



# History NEWS

RHSV OPEN  
SATURDAYS  
10AM-4PM

Issue No. 329  
April - May 2017  
Royal Historical Society  
of Victoria



The Victorian Community History Awards 2017  
are now open p. 3

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*The opinions expressed here are personal and not those of the RHSV.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first half of 2017 is seeing several new initiatives at the RHSV which reflect our improving financial situation and the increasingly higher level of activity and attendances.

Something that has been talked about often over the years is the possibility of opening the premises on Saturdays, and the RHSV Council has now agreed to do this for a trial period. As any of you who have visited the Drill Hall on a Saturday can testify, besides the many dancing girls and parents who use the building, the footpath is busy with growing numbers of local residents as well as visitors to the Queen Victoria Market and other attractions in the precinct. The Saturday opening of Flagstaff station has also added to the flow of pedestrians. When we open (look out for details), we hope to attract both our current members and the passing traffic who will come in to buy from the bookshop, view the exhibition and research in the library. There will be a staff member in charge, assisted by two volunteers. We are still looking for sufficient volunteers, so if you are able to help out, please contact the office.

As previously announced, the Genealogical Society of Victoria has changed premises and this has resulted in a downsizing of its library. Most of the library has now been donated to the RHSV, and in turn this is necessitating a major reorganisation of our own library to accommodate the additional books.

The wonderful timber bookcases will be moved in order to use the library space more efficiently, and to create room for new shelving that has come with the GSV material. We have recruited some new volunteers with library experience to assist the reorganisation, but we always welcome more – please contact the office if you can help.

The RHSV's improved financial situation has brought about the need for new financial management arrangements. First, we will be using part of a bequest from the late Doug Gunn to acquire Customer Relations Management software that will make our membership renewals and joining procedures easier, handle the bookings for lectures and other events, and facilitate books sales. The software will streamline our accounting procedures and significantly reduce staff time that has to be devoted to these tasks.

Council has also agreed that the RHSV Foundation will broaden its current functions in order to take on a greater role in managing RHSV funds, to ensure a better return on our investments and to support RHSV activities.

Finally, there are major changes taking place in our collection management following the decision to use eHive software. Our first batch of catalogue records has been migrated to eHive and can be viewed online at <https://ehive.com/collections/6420/royal-historical-society-of-victoria>. Preparations for Stage 2 (migration of the library collection) commenced in March but is a more complex process. Trove will be able to harvest these records and a special arrangement has been made with the National Library of Australia.

My thanks to all staff and volunteers who are making these important initiatives happen.

*Don Garden*

## We are opening on Saturdays

From Saturday 6 May the RHSV will be open on  
**SATURDAYS FROM 10.00AM – 4.00PM**

Members will be able to come and do research, purchase books from the book shop and enjoy our exhibitions.

We are pleased to be able to offer this additional service to members and look forward to welcoming you to the RHSV.

## Insurance & Membership for Historical Societies

All Historical Societies should have received the insurance & membership form & information about insurance in the mail by now.

The forms & information are also available on the RHSV website [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au) under Societies.

If you have any queries please either phone Ged on

9326 9288 or send an email to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

## RHSV EXHIBITION – UNTIL APRIL 28

### REMEMBERING the 'BURBS: 1850 – 1960

**Remembering the 'Burbs** showcases the images supplied by these historical societies. The images of suburban housing, work, industry, commerce, community service and recreation – collectively trace the development of Melbourne's suburbs between 1850 and 1960 as its population expanded from the city's confines.

Cover:

Student bank at Macleod High School PROV VPRS 8935/P1

History

**NEWS**



**CREATIVE VICTORIA**

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

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## NOTICE of 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are advised that the 107th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday 16 May 2017

**Time:** 5.00pm

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

### Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2016.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2016.
4. To appoint the Auditor for 2017.
5. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council.
6. To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group.
7. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.
8. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
9. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

The AGM will be followed by a lecture presented by Mr Simon Ambrose.

**An eye to the past – plans for the future: showcasing the National Trust of Victoria's vision for the future**

### CALL for NOMINATIONS

Seven positions are available for election at the AGM. Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close on Tuesday 9 May 2017.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

### CALL for EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

Affiliated societies are encouraged to provide expressions of interest for membership on the RHSV's History Victoria Support Group. These should be forwarded to Executive Officer by Tuesday 9 May 2017.

Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer

25 March, 2017

## History Victoria Bookshop

Christmas best sellers:

The top ten titles sold in the History Victoria Bookshop in December were:

*Remembering Melbourne*

*These Walls Speak Volumes*

*Historic Glimpses of Old Castlemaine*

*Templestowe: a folk history*

*Building Castlemaine: the red brick legacy of H D McBean*

*Engineering Challenges in 19th Century Victoria*

*Port Albert: 175 years, 1841-2016*

*Walhalla, Valley of Gold*

*Visions of a Village: Canterbury shops*

*Understanding our Natural Environment*

## The Victorian Community History Awards 2017 are now open:

Entry forms are included with this edition of History News or

Download an entry form at: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/programs/victorian-community-history-awards>

The Victorian Community History Awards are proudly presented by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Record Office Victoria. The Awards celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling local stories which help all Victorians to better understand their past.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on the 16th of October at the Arts Centre.

Awards are given for work across the following categories:

Victorian Community History Award – \$5000

Collaborative Community History Award – \$2000

Local History Project Award – \$2000

History Publication Award – \$2000

Local History Small Publication Award – \$1500

Cultural Diversity Award – \$1500

Multimedia History Award – \$1500

Historical Interpretation Award – \$1500

Centenary of ww1 Award – \$1500

History Article (Peer Reviewed) – \$500

Visit

**historyvictoria.org.au**

for more information.

Entries close Friday 21 July at 2pm.

## RHSV Councillor Profile: Dr Rosalie Triolo

Rosalie Triolo is a dynamic member of the Council and current Chair of the Membership Development Committee, which is concerned with the life blood of our Society. Rosalie has instituted many innovations to ensure the future health of the RHSV.

Rosalie lectures at Monash University's Faculty of Education in methods of teaching History, and has done so for twenty years. She has made a huge impact on the development of young history teachers across Victoria due to her drive and enthusiasm. She has served on the Board of the History Teachers Association of Victoria for approximately 30 years, and is its current president for a second term.

Rosalie has presented at dozens of professional development conferences at state, national and international levels. She has produced numerous resources for teachers and students out of these presentations, including *Schooling, Service and the Great War* in 2014, a 90 page inquiry-based learning resource for the Year 9 Australian Curriculum. Her philosophy is that history is a vehicle for civics and citizenship education. She advocates inquiry-based learning methods, which she believes develop greater historical literacy.

Rosalie Triolo has made many contributions

at the national level of history teaching, including serving on the board of the History Teachers' Association of Australia, currently its Vice-President, and on committees that manage various national prizes for history students. She has also served on a committee for Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) which held meetings over two years (2010-2012) to create the current breakthrough national history curriculum and has worked with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority over many years in developing History curriculum documents, primary through to VCE.

She has recently conducted a successful series of lectures for the RHSV in city and country venues entitled 'Writing and Publishing Local History'. Rosalie has also just completed a booklet for the RHSV and the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) entitled *Writing and Publishing Local History: A Guide for First-Time Authors and Historical Societies*.

Rosalie is an active practitioner of history. She completed her PhD at a Monash University in 2008 winning the Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal awarded by Monash University. She has published many articles, and a book, *Our Schools and The War*, which was 'commended' at the Victorian Community



History Awards (2012).

Her view on history practice in the historical society movement is that knowing the history of our own and other places in the world, and the people and events that have shaped them, better helps us understand our present and make informed choices for our and others' future. And, beyond the fascination, be it pleasant or grim, of immersing ourselves in experiences of the past, historical practice equips us with a set of skills entirely relevant to different facets of our present-day lives.

