



History NEWS

Issue No. 300 June 2012

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Your
Victorian
Historical Journal
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included with this edition
of History News

Announcing the Victorian Community History Awards 2012

Enclosed with your copy of *History News* is the entry form for 2012 Victorian Community History Awards.

Again this year the Victorian Community History Awards will be presented as a partnership between The Public Record Office Victoria and The Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

This year a new category has been introduced

Young Historians Award (15 – 18 years.)

This award encourages secondary school aged students to engage with local history, increase historical understanding and discover more about Victoria's history. Students may explore local community and identities, significant events and heritage topics. Nominations must utilise archival or original records, which include holdings in museum collections, online primary sources, oral history and newspapers. The project can be presented in typescript or multimedia format.

Nominations must include a bibliography including the source of the historical record (eg. Historical Societies, museums or archives) and collection as well as citing the records and other sources used.

Please see the entry form enclosed for the full list of categories.

Entry forms and FAQ's, examples of previous winners are also available on our website www.historyvictoria.org.au. Additional entry forms can be posted to you by 'phoning 9326 9288.

Gib Wettenhall, winner Victorian Community History Awards 2011 writes about his experience of winning the award on page 5.



From PROV Collection: Victorian Community History Awards

Not to be missed

Melbourne Theatres in Transition

1840s – 1940s An indiosyncratic view

This exhibition surveys the history of Melbourne Theatres, some of the personalities involved and the changes that occurred with the rise of cinema during the period of the two world wars.



On display is a beautiful coloured glass slide of the Crystal Bar, Theatre Royal, Bourke St., 1860s showing George Coppin; souvenir programmes, photographs of theatre land 1860s – 1940s; carte de visite and postcards of the stars and posters.

Curated by Dr. Mimi Colligan, expert in the history of theatre in Australia, the exhibition draws on the collections of the RHSV, the SLV and a private collection.

Please don't miss this wonderful exhibition!!

The exhibition closes 31 August.

Membership Subscriptions are now due

With this newsletter you will find your membership subscription form for the coming year 1 July, 2012 – 30 June, 2013.

Your membership supports the maintenance, growth and access to our magnificent collection; supports programmes such as exhibitions, the Speakers Nights, the *Victorian Historical Journal*; our work in assisting historical societies; and to advocate for the importance of local history throughout the state.

In 2011 we saw an increase in our membership. Please continue to support us so that the RHSV can continue to deliver innovative programmes and because we all agree our history is important.

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

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

BOOK SALE

Books are now being received for our annual book sale.

We need books on any topic & will come and collect them.

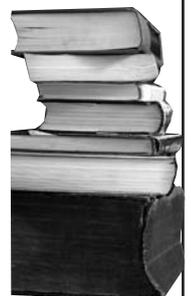
Phone 9326 9288 for collection.

Alternatively you can drop them into the RHSV – there is 10 minutes free parking directly outside.

Please help us with our major fundraiser for the year.

The date of the book sale is

SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER



Encore! Encore!

Members and their guests are invited to a reprise of Dr. Mimi Colligan's floor talk about the exhibition *Melbourne's Theatres in Transition 1840s – 1940s* on Thursday 28 June at 12.00pm.

Cost \$15.00 includes a light lunch.

RSVP essential: Tuesday 26 June

9326 9288



Dr. Mimi Colligan "lights up the room" with her engaging talk about the exhibition "Melbourne's Theatres in Transition"

Expressions of Interest

Local History Librarian – Temporary Position

Following the retirement of Chris Cooze, the position of Collections Manager, Royal Historical Society of Victoria has become available, combining the role with that of Local History Officer.

The Local History Librarian is an important role providing leadership in collections access, research and working with volunteers. Library experience and IT skills are essential. Experience with DB text works is preferable.

The Local History Librarian will also develop projects with and support the work of historical societies throughout Victoria.

The position offers opportunities for someone passionate about the history of Victoria and experienced at working in a voluntary organization.

This is a part time position being offered on a preliminary six month period.

For a position description and salary please email kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au

Further enquiries phone Kate Prinsley 9326 9288

Applications close: Wednesday 20 June

Report from the 102nd Annual General Meeting

Acting President Professor Bill Russell welcomed some fifty members to the AGM with some thoughts sent by Andrew Lemon who is currently in the USA. Quoting from an article in the *Kentucky-Courier* by the noted poet and essayist Wendell Berry, who had delivered the Jefferson Lecture a few weeks earlier in Washington, Andrew Lemon had written:

"The cultural cycle is an unending conversation between old people and young people, assuring the survival of local memory, which has, as long as it remains local, the greatest practical urgency and value." I'm not sure if this translates out of context, but it does seem to be one of the important reasons why we do what we do at the RHSV."

Professor Russell continued that in *National Volunteers' Week* it was fitting to remark on the extraordinary contribution of the volunteers to the RHSV, and volunteers in the wider local history movement. He also noted the coincidence of the obituary to AGL Shaw, Fellow of the RHSV, former Councillor and benefactor of the RHSV appearing in *The Age* on the same day as the AGM.

