



History NEWS

Issue No. 257 MAY - JUNE 2005

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Looking forward to seeing you at: The Great RHSV Annual Book Sale

Sunday 15 May 2005, 10am to 4pm
at the RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

We are now truly in the throes of organising this event and hope to see as many of you here as possible on the day. Don't forget to tell your friends about the sale too.

As well we need volunteers to 'man' the sale which goes from 10 am to 4pm.

Books that you don't need can be delivered to the Society until May 11.

Please call Ged on 93269288 if you can help or have any enquiries.



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History News to be published 6 times a year instead of 11 times

Just letting you all know that this *History News* will be the last monthly edition. The next issue will appear in July and after that there will be issues in September and November.

Please Note. The deadline for the July issue is June 1. The editor of the newsletter will be away from June 12 to July 4, so copy for the July-August *History News* must be received by June 1.

In 2006 we will publish 6 issues throughout the year. February, April, June, August, October, December. Deadlines will be the 10th of the month before publication, except for the July-August 2005 edition.

If you have events that you want to have listed, please keep this in mind.

NOTICE OF 2005 Annual General Meeting

All members are advised that the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 14 June 2005

Time: 5.00pm

Place: 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 3000

Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2004
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2004
4. To appoint the Hon. Auditor for 2005
5. To adopt revisions to the Constitution
6. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council
7. To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group
8. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows
9. To announce Awards of Merit recipients
10. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society

Further details regarding the revisions to the Constitution are to be found on page 5.

The AGM will be followed by a lecture by Max Waugh titled "A beautiful place for a town".

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close at 5.00pm on Tuesday 7 June 2005. Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

Kate Prinsley

Executive Officer 18 April, 2005

'All bound for Morning Town'

My red-letter day at Macarthur (see April *History News*) was followed by a ruby birthday, the 40th of the Mornington Historical Society on Friday 7 April. It gave me the chance to talk about the 1960s as a local history maternity ward. The decade began with 23 societies affiliated to the RHSV and finished a hundred stronger.

Why such activity, I wondered? Perhaps it was the long-term outcome of the efforts of this society from its inception in 1909 to save documents and to research, lecture and publish the story of our own state. Most history in schools and universities dealt with empire, battles, dates and famous people, not ordinary, not Australian life.

National history began with C. E. W. Bean's treatment of the achievements of the AIF in the Great War. To him they were a true expression of the democratic, egalitarian Australian spirit. But Australian history had to wait until the 1940s. Although (R)HSV Councillor, Professor Ernest Scott kindled the flame in the 1920s with a documentary emphasis (the hallmark of the Society) it was Manning Clark, under Professor Crawford who started the explosion that led in the 1960s to a spate of publishing by Clark himself, Serle, Blainey, Kiddle and many others.

The library movement, the local government associations and the RHSV all held conferences to stimulate grass root history. I published my Brighton book in 1962 when Lesley Moorhead was lobbying and labouring to put Mornington on the map. Their Society, founded in 1965, is a strong one, as its contribution to the Rail 150th showed. Appropriately, at the celebratory dinner, a history of the Old Post Office, now home to the Society, was launched. It has a red cover.

Weston Bate

BEHIND THE SCENES

'The Garden of the Moon'

A plain white envelope arrived at the RHSV front desk some weeks ago. It contained two souvenir postcard folders, one of Lorne, the other designed to act as a remembrance of a visit to 'The Garden of the Moon', Arthur's Seat. A brief note from the sender indicated the date when they came into the family – 1951 and a quick check of our images database showed that there would be no duplication by accepting these items, which were in good condition and included photographs which tell a tale of times gone by and allow us to reflect on recent developments. After some necessary paperwork, the items were passed for indexing, the indexes for typing and the typing for incorporation into the database for use by members. Small and large donations to the Society are basically handled in this way. Members will appreciate that, with a few exceptions, the Society's collections only grow with donations. These are enhanced for us by personal comments and supportive material providing context and additional information.

History Internship

The RHSV welcomes the opportunity to give students of history practical opportunities to learn and exhibit their craft. Annually the Society offers a 'place at the podium' for young historians and where possible we provide placement for interns from tertiary institutions. This year Rachael Vansittart from Deakin University is working on a bibliography of primary sources held within the RHSV collections pertaining to World War I and its impact on social life.

RHSV Newspaper Collection

Over the years we have received donations of country and metropolitan newspapers. A significant portion of our holdings has now been filed systematically and carefully and the inventory can be searched on a computer in the RHSV Library. These items are all very fragile and need gentle handling. They can only be accessed with the assistance of Library Assistants.

RHSV Vertical Files

Visitors to the Library are always impressed by the stand of a dozen filing cabinets containing all types of material on a vast range of subjects. The format of this material includes newspaper extracts, menus, prospectuses, descriptive brochures and the like and is held in manila folders labelled according to a key subject, identity, organisation etc. Computer cataloguing is proceeding and now 4100 items have been subject indexed. The index is available on a Library computer.

RHSV Parliamentary Papers Collection

The RHSV Parliamentary Papers Collection spans 100 years: 1853–1953. Since last reported, Collection has increased by 200 items. An index is available on a Library computer.

Western Port Ho!



Excursionists to Western Port and surrounds came from all compass points, and as far away as Warrnambool and Tooradin.

