

Essendon pulls out its old drawers

The Textile Collection at the Essendon Historical Society rarely gets a showing, as conditions at our Courthouse Museum are not favourable to textile display in terms of light, dust and pollution, but we give it a bit of an airing now and then. Just for fun, we put together a 20 minute light-hearted look at our 19th century cotton and lace undergarments for the Moonee Valley Festival on the 27th February this year.



Alfred and Matilda taking a keen interest in the short-legged drawers and lacy camisole.

The concept was that a local shop was putting on a fashion parade – in fact, we weren't too sure whether there were such things as shops which specialised in drawers and camisoles, but we went hunting through the 1905 Sands & McDougall Post Office Directory for a suitable business to hold the showing, and happily came upon "Luck and Robotham, ladies underclothing" at 96 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds. Research revealed that Hannah Maria Luck and Sarah Jane Robotham were sisters, born in Tasmania. Sarah

had a child soon after her marriage in Tasmania, but it appears she fled to Victoria with her child and sister not long after, fetching up in Moonee Ponds where they ran their business from 1891 to 1907.

This gave us a little hook on which to hang our narrative. The collection was examined for sufficient items to support a short show, and two models were press-ganged from amongst the members. A script was prepared carefully describing each item, and a few tips on starching and boiling were included as a backup in case the models didn't hit the catwalk in time. In fact, this was a bit of a problem, as the models, despite having a dresser behind the scenes, struggled with the mother-of-pearl buttons and the concealed buttonholes.

A local amateur actor took the part of Mrs Robotham who introduced the garments, and one of our members became Miss Luck, who ably assisted the models throughout the show. We also had Alfred and Matilda, other members of the society, for whom the showing had been arranged. When he arrived, Alfred was most reluctant, and felt that he would rather wait at the billiard hall, but Matilda insisted he stay, knowing she'd never get him out of the billiard hall afterwards. Albert found the showing rather more interesting than he'd anticipated!

About 40 people enjoyed the fun outside the courthouse, and the script has been squirreled away for further use on some other occasion. Many of the people who attended the free showing outside the Courthouse were happy to pay the Museum entrance fee of \$2 to have a closer look at the garments laid out on the Barristers' table inside.

From your special correspondent at Essendon

Being Development Officer



At the time of writing this I have been Development Officer for six weeks. It has been a totally absorbing and interesting time, getting to know the ropes and meeting everyone.

Many of you will know that I was an MRHSV Council member for some time, so I was fortunate enough to arrive with some knowledge. Planning for events and following the path of programs such as MakingTracks as well as understanding the work of those involved in research, cataloguing, indexing, image conservation, management and IT absorb much of my attention. And there is also a constant stream of information about member societies and possible new projects to be understood and sometimes included in our program.

One of the delights is meeting the people working at our premises and finding out what they do. Our Volunteers Information Day was fantastic for this. Doing the newsletter is another opportunity for uncovering our complex 'factory' and the delights of the societies we are fortunate to have under our umbrella. A report on this page "History for the Fashion Conscious" is a case in point. We hope that reports such as this will not only prove entertaining, but useful to other societies as examples of what can be done.

My job mainly involves seeking funding for and promotion of the society, as well as looking for opportunities for us to work with other like-minded organisations. I look forward to meeting many more of the RHSV community and thank you all for allowing me to work with you.

Judy Buckrich

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A Red-Letter Day

Everyone wore red at Macarthur to celebrate the burial of the town's boring image on Sunday 6 March.

The Macarthur Historical Society was in the thick of it. The town crier of Moynes Shire called the crowd to attention at the centre of things where a prize-winning newspaper article in the "most boring town" competition of 1984 was ceremoniously laid to rest under a red septic tank lid.

Rohan Mortimer, the culprit, embraced his former critic, Natalie Gash, as the last rites were said. As an eighteen year-old he had sent up the town while she had countered by founding the 'Macarthur Mafia' who wore T-shirts pronouncing "Boring? Not likely!"

The fun extended to the nearby hall, where the hundreds gathered again to hear me launch Boring, Not Likely a beautifully crafted local history by Simone Dalton, a journalist from Horsham who spent the first ten years of her life at Macarthur.

Her sensitivity and skill bring back to life the joys, foibles and everyday experience of hundreds of characters in the many occupations that made the community. Some clearly painted the town red in their day.

The basic story is of stages of closer settlement, beginning with the overpowering of the Aboriginal people, whose fate is perceptively discussed.

