



# History NEWS

Issue No. 255 March 2005

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Hear Melbourne food icon Dur-e Dara talk about Traditions in Multicultural Food – 8 March. See page 3 for details.



## A Call for Volunteers

The RHSV at A'Beckett Street needs more volunteers.

Opportunities abound for those interested in research, handling materials from our collection, cataloguing, working with the public or general administrative duties.

If you are interested please contact us or come to the Volunteers Information Day on Wednesday 9th March 9.30 to 12 noon. Please refer to the notice in the newsletter on page 2 for details.

We love including people in the activities of the society and your contribution will be greatly valued.

## Looking Forward to Meeting You

What a welcome I've received at RHSV. My first two weeks have been spent meeting the hard working volunteers who so professionally manage the resources here at A'Beckett Street. Their professionalism and commitment to raising standards to meet the needs of the membership and the wider history community is a wonderful environment for me to step into.

I am particularly looking forward to visiting historical societies in country Victoria: Joan Hunt has so enthusiastically painted a picture of some of the innovative schemes societies are implementing to meet changing times, and other societies who need more support. Please remember the RHSV is your peak body - we need feedback on your activities to plan, and be an effective advocate.

Innovation is not lacking at the RHSV. My Connected Community (MC2) provides a wonderful electronic forum for exchange; online data bases and the web site are all contemporary approaches to managing

information. Training is available to make your society more accessible.

"Making Tracks - Celebrating 150 years of the Victorian Railways" is a traditional form of outreach; along with the society's evening lectures, workshops, events and outings the RHSV is able to connect with its community. People, in particular volunteers are the backbone of historical societies and I look forward to meeting you.

*Kate Prinsley*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>RHSV News</i>	2
Making Tracks	
New members	
Thoughts for a New Year!	
Volunteers information session	
<i>Out &amp; About</i>	3
Lectures	
Workshop	
Excursion	
<i>Discover RHSV Resources</i>	4
<i>HVSG News</i>	5
<i>Reviews</i>	6
<i>Around the Societies</i>	6-8
<i>What's on</i>	8

## We want your unwanted books

Use the Easter break to clear the family mansion/garage of unwanted books. We need them - on any subject - for our annual Book Sale to be held on Sunday 15 May. Donations will be received at the Society, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne from now until Wednesday 11 May. If you have difficulties with delivery, phone the office to discuss alternative arrangements.

HELPERS are needed for sorting and pricing in the week prior to the sale, and as sales assistants on the day itself. Volunteers in either capacity get a sneak preview of what's on offer.

**Do you have a garage full of books?  
Want to clear it out so you can put your car in?\***



## Making Tracks Update

The Making Tracks exhibition had a very successful opening in Dudley House Bendigo on 11 February 2005, hosted by the Bendigo Historical Society and the City of Greater Bendigo. The guest list included "Governor Barkly and his wife", who opened the Sandhurst line in 1862! The exhibition will be open until 14 March, and includes objects from the region and local historic video footage. Special talks are also being held on certain days – for a complete list, check the RHSV website or call the RHSV on 03 9326 9288.

I would particularly like to thank the Bendigo Historical Society, the Kyneton Historical Society, the Woodend & District Historical Society, the Castlemaine Historical Society and the Colbinabbin Historical Society, along with all the exhibition volunteers at Dudley House, for all their efforts in making this display possible.

Preparation is underway for the exhibition to move to Mildura, to open at the Alfred Deakin Centre on 19 March 2005. Stay tuned!



From left: Professor Weston Bate, Mayor of Bendigo, Cr Rod Fyffe, 'Sir Henry & Lady Barkly' (Jim & Coral Evans).



From left: Joan Hunt – RHSV; Larina Strauch – Kyneton HS; Ray Pattle – Castlemaine HS.

## A warm welcome to all our new members:

### INDIVIDUAL

Kerry Agnew Eltham  
Louise Blake Ferntree Gully  
Donald Koop Modbury, SA

### HOUSEHOLD

M. Montague and C. Cadariu, Prahran  
John and Vivienne O'Callaghan Carnegie  
Robert L. Tuppen Beaumaris

### ASSOCIATE

Chris Norton Highett

### SOCIETY

Friends of Horseshoe Bend Farm Keilor

### STUDENT

Jacqueline D'Arcy Kings Meadows, Tas.

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School Ivanhoe

# Thoughts for a New Year!

The Society's new year has begun with a central city emphasis through Judith Buckrich's talk about Collins Street culture and the walk she shared with Peter Yule. They pointed out significant buildings inhabited by people whose activities expressed Melbourne's financial and cultural life. What a story from just one street!

I have been reading *The Melbourne I Remember* by Keith Dunstan, which contains articles he wrote for *The Bulletin* in the 1960s and 1970s. They provide wonderful flavours of past and present.

Keith is much more than a perceptive journalist. He has been fascinated by the ebbs and flows of grass roots and fashionable behaviour throughout the city's history. This results, for example, in a series of articles on the history of Melbourne's theatres and cinemas. He describes heroic openings and sad closings, as well as numerous changes of name and purposes brought about by the march of technology. Lucky are those who remember the dramatic ceilings of the Capitol and Regent, and the 'Mighty Wurlitzer' organ at the latter with its 1500 pipes, 284 stops, 560 separate movements and 2.5 million electrical contacts. It harnessed the sounds of over twenty instruments and on



©Chris Norton

gala occasions was pummelled by a man in a gold lamé jacket.

