of Malvern), adapting it as a residential home, *Campbell Edwards House*. Soon after, the then recently-closed Gardiner Primary School, also in Glen Iris, was acquired and redeveloped as a new 55-bed hostel, the *Noel Miller Centre*.[97] While MECWA had originated in the City of Malvern, creation of the City of Stonnington in 1994 saw the organisation expand its remit into the former City of Prahran, with a new aged care facility, the Sir Donald and Lady Trescowthick Centre, opened in Charles Street, Prahran, in 1998. The next year, *Campbell Edwards House* in Glen Iris was destroyed by fire, and the site was redeveloped by MECWA as a new assisted living facility, known as Glen Iris Community Housing and addressed as 7-11 Elm Road.

Examples:

Will Sampson Memorial Hall, 102 Henry Street, Windsor (1956) – *demolished*

Glenloch Home for the Elderly, 674 High Street, Prahran (Leighton Irwin & Company, 1957)

Malvern Elderly Citizens' Centre, 1253 High Street, Malvern (Stewart Handasyde, 1959) – *demolished*

Elderly Persons' Flats, 6-12 De Murska Street, Windsor (1959-60) – *demolished*

George Gahan Centre, 78 Osborne Street, South Yarra (1963)

MECWA Opportunity Shop, 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern (1964) – *HO156 (Claremont Avenue Precinct)*

93 "Tenders", 2 October 1957, p 36.
94 "City of Prahran Old People's Flats", *Architecture & Arts*, November 1962, p 27.
95 "Glenloch Homes: Affordable independent living for aged pensioners", undated brochure (c.2015). <http://www.glenloch.com.au/sites/www.glenloch.com.au/files/glenloch-homes-brochure.pdf>
96 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 73.
97 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 69.



Figure 8.36:
Malvern Elderly Citizens' Centre
1253 High Street, Malvern
(Stewart Handasyde, 1959)
Source: Item MP241
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

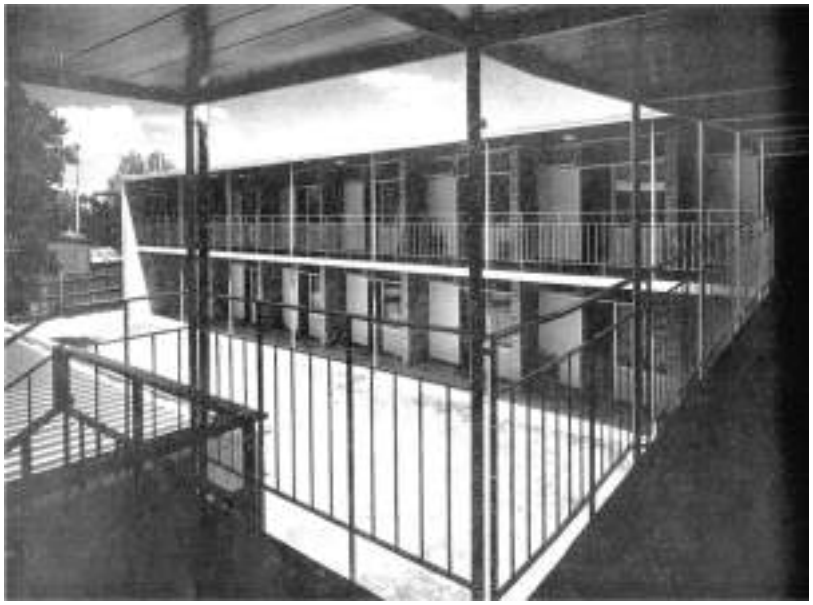


Figure 8.37:
Glenloch Homes for the Elderly
674 High Street, Prahran
(Leighton Irwin & Company, 1957)
Source: Architecture & Arts,
June 1960, p 56.
(photograph by Mark Strizic)



Figure 8.38:
MECWA House
6 Warner Street, Malvern
(Hume Sherrard & Associates, 1972)
Source: Item MP13700
Stonnington History Centre

9.0 SHAPING CULTURAL AND CREATIVE LIFE

9.1 Participating in sport and recreation

9.1.1 Enjoying outdoor leisure activities after 1945 **[2006: 10.7.1]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *The most significant sportsground in the area, nationally, is the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club in Glenferrie Road [established in 1892].*[1]
>
> *The Malvern Valley Golf Course was developed over many years [from 1924] by the Malvern Council as it acquired land in the Gardiners Creek Valley… Much of the course was lost due to the construction of the Monash Freeway, and in 1988 a new architect-designed course was made.* [2]

Kooyong Park, developed in stages from 1908 to 1934, was upgraded again in the early post-war era. After hosting the Davis Cup in 1946, the venue was enlarged for subsequent events in 1953 and 1956. Other local tennis clubs, while smaller scaled, expanded facilities in parallel. Glendearg Grove Methodist Tennis Club, one of several clubs that sprung from pre-war congregations, built a pavilion in 1952. Another, linked to the Ewing Memorial Presbyterian Church, played on courts in Waverley Road until 1964, when the club moved to Ardrie Park, laying out new courts and re-erecting its existing pavilion. The East Malvern Tennis Club had four courts and a timber pavilion in Beaver Street. After the building burnt down in 1958, six courts and a new clubroom were developed in Moira Street (*Fig 9.01*). A decade later, the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club enlarged its ageing pre-war clubhouse with a major addition by architect Graeme Gunn (*Fig 9.02*).

Local footballs teams, prominent before WW2, continued to thrive. When the Victorian Amateur Football Association resumed in 1946 after a wartime hiatus, its member clubs included those at Prahran, Malvern, Malvern East and Gardiner, as well as the Melbourne High School Old Boys Football Club. These were soon joined by two more "Old Boys" teams: St Kevin's College (1947) and De La Salle College (1955). A third, the Old Geelong Grammarians (1954), played at Yarra Park and then St Kevin's College oval before finding a permanent home at Como Park in 1959. Two years later, the park's existing Moderne-style pavilion was extended with a second storey addition. Toorak Park in Armadale, long-time home of the Prahran Football Club (and the Prahran Cricket Club) underwent a more extensive upgrade in 1964-67, including a replacement grandstand (with clubrooms underneath) designed by local architect George Campbell.[3]

Other pre-war sporting clubs, including Malvern Lacrosse Club, Malvern Harriers Athletics Club and the croquet clubs at Windsor and Glen Iris, tended to retain and upgrade existing premises rather than rebuild them. In 1960-61, the lawn bowling clubs at Prahran (*Fig 9.03*) and Malvern both replaced older buildings with new modern counterparts. The Malvern-Caulfield Bowls Club, which occupied greens at behind the former fire station on Dandenong Road from 1907, relocated in 1972 to new premises at 42-46 Serrell Street (*Fig 9.04)* and altered its name to become the Caulfield Bowling Club. Counterpart clubs at Windsor, Toorak and Armadale continued to occupy and adapt pre-war buildings into the post-war era.

Writing of the City of Prahran in 1993, Sally Wilde observed that "the general trend over the last forty years has been for a proliferation of sporting clubs".[4] The same could be said of the contiguous City of Malvern, where new sporting clubs to emerge after WW2 included the East Malvern RSL Bowling Club (1954), the East Malvern RSL Ladies Bowling Club (1955) and the Malvern Ladies Bowling Club (1959). New clubs also appeared in the municipality's hitherto underdeveloped south-eastern fringe, with tennis and bowling clubs formed at what was then Chadstone in 1958, initially sharing premises on Chadstone Road until the latter moved to its own building in 1960. Within a few years, a club had been formed in Prahran to pursue the unique Australian sport of Trugo, first played at the Newport railway yards in the 1920s. A Trugo rink was laid out in Grattan Gardens, south of the Prahran Bowling Club's green, with a small pavilion alongside.[5]

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1 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 204.
2 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 203.
3 "Tenders", *Age*, 4 June 1964, p 73.
4 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 285.
5 Heritage Alliance, "Footscray Trugo Club Pavilion and Grounds: Conservation Analysis", unpublished report for the City of Maribyrnong, July 2006, p 30.

Football became more locally prominent from 1963, when the South East Suburban Football League (SESFL) was formed by merging two pre-war bodies: the Caulfield Oakleigh District Football League and the East Suburban Football League. The next year, two teams in the SESFL, the Tooronga Football Club and Malvern Amateur Football Club, merged into one, the Tooronga Malvern Combine Football Club, with its home ground at the D W Lucas Reserve. Other teams previously affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Football Association, including Kooyong and East Malvern, also transferred to the SESFL over the following decade.