Professor Russell summarized the year as being an outstanding year for Speakers Nights, mostly with "full houses"; the successful management of the *Victorian Community History Awards*; another successful *HistoryWeek* with many openings and events to invite members. He thanked the staff – Chris Cooze, Laura Frost, Ged Horgan and Kate Prinsley.

In conclusion Professor Russell said the Society has never been livelier than it has this year.

In presenting his final report Treasurer John Hulskamp reported that in spite of an operational deficit of \$2,720 for the year, the Society was in a good financial position with retained earnings of \$144,851. He also commented on the success RHSV Foundation – the corpus of which is now in excess of \$213,921- and urged members to continue to support this fund.

Of significant interest during the meeting was the passing of the constitutional change (as advertised in *History News* April 2012) to remove the executive officer as a member



David Thompson, Ruth Permezel, John Rose together with Bill Russell after receiving their Awards of Merit.

of Council; and by special amendment to reduce the number of Councillors to 12.

The meeting saw the completion of terms of three Councillors; Simon Smith, John Hulskamp and Jenny Coates. All were thanked for their "active service" on Council.

2012 – 2013 Council

There being four nominations for six positions on Council an election was not necessary. The Council for 2012-2013 is as follows:

- President: Dr Andrew Lemon FRHSV
- Vice Presidents: Professor Bill Russell
Lenore Frost (Convenor HVSG)
- Treasurer: Dr Robert Barnes
- Secretary: Carole Woods FRHSV
- Ordinary Members:
Glen Turnbull
Assoc.Prof Don Garden
Dr. Judith Smart
Jane Carolan
Joan Hunt

The AGM was delighted to elect Dr Judith Smart as Fellow of the RHSV.

Six Awards of Merit were announced:

- Robyn Doble – Box Hill Historical Society
- John Jennings - Seymour and District Historical Society
- Dione McIntyre – Kew Historical Society
- Ruth Permezel – RHSV
- David Thompson – RHSV
- John Rose – RHSV

President's Note

Some American Inspiration

'Journey Through Hallowed Ground', they call it, with the high seriousness that somehow works in America but doesn't always communicate in Australia. On the other hand it was a serious matter: most historical sources attribute more than 600,000 deaths to the self-inflicted carnage of the American Civil War a mere century and a half ago. The 'Journey' is a concept that creates a sometimes unlikely coalition of interests to preserve and celebrate the special qualities of a unique historic region, and I think the Royal Historical Society of Victoria could offer the leadership to develop a similar initiative in our state, adapted to our own circumstances.

There is an actual 'Journey' defined as a 180 mile long and 75 mile wide corridor from Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to Thomas Jefferson's historic property



Monument to 1.5 million horses and mules that died during the US Civil War, outside the National Sporting Library and Museum, Middleburg, Virginia.

Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. It is not just a Civil War trail. You are invited to visit it for its landscape values and for its broad attractions: 'a unique historic, natural and scenic region' with unspoiled landscapes, 'vibrant historic downtowns' and the delights of wineries and inns, homes and birthplaces of nine US presidents, Native American settlements, sites associated with any number of wars but also with key documents in American history. Most significant (according to its very attractive website www.hallowedground.org) 'is the region's role as a cradle of democracy and its key position in the Civil War.' Trademarked as well as the phrase 'Journey Through Hallowed Ground' is the slogan 'Take the Journey to Where America Happened'.

What impressed me most in talking to Cate Magennis Wyatt, the president of the Journey's Trust, is that, like our historical societies in Victoria, the Journey is a non-profit organisation. It uses partnerships to raise awareness of local, state and trans-state heritage and has achieved recognition and support (including financial) from the US Congress and the four states involved. These are partners that too often, in other contexts, would be seen as having separate or even opposing interests. The trustees and advisors include representatives of developers and hotel groups as well as academic historians, educationists, environmentalists, fox hunters and horse lovers, charitable trusts, national parks, lawyers, local historical groups, financial managers, filmmakers, private landowners and government representatives.

At a function at the National Sporting Library and Museum where I was studying, the Republican Governor of Virginia (tax-averse though Republicans claim to be) handed over a huge cheque to help purchase a nearby five-acre Civil War site that has been until now in private hands.

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Map of Liverpool on display at Old Treasury Building

One of the many treasures of the RHSV collection—a map of Liverpool, England, drawn in pen and ink by John James Clark in about 1850 or 1851—is on display at Melbourne's Old Treasury Building.



J.J. Clark made the map at the age of twelve or thirteen for a drawing competition at his school, the Collegiate Institute in Liverpool. Very detailed and finely delineated, it is a remarkable achievement, especially for one so young. Not surprisingly, Clark won the competition. Although he probably drew on elements from several published maps of the city, he synthesised and added to these in a highly original way (by including, for example, a drawing of the Gothic-style Collegiate Institute building).

When Clark's family left Liverpool for Melbourne in November 1851, the map was among the possessions they took with them. It soon proved useful upon their arrival, in the chaos of the early gold rush; according to family legend the fourteen-year-old Clark took the map with him to the Colonial Architect's office when applying for a junior drafting position. He was awarded the job, his wages helping to support his large family.