On our way down the Mornington Peninsula, we heard about European exploration and development, with an update on current challenges to the area's heritage from our poet historian President. Then along Main Ridge towards Flinders, overlooking the Bass Strait entrance to Western Port. Ken Lacey from Flinders Historical Society joined the coach to orient us around the township, with the pier and golf course providing the evocative ambience for some Weston poems. At the beautifully kept Anglican Church we saw the memorial to Matthew Flinders, his wife and daughter which was sent out from a now demolished London church. At the Flinders Historical Society rooms located at the old Shoreham school house, we were privileged to have an early display of their impressive research, led by Dr Marie Fels, which maps the Aboriginal presence on the peninsula. The old Byrne farmhouse was the occasion for another evocative Weston poem. [Pic of Shoreham school house here.]

After a perfect picnic lunch in the 'Imaretta' garden at Merricks, it was on to HMAS Cerberus at Crib Point to visit the extensive museum, the two chapels and enjoy an entertaining grounds tour by the Curator, Toni Munday. She also generously presented the Society with a history of the base and a photo of a Balnarring gentleman said to be have been our Secretary in 1916. More research needed! On the way to Hastings Valda Cole provided illuminating insights into life in the vicinity, past and present. At Hastings Historical Society museum President Shirley Davies welcomed us with a poem, as a counterpoint to Weston's, highlighting in an amusing way the perils of interpreting oral history. Other Hastings enthusiasts explained archaeological research and reconstruction of gunnery installed in the local battery in the 1880s, and provided a much appreciated afternoon tea. On the run home to Melbourne, there was vigorous discussion of the day's events. Perhaps some were inspired to use poetry as a tool for historical expression. But not this writer!

Susan Priestly

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.

MAY LECTURE

Italians in Melbourne

Date: Tuesday 10 May

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".

Know the RHSV Collections:
Indexes and databases

Date: Tuesday 31 May

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.

JUNE LECTURE

"a beautiful site for a town"

The Efforts of Governor Sir Richard Bourke in the Establishment of Melbourne 1835-1837

Date: Tuesday 14 June

Time: 5.45pm

Cost: Free to members

Coffee and tea served from 5.15pm

This lecture is adapted from a chapter of a long-awaited book 'Forgotten Hero: Richard Bourke Irish-born Governor of New South Wales 1831-1837' by Max Waugh, soon to be released by Australian Scholarly Publishing.

Governor Bourke is revered for his reforming legislation in NSW in the treatment of assigned convicts, religious equality, public education, freedom of the press, trial by jury, 'bounty' immigration, and in opening up the continent to pastoral enterprise. In conjunction with surveyor Robert Hoddle (who accompanied Bourke from Sydney on H.M.S. Rattlesnake) he planned and named the streets and the lane layout for Melbourne, and made ready for the sale of land by public auction soon afterwards.

Presenter, Dr. Max Waugh is a former Victorian school principal and lecturer in the History of Education at Monash University. Currently he lectures part-time in Australian Studies for Monash International in Melbourne.

EXHIBITIONS

Auntie Didn't Meet Me! A Warm and Home-Like Welcome

This photographic Exhibition of the history of the Travellers Aid Society of Victoria covers World Wars, the Great Depression and immigration. It charts the changes of social welfare and the community, witnessed through the work of the Travellers Aid Society.

Where: RHSV

When: 7 June- 5 August

Cost: \$4 entry to all exhibitions.

EXCURSION

Performing Arts Museum

Wednesday 22 June 2005

Bookings essential. Numbers limited.

This fabulous excursion will provide participants with a glimpse of some of the most interesting and glamorous articles in Australia's best performing arts collection.

The collection includes costumes, props, theatre design models, theatrical programs, photos and posters of Australia's opera, ballet, music, theatre and circus history.

The museum has three kinds of items:

- A paper based archive consisting of photos, programs, designs (such as set and costume design), art works on paper and documentation.
- 3D objects such as props, set models, theatrical trunks, hat boxes and magic boxes and paraphernalia.
- Costumes including the Kylie collection; costumes of the grand dames of opera such as Melba, Sutherland, Hammond and Marie Collier; costumes and headdress from the Australian Ballet and other costumes including that of rock and roll artists.

Many famous people have donated to the collection which began with the JC Williamson Archive in 1976. The collection includes Melba material donated by Nellie Melba's family, the Barry Humphries collection, the collections of the Australian Ballet and the Bell Shakespeare Company.

Numbers are strictly limited. Two groups of 10 can take the tour which begins at 10.30 and 11.30 am.

Where: Meet in the alcove at the entrance to Hamer Hall at the Arts Centre 10 minutes before the time of the excursion. Please be on time as late comers will not be able to enter. The doors will not be open but someone will come and get you.

When: 10.30 and 11.30 am. Wednesday 22 June

Cost: \$15 for members and \$20 for non members to be paid beforehand.

Please call the RHSV to book 9326 9288.

Ships and Shipping

The first of several exhibitions showcasing the splendid image collection of the RHSV.

From 17 May

AGL SHAW LECTURE - Tuesday 28 June 6pm for 6.30 start

The AGL Shaw Lecture is presented with the La Trobe Society on the subject of Edward La Trobe Bateman who was a cousin to Victoria's Lieut-Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe, and a nephew of Benjamin La Trobe, architect of major eighteenth century buildings in Washington and Baltimore.