Which all suggests that we are on the right track in our aim to develop exhibition modules illustrating aspects of Melbourne's story that will in time become a major attraction for locals and visitors.

Weston Bate  
President

## Information sessions for volunteers and prospective volunteers

Time: 9.30 – 12 noon Date: Wednesday 9 March

All volunteers are invited to avail themselves of the opportunity to update their knowledge of the Collection, to discover new areas of interest, and to meet and discuss issues with members of the team. The information provided is essential for all working in the Collections area.

This session will also be of interest to members who are considering becoming volunteers on a regular basis.

Topics to be covered will include:

- manuscript indexing and transcription;
- new databases available;
- locations for new materials

- procedure guidelines and MAP requirements
- rights and responsibilities of an RHSV volunteer
- data-entry update.

Book: please book your attendance through the Gerardine: telephone 9326 9288 or email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

### WHOOOPS

'The VHJ Database' History News, February 2005, page 5 contained an error for which we apologise. The Society's web-site address should have read: [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au).

Photo credits were also not provided for the images of Collins Street and Bendigo Station used in the 'Out and About' section. Both images are from the RHSV's Image Collection. The former was a postcard, c. 1905 (PC-0004), the latter was from Nicholas J. Caire's series of photographs of Bendigo, c. 1875 (AL059-0029).

### Writing a book?

You've done the research and written the book. Now let us take the worry out of scanning photos and doing page layouts ready for your printer. With 15 years experience typesetting and designing books we guarantee to produce your book on budget and on time.

Phone Sue Thompson

9761 9192 or 041 732 9208

for an obligation free quote or visit our website at:

[www.roundaboutpublishing.com.au](http://www.roundaboutpublishing.com.au)

Family and local histories a speciality

LECTURES

In 2005 the evening lecture series (February to November) will be on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the third Tuesday, the latter dates being set aside for monthly Council meetings. Occasional lunchtime lectures can be on any Tuesday. Check the What's On timetable on the back page of History News and/or the Calendar of Events in the quarterly flyers.

Lectures are free to members, and \$5.50 for non-members. They are held at the RHSV premises, entry from William Street.

MARCH LECTURE

**Dur-é Dara to talk on Traditions in Multicultural Food**

**Date:** Tuesday March 8 2005-02-16  
**Time:** 5.45pm  
**Cost:** Free to members,  
 \$5.50 non-members  
 Coffee/tea from 5.15;

Entry from William Street

Dur-e Dara is held in high regard in hospitality, philanthropy, and the women's movement. She is respected for her tireless energy and enthusiasm in all of these fields. In the food industry, she is renowned for her devotion to the ethics of food and service, in which she is a pioneer. Her commitment to excellence and her capacity for continued innovation are widely recognised.

**Join us for dinner**

All those who would like to follow the talk with a meal at one of Dur-e's restaurants are welcome to join us at EQ Cafe Bar at 100 St Kilda Road Melbourne (behind the Concert Hall).

Please let our Administrative Officer know that you intend to do so when you book for the talk.

Member Societies - Insurance Matters

**Date:** 16 March  
**Time:** 10.30-12 noon

An information and discussion session will be held in the Speakers' Room at the RHSV regarding Insurance arrangements for 2005-6.

WORKSHOPS

**Archival Box Making for Historical Societies**

**Date:** 26 April  
**Time:** 11:00 – 12:00  
**Cost:** \$10 (members), \$15 (non-members)

**Presenter:** David Thompson  
 David Thompson, a volunteer at RHSV, will talk about the need for archival storage boxes and will describe how simple boxes of various types can be made with limited equipment. Some



practical examples will be shown. Appropriate materials, tools and equipment will be discussed, as will sources of relevant information in publications and on the internet.

This talk will serve as an introduction to a box-making workshop at the RHSV planned for later in 2005.

EXCURSION

**Flinders and Surrounds**

**Date:** Thursday 7 April 2005  
**Time:** 9:15 – 5:00 pm approx  
**Cost:** \$40 (members) \$50 (non-members)

All day tour of Flinders and surrounds with poetry and history and a Helen Broad picnic lunch in the lovely Bate garden at Merricks.

Meet: Bus outside Town Hall, Swanston St with pick-up at Mornington

**Know the RHSV Collections: Manuscript Collection**

**Date:** 29 March 2005  
**Time:** 11:00 – 12:00  
**Cost:** \$10 (members), \$15 (non-members)

**Presenter:** Nonie Long  
 The RHSV's manuscript collection is a rich source of research information. It contains over 23,000 items and includes a wide range of material such as an immigrant's ticket on a sailing ship, references for a satisfactory parlour-maid in 1886 and one from Dame Nellie Melba for her head chauffeur in Australia, Mr F.W. Gough, as well as school certificates, insurance papers, Miner's Rights, and Langlands Foundry Co. order book 1874-1886. There are large collections of miscellaneous family papers, from the Suter family, the Knox family and the Christopher family. The latter consists of family letters (1857-1908). These are mainly between England-Australia, Australia-England, detailing the Christopher family's life and fortunes over that period. They include original letters and some envelopes, and a complete typed transcript in chronological order. This a very informative and well-presented resource. Some of the originating places of the letters are Heidelberg, Tarnagulla, Fitzroy and London.

Come and learn about this amazing collection which covers life of Victorians from the 1830s to the 1960s.



Book: use previously distributed What's On Booking Form; or telephone 9326 9288 or email: office@historyvictoria.org.au.

