



# History NEWS

Issue No. 266 November 2006/February 2007

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## Debate on Australian History Continues

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies supports the Federal Government's initiative in convening the Australian History Summit on 17 August 2006 and in opening the debate on the place of Australian history in schools. It strongly supports the finding of the Summit that "the study of Australian History should be sequentially planned through primary and secondary schooling and should be a distinct subject in Years 9 and 10. This would be an essential and required core part of all students' learning experience to prepare them for the 21st Century"

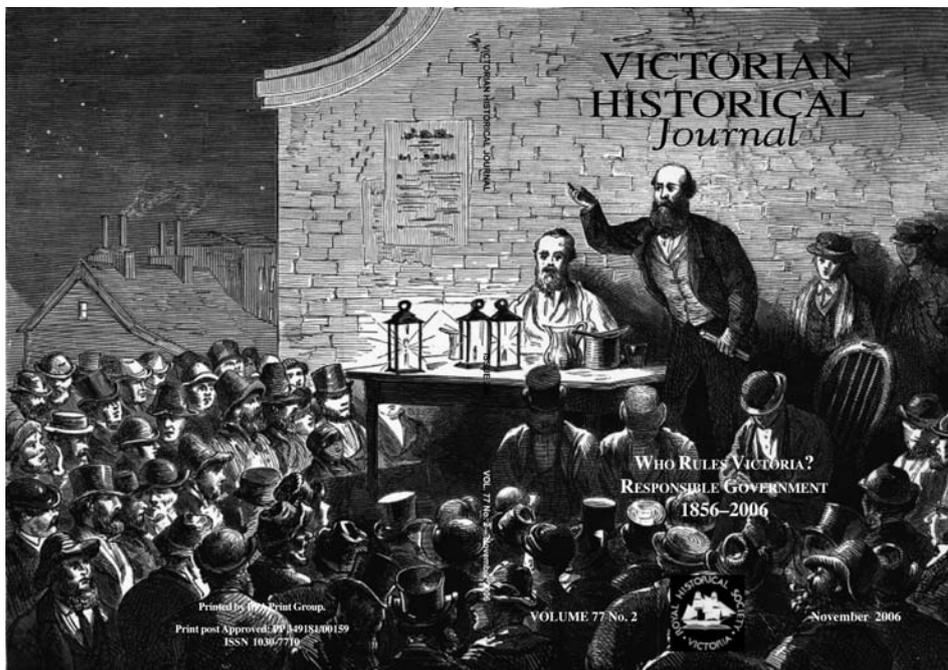
The Federation is the peak national body representing approximately 950 historical societies from all States and Territories, with approximately 100,000 members. It believes that a consistent and pedagogically sound approach to the teaching and learning of Australian history in schools across Australia is essential for students to more fully appreciate their heritage and their environment. It affirms the importance of the study of Australian History in schools. Australia's history is in many ways unique, not least because it is one of the world's oldest, continuous democracies. A knowledge of our history is therefore vital

The Federation believes that local history should be included as an important component of primary and secondary curricula, with the object of using it as a lead up to teaching some of the major developments in the nation's history and in teaching the basics of historical enquiry. This belief is based on the experience of teachers who have employed successfully aspects of local history as a lead up to teaching many major developments in our nation's history. Students find it easier and more interesting to learn from the local to the national/international. Further, in his paper "An Overview of the Teaching and Learning of Australian History in Schools" Professor Tony Taylor cites British Schools History Project research indicating that student understanding of history improves dramatically when they are taught the basics of historical enquiry and when they combine depth with breadth. With the appropriate financial support, the vast resources of local museums, libraries and historical resource centres could provide ideal support for such learning. These facilities usually have extensive information and resources on topics such as local Aboriginal communities, community participation in war, early European settlement, post war migration and many other aspects of Australian history.

They are, of course located within the student's own community and thus readily accessible.

At all levels, history should be taught by teachers trained in history and historical method. Unless this is the case, the unique historical attributes are rarely fully developed in school students. In order to encourage excellence in history teaching, State and Commonwealth governments should support more effective, locally delivered, sustained and affordable professional development specifically aimed at history teachers. Local historical societies are ideally placed to offer professional development and support through public lectures, publications and to liaise with professional associations such as the History Teachers Association in providing conferences, workshops and other resources for teachers. However, the vast majority of local historical societies and professional associations operate on very limited budgets and nearly all are heavily reliant on the work of volunteers. The Federation therefore urges that historical societies and museums be resourced to support teacher development and the teaching of local history at primary and secondary levels. Even if the majority of such organisations received some support, the cost to the nation would still be very small when compared to the benefits and with the costs associated with professional consultants.

The Federation urges State and Commonwealth Governments to continue to support the work of the History Summit and to implement the recommendations of the National Inquiry into School History, 2000. It also urges that support for the National Centre for History Education be continued and enhanced.



### *WINE DRIVE*

Following the success of last year we are repeating the RHSV wine drive.

Simply fill in the form enclosed with this Newsletter and the wines will be available for collection from December 11th at the RHSV.

The wines come elegantly labeled with the RHSV logo and are wonderful to enjoy at home, give as gifts and above all support the work of the RHSV.

*Your second issue of the Victorian Historical Journal for 2006 is included in this mailing*

**Frances Shephard retires**

For years Frances Shephard has been coming to the RHSV rooms on Wednesdays and transcribing the case notes of from one of our favourite manuscripts known as The Diaries of Judge Willis, the notes of the first resident Judge in Victoria. Frances became an expert at reading the handwriting and understanding the language of the 1840s. Having completed Book 13, the last of the case notes Frances decided it was time to complete her 'term' at the RHSV. We sincerely thank Frances for her wonderful contribution.

It is hoped as one of our centenary projects to publish this manuscript.

**Australian Lebanese Historical Society**

The Australian Lebanese Historical Society of Victoria celebrated its launch at the RHSV on October 4th.

