



# History NEWS

Issue No. 298 Feb–Mar 2012

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## A Celebration

**Please join us to celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hugh Anderson**

**Tuesday 14 February 11.30 am - 1.00pm**

Hugh is a former Council member and Vice President of the RHSV and has been a Fellow of the RHSV since 1974. He is recognised as the outstanding scholar of Australian folklore including poetry and colonial ballads, and has produced an extraordinary body of published works since 1953. His books range from school text books, bibliographies, collections and editions of songs and ballads to local histories (*Victoria, from Discovery to Federation* (1974), *Ringwood, Place of many eagles* (1974) and biographies of John Pascoe Fawkner (*Out of the Shadow*) and Squizzy Taylor (*Larrikin Crook*, later reissued as *The Rise and Fall of Squizzy Taylor*). He has contributed a dozen articles to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. He created the imprint Red Rooster Press which was responsible for publishing important specialist texts by him and by others which might not otherwise have seen the light of day. All this and more was achieved amongst the demands of a full-time career as a school teacher and principal.

In December 2008 the University of Melbourne awarded Hugh Anderson the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

To summarise his work is to do him an injustice: this Lunchtime Event will allow us to say a little more: to give a better appraisal of his enormous contribution to the cause of history in Australia, and to celebrate with song and ballad.

It will also be an opportunity for Hugh to launch his latest work from his own Red Rooster Press – and to hear extracts from the book's companion CD:

*Two axe Mac : the story of Simon McDonald* / recorded, edited and introduced by Hugh Anderson ; transcriptions by Dawn Anderson

Join us at the RHSV Library, Ground Floor, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne at 11.30am on Tuesday 14 February when we will also be treated to a selection of songs by folk legends Danny Spooner and Dave and Lynne Lumsden, and tributes from historians including Professor Kate Darien Smith.

Space in the Library is limited so bookings are essential, and we urge you to book early for this unique event. A light sandwich lunch and refreshments will follow, and the event will conclude around 1pm.

Bookings can be made by calling 9326 9288 or via our website [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

Cost: \$25.00 Members; \$30.00 Non RHSV guests.

## Nominations invited

### RHSV FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS of MERIT

Nominations for 2012 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

**Closing Date for Fellows Nomination Friday 16 March**

**Closing Date for Awards of Merit Friday 13 April**

Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

**Announcements made at RHSV AGM on Tuesday 15 May.**

## Back to Work

**A warm and sunny welcome to everybody as we get ready for another busy year.**

Following feedback from members we have moved our Speakers Meetings to the **THIRD** Tuesday in the month. **Mark your diaries now.** Sadly we have had to increase our guest or non member's entrance fee to \$10.00 – but at the same time we have improved the conviviality of the evening with opportunities to see exhibitions, use the library and most important – we have upgraded the refreshments!!!

We look forward to seeing you at our Speakers Meetings - they are a wonderful way to hear inspiring speakers, meet like minded people and fuel your interest in Victorian history.

### YOU ARE INVITED

Members are invited to a **SPECIAL VIEWING** of the new exhibition, *Spirit of the Time* on **TUESDAY 20 MARCH** at 5.00pm to be followed by Hilary McPhee speaking on her recent publication *Memoirs of a Young Bastard: The Diaries of Tim Burstall*.

RSVP essential: 9326 9288 Friday 16 March



## HOW TO BECOME AN RHSV VOLUNTEER

### INFORMATION MORNING

**Wednesday 7 March 10.00 am – 1.00pm**

There are lots of opportunities to become involved with the work of the RHSV. Volunteers will receive inductions, training and are nurtured by our volunteer co-ordinator Chris Cooze. Time commitments can be flexible.

Volunteering with the RHSV is an opportunity to meet like minded people, and become involved in the stimulating and fun programmes at the RHSV.

A light lunch will be provided.

**RSVP to Christine Cooze on 9326 9288 by Monday 5 March.**

**OBITUARY**

**Barbara Nixon, OAM FRHSV**



We were profoundly shocked and deeply saddened to receive news of the sudden passing of our dear friend and Society librarian Barbara Nixon a week before Christmas.

It was an enormous privilege for library volunteers, past and present, to have shared the challenges, achievements, frustrations and friendship during Barb's wonderful service of more than forty years commitment to the RHSV collections.

A qualified librarian Barb joined the volunteer roster during the final years of Mrs Hill's tenure as part-time librarian. In the hotch-potch which comprised the collection area at 19 Queen Street she undertook book processing and sorting duties under far from ideal physical conditions.

Following the appointment of Martin Merchant as our first full time librarian Barb joined him in the total reorganization of the library collection, assisting in the arduous task of re-cataloguing under the Dewey system, listing and accessioning all non-book published material held and, most importantly, setting in process the sorting, listing and indexing of the manuscript collection leading to the publication in 1985 of *Sources of Victoria's Heritage*, the catalogue of manuscripts held by the Society. Such was the measure of her work that her nomination for Fellowship in 1982 was carried with much acclamation. It was during this period that Barb served a five year term on the Council.

