



History NEWS

Issue No. 293 JUNE 2011

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Membership Subscriptions are now due:

With this newsletter you will find your membership subscription form for the coming year 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

Again this year we are pleased to announce no increase in our membership fee.

To engage the community with history, deliver training, exhibitions, lectures, support historical societies and conserve and make our collections accessible we need your continued support. History is having a renaissance; the National History Curriculum will be implemented in 2013; thousands of researchers are involved with family and local history which touch every community in Victoria; historical societies are delivering outstanding and imaginative projects, and the potential for digital and web based history is unlimited. Please continue to support us so that the RHSV can continue to deliver innovative services, leadership and advocacy for local history in Victoria.

We thank you for your support and encourage you to invite a friend to join.

Extra renewal forms can be downloaded from our website www.historyvictoria.org.au or by phoning the office on 9326 9288

Subscriptions can also be paid by direct debit, details of which are on the subscription renewal form.

BOOKS ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED FOR THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE:

CAN YOU HELP US? We need books on any topic.

We will come and collect them.

Phone: 9326 9288. Alternatively you can drop them in to the RHSV. Please help us with our major fund raiser for the year.

The date of the book sale is
Sunday 11 September

ANNOUNCING THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS 2011

*The Victorian Community History
Awards will be launched soon:*

This year the Victorian Community History Awards will be delivered as a partnership between The Royal Historical Society of Victoria and The Public Record Office of Victoria. Dr Andrew Lemon President of the RHSV said "We are delighted to join with the Public Record Office of Victoria in delivering these prestigious awards as both organizations share a commitment to an understanding of the past based on real knowledge and properly safeguarded evidence of our history. Community history is important because this is where the love of history, the understanding of the power of history, begins."



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

Entrants' work must be completed between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011. An official entry form must accompany each entry.

This year there is an additional prize in the Best Print/Publication category.

The categories for 2011 will be:

Overall Winner	\$5000
Best Collaborative Community Work	\$2000
Best Print/Publication	
Commercial Publication	\$2000
Self or Community Publication	\$2000
Best Exhibit or Multi Media	\$2000
Best Community Research, Registers and Records	\$4000
Best Walk/Tour	\$2000
Judges' Discretionary Prize (if appropriate)	\$1000

Hardcopy entry forms will be sent to all members and Societies with your July newsletter. Further hard copy entry forms will be available by phoning 9326 9288.

**ENTRIES CLOSE ON
FRIDAY 19 AUGUST
THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED ON
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER**

Report from the 101st Annual General Meeting

Dr Andrew Lemon, President welcomed some 60 members and in particular The Hon Robert Nicholson, Past President of the Royal Historical Society of Western Australia.

In moving that the Annual Report be received Andrew commented that it seemed amazing to him that the Society had reached this 101st milestone. He summarized the year firstly by acknowledging the retirement from Council of Joan Hunt who, with her husband Gary, has gone to live in England. He described her as “a hub of local activity around Victoria”. Joan’s contribution to local history is immeasurable and the meeting expressed its admiration for her. The year had been

punctuated with the special reception held at Government House to round off our Centenary Celebrations and a chance to thank longstanding members; the Jobs Fund which enabled extensive work on the windows of the building to improve security and conservation of the collection; the book sale; our first successful foray into the “Open House” program; HistoryWeek and our play about Jessie Webb; our stimulating conference held in Bendigo; and our ongoing good

working relationship with both the Federal and State governments. During the year both Andrew and Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer, had been away – Andrew for research, Kate on a Churchill Fellowship – and the team of staff and councillors were very much thanked for “holding the fort” during their absence. He concluded by saying to keep history alive we require members and our challenge ahead is to provide services and support that attracts and retains our membership.

2011 – 2012 Council

There being six nominations for six positions on Council an election was not necessary. The Council for 2011 – 2012 is as follows:

- President:** Dr Andrew Lemon FRHSV
- Vice President:** Lenore Frost – (Convenor HistoryVictoria Support Group)
- Treasurer:** John Hulskamp
- Secretary:** Carole Woods FRHSV
- Ordinary Members:** Kay Craddock AM
Dr. Simon Smith
Assoc. Prof Judith Smart
Assoc Prof Don Garden FRHSV
Jane Carolan
Glen Turnbull
Kate Prinsley
Jenny Coates (Council rep. HVSG)

Expressions of interest for the HistoryVictoria Support Group were received from: Alleyne Hockley, Geoff Starkey, Bernard Bolch, Laurina Strauch, Jane Nigro

Seven Awards of Merit were announced:

- Wes Callender – Royal Historical Society of Victoria**
- Vicki Court – Royal Historical Society of Victoria**
- Di Foster – Malvern Historical Society**
- Michael Moore – Royal Historical Society of Victoria**
- David Oldfield – Royal Historical Society of Victoria**
- Diana Phoenix – Royal Historical Society of Victoria**
- Wemyss Struss – Stratford and District Historical Society**

