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Volume 49, No 2

PIONEER ECHO

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PAST

Newsletter No: 243



International Women's Day takes place every year on 8 March.

The 2026 theme was 'Balance the scales': a call to ensure equality and a fair go for women and girls across Australia and the world.

Balance the Scales reminds us that equality is not about advantage for some – it is about dignity, safety, and fairness for all.

We can all be inspired by women who, through hard work and diligence, helped forge Australia Felix and notably the Port Phillip District into a new State of Victoria, against all odds.

Woman during the early years had very few rights and were treated as 'second class citizens'. They could not vote, and had no representation in government. There was an expectation that they would marry, tend house and look after their children.

Things didn't begin to change for women in Victoria until around 1884, when the Victorian Women's Suffrage Society was established. However, we can be inspired by women of all classes, who in the early Port Phillip District, supported their men (husbands, brothers, sons etc) by endeavouring to supplement the family income to improve their standard of living.

Read about one such woman named Sarah **SMITH** on page 4.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The PPPG AGM will be held on Saturday 9 May 2026 at 2pm at the Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner and via Zoom.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC.

Inc. No. A0022862G / ABN: 79 213 729 409
A Member Society of the G.S.V. Inc.

Port Phillip Pioneers Group



Above: Fawkner's *Enterprize* by Woodhouse and Schell, 1925: SLV

Left: International Women's Day

Sources:

<https://business.gov.au>
<https://www.wa.gov.au>
<https://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au>



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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

At our next meeting on Saturday 9 May, we have our Annual General Meeting at which the PPPG Committee will be finalised and reports will be available. If you have an interest in guiding the direction of the Group, we would love to hear from you and that includes associate members.

The speaker for our next meeting is the Melbourne Athenaeum Library Manager Fiona Malcolm. The Athenaeum has been operational since 1842. Edmund **FINN** (Garryowen) devoted a lot of writing to the creation and subsequent value of the Mechanics' Institution (as it was then called). It arose from collaboration between the Union Benefit Society who looked after the interests of the mechanics and the few local Master Builders. Its purpose was the promotion of science "particularly amongst the young".

As we will hear, it advanced far beyond that limitation. But remarkably, in 1842 the city was still very much in its infancy. Municipal government was just beginning with the first election occurring on 1 December 1842. That election was sufficiently controversial to see disgruntled voters run amok in the city, smashing windows.

The new Council eventually got under way and initially had a peripatetic existence; **FINN** notes that it obtained accommodation in the Mechanics' Institute. The Melbourne Athenaeum has undertaken many roles over the years and is truly an institution of Melbourne as we shall hear from our guest speaker. This talk is not to be missed.

The PPPG Pamphlet is now available if anyone desires a copy for the sake of posterity. It will be on display at the meeting. It is intended for use at historical conferences and places where we can advertise our wares.

Our next meeting starts at 2 pm

Paul Cronin

President

NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members for April - May 2026 but we would like to welcome two new Associate Members, Kay Middlemiss (No. 6013) and Wayne Gardner (No. 6014).

VALE



Barry Noble
Life Member No.1232
Joined PPPG 16 June 2001
Passed away 2026

Corrigendum: *The Echo* No. 241 page 6

Ken Smith PPPG Member No. 895 has kindly supplied the following correction;

1st April 1876 Statutory Declaration of Mrs. Judith **MORRIS** of East Melbourne, widow of Henry **MORRIS** formerly of Kilmore, Licensed Victualler deceased:

- ◆ That she was married to Henry **MORRIS** 24 January 1845, at St Francis, Melbourne by the Rev. Father McEvoy.
- ◆ That the issue of said marriage was five sons and one daughter. [incorrectly stated as four sons and one daughter in *The Echo* No.241]
- ◆ That two of the sons and daughter died in infancy and in the lifetime of the said Henry **MORRIS**, and that Michael Aloysius **MORRIS**, John Francis **MORRIS**. and William Peter **MORRIS** are the only children living of the said Henry **MORRIS**.
- ◆ That the said Michael Aloysius **MORRIS** was born 30 September 1848, the said John Francis **MORRIS** was born 2 April 1850, and the said William Peter Morris on 21 February 1854.
- ◆ In 1876 Michael Aloysius **MORRIS** was a Roman Catholic Priest at Saint Edmund's College, Dovay, France, John Francis **MORRIS** was in San Francisco and William Peter Morris was a chemist in the City of Melbourne.

