



History NEWS

Issue No. 267 February/March 2007

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



RHSV Executive Director Kate Prinsley receives the Community Heritage Grant from Senator Rod Kemp, Minister for Arts and Sport.

Welcome to 2007

Straight into the New Year – I hope you will find this edition of *History News* full of information about grants (page 5), excursions and lectures (pages 3-4), news, and case studies of activities being undertaken by historical societies.

This year's program delivers an increase in the number and variety of lectures – (both lunchtime and evening), excursions and workshops. An innovation this year will be "forums" where members are invited to contribute to the topic. We are also planning to make the content of select lectures available after presentation.

Our collections are always accessible. The RHSV collections and catalogues continue to grow - available on-line and more extensively at the RHSV. Expert volunteers are keen to assist with research. Increasingly collections throughout the State are becoming accessible through the Victorian Local History Database. Our exhibitions add levels of interpretation to our collections. If you haven't visited the RHSV for a while – make a date – we look forward to welcoming you.

This year the RHSV is able to increase its support for societies. Following a successful grant from the Public Record Office Local History Grants Program we will be able to produce a revised Managing Historical Societies Manual; a Community Heritage Grant means we will be able to run workshops around Victoria on improving displays. We will be able to keep the cost of insurance low. The History Victoria Support Group will continue to run Seminar Days, and information and support for collections management is always available.

The RHSV is a service organisation – our aim is to support our membership by providing programs, skills and access to collections - to encourage participation in its many and varied ways in Victorian history. I look forward to welcoming you to our program throughout the year.

Kate Prinsley
Executive Officer, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

RHSV receives rare collection

In December 2006, the RHSV was very fortunate to receive the wonderfully intact collection of Australia's first and last surviving Lodge of the Grand United Order of Free Gardeners, a friendly society that was established in Melbourne 140 years ago.

The Order was established when the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted a charter to open a Lodge in Victoria, and the first meeting took place on 19 July 1864 with 25 members. The order spread to most Australian states and eventually there were 25 in Victoria.

The origins of the Order are obscure but it is believed to have started in Scotland in the 17th century as a fraternity to promote and regulate the trade of working gardeners. By the 19th century the Order was more active as a workers' benefit society providing sickness benefits, pensions and provision for dependents. Non-gardeners who began joining were called 'free gardeners' and soon they outnumbered working gardeners.

This significant collection includes examples of the Order's regalia, ceremonial objects, honour boards, framed certificates and photographs, minute books, treasurer's books and accounts, correspondence and other documents. Also included are records of other defunct Orders in Victoria, making it a treasure trove for the detail of Victoria's Free Gardener societies, their members and their activities. We thank the last members of Victoria's oldest Order of Free Gardeners for their foresight in seeking to preserve this valuable record of their 140 year history in Victoria.

The Grand United Order of Free Gardeners voted to wind up after the corporate regulator determined that the society could not meet new standards of compliance and governance.



Volunteers' Information Day Feb 21 page 4

**Victorian Community History Awards
make a return page 5**

OBITUARIES

Hon. Roy Hector Ward

9-12-1923 – 19-12-2006

Born and educated in Wangaratta, Roy Hector Ward, Liberal Member of the Legislative Council of Victoria for the South-Eastern Province from 1970 to 1988, was a council member of the RHSV from 1975-95, and Vice President from 1987-91. He was a keen supporter of the history of the State. He died at the Mornington Peninsula Hospital on 19 December 2006 at the age of 83.

His particular interest in local and Victorian history led him to be a member and president of the Mordialloc Historical Society (1964-65), and Vice President of the South-Eastern Historical Association from 1964-71 (and office-bearer to 1994). He was a member of the History Advisory Council of Victoria from 1975-85, and from 1980-85 he chaired the Victoria's 150th Celebrations Local and Regional Committee. It was in this position that his Committee organized the distribution of funding in 1984-85 for local celebrations including historical events, memorials and publications, all of which proved a busy time for the State's historical societies. Roy was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1990. The Society honours one of its valued Council members who made a significant and lasting contribution to the local history movement and extends its deepest sympathy to his wife, Joan and family.

This select concentration on Roy Ward's contribution to the support of history should be read in conjunction with his entries in *Who's Who in Australia* and an obituary in *The Age* 10 Jan 2007 p. 11 (written by Lindsay Thompson).

VHJ Vol 74 ~

New Index Available

We are pleased to advise members that their access to the contents of their Journal has been further enhanced. With the completion of the comprehensive index to VHJ Volume 74 (Issues 259 and 260), members can now retrieve extensive index entries for Volumes 1 to 74 (1911 to 2003) and information about all titles and authors of articles and reviews for Volumes 75 – 77 (2004-2006).

The computer searchable index is available in the RHSV library and on the Society's website: go to the RHSV homepage and click on the link to the index (which is about halfway down the page). Hints on searching the VHJ Database database are given on the website, but refer to the February 2005 issue of *History News* for a more complete description on techniques for its use.

The RHSV again acknowledges and thanks John Adams, Fellow of the Society, for his contribution in preparing the index of just under 1000 separate entries. (His second in a year.) Richard Barnden prepared it for computer searching and Vicki Court ensured its place on the RHSV website.

John Knight

29.02.1920 – 8.11.2006

Volunteer colleagues, present and past staff and Councillors at the RHSV were saddened at the news of the death of John Knight.

