



# History NEWS

Issue No. 263 June 2006

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## The Duyfken visits Victoria

2006 marks 400 years since the small Dutch ship Duyfken sailed beyond Papua New Guinea to discover the northern coast of Australia. Captain Janszoon was the first European to map and record Australia and so the Duyfken voyage marks the beginning of Australia's recorded history. From 9 June – July 5 a replica of the Duyfken will be visiting Victorian ports and whilst in Melbourne the RHSV will be supporting its visit with a lecture.

See inside this edition of *History News* for details.



## Membership Survey

For the first time in many years we wish to undertake a membership survey. We wish to gain factual information as to how we meet your needs, what is the level of satisfaction, establish our strengths and weaknesses and to gain better knowledge as to how our services are perceived. We hope to use the survey as a planning tool, so that the RHSV continues to deliver relevant programs, can build its membership and maintain its role as the peak body for local history in Victoria.

Please help us by completing and returning your survey form by July 14th.

## Membership fees

Membership fees have been maintained at their 2005 level.

Inside this issue of *History News* is a membership subscription form. Please complete and return to:

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

**E-mail address** – Do you have an email address?

Your e-mail address is useful to us so that we can send you any late-breaking news about events and activities.

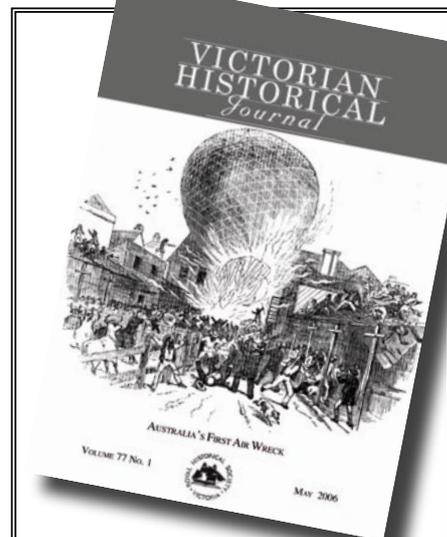
We also ask you to consider requesting your copy of *History News* via e-mail. Distribution by e-mail obviously saves our Society money in print and postage costs. There are also obvious benefits to our environment. The digital nature of the 'electronic' newsletter allows the reader, at one click, to link to any WWW reference in our articles.

## BOOK SALE

The date of the RHSV giant book sale has been changed to Sunday July 30th.

Books on any subject are now being accepted . . . Please phone the office on 9326 9288 to arrange for us to collect them or bring them into the RHSV.

Please support one of our major fundraisers for the year.



Your first issue of the Victorian Historical Journal for 2006 is included in this mailing.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW ON-LINE

Visit the RHSV website at [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au) and click onto the links for the Annual Report.

# AGM REPORT

**The 96th Annual General Meeting was opened by the President, Professor Bill Russell with the remark that there were only four more meetings to go until we celebrate our Centenary.**

He described the year as having begun with three substantial challenges: a severe financial deficit from the previous year, the collection under threat from an inadequate building and membership declining.

Facing these risks he was able to report that the Council had reduced the deficit from \$52,000 to \$12,000, that the Department of Sustainability and the Environment had replaced the southern portion of the roof thereby protecting the collection from water damage, and that action is being taken to improve membership numbers. He added that risk management has become integral to the purpose of Council.

2005 had been a year of looking outwards: The HistoryVictoria Support Group, under the leadership of Joan Hunt had delivered well attended regional and metropolitan workshops and the major exhibitions *Making Tracks* and *History, Community, Identity* had created new networks.

**TWO FELLOWS WERE ELECTED:**

**Mimi Colligan**

Mimi left school at an early age being a severe asthmatic and completed her primary schooling by correspondence. Family responsibilities saw her enter tertiary studies as a mature age student.



Long interested in performing arts, Mimi is recognized as an authority on 19th Century popular culture in Australia and is, as far as is known, the only historical researcher working on a detailed history of Australasian panorama entertainment.

During her professional life Mimi has been involved in researching and writing. As Senior Research Officer for Australia Post, she was the author of several heritage publications in the Rush for Gold series, while as Victorian Researcher for the ADB, she wrote some fifteen entries for the publication. Mimi is also a contributor to the recently published Encyclopaedia of Melbourne. Mimi was appointed Research Associate to the National Centre for Australian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Monash University – a position she still retains – and authored the book *Canvas Documentaries*, published by MUP in 2002.

A guest contributor providing essays, articles, reviews and commentary for journals, newspapers and radio, Mimi is in demand as a speaker in educational and professional circles. Appointed a Councillor RHSV 1989-1995, her eleven-year membership of the Research and Collections Committee provided that group with wise counsel and much practical assistance. The Committee appreciates her ongoing interest in the performing arts component of the Collection. Mimi is currently a member of the [RHSV] Publications Committee. Presently working on her next book on stage life in 19th century Victoria, Mimi's nomination as a Fellow of the

Society is recognition of the contribution her research has added to our knowledge of life in the times of settlement of the Colony.

