



# History NEWS

Issue No. 319 Aug – Sept 2015  
Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Introducing our  
Writing Local History Workshops  
See page 3



**Nail Can to Knighthood  
exhibition not to be missed!**

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## Grand Opening for MacRobertson Exhibition

On 14 July a hundred people gathered on a bitter winter night at the Drill Hall to celebrate this wonderful exhibition 'Nail Can to Knighthood' superbly curated by David Thompson and the team.

The room buzzed as such a large crowd enjoyed the exhibition accompanied by the orchestra of MacRobertson Girls' High School. Don Garden, RHSV President introduced proceedings with a fine welcome and account of his own father's time at the MacRobertson Company's headquarters in Fitzroy. David Robertson, a grandson of Macpherson Robertson, addressed his grandfather's legacy in business, philanthropy and exploration. Catherine Andrews, who holds a Masters degree in public history reminded guests of the importance of exhibitions whilst the principal of MacRobertson's Girls' High School, Dr Toni Meath spoke of the legacy that was created from the donation by Macpherson Robertson of £40,000 in 1934 to create a building for the school, and the annual thanksgiving held at the school for this great benefaction. Jo Clyne of the History Teachers Association of Victoria, outlined the collaboration with the RHSV to create a website of the exhibition, found on the Culture Victoria site <http://www.culturevictoria.com>. Few left at the usual time of closing, staying on to enjoy the exhibition, conversation and hospitality extended by our enthusiastic volunteers.

Richard Broome



Above: Scenes from the opening of the Nail Can to Knighthood Exhibition

## President's Report

The RHSV was relieved to be informed at the end of June that we have been granted another year's lease of the Drill Hall, and that during that time the government will be seeking to find a long-term arrangement that will enable us to stay here. What form that arrangement might take is unclear, but the RHSV is continuing to urge that we be made the Committee of Management for the building.

A highlight of the last month was the opening of the MacRobertson Exhibition, on 14 July, principally using material from the RHSV collection but supplemented with some loan items from private collectors and Melbourne Museum. The exhibition was launched by David Robertson, a grandson of Sir Macpherson Robertson. The other speakers were Catherine Andrews (the RHSV Ambassador) and Dr Toni Meath (the Principal of MacRobertson Girls' High School). I wish to thank and congratulate our wonderful volunteer David Thompson who put in countless hours curating the excellent exhibition. Daisy Searls produced an attractive and effective design, as always.

We have found ourselves in a review season, with three important history/heritage reviews taking place. The RHSV is participating in public consultations and/or making written submissions. First, in Victoria there is a review of Creative Industries (the new name for the Arts department and functions). We were concerned that the discussion paper ignores history and heritage as part of the Arts/Creative Industries and have sought to ensure that they are taken into consideration in the review. We also requested that our affiliated societies and members make submissions to that effect.

It has also been announced that Victoria's 1995 Heritage Act is to be reviewed. As the Act and Heritage Victoria play a fundamental role in the protection of built and historic heritage, the RHSV is making a submission. As submissions can be made up until the end of August, we urge our members with an interest in heritage to check out the website and enter an online opinion. <http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/heritage/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-act-review-2015>

Finally, the Commonwealth government is undertaking a review of the Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act which controls and licences the export of cultural objects of significance. The Federation of Australian Historical Societies is involved in the consultation process on your behalf.

Another major development to look out for is the appointment by the FAHS of an Online Outreach Officer. The work should commence in August, with the Online Outreach Officer given responsibility to establish contact with historical societies across Australia and to offer advice and guidance on their operations, especially their online presence. Watch out for announcements on this initiative.

Don Garden  
President

## History NEWS



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

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## WORKSHOPS

**Writing Local History:**

Following a successful grant application to the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, the RHSV is delighted to offer our 'writing local history' workshop which will be repeated across Victoria in four locations.

The all-day workshop will encourage participants to define local history as a particular type of history and genre of writing and to identify what they already know and do well. Participants will build on existing knowledge and skills as well as be prompted to consider new perspectives about the peoples and environments (natural and human-made) of their locale. They will be encouraged to seek and use effectively new types of primary sources, and be equipped to organise their research finds and write and present their work with maximum appeal. They will be further prompted to consider how they may appeal to new audiences.

The workshop will be highly thought-provoking and interactive. Participants will also be able to seek advice specific to their needs including advice on the many Victorian, Australian and international research repositories and support organisations likely to be of assistance.

The presenter is Dr Rosalie Triolo who facilitates the development of History teachers in the Faculty of Education at Monash University and is a RHSV councillor as well as a life member and past president of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria. She is active in numerous state and national communities that support the teaching and learning of history and has won numerous awards for her work. She has lived and taught in diverse locations across Victoria and will share her deep interests in their histories and wider Australian history.

**WHEN AND WHERE**

Fri 28 AUGUST	Benalla
Sat 12 SEPTEMBER	Hamilton
Sat 17 OCTOBER	Sale
Sat 14 NOVEMBER	Melbourne

The workshop is **FREE** to RHSV Members and Members of Affiliated Historical Societies.

Non-Members \$20.00 per workshop

For further information please see our website: [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

Bookings essential: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) or 9326 9288

# Time for copyright reform

Cooking for Copyright Day was held on Friday 31 July – but the campaign continues:

## *Captain Cook, Jane Austen and Banjo Paterson trapped by Australia's Copyright Laws*

The National Library of Australia has approximately two million unpublished works in its collection, including handwritten letters from Jane Austen, Prince Albert, Captain Cook, Charles Darwin, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Dame Nellie Melba, Henry Lawson, Elizabeth Macquarie, Christobel Pankhurst and Banjo Paterson.

Yet none of these can lawfully be digitised and shared with Australians on the web because of our archaic copyright system. Unlike Canada, the US, UK and all of the EU countries, which have copyright terms for unpublished works that are in line with those for published works, in Australia copyright for unpublished works lasts forever.

And it's not just the National Library, this affects every library, museum, archive and historical society with items from before the 1950s. For example, the Australian War Memorial has diaries, letters, sketches from soldiers who died in World War I. Often publication on the web is the only way to connect descendants with these family records. The State Library of South Australia collection includes the records of Holden motor company, including company records, correspondence and engineering design drawings, from 1853. These national treasures are trapped by Australia's outdated copyright laws.

To raise awareness of the issue and lobby for change, FAIR (the campaign for Freedom of Access to Information and Resources) promoted Cooking for Copyright Day on Friday 31 July, using vintage Aussie recipes from unpublished letters, diaries and manuscripts for lamingtons, canteen biscuits and carrot marmalade to drive the copyright reform agenda.

Sue McKerracher, spokesperson for FAIR, and CEO of the Australian Library and Information Association, said, 'We'd like the same copyright terms for unpublished works as for published works (70 years after the death of the creator). Then our libraries, museums and historical societies could put these treasures on the web for family historians, researchers, and everyone else who is fascinated by our social history.'