La Trobe Bateman was a book illuminator, draughtsman, architectural decorator and garden designer. Bateman was a friend of the Howitts of Collins Street and part of the pre-Raphaelite set to which they belonged in London in the 1840s. He arrived in Australia in 1853. La Trobe Bateman was part of Melbourne's first cultural 'salon' along with the McCraes. He designed many gardens in Victoria. The talk will be given by Dr Anne Neale of the University of Tasmania.

Bookings – essential. **Where:** Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria **When:** Tuesday 28th June 6pm for a 6.30 start.

Cost: \$5 for RHSV members and \$10 for non-members **Enquiries and RSVP:** RHSV 93269288.

Exploring history with the imagination

With the burgeoning interest in history, writers are increasingly drawn to write historical texts, or to incorporate history into their work in a variety of ways. Susan Kruss, author of *Calico Ceilings: The Women of Eureka* (Five Islands Press 2004) explores the genre of historical poetry and some of the issues that arise for writers of historical poetry and historical fiction. A longer version of this article was published in *WriteOn* (Victorian Writers Centre) in April 2005.

Historical poetry is not new. Homer's *Iliad* tells the story of the Greek invasion of Troy. Since then, poets have written about historical people and events in various ways.

In recent years, book-length collections by Australian poets such as Dorothy Porter in *Akhenaten* (UQP 1992), Barry Hill in *Ghosting William Buckley* (Heinemann 1993) and Jordie Albiston in *Botany Bay Document* (Black Pepper 1996) and *The Hanging of Jean Lee* (Black Pepper 1998) have opened up new ways to think about historical poetry.

Dorothy Porter's *Akhenaten* is a wonderful collection of lyrical poems that together as a collection tell a story, but this story is not spelt out for us in the book. Rather, we deduce the history from the poetry. This book broke new ground, and for me, as for other writers in Australia, it showed that historical poetry could be lively and interesting, and well written.

Barry Hill's *Ghosting William Buckley* uses a range of forms and devices of lyrical poetry to create an engrossing narrative. The book is divided into sections, with a photographic representation at the beginning of each section, and excerpts from John Morgan's account of Buckley's life written in 1852.

Jordie Albiston has shown us that modern Australian poets can rediscover and retell stories in new ways that reveal new perspectives. Jordie's use of rhythm, form and internal rhyme in these poems is also interesting and a breaking of new ground in terms of experimentation with what can be done poetically.

The past two years have seen several books of historical poetry published in Australia. There is my own *Calico Ceilings: The Women of Eureka* (Five Islands Press 2004), Adrienne Eberhard's *Jane, Lady Franklin* (Black Pepper 2004), Winifred Weir's *Isabella* (Five Islands Press 2003) and Miriel Lenore's *Drums and Bonnets* (Wakefield Press 2003).

Why the resurgence of interest in historical themes? My own view is that as the bicentenary has come and gone, we are realising that our early history is in danger of being lost if we do not research and record it. For many people, it is the discovery of stories that is important – family stories, and how one's own family fits into history.

As well as poetry, Australian historical novels are being published (Roger Macdonald's *Mr Darwin's Shooter*, Alan Atwood's *Burke's Soldier*, Peter Carey's *The True History of the Kelly Gang*, and several of Debra Adelaide's novels spring to mind). And there are books of narrative history, such as Robyn Annear's *Gold and Bearbrass*.

So why write historical poetry, historical fiction, or narrative history, rather than traditional academic history? Firstly, writing poetry, fiction or narrative history allows one to imagine beyond the 'facts' in a way that writing an academic history book does not.

An historical novel can allow the author to imagine a minor character or a series of conversations or events, based around what is known but using imagination to create stories.

Historical poetry, on the other hand, is often not narrative, though it may include narrative, but its focus is on asking questions like 'How would it have felt?' 'What would it really be like?' A poet can use all the senses to answer these questions – to recreate the mud, the dust, the smells, the sounds, the shapes, the colours and the emotional responses.

Historical poetry differs from historical fiction or narrative history in the economy of language, the use of metaphor, and the use of rhythm and sound in a poem – that is, the things that differentiate poetry in general from other types of writing. It is also quite likely that in a collection of historical poetry the whole story is not told. How much historical information to include in the book is an issue for the writer of historical poetry.

Initially, *Calico Ceilings* was a book of poems with a chronology and brief introduction outlining the historical events of Eureka. I felt that it was not enough.

As I considered what would appeal to readers, my publisher suggested that I should include artworks, while I also decided to include historical quotations and documents. The book became a collage of documentary information, artworks, and poems.

A poet researches differently perhaps from an historian, in that the poet is searching for the moment, the detail, the phrase or the image that grabs the imagination and says, yes, there is a poem here! The historian, on the other hand, is concerned to provide a comprehensive picture, in which events are contextualised and reconstructed. So although a poet writing history will probably research the same sources in the same way as a historian, the things the poet takes from the research will be different. In some cases, if there is enough to form the poem, historical events before or after may not be relevant.

However, having said that, a poet who writes historical poetry without thorough research runs the risk of writing fantasy where the history is twisted or inaccurate. There is no reason why a poet cannot write historically located pieces that are purely imagined, but does one state in the book that one is fact and the other imagined, or does one mix them up and let the reader wonder?

Different poets have different views. In *Calico Ceilings*, I wanted the reader to know what was historical and where I had used imagination to fill the gaps or take it further. My motivation here was an intense admiration for the women I was writing about, and therefore I didn't want to pretend that I had invented their stories. But I also wanted to go further than the facts of their lives, into how they might have thought and felt, and what they might have said, and so I wanted readers to know that at this point the poems represented my imagining. Where direct quotations from the women were taken from letters or documents, I put these in italics so that readers would know that these were words the women actually said.