**New! Maxus Collections**

The software for museums, galleries and historical societies

Powerful and easy to use

- Find any item in your collection in seconds.
- Display images of colour or black & white photographs, paintings or original documents.
- Use data entry screens which match standard cataloguing worksheets.

New Features

- Improved menu
- Additional tailored data entry forms
- Enhanced reports
- Improved navigation between screens
- New donor database with form letters

Contact Maxus for free demonstration software or further information.



PO Box 727 South Melbourne  
 Victoria 3205 Australia  
 maxus@maxus.net.au  
 www.maxus.net.au  
 (03) 9646 1988



Do you take advantage of our wonderful library? It is open to members between 10am and 4pm, Monday – Friday. Whether you are researching or just want to browse and pass the time of day, we would love to see you.

Did you realise we regularly receive a whole host of fascinating journals, offering articles of interest for the study of the history of Victoria?

**SERIALS – PERIODICALS – JOURNALS**

*Agora* – History Teachers Association of Victoria

*Ancestor* – Genealogical Society of Victoria

*Australian Garden History* – Australian Garden History Society

*Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*

*Ballarat Historian* – Ballarat Historical Society

*Canberra Historical Journal* – Canberra Historical Society

*Cinema Record* – The Cinema and Theatre Historical Society, Victoria

*Descent* – Society of Australian Genealogists

*Dogwatch* – Shiplovers’ Society of Victoria, Australia

*Early Days* – Western Australian Historical Society

*Footprints* – Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission

*Genealogist* – Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc.

*Gippsland Heritage Journal*

*Central Highlands Historical Journal* – Central Highlands Historical Association

*Investigator* – Geelong Historical Society

*Italian Historical Society Journal* – Co-As-It

*Journal* – Historical Society of South Australia

*Journal* – Royal Australian Historical Society

*Journal* – Royal Historical Society of Queensland

*Journal* – Royal Geographical Society of Australia  
La Trobe Library Journal

*Journal* – Police History Society, Australian Branch

*Journal of Northern Territory History* – Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Light Railways – Light Railway Research Society of Australia

“*The Warracknabeal Plough*” – Wheatlands Warracknabeal Agricultural machinery Museum

*Margin* – Monash Australiana Research Group

*Memoirs of Museum Victoria*

“*On Stage*” – Victorian Theatres Trust

*Our Yesterdays* – Baptist Union Historical Society

*Papers and Proceedings* – Launceston Historical Society

*Papers and Proceedings* – Tasmanian Historical Research Association

*Proceedings* – Uniting Church Historical Society

*Signals* – Australian National Maritime Museum

*The St Kilda Chronicle* – Historical Society of St Kilda

Additional to these journals, the Society regularly receives the newsletters of most Victorian historical societies and many Government bodies with a concern for historical studies and conservation. A recently received example is the *Newsletter of Mechanics’ Institutes of Victoria*.



# Local History Thesaurus

The latest addition to Local History Online is the Victorian Local History Thesaurus – a list of subject headings used in RHSV cataloguing projects. Local history collections usually contain books, maps, ephemera, articles, documents, audiovisual material and of course photographs.

Although the subject heading lists used in libraries are helpful when cataloguing some of the items in local history collections, often more specific headings and localised terms are required, especially when cataloguing photographs.

The Victorian Local History Thesaurus has been developed during the last 10 years to provide a standardised list of terms suitable for cataloguing items in local history collections in Victoria.

To view the thesaurus and to find out more about it go to the Local History Online section of the RHSV website - [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au).

During February I have been contacted by a number of societies requesting help with cataloguing projects, website development and help in using mc2. A number of mc2 information sessions and other workshops will be held for societies as required during the next few months. Please contact me at the RHSV if you would like a workshop in your area.

Vicki Court

## “Places of the Heart” Project

This is a national project based at the Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology, Sydney. It aims, as a first step, to locate and log post-1960 memorials to loss of people and places, rather than events. Generally, war memorials are excluded. Although the memorials need to have been constructed since 1960, the loss they refer to can be from any period. All types of memorials are of interest, including the more ephemeral such as roadside death memorials. Dr Kim Torney, Project Fellow, Department of History, University of Melbourne would be very grateful to hear about such memorials in any part of Victoria, with specific locational details.

Contact: [torneykl@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:torneykl@unimelb.edu.au)  
Phone: (03) 94598696.

# Make it happen with RETI!

Museums Australia (Victoria) Regional Exhibition Touring Initiative  
Apply now for a grant to tour your exhibition or get it off the ground!

Closing date: Monday 4 April 2005

RETI encourages metropolitan and regional museums, galleries and volunteer groups with limited resources to tour their collections. The program offers grants, advice, workshops, exhibition infrastructure, programming and display challenges.

The three RETI grant categories are:

## CATEGORY A

### Starting from Scratch

A start up grant of \$4,000.00(+GST) to develop a funding proposal for a touring exhibition.

## CATEGORY B

### Bridging funding for touring exhibitions

A grant of up to \$4,000.00(+GST) to assist and enhance the production of a touring exhibition i.e. research, educational components, public programs or touring an existing exhibition.

## CATEGORY C

### Special Projects

A flexible grant of up to \$5,000.00 (+GST) to assist with basic exhibition infrastructure, programming and display challenges i.e. temporary exhibitions, touring exhibitions, exhibition supplies and equipment or improving an existing display.

Successful 2005 recipients will be announced at International Museums Day celebrations!

All funding proposals need to be discussed with Georgia Rouette on (03) 8341 7342 or regional Freecall 1800 680 082 prior to submission.

