



What's On at RHSV

JUNE - JULY 2010

Unless stated otherwise all events will take place (or at least begin) at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000. 93269288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

TUESDAY 8 JUNE

Reading Block 19 Bonegilla

Speaker: Bruce Pennay

Time: 5.15 tea/coffee. Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members Free;
Non Members \$5.50

Bruce Pennay discusses the role of a heritage historian as member of a team preparing interpretation approaches and materials for Block 19 of the former Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre. Block 19 is a remnant of Australia's largest and longest-lived post-war migration reception centre. The site anticipates greater visitor numbers now that it has been placed on the National Heritage List. He deals with the interpretation challenges presented by the different ways the site had been remembered and represented. He discusses ways of meeting visitor expectations - whether the visitors come as school students, as heritage tourists or as pilgrims tracing their own or their family beginnings in Australia. He explains what the site indicates of the migrant experience of the nation as well as that of its newcomer residents. He recently recorded a Block 19 introduction for ABC Goulburn Murray Radio.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/03/04/2836754.htm>

Dr Bruce Pennay OAM is working on a Jobs Fund interpretation project at Block 19. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Charles Sturt University and has played a key role in promoting Block 19 Bonegilla as a public memory place. He is a member of both the Albury and the Wodonga district historical societies.

www.csu.edu.au/ses/staff/pennay.htm

TUESDAY 13 JULY

New Historians/ Professional Historians Association joint lecture

Two Speakers/Two Topics

Speakers: Lucy Bracey and Kirstie Close

Venue: RHSV

Time: 5.15 tea/coffee 5.45 Lecture

Cost: Members Free,
Non-Members \$5.50

LUCY BRACEY

As part of her degree, Lucy is currently in the middle of producing a radio program for the history show, Hindsight on Radio National. The program, tentatively titled *Sex, power and panic* looks at the lives of three women who were seen to threaten the moral wellbeing of nineteenth century Victorian society; Lola Montez: a revolutionary remembered for her exotic dances on the Ballarat goldfields; Caroline Pohl better known as Madame Brussels "Queen of Harlotry" in Melbourne; and Emma Williams: the Port Melbourne murderer hanged at 22 for the wilful murder of her 2 year old son. These three women lived through times of rapid flux and social change, and this program aims to discover if this affected the way in which they were treated by society, the media and the law. Lucy will be discussing this project and the processes involved as well as the ways in which public historians can engage with history using different mediums, like radio.

Lucy Bracey completed honours in History at the University of Melbourne in 2008. Her thesis *Dangerous streets and dangerous spaces* looked at the relationship between women, public space and immorality in nineteenth century Melbourne. Lucy is in her final year of a Masters of Public History at Monash University. Until recently she was assistant curator at the City Museum at Old Treasury. Lucy is currently doing some freelance historical consulting work, and is editor of the PHA (Vic) newsletter, *Pharos*.

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TUESDAY 10 AUGUST

VICTORIA IN FOCUS: The RHSV's Photography Collection

Speaker: Michele Summerton

Where: RHSV

Time: 5.15 tea/coffee 5.45 Lecture

Cost: Members Free; Non-Members \$5.50

The invention of photography in 1835 coincided with the settlement of Melbourne. By the 1850s the new process had been refined and its impact as a recording mechanism was immediate and profound. Professional photographers began to capture the astonishing transformation of Melbourne from a raw settlement to a flourishing city, not only documenting the remarkable enterprise of the gold rich metropolis in its marvellous buildings and streetscapes but in portraits of its citizens as well. Photographers were quick to also capture various activities in the regions recording the towns and landscapes in which colonial Victorians lived and worked. Development of the dry plate method in 1885 simplified the photographic process and inspired interest in remote, scenic photography. By 1900, snapshots were beginning to play a greater role than studio photographs in recording the everyday lives of Victorians. Although undistinguished in photographic technique, these informal and ordinary images are charged with the experiences of people recording their own personal histories.

The RHSV's extraordinary photographic collection charts the history and achievements of Victoria from the 1850s to recent times. When the society was founded in 1909 with the task of preserving Victoria's heritage, its first acquisition was a photograph, a portrait of the donor, a pioneer settler of Melbourne. Other donations quickly followed and today the collection is a significant resource, comprising some 30,000 images and demonstrating various photographic processes.

Michele Summerton will take you on a visual journey through the RHSV's photographic collection. Her talk will explore the collection through various themes in Victoria's history while also ranging over the principal photographic processes represented by its images.