THE MELBOURNE RIOT OF 1843

The year 1843 saw the first election of non-appointed members of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Port Phillip was to have six members of whom one was to represent the Town of Melbourne. There were two candidates, namely Edward **CURR**, a former member of the Legislative Council of Van Dieman's Land, and Henry **CONDELL**, the Mayor of Melbourne. The former was a Catholic and the latter was a Protestant.

Notwithstanding all the precautions that were taken by the authorities to prevent disturbances during the election, regrettably their measures were to no avail. Indeed, the feeling of political excitement which characterized the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland during an election contest was displayed in all its varied circumstances and emotions for the first time in Australia Felix. Throughout that day it might naturally be supposed that great difference of opinion existed among the electors, as to the merits or otherwise of the rival candidates, from the fact of the contest becoming almost one of a religious nature. The consequence was that partisan feeling was displayed to an alarming extent, so much so, that a degree of bitterness, which was supposed could not exist in so small a community, was exhibited on both sides.

The day of the election, Saturday 17 June, was to be long remembered by those who witnessed the events that took place. By the time of the closing of the poll it was apparent that His Worship was the likely victor. Crowds gathered outside the Mechanic's Institution in Collins Street, and on being informed by Alderman **RUSSELL** that he would announce the result of the election on Monday morning, became very clamorous, and refused to disperse, having been repeatedly requested by the Police Magistrate, and became so violent that Major **ST. JOHN** deemed it expedient to read the Riot Act. The mob was again ordered to disperse without effect, when the troopers who were present, found it necessary to charge in and drive the mob from the area.

Subsequently, they formed themselves into parties of from one to two hundred persons, and about dusk paraded the streets, breaking the windows of all persons who had not their partisanship, rendered themselves obnoxious to them. They attacked grocer David **YOUNG**'s house, in Collins Street, with stones and brick-bats, smashing the sashes to pieces, Henry **BAKER'S** *Imperial Inn*, Messrs. **ROBERTS, WITTON AND FURNESS** (ironmongers), C. **WILLIAMSON & Company** (clothiers), and Matthew **CANTION'S** *Elephant and Castle tavern*, were all served in the like manner, but not to the extent of the damage done to Mr **YOUNG**'s premises.

The mob was now frightfully violent, and gathered in front of the premises of Thomas **GREEN**, the auctioneer, in Elizabeth Street opposite the Post Office, and commenced smashing all the windows in the house, tearing down the shutters, and threatened to pull the house down, until at the height of the tumult and yells of mob, Mr **GREEN** fired the contents of a gun through the door, and shot a man named Patrick **MURRAY** in the neck, and a person named **CURLE**, storekeeper in the employ of Alderman Andrew **RUSSELL**, was hit in the foot. Both the injured were carried away by their friends. By this time a detachment of the 80th Regiment, under the command of Captain **LEWIS**, had arrived, and the mob was dispersed. The mounted police patrolled the town during the remainder of the night and no further disturbances occurred.

On Monday morning, June 19, Henry **CONDELL**'s victory was confirmed with 295 votes, against 261 for Mr **CURR**.