RETI guidelines and application forms are available via Anna Drummond, Administration Officer on 03 8341 7344, freecall 1800 680 082, email: mavic@mavic.asn.au or contact Georgia Rouette, Exhibition and Touring Services (RETI) Manager on 03 8341 7342, email: reti@mavic.asn.au

**\*\* If you live in regional Victoria and would like to host a RETI grant writing workshop to help you get the money you need, please contact Georgia Rouette on 1800 680 082.**

# History Victoria Support Group Report

(by Joan Hunt, Convenor)

At a planning meeting held at RHSV on Saturday 22 January 2005 the following Terms of Reference for History Victoria Support Group were approved:

## AIMS

1. To further the understanding of history, especially community history, across Victoria..
2. To encourage, stimulate and support the role and activities of the RHSV affiliated societies.
3. To maintain strong contacts between local societies, RHSV and the wider community.

## STRUCTURE

The History Victoria Support Group, as a committee of the Society, will be structured in the following ways:

1. Each year Council will elect the required number of members to the positions as designated, according to Section 7 of the Purposes and Rules of the RHSV.
2. The RHSV Council will nominate one of its ordinary members and one named alternate to the History Victoria Support Group.
3. The President and Executive Officer of RHSV will be ex-officio members of the History Victoria Support Group.

## FUNCTIONS

1. To meet four times each year at dates and places agreed upon at the annual planning meeting and at other times by mutual agreement.
2. To report, discuss, develop and disseminate policies, activities and publications to help Societies increase the impact of the history movement
3. To encourage the use of techniques like information technology to link the RHSV network.
4. To provide information about and assist with funding applications for historical and heritage projects through a range of funding bodies.
5. To promote RHSV and its network and encourage the affiliation of local and specialist history societies.
6. To co-ordinate an integrated calendar of events across the network of historical societies and publish it on line.
7. To encourage the on-going stimulation of new initiatives of management of historical societies and their collections.

## PROPOSED SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2005

The History Victoria Support Group comprises all RHSV-affiliated societies, and provides opportunities for members to get together at seminar days and other events at venues scattered across Victoria to allow for everyone to have some access to shared experiences as well as specialised information from speakers. The History Victoria Support Group is administered by a planning group which is a committee of the RHSV Council. We plan one seminar per year in Melbourne at RHSV headquarters, and three in different regions across the State.

All members of all affiliated historical societies are most welcome to attend the Seminar Days.

## HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP SEMINAR DAY

SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2005

Hosted by Yackandandah District Historical Society

**Theme: PUBLISHING LOCAL HISTORY**

**9.30am Morning tea**

**10.00am Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information presented by Yackandandah Historical Society President, RHSV President, RHSV IT Manager, and others

**10.45am Discussion: Topic: Publishing Local History**

Discussion led by Joan Hunt, Convenor HVSG, about the many ways that historical/family/heritage societies publish – newsletters; calendars; booklets; leaflets; promotional handouts; oral histories, and so on. Everyone present is encouraged to contribute to this discussion, and to show examples of their society's work.

**11.30am Seminar**

**Paper:** Speaker: Charles Leaney, printer "Publishing Local History" – Charles Leaney was the printer of Betty Lebner's book: "Corryong and Beyond"

**12.30pm LUNCH:** Provided by Yackandandah & District Historical Society

**Events promotion:** Any forthcoming events of local societies to be announced.

**1.30pm Afternoon session** hosted by Yackandandah & District Historical Society, followed by afternoon tea at 3.30pm before departing for home.

## *I Remember That*

by **Leanne Beeson-Candy and Maria Edmondson**

(Snake Valley & District Historical Society Inc, 2004), 194pp, illustr., maps, index

Available from Snake Valley & District Historical Society, PO Snake Valley, 3351 for \$29.95+p. & p. This publication grew from video-taped oral history interviews with seventeen Snake Valley and district residents who shared their personal experiences of school, family, entertainment, work, sport and so on from the Great War years to the middle of the twentieth century.

Their stories highlight experiences similar to most Australian country communities of that time, but also the specific and unique community that was Snake Valley during a period when it had limited day to day contact with the outside world. The Valley's self-sufficiency arose from the availability of local employment such as road-making for the Shire, working as farm hands, shearers and servants on the big stations like Carngham, Langi Willi, Mt Emu and Lightwood Park. Others were employed by the Forestry Commission and the railways, or ran businesses such as hotels, the greengrocer and general store, or were the local school teacher or policeman. Those hard-working yet fun-loving people, living in very hard times, particularly during the 1930s Depression, managed to raise healthy families by growing vegies for the table to supplement rabbits they trapped and fish they caught. Their fruit trees provided jams and fruit preserves, the family cow produced milk, cream and butter, and locally purchased bags of flour and sugar were destined for the kitchen oven, providing the lovely smells of fresh-baked breads and pies.

Sport made the connections with other settlements – as far away as Illabarook and Mannibadar when the footballers and tennis players would combine social and physical activity at Happy Valley, Linton, Scarsdale, Ross Creek and Smythesdale. The community provided its own entertainment, when families and neighbours, church groups and other clubs shared picnics, conducted concerts, held dances and balls, played euchre and sang around the piano.

Read this book and you will learn 20 different ways to cook rabbit, how to play a uniquely Snake Valley game called "Caesar" (as in Julius), how the washday routine involved the copper, wringer and knobs of blue, and what it takes to care for ferrets. This 194-page most enjoyable book is professionally presented, with many photographs, a clear map showing all the sites mentioned, family tree charts, and a comprehensive index.