Creating voices from another time is fascinating, and occupied much of my thoughts while I was writing the book. How did people speak? I read diaries and letters. I thought about speech patterns, foreign dialects, and use of colloquialisms. My eventual decision was to use these sparingly. Where I did create first person voices, I found this required me to have an imagined picture of the woman speaking that was sufficiently intense to create a unique voice that seemed to me to fit the personality of the woman whose thoughts I was imagining.

Another interesting issue in writing historical poetry is the extent to which one is writing history and the extent to which one is creating or reinforcing a myth or legend about our early history. This is particularly the case with Eureka, where there is historical fact on the one hand, and the retelling of the story in newspapers and other publications in a way that almost turns it into a legend.

My intention in *Calico Ceilings* was to explore the women's lives. I did not expect to find what I found – the amazing strength the women displayed, the sheer variety of experience.

Have I romanticised their lives? Perhaps, though I have consciously explored the dark side – the dust, the mud, the deaths of children, the poverty, the prostitution, the sly grog. Have I added to the legend that has become 'Eureka' in the public consciousness? Possibly. But I hope if I have, that it has been done in a good way – one which adds to the body of literature and adds to collective understanding of what Eureka might be about.

Susan Kruss (www.susankruss.com) studied history at LaTrobe University. Her first book, *The Meaning of Wood* (Five Islands Press) was shortlisted for the Ann Elder Award. Her second book, *Calico Ceilings: The Women of Eureka* (Five Islands Press) was published in November 2004 and launched at the Eureka 150 Democracy Conference at the University of Ballarat.

Mc2 Update

Free Advertising for Events

Members of societies spend a great deal of time and effort organising special events but finding avenues to publicise the events is not always easy. Events can be advertised in newsletters, local newspapers, local radio, flyers and posters in shops but they can also be advertised free of charge on mc2.

Recently the RHSV was contacted by a society wanting to publicise an event in History News but they had missed the deadline so they used the Events section of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria mc2 and the mc2 for their region to publicise the event. With the publication of *History News* now every two months there is even more reason for societies to utilise the features of mc2 to promote local history activities in their area. Any member of a group can post an event on mc2. Remember that free internet access is available in public libraries if members do not have internet access from home.

Share Information and Discuss Issues in the Forum

Each mc2 also has a forum where members share information and discuss issues of interest to other group members. Any member of the mc2 can participate in the forum discussion. Use forums to publicise a new book, seek information for research, ask a question relating to a society project or activity, share information or locate an item needed for a display.

Using mc2 is easy with most mc2 features relying on members filling in a box and then clicking a button on the screen to send the message or post an event. A mc2 information session will be held at the RHSV on Thursday 19 May from 10am to 12 noon. Contact Ged on 9326 9288 to book a place.

Mc2 Information Session

Vicki Court will conduct an information session on the use of mc2. My Connected Community is a great way to keep in touch with other historians and history groups, and to advertise events or set up a forum. Using mc2 is easy with most mc2 features relying on members filling in a box and then clicking a button on the screen to send the message or post an event. A mc2 information session will be held at the RHSV on Thursday 19 May from 10am to 12 noon. Contact Ged on 9326 9288 to book a place.

When: 10 am, 19 May **Where:** RHSV

Cost: Free to members and member societies.

Revision of Constitution

Under the Incorporations Act 1981, notice is hereby given of an intention to amend the Purposes and Rules of the Society (the 'Constitution').

A few minor changes need to be made to the Constitution

2.1 Fellows

2.1.3 The Fellows on Council will perform the role of a Fellowship Committee.

14 Composition of Council

14.1 The Council shall consist of a total of thirteen (13) members. Six (6) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall comprise of the office-bearers and ordinary members of the Council. The remaining shall be the Executive Officer of the Association

Batman Treaty 170th – historical-political urban history tour – 5th June 2005 10:00am-1:00pm

A unique guided bus tour in the heart of Melbourne, marking the 170th anniversary of the Batman Treaty aims to enlighten us about these stories.

Guided by historian Meyer Eidelson (author of *The Melbourne Dreaming* and President of the St Kilda Historical Society), the tour will take in Dight's Falls and include morning tea. The tour will conclude with a complimentary lunch.

Meet 10:00am at the Batman monument, Victoria Market carpark, corner Therry St and Queen St, Melbourne (closest train station - Flagstaff).

The tour concludes at Flagstaff Gardens – site of the burial of the first victims of conflict between settlers and traditional owners. This final site is only 500m from the start of the tour.

Tickets: \$30 – includes morning tea and lunch at 12:45pm.

Tickets on sale from ANTaR, 67 Brunswick St Fitzroy. Call (03) 9419 3623 and at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. Call (03) 9326 9288.

A call from Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc

For our records, we would like to know the whereabouts of all archival material pertaining to mechanics' institutes. Anything including minute books, museum objects, library collections etc

If you have anything at all that you think is relevant please contact Pam Baragwanath on 98765164.