The map of Liverpool is one of the highlights of the exhibition *Gold and Governors: 150 Years of the Old Treasury Building*, which celebrates the sesquicentenary of the completion of this Melbourne landmark. Just as Clark's precocious talent is evident in his map, it is also obvious in the elegant proportions and tasteful classical ornamentation of this Renaissance Revival building, which Clark began designing in 1857 at the age of just nineteen. His employers must have had great faith in his abilities to entrust this administratively important and visually prominent project to such a young designer. Their faith was rewarded with a building that is not only beautiful to look at, but has served many practical purposes for a century and a half. As well as welcoming the public, it continues to house the city offices of the Governor of Victoria and host the weekly meetings of the Executive Council.

Gold and Governors: 150 Years of the Old Treasury Building is at the Old Treasury Building until 30 November.

(See www.oldtreasurybuilding.org.au for details.) The exhibition was curated by Dr Belinda Nemeč and Dr Andrew Dodd, based on the research of Dr Dodd, whose book, *John James Clark: Architect of the Australian Renaissance*, was published recently.

Dr Belinda Nemeč
Public Record Office Victoria

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 *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Katherine Sheedy, *The Act of Nursing, A History of Nursing Regulation in Victoria*, Nurses Board of Victoria Legacy Limited (Available from the Nurses Memorial Centre, Suite 11/431 St Kilda Road, Melbourne), 2011, pp. xiv + 208 State regulation of nursing and midwifery in Victoria started in 1923 and ended in 2010. The period marks the development of nursing as a profession, the growth of tertiary-based courses and the advent of a national registration scheme. This book amply charts the work of the bodies and individuals that administered regulation through nursing boards and councils. Elegantly produced with many evocative photos.

Norman Houghton, *A Gentle Place, The Geelong Club – A Jubilee History 1859 to 2009*, Norman Houghton, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 2012, pp. iv + 82. The early years of this gentleman's club in Geelong were faltering and it was not until 1881 that the Club achieved some permanence with a new purpose-built house opened in 1889. The book charts the ways in which the Club was managed, changes in the use of the premises, key personnel, and social events. It will doubtless be well-received by members. There are statements about its importance – 'one of the foundation blocks of the Geelong community' according to the foreword. But apart from noting prominent members of the community, there is little discussion of its impact on Geelong. For example, the impact of the collapse of Pyramid in 1990 on membership is mentioned, but not any part that might have been played by Club members. Questions about its place in the history of Geelong are for another book.

Mick Woiwood (ed.), *The Diary of Andrew Ross, 1828-1895 & The Reminiscences of Andrew Ross, 1851-1864*, Tarcoola Press in association with Andrew Ross Museum, PO Box 1232, Kangaroo Ground, 3097, 2011, pp. 235 + 128 Ross kept a meticulous diary for 67 years. It has been in the State Library since 1985. This publication brings it and some reminiscences written for the *Evelyn Observer* after he returned to England in 1876 where he died in 1895. For most of the time he spent in the Port Phillip District/Victoria, he lived at Kangaroo Ground where he was the leading figure in its social and cultural life. Always in financial difficulties, he was teacher, Presbyterian pastor, organizer, civic official as well as entrepreneur in a succession of largely unsuccessful ventures. Both the diaries and the reminiscences are rich

in their detail about a small community on the outskirts of Melbourne in the Yarra Valley. They are well indexed in this attractively produced volume.

Anne Marsden, *The Marsdens of Melbourne, The rise and fall of a family's fortunes 1841-1941*, Marsden Publishing, Melbourne, 272-310 Pigdon Street, Carlton North, 3054, 2009, pp. xii + 243 A well-presented, well-researched family history covering three generations of Marsden – Joseph (1811-1889), Wesleyan preacher and social activist in early Melbourne (he arrived in 1841); his son, John (1844-1913) who became Chief Government Architect in Victoria; and his son, Edgar (1880-1957) described as singer, soldier and cricketer. In addition, there are vignettes about their wives and John's sister, Sarah Whiting. Each of the men's lives has wider than family interest: John's activism in early Melbourne is well-recorded and says much about the settlement; Joseph's architectural output includes a number of grand post offices as well as Ballarat High School and the Melbourne Teachers' College, now part of the University of Melbourne; and Edgar's professional and considerable singing career and interest in cricket, including the touring Fijian team in 1907-8. Well-indexed.

John Ramsland, *Cook's Hill Life Saving & Surf Club, The First Hundred Years*, Brolga, Melbourne, 2011, pp. xi + 339 The advent of surfing early last century and the rise of clubs and association and competitions has meant a crop of centenary histories of clubs especially around Sydney, but also in Newcastle where Cook's Hill is a southern suburb. This book serves parochial interests very well in documenting for members its illustrious past, even including a list of members' sobriquets. But it does more because it supplies a context for the development of the club and surfing generally in Australian society, something often lacking in sporting club histories.