*Joan E. Hunt*

## *Nicolina's Story, a Woman Of The Land*

by **Nicolina La Contadina and D.A. Davies**

Published by BEA\*MAR, Melbourne, 2002 (136 pp)

Nicolina's Story is the biography of La Contadina Nicolina (a contadina is a peasant woman), who was born in 1930 on a small farm in Varapodia in Reggio Calabria in Italy. Her father migrated to Australia in 1938, which meant that Nicolina had to leave school to help her mother work the farm and care for the other children. They followed the father to Australia in 1948 and went to live on his farm in Swan Hill.

Although Nicolina did not much like the idea of getting married, in 1950 she married Nino, whom she hardly knew, the younger brother of Compare Sam (a compare is a special friend). However, it became a happy marriage, especially when they went to live on their own farm. Over the years they became quite successful, producing mainly fruit and vegetables.

They had five children, two girls and three boys. The oldest girl, Grace, died in 1970 during heart surgery. Nicolina made very sure the children went to school regularly, as she always remembered her own disappointment with not going to school after grade two. The children all finished year twelve, while Mimma graduated as a pharmacist. After Grace's death Nicolina and Nino sold their farm and went to live in Melbourne where they acquired a milkbar. They sold the milkbar and retired in 1981 as Nino's health deteriorated. This is where Nicolina's Story ends.

The biography is a straightforward story written in simple language which portrays Nicolina's love for the land, the farm and her family. It makes no apologies for the influence of the Italian culture on her way of living and her family values. It is extensively illustrated with maps and photographs, and has a number of forewords by sons and friends. The story gives the reader an insight into the specific problems faced by migrants and the importance of retaining at least part of their native culture. Stories like Nicolina's should help us understand why people from another culture appear to be different. They should also help us to appreciate the value of the multitude of cultures which help to shape Australian society.

*Alida Sijmons*

## AROUND THE SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Joan Hunt on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by Societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For April issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

**ALBURY:** Gerry Curtis will present a talk and slide show on "Events in Albury in the 1920s and 1930s" at 8pm on Wednesday 9 March at the Commercial Club, Dean Street, Albury. The Albury Regional Museum is open at the Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury daily from 10.30-4.30pm. See: [www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum](http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum)

**BALLARAT:** On Tuesday 8 March Michael Taffe will welcome members at St Patrick's Cathedral archives, Dawson Street south, at 7.30pm, after which Elizabeth Trudgeon will reveal the archival collection opposite at St Andrew's Church. Visitors are welcome. Ring 5341 2405 or see [www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com)

**BALLARAT GENIES:** At 7.30pm on Tuesday 22 March the guest speaker will be author and historian Lenore Frost, who will speak about how to date photographs by the fashions worn by the subjects. The Ballarat & District Genealogical Society meets in the Ballarat Central Library, 178 Doveton Street north, and was recently awarded \$1500 by the Local History Grants Program to make a CD database of about 150 petitions signed in 1860-1862 by Ballarat citizens, which are in VPRS 2500 at the Ballarat Archives Centre of the Public Record Office Victoria. See [www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)

**BENDIGO:** "Down Happy Valley: Family and Community on the Victorian Goldfields" The title of a talk by Dr Charles Fahey, from the School of Archeology, History and European Studies at Latrobe University. In the years after the discovery of gold, migrants created communities across the Victorian Goldfields. One of these was in Happy Valley Bendigo and its adjacent suburbs of St Just Point and Ironbark. Who settled here? Did migrants come as members of established families? Was there chain migration into these suburbs? What occupations did settlers and their children follow? The talk is the result of recent research using records of births, deaths and marriages and the use of diaries of three settlers; Isaac Dyason, Richard Pope and John Bartlett Davies. Charles Fahey has taught history at la Trobe University since 1990. His research interest in recent years has been and historical examination of the Australian labour market. Charles is currently working on two large projects funded by the Australian research Council: Family and Community on the Victorian Goldfields and beyond the Black Stump, a history of Rural Australia. This talk will be given at the Campbell Theatre adjoining the Library on Friday 4 March at 5.00pm. Visitors welcome. For further information contact Jim Evans, President Bendigo Historical Society Ph: 00437199432

**BRUNSWICK:** An historically based exhibition will be held from 24 March to 17 April at the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick Town Hall, presented on behalf of the Brunswick Community History Group, Moreland Council, and the Counihan Gallery. Titled "Brunswick On Show" it will include historical photographs of the area, pottery (including from Hoffman's Brickworks), artworks by local identities, and certificates of valour for local soldiers. There will also be talks, videos and CDs. Email [brunswickchg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:brunswickchg@yahoo.com.au) or phone 9387 1194.

**CAMPERDOWN:** A rare opportunity to see one of the most historically significant homesteads in the Camperdown district is offered when the

**Prahran Mechanics' Institute**  
**Victorian and Local History Library**

140 High Street, Prahran (Melway 2L H12)  
 Ph: 9510 3393. Email: [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

Open 9.30-4.30 Mon to Fri, 9.30-1.00 Sat. All welcome.

Catalogue: [www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au)  
 Inter-library loans available.



Society will visit Koort Koort Nong, departing from Camperdown museum at 6.00pm to have a picnic dinner in the grounds, hear about the history of the property, and wander around the homestead. The AGM will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5 April at the Commercial Hotel Dining Room when special guest speaker, Donald Walker will speak about maritime history. Ring 5594 7263 for more details.

