



# History NEWS

Issue No. 334  
February - 2018  
Royal Historical Society  
of Victoria

REMEMBERING  
MELBOURNE  
ON SALE NOW!

## Hall of Fame's Olympic Collection



OLYMPIC GAMES, MELBOURNE, 1956

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### What a bequest can do!

In the next few months members will notice a number of significant changes at the RHSV as we continue the major rebuilding of our collection management, financial operational software and public face.

Most of this is thanks to a bequest by the late Doug Gunn (1935-2015). Doug was a quiet and unassuming man who was a regular at RHSV functions for many years, and all of us who were around at that time would have had an occasional chat with him. He had a keen interest in many aspects of Victorian local history and was a loyal member of the RHSV. We were impressed to learn that, although he did not drive, he travelled to RHSV functions all the way from Millgrove, near Warburton. Nevertheless it came as a complete surprise to us when we discovered, after his death in December 2015, that he had left the RHSV half of his estate.

That money is being invested in modernising many aspects of our financial, membership and other operations. Members will be aware that collection management has been significantly upgraded with the adoption of eHive as our collection software. That has involved and facilitated the upgrading and digitisation of the collection and its management, transferring the data bases to eHive from where it is being harvested by Trove.

You will not have noticed, but recently we adopted new financial operations software that is providing a much-improved control of such matters as financial reporting and staff records. In due course we will be linking this up with a range of new software that will handle and streamline such functions as our membership system, book stock control and sales and event bookings.

Perhaps most noticeable in coming months is that these will be accessed via a new website and with new RHSV branding. A great deal of research and preparatory work has been undertaken in recent months, thanks essentially to Collections Manager Christine Worthington and Alan Hall, one of our volunteers who also has considerable IT skills and whom we have employed as a consultant to manage the project. The timetable is not clear, but we are hoping that all this will be completed by April/May – the website will be operating and all the new financial and other functions will have been ‘bolted on’. Inevitably there will be some teething problems, but we expect members will soon find much greater efficiency in how we do things at the RHSV.

None of this can be done without money, and we are profoundly indebted to Doug Gunn whose bequest has made these things happen, quickly and efficiently. Not all of his bequest has been taken up by the IT project, and enough has been left over to provide further support for the RHSV collection and some other important activities.

What a bequest can do!

Don Garden

## RHSV Seeks

### Honorary Assistant Treasurer

The RHSV is seeking expressions of interest from Society members, or others, who are qualified accountants to become the honorary Assistant Treasurer prior to succeeding the current Treasurer. The Society is currently upgrading and modernising the financial, recording and reporting systems, so a good knowledge of computer-based accounting is highly desirable.

The position will also involve working with both the Executive Officer (EO) and the Administrative Officer who is responsible for the day-to-day data entry and collection duties and the preparation of the monthly P&L and Balance Sheet statements.

Enquiries and to apply, in the first instance, contact the EO, Rosemary Cameron, at [executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au) or on 03 9326 9288.

## Weston Bate Appeal

The family of Weston Bate has asked well-wishers to honour the memory of our late President with a donation to the RHSV. An event before the evening lecture on 20 February at the RHSV will announce how this money will be used to advance the RHSV and remember this dynamic historian and past RHSV president. Tax deductible donations can be made by cheque, direct debit to (ANZ BSB 013 040, A/c 3475 70336) or by phoning the office on 9326 9288 and making a credit card payment.



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239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

Library Hours: Monday to Friday

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Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

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

email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

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ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

President Don Garden  
Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron  
Administration Officer Amy Clay

Collections & Volunteer Co-ordinator: Christine Worthington  
Editor: Richard Broome  
[r.broome@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.broome@latrobe.edu.au)

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Olympic poster 1956. Courtesy Moonee Valley City Council.  
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# The Very Model of a Modern-Day Historian: Donald Menzies Gibb 1937-2017

As a boarder at Geelong College during the 1950s, Don Gibb won academic prizes and excelled at rowing. He was a sergeant major in the school cadets, but more memorable was his role as the exuberant Major General in a school production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Major General with encyclopaedic knowledge, a penchant for history and audience rapport, foreshadowed aspects of Don's life. Don had impressive general knowledge, history formed the lodestar of his career, and he was a natural teacher.

Donald Menzies Gibb was born in Melbourne on 18 October 1937, brother to Joan and John and son of Katie Gibb, née Jayes, a nurse, and Herbert Gibb, doctor. He attended Caulfield Grammar, Hutchens School in Hobart, Geelong College, Ormond College and Melbourne University, where he graduated BA and BEd. He later completed an MA on Sandringham, supervised by the doyen of local history, Professor Weston Bate.

Don taught history and geography at Camberwell and Waverley high schools before lecturing in history at Monash Teachers College, Rusden State College, Victoria College and Deakin University. He assisted college amalgamations with Deakin University and twice was convener of history. Don had a long, productive involvement with the Victorian Historical Association, forerunner of the History Teachers Association of Victoria; he was president from 1973 to 1975 and foundation editor of *Journal of History for Senior Students* 1969 to 1974. He participated in 'Safari' trips, taking history to schools in regional districts, co-authored HSC/VCE courses, contributed chapters to various books, wrote articles and numerous book reviews, worked as review editor of the *Journal of Australian Studies* from 1977 to 1996, and achieved academic recognition as associate professor in history at Deakin.

At an Ormond College ball, Don met Ann Balderstone from a well-known Canterbury family; they married in 1961, had three daughters and lived for many years in Balwyn Road, Canterbury. Don was a foundation member of the Canterbury History Group and a key supporter for 30 years. His attachment to the middle-class suburb of Canterbury led to a meticulously researched study of the local shopping precinct. *Visions of a Village* is a highly polished, jewel-like book, delightfully illustrated by Stuart Warmington. Don left an unfinished social history of Canterbury.