*Richard Broome.*

## Start planning for HISTORY WEEK 2017

The 10th annual *History Week* will be held this year from the 15-22<sup>nd</sup> October and is shaping up to be a fascinating week of exploration.

Last year saw over 410 things to do on around the state to celebrate the Week, and we encourage historical societies, museums and libraries to host a history event that showcases your activities.

Collectively *History Week* demonstrates the vibrancy of local history around the state. It highlights the enormous amount of work undertaken by volunteers and paid staff to make Victoria's history accessible. Every year the range of activities and number of participants grows and we thank you – and encourage you to get planning for this year.

*History Week* is promoted by extensively by the RHSV. Feedback at the end of the week includes increased attendance at an event and awareness of the work of historical societies and some historical societies and events receive substantial media coverage.

If you are planning a history related event during 15-22 October 2017 and would like it included in the official History Week calendar, please register your event online at [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au)

This year for History Week the RHSV is offering the opportunity for Historical Societies to receive grants to produce colour brochures: Click on the link below or visit our website and drop down the programs tab.

<http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/2017-BrochureGrantApplication.pdf>

History Week is generously supported by the Vera Moore Foundation



Young Victorian Railway's staff member with platform refreshment trolley c.1920

RHSV NEG - 1798

# Australia Day Honours for RHSV Members

History News is delighted that two of the RHSV's members received honours in the recent Australia Day awards.



## PATRICIA GRIMSHAW AO

Professor Grimshaw, pictured above left, formerly Max Crawford Professor of History at the University of Melbourne, was appointed Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Pat has led the women's history movement at local, state, national and international levels, and was a founder of the Australian Women's History Network, and a co-founder of the International Federation for Research in Women's History in 1987. She was IFRWH president from 1995 to 2000. Pat also played a key role in the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) when it began in 1989 and was the inspiration behind the Australian Women's Archive Project (AWAP) in 2000, aimed at discovering, recording, cataloguing and preserving archival collections relating to Australian women.

Pat, with three others, pioneered a feminist reading of Australian history in *Creating a Nation*, first published in 1994. She has published extensively on women in the family and in the labour and suffrage movements, women missionaries, women in the professions, the activism of Aboriginal women, and women and leadership. In 1979, she initiated a course on women's history, which then developed into a centre for the history of women, then the 'history of gender'. She has supervised 55 PhD theses and over 30 Masters theses and is loved and revered by countless former students.

In March 2008 Pat Grimshaw was inducted onto the 2008 Victorian Honour Roll of Women. In the same week, the University of Melbourne announced the Patricia Grimshaw Mentor Excellence Awards, to honour her contribution as a mentor of postgraduate students and younger colleagues on their research projects and career development.



## MARGARET BIRTLEY AM

Margaret Birtley, pictured above right, was appointed Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Margaret has been the executive officer of the History Council of Victoria, the state's peak organisation for history, since 2013, and also serves on the RHSV Collections Committee. She has a long and distinguished history of engagement at a senior level in museum and heritage management, advocacy and policy development.

Margaret was a member of Museums Australia National Council 1999–2005 and vice-president 2001–2005. She also held office in Museums Australia—Victorian Branch from 1993 to 1997. She has served as an office bearer and acted in an advisory capacity in a number of other museum and heritage organisations, including the Grainger Museum, Scienceworks Museum Victoria, the Victorian Branch of the Museums Association of Australia, the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Heritage Victoria, and the Australian National Committee of the International Council of Museums. She has also taught in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies and Deakin University.

The RHSV congratulates Pat and Margaret on this recognition of their important achievements, thanks them for their work, and looks forward to their continuing contribution to advancement of the cause of history and heritage.

*Judith Smart, FRHSV and Councillor*



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# Trove, here we come!

Hot on the heels of the recent announcement that the Trove database will soon resume wide-scale harvesting, we are delighted to report that the RHSV's long-held ambition to make its catalogue accessible on Trove will be realised in the near future.

Our move from DB/Textworks to the cloud-based eHive system has commenced, with records for manuscripts and the pioneer register having been transferred. These records can now be viewed online at <https://ehive.com/collections/6420/royal-historical-society-of-victoria>

## CHOOSING A NEW SYSTEM - EHIVE

Choosing a new system was not an easy process, but was made simpler by the fact our search was restricted to systems that could be harvested by Trove, and also by the model of catalogue we desired.

We explored various models of catalogue hosting and chose a cloud catalogue option, because cloud alternatives are far less technically onerous (no local hosting setup, installation, upgrading, backing up and linking to the web) and they are more flexible to access (any computer with a browser and internet connection can be a cataloguing computer). This model can therefore be beneficial for small to medium sized organisations with limited technological resources.

Of the cloud-based models able to be harvested by Trove (i.e. compliant with international protocols for metadata and data-harvesting), we chose eHive – a package for community museums and archives developed by the reputable Vernon Systems of New Zealand.

eHive suited the RHSV's particular needs because has easy to use input screens suited to a range of different item types (which historical societies typically have). It is cost-effective (you only pay for the amount of data your catalogue occupies), has an interface suitable for viewing on mobile devices, and Google indexes the records.

Having said that, no system will suit every organisation 100%, and while cloud systems can be limited in their customisation we look forward to streamlining the way we work to the new system and integrating the catalogue with our website to customise parts of it (such as the search screen, for example). We will also provide Vernon Systems with feedback



about potential improvements that we think would benefit users, and will assist, if possible, in the establishment of a Victorian user group.

The process toward harvesting by Trove is also under way, and this, along with Google indexing will mean that more people than ever before will encounter our collection online (whether they know of the RHSV or not). We are pleased to say that before the news of the resumption of wide-scale harvesting, Trove had already committed to harvesting the RHSV's catalogue (a generous donor to Trove had specified the addition of Victorian content) and this was exciting news for us.

## SOCIETIES AND THE CLOUD

Our recent digital engagement survey highlighted the fact that our affiliate societies are very diverse, and very technologically diverse. Some already have their own catalogues online (via cloud systems and other means), while others have not computerised their catalogues at all, and many societies fall within the wide spectrum in between. There is no doubt that in some regions where societies are in need of support, a cloud catalogue (compliant with international standards) can be a very easy, inexpensive and user-friendly way to get their catalogues online, and could be important for attracting support and interest.

Like most societies, we are the custodians of many important items and our collection is a source of revenue for us. We look forward to using the new catalogue to enhance public interest, further usage and generate income from the collection, while keeping our assets secure and our

catalogue content within our control. We can do this by the use of private record fields (which can only be accessed via login) and by using strategies such as displaying select low-resolution files of objects and images or the first page only of manuscripts. These kinds of strategies can give the public a little taste of your content, prompting them to enquire further.

## THE WORK AHEAD

One of the very tricky yet satisfying aspects of this project will be the gathering of collection records dispersed throughout some 18 separate databases on our server, meaning that ultimately one search can encompass our entire holdings. Preparation for transfer of our library collection records is underway and records of our images collection will follow that. In the meantime, we are commencing the process of tidying up records already transferred to more closely comply with subject headings and other conventions used in Trove.

An added bonus for having the catalogue hosted in the cloud is that space is freed up on our server for the installation of our master file digital repository – more about this in future.

We look forward to sharing our experiences of our transition with our affiliate groups, and continuing ongoing consultations with the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

*Christine Worthington,*

*Collections Manager & Volunteer Coordinator*

# Making History - A Winning Community Event!



Members of the winning team from Red Cliffs & District Historical Society, L-R: Bob Walton, Lucy Hamilton, Matt Cook, Chris Cook, Ian Cook, Helen Petschel, and Bette Schultz. Courtesy RCDHS

Last January Red Cliffs & District Historical Society were very pleased to win the Community Event Award in our Red Cliffs Australia Day celebrations.