Interestingly, the heyday of the town came with the arrival of Second World War veterans during the 1950s, the final break-up of large estates. Wool and dairying flourished, the local store boomed, the school overflowed and new life was channelled into Anzac and Remembrance Days, dances in the hall and the football and cricket teams.

With do-it-ourselves passion, the Macarthur Historical Society published the book, its cover adorned by portraits of the actors in the real life drama. I was privileged to launch it.

Weston Bate

Making Tracks report



The first passenger train to Mildura arriving on 27 October 1903. Photo courtesy Bruce McLean Collection, scan by John Thompson.

At the time of writing this report, 1600 visitors have visited Making Tracks in Bendigo, with the final long weekend in March still to go!!

The Bendigo Historical Society is hoping to reach 2000 visitors by the end of the tour. A fantastic result – congratulations to all involved for their hard work and support of this exhibition. The program of special talks on Sundays was also a great success.

Making Tracks is off to Mildura next, as we progress "down" the line. (Did you know that it's always "up" to Melbourne and "down" to everywhere else, no matter where you are in Victoria?!)

The railway officially opened in Mildura in 1903. Our exhibition opened to the public almost 102 years later, on 19 March at the Alfred Deakin Information Centre, Mildura.

If you would like to read a brief snapshot of Mildura's railway history, check our website at <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/tracks.htm#themes>

Judith Penrose, Project Manager, Making Tracks

The Great RHSV Annual Book Sale and Silent Auction

SUNDAY 15 MAY 2005.

Just a reminder to all those who would like to donate books for the sale. You must get the books to us by Wednesday 11 May. If you need help getting them to our office please call Gerardine on 93269288, leaving plenty of time for us to pick them up. But please bring them in yourself if you can.

A selection of a special donation of books from the library of the Australian Natives Association will be sold by silent auction.

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

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



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.

APRIL LECTURE

**Holding on to Hope -
A History of McKillop Family
Services**

Date: Tuesday 12 April

Time: 5:45pm

Presenters: Jill Barnard and Karen Twigg

Note: Coffee/tea from 5:15 pm; entry from William St.

In 2004 Jill and Karen completed a history of the founding agencies of MacKillop Family Services - orphanages, children's homes and mothers' shelters operated by the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St Joseph and Christian Brothers in Victoria. They will reflect on some aspects of the experience of writing about children in substitute care and some of the important sources of information they used in their research.

MAY LECTURE

LAURA MECCA LECTURE:

Italians in Melbourne

Date: Tuesday May 10 2005

Time: 5.45pm

Cost: Free to members
\$5.50 non members

Note: Coffee and tea from 5.15pm

In her talk, Laura Mecca will present the main waves of Italian migration to Australia since the Gold Rush and discuss the economic and social reasons in Italy that triggered them.

She will also briefly discuss the challenges faced by the Italian Historical Society in recording the history of Italian migration to Australia and in making it accessible to the wider community".

SEMINAR

**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.

WORKSHOP

Know the RHSV Collections Indexes and Databases

Date: 31 May, 2005

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Cost: \$10 members
\$15 non-members

Presenter: Richard Barnden

Each year items are added to current RHSV indexes and new indexes are made available for the use of members and other researchers – all the work of many of our volunteers.

Seminar participants will be provided with information on and practical experience with some of the indexes that are available at the RHSV. A particular focus will be those indexes which are held on the RHSV's computers and

website and some of the 'tricks of the trade' in their use and construction.

This seminar will make a valuable introduction to the art of indexing for persons considering undertaking the RHSV's one-day workshop/ seminar scheduled for 30 August 2005.

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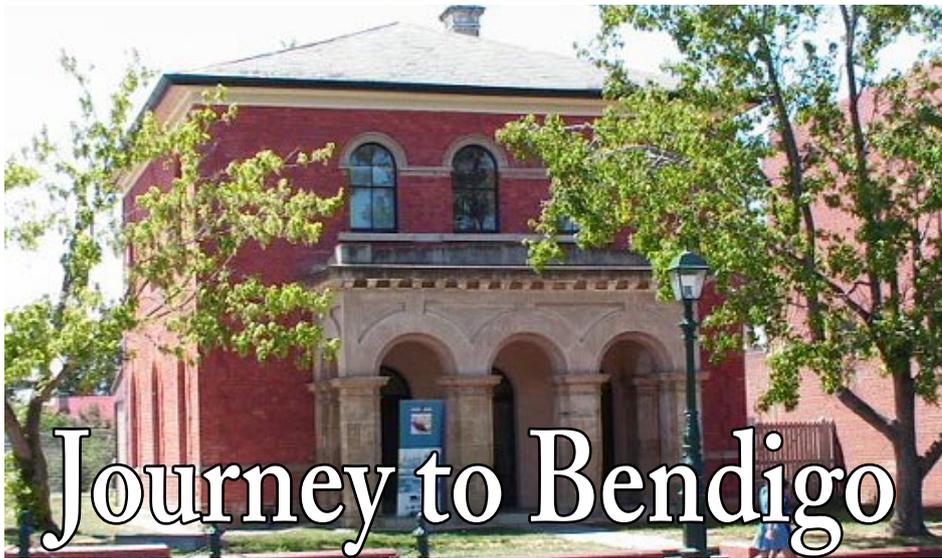
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What a disappointment that track work prevented us riding the rails to Bendigo to visit our travelling exhibition: “Making Tracks”, but we did our best to keep the line in sight with tour members provided with maps and descriptive literature.