Don's involvement in community history flourished at the RHSV, and the society honoured him with a Fellowship in 2005. He was a Councillor from 1998 to 2008. Don served on the Council of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, which later awarded him a Certificate of Merit. Don represented the RHSV on the History Council of Victoria from 2005 to 2008. As convener of the Publications Committee for eleven years and a member for much longer, his collegiality, succession planning and unstinting support for history projects were invaluable. He encouraged Judith Smart to become editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal* and Richard Broome to succeed him as committee chairman. He painstakingly fact-checked the popular *Remembering Melbourne* and his name appears as one of the six contributors. Don's knowledge and understanding of RHSV history and culture were unparalleled, and his shrewd

judgment as well as personal kindness at the RHSV and beyond were legendary.

For over ten years Don selected undergraduates from Deakin University to serve as interns at the RHSV, thus benefiting student and society. From 2006 he wrote 'Books Received', the review pages in *History News*. These concise, insightful short reviews were informed by deep knowledge of Victorian history. Often, they were the only professional reviews received by self-published authors. Don's recent reviews of books on the Kulkynne national park and Governor La Trobe showed that, at the age of 80, he was at the height of his powers.

Don was a judge of the Victorian Community History Awards from 2011 to 2016. A team player with balanced judgement, he helped restore stability after a serious threat to the existence of the Awards. His egalitarian sympathy and scholarship gave him an affinity with a competition that favoured grass-roots projects and raised the standards and profile of community history. Don wrote masterful, incisive citations and a perceptive review of *The Victorian Bush*, the probing reflections of a Creswick forester, Ron Hateley, who died shortly before he was to receive a high award in 2011.

The main strands in Don's life coalesced at his memorial service in Canterbury: his devotion to family, bonding with friends, identification with place, and vocation in history. In a coordinated tribute, three of his ten grandchildren declared that he was indeed, a Don. The service was held in the heritage-listed Emulation Hall near the Maling Road shopping centre. The former masonic temple with ancient Egyptian motifs seemed symbolic of Don's view that understanding of the local was a pathway to the universal.

Carole Woods

assisted by Judith Smart and the Gibb family



Caption

# FROM MELBOURNE TO CAPE TOWN AND ON TO CAIRO IN 1922

**Two learned ladies, bright and jolly  
Set out for Cairo – surely folly  
But if the blacks their ways are blocking  
Their money's safe: Tis' in their stocking.**

One of these intrepid travellers was Jessie Webb, a historian, and a founding mother of the Historical Society of Victoria. The other was Dr Georgina Sweet, a parasitologist. Both were of the University of Melbourne and among its earliest women graduates.

What on earth possessed two middle-aged Melbourne women academics to head off to Cairo via Cape Town in 1922? How did they undertake such a journey, were they chased by elephants and rampaging natives and did they have to hack their way through jungles? And what did Sir Henry Jones of Hobart, author Rider Haggard, Manning Clark's mother-in-law, wine grower Lord Percy de Villiers of Stellenbosch, Mrs Knox Livingstone, a renowned American Suffragette and George Mayer, a Queensland sugar grower have to do with it all?

In 2008, not long after I, Jessie's relative, returned from living in Africa for seven years, I noted a short mention to this journey in Professor Ronald Ridley's 'A Memoir' of Jessie. I then discovered from the Australian Women's Archive records that Jessie had written a diary and that it was held by the Baillieu Library.

This exciting find was enough to set me off on a journey of discovery. But surprisingly, when the photocopy of the diary arrived for me to transcribe, I found that the record started in Uganda. Surely Jessie hadn't just started writing half-way into the journey? Communications with Professor Ridley followed. Considerable searching led him to most of the missing information in the form of an incomplete bunch of letters in the archive boxes of Jessie's own Professor, Ernest Scott. However, only one very basic sketched map was included and no other details of their route, apart from place names.

Consequently, I had to work it out from my own knowledge of the continent and my library of other such early travels – which fortuitously included an old Cape to Cairo railway time table. Also, there being no material on Southern Rhodesia, this section was compiled based on stories from other travellers of the period and well known routes and sights, as well as on brief mentions made in Jessie's letters and diary. Along with an incomplete hand-full of photographs, this information provided sufficient material for a reasonably accurate description of the whole journey.

The record sheds few clues on why Jessie

and Georgina undertook this amazing 7,000-mile journey, but a separate paper by myself analyses some evidence and provides a likely explanation. Here-in lies the connection with Sir Henry Jones, and possibly with Rider Haggard, who visited Melbourne in 1913 and 1916 on two official enquiries.

Oddly enough, it wasn't that uncommon for women to travel in the region, both pre and post-World War 1, and at least from the 1920s onwards, travellers moved in relative comfort and safely because of the colonial systems and infrastructure which existed. Also, with the exception of the Belgian Congo, English was spoken. Nethertheless, the journey was undoubtedly tiring and testing at times, and an accomplishment, especially considering the state of Georgie's health.

The letters and diary describe how over seven months, they travelled by car, train and boat and were briefly carried by bearers, through South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, the Belgium Congo, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, the Sudan and into Egypt. Visits were made to scenic spots and institutions, to universities for their respective work related purposes, to relatives and to people to whom they had letters of introduction, and others who they were passed onto in typical colonial fashion.



*Jessie Webb, historian, date unknown. Courtesy Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne*

Travelling the length of eastern Africa provides the observant traveller with a broad range of sights and experiences. Being able to convey them effectively to friends and family back home is quite a gift, which Jessie ably demonstrated. The record is very informative, being rich in descriptions of the places visited and the people encountered. Indicating Jessie's well-developed intellect and interest in public affairs, she also wrote about local political, administrative and economic development issues, usually based on discussions with colonial officials. Her writing often exhibited a delightful sense of humour, with considerable irony and a sense of self-depreciation, which is very entertaining.

The answers to the questions posed above and much other information can be found in the transcript of 'Cape Town to Cairo, A Record by Jessie Webb of her Journey with Georgina Sweet in 1922' and added material, compiled by me. A hard copy sits in the RHSV library or can be seen on line at <https://margocall.wordpress.com/> which also contains a short paper on the story, and will later include a longer analysis.