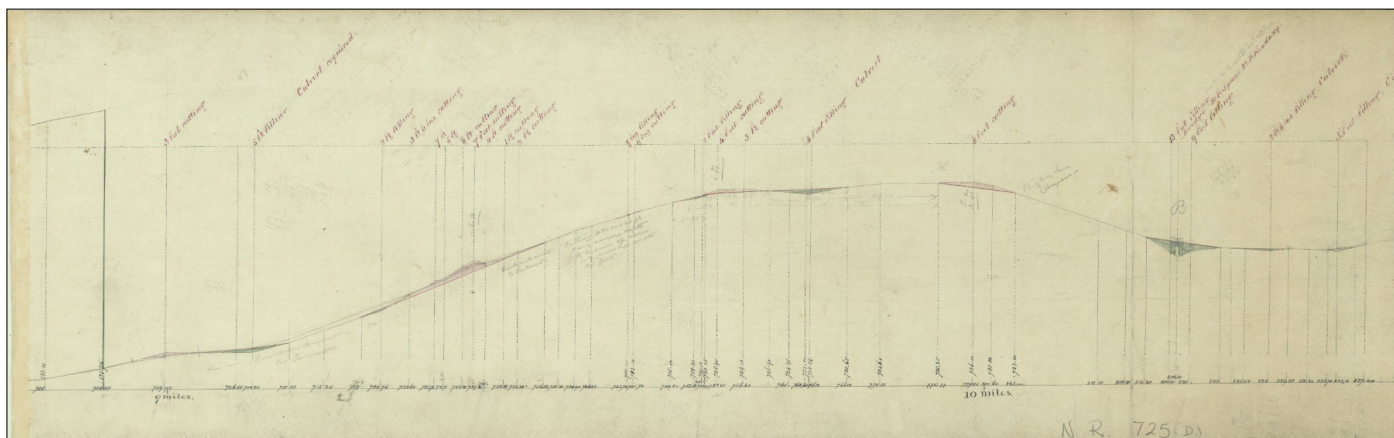
Full details of this disgraceful occurrence can be found in the *Port Phillip Gazette*, Wednesday June 21, 1843.

Contributed by Ken Smith, PPPG Member No. 895

SARAH SMITH aka 'PRETTY SALLY'

For those of us who have travelled the old Hume Highway to Kilmore, we remember the ominous journey over the *Big Hill* better known as *Pretty Sally Hill* (or just *Pretty Sally*), between Wallan and Kilmore. This dormant volcano, 529 metres above sea level, sat at about the 31-mile marker post from Melbourne.

We have all heard stories of drivers 'taking a run up' to get over *Pretty Sally Hill* only to finish up on the side of the road after the car boiled, and then patiently waiting for the engine to cool so that the radiator could be refilled and the journey continued. My Father was one such person and told us stories of how cars backed up *Pretty Sally Hill* in a low gear ratio just to make it to the top of the prolonged climb, and how he himself off-loaded his passengers (his parents and parents-in-law, much to their disdain) in order to successfully climb the last portion of *Pretty Sally Hill*.



Cross-section showing the gradient of Pretty Sally's Hill - 529 meters above sea-level.

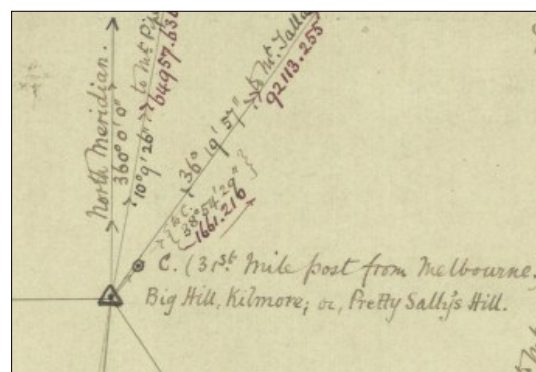
Source: PROV—Plan 68; Sydney Road from Melbourne to Kilmore (Pretty Sally's Hill) (VPRS8168)

This treacherous bit of road, particularly the stretch just over the hill on the Wallan side, was a notorious blackspot and tragically the site of many road fatalities, both horse and drays and eventually motor cars. Early reports of the road over *Big Hill* talk of torrential rain, of the wheels of bullock drays carving gutters in the muddy road, only for the next traveller up the hill to get stuck in them.

Right: Detail from TN 49; Donnybrook – Pretty Sally Hill showing *Big Hill* and the alternative name *Pretty Sally's Hill*, the 31 mile mark from Melbourne. Source: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/>

But where did the name 'Pretty Sally' originate?

For a short but impactful time, the spot where the road crested the hill was a place of rest, company, a meal and perhaps something a little stronger. A woman named Sarah 'Pretty Sally' SMITH (bc 1797 - 1851) ran a sly grog shop where travellers could rest and slake their thirst and it was said that 'Sally' was known to have enjoyed a tippie or two. (Sally was a common diminutive of the proper name Sarah thus the shanty being referred to as 'Pretty Sally's').