Following the retirement of Martin, Barb was appointed our second full time librarian. Always a practical down-to-earth organizer she inspired her volunteer group to cope through four relocations of the collection, the packing and unpacking testing the resources of all, through the transition from the card catalogue and typewriter to computer generated data, the total reorganization of the manuscript collection, not forgetting the doubling in size of the book collection, all achieved with humor and patience.

While the library represented Barb's focus we must not overlook her contribution to the social well-being of the volunteer "family". Birthday cakes appeared on due date, get well and good cheer cards were sent, phone calls and visits made and who will forget the carb soda clean of the coffee mugs – the list goes on.

We will miss Barb's presence among us. No more the cry "sorry, don't know, ask Barb".

To her family and friends we extend our thoughts and sympathy.

*Judith A. Bilszta FRHSV*

**A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at:  
St. John's Anglican Church,  
552 Burke Road Camberwell on  
Friday 24 February 2012 at 4pm**

**Dr Barnes joins RHSV Council**

**RHSV welcomes Dr Robert Barnes onto Council**

Dr Robert Barnes has a BA, MA, MLitt and PhD, mostly in Australian history. His PhD thesis, under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Don Garden at Melbourne University, was on Captain John Hunter, second Governor of NSW, which was subsequently published by Sydney University Press under the title "An Unlikely Leader".

This will be Robert's third spell on the RHSV council; the first from 1984 to 1989, the second between 1999 and 2003; he was Vice President 2002 to 2003.

He chaired the Committee which arranged the 2003 commemorations marking the bicentenary of the first European settlement in Victoria at Sorrento and has been President of the Nepean Historical Society since 2006.

During the 20 year period 1983-2003, he was CEO of the Australian Institute of Bankers, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. He is currently a Partner in a firm which locates Directors for Boards, is on the Committee of the Athenaeum Club and is a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

Robert has been a member of the RHSV for over 30 years and has been a contributor and book reviewer for the RHSV journal during his earlier times on Council.

**VHJ INDEX – ADDITIONS to our WEBSITE**

Our journal is again made more useful to members, specialist researchers and the general reader with a massive update to its index on our website.

Volume 81 of the *Victorian Historical Journal* at 311 pages is near to our largest to date; rivalled only by Vols 33, 41, 46 and 79. Consequently its comprehensive index, running to over 1250 individual entries, is close to the largest number of entries for one volume: Vol 79, 2008, beats it at 1548 entries.



But this is mere number crunching – the index points to a wealth of information about Victoria's history, culture, social character and development. Articles in Volume 81 focussed on: Walter Woodbury's 1855 photographic panorama of Melbourne; the RHSV's Robert Law Glass Slide Collection; Victoria and the Armenian Relief Movement; the Melbourne Athenaeum and its Secretary (1909-1949); perceived differences between Victoria and other Australian States; artist Jane Cannan; Aboriginal language areas in Northeast Victoria; Lord Hewart of Bury's *The New Despotism* (1929); the life and times of Peter Snodgrass (1817-1867); the massacre of the Gadubanud at Aire River; the University of Melbourne's first female students; Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre (1947-1971); the Old Supreme Court of Victoria; and the 'phenomenal coolness of Tunnerminnerwait'. Additionally ten extended book reviews were published.

Our thanks go to John Adams for compiling the index, Richard Barnden for putting it into a form suitable for computer searching and Laura Frost for posting it on our new website. Annually John presents a seminar on *Indexing for Historical Societies*. His book on the subject is available from the Society: 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au.

**NEW EXHIBITION**



# The Spirit of the Time

**15 March – 20 April**

What motivated the pioneers of local history to collect? Why did the founders see local history as important? These questions guided the selection of images for the RHSV address book.

Based on the collections of the RHSV this exhibition traces early collecting patterns of the RHSV and asks the question – how do we maintain the passion – how do we capture “*The Spirit of the Time?*” (William John Hughston – Founder RHSV – *The Argus* 1909)

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL VIEWING**

Members are invited to a Special Viewing of this exhibition on:

**TUESDAY 20 MARCH**

**5.00pm**

to be followed by Hilary McPhee speaking on her recent publication *Memoirs of a Young Bastard: The Diaries of Tim Burstall*.

RSVP essential: 9326 9288 Friday 16 March

**SUPPORT THE PASSION**

**Why not start the New Year with a fresh Address Book?**

The RHSV Address Book is a wonderful souvenir of the RHSV collection. Images include rare photographs of Jessie Webb, the *Paper Boy* taken on the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets, c.1860, soldiers landing on Anzac Beach, April 25, 1915; a Jane Cannon drawing of Gardiner’s Creek (Toorak Road) Prahran, 1853, as well as art works and manuscripts. There are 34 beautifully reproduced images giving a comprehensive overview of the collection. The foreword to the address book gives a brief history of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria but most of all it encourages you buy this book and give to a friend to inspire within them a passion for Victorian history.



Address Books can be purchased by phoning the RHSV on 9326 9288 or via our website [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au).  
Cost \$30.00

# Awards of Merit

Please consider nominating a member of your society for an Award of Merit or Fellowship.

In this edition we publish the citation for Wemyss Struss who received an Award of Merit at the RHSV 2011 AGM.

