



# History NEWS

Issue No. 292 April/May 2011

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## Notice of 2011 Annual General Meeting

**All members are advised that the 101st Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Tuesday 10 May 2011

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Place:** 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 3000

### **BUSINESS:**

1. To confirm the minutes of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2010.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2010.
4. To appoint the Hon. Auditor for 2011.
5. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council.
6. To receive expressions of interest for HistoryVictoria Support Group.
7. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.
8. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
9. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

The AGM will be followed by a lecture to be given by Michael Cathcart: *Water Dreamers After the Deluge* at 5.45pm

### **CALL for NOMINATIONS**

Six positions are available for election at the AGM. Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close on Tuesday 3 May 2011.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

### **CALL for EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST**

Affiliated societies are encouraged to provide expressions of interest for membership on the RHSV's HistoryVictoria Support Group. These should be forwarded to Executive Officer by Tuesday 3 May 2011.

Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer

26 March, 2011

*Dancing the Skies  
exhibition*

Aviation in the RHSV Collections –  
until 15 April

### **FREE TALK**

#### **The First Supreme Court – 170 Years of Justice**

Please join us on Thursday 28 April at 1pm when The Honourable Marilyn Warren AC, Chief Justice of Victoria will present a talk on *The First Supreme Court – 170 Years of Justice*

Bookings essential 9326 9288.

See *What's On* for further details



## **NEW ACQUISITIONS**

**Recently a number of images associated with the family of Arthur Calder were donated to the RHSV.**



Calder was a jeweller in Footscray and the city. Calder's mother was associated with hotels in the Richmond area and Bendigo. One of these was the Studley Park Hotel, 413 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, pictured above in 1926. Images of a precursor, the Early Bird Hotel, are also part of this donation.

As the donation arrived with little supporting information, slowly the backgrounds to its contents are being pieced together by members of our Images Collection Team.

Any information about the Calder family and their businesses would be appreciated.

## Friendship

**When my sister and I were young one of our delights was pestering friends and family to sign our autograph books. It was a momentary pleasure long forgotten until one day last week.**

Out of the blue Mrs Val Roberts from Wheelers Hill walked in to the RHSV and handed over a small cloth bound book. She hoped that we would find it interesting and wish to keep it. Did we and do we!



The book dedicated 'From Maggie with Love and Best Wishes July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1912' belonged to Mrs Roberts' aunt Christine McKenzie. It was an autograph book, or more appropriately for the times, a Friendship Book.

Mrs Roberts explained that Christine was the oldest of her aunts and had never married. She was 24 when the book was given to her as a birthday present. Her fiancé Sidney Stirling was to be killed in World War I. One of the signatories in the book was Harvey Cook, the fiancé of Christine's sister Rachel. Harvey also died in that conflict.

Accompanied by pencil or watercolour illustrations, a small verse of poetry or a witty phrase, the book is a record of friendships spanning decades, in no small part a testimony to the tragic loss of some many young men on the battlefields.

What a treasure and a delightful addition to the RHSV's Manuscripts Collection, where it joins four other items of this type.

Christine Cuze

## Dancing the Skies exhibition

Not to be missed, running until 15 April.

Weston Bate, David Thompson and Andrew Lemon at the opening of *Dancing the Skies: Aviation in the RHSV Collections*



## OBITUARY

### Joyce Thorpe Nicholson 1919-2011

By Andrew Lemon

Joyce Nicholson was a remarkable Melburnian with an influence much wider than she might have imagined. Biographical notes from her own website [www.mikenicholson.com/joyce](http://www.mikenicholson.com/joyce) state modestly that she was born in Melbourne on 1 June 1919, the daughter of publisher and bookseller Daniel Wrixon Thorpe. She was educated at Methodist Ladies College before completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne, where she was vice-president of the Student Representative Council. She became active in the women's movement, was involved in early years with the Women's Electoral Lobby and Sisters Publishing Ltd. She was Managing Director, and later sole owner, of D.W. Thorpe Pty Ltd from 1968 until 1987, when the firm was sold. She was the author of over 25 books, many of them written for children, others dealing with women's issues.

Hers was a career that evolved, but Joyce Nicholson was prolific, imaginative, industrious and painstaking throughout. From 1935 onwards, as well as pursuing her studies, she worked in various capacities at D.W. Thorpe Pty Ltd. After her marriage in 1943 to George Harvey Nicholson, she achieved early notice as the author of collaborative illustrated children's books on such personalities as Ringtail the possum, Yap the penguin, Woop the wombat and Cranky the camel, not to mention the little green tractor and the little blue car. She wrote actively on other interests including bridge and solo, and in the 1950s published books how to run successful social evenings, and games and parties for children. One title, *Games for the Family*, was illustrated by her four children Peter, Wendy, Hilary and Michael.

Joyce Nicholson became active in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria particularly in the 1970s when for five years she edited the Newsletter of the RHSV, and was for a shorter time review editor of the *Journal*. She was elected a Fellow of the RHSV in 1977. She published historical works directed primarily to a younger audience: *Our First Overlander* (1956) was an account of explorer Hamilton Hume, while *Man Against Mutiny* (1961) described Captain Bligh's whaleboat odyssey after the mutiny on HMS Bounty. This latter book was part of the London publisher Lutterworth Press series "Courage and Conquest". Joyce Nicholson turned to historical fiction with strong female characters in such books as *A Mortar Board for Priscilla* (1963) and *A Convict's Daughter* (1976).

