

## GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

### LOCAL HISTORY GRANTS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The latest round of the Local History Grants Program was recently announced by the Minister for the Arts Lynne Kosky. Grants of up to \$12,000 are available for individual projects by not-for-profit community groups across the state.

Applications open on Monday 22 October and close on Monday 7 January.

For details, visit <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/lhgp> or phone the grants administration officer at Public Record Office Victoria on (03) 9348 5691.

### Partner with a Neighbourhood House

The 2007 *Images of Age* Grants have been announced. These grants are to encourage the involvement and recognition of senior Victorians in art and cultural activity

This year grants of up to \$20,000 are being offered to Neighbourhood Houses for partnership projects that bring older people, artists and the community together to promote positive attitudes to ageing.

If your organization has an idea for a project, please contact your local Neighbourhood House to discuss the possibility of submitting an application. All Neighbourhood Houses have been sent Grant Guidelines and an Expression of Interest form. Applications close on the 7 December 2007

### Music, migration and multiculturalism – VHJ Vol 78 (2)

With this edition of *History News* is a special issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal* Music, migration and multiculturalism

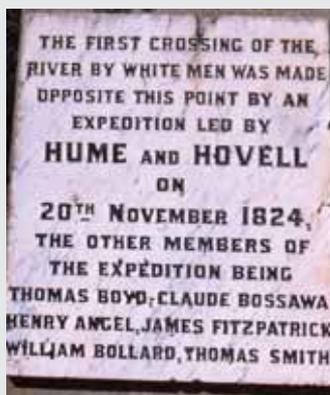
Production of this edition of the journal has been made possible with the support of the Victorian Folk Life Fund and the Monash University School of Music

Many thanks to the Publications committee

As usual copies are available for purchase through the RHSV Office.

## Splendid donation to RHSV

The Society recently received a marvelous donation of a collection of photographs of all the memorial plaques and markers in Victoria. Included are photographs of all the markers on the track of the explorers Hume and Hovell; shown here is the marker at Bethanga near Albury. We plan to link the photos to our Memorials Database and make it accessible through the RHSV website.



**A Festive  
Gift Idea .?**

Why not treat  
your friend to a  
Membership of the  
RHSV!!!

Wishing everybody  
a happy, peaceful  
holiday season....

Please enjoy this edition of *History News* and *Victorian Historical Journal*. Inside *History News* you will find a flier for our fabulous wine drive and new books for sale from the shop – some with special membership discounts – what better way to enjoy the summer break than with a good book and a lovely glass of wine?

### History Begins at Home Exhibition

This outstanding exhibition, revealing the strengths and treasures within our collection continues at the RHSV until December 7.



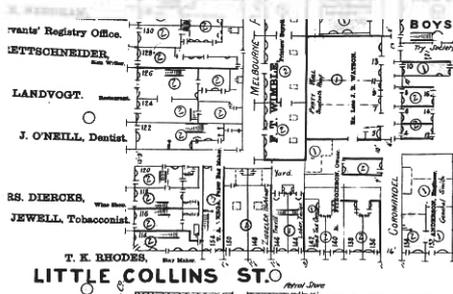
### Christmas/New Year Holiday closure

The RHSV office will close on **Wednesday 19 December 2007** and reopen on **Monday 14 January 2008**.

VALE

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Howard Whittaker OAM from the Williamstown Historical Society and former Councillor and Fellow of the RHSV; and Jim Whitehead President of the Friends of the SS Great Britain.

# Mahlstedt's Block Plans



The RHSV has recently been presented with three volumes of plans of Melbourne that show each building, its construction, its fire protections and whether it is isolated from its neighbors by fireproof walls.

These plans were used by insurance companies to calculate their exposure to a possible conflagration. As a youth in an insurance company one of my first jobs was to add up the sums insured in each building in the city of Melbourne and aggregate those sums on a 'block basis'. The insurance industry contracted with a building surveyor Mr. Mahlstedt to survey each building and make enough plans for each insurance company to have a complete set. When I was a lad the work was carried on by the second generation of Mahlstedts.

The history behind these 'Block Plans', as they were known, was the great fire of Melbourne. On the evening of 21 November 1897 a fire broke out in one of the buildings in Flinders Lane. "The Lane" was then the centre of the extensive clothing trade and the great soft goods warehouses of Melbourne. The fire brigade could not control the outbreak which spread from one building to another, destroying nearly all the buildings in the five-acre block surrounded by Swanston, Flinders, Elizabeth Streets and Flinders Lane. The blaze cost insurance companies the then massive sum of £600,000.

Thus Mahlstedt's Block Plans.

**Contributed by Rod Benjamin  
Treasurer RHSV**

# There are new insurance arrangements available

The RHSV has made arrangements through its insurance brokers, Insurance Advisernet Australia Pty.Ltd., to offer fire and burglary insurance on the buildings, office equipment, books and the collections of its member societies.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETIES NOT OWNING THEIR PREMISES

- Office equipment is insured on replacement values and collections and books on their market value. In addition to fire insurance the policy extends to cover losses caused by storm, water damage, malicious damage, explosion and lightning.
- Losses from burglary, which means loss or damage caused by visible forcible and violent entry on to the premises, are covered to a limit of \$2,500.
- There is cover for accidental damage to the insured items up to \$4,000.
- The policy is subject to an Excess of \$250 for each and every claim.
- The premium is calculated at \$3.85 per thousand dollars of the total sum insured.

