



History NEWS

Issue No. 289 SEPT/OCT 2010

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Discover the Wonders of Victoria's Past

HISTORY WEEK 24 – 31 October, 2010

Join in with History Week

Activities include:

- Find out more about farming in the Plenty Valley and why it became known as Melbourne's Food Bowl
- Go trick or treating on a guided Halloween tour of the Melbourne General Cemetery
- Reflect upon Victoria's worst industrial accident – the collapse of the West Gate Bridge
- Enjoy a Sunday afternoon in the countryside taking part in a festival of celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the Malmsbury Viaduct.
- See a play about Jessie Webb

Make sure you visit the History Week Events Calendar. It lists details on all the exciting events being held around Melbourne and Victoria during the week and is constantly updated.



It's not too late to send in your event.

Send your details to

info@historyweek.org.au

And help spread the word!

With this newsletter you will have received a History Week postcard. Post it on to somebody – perhaps your local school – and let them know about all the activities available to them during History Week.

History Week Grants Available 2010

Following the wonderful success of our History Week banners grants in 2009 we are pleased to be able to repeat this grant again for 2010.

Historical Societies affiliated with the RHSV are eligible to apply for the production of a free standing, light, portable banner to promote their historical society. The banners are ideal to put up in your local library or community centre, and can easily be taken to schools and other off site activities. Eighty societies were successful in gaining banners last year and we encourage other societies to apply this year.

Application forms will be available on our website from 24 October, or can be mailed out to you by phoning 9326 9288 – the first day of History Week – with applications closing on Friday 10 December.

The application process is simple but the proviso is that your society must undertake a History Week event for 2011.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

Congratulations to Jenny Davies – Winner Melbourne Awards 2010

The RHSV congratulates Jenny Davies on her success in winning the Melbourne Award – Individual division – *Contribution to the city's profile*.

Flood Relief

If your museum/collection has been affected by recent floods (or you know a group in that situation), please be aware that there is funding available to help with immediate recovery. Go to the link below to get details of what help is available, and how to access it.

Disaster Response Arts Vic

http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/pdf/Disaster_Response_Arts_Vic.pdf

Or phone the RHSV 9326 9288 for further information

Please get in touch with the RHSV to let us know what is happening and if you are in need of help.

RHSV Receives Grants

We are thrilled to have received a Victoria 175 Grant to help produce a special edition of the *Victorian Historical Journal – 175 Years of Diverse History*

And we have received a University of Melbourne History Research Grant to further develop our play about Jessie Webb to be performed during History Week.

See page 3 for further information.

Accessible Local and Family History Resources

The RHSV has for many years sourced and maintained a collection of newsletters and journals published by our Affiliated Societies. This year one of our aims has been to improve their accessibility for the use of members and visitors. New shelving within the body of the RHSV library has been entirely designed, built, installed, painted and filled by our very resourceful volunteers. We are currently conducting an audit to make sure that we have as complete a set of these newsletters and journals as possible. Affiliated Society newsletters and journals are included in our catalogue – so do have a look to see what is available. A few hours spent browsing through these in our warm and cosy library should turn up some interesting new subjects or contacts for your research.

RHSV welcomes Jane Carolan onto Council

Jane was educated in history and information resources at the universities of Melbourne and RMIT and taught Australian Studies at Deakin University before becoming an archivist. She is currently writing a company history for Catholic Church Insurance and juggles writing with running the archives at Trinity Grammar School.

Jane regularly visits repositories, interstate and overseas, gathering material for commissioned works covering Anglican parishes, designs of Walter Burley Griffin and school histories of Trinity Grammar and St Leonard's College. Recently she wrote two biographies on industrialists, Sir Henry Somerset and Sir David Zeidler. Other interests include volunteering for the Brighton Historical Society and writing articles for their journal. Jane's archival/history passion is assisting other historians with their research.

The RHSV Foundation continues to build

We are delighted to announce the support of our most recent Foundation Founders:

Carole Woods

Catherine and Charles Stewart Ross OAM – who have given their donation in memory of Charles' great grandfather, Reverend Charles Stewart Ross, Church Historian and missionary who was a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria nearly 100 years ago.

