



What's On at RHSV

FEB-MARCH 2012

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

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Celebrating the 85th birthday of Hugh Anderson

Join us at the RHSV on Tuesday 14 February for a special event to honour the 85th birthday of Australian historian Hugh Anderson.

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 Fawcner *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 a chance to celebrate his latest Red Rooster publication, *Two Axe Mac: the story of Simon McDonald*, recorded, edited and introduced by Hugh Anderson, transcribed by Dawn Anderson.

Bookings

9326 9288 or

www.historyvictoria.org.au

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

GUIDED WALK WITH AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday Afternoon History Stroll in the Park

When: 26 February

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Cost: Members \$25.00 – Non Members \$30.00 (includes refreshments)

Bookings essential 9326 9288 or via website www.historyvictoria.org.au

Andrew Lemon will take a small group of RHSV Members on a leisurely history walk through the beautiful Flagstaff Gardens – the historic heart of Melbourne – on the last Sunday of February. We will stray only slightly to look at the buildings around the perimeter of the Gardens including the former Royal Mint, nineteenth-century buildings on King Street, St James's Old Cathedral, terrace houses in Dudley Street and the site of the former Old Melbourne Cemetery at the Queen Victoria Market. We'll climb to the highest point on Flagstaff Hill to consider its place in Melbourne's topography and pre-European history as well as its early role as burial ground, flagstaff signalling station, and magnetic and meteorological observatory. We'll visit the Pioneers' Memorial, the Separation Monument and sundial, see the bowling green and tennis pavilion, and identify some of the heritage-listed trees in the gardens.

We will conclude the walk with a cup of tea or coffee at the Radisson on Flagstaff opposite the RHSV. The walk begins at 2pm sharp from outside the RHSV at 239 A'Beckett Street and concludes by 4pm. Estimated total walking distance 1 to 2 kilometres. Minimum 8 participants, maximum 22. Please consider protection against the sun, heat or rain and have appropriate footwear: the walk would be cancelled only in the prospect of extreme weather, so please supply a telephone contact number when you make your booking. Note also that the underground Flagstaff Station is not open on Sunday. Melbourne Central is a walk of two blocks to the RHSV. Sunday car parking available at QV Market at \$5.00 for the first 2 hours, \$3.00 per hour or part thereafter.

TUESDAY 20 MARCH

Memoirs of a Young Bastard

The Diaries of Tim Burstall

Edited by Hilary McPhee

"Burstall was committed to life and living to its fullest. Committed to love and its many seductions" Fred Schepisi

Speaker: Hilary McPhee

Time: 5.45 (following members viewing of the exhibition *"The Spirit of The Time"*)

Cost: Members Free: Non Members \$10.00

Where: RHSV

Tim Burstall, the celebrated director of *Stork*, *Alvin Purple* and numerous other definitive 'ocker' comedies, is credited with shaking the moribund Australian film industry out of its torpor. But long before that, in the early 1950s, he began keeping a diary to record the world of the group of 'arties' and 'intellectuals' he was living among in Eltham, then a rural area outside Melbourne, where cheap land was available for mudbrick houses and studios, and where suburban rigidities could be mercilessly flouted. Burstall was in his mid-twenties, with two young sons and an open marriage with his wife, Betty. Eager to become a writer, to go against the grain, he kept a record almost daily—of the parties and the talk in pubs and studios, about art and politics and sex, of Communist Party branch meetings and film societies, of political rallies and the first Herald Outdoor Art Show. Somehow, while holding down a public relations job in the Antarctic Division and juggling his love affairs and obsession with the beautiful, brainy Fay, he wrote 500 words almost every day. Betty, according to the diaries, kept the show on the road, feeding friends after the pub, milking goats and working in her pottery making bowls and mugs, which Tim sometimes decorated at weekends. These *Memoirs of a Young Bastard*, as Burstall dubbed himself and them, are among the most evocative Australian diaries of modern times. Burstall can write. He has an eye for the telling detail, an unerring ear for cant and pomposity and, most endearingly, an ability to mock himself—always from the perspective of a bloke of his generation.

Hilary McPhee is a writer and publisher, and founding director of McPhee Gribble Publishing. Wordlines, her selection of recent Australian writing, was published in 2010.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE WEEK

14 - 22 April.

www.heritage.gov.au.

15 MARCH – 20 APRIL 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 the 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)

Members are invited to a SPECIALVIEWING of this exhibition 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



For Your Diary

Tuesday 17 April

WORKSHOP

Researching Australian Servicemen and Women of the Great War

Time 1.30pm – 4.00 pm

Cost: \$20.00 members \$30.00 non members

Where: RHSV

A workshop to assist individuals and members of historical societies to research Australian Servicemen and Women of the Great War.

The workshop aims to equip participants with tools, techniques and in particular gain an overview of the resources held within the RHSV collections.

LECTURE

Why Insurance Archives Are Exciting Places for Historians

Time: 5.15 Tea/Coffee/refreshment

Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members Free. Non Members \$10.00

Where: RHSV

Join Jane Carolan and Dr Simon Smith as they discuss the opportunities for research held in insurance archives:

RHSV Councillor Dr Simon Smith currently lectures in law at Monash University and is an historian and archivist. He wrote while he was the General Counsel, Consumer Affairs at AAMI *From Club to Corporation, Motor Insurance and the Rise of Australian Associated Motor Insurers Ltd 1933-1999* published in 2002.

Jane Carolan, historian and archivist, has just completed a two volume centenary history of the Catholic Church Insurances Ltd. The first volume, *Serving Church: A History of Catholic Church Insurances Limited*, traces the history of this unique Australian company. The second volume, *Serving Church: The People of Catholic Church Insurances Limited*, tells lively stories of some of the people involved in the establishment and continuing success of CCI.

Innovation and Invention' Heritage Festival 2012

21 April – 20 May

The boomerang, the rotary clothes hoist, Aussie rules football and Ned Kelly's armour are all icons of Australian invention; while lesser known examples of ingenuity include trousers with permanent creases, the 'Ute', multi focal contact lenses and the first feature length film in 1906!

All heritage related groups, organisations and clubs are invited to join in the 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival, 'Amazing Stories: Innovation and Invention', to be celebrated across Australia for the first time as a nationwide theme adopted by all National Trusts. Through talks, tours, exhibitions and events the National Trust invites you to explore our heritage of innovation and invention and develop a better understanding of the ingenuity and resourcefulness that shaped Australia.

As a dynamic new element of the Festival, in 2012 the National Trust of Victoria is developing an **I-Phone App** that will allow users to search for events based on area, date and type of event. This will be a free application supported by Information Victoria and launched in early 2012. In addition to this new media, a comprehensive printed program of events will still be sent to over 12,000 National Trust member households (representing over 23,000 members statewide) and a DL promotional flyer available at all large tourist information centres. With **45,000 participants** at over 90 events across Victoria in 2011, we will be bigger and better in 2012.

Please contact Alexandra Hill (Festival Coordinator)

03 9656 9834 or alix.hill@natstrust.com.au



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