Leaves from our History

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria is holding a two-day conference, to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Date: Saturday 28 May - Sunday 29 May 2005

Where: The Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens

Cost: Sat and Sun - \$130; or \$70 for one day

For Registration Forms or more information call Mimi in the FNCV office on 03 9877 9860 or email fncv@vicnet.net.au

Registration Forms are also available on the internet at www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv.htm

Anglican Historical Society

On Wednesday, 18 May Dr Alan Gregory's subject at the 6.30pm meeting will be 'The Centenary of Melbourne Boys' High School'. Visitors are most welcome.

Enquiries – 9818 4565

Read all about it! Melbourne's Newsboys

This exhibition, curated by Dr Andrew Brown-May, captures the lives and images of Melbourne's newsboys, the clubs formed to foster their well-being, and the regulation of juvenile labour in the city. It also evokes a pastiche of memory, inviting modern-day Melburnians to contribute their own memories of the heyday of the city newsboy and his ways.

Where: City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall, **When:** 3 May - 24 July

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Report from History Victoria Support Group

The HVSG Seminar Day at Yackandandah on Saturday 2 April was attended by 42 people from 20 historical societies. A comprehensive report on the activities of societies in the north-east region was presented by Rhonda Diffey, followed by discussion and presentations about publishing newsletters. The seminar was presented by Charles Leaney of Specialty Press in Albury, who has printed many local historical publications. He demonstrated the printing process with hands-on activities and lots of hilarious anecdotes. Yackandandah & District Historical Society was our generous host Society, who arranged a delicious luncheon, followed by tours of the historic cemetery, the Society's premises in the old Bank of Victoria Museum and its residence at 21 High Street, including their collection and storage facilities. The Society has full accreditation under the Museums Australia Accreditation Program, and can be contacted by email at ykbankmuseum@yahoo.com.au. HVSG is very grateful to the regional groups, and especially Yackandandah, for contributing to the success of the Seminar Day.

I have a chat about local history with Kathy Bedford on ABC Regional Radio each Monday evening just before the 6 o'clock news. Kathy always mentions the RHSV and HVSG when she introduces me. Areas we have covered to date include Port Albert and Alberton, Corryong and the Man from Snowy River Museum run by the Upper Murray Historical Society, Mildura and the Ouyen Heritage Centre, the Woody Yaloak district south-west of Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Phillip Island and Colac. When the opportunity arises I promote the work of the local historical society.

On Friday 15 April HVSG presented a workshop for members of five historical societies at the Lake Bolac Community Centre, when Vicki Court used the Centre's bank of computers to provide hands-on experience with using information technology to promote and facilitate local history, while I provided information about collections management in relation to care and storage of paper-based items such as newspapers, photographs, documents and volumes. A similar workshop was conducted at Ballarat Mechanics' Institute on Friday 29 April which did not include the computer technology component. Members of HVSG are willing to conduct these and other workshops for groups of historical societies. Ring RHSV for contact details.

Societies should approach their local councils to tap into the \$20,000 available to each municipality by the State Government to encourage community participation in the Commonwealth Games. Local historical societies are encouraged to celebrate their local sporting heroes, histories, stories and culture. Examples of projects may include (but are not limited to) profiling local athletes, researching and publishing how local communities celebrated the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 or Sydney Olympics in 2000, featuring local collections of sporting memorabilia, and conducting sport-related exhibitions at local galleries, libraries, museums or community centres.

The next HVSG Seminar Day will be held at RHSV on Saturday 23 July. More details will be published in the next History News and on mc2.

Joan Hunt, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group

RHSV Awards of Merit

Nominations for the 2005 RHSV Awards of Merit are now open.

To qualify for an award a person should have given meritorious service to a Member Society of the RHSV. The service should be exceptional and go beyond the routine holding of office.

The nominee should have been involved in the work of the Member society and the rhsv for a minimum of ten years, unless special circumstances occur, in which case a minimum of eight years will suffice.

Nominations can be made by any member of the Council, a Fellow of the RHSV or by a Member Society. They shall include the full name and address of the nominee and shall be supported by substantial details of the nominees qualifications for the award.

Awards shall be made by Council which will not be required to give reasons for its decision. The awards will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the RHSV.

Closing Date For Nominations: Monday 16 May 2005-04-18

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer RHSV

Books received by the RHSV

Please note these items are not for sale at the Society, sometimes they do make it into our library and some items may be reviewed in the *Journal*.

'Calico Ceilings: The Women of Eureka' by Susan Kruss Published by Five Islands Press Pty Ltd, Melbourne. Historical Poetry with factual detail that tells the story of the women of Victoria's most famous event. An article by Susan Kruss appears in this newsletter.

'Gippsland Historical Journal' number 28 (2004) Editor: Meredith Fletcher Published by Kapana Press, Briargalong Victoria. Contents include 'The Pecalbars of Gippsland: Macedonian Farm Workers around Kernot in the 1930s' by Jan Harper and 'A Most Obscure Vegetable: Chicory Production in Westernport, Victoria' by Peter Davies. Some articles are refereed.



'Australia in Focus: Photographs in the National Archives' by Peter Nagle Research Guide Published by the National Archive 2003.

'Minefields and Miniskirts: Australian Women and the Vietnam War' by Siobhan McHugh. Published by Lothian Books. New Edition 2005. First published in 1993 when the book broke new ground, it tells the gripping real-life stories of 35 women who went to Vietnam as nurses, journalists, entertainers, volunteers and consular staff, along with those who waited at home for loved ones to return.