Joyce was a founding member of the National Book Archive and secretary of the Australian Library Promotion Council. Through D.W. Thorpe Pty Ltd she edited in the 1970s the trade periodical *Australian Bookseller and Publisher* which continues today simply as *Bookseller and Publisher*.

All of this might have been more than enough for one person's active, creative life, but then Joyce Nicholson made a subtle but significant change of direction. Her intense concern that women should be in control of their own lives further manifested itself when she reissued *A Mortar*



*Board for Priscilla* in the 1970s as *Freedom for Priscilla*:

the historical novel reflected Priscilla's desire to study medicine rather than being constrained by conventional marriage. In 1975 Joyce produced the influential treatise *What Society Does to Girls*, illustrated by Mary Leunig.

Among the many remarkable things about Joyce Nicholson's career was her increasingly practical involvement in the women's movement which manifested itself in direct action, different from its usual connotations. She explained something of that process in her frank and personal 1983 book *The Heartache of Motherhood* (Penguin) which proclaimed at the outset 'After many years of marriage, she now lives alone, enjoying her freedom, her personal pursuits and her garden'.

The company Sisters Publishing, which ran from 1979 to 1984, saw Joyce collaborating with Hilary McPhee, Dianne Gribble, Anne O'Donovan and Sally Milner to publish 'quality works for women, by women and about women.' In 1982 she contributed a chapter to the Grimshaw and Strahan anthology, *The Half Open Door: Sixteen modern Australian women look at professional life and achievements* (Hale and Iremonger). Even in expressing her continuing interest in card games, Joyce Nicholson published a 1985 feminist perspective, *Why Women Lose at Bridge*. Pursuing her academic studies Joyce Nicholson completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of Melbourne in 1991. Her thesis topic was "The Women's Electoral Lobby and Women's Employment: Strategies and Outcomes".

Joyce Nicholson was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983 for service to literature and the book publishing industry. She sponsored The University of Melbourne to develop the Joyce Thorpe Nicholson Collection of books by and about Australian women. The University describes it as a major special collection of some 5000 titles. Her name is also honoured in the Australian book industry's awards for book design. It is significant that many of her books involved collaboration with artists, photographers and cartoonists, and she clearly valued the importance of design in books. In 2000 she released a history of the family business, including a memoir by her late father, as *A Life of Books: the story of D.W. Thorpe Pty. Ltd, 1921-1987*. The book was reviewed in the *Victorian Historical Journal* in 2000 (volume 71 no. 2).

It has been many years since Joyce Nicholson FRHSV played an active role in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria but we acknowledge her contribution and salute her lifetime's achievement. She died at Mornington on 31 January 2011 aged 91. Beatrice Faust contributed an obituary to *The Age* on 12 February, and more detail on Joyce's life and career can be found on the Australian Women's Register website [www.womenaustralia.info](http://www.womenaustralia.info).

## ONLINE EXHIBITION

**Dancing the stars****Flying through the RHSV Collections - Online exhibition**

This online exhibition is based on some of the content used in the exhibition, *Dancing the Skies: Flying through the RHSV Collections* held at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria from the 28th February until the 15th April 2011. The exhibition was curated by David Thompson.

Aviation is not a topic readily associated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria collections but, as this exhibition demonstrates, the RHSV has in its image collection many items relating to the early history of aviation. The exhibition demonstrates the diversity of the RHSV collections.

The online exhibition includes some of the segments appearing in the current exhibition including ballooning, the air races from England to Australia in 1919 and 1934, the Central Flying School at Point Cook, development of long range flight and information about a selection of pioneer aviators.

Talk and light lunch on Wednesday April 13 at 12.00pm – See *What's On*

**Information Technology and Historical Societies Report 2010**

In April 2010 a questionnaire on how societies / groups affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) use information technology was sent to all affiliated societies.

Information technology can be described as the use of computers to retrieve, store and publish information. The resulting report uses the responses of the questionnaire to indicate the extent of the uptake of computers and allied technology by groups such as historical societies in Victoria. The report also compares the results with a similar survey undertaken in 2003.

During the past 10 years computer technology has become more accessible for use in organisations such as historical societies and related organisations. The range of equipment has grown rapidly and equipment is becoming affordable for use by smaller groups. The number of people who regularly use computers at work and at home in Victoria has also increased.

The final report for the survey can be downloaded from the Affiliated Societies page of the RHSV website - <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/societies.htm> - or from the shared files of the Computers & Cataloguing mc2.

## EXHIBITION: 4 MAY - 17 JUNE

**All At Sea: The maritime paintings of the late Jack Koskie**

The exhibition features a colourful and diverse collection of large scale paintings featuring many important and interesting ships in Australian history. Dating from the famous *Endeavour* and *Lady Nelson* vessels of discovery, through the age of sail and pioneer steamships such as *Sophia Jane*, *Edina* and *Casino*, the exhibition presents a wonderful tapestry of the sea and events up to more recent times.

The late Jack Koskie, a professional artist and well known teacher, completed this series for his fine book *Ships that Shaped Australia* (1987).