It is proposed that all policies will expire on a common date of 1 April. This is the date that the Public Liability and Accident insurances fall due. If you wish to arrange insurance on your assets before that date we can email you a form to complete and arrange cover to 1 April 2008.

The form will ask for the replacement value of office equipment and the general contents of the premises, and a separate value on the books and collections owned by the society.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OWNING THEIR PREMISES

In addition to the above, these societies will need to give the value of the building.

### PLEASE NOTE:

If your society owns its own building you need to take out a separate policy to indemnify the society against claims that may be made arising from defects in the building, such as floor boards that collapse or stairs that are unsafe.

This is called Property Owner's Liability Insurance and the RHSV group Public Liability insurance does not include this insurance.

This issue is quite separate from the new contents insurance that is being offered.

If this applies to your society please contact Ged at the RHSV.

ph 9326 9288 or

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

## DONATION OF GLASS SLIDES

A recent donation of glass slides from Mr. Bruce Henry cover early days in Portland.

We are currently working with the Koorie Heritage Trust trying to identify the location and identities of Aboriginal groups in some of these.

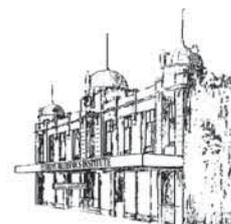


## Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian and Local History Library

140 High Street, Prahran (Melway 2L H12)  
Ph: 9510 3393. Email: [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

Open 9.30-4.30 Mon to Fri, 9.30-1.00 Sat. All welcome.

Catalogue: [www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au)  
Inter-library loans available.



## LECTURES

## Robinson Crusoe at Trafalgar and Melbourne: The fun and absurdity of 19th century pantomime

**Speaker:** Dr. Mimi Colligan  
**When:** Tuesday 13 November  
**Time:** 5.15 coffee/tea  
**Lecture:** 5.45  
**Cost:** Members free  
 \$5.50 non members

Mimi Colligan writes on 19th century popular culture and biography. Part of her Ph.D thesis was published by MUP as Canvas Documentaries in 2002. Mimi is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, an Honorary Research Associate with the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University and a member of the Victorian Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Last year she curated an exhibition on Melbourne's Cremorne Gardens and its entertainments for a property developer.

On Tuesday Mimi will deliver a talk she gave recently at a panorama conference at the University of Plymouth UK. It examines the absurdist connections between a pantomime presented at the Melbourne Opera House in 1879 on the subject of Robinson Crusoe and the Battle of Trafalgar! Her talk and slide presentation will also discuss the history of popular theatre in 19th century Melbourne: pantomime and its 'sister' burlesque will be looked at together with writers for the theatre such as Marcus Clarke and Garnet Walch and W.S. Gilbert.

She might even sing a Marcus Clarke song from one of the shows!!!

## The History of Thoroughbred Racing in our Time

**Speaker:** Andrew Lemon  
**Where:** RHSV  
**When:** Tuesday 12 February 2008  
**Time:** 5.15 coffee/tea  
**Lecture:** 5.45  
**Cost:** Members free  
 \$5.50 non members

Andrew Lemon has spoken to the RHSV previously about the history of Australian horse racing but the horse world keeps changing, and he has some new perspectives as he puts the finishing touches to his forthcoming book *The History of Australian Thoroughbred Racing In Our Time*. Publication by Hardie Grant is scheduled for the spring of 2008. The book covers the social and political history of racing throughout Australia in the period 1939 to 2007, from war to equine influenza, totes and TABCorps, champion horses, jockeys and trainers, scandals and glories, outback scrubbers to Bernborough, Tulloch and Makybe Diva and a cast of thousands! His talk will concentrate on the turbulent recent history of the sport, or industry, of horse racing in an attempt to demystify the jargon of privatisation, rationalisation and internationalisation.

It will stand as volume 3 of a trilogy. Volumes 1 (*The Beginnings*) and 2 (*The Golden Age 1861 to 1939*), originally published in 1987 and 1990 respectively, will be re-released in revised editions. The project is being co-ordinated and sponsored by the Victoria Racing Club in conjunction with a number of other Australian racing organizations. An associated exhibition is planned for Champions (the Australian Racing Museum) later in 2008.

Dr Lemon is also noted as the author of award-winning local and institutional histories, most recently his history of Wesley College which was short-listed in the 2005 NSW Premier's History Awards. He is a Fellow of the RHSV and edited the *Victorian Historical Journal* throughout the 1990s.

## Crescendo, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 years, by RHSV member

**Speaker:** Stella Barber  
**When:** Tuesday 11 March  
**Time:** 5.15 tea/coffee  
 Lecture 5.45  
**Cost:** Members Free  
 \$5.50 Non - Members

For 100 years, people with a passion for music and excellence have shaped the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) to become the great orchestra that it is today. Yet it has not been an easy journey. The MSO has survived wars, depression, financial near-ruin, restructures and re-launches, name changes and a cavalcade of the world's greatest conductors to become Australia's oldest and we believe, greatest symphonic ensemble.