One can only assume whether it was because it was so small and remote, that only passers-by knew what awaited them, as it appears that no newspapers at the time mentioned *Pretty Sally's shanty and eating-house*. The following article seems to be the earliest account of *Pretty Sally's* establishment on the *Big Hill* where it describes a traveller's disappointment of it no longer being in existence:

"... commenced the ascent of the *Big Hill*, in the full assurance of finding a house of entertainment about half way over, which existed some fifteen months previously, under the auspices of *Pretty Sally*"

PRETTY SALLY continued ...

*but what was my chagrin to be informed that the present proprietor, Mr **BUDD**, did not combine such a mode of augmenting his income with his agricultural and dairy pursuits, ... on the site formerly occupied by 'Pretty Sally'. (*The Argus*, May 22 1850 p 2)*

Records exist of Joseph and Sarah **SMITH** holding a pastoral license for the area of *Big Hill* and *Merri Creek* from 1841 to 1847. (*Billis, R V (1974) Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, p 141)

Sarah **SMITH** had a terrible accident which was reported in *The Melbourne Argus*, 10 September 1847, p2

"An accident has occurred near Beveridge's Swamp, on Wednesday last, which I am informed is likely to be attended with fatal results. Mrs. Smith, better known as pretty Sally, was driving a spring cart; one of the wheels of the vehicle coming in contact with a stump, caused a capsize, when by some unaccountable means Mrs. S. fell under the vehicle, which being alone, seriously crushed her before she was released."

Despite her injuries being severe and the newspaper reporting her imminent death, there is no record of the death of a Sarah or Sally **SMITH** in 1847, either in the newspapers on *Trove* or in *Vic BDM*.

However, a Grant of Administration for a Sarah **SMITH** who died in 1851 was witnessed by William Hartley **BUDD** (b.c.1809 – 1888), who, together with his second wife Rebecca (b.c.1819 – 1890) held the *Big Hill Run* from 1841-42, was obviously known to Joseph and Sarah **SMITH** aka 'Pretty Sally'.

The burial record of this Sarah **SMITH** aka 'Pretty Sally', the legendary woman who offered respite to weary travellers, states that she died in Melbourne about 13 March 1851 and was interred the next day (whereabouts unknown), that she was 54 years old and the wife and widow of Joseph **SMITH**. According to William **BUDD**, Sally had no next of kin in the district.

In his book *Truth, Stranger than Fiction*, William Ashton Coomer Robinson gives us this description;

... "We soon arrived at a mountain range (over part of which the road winds), called Pretty Sally's Hill, named after ... a very stout and ugly old woman who kept an inn at its base."



A second insight into 'Pretty Sally' states *"The person in question was not the handsome slender young lady the name evokes, but a formidable woman of 114 kilograms as ugly as you would meet..."*. (*Pretty Sally's Hill – A History of Wallan, Wandong & Bylands*, 1981; J W Payne)

The Kilmore Historical Society researchers consider that the position of 'Pretty Sally's' *shanty* was at the top of the hill beside what is today called the Old Sydney Road just west of the transmitter station (half-way over) near Beauview Drive, Wallan. The current road is much straighter and safer. As the Hume Highway bypass was constructed in the 1970s, the original road became part of the Northern Highway and is situated just North of Wallan, leading to Kilmore.

As is the case with most bush legends, details about the life of this formidable woman are sketchy, but for a few short years in the 1840's, Sarah **SMITH** aka 'Pretty Sally' left a lasting mark on the Australian landscape and helped supplement her family's income by making her shanty available to weary travellers.

Contributed by Di-anne Wheeler PPPG member No. 1505

William Hartley Budd

The William **BUDD** who swore an affidavit that Sarah **SMITH** aka 'Pretty Sally' had no next of kin in the Port Phillip District when she died in Melbourne in 1851, had a very interesting story of his own to tell.

William **BUDD** (1812-1888) was a builder, born in Kent, England, the fifth child of John and Hannah Budd. He was four months old when his father John died and his mother then married Samuel Hartley around 1814. It seems from then on that William was known as William Hartley **BUDD**.