Regional members driving force of HVSG

Rural and regional Australia has been enjoying unaccustomed popularity in the political mind since the Federal election, but here at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria our country members (affiliated and direct) and historical societies have always been at the core of our organisation.

Along with suburban and special interest societies, they are the driving force of the History Victoria Support Group. This group was formed seven years ago to fulfil (as our 2010 Annual Report put it) 'an expressed need by our affiliated societies for workshops, seminars, training and advice of a practical nature.' Under our constitution, HVSG supplies one of our two joint vice presidents – currently Lenore Frost – and consistently represents local issues at our Council level. This year our well attended HVSG workshops have been held in Morwell, Rutherglen and Hamilton.

So it is a big thrill to see so many RHSV affiliated societies benefit from a total of \$287,500 in one-off distributions just announced by Public Record Office Victoria from the project fund called 'the Victoria 175 History Grants' on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Some local historians

were bemused by the government's determination to call this year Victoria's 175th when the colony was not proclaimed as such till 1851, while on the other hand Portland, Sorrento, Corinella are just some Victorian locations with European settlement stories earlier than 1835. Even the 30 August 1835 Foundation Day date for Melbourne causes dissent because, perhaps intentionally, it bypasses the rival claims of hero founders Batman and Fawcner to be the 'founder' of Melbourne. An uncontested reality is that the continuous settlement of the city in its European form, supplanting indigenous occupation, began on that day when the small ship *Enterprize* unloaded its first settlers and supplies on the banks of the Yarra. And Melbourne has proved to be the hub of what became Victoria ever since.

The RHSV itself has directly reaped the benefit for its members and the public of two specific projects in the Victoria 175 programme: funding for a special issue of our Victorian Historical Society

and, though a partnership with the State Library of Victoria, a project to digitise and place on-line the full run of the Journal and its predecessor the Magazine from its inception 100 years ago. This is a huge step forward in making our collection more accessible to all Victorians.

The rural voice was also heard loud and clear at the RHSV annual conference which alternates between Melbourne and regional centres. We chose the weekend of 28-29 August for Bendigo to coincide with local events to mark the passage



Professor Graeme Davison, Steven Grange from APLA and Andrew Lemon at our conference in Bendigo.

of the Burke and Wills exploration expedition north along the nearby Campaspe River valley exactly 150 years earlier. Bendigo Historical Society president Jim Evans generously guided our bus tour to two of the campsites and other points of historical significance. Professor Graeme Davison gave an inspired dinner talk on our theme Fact and Fable in the writing of

local history (reprinted in this issue of History News). Our seminar programme in the historic Shamrock Hotel stimulated our thinking about how best to tell our history, with high quality presentations by Dr June Senyard and Anne McClelland on Birchip, by Jillian Durance and Ken Oldis who have each been major prize winners in the Victorian Community History Awards; by Bendigo researchers Dr Ralph Birrell and Carol Holsworth, and by our own Kate Prinsley.

Rain in our rivers – too much for some – and the filling of dams and reservoirs suggests a kind spring and summer for 2010 in this boom and bust state of Victoria. If you want to know how it was in the past, ask your local historical society.

Andrew Lemon

President, RHSV

Professor Graeme Davison's conference paper is included as an insert in this newsletter.

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

The Great Melbourne Telescope: Restoring our astronomical heritageJOINT ANNUAL LECTURE: **The Royal Society of Victoria and the RHSV****Speaker:** Dr Richard Gillespie**Where:** Royal Society Hall, entrance now at 8 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne**Time:** Pre-lecture refreshments 6.15pm (Cost \$20 on the night)
Lecture: 7pm**RSVP:** for catering essential 12 noon 21 Sept, telephone 9663 5259
or email rsv@sciencevictoria.org.au

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER

Italians and Swiss-Italians on the Walhalla Goldfield**Speaker:** Annamaria Davine**Where:** RHSV**Time:** 5.15 tea/coffee. 5.45 Lecture**Cost:** Members Free. Non Members \$5.50

In the decades following the discovery of gold in Walhalla in late 1863, thousands of men and women went to the district eager to make their fortune. Among them were hundreds of Italian and Swiss-Italians (Italians), mostly males. These were usually sojourners, temporary residents who, although assumed to be 'migrants' when entering Victoria, did not necessarily have a commitment to permanent settlement. They were woodcutters, timber contractors, tramway builders and charcoal makers and it was not unusual for them to travel from Europe to the Walhalla goldfield 2-3 times during their working lives. Nor were they always desperately poor. Pietro Bombardieri, for example, 'migrated' to Australia at least seven times over a forty year period and lived in Walhalla for part of this time working as a timber contractor.