In the 1960s, the two municipalities comprising the study area each opened a modern swimming centre. In the City of Prahran, where such a facility was described in 1955 as "long sought", the foundation stone for a pool complex in the Princes Gardens, on Malvern Road, was laid by the Mayor in May 1963.[6] Later, the City of Malvern upgraded its pre-war pool on High Street, which reopened in March 1969 as the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre. From the mid-1970s, new sporting clubs and associations proliferated across the study area. Those associated with hitherto unrepresented sports included the Malvern City Football Club (1976), a soccer club based at Kooyong Park, and the Prahran Netball Association (1983), whose teams initially played in the Cato Street carpark before courts were provided in Princes Gardens. The latter, which already offered facilities for swimming and tennis, became the site of the Prahran Skate Park (*Fig 9.05*), which was one of Melbourne's first outdoor skateboarding facilities when it opened in December 1987.[7]

The reconfiguration of the Malvern Valley Golf Course in 1988 was only one of many repercussions of the construction of the South Eastern Freeway. Over the next few years, this project had a major impact on sports facilities along the Gardiners Creek valley. The T H King Oval was reconstructed from 1989, with a new pavilion officially opened in April 1991, while St Andrew's Gardiner Tennis Club relocated to Kyarra Park, with new courts and a clubhouse opened in mid-1990. That year saw the creation of Dunlop Oval, also with a new pavilion (*Fig 9.06*). A recreational cycling and walking track, begun in August 1988 as a joint venture of the Cities of Malvern, Camberwell and Hawthorn, was fully opened in November 1992. By the next year, the City of Malvern had seventy sporting clubs based in and around these redeveloped playing fields along the Gardiners Creek valley. Sadly, one casualty was the Glen Iris Croquet Club, which ceased operation due to the freeway works and, despite efforts by the Council, was not re-established elsewhere.

The fate of the Glen Iris Croquet Club anticipated a broader trend of closure and consolidation that impacted older sporting clubs at the end of the twentieth century. In 1999, Prahran's bowling and Trugo clubs ceased operation to allow erection of the Grattan Gardens Community Centre; neither was re-established, although some ex-members of the Prahran Bowling Club joined its counterpart in nearby Windsor. The bowling clubs at Armadale and Malvern East also sold their properties (in both cases, redeveloped for residential use) and, while the latter club was able to re-establish itself elsewhere, this was outside the study area, resuming play in May 2000 in Princes Park, Caulfield South.

Examples:

Malvern Bowling Club, 14 Coonil Crescent, Malvern (1961) – *HO375 (Coonil Estate Precinct)*

Grandstand, Toorak Park, 590 Orrong Road, Armadale (George Campbell, 1964-67) – *demolished*

Royal South Yarra Tennis Club, 310 Williams Road, Toorak (Graeme Gunn, 1969-72)

Caulfield Bowling Club, 42-46 Serrell Street, Malvern East (1972) – *demolished c.1995*

9.1.2 Enjoying indoor leisure activities after 1945

Facilities for indoor leisure activities boomed after WW2. The rising post-war popularity of squash brought several new facilities in the study area. In 1959, two architect-designed examples opened in the City of Malvern: the Squashway Centre in High Street, Malvern (L V Connell) (*Fig 9.17*), and the Malvern Squash Centre in Malvern Road, Glen Iris (Marsh, Bennie & Barry), each offering indoor pools and gymnasia as well as squash courts. Around 1960, a counterpart emerged in the City of Prahran as an adaptive reuse of the former New Empress Theatre at 221 Chapel Street, which had ceased showing films in 1959.

6 *City of Prahran: One Hundred Years. The Past, the Present and the Future, 1855-1955* (1955), unpaginated; Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, Volume 2: 1925-1990* (1993), p 281.

7 "Prahran skate park", photograph, c.1987. Item SHC71075, Stonnington History Centre.



Figure 9.01:
New tennis courts and clubroom, East Malvern Tennis Club, Moira Street, Malvern East (c.1958)
Source: Itrtem MP8879, Stonnington History Centre.
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.02:
Royal South Yarra Tennis Club 310 Williams Road, Toorak (Graeme Gunn, 1969-72)
Source: Building Ideas, December 1978, p 6
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.03:
Prahran Bowling Club Grattan Street, Prahran (Leslie M Perrott & Partners, 1961)
Source: Item H91.244/4094 State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)



Figure 9.04:
Official opening of new bowling green and clubrooms, Caulfield Bowling Club, 42-46 Serrell Street, Malvern East (1972)
Source: Item MP5272 Stonnington History Centre (photograp by Frank Sutcliffe)



Figure 9.05:
Prahran Skate Park, Princes Gardens, Prahran (1987)
Source: Item SHC71075 Stonnington History Centre



Figure 9.06:
Dunlop Pavilion at Darling Park Dunlop Street, Malvern East (c.1989)
Source: Item MP6586 Stonnington History Centre

The early 1960s saw two purpose-built squash centres commence operation in the City of Prahran – one on Murphy Street, South Yarra (1962) and the other on Beatty Avenue, Armadale (1963), the former being part of a mixed-use sports and office complex (*Fig 9.08*) designed by architects McIntyre & McIntyre (which thence maintained its own offices therein; see **5.8.1**). In 1963, it was announced that a new tenpin bowling centre, touted as "Melbourne's most modern bowling centre", would be built on Toorak Road, South Yarra.[8] While this did not proceed, it was reported only a few months later that construction of such a facility had begun at Chadstone Shopping Centre, which opened the following year as the first (and only) example of this typology in the study area until the 2000s.[9] Popular for social use by adults and teenagers alike, as well as bowling teams and tournaments, the Chadstone Bowl would remain in successful operation into the twenty first century.

The study area has had a long history of gymnasia and fitness centres in the post-war era. By the early 1960s, bodybuilder Terry Bennett had opened a boxing gymnasium in Prahran, which has been cited as the first of its type in Melbourne.[10] A long-running venture that persisted into the 1990s and beyond, Bennett's Gym occupied various premises including 236 High Street and 259 Chapel Street. From the 1970s, the rising obsession with health and fitness prompted a boom of other gymnasia and related facilities. When Leggett's Ballroom in Prahran closed after a 1976 fire, the venue was refurbished as Leggatt's Tennis and Squash Centre, opened in 1982. That year, the Squashway Centre in Malvern changed ownership, and, renovated and rebranded as the Re-Creation Health & Fitness Centre, promoted itself as "Melbourne's leading fitness centre". Some years later, after the Try Society vacated its South Yarra premises, it re-opened as the Ultimate Sports Club, which built a reputation as a trendy fitness venue for a young upwardly mobile crowd, with real estate listings for nearby flats and offices often mentioning the gym's proximity. It closure in the mid-1990s coincided with the opening of Colt's Gym in Prahran, which, at 35 Cato Street (where the ALSO Foundation was then based), became a favourite haunt of the LGBTIQA+ community (see **2.6.3**).[11]

An indoor leisure centre geared towards an even younger demographic was the fondly-remembered Fun Factory in South Yarra, which opened in December 1981 in what had previously been the Capitol Bakeries building (closed two years earlier; see **5.2.1**) on the north-west corner of Toorak Road and Chapel Street. With a high-tech interior refurbishment by local architect Bruce Henderson, the Fun Factory provided a wide range of diversions that included a roller skating rink, mini-golf course, dodgem cars, shooting gallery and video arcade. The venue closed in 1999.

New facilities for indoor sports include two centres established in the late twentieth century by local high schools for joint student and public use. In the 1980s, Malvern Girls' High School built a sports stadium and community centre fronting Victoria Road (now known as the Penpraze Park Recreation Centre) while, the next decade, Melbourne High School developed a grander four-storey centre fronting Chapel Street, dubbed the South Yarra Sports Centre (*Fig 9.09*), providing indoor pool, basketball courts, gymnasium and so on.

Examples:

Squashway Centre / Re-creation Fitness (former), 1216 High Street, Malvern (L V Connell, 1959) – *HO349 (Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct)*

Malvern Squash Centre, 1481-1487 Malvern Road, Glen Iris (Marsh, Bennie & Barry, 1959) – *demolished*

Squash Courts, rear, 6 Murphy Street, South Yarra (McIntyre & McIntyre, 1962) – *demolished*

Chadstone Bowl, Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (1963)

Fun Factory (former), corner Chapel Street and Toorak Road, South Yarra (Bruce Henderson, 1980-81)

South Yarra Sports Centre, 679 Chapel Street, South Yarra (Henderson & Lodge, 1995)

8 "Bowling centre for South Yarra", *Age*, 22 March 1963 p 7.
9 "Bowling centre for Chadstone", *Age*, 11 July 1963, p 6.
10 "Terry Bennett's Gymnasium", <http://www.gymnasium-prahran.websyte.com.au/> Sources differ regarding its opening date: Bennett's own website stated 1959, while a 1985 newspaper advert for the gym stated that it had been in operation for 23 years (ie, since c.1962). See *Age*, 2 April 1985, p 45.
11 Brett Willis, "Colt's Gym, Prahran", *Lost Gay Melbourne,* Facebook group posting, 29 July 2012. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10150960412912218>



Figure 9.07:
Squashway Sports Centre
1216 High Street, Malvern
(L V Connell, 1959)
Source: Cross-Section, September 1959, p 3
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.08:
Squash Courts
Rear, 6 Murphy Street, South Yarra
(McIntyre & McIntyre, 1962)
Source: Item PIC WS 3730, LOC PIC Album 1032/103, National Library of Australia.
(photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 9.09:
South Yarra Sports Centre,
679 Chapel Street, South Yarra
(Henderson & Lodge, 1995)
Source: "Projects: recreation", www.hendersonandlodge.com.au
(photographer uncredited)

9.2 Nurturing a vibrant arts scene

9.2.1 Forming local drama and performing groups after 1945

In the 1950s, two of Melbourne's best-known pre-war theatre companies sought permanent homes in South Yarra. The Melbourne Little Theatre (founded 1931) first performed in a converted kiosk in Fawkner Park before taking over a defunct church in St Martins Lane, replaced in 1956 by a purpose-built theatrette. While the new St Martin's Theatre was just outside the study area, some of those involved lived east of Punt Road, notably longtime director/producer Irene Mitchell, who resided in Prahran and later at 8 St Georges Road, Armadale, in a Victorian villa nicknamed the "Slanty Shanty".[12] The Australian National Theatre (founded 1935) staged drama, ballet and opera in various venues before it acquired the defunct Toorak Village Cinema in 1960, with a view to adapting it as a performance space. Work was nearing completion when, in April 1962, the building was destroyed by fire. Plans to develop a new theatre on the same site were abandoned and, instead, the company took over premises at 320 Toorak Road, South Yarra. Known as the National Theatrette, it operated successful until it was similarly destroyed by fire in 1969. A third scheme to convert another former cinema, the Empress Theatre in Chapel Street, Prahran, met an eerily identical fate, when that building burnt down just before work began. The National Theatre then found what proved to be its permanent home, in yet another pre-war cinema, the Victory Theatre in St Kilda.