Margaret O'Callaghan

*Georgina Sweet on board SS Ulysses enroute to Cape Town 1922. Courtesy Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.*



# Halls of Fame Going the Distance

## You might ask, what the Olympic Games, a rubbish tip and a community hall have in common?

A hint is in the unassuming community hall in Bradshaw Street Essendon. Straddling a sizeable suburban block, long and low, still painted in Australia's Olympic green and yellow, its grand history provides the link from a local community back to 1950s Melbourne.

In the lead-up to the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, emotions and attitudes about Melbourne's ability to host the biggest sporting event in the world were mixed. While athletes fine-tuned their preparations to compete on home soil, deep public angst emerged concerning how Australians might be perceived by the rest of the world. Would we measure up? For a time, self-destructive criticism raged as Australians publicly voiced their views on whether we were good enough to take our place on the international stage. Soon, what started as worrying how French or German visitors might react to linoleum on the floor of their hotel rooms, and wondering what they would they make of our design standards and 6 o'clock closing, had turned into a crisis of national identity about who we were, and what we represented.

Amidst this, local councillors from West Essendon were concerned with solving a different matter of public interest. Complaints emerged from disgruntled residents about the stench emanating from the rubbish tip in Bradshaw Street. Proud of their developing district, the West Essendon Progress Association set their sights on solving the problem.

Concurrently in another quarter of the city, architects from the five leading firms commissioned to design the Olympic village under the supervision of architect Harold Bartlett, were finalising their plans for different forms of innovative low-cost buildings. Residents of Essendon didn't know it at the time, but contained in the architects' plans for the Olympic village lay the answer to their desire for more community infrastructure, and a resolution to the matter of their smelly rubbish tip.

In Heidelberg, twelve kilometres north of Melbourne's CBD, an Olympic village materialised set on thirty hectares of land. Unlike previous overseas Olympic villages, which had limited use after the games, Melbourne's Olympic village was constructed to utilise houses and utility buildings after the Games. Australia's Olympic Committee devised this way of re-purposing Olympic buildings. The idea was favoured and funded by the Commonwealth government and the State Housing Commission of Victoria, both keen to fill the gap in post-war public housing. Concrete villas, two and three-story blocks of flats, a total of eight hundred and forty-one buildings were pre-fabricated in the Housing Commission's factory at Holmesglen. The ten main Olympic dining halls, each 82 squares with full kitchens, were built elsewhere, co-ordinated by the Housing Commission to ensure they matched with form and colour the overall design of the village.

Five months after the December 1956 Closing Ceremony, an announcement appeared in the May 1957 *Essendon Gazette* trumpeting victory, 'Olympic Hall for West Essendon.' The West Essendon Progress Association had purchased one of the Olympic dining rooms, 'on the spot', describing its purchase of an 'International Cafeteria', 'as a bargain' despite removal costs and alterations required to fit health regulations. The Association was impressed with the quality of the building materials, two halls, wooden floors suitable for dancing, stage and main hall with dressing rooms, conveniences and a splendid fitted kitchen. Three separate entrances meant several groups could use the hall simultaneously. The Council ensured the tip was filled. In December 1958, the hall named the 'West Essendon Progress Hall', was open for business.

Today the Bradshaw Street hall, thought to be the only Olympic catering hall still in existence, remains home to the Moonee Valley Brass Band, a choir, judo school, a theatre company and a garden club.

More than medals for our athletes, a debate on what it meant to be Australian and the commencement of Australian television transmission,

the hall, built as 'temporary,' is lasting testament to the actions of a community hungry for infrastructure and remains a vital and vibrant part of that local community.


Rozzi Bazzani



Olympic Village Heidelberg. Courtesy of State Literary of Victoria.



West Essendon Progress Hall today. Courtesy Rozzi Bazzani



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## Margaret Anderson: Service and Creative Leadership



Yearning for more public history, Margaret took up the position of Director of Social and Cultural History at the Western Australian Museum (1994-99) where she energised many of its programs, including the redevelopment of the Fremantle History Museum and innovative programs with Indigenous groups. She also served on many outside bodies including the Board of the National Portrait Gallery, Museums Australia, and edited the *Museums Australia Journal*. More recently she had chaired the Council of Australasian Museums Directors (2007-11), and also a Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing (2012-15).

In 2000 Margaret became the Chief Executive Officer of the History Trust of South Australia. She was responsible for managing heritage buildings, leading research programs on the state's history and devising and managing outreach programs for community history. After fifteen years of such diverse work and with a desire to live in Melbourne, she accepted her current position of Manager of the Old Treasury Building, which is being revitalised under her creative leadership.

Margaret's lifelong passion is history, but also its presentation in everyday life to engage wider audiences with the magic of past worlds. Her skills of leadership and management of complex administrative systems makes her a rare combination of historian, curator and project director. As she commented: 'I'm still fascinated by the ways in which we craft history for presentation in museums, and by the changing dynamic of that process'. Margaret added: knowledge of the past is an essential ingredient in a civil society, and if I can contribute to that outcome through the work that I do, even in a small way, I am happy'.

The RHSV is indeed fortunate to have a councillor of such depth and breadth of experience.

Richard Broome

Margaret Anderson, a Councillor with the RHSV, completed an MA in women's history and became a curator of history at the Western Australian Museum (1976-81), beginning a lifelong passion for public history.

In 1982 she became the Founding Director of the innovative Migration Museum in Adelaide, laying down skills that have shaped her career. The implications of being a founding director, were that Margaret had to project manage the fit-out and creation of the Museum; hire and train staff; oversee the building of a collection for display; devise and manage administrative systems; develop a community awareness of the importance of migration history and steer the museum to a position of prominence.

From there Margaret entered academia, lecturing at Deakin University in Museum Studies (1987) and then Australian History at Monash University (1988-93). Between 1979 and the present Margaret has published over fifty articles and chapters on women's history and also on museum practice.



