



History NEWS

WITH THIS ISSUE:

your VHJ –
Women's Suffrage
Centenary issue
supported by the Victorian
Government's Centenary of
Women's Grants 2008.

Issue No. 278 Nov/Dec 2008

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Exhibitions at the RHSV

Please come and visit our two wonderful exhibitions

Melbourne's Moving Markets

The exhibition covers the hay, corn, horse cattle and pig market, the Melbourne Market Commission of 1842, the first Fish Market, the Western Market, the Eastern Market, and the Queen Victoria Market. The exhibition brings together the RHSV collection of prints, photographs and contemporary images of Melbourne.

Two Latin American Soccer Clubs – binding communities together

The exhibition looks at two soccer clubs; *Centro Argentino* and *Chile Sport* which became Hotham United. Both clubs grew out of the immigration of Latin Americans to Victoria in the 1970s during periods of economic and political crisis in their homelands. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Judy Buckrich and funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

POD CASTS

Throughout this year we have recorded many of our lectures; these are now available as podcasts. Visit our website at www.historyvictoria.org.au and click on the link to podcasts. Talks include; Blackboard to Battlefield, the Victorian Education Departments Teacher-Soldiers 1914 – 18, Onions in Gippsland 1900-2007, The social history of Australian workplace football 1860 – 1939 and many, many more



The Royal Historical Society receives an interesting donation: see page 2 for details and visit our website to see the online exhibition MacRobertson's Round Australia Expedition 1928 at www.historyvictoria.org.au

To find out more about online exhibitions make a booking for our online exhibition workshop on Wednesday 12 November. See What's On for details.

History Week: A great success

The History Council of Victoria and the RHSV thank all those museums, libraries, historical societies and heritage groups that helped to make History Week 2008 a wonderful success.

Events ranged from walking tours, lectures, events for children, "a night out at the library" going on a ghost tour round the State Library of Victoria, a weekend bus trip to the Western District and a celebration for the Ballarat Croquet Club which turned 100!!!

The dates are set for next year: October 25 – 1 November 2009.

Affiliated historical societies are invited to apply for History Week Grants. See 6 for details.

History Week would not have been possible without the support of the Vera Moore Foundation.

Record Booksale!!!

Many thanks to all those members who donated books or volunteered to help at our Annual Booksale.

We broke all records.....taking \$6,200.

The funds will go to support our programs.

The Art Deco Festival wraps up with 'Out Net'!

Sadly our Art Deco Regional Festival, a shared partnership project with Museums Australia (Vic) and supported by Arts Victoria had to come to an end.

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria and Robin Grow, President of the Art Deco Society joined Laura Miles, Executive Director Museums Australia, Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer RHSV, and Janice Haynes for a celebratory overview of our Art Deco events. Where better to hold it than in our own Art Deco building the RHSV Drill Hall. The RHSV was delighted to welcome representatives from historical societies and museums that had taken part; including guests from Benalla, Castlemaine, Maryborough and Wangarrata. It was a wonderful afternoon. For full Art Deco Regional Festival report see page 3.



Wishing everybody a happy and peaceful summer break.

The RHSV closes on Wednesday 17 December and reopens on Monday 19 January

MacRoberston Round Australia Expedition 1928

An outback adventure

In 1928 MacPherson Robertson sponsored an expedition around Australia. Two Karrier trucks and an Oldsmobile with a team of 12 men spent five months driving through country often not crossed previously by trucks, especially in parts of Western Australia, Northern Territory and parts of Queensland, to prove that trucks could travel through remote areas. The expedition party was particularly interested in recording life in the outback for the information of those living in the cities, especially Melbourne and Sydney. The expedition experimented with new technology, including radio communication, and took moving film and musical entertainment to remote areas. It was also, of course, an opportunity to promote MacRobertson products.

The RHSV has in its collection a set of typewritten notes describing the journey, two albums of photographs taken during the expedition plus articles in scrapbooks providing expedition progress reports.

Recently the RHSV received a donation of another two albums of photographs of the expedition. Although the majority of the photographs in the new albums are copies of photographs in the original albums there are also a number of additional photographs that were not in our collection. These additional photographs add to the story of the expedition and a comparison of the arrangement of the photographs in the two sets of albums will be useful in tracing the events of the adventure.



An online exhibition of the MacRoberston Round Australia Expedition 1928 can be found at www.historyvictoria.org.au/MacRobIntro.html.

All in all, the images in the albums provide a snapshot of life in parts of Australia in 1928. Two of the new images include one of a man with a joey in Western Australia, possibly near Marble Bar, and a photograph of some fashionable young ladies outside the MacRobertson's building in Brisbane.

www.historyvictoria.org.au/MacRobIntro.html



Celebrating the centenary of women's suffrage

The special issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal* celebrating the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria will be launched by the Minister for Women's Affairs, the Hon. Maxine Morand, on Monday 17 November at Storey Hall.

Now part of RMIT University, Storey Hall was known as the Guild Hall during World War I and was the headquarters at that time for Vida Goldstein's feminist organisation, the Women's Political Association, which had played an important part in the fight for the vote. In 1917 it became the site of a commune for wharf labourers and their families. Goldstein believed that women owed the wharfies a debt of gratitude because their strike was originally motivated by a determination to keep the price of food down by refusing to load necessities for export. The hall is now decorated in the feminist colours used by the WPA—purple (dignity), white (purity) and green (hope)—in recognition of its significance for the history of women's political activism in this state. It is thus an especially appropriate place for the launch and the RHSV is grateful to RMIT University for making it available and sponsoring the launch.

