



History NEWS

Issue No. 285 Feb – Mar 2010

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

A strong Society for Victoria's 175th year

RHSV President Andrew Lemon reports on a busy and exciting year ahead.

It was great to come in from the summer break to find enthusiastic volunteers back at work at our headquarters in A'Beckett Street.

Some are continuing on projects of indexing and better organising our collection, others answer historical enquiries, and others are hard at work preparing for our next exhibition on the Robert Law Collection of photographs.

The staff and council are embarking on what will be a busy and eventful year, not without some dislocations. For example we will soon start spending our Federal Jobs Fund money on repairs and improvements to our windows with the aim of reducing noise, dust and pollution from the street.

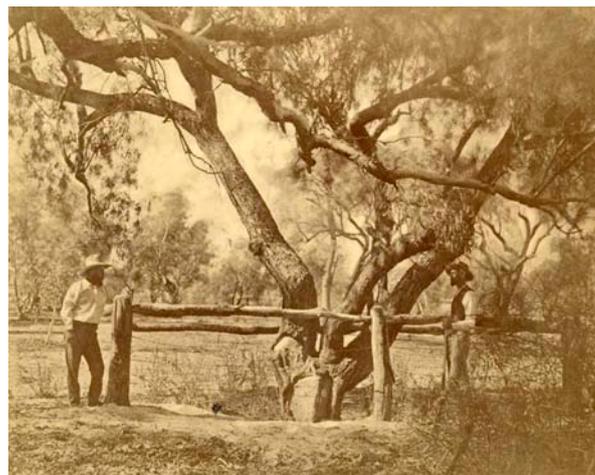
We're very proud that Kate Prinsley, our Executive Officer, will spend six weeks in June and July travelling on a Churchill Fellowship to study local history initiatives in the US and England.

Our full programme of events will have an emphasis on the 150th anniversary of the Burke and Wills Exhibition and we are co-operating with traditional partners the Royal Society of Victoria in staging our regional conference in Bendigo in late August as part of those events.

The HistoryVictoria Support Group is again organising a series of seminars in country Victoria. We are still in our own centenary year and will wind this up in May with the launch of our much anticipated and very collectible Address Book. And then the Department of Premier and Cabinet has decreed that Victoria is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year – which, if you do the arithmetic, says that European settlement began here for better and for worse in 1835: too bad for those historians who have a brief for Matthew Flinders, Sorrento, Corinella or Portland. But we are delighted to support the anniversary as another opportunity of showing why and how history matters. We will do some exploring of our own, looking at new ways of delivering that message and sharing both the fun and the high importance of history.

We have some ambitious plans for the medium term, too, and want to make our home in A'Beckett Street into a true History House, a hub for historical activities in Victoria. A strong membership is fundamental to our success.

To those of you who have long supported us, I offer special thanks, and to more recent members I urge you to take full advantage of all that the Royal Historical Society has to offer in 2010. Encourage others with an interest in history to become members of the RHSV this year, and please consider making regular tax deductible donations to build the RHSV Foundation's capital fund for our future.



Robert O'Hara Burke's grave at Cooper Creek (1887). Donated to the RHSV in 1918. Reverse of photo bears a cutting from The Argus 14 March 1908 describing Burke's death.

Late afternoon reception at Government House

Wednesday 7th April

6.00pm-7.30pm

We are delighted that our Patron the Governor, Professor David de Kretser AC will host a late afternoon reception at Government House on Wednesday 7th April to mark the Centenary of the Society.

Since the number of invitations is limited Council is seeking to have a balance of attendees from the widest range of people who have been active in the Society over the years.

Therefore expressions of interest to attend are being called for from members so that the Society can be appropriately represented. Please contact the office to register your interest by Monday 15 February. Details of name, address and membership affiliation will be taken.

RSHV Fellowships and Awards of Merit

Nominations for 2010 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

Closing Dates

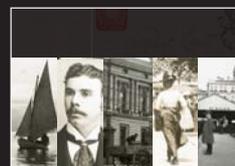
Fellows Nomination...Friday 12 March
Awards of Merit..... Friday 9 April

Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM on Tuesday 11 May.

Robert Law Exhibition opens 16 Feb



LOCAL HISTORY –

A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE RHSV

One of the many exciting discoveries I have made over the past twelve months here at the Society is the depth and breadth of the local history collections. As a reader of *History News* your attention is regularly drawn to events and activities undertaken by the many affiliated societies. This information is drawn from the bulletins and newsletters published by the societies themselves. Did you know, however, that the RHSV maintains a permanent collection of these newsletters? Did you know that one of the Society's volunteers Judith Bilszta has indexed some of these publications? From the Morwell Historical Society's *The Morwell Post*, to Balnarring and District's Snippets from our collection, to Ballan's *The Settler* and the *Horsham Historian* the RHSV Library can provide researchers and visitors alike with a wealth of information assiduously gathered by local historians.