It is hoped to publish citations read at the AGM in subsequent editions of History News

The AGM was delighted to elect two new Fellows to the RHSV: Richard Barnden

Volunteer extraordinaire since at least the mid-1990s. Richard Barnden has provided two days per week since that time for the benefit of the RHSV and the history movement in general. He has contributed to many RHSV activities, including the production of History News; as mentor to other volunteers working at the RHSV, especially in the images area but also in manuscripts and library; as resource for the mounting of exhibitions; as manager of the revenue raising derived from users of the RHSV collection; as resource for images for contributors and editors of the Journal. In all these activities, he has shown a level of professionalism and historical understanding that belies his modesty about his own history credentials. Richard served on Council 1997– 2009.

As a mentor to Deakin undergraduate history students taking internships, Richard Barnden’s work with students has been absolutely first-rate. His advice on projects and guidance has resulted in 15 projects over the past 12 years that have added to our knowledge of the collection.

Richard has made an immense contribution to Victorian history and the history movement which is shown in both his mentoring of students and in all his work to make the RHSV collection an accessible resource rather than one whose potential was largely unrecognised.

Allan Willingham

Allan has a distinguished record as an architectural historian, heritage consultant and advocate for Victorian history.

His list of consultancies, reports, published articles and books is extensive. In particular the work undertaken whilst Director of the Australian Heritage Commission National Estate Project Victorian Section resulted in its inclusion *The Heritage of Australia, 1981* and more recently his two volume report *Camperdown: A Heritage Study*. 1999, was awarded a Victorian Community History Award (Community Research/Register Category) in 2001. He also is a skilled author of biography contributing to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, the Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria, and the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture. He is a public speaker, broadcaster and academic lecturer, and he has addressed scores of historical societies across Victoria.



This year the RHSV Annual Report features images from our postcard collection – many of which can be seen on our website. The RHSV holds approximately 4,000 postcards. The postcard craze – from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries – enabled an unparalleled circulation of places, people and events throughout Victoria



Education Week 15 May – 21 May: A great success at the RHSV

Education Week brought the RHSV rooms to life as primary aged school children attended “Characters of The Cape” – a lively journey into the history of navigation and settlement of the coast of Victoria during the pioneering years. Janice Haynes held the attention of children as she re-created tales of loneliness, hope of a new life, and amazing ship-wreck survivals – told through well researched characters who had lived at Cape Otway Light Station. The programme had pathos, drama and was full of historical references and information. What better critic than a member of the audience and here is an

excerpt from a thank you letter received from a primary school.

“We were all so proud to be your audience not just because we knew we were going to learn a lot, but also because of the amazing way that you put on all these characteristics for each person such as the poor Katherine Evans, the remarkable Henry Bayles Ford and his wife Mary Anne Ford and of course the lovely Rose Anne Hyland. These stories, that you told with such an effort really made a huge difference to our learning and we will never forget you or the dazzling stories that you told.”

FAREWELL Vicki Court and David Oldfield

It was a sad farewell to Vicki Court and David Oldfield. Both have left an enormous “foot print” on the activities at the RHSV and they are sincerely thanked for their thoughtful, effective and forward thinking contributions to the activities of the RHSV



AN INVITATION TO THE EXHIBITION OPENING

Everard Studley Miller : member, historian, benefactor.

We welcome all members to the opening of this exhibition to be held on Tuesday 12 July at 5.00pm to be followed by the New Historians Lecture at 5.45

Please come and enjoy the company of other members, Councillors and staff.

A lively evening is planned – RSVP essential 9326 9288

Everard Studley Miller: member, historian, benefactor

Everard Studley Miller (1886–1956), a man ‘ . . . shy and retiring in manner, inclined to contemplation rather than business or society . . .’, joined the Historical Society of Victoria (later the RHSV) in 1914, remaining a member until his death. Miller provided for the Society in his will; bringing to it a small amount of cash, thirteen albums of photographs plus associated glass negatives (some 1800 items spanning Victorian, Australian and English subjects from the early 1900s to mid-1950), as well as art works, books, objects and manuscripts. Miller’s manuscripts, dating from 1914, cover the use of photography for historical study, the value of memorials and Victoria’s and Australia’s history, particularly the early colonial period and its architecture. Miller’s albums also include items commissioned by him or collected, often assisted by his older brother – Edward Eustace.

This exhibition concentrates on E. Studley Miller’s historical and cultural interests, revealing his approach to photography as a tool of historiography and providing some details of his family background and lifestyle.