Our event was a 'Little Red Duck Race' to celebrate the decommissioning of the irrigation channels now replaced by pipeline as part of the Sunraysia Modernization Project [SMP].

The channels were the life blood of our Soldier Settlement community for 95 years. They were built by returned serviceman labour under the organization of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission. The first irrigation water to run through the channels flowed in October 1921 and this became the historical date signifying our foundation as a settlement. Unfortunately Lower Murray Water and the contractors for the project were running ahead of time to complete the pipeline and we had to choose a date in August to hold the event. The 'Little Red Duck Race' was held on 13 August 2016 on the channel reserve on Kiewa Avenue, Red Cliffs. It was organised by Red Cliffs Historical Society with Lower Murray Water & SMP contractors.

While our main purpose was to celebrate the decommissioning of the channels, it was also planned as a fun community event for the Historical Society's 2016 theme of 'Wonderful Water'. We are a very small group, so we make every effort to take history out to the community, and this was a great chance to do it. We decided to link each of the first 700 ducks with an original settler. There were 708 allocations in the Soldier Settlement. We called these 'Settler Ducks' and many people made the effort to research the settler linked with their duck. We were content to order 700 ducks for the event, but advice we were given suggested that this number would not be enough to make a spectacle.

So Lower Murray Water organised 1500 ducks for us! We had six weeks before the event, which meant a lot of duck selling. These weeks were very hectic, but with the support of LMW, 1500 red ducks were ordered and delivered, tickets printed, and promotion publicity distributed.

LMW identified a suitable stretch of channel and reserved it to be kept clear and unfilled. Local Service groups were contacted as they needed to be on board to help run the event. Ian Cook (Historical Society member) accepted the role as 'Duck Manager' for preparing the ducks for the swim and the logistics of the race; LMW organised the movement of water in the channel and preparation of the site for a public event such as this; Rotary and Lions Clubs volunteered to assist in the running of the day; local businesses, LMW Office and community individuals volunteered to sell tickets. Information to schools, local displays and websites helped locals link with their family and/or block history. The Steam Train Group operated specially on the day too. The steam train 'Lukee' had an important role in the early days of irrigation, transporting coal

to the pumps, so it was very much linked to the celebration. Lots of other work was carried out too. It was almost overwhelming for our little group of members, but the support of the community groups and the backing of LMW was fantastic and the event was a very successful, family day.

The benefits to the Red Cliffs & District Historical Society were many, including community groups working together with a positive enthusiasm. For our society we gained some keen members and an excellent profile in the community. We created an interest in local history in the celebration of our pioneers. This has led to the production of a monthly news sheet for the promotion of Red Cliffs History sponsored by our local MP Peter Crisp. We have inspired some creative ideas and plans for the redevelopment of the channel reserves for the future benefit of Red Cliffs in the lead up to the Centenary in 2021.

The publicity on Facebook, through LMW website, the press, shop window and tourist centre displays, had those red ducks appearing everywhere, we even got a mention in Victorian Parliament!

We were nominated for the Australia Day Community Award and were congratulated for involving so many community groups in the event, from Girl Guides, church, businesses, schools, the fire brigade, steam train and service groups. The race was flagged off by local military historian Ken Wright OAM, the son of an original settler. It was wonderful to have over 2000 people help celebrate our historical event.

Personally I have a few more grey hairs and I gained lots of experience in community event planning. I was grateful for the cheerful, reliable support given by the Historical Society members and others in the community.

*Helen Petschel  
President RCDHS*



# Duldig Studio Documentaries

The DVD 'Duldig Studio Documentaries', won the Historical Interpretation category in the 2016 Victorian Community History Awards. Eva de Jong-Duldig interwove archives, artefacts and a compelling narration to tell the story. Here is a glimpse of her family's experiences.

## 'Enemy Aliens' Arrive in Tatura, 1940

My parents, Karl Duldig (1902-86) and Slawa Horowitz-Duldig, were professional artists in Vienna before the war. They met while studying sculpture and Karl's first mentor, the famous Austrian sculptor Anton Hanak, selected Karl's sculptures to represent Austria in international exhibitions. Subsequently they both graduated from the Viennese Academy of Fine Arts. In 1938, one month after I was born, Nazi Germany annexed Austria and our family was forced to flee. Eventually we found a short, but artistically stimulating refuge in Singapore. This happy period, however, came to an abrupt end in September 1940 when the British classified holders of Austrian or German papers 'enemy aliens', and we were sent for internment to Australia.

We sailed on the Queen Mary, which had been converted into a troopship, and arrived in Sydney not long after the infamous Dunera had arrived from England. Transported to an Internment Camp near Tatura, Victoria, my parents slept on straw palliases in a tiny room in a galvanised iron-clad hut.

Two days after our arrival the internees sent an 'Appeal for Release' to the Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies and to the Governor-General: 'We represent 67 men, 79 women, 24 children under 15 years of age and 42 bachelors. ... In the whole Empire no children, women or old people are interned at all and to our knowledge no Jewish Refugees are interned in the Commonwealth of Australia ...'

The argument was credible but useless. Despite their disappointment the internees made the best of the situation. Rosters were drawn up to share the daily chores, trained teachers among the internees set up a kindergarten and concerts were staged to which the garrison was invited. My father initiated all kinds of activities to relieve the boredom. He drew up a landscape plan to beautify the compound, and I picked the flowers to give to the guards. He built a tennis court where I hit some balls, little knowing that one day I would play at Wimbledon. During the nightly black-out I often sat with my father on the steps of our hut watching the stars in the brilliant night sky.

Karl was allowed to go outside the barbed wire perimeter fence to carve a mother and child sculpture from the fallen limb of an old gum tree. He used an axe as no other tools were available. When it was completed the life-size figure became a focal point in the Camp and the children danced around it singing 'Ring-a-ring-of-roses'.



The Duldig family outside their hut with the eucalypt figure carved with an axe. *Compound 3D Tatura 1941*, black and white photograph, Inv. No. 6053 Photographer Sister Burns, © Duldig Studio

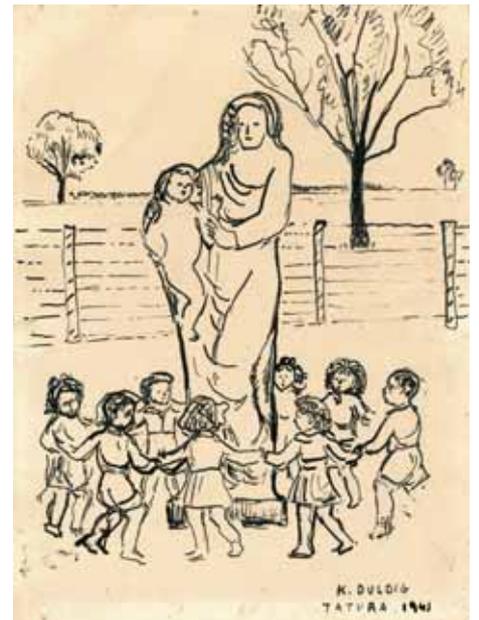
The barbed wire perimeter fence in Karl's drawings of life in the Camp seemed to be the limit of our existence, the world beyond being totally out of reach. With no prospect of release, the depth of my father's depression is most clearly revealed in his self-portraits. See *Art Behind the Wire*, 2014, Duldig Studio publication (available at the RHSV Bookshop). After the fall of Singapore to the Japanese in February 1942, the 8th Employment Company, under the leadership of Captain Edward Renata Broughton, was established. The men from our Camp, which included Dunera internees, were offered the opportunity to enlist. My father joined the AIF in April 1942 and before long my mother and I were also released from internment. In Melbourne we rented a small room in a boarding house in Park Street, St Kilda, but I missed my Camp playmates and the outdoor life.

