



Portland from the railway bridge



Market Square, Castlemaine



A cattle sale, Foster, South Gippsland

Discovering Regional Victoria's Story

DISCOVERING REGIONAL VICTORIA'S STORY

Local history and historical societies in regional Victoria

Promoting and preserving our history – the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Formed in 1909, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) is the centre of Victoria's history movement, encompassing over 1000 individual members and acting as the peak body for the many local historical societies.



Alexandra College, Hamilton



Main Street, Morwell

Committed to collecting, researching and sharing an understanding of the history of Victoria, the RHSV houses the most extensive single information resource on the history of Melbourne and Victoria.

Home to the RHSV is the former Australian Army Medical Corps Drill Hall - an impressive Art Deco space, listed on the Victorian Heritage Register for its state-wide architectural and historical significance. Collections are open for you to explore from Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm.

Are you a local history group? – join our network

By affiliating with the RHSV, societies have the opportunity to participate in the wider local history community and help strengthen the profile of history within the State.

They also get the added benefit of the services of the History Victoria Support Group (HVSG). In addition to providing a range of informative seminars and workshops for societies, a dedicated Local History Officer is available to provide assistance with cataloguing, offer IT support, coordinate online communities and share information on available grants.

To become an affiliated historical society or history group, email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone (03) 9326 9288.

Barkly St, Ararat from Firebell Tower



View of Chiltern

Want to find out more? – get online

There are over 300 local historical societies around Victoria.

To find out where they are located, you can search the Victorian Local History Database at

www.historyvictoria.org.au

Click on Local History Online

For more information on history.....

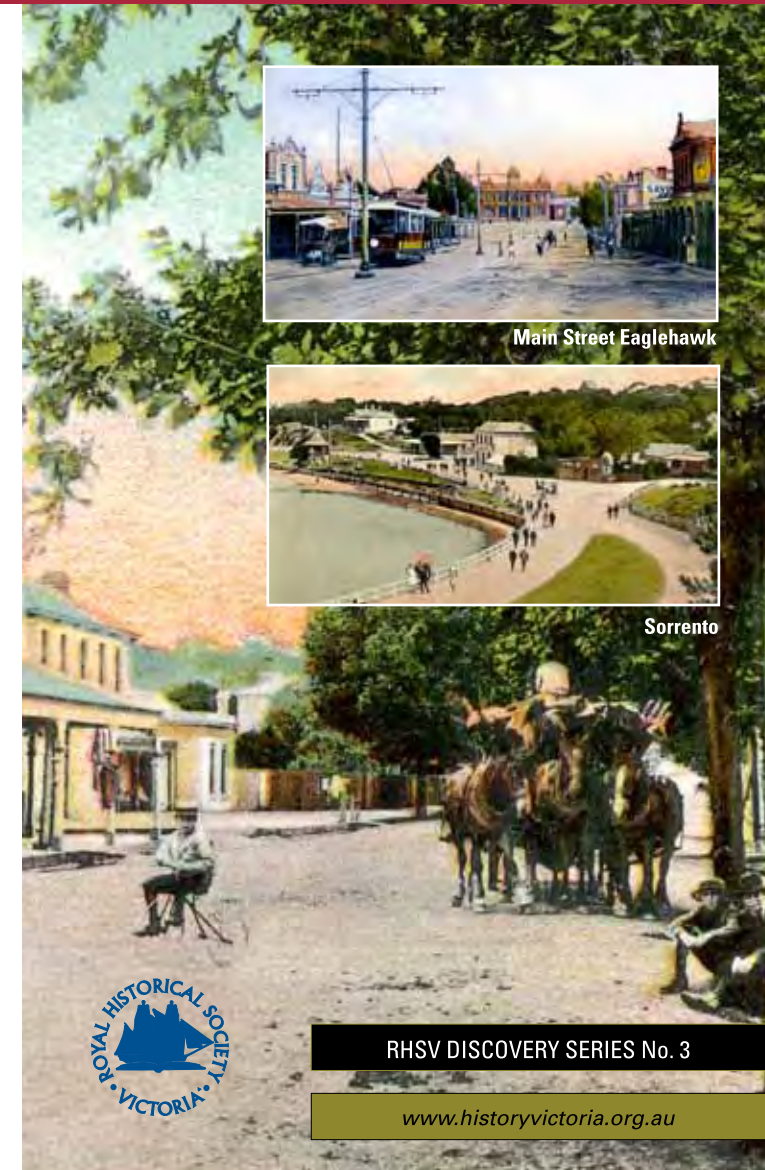
Your local Historical Society is...