## David Thompson: a Creative yet Grounded Volunteer

David Thompson began volunteering at the RHSV in 2002. Initially he split his time between cataloguing library items and cataloguing maps in the Images Room. Eventually David's tasks in the Images Room took consumed his volunteering time and he became responsible for the Artworks Collection. He overhauled the Artworks database and made folders and boxes to improve object storage.

David also became increasingly involved in working on exhibitions. What began as responses to simple requests for 'some pictures to put on the walls', developed into the researching and mounting of several exhibitions on topics related to the history of Victoria and Melbourne. David also assisted other researchers in mounting exhibitions on topics including Melbourne theatres, Royal visits, the Australian Red Cross, the first HMAS Melbourne, and recent exhibitions associated with the book *Remembering Melbourne*.

An enthusiast for aviation history, David found that the RHSV Collections included a surprising number of aviation-related items and used these to curate *Dancing the Skies*, an aviation themed exhibition.

The RHSV has acquired by donation a considerable number of photographs, documents, ephemera and objects associated with Macpherson Robertson, the Melbourne confectionery manufacturer and philanthropist. David has become responsible for the MacRobertson Collection and has curated an exhibition on the life of MacRobertson.

In addition to work in the Images Room, David, ably assisted by John Rose, has been involved in DIY tasks at the RHSV. These have included constructing the shelving at the west end of the library, modifying the portable display panels used for exhibitions, and general maintenance tasks.

## AM Australia Day Award The Late Hugh McDonald Anderson

'For significant service to Australian folklore as an historian and author, and to the community of Victoria through historical societies'.



# Safeguarding the Collection: RHSV goes digital

The cultural heritage industry is experiencing significant changes due to information technology and RHSV is embracing the move to digital. As well as preserving and providing better access for members, digitising the collection has resulted in other unexpected benefits for RHSV.

RHSV has been making digital copies of their collection items for years. Annual reports and newsletters have been available on the website for some time now, and collection items are digitised for exhibitions, online (such as the Judge Willis webpage), as well as physical exhibitions (like *Standing on the Corner*), and for publications like *Remembering Melbourne*. However, simply making a digital copy of an item is not where the preservation process ends.

Just like a physical collection, a digital collection requires multiple processes to properly preserve objects. With a physical item, you may need to write a catalogue entry, number the item, place it in an archival quality receptacle, and shelve it in the right place. When accessioning a digital item, the same steps are taken - except the catalogue entry is called 'metadata', and the archival quality receptacle is a secure server.

Previously RHSV stored their digital collection items on either discs or USB drives, however neither of these options are 'preservation-friendly'. Compact discs are prone to scratching and items were often saved in formats that do not age well (ever tried to open an old Word document and found that the file format is too old to be read by your new Microsoft Word software?). RHSV was aware of the growing need for a custom digital repository to ensure the longevity of the digital collection and organisation records.

Last year digitisation of the collection, for the purpose of preservation, commenced. The collection is being digitised for a number of reasons: should anything happen to the physical collection, a digital copy will be available

original items are better preserved if the digital copy is used for access instead of the original items being handled repeatedly

original formats such as glass slides, require special equipment to view, unlike digital images

Many different software programs were considered for RHSV's digital repository. We required software that would read files for corruption, transfer to a preservation-friendly format, bundle the images with their metadata (i.e. catalogue information to make them searchable), create multiple copies for preservation and access, save the files in a secure location, reprocess files regularly to ensure their fixity, and put the access

copies in a place that makes the images searchable and viewable. This sounds like a lot of work, but there is a company that created software that is capable of all these tasks: Artefactual.

Artefactual created both digital repository software programs that are used at RHSV. Archivemata processes the files, and AtoM (which stands for 'Access to Memory') is where the images can be viewed. Artefactual's software is OAI (Open Archival Information System) compliant and in keeping with best practice digital preservation principles they are open source programs, which means that not only are they free, they are always being updated by IT specialists all over the world and have an excellent online support community.

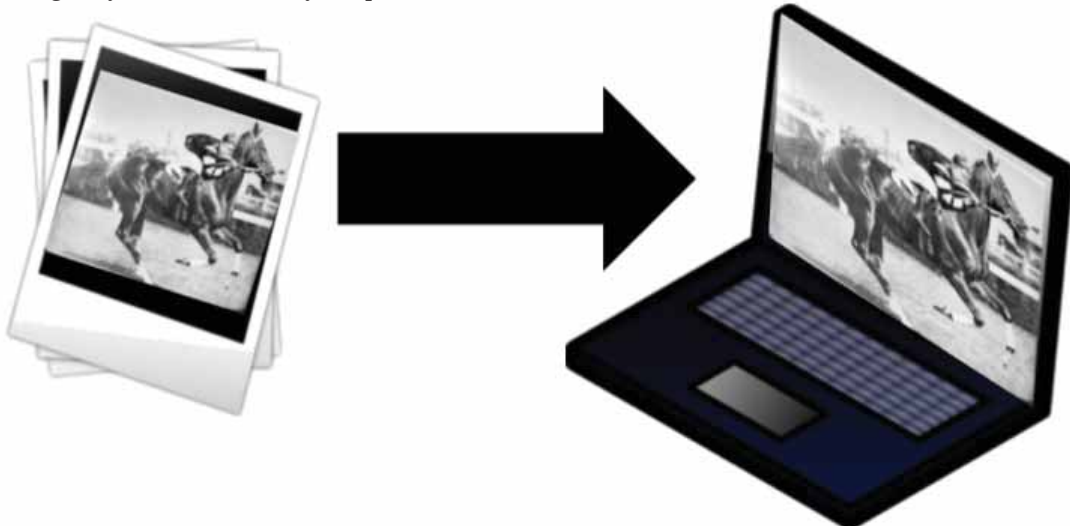
RHSV enlisted the support of Piers Higgs and his team at Gaia Resources in Perth, who remotely assisted in configuring the software. Gaia Resources are huge supporters of Canada-based Artefactual and have been behind the scenes of many instances of Archivemata in Australia. Our thanks go out to both Gaia Resources and WCS for their IT support in this project.