Happy 100th Birthday, RHSV!

The centenary of the RHSV will be celebrated with an all-day conference at the Theatre of the State Library of Victoria on Saturday 2 May 2009. Speakers will include Susan Priestley on the history of the RHSV, Andrew Lemon on the Journal and Joan Hunt on local historical societies. Weston Bate, Don Gibb, Bill Russell and other speakers will discuss the contextual history of the RHSV, its collections, early links with the University of Melbourne and its future.

There will be a celebratory lunch with birthday cake, and drinks after the conference. Details to follow in the next *History News*.

Victorian Historical Journal Editorial Assistance Required

The *Victorian Historical Journal* is a fully refereed journal dedicated to Australian, and especially Victorian, history published twice yearly by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The Journal is edited, compiled and set-up in-house by the Publications Committee of the Society. A volunteer is required with experience in desktop publishing to join this committee and assist with the setting, layout and design of the Journal. The Journal is set using Adobe InDesign CS3, but a person familiar with similar programs, such as PageMaker, QuarkXPress or Microsoft Publisher, could easily adapt.

Further information can be obtained from the office of the RHSV, office@historyvictoria.org.au or by phoning 9326 9288, or from the Chairman of the Publications Committee, Dr Richard Morton, rsmorton@iprimus.com.au phone 0438 042 308.

Colour and smiles!

SHOWCASING ART DECO 2008 IN REGIONAL VICTORIA By: Janice Haynes

More than 6,500 people attended the 20 Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival events held across the State during September. Each event was unique in its own way and reflected its community's interpretation of the Art Deco era and style in each location.

From flapper dresses in Maffra, Benalla and Bendigo, a smaltzy Argentinean tango in Yarram, over-crowded bus tours in Maryborough and Wangaratta, jazz bands in Fish Creek and at Mooramong, vintage cars, countless scrumptious afternoon teas, speeches and tales, Art Deco cinemas and beautiful personal & household items and pieces of artwork, there were many smiles and squeals of delight as the Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival wended its way across the State.

Entertaining and interesting talks were presented by Mr. Robin Grow, President of the Art Deco Society in Maryborough, Ballarat, and Wangaratta; Art Dealer Daryl Mills at Buda House in Castlemaine; Michelle Summerton & David Wixted in Maffra; Professor Miles Lewis from the University of Melbourne in Mildura; and David Demant from Museum Victoria in Benalla.

Professor Bill Russell, President of the Royal Historical Society was the Festival representative at Buda House, Castlemaine and at the Benalla Costume & Pioneer Museum, and Weston Bate spoke at the Mornington Peninsula self-drive online tour launch and at the function OutNet! held at the RHSV Army Medical Corps Art Deco building. I personally attended and spoke at 15 events and clocked up over 8,000 kilometres of Festival travel. I couldn't attend more events because they were on at concurrent times with other venues. Kate Prinsley spoke at the exhibition launch at Castlemaine Art Gallery.

Surveying has revealed that all the participating groups and the people who



attended overwhelmingly want events like this to continue so they can pursue their interests in history, and have the opportunity for social engagement and networking within their communities. These qualities have perhaps been some of the most rewarding outcomes of the Festival, as well as people obviously enjoying the experience of rediscovering Art Deco.

Perhaps one of the rarest and most beautiful treasures I saw was a René Lalique fruit bowl (pictured) brought in for valuation to the Antiques Dealer at the Gippsland Vehicle Collection Museum. Needless to say it is a very valuable piece. The National Trust property 'Mooramong' near Skipton in the Western District also has a significant number of Lalique pieces in its collection. An article published by the Festival in 'The Age' on 6 September featuring Mooramong, resulted in two sold out Festival events on 28 September and 19 October, and another event is planned for 15 February 2009.

Other spectacular collections were displayed in Bendigo, Wangaratta, at the National Alpine Museum in Mt Buller and at the Benalla Costume & Pioneer Museum where their exhibition will continue until February next year.

The acquittal for Arts Victoria is now being prepared, and a large collection of survey reports and photographs of each event has been compiled.

Personally I have had a wonderful time delivering the Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival across the State, and it has given me a reason to wear and display some of my vintage clothing items. I would like to thank the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Museums Australia (Victoria) for giving me this opportunity to exercise my passion for history themed events. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

It seems that while the exhibitions and festival of Art Deco for 2008 are now all but 'gone', they will not be 'forgotten', as people are clamouring for more, more, more.... Great design never goes out of style.

Special thanks must also go to all the participating groups – Buda Historic Home, Maryborough Midland Historical Society, the Regent Theatre, Yarram, the Gippsland Vehicle Collection Museum, the National Alpine Museum of Australia, the University of Ballarat Post Office Gallery, the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, Charlton Community Theatre, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Ballarat Branch, Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Ararat Rural City Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Benalla & District Historical Society, Wangaratta Showcase, the Bendigo Art Gallery, the Fish Creek Development Group, the Dromana & District Historical Society and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) – Mooramong, and to the National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Deco Society.

Community Treasures Exhibition

In 2009, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria celebrates its centenary with a program of special events. One of the first will be an exhibition supported by the City of Melbourne. It opens in March in the City Gallery, Swanston Street, and runs for about six weeks.