The collection was recently presented to the Maritime Museum of Victoria, a grouping of independent museums from around the state for the preservation and exhibition of our maritime heritage.

Members are warmly invited to the opening of the exhibition on Wednesday 4 May at 2.30pm to be followed by light refreshments.

Kindly RSVP by Friday 29 April.



Jack Louis Koskie (1914-1997)  
"Marco Polo" oil on canvas.

**VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS**

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is working very assiduously to ensure that the Victorian Community History Awards will take place this year. We know what a wonderful impact they have had on raising the interest in local history publishing and research over the past twelve years.

We are very optimistic that we will be able to announce the launch of these in our June newsletter. In the meantime we suggest that RHSV members and local historical societies might like to send messages supporting the continuation of the Victorian Community History Awards to their local state MPs and the Minister for the Arts. The official address for the Hon. Ted Baillieu MP, Minister for the Arts, is Level 1, 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 and the email address is [ted.baillieu@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ted.baillieu@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**Jessie Webb available for tour**

*Velvet Rebel: A girl's own adventure* – a play about Jessie Stobo Watson – was a great success when it was performed at the RHSV during *History Week*.

The play is now available for tour – further information from Janice Haynes 0407 348 478



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

Bob Marmion, *Riflemen Form! The Volunteer Rifles and Cavalry on the central Victorian Goldfields, 1858-1883*, the author, PO Box 108, Drysdale, 3222, 2005, pp. x+199. The importance of Volunteers in local communities in 19<sup>th</sup> century Victoria has been noted in very limited terms, if at all, in most local histories. As the author shows, these groups were largely middle class, conservative, sometimes snobbish, patriotic and concerned to ensure peace and respectability for their once turbulent communities. Operating in some ways like gentlemen's clubs, they were networks for the development of social and business advantage. However, they were not efficient in providing colonial defence, and were replaced by paid militias from 1883. This is a most instructive social history of quasi-military organizations set up in the post-Gold Rush era. Marmion has also generously donated a copy of his 2009 PhD thesis, *Gibraltar of the South, Defending Victoria, An analysis of colonial defence in Victoria, Australia, 1851-1901*, pp. ix + 313. It is a very informative analysis of Victorian colonial defence before Federation and covers much new ground. These are very valuable contributions to Victorian history, especially its military aspects.

Danielle Clode, *A Future in Flames*, MUP in association with State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 2010, pp. viii + 304. A practical discussion of fire in Australian society influenced by personal experience of living in a fire-prone area and enlightened by extensive research as a Redmond Barry Fellow in the State Library, as well as the devastations of February 2009. The enduring question addressed is why so many people die in bushfires despite so many lessons from the past.

Amy Zurrer, *Wharves to the World, The Development of the World Trade Centre*, Melbourne Books, Melbourne, 2011, pp. 128. A glossy, well-illustrated and authoritative account of the changing port along the Yarra culminating in the building of the World Trade Centre in the early 1980s.

Suzanne Falkiner, *The Imago, E.L. Grant Watson & Australia*, UWA Publishing, Perth, 2011, pp. x + 502, \$49-95. A very detailed biography of a largely forgotten writer who spent time in Western Australia in 1910-11 on an expedition

with Daisy Bates and Radcliffe-Brown. Cambridge-trained as a biologist, he turned to fiction using his Australian experiences of the inland and Indigenous people in ways that predate Australian writers like Randolph Stow, Katherine Susannah Pritchard and Patrick White. Well-known in literary circles in England, his six Australian novels published between 1914 and 1935 (detailed in an appendix) have never been part of mainstream accounts of Australian literary output. This exhaustive and meticulous biography certainly resurrects Grant Watson.

Jack A Hoadley, *Antarctica to Footscray: Arch Hoadley, A Man of Inspiration and Courage*, Sid Harta Publishers, Melbourne, 2010, pp. xii + 460, \$25. Available from the author jho21690@bigpond.net.au. Victorians probably associate the Hoadley name with confectionery like Violet Crumbles. While chairman of directors of the family firm, Arch Hoadley largely made his life outside it as a member of Mawson's Antarctic expedition 1911-14, as foundation principal of Footscray Technical College 1916-47, as scouting leader 1921-47. He died in 1947 when his son, the author, was 13 and this meticulously prepared biography is very consciously a pilgrimage to appraise the sketchy image carried from boyhood. It succeeds in presenting his father as someone of 'character', possessing inner moral resources in his life and work. Surprisingly, no index.

Ian C McKellar and Morrie Fenton, *Defending the Eye of the Needle, A history of Cape Otway 1939 -1945*, PenFolk Publishing, Melbourne, 2010, pp. xviii + 195. A substantial account of RAAF 13 Radar Station at Cape Otway 1942-5 set within the context of Cape Otway as a long-time lighthouse and sometime War Signals Station in the defence of Bass Strait. As this book shows, mines were laid by German ships in 1940 and a Japanese reconnaissance flight over Melbourne was launched from a submarine before the radar was installed. It contains the recollections of Morrie Fenton and others of life at the radar station.