FAIR has delved into library and museum collections across Australia and posted more than 20 handwritten recipes to its website – effectively contravening the current copyright law. It's asking Australians to cook one of these recipes – or choose an old favourite – and post a photo to facebook or tweet with the #cookingforcopyright hashtag.

Sue McKerracher again, 'We will put all the images together, create a buzz on social media, and deliver them to the Attorney General, who has the unenviable task of unravelling the current copyright regime.'

**CONTACTS:**

**Sue McKerracher**, CEO ALIA, 0404 456749 [sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au](mailto:sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au)

**Trish Hepworth**, Australian Libraries Copyright Committee, 0490 466112 [phepworth@nla.gov.au](mailto:phepworth@nla.gov.au)



## **Annual Book Sale Volunteers, 2015 ..... Thank you!**

It takes a great team of people to put in the effort to make our Book Sale happen every year, and I would like to thank, on behalf of myself and the RHSV, the volunteers, Councillors and staff who contributed to the preparation and smooth running of this year's Book Sale, and also the book donors who brought in such excellent books. This year the profit on our two trading days, after expenses, was \$8,480.85. Thanks to Alison Cameron, Brian Ward, Brian Watson, Cheryl Griffin, David Thompson, Elisabeth Jackson, Fiona Graham, George Fernando, Gerardine Horgan, Guy Featherstone, Ian Smart, Jane Carolan, Jill Nichols, Jodie Boyd, John Rose, Judy Smart, Julie Jones, Kate Prinsley, Liz Bath, Lorraine James, Margaret Fleming, Michael Slater, Norma Mullins, Richard Broome, Rosalie Triolo, Sam Smith, Simon Smith.

*Lenore Frost*

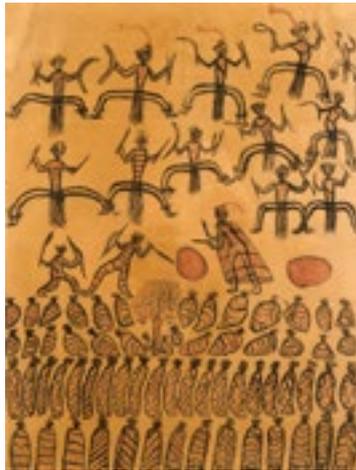
## Come and visit *Oil Paint and Ochre*

The RHSV's William Barak painting 'UNTITLED FIGURES IN CORROBORREE' will go on display at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum from Saturday 29 August – 22 November 2015.

The curators of the exhibition write:

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is examining the relationship between Wurundjeri leader William Barak and local wine making pioneers, the de Pury family of Yeringberg, in a new exhibition, *Oil Paint and Ochre*.

Best remembered for his artworks which show traditional indigenous life and his activism, William Barak was one of the most important leaders for Victoria's Indigenous community in the nineteenth century. Both a respected spokesman and acknowledged leader at Coranderrk until his death in 1903, Barak was said to have been present when John Batman met with tribal elders in the Melbourne area to sign a treaty in 1835, and has been credited with "building a bridge between black and white culture". The de Pury family were Swiss settlers at the forefront of the 19th century Yarra Valley wine boom.



Against a backdrop of the establishment of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station near Healesville, and the growth of the Yarra Valley wine industry, an extraordinary relationship developed between this Wurundjeri leader and winemaking family.

With relevance to our national heritage, *Oil Paint and Ochre* will offer an intimate insight into the complexity of first-generation negotiation between Aboriginal and European people in Australia.

The exhibition will include never seen before items such as indigenous artifacts presented to the de Pury family and now housed in the museum's Yeringberg Collection, family photographs and the extensive de Pury farm diaries which recorded daily life in the Yarra Valley from 1874.

"The interaction between William Barak and the de Pury family was tied to the country on which it took place, where descendants of both sides still live to this day. This makes the *Oil Paint and Ochre* exhibition a significant one for the residents of the Yarra Ranges," says Yarra Ranges Council Mayor Maria McCarthy.

The exhibition will also present writings from Aunty Joy Murphy, AO, a significant and highly regarded Elder of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations, professional Historian Helen Doyle, renowned wine writer Max Allen and Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Curator Karlie Hawking.

**Yarra Ranges Regional Museum** is located at **35-37 Castella St Lilydale. Entry is free.**



## ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

Register your event for History Week.

Events from all over the state are rolling in to be part of this year's exciting History Week line up.

Being held from the 18th - 25th October, highlights to date include:

- An opportunity to dress in period costume and explore Walhalla's unique historic precinct
- A spring heritage walk through the streets of Malvern
- A fascinating tour of the Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery
- The Annual Weston Bate Lecture at Sovereign Hill featuring Emeritus Professor Richard Broome exploring Aboriginal People of Victoria
- A rare tour of the Supreme Court of Victoria Trial Building
- An open day and demonstration of the Black Powder Mill - the site of the former Albion Explosives Factory.

If you are hosting an event during the week, make sure you go online and register at [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au). We'll then include your event in the 2015 History Week calendar, provide you with a copy of the History Week logo and a bundle of postcards to promote it in your local community.

Last year we had over 350 things to do around the state during History Week – and we are hoping to have even more reasons to explore our wide and wonderful past this year!

Congratulations to 31 Historical Societies who have received banner grants for History Week 2015.

The RHSV is grateful to the Vera Moore Foundation for their support of History Week.

### Recognising their contribution



The Port Melbourne Historical Society and Preservation Society has undertaken an ambitious online project to mark the centenary of WW1.

Over 1800 people have been identified who were connected with Port Melbourne who served during the Great War and each one has their own page on the project website.

You'll find stories of the Home Front back in Port during those difficult years of global conflict.

We welcome your input.

[www.portmelbfirstworldwar100.org.au](http://www.portmelbfirstworldwar100.org.au)

# An insight into the life of Sir Macpherson Robertson

On Tuesday 14 July David Robertson, grandson of Sir Macpherson Robertson kindly spoke at the opening of the exhibition. *Nail Can to Knighthood: the life of Sir Macpherson Robertson KBE*.



The RHSV is grateful to David for permission to print an edited extract of his speech.

“My grandfather died when I was only three so unfortunately I don’t really remember him but, despite his obvious flair for promoting his business, I think he might have been a fairly private person. I do remember being told that he regularly attended the cinema with my grandmother and that croquet was one of his favourite pastimes. Only a few visitors were invited to his home and that was usually for croquet tournaments. His love of croquet led to the establishment of the MacRobertson Shield International Croquet Tournament and that competition survives to this day.

His other hobbies were his horses and boxing. He spent many hours teaching his Arab ponies, Captain and Sultan, all sorts of tricks and his preferred way of keeping fit was by regularly working out by punching a speed ball.

After having worked in the confectionery industry for several years, he decided that confectionery was his future and that he wanted to go out on his own.