Local amateur theatre re-emerged after WW2 with groups such as the Malvern Drama Group (1957) and the Toorak Players (1963). The latter, formed by members of the Toorak Presbyterian Church, established its longtime home in what was dubbed the Mackenzie Theatre, in part of the church's new parish centre. The Malvern counterpart (initiated by the new Malvern Arts Council as its third venture after a painters' group and an orchestra) had a more peripatetic existence. Staging its first production in the Holy Advent Parish Hall in Armadale, the group performed at various other local halls and the theatrette of the Malvern Library. In 1960, it staged an original play as the inaugural production at the Myer Chadstone Auditorium, a 250-seat venue at the new shopping centre.[13] During the 1960s, the group performed regularly at the National Theatrette in Toorak Road before finding semi-permanent homes in spaces above shops on Glenferrie Road, initially at No 117 (dubbed the "Pillar Theatre") and then at No 262 (dubbed "The Attic"). In 1970, the group relocated to the former Congregational Church hall in Burke Road, which, renovated and then officially opened as the Malvern Theatre on 3 July 1970, remained its permanent headquarters thereafter.

Commercial theatres emerged in parallel. In October 1965, the former Royal Theatre at 28 Chapel Street, Windsor, re-opened as a theatre restaurant, first known as the Roaring Twenties Cabaret, then as the Music Hall and then the New Twenties. It specialised in nostalgia-based live shows, such as vaudeville revues and musical melodrama (*Fig 9.10*), but sometimes also hosted touring artists from overseas (see **9.4.1**). The year 1966 also marked the opening of a new 285-seat venue, Theatre 27A, in a former church hall in Cromwell Road, South Yarra.[14] Founded by actress Bunney Brooke to encapsulate plays, revues, children's theatre and a ballet school, it operated only briefly before Brooke moved to Brisbane. Taken over by others, it was rebranded as the equally short-lived Melbourne Arts Theatre, and then the Viaduct Theatre, home of the Viaduct Theatre Company, late of Flinders Lane. During this time, it also accommodated performances by the Children's Arena Theatre (CAT), which took over the premises when Viaduct ceased in 1974. Adult fare included two successful revues, *Gershwin* (1976) and *The 20s and all that jazz* (1977), starring Caroline Gillmer, John Diedrich, and John O'May, each producing a commercially-released cast recording.

Other new venues to emerge during this time included the Claremont Theatre Centre, opened in January 1972 in a converted factory at 14 Claremont Street, South Yarra. After its three-year lease lapsed, the group re-established itself (under the same name) in larger premises at South Melbourne. In 1971, the former Roaring Twenties Cabaret at 28 Chapel Street re-opened as the Windsor Regis, which ran both as a reception centre (see **8.6.1**) and theatre restaurant, with productions that included two successful stage adaptations of popular TV comedy series *The Naked Vicar Show*. Similarly lowbrow fare could also be experienced in local pubs, typified by *The Footy Show*, "a "riotous new stage play" mounted in 1975 at the Armadale Hotel, written by John Michael Howson and directed by TV producer and local resident Godfrey Phillip.

12 "A women, her house and her dog", *Age*, 20 September 1947, p 6.
13 "Malvern Theatre Company History 1957–2009", 11pp typescript, undated (c.2009), pp 1-2. <https://malverntheatre.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/MaTC-History.pdf>
14 Leonard Radic, "Arts mini-centre: Theatre 27A takes shape", *Age*, 23 May 1967, p 4.

Rising interest in children's theatre was also evidenced by a new trend at the Myer Chadstone Auditorium. Since opening, it had staged a bewildering range of events: plays, revues, fashion parades, film screenings, baby shows, exhibitions, auctions, product demonstrations and celebrity appearances. From the late 1970s, it became synonymous with school holiday pantomimes produced by TV and film actor Terry Gill (an early member of the Malvern Drama Group) and his wife Carole-Ann, both local residents. The last of the Gills' Chadstone pantomimes, *Cinderella*, was staged in May 1983, shortly before the centre was acquired by the Gandel Group, whose subsequent redevelopment brought an end to the auditorium. In 1991, the Gills took over the running of the Tivoli Theatre Restaurant in High Street, Malvern, an enduringly popular venue that originated in Hawthorn in the 1970s but relocated to the study area in 1984. In 1992, another well-known theatrical institution from outside the study area transferred into it: the Polyglot Puppet Theatre, which took over the former Arena Theatre in South Yarra.

The last decade of the twentieth century saw expansion of new performance spaces in the western part of the study area. In 1991, the City of Prahran received a capital works grant that was allocated to the provision of an arts centre.[15] This project came to fruition during 1994, when the former Independent Church in Malvern Road was enlarged and refurbished to provide a 255-seat mainstage theatre, a 150-seat loft theatrette, and an art gallery space. Known as Chapel-off-Chapel, it opened in March 1995. Around the same time, work began on a new performing arts centre at the Prahran campus of Swinburne University (former Prahran CAE) in St John Street. The facility, opened in September 1996, included twin theatres (named for Australian playwright and Prahran alumnus David Williamson) with rehearsal spaces, dressing rooms, workshops and storage. The centre would become the permanent home of the Out Cast Theatre, a LGBTIQA+ drama group founded in 1997, which had hitherto performed in various venues around South Yarra's "queer hub", such as Ramjet's Cafe at 147 Commercial Road and the ALSO Foundation headquarters at 35 Cato Street.

Examples:

Irene Mitchell House, 8 St Georges Road, Armadale – *"Slanty Shanty" of local theatre director*

Theatre 27A/Viaduct Theatre/etc (former), 27A Cromwell Road, South Yarra – *part HO28*

Malvern Theatre (former church), 29 Burke Road, Malvern East – *HO133 (Gascoigne Estate Precinct)*

Tivoli Theatre Restaurant (former), 1390 High Street, Malvern

Chapel-off-Chapel (former Independent Church), 246 Malvern Road, Prahran – *HO75*

9.2.2 Making music: local bands, orchestras and choral societies after 1945 **[2006: 10.7.2]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006):

> *The Prahran & Malvern Tramways Employees Band was formed in 1911… By 1947 most of its original members, who were tramways employees, had retired or moved away and the band was renamed the Malvern Municipal Band. Over the years the band has achieved considerable success in competitions, but it was also prominent in local celebrations, commemorations and concerts at the Malvern Town Hall, the bandstand in Central Park and other local venues. The band was renamed Stonnington City Brass in 2000.*[16]

Despite the loss of bandleader Harry Shugg, who moved to Sydney in 1947 after running the P&MT Band for over three decades, it thrived into the post-war era, still based in the converted stables behind *Northbrook* where it had rehearsed since 1932. Other pre-war musical groups, however, were less resilient. The Malvern City Band, formed in 1922, ceased in 1939. The Malvern Choral Society, also dating from the 1920s, survived to celebrate its silver anniversary in 1950, only to disband four years later upon the retirement of its founding conductor. The original incarnation of the Malvern Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1927, also ceased in the 1950s.[17] In 1957, the newly-formed Malvern Arts Council initiated a counterpart, the fifty-piece Malvern Philharmonic Orchestra, but this, too, enjoyed a fleeting existence: one of its few known credits was "orchestral interludes" provided for the Malvern Drama Group's second production in August 1958. [18]

15 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran: A Supplement, 1990-1994* (2000), p 25.
16 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 204.
17 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 14.
18 "Malvern Theatre Company History 1957–2009", 11pp typescript, undated (c.2009), p 1. <https://malverntheatre.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/MaTC-History.pdf>



Figure 9.10:
Advertisement for 1966 production of the melodrama East Lynne, staged at the Music Hall Theatre Restaurant, 28 Chapel Street, Windsor
Source: A Night out in Melbourne, May 1966, back cover.