## Leading, sharing, inspiring

Wemyss Struss joined Stratford and District Historical Society in 1988 soon after moving to the area from suburban Melbourne. The Society, which started in 1968, had begun to mark time somewhat; meeting bi-monthly and lacking progress. In 1989 Wemyss accepted the position of Vice President and then in 1990 she was elected President and under her dynamic leadership a contagious enthusiasm evolved.



*Andrew Lemon, President RHSV, presents Wemyss Struss with her Award of Merit*

Wemyss has also been an active member of many other groups in the area and this wide range of connections and contacts has increased the Society’s ability to both seek and share information and resources when needed.

The Society moved the Museum and collection into the former 1873 Methodist Church in 1981 and, while not owning the building, grants for repairs and improvements were rarely available. Under Wemyss’ leadership, encouragement and generosity, unbelievable progress has been made with the achievement of the Society’s long term goal - the ownership of the building as well as the addition of an adjoining storage shed. Since becoming the owners in 2004 Stratford and District Historical Society have successfully obtained several grants to help with restoration of the building and collection management. Wemyss has continued to motivate, organise and/or help co-ordinate members of the Society with all the ongoing fundraising and hundreds of hours of working bees and volunteer labour which have now resulted in the Society having a Museum which is the envy of many other societies.

She has always had a strong personal interest in people and history. She has read widely and been keen to both learn, share and encourage family and friends and members of the wider community in following up their particular questions, interests and talents, which, in turn, has led to the Society expanding the knowledge and resources we have available at the Museum.

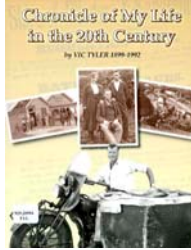
Wemyss devotes many hours to the day to day business of the Society – personally working at the Museum building during our opening hours - 5 hours every Tuesday, 2 hours on the fourth Sunday afternoon of the month plus special opening times for interested community and school groups, being the first point of contact for people’s enquiries about the Society and its resources, ensuring those enquiries are worked through, personally organising guest speakers for our monthly night meetings and arranging a few fundraising and social events during the year.

A large measure of the Society’s success can be attributed to her leadership and personal hours of hard work and active connection with many parts of our rural area. She can be described as the lynch pin that keeps everything together at Stratford and District Historical Society.

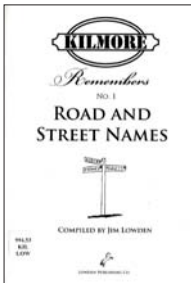
BOOKS RECEIVED

We note below relevant items sent to the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in *History News* and through possible deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in our journal.

Vic Tyler, *Chronicle of My Life in the 20th Century*, Rye Historical Society, PO Box 65, Rye, 3941, 2011, pp. v + 114, \$20 + postage. Memories of a hard-working life much of it spent on the Mornington peninsula told for his family but published for deservedly wider circulation. A well-told chronicle.



Jim Lowden (compiler), *Kilmore Remembers: Road and Street Names, A Selection*, Lowden Publishing, 29 Lisbeth Ave., Donvale, 3111, 2011, pp. vi + 86, \$15-95 + 2-50 postage. The compiler's contribution to Kilmore



history and heritage is very significant. This latest booklet carries out his aim of 'putting something out there' hoping that 'it will be the basis for correction and feedback'. He plans many more in the 'Kilmore Remembers' series, all of them the result of collaborative research but made possible by Jim Lowden's energetic publishing. A very worthy tackling of the puzzles of the origins of street names.

Bill Gammage, *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2011, pp. 464, \$49-99. The impact of Indigenous Australians on the environment through 'firestick farming' has been widely acknowledged since the 1960s but the extent of that impact has usually been limited to particular areas and assigned as being a minor cause of the state of the environment that existed in 1788. In this challenging book, Gammage argues that Indigenous Australians managed landscapes around Australia in a complex system using fire and knowledge of life cycles of native plants that resulted in a plentiful supply of food throughout the year. He supports his arguments by analysis of European descriptions in images and observations showing that the identification of 'park-like' countryside was what it looked like, not what the observers thought it should look like. He links the Indigenous management practices to their attitudes to land and the importance of

totems. He uses the work of botanists and other scientists but disputes their general lack of acceptance of the importance of Indigenous practices. This is a book that must be read by anyone with an interest in understanding how Australia was made.

Helen Penrose, *The Way to the Stars, 150 Years of The Geelong College*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2011, pp. xiv + 229, \$75. There have been a number of excellent school histories published in recent years that enlarge our understandings of the student experience over time, that closely relate the school to the values of the wider community, and that take account of changing concepts of education, as well as the impact of particular teachers and administrators, financial management and building programs. Schools choose to present a chosen kind of history. In this case, the choice was for a beautifully-presented, well-written, glossy account of 150 years, largely framed around the succession of principals. It lacks the depth of the recent histories of Scotch College, Wesley College and University High School, partly because of the limited scope of its questionnaires and interviews, and like so many histories of independent schools, it deals with cuts in government funding but does not acknowledge the enormous benefits that have resulted from that funding since the 1960s.