Who were they and what were their aspirations? I will provide some background into my research and, using two case studies, discuss what 'migration' may have meant to Walhalla's Italians. Has its meaning changed over time, or has its use oversimplified and formularized a complex and diverse process in time, place and belonging?

Annamaria (Anna) Davine is an honorary research fellow in the University of Melbourne's School of Historical Studies and a member of the Professional Historians' Association. Her main area of interest is Italian migration and settlement in Australia and other New World countries. A book, Neither Here nor There: Italians and Swiss-Italians on the Walhalla Goldfield 1865-1915 (based on her PhD thesis) was published by the Italian Australian Institute at Latrobe University in 2009. She is presently writing the history of the Coro Adriatico, an Italian male choir in Australia.

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER

Designing and maintaining a website workshop

Websites are an important tool for promoting organisations and the local history of an area. An introduction to designing and maintaining an effective website will be provided in this information session.

Where: RHSV**Time:** 10.30am to 12.30pm**Cost:** Free

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – 9326 9288

WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER

Podcasting workshop

Recording and editing audio files for use on the Internet as podcasts will be discussed in this session. Examples of podcasts will be provided plus tips on how podcasts can be used to further promote local history.

Where: RHSV**Time:** 10.30am to 12.30pm**Cost:** Free

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – 9326 9288

FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER

Indexing for Historical Societies**Speaker:** John Adams**Time:** 10.00 – 3.00**Cost:** \$40.00 – Members
\$ 45.00- Non members

Fee includes a book and morning tea.

BYO Lunch

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – 9326 9288

John Adams, a member of the Australian Society of Indexers and Fellow and honorary indexer for our Society's Victorian Historical Journal, will outline the processes of indexing including the selection of key words and formatting index entries. Particular issues relevant to the peculiarities of indexing non-book items (periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs and other non-text materials) will also be discussed. A copy of Indexing for Historical Societies will be provided to each participant.



PLAY

Jessie Stobo Watson Webb**Where:** RHSV**Dates:** **Tuesday 26 October**

5.15pm for 5.45 performance

Saturday 30 October

7pm for 7.30pm performance

Cost: Members \$15. Non Members \$20

A feature of this year's History Week activities will be the newly written play 'Velvet Rebel' about Jessie Webb, one of the founders of the RHSV.

I discovered Jessie Webb, or at least the biography on her written by Emeritus Professor Ronald Ridley, while I was fossicking up on the mezzanine floor at the RHSV building, during the time when I was the Co-ordinator of the Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival. I was absolutely fascinated, first by her intelligence, and secondly by the story of her life and times. I couldn't stop talking about her and even presented a lecture in her persona for Weston Bate's Garden Party in November 2009, complete with academic gown flying.

Jessie Stobo Watson Webb was the lecturer in Ancient History at the University of Melbourne from 1908 right through to 1944. She was the consummate 'blue-stocking', a true gentlewoman, an intrepid adventurer with a deep love of the history of ancient civilizations, and an interest in the history in the making of the new colony of Victoria.

On the 21st May 1909, along with some 70 others, she attended a meeting at Furlong's Music Studios in the Royal Arcade in Bourke Street at which the Historical Society of Victoria was formed to preserve the then 'fast vanishing' historical records of the state, and was recorded as foundation member number 30.

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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 possible deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Journal*.

Alan Pearce, *Plenty War Memorial Gates – A Short History*, Plenty Historical Society, 27 Howell Road, Plenty, 3090, 2009, pp. 34. A booklet outlining the building of the gates at Plenty Park after World War and their subsequent recent refurbishment.