The exhibition, entitled *Community Treasures*, will present some of the many treasures that the Society continues to make accessible to the community.

The community's 'treasures' also include the Society's volunteers who catalogue, research and care for the collection and make it available to the public. Several long-standing volunteers have been interviewed about their work, and they will feature in a short film commissioned by the Society for the exhibition.

Elizabeth Willis, Exhibition Curator



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*.

Hilary Adair (ed.), *Heads Towards Swanston Street, A compilation from the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic's Guard Books*, pp. 32. The Melbourne Philharmonic was founded in 1853 and has contributed to Melbourne music ever since. This booklet comprises snippets from its past. One hopes that the rich sources from which this compilation comes will inspire a fuller history.

George Ah Ling, *Donald's Friend*, Donald History and Natural History Group of the Music, Literature and Art Society Inc., Box 111, Donald, 3840, 2008, pp. iv + 40. ISBN 1 876978 36 8. From the 1920s, George Ah Ling was a much-loved market gardener living alone in Donald. He died in 1987 and this book celebrates his life by publishing the recollections of those who knew him as well as some photos of George at work in his garden and with his horse and cart.

Tom Rigg, *Sunshine Railway Disaster 1908 A Railwayman's Perspective*, Sunshine & District Historical Society, PO Box 720, Sunshine, 3020, 2008, pp. xiv + 74, \$19-80 (postage and packing \$3-20). ISBN 978 0 9595989-5-7. The centenary of what was for much of that time, Australia's worst rail disaster is the occasion for publication of this very thorough account. The author combines assiduous collection with insights gained from a life in the railways. His grandfather was one of those sent to clean up the wreckage of two trains with the loss of 44 lives. The author not only tells the story but examines the causes and effects of the tragic event. He lists with some detail those who died and also those who were injured as well as some others who were involved. The production suggests a useful model for local historical societies wishing to produce accounts of important events in their areas.

Nicolas Brasch, *So you want to be Prime Minister?*, Black Dog, Melbourne, 2008, pp. 46, \$16-99. ISBN 978 1 74203 022 7. Written for primary school children, well illustrated, and with a keen eye for quirky detail.

Carole Wilkinson, *The Night We Made the Flag, the Eureka Story*, Black Dog, Melbourne, 2008, \$29-99, pp. 32. ISBN 978 1 74203 007 4. Written for younger children, superbly illustrated, it tells the story of the making of the Eureka flag through the eyes of a young girl.

Barham-Koondrook Historical Society (comp.), *Nurse Rosen, "Koondrook's Own"*, Box 124, Koondrook, VIC 3580, 2008, pp. 36, \$15 + \$2 postage. ISBN 0 9578582 5 6. Elizabeth Rosen died in 1943, aged 63, after more than 20 years as the much-loved local nurse and, from 1923, owner of the Carnarvon Private Hospital in Koondrook. Credited with delivering more than a 1000 babies, many of whom are listed, she is remembered locally with memorial gates at the Koondrook cemetery and a red-gum statue. Her story is a reminder of the importance of local nurses in rural communities.

Ken James, *The Career of Surveyor William Swan Urquhart 1843-1864*, Ken James, 18 Lofty Ave., Camberwell, 3124, 2008, pp. 44. Born in Scotland in 1818, Urquhart arrived in the Port Phillip District in the 1840s and was employed as a surveyor, largely for the government, from 1845 until his retirement in 1863. He was responsible for much early surveying in the central goldfields area. The book provides details of maps for which he was responsible as well as information about his life.

Margaret Williamson, Cindy Parker and Lisa Pickersgill (comp.), *All But One Came Home, A story of the Boer War in letters from soldiers sent home and published in the Pyramid Hill Advertiser*, Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society, McKay St., Pyramid Hill, VIC 3575, 2008, pp. 134, \$20. ISBN 9780975738351. Those who have worked on local newspapers covering the period of the Boer War will not be surprised at the number of 'letters home' reproduced in this enterprising local production. Starting with news items about the local militia before the war, the bulk of the book is letters home from some of the local enlisted men. One, Harry Hiscock, did not return. This compilation reminds us of the ways in which local material can inform a wider world.

Alan Gregory, *The sentimental soldier, A life of George Furner Langley*, Langley, Courtis, Thompson Library Trust, Melbourne High School, 2008, pp. xiv + 200. ISBN 9780646481531. An appreciative biography of a significant teacher and soldier with service in the Victorian Education Department as teacher and principal at a succession of schools and finally at Melbourne High School, as well as in the army at Gallipoli and in the Middle East during World War 1 during which he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and as a training officer with the rank of brigadier within Australia during much of World War 2. Invalided out of the army in 1944, he was later appointed Australian Red Cross Commissioner for Great Britain and the Middle East before finally returning to schools. He died in 1971.

Malcolm Wood, *Presbyterians in Colonial Victoria*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2008, pp. x + 431, \$44. ISBN 978 1 74097 154 6. The disproportionate political and social influence of Presbyterians in colonial Victoria has long been acknowledged. This wide-ranging, well-researched book provides a critical study of the issues, attitudes and debates that the church brought upon itself and the community at large. It adds new dimensions to our understandings of Victorian colonial society.