Richard Gillespie, *The Great Melbourne Telescope*, Museum Victoria, Melbourne, 2011, pp. 188 A thorough narrative that details the design, manufacture, and eventual installation of the Great Melbourne Telescope at the Melbourne Observatory in 1869, through all the difficulties of lobbying, initially by William Wilson, the foundation professor of mathematics at the university, and erection in Melbourne where it took time to get the telescope working under Ellery's direction. A technological marvel of its age, the telescope was eventually removed in 1945 to the Mount Stromlo Observatory in Canberra where it was modernized and re-erected and had a second life until the Canberra fires of 2003. Its remnants have now been assembled in Melbourne where it is hoped to restore this important piece of scientific heritage and give it a third life. A masterly text that deals with complex technical material in a readily understandable way.

Allan Mawdsley, *Such Big Work, The life of Alice Isabel Hay Creswick, OBE DstJ*, Allan Mawdsley, 92 Armstrong Street, Middle Park 3206, 2011, pp. 220 A substantial biography of Alice Creswick (1889-1973). Born into a wealthy Scottish family, in 1910 Alice (nee Reid) married Harry Creswick (1886-1935), scion of a wealthy Australian pastoral family, and came to live in Victoria, mostly in Melbourne. Important socially, she joined the committee of the Lady Northcote Kindergarten in 1928 and soon became president. After the tragic death of her husband, Alice was active in the management of the family properties and became president of the Free Kindergarten Union in 1939. At the same time, she was co-opted to the Central Council of the Australian Red Cross as it prepared for the war, becoming Principal Commandant of Service Corps personnel in 1941. An engaging biography, well-illustrated and providing details about a very capable woman and her important works and contacts.

John Ramsland, *From Antarctica to the Gold Rushes in the wake of the 'Erebus'*, Brolga, Melbourne, 2011, pp. xii + 376. After service in the Royal Navy including voyages to the Antarctic in the early 1840s, Alexander Smith (1812-1872) briefly migrated to Tasmania as naval officer at the Rosssbank Observatory in Hobart. After returning to England and retirement from the navy, Smith was appointed as Goldfields Commissioner of Crown Lands at Castlemaine, taking up his position in 1853 and later entering parliament. The book mainly deals with the Antarctic voyages but also is a pioneering biography that brings a largely unknown life of interest to Antarctic exploration, as well as colonial life in Victoria in the aftermath of gold using hitherto privately held papers.

Peter Yule, *William Lawrence Baillieu, Founder of Australia's Greatest Business Empire*, Hardie Grant, Melbourne and London, 2012, pp. viii + 423, \$65 'Big Bill' Baillieu, a very significant figure in Australian business, has lacked a biography until this one that establishes the drive and expertise that made him an extremely powerful force in 20th century Australian business and politics. Always tainted by his failure and contributing doubtful practices in the Melbourne 'land boom' of the 1880s, 'WL' was one of the few survivors who re-established their wealth and power in subsequent decades. Theodore Fink and 'Tommy' Bent did likewise. Baillieu largely eschewed Melbourne society and headed up an empire that supported and was assisted by his large family. All these ventures are carefully charted by the author to reveal the range of his astounding enterprise: real estate, gold mining, share trading, mining and metal industries, farming. Most importantly his role in developing the Collins House group along with his part in establishing the rise of mega-companies like Rio Tinto, the Herald & Weekly Times, Electrolytic Zinc, Dunlop and Carlton & United Breweries make him the business titan suggested by the book's sub-title.

Some American Inspiration

Continued from page 3

Speaking at the ceremony, one of the Governor's senior advisors noted that heritage tourism is judged to be twice as lucrative to a region than 'ordinary tourism'. The tourist with a heritage interest will spend longer in their travels, spend more heavily and no doubt more wisely.

The government and the Journey people also support programmes to bring school children to the area. They are encourage to use 'primary source documents, humanities scholarship, music, dance, dramatic readings, role-playing and digital technology' in their visits. 'Of the children, by the children, for the children' is another of their slogans, trade-marked of course.

This could be the time to create our own coalition of the many disparate bodies that advocate heritage in the state of Victoria. We could be a lot more effective than we are at present. There are many urgent challenges, not least the formal and informal teaching of Australian and Victorian history in our schools and universities. Many of our special interest historical organisations need revitalisation. Despite the work of the National Trust and Heritage Victoria over the past decades, we have become too passive in allowing history and heritage to take second place to other economic priorities. Historical societies have a big role to play in reminding Victorians of their heritage.

This is a roundabout way of thanking all of you who have supported the work of the RHSV and your own local historical societies in the past financial year – and to urge you to continue that support as your renewals for 2012-13 now fall due. We invite you to round up your cheques with a donation to our general funds or to make a special tax-deductible donation to build the RHSV Foundation. Encourage your friends to take out a membership and support the RHSV as we take the next steps on our own journey.

Andrew Lemon

Redmond Barry Exhibition and Bicentennial

During Law Week (May 14-20) the Supreme Court had an exhibition to mark the beginning of Redmond Barry's bicentennial year. Sir Redmond Barry was born on 7 June 1813.

One of the highlights of the exhibition was Judge Willis' notebook detailing the Bonjon case. During the 1840s Redmond Barry was standing counsel for the aboriginal inhabitants of the Port Phillip District. The notebook is one of 26 volumes in the custody of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The domed Supreme Court library is part of the Supreme Court complex at the corner of William and La Trobe streets. Constructed over ten years (1874-1884) Redmond Barry did not live to see the building completed but the library and in particular is collections directly reflect Barry's vision of a Law library available to everyone in the legal profession. The library is open to interested visitors during business hours, and has been described as one of Melbourne's best 19th Century interiors.