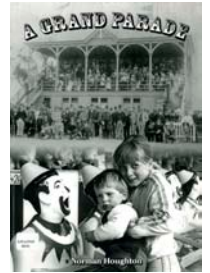
Susan Priestley, *Henrietta Augusta Dugdale, An Activist 1827-1918*, Melbourne Books, Melbourne, 2011, pp. 201, \$29-95. The first substantial biography of Henrietta Dugdale, a notable early Australian feminist who migrated to Victoria in the early 1850s. Married three times, she took the name of her second husband, William, and lived a life well described as 'activist' in times when not many women campaigned for rights to suffrage and education. A talented individual, her activism gained widespread respect in spite of her unconventional life. This was not an easy biography to write because there were virtually no private papers. Susan Priestley's masterly recreation of Henrietta's life, her family, social circles and times from the public record is a considerable research feat, well documented and clearly expressed.

Mark McKenna, *An Eye for Eternity, The Life of Manning Clark*, Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2011, pp. 793. This widely acclaimed biography adds considerably to our understandings of Clark's life and works. It is both massive and very readable; it draws on the enormous deposits of Clark writings: letters, notes, diaries, autobiographies, speeches, articles, short stories, as well as the published histories and interviews with those who

knew him and worked with him. It draws not only on Manning's 'deposits' but also Dymphna's. In what seemed to be a well-worked field, there is so much that is fresh. As McKenna acknowledges, he had access to 'private and sensitive material' to which most families would have restricted access, something that he attributes to 'a commitment to truth telling', partly derived from Dymphna Clark. It is difficult to imagine that there will be a Clark biography to surpass this one, but the interest in the man and his work still invokes passion.

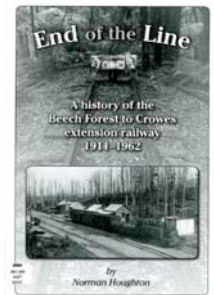
Patrick Lindsay, *The Spirit of the Digger*, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2011, pp. xv + 320, \$35. Military history and arguments for a distinctive Australian identity remain thriving areas in book publication. This is a revised version of the text first published in 2003 with new chapters on the Digger in Iraq and updates on the location and identification of the soldiers buried en masse after Fromelles. Lindsay argues for a distinctive Digger identity against contentions otherwise.

Norman Houghton, *A Grand Parade, 150 Years of the Colac & District Pastoral & Agricultural Society*, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, pp. vi + 102. The annual show has been an important



event in most of regional Victoria for a long time – more than a 150 years in this case. The showgrounds also provided the venue for other community activities – a range of sports, outdoor and indoor; social functions and conferences; and during World War 2 it was requisitioned for military training with consequent damage. The work of voluntary committees in sustaining the show and its grounds is strongly presented.

Norman Houghton, *End of the Line, A History of the Beech Forest to Crowes Extension Railway Line, 1911-1962*, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2011, pp. 52.



Another graphic book documenting settlement and railway and tramway development in the difficult terrain of the Otways served by the 24 km narrow gauge railway built from Beech Forest to Crowes that opened in 1911. Amply illustrated, the book adds materially to our appreciation of Otways history, to which the author is the prime contributor.

## History as Theatre

*The Girls in Grey* is a vivid, moving and candid account of ordinary women in extraordinary circumstances.



The play tells the stories of three Australian Army nurses during World War 1. From the time of leaving our Australian shores they traverse the splendours of sunset over the Sphinx in Egypt, to the eruption of casualties from the Dardanelles. The barren shores of Lemnos Island test even the most stoic, and in the muddy sludge of the Western Front they overcome horrific working conditions, bearing witness to the horror of war and the devastation of young men involved in front line conflict. Elsie always looks for the brighter side. Her infectious sense of humour disguises a fierce determination to follow her husband Syd to war. Courageous Alice is drawn to adventure, unexpectedly falling in love with Harry; a lieutenant whose fate is to be at the dreadful battle of Fromelles. Sturdy, serious Grace is the demanding yet compassionate Matron whose calm resolve is gradually eroded by the anguish of war. The show will be performed at Theatre Works 22 Acland St, St Kilda from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 13 May 2012. Further information is available at [info@theshifttheatre.com.au](mailto:info@theshifttheatre.com.au) or by calling Helen on 0407 876 813.

## History as Film

Despite a caning from the critics for being 'too sentimental' and 'historically inaccurate', Spielberg's film *War Horse* makes a credible attempt to recreate a now-remote period in history, and is able to transport us to that world with attention to detail, though perhaps some of the 'big picture' accuracy is wanting. The screenplay was based on *War Horse* a children's novel by Michael Morpurgo, published in 1982, and a stage adaptation of the book in 2007 by Nick Stafford.

The real stars of the show of course were the horses, as befits a children's story. The unhappy part of the recreation of the war scenes is that they seemed to me to be too realistic and frightening for children, these things being tempered in the novel by the child's capacity to imagine them. Various personal reviews mention children seeing the film and enjoying it, but I would recommend observing the M rating.

Lenore Frost



Military History & Heritage Victoria Inc.



Military History Conference for Melbourne -

## In the Shadow of War – Australia 1942

For the first time in many years, an international military history conference will be held in Melbourne in 2012, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 1942. *In the Shadow of War – Australia 1942*, over 21-22 April, will also open Victoria's first ever Military History and Heritage Week.