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Main Street Eaglehawk



Sorrento

RHSV DISCOVERY SERIES No. 3

www.historyvictoria.org.au

1803 Sullivan Bay in Sorrento becomes the site of Victoria's first European Settlement
1826 A temporary military garrison is established at Corinella to discourage French claims
1835 Major Mitchell travels through parts of what would become Victoria
1835 The Port Phillip District is settled from New South Wales and across Bass Strait
1838 Violet Town is the first inland town to be surveyed
1846 Aboriginal resistance to white settlement in the Western District is crushed by Captain Dana and the Native Police
1851 Black Thursday fires devastate much of Western Victoria
1851 The Victorian government offers a reward for the discovery of gold
1851 Gold discovered at Buninyong
1851 Separation of Victoria from New South Wales
1854 Francis Cadell navigates the Murray River as far as Howlong
1854 Eureka Stockade navigates rebellion by miners protesting against mining taxes
1862 Duffy's Land Act of 1862 comes into force – the first of a series of acts allowing free selection of Crown Land
1860s Bendigo Chinese Masonic Temple is built during the 1860s
1877 A plague of rabbits causes serious problems
1880 The Kelly Gang is crushed after a siege at Glenrowan
1882 Australasia No 2 Mine at Creswick is flooded, killing 22 miners, Australia's worst mining disaster
1891 Signatures collected throughout Victoria for the Woman's Suffrage Petition
1905 State Rivers and Water Supply Commission formed, displacing all other water trusts
1909 The Historical Society of Victoria (later RHSV) is founded in Victoria
1916 Women receive the vote
1916 The Mallee is hit by a mouse plague
1917 River Murray Commission established by SA, NSW and VIC governments
1917 Discharged Soldier Settlement Act passed
1919 The SEC builds its first power station in Yallourn
1924 Better Farming Train begins state-wide tour
1928 The Country Women's Association of Victoria is founded
1929 A great Depression hits Australia
1939 Black Friday bushfires sweep through country Victoria including the central goldfields region
1946 Bonegilla army camp becomes a staging camp for migrants as they settle in Victoria
1951 A wool boom brings great prosperity to Victoria
1966 Maldon becomes the first town in Australia to be classified by the National Trust
1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires devastate a large area of Victoria
2009 Black Saturday bushfires result in Australia's highest ever loss of life from a bushfire

REGIONAL VICTORIA'S HISTORY AT A GLANCE

Victoria – the early years

Victoria has a wide and wonderful past and regional Victoria has played host to many key events in our history.

Gold rushes, a flourishing wool boom, devastating bushfires, a destructive mouse plague and the antics of the notorious Kelly Gang are just a handful of the events that illustrate the history books of regional Victoria.

Each town in regional Victoria has its own unique story to tell, and its local historical society is there to help you travel back in time and bring that history to life.

To find out more about regional Victoria's historical societies, visit www.historyvictoria.org.au



Post Office and Law Courts, Bendigo

Keeping Victoria's history alive – local historical societies

From Ararat to Yackandandah, there are over 300 local and specialist historical societies across Victoria, safeguarding and celebrating our State's history.

Manuscripts, photos, family trees, old newspapers, artwork, maps, letters and local relics are just some of the many treasures on display for you to explore at the societies.

And if you can't find that piece of the past that you are searching for, one of the knowledgeable local volunteers will be on hand to help you unearth it.

A visit to regional Victoria's local historical societies is often a history lesson in itself, being housed in some of Victoria's most magnificent historic buildings. From old court houses to funeral parlours and Mechanics' Institutes, there is a story behind every door.



The road to Buchan



Mount Warrenheip, near Ballarat

10 reasons to visit a local historical society...

- ✓ Explore the local history of the town.
- ✓ Trace your family history.
- ✓ Meet other history buffs.
- ✓ Admire a historically significant building.
- ✓ Take part in a local history event.
- ✓ Get advice and help with your own personal research.
- ✓ Uncover that old map, photograph or local paper clipping you've been searching for.
- ✓ Enjoy an exhibition.
- ✓ Buy a history book by a local expert.
- ✓ Become a member of the local historical society and the RHSV.



Main Street, Bendigo



Flood in Seymour, 1916



Corryong – an "express train" for Tallangatta



Main Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria



Wharf at Echuca



Eildon Weir School, school children physical drill