These, together with tour commentary and railway reminiscences, made for an enjoyable and rewarding journey. On arrival at Dudley House (previously the rooms of the Bendigo Historical Society) we were greeted by President Jim Evans and fellow members who conducted us around the exhibition.

The railways story has many layers and the exhibition is enriched at each new venue by local and regional contributions. Bendigo focussed on the Melbourne to Sandhurst line opened in 1862. Its extension to the Murray reached Echuca two years later. RHSV

excursionists will follow that trail again on our Middle Murray trip in November.

Bendigo was an interesting tour, made more pleasant by the companionship and shared interests of its members.



Dur-e Dara visits the RHSV on International Women’s Day

Dur-e Dara gave an inspiring talk on Traditions in Multicultural Food on March 8 at the RHSV.

Living up to her reputation as a ‘renaissance woman’, she talked about the creation of contemporary culture ‘through the stomach’ and expounded on the way food has changed Australian society. Her main thesis was that we had to accept and admire international culture before we could change the way we ate.

She went on to talk about her own multicultural family history and its relationship with food, and how this led her to create the diverse kitchen her restaurants are famous for. All of us attending were delighted with such a personal and rich gift from Dur-e.

A dinner followed at her EQ Café Bar where we were able to partake of the fabulous food she had talked about.

VOLUNTEERS’ INFORMATION SESSION

Responding to feedback from previous years, Judith Bilszta and Richard Barnden gave volunteers a completely revamped Information Session on the morning of 9 March – and a most successful one it was.

After a welcome from the President and the Executive Officer, Judith’s introductory session was short and helpful. She explained the newly formulated Code of Practice for Volunteers and reminded us of the conditions that all researchers and volunteers must follow when accessing the RHSV collection.

A change of procedure from past years was then introduced. We were divided into four groups and over the next two hours each group visited the main areas of the collection for a session with the head of each area – Judith Bilszta (Library & Research), Nonie Long (Manuscripts & Archives), Vicki Court (Computers & Cataloguing) and Richard Barnden (Image Collection).

This format was most effective. We gained a better overview of the whole collection and our proximity to the various items stimulated questions and comments.

Congratulations to Judith and Richard on a successful programme. Current volunteers had their knowledge of the collection expanded and new volunteers were supplied with plenty of information to assist them to decide in which area they wish to work.

The big surprise at the end of the morning was the “official opening” of the new, spacious volunteers’ lunch room. Barbara Nixon, as the Society’s longest serving volunteer, cut the ribbon across the doorway of the former Sergeants’ Mess and everyone celebrated with coffee and cake.

Lyndal and Jeremy Pascoe

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members

INDIVIDUAL

JOHN DWYER	RICHMOND
JOHN LECKY	SOUTH YARRA
MARY CODY	MORDIALLOC
MURRAY SMITH	BENTLEIGH
DAISY SEARLS	PRAHRAN
MICHAEL MAGEE	STRATHMORE
M READ	CAMBERWELL
DILYSYAP	ROSEBUD SOUTH

Victorian Community Foundation -
Holsworth Local Heritage Trust

Grants available for publication of local history

The Trustees of the Holsworth Local Heritage Trust, a charitable fund with the Victorian Community Foundation, are happy to announce that following a review of the trust purpose a new granting program has been established.

The Trustees invite applications for grants from not-for-profit organisations such as historical societies, clubs, schools and museums in rural Victoria. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for projects that will enable the preservation and appreciation through publication, of local and other history in rural Victoria.

Closing date for applications is 1 August 2005.

The grants will be offered annually and successful applicants will be expected to publish within one year of receipt of a grant.