William H. **BUDD** immigrated from Liverpool to Tasmania on the ill-fated ship *Hibernia* which was burnt at sea in 1833. There were 232 passengers plus crew aboard, and he was one of only 60 survivors. His half-brother Nathan **HARTLEY** also survived but both parents (Hannah and Samuel **HARTLEY**) tragically died. Picked up by the *Lotus*, survivors were taken to Rio de Janeiro where they eventually boarded the *Adelaide* and continued their journey to Hobart, landing 20 May 1833. (*Sydney Monitor*, Wednesday 10 July 1833, p4). Nathan Hartley returned to England about three months later.

Wm. H **BUDD** and his wife Ann **BUDD nee** Devereaux departed Van Dieman's Land for Port Phillip, 21 Oct 1838 on the ship *Francis* (23 Oct 1838, *The Austral-Asiatic Review*). Also on board was a John **DEVE-REUX**, possibly Ann's father or brother. Ann Devereux was born in 1818 in Van Dieman's Land and died 1840 at Melbourne. (*Vic BDM* #38172/1840) Ann was buried at the Old Melbourne Cemetery. William and Ann **BUDD** had one son William Increase **BUDD** b. & d. 1840 at Melbourne. (*VicBDM* #38153/1840)

The 1842 Electoral Roll for Melbourne lists W.H. **BUDD** with a shop in Elizabeth Street Melbourne. After Ann's death William married Rebecca **SUTTON** (bc 1819 - d.1890) in 1842 (*Vic BDM* 4484/1842) daughter of George Sutton and Mary Horricks. (*findagrave.com*)

The following notice appeared in the *Kilmore Free Press* Thurs 8 November 1888 p 2

"BUDD - On 5th November 1888 at his residence, Strangeways, Wallan Wallan, William Hartley Budd, sen aged 79 years. An old colonist of 55 years. Deeply regretted"

Rebecca **BUDD nee SUTTON** died 5 July 1890 aged 71 at Wallan (*VicBDM* # 14145/1890) and both William and Rebecca **BUDD** were buried at the Wallan cemetery, Victoria

William **BUDD**—*Big Hill Run*, Wallan Wallan 1841-1842 / *Pentridge Inn*, *Kinlochewe* 1845-47 / *Strangeways Hotel*, *Big Hill*, Wallan Wallan June 1847-55. (*Billis & Kenyon: Pastoral Pioneers of Port Philip*)

William **BUDD**'s Will stated he had real estate valued at £7800 and a personal estate valued at £1300, total value of £9100 when he died in 1888. (*trove.nla.gov.au - Kilmore Free Press* Thu 6 Dec 1888 p2)

Issue of William H.**BUDD** and Rebecca **SUTTON**; (all sources are from *VicBDM* unless stated otherwise)

- William Hartley **BUDD** b.1842 (#15841/1842 Melbourne) d. 9 April 1912 Wallan aged 69 (#79841/1912) m. Alice Corry 1867 (#2715/1867)
- Emma Jane **BUDD** b.1845 (#14222/1845 Kinlochewe) m. William Hale 1864 (#4258/1864 Vic) d. 1933 Malvern East aged 86 (#6058/1933)
- Henry Hartley **BUDD** b.1848 (*VicBDM* #15841,1848 Kinlochewe) - d. 19 May 1915 aged 66 (#5627/1915)
- Rosetta **BUDD** b.1850 (# 16700/1850 Strangeways) d. 1934 Kilmore aged 82 (#12905/1934)
- Elizabeth **BUDD** b.1857 (#7013/1857 Kilmore)
- Samuel McDonnell **BUDD** b.1859 (#9008/1859 Wallan) d.1908 Kew aged 49 (#10190/1908)
- Unnamed female **BUDD** 1861 (#15549/1861 Kilmore)

William Hartley **BUDD**, a person known to 'Pretty Sally' **SMITH**, triumphed over tragedy to establish himself as a successful builder, pastoralist and inn-keeper in the Port Phillip District.

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE CARROLL

Often people are frustrated in their search for family history by on-line genealogy trees that link people without any sources. One of our members Graeme Lamb has kindly shared his frustrations with us concerning on-line family history sites with unlikely hints in family trees. Graeme's story began with Catherine **CARROLL** (1841-1889).