At which stage of the project are we now? Importing digitised manuscripts is slowed only by the pace of digitisation. We're sending two to four manuscript boxes per week, and processing the digital files on their return. RHSV's own archive and publications are also being added, as well as some rare books, which had already been digitised due to poor condition. Next for processing will be glass slides from the image collection and the Pioneer Registers.

Throughout this project, we've had a number of unexpected benefits. While processing items that were digitised ten or more years ago, the originals were checked, and we found that the originals have already faded significantly since digitisation. A number of items thought to be lost have been uncovered in compact discs and USB drives. Also, during preparation for digitisation, metal staples, clips, and pins had to be removed which would over time only have further damaged the paper they were attached to. So, by digitising, we're also improving the preservation of the physical collection.

We hope that this project will serve as a digitisation roadmap for Victorian local historical societies. Expect to see more news, advice, and programming for digitisation projects in the future.

*Sophie Shilling*



# Heritage Committee Active on Several Fronts

**The Heritage Committee is engaged in struggles on several fronts, testing the limits of what a volunteer committee can do.**

The biggest battle right now is to reduce the impact of the proposed development at St Vincent's Hospital discussed in the July 2017 *History News* ('RHSV's New Heritage Committee'). It would involve destruction of a small but significant historic building (Easthill House) and massive impact on two buildings on the Victorian Heritage Register: the Eastern Hill Hotel and Dodgshun House. Ian Wight and Judith Smart represented the Committee at compulsory arbitration. The issue is now before VCAT. Ian has led the struggle with a ripper of a submission and Judy has been helping behind the scenes, joined by local historian Louise Elliott and architect Su Dance. As always at VCAT, the developers have the money to pay armies of professionals while volunteers exhaust themselves preparing detailed submissions and attending hearings, which will now go to a second week in February.

Judy Smart also made a submission on our behalf to the Melbourne City Council, opposing a proposal for a 39-storey tower to be cantilevered over the Robur Tea House, one of the few remaining traces of Southbank's long history as a support base for shipping and industry.

Dr Smart has been our representative cooperating with the National Trust and a number of East Melbourne groups and churches against state government plans to rezone the old Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre site in St Andrews Place from Public Use to Mixed Use in order to permit intense development and so sell at a higher price. This site falls between the Fitzroy Gardens and the Treasury Gardens, close to Parliament House and St Patrick's Cathedral. It's one of inner Melbourne's most significant and sensitive sites and it should be designated a heritage precinct so that development is sensitive and in scale. Letters to the Planning Minister would be a great help.

The proposed vandalism of the Queen Victoria Market continues to preoccupy us. The City has submitted plans to Heritage Victoria to obtain a permit to dismantle the sheds, excavate three levels below them for new facilities, and build new vehicle ramps, lifts, stairwells, toilets, a giant compost bin and other facilities. Our strong submission to Heritage Victoria can be found on the RHSV web site (look for Heritage Committee under About Us).

Council proposes major intrusions into the Victorian fabric of the market.

- Two lift and service access structures across Shed B near Peel Street, extending through the roof (see illustration);

- Six lift and service access structures across Sheds A, B and C near Queen Street;

- Three lanes of vehicle access from Peel Street to the proposed basement car park, which will replace everything under the roof of Shed D, west of the central alley; the shed will be widened and raised and the sides of the vehicle access ramp will be blocked with high walls;

- A new amenities and visitor information block, which will take up the rest of Shed D.

The open sheds are the heart of the market and they will suffer massive intrusion. The result will no longer be an 'intact collection of purpose built ... market buildings', as the Victorian Heritage Register puts it. Is such a loss of heritage fabric justified?

The Council justifies it by claiming that they need to modernise the market because 'the profitability of Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd has declined.' But they admit that 'revenue has steadily increased.'

The Lord Mayor justified it by claiming that the 'the traders don't even have refrigeration.' In fact, most traders had cool rooms nearby on the Munro site. The idea was to provide fridges for each stall. But that proved

impossible and Council officers speak of 'relocating cool rooms from Franklin Street to the new basement', thus admitting that refrigeration was always available. Waiting for a lift will likely take longer than driving a forklift to Franklin Street. The redevelopment has lost all its rationale.

The next step is a decision from the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria, who can grant a permit, grant a permit with restrictive conditions, or deny a permit. The Lord Mayor's current difficulties mean there's a power vacuum in Council. If Heritage Victoria puts restrictions on the proposal, that might make it possible for Council to make a strategic retreat and save the QVM. At this juncture, we need letters to the editor, to the planning minister and to prominent councillors, such as: Cr Rohan Leppert, Cr Nicholas Reece, Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley, and Cr Cathy Oke. And don't forget Cr Jackie Watts, who has maintained steadfast opposition to the proposal.

Charles Sowerwine,  
Chair,  
Heritage Committee.



Illustration: Proposed Peel Street Service and Lift Access Cores (Source: CoM)

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# Polish Museum in Footscray

**‘We are our community’s memory – a living collection of images and documents reflecting our Polish-Australian history and heritage’.**

The Polish Museum and Archives was established in 1991. Several first and second generation Polish Australians saw the importance of collecting and preserving historical materials that documented the social history and community life of Polish immigrants living in Australia. The organisation was incorporated in 1992 and in 2017 it received tax-deductible status.

The Museum is located in Millennium House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 296 Nicholson Street Footscray. It is open to the public on every 1st Saturday of the month (10 am to 2 pm), every 3rd Sunday of the month (10 am to 2 pm) and by appointment. It is closed at Easter, Christmas and New Year’s Day.