Alberto Zelman, a musical genius and child prodigy, who could play every instrument in the orchestra, founded the MSO in 1906. Stella will talk about this Melbourne born man's life and work and about those who followed him. She will also talk about Dame Nellie Melba and her role as President of the orchestra and will reveal why the MSO has received the range of accolades it has for innovation and achievement over the last 100 years.

## EXCURSION

## Lunch with an Artist in Wood

Thursday 21 February 2008

A luncheon at Canterbury with a talk and guided tour by Marjorie Morgan, historian and biographer of JK Blogg, chemist, poet and notable sculptor in wood. Details of meeting place will be in February newsletter.

**Time:** 12.30 pm  
**Cost:** \$20 members \$25 non members

# 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.

### Features

- Clear screen layouts and menu
- Data entry forms tailored for objects, images, books and papers
- Records can be sorted, displayed and printed in a range of reports

Contact Maxus for free demonstration software or further information.

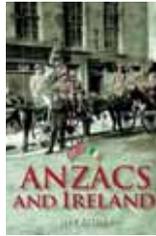


PO Box 727 South Melbourne  
 Victoria 3205 Australia  
 maxus@maxus.net.au  
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 (03) 9646 1988

## Books Received

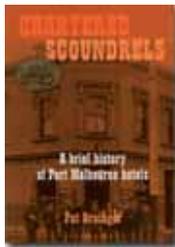
We note below relevant items recently received by the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in *History News* and through deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Jeff Kildea, *Anzacs and Ireland*, University of New South Wales Press, Sydney, 2007, pp. 295, \$39-95. ISBN 978 0 86840 877 4.



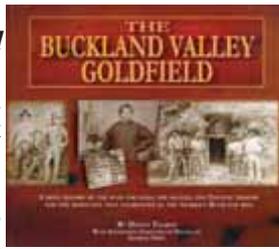
In the steady stream of recent books about World War I, most do not venture far from those elements of the mainstream – military battles on Gallipoli and the Western Front, the formulation of the Anzac tradition, the evaluation of the generals, the impact on domestic politics. Kildea's book absolutely breaks new ground by examining Australian/Irish connections: at Gallipoli and other theatres of war; during the Easter Rising of 1916; within the personnel of the Australian forces; and with Australian soldiers on leave in Ireland. This is a very well-researched and interesting book that adds considerably not only to the breadth of knowledge about Australian involvement in the war but also to the continuing theme of Irish/Australian connection.

Pat Grainger, *Chartered Scoundrels, A Brief History of Port Melbourne Hotels*, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, 2007, pp. 90. ISBN 9780975752845.



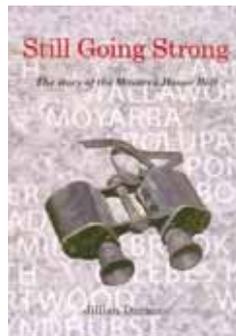
This little book is an excellent model for focused local histories. It begins by placing Port's hotels in their historical and social context; it then details each hotel in alphabetical order, noting changes in name; it provides many contemporary and recent illustrations; it has an excellent location map and a thorough guide to its sources. Its size and robust paper make it a really accessible guide for the Port Melbourne walker. Utterly commended, its formula could well be applied to many local publications that gather illustrations and provide guides to aspects of the built environment.

Diann Talbot, *The Buckland Valley Riot*, Bright Historical Society, PO Box 265, Bright, 3741, pp. 46. Produced to coincide with the commemoration



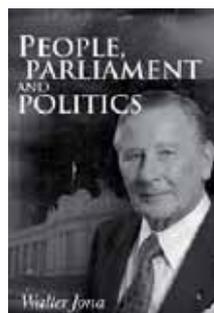
of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the riot with the assistance of PROV, this is a very informative booklet about events that have been recognized but not really explored in depth until recently. It has not been an easy history to write – a 'conspiracy of silence' surrounds many of the events; many official records have disappeared; contemporary newspaper reports conflict and confuse. But it is an important part of Victoria's history that needs continuing examination partly for what it can reveal about colonial racial and cultural views. Visitors to the once thriving goldfield sites of the Buckland valley will value this interpretative guide.

Jillian Durance, *Still Going Strong, The Story of the Moyarra Honor Roll*, 2006, pp. 181. ISBN 0 646 45877 9.



A remarkable award-winning book based on extensive research on the 28 names from the 'Great European War' Roll of Honor that hangs in the old school building at Moyarra in South Gippsland. It recaptures the lives and deaths of many of the 28 in rich detail; it outlines the impact of the war on a small farming district; and it deals with ways in which families and communities remembered the war. What could easily be an inward-looking parochial story is enriched by extensive research and illustration of the war sites and battles of the 28 Moyarra men. Those whose local curiosity has been aroused by artefacts like honour rolls will find much to guide them to further research and to production of an interesting and compelling community history.

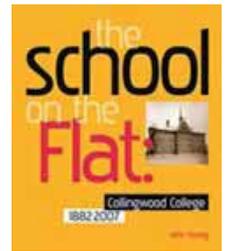
Walter Jona, *People, Parliament and Politics*, Tertiary Press, Melbourne, 2006, pp. xii + 228. ISBN 0 86458 799 6.