Murray Seiffert, *Refuge on the Roper, The origins of the River Mission Ngukurr*, Acorn Press, Melbourne, 2008, pp. xvii + 179, \$19-80. ISBN 9780908284672. The Roper River Mission was established in 1908 with much support and interest from Anglicans in Victoria. This book not only details the origins and early travails of the mission but also provides a valuable perspective on current policies and practices in Indigenous affairs.

Benjamin Edwards, *Wasps, Tykes and Ecumaniacs, Aspects of Australian Sectarianism, 1945-1981*, Acorn Press, Melbourne, 2008, pp. x + 261, \$39-99. ISBN 9780908284740.

The colloquial title of this book including a newly coined word probably suggests that this is a lively text. It focuses on sectarianism in the post-war period especially in Sydney. The gradual lessening of old sectarian rivalries and bitterness is examined and explained but so is the irony that times of increasing ecumenicism did not douse all the intolerance of previous decades. It certainly adds to our knowledge and understanding of an important theme in Australian history.

Ken Oldis, *The Chinawoman*, Arcadia with State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 2008, pp. 261, \$34-95. ISBN 978 1 74097 164 5. The murder of an English prostitute in Melbourne on 1 December 1856, the subsequent investigation, trial and conviction and hanging of two Chinese for her murder, and the flaws in the justice system that were revealed, are all fully examined in a most engaging and analytical narrative. The case involved both Redmond Barry as judge and Charles Hope Nicolson as detective, and is significant in the anti-Chinese hysteria of the late 1850s. Very well-documented but regrettably and surprisingly, no index.

Colin Duggan, *Excerpts from a History: A Parish & Its People*, St Nicholas Anglican Parish, Mordialloc, 2008, pp. 63. A collection of items that outline Anglican activity in the area since 1868 put together by the Parish Archivist.

History Proposals Deserve Big Tick

Don Gibbs provides an insightful review of a recent history curriculum report to government.

History in schools has been on the Federal government agenda over the past few years and it has been much contested. The Rudd government established the National Curriculum Board with Barry McGaw as chair with one of its objectives to develop a national history curriculum. To do this, it is advised by an advisory group led by Stuart Macintyre, the Ernest Scott Professor at the University of Melbourne, and comprising teachers, historians and educationists including John Hirst and Tony Taylor who has done extensive research on the teaching of history in schools in Australia. History remains as a core subject in school education.

Their report was recently released and has been largely acclaimed by those who have to teach the new curriculum. It is based securely on much of the recent research on history curriculum in the UK, North America and Australia. It also links educational outcomes in history to the core elements in any discussion of the development of the discipline. It does not seek to engage in the utterly fruitless debates of the 'history wars' of recent years. Hopefully, those will soon be muted and we can look forward to engaging students in rewarding studies in school history without the baseless accusations that history teachers are universally radical once taught by universally radical tertiary lecturers, all ready to indoctrinate gullible students in schools and universities by not teaching the objective facts (whatever these were). [For a full comment on this, see Tony Taylor, *Education Age*, 20 October

2008, pp. 8-9.] The release of the report did produce personal attacks on Stuart Macintyre from writers like Andrew Bolt and Kevin Donnelly in the conservative press and web-sites. I wonder how much credibility they have.

See the advisory group report: <http://www.ncb.org.au>

History, with English, mathematics, and the sciences, has been named as an essential component of school education. The report provides a rationale for school history and broadly suggests what the broad scope and sequence of material might cover over the years Kindergarten to Year 12. It places emphasis on the need for students to understand world history so that there is a perspective for Australia that appreciates 'the longevity and richness of Aboriginal history'; that comprehends the 'dimensions of our migrant experience and cultural diversity'; that grasps the 'ecological limits of our current practices'; and that recognizes the 'distinctive as well as the shared and derivative character of our past'. At the same time, it maintains that Australian students need a good understanding of Australian history to be active citizens with the historical skills to use new information and make sense of their pasts. It contains an instructive discussion of historical thinking but leaves decisions on this guiding light for curriculum framers for the next stage.

In outlining a curriculum for lower primary, they suggest that teaching should enable 'students ... to make comparisons between their own personal past [family, home, locality] and the past of others [material provided by

teachers]'. Local historical societies have a continuing and very important role in supporting this level of the proposed curriculum.

For middle and upper primary, they argue for 'key topics of inquiry' in Australian history. Such topics are likely to vary from school to school but they could well be ones that will later be pursued at greater depth and breadth. Again, local and community history groups can play a vital part at this level. Many already do.

The report envisages that junior secondary students (up to Year 10) might take a sequence of four units comprising history from c.6000BC to c.500AD; c.500 to 1750; c.1750 to the present; and Australian history c.1901 to the present. The first three are seen as world history taking in all five continents (including Australia). A brief possible outline is provided for each unit.

History for senior secondary students is seen as desirable but not compulsory. A range of specialized units with study at greater depth in Ancient and Modern History, and Australian History is proposed.

The later sections of the report highlight the need for allocation of teaching time for the new courses; for using experienced classroom teachers in the development of the new curriculum; for much more recruitment of trained history teachers; for substantial professional development for teachers in the field; and for more resources to support the school history programs. These are crucial to the success of the proposals.

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GRANTS NOW OPEN

Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations 2008-2009

Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website: www.deh.gov.au/programs/gveho. Applications close 5pm Friday 28 November 2008.

For further information, please contact the GVEHO Program Team at the below contacts.