Amongst its aims are to foster research, writing and exhibitions on Lebanese heritage, culture and history in Victoria and to identify and record materials related to Lebanese migration and settlement in Victoria.

Further information is available on their website [www.alhsv.org.au](http://www.alhsv.org.au) or by contacting ALHSV, PO Box 247, Flinders Lane Vic. 8009.

**GVEHO GRANT**

Earlier in the year the RHSV received a grant under the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) to support our work with the affiliated Historical Societies.

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**Dr Fay Woodhouse, MPHA**  
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# Survey Results support RHSV programs

“Seek more views of members as to what they want and expect. It is important to keep in touch with members’ views”. Quote from a respondent to the 2006 RHSV Members’ Survey.

Thank you for your response to our Membership Survey conducted in June 2006. More than 300 members returned completed questionnaires and the resulting information, including members’ comments will assist with forward planning and to ensure the RHSV builds on, and is responsive to members’ needs.

We were gratified that so many respondents feel we are doing a “great job”, and that clearly our publications are highly valued, but there are areas in which we can improve and the survey has provided excellent direction.

Many suggestions we have already implemented. This year we delivered a program of contemporary and traditional topics, some at

lunch time, and other on evenings other than Tuesday. We thank you for your feedback on programming and will definitely build on suggestions.

Other comments included the need for continuous updated information. The website is regularly updated but the best way to keep in touch is to join the Royal Historical Society of Victoria My Connected Community – as soon as information such as grants is received it is posted in the History Victoria Support Group My Connected Community.

The forums and events pages of these and other My Connected Community online groups allow information to be available to members as we receive it. Information about joining My Connected Community and the history related online groups is available on the Local History Online section of our website – [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

**RHSV CENTENARY**

We turn 100 in 1909 and this is an occasion that we should commemorate. We should also ask ourselves where we would like the RHSV to be going in the next 100 years. Various groups are discussing some possible commemorative ventures – a special issue of the Victorian Historical Journal, the publishing of some material from our manuscript collection like the Willis diaries, the publishing of some of the visual images, some oral history collection, some republication of significant articles from our journals have all been suggested. What ideas do you have both for commemoration and for the RHSV’s next 100 years? Are there particular studies that you would suggest? There have been very few published reflections on the RHSV’s past. The field is wide open.

**The Weekly Times Pioneer Series**

The RHSV has supported The Weekly Times in developing its five week special series on The Pioneers of Victoria.

Victoria was divided into five regions and readers were invited to send in photos of their forebears.

Whilst the Weekly Times’ aim is to celebrate the contribution of ordinary country families to Victoria’s rich past, this series is an outstanding source of local history.

The photos document families and names, but the background of the photos provide examples of buildings, clothing, advertising, vehicles and occupations.

The RHSV was pleased to provide historical context and timelines for the series and congratulates the Weekly Times on such a wonderful series.

# Victorian Pamphlets and “Sands & Macs” make their return.

Last year the RHSV received a grant from the Helen Macpherson Trust to conserve some rare Victorian pamphlets.

The pamphlets were tightly bound in one volume making it impossible to use them, and the highly acidic covers were damaging other pages.

The pamphlets have now been unbound and boxed making access and conservation paramount.

Many of the pamphlets are not listed in Ferguson’s Bibliography and range in dates from 1849 – 1924. The pamphlets include rare gazettes, directories and tour guides.

The pamphlets are now accessible to researchers and will appear in our catalogue soon.

Similarly, last year the RHSV received a generous donation to repair and rebind some of our well thumbed and lovingly used “Sands & Macs”. These are now back on the book shelf and available in all their “hard copy” glory.

## EXHIBITIONS



## 56 FACES

Memories of Hungary 1956

**When:** Until 10 November

**Where:** RHSV 239 A'Beckett St.

56 Faces is a new photo-textual exhibition capturing the stories of Hungarians who came to Victoria as political refugees following the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

Fifty years on, twenty-eight Victorians explain why the uprising was a catalyst for coming to Australia, some running for their lives, others running for a better life and freedom.

### "In about 1856....." Melbourne and Victoria in the 1850s

**When:** Tuesday 14 November to Thursday 23 November

**Where:** RHSV 239 A' Beckett St.,

A showcase extravaganza of material held by the RHSV related to 1856. This exhibition has been developed to supplement the RHSV conference 1856.

Highlights include the beautiful and detailed drawings by Jane Cannon, the Kearney Map of Melbourne, 1855, photographs of Melbourne in the 1850s.

### BONEGILLA: Unforgettable Memories

**When:** Monday 27th November to Wednesday 20th December

**Where:** 239 A'Beckett St.

This exhibition is the passion of Theo Emmanouilidis who spent just six days at Bonegilla from 18 February to 24th February 1954, and yet it is the prism that has shaped his life in Australia. Now the President of the Bonegilla Former Residents Association the exhibition takes an affectionate look at Bonegilla and shows how Bonegilla continues to be the focal point for social networks, reunions and memories.

The exhibition is an example of community collecting - photos, documents and memorabilia being lent by former residents, their children and grandchildren.

## Lectures 2007

### 'Rationing and Right Behaviour in the 1880s at the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve Healesville

**When:** Tuesday 13 February

**Time:** Coffee/tea 5.15pm: Lecture 5.45

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

Richard Broome Associate Professor in the Humanities School at La Trobe University and one of our valued members, recently received the NSW Premiers Australian History Award for his book

Aboriginal Victorians, A history since 1800.

Jim Berg, JP, founder and director of the Koorie Heritage Trust, has described the book as 'easy to read, very informative, and...brings the past into the present'. Richard will open the Society's year in 2007 developing a theme from the book.

### Bushfires!

**When:** Tuesday 13 March

**Time:** Coffee/tea 5.15: Lecture 5.45

**Cost:** Free to members; \$5.50 to non-members

Presented by John Schauble.