While drawing mainly on resources held by the RHSV, to give a fuller understanding of our benefactor and his contribution to Victoria, we are supported by the National Gallery of Victoria, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Archaeology. Each of these cultural institutions similarly benefited from the Miller’s estate – a grandson of Henry ‘Money’ Miller (1809–1866), and second son of Edward Miller (1848–1932), a leading figure in banking (Bank of Victoria), insurance and real estate.

The exhibition opens to members and the public on Wednesday 13 July and ends on

Friday 2 September. A Floor talk with lunch will be offered on Wednesday 20 July at 11.30 am (no cost to members but please book on 9326 9288) and we are pleased to announce two free floor talks to be given by curators from the National Gallery of Victoria looking at works bought with the bequest of Studley Miller. These will be held on Thursday 28 July and Thursday 11 August. See What’s On for further details.



E. Studley Miller (1886-1956); courtesy Mr and Mrs Edward J. Miller

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*.

Birregurra Businesses, Past and Present, Birregurra District Historical Centre, 2010, pp. 126

Annotated illustrations of businesses with associated map, directory-type details, and contemporary advertising and other business material. While the images, appendices and text tell much of Birregurra, a short overview of change and continuity would have been helpful.

Nullawil Historical Society, **Click Go The Years, Stories of the Wool Industry in the Nullawil District**. [No date]

A collection of images, stories and comments about sheep raising in the always difficult country north of Wycheproof from the squatters to the present. There is much to be written about Mallee settlement and this book highlights many of the local adaptations, e.g. the Mallee root wall on a shearing shed, the roofed dams, the split pine picket shipyards. The recent floods presumably form another chapter for its local history redolent with such alliterative names as Tittybong.

Mary Small, **Lennie's Ride**, Small Endeavour Publishing, Sydney, 2010, pp. 72
A delightfully written story about Lennie Gwyther, the nine-year old son of a Leongatha farmer and his ride to Sydney to see the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March 1932. Feted on the way and in Sydney, Lennie and Ginger Mick, his horse, were among the first to cross the bridge. He returned to a hero's welcome at home. Does this publicly forgotten story rate with the usual epics of Australian endurance?

Norman Houghton, **Sawdust and Steam, A History of Sawmilling in the East Otway Ranges, 1850-2010**, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2010, pp. vi + 234
A revised edition of the book first published in 1975. Houghton's command of his material results from his devotion to the search. Not only has he accessed the documentary material about forestry and narrow-gauge railways in the area but he has completed a massive on-the-ground survey of mill sites, tracks and lines. As he relates, this involved '600 hours of bush walking over 3 and a half years' in what can only be described as very difficult conditions. This is more than the historian requiring a good set of boots! The resulting book provides a comprehensive account of sawmilling in the region, replete with carefully crafted maps, excellent photos and an engaging text. Well-indexed and a

mine of information for the local history of the East Otways as well the forestry and railways historian. A real tour de force.

Bruce Pennay, **The Young at Bonegilla, Receiving Young Immigrants at Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre 1947-71**, Parklands Albury-Wodonga, PO Box 1040, Wodonga, 3689, 2010, pp. 24

Bonegilla was the reception centre for 309 000 immigrants in the period 1947-71, most of whom were under 35. This useful booklet focuses on the reception of the children and teenagers, and how they recall their experiences at Bonegilla. It adds to the growing literature about this important site for Australian post-war immigration.

Ken James, **Schools of the Chewton Borough (1853-2009)**, the author, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell, 3124, 2010, pp. 277.

The author has published much of the material that he has collected on communities that have often disappeared, especially in the area around Castlemaine. He displays newspaper sources, archival material mostly about schools and teachers, photos of sites and school-children, and memories of teachers and students. Like his other publications, this one provides plenty of leads to anyone with an interest in the area.

Ken James and Noel Davis, **A History of Barfold**, the author, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell, 3124, 2010, pp. 551

Co-written with Noel Davis, a Sutton Grange resident, this massive book has much of the form of Ken James others. Especially strong on schools of the area but with sections on land occupation and use, major local and international events, transport, local institutions like hotels, churches, sporting organizations, there is much to entice further investigation of this community.

Fergus W. Hume, **The Mystery of a Hansom Cab**, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2010, pp. xxiv + 293, \$28

A welcome reprint of the 1886 best-selling crime novel set in pre-Federation Melbourne. Contains a short introduction by Robert Dixon that argues for the novel's modernity and for its place among Australian classics, the title of the series.

Prue and Graeme Webber, **The Grand Challenge, A history of the Anglesea Recreation and Sports Club including a brief history of Aireys Inlet and Anglesea**, the authors, 8 Coonil Crescent, Malvern, 3144, 2010, pp. vii + 382, \$69-95
There has been a New Year's Day Regatta on the Anglesea River since 1911. This is an attractive account of the regatta still rowed in vintage fixed seat, clinker built boats (c. 1913) with many photos, lists of participants, biographies of key personnel,

anecdotes, a beautiful Robert Ingpen painting on the cover. As well, the book draws on the local history of the area.