In a tent in Royal Park Karl modelled a portrait of Captain Broughton (now in the Australian War Memorial). When Karl was discharged on medical grounds, Captain Broughton wrote: 'I wish him every success in the future and I feel certain that so talented a creative artist as Pte Duldig will surely win recognition.'

After the war Karl taught art at Mentone Grammar School and also became a well-known Australian sculptor. Slawa was the art teacher at St Catherine's Girls School for sixteen years. 'SLAWA: Modernist Art and Design', an exhibition of her work which includes the prototypes for her invention of the modern foldable umbrella (1929), is currently showing at the Duldig Studio, museum + sculpture garden, 92 Burke Road, East Malvern (Museum Accredited). [www.duldig.org.au](http://www.duldig.org.au)

For more see Eva de Jong-Duldig, *Driftwood*, a memoir, Arcadia 2017.

*Eva de Jong-Duldig*



Karl Duldig *Ring-a-ring-of-roses* 1941, pen and ink, 30.3 x 21 cm, Inv. No. 3026, © Duldig Studio



Karl Duldig *Self-portrait* 1941, pen and ink 13.5 x 10.5 cm, Inv. No. 3781, © Duldig Studio

Karl Duldig *Girl presenting a flower to an officer* c. 1941, pen and ink 30 x 21cm, Inv. No. 3738a, © Duldig Studio

# Footscray Historical Society Inc.



*Ercildoune – 1909 with staff of the National Bank of Australasia*



mortgage. Much of the restoration work was done by volunteers but grants from the early Historic Building Council, and later Heritage Victoria, assisted. By 2000, Ercildoune was debt free and its roof and chimneys repaired, exterior render restored and woodwork repainted. The interior had also been refurbished. In 2002 a cottage garden was planned and developed by the volunteer efforts of members.

The early committee was active in working to achieve the aim of the society. A series of administrators appointed by the committee included George Seelaf, who brought enthusiasm and energy to the task. George was well known locally for his community work and enlisted many others in the work of collecting memorabilia and particularly in developing the collection of old and contemporary photographs of the city and its people. He was also active in organizing tours designed to develop an interest in the history of the local area. Dr John Lack, an active member of the society, brought his University of Melbourne students to Footscray to work on the City's archives, held at the Town Hall. As a result many of those records were transferred subsequently to the care of the society. These have proved to be a major resource for researchers. The publication of his *History of Footscray* in 1991 also encouraged an interest in local history in the community.

Looking to the future, along with the challenge of interpreting the past to a new generation there is the need to maintain Ercildoune and its garden and to care for the Society's growing collection. The society owns the building but there are hefty expenses such as land tax, rates and insurance associated with it each year. Leasing the upper floor and, for a time, part of the ground floor, has helped with the expense of maintaining the building. Other sources of income are book sales—the society has published a number of books—research fees, and membership fees.

*Catherine Reichert*

*Vice President, Footscray Historical Society*

In the 1920 Annual Report of the Footscray City Council, the mayor noted that after a hurried reading of council records, he considered that 'the formation of a Historical Records Society should be commended to civic-minded citizens.'

On 17 October 1968 at a public meeting at the Footscray Town Hall, it was agreed that a society should be established to counter the threats to buildings deemed to be important to the heritage of the city. The City of Footscray Historical Society was duly constituted and when amalgamation created the City of Maribyrnong this became the Footscray Historical Society. The society embraces in its brief all the suburbs of Maribyrnong – Footscray, Yarraville, Seddon Kingsville, Maidstone, Braybrook and Maribyrnong. It continues to aim to record and preserve the history of the district.

In 1968 the Town Clerk of Footscray, E. J. Smith and the City Solicitor, Ian Secomb had been the first to recognize the need for the society, and they gathered like-minded people from the business community of Footscray to discuss the matter. There were buildings which were considered particularly at risk – Henderson House, The Ship Inn, Govan's Place and Ercildoune. Henderson House was saved and is now the Footscray Community Arts Centre. The Ship Inn was eventually lost despite attempts to save it and even suggestions to

dismantle and rebuild it. Govan's Place, an 1870s bluestone and brick dwelling, was saved by a consortium, that included Secomb, which purchased and restored it to its original function. Ercildoune was saved by the society purchasing it and developing it as its headquarters. This was achieved with the support of seven local men who contributed and acted as guarantors for the necessary mortgage from NAB.

The building was erected by the National Bank of Australasia on the corner of Napier and Hyde Streets, the first substantial bank building in the growing and prosperous township. It was designed by Terry & Oakden, built by local builders, Goss & Hopkins, and opened in 1876. As was usual, it was designed with a banking chamber, manager's office, vault and a spacious residence for the manager. The commercial centre of Footscray later moved to the west and the bank, which had amalgamated with the Colonial Bank, moved its business to Barkly Street, keeping the Napier Street building as the manager's residence. In 1942 the building was sold and for many years functioned as a rooming house among other uses. When purchased by the society in 1969 it had somehow acquired the name Ercildoune and was somewhat dilapidated.

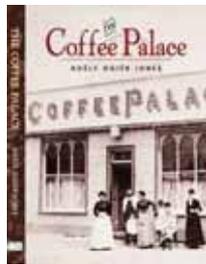
The restoration of the building and the development of the society proceeded over the years. Subscription dinners and other fund-raising events eventually paid off the

**Books Received:** authors, publishers and historical societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in **Books Received**.

**The Coffee Palace**

Adele Ogier Jones, Forty South Publishing, Hobart, 2016, pp. 233. ISBN 97809954082

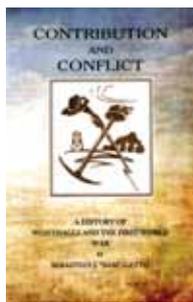
An historical novel based on the Jones family that built and ran the coffee palace in Berrigan.



**Contribution and Conflict, A History of Wonthaggi and the First World War**

Sebastian J “Sam” Gatto, Wonthaggi and District Historical Society, PO Box 18, Wonthaggi, 3995, 2016, pp.221. ISBN 9780646961927.

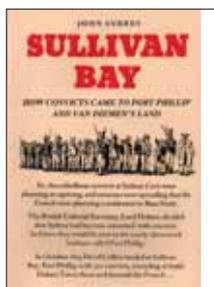
The steady stream of histories about local experience of the Great War has added to our understandings of the home front. This book charts Wonthaggi largely through its local papers. It also provides stories of selected Wonthaggi men – the four Hegarty brothers, two killed, one who also served and the eldest who did not enlist; Dr Looney whose war experience may well have contributed to his unsettled life and subsequent suicide; and ‘Moff’ Tinkler’s survival story told through his diary.



**Sullivan Bay, How Convicts Came to Port Phillip and Van Diemen’s Land**

John Currey, Colony Press, 21 Cressy Street, Malvern, 3144 for The Banks Society, 2016, pp. 359. ISBN 978094586339.

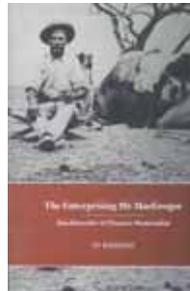
An elegant and masterly book that traces the settlement by David Collins’ party at Sullivan Bay, Sorrento in 1803 and subsequently at Sullivan Cove, Hobart Town. Impeccably researched, clearly annotated, and securely set within the contexts of international affairs, transportation and convict discipline, and contemporary colonial governance.



**The Enterprising Mr MacGregor, Stockbreeder & Pioneer Pastoralist**

FayWoodhouse, Arcadia, Melbourne, 2016, available from leckie\_assoc@bigpond.com pp. ix + 189, \$39-95 + \$7 postage within Australia. ISBN 9781925333879.