**John Lahey**

John Lahey is a distinguished Melbourne journalist whose long-running column in the Age, 'Lahey at Large', did much to inform public discussion of history and heritage issues. He is a member of the Surrey Hills Historical Society and of the Canterbury History Group and a frequent speaker to historical societies, especially in recent times about Australian federation and the Eureka Stockade. His interest and participation in commemoration of Eureka have been recognised by Eureka's Children who have made him an honorary member. His notable *Faces of Federation*: an illustrated history was published by the RHSV in 2000 and attracted a Centenary of Federation grant. His other writings include *Damn You John Christie!*: the public life of Australia's Sherlock Holmes (State Library of Victoria, 1993). More recently, he has done the onerous job of judging the Community History awards since the program's inception.



**AWARDS OF MERIT**

**Alleyne Hockley** nominated by Castlemaine Historical Society. Alleyne's leadership and vision in resurrecting the Castlemaine Historical Society from a Society that languished in the basement of the Art Gallery, has led to a dynamic Society that now occupies the Old Courthouse Building. Alleyne's skill in developing the collections, volunteer training and high standards of exhibition and innovative projects continues to raise the bar for Castlemaine Historical Society.

**Sandra Kimmins** nominated by Gisborne and Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society. The Society highlighted Sandra's outstanding commitment to the Society as Secretary and the many valued additional research and indexing tasks Sandra performs, so central to the Society's activities.

**Sue Law** nominated by Eltham and District Historical Society. Sue has made a distinguished contribution to the Society serving as President and Vice President between 1985 – 1998 achieving the smooth administration of the Society, as well as more permanent accomplishments such as the establishment of the Andrew Ross Museum at Kangaroo Ground. Since retiring as President Sue has maintained her involvement with the Society particularly in the computerisation of the Society's records.

**RHSV Council for 2006-07:**

- President : Professor Bill Russell
- Vice Presidents: Peter Yule  
Joan Hunt (History Victoria Support Group Convenor)
- Treasurer: Rod Benjamin
- Ordinary Members: Weston Bate  
Richard Barnden  
Judith Bilstza  
Don Garden  
Don Gibb  
Nonie Long  
Susan Priestley  
Kate Prinsley

**BOOK LAUNCH**

Vice President Peter Yule, pictured below, speaks at the launch of his book at the Ian Potter Gallery on May 12th: *Ian Potter: Financier, philanthropist and patron of the arts* (Miegunyah Press, 2006).

Peter Yule's biography is an absorbing insight into a man who to this day remains an enigma. The book charts both his personal and business successes and failures and examines the contrast between the measured control of his public life and his often turbulent private life. Reserved and almost shy in public, in private Ian Potter was urbane and charming, but an element of mystery remained even for those who knew him well.

The book is for sale from the RHSV at the special price of \$55.00. plus P+P.



## Hindsight

Consulting & Historians

**Researching, analyzing and documenting the history of people, houses, institutions, localities and Shires for individuals, businesses and Government.**

**Dr Fay Woodhouse, MPHA**  
**T: 03 9894 7325**  
**M: 0427 042 753**  
**E: fwoodhou@bigpond.net.au**

## “Jubilee of TV”

**When:** Tuesday 13th June

**Time:** Coffee 5.15pm; Lecture 5.45pm

**Cost:** Free to members,  
5.50 to non-members

Television officially started in Australia (actually, only Sydney and Melbourne at first) in 1956 – just in time for the Melbourne Olympic Games. For many Australians, television was an important symbol: economically, it heralded the end of post-war austerity; and culturally, it represented a shift away from England and towards the United States.

Up until about 1965, when television began to lose its novelty in Australia, there was a concerted effort among various “taste-makers” to create a domestic environment which was designed and organized around the demands of watching television – in other words a ‘TV house’. This influenced many aspects of people’s everyday lives, such as the layout of the lounge room, the design of furniture, the way people cooked and ate their food, the design of clothes, the design of heating and lighting.

The speaker, Dr Derham Groves is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Melbourne. His interest in television from the point of view of research began in 1992 when he was doing a PhD in Arts with Professor Karal Ann Marling, the author of *As Seen on TV: The Visual Culture of Everyday Life in the 1950s* (1994) at the University of Minnesota. He organized (along with John Arnold and Jenny Hocking from Monash University) the conference 40 Years of Television, in 1996 at the Australian Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University. He was the curator of the television component of the exhibition, 1956: Melbourne, Modernity and the xv1 Olympiad in 1996 at the Museum of Modern Art at Heide. He wrote the book, *TV Houses: Television’s Influence on the Australian Home*, 2004, Black Jack Press.

## CONFERENCE

# 1856 – Victoria ON THE MOVE

## CONFERENCE

**When:** Saturday 18th and

Sunday 19th November 2006

Title and dates have now been fixed. The Society’s Journal which focuses on the 150th anniversary of responsible government will be launched at the end of Saturday’s program.

Proposals for papers on any aspect of 1856 should reach the Society by 31 July. Members and member societies are warmly encouraged to submit long or short papers or posters to present a lively picture of ‘Victoria rearin’ to go.