The Museum and its activities are run entirely by volunteers on a shoestring budget. Its goals include, to:

- organise, facilitate and operate a Museum for the collection and protection of historical items and artefacts of the Polish community in Australia;
- provide information and advice about Polish and Polish-Australian history;
- research, document, publish and provide resources and community contacts about the history of Polish settlement in Australia;
- conduct interviews and education

programs about Polish history and the history of Polish settlement in Australia;

- develop and conduct programs, public information campaigns, sessions and seminars to promote and preserve Polish history and the history of the Polish community in Australia, and
- maintain and promote Polish heritage, and preserve Polish traditions through Museum activities.

The Museum’s Major Activities Include:

**Collecting** documents and photographs that relate to the story of Polish migration experiences from around Australia.

**An Oral History Project:** collecting oral testimonies of post-war migrants which document the experiences and memories of these early settlers. It is vital that these stories be recorded and passed down to future generations of Polish Australians.

**Mounting Exhibitions:** which in the past have examined the Polish explorer Paweł Strzelecki; the experiences of Polish Siberian deportees; the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and the legacy of the Polish Australian violinist Stanisław de Tarczyński. Our current project focuses on the Polish ex-servicemen migration program to Australia in 1947/48 and the experiences of these soldier-migrants.

**Heritage and Education programs:**

which include heritage and genealogy workshops around Australia assisting with genealogical research and follow-up trips to Poland. Research groups have been established in Melbourne and Sydney, which focus on research and writing family histories. Monthly meetings of the Polish Writers Group are held in Melbourne, at which people workshop their research and writing.

**How Can You Help the Polish Museum?**

- By taking part in the oral history project and talking about your experiences;
- By volunteering to record interviews with elderly Polish immigrants.
- By donating memorabilia of historical importance.
- By becoming a member of the Association or by making a donation.

**Contact Details:**

the Museum  
[polishmuseumarchivesaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:polishmuseumarchivesaustralia@gmail.com)

Website - <http://www.polishmuseumarchives.org.au>

Dr Zdzisław Derwinski – President or Lucyna Artymiuk - Development Officer  
 – 0403 655 044



**Four Polish soldiers before disembarkation in Sydney on the SS Strathnaver, August 1948. Courtesy the Polish Museum**



**Polish Community Event in Melbourne in the 1930s. Courtesy the Polish Museum**

## RHSV History Victoria Support Group Seminar on Succession Planning

28 April 2018 9.00 for 9.30am – 3pm

Hosted by Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc at the Lilydale Primary School  
63 Castella Street, Lilydale (corner of Castella & Jones Streets)

### TALKS INCLUDE:

**Christine Worthington**, RHSV Collections Manager – ‘Digitisation and Historical Societies’. **Lisa Clausen** (VCHA winner), on Dame Elizabeth Murdoch’s Cruden Farm and her winning VCHA book *Farm Diaries*. **Rosemary Cameron** EO RHSV on how to run successful historical walks. The keynote speaker followed by a panel discussion is **Dr Bernadette Flynn**, FAHS Outreach Officer, on ‘Succession Planning’ and the seven steps to thriving and surviving. She also introduces her recent FAHS Succession Planning Guide <http://www.history.org.au/SuccessionPlanning.html>

**BOOKINGS** <https://www.trybooking.com/TTGG>

**COST** \$20 per person (includes morning tea and lunch)

## 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 April 2018 issue, please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 10 March 2018. Prepared by Volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

**ANGLESEA:** Meetings are held at History House 5a McMillan Street, Anglesea Entrance 4 of the McMillan Street Community Precinct. 2.00pm Sunday 4 February Speaker: Marianne Messer ‘Indigenous Evidence Around Anglesea’. March Outing: Thursday 8 March Combined visit to Beeac Windmill Park, talk with local historian Followed by \* Lunch at the Farmers Arms Hotel \* Transport leaves History House 10.00am \* Cost: \$15 includes transport and morning tea. \* Lunch extra. Members & visitors welcome to all activities. Transport can be provided to all meetings and activities by phoning 5263 3085.

**BALLAN:** Notice of Annual General Meeting 2018 - The AGM is at the Ballan Old Courthouse, 45-47 Steiglitz Street, Ballan commencing at 8pm on Wednesday 28 February. Our guest speaker will be Peter Zala; his topic is ‘The first Royal Tour’ the visit of Prince Alfred’. All welcome. Please bring a plate for supper.

**BALWYN:** All meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn. Thursday 8 February 2018 – 8:00 pm - Speaker: Loreen Chambers. On ‘Some Pioneers of Early Melbourne: From unnamed little shanty town to Colonial Capital 1835-1851’. Loreen Chambers a retired secondary teacher, writes and lectures on Charles Joseph La Trobe’s life after his return to England. Loreen was the editor of the C. J. La Trobe Society’s journal *La Trobeana* from 2009 to 2015.

**BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS:** 11 February ‘Mother and Daughter, Father and Son’ walk begins at the front gate at 2pm On this guided tour of the renowned Brighton General Cemetery we will meet the mother who was an activist while her daughter was a painter as well as the convict and his son the Premier of Victoria along with other interesting people. 11 March ‘We Call Australia Home’ walk begins at the front gate at 2pm. 15 April Anzac Day walk. Bookings are essential for all walks: non-members \$15 - members \$10. Ring Lois on 9558 4248.

## Digitising Victoria’s Mechanics’ Institutes Records

Thanks to philanthropic and government funding, since 2003 the Mechanics’ Institutes of Victoria Inc. has been digitising the records of Victoria’s Institutes/Halls. To date the extant records of more than one hundred Institutes have been completed. The MIV is keen to digitise more to enhance the **Mechanics’ Institutes Resource Centre**, at Prahran Mechanics’ Institute, as a major central resource for the study of community and cultural history in Victoria.

Undigitised Institute records held by local government, historical societies, museums and in private hands, can be digitized free, and the originals will be returned along with a digital CD. Copyright remains with the records owner or provider. In the first instance contact should be made with Scanning Project Coordinator Judith Dwyer.

**Email:** [mirc@mivc.org.au](mailto:mirc@mivc.org.au)

Please note the MIV INC. new web address <http://www.mivc.org.au/> and visit it for additional features, including a new on-line store, offering 2018 Art Project calendars, cards, prints and books.