Application forms are available from the Victorian Community Foundation, ANZ Charitable Services, GPO Box 389D, Melbourne, Vic 3001, or fax (03) 9273 2319.

For further information please phone Maria Stylianou on (03) 9273 2701 or email charitabletrusts@anz.com

Do you know where this picture was taken?

If you do, please contact the RHSV and we'll give you a mystery prize.

Prize kindly donated to the RHSV by Dena Lee.



Can you help?



Women's cricket scores 100

The Victorian Women's Cricket Association is celebrating its Centenary in July 2005 and is looking to put together an exhibition of its 100 year history.

As part of this exhibition we would like to get some replica uniforms made up from the various eras to display. We are looking for help from people who may be able to do this for us or know of someone who can.

We are also trying to get as much historical information from past players as possible. So if you have played in the Victorian Women's Cricket Association in the past, or know of anyone who has, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Claudia Fatone on 03 9653 1182 if you have any information.

Recent publications donated to the Society

Geology of Australia Map 1976 by the Department of National Resources Australia.

Jack Ryan has donated a copy of his *Crooks Cranks and Chaos in Melbourne Town* published by the Nillimbik Historical Society

John McNeill's *A Journey to Destiny 1890-1990 100 Years of Cement Manufacturing at Fyansford* by Australian Cement Limited. Donated by the Cement Museum at Fyansford, Geelong.

John Murphy's *The Meeting Place: Leongatha Memorial Hall 1924-2004*. Donated by the author.

Gwen McWilliam's *Hawthorn Streets Index: A Brief History of the Streets of Hawthorn*. Donated by the Hawthorn Historical Society.

Moorabool- Bacchus Marsh Pocket Book Phone and Street Directories 2004-2005. Donated by John Knight.

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Books received by the RHSV

Please note that, with some exceptions, these books are not usually available for sale at the RHSV, but most books will be available for reading at the RHSV library.

‘Low, Degraded Broods? Industry and Entrepreneurialism in Melbourne’s Little Lon 1860-1950’ by John Anthony Leckey. Published by Australian Scholarly Publishing 2004.

This book reconsiders the reputation and cultural place of Melbourne’s Little Lonsdale Street in the light of its large and distinguished industrial function which endured for a century. It details the personal and commercial biographies of seven entrepreneurs in the precinct between 1860-1950.

‘The Woodbine Story 1954-2004’ by Louise Kemp. Published by Woodbine Inc, Warracknabeal, Victoria 2004.

This history of Woodbine Inc which began its life as the Warracknabeal and District Retarded Children’s Association is an engaging and well illustrated story of a dynamic and interesting institution. ‘The history of disability care is at the same time a history of how we have as a society seen people with intellectual disabilities...’

‘Tobruk 1941’ by Peter Cochrane. Published by ABC Books 2005.

An intense and moving view of everyday survival and fortitude in near unendurable circumstances during the siege of Tobruk. ‘Tobruk 1941’ is illustrated with hundreds of photographs and first hand accounts of the siege.

‘Remembering and Forgetting: Public History Review 10’. Published by the Professional Historians Association NSW Inc.

This edition focuses on the theme of forgetting and remembering. History and memory have recently become hotly debated issues. Articles by Graeme Davison, David Ritter and Frances N.A. Flanagan, Joanna Sassoon and others.

‘The National Trust Research Manual: Trace the History of Your House or Other Places’ edited by Celestina Sagazio Published by Halstead Press in Association with The National Trust of Australia (Vic.) 2004.

‘Paddle Steamers of the Murray River’ by Kit Bennett. Published by Lothian Books 2004.

A beautifully illustrated tribute to the boats that were a vital part of our country’s history.

‘War in Words: the Halstead Armoury of Australian War Writing.’ Edited by Matthew Richardson. Published by Halstead Press, Sydney 2004.

A Halstead Classic of Australian war writing including work by Joseph Furphy, Henry Lawson, Hal Porter, Thomas Shapcott, Dorothy Hewett, Kenneth Slessor and many others.

‘Australians and Greeks Volume III: The Later Years’ by Hugh Gilchrist. Published by Halstead Press 2004.

This volume concludes Hugh Gilchrist’s award winning history and covers an age of war and migration.

‘The Armytages of Como’ by Anita Selzer Published by Halstead Press in Association with the National Trust of Australia (Vic). 2003

Anita Selzer takes us into the opulent world of the Armytages uncovering gentry and convict origins. Her book reveals bygone social splendours, domestic drudgery and the working of mines and sheep stations.