Walter Jona's autobiography has several strengths: it is well written; it deals with some notable issues in which Jona was the prime mover – the compulsory introduction of seat belts in Victoria in 1971 and the reform of

Victoria's prisons in the 1980s; it includes a passionate personal reflection on the history of the Hawthorn football club; and it includes precise and reasoned observations of notable Liberals of the period, both state and federal contained within his strong and continuing adherence to Menzies Liberalism and federalism. State politicians have rarely written at length about life and politics and this is a welcome contribution.

John Young, *The School on the Flat, Collingwood College, 1882-2007*, Collingwood College, 2007, pp. vii + 151, \$25 (\$30 posted) available from the College, Private Bag 63, Abbotsford, 3067. ISBN 978 0 9581660 1 0.



This visually rich account traces the struggles and successes of public education on the Vere Street site from 1882 to the present Collingwood College – originally only a state primary school, later a domestic arts school becoming a girls' high school, and eventually the Collingwood Education Centre/Collingwood College with Prep to Year 12 and a Steiner stream. Its history reflects both the changing social and cultural environment of its location as well as continuous debate about the nature and delivery of schooling in the public sphere. Schools like Collingwood are at the centre of these debates and that has caused difficulties and divisions in much of the period since the 1970s.

Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society, *Belgrave South Primary School, "The Hub of the Town" Celebrating 100 Years 1907-2007*, Belgrave South Primary School, Colby Drive, Belgrave South, 3160, pp. 88. Intended to be a resource for year 5 and 6 children, this is really much more. The chapters trace the battles to establish a school in the area and to decide on a site for a school building (not opened until 1924 after the school started in a private house in 1907); its importance in its community at times before 1950 when numbers were small, usually less than 50; expansion involving new prefabricated buildings and more teachers from the 1950s; and substantial growth in the past 30 years. It is very well illustrated and benefits from recent collected memories and past observations from archival research.

Allan C Jones, *Beumaris Newsletter Index January- June 1953 Volume 7*, 2007, pp. 25. This is an index of the journal of the Beumaris and Citizens Association at a time before the massive suburbanisation of this area from the 1960s. It is a model of index presentation and a valuable reference tool for the papers themselves that are held by the State Library with microfilm in local and other sites.

## GUIDE TO THE TEACHING OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY IN YEARS 9 AND 10

# Historian says PM's history plan stodgy, unexciting

On Thursday 11 October Prime Minister John Howard launched the *Guide to the Teaching of Australian History in years 9 and 10*.

John Hirst who was a member of the original History Summit panel was interviewed that evening on the ABC PM program and below is an edited transcript of the interview between John Hirst and Mark Colvin.

*MARK COLVIN: Dr Hirst, first of all, you might be able to shed some light on the timing of all this. You would have heard Anna Bligh saying that this is all timed for the beginning of the election campaign. As you understand it, how has this process gone on since the History Summit last August, 2006?*

JOHN HIRST: Well the History Summit only met for one day, but even in that one day it did sketch out a plan of approach, which was to have a series of open-ended questions about Australian society which students would pursue through time, and they'd have to do a number of them. And alongside them there were to be a series of dates, landmark dates, not very many.

*MC: Sure. I want to get onto the content in a minute. But just as I say, I just want to get the sequence of the timing out of the way, because as I say it is 14 months since the History Summit. Do you think this was produced as a rabbit out of the hat just before the campaign?*

JH: Well I don't know that. I'm not an expert on political tactics.

But what I can say is that it has been going on some time. There was the History Summit, then Professor Taylor produced a more elaborate curriculum, which broadly kept to the spirit of what the summit had recommended.

As I understand it, Julie Bishop, the Minister, and her department accepted it. Then it went to the Prime Minister, where a new committee was established, not so long ago, and it's their recommendations that the Prime Minister has now produced.

We've now come a very long way from the style of curriculum that the summit recommended.

*MC: Now, and I think you were educated in history somewhere back in the last century.*

JH: (laughs)

*MC: And on a system that was based on learning a lot of dates and finding out what great men, and not many women, did. My impression is that children recently have been educated more or less along a sort of thematic basis. Is this new system somewhere between the two?*

JH: Well I think it's gone back. It's now crammed in so much detail. I'm for coherence, but you don't necessarily get coherence by asking students to learn more and more. As an example of the change that's happened: we recommended 20 dates that students should know. Now it's gone up to 70.

Now I think if it gets to that number, we're back to rote learning, without much comprehension.

*MC: Because you've got to cram that into 150 hours, you're going to get ... that's 70 major subjects, essentially, and each of them is going to get 25, 30 minutes.*

JH: Yes. And you've got many other things to do as well as the landmark dates, which were meant to be a sort of structure for the inquiry, but now with so many, you would have to spend a lot of time just getting some basic information about those, and it would have to be so basic and quick, that I don't think it would be assimilated into wider study.

And then, as I say, you're back to just learning by rote without any deep understanding.

*MC: So you're painting a picture of a bird that was reasonably streamlined to start off with, but has now become large and unwieldy. What got in the way? The bureaucracy?*

JH: Well I'm not sure. One of the puzzles is that Professor Geoffrey Blainey was one of the four people who worked on this latest plan, and for someone who's so lively it is a puzzle why they've produced such a stodgy, unexciting document.

I'd much rather that students at age 15 read one of Geoffrey Blainey's books, rather than be dragged through a whole lot of what may come to appear as a list of disparate, unrelated events. Just because we think that's important, we'll throw it in.