Duncan MacGregor, a Scottish Highlander, arrived in Melbourne in 1857. This book traces his remarkable life as a stockbreeder of Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Border Leicester sheep at Riddells Creek; his pioneering pastoralism in the Channel Country of Western Queensland; his drainage of the Kooweerup Swamp; his management of vast properties as trustee for his wife’s McRae family; and the losses he suffered both from property speculation and drought. Based on an extensive family archive, well researched and illustrated.



**When Broadford Was Young. And So Was I, My memories of its buildings and people**

Ruth Davern, Broadford Historical Society, PO Box 114, Broadford, 3068, pp. 310. \$45. ISBN 9780980576221.

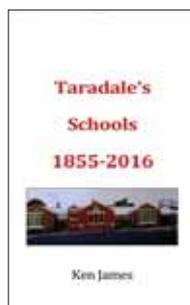
In part, a loving memoir of the author’s life in Broadford but also a substantial account of buildings and people based on both oral and written sources. The whole provides an easy to use guide to much of Broadford’s past backed up by indexes of people and other subjects such as buildings and events. Copiously illustrated. A very worthwhile project completed.



**Taradale’s Schools 1855-2016**

Ken James, the author, knjames47@gmail.com , 2017, pp. 185. ISBN 9780994470171.

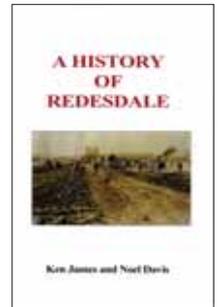
The small towns of central Victoria owe much to the assiduous compilations of historical material put together by the author, in this case largely from newspapers, departmental school records and parliamentary reports. There are many illustrations and a valuable index of names.



**A History of Redesdale**

Ken James and Noel Davis, the authors, noeldavis60@hotmail.com knjames47@gmail.com , 2016, pp. 530. ISBN 9780994470133.

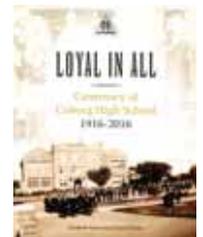
An assembly of masses of material about the central Victorian town of Redesdale, now with a population of 273. This book follows the pattern of previous publications by the authors with chapters on schools, churches, local organizations, local gathering places, aspects of the local economy, and participation in the Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2 .The material is mainly drawn from PRO records and newspapers, Very well illustrated with many useful tables, a comprehensive index of names and a number of appendices showing electors in 1903, first landowners, school pupils’ registers, and births, deaths and marriages.



**Loyal in All, Centenary of Coburg High School 1916-2016**

Elizabeth Grove and Laura Donati, Coburg High School Historical Group, 2016, pp. 92. ISBN 9780646963341.

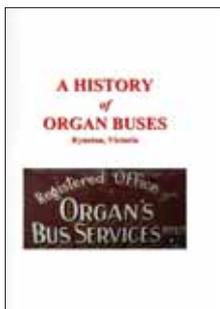
Coburg High School was one of the early metropolitan state secondary schools with a proud history of service to its students and community. After an interlude of amalgamations and changing purposes that began in 1994, it has resumed both its name and its purpose as a local post-primary school. In a series of well-illustrated short chapters, the book places Coburg High in both its educational and social contexts and examines the changes reflected in the school as a consequence. It does not have an index or a bibliography. Both would have been valuable for anyone with an interest in the school and Victorian education generally. The book highlights the achievements of long-standing head teachers, teachers and students including HP Bennett, Ron Reed, Don Lugg and Carolyn Rasmussen, the last well-known to the RHSV. The book also traces the renewal and eventual replacement of school buildings. A worthy reminder of the part played by the State in provision of secondary education over a long period.



**A History of Organ Buses, Kyneton, Victoria**

No author or publication details, pp. 29.

As the sub-title states this book covers the 78 years of road transport with trucks from 1929 to 1946 and buses and coaches from 1945 to 2007 run by the Organ family in Kyneton. It is the story of hard work and enterprise over two generations of the Organ family based in Kyneton to set up a successful bus company that took on numerous school bus runs, maintained its ever-expanding fleet, employed many locals, and took part in chartered coach trips. The business was sold in 2007.



**The First 8 Years. A History of the Portland Municipal Council, 1855-1863**

E. Noel T. Henry [edited by Bruce Henry], jbhenny@bigpond.net.au , 2016, pp. 208. ISBN 9740646965291.

The author, who had been the Portland Town Clerk, died in 1971 leaving a manuscript history of early Portland municipal history. This his son has now edited and published. The problems, personnel and actions

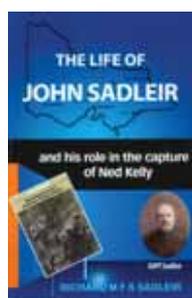


of the council are minutely examined. The book adds a dimension to Portland's early history and also provides a case study of pioneering municipal government. Well-illustrated and indexed.

**The Life of John Sadleir (1833-1919) and his role in the capture of Ned Kelly**

Richard M.F.S. Sadleir, the author, sad120r@xtra.co.nz, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, 2016, pp. vi + 190. ISBN 9780473339654.

John Sadleir's Recollections of a Victorian Police Officer has long been an important source among many for any study of the activities of the Kelly Gang. In this book, his great grandson provides much more information about Sadleir's life using family letters and taking particular account of



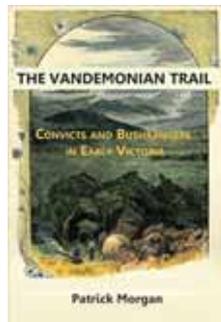
his surviving 1879 diary when he was vitally involved with the Kelly outbreak. This is certainly a worthy addition to the ever-growing Kelly bibliography as well as a study of the life of a senior policeman in Victoria

in the late colonial period. It is worth noting that Sadleir was a foundation member and early councillor of this society.

**The Vandemonian Trail, Convicts and Bushrangers in Early Victoria**

Patrick Morgan, Connor Court, PO Box 7237, Redland Bay, 4165, 2016, pp. 226. ISBN 9781925591216.

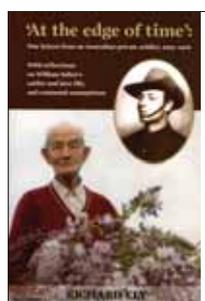
A very interesting and well-argued text that traces stories popularised, re-imagined, re-told and taken up by a receptive public about Bogong Jack, the Tichborne Claimant, William Buckley and the 'lost white woman of Gippsland'. The author provides a forensic discussion about the realities of Bogong Jack and the Tichborne Claimant linking them both to the Vandemonian Trail that brought ex-convicts from Tasmania to early Victoria via Gippsland. The arrival of ex-convicts from New South Wales at the same time helped to frighten respectable society and make it susceptible to romantic versions of events told by novelists like Henry Kingsley, Rolf Boldrewood and Marcus Clarke. A most engaging mix of history and literature with strong links to early society in Victoria.



**'At the edge of time' War letters from an Australian private soldier, 1915-1916, with reflections on William Salter's earlier and later life, and command assumptions**

Richard Ely, Dissenters Press in association with The Baptist Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 2016, pp. xlviii + 212, \$40. ISBN 9780987046017.

There are a great many Great War diaries and letters home; many have been published in some form. None are quite like this deeply annotated set of letters written by William Salter, a profoundly committed Baptist already in training for the ministry, to his wider family from the time of his embarkation in September 1915 until his rehabilitation and return to Australia late in 1916 after suffering multiple wounds when stretcher-bearing at Pozieres. The letters are meticulously edited; their provenance is discussed; they are supplemented by material that survives in Salter's papers and by newspaper publication of excerpts and reports. The letters are used as a major source for an analysis of Salter's life as soldier, Baptist home missionary and

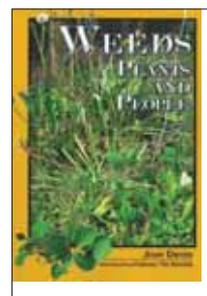


minister and farmer along with his interests in painting and art, animal welfare, and civic activism in various Protestant causes. The analysis contained in the final chapter uses what Ely calls command assumptions to explain what can be derived from the letters and subsequent chapters dealing with Salter's long life after the war. A unique life skilfully presented with much to engage the reader about the war experience, but also about much more.