‘Lighthouse on the Boulevard: A History of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind 1866-2004’ by Judith Raphael Buckrich, Published by Australian Scholarly Publishing 2005.

Beautifully illustrated, this book gives great insight into the treatment of blind and vision impaired people in Victoria and into the way the institution changed over its almost 140 year history.

‘A Unique Endeavour: A History of the Western Region Health Centre, 1964-2004’ by Felicity with Phillip Deery. Begun as the Trade Union Clinic and Research Centre Ltd., the Western Region Health Centre has had a unique history. It originally sought to take the health care of injured and ill workers out of the hands of the traditional medical establishment. Its development is followed in this history.

NOTE

The next *Victorian Historical Journal* will include articles on community banking by Alan Mayne and the Dreeite Soldier Settlement by Dawn Peel.

Book Review

Survival of the Fortunate: an airman’s story

by John D McCredie, 2004, 196p, preface by Peter Yule.

Published and available from the author: \$30

This book is an excellent and most readable autobiographical account of one of the 1300 Australian airmen who served with the RAF squadrons in India during World War Two. Of them Field-Marshal Sir William Slim wrote in 1955 “to the soldiers of the fourteenth army . . . and to the airmen who flew with them and fought [above] them, belongs the true glory of achievement. It was they who turned Defeat into Victory.”

The hair raising adventures of expeditions attacking the Japanese in Burma form the nucleus of the book. The narrative is in the disarming form of letters from Jakarta in 1974 to the author’s daughter Sally. They include a report of wartime England and entertainments in London, particularly theatre and films. There are also vivid glimpses of Indian life, which had the disadvantage of not providing the pleasure of suitable female companionship McCredie had in England. There is, however, romance towards the end of his book, and he manages to fit in his marriage after the war.

Authenticity is lent to McCredie’s account by the explanatory details of flying Liberators and their very important maintenance. Just as interesting are the biographical paragraphs relating to McCredie’s fellow airmen, as well as their rather salty air force humour. Fun and games in the Officers’ Mess are not forgotten. On the other hand, there are the misgivings McCredie mentions regarding bombing near Burmese hospitals.

The background to promotions and decorations is given. McCredie, at the beginning, quotes von Clausewitz: “In war more than anywhere else, things happen differently from the way we had expected and look differently when near from how they did at a distance.” By the end of the book, and its close look at the Burma war, McCredie has “. . . learned what I wanted to do with my life; I grew up a little.”

Survival of the Fortunate has a happy ending – McCredie studied History under Professor Crawford, entered what was then the External Affairs Department, and married Alison Hall, a Diplomatic Cadet.

Michael Moore

NO MORE REVIEWS BUT MANY MORE BOOKS

Please note that *History News* will not be publishing book reviews after April 2005. We will however publish a list of books received and a few lines about each book. We feel that this is the best way our readers can be informed of the new and interesting history works being published around Victoria and Australia.

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 May issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 April to joanhunt@netconnect.com.

ALBURY: A DVD of a series of slides on the early history of Albury with accompanying information by Gerry Curtis is being produced by the Society, whose museum is open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm at Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury. Website: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum

AVOCA: Guest speaker Alex Stoneman, whose special interest is collecting and recording the details of defunct Post Offices, will speak on postal history at the 1.30pm meeting on Sunday 17 April at the Court House, 85 High Street, which is open for research each Sunday 10.30am-4pm. The Society now has ADSL broadband connected to the computer at the Court House, available to visitors at a small cost, and an IBM computer was recently gratefully received from the Public Record Office Victoria. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMMain.htm>

BALLARAT: On Tuesday 12 April at 7.30pm John Smith will take members and visitors on a tour of the new Salvation Army headquarters in Main Road (corner of Eureka Street), which was the site of the Town Mission, about which an article appears in the current newsletter. The 130th anniversary of Her Majesty's Theatre is coming up, and the 35th anniversary of Sovereign Hill. Phone 5341 2405 or see www.ballarathistoricalociety.com

BALLARAT GENIES: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 April Scott Brown, Reference Officer at PROV North Melbourne, will speak on "The Exiles", that special category of convicts who were free once they set foot on Australian soil. Enter the meeting room of the Ballarat City Library, 178 Doveton Street north. Phone secretary Gwenda on 5332 4555 or see www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

BENALLA: The Costume and Pioneer Museum, open 9-5 daily at 14 Mair Street is an Accredited Museum with MAP, and has received a National Library grant to employ a conservator to assess the importance of the Society's collection. Recent acquisitions include a beautiful collection of mid 1800 gowns and toys from Verona, Italy, an apron made from flags, and a WW1 cushion cover. The web-site has been upgraded to www.benallamuseum.org.