Whereas with the questioning method, you have to deal with particular events and particular developments, but you're using the information you get from those to answer bigger questions.

One of our big questions was: what did settlers hope for this new society, and how far were their hopes realised?

Which is an interesting, provocative question. To answer it you would deal with land policy, opportunities for education, the growth of trade unions. Those topics survive but the big question which would make more sense of them has disappeared.

*MC: Stodgy and unexciting, his verdict.*

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Copies of the *Guide to the Teaching of Australian History in years 9 and 10* can be downloaded from [www.dest.gov.au/Guidetoteachinghistory](http://www.dest.gov.au/Guidetoteachinghistory).

Whilst the guide has not been well received by history teachers the Museums Association of Australia has welcomed the importance of using museum collections and the built environment in developing history skills.

Whatever the outcome of the recently called federal election, there is support on both sides of government for a common Australian History course.

# Victorian Women's Suffrage and Political Citizenship conference

**The School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne, together with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the League of Women Voters of Victoria, has planned a conference to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria in 2008.**

To be held on 5 and 6 December this year (2007), it will feature 2 panels and 15 papers, including keynote addresses by 2 of the leading historians of women in Australia, Professors Patricia Grimshaw (University of Melbourne) and Marilyn Lake (La Trobe University), and a public lecture by the Hon. Judy Maddigan MLA, the first woman to be appointed Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The conference program includes papers on a variety of aspects of Victorian women's political citizenship up to the present, as well as on the fight for the vote.

The conference will be held in the Fifth Floor Common Room of the John Medley Building at the University of Melbourne, commencing in the afternoon of 5 December. The public lecture, to be presented on the evening of 5 December, will be held in Theatre C Old Arts.

Conference contributors will be invited to submit their papers for possible inclusion in a special issue of the RHSV's Victorian Historical Journal to be published and launched in early November 2008 to coincide with celebrations of the winning of the vote by Victorian women.

The conference organisers invite all those interested in attending to register now. The registration form and a draft program can be found on the School of Historical Studies website.

Cost \$67.50 and \$35 for students (includes morning and afternoon teas, pre-lecture drinks and canapes, and lunch on 6 December).

Registrations should be sent to the School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne. Further information can be obtained from Assoc. Professor Judith Smart (jsmart@unimelb.edu.au) Closing date: Monday 19 November.

## HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP - RHSV

### SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2007

Hosted by the Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Avenue, Maribyrnong

(entrance opposite Warr's Road - see Melways map ref: 28 B10)

Theme: **MANAGING THE PAPER-BASED ITEMS IN YOUR COLLECTION**

09.30 Registration

10:00 Welcome, introduction, reports, general information:

Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - introduction

10.10 President, RHSV Professor Bill Russell - general information

10.15 Exec. Officer, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley

10.20 Presenter: Speaker from Archive Research: Principal, Bruce Smith

Bruce will speak on the principles of archiving, including what to keep, how to keep it, documentation and cataloguing, and caring for paper-based items such as photographs, manuscripts, bound books, maps and plans.

11.20 Morning tea

11.45 Questions and discussion: Joan Hunt will co-ordinate a discussion session based on issues arising from the presentation. Everyone will be encouraged to participate with anecdotes, experiences, ideas, and solutions.

12.15 Tour of Living Museum of the West with a representative of the Museum, who will also welcome everyone and give a brief talk about the collection.

1.00 LUNCH

30.30 Presenter: Speaker from Archival Survival: Principal, Angela Henricksen

Angela will give a demonstration-based presentation based on Archival Survival, which provides archival quality storage products for long-term preservation to museums, galleries, libraries and archives. See [www.archivalsurvival.com.au](http://www.archivalsurvival.com.au)

2.15 Break - afternoon tea

2.30 Presenter: Vicki Court, Local History Officer, RHSV, will explain aspects of collections management techniques associated with today's theme, particularly in relation to computer technology.

3.00 Closure of Seminar Day, and departure.

Costs: \$12 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch -

**Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged on 9326 9288.**

## ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING CALLED

### Victorian Community History Awards 2008

The Victorian Community History Awards recognize excellence in historical method. The various categories acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

These Awards encompass a \$5,000 first prize and six \$1,000 prizes for the finalists of each category. Categories are:

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

Entries close COB, Friday 28 March 2008.

Entry forms are available from the RHSV, Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 or visit [www.information.vic.gov.au](http://www.information.vic.gov.au) or [infovic.marketing@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:infovic.marketing@dpcd.vic.gov.au)

## WORKSHOP - Making History: A History Council of Victoria Skills Workshop

**Friday 16 November 2007**

**Time:** 10am-12pm

**Where:** Ivanhoe Library, 255 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

**Cost:** Free Bookings essential contact Ivanhoe Library tel: 9497 5780

NOVEMBER 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 January to joanhunt@ncable.net.au

**ADAM LINDSAY GORDON:** After the Commemorative Committee's recent inaugural annual general meeting we are now preparing for regular tours of the Brighton General Cemetery, to start early in the new year. We will be telling the stories behind the life of the poet, and of all those interred who are connected with him. Please see [www.adamlindsaygordon.org](http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org) or contact John on 03 5261 2899 for details.