'A Merciful Journey: Recollections of a World War II Patrol Boat Man' by Marsden Hordern. The Miegunyah Press 2005. By the award winning author of 'Mariners Are Warned!'. 'In 1939 Marsden Horden's mother refused to sign a paper allowing her seventeen-year old son to fight overseas with the Royal Australasian Air Force.' He eventually joined the Royal Australian Navy where he served from 1942 to 1947. In small boats he patrolled the shores of Japanese-held territory... *A Merciful Journey: Recollections of a World War II Patrol Boat Man* is a delightful journey of a young man coming of age in war time.

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MAY 2005 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 June issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 May to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

ALBURY: The Society's collection includes a folder of recollections of "New Australians" about their arrival and time spent at Bonegilla which developed from Bandiana Army Camp. On 11 May at 8pm Graham Stocks will speak on "Church music in Albury" at the Commercial Club, Dean Street, Albury. See www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum or phone Ron on (02) 6021 2038.

ALEXANDRA: Alexandra Heritage 1866-2006 "Founded on Gold" encourages your participation in the continuing history of Alexandra Shire by contributing a donation of money, photo, essay of 1000 words, and/or pre-order of proposed book. The Murrindindi Historic Register's 2005 Dusty Swag Awards has "My First Wheels" as its theme, open to adults (80 lines limit at \$5 per entry) and school students (20 lines limit at no entry fee), closing on 30 June. For entry form and more information see http://www.geocities.com/dusty_swag or contact Rex Tate at 7 Vickery Street, Alexandra 3714: phone 5772 1253 or 5772 2997.

BALLARAT GENIES: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 May, Les Holloway will speak on "Lake Wendouree and Its Ferries", with Betty Slater speaking on the Ballarat Genealogical Library on Tuesday 28 June, at the Ballarat Central Library meeting room, 178 Doveton Street. Website: www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

BENDIGO: "Fixing Bendigo's Big Stink" is the intriguing topic of a talk by Geoff Russell of Multimedia Australia on Friday 6th May at 2.00pm. The presentation is at the monthly meeting of the Bendigo Historical Society Inc. which meets in the Campbell Theatre adjoining the Bendigo Central Library. The illustrated talk will tell of Bendigo's 70 year struggle to rid itself of the scourge of human refuse polluting the streets and creek and the alarmingly high rates of disease. Geoff will show never-before-seen photographs and plans associated with Bendigo's first reticulated sewerage scheme. For further information phone Jim Evans 0437 199 432

BOX HILL: Bob Jenkin, Principal of Box Hill High School will speak about the school's 75th anniversary at 8.00pm on Thursday 19 May at the Strabane Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Box Hill North. The Society's collection of photographs, newspapers, books and journals, manuscripts, maps, oral and family histories can be accessed by the public at the Box Hill Heritage Centre, 1st Floor, Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road. Phone 9897 4167 or email msbarnet@ozemail.com.au

BRIGHTON: At 2pm on Sunday 15 May a cemetery walk titled "Victims and Villains" will commence from the North Road gate of the Brighton Cemetery in South Caulfield, conducted by Bob Lawson, whose talks and walks are well-known for being informative, humorous and abounding with quirky anecdotes. Cost of \$5 includes printed material. Rooms on 1st Floor, Bayside Arts & Cultural Centre (Old Brighton Town Hall), cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets are open 12 noon to 5pm every Thursday. Phone 9553 8650 or email vbhs@vicnet.net.au

BRUNSWICK: John Warburton, Chair of Commissioners for the City of Moreland, will speak at the combined historical societies' meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 18 May at Coburg Library Meeting Room (Melway 29H1), to celebrate 10 years since the establishing of the new municipality in June 1994. Phone: 9386 8572

CAMBERWELL: Mr Noel McInnes, Past President of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn will speak on "100 Years of Rotary" at 8.00pm on Thursday 9 June at Camberwell Library Theatre, 8 Inglesby Road. Phone 9836 3558 or 9885 9927.

CASTLEMAINE: At 8pm in the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, on Monday 2 May Nicki Renfrey will speak on "Ideas for creating a family history album" and on Monday 6 June Health Holtz's topic will be "Goldfields Families". Storage facilities extensions have been commenced. See www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com.

CORNISH: On Saturday 21 May at 2pm June Parrott and John Tinney will speak and invite contributions on the topic of "The Lives of Some Cornish Women", at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr Kangaroo & Skipton Roads, Hughesdale (Melways 69D7), with the library open for research from 10am. Phone secretary June on 9877 2968 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>

CRESWICK: A Mothers' Day display will be held 10am-4pm on Sunday 8 May at Creswick Town Hall (admission by gold coin). The Society meets at 7.30 on the 4th Thursday each month at Creswick Historical Museum. Contact secretary Geoff on 5345 8295.

DROMANA: A guided tour of "Beleura", the old home of the Tallis family of Mornington, will be held on Monday 9 May. Numbers are limited so book early. Phone secretary Kay on 5988 6423.

ELTHAM: At 8pm on Wednesday 11 May Michael Aitken will speak on "Postcards from Eltham" at Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place (formerly old Shire Office driveway). Nillumbik Shire Council staff have supported increased contact between local historical societies in the Shire over the past several years. Phone Harry on 9438 1175.

ESSENDON: An Essendon Railway Company heritage walk will commence at 2pm on Sunday 1 May, starting from Russell Street, outside Essendon station, at a cost of \$6 per adults, children free. Bob Chalmers will speak on "Early Essendon settlement and subdivisions" at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 May at the Courthouse Museum, cnr Mt Alexander Road & Kellaway Avenue. Phone secretary Alwyne on 9379 2679.