GVEHO Program Team
 Telephone: (02) 6274 2422
 Fax: (02) 6274 1650
 Email: gveho@deh.gov.au

LOCAL HISTORY GRANTS

Community groups across Victoria to apply for a share of \$350,000 funding to tell their stories.

Arts Minister Lynne Kosky has announced grants of up to \$12,000 are now available for not-for-profit community groups across the state to invest in individual projects as part of the latest round of the Brumby Government's Local History Grants Program.

Applications open on Friday 12 September and close on Monday 24 November.

For details, visit:

www.prov.vic.gov.au/lhgp or phone the grants administration officer at Public Record Office Victoria on (03) 9348 5691.

\$500 GRANTS AVAILABLE

To celebrate History Week, due to the generous support of the Vera Moore Foundation, the RHSV is able to offer grants of up to \$500 to affiliated historical societies to develop portable banners and brochures to promote their society. Application forms will be available during History Week for projects to be completed by October 2009.

Application forms may be downloaded from our website www.historyvictoria.org.au or by 'phoning 9326 9288 from 12 October.

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV

SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2008

Hosted by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
 To be held at 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
 See: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/contact.htm>

Publishing Small Histories & Periodicals

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt – introduction
- 10.10 President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria – Prof. Bill Russell - welcome
- 10.20 Exec. Officer, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley – RHSV news
- 10.30 **Presentation Part 1: by Peter Mansfield, Geelong Historical Society**
 Peter is the author of 'Graham Berry: Geelong's radical premier'; 'Respectable behaviour: daily life in Geelong and district in the 1850s-1890s'; 'Generous providers and stern custodians: the development of libraries in the colony of Victoria'; and many other small local histories published during his involvement with both Ballarat Historical Society and Geelong Historical Society.
- 11.00 Morning Tea
- 15.15 **Presentation Part 2: by David Endacott, Daylesford Historical Society**
 Dave has published many small local histories through his company 'Jim Crow Press', including 'The Story of Browns & Scarsdale' facsimile for Woodyalook Historical Society; and 'Reflections' for Snake Valley Historical Society. He will share his insights into how a local history should be planned and set up, with information about ISBN numbers, and Cataloguing-in-publication.
- 11.45 **Presentation Part 3: by Carole Woods, judge, Victorian Community History Awards; and by Joan Hunt, judge, Holsworth Heritage Trust - will talk about these history awards.**
 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, with input from Peter, Dave and Carole.
- 12.30 LUNCH Catering by Helen Broad
- 1.30 **Presentation Part 4: by Joan Hunt, compiler of "Around the Societies" for History News, the RHSV newsletter – preparing, publishing and printing small periodicals.**
 Joan has been involved in publishing newsletters, journals, and other small periodicals for many years. She reads all Society newsletters which are sent to RHSV, and will share her experiences of what constitutes a very successful written communication for historical society members.
- 2.30 **Presenter: Vicki Court, Local History Officer, RHSV, will explain aspects of computer technology in relation to local historical societies.**
- 3.00 Afternoon Tea and departure.
 (Costs: \$15 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch – Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged on 9326 9288. Bookings will close Wednesday 19 November).

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008 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 (February-March) please send details of forthcoming events by 10 January 2009 to joanhunt@ncable.net.au



ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: The AGM of the Commemorative Committee was held in Coleraine in September and was well attended. The next tour of the Brighton General Cemetery "Adam Lindsay Gordon, his Life and Beyond" will be on Sunday 9th November at 10.30am; meet at the main North Road Gates. Cost is \$10 per person and bookings are essential on 5261 2899. Our Poetry Competition is part of the FAW National Literary Awards, www.writers.asn.au/ Entries close on 30th November with good prizes. See <http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org>

AVOCA: An open day will be held from 10am-3pm at the Avoca Court House, 85 High Street on Wednesday 12 November. At 2pm on Sunday 16 November at the Avoca Senior Citizens Rooms, 186 High Street there will be an unveiling of "Charlie" and a talk about the restoration and reframing of this magnificent portrait in oils of Charles Warburton Carr who was the Police Magistrate at Avoca from about the 1860s to the 1880s. Phone Tony on 5465 3744 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMain.htm>

BALWYN: At 8pm on Thursday 13 November, Mr Ross King from the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society will talk about "Early Melbourne Films and Theatres" with some rare Balwyn Theatre film footage from 1929 amongst which is a glimpse of the Balwyn Theatre being built, at The Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn. At 7pm on Thursday 11 December the Christmas function will take the form of a spit roast dinner. Enquiries to Robin Kelly on 9836 6589.

BOROONDARA (KEW): The Friends of Boroondara Cemetery are celebrating the cemetery's 150th anniversary. An exhibition of funerary costumes and accessories from the 19th century will be shown in the Daley Gallery, Peter Crawley Centre for the Arts, Trinity Grammar School, Charles Street, Kew on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December (for groups only), for a gold coin donation per person. Book at Boroondara Cemetery Office on 9853 7025 or email info@kewcemetery.com.au. Or visit between 11-3pm on 3 & 5 December or between 1-5pm on 4 & 5 December.