## EXCURSIONS/Workshops 2007

### A visit to the Map Collection at the State Library of Victoria

**When:** Thursday Feb 22

**Time:** 10.30 - 12.30

**Cost:** \$10.00

Booking ESSENTIAL: 9326 9288

An opportunity to visit the map collection at the State Library of Victoria. Judith Scurfield map librarian will highlight treasures from the collection and discuss how the collection is managed and stored.

### A visit to the Costumes Collection at Labassa, 2 Manor Grove, Caulfield

**When:** Thursday March 22

**Time:** 10.30 - 12.00

**Cost:** \$20.00

Booking ESSENTIAL: 9326 9288

An opportunity to see the beautifully stored and conserved National Trust costume collection now housed at Labassa. National Trust curators will give an overview of the collection and lead a workshop on costume storage.

# CONFERENCE

## 1856 Victoria

### ON THE MOVE

Sat-Sun 18-19 November 2006

RHSV premises,

239 a'Beckett St

Melbourne 3000

Sixteen speakers and 2 posters will open shafts of light into Victoria during the year 1856, in a Conference which will illuminate Victorian life today. **Booking Info on back of What's On Flyer**

**Bookings close Nov 13th 2006**

### Day Excursion to Beleura at Mornington

**When:** Saturday 17 March 2007

**Cost:** \$45 (members); \$50 (non-members)

A guided tour of the beautifully-conserved house and restored garden at Beleura will be followed by lunch and a dramatized reading by Lewis Fiander of extracts from the life of theatrical entrepreneur Sir George Tallis, whose youngest son John bequeathed the property to the people of Victoria in 1996.

Numbers are limited to 20, so put your name on the list now. The meeting point is the car park at the Mornington Art Gallery. A bonus for all visitors to Beleura is an entry pass to visit the Gallery. The February Newsletter will have all booking details, times etc.



## Annual Lecture



**Australia and Turkey: Uncomfortable Thoughts on Gallipoli and the Armenian Genocide**

**Guest speaker: Robert Manne**

One of Australia's best known intellectuals, Robert Manne is a prominent writer and political commentator. He is a Professor of Politics at La Trobe University and former editor of Quadrant.

**Wednesday 22 November 2006**

**6pm for 6.30pm lecture**

The Age Theatre

Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens, Nicholson Street, Carlton

Light refreshments will be offered prior to the lecture

All welcome - limited seating • Bookings essential

RSVP to [hcvexecofficer@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:hcvexecofficer@slv.vic.gov.au) or 8664 7261

Bookings close Friday 17 November [www.historycouncilvic.org.au](http://www.historycouncilvic.org.au)

# BOOKS RECEIVED

We note below relevant items sent to the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in the *News* and through deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Journal*.

Helen Botham, *La Trobe's Jolimont, A Walk Round My Garden*, C.J.La Trobe Society and Garden History Society, Melbourne, 2006, pp. 56, \$29-95 (ISBN 0-646-46006-4). This notable addition to La Trobe studies details the development of the garden around La Trobe's 'Jolimont'. It is beautifully illustrated with pictures from La Trobe himself, Bateman and others. The text amply connects these in a compelling narrative which draws heavily on the richness of the La Trobe collection.

Jim Haynes & Jillian Dellit, *Great Australian Aviation Stories: Characters, pioneers, tragedies and near misses*, ABC Books, Sydney, 2006, pp. xv + 253, \$29-95 (ISBN 073331073). This collection of contemporary and recent short pieces highlights selected aspects of Australia's aviation history. Apart from Haynes and Dellit, the writers include Francis Birtles, C.J.Dennis, Charles Kingsford Smith and Ross Smith. It is a reminder of important elements in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Australian history.

Martin J. Hollenberg, *Marco Polo, The Story of the Fastest Clipper*, Nimbus Publishing, PO Box 9166, Halifax, NS, B3K 5M8, Canada, 2006, pp. vi + 154, (ISBN 13:978-86176-297-9) The *Marco Polo* is well-known to shiplovers and it has a special place in Victorian and Melbourne history not only for its achievement in 1852 when it sailed from Liverpool to Melbourne and back in less than 6 months but also for its part in bringing thousands of immigrants to the Australian colonies until 1867. This book traces the ship from its construction in New Brunswick to its demise in 1883. It discusses its role in pioneering the great circle route to Australia; the nature of the voyage using diaries and on board newspapers; the Black Ball line and its owner, James Baines; and its captain, 'Bully' Forbes. The author's medical background is used to provide an interesting account of on-board medicine.

*Pelaco, A Visual History of the Pelaco Company and Brand a Century Down the Track*, Pelaco/Bounce Books, Melbourne, 2006, pp.112. Founded by James Pearson and James Law (hence Pelaco) in 1906, this book visually celebrates 100 years of this largely Melbourne firm. Superb photographs and copies of advertisements are arranged chronologically. Together they provide not only a Pelaco history but also valuable insights of the local clothing industry and of the development of advertising in an increasingly consumer society. Understandably, the long-running 'Pelaco Bill' (Mulga Fred) advertisements are included.

Don Hauser, *Printers of the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne (1837-1975)*, Nondescript Press, Melbourne, 2006, pp.xi + 171, \$37 + \$7 packing from Nondescript Press, 55 Agnes Street, Jolimont, 3002, ISBN0-9758424-0-4. This is a beautiful product from the craft it deals with. Following short chapters dealing with the history of printing and its advent in Australian colonies and territories, the focus is on printers in

Melbourne, dealt with alphabetically. This is very comprehensive, making excellent use of registers, directories, association records and oral sources, with much cross-reference and many illustrations of people, buildings and printed products. Each entry provides concise, informative accounts of around 450 printing companies, their principals and their suppliers. The longer entries are several pages, eg. Sands & McDougall rates 4 pages; Wilke around 2 pages; but most are much smaller. A very valuable addition to the research tools of Melbourne historians.