FITZROY: A visit to the premises of Rose Chong and Harry Evans in Gertrude Street will take place on Wednesday 4 May, meeting at Rose Chong's, 218-220 Gertrude Street, at 6pm sharp. Numbers are limited so book early. Afterwards a crime writer who has based some of her stories on real cases from Gertrude Street of years ago will join the group. Phone Mike on 9416 1446 or Tim on 9489 2357.

GEELONG: On Wednesday 4 May at 8pm, Richard Annois will speak on Geelong Lawyers, and on Wednesday 1 June Peter Mansfield will report on his research into the Egerton Gold Mining Company dispute. Meetings are held at the Morrow Theatre, 51 Little Malop Street. Email to szada@zades.com.au.

HAMILTON: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 May a meeting will be held at Hamilton Bowling Club, Kennedy Street. The History Centre is open every day except Saturday 2pm to 5pm. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hamhist/> or phone/fax 5572 4933.

HEALESVILLE: At 2pm on Sunday 22 May Ms Jean Sholl will speak on Nursing, and on 26 June Ray Meagher's talk will be "Old Handsaws", at the Society's rooms in the Healesville Memorial Hall. See www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au or phone 5962 1655.

KILMORE: Liz Kilpatrick from Heritage Victoria will speak on heritage conservation issues at 8pm on Tuesday 3 May in the Kilmore Courthouse, 4 Powlett Street, where the Research Centre is open Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

On Tuesday 7 June Bill Denheld's topic will be "Kelly Gang Haunts Revealed". Email: kilmorehistory@nl.com.au or write to PO Box 206, Kilmore, 3764.

KNOX: The Society's 40th Anniversary Dinner will be held from 4-8pm on Saturday 14 May at Miller's Homestead, Melrose Court, Boronia, with a spit roast carvery and desserts, during which Graham Hansen will present a history of the Society, and displays can be viewed. Book on answering machine 9758 6722 or phone Glen on 0409 287 359. Cost is \$15 each; open to the general public; all welcome.

LEARMONTH: "Glimpses of a Past Era", a book of photos of historic landmarks and places will be officially launched by Rex Hollioake, former Shire of Ballarat Engineer, at 2pm on Sunday 15 May at the old Shire Hall in Learmonth, followed by afternoon tea. Roof repairs have been made to the old Shire building where meetings are held at 8pm on the third Tuesday each month. Phone secretary Terry on 5331 7642 or email learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au

LEONGATHA: On the weekend of June 11 and 12 a back to Mt Eccles will be held to celebrate the centenary of the Mt Eccles hall. At the dinner on Saturday evening the publication "Gathering at the Mount" by society member Pat Spinks will be launched. For further information contact Pat Spinks on 5668 6365.

MALMSBURY: An exhibition of historic records, photos and maps will be on display on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May at the Mechanics' Institute, Mollison Street, Malmsbury. Phone secretary Ian on 5423 9188 or email ianthomas@myoffice.net.au

MORNINGTON: At 10am on Tuesday 10 May meet at the Old Post Office Museum for transport for the Excursion to the Briars, where at 10.30am Shirley Murley will give a talk titled "I Didn't Know Napoleon Came to Australia", followed by lunch which is available for \$10. Bookings are necessary to Joan on 5974 2721. Also, on Thursday 26 May at 9.15am the Shire's bus will depart from the corner of Main & Queen Streets, Mornington for the Excursion to the Johnstone Collection and the State Library's New Permanent Collection. Cost is \$35 per head; lunch at own expense. Bookings are essential to Diane on 5989 2219.

MURTOA: The Society has two buildings adjoining each other, the Heritage registered Water Tower building of three floors, constructed in 1886, and the last remaining building of Concordia College Murtoa built in 1890. The Water Tower houses the world-famous James Hill taxidermy collection, which is over 120 years old. The Society's collection includes family history records and photographs, video presentations and other research materials. Open Sundays 2-5pm. Contact president Peter on 0429 9446 6788 or secretary Val on 5385 2582.

NARRE WARREN: On Wednesday 11 May at 8pm, Diana Wheeler will speak on St Michael's Mount, Cornwall, in the meeting room at Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate, where the research room is open Tuesdays and Saturdays 11am-3pm and Thursdays 7-9pm. Phone Lynne on 9704 9075 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nwfhg>

NEPEAN: Jim Lowden, Hon. Secretary, Mechanics' Institute of Victoria, will talk on the history and continuing work of the Mechanics' Institutes, at 5.00pm on Friday 6 May at the Museum in the Mechanics' Institute. A celebration of the Society's 40th birthday will be held on 1 July. See www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au or phone Don on 5984 0255.

POLICE: The Victorian Police Historical Society meets at the Victoria Police Academy, View Mount Road, Glen Waverley at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 June. A new manager, Alan Gee, has been appointed to the Victoria Police Historical Unit. One activity of VPHS



AROUND THE SOCIETIES

is restoring graves of Police members, and a web site of Police members who have earned bravery awards is being developed. See <http://members.ozemail.com.au/dharris/index.html>

RICHMOND & BURNLEY: The Society's rooms will be reopened at 2.15 on Sunday 8 May after construction works. In April 1855 Richmond was declared a Municipal District; in 1863 a Borough, in 1872 a Town, and in 1882 a City. The website of the Society has changed to: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rbhs> or ring secretary David on 9427 1800.