A current project being undertaken by a volunteer, Elizabeth Bath, is the re-organising and updating of this collection prior to its move to new custom built shelving in the library's main reading room. The work of our affiliated member societies will finally be displayed with the prominence that the content merits.

I do not of course forget the many valuable local histories published privately by individuals and generously donated to us. This week I had the pleasure of talking with Mr Kevin O'Reilly of Dingley Village who brought in his new book *The RAAF and Nhill in World War 2*. The labour of five years has resulted in a terrific 200 page work full of photos. As Mr O'Reilly remarked most of his informants are in their late 80's and 90's and he was lucky to have been able to gather so much information. Luck is, I suspect, the least of the attributes Mr O'Reilly had to count on in order to write and publish this book.

The volunteers here at the Society have worked tirelessly through thousands of books, pamphlets, bus timetables, tourist brochures, restaurant menus and calendars ensuring that they are appropriately catalogued and housed here in the library for future reference. These items, collected over the years by individuals usually on holiday in a particular town or region, provide much useful information. A former resident of the Melbourne suburb of Ashburton I was today delighted to read a four page pamphlet *Early Ashburton* published by the Camberwell Waverley Regional Library in 1980. Much of the information we can locate concerning the suburb of Hawthorn can be attributed to the 15 works the Society holds authored by Gwen McWilliam, a library volunteer.

Visitors to the Society, often interstate tourists wandering past on their way to the Victoria Market, are always pleased when we can respond positively to their enquiry about a small Victorian country town, or a particular subdivision in a Melbourne suburb: the Ranelagh estate in Mt Eliza for example.

Whilst it may be true of our local history collections that many of the items can be found in public libraries and historical societies throughout the state, what is also true is that the Royal Historical Society is the only place outside the State Library where so much is gathered together. As a volunteer cataloguer said to me today: "So much work and so little time". I commend our collections to you and again remind you all how welcome new volunteers are to our team of workers. I also welcome you as members to visit and consult some of these unique snapshots of our state.

Chris Cooze – RHSV Curator

Podcasting at the RHSV

In 2007 the Royal Historical Society of Victoria received a grant from the Telematics Trust enabling the Society to create podcasts of selected lectures. Our first podcast was recorded in February 2008 and during 2008 and 2009 a total of twenty-two podcasts were placed online be listened to or downloaded from the RHSV website. Our statistics show an increased use of the podcasts during the eighteen months they have been available – an average of 136 people accessing individual podcasts in 2008 compared to an average of 157 people accessing individual podcasts in 2009. The two podcasts most often downloaded or listened to online during 2009 were *Crime in Port Phillip: 1835-1851* presented by Paul Mullaly (186 times) and Gary Presland's lecture, *Reconstructing the natural history of Melbourne*, (178 times).

One of the issues from the RHSV individual member's survey in 2006 was the need to make the lectures held at the RHSV available to those unable to attend. Recording the lectures and making them available as podcasts has helped make the lectures more accessible to our members as well as to a wider (and new) audience.

The RHSV Podcasts page - www.historyvictoria.org.au/podcast.htm - on the RHSV website has the list of podcasts currently available. Podcasts can be listened to directly online or downloaded to a computer or portable digital player to be listened to at another time. There is also a RSS facility at the bottom of the RHSV Podcasts page for those wanting to be alerted to availability of new podcasts via their RSS reader.

For societies interested in including podcasts on their website the blog, Information technology and local history, includes posts on podcasting – <http://itlochist.blogspot.com/search/label/Podcasting>. The posts cover many of the challenges faced when undertaking a podcasting project along with possible solutions.

AAMI "Belonging" Small Grants Program

The RHSV was fortunate to receive funding from these grants whereby AAMI supports community groups that staff at AAMI are involved with in a voluntary capacity.

The RHSV will be able to purchase portable audio equipment to improve its programs.

Simon Smith, Vice President of the RHSV, and archivist at AAMI, was the sponsor of this grant.

Holsworth Trust

The following groups were successful in gaining funding from the Holsworth Trust.

The Holsworth Trust supports the publication of local histories.

Information on the grants can be found at: ANZ – Named Charitable Trusts.