**CASTLEMAINE:** Dr Marjorie Theobald is the speaker on "Susie Williams, daughter of E.D. Williams" at the Society's meeting at 7.30pm at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine on Monday 7 March. See <http://www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com/>.

**COLAC:** At 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 March a general meeting will be held at the History Centre, COPACC building, Gellibrand Street, where the museum and research facilities are open from 2pm till 4pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. The current exhibition shows historic and modern views of Murray Street along with early maps and land sale posters of Colac and the surrounding areas. Contact Secretary on 5231 4831.

**DONCASTER:** An Open Day at Schramm's Cottage, Muriel Green Drive (Melways 33 J10) will be held on Sunday 20 March from 2-5pm and entry is free - wander through the cemetery houses and lovely autumn gardens, and historical society members will conduct tours and answer questions. Website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/)

**ELTHAM:** The AGM will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 9 March, when speaker Peter Dougherty will speak on "Eltham Art Streams", at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place Eltham. Contact 9439 1175 or 9439 9717.

**ESSENDON:** A new display entitled "Anzac Spirit: the Essendon Volunteers" is exhibited at the Moonee Ponds Courthouse Museum, 768 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds, in support of the approaching publication of Marilyn Kenny's book, "Trooping to the Middle East, 1916" which will be launched on 11 April. This is the trooping journal of Colonel John Evans with pre-publication copies at \$20, and \$25 post publication plus \$3.50 postage. Phone: 9370 4607 or write to Society.

**FOOTSCRAY:** Tour of Footscray Cemetery at 6pm on Friday 15 March. Meet at main entrance, Geelong Road, Brooklyn (Melway 41 D8); duration 1 hour - all welcome. New book "Footscray & Yarraville - A Pictorial Record" is nearly complete. Website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~foothist>.

**HAMILTON:** Prof. Weston Bate, President of RHSV, will speak at the AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 March, at Hamilton History Centre, Mechanics' Institute, 43 Gray St, Hamilton. Phone: 5572 4933 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hamhist/>

**HAWTHORN:** On Sunday 6 March from 10am-3pm the Society will sell its publications at the Craft Market at Hawthorn Town Hall. "Strike Up the Band" will be the title of Lindsay Paterson's talk on the history of the Hawthorn Band at the meeting on Sunday 3 April at 2.30pm in the meeting room at rear of Hawthorn Library.

**KANGAROO GROUND:** The Andrew Ross Mijuseum at Kangaroo Ground is planning its next exhibition entitled "The Early Period Hotels of the Yarra Valley" with 80 hotels described and 30 pictured. Phone Jannine on 9712 0614.

**KEW:** The weekend of 4,5,6 March is the Kew Festival, including the historical display in the Phyllis Hore Room on Saturday and the Street Parade from 11am, followed by Twilight Jazz at Villa Alba from 6-0pm Saturday with "The Sweet Lowdowns". On

Sunday from 2-4 an historical bus tour of Kew homes departing from outside Phyllis Hore Room at 1.45pm. Also cemetery tour departing from Boroondara Cemetery gates at 2pm on Sunday 6 March. See [www.kewfestival.info](http://www.kewfestival.info) and [www.villaalbamuseum.org](http://www.villaalbamuseum.org) and ring Dorothy on 9853 8758 for bookings.

**KILMORE:** Tom Hellwedge will address the meeting on Tuesday 1 March, speaking on early photography, at the Kilmore Courthouse, 4 Powlett St. On Saturday 2nd April the Society plans a dinner to celebrate its 40th year, to be held at the Town Hall Restaurant in the Upper Chamber. The 3 course buffet dinner will be \$35. Contact Jan on 5781 1142 to book. See [www.kilmorehistory.info](http://www.kilmorehistory.info).

**KYNETON:** On 9 March John Dunham will speak on Lauriston a century ago - "Rudimentary, Primitive and Disgusting". Meet at 7.30pm at Cobaw. Phone 5422 2853 or see [www.kyneton.org/hs/khs.htm](http://www.kyneton.org/hs/khs.htm).

**KNOX:** The Knox Festival will take place at the Ferntree Gully Community Centre on March 4,5 and 6, which includes the launch of the Rowville Centenary. Ambleside Park Homestead, 3 Olivebank Rod, Ferntree Gully is the venue for the 8pm meeting on Monday 7 March. See <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~khsinc> or phone 9758 6722.

**LANDSBOROUGH:** A Community Grant from Pyrenees Shire of \$1000 has enabled some urgently needed maintenance to the lockup and stables within the Society's historic precinct next to the Barkly Room. Phone Secretary Tim on 5356 9288 or email [dwestern@netconnect.com.au](mailto:dwestern@netconnect.com.au).

**LEARMONTH:** On Tuesday 15 March at 8pm a general meeting will be held in the old Shire Hall at Learmonth, now the Historic Centre. A bus trip to St Arnaud is planned, incorporating a tour of the town, organised by the local council. Email address is: [learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au).

**LEONGATHA:** John Murphy's latest book "The Meeting Place - The Leongatha Memorial Hall 1924-2004" has been launched and is available from the Society at PO Box 431, Leongatha, 3953 (see April History News for book review). Phone 5668 6304 or email to: [leongathahistoc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:leongathahistoc@yahoo.com.au).