BOX HILL: Dr Anna Blainey will speak on "Votes for Women and Sobriety for Men" at 8pm on Thursday 20 November at Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North. 2008 marks the centenary of women in Victoria attaining the right to vote. Dr. Blainey will speak on the temperance movement and its connection to the struggle for women's suffrage. Contact Jennifer on 9285 4808 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/

BRIGHTON: An exhibition entitled "Celebrating Women" will be launched at 7pm on Tuesday 18 November, displaying a collection of gowns, handbags and accessories from the early 1900s, to celebrate 100 years to the day that Victorian women were granted the right to vote. Following a performance by Wilma Farrow, the exhibition will be officially opened by the 'late Vida Goldstein', a pioneer feminist, publicist, newspaper editor, political crusader, pacifist and social reformer, at the first floor, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre (Old Brighton Town Hall), Cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets. Admission \$15; members \$10; reservations essential - phone 9553 8650.

BRUNSWICK: The Brunswick Community History Group meets from 1.30-4.00pm in the Mayors Room, First Floor, Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road on Saturday 1 November when Michael Howes will speak on "The Victorian Readers". The final meeting for 2008 will be on 6 December with "A tribute to St Ambrose's Primary School". Phone Francesca on 9387 1194 or email: brunswickchg@yahoo.com.au

CARISBROOK: The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 November in the Carisbrook Town Hall (built 1859) in Bucknall Street, and visitors are welcome. The Old Log Gaol (1852) is open daily. Publications for sale are listed on the web page at www.cgold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home/htm or contact secretary Judith on 5464 2601.

CHELTHENHAM: The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. are eyeing a number of interesting projects to undertake, one being a booklet on the many persons who died in tragic circumstances who lie interred at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: stories that have been consigned to the annals of history but are all worth telling. The fifth issue of our newsletter 'Around the Graves' can be downloaded free from our website www.focrc.org. Membership is just \$5.00 per annum. For more information, contact Vivienne on 03 5420 7671 or email info@focrc.org

COLLINGWOOD: The 30th Annual History Walk will take place at 2pm on Saturday 8 November, the topic being "Collingwood Hotels". The walk starts and finishes at Collingwood's oldest existing pub, the Grace Darling, and will cover functioning, former, and demolished hotels. Commentaries will be given by members of the hotels subcommittee of the Collingwood Historical Society. Meet at the corner of Smith & Peel Sts, outside the Grace Darling Hotel. Cost \$5 (CHS members free). Inquiries: 9482 3730 or www.collingwoodhs.org.au

DANDENONG: A CD with about 2500 photographs from the Society's collection has been created for use with the new computer projector and laptop computer (donated by Credit Union Australia), a co-production with the Peninsula Training and Employment Program. The Society supplied the photos and helped with the caption research and PTEP provided the project design and scanning and typing to achieve the final product. It is available at \$100 per copy from PO Box 8029, Dandenong, 3175 or email dandhist@yahoo.com.au

DUNOLLY: The Goldfields Historical and Arts Society will conduct a tour of the Dunolly to Inglewood Railway on 17 November, stopping at all the former stations along the way, to commemorate 120 years since the line was opened. Monthly meetings at the Dunolly Museum will be at 2pm on the third Monday. Contact John Tully on 0428 178 669 or see <http://users.netconnect.com.au/~likely/>

ECHUCA: The recently launched "Chinese in Echuca-Moama, a chronicle 1850s-1930" by Carol Holsworth, is an interesting collection of stories and reports about the early settlement and the involvement of the Chinese community in this exciting riverboat town.

FITZROY: A walking tour entitled "Walking the Fitzroy of 150 years ago" will start at 11am on Sunday 9 November, from the steps of Fitzroy Town Hall. The annual dinner will take place at 7pm on Friday 14 November at Dante's, 150 Gertrude Street. Book with Sue on 9416 0616 or email randbradshaw@bigpond.com. See www.fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com

GEELONG: At 8pm on Wednesday 5 November in the auditorium above Geelong Library, 51 Little Malop Street, Christine Barr will speak on "The Bell Family of Bells Beach and Addiscott". A members' night with Christmas supper will be held on Wednesday 3 December. Contact secretary Freda by mail at 6 Balmoral Crescent, Ripplestone, 3215.

GISBORNE & MOUNT MACEDON: The AGM will be held at Gisborne Court House at 2pm on Sunday 16 November, with guest speaker Eddie Gardiner sharing his family stories and memories of early times in the area, followed by afternoon tea. A book launch of "Haystacks and Hellfire" by Phillipa Butler on the European settlers of South Gisborne will be held at 3.30pm on Saturday 22 November at the Court House. Phone Phyllis on 5428 1450 or see www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: The next meeting of the Local History Network Meetings of the Mornington Peninsula Shire will be on 20th November and hosted by the Society at the Hastings

Museum. These quarterly meetings are well attended and are a sharing of information, forthcoming events and expertise (grants, insurance, cataloguing, building maintenance etc). Sally Robins, the Local History Officer is giving valuable support to the local groups. Editing, indexing and a review of photographs are taking place at the present time for the publication of Hastings People & Places Vol. III that hopefully will be published in early 2009. The last Morning Coffee for 2008 will take place on Wednesday, 19th November at 10.15 am when the theme is "School Days". The Morning Coffees are supported very well by the local community. The garden at the Pioneers Cottage (part of the Museum precinct) is looking particularly beautiful at present with bluebells, iris, hellebores and roses in flower. Work is continuing on Harry's House with the pathway being established and the ramp for the disabled in place. Contact president Shirley on 9781 1141 or email sadavies@alphalink.com.au

