

FROM TOTES & TRAINERS TO TULLOCH & TABCORP

Celebrating the Melbourne Festival of Racing, Melburnians are invited to don their hats, grab their tote books and race back in time to explore one of our favourite pastimes, as the Royal Historical Society of Victoria launches their 2008 Lecture program with '**The History of Thoroughbred Racing**'.

To be held on **Tuesday 12 February at 5.45pm**, this fascinating discussion by racing expert Dr. Andrew Lemon, will examine the social and political history of racing in Australia from 1939 to 2007.

"Thoroughbred racing today plays a very significant role in the economic and cultural life of the city, and the Melbourne racing scene is without a doubt integrated firmly into our national calendar," Dr Lemon said.

"It has, however, had a very interesting and somewhat turbulent past, especially of late with the equine influenza outbreak.

"Our discussion will unravel this popular passion and look at the many scandals, glories, champions and outback scrubbers of the sport!

"We will also spend time demystifying the jargon of privatisation, rationalisation and the internationalisation of racing."

Dr Andrew Lemon is currently completing *The History of Australian Thoroughbred Racing In Our Time*, to be published by Hardie Grant and scheduled for release in Spring 2008. The publication will be volume 3 of a trilogy - volume 1 (The Beginnings) and volume 2 (The Golden Age - 1861 to 1939), originally published in 1987 and 1990 respectively and set to be re-released in revised editions. The project is being co-ordinated and sponsored by the Victoria Racing Club in conjunction with Australian racing organisations.

Dr Lemon is also noted as the author of award-winning local and institutional histories. Most recently his history of Wesley College was short-listed in the 2005 NSW Premier's History Awards. He is a Fellow of the RHSV and edited the Victorian Historical Journal throughout the 1990s.

The event will be held in the former Australian Army Medical Corps Drill Hall, an impressive space, listed on the Historic Buildings register for its state-wide architectural and historical significance.

Formed in 1909, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) is committed to collecting, researching and sharing an understanding of the history of Victoria. Housing the most extensive single information resource on the history of Melbourne and Victoria, collections are open Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm. The RHSV is a community organisation that relies on membership subscriptions. Join today and help promote and preserve the history of Victoria – www.historyvictoria.org.au

Lecture: The History of Thoroughbred Racing
Date: Tuesday 12 February
Venue: Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne (entry via William Street)
Time: 5.15pm tea/coffee; 5.45pm – 6.45pm lecture
Cost: Free for members of the RHSV; \$5.50 non-members.
Parking: Available at Secure Parking, 383 La Trobe Street for \$7 (vouchers available from the RHSV on the night)
Bookings: t: (03) 9326 9288 e: office@historyvictoria.org.au

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