Peter Cuffley, Helen McBurney, Geoff Palmer, Janey Runci, *Henry Handel Richardson in Maldon*, published by the authors, PO Box 185, Maldon, 3463, 2010, pp. 85. An attractive and informative booklet that illustrates the importance of Maldon in Ethel Richardson's upbringing and later writing. Her mother was postmistress from 1880 to 1887. It contains much information about the Richardson's time in Maldon; guided tours of Maldon in the Richardson era, the Maldon cemetery,

and Maldon in *The Getting of Wisdom*; and biographical material about several Maldon families. It draws perceptively on extensive recent literary research on Henry Handel Richardson. A model for planned publishing by any community with a 'famous' resident.

Helen Hannan and Bruce Bennett, *Western Port Fishermen*, published by the authors, 200 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, 3122, 2010, \$29-95, pp. 231. An extensive account of change in the fishing industry and the lives of fishermen in the important Western Port region. It heavily draws on oral testimony and highlights the development of local communities that were the land base for those who fished within the bay and later outside. Copiously illustrated and well-referenced, this attractive book adds considerably to our knowledge of Western Port and serves the fishing communities well.

Tony Hall, *The Life and Death of the Australian Backyard*, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, 2010, pp. 176, \$69-95. Traditional backyards have multiple uses and forms that have often been seen as characteristic of suburban life. This book examines the origins of these ideas in Britain and their translation into the large backyards of Australia. It also traces, regretfully, their diminishing importance in planning since the 1990s noting that there has thus been a considerable loss of private amenity space. It argues that the death of the backyard is pronounced in Australia, reflecting changes in Australian lifestyles, especially in longer working hours. It suggests that changes in planning regulations to limit site coverage and to provide rear setbacks would help as would advocacy of healthier lifestyles and designs reflecting Australian traditions. The book is based on detailed quantitative research of some Australian communities including East Kew.

Valerie Roberts, *Scottish Settlement in Newham*, the author, Box 3049, Wheelers Hill, 2009, pp. 43. A compilation of Scottish settlers in the Newham region near Woodend who arrived on the 'Priscilla' in Melbourne 1853 under the auspices of the Highland and Island Emigration Society. The author has linked her people through the public records of immigration, births, deaths and marriages, and court proceedings. This reads as splendid raw material for another stage to make an assessment of how Roberts' group made their way in the colony. Their individual biographies suggest to the cursory reader that many of them had troubles.

# Researching for the Stars

**Meeting families in secret at the local fast food restaurant and scouting for film locations are just part of a normal working week for the researchers working on the hit TV show 'Who Do You Think You Are?'**

by Megan Gibson

Celebrities don't normally like television shows delving into their private lives. But when the researcher is Diana Pepper, and the show is Australia's *Who Do You Think You Are?* it's a very different story. Usually an *intriguing* one, that often not only ends up dealing out some life-changing moments for the star, but for quite a few who work on the show as well.

I'm used to asking questions of Diana. She's one of the reasons I said yes to being a freelance researcher on the series. There began the tradition of me asking her lots of questions! Now I get to ask her even more...

Diana's no stranger to questions. She spent fifteen years in London, including researching and writing a regular column for *The Independent* newspaper, where she got to interview the rich and famous about their best and worst travel experiences.

No wonder she seems at ease working as one of the researchers on the show that has taken celebrities such as Jack Thompson, Sigrid Thornton, Maggie Beer, Catherine Freeman, John Butler and Rod Marsh on a voyage of discovery through their family tree.

I wanted to know what attracted Diana to working on the show. Nothing, at first, it seems.

But in true *Who Do You Think You Are?* style, there was a bit of mystery, just waiting to be revealed.

"When the show's production companies approached me to work as a production coordinator on the first series, I had no idea what the show was about," she says.

"I was absolutely thrilled when I heard what the concept was, I completely bought the whole idea. I then watched every single episode of the British series."

And with her skills, she subsequently was promoted to a researcher's role for Series Two and Three.

Diana says she loved the idea of "us as the viewing public seeing a different side of celebrity – it's a perfect combination of history, family history, and the cult of celebrity," as well as the show's attention to social history, to help us all place our own ancestors in a broader context.

The world of television production can often seem a bit of a mysterious whirlwind. Just what does Diana *do* all day? Is it really chatting with Ben Mendelsohn or Ron Barassi one day, and Shane Bourne or Rod Marsh the next?

Sure, Diana gets to meet and work with the stars. But mostly, as with any family history research, each day consists of a lot of good old fashioned hard work, including on the phones, the internet, or spending hours or days in libraries and archives.

While no two episodes, or days, are the same, it all starts for Diana with a casting meeting, where the show's producers will sift through possible choices of celebrities (which is also guided by requirements for broadcaster SBS). Next, Diana will usually make contact with the celebrity's agent, to gain initial interest and check availability.

"There are various reasons why celebrities want to get involved – the most popular one being that they can give something back to their families."

"I'm often asked how the celebrities get chosen for each series," Diana explains. "There are a number of factors, but the less they know about their family tree at the start, the better!"

Once it's all systems go, it's time to hit the "obvious archives", just like everyone else.

"Documentary evidence is crucial, unless of course it's an indigenous story. We mainly use records that are available to the public. The big difference though say to tracing my own family tree is that I have the resources of the show to use, and a generous budget."

There's also secret visits to the celebrity's extended family, to gather documents, photos and those all important family rumours and stories. We swap notes on the glamorous locations where we've met with families of the stars...