HEIDELBERG: Dr Kate Burridge will present "Fascinating Language History" at 8pm on Tuesday 9 December, at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). The Court House Museum in Jika Street opens on Sundays 2-5pm until 14 December 2008. Phone 9455 2130 or see <http://heidelberg.50webs.com>

KNOX: A Ferntree Gully Cemetery Tour will be hosted by Glen Turnbull and Graham Hansen at 2pm and 7pm on Saturday 15 November at a cost of \$10 including notes. Maximum of 30 so book on 0409 287 359. An historical display at Ferntree Gully Village shopping centre entitled "Knox - Reflections of Our Origins" will take place on Saturday 15 November, and another at Bayswater shopping centre entitled "Bayswater Yesteryear" will take place on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November. See <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~khsinc>

KOO-WEE-RUP: Forward notice is given that a bus trip is planned to Yarram, Alberton and Port Albert on Saturday 28 March 2009, including a visit to Port Albert Maritime Museum. Meetings are held 2nd Wednesday of each month (Feb-Dec) at 8.00pm. Contact secretary Audrey on 5997 1357.

KOROIT: A large number of Koroit and district women signed the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition, including Maria Jane Baulch, and the Society aims to research the 76 women. Search on www.womenspetition.vic.gov.au and see if you can add information, and tap into the RHSV home page for further information. Contact Kathy Baulch on kathyb@westvic.com.au or see www.koroit.com.au

KYNETON: The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 November at the Kyneton Library. Heritagecare volunteers have completed their project of cataloguing the photograph/image collection, a project shared with Malmsbury Historical Society. Enquiries to PO Box 466, Kyneton, 3444.

LEIGH: The historical society is situated at the old 1872 bluestone Leigh Shire Hall on the Rokewood-Shelford Road, near the Hesse Toll Gatehouse. Both buildings can be viewed by arrangement (Phone secretary Lorraine on 5346 1428), and local research enquiries are welcome, covering Shelford, Rokewood, Corindhap, Dereel, Grenville and surrounds.

MALMSBURY: A combined event is the next exhibition entitled "Chinese on the Goldfields", with the Public Record Office Victoria travelling exhibition "Forgotten Faces - Chinese And The Law". It will run from 8 to 16 November at the Malmsbury Mechanics Institute, Mollison St, Malmsbury, from 10am-2pm weekdays and 9.30am-4pm weekends (\$2 entry) The society has researched the history of its own former Chinese residents, a summary of which will also be on display. Tickets to the "Welcome to Malmsbury" community raffle will also be available, prizes include local accommodation, food vouchers and tasty produce. Contact Sue on 5423 9383 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malmhist>

MIRBOO NORTH: An open weekend was held to commemorate the centenary anniversary visit of officers and sailors of the Great White Fleet by train on 1 September 1908 to the small country town of Mirboo North in South Gippsland. The Mirboo & District Historical Society members compiled a display of photographs, newspaper articles and memorabilia on the last weekend in August to remember this memorable time and significant event that occurred 100 years ago. The weekend was well attended by many people from far away as well as local residents. Contact Sandra on 5668 1540 or Richards@dcsi.net.au

MORNINGTON: The Leslie Moorhead Memorial Lecture will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 29 November at the Mornington Information Centre, 320 Main Street, presented by historian and writer Eileen Chanin who will speak on "Remembering Them: The Story of Victorian born Sculptor Dora Ohlfsen". Cost \$10 single, \$15 double including afternoon tea. Contact Joan on 5974 2721 or Val on 5975 2958 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc/>

NEPEAN: There is an extensive reference library available for research at the Sorrento Museum. Members of the Society may borrow books for three weeks or the books may be viewed by members of the public in the Heritage Gallery during Museum opening hours. The library catalogue is now available online at

<http://www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/archives.htm>. The Sorrento Museum at the Mechanics' Institute, 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento is open Saturday & Sunday and school holidays between 1.30 and 4.30 pm. See www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/

NHILL: The Society has started to digitize the early newspapers that have been microfilmed, and those that are hardcopy will be photographed with a digital camera to create a pdf file - 70 years of newspapers to do, a daunting but very valuable task. The Research and Museum building is the graceful Lowan Shire Hall in MacPherson Street, open for inquiries on Fridays from 10am to 3pm. Phone secretary Kay on 5391 3131 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs

QUEENSCLIFF: Roger Southern editor of "The Investigator", the magazine of the Geelong Historical Society, will speak on the Port Phillip Bay steam 'Edina' at 10am on Thursday 27 November at the Queenscliff Uniting Church, cnr Hesse & Stokes Streets. The Queenscliffe Historical Museum is at 49 Hesse Street - phone 5258 2511 or email qhminf77@bigpond.com.au

RINGWOOD: On Saturday 8 November the Ringwood & District Historical Society will conduct a guided bus tour of historic Ringwood East, an area which may well be the oldest township in the Maroondah area, which had a large mining industry from the late 1860s. Only 40 seats, so pre-booking at \$15 is essential, paid beforehand. Meet at Braeside Avenue Civic Centre at 2pm. Contact Russ Haines on 9876-4367 for details and bookings. On Sunday 9 November, the "Recollections of East Ringwood" booklet will be launched at the Ringwood East Community Hall at 2pm. This is a collection of more than 40 stories of people who are living, or lived, in Ringwood East; a really good read at \$15 each. The Society will also have a historical display of photographs of the area. Gold coin entry, with afternoon tea available. Next meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday 25 November at Room 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Visitors most welcome; cuppa and a chat afterwards. Email contact to president@rhs.org.au or see <http://www.rhs.org.au/>