RUTHERGLEN: The Society's Common School Museum has reopened after being forced to close due to white ant damage rendered the building unsafe to the public. Now after more than 2 years and \$46,000 made up of grants from Heritage Victoria and Crown Lands Improvement Program and local fundraising as well as many hours of voluntary labour the building with a new floor and partial replacement of the ceiling and roof timbers the Museum has been reopened. It features an early 1900s schoolroom with old desks and teaching aids. We have also almost completed the purchase of our local newspaper The Rutherghlen Sun on microfilm, there being about 16 reels to get from a total of 53 reels which will replace our rapidly deteriorating paper copies. Contact Judy on 02 6032 9425.

SHIPLOVERS: On 11 May John Ibbotson, author of several books on Australian lighthouses, will speak on that topic at The Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders Street, Melbourne, and on 8 June Allan Colquhoun will speak on his life's experiences in a talk titled "Epics of Salvage: Shipbuilding to Saving Ships". Email: clipper@connexus.net.au or phone 9787 5780

ST KILDA: Carmel Shute (St Kilda resident, raconteur, activist, history graduate, convenor of Sisters of Crime and City of Port Phillip media officer) will be guest speaker at 2.30pm on Sunday 8 May at St Kilda Library community room. On Sunday 15 May you can take an historic pub crawl of St Kilda's hotels from settlement until today which played host to morgues, public meetings, inns, bushrangers, music bands, film sets, stables, gangland feuds and other events. Starts at 4pm. Bookings to Kryss on 9209 6229.

STRATFORD: Number 1 of the Bulletin, the Society's new newsletter, takes over from the previous publication shared with Maffra. The museum is being restored, with a grand opening planned for later in the year. The Shakespeare Festival is on 1 May when Society members serve "Avonshire Teas" under the trees. Contact Brendan on 5145 8233.

TRARALGON: The curator of the Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum at Nar Nar Goon will be guest speaker at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 May at the Kath Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed Street, Traralgon. It is hoped that a follow-up excursion to the Museum will be arranged. Phone: 5174 8399 or website <http://www.traralgonhistory.asn.au>

WARRACKNABEAL: Our Society now has almost every copy of the Warracknabeal Herald from the very first issue in 1885 to December 2004. These are available for viewing at the Historical Centre in hard copy or microfilm. The very successful Wheatlands Vintage Machinery Rally at Easter, featuring international machinery, had visitors from as far afield as Wagga, Korumburra, Western Australia and even one Lanz

enthusiast from Germany. The Vintage Tractor Pull again attracted a large crowd to see the pulling power of the old tractors. They competed in 12 classes for 24 trophies. Phone Lesley on 5399 4208.

WESTGARTHTOWN: The oldest and most intact German/Wendish settlement in Victoria, established in March 1850, is at Westgarthtown. It includes the second oldest surviving Lutheran Church building in Australia, the old cemetery, and four houses on the Heritage Victoria Register. Ziebell's Farmhouse is open 1-4pm second Sunday each month; tours can be arranged. Phone Tatiana on 9464 5062. Do you have Lutheran ancestors? You could check the Lutheran Archives in Adelaide by phone on 8340 4009 or email lutheran.archives@lca.org.au.

WHITEHORSE: On Saturday 4 June at 1.30pm Sharron Dickman will speak on the history of the Melbourne Athanaeum Library, at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham (Melway 49 D7). The Local History Collection can be used from 10.30am - 2.30pm Wednesdays. Museum telephone: 9873 4946 or see www.vicnet.net.au/dhsinc/

Prahran Mechanics' Institute
Victorian and Local History Library
 140 High Street, Prahran (Melway 2L H12)
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 Open 9.30-4.30 Mon to Fri, 9.30-1.00 Sat. All welcome.
 Catalogue: www.pmi.net.au
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WHAT'S ON - May - June 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
30 April -			
29 May	Monday to Sunday	11-4	Making Tracks Wangaratta. The Workshop, 56 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
10 May	Tuesday	5.45	Lecture: Italians in Melbourne Laura Mecca
15 May	Sunday	10:00 - 4:00	RHSV Mammoth Book Sale
17 May			Ships and shipping exhibition - Treasures from the RHSV Collection
19 May	Thursday	10	mc2 Information session
31 May	Tuesday	11:00 - 12:00	Know the RHSV Collections: Indexes and Databases
8 June-5	August		Auntie Didn't Meet Me - A Photographic Exhibition of the Tarvellers Aid Society of Victoria
14 June	Tuesday	5.45	AGM & Lecture: 'a beautiful site for a town' The Efforts of Governor Sir Richard Bourke in the Establishment of Melbourne 1835-1837 Max Waugh
22 June	Wednesday	10.30 & 11.30	Excursion: Performing Arts Museum
28 June	Tuesday	6 for 6.30	AGL Shaw Lecture by Dr Ann Neale at the State Library Village Road Show Theatre
11 July-28 Aug	Monday to Sunday	9-5	Making Tracks Traralgon, La Trobe City Council Offices, Kay Street, Traralgon
12 July	Tuesday	5.45	The Rail Tale Judith Penrose
29,30,31 July	Fri,Sat,Sun	all day	Winter workshop - music archives and popular music discussion
9 August	Tuesday	5.45	Student Historians

History

NEWS



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