In 1880, he commenced manufacturing sugar confectionery in an improvised boiler in the family home in Fitzroy. I can imagine the trepidation he felt for the future of his ambitious venture on that first day. After having worked most of the night, he set off the next day with a tray of sugar novelties on his head, walking through the streets of the surrounding neighbourhoods, his first sale for two shillings not coming ‘till late in the day. Despite the disappointing start he persevered, manufacturing on the first four days of the week and devoting Friday and Saturday to selling, walking as far afield as Footscray, Richmond and Malvern with the tray on his head.

Over the ensuing years the business continued to prosper despite the ending of the 1890’s land boom and two world wars.

MacRobertson was the largest confectionery manufacturer in the Southern hemisphere until the Cadbury takeover in 1967.

He cared greatly for his staff and was rewarded with their loyalty. Industrial unrest was not an issue. At its peak, the business employed over 3,000 staff and exported to over 15 countries. There were agency and distributorship agreements

with many other companies, including MacIntosh, Mars, Wrigleys (chewing gum) and wholly owned subsidiaries Life Savers and the Australian Liquorice Co.

The story of my grandfather building his business from boiling sweets in a nail can to ultimately owning seventeen factories in Fitzroy – “The Great White City” – is beautifully told in this exhibition.

As you tour the exhibition you will see the original nail can and pannikin he used to boil sugar for his first confections. As finances allowed he expanded into chocolate confectionery and you will see packaging for a variety of products that became household names. MacRobertson will be remembered for the brand names that became part of our heritage:- Old Gold chocolates, Cherry Ripe, Freddo Frogs, Snack, Cinderella Bon Bons, Columbine Caramels, Tip Top Toffees, Milk Kisses, and Scorched Almonds, to name a few.

I think one of my grandfather’s greatest attributes was his tremendous understanding of the value of attractive packaging for his products and devising ways to promote them. Many of the colourful packages featured poems or stories, like the boy who stole the cherries on the back of the cherry ripe wrapper. His trademark signature was another great example. One promotion involved importing 300 bicycles from America and utilising the popularity of cycling to promote his products.

He appreciated the enormous challenge of distributing products around Australia and was keenly aware of the need to keep abreast of the developments in transport, progressing from delivering his products on foot, to bicycle, to horse drawn transport and then to motor trucks.

As the exhibition illustrates MacRobertson was far more than a “Chocolatier”.

In 1929, Sir Douglas Mawson was seeking funding for an Antarctic Expedition. Turned down by the Australian Government, the Prime Minister, Stanley Bruce and Sir Douglas appealed to my grandfather to fund the expedition. Following a contribution of £16,500 he was rewarded by having a 291,000 square mile piece of Antarctica named “MacRobertsonland” and he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

To draw attention to the logistics problems presented by the huge area of Australia, he financed the MacRobertson Round Australia Expedition with two 6 wheel Karrier trucks. The success of the expedition in proving that the Australian tyranny of distance could be overcome on land led to the purchase of an 8 passenger DeHavilland aeroplane to further improve transport within Australia.

Following the success of the DeHavilland, he financed the MacRobertson Miller airline that commenced operating mail runs between Adelaide and Perth and went on to operate passenger services throughout West Australia and the Northern Territory until taken over by Ansett.

My grandfather’s philanthropic generosity is best demonstrated by his gift of £100,000 to help celebrate Melbourne’s centenary in 1934. As a result of the federal government deciding to tax the Victorian government £42,000, he decided to pay the tax himself in order that the gift remained £100,000.

Examples of the projects financed from this gift include the 1934 London to Melbourne air race, designed to show how air travel was becoming a viable means of transport between Europe and Australia and to promote the city of Melbourne.

Other notable projects include the MacRobertson bridge, The National Herbarium, The MacRobertson Fountain and of course probably the best known of all, The MacRobertson Girls’ High School.

The success of his business and the generosity of his gifts to the people of Victoria show what a truly great entrepreneur and philanthropist he was and in June 1932, King George the fifth created Sir Macpherson Robertson a Knight Bachelor.

I commend the Historical Society for so carefully nurturing, caring and curating their magnificent collection of MacRobertson material. They have become MacRobertson headquarters. Their aim is to make this collection accessible and I am delighted that the RHSV and Culture Victoria have worked together to present some of the story of MacRobertson online.”

**The Nail Can to Knighthood Exhibition continues until 18 December 2015**



# MacRobertson Goes Digital

Jo Clyne from the History Teachers' Association of Victoria writes:

Over the past year I have dedicated many hours to researching the delightful, eccentric and larger-than-life figure of Sir MacPherson Robertson in preparation for a digital exhibition hosted by Culture Victoria. The man who emerged from my research loved innovation, publicity and sharing ideas across continents. For all these reasons, I can only conclude that he would have been delighted to know that his life and achievements were about to be digitised.

'MacRobertson's Confectionery Factory' is a Culture Victoria web story designed to support *Nail Can to Knighthood: The Life of Sir Macpherson Robertson KBE*, the current exhibition showing at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The project was a partnership between the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the History Teachers' Association of Victoria and funded by Culture Victoria. The web page includes digital versions of many of the images, documents and objects that appeared in the exhibition and some that didn't quite make the cut. It provides a way to keep the MacRobertson story in the public eye even after the exhibition has closed and will allow greater access to the collection for researchers, students and the general public.

The digital exhibits are enhanced by filmed interviews with a range of MacRobertson experts including David Thompson (curator of the RHSV exhibition), David Robertson (grandson of MacPherson Robertson), Professor Howard Frederick (owner of Mámor Chocolates & High Tea Szalón), Doug Loveless (former MacRobertson factory employee) and Dr Toni Meath (principal of MacRobertson Girls' High School). They also include original MacRobertson footage generously provided by David Robertson.

'MacRobertson's Confectionery Factory' allows you to find out more about stories told in the exhibition from the comfort of your own home. To visit, please follow the Culture Victoria link below:

<http://www.culturevictoria.com/stories/built-environment/macrobotson-confecionery-factory/>

Jo Clyne

Digital Curator, 'MacRobertson's Confectionery Factory'

History Teachers' Association of Victoria

## AGL Shaw Annual Lecture

On 16 June a joint RHSV –La Trobe Society gathering of seventy people heard Dr Madonna Grehan deliver a stimulating AGL Shaw annual lecture entitled 'Charles Joseph La Trobe and the Regulation of Everyday Life' on the implementation of the Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages Act of 1853. Dr Grehan described the detailed work that was undertaken by a young immigrant and statistician from London, William Henry Archer, who was appointed by La Trobe as assistant registrar-general. Registrar General Major Norman Campbell with good sense left Archer to implement the Act. Archer publicised this legislative innovation in registration to a mobile population in gold rush flux. He also enlisted, trained and supervised registrars across the colony, maintained central records, and in 1854 edited the first *Statistical Register* of Victoria. The lecture was encircled by good food and conversation.