Figure 9.11:
The Royal Australian Navy Band rehearsing in 1976 at the ABC Waverley Theatre, 92 Waverley Road, Malvern East
Source: Item MP5166 Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)

By contrast, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) retained a principal performance space in Malvern East for three decades. Formed in 1906, the MSO was restructured in 1927 and then taken over by the ABC in 1934 when the national broadcaster assembled studio orchestras in each state capital. From 1965, the ABC leased the defunct Waverley Theatre at 92 Waverley Road, Malvern East, which was adapted as the MSO headquarters and rehearsal studio. Purchased by the ABC in 1972, it regularly hosted public concerts by the MSO and others such as the Malvern City Band and the RAN Band (*Fig 9.11*), as well as visiting soloists and conductors from overseas.[19] With the opening of Hamer Hall in 1982, the venue was retained for rehearsals, auditions and recording sessions. It was sold by the ABC in 1994, after the MSO moved to Southbank.

After a two-decade hiatus, the defunct Malvern Symphony Orchestra was revived with leading cellist Janis Luras as conductor. Its inaugural concert, held at the Malvern Town Hall in August 1982, was followed by others at the same venue. In 2000, the orchestra was re-badged as the Stonnington Symphony and launched what became an annual series of open-air free public concerts.

Examples:

Stonnington City Brass Rehearsal Space (former stables), rear 1255 High Street, Malvern – *part HO59*

ABC Waverley Theatre (former), 92 Waverley Road, Malvern East

9.3 Achieving distinction in the arts

9.3.1 Creating visual arts after 1945 **[2006: 10.8]**

From the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (2006)

> *Although the study area does not have the reputation as an artist's haunt, such as that enjoyed by Heidelberg or Eltham, a number of celebrated artists, musicians and writers have made their homes in the study area.*
>
> *Rupert Bunny [1864-1947] lived above the newsagent's shop on the corner of Toorak Road and Caroline Street, South Yarra, from 1937 to 1947. Fred Williams [1927-1982] lived above his family's shop on the corner of Glenferrie and Malvern Roads in the [early] 1940s, where he painted his earliest signed and dated work, Backyard Malvern [1943]. Sculptor Karl Duldig [1902-1986] worked and ran classes in his studio in Burke Road, Malvern East, from 1953.*[20]
>
> *In the post-war period some artists began to use redundant buildings such as old factories and the unused upper floors above many of the old shops and department stores in Chapel Street as studios. One of Australia's foremost post-war painters, Howard Arkley (perhaps best known for his paintings of suburban scenes in day-glo colours) occupied a studio in Chapel Street in the 1970s in the upper levels of the Prahran Arcade building. Reputedly, he is said to have painted graffiti on the walls in his distinctive style.*

This pattern of resident visual artists, shown in the early post-war era by Bunny, Williams and Duldig, persisted into the 1950s and beyond. While painters Bunny and Williams maintained only a slight overlap into the 1940s, sculptor Duldig worked and exhibited from his home studio until his death in 1986. Since then, the property has been the Duldig Studio Museum, open to the public for exhibitions and art classes.

Amongst other visual artists to reside in the study area in the post-war era were female painters who built their reputations in the 1920s and '30s and exhibited beyond WW2. Ethel Spowers (1895-1947), who grew up in Toorak, retained a studio over the stables of her parents' home in St George's Road until her early death. From the 1930s, Helen Ogilvie (1903-1993) resided in various places in South Yarra, while Constance Stokes (1906-1991) and her husband lived in Toorak from 1948, initially in Evans Court and later Winifred Crescent (both houses designed for them by architect Edward Billson).[21]

19 "Waverley Theatre, Malvern East", *MHS Local History News*, No 45 (Oct-Nov 2013), p 5.
20 Context Pty Ltd, *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2006), p 207.
21 Catriona Quinn, "Krimper in context: The place of provenance in design research", *RMIT Design Archives Journal*, Vol 2, No 5 (2015), pp 38-39. <https://issuu.com/rmitculture/docs/vol_5_no_2_2015_journal_web>

Frances "Madge" Freeman (1895-1979) exhibited prolifically between the wars and, while she moved to Gippsland after her second marriage in 1940, maintained a studio in her family home at 12 William Street, South Yarra.[22] A 1950 photograph (*Fig 9.12*) shows Freeman in front of her house with fellow artists including Mary Cecil Allen, Nancy Grant and George Bell. The latter, one of Melbourne's leading modernist painters and art teachers, was himself a resident of the study area who, from 1925 until his death in 1966, occupied a house and studio at 8 Selborne Road, Toorak, designed by his architect cousin Marcus Barlow.

The younger generation of emerging post-war artists was represented in the study area by painter Michael Shannon (1927-1993), a student of George Bell who not only lived for many years in South Yarra (at 5 Davis Avenue and later 22 Lang Street) but also exhibited therein, with regular shows at the South Yarra Gallery.[23] Local associations with Howard Arkley (1951-1999) date back to 1969, when the fledgling painter began art studies at Prahran CAE. Completing the course in 1972, he married fellow student Elizabeth Gower the next year, and the couple moved into the studio flat in the Prahran Arcade. Both exhibited work locally: Gower held early solo shows at the Toorak Art Gallery (1973) and Powell Street Gallery (1977), while Arkley, who became affiliated with the St Kilda-based Tolarno Gallery from 1974, later exhibited at their second premises in South Yarra (1979). From 1980 to 1985, Arkley also taught painting at his alma mater and, in July 1981, exhibited a large mural there, entitled "Primitive".

Post-war artists such as Shannon, Arkley and Gower took advantage of the commercial art galleries in the study area that initially emerged in South Yarra from the mid-1950s. Brummels Gallery at 95 Toorak Road (1956), established by future Merchant Builders co-founder David Yencken, was Melbourne's first gallery devoted to contemporary Australian art.[24] The next decade brought others: Gallery A at 275 Toorak Road (1959) (*Fig 9.13*), South Yarra Gallery at 10 William Street (1961) and Toorak Art Gallery at 277 Toorak Road (1964). Gallery A, under the direction of designer and sculptor Clement Meadmore, grew to include an art school and a lithographic printing business for artists' proofs.[25] These galleries had varied success. Some, such as the Osborne & Polak Gallery at 8 Avoca Street (1972-72), existed briefly while others, such as Gallery A and the South Yarra Gallery, survived a decade or so, and a number, such as Powell Street Gallery (1969) and Realities Gallery (1971), thrived into the 1990s or beyond. While Toorak Road and environs was synonymous with galleries in the late twentieth century, others also emerged in High Street, Armadale (eg Signed Editions at No 1140), and Malvern Road, Malvern (eg, Deutscher Fine Art Gallery at No 1140).

The study area was also home to Australia' first privately-run art gallery dedicated solely to photography. Brummels Gallery of Photography, founded in 1972 by advertising photographer turned freelancer Rennie Ellis (1940-2003), who took over what had previously been David Yencken's Brummels Gallery on Toorak Road. Ellis, who lived at 34 Raleigh Street, Windsor, went on to establish the Scoopix Photo Library and then his own studio in rooms above a shop at 154 Greville Street. In May 1975, another photography gallery and studio opened at 344 Punt Road, South Yarra. Known as the Photographers' Gallery and Workshop, it was founded by Paul Cox, who had officially opened Ellis' Toorak Road gallery three years before. The latter, renamed Pentax Brummels Gallery of Photography after sponsorship from the camera manufacturer, closed in 1980 but the nearby Photographers' Gallery continued into the twenty-first century.

The tradition of creating art studios within existing buildings, as shown by the spaces used by Rennie Ellis and Howard Arkley above retail premises in Prahran, had some later and grander counterparts elsewhere in the study area. In 1989, the City of Malvern acquired *Glenburn* mansion in Elm Road, Glen Iris (formerly the College of the Bible), which was leased to collective of painters, sculptors, furniture makers and others, who went on to exhibit locally as the "Elm Street Artists" (*Fig 9.14*).[26] The premature closure of this artists' community in 1991 coincided with the opening of another, in August of that year, in the former fire station in Willis Street, Armadale (see **1.5.2**). Initially known as the Fire Station Print Workshop (and later as the Fire Station Print Studio), it became the base for an evolving group of artists-in-residence that would hold regular group exhibitions, open days and other events into the twenty-first century.

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22 "Mary Cecil Allen and other artists outside Madge Freeman Davis' studio in William Street, South Yarra", photograph, 1950. Item UMA-ITE-1993016300008, University of Melbourne Archives, Parkville. <https://archives.library.unimelb.edu.au/nodes/view/271826>

23 "Michael Shannon Biography", <https://michaelshannonartist.com/shannon_Biography.html>

24 "Brummels Gallery, *Wikipedia*. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brummels_Gallery>

25 "Gallery A", *Wikipedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallery_A>

26 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 25.