**CARLTON:** Meetings are held at 7.30 pm, at the North Carlton Library, 667 Rathdowne Street. Upcoming events: our Tenth Anniversary function in March, and the writing and publishing of our new book. Other activities in 2018 include: sorting (and digitising?) our photo collection, digitising of our tapes and CDs, talks at Kathleen Syme Centre in March and June, on-going historical walks series and newsletters, and researching of new material for the website.

**CASTLEMAINE:** Co-ordinator and volunteers needed for our Trash & Treasure, 7 & 8 April 2018. We are looking for storage space for sale items, a co-ordinator for the T&T and volunteer salespeople. Please speak to President, Carol Dorman, for further info [cadorm@gmail.com](mailto:cadorm@gmail.com)

**COBURG:** Upcoming speakers in the Coburg Library Meeting Room - February 22 (Thursday), 8 pm: Adrian Burrow, Senior Heritage Advisor, Extent, 'The Bush Reserve Archaeological Dig and William Thomas - Aboriginal Protector' (Moreland Libraries Read More programme joint event). March 17 (Saturday), 1:45 pm: Moreland Historical Societies combined meeting: A tribute to Olympic silver medallist and former Coburg athlete and Brunswick local, Peter Norman.

**CORNISH:** Saturday 3 March 2018 - St Piran's Day Celebrations in Ballarat at the Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm with historical displays. A shared lunch will be held at 12.15 pm. 17 March 2018 - Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival - Myths and Legends. The CAV will not be holding a Festival in 2018 but we will have displays and family history research in the MUIOOF Hall in Eaglehawk as part of the Festival. A Bardic Ceremony will be held during the afternoon. The Eaglehawk Uniting Church has invited members to attend its church service on the Sunday morning if they are staying in the area.

**DAYLESFORD:** Fabric of Daylesford and District - An exhibition showcasing fabric items made or worn in Daylesford opens 26 -28 Jan. 2018 until end of February. The fabric mills of Daylesford - the East St Woollen & Worsted Mill, the Albert St Mill and the Daytex Mill - will be showcased. Items in the Museum Collection will be on display as well. Some highlights include works by: Fanny Jenkin who was recently exhibited at the NGV; a Maggie Cross traditional tapestry; the Community Embroidered Banners donated to DDHS in 2016, a quilt by the Spa Quilters and patchwork quilts made by local school students.

**FRANKSTON:** The Buggy Shed requires a new floor and once completed the Shed will be cleaned and revamped. The Tea Rooms will be redecorated and the garden areas replanted and new antique bench

seats installed. A new display of 1930's nightdresses and nylons has been created in the back rooms of the Homestead. New display cabinets will be placed in the Museum with updated displays.

**GEELONG MUSEUM ASSOCIATION:** During 2018, our 'Last Sunday Series' of illustrated talks will continue on the Last Sunday of each month (February to November) 2-4pm in the National Wool Museum, Geelong. Each lecture is followed by afternoon tea (gold coin donation) and sales of the lecturer's books when available. Details and bookings on our Geelong Museum Facebook page.

25 February: Susie Zada, 'The Holden Family and Holden Brothers Circus in our region' - [www.trybooking.com/TDRW.25](http://www.trybooking.com/TDRW.25)  
 March: Norman Houghton, 'Howard Hitchcock: the life of a great Geelong civic leader' - [www.trybooking.com/TFTF](http://www.trybooking.com/TFTF). 29 April: Ross McMullin, 'Will Dyson - WW1 war artist' - [www.trybooking.com/TFTM](http://www.trybooking.com/TFTM); 27 May: Rod Charles, 'A Whirr of Wheels. Cycling in Geelong' - [www.trybooking.com/TFWB](http://www.trybooking.com/TFWB)

**GLEN EIRA: TRAIN STORIES WANTED** for inclusion in a book, relating to Oakleigh, Hughesdale, Murrumbena, Carnegie or Caulfield stations? Ordinary stories of travel, love stories, friendship, sad stories, exciting excursions, daily commuting; the full range of experiences had on trains. We want to create a social history of different times from 1900 - 2015. The type of train, atmosphere, fashions, conversations had or overheard, newspapers read - everything. Short stories up to 3000 words and photographs too, if you have any, of you, the trains and the stations. Typed stories are preferred, but we will accept them all. Please include your name and contact details. You will be contacted before publication and receive a copy. Contact: Glen Eira Historical Society, 965 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield, 3162. Phone: 9077 5395

**HEIDELBERG:** Sunday 11 Feb - 29 April, the Research Room at the Museum will be open from 2 - 5 pm. In early 2018 volunteers will be working in the museum's court room on a project involving sorting and restoring material from our collections. An interesting exhibition will be available for museum visitors on the display panels from the entry through to the research room. Tuesday 13 Feb. Talk by Colleen Wooley 'Arresting Women - Celebrating 100 years of women in the Victorian Polic'. Sunday 18 March Banyule Bus tour - details to be announced.

**KEW:** Following two immensely successful exhibitions in 2017 - Asylums on the Yarra and Kew Scouts and Guides - the Kew Historical Society opened its most recent exhibition 'Theatre & Music in Kew: 1950s

& 1960s' on Saturday 14 October. The exhibition is open to the public at the Kew Court House until the end of February 2018, when a new exhibition opens to coincide with the 2018 Kew Festival.

**KILMORE:** We have acquired digitised copies of several records originating from local schools and currently stored in the Victorian Public Records Office (PROV). Included is some Kilmore Public School 1568 correspondence from the 1880s. In requesting these records we learnt that it appears PROV holds no pupil lists for this school. However we did obtain original copies of the pupil registers for Bylands School 1105 (1873-1984) and Glenburnie School 1200 (1873-1900); these have been indexed. Please contact the Society if you would like us to check for names in these records.