- Echuca Historical Society Inc.
- Birregurra District Historical Centre Inc.
- Newstead & District Historical Society Inc.
- Maldon Museum & Archives Association Inc
- Colbinabbin & District Historical Society
- Stawell Historical Society
- Portland Family History Group Inc
- Picola Public Hall Committee of Management
- Warracknabeal & District Historical Society
- Mansfield Historical Society
- Yarroweyah & Koonoomoo Improvement Groups Inc
- Mornington & District Historical Society Inc

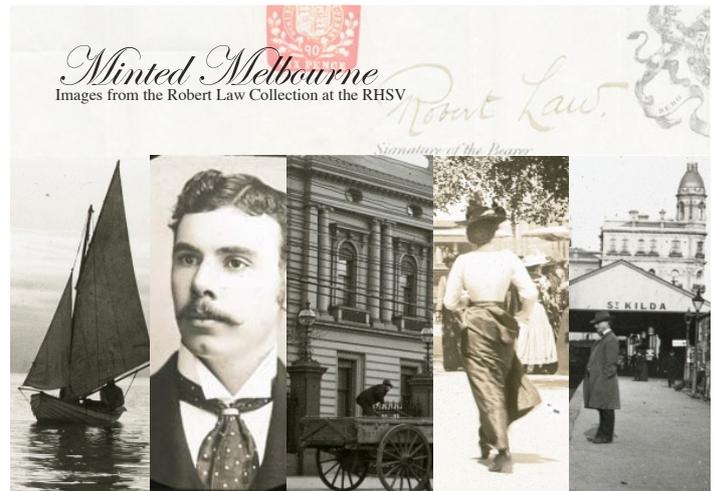
Robert Law Exhibition 16 Feb – 16 April

Special viewing and lecture

Robert Law Exhibition & George Higinbotham and family lecture

Members are warmly invited to a special viewing of the Robert Law exhibition on Tuesday 9 March at 5.00pm. to be followed by the lecture *George Higinbotham and the family* delivered by Susan Priestley at 5.45 pm.

RSVP : 5 March by calling 9326 9288



Women on the land

'Women on the Land' seminar at PROV 2-3.30pm, Thursday 11 March 2010 'In keeping with the Women's History Month theme 'Demeter's Daughters: women's harvest history', Dr Nikki Henningham, Executive Officer of the Australian Women's Register (AWR) and Dr Janet Butler, La Trobe University, will discuss their recent research conducted for the AWR into the lives of rural women in the 1980s and 1990s. Dr Charles Fahey, from the Bendigo Campus of La Trobe University will also address the theme of women and agriculture in Victorian history, drawing upon twenty years research experience, while PROV will discuss their new publication 'A guide to finding Crown land records -Lands Guide' that will enable researchers to discover details about women and others who owned land in Victoria.'

Bookings PROV reception: 03 9348 5600

ANNOUNCEMENT:

New closing date for Victorian Community History Awards

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to community history, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in partnership with Information Victoria is calling for applications for the 2010 Victorian Community History Awards.

Established in 1997, the awards recognise the achievements and contributions made in the area of community history in Victoria.

This year's awards will tie in with Melbourne's 175th anniversary celebrations, showcasing Australia's cultural capital.

Entries are now open for the 2010 awards, with the closing date extended until 5pm Wednesday, 30 June 2010.

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

For further information, including entry forms and selection criteria visit: www.vic.gov.au/historyawards

For any other enquiries regarding the Victorian Community History Awards contact:

e: infovic.marketing@diird.vic.gov.au

t: 1300 366 356 (local call cost)

tty: (03) 9603 8806

Support the RHSV FOUNDATION

The RHSV Foundation was established in May last year:

The aims of the Foundation are to:

create a permanent home for history in Victoria; further develop and preserve the most extensive single information source on the history of Melbourne and Victoria; and promote the many wonders of Victoria's past to all Victorians.

Write your place in Victoria's History

To celebrate the RHSV's centenary year, the Foundation Founders program has been created to record and recognise the first 100 significant donors/bequestors to the Foundation.

To become a Foundation Founder you can:

- pledge a donation of \$500 or more; and/or
- leave a bequest for \$5000 or more

Each Foundation Founder will be recognised on a commemorative plaque which will be unveiled at a special ceremony once we welcome 100 supporters on board.

To make a donation you can:

Telephone: (03) 9326 9288

Direct Debit: ING Direct BSB: 923 100

Account No: 602 51556

Please include name with deposit and send an email confirming contact details to office@historyvictoria.org.au

Cheque: Payable to RHSV

Post cheque to RHSV

Credit Card: Post details to above address or email to

office@historyvictoria.org.au

For more information on the aims of the Foundation or how you can support it please 'phone the RHSV on 9326 9288



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 *History News* and through deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

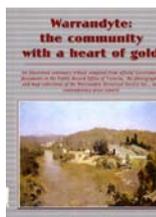
Sandringham By The Work of All, The History of a Bayside Municipality

Margaret Glass, 2009, pp. xii + 244. Available from Sandringham & District Historical Society, \$25 + \$5 p&p This book attests to the importance of the local newspaper in writing local history as its copious endnotes, numbered continuously, amply show. On the other hand, newspapers are limited in what they print and one of the consequences may be a history, in this case 'the history', that focuses on what was reported in detail, like meetings of the council and other public bodies, local disasters like the 1944 fires, sporting events and the like. The author apologises in her introduction 'to those who feel that I should have included their "pet" topic', but maybe readers might have expected more development of Sandringham themes and more discussion of what has made the municipality and its constituent parts different from other parts of suburban Melbourne. This might include a discussion of the waves of immigration that make the communities of Sandringham and later, Hampton, Black Rock and Beaumaris and also more reflection on the environmental issues that seem to have been vital in the municipality's history. These may be 'pet' topics and this comment should not detract from this very solid conventional narrative of Sandringham's history.