Richard Broome

## Lost Melbourne

The RHSV is preparing a book of photographs to be published in late 2016 by the Queensland Book Depot as a companion piece to their successful 2014 publication *Lost Brisbane*. An image team led by Richard Barnden and Don Gibb are tackling the enormous task of selecting over 500 wonderful images from our collection, around fifteen to twenty themes of the built environment. Elisabeth Jackson is leading a team of avid caption writers, who have the task of writing descriptive and contextual captions for every image. A number of local historical societies have been invited to submit images of their suburb to supplement the Melbourne images. It is a huge task but once published it will promote the RSHV to a wider public and help to showcase local historical societies around Melbourne. It also proves yet again the power of volunteering at the RHSV

Richard Broome

### The digital exhibition covers a range of themes including:

- The Entrepreneur – *MacRobertson's rise from barber's boy to owner of several successful and varied businesses.*
- Confectionery: Past and Present – *A reflection on the most famous confectionery produced by the factory.*
- The White City – *The culture of working for the MacRobertson empire and its affiliate businesses.*
- The Marketing Man – *MacRobertson's love of innovative and novel advertising campaigns.*
- MacRobertson's Horses – *Macpherson Robertson's unusual hobby of training Arab horses to perform tricks, such as kneeling and eating breakfast from a table.*
- The Cycling Craze – *MacRobertson's obsession with bicycles led to the opening of a shop attached to the MacRobertson factory where bicycles imported from America were sold.*
- MacRobertson and the Motor Car – *A lover of new transport technologies, MacRobertson was one of the first Victorians to own a motor car.*
- The MacRobertson Legacy – *A discussion of the many public monuments and institutions that bear the MacRobertson name.*
- MacRobertson's Girls' High School – *The munificent donation that led to the foundation of a new school dedicated to the education of girls.*
- MacRobertson's Land – *The story of MacRobertson's philanthropic involvement with Mawson's Antarctic expedition.*

## HISTORY VICTORIA ONLINE BOOKSHOP

The best seller for June-July was.....

*Crime in the Port Phillip District, 1835-51*, by Paul R Mullaly.

This was encouraged by the excellent offer to members for these books published in the last issue of *History News*. There are still copies available at the amazing price of **\$29.95**.

Browse through our online catalogue or come in for a visit and see them on the shelf.

Books published within the last two years are accepted on consignment.

RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

OPEN 10 am to 4 pm Mon – Thur, 10am – 3pm Friday

[www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

**BOOKS RECEIVED:**

Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RSHV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in *Books Received*.

**The Surprise Rival, A History of the Education Faculty, Monash University, 1964-2014**

Alan Gregory, Monash University Publishing, 2014, pp. xviii + 462. ISBN 9781922235473.



This is one of a number of faculty histories produced by Monash University after its first 50 years. Written by a long term faculty member and writer of institutional histories, it is a comprehensive narrative of the foundations, development and personnel of the faculty. Its title derives from the 1987 claim that it was the surprise rival to Stanford and Harvard' It presents masses of detail about the faculty and its staff and students with acknowledgement of the changing political, educational and social movements of its time that impacted on students, staff and university administrations.

**Fighting Hard, The Victorian Aborigines Advancement League**

Richard Broome, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2015, pp. xii + 275. ISBN 9781922059864.

The League, founded in 1957 by Doug Nicholls and others, has undergone many changes in the period since. This book analyses the remarkable story of this activist and welfare body and many of its participants, placing it in the tradition of Billibellary,

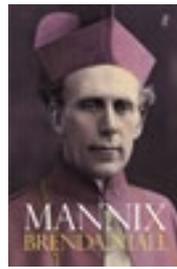


his son Simon Wonga and his nephew, William Barak when they sought land from the European invaders in the 19th century, and the early activism linked to the Yorta Yorta people and Cummeragunja on the New South Wales side of the Murray. The coming to Melbourne of William Cooper in 1933 and the formation of the Australian Aborigines' League (not to be confused with the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League [VAAL]) and his mentoring of Nicholls, the Onus brothers, Margaret Tucker and others were important in the eventual foundation of the VAAL. Its activism in civil rights included opposition to assimilation policies and petitioning of governments and the UN. Founded as a coalition of all Australians, it came under Aboriginal community control in 1969 and demonstrated despite many setbacks that Aboriginal people can provide good governance as well as maintenance of Aboriginal cultural values. Colin Tatz's contribution to the blurb suggests why this is an important book: '(it) illuminates aspects of our race relations that most people would rather not see, but need to see'. Like its subject, a considerable achievement.

**Mannix**

Brenda Niall, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2015, pp. 439. ISBN 9781922182111.

The one-word title suggests familiarity with the name as well as the importance of his long life in Australian history. The life of Daniel Mannix has already attracted many biographers and as Brenda Niall writes: 'This won't be the last word...', but it will always be a very significant biography telling much about Mannix the man that has not been told before. The book is a very substantial achievement given that his private papers were burnt after his death in 1963 (the conflagration took three days it is reported) and that he left no spiritual journal or private diary. Brenda Niall is nevertheless able to discern Mannix the enigmatic man through 'the choices he made and the people and the causes that aroused his sympathies'. There is of course treatment of his controversial excursions into Australian politics especially the 1917 Conscription campaign and the Labor Party split of the 1950s that we mostly associate with Mannix but there is much, much more – a context drawing on his upbringing and strong connections to Ireland; his commitment to civil liberties shown in his opposition to the White Australia policy and the attempted banning of the Communist Party; and the path-breaking discoveries of his active support for the progressive movement at the Vatican Council shortly before his death. Brenda Niall is described as 'Australia's foremost biographer' and *Mannix* justifies this claim.



**Those Who Fought And Died in World War I, The Fallen From Chelsea and Carrum**

Margaret Diggerson, 2014, pp. 91. ISBN 97806469222492;

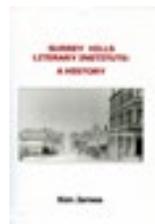


A well-researched account of 59 local men who were killed in World War I drawing on memorials, newspapers and service records. Indeed, a serious attempt to bring [the names of men on honour boards] to life'.

**Surrey Hills Literary Institute: A History**

Ken James, knjames47@gmail.com, 2015, pp. 62. ISBN 80992308773.

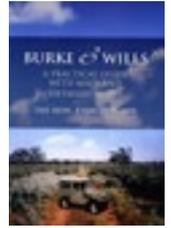
Under various names, this mechanics' institute, one of c.1000 in Victoria, operated from 1893 for about 20 years. Its history is constructed from newspaper references that detail activities, functions and committees. Dominantly a literary, reading and debating society, it met in rented premises and received small council grants. The author provides some biographical information on some of the aspiring middle-class participants.



**Burke and Wills, A practical guide with maps and detailed notes**

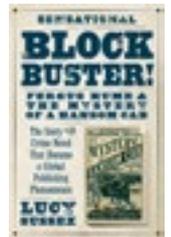
John Don, Shirley Anderson, Avenue Press, 2015, pp. xxiii + 415. ISBN 9781875608041.