The Conference will be opened by Lieutenant General Mark Evans AO, DSC (Rtd), former Chief of Joint Operations between 2008 and 2010. Professor David Horner, Professor of Australian Defence History in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, will be the keynote speaker. The theme of Professor Horner's keynote presentation is *1942: A pivotal year in Australian history*.

Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc., the conference organiser, has brought together presentations by some of Australia's top military, political and social historians, led by Professor Horner, along with historians from the USA and Japan. MHHV Patron, Major-General Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED (Rtd), said that the conference was a comprehensive look at the controversies and issues of 1942, when for the first time modern Australia faced the prospect of foreign invasion. He said, "This is an opportunity not to be missed by anyone interested in the air, sea and land battles, the home front and the politics, the strategy from both sides, and the role of the Americans."

Professor Horner said, "1942 saw many contentious issues in Australian history, for example what was the capacity of the Curtin Labor Government, to what extent did Australia give up sovereignty when it handed its forces to General Macarthur and did Japan really intend to invade Australia?"

Beyond the events and these sorts of issues of 1942, however, it is important to place them in the broader context of Australian history. To understand what happened in 1942 and why, it is necessary to go back perhaps forty years in Australian history to understand for example, why it was that Australia was exposed and why were its defences so weak?"

Gala Dinner on 21 April will be a highlight of both the Conference and the Military History and Heritage Week, with Captain John Sheehan, USN, and US Air & Naval Attaché, as guest speaker.

MHHV president, Colonel Marcus Fielding (Rtd), said that MHHV Inc. was pleased to deliver a first class military history conference as its contribution to Military History and Heritage Week over 21-27 April 2012.

Details of the conference and dinner can be found on [www.mhhv.org.au](http://www.mhhv.org.au) or call 0408 342 795 for more information.

### SPECIAL OFFER TO RHSV MEMBERS

As a special offer for RHSV members, MHHV has extended its concession rate to any member of the RHSV who registers for the conference by 31st March 2012. To take advantage of this offer of \$160 for the two day conference (a discount of \$60 from the full price) please note clearly on the registration form that you are a RHSV member.

### FURTHER READING

For further reading Simon Schama has an entertaining and insightful article on the role of movies on historical topics:and has some sport at the expense of Steven Spielberg's *Armistad* while conceding his brilliance as a storyteller. He asks whether historians should gripe too much at anomalies. He discusses a number of historical films.

*Clio at the Multiplex* published in the New Yorker, Jan 19, 1998 pp38 – 43.

The article can be found by using your search engine

## Women, Children and Welfare History in the Archives

The Public Record of Victoria and the Australian Women's Register Project extend an invitation to a seminar to commemorate International Women's Day and Women's History Month:

**WHEN?** 1.0-2.30pm on Wednesday  
14 March 2012

**WHERE?** The Seminar Room, the Public Record Office, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne

### PANELLISTS:

**Shurlee Swain** - 'Making their case: archival traces of mothers and children in negotiation with child welfare officials'

**Charlie Farrugia** - 'The wardship records in the PROV Collection'

**Nikki Henningham** - 'What's New with the Australian Women's Register'.

The seminar aims to raise the profile of the Australian Women's Register and to highlight the richness of the PROV in locating records about women and their contribution to Victorian society.

Professor Shurlee Swain is a professor of Humanities at the Australian Catholic University. She specialises in Australian social history, including religious, women's, children's and welfare history.

Dr Charlie Farrugia is Senior Collections Adviser at PROV.

Dr Nikki Henningham is the Executive officer of the AWAP, a committee of the National Foundation for Women.

Refreshments are available from Café 99 in the Public Record Office building.

Queries: Charlie Ferrugia:  
Charlie.Farrugia@prov.vic.gov.au

Rosemary Francis:  
landrfrancis@bigpond.com

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV

## Seminar Saturday 3 March

**RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne**

# Standing your Ground

Understanding your lease, occupancy agreements, new opportunities for old buildings and the importance of keeping excellent records for the management of your building.

- 10 am Registration and cup of tea for those who have travelled from afar.
- 10.30 Welcome from **Dr Andrew Lemon**, President of the RHSV and from **Lenore Frost**, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group.
- 10.45 **Kate Prinsley**, Executive Officer: Report to societies
- 11.00 **Dr Jan Penney** – Executive Officer Mint Inc - *What is Mint Inc?*
- 11.45 **Aaron Tenabel** – Marsh Insurance Brokers - *Understanding Your Lease*
- 12.30 Questions
- 1.00 LUNCH**
- 1.45 **Larina Strauch** – Kyneton Historical Society – Operating in a non permanent residency
- 2.30 **Laura Frost** – Local History Officer – Good Housekeeping – the importance of records
- 3.15 Close of seminar, and a cup of tea before everyone heads home.

**Costs:** \$15 per head includes a light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged by email [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) or phone 9326 9288. Bookings will close Wednesday February 29. Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.