Robert C Littlewood, **Ruby Lindsay 1887-1919**, Douglas Stewart Fine Books, PO Box 3240, Prahran East, 3181

Like her brothers, Ruby trained as a black and white artist and contributed to contemporary magazines and newspapers in the early 20th century. Her marriage to Will Dyson took her to England before the war and she subsequently died in the Spanish pandemic of 1919. Excellent reproductions of mostly pen and ink drawings offered for sale in 2010.

Toby Davidson (ed.), **Collected Poems, Francis Webb**, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 2011, pp. 400, \$32-95.
Webb died in 1973 and this collection provides the opportunity to examine his corpus of work, edited with useful notes and incorporating final changes to some of his later poems.

Dawn Peel and Andrew McIntosh, **The Road to Fromelles, One Australian Family and World War I**, Colac and District Historical Society, 2010, pp. 64
The authors skilfully use the letters written home by two Colac men. Alec Sitlington and Dick Bassett enlisted at the outbreak of war; both trained in Egypt and had periods on Gallipoli (Alec was injured); in July, they were both in France in mid-1916 where Alec was killed at Fromelles and Dick was wounded. On his return to Colac, Dick married Alec's sister, Irene, with whom he corresponded during the war. The letters sent home to the Sitlington household are poignant testimony to the impact of war on the two young men.

Maureen McKersie and Elaine Story (collators), **Roamin' Round The Mount With Past and Present Residents of Wycheproof**, Wycheproof and District Historical Society, Wycheproof, 3527, 2010, pp. vi + 95.

Published recollections and memories of a wide range of residents in the Wycheproof district, with accompanying photos of people and events. Attractive publication. A local map would help locate the families as would an index.

Alie Missen (ed.) **Nathan's Story, A Biography**, Sydenham and District Historical Society, PO Box 2000, Taylors Lakes, 3038, 2010, pp. 80.

The recollections of Nathan Wright (born 1922) of farming life at Sydenham, schooling at Sunshine Tech, work at HV McKays/Massey Harris in Sunshine for 27 years, and later various managerial jobs. In addition, an account of his family's life and struggles.

Reading in the RHSV Collection

by Elizabeth Denney

Ballarat, May 30 2011, I am looking out the window to check the weather in the street. It's cold. Clouds and mist cover the mountains on the city's outskirts and the rain pours down.

On May 30 1859, in his Camp Street, Ballarat, office, a young employee of the new colonial government of Victoria looked out at an earlier streetscape and saw that the day for him, too, was 'wet and cold'. He put it down in his diary.

All that morning he was 'engaged in the office' and in the afternoon he went off to 'Black Hill Flat, Bakery Hill and Little Bendigo', dealing with 'mining disputes'. Life in the goldfields towns of Ballarat and Ballarat East was still rough and ready. Streets were being surveyed in the mud of the mining camp and the new town councils were hiring contractors to build them. In one entry he suddenly mentions Barkly Street. A main street in Ballarat East is being made. It wasn't in existence the week before.

This May morning, 152 years later, I am engaged in the office too, and in the afternoon I'll be walking down to Bakery Hill. On my way to coffee with a friend I will walk through an elegant and solidly built town, which has established a personality, a vivid local culture, over the 150 years since my diarist wrote.

My diarist, W H Foster, adjudicated mining disputes, sat on the bench of the Police Court and travelled about Ballarat district attempting to administer the huge Chinese population on the local goldfields.

He was well connected – a relative of Charles La Trobe - and had made the most of his opportunities when he arrived in the colony. He had been appointed to his post in 1855 when he was only twenty three. Before that he

had been a nineteen year old lieutenant with the police gold escorts and a 'boy commissioner' at Yam Holes and Fieri Creek during the Eureka uprising.

He could afford a manservant and a washerwoman. He played regular games of whist and billiards with other young officials, went to balls at the local hotels, and to the many concerts. Cricket, races, visits to shoot on nearby properties and long rides on official business kept him fit.

He found his work and the place exciting, and this comes through his rather prosaic diary entries. Foster regularly met up with other young men with similar government duties and strolled 'down the Flat' in his free time, taking in the bustle and excitement of the mining camps.

He was working in Ballarat at a time when the structure of the new colony was being organised, and the mining industry and the mining towns were vital to the colony.

Diaries such as this from the manuscript collection of the RHSV can transport a reader right into the mud and energy of the gold districts and show how the new structures of town and state were being set up by the colonists.

I look forward to my weekly trip in to the reading room at the RHSV in Melbourne, where I can pour over this daily account of work in the townships of Ballarat and Ballarat East, when the street I walk along today had not yet been made, and the townscape that is so familiar to me was still being formed. Thanks to the RHSV the manuscript I'm reading has been preserved and made available for all of us interested in the places and the events of the Ballarat goldfields.