Dawn Peel, *Colac 1939-1945, Wartime in a Country Community*, Dawn Peel, Colac, 2009, pp. 120, \$25 + \$5 post. This is a model for any community wishing to place its local history in a global context. The author is a skilled researcher and writer and she has produced a splendid, well-illustrated, clearly argued account of Colac's World War II. Her home town is fortunate that she continues to produce such competent and interesting narratives that add greatly to our understandings, in this case of life and work on the home front.

The Dash, Transcripts from Pyramid Hill, Durham Ox & Mitiamo Cemetery, Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society, 2009, pp. 118, \$25 + \$10 post. A compilation of the information in cemetery records and monuments, detailing location of graves and cross-referenced to the society's published Profile of the Past. Obviously a boon for genealogists with any interests in the families of the Pyramid Hill area.

Bev Roberts (ed.), *Miss D & Miss N, An Extraordinary Partnership, The Diary of Anne Drysdale*, Australian Scholarly Publishing with State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 2009, pp. xv + 331. Anne Drysdale and Caroline Newcomb have long been known to historians of early Victoria as belonging to a rare breed known as 'lady squatters', but not much else. Bev Roberts has sought to redress this in her skilful editing and commentary on Anne Drysdale's diaries covering the period from 1839 when she left Scotland until her death in 1853, with a gap between 1847 and 1851 due to a missing diary, and with some additional entries in 1854 written by Caroline Newcomb. What emerges is a complex picture framed by the observations of an 'educated, middle-class woman and farmer' as well as 'domestic detail', made possible by the exhaustive research and thoughtful writing of the editor. Miss D and Miss N were extraordinary and the publication of this book is a tribute to them and their biographer. A vital addition to early Victorian history,

women's history, and the history of land settlement.

Emma Russell with Vicky Ryan, *A History of the Medical Defence Association of Victoria, Medical Defence By Doctors For Doctors*, Avant Mutual Group, Melbourne, 2008, pp. 110. From its foundation in 1895 almost until its merger in 2007, the MDAV council comprised practising doctors serving in an honorary capacity. This little book traces the MDAV's history against the background of vast changes in medical practice, society, and insurance provision. There are short biographies of leading figures and a good index and bibliography.

Bruce Scates, *A Place to Remember, A History of the Shrine of Remembrance*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2009, pp. 308, \$59.95. A very attractive history of this important Melbourne institution, marked by creative scholarship and enlightening incorporation of rich visual material with text. Written by one of Australia's leading historians, the book, in Graeme Davison's words in the blurb, shows the Shrine as not only 'a place to remember' but also a place whose history 'mirrors our changing ways of mourning and remembering'.

Derek M. Schreuder and Stuart Ward (eds), *Australia's Empire*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2008, paperback edition 2009, pp. 440, \$39.95. Part of the Oxford History of the British Empire Companion Series, this book brings together a galaxy of Australian historians in chapters that discuss the meaning and importance of empire in its distinctively Australian manifestations. A timely and valuable book.

Simon Smith, *Maverick Litigants, A History of Vexatious Litigants in Australia, 1930-2008*, Maverick Publications, 13 Scott Street, Elwood, 3184, 2009, pp. xii + 316. This substantial book examines the Australian legal history of the 'vexatious litigant', a person who 'habitually', 'persistently' and 'without reasonable cause' brings legal proceedings to court. Seven of the first ten declared litigants in Australia are exhaustively discussed. Some are Victorian – the brilliant Rupert Millane, inventor, entrepreneur, land-developer and transport pioneer, whose litigation stretched from the 1920s almost until his death in 1969; Elsa Davis, composer-performer, whose first litigation began in the 1940s against the Isaacs family and others; Goldsmith Collins, sometime VFL footballer, but a litigant against Northcote City Council from the late 1940s; and Constance Bienvenu, animal welfare activist, whose litigation began in the 1960s when she started a campaign to reform the RSPCA. Smith

concludes that rather than being vexatious, litigants were more mavericks seeking to reform and advance ideas through the legal system.