## Version Control for Excel and Word

Many societies now use Excel to keep records such as a Members Register or financial spreadsheets, however, once you make changes to your file you can often lose information. Tracking the changes made to a spreadsheet or keeping versions of files can be confusing and messy. An ideal situation would be to maintain one spreadsheet called *Members Register.xlsx*, but still be able to retrieve an electronic version of that spreadsheet for a given date, say the end of the previous financial month/year.

There is a simple program called MagnetSVN that allows you to do this. It is inexpensive at \$19.00 and it integrates beautifully with Word 2007/2010 and Excel 2007/2010. After you make changes to a spreadsheet (or document) you click a button and 'commit' that spreadsheet to a repository, essentially taking a snapshot of it at that point in time, say 30 June 2011. You then continue using your spreadsheet as you would normally, and if you make any further changes, you can commit the spreadsheet again to the repository. Later down the track you can then retrieve the spreadsheet *exactly* as it was each time you committed it to the repository.

Those interested can download a trial version of MagnetSVN from the MagnetSVN website <http://www.magnetsvn.com>. You can also contact Laura Frost, the RHSV's Local History Officer for more information or assistance.

## MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA VICTORIA - CONFERENCE

**Collect, Conserve, Connect: Museums Australia (Victoria) State Conference 2012**

**29 – 30 March 2012 School of Mines, University of Ballarat**

MA (Vic) invites you to 'Come To Life' in Ballarat for Museum Australia (Victoria's) very first State Conference for museums and communities in Victoria. This forum for ideas will bring MA members and the wider community together to showcase some of the best museum practices, community-building projects and local cultural heritage.

**[www.mavic.asn.au/stateconference](http://www.mavic.asn.au/stateconference)**

**email: [mavic@mavic.asn.au](mailto:mavic@mavic.asn.au)**

## GRANTS NOW OPEN

**Victorian Community Foundation  
Holsworth Local Heritage Trust**

The Trust is interested in supporting enthusiastic community groups and organisations with a true interest in heritage preservation and appreciation, and the enhancement of community life.

Grants of up to **\$2,000** are available for the publication of any specific or general local history or natural history in rural and regional Victoria.

The Grant is intended for small organisations with an interest in publishing works of historical value, even where the organisation has little or no experience of self publishing work. Joint projects encompassing several groups or annual/special edited journals incorporating submitted historical articles from a wide community are encouraged.

Applicants are required to submit a proposal including details of the intended date of publication.

Applications open on **1 March 2012 and close 1 August 2012.**

Application guidelines and form are available at: <http://www.anz.com/personal/private-bank-trustees/trustees/granting>

**Congratulations to the following groups who were awarded grants in the 2011 round:**

Charlton Golden Grains Museum Inc  
Malmsbury Historical Society Inc  
Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society  
Upper Beaconsfield Association

**2012 Exhibition Grants**

MA (Vic)'s Exhibition Services welcome Victorian collecting organisations to apply for grants relating to exhibition development, touring or infrastructure.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available. A list of successful past applicants and grant guidelines and application form are now available online.

Applications close Friday 13 April.

Further information: Museums Australia (Victoria)

Or by phoning:

8341 7502

## AROUND the SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost and Jenny Coates on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For the April issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to [lenore10@hotmail.com](mailto:lenore10@hotmail.com).

**ARARAT:** The society was successful in its grant application to purchase a scanner suitable for large photographs, and will also purchase a new SLR camera. The blacksmith's shop has been renovated, and a Myer's Siphon Pump has been beautifully restored for display. Enquiries: phone (03) 5352 31170 [langimorgala@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:langimorgala@vic.chariot.net.au).

**AVOCA:** As part of the development of their new library system, members met to discuss the de-accession of books with no direct connection to the local area. A grant has paid for a split-system air-conditioner, and a new fly-screen door has been installed. Look out for the garage sale on the last Sunday of each month.

**BALLAN:** The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 February at the RSL, 146 Inglis Street, at 8 pm. The guest speaker will be Amanda Jean, architect, who has prepared the plans for the proposed new addition to the rear of the Ballan Court House. Enquiries: 5368 2544.

**BALLARAT:** The theme for this year's Ballarat Heritage Weekend on 12 and 13 May is "Childhood Memories". The society is looking for childhood items with stories or 8mm film of the 1950s and 1960s to loan for an exhibition. Contact Catherine on [catherinewitteveen@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinewitteveen@hotmail.com) or [www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com)

**BALWYN:** On Thursday 8 March at 8 pm Dr David Beardsell will give an illustrated talk on "The Outer Circle Railway and the Railway Buses". Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn. Enquiries: [bhs@balwynwelfare.org.au](mailto:bhs@balwynwelfare.org.au).

**BAPTIST:** On Thursday 8 March there will be a panel discussion on the topic "150 years of changing architecture among Victorian Baptists". The panel will review the links between theology and church architecture. Meetings are held at the Auburn Baptist Church, 597 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 97291752.