BENDIGO: Peter Thompson, Information Systems & Resources Librarian at LaTrobe will speak on "The Golden Library: the Sandhurst Mechanics Institute Library past and present", at 2.00pm on Friday 1 April in the Campbell Theatre adjoining the Bendigo Central Library. He will focus on a brief history of libraries in Bendigo, interesting people associated with the library and examples of rare and unusual books from the collection, bringing to life the old library and its readers, a little known part of Bendigo's history. Visitors welcome. Contact Jim Evans on 0437 199 432.

BOX HILL: On Thursday 21 April at 8pm Ian Port will speak on "70 Years of the Box Hill Town Hall" at the Strabane Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Box Hill North, accompanying a photographic exhibition which will run 4-30 April entitled "Within these Walls" in the Box Hill Town Hall Art Space. Phone: 9897 4167.

CASTLEMAINE: As part of the State Festival, Dr G. Brownrigg will speak on "In Castlemaine Tonight", featuring Dame Nellie Melba, her friends, rivals and reputation, on Tuesday 5 April, and tickets at \$10 must be purchased from the Castlemaine Box Office at the Visitor Information Centre. On Sunday 17 April the Society will visit four significant Castlemaine houses, with a charge of \$10 for the day. Phone Court House Tuesdays 5470 6072; website: www.castlemainehistoricalociety.com

CHELSEA: Another computer has been added, for cataloguing historical items, courtesy of the Kingston Council, and a \$500 Community Grant has enabled the copying of 33 historic photographs to A4 size for ease of storage and display. Under consideration is the purchase of a compactus storage system. Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~chellist/> or phone 9772 2875

CORNISH: At 2pm on Saturday 16 April "Trevithick Day" will be held with special illustrated talks including "The City of Truro - The Homestead on the Hillside" by Bill Phillips, and information on the brilliant Cornish engineer Richard Trevithick's life and achievements, as well as a show and tell segment. Prior to the meeting, from 10am normal library services and research will be available. Phone June on 9877 2968 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>

DAYLESFORD: Members have commenced the enormous task of indexing the "Daylesford Express" and early "Advocates" from about 1860, creating a database of names, places, etc. Offers of help to lespitt@optusnet.com.au or phone Les on 5348 3590. Meetings are held at the old School of Mines, 100 Vincent Street at 8pm on first Fridays. Email: history@daylesford.net or phone 5348 1453

DROMANA: At the AGM on Tuesday 19 April Steve Yorke, Team Leader at The Briars Park will be guest speaker. The museum at the Old Shire Office is open 2-4pm Sundays and 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 10am to 4pm. Contact Kay on 5988 6423

DUNOLLY: The Goldfields Historical and Arts Society has arranged a trip to Shelbourne and district for Monday 18 April, including the proposed site of the Laanecoorie Railway Station, a bridge with no road and Shelbourne silos, departing from the Dunolly Museum, 75 Broadway, at 10am, travelling in own cars. Participants provide own picnic lunch. Details: ring John on 04 2817 8669

EAST GIPPSLAND: The Family History Group and the Historical Society have joined forces to produce their combined journal "The Black Sheep", issue no. 66 of which outlines a little-used research resource - The Education Department's Record of War Service Victoria 1914-1919 and Education Department Victoria War Service Record 1939-1945, published by the Education Department in 1921 and 1959. The Dewey classification to find these books in a library are 994.041EDU and 994.042WAR. Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~egfgh>

EAST MELBOURNE: On Wednesday 20 April at 8pm Sandie de Wolf, CEO of Berry Street, will talk about the history of that organizations, which is one of East Melbourne's oldest, transferring there from Fitzroy in 1880. The Society's collection catalogue is now online and can be accessed through www.historyvictoria.org.au and follow the link to the Victorian Local History Database. Contact Sylvia on 9417 2037 or email sylvia.black@bigpond.com

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: The new pictorial book *Hastings People & Places Vol 1* (\$25) is selling well with renewed interest by people in their local heritage. For copies contact Shirley Davies (03-9781-1141). The publication of the book has resulted in an influx of new members. On Monday 4 April at 7.30 pm at the Hastings Museum, Peter Beckett will be presenting an illustrated address on his research into two World War I forebears and his visit to France and Belgium. He will provide helpful research hints on WWI.