Figure 9.12:
Group of artists photographed in 1950 at the house and studio of painter Madge Freeman Davis, 12 William Street, South Yarra. From L-R: Nancy Grant, Madge Freeman Davis, Jean Barrett, Madeline Crump, Mary Cecil Allen, unidentified man, Guelda Pyke, George Bell and Dorothy Stephen. Source: Item 1993.0163.00008, Frances Derham Papers, University of Melbourne Archives (photograph by Frances Derham)



Figure 9.13:
Exhibition of the Institute of Victorian Photographers (1963), Gallery A, 275 Toorak Road, South Yarra Source: Item H2003.100/638 State Library of Victoria (photograph by Wolfgang Sievers)



Figure 9.14:
Artists-in-residence at the Elm Road Artists' Community, 7-11 Elm Road, Glen Iris, Photogprahed in in 1990. Source: Alleyn Best, The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994 (2005), p 27. (photographer uncredited)

Examples:

George Bell House/Studio (former), 8 Selborne Road, Toorak – *occupied by artist until 1966*

Madge Freeman House/Studio (former), 12 William Street, South Yarra – *demolished*

Duldig Studio Museum & Sculpture Garden, 92 Burke Road, Malvern East

Realties Gallery (former), 35 Jackson Street, Toorak

Brummels Gallery of Photography (former), 95 Toorak Road, South Yarra – *HO150 (Toorak Road Precinct)*

Photographers' Gallery (former), 344 Punt Road, South Yarra – *HO131 (Fawkner Street/Davis Avenue Precinct)*

Arkley Flat/Studio, Prahran Arcade, 282-284 Chapel Street, Prahran – *HO16*

Elm Road Artists' Community, 7-11 Elm Road, Glen Iris (1989-91) – *destroyed by fire, 1999*

9.3.2 Creating public art after 1945

The study area has had a long association with public art over the second half of the twentieth century. This emerged as early as 1955, when Sydney artist Elaine Haxton painted a mural at *Sherren House,* St Catherine's Girls' School, 17 Heyington Place, Toorak (*Fig 9.15*). Depicting the muses of art, dance, music, song, comedy and tragedy, the large work (6.7 by 5.4 metres) has been cited as "one of the first substantial external painted murals completed in Melbourne".[27] A few smaller-scaled piece of integrated public artwork followed, such as Clifford Last's symbolic wood figure in the library of the newly-opened Toorak Teachers' College (1958), and Charles Bush's metal wall sculpture, *Man and his Aspirations*, inside the new Malvern branch of the ESA& Bank (1959). The next major mural, however, was the mosaic executed by Anne Montgomery for the renovated Red Tulip chocolate factory at 266 High Street, Prahran (*Fig 9.16*). Unveiled in late 1959, this huge (6 by 8 metre) semi-abstract work was lauded by architect and South Yarra resident Neil Clerehan as a rare example of integrated artwork commissioned by a building's owner.[28]

This trend continued when the Chadstone Shopping Centre opened in 1960 with two outdoor sculptures, obtained by Myer via a limited competition. Maquettes were shown at the National Gallery of Victoria, and the two winners announced as Stanley Hammond and Lenton Parr.[29] Hammond's *Commerce*, a figurative concrete group that showed a manufacturer, seller and consumer (*Fig 9.17*), was a stark contrast to Parr's *Plantforms*, an abstract depiction of organic masses in welded steel (*Fig 9.18*), said to have been, at the time, "probably the only piece of contemporary sculpture in the suburbs and one of very few in Melbourne".[30] In 1961, a block of flats in Ascot Street, Malvern, by architects Warmington & Matthews, included a bold abstract tiled mural ascribed to "Atoine Mailliw [*sic*], a New Australian artist of considerable overseas experience" – evidently a pseudonym, as no actual person of that name has yet been identified.[31]

Over the next decade or so, a number of generally small-scaled items of public artwork appeared across the study area. The new parish centre of the Toorak Presbyterian Church (1963) incorporated another sculpted piece by Charles Bush, while the major additions to the Toorak Teachers' College (1967) incorporated an abstract-style fountain by sculptor Max Lyle. A bust of Harold Holt by Malvern sculptor Geoffrey Jones (1969), commissioned by the local branch of the Liberal Party, was presented by the subject's widow, Dame Zara Holt, for display at the new Harold Holt Swim Centre.[32] After something of a lull during the 1970s, public art in the study area would became more visible again from the 1980s, spurred by government funding and the rise of artists' communities. In 1985, a substantial mural at the Prahran Market carpark was conceived as a joint project of the City of Prahran, Ministry of Arts and Victoria College, and was executed by students from the college's Faculty of Art & Design (*Fig 9.19*).[33]

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27 "Sherren House and Elaine Haxton Mural", *National Trust Database*, File No B1211.
28 Neil Clerehan, "Best and worse, says professor", *Age*, 2 November 1959, p 8.
29 "Sculpture for new market place", *Age*, 16 February 1960, p 2.
30 "Plantforms Sculpture - Lenton Parr", *National Trust Database*, File No B6514.
31 "Mural feature of building", *Herald*, 20 November 1961, p 25. The mural was most likely the work of architect Anthony William Matthews, given that the alleged artist's surname is "William" spelt backwards.
32 "Harold Holt Sculpture", *MHS Local History News*, No 15 (Oct-Nov 2008), p 2.
33 "Mural at Prahran Market", photographs, 1985. Items SHC71091 and SHC 71092, Stonnington History Centre.



Figure 9.15:
Mural
(Elaine Haxton, 1955),
St Catherine's College,
17-25 Heyington Place, Toorak
Source: "St Catherine's Girls School", Elaine Haxton: A Comprehensice Guide" https://elainehaxton.com
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.16:
Mural
(Anne Montgomery, 1959)
Red Tulip factory,
266 High Street, Prahran
Source: File B6676,
National Trust of Australia (Vic)
(photographer uncredited)





Modern sculpture at the new Chadstone Shopping Centre Dandenong Road, Chadstone (now Malvern East)

Figure 9.17: (far left)
Commerce (Stan Hammond, 1960)
Source: Item 11653199,
National Archives of Australia
(photographer uncredited)

Figure 9.18 (left)
Plantforms, (Lenton Parr, 1960)
Source: Item MP177
Stonnington History Centre
(photographer uncredited)

The Malvern Art Garden, a similar venture between the City of Malvern, Ministry of Arts and RMIT landscape architecture students, began in 1987. Developed in space between *Northbrook* and the Malvern Library, the garden would include such artwork as the *Sound Sculpture* by sculptor Stefan Damask and musician Julia Anderson, a concrete colonnade with relief designs by artist Jenny Saulwick, a bronzed umbrella by sculptor Maggie Fookes, and a trompe l'oeil landscape mural.[34] The scheme coincided with a community art project at the R G Moss Library in Chadstone (now Malvern East), overseen by ceramicist Dianne Ripper, using unfired clay bricks (donated by local firm PGH City Bricks) that were inscribed and fixed to form a mural, unveiled by the Mayor of Malvern , Cr Ray Lang, in February 1988.[35] Soon afterwards, a contest was held for a sculpture at the new Civic Square on the corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street. First prize went to artist Paul Juraszek for *The Sun and the Moon*, a bronze depiction of male and female minotaurs (*Fig 9.20*), unveiled by the Mayor of Malvern, Cr Janice Carpenter in May 1989.[36]

Visiting overseas artists also made a mark on the study area since the late twentieth century.[37] In 1982, the famous New York street artist Keith Haring visited Melbourne at the invitation of John Buckley, inaugural director of the new Centre for Contemporary Art, and painted large murals at the NGV and Collingwood Technical School. Buckley was also a teacher at Glamorgan School in Toorak, where Haring was billeted. After amusing students by secretly embellishing classroom backboards overnight, the artist was asked to paint something on the wall of the kindergarten: a simple figurative sketch (*Fig 9.21*), titled *Guardian Angel*.[38] Circa 1990, another mural was painted on the side of a building near South Yarra station as an advertisement for a winemaker, using commissioned artwork from American cartoonist Don Martin, longtime contributor to *Mad* magazine. The mural, on the west wall of a two-storey Victorian shop at 168-170 Toorak Road, depicted cartoon figures in Martin's trademark style with the slogan "For $1 more, he could have had Angas Brut".[39] A billboard was later installed over the wall but Martin's artwork is rumoured to remain intact underneath, described by artist Stephen Baker as "Melbourne's best kept secret".[40]

Examples

Mural, St Catherine's Girls' School, 17-25 Heyington Place, Toorak (Elaine Haxton, 1955) – *part HO50*

Mosaic mural, Red Tulip factory (former) 266 High Street, Prahran (Anne Graham, 1959) – *destroyed*

Metal sculpture, ES&A Bank (former) 1284-1286 High Street, Malvern (Charles Bush, 1959) – *part HO58*

Sculpture (*Commerce*), Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (Stan Hammond, 1960) – *relocated outside study area*

Sculpture (*Plantforms*), Chadstone Shopping Centre, Dandenong Road, Malvern East (formerly Chadstone) (Lenton Parr, 1960) – *relocated outside study area*

Tile mural, block of flats, 5-7 Ascot Street, Malvern (Atone Mailliw [*sic*], 1961) – *HO674*

Fountain, Toorak Teachers' College (former), 336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (Max Lyle, 1967) – *relocated outside study area*

Mural (*Angel*), Toorak Campus, Geelong Grammar School (formerly Glamorgan School), 14 Douglas Street, Toorak (Keith Haring, 1984) – *preserved under glass*