## AGL Shaw Lecture

*presented with the La Trobe Society  
Annual Lecture*

## Charles Joseph La Trobe, the forgotten Governor

**When:** Thursday 22nd June

**Time:** 6:00 for 6:30

**Cost:** \$5 members; \$10 non-members

**Where:** Village Roadshow Theatre,  
La Trobe Library

Booking essential; call Gerardine – 9326 9288

Charles Joseph La Trobe is a shadowy figure in Australian history even though he presided over some of the most important and decisive events in the development of the Port Phillip District. After eleven years as Superintendent of this outpost of New South Wales, he was appointed the first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, a post he filled with mixed success. Nevertheless, he is astonishingly little known as a person. In the 2006 RHSV – La Trobe Society AGL Shaw Annual Lecture, Dianne Reilly will explore the reasons why La Trobe may be described today as ‘the forgotten Governor’.

Dianne Reilly is La Trobe Librarian at the State Library of Victoria where she manages the Heritage Collections. She completed her doctorate in the History Department at the University of Melbourne in 2003, and continues her interest in the subject of her thesis as Secretary of the La Trobe Society. Her publications include *Sun Pictures of Victoria: the Fauchery-Daintree Collection, 1858* with Jennifer Carew (Currey O’Neil Ross, 1983), and *Charles Joseph La Trobe Landscapes and Sketches* (State Library of Victoria with the Tarcoola Press and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 1999), and most recently *La Trobe: the Making of a Governor* with Melbourne University Publishing. She is currently working on an edition of La Trobe’s Australian Diaries.

## SPECIAL DUYFKEN EVENT

**The Duyfken will be berthed at Docklands from 21 to 28 June and at Williamstown from 29 June to 5 July.**

Visitors are able to go on the ship.

On **Sunday 25 June** the RHSV will be hosting a lecture providing historical background to the Duyfken and the “Australia on the Map 1606 – 2006” project. This will be held at Docklands in a clearly marked venue near to the ship.

Emeritus Professor Victor Prescott delivers:

“1421 and all that junk” – Weaknesses in Menzies 1421 thesis”

**Lecture** at 2.30pm **Cost:** \$5

**Place:** G04/439 Docklands Drive, Waterfront City Docklands

**Booking advisable: 9326 9288**

## LUNCH TIME LECTURE

## Dr Howitt’s Corner: a civilized centre of early Melbourne

**When:** Tuesday 11th July

**Time:** Coffee/tea 12.30pm : Lecture  
1.00pm

**Cost:** Free to members,  
\$5.50 non members

Amongst the earliest Port Phillip settlers, the Howitts played an eminent but private role in the weaving of Melbourne’s social fabric. The first four decades of the colony’s history frame a colourful canvas featuring three generations of this vibrant Quaker family. Part of an intimate group clustered around the Lieutenant-Governor, the Howitts were engaged in an extraordinary range of cultural, scientific and philanthropic activity in early Melbourne. They knew everyone of note from Charles Joseph La Trobe and Justice Sir Redmond Barry down, as well as all the artists, writers, scientists, intellectuals and explorers in town. The focus of this talk will be on the Howitt’s contribution to the dawn artistic and cultural life of colonial Melbourne.

Caroline Clemente was born and educated in Melbourne. After completing a B.A. at the University of Melbourne, she lived in Europe for ten years during which time she took out a B.A. (Hons) in Art History from the Courtauld Institute, London University. In Florence, she pursued postgraduate study and worked at the Uffizi and Pitti Galleries and at the Harvard Center for Renaissance Studies. Back in Australia, she tutored in the Fine Arts Department at Melbourne University followed by ten years as Curator of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Victoria. She is author of *Australian Watercolours in the National Gallery of Victoria, 1802–1926*, and the “Catalogue of Plates” for Brenda Niall’s biography of Georgiana McCrae. This talk is based on research for her recently completed M.A. degree from the University of Melbourne, entitled, “The Private Face of Patronage: the Howitts, Artistic and Intellectual Philanthropists in early Melbourne Society”.



# THE VOYAGE of the DUYFKEN REPLICA



The voyage of the Duyfken replica is an initiative of the National Steering Committee of "Australia on the Map 1606-2006" [AOTM], conducted in a partnership with the Australian Government (through the Department of Environment and Heritage) and the Duyfken Replica Foundation.

The Duyfken Replica Foundation will sail the ship to 25 harbours along the Australian coast.

Four Victorian ports will host the replica:

- Port Fairy: 9 Jun – 13 Jun-06 • Geelong: 16 Jun – 20 Jun-06
- Docklands: 21 Jun – 28 June-06 • Williamstown 29 June - 5 July-06

## Australia on the Map: 1606-2006

Rather than focusing on commemorating just one mariner, Willem Janszoon, the first to have charted part of the Australian coast in the Duyfken, the theme "Australia on the Map: 1606 - 2006", allows for broader and more inclusive commemorations and studies. The focus, then, is on the sequence of fascinating and epic voyages and contacts which, when combined, put Australia's coasts on the world map. Furthermore, it offers an opportunity to bring history that is not well-known to the attention of Australians.