Derrick Stone, Greg Dunnett, David Endacott, Andrew Shugg, and Edward and Maura Wishart, *Spa Country – Victoria's Mineral Springs*, Department of Sustainability and Environment in conjunction with Victorian Mineral Water Committee, 2009, pp. 232, \$29.50. Available from the Daylesford Museum, 100 Vincent St, Daylesford 2460. Twenty years ago a field guide to 65 mineral springs of the Central Highlands was published by Edward and Maura Wishart. This new publication has been inspired by that earlier work and expanded to include detailed historical and current information as well as material from the museum collection of the Daylesford Historical Society. It highlights the importance of the mineral springs in the ups and downs of tourism in the Daylesford region and in many ways, provides an introductory history to the area about which not much has been published. It also provides a walker's guide to the springs. A fascinating story, beautifully presented and illustrated.

Deborah Tout-Smith (ed.), *Melbourne, A City of Stories*, Museum Victoria, Melbourne, 2010, pp. 114, \$29.95. This book has grown out of the Melbourne Museum's permanent exhibition, The Melbourne Story. Thus it is necessarily selective and related to the objects displayed. Like the exhibition, it projects very well stories about people and places in Melbourne's rich past.

Remember Them, A Guide to Victoria's Wartime Heritage, Hardie Grant, Melbourne, 2009, pp. xii + 308. Produced by the Veteran's Unit, Department of Planning and Community Development, this is an attractive, well-arranged and interesting guide to Victoria's wartime heritage. Divided into sections covering 15 urban and regional areas (including the Shrine of Remembrance), the book deals not only with around 1000 memorials from the Boer War to the present, but also associated and often little-known stories attached to the people on those memorials.

Nick Walker, *Once A Country Practice, A History of the Law Firm of Macpherson + Kelley*, Chancery Bold, Melbourne, 2009, pp. xvii + 97. A sumptuously produced account of the legal firm based in Dandenong with offices in the city and Sydney. The firm's development is set against the background of change in Dandenong from market town to bustling industrial and commercial satellite. The book should satisfy those associated with M + K as well as those with more than parochial interests.

Congratulations 2010 Victorian Community History Awards Winners

Overall winner	Jenny Davies (Melbourne)	Behind the Façade: Flinders Street, more than just a railway station	A book that explores the social, commercial and architectural history of Melbourne's iconic Flinders Street Station, dating back to its development more than 100 years ago.
Award to Celebrate Melbourne's 175th Anniversary	Bain Attwood (Monash University/ Carlton)	Possession: Batman's Treaty and the matter of history	A detailed study of colonialism in Victoria with a focus on John Batman's treaty with representatives of the Kulin Nation in 1835.
Best Print/Publication -	Robin Grow (East Hawthorn)	Melbourne Art Deco	A pictorial guide which documents the influence of Art Deco on Melbourne's residential, industrial, commercial and domestic architecture and designs.
Best Collaborative/Community Work	Yarra Valley Italian Cultural Group (Yarra Valley)	Dreams from a Suitcase ('Sogni Dalla Valigia'). Recollections of Italian Settlers in the Yarra Valley.	A book containing 25 illustrated essays which tell the stories of Italian migrants exploring the challenges they faced and celebrating their contributions to the Victorian community.
Best Community Research, Registers and Records	Suzie Zada and Pam Jennings (Geelong)	Scots in Geelong and District to 1860	A 380 page e-book on CD-ROM which builds on the work of the Geelong Historical Society and explores Scottish immigration, Scottish architects, churches, schools and place names.
Best Walk/Tour-	Karen McIntyre , Lake Bolac and District Historical Society (Lake Bolac)	Lake Bolac Heritage Walk	A signposted walk around the Lake Bolac region which details the stories of Lake Bolac's history and contemporary culture. The walk includes ancient and living indigenous cultural heritage of the region, the effects of war and economic depression on the local community, pastoral and soldier settlement; and the everyday patterns of industry and leisure.
Best Exhibit/Display -	Janine Rizzetti , Heidelberg Historical Society (Heidelberg)	An Invitation to the Ball	The An Invitation to the Ball exhibition, which continues at the Old Heidelberg Court House Museum until November 2010, traces the history of balls and society events in the Banyule area between 1850 and 1950. Items include formal gowns, jackets, fans, newspaper clippings and photographs.
Best Audio-Visual/Multimedia	Keith White and Will Twycross (Mornington Peninsula)	Visions of Port Phillip: The Burrells of Arthur's Seat 1851 - 1925	A 14-chapter social documentary which uses family stories to profile the development of one of Melbourne's historic and popular beachside holiday regions.