Hawthorn Historical Society is in great need of 2 or 3 history lovers to join our committee, to help us over a difficult period.

Because of the loss of our regular meeting room, and committee members' work and other commitments, we have had to scale down our activities for 2011 and 2012. By 2013 we hope to have new meeting rooms adjoining Hawthorn Library.

Our committee meets just 3-monthly, communicating by email in between meetings, and provides a great opportunity to learn more about Hawthorn.

Anyone who can spare even one or two years to join our committee will be warmly welcomed! Enquiries: Shirley Ramsay, 9818 2518 or sframsay@tpg.com.au

MA (Vic) Exhibition Services Grants now open

MA (Vic) is pleased to announce that the Exhibition Services Grants for 2011 are now open. These grants assist collecting organisations to develop a collections based exhibition for either their venue or for tour. Grants for up to \$10,000 are available for organisations to:

- develop a static exhibition
- tour an exhibition
- develop an online exhibition
- develop a digital story

The closing deadline is Friday 1 July 2011. See our website for grant guidelines and application forms. **Further information:** Museums Australia (Victoria)

One of Melbourne's fascinating historical byways

Change and Continuity: the Catalysts 1910-2010, by Anne Longmire.

On 23 June, at the State Library, Winsome McCaughey will launch a centenary history of one of Melbourne's best-kept secrets. A women's club based on the sharing of a meal and discussion paper once a month, the Catalysts was formed in 1910, 'at a time when women were breaking free from expected patterns, speaking out, driving their own motorcar...riding bicycles or taking up rifle shooting'. These 'new women', willing to challenge established expectations, were well represented among the club's 19 founders, who included doctors, scientists, historians, poets, stay-at-home mothers, a composer and Victoria's first woman lawyer, Florence Greig. Stella Deakin, daughter of Alfred Deakin, was the youngest member; several Jewish women were invited to join. Jessie Webb exemplified as well as anyone the 'new woman': orphaned in childhood, she graduated with first-class honours in history and political economy from the University of Melbourne and rose to become acting professor:

Almost alone from childhood, she developed a character both independent and responsible, and confronted life with courage and indomitable gaiety. She was highly intelligent, wise, witty and very kind. Emancipated herself, she did all in her power to help other women to lead fuller and more meaningful lives.

Anne Longmire's fascinating history sketches the lives of some extraordinary women, some of them internationally known, as well as tracing their passions and concerns through the monthly discussion papers. These covered a vast array of topics, from the novels of Thomas Hardy to Melbourne's water policy, ADHD to the permissive society and Australia's stance on refugees. Longmire's book is at once an encounter with some of Melbourne's most influential women, and a marker of social change in the years 1910-2010. An absorbing read. The book is available from the Victorian Women's Trust, Level 9/313 La Trobe Street Melbourne, 3000; phone 9642 0422, email women@vwt.org.au

News from Public Record Office Victoria

You might have noticed PROV looks a little different! In addition to a new design and site navigation PROV have also added social-media sharing and auto subscription. And on our new blog, you'll be able to read all about the work of staff in collection management, exhibitions and recordkeeping. Very 21st century! www.prov.vic.gov.au

Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards

On Thursday 19 May Keeper of Public Records Justine Heazlewood and President of the Public Records Advisory Council Peter Harmsworth presented the 2011 Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards.

The awards, now in their 13th year, recognise excellence and innovation in records management within the Victorian Public Sector, and seek to highlight the importance of good recordkeeping in ensuring the effective accountability of governments and the efficient operation of public administration in the state of Victoria.

Small agency category winner

Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission for the management and transfers of royal commission digital records.

Medium agency category winner

Land Victoria for their project to archive the historical documents of Land Victoria.

Large agency category winner

Northern Health for their semi-electronic scanned medical record system.

Regional agency category winner

Greater Shepparton City Council for their Digital Consent Model, which has improved recordkeeping practice within their EDMS.

Community archives category – preservation of records of significance

Mount Alexander Shire Council for the digitisation of Shire of Maldon minute books 1858–1995.

Community archives category – providing enhanced records access

Colac and District Historical Society for their collaboration with Duke University to transcribe, index and digitise the first Court of Petty Sessions Register for Colac 1849–1865

Knox Historical Society for the digitisation and indexing of photo collections of local primary schools, secondary schools and kindergartens.