"Yes well just recently I went to meet two aunts of a celebrity – at a suburban fast food restaurant! Actually though, I do try and talk with them at their home, which is more likely. Sometimes we might want to end up filming there."

"It often becomes a very personal journey for the individual and the family. The actions of their ancestors can have an impact for generations – abandonment, poverty, marriage breakups..."

I find I'm often counselling people."

There may be photos of the odd celebrity here and there on her office wall, but what struck me the most when I first met Diana was the presence of the black and white photos of the ancestors in question, watching over her work.



Charles Francis McComas (aged 2 and three-quarter years), January 1889; a carte-de-visite sent to Mr and Mrs Barrowclough from 'Little Charlie' (RHSV Image: PH-980896)

"I have embraced and taken on board some of the ancestors I've "met". I've spent so much time trying to get inside their head. I spend a lot of time trying to work out why they did the things they did, what part of history impacted on their lives?"

"One of the show's criticisms is that we make things look too easy. But what you have to remember is that myself and my counterparts in the background have been researching for three to six months on each episode, and turn over a lot of stories," she says.

"We do take some shortcuts in the final show – we have less than an hour to tell the story!" So, is there anything Diana *doesn't* like about working on the show?

"When we finish filming, that's it. A family historian can keep building a family tree, say if some new information or documents come to light in two years. We just can't include everything in the show."

"It's a fantastic job and I absolutely love it," she shares. And with that, the energetic Diana is off to the next phone call (not before efficiently reminding me that I need to email her the final copy of a family tree I worked on...)

The celebrities' ancestors must be looking down – or up! – and smiling. They're in calm, capable and caring hands, whoever they thought they were.

The Australian series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* is produced by Artemis International and Serendipity Productions, and screens on SBS. Series 3 featured Magda Szubanski, Paul Mercurio, Tina Arena, Rod Marsh, Shane Bourne and Georgie Parker. The production team are already hard at work on Series 4.

This article first appeared in *Inside History* magazine (Jan/Feb 2011). It is reproduced here by kind permission of:

– the editor of *Inside History* – visit [www.insidehistory.com.au](http://www.insidehistory.com.au) for details about this new Australian magazine.

– Artemis International and Serendipity Productions, producers of the hit Australian genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?*. Visit SBS [www.sbs.com.au/shows/whodoyouthinkyouare](http://www.sbs.com.au/shows/whodoyouthinkyouare).

– the author, Megan Gibson – visit Family Tree Time [www.familytreetime.com.au](http://www.familytreetime.com.au).

## HOUSEKEEPING

Too many items in our collections – never!

But it is an ongoing battle to find appropriate and accessible storage both for the items we have had for many years and the new donations that arrive every week.

We have developed a program of de-accessioning items that we no longer require in order to make way for the new. De-accessioning does not mean throwing away!

The primary foci of our de-accessioning are those items that we hold in multiple copies or those items whose content matter is not relevant to our collection policy. Generous donations over the years have meant that we have found it very hard to say no to perfectly sound copies of items we know to be relevant to our needs, but that we already hold. After all there could be a fire! Problem is, as we all know from our own spare room, garage, garden shed, the second collections are just as vulnerable as the first!

The process our member-volunteers undertake involves searching our catalogue and locating the original and any duplicate copies. A recent search located three copies of a travel brochure about camping in the Grampians in the 1940s.

The next step is to search the National Library of Australia's union catalogue and the catalogues of other large libraries in order to determine whether any other libraries hold a copy of this particular item. When identifying a library that might be interested in acquiring our surplus materials we look not only at the large state and university libraries, but the smaller collections such as other historical societies, memorial committees and archives. In some cases whilst a state library such as Queensland might not have our duplicate train timetable from Tasmania, it is most unlikely that it would be a welcome addition to their collection should we offer it.

Once we have determined a possible future home for our extra items, a list is presented to the RHSV Collections Committee for permission to de-accession them, providing them with the reasons for their possible de-accession and their probable future locations. Every item in our collection has a unique number (their accession number), separate from the catalogue shelf number or a pamphlet number, and this number reflects the item's entry to our collection. At the time of writing: we added number 39,768 to our Library Collection.

Upon receiving the Collections Committee recommendation: the final step is to remove the item from the accessions register, remove the catalogue entry, and send the item off to its new home with a cover letter saying that we hope it will be of value.

We have received some delightful letters of thanks. So far our favourite was from the Adam Lindsay Gordon Society which offered to pay for the pamphlet we had sent them. They told us that the information it contained was very timely, as they were preparing a background note for a ceremony to be held in London commemorating the poet.

Our member-volunteers find the work time consuming and at times rather complicated, but once finished definitely a job worth doing.

## RHSV offers competitive insurance to members

All Historical Societies will receive by mail a form for membership and insurance late March or early April. The details of the coverage of the RHSV insurance will be included. The form and information are also available on the RHSV website [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

Historical Societies must be affiliated members of the RHSV to be able to take advantage of the insurance the RHSV offers. The RHSV, through a broker, arranges bulk insurance for a variety of insurances that are set out on the form mentioned above. This enables the RHSV to provide cheaper rates than societies can obtain individually so please take advantage of this insurance.

On request, Certificates of Currency are sent to the societies that take out the insurance.

Please contact Ged at the RHSV either on 03 9326 9288 or email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) if you have any queries.