Jim Lowden (compiler), *Kilmore & Districts, A Regional Biography, Volume One, A & B*, Lowden Publishing, 29 Lisbeth Avenue, Donvale, 3111, 2006, pp. vi + 218, \$45 + Post and Packing \$8, ISBN 1 920753 05 2. This book is the first in a series that aims to get some of the material collected over many years into the public domain. The format is alphabetical comprising biographical entries for people associated with a wide area around Kilmore. The hope of the compiler is that amendments will be suggested by users. The entries vary in length; a few have already been noticed in other dictionaries and guides; some are little more than a name; and others are detailed pieces about otherwise unknown residents. The material of this worthy book lends itself to incorporation on a website which might allow easier revision and more access.

Philip Bentley with David Dunstan, *The Path to Professionalism. Physiotherapy in Australia to the 1980s*, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Melbourne, 2006, pp. x + 245, ISBN 1 875107 11 8. The Australasian Massage Association was formed in Melbourne in 1906. Since then, there have been battles to gain acceptance by a dominant medical profession, to provide professional training and to gain proper legal recognition. In all of these battles the APA and its predecessors have been crucial. Bentley relates the history of the professional association not only to these battles but also to the development of new therapies and to the personal efforts of a great number of women and men. Beautifully illustrated and produced, this professionally written book has benefited from the detachment of its authors and the richness of the sources, especially in the oral collections. While dealing with Australia as a whole, there is much about the involvement of Victorians.

Kay Bodna & Patsy Littlejohn, *Camcare 30 Years On, A History 1976 to 2006*, Camcare Inc., Camberwell, 2006, pp.xi + 156, ISBN 0 9581923 2 4. Written by long-term board members, this is a well-told account of Camcare, the 'not-for-profit, secular, incorporated community organization' that 'provides services for people in need' in Boroondara. Camcare's origins date to the late 1960s in Camberwell when the local council established a welfare advisory committee with considerable community support. Its services now range over emergency aid, counselling, advocacy, legal advice and tax assistance, provided both by paid staff and volunteers.

Frank Korbl, *From Luftwaffe to RAAF, An Extraordinary Australian Migrant Story*, Brolga Publishing, Melbourne, 2006, pp.xiv + 284, \$25-95, ISBN 1 920785 82 5. There are many migrant stories. Korbl's is of a disturbing childhood mostly in Austria, conscription to the Luftwaffe in 1941, marriage, disruption and difficulty in post-war Europe, a second marriage and migration to Australia in 1955, life at Bonegilla, work at JB Were's in Melbourne, a third marriage, a commission in the RAAF and postings around Australia and to Vietnam, and so on, all told with disarming insight.

Fred Lasslett, *War Diaries*, Brolga Publishing, Melbourne, 2006, pp. xvii + 210, \$24-95, ISBN 1 920785 88 3. Lasslett, was captured after HMAS Perth was sunk in March 1942 and spent the rest of the war in Japanese POW camps in Java, Changi and Japan. The 'diaries' are in the form of letters to Nola, a girl he had met before he was called up, and secretly written in a small exercise book and on cigarette paper. They describe everyday life in a laconic way and their publication enriches the POW literature.

Frank R South, *From the Castlemaine Digging to Toorak, The Life and Times of Sir John Michael Higgins*, PenFolk Publishing, 21 Ronley St, Blackburn, 3130, 2006, pp. xvi + 183, \$30 including postage, ISBN 1 875894 55 1. Higgins is especially notable for his role as advisor to the federal government on the metal and wool industries during and after the Great War and for his attempts to bring more stability to wool prices in the period before the Great Depression. He was also active in the defection of Lyons and the foundation of the United Australia Party in 1931. This is very much a public biography of a successful businessman who made many generous bequests but left no personal papers.

Dawn Peel, *Year of Hope: 1857 in the Colac District*, Dawn Peel, 33 Grant Street, Colac, 3250, 2006, pp. iv + 209, \$30 + \$6 postage and packing, ISBN 0 646 46270 9. This book places the particular local history of Colac within the context of Victorian history focusing on the year 1857. An early inland non-gold town, Colac was the scene not only for struggles over land between smaller farmers and squatters, but also for the battles to provide community infrastructure – roads, bridges, schools, churches, local government, police – for a town a day away from both Geelong and Ballarat. It was also at the centre of a small electorate for the new responsible government. In many ways, this book is a model for what can be done in local history – very well-researched, clearly written, and an engaging story of a society made up of individuals at work and play, in families and other groups.

# CREATIVE STORYTELLING ANIMATES COMMUNITY HISTORY

**Judy Spokes is a Policy Advisor working for Arts Victoria and the Department for Victorian Communities towards development of a state-wide strategy to revitalise community museums. Storytelling has emerged as a key theme in this work. Here she explains the background to this strong emphasis on stories and creative storytelling.**

There are approximately 500 community museums in Victoria many of which are operated by local historical societies. The term 'community museums' encompasses diverse organisations that function as custodians of their communities' material culture – the collections of archives, records and artefacts that reflect their history.

As repositories for real life stories connecting people to place, community museums are incubators of local knowledge, social networks and community identity. Established and run by community members, they connect people to their history, to each other and to their localities. As agents of community strengthening and vitality, they are as essential as public libraries, arts centres, and sports clubs.

Their collections contain triggers for stories about how places, and communities have developed and perhaps, where they might be headed in future. Shared in dynamic and engaging ways these stories generate both understanding and care. People do not act on behalf of a place or a community with which they do not feel deep attachment – an intimate connection with its meanings, myths and memories.

Historical collections offer a window through which to understand communities. With an estimated 1.5 million items contained in community museums (mostly run by volunteers), collection preservation and management is an overwhelming and never-ending task. More people are needed to meet the challenge. Finding them depends, in the first instance, on encouraging them to understand the value of objects and records in community collections. Well-told stories can interest and inspire those not currently engaged with their local history and broaden the base of community support from which the next generation of collection custodians will be found.