Research seminars at Victorian Archives Centre

99 Shiel St, North Melbourne

Book online at www.prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on

Researching Koorie Records

11am Tuesday 5 July 2011

Introduction to the catalogue

11am Thursday 21 July 2011

Introduction to family history

11am Thursday 4 August

Introduction to the catalogue

11am Thursday 18 August 2011

Introduction to the catalogue

11am Thursday 8 September 2011

Investigating Inquest Records

11 Thursday 22 September 2011

From the Federation of Australian Historical Societies New federal money for Community Heritage Grants

The federal budget announced that the government will provide \$4 million in each of the next two years for Community Heritage Grants. It is understood that some of the grants will be in the range of \$5000 to \$150,000, which will be ideal for historical societies. The FAHS warmly welcomes this news, but we are waiting further details on such matters as the criteria and the timetable.

Disaster Planning and Recovery – new addition to the FAHS website

The new disaster planning and recovery page at www.history.org.au/Disaster_planning_and_recovery.html is an important resource for historical societies. It includes practical advice as well as links to relevant useful and informative websites.

Recent floods and cyclones

Fortunately, most historical societies and museums have escaped reasonably well the damaging effects of the recent floods and cyclones. The FAHS response has been largely to try to help with developing and circulating lists of the damage that has occurred and with facilitating access to post-disaster advice.

Meetings attended by the President

The President, Associate Professor Don Garden, has been busy attending meetings with the Hon. Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Hon. Tony Burke MP, other politicians, senior federal government heritage officers at which he discussed heritage legislation and promoted the work of historical societies and pressed home their financial needs. The President has also met with the President of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme Blackman and with Dr Darryl McIntyre, President of the Museums Australia.

Associate Membership of the Federation

Applications for Associate Membership of the FAHS are invited from like-minded societies having objects of a similar or identical effect as those of the FAHS and which are not formally affiliated with one of our [member societies](#). For further details visit the FAHS website at www.history.org.au and hover your mouse over the 'About us' drop-down menu.

Collections Australia Network (CAN)

The Federation regrets that funding for the Collections Australia Network (CAN) has been terminated. It is understood, however, that the database will be accessible via the internet but no new records will be added.

History Victoria Support Group – RHSV

Seminar Saturday 18th June 2011

Tatura Irrigation and War Camps Museum

“Ethnic community museums and historical societies”

- 10 am Registration and cup of tea for those who have travelled from afar.
- 10.30 Welcome from Lenore Frost, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group and Dr Andrew Lemon, President of the RHSV.
- 10.45 Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer: Report to societies
- 11.00 Lurline Knee “WW2 Internment and POW Camps Collection”
- 11.45 Questions
- 12.00 Adjunct Professor Bruce Pennay, OAM –“Whose memory place is this?” Professor Pennay will draw on Bonegilla, Rushworth and Tatura during his address.
- 12.45 Questions
- 1.00 LUNCH
- 1.45 Kate Prinsley on her recent Churchill Fellowship trip to the USA and England
- 2.30 Vince Vincitorio “A Boy from Italy”
- 3.15 Close of seminar, and a cup of tea before everyone hits the road.

(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 15th June 2011. Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.)

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

ANGLICAN: The society's meeting on 15 June will feature speaker Beryl Gregory on "Commissioning a History: Christ Church Grammar School". Contact secretary Roger Meyer, OAM, 9818 4950 or roger.meyer@bigpond.com.

AVOCA: Volunteers are invited to work at either the Court House, 182 High St, Daly's cottage, or the Avoca cemetery. Contact Cheryl Mallinson on 5465 3935. Advance notice is given of the Central Highlands Historical Association history expo planned for October 2011; see <http://www.chha.asn.au>.

BACCHUS MARSH: In March this year the society mounted a display for the Harvest Festival. The display is now at the Bacchus Marsh Library. The newsletter carries a picture of a framed photograph of "The Prince's Show, May 1920. Bacchus Marsh District Exhibit" which was held at the RAS showgrounds.

BALLAN: The Moorabool Shire Council having decided to discontinue its role as Committee of Management for the Courthouse Reserve, the Society has now entered a lease agreement with the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The agreement allows the society occupancy at \$104 p.a. without responsibility for significant but necessary repair and preservation works.

BOX HILL: On Thursday 16 June Norman Hutchinson will speak on "Concrete Houses of Box Hill South". Meetings are held at the Strabane Chapel Hall, 29 Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North, commencing at 8 pm. Enquiries: 9285 4808 or email boxhillhistory@gmail.com; see also www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/.

BRIGHTON: Brighton Historical Society was the recipient of 88 slides of early Brighton from Professor Weston Bate.

BROADFORD: Local history books for sale include: A Country Life by Eric McDonald; From the Broadford Courier

1891-1978. Poetry; Whispers in the Valley: Strath Creek by Noreen Foster; Through the Mill: Broadford Paper Mill Centenary; A District Remembers: A collection of World War II memories 50th anniversary commemorative edition; and Journey to Taatooke: Emily Gavan's Story, by Maureen Jones. See: www.broadfordhistorical.org.au.