Sir Redmond Barry is an important and seminal figure in Colonial Victoria history. We are still living with many of the organisations and institutions that Redmond Barry help to establish and nurture. He was responsible for the creation of some of Melbourne's finest cultural institutions including, the State Library, the University of Melbourne, the National Gallery and the Museum. Barry's influence can be seen and felt everywhere.



Call to teach more Indigenous history in schools

A report from the winner of the 2011 Victorian Community History Award, Gib Wettenhall.

Winning this award has helped confer credibility on the relevance of Indigenous history as a source of study.

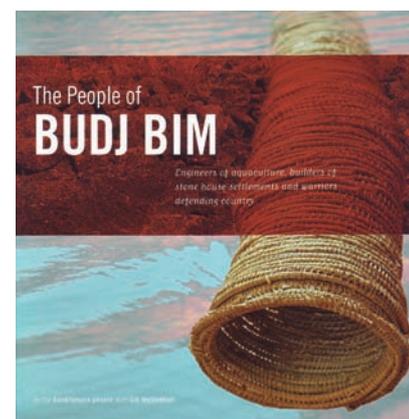
Over and over again I hear how people are amazed to read about such extraordinary histories as that of the Gunditjmarra people of south-west Victoria with whom I wrote *The People of Budj Bim*. They

never realised, they say, that Aboriginal people were capable of such engineering feats, acts of courage and of having such strong familial and spiritual links to their country.

I completed a major in history at Monash University and learnt nothing about our Indigenous heritage. Yet, after 45-65,000 years of human occupation, Australian landscapes ought to be regarded as essentially cultural landscapes. Recently, historian Bill Gammage argued in his monumental book *The Biggest Estate on Earth* that the pre-1788 continental landscape (including Tasmania) was one gigantic Aboriginal artifice, shaped largely by fine-grained and purposeful use of fire. The original Aboriginal land managers created grassy plains next to rivers and lakes; avenues of wildlife corridors for moving around their 'farm animals' (that is, kangaroos and wallabies); and open patches in forest for yam daisy and orchid production, as well as for animal traps and as camping sites.

I would like to see Indigenous history brought into the mainstream. I believe it should become a core curriculum unit in primary and secondary schools. Since winning the award, I have been asked to speak in two primary schools and at two historical society meetings. The Koorie Heritage Trust has an education officer selling *The People of Budj Bim* into schools.

We should be seeking to fuse Aboriginal and western perspectives, creating our own appropriately unique cultural heritage. We have a long way to go before we get anywhere near the original traditional owners' wisdom and knowledge of the landscapes within which they lived. At the very least, mainstream culture needs to respect and recognise their sustained, successful occupation of this continent way before Captain Cook sailed down the east coast or the Hentys waded ashore at Portland Bay.



Thank you and Good bye to MC2

STAGED CLOSURE OF MC2

The My Connected Community (mc²) social networking website was developed in 2001, as a platform for individuals and community groups to establish a web presence and start or join an online group based on shared interests.

Eleven years later, there is now a wealth of accessible social networking options that are easy to use and freely available. The mc² website will be closing on 30 June 2012, this will be a staged closure and will include information and support where required.

Online guides are available for download via the mc² site to assist you as you make the transition to other social networking sites. Information includes:

- How to export, or save, your files from mc²
- Social networking options
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

We encourage you to export or save your mc² files and make use of the time available to establish and settle into your new online social networking forum. If you experience difficulties please contact the mc² help desk on 03 8664 7001 or 1800 629 835. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we implement a staged closure of the site between March and June, in preparation for conclusion of the site on 30 June 2012.

The mc² team would like to thank you for your support over the last 11 years. It has been a privilege working together to explore the social networking space. We wish you all the very best as you move on to explore new online horizons!

The RHSV will be launching new forums to stay in touch, exchange ideas and spread the word about local history.

Stay tuned – all will be launched in our July newsletter

For your Diary

History Victoria Support Group Seminar

4 August at the RHSV

Working with Family History Groups

Building on relationships with genealogists and family history groups.

Booking details and full programme in July edition of *History News*

Victorian Collections

Linda Barraclough reports on the Victorian Collections – an online cataloguing database for small collections.

It was officially launched at the recent Museums Australia (Victoria) inaugural conference at Ballarat at the end of March, but it has been bubbling along in the background for a while. The program began in mid 2010, and had a trial version online for some time, but is now firmly established at <http://victoriancollections.net.au/>. It is based on Collectish software, and is a joint initiative of Museums Australia (Victoria) and Museum Victoria.

The website describes it as “a free, easy-to-use online cataloguing system especially created for small collecting organisations”. As I write, it lists 176 organisations and 4,600 items online. Of them 55, or just under a third, have 20 or more items online. Using the website, organisations can log on to enter details of their holdings, search their own holdings or those of others. The public can search without a login required, but are only able to see part of the record. Organisations can choose to make the record publicly available (although only certain, set parts), or keep it for their eyes only. Locations of items, and donor details, for example, are not shown on the public view. Despite this some decisions are hard to understand, with the maker (ie sometimes an author, photographer or artist) is not available to the public, making it difficult to search for works by particular “makers”, unless this has also been included in the description. It is particularly difficult for books and documents.