Fascination with the Burke and Wills expedition has sponsored many popular and academic discussions of its scientific results, the reasons for its failure including its planning and leadership and its failure to use Indigenous help at crucial times. Tracing the route and campsites of course dates from the 1860s. As 4WD vehicles and tracks have improved, there has been a massive assault on many fragile sites. This monumental book provides an exhaustive guide to these sites and what took place at each. The author admires Burke and his party for their achievements. That puts him at odds with many of those who have written about them.



**Block Buster!, Fergus Hume & The Mystery of a Hansom Cab**

Lucy Sussex, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2015, pp. 298, \$32-99. ISBN 978192214793.

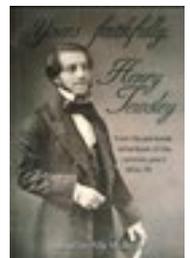


The book has a further subtitle, 'The Story of the Crime Novel That Became a Global Publishing Phenomenon' that describes much of a narrative that traces its initial publication, the author's sale of copyright, its massive international appeal, its contribution to the genre of crime fiction, its possible connections to Hume's other books and his life, its location in 1880s Melbourne and much more. Indeed, an 'engrossing story' as the blurb claims.

**Yours Faithfully, Henry Tewsley from his personal letterbook of the colonial years 1854-78**

Ally McBride (ed.), Ally McBride, dawson-tewsley@gmail.com, 2015, pp. 227. ISBN 9780473320348.

Henry Tewsley migrated from England to Victoria in 1852. After a short time at the diggings, he established himself in a drapery business in Brunswick Street in 1854. Subsequently he lived and worked in Geelong until he moved to Dunedin in 1864 as finance manager for Sargood, King and Sargood, the large drapery firm operating in London as well as Melbourne and Dunedin. Tewsley's letter book has survived and his extensive letters provide the vehicle by which the editor, a descendant, constructs an account of Tewsley's life. This book suggests that there are rich pickings for social historians in Henry's letters.



# Moonee Ponds Courthouse Restoration

Local societies often enjoy the use of buildings such as courthouses, often doing great things with them: museums, genealogical and local history centres, offices which can be shared with other community organisations and even house the local tourist information centre. While governments have been happy to donate the use of such buildings, they have not been so eager to maintain them, let alone restore and refurbish them. The efforts of the Essendon Historical Society to raise funds for restoration of the Moonee Ponds Courthouse may inspire other societies. Here the Hon. Judy Maddigan reports on the Society's campaign. Judy was long-time president of the Society, state member for Essendon (1996-2010) and first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (2003-5).

The Moonee Ponds Courthouse was built in 1890 and was the centre for local justice until the 1960s. Since the 1980s, the Essendon Historical Society (EHS) has been the management committee for the site. We use it for a local history Museum as well as for a resource for enquiries about local and family history and the history of local buildings.

There is still much original furniture in the Courtroom: the Witness Box, the Clerk's Desk, the Press Table, the Lawyers Table and the original seating. During the 1980s, significant restoration was undertaken, first in the interior, then on the roof and walls (some tuck-pointing). Apart from emergency drainage work, little had been done since then.

In 2011 the EHS realised that major restoration work was urgently required to the spouting, downpipes and the drainage. In addition, rising damp was a major problem and significant outside wall and other work was also required. The EHS established a Museum Restoration Committee, which included community representatives as well as members of the EHS.

The EHS had never had a major assessment of the site. Moonee Valley Council was very helpful in this regard and allowed their Major Projects Officer to give advice and to assist us in procuring an engineering company which specialised in restoration work. In addition, the Moonee Valley Heritage Advisor wrote an initial report for Council, and Council allowed the use of some of their equipment, such as the Cherry Picker to photograph the roof and other areas. Despite Council support, however, the quote for assessment was \$30,000! How to raise this money, let alone the funds required for the actual restoration, was the problem that now faced us.

The EHS launched a number of fund-raising projects to raise this money. Calendars, historic books, walks, and other activities were undertaken to raise this money. Support was also sought from local Real Estate Agents for whom the EHS does research from time to time. We also



obtained a grant from the Bendigo Bank. We were successful in raising the initial funds required and were able to pay for a full assessment. Armed with this report, we went into major fund-raising.

The Moonee Ponds Courthouse is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and the next step was to apply for a grant from Heritage Victoria. The assessment was very helpful in seeking this grant because it clearly and professionally outlined the work to be done and the order in which it should be done. The assessment was included in the application, along with support letters from the Moonee Valley Council and Members of the Victorian Parliament. The application was successful, not for the full amount requested, but for \$90,000 to undertake the most urgent work: replacement of guttering and of lead downpipes.

Once this work is completed, the EHS will continue to raise funds and undertake the rest of the work. It will be selling memorial tiles for people who worked, lived or had some link with the area, and also information on these people will be made available in the Museum, thus increasing information on local past and present people in the municipality. We have already held a function to launch the tile

programme- they cost \$100 each- and we had an immediate response. We have been a bit slow progressing as we are planning to put them at the front of the Museum and we have had to prepare a plan for the garden bed. (Assisted by the Council again.) It is expected that the work will be done as soon as the money is raised for each stage as outlined in the engineer's report.

Based on our experience so far, I would offer the following suggestions to fellow local societies faced with similar fund-raising issues.

1. Have a very clear plan of what you hope to achieve, and how you intend to achieve it, so that you can clearly 'sell' it to possible donors.
2. Get all levels of Government on side. Often State and Federal MP's can alert you to grants that may be available from private sources, such as Transurban for example.
3. If you are eligible, apply for charity status and D.G.R. We did this at the start and found that people and businesses are much more likely to donate if the donation is tax deductible.
4. Do initial fund-raising yourself to begin with so you can give the impression you are happy to work yourself, not just rely on others. Our tile program paved the way.
5. Invite local businesses to the site. We invited the local real estate agents and offered them a package of assistance for a cost of \$2,000. We have had a slow response—only one taker so far—but certainly it has been good publicity.
6. Spread the word of what you hope to achieve through the local paper, Facebook, website, etc.

*Judy Maddigan*

Past President, EHS

Instigator of the Museum Restoration Committee.

# Celebrating 50 Years ... and still going strong

As with many historical societies throughout Victoria Castlemaine Historical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Alleyne Hockley was invited to write the following article.

For 50 years the Society has been blessed with energetic, enthusiastic and highly qualified members who have developed a local archival repository and history research centre. They collect archival material of local significance, record local history and information of district families and undertake research. The Castlemaine Historical Society was established in May 1965 as a sub-committee of the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum. Later, it became an independent Historical Society and joined the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

In the early 1990s the membership was only 40 and declining, and only a small number of members were active. Today membership is 220 of which at least forty to fifty are active.