BROADMEADOWS: In mid-2010 the Broadmeadows Historical Society received many items of memorabilia relating to the Robertson Family of Gowrie Park. These will be displayed at the Broadmeadows Historical Museum from May until August 2011, 10 am to 3 pm. Entry: gold coin donation. Enquiries: 0405 780 711 or broadymuseum@australiaonline.net.au.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST: A special, double-sized edition of Historical digest, No 171, honours the life and ministry of the late Gordon Stirling. It includes fifteen tributes from people who served alongside him from his first church in New Zealand in the 1930s to his ministries in Boronia after his 'retirement'.

CLUNES: The society would welcome new volunteers interested in cataloguing and displaying objects donated to their museum. Current volunteers would love to pass on the skills learnt at Museums Australia workshops to younger people. This work is done on Wednesday mornings; enquiries: 5345 3592.

COLAC: A missing Colac Court of Petty Sessions Register from 1849-1865 has turned up in the Duke University in North Carolina. They made a digital copy available and indexers from the Geelong and District History Association transcribed and indexed the register. The results can be found in the Geelong and District Database. See <http://zades.com.au/gandd/index.php/databases/gddb>.

DAYLESFORD: A small number of rediscovered copies of the 1990 book, The Spa Country, are available when purchased with a copy of the new Spa Country: a Field Guide to the Mineral Springs of Victoria, which costs \$35. Email history@daylesford.net or contact the Daylesford Historical Society, 100 Vincent St, Daylesford 3460.

FOOTSCRAY: Plaques from the Avenue of Honour along Geelong Road have been lifted and stored. They are to be restored

by an expert, and after consultation with Veterans' Affairs on the design, will be placed at the Footscray Park near the Citizens' War Memorial. Enquiries: 9689 3820.

GEELONG: On Wednesday 6 July at 8 pm, Vern Hollingsworth and John Griffiths will present "Geelong Classic Cinema". Visitors are welcome at the Morrow Theatre, Geelong Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop St, Geelong. Enquiries: 5227 0970.

HAWTHORN: Discover the history of Hawthorn with a series of self-guided walks produced by the historical society. A booklet for each of the 18 walks is available from the Hawthorn Library for \$1.00 each.

KOO-WEE-RUP SWAMP: The May issue of the newsletter carries an article by Heather Arnold on the history of local gun clubs. A mounted rifle corps was established at Cranbourne in 1891, followed by the Tooradin Rifle Club circa 1900, the Garfield Rifle Club in 1907, and the Lang Lang Gun Club in 1907.

LATROBE'S COTTAGE: Special events include the La Trobe Exhibition opening at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Book Shop on Wednesday 20 July; a Spring Opening at La Trobe's Cottage on Saturday 2 October; and La Trobe, Miss Drysdale and the Bellarine Peninsula visit in October. Contact: 9646 2112 or see www.latrobesociety.org.au.

LEARMONTH: The society is seeking contributions to its photo collection. Any district photos are welcome, but they are particularly interested in early bus trips held by the society when Ercildoune was visited, and information and photos on district girl guides. Photos will be scanned and returned. Contact: Lois Keating davidandlois@ncable.net.au or 5338 4361.

LILYDALE: The society has now its own home at the Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lilydale. Opening days are Wednesdays, Friday afternoons, the weekends, and public holidays. The hours will be 11 am to 4 pm and Friday 1 to 4 pm. Enquiries: 9761 9192 or email aross35@bigpond.com.

MALVERN: A local researcher is wondering if anyone has any memories or anecdotes about the old Georges' Department store in Collins Street that they would like to share. She is hoping to put together a collection

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of personal recollections. Call Annette on 0423-506 863.

MALMSBURY: There was a strong reaction to the Council's decision to scrap the underground power and heritage lighting project in the main shopping strip. A meeting in April unanimously decided that other projects in the strategic plan should be deferred to allow the underground power to proceed, with provision for later installation of heritage lighting.

MARYBOROUGH/MIDLANDS: A display in the new building complex was open for the first time during the Heritage Festival in March. Owing to the rising costs of maintaining Worsley cottage and grounds, the entry cost for visitors has been raised to \$5 per adult. Enquiries: Worscott@bigpond.com or see the website www.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs.

MORDIALLOC: The Laura and Charles Ferguson Historical Museum in Old Bakery Road, Mentone, was visited by graffiti artists who damaged the glass on the entrance. The Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens assists the society by keeping an eye on the property to try and reduce graffiti attacks in the area.

MORWELL: To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the commencement of classes at the Collins Street Primary School, a small display of items of memorabilia will be held at the society's rooms at 44 Buckley Street, Morwell for a few months. The new address for correspondence is PO Box 1163, Morwell 3840. See www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au.