The structure and fields are based on the 4th Edition of the Victorian Cataloguing Manual for Small Museums, which is available online. The manual and Victorian Collections are primarily for objects, and it is difficult to see how large collections of reference material can be managed on there when fields such as author and publisher have been combined. There are, however, other fields not in the Cataloguing Manual structure, such as a useful screen for recording copyright and permission details, that especially applies to photographs.

When Victorian Collections was first announced, it was envisaged that organisations with existing catalogues (usually in DB Textworks/Inmagic) would be able to upload to the database, but this is yet to happen. The average historical society where cataloguing has been taking place for a time, generally has a catalogue of between 2,000 and 10,000 items, so it would seem important to have this information publicly available. Current

verbal advice is that the upload will be a “once-only”, and that then organisations will be expected to manage their collections through Victorian Collections. This is raising more than a little concern in the committed community of InMagic users, and it is difficult to see how uploads will happen when the fields are quite different from earlier structures, and the manner in which those fields are used also varies.

Organisations are, however, encouraged to join and upload at least twenty items, even though they are maintaining their own catalogues with InMagic, and this appears to be a good opportunity to be part of the online community. This can be achieved using members’ computers, without having an internet connection where the Society’s holdings are kept. Although this is double entry, it is worth the effort to have significant items listed, and useful training is available in conjunction with this.

From a personal point of view, I will not be totally changing from InMagic to Victorian Collections for a number of reasons. Firstly, I have too many items entered already, and would lose too much information in fields that are not included in Victorian Collections. I catalogue according to the 2nd Edition of the Manual, and it seems to have escaped the notice of those responsible for the manual that people do not just upgrade from one edition to another. Instead, it being easy to add extra fields with InMagic, they are added as needed. I am not prepared to lose fields I use, such as classifications, references, and details of who is responsible for initial entries.

InMagic also provides many more search, export and report options that are not available in Victorian Collections, that I am using continually. Data can easily be sorted in a number of ways. There is an attached Thesaurus for keywords/subjects – the tagging system used on Victorian Collections currently produces somewhat strange results – try searching for a subject of Gold.

With InMagic I can easily print out entire records for single items, or quickly construct complex reports in response to enquiries. It does not seem possible to print an entire record in Victorian Collections.

Those societies using only the online Victorian Collections will not be able to upload to the RHSV Victorian Local History Database at <http://collections.historyvictoria.com.au/rhsvdatabases/>

victorian.htm. This should be a matter of serious concern for them.

There are many other questions that are yet to be answered or addressed. There is good peer support for InMagic (there are 27 collections using it in Gippsland alone), and it has managed to grow to this point as neighbours help each other, and train each other. Victorian Collections is dependant on ongoing funding, and if funding ceases it cannot be picked up and maintained by the users. There have also been concerns expressed that organisations could lose control or ownership of their data, allowing it to be used in ways they had not expected.

So, in summary, Victorian Collections is a good opportunity for small collections such as RSLs, Fire Brigades, sporting clubs etc, but is not, as advertised, "free". It is difficult to see how it would be possible to actively manage a collection (or respond to enquiries), without the internet connection at the collection. This requires ongoing payments. It is unlikely to suit Historical Societies, especially those with a large reference collection, who operate more as a research organisation. Its lack of adequate searching options or export/report options makes it vastly inferior to InMagic, and it is hard to see how a complex collection could be managed using it. It does not appear to be possible, for example, to sort a collection into location order so as to audit.

It is, however, a good opportunity to upload twenty or more significant objects to become part of the online community. It will make information on your organisation more available, and encourage people to further explore your collection.

Linda Barraclough, who has been cataloguing with InMagic since 1992, is co-convenor of the Gippsland Cataloguing Network, and manages collections at Stratford and Maffra Historical Societies. Before it closed to new material, she uploaded one major collection to CAN (Collections Australia Network). These are her personal views.

AROUND the SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost and Jenny Coates on behalf of History Victoria 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.

ALTONA LAVERTON: The April newsletter focusses on items from their collection and on display in the museum, the latter including a collection of embroidered aprons. The Homestead Museum at Logan Reserve, Altona, is open on the first Sunday of the month. Enquiries: jimhevey@optusnet.com.au.

ANGLICAN: Professor Robin Sharwood will speak on "The Curious History of Jubilees" at the meeting to be held on 20 June promptly at 6.30 pm. Enter the Anglican Centre, Flinders St, through the Close doors at the car park entrance. If you are late call 0458 320 625 and someone will let you in.

BALLAN: The March issue of *The Settler* has a brief history of the area known as Korobeit, with a useful map and photos including the Korobeit Post Office, Korobeit School No 787, and the Korobeit Catholic Church. Enquiries: 5368 2544 or email bshinc@hotmail.com.