To quote the AOTM website:

The "Australia on the Map" theme was decided upon at a very early stage at the suggestion of then Vice President Allen Mawer. It reflects the fact that the crew of Duyfken made a chart, copies of which still exist, of west Cape York in 1606. The world at large only became aware of our continent when that chart was incorporated into regional maps, such as the Gerritsz Map of 1622. The theme was chosen as well because it acknowledges each state as it was added to the growing outline of Australia, some from a very early stage. Apart from Queensland in 1606, WA was first represented in 1616, NT in 1623, SA in 1627, Tasmania in 1642 and finally Victoria and NSW in 1770. However, the theme is intended to be inclusive not only of the states but all the different peoples who participated in some way in the process of unveiling Australia, the Dutch, Indigenous Australians, Spanish, Macassans from Indonesia, French, English, Swedish and so on. It embraces the fact that we are not only a multi-cultural society but also have a multi-cultural contact history. [<http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au>]

ATOM originated in 2002. The Chair of its National Commemoration Council is Vice-Admiral Chris Ritchie AO RANR.

Peter Reynders is its President. Each State has an organising committee. For Victoria the Patron of the State Steering Committee is Commodore (Ret.) Dacre Smyth and the Chair, Professor Victor Prescott. Peter Yule, Vice-President, RHSV, is a member of that Committee.

Additional to the visit of the Duyfken replica, as detailed above, the Victorian program has included a symposium on the subject 'Dutch migration to Australia: The case of the 'Indisch' Dutch'. There was a double book launch of *Recalling the Indies: colonial culture and postcolonial identities* (Joost Coté and Loes Westerbeek (eds), Aksant, Amsterdam, 2005 and *The Dutch move down under: 1606-2006* (Dr Nonja Peters (ed.), Wolters Kluwer, 2006). Currently available from the website is Gregory Eccleston's *The early charting of Victoria's coastline* : [[http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au/vic/vic\\_coast30\\_04\\_06v1.pdf](http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au/vic/vic_coast30_04_06v1.pdf)].

A National Archives Discovery Workshop will welcome members of the Dutch Community to their Reading Room in the Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne from 11.00 am on Friday 6 October 2006. Advice and assistance in finding family documents in the national collection is the focus of the workshop; 'phone (03) 93485600 for bookings. Other undertakings are being considered including the publication of charts of the early coastal exploration of Victoria and local events in the SW coastal areas including in Warrnambool and Port Fairy.



### The ATOM WEBSITE

The web-site of "Australia on the Map: 1606 - 2006" is extremely comprehensive. Of particular interest are the following.

#### *Journeys*

The "AOTM Landings List" presents, in concise tabular form, a maritime contact history of Australia – selected landings on the Australian coast and related events from 1606 to 1814 (from Willem Janszoon to Louis de Freycinet). Information sources are included in a linked book list.

#### *First Contacts*

"First Contacts" provides a wealth of detail on the earliest known interactions between indigenous Australians and European visitors on various coasts of Australia to 1772. Here will be found extracts from original, official and other documentary sources arranged in chronological order.

## 4 Miles to Melbourne, 69 miles to Mount Alexander

A catchy phrase, a possible book-title – but where are we? Opposite the remnants of a rockery, the rest removed to the old cricket oval site, which itself now sports a fine avenue of mature elms planted immediately the curator learnt of the cricket club's departure. Behind us a town hall, whose ballroom a number of us had visited when younger, so convenient because of its closeness to public transport. It was by public transport that most of the RHSV's excursion party in April travelled to and from the Essendon – Moonee Ponds district. And it was by foot that we learnt about local life and the way the locality developed.

Walking is the best way to come to grips with the characteristics of a community. Under the careful, well-informed guidance of Lenore Frost, assisted by local personalities along the way, we started at Essendon railway station and snaked southwards to the Moonee Ponds and Essendon Historical Society's rooms. Among houses and schools built for both 'bosses' and workers, as well as a selection of churches, we passed examples from the 1880s onwards, discovering links between this suburb, its neighbours and the city. Our three-course 'Helen Broad' lunch (what a 'trade-name') was enjoyed in the Historical Society's rooms – the former Court House. Lenore and Aleyne also introduced us to the Society's activities, publications and most recent exhibition about local sporting personalities and their accomplishments, including some Olympians. It is clear that the historical society is a central and useful community member. Afterwards, we walked the Moonee Ponds retail precinct, discovering its 'secret' residential history and the functional changes in building use.



Our thanks to Lenore and her Society for organising and conducting this full day excursion. For those who missed this first hand experience, a good second best is to visit their website: <http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/ehs.html>. (You may even be able to book in for one of their own walks or other events conducted by this and other members of the West Bourke Association of historical societies, named for the old district electorate: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbourke/>.)

## Behind the scenes

Many members will have read with interest Simon Nash's article 'Hell's Witness', about the war photography of Hubert Wilkins in the Weekend Australian Magazine (April 15-16 2006, pp 16-18).

Four of the striking images reproduced to accompany that article were included in the items considered for the Society's exhibition on the theme of volunteering for military service from colonial Victoria to World War I. These came to us in an album, part of donation from Senator the Hon. George F Pearce – the album being presented to him . . . with the compliments of Andrew Fisher, October 20th, 1919'



*'The Plumer Road', Officers of 12th battalion Australian Field Artillery, Clerf, France; 31 August 1918, Wilkins, Herbert; Collection of the RHSV, AL069-0055*

Other photographic material donated to the Society by Senator Pearce includes albums recording Ministerial visits to Borrooloola NT, Alexandria Cattle Station, Queensland and Thursday Island (1922-1923), and, much closer to home, to the Commonwealth Clothing Factory, South Melbourne (c. 1912). Sir George Pearce represented Western Australia from 1901-36, during which he served as Defence Minister over four periods totalling 12 years.