Warrandyte: the Community with a Heart of Gold

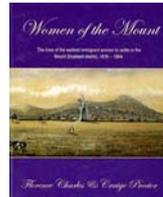
Murray Houghton, PenFolk Publishing, Blackburn, 2009, pp. xxii + 300 The sub-title, 'An illustrated centenary tribute compiled from official Government documents in the Public Record Office of Victoria, the photographic and map collections of the Warrandyte Historical Society Inc., and contemporary press reports', goes a long way to describing this comprehensive assembling of material about Anderson Creek's (Warrandyte's) struggles with gold mining from the mid-19th century



until the 1920s. There is much in passing about the social history of the area but the undoubted strengths of this work are in the maps, photos and diagrams of mining and miners, and in the identification of sites and companies that sought to extract the area's gold.

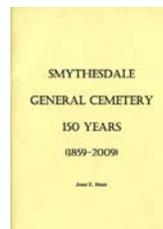
Women of the Mount, The lives of the earliest immigrant women to settle in the Mount Shadwell district, 1839-1864

Florence Charles & Craig Proctor, Mortlake and District Historical Society Inc., 2009 This book is a tribute to the continuing task undertaken by local historical society members to chart the biographies of their earliest European settlers with a special focus on the women. The result is an attractive collection of material about the first generation of European immigrants, many of them Scots, in the Mortlake area. Not surprisingly, the book is heavily weighted towards the more affluent and educated. Well-illustrated and referenced, a valuable starting point for further studies and a possible model for other historical societies.



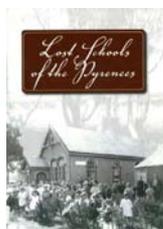
Smythesdale General Cemetery 150 Years (1859-2009)

Joan E. Hunt, Smythesdale Cemetery Trust, PO Box 21, Scarsdale, 3351, pp. x + 22 + CD searchable index The booklet outlines the history of the cemetery and provides biographies of a small sample of those buried there. The accompanying compact disc is an absolute gem providing a searchable database for full burial information arranged in columns for names, dates of burial and death, age at death or birthdate, names of father, mother, spouse, cemetery registration number, grave number, grave headstone with photo, and comments. This is undoubtedly a model for all cemetery trust publications.



Lost Schools of the Pyrenees

Diane Western, Pamela Dunn and Tim Western, The Landsborough and District Historical Group, 2009, pp. 242 This comprehensive study of where the state primary schools were not only reveals much about the area's changing history but also about the people – teachers, pupils, parents – that

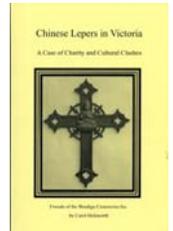


made up each community. It is a project that does much to recapture lost fragments of the region's history. It is a model for what other regions might undertake, using the rich resources of the school files in the PRO.

Chinese Lepers in Victoria, A Case of Charity and Cultural Clashes

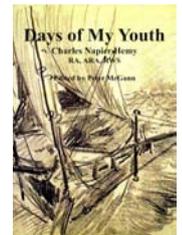
Carol Holsworth, Friends of the Bendigo Cemeteries Inc., 2009, pp. 94

Public attitudes to both the disease of leprosy as well as to the Chinese in late 19th century Victoria are intertwined in this detailed exploration of diverse and often scanty material. The density of this pioneering study is a tribute to the author's persistence and its publication opens up many avenues for others to investigate.



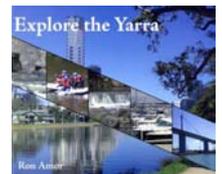
Charles Napier Hemy, 'Days of My Youth'

Peter McGann (ed.), Viglione Press, 21 Keating St., Black Rock, 3193, 2009, pp. 95, \$29.95 Charles Napier Hemy (1841-1917) was a distinguished English marine painter. The editor is a great-great grandson of Charles's father and has published a manuscript memoir deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, entitled 'Days of My Youth', written in 1904, that recalls life in Victoria in the 1850s. The Hemy family migrated to Melbourne in 1850, went to Ballarat after gold was discovered, and returned to England in 1852. The manuscript recounts shipboard life and adventures on the goldfields remembered many years later. Extensive notes and illustrations.