BENDIGO: The speaker on Friday 6 July at 2.00 pm will be Paul Lahn on "Thompsons Foundry Castlemaine 1875 - 1974". Casual visitors (non-members) are welcome to attend. The meetings will be held in the Campbell Theatre, 259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo. Enquiries: admin@bendigohistory.com or 54421005.

BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY: The Friends are pleased to report a major development in their quest to restore the Historic Rotunda. A very generous grant of \$12,600 from the Kew East Bendigo Community Bank will mean that it is full steam ahead for the restoration. Enquiries: <http://www.fobkc.org/>

BRIGHT: A railway carriage is to be cleared of items and turned into storage space. The *Alpine Observer* newspapers from years gone by are now shelved at one end of this carriage in acid free boxes. Enquiries: 5755 1009.

BROADFORD: The Autumn *Broadford News* reports the near completion of the removal and repairs of the old Police Lock-up. The internal metal cage structure meant that it was a very heavy little building, and considerable financial assistance was needed to shift it to the area near the historical society in High Street, Broadford. Enquiries: broadfordhistorical@gmail.com

CASTLEMAINE: At the 3 July meeting Wayne Blakely will talk about the "Castlemaine Rifle Club -150th Anniversary". Meetings of the society are held at the Former Courthouse, 7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine, on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com.

CHARLTON: After a lengthy break, the May newsletter contains a detailed report on work done and donations made to get their Golden Grains museum and its collection cleaned and restored. They anticipate re-opening in spring 2012. The estimated cost of the collection restoration has been \$25,000. Enquiries: goldengrains@bigpond.com

CHELTENHAM CEMETERY: A "Hidden Gems, Odds and Ends" tour of the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, Charman Road, will be held by the Friends group on Sunday 24 June at 11 am. Bookings can be made on the online form: www.focrc.org/tours.htm.

CHILTERN: The historical society occupies the historic Chiltern Athenaeum and is open most days between 10 am and 4 pm. The collection features books and publications

by local authors, including Henry Handel Richardson, Mary Gaunt and Wilfred Busse, and paintings by Alfred William Eustace. See: www.chilternathenaeum.com.au.

CORNISH: Moira Drew, a Cornish Association member and archivist, has been researching early overland travel from South Australia to the Victoria Goldfields. Her talk, "Overland Gold", will be held at the Oakleigh Baptist Church, cnr of Warrigal Road and Moorookyle Avenue, Oakleigh on Saturday 21 July at 1.30 pm.

DINGLEY VILLAGE: The history of Dingley Village is now available in a book by Anne Schaeche, produced on behalf of the Dingley Village & District Historical Society - *Dingley: Journey to the Village*, costs \$19.95 plus postage. Use the online form to order a copy: www.dingleyvillagehistoricalsociety.org.au.

EAST MELBOURNE: The talk on Wednesday 20 June will be presented by Helen Page OAM, a foundation member of the Australian Garden History Society, on the topic "Victorian Town House Gardens". Talks start at 8 pm at Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon St, East Melbourne. Enquiries: info@emhs.org.au or phone 9416 0445.

EUROA: We have two big projects at present restoring stained glass windows. One, a memorial to a Boer War soldier, has three large panels. It was lost for decades and discovered last year under the floor of the Anglican Church. The lead lighting is stunning. Our second window comes from the Longwood C of E.

FRANKSTON: Volunteers from the society have upgraded the Tea Rooms at Ballam Park Homestead with new wooden furniture, including a dresser on which to display goods for sale, new blue and white crockery, and a fresh coat of paint on the walls. See www.rootsweb.com/vicfhs/ballampark.html.

GARDEN HISTORY: Guest speaker Dr Gwen Pascoe's topic will be "Long views and short vistas": Victoria's Nineteenth Century Public Gardens" on Tuesday 10 July at Mueller Hall, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra at 6 p.m. See: www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au.

GULF STATION: Friends and Relations of Gulf Station (or FROGS) report that the station will be open occasionally throughout 2012 as preparation for full-time opening later in the year. Volunteer assistance is needed on open days. New picnic tables have been installed, two near reception and two near the schoolhouse. Enquiries: Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com.

HAMILTON: Two new computers have been installed, with a Scanlab attached to one of the computers to enable us to save newspaper items to a computer. We continue to do research for the public, but we are not getting as many research requests due to the amount of material that can be searched online.

INVERLOCH: In their recent newsletter No 173 the society reported on a talk given to the society by Beth Winterhalter, who, as a RAN Trumpeter/Bugler, was Chief Bugler at the 2004 Anzac Day Ceremony at Anzac Cove, Turkey, the first female bugler to represent her country in this way. See: www.vicnet.au/~invh

KORUMBURRA: On Thursday 5 July at 8 pm you are invited to bring photos, certificates, schoolbooks and relive "Memories of our School Days". Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the society's rooms in the library building, King Street, Korumburra. New members welcome. Enquiries: The Secretary, PO Box 329, Korumburra 3950.

KYNETON: The society has moved to new premises at 75 Piper Street, which was refurbished for their use. It was a challenge to get everything into the building, and some things just wouldn't fit in. Two portables out the back house the overflow. Opening hours: Saturdays 9 am till 2 pm and Tuesdays 9.30 am - 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 0418 545 648.