**Weeds, Plants and People**

John Dwyer, Penfolk Publishing, Melbourne, 2016, pp. xv + 293. ISBN 9780958699372.

Defining 'weeds' is contentious; controlling them is also contentious; using them as sources of food and medicine has a long and interesting history; recognizing the characteristics of plants seen as weeds is important. All these propositions and more



are contained in this detailed discussion of the interrelationships between weeds, plants and people. It is a fine source for environmental historians, those with an interest in garden history as well as 'weed' specialists. Beautifully illustrated, eloquently written with an excellent index of plants in addition to a general index.

**My Story, Our History**

Mary Ledwidge, the author, PO Box 293, Moama, 2731, 2016, pp. 180, \$45. ISBN 9780994539021.

Part autobiography and part reporting of genealogical research on her mother's family, her husband's family, her stepfather's family and the family of her biological father. Each chapter tells a story focused on individual people spanning several generations and taking in many places of residence and work – e.g. Maffra, Briagolong, Dumbalk, Clayton, Nar Nar Goon in Victoria and with connections to southern New South Wales, Tasmania and Adelaide. The personal impact of her search for her father and his family is laid bare. At one level written for her family, but with some significance for family history generally.

**Bookshop  
Autumn  
catalogue see  
page 13**

## 'The Farmer's Cinematheque' at the RHSV

Malcolm McKinnon of Reckless Eye Productions gave an entertaining introduction to a screening of a recent documentary, written and directed by him and Ross Gibson and produced by Annie Venables. McKinnon answered many questions after its showing from an audience of eighty people who were wildly appreciative of the evening, encouraged by the serving of ice blocks and ice creams.

McKinnon and Gibson wrote a script for the film that included contemporary cinematography by Ben Speth and music by Chris Abrahams. The team used film footage taken by the Teasdale family of their farming life at Rupanyup in the Wimmera to make a fascinating compilation. Within the film, current generations of the Teasdale family spoke of the meaning of having this continuous record of community and family identity.

Relvy Teasdale first filmed their farming life and that of the local community in the 1930s, although shortage of film stocks in the Second World War called a halt to the recording. His son John Teasdale recommenced filming in the 1950s and it was carried on by subsequent generations to provide a unique portrait of a rural community. The film captures cereal cropping work, the local agricultural annual show, street parades in the town and family life. It also considered the Aboriginal history and meaning of the country in question.

Copies of the Teasdale's original film archive have been deposited at Museum Victoria and Australian Centre for the Moving Image. For more information on the project see <http://www.the-farmers-cinematheque.com/>

*Richard Broome*



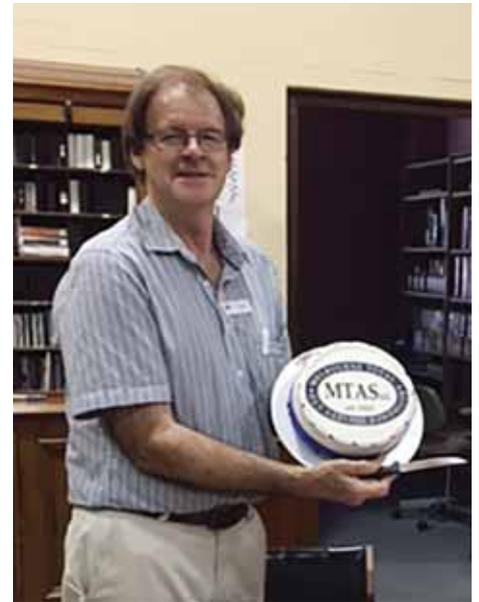
Testing machinery on Teasdale farm at Rupanyup, c.1975

## Melbourne Total Abstinence Society 175th!

Our President Don Garden is asked to speak many times as he is an eminent historian of Victoria's history as well as head of the peak history body in this state. Recently he spoke to the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society of Victoria founded at Scots Church Melbourne in 1842.

The Total Abstinence movement, together with its more moderate wing the Temperance Movement, was one of the most important social movements of the nineteenth century. It was essentially a product of evangelical Protestantism, but there were Catholic temperance societies as well. Its aims were to limit or halt the use of alcohol particularly by legislation but also persuasion

The Movement swept the Western World but was particularly strong in new settler societies such as the USA, Canada and Australia, where frontier conditions of male dominated societies and mining rushes, led to hard drinking. The movement had strong support and could influence elections and swing marginal seats. In Victoria the temperance movement held sway in local government elections in the early twentieth century banning liquor licences in some inner eastern suburbs, many of which have remained until recently.



The Melbourne Total Abstinence Society Ltd still exists today, using its capital to make grants to projects aimed at limiting substance abuse. Don Garden was given a beautiful iced fruit cake for speaking to the Society. Don kindly shared it at the February Council meeting of the RHSV.

*Richard Broome*

## HVSG News

It has not taken long to get back into the swing of things after the summer break and from my visits and conversations it is clear that local historians everywhere are as enthusiastic as ever.

On 12 February I joined the South Eastern Historical Association for a seminar day on 'Stuff you need to know!' I met many new fellow history enthusiasts and came away from the day with many new ideas. One of the most interesting presentations was on how to use free family history software to record and organise local history information more effectively. More on this at another time.

Towards the end of February, I visited the Friends of Will Will Rook Cemetery, a very active group who meet at the Broadmeadows Learning Centre. If you don't already know, Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery opened in 1852 and has a rich history. Sometimes called Campbellfield Cemetery, it is located off Camp Road

in Broadmeadows and is well worth a visit. Beryl Patullo, a Friend of Will Will Rook, is researching the families who are buried in the cemetery so if you have any information you are able to share with her, please contact me at [hvsg@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:hvsg@historyvictoria.org.au) and I will pass on your details.

Coming up on Saturday 25 March is our first regional seminar to be held at the Drill Hall in a'Beckett Street. If you have not already seen the program, please contact us so that we can send you a copy.

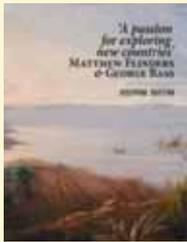
The next regional seminar will be at Kilmore on Saturday 13 May. Then we're off to Gippsland in July and Ballarat in August. More details will be available very soon.

Keep enjoying your adventure in the world of local history and don't forget to contact me if you would like me to visit.