Explore The Yarra

Ron Amor, Tomorrow's Graphics, PO Box 151, Bulleen, 3105, 2009, pp. 101 An affectionate guide to the Yarra from its source to Port Phillip Bay, illustrated by black and white sketches, enlivened by the author's direct observations of its natural history, and larded with details of its attractions for generations of human inhabitants.



Last Year Australia Post celebrated its 200 year anniversary with a program called *Letters of a Nation*. Members of the public were invited to submit letters that are to become part of a national online archive. The RHSV was pleased to be involved as a partner in this program and volunteers were asked to read and assess all the letters. **Liz Bath**, volunteer with the project, writes of her experience.

LETTERS OF A NATION

On the 29th November 1917, from the safety of England, John Woodruff wrote to his beloved Poppy:

'I have changed my mind about giving you full details of the horrors of the battlefield before Passchendaele when I was wounded. All I will say that I shudder to think about it – that nightmare – the endless sea of slime and mud... dead bodies half-submerged in stinking water of green or reddish hue...the terror of the sniper's bullets...the gas shells that choke and blister and burn...the helpless plight of the badly hurt when no stretchers are available...the fearful concussion of shells bursting near...above all the MUD...' (Letter #1975).

This is only part of what was written so vividly, to be kept by someone unknown, and finally to end up as one of over 2000 letters received by Australia Post in the year of their 200th anniversary, and celebrated in their project of Letters of a Nation. Volunteers from RHSV were given the privilege of being legitimate voyeurs, peeping into the lives of people past and present, reviewing and assessing the volume of correspondence as it was sent on-line from PR company Haystac; rejecting those considered unsuitable, suggesting organisations or institutions that might be interested in individual items and finally recommending those worthy of making the Top 200, which would eventually be lodged in the National Archives in Canberra. They came from individuals, companies, libraries and institutions. Some were contemporary and easily readable; others creased and blotched with time. Some from the war years had neat oblong cuts where the censor had exercised his right, others on paper so fragile with writing so spidery that deciphering was difficult and transcripts required. Companies sent formal business letters from the early 1900s on wonderfully ornate letterheads; institutions sent handwritten documents such as details concerning the capture of the Kelly Gang and individuals forwarded precious mementos of people and places long gone.

Nineteen categories covered all topics of interest and aspects of life, from Culture to Politics to Science to War. There was Friendship/Romance by way of a postcard circa 1907 from

one Phil McGregore to Miss Florence Richardson (# 822): 'I was surprised when I saw you in town with one of those Scotchys. Don't have anything to do with him. I want a girl. I'm supposed to be goodlooking. If he's as handsome as the one here I can beat him hollow...I have seen you often so think it over and let me know'. Sadly we are unaware of the outcome. Family/Childhood/Home covered many areas and we can only wonder if six year-old Patrick White's requests to Father Christmas in December 1918 which included...'a little mouse that runs across the room' were fulfilled (#686). 'I hope you do not think I am too greedy,' he concluded, adding a hopeful 'but I want the things badly. Your loving Paddy'. A completely different sentiment occupied Ellen Vren who wrote to her parents in March 1919 from Youngs, WA, where the lack of rain and its ramifications were consuming her family (#1887). 'Fred as (sic) carted all the water from the well, now I have about two rings left in the tank, and it's that dirty and reking (sic) of worms...' Grandparents wrote vivid accounts of their childhoods in the early part of the 20th century in response to requests from their grandchildren, and young women told of the excitement of travelling to the UK by sea in the 1950s.

Life Events brought a plethora of correspondence concerning births and deaths; many of the latter were to be their writers' last. When Robert Dyer wrote to his wife Clara from Morton Bay on 17th May 1861 he expected to see her in five months time, following his term as crew member on the schooner

Alliance (#1891). Eight days later it sailed for Rockhampton, never to be seen again. From Egypt George Harrison wrote to his brother Tom in April 1916, requesting that their sister Alice should be looked after should he not return (#699). '....we are leaving for the Dardenelles tomorrow and it is long odds that not many of us will come out of it'. He later died in France. A father fighting in the Korean War in 1950 wrote to his young daughter Beth, giving her an idea of life in rural Japan (#1944). He signed it 'Your loving Dad', with a long row of 'kisses'. Three weeks later he was killed in action.

By far the greatest category of letters received were those concerning war. From the Boer War to Afghanistan, from army hospitals in Alexandria to trenches on the Western Front; from eye witness accounts of Bullecourt and Passchendaele to graphic descriptions of life on the Gallipoli Peninsula; from Japanese propaganda trumpeting the positive aspects of being a POW at Moulmein, Burma, to telegrams advising a family that a son or husband was missing presumed dead; or a message received by an amateur radio operator advising that a missing husband was a prisoner but alive.