In 1996 the Society was granted a lease to the Former (1852) Court House and in 2010 became the Committee of Management for this heritage listed building. We have a large purpose built archival storage facility containing over 250 metres of unique archives. The Society has been recognised as a model for archival management, achieving two commendations in the "Victorian Community History Awards" and two "Sir Rupert Hamer Awards" for records archival management.

The items which have been catalogued and indexed are accessed by the computer program DBTextWorks. The database contains over 57,000 entries. This represents only a quarter of the total archival collection. CHSI has created extensive indexes for many of the research resources, including a 63000 names index of Land Records. Cataloguing and indexing continues on the remainder.

The Society aims to encourage the use of primary research when assisting visitors to the history research centre. Visitors include local residents, State, Interstate and International family historians and history academics. During the past twelve months Society volunteers have assisted 250 'In-person' researchers and completed over 80 postal requests as well as providing primary research material for two major heritage studies for the Mount Alexander Shire.

As no government funding is received for recurrent operations, the Society

must be self funded. Income is obtained equally from membership, fund raising and research fees. Grants are sought for special programs and activities. The infrastructure supporting the history research centre includes computers, microfilm readers and a photocopier. These come at a cost which must be met by the Society.

An executive committee of 14 members, meets monthly to keep the Society running. Many managerial roles have been split to assist and share the responsibilities of the day to day tasks. This means volunteers can take holidays without disrupting the over-all operations of the group. A strategic meeting is held yearly to review and make plans to ensure the future of the Society.

The history research centre is open to the public on Tuesdays from 9am to 3pm. It is a vibrant, industrious and often noisy venue. The volunteer staff number from 25 to 30 each Tuesday. Various activities are carried out, including general administration, gardening, researching postal requests, assisting visitors, sorting, numbering, cataloguing, indexing and photographing archives, and proof reading. Volunteers are the life blood of our organisation. Time is spent to ensure no volunteer is idle; they all have tasks to perform, but morning tea and lunch times are socially important.

The Society has a prominent involvement in the local community. They support and assist with annual events and festivals, host tourist groups, conduct historical walks and tours, present talks, engage with schools and students and hold monthly meetings with interesting and informative speakers.

Looking to the future, the Society is aware of the changing scene within the history and heritage industry. Some challenges which must be addressed include the protection of our resource assets as more information becomes freely available via the Internet, and the lack of funding due to the devaluing of the importance of history and heritage. To continue, our Society needs to create a reliable income, have a succession plan, and ensure we have well trained members and volunteers who can contribute to the future success of our group.



Interior of former Court House on open day,  
14 July 2015



Corner of small research room used for  
researchers undertaking postal requests

*For further information on how to nominate a member of your Society for a Distinguished Service Award please contact Kate Prinsley at [kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au)*

ALLEYNE HOCKLEY'S interest and involvement in the Castlemaine Historical Society began in 1993 when she undertook the Associate Diploma in Local and Applied History at the New England University. Since then, amongst other roles, she has served as President, Research Officer and Archivist. Alleyne has also been an active member of the HistoryVictoria Support Group a committee of the RHSV.

In 2015 she was a recipient of the RHSV's Distinguished Service Award.

Castlemaine Historical Society

7 Goldsmith Crescent

Vic. 3450

PH: 5470 6072

[www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com/](http://www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com/)



## AROUND THE SOCIETIES

The column is compiled by volunteers Helen Boak and Lenore Frost on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group. For the 1 October 2015 issue please send forthcoming events and your newsletters to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 10 September.

**ADAM LINDSAY GORDON:** The June issue of *The Wayfarer* of the commemorative committee devotes some space to *The Encyclopedia of Adam Lindsay Gordon*, edited by John W Adams & Travis Sellers, 2015. Presumably this is a work in progress, and enquiries can be made to [info@adamlindsaygordon.org](mailto:info@adamlindsaygordon.org) or see <http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org>.

**ANGLESEA:** The Winter *Coastal Current* tells the story of a serendipitous find at an auction of five postcards written by a fallen soldier, Alfred Evans, to his sweetheart Minnie. An internet search located an earlier article about Alfred, and the finder has been able to return the postcards to Alfred's family. Enquiries: [bodman@netspace.com.au](mailto:bodman@netspace.com.au).

**AVOCA:** A Memorial Wall was unveiled at the cemetery in February commemorating the early citizens of Avoca and district. Descendants interested in placing a plaque on the wall should discuss the matter by phoning 03 5465 3118 or emailing [adhsinc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:adhsinc@bigpond.net.au).

**BACCHUS MARSH:** The society meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the James Young room, Lerderberg Library, 215 Main Street. The Archives are open to the public on Mondays – 1.30pm to 4.00pm & Fridays – 2pm to 4.00pm, and at other times by appointment. Enquiries: 5367 9336.

**BALLARAT HISTORICAL:** The May-June issue of *Lamplight* features photos of the demolition of Yuille House in Drummond Street, part of the Ballarat Health Services, together with some history of the building. Another article talks about capturing stories of our elders on video. Enquiries: [ballarathistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ballarathistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

**BALNARRING:** Ben Buckley tells the story about how a small seven year old boy (himself) was lost and found in a nearby American GI Camp around 1942, performing for the troops. Snippets also records Balnarring soldiers lost at Gallipoli. Enquires: PO Box 183 Balnarring 3926.

**BOOLARA:** The June meeting discussed whether signage for Museum Open Days was adequate. A flag outside the museum and advertising in the local newspaper was suggested. The museum is open on the 1st Sunday of each month, or by appointment. Meetings are at the museum on the third Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm. Enquiries: 0429696210.

**BOX HILL:** Dr Steven Cooke, Deakin University, who wrote the recent book on Box Hill soldiers killed at Gallipoli, *The Sweetland Project*, will be the guest speaker on Thursday 17 September, at 8pm. Meetings are held in the Strabane Chapel Hall, 20 Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North. Enquiries: 9285 4808.

**BRIGHTON ANTIQUE:** Architectural historian, Professor Miles Lewis, will speak on "The Architectural Detective", revealing how documentary and physical evidence can be used to trace the history of a building. Wednesday 2 September, 10 am. Members and members guests only. Entry fee members \$5, visitors, \$7. Phone Secretary 9592 9441.

**BRIGHTON CEMETERY:** An Open Day on Sunday 18 October, from 10am – 4pm, will celebrate 160 years since the first burial. There will be horse drawn hearse walking tours, self guided walks, displays of clothing, undertakers', local monumental masons', obituaries, memorabilia, and more. Come in period dress. Enquiries: 9558 4248 or [info@brightoncemeterians.org](mailto:info@brightoncemeterians.org).

**CARLTON:** The 7 September meeting will be held at the Carlton Library, 667 Rathdowne Street, North Carlton at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 1300 695 427 (Ask for Carlton Library). Their website has many stories and images worth exploring: <http://www.cchg.asn.au/index.html>.