*Cheryl Griffin (HVSG Convenor)*

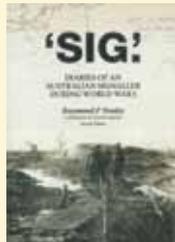
# HISTORY VICTORIA BOOKSHOP

## AUTUMN CATALOGUE



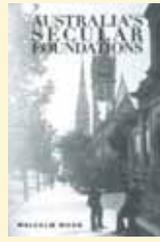
**'a passion for exploring new countries': Matthew Flinders & George Bass.**

Josephine Bastian  
\$44



**'Sig.' Diaries of an Australian signaller during World War 1.**

Raymond P Temby  
\$22



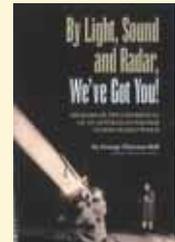
**Australia's secular foundations.**

Malcolm Wood  
\$39.95



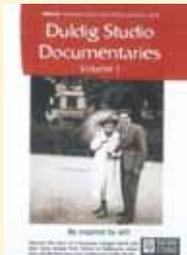
**Benalla Migrant Camp: a difficult heritage.**

Bruce Pennay  
\$25



**By Light, Sound and Radar, We've Got You! Memoirs of an Australian soldier during World War 2.**

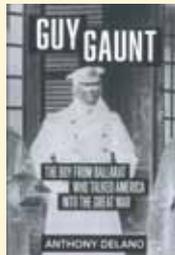
George Dawson Bell  
\$22



**Duldig Studio documentaries, Vol 1: 4 documentaries.**

Eva de Jong & Dr David Smith  
\$30 DVD

*Winner Historical Interpretation Award, VCHA 2016*



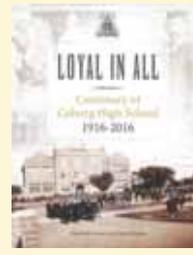
**Guy Gaunt: the boy from Ballarat who talked America into the Great War.**

Anthony Delano  
\$39.95



**Kawarau.**

Jennifer F O'Donnell  
\$25



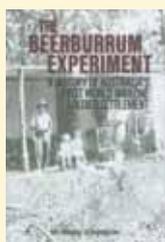
**Loyal in All: centenary of Coburg High School, 1916 - 2016.**

Elisabeth Grove & Laura Donati  
\$20



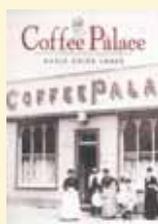
**Strive For the Highest: sixty years of education at Belmont High School, 1955-2015.**

Jennifer J Acopian  
\$45



**The Beerburum Experiment: a history of Australia's first World War One soldier settlement.**

Murray Johnson  
\$34.95



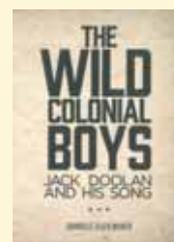
**The Coffee Palace.**

Adele Jones  
\$25



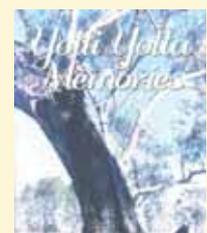
**Weeds, Plants & People.**

John Dwyer  
\$49.95



**Wild Colonial Boys: Jack Doolan and his song.**

Allen Mawer  
\$17.50



**Jan Vennik: the Dutchman at Eureka**

Yvon Davis. \$14.95

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**AROUND THE SOCIETIES**

We welcome Societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. For the June 2017 issue, please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 20 April 2017. Prepared by Volunteer Glenda Beckley an on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

**ANGLESEA:** Bathing Box - We believe that the last remaining Anglesea Bathing Box is behind the Art House which is due to be extended next year. We are negotiating to move the box to behind History House, restore it and put a marine display in it. If we do not take this opportunity of preserving the bathing box, we will not have another chance. The Society needs assistance and while some of the work needs to be done by trades people, there are other tasks that can be done by volunteers, including carpentry and painting. Donations and offers of help with the restoration will be most welcome.

**BALWYN:** Thursday 13 April 2017 – 8 pm. Speaker: Dr. Rosalie Triolo, Topic: Victorian Schools and the Great War. Dr. Rosalie Triolo, senior lecturer at Monash University and past president of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria, writes and presents widely on the history of education particularly Australian education.

Thursday 11 May 2017 – 8PM Speaker: Alan Gray, Topic: The History of the Puffing Billy Railway.

**BELLARINE:** The Historical Society and Old Courthouse Museum are in High Street, Drysdale. February through December, we are open the first Sunday of each month, from 1:30 – 3:30. Our meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. On 12 April, our speaker will be Jo Mitchell – The Barwon River – People and Places.

**CHELSEA:** Upcoming events – Thursday 6 April, at 12:00noon, \$15.00pp chicken and champagne luncheon; Thursday 28 September, at 12:00noon, \$15pp fashion parade. Both events will be held at the Chelsea Activity Hub, Showers Ave, Chelsea.

**CHELTENHAM CEMETERIES:** Recently the oldest headstone at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has succumbed to the ravages of time and weather. We are currently trying to raise funds to have this headstone repaired. Hopefully it can be saved for a few more years to come. The headstone was erected sometime after 1865 and represents 8 individuals buried in 3 graves, with 4 being babies. Richard Tilley d 1865, George Tilley d 1927, Mary Ann d 1908, Thomas Tilley d 1876, Alice d 1882, Emily d 1886, Reginald d 1887 & George E 1889. If you would like to contribute to the costs of repairing this historic monument please contact us at [info@focrc.org](mailto:info@focrc.org)

**CORNISH:** The Kernewek Lowender 2017 festival should be better than ever because the Committee is replanning and refreshing the festival. All the tried and true activities such as 'Dressing of the Graves' Maypole and Furry Dancing and the Bardic Ceremony will still be on. Held on Tuesday 16th May to Sunday 21st May 2017 in the Copper Coast region of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia - Moonta, Kadina and Wallaroo. Bookings are now open - keep checking the website: <http://www.kernewek.org>

**DONCASTER – TEMPLESTOWE:** 50th Anniversary Dinner Saturday 22 April 6:30pm onward at Yarra Valley Country Club, Templestowe Road, Bulleen. \$40pp. RSVP required by 12 April. Contact Trish on 98505847 for more information.

**ELTHAM:** We are fortunate excellent speakers have agreed to help us celebrate our 50 years of supporting local history, including at our special 50th Anniversary luncheon on Saturday 10th June, in the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre. Associate Professor Don Garden, president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Further details of this event will be distributed later in the year.

**FRANKSTON:** The Tea Rooms at Ballam Park Homestead, in Cranbourne Road, Frankston are open every Sunday from 1:00 – 5:00 (excluding the 5th Sunday of any month). Guided tours through the house and museum are available every Sunday between 1:00 and 4:00. Admission to the grounds of the homestead is free.

**FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY:** ANZAC Day 2017 tour of St Kilda Cemetery, Sunday 23 April at 2:00pm. We will visit the graves of WW1 veterans and others who fought for Australia. Graves include Albert Jacka VC, MC and Bar; Sir John Charles Hoad, Matron Mary Finlay. Cost \$10 for non-members, members are free. Meet at Cemetery main gates at 2:00pm.

**GOLDFIELDS:** Our next Historical Society tour will be to the former squatting station of Rodborough, adjacent to Tullaroop Reservoir. The tour will be by private car, bring your own lunch and chair. Meet at Dunolly Museum at 10:00am on Easter Monday 17 April. Cost- Members \$5, non-members \$15. Strictly no dogs allowed.

**HEIDELBERG:** Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe at 8 pm. Enter from car park at rear. Visitors Welcome. On Tuesday 11 April, John Noack will be presenting 'Mollison's Station and Robson's House in early Heidelberg.

The Anniversary Celebration of the formation of the Society is to be held on Sunday 30th April at The Centre, Ivanhoe. RSVP 31/3. Please contact the Society if you would like more information. The Society is also invites you to view its new Facebook page.

**HORSHAM:** The Horsham Historical Society will be 60 years old on 13 May 2017.

This milestone could be celebrated at the meeting night on Wednesday 10 May with perhaps an open afternoon (depending on interest) so past, current and potential members could reminisce and view old photos or films on a screen. Please let any committee member know your ideas so details can be discussed at our upcoming committee meetings. Email: [horshamhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:horshamhistorical@gmail.com)

**KEW:** While the Kew Athenaeum has been demolished, it was one of the 1,000+ Mechanics Institutes that served Victorian communities since the 1840s. Pam Baragwanath and Ken James have written their history, and on 12 April, Pam will join us and talk about these important community organisations. The Yarra River has been an important part of Kew's history, and on 10 May, The Yarra Riverkeeper, Andrew Kelly, will speak about the importance of the Yarra's past, present and future.