The March Morning Coffee had a display of the beautifully embroidered Cope that was donated to St Peter's Mornington. The artwork, design and embroidery were done by Ros Peatey, the guest speaker. Ros also spoke about her new book *Setting the Spirit Free* (pastoral settlement/families of the Rosebud area).

HEIDELBERG: Max Lay, author of the recently published book on this topic, will speak on "History of our Roads" at 8pm on Tuesday 12 April at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe. Phone 9458 3185 or see www.member.telapacific.com.au. Museum in Jika Street is open Sundays 2-5pm.

KANGAROO GROUND: The Andrew Ross Museum at Kangaroo Ground has been awarded the Nillumbik Community Group or Business of the Year Award 2005, so hearty congratulations to them. On Friday 22 April Mick Woiwod will conduct an evening tour of the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery, starting at 7.30pm (taking advantage of the full moon!). Phone: 9712 0217.

KILMORE: Guest speaker Val D'Angri will explain how she restored the original Eureka flag, now displayed in the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, at 8pm on Tuesday 5 April at the old Kilmore Court House, 4 Powlett Street. You will be spellbound as Val describes the original condition of the flag and the work involved in restoration. Website: www.kilmorehistory.info or phone 5783 1511.

KYNETON: At 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 April at 24a High Street (Aesop's Attic Bookshop) Maureen Crawford will speak on "One Woman's research into Scottish Records - the best in the world". Maureen will give tips, hints and resources of how to track Scottish ancestors, not only here in Australia but also in Scotland. Maureen will also bring along documents, family sheets and other data. At 2.00pm on Sunday 17 April the Society will celebrate Heritage Month by conducting an Afternoon Tour of 'Woodside', the 150 year old home built for Police Magistrate, William Lavender. \$5 per person includes Devonshire teas, tour and displays. Booking essential to Larina 0418 545 648 or Cathy at Kyneton Library 5422 1365 by 14 April. Admission by prepaid ticket only.

LEONGATHA: On Tuesday 19 April, at the Mechanics' Institute, McCartin Street, Jillian Durance will speak about her research into the Moyarra hall honour roll, including a trip to France to uncover information about the men who served in the Great War. Contact Lyn on 5668 6304 for details.

MARYBOROUGH: Heritage architect Wendy Jacobs will be guest speaker at the dinner meeting at the Goldfields Restaurant at 6.30 for 7.00pm on Wednesday, 20 April. Achieving accreditation in the Museums Accreditation Program is a major aim of the Society, and as a Place of Deposit (POD) the Maryborough Waterworks rate books 1887-1928 are now in the possession and care of the Midlands Historical Society. Phone Margaret on 5461 4034 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs/>.

MORELAND: The four historical societies in Moreland City (Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Coburg and Fawkner) have combined to produce one issue of "Moreland History News". A combined meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 18 May in the Coburg Library Meeting Room, cnr Louisa and Victoria Streets, Coburg. Guest speaker John Warburton, Chairman of Commissioners 1994-1996 will talk about the inauguration and early development of the City of Moreland. Phone Laurie on 9386 8572.

MORNINGTON: David Collings is guest speaker at 10.30am on Tuesday 12 April, his topic being the history of the Rotary Club of Mornington, which recently celebrated its golden jubilee. A short memorial service will be held at 10am on Saturday 30 April at the Matthew Flinders statue followed by tea and coffee in the Old Post Office Museum. Phone Diane on 5989 2219.

MORWELL: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Morwell Post Office on 4 April 2005 an informative display will be held in the Society's rooms at 21 Church Street. The Society's website has changed to: www.Latrobceityonline.com or phone Elsie on 5134 1149.

NHILL: The Society's records include those relating to the Shire, churches, cemetery, newspapers, photographs and a reference library, available at their rooms in the old Lowan Shire Hall, 106 MacPherson Street. A 52-page history of Nhill and district by J. Edward Robertson is available for \$12.50 including p&p. Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs/> or phone John on 5391 2135.

OUYEN: A grant from Mildura Rural City Council has enabled the purchase of a new photocopier and additional blinds for the Courthouse, and the first half of the rate books have gone to Melbourne for microfilming, thanks to support from members. A searchable database of rate book transcriptions is being prepared, and the website has been given a facelift: see www.vicnet.net/~ouyenlhc.