Scrawled, typed, well-written, badly spelt, elaborate, torn, easy to read, impossible to comprehend, on cards, even on gumleaves; precious and priceless to their owners but temporarily relinquished so that others might read their contents, the aptly named Letters of a Nation can be viewed indefinitely on the Australia Post website – 200years.auspost.com.au.

**HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV
SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2010**

To be held at Old Gipps Town, 211 Lloyd Street, Moe

Driving from Melbourne, turn left at the MacDonaldis turnoff at the approach to Moe.

Old Gipps town is then almost immediately on your right.

10.00 **Registration** and cup of tea for those who have travelled from far afield

10.30 **Welcome by Moe Historical Society Secretary, Bill Ringin.**

INTRODUCTION, REPORTS, GENERAL INFORMATION:

10.40 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group - Lenore Frost

Local History Officer Vicki Court will tell us what's going on at the RHSV

11.00 **Presenter: Linda Barraclough**, well known researcher, publisher, cataloguer and blogger.

Linda will present on "Publishing on Blogs and Flickr". Using new technologies is a challenge for all of us, and Linda will explore interesting (and cost effective) new ways of presenting and recording history on the internet.

12.00 **Presenter: Vicki Court**, the RHSV Local History Officer and librarian.

Vicki's presentation will cover footnoting; citing references, including online references; preparing a bibliography or further reading list for your local area; including an index in your publication; the difference between a publisher and a printer.

12.45 LUNCH

1.30 **Presenter: Lenore Frost**, RHSV Vice President, local history writer and publisher, Lenore will talk about photographs, how to research them, how to interpret them, and how to use them in publishing. Lenore will also talk about preserving essential information about the photos contained in the mount-board.

2.30 Visit to **Old Gipps town**

3.30 **Afternoon tea** - Closure of Seminar Day, and departure.

(Costs: \$15 per head includes a light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged by email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone 9326 9288. Bookings will close Wednesday 10 March 2010. Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.

The 8.25am train from Southern Cross, that arrives at Moe 10.11am can be met if required. Similar arrangements can be made for the 15.06pm or 17.06pm train departing for Melbourne. Arrangements can also be made for train travellers from the east. Please advise requirements when booking.

History Victoria e-news and mc²

History Victoria e-news publishes articles of interest to local history and specialist societies in Victoria to assist in managing collections. Members of societies are encouraged to write articles describing projects being undertaken by their organisation. Issues of History Victoria e-news can be accessed from the front page of History Victoria Support Group My Connected Community as well as via the following link - <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/rhsvstate/web/index.html>. Discussion resulting from the articles can be carried out in the forum of the History Victoria Support Group mc².

Articles in *History Victoria e-news* cover a wide variety of topics including a series of articles on Work for the Dole, Conservation Volunteers, HeritageCare and similar community assistance projects in which some societies have participated. Recent issues include articles on using technology for promoting history, disaster preparedness and rebuilding collections after a disaster, notes on conducting heritage walks and historical societies and the Privacy Act.

Members of societies are reminded that the History Victoria Support Group mc², of which History Victoria e-news is a part, contains a wealth of information and resources for societies wanting to keep up to date with information relevant for managing collections as well as the opportunity to share information, promote the activities of your group or to seek information from others working on similar projects. Details on joining My Connected Community is available on the RHSV website - <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/connected.htm>.

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
www.maxus.net.au
(03) 9646 1988



Burke and Wills Expedition 150th Anniversary Commemorations 2010-2011

Progress Report

The Royal Society of Victoria's plans for the forthcoming Burke and Wills Expedition 150th anniversary commemorations are now being developed in discussions with local government authorities and communities along the Burke and Wills Track across central Victoria,

The Society has identified Bendigo and Swan Hill as commemorative locations during which commemorative civic, community and school education expedition themes and activities will be developed. The dates for these activities have yet to be finalized, but will be set as far as is possible to the dates that the expedition passed through or reached these two localities 150 years ago. It is anticipated that the RHSV will hold its 2010 Regional Conference in Bendigo this year timed to co-incide with the Burke and Wills commemorative weekend.

The Royal Society has not overlooked the smaller towns and localities along the Track at which camps were made and would welcome community interest and ideas from the historical groups associated with these localities on possible commemorative activities. In this regard the Royal Society encourages local historical societies to contact the Burke and Wills Project Officer, Mr David Dodd, on 9663 5259 or at daviddodd@sciencevictoria.org.au.

The Royal Society adds that it is also working with the towns of Beechworth and Castlemaine and the City of Ballarat (all of whom have had associations with the Expedition through connections with either Robert O'Hara Burke or John Wills), to discuss the development of possible commemorative activities.