## Community Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program aims to preserve and provide access to nationally significant Australian cultural heritage material held by community groups across the country by providing cash grants of up to \$10 000.

The program is funded by the Australian Government and managed by the National Library of Australia with support provided by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

This year funding is available for projects to improve the preservation of nationally significant cultural heritage collections held by community groups across the country and to provide preservation and collection management training to improve the skills of staff and volunteers working with cultural heritage materials.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Australian, not-for-profit, incorporated community organisations, whose collections are open to the public.

### HOW MUCH IS A GRANT WORTH IN 2006?

The maximum grant is \$10,000

### HOW DO ORGANISATIONS APPLY?

Interested organisations can find electronic versions of the Guidelines and Instructions for Completing the Application Form and the Application Form at <http://www.nia.gov.au/chg/> or call the CHG office on 02 6262 1147 to request forms be posted or emailed to you.

**All applications must be received by 5 pm Friday 9 June 2006.**

## Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemoration

On Saturday 24 June 2006 visit Champions - Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, Federation Square for "Froth and Bubble" – a range of fun activities that commemorate poet and horseman Adam Lindsay Gordon.

Activities start from 12.30 with main event from 2.30 to 3.30pm.

The coming exhibition, Country Racing In Focus will feature the poetry of Adam Lindsay Gordon, a finalist for the Australian Racing Hall of Fame 2006 induction ceremony. With the launch of a booklet about Adam Lindsay Gordon by Dr. Helen Kinloch, Champions would like to support the proposal from the Adam Lindsay Gordon (ALG) Commemorative Committee to offer an Adam Lindsay Gordon day to help raise the profile of the man, his poetry and his contribution to Australian Racing."

For more information go to [www.racingmuseum.com.au](http://www.racingmuseum.com.au) or call 1300 139 407

Champions – Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame is located at Federation Square, corner Flinders and Swanston streets, Melbourne.

# REPORT FROM HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

## REPORT HSVG Seminar Day hosted by Warracknabeal Historical Society

The HistoryVictoria Support Group held its seminar day on Saturday April 29 at Warracknabeal. The host group was the Warracknabeal Historical Society and was held in the Shire Offices, courtesy of the Mayor, who happens to be the treasurer of the society. It was a great day with 56 people attending from 21 historical societies.

The keynote speaker, Vicki Court, gave a presentation on computer cataloguing of collections and offered valuable and informative methods of adapting these programs to suit individual requirements.

After lunch we were taken to the Agricultural Centre where every possible tractor could be found and sheds galore packed with machinery of all sorts. Currently this centre is hosting the travelling exhibition of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of State Government. Here we watched a DVD on Parliament and our tour was one of the tour guides from State Parliament who gave us an inside look at behind the scenes of that building at the top of Bourke Street.

These seminars are held in various parts of the state with the next one to be held at RHSV in Melbourne on Saturday 22 July.

by Larina Strauch, Kyneton HS, member HVSG

**WORKSHOP** A workshop will take place in the North-East Region, hosted by Yackandandah Historical Society on Saturday 8 July which will cover indexing of documents such as collections of newsletters, coroner's inquests, and certificates, as well as manual and computer indexing of books and magazine collections. This is still in the planning stages, but if you are interested in attending, please register your interest with Ged at RHSV (9326 9288)

### HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 22 JULY 2006

Hosted by The Royal Historical Society Inc., 239 A'Beckett Street

Theme: MEMBERSHIP: Growing and Promoting Your Society

- 09.30 **Registration** and morning tea
- 10.00 **Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information:
- 10.00 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - welcome
- 10.05 President, Royal Historical Society Victoria Prof. Bill Russell
- 10.15 Exec. Director, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley
- 30.30 **Overview:**
- Lenore Frost: statistics and what they tell us about historical society membership growth; not taking membership for granted; general promotion (we will produce a brochure on how to grow your membership and HVSG will send it to all member societies)
- Panel Presentation:**
- 10.45 Panel presentations of 10 minutes by 6 historical society members, speaking on profile raising, communication, encouraging younger membership, using the internet to attract members, and general historical society promotion strategies.
- 12.00 **Discussion:**
- All members present are encouraged to contribute, debate, discuss and add to the discussion about the matters raised in the panel presentations, and extended to cover production of information brochures and newsletters and other promotional issues.
- 1.00 **LUNCH**
- 2.00 **Guest Speaker:** From an outside organisation which has been successful in greatly increasing its membership numbers.
- 3.00 Summing up by Prof. Bill Russell, President RHSV
- 3.30 Afternoon tea and finish.

(\$12 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch).

All members of historical societies are most welcome to attend. For catering purposes it would be most helpful if you could let HVSG Secretary Margaret Hunter know by Friday 14 July if you are attending ([margaret583@optusnet.com.au](mailto:margaret583@optusnet.com.au)) or phone 9588 0867 or mobile 0417 323 460.