**BENALLA:** The centenary of State Secondary Education in Benalla will be celebrated in September 2012. The Higher Elementary School first opened in temporary premises, becoming the Benalla High School in a purpose built building in 1916. If you can contribute memorabilia or memories for a Spring 2012 exhibition contact: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~benmus/>

**BENDIGO:** At the November meeting of the society, Carol Holsworth launched her new book, *James McCulloch Henley, Anglo Chinese Linguist and Advocate in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland*. Enquiries: [admin@bendigohistory.com](mailto:admin@bendigohistory.com)

**BROADFORD:** The society is excited to report that the Clymer and Dixon Columbian Press which was used to print the *Broadford Courier* from 1904 to 1978 is back on display in the Courier office. You can see this beautiful object by appointment. Contact: [broadfordhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:broadfordhistorical@gmail.com).

**CAMPERDOWN:** On Tuesday 6 March at 7.30 pm in the McCabe Room, Heritage Centre, 241 Manifold Street, "Nurse Yates of Camperdown, c 1870-1930" will be the subject of guest speakers, Bob McKenzie and Dr Madonna Grehan. Bob is Nurse Yates' great nephew, and Dr Grehan is a historian of nursing and midwifery. Enquiries: [camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com).

**CARISBROOK:** A display featuring WWI soldiers whose names appear on war memorials at Carisbrook and Majorca is planned. If you can help with photos or information on the men contact [brookhistorical@hotmail.com](mailto:brookhistorical@hotmail.com) or [www.cgold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home.htm](http://www.cgold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home.htm)

**CHELTENHAM CEMETERY:** The third book in the "Remembering Them" series, titled *The Caulfield Railway Disaster: Carnage & Courage*, was launched on 4 December 2011 with a commemorative service at the Caulfield railway station. Visit our website [www.focrc.org/shop.htm](http://www.focrc.org/shop.htm) and to purchase a copy or download an order form.

**CLUNES:** A grant for \$2.7 million has been obtained from Regional Development Australia Funding to redevelop the museum building. The project is expected to be completed by late 2013 but the museum will be closed from May 2012. Keep up to date: <http://www.clunesmuseum.org/>.

**CORNISH:** On Saturday 18 February the guest speaker will be Hazel Edwards, Ambassador for the National Year of Reading 2012. Her topic is "Writing a Non Boring family history". Meetings held at 1.30 pm at the Oakleigh Baptist Church, corner of Warrigal Road and Moorookyle Avenue, Oakleigh. See <http://www.cornishvic.org.au/>.

**DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE:** The Annual Garden Party will be held at Schramm's Cottage on Saturday 18 February. A spit roast will be served at 7.15 pm, followed by sweets and coffee; soft drinks provided, BYO beer or wine. The cost is \$27 per head, bookings to be made by 8 February to Bill Ling on 9842 1470.

**DUNOLLY:** The Goldfields Historical and Arts Society are pleased to have received a number of Borough of Dunolly minutes books, Shire of Bet Bet minutes books, cash books, and so on. The Museum is located at 75 Broadway, Dunolly 3472.

**EAST GIPPSLAND FHG:** The society obtained an \$8000 grant from the State Library to have the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* digitised. A professional company will undertake the project, and the SLV has agreed to make master films available to make the best possible copy. They hope to add the paper to the NLA Trove database.

**GEELONG:** *Investigator*, the society journal, has an intriguing story by Peter Cuffley about a rotary clothes hoist built by Gilbert Toyne. The design of this hoist was used by Lance Hill to manufacture the Hills Hoist, once the 1925/26 Toyne hoist patent had expired. See Volume 46, No 4, 2011.

**HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT:** The society will participate in the Hastings Day Parade on Saturday 25 February. Be at the museum by 10.30 am if you wish to be part of the parade. On Saturday 31 March the Hastings Primary School Reunion for students prior to 1980 will be held. Enquiries: 5979 2787.

**HEALESVILLE:** On Sunday 26 February Carl Dowd will speak on the history of his family in Healesville. Meetings are held in the Community Link Meeting Room at 2 pm. Enquiries: [hhsociety@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hhsociety@optusnet.com.au) or 5962 1655.

**HEIDELBERG:** Peter Williams will present "The Visit of Governor Bowen" at the February meeting at Ivanhoe Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 14 February 2012. Our museum re-opens every Sunday 2-5 pm from 12 February onwards in the old Courthouse, corner Jika St and Park Lane Heidelberg.

**INVERLOCH:** Projects at the society include the sale of a calendar, new display boards, varnishing the rail of the *Ripple*, discussions with the Bass Shire Council about the possibility of having a storage shed on the recreation ground, and the situation with the Foreshore Committee Office when the Yacht Club lease expires. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~invhs/>.

**KEILOR:** An Open Day will be held on Saturday 24 March from 12 noon to 4 pm at Harrick's Cottage, Harrick Road, Keilor Park. An exhibition entitled "Law and Order in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century" will be a feature of the day. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~khis/>

**KNOX:** Rick Coxhill, author of *Fire on the Hill, Flowers in the Valley*, will be the guest speaker on Monday 20 February. The subject is to be the early history of The Basin. Meetings are held at "Ambleside", 3 Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully on 8 pm.

**KYNETON:** Join the "Celebration of the old Walnut Tree" on Wednesday 14 March, at 7 pm, at the Old Rectory, Ebdon Street. Nibbles and drinks under the tree. Enquiries: [kynetonhs@hotmail.com](mailto:kynetonhs@hotmail.com). The society expects to be in their new location at 75 Piper Street in January, and to re-open for business by Saturday 14 January.