John joined the RHSV volunteer corps about 18 years ago, not long after the Society moved to the Mint Building. For the RHSV he undertook a variety of tasks extending from researching enquiries on all manner of subjects (often drawing on his geology, mining and railway background and experiences) to carpentry (particularly notable being his involvement in the revamping of the basement at the Mint for use by Curator Lorenzo Iozzi and the housing of the Images Collection). When we moved to the Drill Hall, John continued in research pursuits, the application of carpentry skills to the Library

fit-out (where adjusting the bookshelves to ever-changing needs was a persistent undertaking) and provision of support our Office Manager. For all the forgoing, in 2004 John received the RHSV's Award of Merit.

The Society was represented at John's impressive and characteristically distinctive funeral, which was conducted with great support from the railway historical societies of which he was also a member. Indeed he was honoured by the Puffing Billy Preservation Society by a Special Narrow Gauge Funeral Train which conveyed his coffin in a QR wagon. His passion for life revolved around family, friends, rocks, train travel and all things historical in nature. He will be remembered fondly and for his friendly personality and dry sense of humour.



THE VICTORIAN BARN

a one day conference
Faculty of Architecture, University of Melbourne
9.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 17 February 2007

optionally followed on Sunday 18 February by an excursion to Gulf Station, Yarra Glen, followed by lunch at Coldstream

Origins and traditions, precedents in Britain, NSW and elsewhere, regional barn types in the Western District, Wimmera, Central Victoria, Northern Victoria and East Gippsland, archaeology, carpentry details, equipment, the conservation of barns

Tony Billman, Eric Butler, Margaret Cooper, Don Goldsworthy, Chris How, Prof Ian Jack, Mandy Jean, Susan Jennison OAM, Deborah Kemp, Prof Tom Kvan, May Leatch, Miles Lewis, Ray Osborne, Gary Vines, Allan Willingham, Jim Wilson

Name: Mr/Ms/-- _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

I enclose my cheque, payable to the University of Melbourne for conference @ \$40

Booking deposit for the Gulf Station excursion @ \$10

Please post to Prof Miles Lewis, Faculty of Architecture, Melbourne University, Vic 3010.



LECTURES



Right Behaviour – Coranderrk in 1880s

Speaker: Richard Broome

When: Tuesday 13 February

Time: Coffee/Tea 5.15: Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members – free;
Non-members – \$5.50

While land was the dominant factor in Indigenous-settler encounters in Australia, right behaviour played an important role on the Aboriginal side, which has often been underplayed by historians. This paper focuses on Coranderrk reserve in Victoria around 1880 and listens to the voices of Aboriginal witnesses embedded in a parliamentary inquiry to explore right behaviour, which was expressed in complaints over rations and governance. I will argue, using a complex view of patron-client relations, that while the issuing of rations had been seen as a site of white power, at Coranderrk it provided a vehicle for Aboriginal power.

Richard Broome is Associate Professor of History at La Trobe University and Head of the History Program. He has taught Australian and Aboriginal history at various universities for thirty years. He is the author of seven books, including *Arriving* (1984), a history of immigration to Victoria. His most widely known work is *Aboriginal Australians* (Allen & Unwin, 1982) a history of Aboriginal people in Australia since 1788, which is now in its third edition (2001). His recent book *Aboriginal Victorians, A History Since 1800* (Allen & Unwin, 2005), has been short listed three times and has won the NSW Premier's Australian History Prize (2006).

Deadlines for History News 2007

History News will be published six times this year. Editions will be: February / March; April / May; June; July / August; September / October; November / December. We welcome contributions from individuals, organisations and affiliated societies. Please ensure potential contributions reach us no later than three weeks before the proposed publication. Copy for *Around the Societies*, should be sent to History Victoria Support Group: joanhunt@netconnect.com.au. All other copy should be sent to the RHSV Executive Officer: kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au

The La Trobe Garden at Jolimont..... TALK & WALK

Speaker: Helen Botham

When: Tuesday 20 February

Lunchtime Lecture – Coffee/Tea 12.30:

Talk 1pm; Walk c.2.15

[This lecture will be followed a visit to Jolimont using the train service from Flagstaff.]

Cost: Members – free; Non-members – \$5.50

Helen Botham is a gardener and garden lover with a deep interest in heritage. She will talk us through the garden which Victoria's first head of Government, Charles Joseph La Trobe, developed on the twelve and a half acres of his Jolimont estate between 1840 and 1854. 'A walk round my garden', the subtitle of Helen's recently published book on the topic, is from La Trobe's title for the last chapter of his intended memoirs, and for which he commissioned drawings by his cousin Edward La Trobe Bateman. A selection of these and other illustrations will accompany the talk. Helen's book will be available for sale.

With imaginations stimulated, a 'feet on the ground' experience of today's Jolimont will locate the past in the present. Following the talk, there will be an opportunity (using own Travelcards) to take a short train ride from Flagstaff to Jolimont and have Helen guide us around the site itself, which still overlooks some of the Melbourne parklands which are part of the La Trobe legacy. This part of the afternoon will take about an hour.