## Nominate your historic town

As part of its 50th birthday celebrations the National Trust of Victoria has initiated the PROVINCIAL VICTORIA HISTORIC TOWNS AWARDS.

Supported by the Victorian Government and *The Weekly Times*, the Awards aim to promote good heritage planning and appropriate new development in regional Victoria, recognizing towns that have strived to retain their unique characteristics.

Speaking at the launch of the Awards, Anthony Knight, Deputy Chair of the National Trust said "Country towns and regional centres have played an essential role in the development of Victoria. As we approach our next 50 years it is imperative that heritage preservation is promoted to continue to conserve the many regional towns so vital to Victoria's character".

Nominations are invited for the four Award categories:

1. The town with the most intact heritage streetscape character
2. The town that has best interpreted its heritage for visitors
3. The public landscaping project which has been most sympathetic to the historic character of the town
4. The best regional heritage event

A nomination form is enclosed with *History News*, alternatively *The Weekly Times* will be publishing the forms until the closing date of 30 June 2006.

The Awards are for towns in regional Victoria only, with nominations invited from individuals, businesses, government authorities, professional bodies and community organizations. Winners will be announced in late August, with awards being presented to the winning town's mayor.

## RESEARCH REQUEST

CAN YOU HELP WITH MY RESEARCH INTO CHINESE RESTAURANT HISTORY?

My name is Barbara Nichol. I'm a PhD student in the History Department, University of Melbourne, researching the origins, patterns of growth and influence of Chinese restaurants in Victoria from the late 19th century to the early 1960s. The important contribution made by early Chinese restaurants to Victoria's development has tended to be overshadowed by the prominence given to later restaurant growth. No comprehensive study of these early businesses has been undertaken.

I am anxious to make contact with any person (or their descendants), who owned or operated a Chinese restaurant over the early decades. I would also like to hear from anyone who worked, or ate regularly, in a Chinese restaurant; or who had any business or official relationship with the sector over this period. If you think you can help please contact me by email: [bnichol@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bnichol@bigpond.net.au)

Phone: 9878 9157 Mob: 0419 337155.

## 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 July issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 June to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

**ALEXANDRA:** "Alexandra and District", the history of Alexandra from 1839-2005, has now been published, in hard cover, by Dr Brian Lloyd. It incorporates "The Red Gate", which is the history of Alexandra written by the late Gerald W. Noble in 1969. The book can be purchased from the Murrindindi Historic Register, 7 Vickery St, Alexandra, 3714 for \$60 per copy.

**ANGLICAN:** 1856, the year of Victoria's first elected parliament, featured in Bishop Grant's recent address, when he outlined the 1850-1856 process by which Bishop Perry gained the approval of his Diocese, the Victorian Legislative Council and the Crown for the creation of a legally constituted representative Church Assembly. 'The Synod Venues', to be presented by the Rev. A.B. McPherson, will, with other papers pertaining to the subject, be presented at Society meetings during the year. Information from Sec. Bruce Macintosh on 9818 4565.

**AVOCA:** On Sunday 18 June at 1.30pm Pat McQuillen will speak on her experiences in Alice Springs where she taught and was an officer with the St John Ambulance Brigade, about which she has written a book. At the meeting, the exhibition: "Forgotten Faces - Chinese and the Law" will be launched. Meet at the Court House, 85 High Street, Avoca. Enquiries to Tony on 5465 3744 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dhs/ADHSMain.htm>

**BALLARAT:** Peter Davies will speak about the history of the bakery business in Ballarat at the next meeting, starting at 7.30pm at the Gold Museum auditorium in Bradshaw Street. All welcome. The Society has launched the "Capture the Vision" photography project at a workshop attended by 30 people; including scanning, describing and indexing old photographs not already in the collection, and recording events, building works or other suitable subjects of present day Ballarat. Phone enquiries to 5341 2405 or see [www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com)

**BALLARAT GENIES:** Kate Prinsley, executive director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will speak at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 June at the Ballarat Central Library, 178 Doveton Street north. Kate will explain the many sources in the RHSV collection and library which can be used for local and family history research. All welcome. See [www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au)

**BOX HILL:** At 8.00pm on Thursday 15 June David Tolstrup will speak on "The Tolstrup family in Box Hill and the family insurance business", at the Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North. The Tolstrup family has Danish heritage and David will speak of their lives in Box Hill and the business still in existence with David Tolstrup. Visitors are welcome. Enquiries 9897 4167

**BRUNSWICK:** "The Cars on Brunswick Roads - Herbert Austin, the man and his car" is the theme of Grant Wallace's talk at 1.30pm on Saturday 3 June, in the Mayor's Room, former Brunswick Council Chambers, cnr Sydney Road and Dawson Street. The following month's meeting will be addressed by Neil Bernham on "40 Years Decimal Currency" at 1.30pm on Saturday 1 July. All welcome. Phone Francesca on 9387 1194 for more details.

**CAMPERDOWN:** Mr Michael Nixon will speak about his life and experiences during his long career with the Royal Australian Navy, at 8pm on Tuesday 6 June, at the McCabe Room. The Museum is open from 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, where an exhibition of war memorabilia to commemorate Anzac Day is currently on display.