The RHSV is working closely with the Royal Society on the commemorative programs throughout Victoria and hopes that local historical societies with interests in the Burke and Wills 150th commemoration will seize this opportunity.

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For the next issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to lenore10@hotmail.com.

The RHSV wishes to acknowledge the passing, in 2009, of two well-known individuals – Letty Armstrong of the Linton Historical Society and Eric Tetlow of the Yarra Glen Historical Society – both of whom made significant contributions to the local history movement.

ARARAT: Langi Morgala, the ADHS Museum, is open at 48 Queen St from 10:00am to 3:00pm Tue and Wed; from 1:00pm to 4:00pm Sat and Sun; and at other times by appointment. Do you possess photographic material relating to Ararat? ADHS would digitise it, and return it with a digital copy. Enquiries: langimorgala@vic.chariot.net.au or phone 5352 3117.

BAPTIST: Newsletter No 64 gives a summary of the papers at a successful International Conference held at Whitley College, Melbourne. Meetings of the society are held at the Auburn Baptist Church, 597 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn at 7.30 pm. Lectures are open to all interested friends.

BELLARINE: The October newsletter carries an article on the United Services Home in Crimea Street, Drysdale. It was established in 1891 to assist the 'friendless old soldier'. The complete story is available in the book *United Services Home: a Drysdale romance*, available at the Old Court House Museum, High St, Drysdale for \$3.00 or write to PO Box 53, Drysdale 3222, adding \$3.00 postage.

BENALLA: The society converted to DVD two films found in an old hut at the aerodrome, and several others already in their possession. They include Benalla promotions, and an interview with Laurie Ledger and Charlie Chiswell, which they plan to show at their first 2010 meeting. Enquiries: ken.whan@bigpond.com or phone 5762 1749.

BENDIGO: For details of society member Anne O'Connell's new book *Pioneers of Costerfield*: phone 5439 5637 or email annioc@ozemail.com.au.

BEAUFORT: Current projects include the indexing of the Riponshire Rates (1864-1888 completed), and the indexing of the

Presbyterian and Methodist Church records. The Courthouse Museum, 9 Livingstone St, Beaufort, is open on the second Sunday of the month, 10 am to 4 pm, or by appointment (charges will apply). Enquiries: larf@beauforts.own.net.au or phone 5349 2420.

CAMPERDOWN: Volunteers prepared their Society's collection for a significance assessment, a report being expected shortly after. The society would be pleased to accept programs from cultural events, sports meetings and other events, old invoices, etc, of Camperdown, as they are anxious to expand their collection. Enquiries: cdhs@tca-online.net.au or write to PO Box 243, Camperdown 3260.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: The society has extensive archives which are kept at the Churches of Christ Theological College in Mulgrave. Membership of the society is \$7 per annum, which includes *Historical digest* provided by post or email. Enquiries: The Secretary, 11 Middlesex Rd, Surrey Hills, 3127.

COLAC: The annual BBQ at a mystery destination will be held on Wednesday 24 February, starting from the COPACC History Centre at 5.30 pm. Enquiries: Phone 5232 1624.

DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE: Ian Penrose, the Yarra Riverkeeper, will tell of the problems facing the Yarra, and include some historical anecdotes. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 March, 8 pm, at Schramm's Cottage, Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria St, Doncaster. Enquiries: 9844 2392.

ECHUCA: From 26 February to mid March, Echuca is hosting a PROV Travelling Exhibition, "An Aboriginal Moomba – Out of the Dark". The Museum is open daily from 11 am to 3 pm at 1-3 Dickson St, Echuca. Enquiries: phone 5480 1325 or eh.soc@bigpond.com.

ELTHAM: A watercolour painting by a South Australian artist, Ronald Coudrey, of a cottage in Ely St, Eltham, has been donated to the Society. The society had worked to preserve the cottage, but it was later demolished. The painting is a valuable addition to the Society's collection. See: www.tinyurl.com/elthamdh.

INVERLOCH: Society members visited Morwell and Yallourn North, calling at the Morwell Historical Information Centre for a talk on the development of the SEC. Morwell Bowling Club provided lunch, and then it was on to the Old Brown Coal Museum at Yallourn

North, housed in the original workers' recreation hall. For further information: www.vicnet.net.au/~invhs.

KEILOR: The September/October newsletter contains an outline of the history of Keilor village during the goldrush, prepared for a primary school history lesson.

LAKES ENTRANCE: Issue 19 of *Lakes log*, the journal of the Lakes Entrance Regional Historical Society, carries interesting articles about Boer War veterans of the area, the fire brigade in Lakes Entrance, and the boat *Mullway* which is currently cruising the lakes as a charter boat. Enquiries: phone 5155 3939 or email info@lakeshistory.com.