34 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 14.
35 *Malvern News Sheet*, quoted in "Mural - Chadstone Library", 1987-88. Item MH13900, Stonnington History Centre.
36 Alleyn Best, *The History of Malvern: A Supplement, 1988-1994* (2005), p 18.
37 This theme echoed into the early twenty-first century when pseudonymous British artist Banksy visited Melbourne in 2003 and completed a stencilled piece, titled *Parachuting Rat*, on the Izett Street wall of a building at 157 Greville Street, Prahran. The image was destroyed in 2012. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parachuting_Rat>
38 Ted Gott & Lisa Hamilton, "Keith Haring in Australia", *Art in Australia*, Vol 39, No 2 (2002), p 564. <https://melbourneharingmural.com.au/archive/artandaustralia_2002.pdf>
39 The mural represented one of a series of cartoons that Martin prepared for advertising purposes, using the same slogan. For others, see *Good Weekend Magazine*, 28 October 1989, pp 78-79, and 16 December 1989, pp 94-95.
40 "Studio Visit: Stephen Baker", *The Design Files*, <https://thedesignfiles.net/2015/02/stephen-baker>



Figure 9.19
Mayor of Prahran, Cr Dieter Habicht, unveiling mural at Prahran Market, Commercial Road, South Yarra (1985)
Source: Item SHC71092, Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.20:
Installation of sculpture, The Sun and the Moon (Paul Juraszek, 1989) Malvern Civic Square, Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern
Source: Item MP8389 Stonnington History Centre (photographer uncredited)



Figures 9.21
Angel, (Keith Haring, 1984) Glamorgan Preparatory School, 14 Douglas Street, Toorak
Source: "Keith Haring in Australia", Art in Australia, (2002), p 564 (photograph by John Buckley)

Inset: John Buckley, who arranged Haring's visit, photographed with the mural (under glass) in 2012.
Source: Still from a recorded interview on Vimeo, via www.melbourneharingmural.com.au
(Creative Commons License 4.0)

9.3.3 Prizes, praise and publication: achieving distinction in architecture after 1945

Since WW2, the study area has developed as one of Melbourne's major epicentres for notable modernist architecture, with many buildings garnering critical consideration, press attention and industry awards. This trend dates back to the mid-1940s, when a two-storey duplex at 41 Darling Street, South Yarra, (*Fig 9.22*) designed by Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson, brought unprecedented attention. Praised by Robin Boyd as the city's "first first-class post-war building", the duplex received the coveted "Bouquet of the Month" in *Smudges*, followed by national press attention in *Architecture* and the *Australian Home Beautiful,* then becoming one of the first Australian buildings to appear in the British *Architectural Review*.[41]

Subsequently, many more architectural projects in the study area appeared in published sources including weekly property columns of the *Herald* and *Age* newspapers, popular housing magazines such as *Australian Home Beautiful* and *Australian House & Garden* and journals such as *Architecture & Arts* and *Architecture in Australia*. Among local buildings to garner notable press coverage in this era, across multiple sources, were modern houses such as Robin Boyd's Richardson House at 10 Blackfriars Close, Toorak (1953) and Roy Grounds' own house at 24 Hill Street, Toorak (1953-54) (see **6.7.2**), and such non-residential projects as the new Malvern branch of the ES&A Bank at 1284-1286 High Street (Stuart Macintosh, 1959) (see **5.5.1**), and the Harold Holt Swim Centre at 1409-1413 High Street, Glen Iris (Borland & Jackson, 1969) (see **7.1.1** and **9.1.1**).

In 1954, when the Royal Victorian Institute of Architecture (RVIA) reinstated its annual award system after a hiatus of thirteen year, the inaugural Victorian Architectural Medal was bestowed upon a building in the study area: Roy Grounds' own house in Toorak. While the award system subsequently lapsed for another nine years, its annual resumption from 1963 saw further buildings rewarded in the study area. These included the Harold Holt Swim Centre in Glen Iris (citation for Recreational category, 1969), new buildings at Lauriston Girls' School in Malvern (Bronze Medal, 1970) (*Fig 9.23*), a major addition to the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club's pre-war premises in Toorak (Award of Merit, 1972) and the Jam Factory redevelopment project in South Yarra (Architectural Projects Award, 1975).[42]

During the 1970s, when the *Age* housing column awarded "House of the Week" citations, winners included many examples across the study area, by architects such as Greg Burgess, Peter Clarke, Norman Day, Wayne Gillespie, Peter Hooks, John Kenny and Andrew Reed. In the later 1970s, '80s and '90s, high-end residential projects in the study area often appeared in fashionable lifestyle magazines such as *Vogue Living* and *Belle*, including work by sought-after architects such as Wayne Gillespie, Robert Grodski, Nic Bochsler and Ermin Smrekar, as well as interior designer Tibor Hubay and landscape designer Paul Bangay (see **6.7.8**).

The theme of award-winning buildings reached a peak in the 1980s, when barely a year passed without a local recipient in the winner's tally: the Jam Factory again (Energy Efficient Building citation, 1980), a wine shop fitout in Toorak Road, South Yarra (Rejuvenated Building citation, 1981), the new Prahran Market on Commercial Road (Rejuvenated Building citation, 1982), a shop fitout in High Street, Armadale (Merit Award for Renovated Buildings, 1983), a house addition at Toorak (Merit Award for Renovated Housing, 1983), a project house in Hopetoun Road, Toorak (Merit Award for New Housing, 1984), an architect's own house in Grosvenor Street, South Yarra (Merit Award for New Housing, 1987) (*Fig 9.24*), a menswear shop fitout in South Yarra (Merit Award for Interior Architecture, 1987), a house addition at Armadale (Merit Award for Interior Architecture, 1988) and a public housing development in Tillotson Terrace, Armadale (Merit Award for Multiple Residential, 1989).[43]

While the 1990s saw further buildings across the study area receive RAIA award nominations, that decade also saw each of the two constituent municipalities initiate their own local counterparts: the City of Prahran Environmental Awards and the City of Malvern Building Design Awards. Among the architects to receive acclaim via these award programmes were many who had maintained significant professional associations with the study area over many years, such as Nicholas Day, Robert Grodski, Len Hayball and John Kenny. The two programmes duly merged to become the City of Stonnington Urban Design Awards.

41 "Bouquet of the Month", *Smudges* Vol 6, No 47 (October 1947), unpaginated; "Modern line in new flats", *Australian Home Beautiful*, January 1948, pp 24-25; "Flats in Darling Street, South Yarra", *Architecture*, April 1949, pp 49-51.

42 Philip Goad (ed), *Judging Architecture: Victorian Architecture Awards, 1929-2003* (2003), pp 288-290.

43 Philip Goad (ed), *Judging Architecture: Victorian Architecture Awards, 1929-2003* (2003), pp 300-309. This secondary source does not cite full addresses for these award-winning buildings.



Figure 9.22:
Duplex flats
41 Darling Street, South Yarra
(Yuncken Freeman etc, 1946)
Source: Architectural Review (UK)
December 1948, p 287
(photographer uncredited)



Figure 9.23:
Additions, Lauriston Girls' School
38 Huntingtower Road, Armadale
(Daryl Jackson Evan Wlaker, 1967)
Source: Item H91.244/3245
State Library of Victoria
(photograph by Peter Wille)

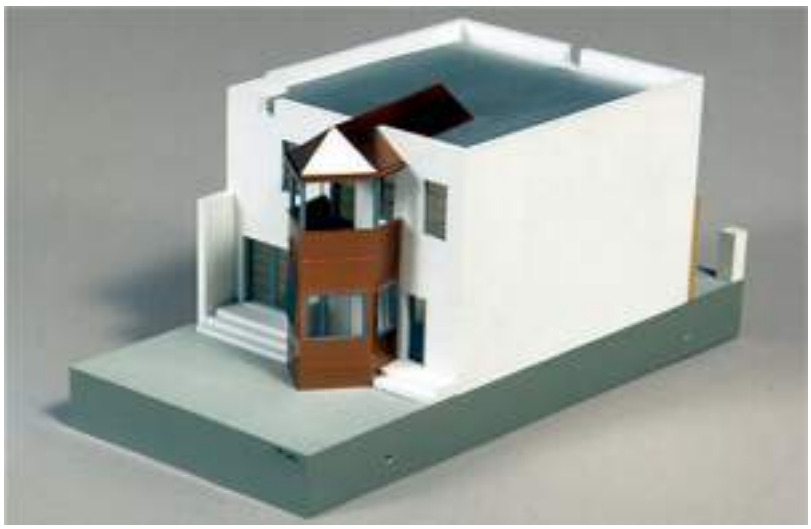


Figure 9.24:
McDougall House,
23 Grosvenor Street, South Yarra
(Ian McDougall, 1983)
Source: Item SH891699,
Museums Victoria.
(photographer uncredited)
(model by John Cherry, 1989)

Examples:

Duplex flats, 41 Darling Street, South Yarra (Yuncken Freeman etc, 1946) – *demolished*

Harold Holt Swim Centre, 1409-1413 High Street, Glen Iris (Borland & Jackson, 1969) – *HO364*

The Jam Factory, 500 Chapel Street, South Yarra (McIntyre Partnership, 1979)

McDougall House, 23 Grosvenor Street, South Yarra (Ian McDougall, 1983)

9.4 Creating popular culture

9.4.1 Making jazz, rock and local music

The culture of live music, already evident in the study area in the inter-war period, remained a major and recurring presence in the post-war era, and particularly the former City of Prahran. As Sally Wilde noted, "besides food and drink, the third ingredient in Prahran's thriving night life has been music, whether in the hotels or the clubs. The discotheque craze for recorded music in the 1960s did not completely eclipse live music, and those venues with sufficient space continued to provide work for local musicians".[44]