## New military history organisation launches in April

**Military History and Heritage Victoria (MHHV)**, an incorporated not-for-profit association, will launch in late April 2011. Patron is Major General (Rtd) Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED with Vice-Patrons Professor Bruce Scates and Dr. Jim Wood, RFD, ED (Col. Rtd). MHHV President is Colonel Marcus Fielding. Membership is now open.

Aims include encouraging interest in Australian and especially Victorian military history and heritage (air, sea and land) and to promote communication and cooperation within the military history and heritage community of Victoria.

Please contact the Executive Officer at [xomhhv@gmail.com](mailto:xomhhv@gmail.com) or 0408 342 795 for more information.



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### NOMINATIONS FOR FAHS MERIT AWARDS

Nominations for the FAHS Merit Awards for 2011 are now open and close on 30 June 2011.

Information about the awards (including a list of previous recipients) is available on the FAHS website at [www.history.org.au](http://www.history.org.au).

The guidelines (in PDF format) and nomination form (in PDF and DOC format) can also be downloaded from the FAHS website.

Please nominate a member of your society – nominations help raise the profile of all volunteers in local history.

## Management resource highly recommended

Victorian Council of Social Service publishes a series of manuals for community organisations.

*Policies and Procedures* provides useful information as well as sample policies and procedures for the management of community groups.

At the public library where Vicki Court works she recently discovered another volume in the series - *Community Management* (first published in 1991 with a new edition in 2007).

This volume looks at management issues such as the difference between governance and management, management group roles and responsibilities (including ethical, legal, financial, administrative, personnel, planning and policy, promotion and networking, accountability and reporting and premises and equipment responsibilities), recruiting, inducting and maintaining the management group, meeting procedures and decision making and what to do when things go wrong.

This would be a useful volume for those managing groups to look at - check if your library has a copy.

Copies can be purchased from the Information Victoria bookshop or directly from VCOSS - <http://www.vcross.org.au/clearinghouse/resources/resource-%20vcross%20manuals.htm>.

### 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 June issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 May to [lenore10@hotmail.com](mailto:lenore10@hotmail.com).**

**ALTONA-LAVERTON:** The Altona Laverton Historical Society is developing a school's program to link with the new National History Curriculum that is rolling out over 2011-2013. Historical societies developing a similar project are welcome to contact Owen Hyde on [ohyde@liv.asn.au](mailto:ohyde@liv.asn.au).

**BALLARAT:** The recent issue of *Lamplight* outlines a proposal for online access to Ballarat Historical Society's photograph collection. Prototype WebPages with larger images have been installed at the museum for internal use only. Pages for the website will not be added until the members have approved the idea. Enquiries: [ballarathistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ballarathistoricalsociety@gmail.com), or 5344 8294.

**BALWYN:** On Thursday 10 March Dr David Beardsell will speak on "The Outer Circle Railway & Buses" and on Thursday 14 April at 8 Lambis Englezos will speak on "My discovery of the lost graves at Fromelles, France", both at the Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn at 8 pm. Enquiries: 9836 6589.

**BELLARINE:** *The Waterholes: a history of Drysdale on the Bellarine* by Lynette Willey is the latest book available from the Bellarine Historical Society at the Old Court House Museum, High St, Drysdale, or during business hours from the Vacuum Shop, Shop 2/8 High St, Drysdale for \$15. Enquiries: 5253 1715.

**BALNARRING:** The life of Ruby Cole, born in 1881 to graziers George and Elma Cole of Merricks, has been entertainingly recreated using reminiscences from family members, and published in the February 2011 issue of *Snippets from our collection*.

**BRIGHTON:** The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee will be conducting a tour of Brighton General Cemetery titled "Adam Lindsay Gordon - His Life and Beyond" on Sunday 17 April at 10.30am. The cost is \$10 and \$5 for members. Bookings are essential through John Adams 5261 2899.

**CAMBERWELL:** Ann Blainey will speak on "Dame Nellie Melba" on Thursday May 26th, 8pm at the Meeting Room, Hawthorn Town Hall, 360 Burwood Road. Visitors welcome. Enquiries: 9885 9927.

**CARISBROOK:** The January edition of *The Logs* carries a report of damage done during the recent floods to society sites. Water entered all four premises, but overall the damage was minimal owing to little material being stored at floor level. Replacement costs are less than \$2000.

**CASTERTON:** The next meeting of the society will be held on Thursday 24 March at the RSL, commencing at 2 pm. Society newsletters are available on their website at [www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/casterton/chs\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/casterton/chs_newsletters.htm).

**CASTLEMAINE:** At the meeting of Monday 2 May, Judith Scurfield will give a presentation "All about maps", commencing at 7.30 pm, at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine. Enquiries: 5470 6072 or email [chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com).

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** The February issue of the Historical Society's *Historical Digest* has an article on a "Church built in a day" at Preston in 1911. Notice is also given of a forthcoming book, *Singing the faith: history, theology and hymnody* by Judith Raftery. Enquiries: [history@handasyde.com](mailto:history@handasyde.com).

**CINEMA & THEATRE:** A City Cinema Walk, led by Ross King, will be held on Saturday 21 May, commencing at 10 am outside the Melbourne Town Hall. Enquiries: [www.caths.org.au](http://www.caths.org.au) or email [secretary@caths.org.au](mailto:secretary@caths.org.au).