LANDSBOROUGH: *Lost schools of the pyrenees* is a new book telling stories of the 'lost schools' including Barkly, Crowlands, Frenchman's, Glenlogie, Glenpatrick, Joel Joel, Kimberley, Landsborough West, Malakoff, Lonarch, and many more. Copies of the book are available for \$30 plus \$9 postage. Enquiries: phone Diane Western 5356 9288 or email dwestern3@gmail.com.

NEWSTEAD: In November 2009 visitors from the Pioneers and Old Residents Association of Castlemaine enjoyed the exhibition of 'Newstead Then and Now' in photos. Another display of interest was the street names of Newstead. The museum is open every Monday morning, 9.30 to 12.30 or by appointment. Enquiries: 5476 2006.

MALMSBURY: The society has returned to its premises at the Mechanics Institute, Mollison St, where the first meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 17 February at 7.30 pm. Alexandra Tynan will speak on "Born and bred in Belfast". Enquiries: malmsburyhistorical@gmail.com or phone 5423 9416.

MARYBOROUGH/MIDLANDS: The Society reported in its November newsletter that their new Resource Centre being built in the grounds of Worsley Cottage has grown rapidly. The brickwork and stonework is complete and the roof in position. The Maryborough Lions Club assisted by collecting stones on farms at Majorca and Bung Bong.

MILITARY-VIC: Peter Beckett will speak on the fascinating tale of the World War One originator of *A postcard from Ismailia* at the meeting on Thursday 25 March, Oakleigh RSL, Drummond St, Oakleigh, starting at 8.15 pm. Enquiries: phone 9749 5829 or email millhis@alphalink.com.au.

MORWELL: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 February, 2 pm, at the society headquarters at 44 Buckley Street, Morwell. Visitors are most welcome. Enquiries: phone 5134 1149 or www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au.

PLENTY: The re-dedication of the restored Plenty War Memorial Gates was held on Sunday 8 November 2009. The project to restore the Gates and establish a Memorial Garden began in 2003, but the long wait has been worthwhile given the many favourable comments made on the work undertaken by society members.

ROSEDALE: The society holds a social night with a guest speaker on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at the old Rosedale Shire Hall, 4-6 Lyons St, Rosedale at 7.30 pm. All welcome. Enquiries: PO Box 175, Rosedale 3847.

SALVATION ARMY: The meeting on Friday 10 February will feature "Picture that!", a showcase of Army artists, illustrators and cartoonists. Meetings are held at the Camberwell Citadel, Bowen Street, Camberwell, at 7.30 pm. There will be a gold coin collection. Enquiries: Dianne Edwards 9896 6027 (w) or 9841 8105 (h).

SHEPPARTON: September 2010 will mark the 150th anniversary of Shepparton being proclaimed a village. The society will celebrate the event with a book and invites submissions of memories of yourself and family when living in early Shepparton. Forward to the Secretary, Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc, 154 Welsford St, Shepparton 3630 or email peterandbeverleyford@hotmail.com.

STAWELL: A departing member of the society presented a hard drive containing a very large number of photographs of old mines, mining sites and gold mining relics of Stawell and district. The hard drive will be used as a back-up for all of our computers for the safekeeping of their computerised records and photos.

TALBOT: A new building housing an extensive collection of historical radio and tv transmission equipment, and early telephone, radio and tv sets, was opened on 11 December. The Museum, in Camp Street, Talbot, is open Sundays from 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm or by appointment. Enquiries: phone 5463 2578 or email talbotmuseum@hotmail.com.

TERANG: Terang reports 2009 a successful year for grants, having received funding for a retractable banner to encapsulate their historic maps, several of which are very fragile; for the publication of three small books depicting scenes from around Terang; for a new photo display wall; and for the purchase of a new photocopier/scanner. Enquiries: historysociety04@hotmail.com.

YACKANDANDAH: Our Museum won the Heritage and Cultural Award in the 2009 Victorian Keep Australia Beautiful/Sustainability Victoria competition. In December Susan Reynolds was a finalist in the Regional Community Volunteering Leadership Award. The Society has also launched a blog: <http://yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com>

History

NEWS



ESTABLISHED
1909

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

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

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

email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

ABN 36 520 675 471

Registration No. A2529

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

Library Hours: Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm

President	Andrew Lemon
Executive Officer	Kate Prinsley
Administrative Officer	Gerardine Horgan
Local History Officer	Vicki Court
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Christine Cooze

Design and Artwork: John Gillespie 0419 135 332

Printed by: Igroup 9552 8000

**ARTS
VICTORIA**



The RHSV acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

Items for publication should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV
email: office@historyvictoria.org.au
Copy closes 10th of the month

PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011
ISSN 1326-2696