Michael **CARROLL** and Mary **JOICE** arrived in Port Phillip aboard the *Coromandel* in July 1840 and married soon afterwards at St Francis church. Catherine, their first born, arrived in 1841, but the search for her life details located only one official document, her baptism certificate. Hints from genealogy sites linked her to a Bryan Ryan and dying in 1933 at Pakenham, with their children born in the Warrnambool area. I was confused, our family history never mentioned the name Ryan, nor Pakenham nor Warrnambool.

Moving to the Port Phillip Pioneers Group website and their indexes prepared by Lester Stephens I found a reference to Catherine **CARROLL** marrying James **McNeil**.

Searching **McNeil** in Vic BDM revealed their marriage, births of children and death details, confirming my suspicion the following on-line hints were incorrect for my ancestor's line:

- . Catherine Carroll/Ryan born 1845, Thurles Ireland, daughter of Richard Carroll and Johanna McLoughley, married 1879 Thomas Ryan, (Vic BDM 3127) and died 1933 Pakenham, (Vic BDM 16658)
- . Kate Carroll/Ryan born 1859, Southern Cross Victoria, daughter of Patrick Carroll and Elizabeth Bolton, of Warrnambool, married 1879 Bryan Ryan (Vic BDM 3158), died 1887 Koroit (Vic BDM 15634)

Graham provided a summary and timeline of **Catherine CARROLL/MCNEIL's** life:

- . **Catherine CARROLL/McNeil** born 1841, Melbourne, daughter of Michael **CARROLL** and Mary **JOYCE**, married James McNeil 1864 (Vic BDM 3914), died 1889 St Kilda (Vic BDM 19101)
- . 1841 birth, Melbourne (Vic BDM 36065) daughter of Michael **CARROLL** and Mary **JOYCE (JOICE)**
- . 1864 married at Brighton James McNeil (a Scot) (Vic BDM 3914)
- . 1867 birth of daughter Mary Ann (Vic BDM 17185)
- . 1869 birth of son William Patrick (Vic BDM 10646) – surname spelt McNeal
- . 1871/72 birth of daughter Helena Maple Branch – no birth record, derived from death certificate
- . 1872 death of daughter Helena Maple Branch (Vic BDM 2283/1872 age 7 months)
- . 1875 birth of son John James (Vic BDM 11235)
- . 1877 birth of son Thomas Joseph (Vic BDM 17492)
- . 1879 birth of son James (Vic BDM ref 10962)
- . 1880/81 birth of son Westley – no birth record, derived from death certificate
- . 1881 death of son Westley (Vic BDM 11499 age 7 months)
- . 1882 death of father Michael **CARROLL**, Catherine listed on death certificate as living
- . 1885 - 2 January death, James McNeil, Traralgon, (Vic BDM 3701). Coroner's Inquest found death due to heart failure. Probate granted to Catherine on 12 February 1885 ref 29/216
- . 1889 - 27 December, died age 48, Catherine **MCNEIL** nee **CARROLL** (Vic BDM 19101), buried St Kilda General Cemetery, RC section, compartment C, grave 676.

Contributed by Graeme Lamb PPPG Member No. 1552

From the Editor: So in conclusion, it is easy to see how links in on-line family trees can create much confusion, especially when sources are not stated. I suppose the lesson here is to use the links as a starting point, but make sure you do your own research and find your own sources to ensure you have the correct person.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday: 9 May 2026 / AGM

Speaker: Fiona Malcolm

Topic: The Melbourne Athenaeum (originally known as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution)

Saturday: 11 July 2026

Speaker: Paul Balassone

Topic: Water and Sanitation in Early Melbourne

Saturday: 12 September 2026

Speaker: Adam Wakeling

Topic: The agitation for self-government in the Port Phillip District in the 1840s and the creation of the Victorian Parliament Meetings

MEETING VENUE

Hall Entry: \$2.00

Doors Open: 1.30 pm. Sign in. Time to browse notice board, borrow library books, and chat.

Meeting Starts: 2.00 pm.

Guest Speaker: 2.30 pm.

Afternoon Tea: 3.30 pm.

Venue: Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner.

Melways Reference: Map 59 H7.

Or Online via Zoom digital platform

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