While the traditional live music of the 1930s and '40s, as performed by big bands or combos in ballrooms and similar venues, remained popular into the immediate post-war period, it would be gradually displaced by newer genres: the successive emergences of modern jazz, the folk music revival, and, finally, rock 'n' roll. One early local venue for this new type of live music was Goldy's Restaurant in South Yarra, which opened in 1957 in a former residence at 308 Toorak Road. Two years later, its founder Brian "Goldy" Goldsmith married one Rona Newton-John, whose considerably younger sister, future singing and film star Olivia, made her public debut at Goldy's when, at the age of fourteen years (circa 1962), she was invited onstage to perform alongside folk singer Hans Gorg.[45]

By the early 1960s, South Yarra had become well-known as one of Melbourne's major centres for live jazz music. Embers nightclub at 55 Toorak Road, re-opened in early 1960 after a fire the previous year, became popular for weekend jazz performances, some of which were broadcast live from the venue by radio station 3UZ (see **3.7.4**).[46] Embers also hosted visiting overseas artists, most notably Ella Fitzgerald (*Fig 9.25*) and Mel Torme (whose appearances were filmed and broadcast on television (see **3.7.4**), before the club closed in 1963. That same year, a new jazz venue emerged nearby, the Fat Black Pussycat at 19 Toorak Road, which went on to host such acts as the Brian Brown Group, the Bernie McGann Quartet, the Barry McKimm Trio and the Alan Lee Quintet before it, too, closed in 1966.[47]

Other popular venues of this era included two weekend nightclubs named after American cities: Boston in South Yarra and Memphis in Malvern.[48] Both operated from church halls – the former at Christ Church on the corner of Punt and Toorak Roads (just outside the study area) and the latter at St George's Anglican Church on Glenferrie Road, next to the court house. Performers included leading jazz vocalist Judy Jacques and the Yarra Yarra Jazz Band.[49] In 1961, a teenage jazz singer credited as "Judy Durham" made her debut at Memphis. The next year, she became the lead vocalist of a new folk group, the Seekers, whose three other male members (Athol Guy, Keith Potger and Bruce Woodley) had met while students at Melbourne High School. In 1962, the Seekers made their debut in South Yarra, at the former Goldy's Restaurant on Toorak Road, recently taken over by Tom Davidson and re-branded as the Treble Clef Café (*Fig 9.26*).[50] Later that decade, several visiting international artists performed at the Roaring Twenties Cabaret at 28 Chapel Street, Windsor (see **9.2.1**), including such major names as Shirley Bassey (February 1966), Liza Minnelli (August 1967) and Matt Monro (September 1967).

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44 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 290.

45 "Goldy's, 308 Toorak Road, South Yarra", *Malvern Historical Society Local History News*, No 96 (September 2022), p 4. See also Olivia Newton-John with Jonathan Cain, *Don't Stop Believin': A Memoir* (2018), p 17.

46 Jan O'Connell, "The clubs with no beer: Melbourne's 1950s nightclubs", undated blog entry, <http://meandmybigmouth.com.au/nightclubs-melbourne-1950s/>

47 Jarrod Zlatic, "'A Hard Night's Jazz' & The Fat Black Pussycat, 1963–1966", blog entry, dated 9 May 2014. <www.jarrodzlatic.blogspot.com/2014/05/a-hard-nights-jazz-fat-black-pussycat.html>

48 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 283.

49 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 283.

50 Sally Wilde, *The History of Prahran, 1925–1990* (1993), p 283.

The parallel rise of rock 'n' roll music in the 1960s saw the former Embers nightclub in Toorak Road reborn as the Winston Charles, perhaps Melbourne's first fully licensed discothèque, which opened in 1967 with live acts including the Clefs, the Why Fours and Max Merritt and the Meteors.[51] A Prahran counterpart, the Garrison Discotheque at 166 High Street, opened in early 1971 and hosted artists such as Daddy Cool, Billy Thorpe and Spectrum. In 1972, the venue was taken over by leading record producer Michael Gudinski (of Mushroom fame), who showcased acts signed to his own label, including Chain, Sid Rumpo and Madder Lake.[52] Chain's second album, *Two of a kind* (1973) included one track was that recorded live at the Garrison, and the gatefold cover included a panoramic photograph (*Fig 9.27*) of the band performing there. Elsewhere in the study area, the rise of the new genre came to a fore in the early 1970s when the Kooyong Tennis Stadium briefly served as Melbourne's leading venue for outdoor rock concerts. After performances by such high-profile touring artists as Elton John (October 1971), Led Zeppelin (February 1972) and Black Sabbath (January 1973), a memorable appearance by the Rolling Stones (February 1973) proved so loud and disruptive that the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria banned any further use of the venue for rock concerts.[53] These events briefly resumed in the mid-1980s, with concerts by Midnight Oil, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie and Billy Joel, before noise concerns prompted another ban at the end of 1987.

The 1970s and '80s otherwise witnessed the rise of pub music culture across Melbourne and some notable venues emerged in the study area, such as the Mount Erica Hotel and the Armadale Hotel, both on High Street. The latter, a long-running corner pub rebuilt in the early 1970s, became a major hotspot for pub music, with such artists as INXS, Richard Clapton, Hunters & Collectors, Mi-Sex, Goanna, and even an appearance (in August 1980) by touring British punk group, the Cure.[54] The Armadale Hotel's principal local rival was the Station Hotel in Greville Street, Prahran. Arguably Melbourne's pre-eminent live pub music venue from the early 1970s to the 1990s, it hosted repeat appearances by Skyhooks, Little River Band, Cold Chisel, Rose Tattoo and many lesser names.[55] From the early 1990s, the Station Hotel's reputation was largely usurped by the nearby Continental Café at 134 Greville Street, which opened in 1993 and, until its closure a decade later, thrived as a major venue for live music. Nicknamed, "The Conti", it not only hosted such local artists as Daryl Braithwaite, Paul Kelly, Deborah Conway and Richard Clapton, but also overseas visitors as varied as Roger McGuinn, Blossom Dearie and the expatriate Rolf Harris.[56]

The local presence of recording studios and record labels has recurred in parallel in the second half of the twentieth century. Swaggie Records, a label dedicated to releasing local and overseas jazz recordings, was based in South Yarra for many years. Crest Records, founded in 1961 by Glen Iris resident Marcus Herman, was known for early jazz recordings as well as folk, country and pop vocals.[57] Operating from premises above a shop at 291 Tooronga Road, the label remained active into the 1970s. In 1967, a company known as Broadcast Exchange of Australia relocated from the city to South Yarra, installing a recording studio at 643 Chapel Street. Later renamed Media Sound Studios, it recorded various artists, some of which were released on other labels (including jazz music on Swaggie Records) and others on its own label, Mediasound Records. Later known as Yarrabank and Platinum Studios, it operated into the twenty first century. In 1988, Hawksburn resident David Vodicka founded a record label, Rubber Records, which operated from his home. The label initially re-released music by overseas artists but later expanded to release local artists including the Grapes. In 1999, when the latter group released its debut self-titled CD on Rubber Records, the launch party was held at "The Conti" in Greville Street.[58]

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51 Jan O'Connell, "The clubs with no beer: Melbourne's 1950s nightclubs", *loc cit*.

52 "Garrison Discothèque, 166 High Street, Prahran", *Australian Music Database.* <http://www.australianmusicdatabase.com/venues/garrison-discotheque-prahran-vic>

53 "Kooyong Stadium", *Wikipedia.* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kooyong_Stadium>. See also "Kooyong knocks rock", *Age*, 30 October 1973, p 2.

54 "Armadale Hotel, Armadale"", *Australian Music Database.* <http://www.australianmusicdatabase.com/venues/armadale-hotel-armadale-vic>

55 "Station Hotel, Prahran", *Australian Music Database.* <http://www.australianmusicdatabase.com/venues/station-hotel-prahran-vic>

56 A large collection of material pertaining to the Continental Café is held by the Station Library of Victoria, including posters (refer PCPOSTER 122), handbills (PCEPHEMERA 67) and programmes (PCEPHEMERA 170).

57 "Crest Record Company", *Milesago: Australasian Music & Popular Culture 1964-1975,* <http://www.milesago.com/industry/crest.htm>

58 "Grape expectations", *Age*, 12 November 19999, p 46.