**LILYDALE:** Lorraine Smith will speak at 2.30pm on Saturday 5 March at the Museum of Lilydale, on her recent trip to South America, when she visited JFK museum in Dallas USA and Eva Peron's grave in Argentina. Phone 9739 5466 or see [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au).

**LITTLE RIVER:** A display of photographs and articles of interest in relation to the Little River district will commence at 10am on Sunday 6 March in the Little River Mechanics Institute Hall, Rothwell Road, Little River, held in conjunction with the Little River Primary Schools annual Country Fair held in the school grounds in Flinders Street Little River. Gold coin entry. The school is also hosting a reunion for past pupils, teachers and parents. Phone 0409 432 215 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lrhs/>.

**MERRIGUM:** The Society's 10th Annual Heritage Day will be held on Sunday 3 April 2005 at 11am at the Merrigum Museum, Waverley Avenue, Merrigum. There will be activated displays of blacksmithing, horseworks, chaffcutting, bag loading, vintage engines, woodturning, woodwork competition, milk separating, butter churning, spinning, cane dolls' prams, hand made soap, washing and ironing, treadle machine sewing, rustic chair making, and a farmers' market. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. A barbeque and drinks are available for a small cost. Enquiries to secretary on 5855 2330.

**MIDLANDS - MARYBOROUGH:** A slide night is to be held at 8pm on Wednesday 16 March at Worsley Cottage, 3 Palmerton Street, Maryborough, and the following weekend members will attend

the AGM at Dimbool of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies on 19-20 March. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs/>.

**MOE:** Meetings are held from 7.30pm at the Society's rooms, 2 High Street, Moe on the fourth Tuesday each month. There is now a link in the Society's web-site to the RHSV enabling access to the collection catalogue. So far 456 items are on the catalogue with many more to come. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~moehs>.

**MORWELL:** On 4 April Morwell will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Post Office at Princes Drive and Church Street corner. Phone 5134 1149 or see [www.LVonline.com.au/morwellhistoricalsociety.htm](http://www.LVonline.com.au/morwellhistoricalsociety.htm).

**NARRE WARREN:** Shauna Hicks from Public Record Office Victoria will be guest speaker starting 8pm on Wednesday 9 March at Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate. The Narre Warren & District Family History Group received funding from the Local History Grants to produce a booklet and web site of monuments and memorials within the City of Casey and the Shire of Cardinia. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nwflg>.

**NEPEAN:** On Friday 4 March at 9pm Neil Briggs, a senior partner in the Briggs Shaw & Associates Estate Agency at Sorrento and Blairgowrie will present "A Personal Perspective" at 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento (Melways 157 A8). A travelling display on Marine Navigation from Queenscliffe Maritime Museum is on exhibition.

**NILLUMBIK:** The Autumn Fair will take place on Saturday 19 March at Ellis Cottage, 14 Collins St, Diamond Creek. The Ellis Cottage Museum is open 1st Sunday monthly 2-4pm. Phone Secretary on 9438 3439.

**OAKLEIGH:** The Oakleigh Festival "Down the Track" will take place on Sunday 20 March. Details from Oakleigh & District Historical Society, Monash Federation Centre, 3 Atherton Rd, Oakleigh. Ph: 6563 2823. Website: <http://www.monlib.vic.gov.au/odhs/oakhist.html>.

**SHEPPARTON:** At 11am on Saturday 12 March the Joseph Furphy Commemorative Site Dedication will take place at Welsford Street, Shepparton. A program of events taking place to commemorate the Furphy Foundry and family can be found on the festival web site: [www.sheppartonfestival.net.au](http://www.sheppartonfestival.net.au) or phone 0412 461 561.

**SHIPLOVERS:** The "muster" on Wednesday 9 March will be held at the Port of Melbourne Education Centre, when Peter Somerville, an acknowledged historian of Melbourne's early days with a great knowledge of Melbourne's 'other' river, the Maribyrnong, will speak about its discovery by Grimes in 1803, through the settlement of the area, and its history to the present day. Subscription to the Shiplovers' Society of Victoria is \$35, to PO Box 825, Port Melbourne, 3207.

**ST KILDA:** Take a "tram ride" into history past and present with Max Nicholson and discover original streetscapes and pathways from the 19th century till today, at 2.30pm on Sunday 20 March at St Kilda Library community room. Website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk) or phone 9690 9584.

**STRATFORD:** The museum, a building being restored both inside and out, is situated in Hobson Street, and is open the last Sunday monthly 2-4pm. A small news sheet is planned for 2005. Contact secretary 5145 8233.

**SURREY HILLS:** On Monday 21 March at 8pm John Ibbotson, photographer extraordinaire, will speak about how lighthouses have evolved over the last 3000

years, their status and their future, in the Chandler Room of the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills.

**TALBOT:** The Society occupies the Talbot Primitive Methodist Church building in Camp Street dating from 1869, where meetings are held the last Monday of each month, and where their museum and genealogical research centre is open to the public every Sunday from 1-4pm. 600 historical photographs, pictorial history, maps and books on sale. See <http://communitiesites.impulse.net.au/Talbot%20museum/>.

**WARRANTYTE:** On Sunday 6 March the Warrandyte Primary School pre-1940 students' reunion will take place between 11am and 4pm in the school multi-purpose room. BYO food and drinks. Enquiries to Frances on 9884 9262. Meetings are 3rd Tuesday at 8pm at Musuem at 111 Yarra St, Warrandyte. See [www.vicnet.net.au/~whsoc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~whsoc/).