**ANGLICAN:** The Sydney Smith Lecture will be presented by Dr Paul Nicholls on 'Anglicanism's Indian Summer - 1901-1914', at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 November at the Canon's Vestry, Diocesan Offices, Melbourne. Contact secretary Bruce on 9818 4565.

**AVOCA:** At 2pm on Sunday 18 November the Christmas break-up will be held in the Helen Harris OAM room at the rear of the Court House. The staff of Avoca School no. 4 are planning a 'Back-To' for that weekend, and ADHS will have a display of early photographs in the Court Room. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMain.htm>

**BALLAN:** The Gordon Primary School No. 755 celebrates its 125th birthday from 12.30pm on Saturday 24 November at the present red brick school situated in Dicker Street. It was built on the site of the Kangaroo Bob diggings and officially opened on 7 July 1882. Phone the school on 5368 9223 or see [www.gordonvic.com/sites/gordonprimaryschool/index.html](http://www.gordonvic.com/sites/gordonprimaryschool/index.html)

**BOX HILL:** A members' night entitled Treasures and Collections will be held on Thursday 15 November when members will speak about their item of historical interest, at Strabane Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Box Hill North. The Society can now be found on-line at [www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/)

**BRIGHTON:** The BHS Book Sale will be held from 9am-4pm on Saturday 24 November at the Brighton Historical Society's rooms in the old Town Hall, Cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets. Donations of books welcome on Thursdays 12-5pm prior to event, or members will collect books. An excursion to Beleura, an Italianate villa on the Mornington Peninsula built around 1863, will take place on Wednesday 12 December. Bookings essential. All contacts phone 9553 8650.

**CARISBROOK:** The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20 November, with Bruce Osborn from Midlands Maryborough Historical Society as guest speaker. Cataloguing and digitising the Society's collection has begun, with conservation materials and furniture being purchased to assist in the work. See [www.c.gold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home](http://www.c.gold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home)

**CHELTENHAM:** The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. are putting together their inaugural newsletter featuring a story on the 1926 Caulfield Railway Disaster and the list of the fatalities in this long forgotten event. All three victims lie interred in the Pioneer Cemetery.

We are excited at undertaking a project with the local Rotary Club to photograph all the monuments of the Pioneer Cemetery and combine with the headstone inscriptions on CD. Membership is \$5 per annum for individuals. For more info visit [www.focr.org](http://www.focr.org) or contact Jenny on 9578 5525

**COLLINGWOOD:** Collingwood Historical Society is holding a History Walk on Saturday 10 November at 2 pm. The theme will be industrial heritage in Abbotsford, and the walk leader will be Matthew Churchward, Senior Curator, Technology and Innovation at the Museum of Victoria. For further information see our website at [www.collingwoodhs.org.au](http://www.collingwoodhs.org.au) or ring 9482 3730.

**CRANBOURNE:** The annual Christmas dinner will be held on Thursday 6 December at Blue Hills, Cranbourne, when Chris Denery will speak on the 'Life and Times of Jess Ayres' who was a founder member of the Cranbourne Shire Historical Society. Phone Rosemary on 5998 3643 or visit the Society at 13 Mickle Street, Toradin.

**DROMANA:** On Tuesday 20 November at 10am Valda Cole, the distinguished Peninsula historian, will speak on 'Hobson Christmas Party at Arthurs Seat'. Meet at the Old Shire Offices, 359 Point Nepean Road, Dromana. For details phone 5981 9119.

**EAST MELBOURNE:** The AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 17 October 2007, when well-known architectural historian Dr Miles Lewis will speak on 'Inner Melbourne in the 1850s', marking the 150th year of Clarendon Terrace. Meetings are held at Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. See [www.emhs.org.au](http://www.emhs.org.au) or phone 9416 0445

**ESSENDON:** At 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 November at the Courthouse Museum, 768 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds, Peter Somerville, captain of the riverboat The Blackbird, will speak about the history of the Maribyrnong River. The Courthouse Museum is open on Sundays 2-5pm or to groups by appointment. Phone secretary Rosalie on 9379 5375.

**FITZROY:** The history of Gertrude Street is being researched, so please contact Jill on 9419 8868 with information. At 7.30pm on Friday 9 November the FHS annual dinner, celebrating the 25th anniversary, will be held at Dante's function room, 150 Gertrude Street. Reservations are essential to Tim on 9489 2357.

**GEELONG:** On 7 November Dawn Peel will speak on Rural life of the Western District in 1857, in the Morrow Theatre, 51 Lt Malop St, Geelong (next to the Geelong Gallery). Enquiries 5278 3530.

**GISBORNE & MOUNT MACEDON:** A self guided tour of beautifully restored heritage buildings at Victoria University, Sunbury, the former Mental Hospital, is planned for Thursday 15 November from 10.30am followed by lunch. Shared transport from the Court House at 10am; bookings essential. Phone secretary Sandra on 5428 2668 or see [www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au](http://www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au)

**HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT:** Our new book "Hastings Memories" will be published before Christmas. It contains recollections of people who have always lived in Hastings as well as newcomers to the area, including racing car entrepreneur, Harry Firth. Our 100th member, Shirley Herbert received recognition at the AGM as well as acknowledgement in the local newspaper. The Society has gained two volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia who are working on cataloguing. Sally Robins, the local History Officer is giving valuable training and supervision. The next Morning Coffee will be on 28th November 2007 "Christmas Capers". Bookings on 03 9781 1141 (\$5 per person). Our local council, the Mornington Peninsula Shire has allocated \$36,000 to upgrade "Harry's House" so that we can move in. Our members Bruce Bennett and Arthur Woodley

have published their latest book "Morrado About Nothing - the History of Crib Point and Bittern, Neighbours in Destiny" (\$25 + pp.) Contact 03 9781 1141 for details.