Call for Applications

Victorian Community Foundation – Holsworth Local Heritage Trust

Historical Societies in Regional Victoria are encouraged to apply to the Holsworth Fund to support the production of publications.

Funding of up to \$2,000 is available for the publication of works on any specific or general local history in Regional Victoria.

The grant is not intended to benefit individual authors or large organisations. Small organizations with little or no experience of self publishing work will be encouraged. Joint projects encompassing several groups or annual/self edited journals incorporating submitted historical articles from a wide community are encouraged.

Previous recipients include:

Maryborough Field Naturalists Club, Linton & District Historical Society, Tatura & District Historical Society, Mornington & Peninsular National Trust, friends of Bendigo Cemeteries Inc.

For more information, application guidelines and forms go to ANZ Executors and Trustees on

- > 03 9273 6799 or free call 1800 808 910
- Or www.anz.com/aus/fin/Trustees/
- Applications close 1 October 2010.

New journal for historians

Issue 1, 2010

Circa: The Journal of Professional Historians is a new journal published by the Professional Historians Association (Vic) that aims to publish work that reflects the many styles, themes and formats embraced by professional historians.

The journal provides a forum for professional historians to publish work that reflects the diverse ways in which they engage with history and practice in areas such as cultural heritage, museums, oral history, commissioned history, the media, education and government.

Thought provoking and informative contributions discuss pertinent ethical and philosophical questions, explore the use of common or unusual sources, and examine topical issues. Topics include oral history, biography, archives, writing history, intangible heritage, pilgrimage and Aboriginal reconciliation.

90 pages, fully illustrated

Copies of the journal are available for sale

\$20.00 plus postage

- > Please contact the Editor, Katherine Sheedy
Email: ksheedy@waybackwhen.com.au
Phone: 03 9372 6637
Or visit www.phavic.org.au/publications

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV

SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 6th November 2010

To be held at RHSV Headquarters
239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)

“Toolbox Topics for Historical Societies”

- 10.00 Registration and cup of tea for those who have travelled from far afield
- 10.15 Welcome by the RHSV President, Dr Andrew Lemon
- 10.30 Fred Green, Department of Justice
“Incorporated Associations”. This will cover changes to the legislation, responsibilities of Public Officers, and other important things to know.
- 11.30 Geoff Ellis, Representative of Insurance Advisernet Australia Pty Limited
“Insurance for Historical Societies”
- 12.30 - 1.30 LUNCH Attendees will be able to see our latest exhibition
“A Singular Record”
- 1.30 Vicki Court, RHSV Local History Officer
“Grants and how to get them” and “Guide to Managing Historical Societies”
- 2.15 Joan Hunt, RHSV Councillor and Delegate to the FAHS
“Deductible Gift Recipient Status” and the “Federation of Australian Historical Societies”
- 2.45 Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer, RHSV
Kate will speak on her recent trip overseas on a Churchill Fellowship visiting American and British historical societies.
- 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 3rd November 2010.

Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.

PLAY

Jessie Stobo Watson Webb

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The play about Jessie Webb skilfully wrought by writer Peter Hepworth, is titled ‘Velvet Rebel’ and features two female actresses one playing Jessie and the other playing a myriad of her associates including the young first year acolyte Dorothea Coverlid and Alice Anderson, her friend who ran the first all female garage in Kew in the 1920’s. The setting of the play is Jessie’s last lecture in 1944, and Jessie herself is a splendid example of the ‘new emancipated woman’ independent in a previously male dominated sphere, but with a very feminine, witty, humanitarian and caring nature.

Theatre Director, Susan Pilbeam, herself a graduate of arts and women’s studies, is delighted to be involved, and for me it has been a great pleasure to bring Jessie to life, and to see a glimpse of the world of academia in Melbourne in the early part of the twentieth century.