**WAVERLEY:** "A Brush with Hollywood" is the topic of guest speaker Sheila Eastgate at the Society's meeting at 8pm on Thursday 24 March, above Mount Waverley public library, 41 Miller Crescent, opposite railway station. All welcome. Contact Marjo on 9544 8792 or see [www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic).

**WHITEHOUSE:** 2005 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Frederick McCubbin in 1855, one of the

Heidelberg School. On Saturday 20 March from 12 noon to 5pm a "Family Heritage Day" will be held at Schwerkolt Cottage, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham (Melways 49 D7), admission free, where there will be demonstrations of blacksmiths, tating, wood turners, lace makers, permagamo, and spinners and weavers, with activities and games for children, and displays of stationary engines, patchwork quilts, Austin 7 vintage cars, and the historic cottage and museum. See [www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/).

**WOADY YALOK:** At the Annual General Meeting to be held at 1.30pm on Sunday 20 March at Smythesdale Court House, the guest speaker will be noted Ballarat author Dr Jill Blee, who has just published "From the Murray to the Sea - The History of Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese". A walking trail from Piggoreet to Grand Trunk, including picnic lunch, will commence at 10am on Easter Sunday 27 March. Website: <http://www.wyhs.goldlinkweb.com> or phone 5342 8754

**YARRAM:** The Society's area of interest includes Port Albert and Port Welshpool, Yarram, Tarraville and 24 other towns in the Old Alberton Shire. Meetings are held at 1.30pm on 2nd Tuesday monthly at the Yarram Lodge Hall, corner Nicol & Yarram St, Yarram. The Society's rooms are on level one of the Post Office, Commercial Road, Yarram. Phone: 5182 5806 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ydh>.

## PUBLICATIONS RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

"A short History of the Nepean Peninsula, Sorrento and Portsea" by Richard Cotter, published by Lavender Hill Multimedia, Red Hill, November 2004. Price \$25 plus \$4 postage. A most readable history of Sorrento, Portsea and the surrounding area. It discusses explorers, limeburners, shipwrecks and resort developers as well as the Quarantine Station, the fortifications, Italian POWs and the training of cadet army officers and medical assistants. Available from the Nepean Historical Society Inc., PO Box 139, Sorrento, 3943.

"Taking Its Place, A history of Oakleigh" by H.G. Gobbi, published by Oakleigh & District Historical Society, August 2004. Price \$35 plus \$6 postage. Available from the Society, PO Box 82, Oakleigh, 3166.

### WHAT'S ON - March-April 2005

All RHSV events are held at 239 A'Beckett Street (cnr William Street) Melbourne, unless notified otherwise. Dates and venues of Making Tracks exhibition subject to change. Enquiries: 9326 9288

DATE	DAY	TIME	FUNCTION
March		10:00 - 4:00	Exhibition: Making Tracks continues at Dudley House, Bendigo [Note: Exhibition closes at this venue: 14 March 2005]
3 March	Thursday	9:15 - 5:00	Excursion: Following the Tracks to Bendigo
8 March	Tuesday	5:45	Lecture: Traditions in Multicultural Food - Dure Dara [Note: Coffe/tea from 5:15 pm; entry from William St]
9 March	Wednesday	9:30 - 12:00	Information Sessions for RHSV Volunteers [Note: Access to RHSV Collections unavailable until 12:30]
14 March	Monday		Public Holiday: RHSV Closed
19 March	Saturday	9:00 - 5:30	Exhibition: Making Tracks opens Alfred Deakin Centre, Mildura [Note: Exhibition closes at this venue: 17 April 2005]
25 March	Friday		Public Holiday: RHSV Closed
28 March	Monday		Public Holiday: RHSV Closed
29 March	Tuesday	11:00 - 12:00	Seminar: The RHSV Manuscripts Collection and its Use - Nonie Long
2 April	Saturday	10:00 - 4:00	HSVG Seminar, Yackandandah: Publishing Local History
7 April	Thursday	9:15 - 5:00	Excursion: Flinders and Surrounds
8 April	Friday	9:30 - 12:00	Workshop for RHSV Volunteers [Note: Access to RHSV Collections unavailable until 12:30]
12 April	Tuesday	5:45	Lecture: Holding on to Hope - A History of McKillop Family Services Jill Barnard and Karen Twigg [Note: Coffe/tea from 5:15 pm; entry from William St]
25 April	Monday		Public Holiday: RHSV Closed
26 April	Tuesday	11:00 - 12:00	Seminar-Workshop: Archival Box Making for Historical Societies
30 April	Saturday	11:00 - 4:00	Exhibition: Making Tracks opens at 'The Workshop', Wangaratta [Note: Exhibition closes at this venue: 29 May 2005]
15 May	Sunday	10:00 - 4:00	RHSV Mammoth Book Sale

## History

# NEWS



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.  
239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

website: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au>

email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

ABN 36 520 675 471

Registration No. A2529

Office Hours: Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm

Library Hours: Monday to Friday  
10am to 4pm

ESTABLISHED 1909

President	Prof Weston Bate
Executive Officer	Kate Prinsley
Development Officer	Judith Buckrich
Administrative Officer	Gerardine Horgan
IT Manager	Vicki Court
Project Curator	Judith Penrose

Design and Artwork: Kiplings Business Communications 9585 8505

Printed by: Mail Communications 9558 1511

The RHSV acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

**ARTS  
VICTORIA**



Items for publication should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV

email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

Copy closes 10th of the month

Price \$1.50

PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011

ISSN 1326-2696