**HEIDELBERG:** The Society's newsletter is printed courtesy of their local MLA, and is supported by East Ivanhoe branch Bendigo Bank, Banylue City Council, Old England Hotel, and Miles Real Estate, a great idea for covering costs. On Tuesday 11 December Mary Chapman will speak on Australian Garden History at 8pm at the Uniting Church Hall, Seddon St, Ivanhoe. See <http://heidelberg.50webs.com>

**KEW:** On Sunday 2 December at 2pm and 3.30pm Mystery Walks will be held, entitled "The Court House Unlocks Its Doors", for \$10 incl. tea/coffee & cake. Assemble at the adjacent QPO Bar & Bistro 10 mins before. Phone secretary Thea on 9817 3657 or email [theasartori@yahoo.com.au](mailto:theasartori@yahoo.com.au)

**KNOX:** The Knox Historical Society is holding a Heritage Day at Ferntree Gully Village on Saturday 17 November, when a talk will be given by Allan Bailey, with 'Yarns Around the Table' by other speakers. The Dinsdale Truck will be on display, amongst many exhibits. Phone 9758 6722 or email [khs@relics.com](mailto:khs@relics.com)

**LEARMONTH:** At the launch of the Heritage Treasures for Ballarat City, Learmonth & DHS were successful in having several historical sites and objects listed. These include the memorial to Pioneers and Indigenous Inhabitants at Addington, the Avenue of Honour monument at Learmonth, the Queen Victoria Jubilee Lamp at Learmonth, the WW1 memorial at Miners Rest, the brick bridge on Ballad Hills Road, Sulky, and several others.

**MORWELL:** An Open Day at the Society's rooms in Buckley Street will be held on Sunday 11 November with exhibitions on World War 2, and the La Mode factory in Morwell. Phone secretary Elsie on 5134 1149 or see [www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

**NEWSTEAD:** Adrian Haas's book on the Newstead Mechanics' Institute has won second prize in the Castlemaine Historical Society's 2007 History Awards, and the centenary of the Newstead Uniting Church has been celebrated with a booklet of newspaper reports compiled by Janet Trudgeon. Contact secretary Dawn on 5476 2006 for details.

**NEPEAN:** At 8pm on Friday 2 November Mr Martin Dixon MP will speak on 'The History of the Parliament of Victoria' at the Museum's Heritage Gallery, Melbourne Road, Sorrento. The NHS is actively represented on a joint committee to play a role in the transition of the Quarantine Station as it affects the museum there and the guided tours run by the Nepean Historical Society. Contact secretary Don on 5984 0255 or see [www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au](http://www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au)

**NHILL:** The Society is now a Place of Deposit (POD) with the Public Record Office Victoria. Speakers from the History Victoria Support Group will conduct a workshop on Managing Your Collection and Cataloguing on Saturday 24 November and nearby historical society members are most welcome to attend. Contact Kay to register on 5391 2022. See [www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs)

**QUEENSCLIFF:** A fundraising effort to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum in Wharf Street will be held 3-6pm on Saturday 24 November, with the Jazzettes, wine and cheese combined with viewing of the museum exhibits, for \$12. Also a swap meet will be held on Sunday 2 December from 9am with maritime and nautical items of all sorts, for \$4 entry. See [www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au](http://www.maritimequeenscliffe.org.au)

**RICHMOND:** The annual bus tour, a free event, will be held on Sunday 9 December departing from Richmond Library at 12.30pm. The tour will take approximately 90 minutes, to Melbourne's many and infamous asylum sites. Booking is essential, to Daryl on 9428 7686, as seating is limited. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rbhs/>

**ROSEDALE:** An historic walking trail is designed as a town loop of approximately 1.8km taking in the churches of Rosedale, or a return walk of 2.8km to the Willow Park Reserve. Information about the Rosedale Common School is provided, along with the Mechanics Institute Hall, Bank of Australasia, Masonic Lodge, Post and Telegraph Office, The Royal Hotel, the Rosedale Hotel, the three churches, the sites of Blind Joe's Hut and the Bridge Inn, and the Rosedale historic bridges. Contact secretary Jacky on 5199 2492.

**RYE:** The book 'Among the Old Folks - The History of the Rye Cemetery' will be launched on Sunday 18 November at 2pm, to take place at the Rye Primary School cnr Lyons-Collingwood Sts. The program will include tableaux by the Victorian Re-enactment Society of the early pioneers who are mentioned in the book. Four vehicles loaned by John Allison Monkhouse will be on display - including a heritage horse drawn hearse (without horses) and a 1920 Rolls Royce hearse. Written by member Phil Cain in conjunction with author Mick Woiwod, the book tells of many of the old pioneers from the 1840s up until 1975 who are buried in Rye. Email Pauline on [pepowell@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pepowell@ozemail.com.au) or phone 5985 2797.