**CHELSEA:** The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Sunday 11 June at the Court House Museum, The Strand, Chelsea. This year is the centenary of Chelsea town, and celebrations are planned. Contact secretary Lenie on 9772 2875.

**COLAC:** Some slides of Colac and District taken forty or so years ago will be screened at the conclusion of the business meeting which starts at 1.30pm on Saturday 24 June at the History Centre in the COPACC building. The History Centre is open from 2 to 4pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Contact Secretary on 5231 4831.

**DONCASTER:** Olivia Mitchell, Robyn Mitchell's daughter, will speak on Wednesday 7 June, on an historic topic in which she is currently conducting historical research, at Schramm's Cottage in Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria Street, Doncaster. Phone Secretary Val on 9439 7577 or see [www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/)

**ELTHAM:** At 8.00pm on Wednesday 14 June the Reynolds/Prior photograph collection will be the theme of the meeting, held at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place, Eltham. These 50 photographs were taken by Tom Prior around 1908, and will be shown by computer projection during the meeting, when Ivy Reynolds, niece of Tom Prior, will present a copy of the images to the Society. There will be an historical walk commencing from 2pm on Saturday 3 June, starting from the Eltham Local History Centre (phone Secretary Russell on 9439 9717 to book)

**HAMILTON:** The meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 June will be at the Hamilton Club, to view the new historical library. The History Centre at the Mechanics Institute, 43 Gray Street, Hamilton is open 2pm-5pm every day except Saturday, and on the first Wednesday of each month from 7pm-9pm for research only. Phone contact is 5572 4933 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hamhist/>

**HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT:** Bittern Primary School students visited the Museum in May and the visit went very well. During the visit they saw their school's contribution in our exhibition "Our Sporting Heritage". Part of this exhibition was displayed in the Hastings library. Our entry for the Street Parade of Hastings Day won an award for the "Best Non-Commercial Entry". The quarterly Morning Coffees continue to be well supported, reaching new people as well as adding funds for our many projects.

**HAWTHORN:** At 2.30pm on Saturday 17 June Dr Elizabeth Morrison will speak on "Early Newspapers of Country Victoria", in the meeting room at the rear of Hawthorn Library. At 1.30pm on Monday 19 June a tour of historic "Deaf Children Australia" (constructed in 1866) will take place at the cnr High Street and St Kilda Road. This event is organized by Boroondara Historical Societies Association. Book with Wendy on 9836 3558.

**HEALESVILLE:** Stories from Healesville Happenings will be the theme for the meeting at 2pm on Sunday 25 June at the Society's rooms in the Healesville Memorial Hall, which are open to the public every Monday and Friday from 1.30 to 4pm. Phone 5962 1655 or see [www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au](http://www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au)

**HEIDELBERG:** Kristin Otto will speak on "Yarra" at 8.00pm on Tuesday 13 June at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). The Court House Museum, Jika Street, opens Sundays 2-5 until 6 December 2006. Website: <http://heidelberg.50webs.com> or phone 9455 2130.

**HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT:** On Tuesday 27 June at the North Melbourne Town Hall, "The Pride of Hotham" will be launched. North Melbourne celebrated the opening of its grand, new Town Hall on 27 June 1876, designed by architect George Johnson. Phone 9297 3280 for details or see: [www.hothamhistory.org.au](http://www.hothamhistory.org.au)

**INVERLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2.30. Meetings are held at the RSL Hall Bolding Place Inverloch.

**KILMORE:** At 8pm on Tuesday 6 June, local archaeologist Lyn Dore will give a talk on the Wandong terra cotta lumber bricks. Come and hear what these bricks were used for and why they

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are no longer made at Wandong, and of Wandong's connection to marvellous Melbourne. Email: kilmorehistory@nl.com.au or phone secretary Liz on 5782 1243.

**LEONGATHA:** The Migrant Experiences Project seeks to record the stories of our migrant community. A series of afternoon teas have been held to which members of our migrant community have been invited to share their memories. Writing the history of onion growing in the area seeks to tell the story of an agricultural pursuit no longer carried out in South Gippsland. John Murphy's latest book "The First Century" on the history of the Leongatha Butter Factory is available from the Society for \$19 including postage and handling. Email: leongathahistsoc@yahoo.com.au

**LILYDALE:** On Tuesday 13 June at 7.30pm a Friends of the Museum function will be held at the Museum of Lillydale, entitled "Too Good To Throw Away", when curators from the Museum will bring out some of the treasures from the collection of papers and other ephemera, and lead discussion about how to care for the items. There will be light refreshments, but call 9294 6313 to register.

**MALMSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Reverts to its winter schedule. Monthly meetings will be held at 1pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday afternoon of each month at the Mechanic's Institute, Mollison St. Malmsbury.

**MORNINGTON:** At 10.30am on Tuesday 13 June Mr Jack Ross from the Tyabb Packing House Antique Centre, who has been an antiques dealer for 27 years, will present "The Camera and Its Paraphernalia" in the Old Post Office Museum. Contact Secretary Val on 5975 2958, or phone the museum on 5976 3203.