The Jolimont walk will be at no extra cost for those who have attended the talk, with a nominal gold coin charge for those doing just the walk. However to assess likely numbers, would those intending to join the Jolimont excursion please let the office know as soon as possible on 9326 9288

The Red Steer: Cultural expressions and bushfire understanding

Speaker: John Schauble

When: Tuesday 13 March

Time: Coffee/Tea 5.15: Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members – free;
Non-members – \$5.50

Victoria is historically Australia's most bushfire-prone state. Yet very few Victorians will ever experience a bushfire first hand. So how do we come to understand the place of fire in our environment, where are those meanings drawn from and how has this changed over the years?

While many people draw their knowledge of bushfire from the news media, a range of other interesting and sometimes curious sources have long played a role.

John Schauble is a postgraduate student in environmental history at the University of Melbourne. His research is centred on cultural influences that affect community perceptions of bushfire. During more than 20 years as a journalist with *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, in addition to maintaining a focus on international news and a term as a correspondent in China, John also reported extensively on bushfires. He is the author of *The Australian Bushfire Safety Guide* (HarperCollins, 2004). A long-time volunteer fire-fighter with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), he is Captain of the *Sassafras-Ferny Creek* brigade in the Dandenong Ranges. He also works as a CFA community bushfire educator and in the CFA's State Emergency Co-ordination Centre.

What does an inch of rain mean?

Speaker: Robyn Ballinger

When: Tuesday 20 March – 1.00 pm

Time: Lunchtime Lecture: Coffee/Tea 12.30. Lecture 1.00

Cost: Members – free;
Non-members – \$5.50

The northern plains country is ethereal. It is a barometer of seasonal shifts, its physical changes far more dramatic than those of treed country. Like its adjectival namesake, it is country without embellishment, without pretension. And yet this is to underestimate the complexity of the plains, for it is a country of stark contrasts – of both abundance and scarcity.

It is the theme of scarcity that Robyn explores in this paper. Visions pursued by settlers and policy makers as they interpreted and interacted with the northern plains of Victoria centred on the provision of a water supply. In this current period of extended dry, water shortages in regional Victoria again loom large. Through an exploration of the evolution of the cultural landscape of the northern plains, historical themes that have shaped our contemporary attitudes to water are highlighted.

Robyn Ballinger is an historian who has had extensive experience in the writing and research of histories in regional Victoria. Robyn has a love of history and she is currently building on her expertise in this area as a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Melbourne.

EXCURSIONS

Map Collection at the State Library of Victoria

When: Thursday February 22
Time: 10.30 to 12.30
Cost: \$10.00 (members) \$15.00 (non-members)
Meet: Forecourt, State Library of Victoria at 10.15
 Bookings ESSENTIAL ~ 9326 9288
 An opportunity to see treasures of the collection and to learn about collection management.

'Beleura' at Mornington

[Revised Program]

Day Excursion

When: Saturday 17 March 2007
Cost: \$35 (members); \$45 (non-members)
Meet: 9.45 am at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery car park, entry from Dunns Rd (Melways 154 G4) for courtesy bus to Beleura. It will deliver us back at about 3 pm.
 BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL~ 9326 9288; numbers are limited to 20.

Enjoy guided tours of the beautifully-conserved house and restored garden at Beleura with morning refreshments and lunch in the Melba Room.

The cost of the excursion has been reduced from that advertised in *History News* (Nov / Dec 2006), since there will be no dramatized reading of the life of theatrical entrepreneur Sir George Tallis, whose youngest son John bequeathed the property to the people of Victoria in 1996. However copies of the book will be available. A bonus for all Beleura visitors is an open-dated entry pass to visit the Art Gallery.

RHSV Fellowships and Awards of Merit

Nominations for 2007 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

Closing Date for Fellows Nomination March 9th

Closing Date for Awards of Merit April 10th

Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV.

Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM, Tuesday May 8.

National Trust Costume Collection

When: Thursday 22 March 2007
Time: 10.30 – 12.00
Cost: \$20.00 (members) \$25.00 (non-members)
Where: Labassa, 2 Manor Grove, Caulfield
 BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL ~ 9326 9288

This visit provides an opportunity to see the beautifully stored and conserved National Trust costume collection now housed at Labassa and gain information on costume storage.

EXHIBITIONS

“In about 1856 . . .” – Melbourne and Victoria in the 1850s

Where: RHSV Rooms, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne (corner of William and A'Beckett Streets)
When: Monday 6 February to April 27
Time: 10.00 – 4.00 daily
Cost: Members – free; Non-members \$4.00

Remounted following the acclaim it received at the Society's 2006 conference *1856 Victoria on the Move*, this exhibition of material held by the RHSV includes such highlights as Walter Bentley Woodbury's photographic panorama of Melbourne (1855), Jane Cannan's beautiful and detailed drawings (c. 1860), and James Kearney's Melbourne and its suburbs (1855). Besides photographs, maps and art works of the period, the exhibition includes books, pamphlets, manuscripts and other material from the collection. The exhibition showcases the richness of the Society's collection.

FOR YOUR DIARY

LECTURE:
 THURSDAY 26 APRIL

Centenary of Buchan Caves – Lecture preceded by supper at 6.15pm

EXCURSION
 SATURDAY 28 APRIL

Collingwood Flat Walk – John Young will walk us through some historic streets of old Collingwood culminating at Collingwood College, now a combined primary and secondary school, where morning tea will be served. Historic notes will be provided.

Further details for both events will appear in the April Newsletter but mark the dates in your diary now.