**CASTLEMAINE:** The speaker for Monday 7 September will be Debbie Benson on "A Case for the Exoneration of David Young". On Monday 5 October Dr Marguerita Stephens will talk about "The William Thomas Journals – Aboriginal Protectorate 1839-1867." Meetings are at the Former Court House, Goldsmiths Cres, Castlemaine at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: [chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com).

**CASTLEMAINE PIONEERS:** The Pioneers meet at the Faulder Watson Hall & Old Telegraph Station, Barker St, Castlemaine on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. A Montage is going to be unveiled in the Hall on Friday 30 October. Enquiries: 5472 3186.

**COBURG:** The society is working with the Coburg Cycling Club on a project to digitise and document their photographic and ephemera collection with a view to helping the cycling club celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. If you can help with tales of the early years of the club please email: [coburg\\_historical\\_society@yahoo.com.au](mailto:coburg_historical_society@yahoo.com.au).

**ECHUCA:** Work on our cells restoration started on 27 April and works to our Museum building are now well in hand. Guides are required for Heritage Walking tours, training available. A day event and exhibition called "Chinese Footsteps" is coming up from 24 October to 28 November. For further details see <http://echucahistoricalsociety.org.au>.

**ESSENDON:** The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 August at "Windy Hill". The guest speaker will be Professor Bruce Scates, Professor of History and Australian Studies at Monash University. Enquiries: 9370 4607.

**FLINDERS:** Issue 70 of *Local History News* commemorates Anzacs of Flinders and Shoreham; reproduces Bill Clancy's 2015 Anzac Day Address, and contains the story of Henry Kennedy, WW1 hero; Raws - One Family at War; Geoffrey Tuck; and the Shoreham Beach Dawn Vigil. Enquiries: [flindersdhs@gmail.com](mailto:flindersdhs@gmail.com).

**FOSTER:** Liz Rushen will do a presentation on the history and development of vineyards and the wine industry in South Gippsland on Tuesday 1 September, 7.30 pm in the Crawford Hall. See [www.promcountryhistory.org.au](http://www.promcountryhistory.org.au) for details of Museum opening times. Enquiries: [enquiries@promcountryhistory.org.au](mailto:enquiries@promcountryhistory.org.au).

**HAWTHORN:** The society has a new publication called *Hawthorn Village Walk*, which is an update of an original walk by Gwen McWilliam some 20 years ago. The new walk, by Elizabeth Love, with assistance from Gwen, is available from the Hawthorn Library for \$7.50. Enquiries: [hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

**INVERLOCH:** In recent months we have seen the support growing for our search for a building where we can store and display our collection and work during the years ahead. Our collection of artefacts, photographs, maps and other memorabilia continues to be stored in private homes, sheds and garages around Inverloch. Enquiries: (03) 5674 1224.

**KEILOR:** The society received a grant for the publication of a WW1 commemorative book and associated DVD, called *Keilor's ANZAC Memory*. The basis for these was the Honour Roll in the Old Shire Hall, Keilor Village. They are available from the secretary by emailing [hewsonkerry@gmail.com](mailto:hewsonkerry@gmail.com) or [jenpress@bigpond.com](mailto:jenpress@bigpond.com).

**MALDON:** The display of Easter procession photos taken from Harry Grigg's slides from 1957-1966 excited a lot of interest. Our local visitors were especially interested in helping us to identify a lot of the subjects of the photos, and thanks to their input we now have many names to put to faces. For enquiries see: [www.maldonmuseum.com.au](http://www.maldonmuseum.com.au).

**MECHANICS INSTITUTES:** In the *MIV Magazine* No 36, Summer/Autumn 2015, the President addressed the future of Mechanics Institutes. Why were they established and what do they offer for the future? The issue also mentions a conference on "Reinvention: Thriving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" to be held in San Francisco October 6-9, 2016. Enquiries: [mivenenquiry@live.com.au](mailto:mivenenquiry@live.com.au).

**MOORABBIN:** The Box Cottage Pioneer Museum, Joyce Park, Jasper Rd, Ormond, presents Glen Eira's market gardening heritage on Sunday 30 August, 2.00 - 3.45pm. Tour the barn, cottage and our local history display. Also, a pop-up container-garden with spring seedlings available purchase. All welcome. Entry: Adults \$2. Children Free. Contact 9557 9465.

**NHILL:** The March/April issue of the newsletter continues the Story of Nhill, covering the railway extension to the border and other railway developments. The Nhill Museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 to 5 pm, and Fridays 10-2pm. A researcher is available on Fridays. Enquiries: 03 5391 3131.

**OAKLEIGH:** On *Broadway* of May 1915 includes a photograph of the dedication of the Clayton Avenue of Honour in 1918, and the story of a young soldier, Guy Rosevear Sloggatt, commemorated by a tree in that Avenue. Guy's mother was active in the Oakleigh Red Cross during the war. Enquiries : oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au.

**PORT FAIRY:** There were almost 1400 enlistments in WW1 from the towns of Koroit, Port Fairy, Macarthur, Hawkesdale, Woolsthorpe, Orford and the surrounding hamlets. *Stories Untold and Faces Forgotten* by James Affleck is their story. Available in a two volume set, \$60 per set plus postage. Enquiries: www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com; phone: (03) 5568 2623.

**QUEENSLIFFE HISTORICAL:** The June issue of the *Newsletter* contains an account of a Welcome Home ceremony for Nurse Violet Duddy, to commemorate the the Anzac Centenary. The Queenscliffe Town Hall was decorated by the primary school children as it would have been when Violet came home in 1919. Enquiries: qhmin77@bigpond.net.au.

**RICHMOND & BURNLEY:** On Sunday 16 August, 2 - 4 pm, at the Richmond Library, you can learn 'How to preserve your personal and family history.' On Sunday 13 September from 1 to 3.30 pm there will be a Mystery Walking Tour. Booking essential on 9428 6231 or email richmondhs@optusnet.com.au.

**RINGWOOD:** On Tuesday 25 August, Peter Tully will speak on the "History of Doncaster". Tuesday 22 September is the AGM to be followed by "Coachbuilders of Victoria" from Jim Badger. The meetings will be held in Room 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. Enquiries: Phone: 9737-0281 betsycol40@bigpond.com

**PORT MELBOURNE:** Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society are looking forward to guest speaker Barry Jones at their 2015 AGM. Port Melbourne Town Hall, 24 August. Guests are welcome but only if booked prior to 17 August by leaving a clear message, name and phone number on 9646 9360.

**SALE:** The April newsletter features an article called "Munitions Workers" and gives a history of the Sale Foundry from 1870. During the Great War men were recruited from the foundry to work in the British munitions industry. Another article is "Robbie's Meats: a history of the Butchery, 341-343 (previously 111) Raymond Street, Sale". Enquiries: salehs3850@gmail.com or 0351442109.