**DIAMOND CREEK:** The Ellis Cottage Autumn Fair will be held on Saturday 19 March from 9 am till 3 pm. This will feature historical talks, photographic display and sales, genealogy displays, live music, BBQ, and much

more. The Ellis Cottage Historical Precinct is off the Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek, Mel 12 F5.

**DUNOLLY:** The Goldfields Historical and Arts Society received a very interesting donation: Chinese spurious gold tools, used in the manufacture of spurious gold to deceive gold buyers. The Society feels there may be no other examples anywhere. The article in the January 2011 issue of *Tailings*, No 542, includes a photograph.

**EAST MELBOURNE:** Psychiatrist and cricket nut, Greg de Moore, will tell the extraordinary story of Tom Wills, the star cricketer credited with creating the rules of Australian Rules Football, a Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon St, East Melbourne on Wednesday 20 April at 8 pm. Enquiries: [info@emhs.org.au](mailto:info@emhs.org.au) or 9416 0445.

**ECHUCA:** "Rathbone . . . The Raw Edge" features a collection of 71 oil paintings by the late George M Rathbone depicting the life and times of early Echuca and district, at the Echuca Moama Uniting Church Hall, cnr Pakenham & Hare Streets, Echuca, 9-26 April, 10.30am - 3.30pm (Closed Good Friday). Enquiries: 5480 1325; 040 8505 662; or [www.echucahistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.echucahistoricalsociety.org.au).

**FITZROY:** A practical research talk on "Researching your house" will be held on Thursday 14 April in the Fitzroy Library Meeting Room at 7 pm. The library has an excellent collection of resources to assist, and this will be a "hands on" event to get you started. Enquiries: [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com).

**KNOX:** On Sunday 22 May there will be an excursion to the Blackburn Lake Resource Centre. Meet at *AmbleSide* at 1.15 pm for shared car transport to Blackburn. Enquiries: [khs@relics.com](mailto:khs@relics.com) or [www.khs.relics.com](http://www.khs.relics.com).

**GULF STATION:** The National Trust are holding a "National Carpenter's Day" on Friday 8 April. The main feature at Gulf Station will be the Caine Tool Collection. If you would like to become a FROG (Friends and Relations of Gulf Station) contact Irene Keasey on 9435 8404 or email [Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com](mailto:Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com).

**HAMILTON:** Meetings are held at the Mechanics Institute, 43 Grey St, Hamilton, commencing at 7.30 pm. On Tuesday 12 April Diane Luhrs will be the guest speaker. Enquiries: [hamiltonhistory@ansonie.com.au](mailto:hamiltonhistory@ansonie.com.au) or 5572 4933.

**HEIDELBERG:** Dick Gross will present "A modern *Gray's Elegy*" on Tuesday 12 April at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe at 8.00 p.m. Our museum on the corner of Park Lane and Jika St, Heidelberg, open Sundays 2-5, features the 90th Anniversary display of the Ivanhoe Reading Circle. Enquiries: <http://heidelberg.50webs.com> or 94552130.

**HORSHAM:** At the meeting of Wednesday 13 April Frank Schneider will give a presentation on "Changing Times". This will be held at 33 Pynsent St, Horsham at 8 pm. Enquiries: 5382 2058, or [lwbsmith@netconnect.com.au](mailto:lwbsmith@netconnect.com.au).

**INVERLOCH:** The Rocket Shed has reached its new home, beside the replica of *The Ripple*, and next to Inverloch's Yacht Club, thus establishing a 'maritime precinct'. Enquiries: 5674 2449.

**KEW:** At our next meeting the guest speaker will be Helen MacDonald, author of *Human Remains*. Helen is an award-winning historian and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne. To be held at the LePine Funeral Services, 741 High Street, Kew East Wednesday 23 March at 7.30 pm.

**KILMORE:** On Saturday 26 March there will be a tour of the Mt William Stone Axe Quarry. Meet at 10.45 am, head down Mt William Road and look for the balloons. Visitors \$5.00, members free. Enquiries: [kilmorehistory@nl.com.au](mailto:kilmorehistory@nl.com.au) or 5782 0416.

**KOROIT:** A new edition of the Koroit Heritage Trail brochure was printed in November 2010, which included a number of updates. The Moyne Shire Business and Tourism Committee funded the entire costs of \$900. Enquiries: 5565 7994.

**KYNETON:** Twelve shop windows in High, Mollison and Piper Streets will display history panels and banners on themes of Kyneton's history. The Society celebrates 60 years in 2011 with the opening on Wednesday 13 April at 7.30 pm at Aesop's Attic in High Street at 7.30 pm. See [www.vicnet.net.au/~kyhist](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~kyhist).

**LAKES ENTRANCE:** Copies of the DVD, *Old Lakes Entrance - Views from the Early Years*, produced for the Seafarers Multicultural Festival in December 2011, are available for \$10. Enquiries: [info@lakeshistory.com](mailto:info@lakeshistory.com) or 5155 3939.

**LEONGATHA:** The society received the special donation of a collection of Great War medals belonging to William Highgate, killed in France in September 1917. He had re-joined the Royal Sussex Regiment with which he had served in the South African War. A display will be arranged soon. Enquiries: [leongathahistsoc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:leongathahistsoc@yahoo.com.au) or see [www.leongathahistory.org.au](http://www.leongathahistory.org.au).