**LEARMONTH:** Meetings are held at the Old Shire Hall, 326 High Street on the third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm. The society is open on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, or by appointment. Membership is \$15, or \$20 for a family. Enquiries: 53384361.

**LORNE:** The society is looking at issues relating to the use of society photos for a promotional documentary. They are also hoping to establish a new heritage walk. The society plans to have a working bee to clean up a children's gravesite near the swing bridge. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lornhist/>

**MAFFRA:** The society has had baptismal registers covering 1865 to 1915 for Reverend John Roberts of the Maffra Presbyterian Church in its collection for some time. These registers have been name-indexed by volunteers, and *Bulletin* No 125 (September) has a sample list of the entries for 1870-71. See [www.maffra.net.au/heritage](http://www.maffra.net.au/heritage) for contact details.

**MALDON:** A number of grants are being used to improve the environmental conditions in the museum, including external blinds, electrical rewiring, computer wiring, rehanging two doors in reverse for safety reasons. Volunteers are busy improving storage of photos, and have attended a workshop on artefact labelling. See [www.maldonmuseum.com.au](http://www.maldonmuseum.com.au).

**MALVERN:** On Wednesday 15 February the Mayor of Stonnington, Cr John Chandler, will talk about architecture and local government at the joint Malvern Historical Society and Prahran Historical and Arts Society meeting at the Council Chamber, Stonnington City Centre, corner High Street and Glenferrie Road, Malvern, 7.30 pm. Gold coin donation. Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082.

**MERRIGUM:** Our annual Heritage Day will be held on Sunday, 1 April 2012 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Merrigum Museum, 111-113 Waverley Avenue, Merrigum. Many pioneering skills will be demonstrated and collectables displayed on Heritage Day. It is always a popular day. Enquiries: 58552330.

**MOE:** The December 2011 edition of *Coach News* focusses on the post war development of Newborough, where "Operation Snail Houses" encouraged workmen coming from England to bring their own pre-cut houses with them, stored in Quonson huts until ready for erection. Photographs of the Quonson huts and pre-cut homes are included. Enquiries: [moehist@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:moehist@vic.australis.com.au).

**RINGWOOD:** On Tuesday 28 February, topics for discussion will be "Portobello Pottery" (Irene Lunt) and "Early Melbourne electricity supply" (Miles Pierce). Meetings are held room 4 at Federation Estate, formerly the old Ringwood State School, in Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood at 8 pm.

**ROSEDALE:** The quarterly newsletter is packed with family history notes. The September 2011 newsletter is 18 pages long and features the Budge, Bye and Wright families and the memoirs of Sue Farley nee Kuznecov. Subscribe at: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rdhs/>

**SALVATION ARMY:** The Heritage Centre, containing a museum and archives has recently moved, joining the Limelight Museum (Australia's first dedicated film studio dating from 1892) at 69 Bourke St, Melbourne: [http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us\\_65047/history-and-heritage.html](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us_65047/history-and-heritage.html)

**SHEPPARTON:** The society is in discussions with the Council about a new architect-designed premises. The Council is supportive of their proposal. The present museum, at 154 Welsford St, is open on even-dated Sundays between 1 and 4 pm, and weekday tour groups are welcome by appointment. Call 5821 7717 or email [peterandbeverleyford@hotmail.com](mailto:peterandbeverleyford@hotmail.com).

**TRARALGON:** At the meeting of Tuesday 14 February at 7.30 pm, Jenny Poon will be the guest speaker. Society open days will be on the last Sunday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm. Meetings and open days are at the society's rooms at the Kath Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed St, Traralgon. Enquiries: [secretary@traralgonhistory.asn.au](mailto:secretary@traralgonhistory.asn.au).

**WARRNAMBOOL:** Look out for the society's bright, modern new format newsletter now known as *Warnimble*. The society also has a number of booklets for sale including *Bank Notes, Second to None, Ornament to the Town and Pride of the South*. Contact: [gbcleod@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbcleod@bigpond.net.au).

**WHITTLESEA:** In Newsletter No 14, October, Angela Roper writes about a successful Local History Grants application to publish a self-guided tour of Whittlesea township. The

project gave her the opportunity to learn about the history of the district, writing grant applications, conducting research, copyright law, and designing a walk and booklet.

**WILLIAMSTOWN:** "Maritime at the Mechanics" will be held at the Williamstown Mechanics Institute, 5 Electra Street, on Thursday 23 February, with a sausage sizzle in the garden at 6 pm. This will be followed by guest speakers in the theatre at 7 pm, with stories of the port, piers, shipwrights, the Harbour Trust and the Victorian Navy. Booking: 1300 642 542 or <http://maritime2012.eventbrite.com/>

**WOADYALOOK:** An excursion to the site of the old Grant Trunk School at Springdallah will take place on Wednesday 15 February. Meet at The Well, Smythesdale at 6 pm. The Courthouse Museum is open on the last Sunday of the month, 1 pm to 5 pm, and most Wednesdays 10 am to 4.30 pm. Phone to check: 5342 8754

## History

# NEWS



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