A challenge for many small heritage groups is to unearth the distinctive local stories that may be hidden within their collections, and to bring them to life in ways that will excite and challenge people whatever their age or background. This is especially difficult when collection management consumes so much precious time and energy and when volunteer numbers are dwindling.

In the digital age the increasingly sophisticated visual literacy of audiences (especially younger people) is radically and rapidly transforming the way people receive and interpret information.

Creative approaches to storytelling that take account of these new audience expectations are becoming more important to all communicators; including those keen to share the stories of local history. Increasingly, community museums are harnessing digital technologies to tell stories embedded in their collections – animating objects and records by creatively linking them with living memories of local people.

Illuminating the link that museum objects have with the social memory of their communities helps to draw out their hidden stories and demonstrate their significance to community members and visitors. Digital storytelling is one of many creative approaches now being used to capture first-person accounts of community life and integrate these with the presentation of collection material.

Karly Hawking, a community collections officer at Murray Arts is a passionate advocate of the technique, having seen its positive impact on collection custodians and audiences in north-east Victoria. Inspired by the power of digital stories created by artist, Malcolm McKinnon, in collaboration with community museums, Karly saw a potential for small community museums to increase their profile and reach new audiences through creative use of the technology. She commissioned Malcolm as a mentor in a creative partnership project in which local artists worked with collection custodians in the region to increase community engagement with local history. Their goal was to tell a series of unique local stories triggered by material from the Wodonga Historical Society, the Man

My personal favourite is the five minute film that tells the extraordinary story of Corryong war veteran, 91 year old Jim Simpson. Jim knitted a rug of Australia while a prisoner of war in Germany. The rug (extraordinary in itself) is the trigger for Jim's poignant and funny reminiscences of his war time experiences. The film nourished the admiration local people felt for Jim and his historic rug, and has enabled his amazing story to be shared with communities many kilometres away.

For people who worry that digital technologies might overwhelm the supremacy of objects or records in community collections I think Jim's story is quite instructive.

There are now plans to conserve and exhibit Jim's rug (stored until now under his bed) thanks to the interest the film generated within the local community and in the local Council, the Towong Shire.

Emerging technologies offer community museums exciting new storytelling opportunities that can help deepen and expand community participation in local heritage. To take advantage of their potential most custodians of community collections will need to seek out partnerships with other cultural, educational and civic institutions to draw in the skills, equipment and other resources required. While many existing and new media can be used to promote community museum collections, it is the stories themselves and creative partnerships designed to share them widely, that are the keys to a sustainable future for community historical collections.

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**“I would like to see an Australia in which we can delve into our past and present it in a way that means something to people, and strikes their imagination.”**

***Donald Horne***

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From Snowy River Museum, Granya Pioneer Museum, and the Tallangatta & District Heritage Group. The result is a wonderful touring exhibition “But That's Another Story” featuring seven short digital films exploring diverse topics from Wodonga's controversial water tower landmark to the rabbit plague in Granya.

## History Victoria Support Group Seminar Day Report

The seminar day held at Yallourn North on September 23 was a great success with approximately 45 people attending from most parts of Gippsland and surrounding areas including Melbourne.

A session encouraging members to think about their web sites and the possibilities the Internet provides for promoting local history was followed by an excellent session run by Diane and Keith White where they showed us local history cd-rom and dvds and discussed other digitization projects they have undertaken.

After a great lunch provided by the members of the Yallourn North Historical Society we were lucky enough to be able to travel by bus to view the nearby open cut mine including the area where Yallourn once stood. Special thanks to the Yallourn North Historical Society member who provided us with information on the history of the site.

Back to the Old Brown Coal Mine Museum where afternoon tea was served as well as the opportunity to explore the most interesting and well presented exhibitions at the museum.

Once again the day provided many opportunities for meeting members of historical societies and sharing experiences.

Special thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this another most successful HVSG event.

### HISTORY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

The RHSV is represented on the History Council of Victoria which was set up six years ago under the auspices of the Department of Education and Training. It receives funding for specific projects and employs an executive director, currently for 12 hours per week. The Council is made up of representatives from the State Library of Victoria, the Public Record Office, Museum Victoria, the History Teachers' Association of Victoria, the National Trust, the universities, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Professional Historians' Association, Heritage Victoria, the National Centre for History Education, the Victorian Department of Education and Training, and several individuals who bring particular skills, experience and contacts eg. with Koori communities and the ABC. Currently, Don Gibb is the RHSV representative on the council.

Within its financial limits, the HCV runs a Roadshow program aimed at VCE history students in regional and rural Victoria, panels at the Melbourne Writers' Festival, and Historically Speaking, a public program of seminars focused on current historical issues. It also sponsors an annual lecture in November.

The HCV is looking for partnerships for its proposed activities and there are likely to be mutually beneficial results through collaboration with RHSV, especially on programs that can tap into the local history network through the History Victoria Support Group. For example, there is potential for the RHSV to join with HCV and history teachers in promoting local history at VCE as well as in the likely development of core Australian history courses at Years 9 and 10 following the Summit.

## Wheatlands Warehouse – Scott Street Warracknabeal

As with all Historical Societies, hard working volunteers of the Warracknabeal Historical Society and Wheatlands Agricultural Machinery Museum have struggled for many years to fund ongoing maintenance for not only the Agricultural Museum, but also the Historical Centre and three other buildings that they care take for the community. There was little left over to look at restoring many of the tractors and farming implements on display or in storage.

That was when a couple of members came up with the idea of opening a temporary shop in the main street of the town to sell off items surplus to the needs of the Society that had been collected over a long period of time. The premises chosen had been used by the Museum to display cars and tractors and with permission from the owners it was decided to open for a few weeks in an attempt to raise some much needed funds. After approaches by members to sell some of their items and giving the Society some commission, it was decided to remain open until after Christmas with every intention of closing the doors at the end of this period.