**KILMORE:** Inaugural Open House Scheme - Kilmore Historical society will be holding its first Open House Scheme on 8 April 2017. This is an opportunity to see inside some of the town's more historic buildings. The confirmed buildings range from cottages to grand homes. Do not miss this unique opportunity to catch a glimpse of many buildings you would be familiar with from outside.

Cost of the entire tour including admission to all buildings will be \$15 individual/\$25 family. Tickets available on the day at the courthouse.

**KYNETON:** We are still looking for school Group photographs so we can scan them in to our Education Folder. Do you have any from your school days in Kynetoin and would be able to loan them for scanning?

**LILYDALE:** All meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 1pm at the Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lilydale. Guest speakers start at

2pm. Upcoming society events: Saturday, April 1: Cliff Hardy will talk on his life while serving with the Kent County Police in England. Saturday, May 6:

Sue Thompson will give a presentation on the impact Dame Nellie Melba and her touring party had on the people of country New South Wales and Queensland during her 1909 Back Blocks Tour and conversely, the impact her fellow Australians had on her life.

**LINTON:** Save the date! Linton Primary School 150th Anniversary celebration 15 October 2017. 2017 Commemorative calendars available at school, Shire Office and Historical Society.

**MIDDLE PARK:** Monday 3 April at 7.30pm - followed by supper

Venue: Albert Park Baptist Church - Middle Park in the 70's - John Stirling. Middle Park, 50 years ago, was vastly different. In 1975 TV was still in black and white! Throughout the 1970's, Middle Park experienced a series of major threats that could have adversely impacted our neighbourhood, such as a proposed freeway planned to tear our suburb apart and the threat of high rise development. What was it like living in Middle Park in the 1970's and how is it different to living here today?

**NARRE WARREN:** "For some the bell tolled" - Join us Sunday 23 April 2017 at 10.30 am for a walk through Harkaway Cemetery where we will be visiting the graves and telling the stories of those with an ANZAC connection.

**NEPEAN:** On the weekend of 13th & 14th May we have planned a special event for the National Trust Heritage Festival. The theme of the Festival this year is Voices.

Our programme, titled 'Meeting Mrs Watts', will showcase the Cottage and stories that have been passed to us. Children will be able to participate in domestic, educational and leisure-based activities which highlight the lives of both adults and children over the century that the cottage was owned by the Watts Family. The programme will run on both days from 10 am - 12 noon & 2 pm - 4 pm with presentations on the hour. Presenters will be dressed in period costume. The cost for this event is Adult - \$5 Concession - \$4 NT member - \$4 Child - Free.

**PAYNESVILLE MARITIME:** April 9—Open day at the PMM Display Facility in Gilsenan Reserve between 9.00 to 12.30. Curlip Trivia Night to help raise funds for the restoration of PS Curlip they will be running a Trivia Night on Saturday April 1st and PMM has put its hand up for a table of ten. Only \$10 per head and to a good cause - let Rob know if you would like to be part of the fun.

**PORT FAIRY:** In April 2017 we will be launching a new exhibition entitled Invitation to the Ball" to run in conjunction with the Australian National Trust Festival 2017 theme "Having a Voice". We are looking to you, our members both male and female to provide us with any wonderful anecdotes relating to Debutant Balls, Fund-raising balls and the like that you attended whether in Port Fairy or not. You may have been only viewing the ball or a child attendant, a parent, grandparent..... you get the idea.

These will be placed in tiers on a "dress" in our front foyer for visitors to

read. Notes will be about 15cm x 10cm with lace possibly attached. We don't wish to

identify any of the people mentioned as the story is the most important part so first

names or "non de plumes" will be fine.

Please try to keep them short (about 30 words if possible) but if there are other longer stories these may be used in a small booklet that will accompany the display along with photographs of the Balls that we have in our collection. Website: [www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com](http://www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com) Phone: (03) 5568 2263

Email: [pffhs@datafast.net.au](mailto:pffhs@datafast.net.au) Post: P O Box 152

**RINGWOOD:** Speakers—the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at Parkwood Community Hub, Tortoise Drive, Ringwood North. April: Nick Richardson - Football in WWI. May: Claire Edmundson - Scouting in the Ringwood District.

**SANDRINGHAM:** Gipsy Village Walk Book - The revised edition of the Gipsy Village Walk is now available for purchase for \$10 at the Resource Centre in Waltham Street. This popular booklet, which was first published in 1998, had become out-dated as several buildings in the walk no longer exist. Over the past few months the book has been revised with the walk now starting at "Coggeshall" on the corner of Bamfield Street and Beach Road.

**ST JOHN AMBULANCE:** Our meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. There is no charge for attendance. The presentations begin at 10:30am at the St John Museum, The Esplanade, Williamstown Beach, which is open, free of charge, on Thursdays and Sundays.

**WALHALLA:** For all our cricket fans and Walhallaitees yes you need to mark this date in your calendars. The Melbourne Cricket Club is again coming to town for a return match against a local Gippsland team. It has been 10 years since the last challenge and the MCC has reminded us it's time for the re-match .

At this point of time all details have not been finalised but hopefully that Facebook page they have been talking about will be up and running and will have all the details.

No doubt local newspapers will have the story so keep your eyes peeled and pass on the news. Volunteers & traffic marshals' will be required so if you could contact the Corner Store/Museum and leave your contact details please. Phone: 03 5165 6250

**WANGARATTA:** a lot of work is being undertaken by members to preserve Historical documents such as rate books, cemetery records as well as taking photos of headstones so the information can be made available to all. If you would like to be part of the project group, please contact us. And for those who wish to continue or restart their family research, there are a lot of resources available and there is always someone there on open days who can help you.

**WARRAGUL:** Meetings held in the Old Shire Hall, Queen Street, Warragul at 7:30pm on the last Monday in each month.

An extract from Ryan Incoll, the guest speaker at our November 2016 meeting 'By 1889 there was a report on the development of Thomas Davies enterprises in the Warragul Guardian: "Wynnstay, the farm is described as 600 acres, with 150 acres converted to a cultivatable state with four or five paddocks for fattening sheep and cattle. An orchard of seven acres provided the principle source of income with 2-3 tons of fruit including raspberries, currants and gooseberries. Strawberries, pears, apples and peaches were also recorded as present. The visit records a diverse range of ornamental plantings include six varieties of mulberry trees, chestnuts, weeping willows, olives, scotch heather, grapes, hops and flower gardens with heliotropes, jessamine and dahlias. The house is described as built by Thomas's son, as "not a perfect piece of architecture, well and faithfully built and replete with comfort".

**WARRANTYTE:** Warrantyte Festival March 24-25 2017 sees the celebration of forty years of Warrantyte festivals—a great cause for celebration. It is very doubtful that the organisers of the first festival in 1977 ever envisaged it would still be running 40 years later when so many around it have ceased. The Manningham & National Trust Heritage Festival will be held April 18-May 21.

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# GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

Flagstaff Gardens, which are just to your right, are Melbourne's oldest gardens. They take their name from a flagstaff erected in 1840 at the settlement's highest point, in order to communicate between the harbour and town. This became known as "Flagstaff Hill". Before this, the area was used as a cemetery and was known as Burial Hill. (There is a memorial in the gardens that marks the graves of the first European settlers.)

## GUIDED WALKS EVERY MONDAY

<b>Time</b>	11am
<b>Where</b>	Meet here at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A' Beckett St
<b>Cost</b>	\$10 Children under 16 free
<b>Duration</b>	75 minutes
<b>Booking preferred</b>	At reception, or 9326 9288
<b>email</b>	<a href="mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au">office@historyvictoria.org.au</a>

Join expert tour guides from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria – the historical society for the City of Melbourne – on a guided walk through the beautiful Flagstaff Gardens – the historic heart of the City, every Monday at 11.00am.

Visitors 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.