Figure 9.25:
Ella Fitzgerald performing in December 1960 at Embers, 59 Toorak Road, South Yarra
Source: Ted Nettelbeck, "Frank Smith at the Embers, 1960-61", 24pp typescript, undated. Archived at https://ericmyersjazz.com



Figure 9.26: (left)
Treble Clef Café (formerly Goldy's), 308 Toorak Road, South Yarra.
Source: Item 1643400, City of Melbourne Art & Heritage Collection (photograph by Alan Bates, 1963)

Figure 9.27: (below)
Gatefold photograph from album by Chain, showing the band performing at the New Garrison Discotheque, 166 High Street, Prahran
Source: Chain, Two of a Kind, 1973 (Mushroom Records L-35017) (photograph by Zygie Film)



Examples:

Goldy's Restaurant/Treble Clef Café (former), 308 Toorak Road, South Yarra (1957 onwards)

New Garrison Discotheque (former) 166 High Street, Prahran (1971) – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Station Hotel (former), 96 Greville Street, Prahran – *HO126 (Chapel Street Precinct)*

Media Sound Recording Studios (former), 643 Chapel Street, South Yarra (1967 onwards)

9.4.2 Creating Australian film and television

Associations between the study area and filmmaking can be traced back to the late 1950s, when some of the visiting cast of the Hollywood epic *On the Beach* (1959), famously filmed in Melbourne, were billeted in the neighbourhood. Leading players Gregory Peck, Ava Gardener, Anthony Perkins and Fred Astaire utilised a local restaurant, Goldy's at 308 Toorak Road, as their "after work haunt", and the venue's proprietor, Brian Goldsmith, was rewarded with bit part in the film itself.[59]

Subsequently, parts of the study area (most frequently in the former City of Prahran) have been used for location filming of cinematic features and television programmes.[60] This trend can be traced back to the mid-1960s when the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), based in nearby Elsternwick, produced a one-hour television movie entitled *Ashes to Ashes*, which was partly filmed at *Como House* in South Yarra. A decade later, the same location featured prominently in a more ambitious ABC production, *Power without Glory* (1976), a lavish 26-part television series adapted from Frank Hardy's historical novel. While the novel was set in the fictitious Melbourne suburb of Carringbush (based on Collingwood and Richmond), scenes depicting the mansion of protagonist John West were filmed at *Como*.[61] A similar ABC period piece, the four-part historical drama *Lucinda Brayford* (1980) was based on the Martin Boyd novel that was partly set in Toorak (see **9.4.3**), and included scenes filmed at *Illawarra*, off St Georges Road.[62]

The cult Australian horror film *Patrick* (1978), starring Robert Helpmann, was filmed in and around South Yarra, although its main location, a large Victorian house representing a fictitious psychiatric hospital, stood on Toorak Road West, just outside of study area. In another cult film, *Mad Max* (1979), scenes involving the fictitious Sugartown Cabaret were filmed at what was then the Love Machine nightclub in South Yarra, after which the character Goose sped off down Claremont Street on his motorbike.[63] The City of Prahran appears as a recognisable backdrop in the drama *Lonely Hearts* (1981), which includes scenes filmed in the Victoria Gardens as well as a car chase down Williams Road with glimpses of Como Park and the Bush Inn Hotel.

A co-production between the Seven Network and the London-based Verity Productions, the BBC television series *Boys in the Bush* (1991) was both set and filmed in Melbourne, with locations in the study area that included tycoon George Herscu's former mansion at 7 Whernside Avenue, Toorak.[64] *The Heartbreak Kid* (1993), mostly set in an unnamed Melbourne secondary school, was filmed at Prahran High School with its real-life students engaged as extras, and the building made to look shabbier by temporary addition of graffiti and steel-mesh window grilles.[65] *Love and other catastrophes* (1996), a romantic comedy set at the University of Melbourne, included a scene outside the Como Centre in Toorak Road. More recently, parts of the film *Wog Boy* (2000) were filmed at Chasers Nightclub in Chapel Street.

Examples

House (*Como House*), 16 Como Avenue, South Yarra – *HO26*

House (*Illawarra),* 1 Illawarra Court, Toorak – *HO61*

Herscu House, 7 Whernside Avenue, Toorak

Prahran High School, corner Orrong and Malvern Roads, Prahran – *demolished*

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59 Peter Wilmoth, "Brian Goldmith: charismatic, energetic ringmaster", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 January 2021.
60 Information mostly sourced from individual film listings, *Internet Movie Database*. <www.imdb.com>
61 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Three* (2000), p 27.
62 "The story of Lucinda Brayford", *Australian Women's Weekly*, 16 April 1980, p 8.
63 "Mad Max Filming Locations Day Tour", <https://www.madmaxmovies.com/making/madmax/tour.html>
64 'Yesterday's heroes count the cost", *Age*, 30 December 1990, p 19.
65 Betty Malone, *Discovering Prahran: Area Six* (2003), pp 16-17.

9.4.3 Places enshrined in popular culture after WW2

During the second half of the twentieth century, various places, streets and suburbs in the study area have acquired and retained pop cultural connotations. Toorak's reputation as the most prestigious, sought-after and expensive residential enclave in Melbourne was well entrenched by the end of WW2, when author Martin Boyd used it as the setting for his historical novel, *Lucinda Brayford* (1946). Its plot encapsulated the titular heroine's desire to live in a grand house in Toorak, and, despite acquiring "three acres on St George's Road" on which to build, opted instead to move into a Boom-era mansion, the fictitious *Tourella*, "the largest of them all, and a riot of colonnades and marble".[66] Many years later, a scholar would draw attention to Boyd's "malicious descriptions of Italianate Toorak mansions" throughout the book.[67] A few equally wry allusions to the suburb appeared in Boyd's subsequent historical novel, *The Cardboard Crown* (1952).

Exploiting similar cultural preconceptions, parts of the study area have been referenced in popular music. In 1971, folk singer Bernard Bolan released a comic song titled "Toorak Tram", describing a tense journey through the suburb on a peak-hour Friday evening. Passengers, including "girls with curls and cultured pearls", battled for seats and sanity before stopping at Chapel Street "to carry out the dead".[68] More pointed musical satire arrived three years later, with the much better-known Skyhooks song, "Toorak Cowboy" (1974). This codified a particular male sub-cultural stereotype that was then associated with the area: the "village playboy" who buys wines and yoghurt and knows all of the local antique dealers. Several specific real-life places were mentioned in the lyrics: chic young men having their hair styled at Marini's (the Toorak Road salon of society hairdresser Terence Marini), and allusions to drug deals outside the South Yarra Arms Hotel. In the mid-1980s, songwriter Greg Champion memorialised a familiar phenomenon on the opposite side of the study area in a comic song titled "Never turn right at Burke Road, Malvern".[69]

The suburb of Glen Iris, partly within the former City of Malvern, retains associations as the home of one of satirist Barry Humphries' most cherished creations: the character of Sandy Stone, an ageing ex-serviceman who lived with unseen wife Beryl in a quintessential inter-war bungalow (*Fig 9.28*). In Stone's monologues, the house was routinely referred to as *Kia Ora*, 36 Gallipoli Crescent, Glen Iris – a wholly fictitious address, as no street of that name ever existed in the suburb (although it referenced the trend for naming streets after WW1 battle sites, evidenced in the real-life City of Malvern by Villiers Square and Bretonneux Square).

Sandy Stone's monologues, which recurred in Humphries' stage shows and recordings from the late 1950s, document the character's uneventful life, dotted with allusions to such hallowed suburban institutions as the tennis club, opportunity shop, scout hall and sports oval, sometimes even citing semi-fictitious places like the "Glen Iris RSL & Citizens' Bowling Club" or the "Glen Iris branch of the O-So-Pure Devonlea Dairy".[70] Over six decades, Stone has memorialised his own death, his haunting of the family home (occupied by his widow and then what he described as a "New Australian family"), its demolition for a supermarket, and the razing of the supermarket for "Tuscan style townhouses" – all mirroring actual changes to the suburban landscape. In late 1990, Stone made a rare real-life foray in the study area when, to promote a new stage show devoted entirely to monologues by "the Sage of Glen Iris", Humphries dressed in character and took the No 6 tram down Tooronga Road, alighting at High Street to visit the Arthritis Foundation Op Shop at No 1428 for a press conference "with glasses of Kia Ora cordial, lamingtons, tea cakes and iced vo-vo's".[71]

Examples

Marini's Hair Salon (former), 242 Toorak Road, South Yarra – *referenced in Skyhooks song, 1974*

South Yarra Arms Hotel, 252 Toorak Road, South Yarra – *referenced in Skyhooks song, 1974 (demolished)*

Op Shop (former), 1428 High Street, Malvern – *visited by Barry Humphries as Sandy Stone, 1990*

66 Martin Boyd, *Lucinda Brayford* (1946), p 27.
67 Dorothy Green, "From Yarra Glen to Rome: Martin Boyd, 1893-1972", *Meanjin Quarterly*, September 1972, p 257.
68 Bernard Bolan, "Toorak Tram", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJdVAINx6n8>. The single was re-released when the song appeared on the LP *The Liveliness of the Long Playing Bernard Bolan* (Copperfield, 1974).
69 Jim Schembri, "Watching the Coodabeens happen", *Age*, 28 February 1986, EG supplement p 7. A recording of the song subsequently appeared on a CD compilation entitled *Moon over Melbourne* (ABC Records, 1993).
70 Barry Humphries, *The Life and Death of Sandy Stone* (1990), pp 46, 53, 79, 156.
71 "Sandy Stone catches the No 6 tram back from the dead", *Age*, 3 November 1990, p 12.

9.5 Advancing knowledge

Not applicable to the study area in the post-war era.



Figure 9.28:
An artist's imagining of Sandy Stone's fictitious suburban home in Glen Iris, citing its invented street address – like the character, Gallipoli Crescent never existed.
Source: Barry Humphries, The Life and Death of Sandy Stone (1990)

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