**TRARALGON:** Our new Facebook page had more than 1250 "likes" in the first month. The objective was to link with the younger generation and improve membership, and we already have several new members. On Tuesday 8 September the society will hold its Annual Dinner. For further details email secretary@traralgonhistory.asn.au or phone 03 5174 8399.

**WALHALLA:** The Trafalgar RSL came to Walhalla on 16 April to install a plaque on the Walhalla Cenotaph with the names of Walhalla residents who were killed in World War 1. The Cenotaph was unusual

in that it featured no names of the fallen, but after 100 years it now does. Enquiries: Walhallamuseum@activ8.net.au.

**WARRAGUL:** Meetings are held in the Old Shire Hall, Queen St, on the last Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. The Museum is open on Thursdays 10 to 2 pm, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month except, closed during December and January. Enquiries: wdhsoc@live.com or phone 5623 2644.

**WHITTLESEA:** As part of the Whittlesea Cultural and Heritage Program, there will be an Historical Ghost Tour on Friday 21 August, 7 to 9 pm, at the Mill Park Library. The cost is free. Enquiries: 94378189.

**WILLIAMSTOWN:** In the May issue of *Timeball Times*, Brian Haynes wrote about leading a "Facebook group" on a discovery walk in North Williamstown. The little known Morris Lane revealed a history going back to the early 1850s. There was also a request to assist the Steam Rail group with any spare carriage fittings, or skills, to overcome fire damage at the Newport workshops. Enquiries: info@steamrail.com.au.



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**THURSDAY 13 AUGUST**

ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA/  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA JOINT LECTURE

### Weird Animals and Sex: Evolution of a Science – and a Scientist

**Pre-Lecture Drinks** 6.15pm: \$20.00

**Lecture:** 7.00pm - 8.30pm free

**Speaker:** Jenny Graves, School of Life Science, La Trobe University

Bookings: <http://www.royalsocietyvictoria.org.au/events/weird-animals-and-sex/>

**PLEASE NOTE:** This lecture is held at the ROYAL SOCIETY 9 Victoria St, Melbourne

Jenny Graves writes: How animals develop as male or female has been a subject of great interest and controversy for thousands of years, and how sex determination evolved has been the subject of intense theorizing for the last hundred. But things have changed dramatically with the introduction of new molecular technology that makes it possible to identify genes that determine sex, and trace the evolutionary origin of these genes and the sex chromosomes on which they lie. I've been lucky to be a part of this field as it transitioned from mathematics and arm-waving into a breathtaking journey through every kind of genetics. There have been surprises at every turn, and many of these have come from comparing the way genes and chromosomes control sex in Australian animals such as kangaroos and platypuses - and now dragon lizards show us that sex can be remarkably flexible but may be at the mercy of global warming.

Professor Jenny Marshall Graves AO, FAA reflects on her long international Melbourne-based scientific career. Jenny Graves is currently Distinguished Professor at La Trobe University. In the 1960s she was awarded a Fulbright Travel Grant to do a PhD in molecular biology at the University of California, Berkeley. From 1971 she lectured in Genetics at La Trobe 1971, becoming a Professor in 1991. In 2001 she was appointed to the Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University as head of the Comparative Genomics Research Unit and Director of the ARC Centre for Excellence in Kangaroo Genomics.

She now holds honorary positions at ANU, the University of Canberra (as 'Thinker in Residence') and the University of Melbourne. Jenny has published more than 400 scientific works, including 3 books. She is 2006 L'Oreal-UNESCO Laureate, and has received many awards for her work, including the MacFarlane Burnet Medal for research in biology, and an AO.

**FRIDAY 28 AUGUST**

MELBOURNE DAY EVENT

### Lost and Found Wetlands of Melbourne

**Speaker:** Rod Giblett

**Coffee/Tea:** 12.30

**Lecture:** 1.00 – 2.00pm

**Cost:** Free

Further information 9326 9288.

Bookings advised.

Like many other cities around the world, Melbourne was founded amongst marshes and swamps. Over the following 180 years some of these wetlands were completely lost to drainage or filling, such as Batman's or West Melbourne Swamp. Others were landscaped into lakes and parks, such as South Melbourne Swamp transformed into Albert Park Lake. Remnants of others remain and can be found today, such as Bolin Bolin Billabong. The history of these wetlands is largely unknown to the majority of Melbourne residents today, but was a prominent feature of the site and the city in the past. The maps of the first explorers and early settlers note the presence of these wetlands; colonial chroniclers and municipal historians describe them; and recent history retells their story and of the place and its peoples, the Aboriginal owners and European dispossessors. This lecture traces critically the history of Melbourne and its wetlands and shows that these wetlands were crucial in constituting the site in and on which the city took place and in posing an initial limitation and impediment to its development and spread that were eventually overcome. In their absence they still remain a defining feature of the relationship of Melbourne to its location.

Rod Giblett has published many articles and book in the transdisciplinary environmental humanities and environmental activism, focussing particularly in both on wetlands. His recent publications focus on ecocultural studies and nature writing. He lived by a wetland, was involved in its conservation, wrote about both and taught at a number of universities for over twenty-five years. His latest book is *Canadian Wetlands: Places and People* (Intellect Books, 2014). His next book is *Cities and Wetlands: The Return of the Repressed in Nature and Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2016). His lecture is part of a chapter in a proposed collection entitled *In Witness is Life and Death*.

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Please contact RHSV on 03 9326 9288 or [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

**FRIDAY 28 AUGUST**

### Melbourne Day Walks In Flagstaff Gardens

Times: 11am and 2.15pm

Join expert tour guides from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on a walk through the beautiful Flagstaff Gardens—the historic heart of the City.

Melburnians will climb Flagstaff Hill to consider its place in Melbourne's topography and pre-European history as well as its early role as a burial ground, flagstaff signalling station and magnetic and meteorological observatory.

An absolute "must do" walk for understanding the history and character of the city.

Meet at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria 239 A' Beckett Street at 11am & 2.15pm

Duration: 75 Minutes

Cost free.

Booking preferred: 9326 9288 email [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

**TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

### An Evening with the late Sir Macpherson Robertson

Speakers: A panel discussion

Drinks 5.15. Discussion 5.45

Members Free/ Non Members \$10.00

In conjunction with our current major exhibition, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria invites you to a panel discussion on the legacy of the Chocolate King, Sir Macpherson Robertson (1859-1945).

Mac.Rob through his business acumen and his personal philanthropy left his mark on Victoria in ways that endure even seventy years after his death. Among topics to be considered by the panel led by historian Dr John Lack and exhibition curator David Thompson will be:

- The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
- The National Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, rebuilt in 1934 through Robertson philanthropy
- The Mac.Robertson bridge over the Yarra River
- The Mac.Robertson International Croquet Challenge
- Mac.Robertson Land, Antarctica
- The Mac.Robertson Air Race

... And there will be a Freddo Frog or Cherry Ripe for everyone who comes along.