Little did the volunteers know what was to follow. After opening its doors for the first time on the 16th October 1998, Wheatlands Agricultural Machinery Museum will be celebrating its 8th year of operations this year. The idea of selling second hand goods extended to the community and the shop now operates on a commission basis. Over this period of time there have been in excess of 1500 vendors registered, though this number is probably closer to 1800 as some numbers have been reissued. Vendors bring in pre-loved

items ranging from household crockery, books, tools, toys, sporting equipment, furniture, trailers and anything in-between. Amongst the vendors are a number of churches and other organisations such as the scouts, girl guides and service groups, utilizing the opportunity to raise funds for their projects etc. The Warehouse also supports the local School Chaplaincy Fund by selling items for them with no commission taken out.

The shop is totally operated by volunteers, and attracts visitors and vendors from not only Victoria, but from other states. There are vendors who have sent stock in from Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia. The Warehouse takes a 17% commission on sales and the average income from the commission ranges between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per month. Apart from the necessary overheads in operating any business, the income derived has been put to good use over the eight years. This includes purchasing the property the Warehouse occupies; providing money for maintenance of the Court House and Historical Centre; building of a new shed at the Agricultural Museum; purchase of a riso-graph printer for the Museum; and of course restoration work on tractors and farming implements. The most recent outlay was \$10,000 for tyres for some of the vintage tractors.

All in all Wheatlands Warehouse has become a community owned asset, attracting visitors from far and wide boosting the local economy – after all you can't drive a long way without having a cuppa and topping up the fuel tank before you leave town.

*Jean Wise - President Warracknabeal Historical Society*

## THE VICTORIAN BARN

**A one day conference on the Victorian Barn will be held at the University of Melbourne on Sunday 17 February 2007.**

Barns are taken to be crop storage and animal housing buildings (other than those with another principal function, such as shearing sheds and milking sheds). Barns have generally been neglected by historians and conservationists, partly because they tend to be unknown or inaccessible. This conference aims to look at the types of barn, which vary widely across Victoria, and at their sources, usage, design and construction.

Proposals for papers are invited especially from country areas, and regional historical societies and other bodies are asked to encourage submissions. Please send initial proposals to Professor Miles Lewis, <milesbl@unimelb.edu.au> as soon as possible, and at the latest by 30 November. Papers will be accepted for presentation on the day only if they are submitted in advance, so that they can be printed for circulation. Detailed guidelines will be available.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Melbourne, Heritage Victoria, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

**Melbourne's Biggest Family Album**

MuseumVictoria invites you to share your family photographs with us.

We are seeking personal photographs of people and places in Melbourne – its centre and its suburbs dating from the 1840s to 1980. Glass and metal plates, prints, negatives and slides are all welcome in black and white or colour.

The photographs should include people in your family, and include an aspect of Melbourne's culture and places.

Melbourne's Biggest Family Album project involves copying selected photographs and placing these copies permanently into the museum's heritage collection as part of its Biggest Family Album. All original photographs will be returned to you.

We are copying photographs at four selected libraries based on an earlier Biggest Family Album project. For details about when and where we will be collecting, please refer to information available at [www.museum.vic.gov.au/bfa/](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/bfa/)

For further information, contact Discovery Centre at Melbourne Museum [discoverycentre@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:discoverycentre@museum.vic.gov.au)

**DEAKIN'S 150TH BIRTHDAY**

Alfred Deakin, the second child and only son of William and Sarah, was born at 90 George Street, Fitzroy on 3 August 1856. Unfortunately, the significance of the cottage was not realized in 1978 when the then Fitzroy City Council issued a demolition permit. Its neighbour in similar style survives.

On 6 August this year, the Fitzroy History Society commemorated Alfred's 150th birthday with a walk led by Mike Moore around Deakin sites in Fitzroy, accompanied by three of Deakin's granddaughters, descendants and others, many with stories.

The walk started at the former Fitzroy Public Library where the foundation stone was laid on 18 December 1888 by Robert Best, the mayor and another Fitzroy boy, who later became a notable politician and supporter of Deakin. On the same day, Deakin laid the foundation stone of the adjoining court house and Best presented him with a silver trowel which apparently has become cake server for his descendants.

The Deakins later moved to a house near the corner of Gore and Gertrude Streets, near to where William Deakin ran his cab, coach and dray business. The Deakins moved to Adams Street, South Yarra in 1863 taking this house with them.

The walk ended at Dante's restaurant that occupies an 1850s building on the corner of Gertrude and Napier Streets, fittingly with a cake, a singing of 'Happy Birthday', accompanied by a display of Deakin memorabilia.

The 2006 Fitzroy Deakin walk follows a fine tradition. The then Historical Society of Victoria, in which Deakin had been a vice-president, placed a memorial tablet on the George Street cottage in 1926 in the presence of Deakin's three daughters – Ivy Brookes, Stella Rivett, and Vera White – with speeches by A. W. Greig, one of the founders of the HSV, and J. Hume Cook, from the ANA. There was another ceremony in 1956 to mark Alfred's 100th.

**NOVEMBER 2006 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 the November issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 October to [office@historyvictoria.net.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.net.au)

**ANGLESEA:** Calendars celebrating 75 years of the Great Ocean Road will be on sale from early October.

**ANGLICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** holds the Sydney Smith Lecture by Miss Ann Rusden on 8th November. The Lecture is "George William Rusden – First Clerk of the Parliament (1856-81)". Secretary Bruce Macintosh ph: 9818 4565.

**AUSTRALIAN RACING MUSEUM:** Until 31st January 2007 the Museum in Federation Square will present an exhibition of the life of John Wren entitled *Glory, Glory, Glory*. The exhibition is open 7 days from 10am–6pm (ph: 1300 139407) Admission: Adults \$8; Concession \$5 and Family \$20.

**BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY:** On Sunday 19th November at 10.00 the friends group has organized a tour through the cemetery (423 High Street Kew) highlighting the artists who are buried there. The cost will be \$15. For details and bookings contact Elizabeth Hore on 9817 4896 or Gail White on 9762 5543.

**BRIGHTON:** The Brighton Historical Society rooms will be opening on the first Saturday afternoon of each month between 1pm–4pm on 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December. This is for a trial period as some people are not able to attend the rooms on a Thursday.

**CASTLEMAINE:** On 6th November, the Society will host a talk by Pam Baragwanath on the topic of "Mechanics Institutes".

**CHELSEA:** At the Centenary Celebrations on 4th February 2007, the Society will have a display "Chelsea Through the Decades". Other attractions at the event will be Steam Train rides, Chelsea Concert Band, Dedication of the Plaque at the Train Station, Vintage Cars, Clydesdale Horses and Clowns and Face Painting.

**COBURG:** On 15th November Elayne Whatman, from the Broadmeadows Historical Society, will be the guide for a visit to Broadmeadows Historical Museum. The tour departs at 8.15 pm from the usual meeting room by car and, for up to 12 members in a hired Council Community Bus.

**COLAC** Christmas Function will be held in conjunction with the November 22nd General Meeting. It will start at 6.00pm and cost \$10 per person. Advise at the History Centre if you wish to attend.

**COLLINGWOOD:** The 28th Annual Collingwood History Walk will be held on Saturday 11th November at 2pm. The Historical Society will host a guided tour of the Collingwood Town Hall. Bookings are essential, preferably by email to [collingwoodhistorywalk@fastmail.fm](mailto:collingwoodhistorywalk@fastmail.fm) or by phone on 9482 3730. There is a charge of \$2 for non-CHS members.

**CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA:** presents on Saturday 18th November at 2.00pm a talk by Richard Sneddan "Cornish Rhapsody – How others see us". It will be held at the Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Kangaroo Rd and Skipton St Hughesdale.

**CRESWICK:** The Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July, December and January) at the Creswick RSL rooms at 7.30 pm.

**EAST MELBOURNE** will hold its Christmas Drinks on Wednesday 6 December 6.30– 8.30 at East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne. Members \$25; Non-members \$30.

**ELTHAM DISTRICT:** As part of the Historical Walks Program there will be a walk commencing at the Eltham Local History Centre at 2.00pm on Saturday 4th November. Bookings on 9439 1175.

**ESSENDON:** There will be a commemoration of the founding of the Essendon River League, on Monday 13th November at 3pm in the south-western corner of Maribyrnong Park near Maribyrnong Road Bridge. A commemorative tree will be planted by the mayor of Moonee Valley and a plaque will be unveiled by the Hon Judy Maddigan MLA. This will be followed by the official launch of Marilyn Kenny's new history "Essendon River League, 1906 to 1966". The book will be available at \$10 per copy; you will need to order your copy from the Society. At the General Meeting of Tuesday 28th November the Guest Speaker will be Warren Doubleday "Managing the Essendon Tramways". The Christmas Party will be held on Monday 11th December at 6pm. The cost is \$16 per head. Bookings must be made by Monday 4th December.

**GISBORNE:** The Christmas gathering will take place on Friday 1st December at 5.30pm at the Court Hose. The cost will be \$20 per person. Pre-booking is essential before Wednesday 28th November.

**GOULBURN & MURRAY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY GROUPS (MAGS)** will hold its AGM and MAGS Expo on 18th November 2006 at the Mulwala & District Services Club, Melbourne Street Mulwala between 10a.m. – 4 p.m. For enquiries phone Jan on 03 5744 1460.

**HAMILTON.** Neville Brayley, Surveyor will be guest speaker at the General Meeting to be held on 14th November at 8.00 p.m.; the General Meeting of 13th February 2007 will include an Historical Walk. The Christmas Get Together will take place on 12th December 2006 at 5.00 p.m.

**HEALESVILLE & DISTRICT'S** Christmas Break-up Lunch will be at the Cumquat Tree Café, Buxton Road, Marysville at 12 noon. The cost is \$25 per person; bookings are essential and close on 22nd October. Tel: 03 5962 1655.

**INTERNATIONAL SETTLERS GROUP:** The topic of the meeting on 18th November will be "From a corner of Tuscany: The Maneschis of Lunigiana".

**INVERLOCH** holds its meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. at the RSL Hall, Boldings Place Inverloch.

**KEW** will hold its final book sale for the year on Sunday 19th November between 1pm to 4pm in the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew.

**KILMORE.** At their meeting on Tuesday 14th November the Society will host a talk by Tony Kelly on the subject of photo restoration. The meeting will be in the Old Kilmore Court House at 8.00 pm.

**KNOX** Society will hold its General Meeting at Ambleside on Monday 6 November at 8.00 pm and hold a working bee also at Ambleside on Saturday 11 November from 11a.m. The Society will present a display at the Ferntree Gully Street Festival on Saturday 18 November. It will be shown in the Wattle Club from 9am.

**KYNETON:** holds its AGM on 8th November and its Christmas breakup meeting on 13th December.

**MIRBOO:** The Commemorative Pathway Project will create a pathway entrance to Baromi Park for future generations to admire. The pathway will be made of pavers engraved with the names of former residents or descendants of pioneers, businesses or people who have a connection to the town. Pavers will cost \$30 for a single and \$60 for a double. If you wish to be included in the pathway contact the Secretary, Mirboo & District Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 1 Mirboo North Vic 3871.