There will be two performances of ‘Velvet Rebel’ in the RHSV Speaker’s Room during History week on Tuesday 26th October at 5.15pm for a 5.45pm performance start and on Saturday 30th October at 7pm for a 7.30pm performance start. Tickets are \$15.00 for RHSV Members and \$20.00 for non-members.

I hope to organise a tour of ‘Velvet Rebel’ to Historical Societies and Performing Arts Centres in 2011 and 2012, so if you are interested please let me know - Janice Haynes, Project Manager, Jessie Webb Play Project, PH: 0407 348 478, email: jhaynes@ncable.net.au.

The Play is made possible with a grant from the City of Melbourne Arts Grants

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NEW EXHIBITION - 27 SEPT - 17 DEC

A Singular Record

Treasures from the RHSV Manuscript collection.

The RHSV manuscript collection is where “the prominent and the famous who are seen to “make history” are seated alongside their more obscure contemporaries, the silent history makers.

Come and see this beautiful exhibition showing the variety of manuscripts in the RHSV collection and unique qualities of manuscript for research.

27 September - 17 December

RHSV

239 A'Beckett Street

Melbourne

OPEN 10am – 4pm Monday – Friday



Call for papers:

Oral History Association of Australia Conference

Oral History Association of Australia is now calling for papers for its biennial conference ‘Communities of Memory’ to be held from Friday 07 to Sunday 09 October 2011 at the State Library of Victoria.

Workshops & masterclasses & a public lecture will be held on the Thursday 6 October 2011, prior to the conference.

Call for Papers closes on 31 October 2010, please visit the conference website for further information and submission guidelines.

Further information: OHAA Conference Website -

<http://sites.google.com/site/communitiesofmemory/home>



The Australian Copyright Council is renowned for its reliable, user-friendly training, publications and advice. Its training sessions give you the latest information, delivered by experienced specialist lawyers who can explain how the law applies to real situations and practical issues. Go to their website and click on ‘training’ to view all their upcoming courses.

www.copyright.org.au

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 October to lenore10@hotmail.com.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: As part of senior's week we will be conducting a tour of Brighton General Cemetery titled “Adam Lindsay Gordon: His Life and Beyond” on Sunday 10 October at 10.30 am. The cost is \$10 and \$5 for members. Bookings are essential: John Adams 5261 2899.

BALWYN: Clive Enticott will be the guest speaker on Thursday 9 September 2010 at 8 pm. His subject will be “Missing Mansions of Melbourne”. Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn. Enquiries: bhs@balwynwelfare.org.au or phone 9836 9681.

BALNARRING: The August edition of Snippets from our collection, focuses on the war years of 1939-1945, and includes photos of Navy and local fire fighters at Somers, the Red Cross Clearing Station at Bittern, and tank traps at Point Leo.

BELLARINE: Meetings are held at the Old Court House Museum on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm unless otherwise notified. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 13 October. Entry is from the rear door. The Museum is open on the 1st Sunday of the month from 1.30 to 4.30 pm.

BOX HILL: On Thursday 16 September Paul Darragh will present a talk on “Holeproof Industries”. On Thursday 21 October Lesley Alves will talk about her book *Suburban Heartland: a History of the City of Whitehorse*. Meetings are held at Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North, at 8:00 pm. Enquiries: 9285 4808.

CASTERTON: On Wednesday 15 September there will be a General Meeting at the Casterton RSL Casterton at 2 pm. The Casterton Community Museum is located at the Railway Station building in Jackson St, open by appointment. Contact 5581 2070 for further details.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: A family and local history expo on the theme of “Skeletons in the closet” will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 November, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Ballarat

Specialist School, Gillies Street, Ballarat. Entry is \$5, children under 12 free. Website: www.chha.asn.au.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST: The August issue of the Historical digest contains photos and extracts from the 107 year old book Jubilee Pictorial History, edited by A B Maston, which published photos of nearly every church in Australia and New Zealand. View the pictures online at www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/digital/jph/JPH000.HTM.

CLUNES: Meetings of the Clunes Museum are held on every second Thursday of the month at 10 am, at the Museum, 36 Fraser Street, Clunes. Guest speakers are occasionally provided. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 October. Enquiries: 5345 3592. New members welcome.