LANG LANG: The Society meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 1.30 pm at the Lang Lang Community Centre, 7 Westernport Road, Lang Lang. Everyone is welcome to attend.

LEIGH: The Leigh and District Historical Society meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at Warrambine Hall (Shelford-Rokewood Road) at 2 pm. They aim to promote the compilation and presentation of authentic records by copying, computer scanning and cataloguing material relating to the former Leigh Shire and the broader district. See: www.ldhs.org.au.

LORNE: The society has decided to devote up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a flat screen TV to run DVDs from their collection in their display room in an effort to attract more visitors. See: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lornhist/>

NHILL: The society is seeking to improve its collection of school magazines from the Nhill College. They need any prior to 1956, then 1957, 1961, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, and 1972 up to 1990, after which they have a full collection. Contact: ndhs@vic.chariot.net.au or 5391 2185.

NILLUMBIK: An exhibition celebrating 100 years of the Diamond Creek railway station and the rail service to Hurstbridge will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24 June at Ellis Cottage, 10 Nillumbik Square, Diamond Creek, (access via Memory Lane). <http://nillumbikhistoricalsociety.blogspot.com.au>

PORT FAIRY: The local CFA is seeking photos and memorabilia to add to their collection which will be donated to the historical society for safekeeping. If you can help, contact CFA representative Garry Finnigan on 5568 2107 or the society www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: Paul Balassone (Melbourne Water) and Robert La Nauze (author) will speak on "Development of Melbourne's Sewerage System" at the meeting on Saturday 14 July at 2 pm, at St Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke & Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Enquiries: www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au.

PRAHRAN: The society will hear from actor Terry Donovan on "The life and times of an actor" at its meeting on Saturday 16 June at 2.30pm. Come to Grattan Gardens

Community Centre, Community Hall, Grattan St. Bookings essential: Gabriel 9529 7442 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~phas/>

PRAHRAN MECHANICS: The next PMI Press publication, *Valuable Steps: a History of Physical Education in Victoria*, is expected to be launched in July. The May newsletter contains an article about the book by the author Garry Powell. If you would like to receive an order form, ring 9510 3393 or email press@pmi.net.au.

QUEENSCLIFFE MARITIME: Society volunteers recently completed cataloguing the Colin McCrae Collection of maritime books. Amongst the highlights were: three volumes of maritime paintings by Basil Lovick; two books on pilot boats; a collection of books on shipping lines; and a range of American Confederacy books. Enquiries: info@maritimequeenscliffe.org.au.

SALVATION ARMY: Not only does the Salvation Army Heritage Centre offer travelling exhibitions, but they can do illustrated talks at your venue, on subjects such as "The Band of the 2/22nd Battalion, AIF", or "Soldiers of the Cross: world's first feature film?" Enquiries: 9653 3270 or email Lindsay.cox@aus.salvationarmy.org.

SHIPLOVERS: The society's muster on Wednesday 13 June will host John Baragwanath, who will be speaking on the treasure trove of historic ships he visited on the U.S. west coast, and particularly around San Diego. The meeting will be held at 7.45 at Port of Melbourne Corporation's education centre, Lorimer St, Port Melbourne (west of Todd Rd). Contact: mauriehutch@gmail.com

STAWELL: The society has published a History of Stawell Football Club, which began in 1874. Contact: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~shsinc/research.html>.

SUNSHINE: The society received a Cultural Achievement Award from Brimbank City Council at an Australia Day Awards evening. The Society has for sale or has produced many publications including walks, tours and histories of major employers in the district. For a full list see www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au/index.htm

SURREY HILLS: On Tuesday 19 June at 8 pm, well-known speaker Dr Gary Presland will speak on "The Whitehorse landscape as seen by the first settlers". The venue is The Maitland Room, Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Cottage, 1 Bedford Ave, Surrey Hills. Cost: \$4.00. Supper will follow the speaker.

TERANG: The April edition of the Terang & District Historical Society newsletter is a Remembrance issue, using items from their holdings in the Museum Complex, Dixie School Building, School grounds, Warrnambool Road, Terang. The Museum is open on the third Sunday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm. Enquiries: historysociety04@hotmail.com.

UPPER YARRA VALLEY: The 30th annual Crank-up, organised by the Historical Society, was a resounding success with crowds pouring in to watch the competition

wood chop. The Yarra Valley Machinery Preservation Society dazzled with a display of operating engines and machines. Planning for 2013 will begin over coming weeks. See www.upperyarramuseum.org.au.

WARRAGUL: William Langoor, Development Co-ordinator for the proposed Heritage Centre at Noojee, which is being promoted by the Noojee & District Historical Society, was the guest speaker at the society's March meeting. Part of their project is the rebuilding of the station building, burnt in the 1939 fires, from the original plans.

WARRNAMBOOL: The revamped historical society newsletter, Warnimble, is commended to our affiliated societies as a model of its kind. It consists of 24 well laid-out pages of clear text, interesting illustrations, in colour, with articles of local interest, society news, contact details and a calendar of events. Congratulations, Warrnambool. Enquiries: warrnamboolhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

History

NEWS



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

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

email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

ABN 36 520 675 471

Registration No. A2529

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

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

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