NAVAL: The Naval Historical Society of Australia, Victoria chapter, will celebrate the RAN's centenary year with the unveiling of a bust of VADM Sir W R Creswell, KCMG, KBE, RAN to restore the Creswell Memorial located in Catani Gardens, St Kilda foreshore on Friday 8 July 2011 at 2 p.m. Contact: Elizabeth Stevens on maritimemiss@gmail.com or phone 0416 165298.

OAKLEIGH: The historical society, together with the Military Historical Society and the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL has launched Fallen Leaves, documenting 68 Oakleigh soldiers who lost their lives in WWI. It is available for \$25 from the RSL or Monash Federation Centre; contact: oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au.
PORT FAIRY: Marten Syme continues the story of "The Port Fairy Cement Debacle" in the March newsletter. The local community was concerned about dust issues around the plant, but it did not want to see the works closed and jobs lost. In the event the company lost money, and the plant closed in 1957.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: Paul Balassone of Melbourne Water will speak on the subject of "Yan Yean Water Supply System - a History of Melbourne's Early Water Supply System" at the meeting of Saturday 9 July, 2 pm, at St Andrew's Uniting Church, corner Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Enquiries: 9500 8118.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS: The latest book from PMI Press is Frank Hutchinson's Beginnings: a brief account of some of the first Europeans to explore or settle in Victoria. The book is being distributed online via the BookPOD Bookstore at www.bookstore.bookpod.com.au or can be obtained from the PMI Library for \$15 plus postage. Enquiries: 9803 4481.

ROSEDALE: "Omaha Cottage" a settlers' home built in 1868 was recently demolished. The March issue of the newsletter has an outline of the history of the cottage, and some photos of some of the detail of the cottage just prior to demolition, as well as some photos just after the demolition.

QUEENSLIFFE HISTORICAL: The museum has a display featuring Charles Cheney Simpson - chemist, photographer, diarist and Mayor who set up his chemist shop in 1862. On display are items of his daily trade including dispensing books of fine copperplate writing, and his amazing scrap book of pictures and photographs. Open every day. Enquiries: 5258 2511.

QUEENSLIFFE MARITIME: The Maritime weekend in March was well-attended, and a capacity crowd gathered in the Boatshed to hear tales of Queenscliff maritime history. This year's theme was "Sailors and Sailing at Queenscliff". Other popular events were the traditional treasure hunt conducted by the Sea Scouts; the Blessing of the Fleet; and the sailing program.

RAINBOW: The society recently received donations of photographs, World War 2 aviation memorabilia, and historical publications. Our current project involves fund-raising for the digitisation of local movie films made in the 1950s and 1960s. Sales of the society's 100 Years of the Rainbow Show, published last year, continue. Enquiries: Box 2, Rainbow 3424.

RYE: The society will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rye becoming a town with a luncheon on Friday 1 July at the Blue Water Room, Rye Hotel. The speaker's topic will be "The History and Development of Rye". Contact Danny Jennings on 5985 2231.

SHEPPARTON: Water - the vital element is a new book from the society. It is A4 sized, 15 chapters, and covers the 150 years since Shepparton was gazetted as a settlement in 1860. The cost is \$40 plus \$10 postage. c/- 7 Barton St, Shepparton 3630. Enquiries: 0358 21 7717 or email peterandbeverleyford@hotmail.com.

SHIPLOVERS: The society will host a talk by Captain A D Honeybourne at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 8 June at Melbourne Corporation's Education Centre, Lorimer St, Port Melbourne (west of Todd Rd), entitled "How the Mount Pleasant Airport was built in Falkland Islands (post war)".

TERANG: A successful grant application enabled the society to buy cataloguing software, which is up and running. They look forward to having the collection itemised with photos: historysociety04@hotmail.com.

YACKANDANDAH: The society seeks photos, items or information for their October Exhibition of local identities including James Lorimer, Louis Stephens, Dr Augustus Mueller, Rev James Meek, Alfred Eustace, James Moore, Daniel Mongan, Ada Cambridge, Matthew Rome, James Osborne and Mrs Ellen Stiles: email museum@yackandandah.com or phone 0260 270 627.

YARRA GLEN: Due to renovations at the Memorial Hall, historical society meetings on Sundays 12 June, 10 July and 14 August will be held at the Yarra Glen and District Living and Learning Centre, 12 Anzac Avenue, Yarra Glen. The History Room will be closed from June to August. Enquiries: yarraglenhistorical@live.com.au.

WARRNAMBOOL: The society's collection of over 1,500 original docketts, dating back to 1857, is increasingly in use. It is exciting for a researcher to find a docket with an ancestral signature. A recent acquisition was a Milk Purveyor's Certificate issued in 1857 giving Mary Beattie of Warrnambool a licence to sell milk. Enquiries: warrnamboolhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com.

History

NEWS



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