Fisher Folk of Fishermans Bend

Where: RHSV Rooms, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne (corner of William and A'Beckett Streets)
When: March 12 to April
Time: 10.00 – 4.00 daily
Cost: Members – free; Non-members \$4.00

A comprehensive exhibition of rare photographs, maps and other documents unearthed by the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society about the early fishing families on Fishermans Bend.

The exhibition has its origins in a new book, *Fisher Folk of Fishermans Bend* by Allan Meiers. It retails at \$20 and is published by the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society.

Volunteers' Information Day February 21 @ 10am

This year's Volunteers' Information Day is set for Wednesday 21 February, starting at 10.00 am; finishing at 1.00 pm. The focus for the day will be on meeting Museum Accreditation standards.

All current volunteers are invited. This is a great opportunity to contribute to RHSV decision making, improve your skills, gain further knowledge about the RHSV and its collections and to catch up with your volunteer colleagues. The information provided is essential for all working in the Collections area.

Alternatively should you or a friend be considering donating some time and skill to the Society – please come along. The morning provides a wonderful overview of the opportunities to volunteer with us and you will have the chance to talk with our Executive Officer about a possible contribution.

Bring your lunch for a leisurely catch up after the morning. To assist with planning, if you are able to come, please 'phone Gerardine: 9326 9288 or email: office@historyvictoria.org.au (by 19 February).

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE VICTORIA

Local History Grants program 2006 – 07**Phase 2 – January 2007**

The Local History Grants Program provides grants of up to \$12,000 to community organizations to support the cost of any project that preserves, records or publishes local history

Applications close MONDAY 26 MARCH at 5.00pm

Application Forms are available by calling Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 or on www.dvc.vic.gov.au/grants

Victorian Museum Awards

Each year Museums Australia (Victoria) make awards for excellence in the museums industry.

The Victorian Museum Awards (formerly the MIRA awards) are open to any Victorian museum including historical societies and are designed to recognise exceptional performance by museum professionals and also by volunteers. Exhibitions and public programs, Collection care, and Management are the main categories of the awards. In each category awards are made to organisations with professional staff and also to volunteer run organisations. Historical societies are particularly invited to nominate for Victorian Museum Awards.

Nomination closing date Friday 6 April 2007
Nomination forms and full details for the Victorian Museum Awards 2007 are available in the shared files of History Victoria Support Group mc2 or from the Museums Australia (Victoria) website - www.mavic.asn.au.
Contact Museums Australia (Victoria)
Phone: (03) 8341 7344 or Regional freecall: 1800 680 082

Free Calendar Celebrates Regional Parks and Gardens

The Heritage Council of Victoria is offering free copies of its 2007 poster calendar. Every year the Heritage Council publishes a calendar focussing on a different aspect of Victoria's cultural heritage. 2007 sees the 150th anniversary of several of Victoria's regional parks and gardens. This important milestone inspired the theme of the 2007 calendar.

Free Heritage Council calendars can be collected from: The Department of Sustainability and Environment, Planning Information Centre, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Vic., 3002; Inquiries: (03) 9637 8610

Victorian Community History Awards make a return**Entries are now open and close on MARCH 30, 2007.**

Sponsored by Information Victoria with support from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the awards aim to develop awareness of community history throughout Victoria.

Director of Information Victoria, Joanne Duffy said the awards help to promote excellence within historical research, emphasizing the State's commitment to the appreciation and development of Victorian community history.

The various award categories also acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

There is a \$5,000 prize for the overall winner plus six \$1,000 category winners.

Categories are:

- Best Collaborative/ Community Work
- Best Print/ Publication
- Best Audio-Visual/ Multimedia
- Best Exhibit/ Display
- Best Walk/ Tour
- Best Community Research, Register and Records

For further information about the Victorian Community History Awards 2007 phone Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 (local call cost), TTY 9603 8806, visit the website www.information.vic.gov.au or email your request to infovic.marketing@dvc.vic.gov.au

Maritime History Book Prize

Writers and publishers of maritime history are invited to nominate works for a biennial maritime history book prize of \$2,000, sponsored jointly by the Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH) and the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM). Written nominations close on 28 February 2007.

For further details contact: Senior Curator Lindsey Shaw, ANMM, GPO Box 5131 Sydney NSW 2001, Telephone 02 9298 3701, Facsimile 02 9298 3780, Email: lshaw@anmm.gov.au.

A Vision for the Future

Driven by a desire to empower public engagement in all things historical, foster links between history communities state-wide and promote public debate concerning all things historical, the History Council of Victoria (HCV) is set to embark upon a range of exciting activities in 2007.

These include:

Historically Speaking, Urban, Suburban, Bush (HS USB)

Commencing at BWM Edge, Federation Square and the State Library of Victoria, the History Council of Victoria's flagship public history seminar series will also tour to museums, libraries and heritages spaces in suburban and bush locations state-wide. *Historically Speaking Urban Suburban Bush* brings explores different historical perspectives associated with Australia's war, sport, entertainment and criminal pasts.

Making History Workshops

To assist history-lovers of all ages and inclinations with the research and promotion of their historical interests, HCV brings together a diverse group of historians for a series of history-skill workshops in selected regional locations. In these workshops attendees will explore the practice and ethics of oral history, researching and reading primary documents, new approaches and ideas associated with local and family history.

Connecting History Communities (CHC)

Through the Connecting History Communities initiative, HCV will identify and link existing and emerging history communities and history-lovers through a new state-wide online communications network that profiles history people and projects, ideas and opinions.