**NEPEAN:** At the Meeting of Friday 3 November at 8.00 pm guest speaker, Cameron Wood, archivist at the Quarantine Museum, and Rosemary Cousin of Point Nepean Community Trust will speak on the topic of "The Future Plans for the Quarantine Museum". Ph: 03 5984 0255. To mark the centenary of the death of George Coppin, the Society is offering a Coppin Walk to Sorrento, which will start at the Pier and end at the Museum. It will last approximately two hours. The cost is \$10 per person. For bookings phone Bergliot Dallas on 03 5984 5009.

**NEWSTEAD & DISTRICT:** Market Day at Newstead will take place at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday 18th November at the Newstead Rotunda Park. The Market is free to the public, vendors fee is \$5.00. All Enquiries to Dawn Angliss 5476 2006. On Sunday 12th November at 2pm at the Mechanics Institute, Dr Adrian Haas' book "Newstead Mechanics Institute" will be launched by Pam Baragwanath, herself the author of a book about Mechanics Institutes in Victoria.

**NILLUMBUK:** The Diamond Creek Cemetery Walk will be held on Saturday 11th November at 3pm at the Cemetery. For more information contact Ron Gordon on 9438 3441. The Christmas Celebration will be held at Ellis Cottage on 25th November at 5.30pm. For reservations contact Frank Phipps on 9438 1463.

**PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT** holds its Christmas Function with an address by Tony Charlton AM on 2nd December at 6.30 for 7pm at the Cowes Golf Club. The title of the address is "Wake Up Australia". Admission is by pre-purchased tickets at \$25. The General Meeting will take place on 1st November at 7.30 at the Heritage Centre.

**PORT MELBOURNE's** Historical and Preservation Society Calendar 2007 "Historical Port Melbourne" may be order from September onwards at the price of \$12 or 10 for \$100. Meetings are Monday of every month but December, 7.30 p.m. at Port Melbourne Bowling Club in Spring Street. From October 23 – November 13 there is an exhibition of Fisher Folk. Johnny May's Trivia Night will be held on November 27.

**PRAHRAN:** The AGM will be held on Thursday 9th November at 7.00 pm at the Grattan Gardens Community Centre, 40 Gratten Street Prahran. It is necessary to advise if you will be attending. The Prahran Pub Crawl takes place on Sunday 3rd December 2006 at 2.00 p.m. This visit of past, present and possible pubs of Prahran starts on the northeast corner of Dandenong Road and Chapel Street. Next year, on 4th February 2007 the Society will lead the Chapel Street South Yarra Walk, starting from the front of Chapel off Chapel South Yarra at 10.30 a.m. All enquiries or RSVP to Jenni on 9509 9978.

**RICHMOND & BURNLEY:** will hold a Richmond Racecourse and Yarra River Walk on Sunday 12th November at 1.30pm. The walk is an exploration of the eastern boundary of Richmond, which was the location of many of the noxious industries, a stockade, mansions, a soup factory, soap factory racecourse and site of the tollgates for the punt to Hawthorn. The gentle walk will take about 2 hours with minimal hills to climb. The Start Point is O'Connell Reserve, Bridge Road, Richmond. (The O'Connell Reserve is at the eastern end of Bridge Road, between Ridges Riverwalk and the Hawthorn Bridge. Members free and Non-members/guests \$10.00. Further information (03) 9428 6231. "Cruising the Yarra by Bus". On Sunday 10th December there will be a bus tour along the Yarra, which will incorporate all the bridges over the river between Williamstown and Studley Park. The history of the river and the various bridges that cross it will be discussed. The Tour departs from the Richmond Library car park at 12 noon. The Society will have a stall at the Gleadell Street Market on Saturday 4th November 6am-1pm. The stall includes a general display on Richmond History and the history of the market. Gleadell Street runs between Bridge road and Highett Street, alongside the Town Hall and Richmond Pool.

**ST KILDA:** Sunday 12th November: Dungeons and Databases. The SKHS archives, including the collection of 3D objects and photos, will be open to members and the wider community. Material about St Kilda's Lost Schools, Elwood and early St Kilda will be on display as well as selected artifacts. Sunday 10th December: Community Heritage Picnic at Elwood Beach Community Centre and Playground from 1.30pm -4.30pm. Recall the official naming of St Kilda by Superintendent La Trobe as well as the first land auction held in St Kilda on 7th December 1842. Entertainment by St Kilda Brass Band.

**ST KILDA CEMETERY INC** will conduct a visit on an equestrian theme, titled "Steeplechases, Stallions and Steeds" on Sunday 5th November 2006 at 2:00pm. The tour will include stories of races, horses and the tragic death of a number of 19th Century jockeys.

**SURREY HILLS:** At their meeting on Monday 20 November at 8.00pm the Society will present a talk by Grahame Murphy entitled "Collecting Australian Banknotes and Coins". The venue is Chandler Room of the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union R.d, Surrey Hills.

**WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT** invites members to its 40th Birthday Celebration on Friday November 10th 2006 at the Warrnambool City Library 6pm – 8pm. RSVP by 1st November.

**WAVERLEY HISTORICAL:** The Year-End special of Christmas fun and games will take place on Thursday 23rd November at a venue to be announced. A vote will be held to decide the venue. A free exhibition at Monash Gallery of Art in Wheelers Hill till November 12, displays a photographic exhibition of "botanical footprints" left by 19th Century settlers in the gold areas of Victoria. On Tuesdays and Thursdays until November at the Monash Federation Centre Oakleigh has an exhibition of the history of McCulloch House, originally a rehabilitation hospital for poor women in Kew.

**WOADY YALOOK:** Sunday 26th November 2006: Smythesdale Homecomers 80th Reunion at the Smythesdale Recreation Centre. Launch by Peter Butters on 26th November 2006 of "Connie's Memoirs" (the autobiographical recollections of Connie Howlett, nee Parker). Copies of this book can be purchased from the Historical Society for \$18. On 13th December 2006, the Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Smythesdale Court House Hotel.

## History

# NEWS



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