GEELONG: Robert Windmill will talk on the "History of the Geelong Racing Club" in the Morrow Theatre, 51 Lt. Malop Street, Geelong on Wednesday 6 October at 8 pm. Enquiries: 5278 3530 or the Geelong Heritage Centre 5227 0970.

GULF STATION: The next project for working bees at Gulf Station will be getting the chook houses and enclosure ready for future inhabitants. The next working bee will be held on 3 October, and will coincide with the bi-monthly lunchtime meeting. For further information email: Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com or phone/fax 9435 8404.

HORSHAM: At the general meeting on Wednesday 13 October, Gary Heinrich will talk about "Farm Merchandising". Meetings are held at 33 Pynsent St, Horsham, commencing at 8 pm. Enquiries: lwbsmith@netconnect.com.au or phone 5381 0081.

KOROIT: Several townships in the district will be celebrating their 150th anniversaries in February 2011, including Kirkstall, Hawkesdale and Peshurst. If anyone has historical material or photos of interest to these anniversaries, get in touch by emailing kathyb@westvic.com.au or phone 5565 7994.

LILYDALE: Meetings of the Society are held on the first Saturday of the month (except January) commencing at 1 pm at the Athenaeum Theatre, Castella Street, Lilydale. A grant for a new computer will allow research in their many digital resources, including the Lilydale Express. Enquiries: aross35@bigpond.com or phone 9761 9192.

MALVERN: The society will have a sales table and display at the popular "Spring into Gardening" at the historic Victoria Gardens, High Street, Prahran on Sunday 10 October.

MORNINGTON: On Tuesday 14 September at 10.30 am, a coffee morning will be held at Canadian Bay Club, Mt Eliza. Club members will be there to share their memories and memorabilia. Cost \$5. There will be a walk at the Mornington Cemetery, Craigie Rd, Mt Martha on Saturday 30 October at 1.30 pm, donation accepted. Enquiries: 5976 3203.

MOUNT DANDENONG: A program of events from 22 to 26 September including a bush dance, thanksgiving service, local music and afternoon tea, local groups showcase, historic Australian films, will celebrate Centenary of Farndons Community Hall (formerly Kalorama CWA Hall), 42 Falls Rd, Mt Dandenong. Enquiries for booking and costs: 9755 3802.

NARRE WARREN: Beryl O'Gorman will give a talk on Saturday 11 September at 2 pm on "Netting your Irish Ancestors". Meetings are held at the Narre Warren Library Meeting Room, and the research room is also at the Narre Warren Library. Enquiries: 5995 5957.

NEPEAN: A new edition of Tram to Sorrento by A P Winzenried will be launched at 2.30 pm on Saturday 30 October at the restored Tram Platform, Policeman's Point, Sorrento Park, Sorrento. All welcome. Enquiries: nepeanhs@satlink.com.au or 5984 0255.

PLENTY: The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 October at the Plenty Fire Station, Yan Yean Road, Plenty at 8 pm.

SALVATION ARMY: The Heritage Centre has moved into the "Attic Studio", a former photographic studio used by the Army. The Centre is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday at 69 Bourke Street, Melbourne. Research facility by appointment. Enquiries: 9639 3618 or Lindsay.Cox@aus.salvationarmy.org.

STRATFORD: "Handmade and Homemade" – this new exhibition of handcrafts includes hand-crafted lace, tatting, tapestry and embroidery, antique nightgowns, Christening gowns, tea cosies, and more. See also the "Dr Backhouse Collection" (of items found under his house). The Museum, in Hobson Street, is open Tuesdays from 10 am to 3 pm; gold coin donation.

WARRACKNABEAL: The society recently held a public meeting to show a DVD of Warracknabeal's centenary celebrations in 1967. The DVD was put together by Ray Hewitt, highlighting the 1967 Procession, the High School Back-to, the Air Show and the Garden Competition. An earlier DVD of Ray's depicted pre-1960s headers and harvesters.

WOADY YALOOK: Find Staffordshire Reef's hidden secrets on a walking tour led by Stephen Guy on Sunday 19 September. For further details email wys@vic.chariot.net.au or 5342 8754.

History NEWS



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10am to 4pm

ESTABLISHED 1909

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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