Michele is a Melbourne-based historian and heritage practitioner specialising in historic places and material culture. She recently completed a significance assessment of the RHSV's photographic collection with funding provided by Heritage Victoria.

LECTURE CHANGED DATE

The advertised joint programme with the Royal Society of Victoria has been postponed to 21st September

Speaker: Dr Richard Gillespie
Museum Victoria

"The Great Melbourne Telescope: Restoring our astronomical heritage"

Pre-Lecture Refreshments from 6.15pm
Cost of refreshments \$20 pay on the night
RSVP for catering is essential by 12 noon
21st September 2010

Telephone 96635259 or email:
rsv@sciencevictoria.org.au

KIRSTIE CLOSE

Kirstie Close will be speaking about her current research which she is undertaking for her PhD thesis at Deakin University. Her thesis looks at the Fijian Methodist Church between 1930 and the year of the church's independence in 1964. Her research involves both archival sources, including church archives in Suva, Melbourne, Sydney, and Canberra, and oral history interviews. The launching point of the thesis – and this talk – will be the work of Kirstie's great-grandfather, Arthur D Lelean, who was a Methodist missionary in Fiji from 1918 to 1936. Kirstie has been investigating rumours of Arthur Lelean's collaboration with Apolosi R. Nawai and Nacanieli Rawaidranu, and what these two Fijian men were doing during the 1930s. Nawai has been dubbed the 'Rasputin of the Pacific', and rebelled against the colonial administration by creating the Viti Company. Rawaidranu was in charge of the Toko farmers, a group of farmers in and around the Ra district (where Nawai and Lelean were located) encouraging independent farming. These economic endeavours were against the norm in Fiji at this time as the colonial administration sought to maintain communal village lifestyles. As he assisted both of these men, Kirstie will ask whether Lelean was typical or atypical of Australian missionaries of the day, and link the story into broader issues of missions, self-governance, and modernity.

Kirstie Close completed her honours degree in history at La Trobe University in 2006. She went on to a Master of Arts at the University of Melbourne, which she completed by coursework and research in 2009. Her Masters' thesis looked at the wartime evacuation of Hopevale Mission in Northern Queensland. Kirstie is currently working on her PhD project at Deakin University, which looks at the independence of the Fijian Methodist Church, and is also currently on the Committee of Management of the Professional Historians Association, as well as tutoring history subjects at the Australian Catholic University.

Extension to closing date for entries into Community History Awards

The Victorian Community History Awards (VCHA) has existed since 1997 and has been a long-term collaboration between the Victorian Government and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV). The impetus for the Awards is a shared recognition of the importance of fostering the development of excellent research and writing about Victorian history.

Information Victoria is calling for applications for the 2010 Victorian Community History Awards. The closing date for entries to the 2010 Awards has been extended, and entries will now be accepted until 5pm, Wednesday, 30 June 2010.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to submit applications in the following categories:

- Best Collaborative/Community Work
- Best Print/Publication
- Best Audio-Visual/Multimedia
- Best Exhibit/Display
- Best Walk/Tour
- Best Community Research, Registers and Records.

Community history is an important part of Victoria's heritage and has strong support across the State. A recent Arts Victoria Report identifies over 600 'community museums', encompassing rural, metropolitan and regional areas. In addition there are numerous other community based organisations such as local schools, sporting clubs and volunteer-based organisations which are actively engaged in the preservation of

Victoria's history. All of these organisations have stories to tell. There is an almost universal need to preserve and share those stories, seek to increase community engagement and participation in local storytelling through supporting existing and new projects and highlighting the success of those projects.

The VCHA support local and cultural events and activities and recognise projects that demonstrate successful collaboration, increased capacity and successful partnerships.

Nominated projects are recognised because they contribute to increased connection within communities and build bridges of understanding between communities. This contributes to an improved sense of community belonging and safety.

This year's Awards will tie in with Melbourne's 175th anniversary celebrations, showcasing Australia's cultural capital. Winners will be publicly acknowledged at an Awards ceremony to be held at Victoria's State Library in late August 2010.

For further information, including entry forms, eligibility and selection criteria visit: www.vic.gov.au/historyawards

For any other enquiries regarding the Victorian Community History Awards contact Information Victoria:

e: infovic.marketing@diird.vic.gov.au
t: 1300 366 356 (local call cost)
t: (03) 9603 8806



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