**SHIPLOVERS:** The next meeting will include model ships in an evening devoted to the skill and craft of miniature vessels, at 7.45pm on Wednesday 14 November at the Port of Melbourne Corporation's Education Centre, Lorimer Street (Melways 42 F10). Christmas Cheer will be the theme on 12 December, with a slide show 'What Ship is That?' and supper at \$10. Phone 9457 1559 before 10am or 9707 3287.

**SNAKE VALLEY:** A cemetery visit to Carnham Cemetery will start at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9 November. The latest excellent newsletter contains this note: Phthisis, almost impossible to say whilst sober, was in fact the term favoured by the Victorian medical establishment for pulmonary tuberculosis. The Society has had success with incoming information after publishing photographs from their collection about which no details were known. Phone secretary Evelyn on 5344 9574.

**ST KILDA:** A Fun Quiz with quizmaster Meyer Eidelson will be held at 3pm on Sunday 11 November in the Community Room, St Kilda Branch Library, with free entry, nibbles, and prizes. All welcome. From 10am-12noon on Sunday 25 November Meyer Eidelson will conduct a 'History of the Elwood Foreshore' Guided Walk and Talk, a free community event. See [www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk)

**SUNSHINE:** At 7.30pm on Thursday 8 November the centenary of the Harvester Judgement will be held with speakers including John Lack and Rob Starry, at the Visy Hub, the old bulk store on the old Massey Ferguson site behind the Sunshine library (Melway 26 H11). Also, a Pioneers Lunch will be held at 12 noon at the St Albans Sports Club, Gillespie Road - \$20 - with Don Durham speaking on Gross's Pharmacy. Bookings are essential to 9312 2284 or 9744 7435. See [www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au)

**SURREY HILLS:** The Society is assisting the Mont Albert Primary School's 90th birthday and reunion celebrations, to take place on Sunday 25 November. They are appealing for photographs, awards, memorabilia, and stories about the school. Contact Wendy on 9898 2526 or email: [Wendy.Edwards1@bigpond.com](mailto:Wendy.Edwards1@bigpond.com)

**TERANG:** The annual dinner will be held at the Commercial Hotel in Terang on Monday 26 November. For details phone secretary Margaret on 5592 1531 or email [historysociety04@hotmail.com](mailto:historysociety04@hotmail.com). The photograph collection has benefited from several interesting donations recently.

**TRENTHAM:** On Monday 3 December a convoy will travel to Blackwood Historical Society, starting at 2pm from the old police station at Trentham, to see the stables in process of renovation and share an afternoon tea. Contact secretary Amanda on 5424 1221

**WALHALLA:** The launch of "Walhalla Graveyard to Cemetery" by Yolanda Reynolds will be held at 1pm on Saturday 10 November at Walhalla Mechanics Institute. This genealogical publication includes lists of burials and all gravestone inscriptions, a burials location map, cemetery history, mine and tramway accidents, flood and fire disasters, and epidemics, as well as burials in the Happy-go-Lucky and Cooper's Creek graveyards. Contact Yolanda on 5633 2051 or at PO Box 418, Trafalgar, 3824. Phone secretary Tom on 5174 6904 or see [www.walhalla.org.au](http://www.walhalla.org.au)

**WARRACKNABEAL:** A grant of \$4000 has been received to assist with cataloguing the collection. The annual reunion at Ballarat attracted nearly 100 friends with lots of tales being told and laughs abundant. A bus travelled down from Warracknabeal to attend. Entertainment was provided by Alan Shaw and Bruce Hunter and poet George Armstrong also contributed. A successful auction was held at the Warehouse, and museum members recently attended the Dunmunkle Sumpoilers Rally and a tractor trek in the northern Grampians area. Contact Jean on 5398 1901.

**YARRAWONGA:** The Goulburn & Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups will hold the annual Expo on Saturday 17 November at Club Mulwala, Melbourne Street, Mulwala from 10am - 4pm. Contact Jan on 5744 1460 or email: [rekrpj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rekrpj@bigpond.net.au)

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## History

# NEWS



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### Annual Lecture

#### Fractional Identities: The Political Arithmetic of Aboriginal Victorians

Janet McCalman and Len Smith

This lecture will tell two stories: how a team, that included an Aboriginal genealogist, a demographer, a medico, historians and computer specialists, recreated the history of Aboriginal Victoria backwards from genealogies, and uncovered the hidden political arithmetic of colonization.

It will relate the work of Len Smith, Sandra Smith, Ian Anderson, Joanne Evans, Jane Beer, Gavan McCarthy, Kate Naughton, Nick Knight and Janet McCalman, and is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr Diane Barwick.

Professor Janet McCalman is the author of three award-winning books on the social history of Melbourne life and health. She teaches history of health and medicine at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Len Smith is a demographer and epidemiologist from the Australian National University, who has specialised in the population history and health of Aboriginal people.

6pm, Thursday 29 November 2007

Roadshow Theatre  
State Library of Victoria  
Entry via La Trobe Street

Cost: \$10 (\$5 concession)

Bookings essential  
RSVP to [hcvexecofficer@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:hcvexecofficer@slv.vic.gov.au) or 8664 7261  
Bookings close Friday 23 November

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