POLISH: This newly affiliated society has had a local history project funded to collect settlement experiences of Polish persons who arrived in Australia as Displaced Persons in the 1940-50s. Polish-speaking interviewers are in the process of collecting oral histories, then transcribing and translating them into Polish, to publish a bilingual book by the end of 2005. Phone Elizabeth on 9689 9170 or see www.apcs.org.au

ROMSEY & LANCEFIELD: At the general meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 April at Seymour Cottage, Palmer Street, Romsey a special commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Gallipoli will be held, with all present encouraged to bring war memorabilia to share. The Court House is open each first Sunday 1.30 to 4.30pm. Contact james.hall1@bigpond.com

ST KILDA: On Sunday 10 April at 2.30pm in the St Kilda Library community room Julie Meadows, a gifted facilitator who has assisted over fifty people to write and produce their own high quality books on their family and personal histories in conjunction with the Makor Library tell you about the "Write Your Own Story" program. Phone secretary on 9690 9584 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

SYDENHAM: Meetings are held on 2nd Wednesday monthly at the Sydenham Community Centre, 7 The Hub and details can be obtained from secretary Marilyn on 8361 5297.

TALBOT: The museum is open each Sunday 1-4pm at Camp Street, where the next meeting will be held on Monday 25 April. Copies of historical photographs can be purchased for \$5 as well as detailed maps of Talbot goldfields for \$15 and "Talbot - Town of 100 Hotels" by Rita Hull for \$10. See <http://communitysites>.

impulse.net.au/Talbot%20museum/ or phone Beat on 5463 2578.

TRARALGON: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 April guest speaker Barry Sykes will speak on "Railways and their effect on all communities, far and wide", to link with Victoria's celebration of 150 years of railway history. Meet at the Kathy Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed Street. Generous donations have included photos of steam engines and the Traralgon Railway Station and twelve months' funding of the Society's Oldsmobile. Phone Dawn on 5174 4540 or see www.traralgonhistory.asn.au

WARRACKNABEAL: Four members have recently published a book called "Servicemen of Warracknabeal and District - World War II - Volume 2". Extensions to the Wheatlands Warracknabeal Machinery Museum have now been completed and feature a large mural donated by the AWB. The Annual Vintage Machinery Rally was held on 26-28 March and featured International tractors and machinery. The Vintage Tractor Pull was held on the evening of Saturday 26 March. Phone Jean on 5398 1901.

WARRANTYTE: Located in the restored 1875 Post Office, the museum is involved in an archiving project supported by Manningham City Council to link the Society's catalogue with community libraries and is open weekends 1-4pm. It has a large collection of historic photographs and is categorised into four sections: gold, art, Aboriginal and domestic. Phone Jo on 9844 4176 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~whsoc

WAVERLEY: Shiela Eastgate will speak on "A Brush with Hollywood" at 8pm on Thursday 24 March at Mt Waverley library, 41 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Come along and find out how an ordinary Waverley resident met up with famous Hollywood personages. A re-enactment of the first Flying Matchbox shuttle to Darling and back will take place in May, so to catch The Heritage Train, with your children and grand-children, contact www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic or phone Marjo on 9544 8792 for details.

WENDISH: On Sunday 3 April, after a noon lunch, a brief AGM will be held, then at 2pm some traditional germanic and wendish folksongs will be presented before guest speaker Geoff Saegenschneider speaks about his visit this year to the Wends in Texas, illustrated with video recordings. Contact John on 9458 2848 or johnnoack@yahoo.com.au

WOADY YALOOK: The Society's 20th anniversary will be celebrated at the Smythesdale Recreation Centre, Heales Street from 11am on Sunday 10 April, with guest speakers, games, prizes and lots of talk. Lunch is included in the \$15 cost; bookings Wednesdays at Court House on 5342 8754. Website: <http://www.wyhs.goldlinksweb.com>

Tell us!

We were delighted to receive the piece about The Textile Collection at the Essendon Historical Society. Any interesting information like this may be useful to other societies who have collections or events that are new and different. We encourage all societies to send us pieces about events and programs that they think would be useful to all of us.

History

NEWS



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ESTABLISHED 1909

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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



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

email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

Copy closes 10th of the month

Price \$1.50

PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011

ISSN 1326-2696

WHAT'S ON - April - May 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
April			
19 March	Saturday	9:00 - 5:30	Exhibition: Making Tracks opens Alfred Deakin Centre, Mildura [Note: Exhibition closes at this venue: 17 April 2005]
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]
10 May	Tuesday	5.45	Lecture: Italians in Melbourne Laura Mecca
15 May	Sunday	10:00 - 4:00	RHSV Mammoth Book Sale
31 May	Thursday	11:00 - 12:00	Know the RHSV Collections: Indexes and Databases