SKIPTON: A new book, "Further Tales from Skipton - and from the districts of Mannibadar, Willowvale, Mt Bute, Bradvale, Mt Emu, Carranballac and Vite Vite" has been launched and is available at \$30 plus postage. Contact Secretary Mary Bradshaw, 28 Scott St, Skipton, 3361.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND: South Gippsland Historical Network will be hosting their second historical conference at Coal Creek, Korumburra on Saturday 14th March 2009. Titled "More History! More Culture". The conference will feature several Gippsland speakers. Speakers include Patrick Morgan, Greg Mattingley, Sam Gatto, John Woolley, Jillian Durance, Doug Boston, Ian Lester and Lyn Skillern. Keynote speaker Patrick Morgan is a noted historian and has taught Gippsland history at Monash Gippsland. Patrick has produced a number of works including The Settling of Gippsland - A Regional History. Participating societies will have the opportunity to sell their publications at the conference. More information and registration details will be posted to societies and listed on mc2 early January 2009. Contact conference coordinator - Shirlee McPherson on 0439079803 or email celticgold53@hotmail.com

ST ANDREWS-QUEENSTOWN: To celebrate the 150th birthdays of the St Andrews Hotel, the Post Office, and the primary school, a special weekend will be held on 29 and 30 November, with a 12 noon street parade on Saturday followed by a carnival afternoon with the St Andrews Market, street performers, fun activities for children, local historical displays at the old school, music and fireworks. On Sunday there is a billy cart derby and big breakfast at the hotel, and historical display from noon to 5pm. Contact Gaye on 9438 5856 or email standrews150@gmail.com.

ST KILDA: Join a tour of 'Poets Corner' with Meyer Eidelson, to celebrate "Street Poetry in the Poetry Streets", such as Barrett, Browning, Byron, Dickens, and Gordon, and enjoy the readings of some of the works of these authors and poets, from 10am to 12 noon on Sunday 9 November (free but bookings essential on 9209 6229; limit of 20 places). On the same day at 2.30pm in the Community Room of St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, Elwood resident Aaron Eidelson will speak on "Surviving the Yom Kippur War" to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the assault on Israel by Egyptian and Syrian forces in 1973. Phone 9690 9584 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

SUNSHINE: David Meale will speak about the history of ICI at the Pioneer Lunch to be held at 12 noon on Sunday 16 November at Sunshine Golf Club, Mt Derrimut Road, Derrimut. 3 course lunch \$25. All welcome - bookings essential to 9312 2284 or 9744 7435.

TERANG: The annual dinner will be held on Monday 24 November at the Commercial Hotel Terang at \$20 per person, with guest speaker Mr Niel Black of Mt Noorat. Meetings are held the 4th Monday each month at 8pm at the Museum Complex, School grounds, Terang College, Primary Campus, Princes Highway, and the rooms are open for research on the third Sunday of the month from 1-4pm. Email to historysociety04@hotmail.com

WARRACKNABEAL: The recent reunion held in Warracknabeal was a great success with many people coming back to the town to renew acquaintances with locals. The town tour provided an opportunity to see recent progress, such as the renovations at the Historical Centre. Thanks to all who made the reunion a success. See www.warracknabealhistory.org.au

WARRANTYTE: Forward notice is given that a pre-1940s students reunion of Warrantyte School no. 12 will be held on Sunday 1 March 2009, to be held in the school's multi-purpose room from 11am. Generous assistance from the Bendigo Bank has enabled the Society to buy new digital equipment to help capture valuable oral histories from the local community. See www.vicnet.net.au/~whsoc or phone secretary Judy on 9844 5954

WHITEHORSE: At 1.30pm on Saturday 13 December Harold Walker, grandson of E.E. Walker, will speak on the Walker family and the Tessellated Tile Company, at the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Phone 9873 4946 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/

YACKANDANDAH: The reopening of the Yackandandah & District Historical Society, after a fire gutted their building, will take place on Saturday 29 November, with a street parade at 2pm featuring the Chinese Dragon and Lions from Bendigo, Wodonga Brass, and an official opening by Andy Muirhead from ABC television "The Collectors". A Celebration Dinner will be held in the evening for \$30 per person. Email your interest and enquiries to: ykbankmuseum@yahoo.com.au

YALLOURN: Yallourn North and District Historical Society will hold their annual "Coalies Week" from 8 to 16 November, 10am to 4pm each day. Our museum has the Brown Coal Mine room housing memorabilia of a township and its people, the struggles of a small mining town; WWII with its army camp & ach-ach guns; the placing of displaced persons in 1948 in the North Camp which earned it the name of "Little Europe"; the shock of the Big Slip in 1950 set the township to rights with town planning, etc. The school that started in a Marquee in 1918 and had three name changes, is 90 years old! A back to celebration is being held in conjunction with our open day of November 8th with a replica of the Marquee School to be erected on that day. Because we hope people will be staying on, our trips down into the mine sponsored by TRU Company will be held on Monday 10th November. For information call 51671417 or 51671589.

YARRA GLEN: The 140th anniversary of Yarra Glen school will be held on Thursday 13 November. For details ring 9730 1254 or contact secretary Eric on etelw@alphalink.com.au

History

NEWS



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