History Roadshow 07 (HR07)

Visiting Year 11 and 12 students in selected regional locations throughout Victoria, HCV's History Roadshow 07 provides students in Australian History, Revolutions and Renaissance History with specifically-tailored presentations closely related to their curricula. A session entitled 'Making a Future out of the Past: Thinking about a career or tertiary study in History', is also available to lower secondary school classes. In 2007 professional historians Dr Richard Trembath and Dr Adrian Jones will be accompanied by outstanding postgraduate historians from Victoria's key tertiary institutions.

Applied History in the Community Project (AHC)

The Applied History in the Community subject aims to bridge young historians with professional and retired history-lovers through collaborative projects concerned with the research and writing of local stories of people and place.

This package of activities has been made possible due to the generous support of the State Government's Arts Ministry, the Departments of Education and Training, Victorian Communities and The R.E. Ross Trust Foundation.

To express your interest in your region or organisation participating or to find out more about dates and locations, please contact

Kiera Lindsey
Executive Director

P: 03 8664 7261

F: 03 9639 4143

hcvexecofficer@slv.vic.gov.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*.

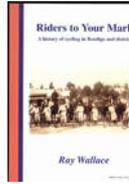
Fay Anderson, *An Historian's Life, Max Crawford and the Politics of Academic Freedom*, MUP E-Book, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2005, xi + 359 pp., \$49-95. ISBN 0 522 85153.3. Crawford came to the University of Melbourne as professor of history in 1937 and became a towering figure in the study of history in Australian universities and schools, especially in Victoria. He was also a notable public intellectual who spoke out in defence of intellectual autonomy and was widely regarded as radical. He also served as a diplomat in the Soviet Union during the Second World War. His apparent backflip in 1961 when he claimed that there was evidence of Communist conspiracy in the university soured his considerable reputation. This is a major biography dealing mainly with the public life of an important figure.

Christena Kovesi, *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores, A History of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Tahiti*, Playright Publishing, Sydney, 2006, 460 pp., \$70. ISBN 0 949853 98 4. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd established the Abbotsford Convent in 1863. The order's presence in Victoria has been considerable. This is a very substantial history of a notable institution that has sought to assist marginalised women and children from its inception. Over time, there has been much adaptation to meet changing community needs and expectations and these are clearly charted. A very attractive book that is copiously illustrated.

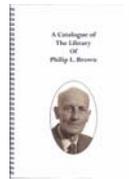
Ray Parkin, *H.M. Bark Endeavour, Her Place in History*, Miegumyah Press, Melbourne, 2006, xi + 467 pp., \$45. ISBN 0 522 85311 0. Beautifully presented, this is the paperback reissue of a considerable work on the *Endeavour*, first published in 1997 when Parkin was 87. Widely acclaimed for its insights to both Cook's ship and his voyage along the east coast of Australia in 1770, it is a tour de force written by someone with naval experience and impressive cartographic and naval architectural skills, backed by meticulous

research and an ability to enlighten his readership in words and illustrations. His notable earlier work dealt with his experiences as a POW of the Japanese during World War II.

Ray Wallace, *Riders to Your Mark, A history of cycling in Bendigo and district*, Bendigo and District Cycling Club, Bendigo, 2006, 229 pp., ISBN 0 646 45142 1. Cycling has played an important part in Australian sport as well as in transport and recreation but there is a very limited literature. This book traces the history of cycling and cyclists in the Bendigo district from the 1880s. It is well illustrated and arranges its copious material chronologically. A labour of love, it will be of particular interest to cycling history enthusiasts as well as to Bendigo local historians.



Peter F.B. Alsop (compiler), *A Catalogue Of The Library Of Philip L. Brown*, Geelong, 2006, 88 pp., + CD. Philip Brown was a Fellow of RHSV, life member of the Geelong Historical Society, and impeccable editor of historical documents, notably the *Clyde Company Papers*, but also Foster Fyans' *Memoirs*, Elphinstone's *Challium Sketchbook 1842-1853*, and the *Todd Journal, 1835*. Much of his other published work on 19th century Victorian history appeared in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, the *RHSV Journal*, and the Geelong Historical Society's *Investigator*. He also instigated the moves to create the Geelong Historical Records Centre. The fully annotated catalogue of his library and its dispersal is a masterly tribute to Brown as is the preface also written by Alsop. It is of considerable interest to the RHSV and a valuable acquisition for its library.



Peter Yule, *'the little brother', the life of George Alexander*, The George Alexander Foundation, Melbourne, 41 pp., ISBN 0 646 46404 3. Based on a short autobiography written by Alexander in the late 1990s, this elegant little book presents the life story of a British child immigrant who arrived in Australia under the



Big Brother Movement in 1926. It traces a life of successful self-improvement initially in farm jobs where he showed his inventiveness and then in garage work mostly in Koroit. His engineering and management skills were further developed in Geelong where he also taught at the Gordon and in a wartime ordinance factory at Footscray when he took courses at Melbourne Tech. He successfully invented and promoted brass fittings for plastic hoses and started his Neta factory in Hawthorn that was sold in 1972, the year he established his philanthropic foundation that came to focus on the environment and helping young talent. As a 'retired' person on the Gold Coast he became involved in real estate development. George Alexander's biographer has done this private man proud!