**LINTON:** Monday 21 March is History Night at the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre. Damian Waight, the Shire consultant on the Community Precinct Development will speak briefly on the subject, followed by "The Secret Life of Things" - a discussion on topics which arise from objects, documents, and photos brought along by members. Enquiries: 5344 7386.

**NARRE WARREN:** Jenny and Gary Barker will give a presentation on "Re-enacting history and family history", on Wednesday 11 May at 8 pm, at the Narre Warren Library Meeting Room, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate. Enquiries: 5995 5957 or [correspondence@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:correspondence@nwfhg.org.au).

**NEWSTEAD:** The recent rains saw Newstead come within a whisker of having water come over the 100 year old levee bank. The original tender by the Shire Engineer, W Gore, indicated two small bridges were to be removed. The society would like to know where these bridges were. If you know, please email [derekdi@gcom.net.au](mailto:derekdi@gcom.net.au).

**NORTH MELBOURNE:** A workshop will be held on Saturday 21 May at 2 pm on "How to research the history of your house using the Burchett Index and other sources". This will be held in the North Melbourne Library Local History Room, Errol Street. Bookings: [info@hothamhistory.org.au](mailto:info@hothamhistory.org.au).

**PLENTY:** The society celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the February newsletter reflected on their significant achievements in that time. Meetings are held at the Plenty Fire Station, Yan Yean Rd, Plenty at 8 pm on the first Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Enquiries: [kerlan@iinet.net.au](mailto:kerlan@iinet.net.au).

**PORT MELBOURNE:** On Monday 28 March Billy David will talk on "From Port to Plumbing Paladin". Meetings are held at the Port Melbourne Council Chamber, at 7.30pm. Enquiries: [pmpms@hotmail.com](mailto:pmpms@hotmail.com) or 9645 2324.

**PYRAMID HILL:** The historical society has a wonderful range of publications for sale, which can be seen on their website [www.pyramidhill.net.au](http://www.pyramidhill.net.au). The latest offering is *Mount Hope Station - The Squatting Era*, by Cliff Spowart. Enquiries: email [pyhhist@bigpond.com](mailto:pyhhist@bigpond.com) or 5455 9265.

**RINGWOOD:** Graeme Tamme, a former employee of the MMBW, will address the society on Tuesday 26 April on the "History of Water in Melbourne". The meeting is in room 4, at the Federation Estate, formerly Ringwood State School, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood at 8 pm.

**SEYMOUR:** The Pioneer Library has an exhibition on "Those good old days" every second Sunday of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm. Enquiries: 5792 1745.

**SORRENTO:** Meet at the Sorrento Cemetery gates, Normanby Road, on Sunday 17 April at 11 am or 2 pm for a tour of selected grave sites led by Peter Munro. Hear stories about Sorrento's shipwreck coast and the Drayton Grange Boer War tragedy. Cost is \$5 per adult; bookings essential on 5982 0502.

**ST KILDA CEMETERY:** A tour will be held on Sunday 1 May at 2 pm, highlighting military personnel from various wars. Meet at the Main Entrance on Dandenong Road. Cost \$10 (\$5 for members of FOSKCC). Booking is essential. Ring 9531 6832 or book online at [www.foskcc.org/home.htm#](http://www.foskcc.org/home.htm#). Enquiries [info@foskcc.org](mailto:info@foskcc.org).

**UNITING CHURCH:** Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Wesleyan Revd Joseph Orton, the first ordained minister to preach in Melbourne, 1836, an address will be given by descendant, Rev. Alistair Orton on Sunday 1 May at 11am, followed at 1.30 pm by Alison Headon "Mrs Orton" and Dr Peter Sherlock on "Orton's Melbourne". Wesley Uniting Church, 148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Enquiries: [jbgillard@netspace.net.au](mailto:jbgillard@netspace.net.au).

**WALHALLA:** The association has two new publications: *A day in Walhalla*, by Scott Gallop, (\$14.95 + \$1 p+p); and *Walhalla, 1955-1977: 1983-2008, behind the counter and all that jazz*, by Ruth Holst (\$25 + \$5 p+p). Send a cheque or money order to Walhalla Museum P/L, c/o PO Walhalla 3825, or credit card details by phone: 5165 6250.

**WARRACKNABEAL:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Rally will be held over Easter on 23 - 25 April, featuring John Deer and Waterloo Boy machinery. Saturday will include the Street Parade and Tractor Pull. Enquiries: 5394 1692 or email [jara@netconnect.com.au](mailto:jara@netconnect.com.au).

**WAVERLEY:** Jack Walker is the guest speaker on Thursday 28 April on "Visiting the Somme, Anzac Cove and other Australian fields of battle", in the refurbished top floor of the Mount Waverley Library. Enquiries: 9802 9332 or email [whs@kepl.com.au](mailto:whs@kepl.com.au).

**WOODY YALOAK:** A fully conducted walk of the Piggoreet to Grand Trunk Walking Trail will be held on Sunday 1 May. Meet at the Courthouse, Smythesdale, at 9.30 am, wearing comfortable walking shoes. BYO lunch (which can be transported for you); \$10 per head; bookings essential on 5342 8414.

## History

# NEWS



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