**NAGAMBIE:** Our Commonwealth Games exhibition "Beyond the Limit" includes photos and memorabilia from Stawell Gift winners, past Olympians and the Celebration of the Nagambie Ladies Bowls 50<sup>th</sup> Year. This is on display until the end of August and open on the first Saturday of the month, Wednesday mornings and other times by appointment. Our museum at 344 High Street was the old courthouse & shire offices. It contains many interesting exhibits including family history documents, a nursery, horse drawn vehicles and farm machinery. Enquires to Kay Crawford on 57942179.

**NEPEAN:** At 8pm on Friday 2 June a Member's Night will be presented at the Nepean Historical Society rooms, Melbourne Road, Sorrento. In the Gallery a photographic exhibition entitled "The Changing Landscape" covers rural, industrial and residential development in south-east Victoria, representing towns such as Chelsea, Hastings, Dromana, Korumburra and many more, and is on loan from the South Eastern Historical Association. See [www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au](http://www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au)

**PORT FAIRY:** Instead of speakers in June there will be a lively meeting with participation of members "Where were you when...?" The Society meets second Tuesday at 7.30 in the Courthouse.

**RICHMOND & BURNLEY:** A presentation entitled "Cremorne Gardens" by Dr Mimi Colligan will be given at 2.15pm on Sunday 18 June at the Society's rooms at Richmond Library, 415 Church St, Richmond. The Gardens area was originally purchased by Henry Ghinn, then developed by James Ellis and later by George Coppin. Mimi has meticulously researched all facets of the park and has written a book about it. Phone Secretary David on 9427 1800 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rbhs/>

**STRATFORD:** On Sunday April 30th, Timothy Lee, from the ABC will re-open our refurbished museum. (His father John, President at that time, first opened these premises 25 years ago). Recently purchased by the Society, the original Methodist Church, built 1873, has been completely renovated. The museum is open, the LAST Sunday of the month, from 2-4pm, or by appointment; contact Wemyss Struss ph. 03-51456485. Our members enjoyed a trip to the "Delvine" cemetery, situated on private property, near Providence Ponds, between Stratford and Bairnsdale. The first burial was an infant of John Scott in 1846. Although there are only a small amount of headstones, a plaque has been erected, listing the 63 known names of those buried there. We also have this Blogspot; <http://stratfordhs.blogspot.com/>

**SURREY HILLS:** Ellen Mitchell, past president and tour guide of Westgarthtown German farmhouses and cemetery at Thomastown, c. 1850s, will speak on the unique cluster of bluestone farmhouses still existing today, at 8pm on Monday 19 June at the Chandler Room of the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills. Contact Secretary Sue on 9890 3409.

**TRARALGON:** At 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 June guest speaker Mr Geoff Esler, formerly a linotype operator for the Traralgon "Journal" and "Record" circa 1940-50, will talk about his memoirs: Geoff Esler Remembers. The Society grieves the recent death of Robena Hood, wife of President Jim Hood, whose unexpected death on 17 February is a tragic loss to all who knew her.

**WARRACKNABEAL:** The Easter Vintage Machinery Rally included coach rides, working stationary engines, axe handle making, wood sawing, chaff cutting, working model engines, model cars and tractors, craft and warehouse stalls - worth keeping in mind for next year. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Government in Victoria was celebrated at the Museum in Warracknabeal with a travelling display put on by the State Government: Minyip and Dimboola Societies attended Warracknabeal's April meeting to inspect the Parliamentary display. The HistoryVictoria Support Group Seminar Day was hosted by Warracknabeal in April and was well attended, demonstrating the interest in cataloguing and the awareness that there is a great need to catalogue collections. A Horsham radio station recently ran a segment on early days of swimming, prompting historian Coral Panter to locate an article in the Warracknabeal Herald in 1914 describing a visit by Olympian, and later Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Frank Beaurepaire, who took part in Warracknabeal's first Water Carnival which was held on the creek. Phone 5398 1901 or email

[para@netconnect.com.au](mailto:para@netconnect.com.au).

**WAVERLEY:** On Sunday 25 June, back by popular demand, the heritage steam train will provide shuttle trips from Darling to Glen Waverley from 10.15am to 3pm, stopping at Mount Waverley only, to enable passengers to stop for a cuppa at a café and to browse the Society's historic display. There will be five trips in all. For details contact Secretary Marjo on 9544 8792 or see [www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic)

**WHITEHORSE:** David Best will give a history of Best and De Stoop, the establishment of the dye and mattress ticking factory in Joseph Street, Blackburn North, at 1.30pm on Saturday 3 June, at the Society's premises, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Richmond. The Local History Collection is open to visitors from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Wednesdays. Phone museum on 9873 4946 or see [www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/)

**WONTHAGGI:** Meetings are held at Moyle's building, McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 7.30pm. We have just completed a successful touring heritage exhibition with an oral history component. Wonthaggi hosts "It's About Time! 8 Hour Day 1856-2006" at Wonthaggi Community Arts Centre from 12 to 25 June. Local exhibitions, films, productions, etc., included. More information [www.8hourday.org.au](http://www.8hourday.org.au).

## History



# NEWS

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

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

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

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

ABN 36 520 675 471

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