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP SEMINAR DAY:

On Saturday 3 March 2007 from 9.30am till 4.00pm, the Wodonga Historical Society will host a HVSG Seminar Day at Bandiana Army Museum. The theme for the day will be Taking Local History to your Community Through Storytelling, and Implementing a Disaster Plan. The first part of the day will be about a travelling exhibition called "But That's Another Story" presented by Karlie Hawking, Community Collections Officer, Murray Arts who will show excerpts from short digital films to illustrate the intriguing insights and delightful stories behind some of the artefacts from the participating local historical societies' collections and how this travelling exhibition developed. A panel of speakers from those societies will then explain their involvement in the project. After lunch, discussion will be led by a speaker from Yackandandah Historical Society, whose Disaster Plan played a major part in the saving of their archival collection during the recent disastrous fire in the main street of Yackandandah. All members of all historical societies are most welcome to attend. For further information contact the RHSV on 9326 9288.

Maxus Collections

The software for museums, galleries and historical societies

Powerful and easy to use

Find any item in your collection in seconds.
Display images of colour or black & white photographs, paintings or original documents.
Data entry sheets match standard cataloguing worksheets.

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- Records can be sorted, displayed and printed in a range of reports

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

COMMEMORATIVE PATHWAY IN BAROMI PARK AT MIRBOO NORTH

For many years the Mirboo & District Historical Society has been considering ways to give recognition to the pioneers and early settlers of Mirboo North and the surrounding farming districts. With the assistance of a small grant from the Gardiner Foundation "Working in Dairying Communities Program", the Society is now in a position to proceed with plans for a "Commemorative Pathway" in Baromi Park.

To complete the pathway, it is hoped to make contact with descendants of pioneers and early settlers, former residents and business owners, friends and family who have a connection to Mirboo North. Community participation is required, to purchase either a single or double engraved paver. The cost of a single pave is \$30 with room for a maximum of 32 spaces, a double paver at \$60 has the maximum of 64 spaces representing on letter, one number, a space or a punctuation mark.

The Society has application forms available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Secretary, Mirboo & District Historical Society Inc, P. O. Box 1, Mirboo North. Closing date for paver forms to be returned is 28th February 2007.

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 next issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

AVOCA: The annual Garage Sale, followed by a brief meeting and afternoon tea, will be held on Saturday 17 February 2007 at the Avoca Court House, 85 High Street. Each Sunday from 10.30am to 4.00pm the Court House is open for research and viewing. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adh/ADHSMain.htm>.

BALLAN: The AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 28 February in the Courthouse, Steiglitz Street, Ballan with guest speaker Adam Gray, Geographical Information Systems Officer from Moorabool Shire Council. A working committee is investigating the possibility of building for proper storage and long term archival facilities at the Courthouse site. Contact Secretary Catherine on 5368 1147.

BEAUFORT: On Sunday 18 March from 10.00-4.00 Beaufort Historical Society will conduct a seminar day at the Pyrenees Shire Hall, Lawrence Street, Beaufort, including displays by eight local historical societies in the Western Plains Heritage Network. Historians will speak on Welsh miners of the nineteenth century; Nathan Spielvogel and Ballarat's history; and PROV mining records at the Ballarat Archives Centre. All welcome. For more details contact Secretary Pam on 5349 3055

BELLARINE: On Sundays during February from 1.30-4.30pm there will be a display of Drysdale Football Club memorabilia at the old Court House at Drysdale, where at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 February a Show and Tell meeting will be held. In March a speaker about life at International Harvester and Hawkes Brothers, former Geelong companies, will address the meeting. Inquiries to 5251 2693.

BENDIGO AREA AIGS: A Local and Family History Expo will be held at the Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre on Sunday 25 March, from 10am-4pm when over 60 stall holders will be available to give individual assistance to people researching Bendigo pioneers and all aspects of family history.

Also in attendance will be many goldfields local history societies displaying their collections, indexes and books. Phone: 5443 0706 or email bendigogen@hotmail.com.

BOX HILL: At 8pm on Thursday 15 February, Graham Hasler from "Family Memories" will present "Let's Go to the Flicks", complete with intermission. For a gold coin donation you can experience once again the Saturday matinee at the pictures. On Thursday 15 March Prof. Graeme Davison, noted historian and author of 'The Rise and Fall of Marvellous Melbourne', will speak on 'The Past and Future of the Australian Suburb', when you can ponder why Australians became so committed to the suburban way of life, and why they are now turning against it. Meetings are held at Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North. Enquiries to 9285 4808 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/index.html>.

BRIGHTON: The next Open Saturday will be on 3 March from 1-4pm in the Old Brighton Town Hall, cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets. The Society will have the Board of Works maps copied and sectionalised, available on disc for printing out sections when required. Phone 9553 8650 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~vbhs>.

CASTLEMAINE: At 7.30pm on Monday 5 March Joan Hunt will speak on researching your local and family history through coroners' and fire inquests in the Public Record Office Victoria, at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine. Recent acquisitions have included Mary Thompson's research files on the Old Castlemaine Gaol, and a microfiche of deaths and funeral notices from the Bendigo Advertiser. See www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com.

COBURG: John Maidment, chairman of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia, will speak on Wednesday 21 February, the topic being "Historic Organs of Melbourne", and on Wednesday 21 March Viv Paine will speak about "Creating Pentridge Heritage Museum", at 8.00pm in the Coburg Library Meeting Room. See <http://members.optushome.com.au/leburch>.

DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE: The annual Garden Party will be held at Schramm's Cottage, starting at 7pm on Saturday 17 February, at \$23 per head - bookings essential. Guest speaker Mr Joseph Borg will give a talk on the history of the Maltese people in Australia, at 8pm on Wednesday 7 March at Schramm's Cottage in Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria St, Doncaster. See www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/.

East Loddon Historical Society: Thrilled to have historian, Ian Itter launch *A Short History of the Serpentine Creek Station*, Bears Lagoon, Vic. Copies of the book can be ordered from the East Loddon Historical Society, c/o Mary Davidson, 372 Dingee-Serpentine Rd., Pompapiel, Vic 3571. ph. 03 54378330

GISBORNE: Four new volunteers have recently joined the team at the Research Centre at the Court House. The beautifully restored, 1858 Gisborne Court House, home of Gisborne and Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society is open to the public each Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm, when volunteers are in attendance to assist with family and local history research enquiries. See www.gibsonremountmacedon.org.au.

GULF STATION: A Scottish Descendants' and Pioneers' Day is to be held from 10am-4pm on Saturday 24 March at Gulf Station, 1029 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen, at a cost of \$8 adults, \$6 concession, \$5 children, \$23 family. Features will include the Scottish Ancestry Group of GSV, Yarra

Glen Historical Society, demonstrations of pioneer farming and domestic skills, Police Pipe Band and bush and folk music, and the opportunity to see over Gulf Station, managed by the National Trust. Phone 9730 1286 or see www.natrust.com.au/trust_properties/melbourne_and_surrounds/gulf_station.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: A recent successful book launch by the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire, Cr Brian Stahl took place at the historic Hastings hall in the presence of 100 people. The book is *Hastings People & Places Vol. II* and is available for sale for \$30 (phone 03 9781 1141). The popular Morning Coffees are continuing with the next one to be on Wednesday 28 February at 10.15 am at the Hastings Museum. Cost \$5. The Hastings Museum had an exhibition of photos of Hastings, Tyabb, Somerville, Bittern and French Island on Australia Day. New aerial photographs have been mounted and are on display in the Museum. The Society has a special display for the Western Port Festival as well as an entry in the Hastings Day Street Parade on 24th February. The Hastings Yacht Club is 50 years old in March and the Society will hold an exhibition there to celebrate this anniversary.

HAWTHORN: On Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm Ken James will speak on Chinese miners and market gardeners, in the Meeting Room at Hawthorn Library. Sunday 25 March is the date of an historic walk with Gwen McWilliam. Contact Secretary Aileen on 9278 4666.

HEALESVILLE: A slide program will be presented by John Alsemgeest at 2pm on Sunday 25 February at the Society's rooms in the Healesville Memorial Hall, Maroondah Highway. The Society has a growing collection of files, books, old newspapers, pioneers' indexes and so on for reference and research. Phone Secretary Alma on 5962 3601 or see www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au.

HEIDELBERG: David Potts will speak on the "Myth of the Great Depression" at 8pm on Tuesday 13 February at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe. A luncheon with guest speaker John Poynter is arranged for the Society's 40th anniversary to be held at The Centre, Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe on Sunday 29 April 2007 starting at 12 noon, at a cost of \$40 per person with a set menu, celebration cake and non alcoholic drinks. Mail with details to PO Box 39, Heidelberg, 3084.

KEW: Hear stories of crimes of the past, walk the path of prisoners from cells and more as Kew Historical Society presents "Mystery Walks" at the Kew Court House on Sundays at 2pm and 4pm from 11 February to end of March. (Assemble at the QPO Bar & Bistro) Cost \$10.00 per person.

KILMORE: Euan McGillvray from Museums Australia will speak about 'Collections' at 8pm on Tuesday 6 February at the Kilmore Courthouse, 4 Powlett Street. On Tuesday 6 March Tim Austin will speak about his career in the police force. Contact Secretary Liz on 5782 1213 or see www.kilmorehistory.info.

LEARMONTH: A Mystery Bus Trip will take place on Saturday 24 February to sites in the Ballarat district, departing from the Society's rooms in the old Shire Hall at Learmonth at 9am and returning at 4pm. BYO lunch. Contact Ilma on 5343 2366 or Claudette on 5343 2302 for information and bookings.

LEONGATHA: On Saturday 24 February a field trip to Leongatha's 20 most significant historic buildings will be held, and on Tuesday 20 March

a talk on the Fire Brigade History will accompany the opening of an exhibition on the Fire Brigade, at the Mechanics Institute rooms, 10 McCartin Street. Contact Lyn on 5668 6304.

MALMSBURY: An application to Heritage Victoria has been successful, resulting in a \$3000 grant to have an assessment made of the condition of the Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute building, with a costings survey for the improvement works needed to bring the building up to standard. A further grant of \$1000 has been provided by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to help with ongoing records preservation and access. On Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm a meeting will be held at the 'Merchants of Malmsbury' Café, cnr Mollison & Barker Streets. Contact Susan on 5423 9383 or email j_swalter@bigpond.com.

MARYBOROUGH-MIDLANDS: An excursion to "Illawarra", Majorca will be held prior to the general meeting on Wednesday 21 February. Meet at the cottage at 6.30pm for the car convoy. The Society is fund-raising for an extension to its Resource Centre and has been approved as a Designated Tax Recipient by the Taxation Department. Contact Secretary Betty on 5461 2800 or see [www/vicnet/met/ai/~mrbhs](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mrbhs).

MORNINGTON: At 10.30am on Tuesday 13 February, Col Fisher will speak on the 101 page booklet on the history of the Mornington Fire Brigade he has published to coincide with the brigade's 90th anniversary. Tom Hast will speak about "his" Mornington at 10.30am on Tuesday 13 March. Meetings are held at the Old Post Office Museum, Cnr Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington. See www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc.

NAVY HISTORY: At 7.30pm on Monday 26 February Captain David Garnock, RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus will speak about his career in the RAN, at the Melbourne Naval Centre, 146W Toorak Road, South Yarra. Contact Secretary Joy on 9583 5761 or email franxx@optusnet.com.au

NEPEAN: Mornington Shire Council has appointed Sally Robins as local History Officer to assist the many Historical Societies in the Shire to properly conserve, catalogue and display their collections, through an Arts Victoria grant. Sally will initially review collections and establish a data base covering all the Societies on the Mornington Peninsula. See www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au.

OAKLEIGH: "Taking its Place: the History of Oakleigh" by Helen Gobbi can be purchased for \$35 plus p&p from the Society at PO Box 82, Oakleigh, 3166. Contact oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au for a postage quote.

POLICE: The Victoria Police Historical Society has published on CD an index to about 44,000 names taken from the Warrants Books and Summons Books held by the Police Museum, available at \$35 plus \$3 postage from the Secretary, PO Box 92, Forest Hill, 3131. The entries point to more information, available for a small fee at the Police Museum, on the concourse level of 637 Flinders Street, which is the World Trade Centre Building.

RICHMOND: On Sunday 11 February at 2.15 in the Society's rooms in Richmond Library, 415 Church Street, there will be a screening of the Tombola production of "Mr B says NO!", a fantastic Richmond Community Production made during the 1980s and featuring casts of hundreds. The following month David Potts and Janet McCalman will present and discuss their research into the life and times during the Depression, at 2.30 on Sunday 18 March. Contact Secretary David on 9427 1800 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rbhs/>.

SCARSDALE: "Come Back to Scarsdale: Scarsdale Old Boys Reunion Centenary History 1906-2006" by Joan E. Hunt has been published to coincide with the 100th reunion. Comprehensively indexed, with a foreword by Prof. Weston Bate, and with more than 62 photographs, this book begins with an overview history of the district, the development of the school, and the story of the reunions through the years. It is available from the Scarsdale Old Boys & Old Girls Inc., PO, Scarsdale, 3351 for \$20 plus \$3 p&p. Contact Gwenda at andrew@hollywood7.com or telephone 5344 7399.

SNAKE VALLEY: On Tuesday 13 February at 7.00pm a tour of the Carngham Uniting Church will be held prior to the meeting at the Society's rooms in Smythesdale Road, Snake Valley. The Society's 'District Diggings' newsletter is an excellent publication with articles about local inquests, lists of acquisitions, well researched articles, and many high quality photographs both historical and current. Full contact details and the Society's mission statement, lists of books for sale, and membership information all contribute to one of the best productions in the State. Contact Helen on 5344 9440 or helen1940@hotmail.net.au.

ST KILDA: Historian Meyer Eidelson will speak at 2.30pm on Sunday 18 February on unsolved crimes and mysteries from the City of Melbourne 1836-1986, with many tantalising stories, in the Community Room at the St Kilda Library located in Carlisle St, opposite the Town Hall. On Sunday 11 March Daniel Volpe, author of 'From Tuscany to Victoria' will speak about Carlo Catani, the designer of St Kilda's foreshore. Contact Meyer on 9690 9584 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk.

WARRACKNABEAL: Preparations are well under way for the 40th Annual Easter Rally in 2007. Fords and Fordsons tractors and engines will be featured. The Warracknabeal cemetery records are well on the way to being catalogued, thanks to Mr Jack McKenzie. The Society has been donated a valuable copy of 'Warracknabeal Post', 1 April 1910.

WHITEHORSE: At 1.30pm on Saturday 10 February, Margaret Rackham will speak on "The History of the Nunawading Community Gardens" in the Local History Room of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Contact Secretary Peter on 9877 0141 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/.

WOADY YALOAK: A field trip to the Jubilee Mine site at Italian Gully will be held on Sunday 18 February; meet at Smythesdale Court House at 1.30pm to proceed to site. The AGM will be held at 7.30 on Wednesday 21 March at the Court House, Brooke Street, Smythesdale when Amanda Taylor will speaker about her research into WWI soldiers of Woody Yaloak district and her book "Dinkum Oil". Phone 5342 8754 on Wednesdays or see <http://wyhs.ballarat.vic.au>.

YACKANDANDAH FIRE

Members of the RHSV were distressed to hear of the destruction by fire of buildings in the main street of Yackandandah, last December. The entire commercial area of the town is classified by the National Trust. The Rainbow Crustal gift shop was levelled by the fire and the neighbouring Yackandandah Museum, housed in an 1860 bank building, had most of its contents destroyed. Our thoughts, and those of our affiliated historical societies, go to the Yackandandah and District Historical Society.

History

NEWS



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