**KOROIT:** Open Days - The Society's rooms and museum at the Common School are open on the 2nd Sunday each month from 1pm-4pm on 10 December, 14 January, 11 February, 11 March. We will also open some additional days in January when the Lake School of Celtic Music Song and Dance is in Koroit, 2-7 January. We are waiting to hear from them whether they require the facilities at the school before we confirm which days.

**LAKES ENTRANCE:** After years of languishing in paddocks around Bruthen, two of the town's heritage buildings have been faithfully restored by local volunteers, tradesmen and history devotees. The fettlers' hut features interpretive panels telling the story of Bruthen and surrounds, and covers Aboriginal history, early settlement and transport—by water, road and rail—including the origin of the word 'fettler'. A fettler being a repair or maintenance worker on the railways.

Well done to all those involved in this restoration project. The fettlers hut and police lock-up will now be open to the public on a regular basis.

**LOCKINGTON AND DISTRICT HERITAGE LIVING COMPLEX:** Come and help us celebrate our 21<sup>ST</sup> Annual Vintage Tractor and Machinery Rally on 21 & 22 April, 2018. Displays of working vintage tractors, stationary engines, steam engines, trucks, motorcycles, cars, farm machinery, Your Pride and Joys, etc. Proof of Insurance, regardless with whom, must be shown or entry could be denied. Saturday: 10.00am - 4.00pm, Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm. Entry fee per person: \$5 (primary aged children free when accompanied by an adult.) Free entry for exhibitors. Camping, showering & toilet facilities available on site. (Dogs on leash only on rally property please).

**MIDDLE PARK:** All meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Albert Park Baptist Church Hall, corner Kerferd Road and Richardson Street (entry through OFFICE door in Richardson Street). Monday 5 February 2018, speaker Brian Carter 'Urban Forest in Canterbury Road'. Brian was influential in planning and creating our urban forest. He will speak about his efforts to gain community involvement in the project. Monday 2 April 2018, Janet Bolitho and Margaret Bride, Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, will speak about 'Mapping Port Melbourne's past'. Using historic maps and aerial photos they are tracking changes to Port Melbourne and Fisherman's Bend.

**MONBULK:** Monbulk Historical Society is currently undertaking a new project. We are looking at the origins of the road names in the Monbulk, The Patch, Kallista and Sherbrooke areas. If you have any photographs, maps or information you are able to share with us, please contact us via email [explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au). We would really appreciate and welcome hearing from you. If you would like to join our group to help research, we will be back at the Monbulk Hub each Wednesday morning from 7 February 2018.

**NEPEAN:** As part of the National Trust Heritage festival in April, we are planning an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia to showcase and celebrate the diversity of cultures that have shaped our shared heritage on the Southern Mornington Peninsula. At first count, we identified 14 different nationalities among past residents. Do you have a relevant story to share about your family background? We welcome contributions to this exhibition. Please contact Bergliot Dallas, Joy Kitch or Janet South through [admin@nhs.asn.au](mailto:admin@nhs.asn.au) or Tel. 5984 0255 (leave a message)

**PAYNESVILLE MARITIME:** Classic Boat Rally assistance required please. Just a reminder that PMM has committed to have The Shed open for visitors to the Classic Boat Rally on March 3 and 4, and that we need to bolster our volunteer guides for the occasion. Please put it in your diary and let us know that you can provide an hour or so of time on either or both days.

**PHILLIP ISLAND:** Quarterly lunch meeting Wednesday 14 February 2018, 12 noon at the RSL Anzac Room, Cnr Thompson Ave and Cowes-Rhyll Rd Cowes. Speaker: Matthew Bowtell. Matthew was the Victorian Hero for 2017, awarded for his pro bono work making prosthetic finger parts for partial amputees, especially children. Matthew will tell us of his journey and his aims for the future in this amazing field of 3D printer prosthetics. Bookings are essential. To book: phone Judy Gittus – 5952 6498, or email: [j.gittus43@gmail.com](mailto:j.gittus43@gmail.com)

**PORT FAIRY:** Two summer exhibitions at The Port Fairy Museum. If you were wondering what was fashionable in beachwear a century ago, then include the Port Fairy Museum on your list of "list of things to do". There is a wonderful male swimming costume in navy and red, accessorised with a matching straw hat that is part of the new "Port Fairy Bathing" Exhibition. Our second exhibition "Needles and Pins" looks at the history of sewing and craft. Although now considered a leisure activity, the making and embellishment of clothing and homewares was a necessary skill in bygone days. The display has examples of handmade clothing and craft, as well as the tools used to make them.

**PORT MELBOURNE:** The guest speaker at our February meeting will be Adair Bunnett OAM. Adair will look at the ways in which the settlement and history of South Melbourne and Port Melbourne are both similar and different. As usual, we will meet at 7.30pm on Monday 26 February, 2018, upstairs at Port Melbourne Town Hall.

**PRAHRAN MECHANICS INSTITUTE:** Visit a remarkable free exhibition that tells the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped Victoria across three centuries. Exhibit highlights - photographic stills from the making of Ned Kelly the film, starring Mick Jagger; trophies, scrapbooks and a bicycle from the Australian cycling craze of the 1930s; 19th-century maps, pamphlets and photographs of Melbourne's early water supply, Yan Yean Reservoir; images by celebrated photographer Maggie Diaz that illustrate the printing and binding technologies of the mid-1960s. When: 02 December 2017–01 May 2018, 10am–6pm daily except Thursdays, when it is open until 9pm. Where: SLV Dome Galleries, Level 5

**SALE:** The first permanent European settler in Flooding Creek, soon to become Sale, was Archie McIntosh who set up a forge in 1844. Early industries included brewing, engineering, flour milling, cordial making, and brickworks, then farm implement makers, carriage works and butter and bacon factories followed. After WW1 a flax mill, woollen mills, and other small scale industries were established. During World War II, a clothing factory was set up. Post-war, a plastics factory replaced the woollen mills, utilizing the same premises. Visit our exhibition 'Made in Sale' open to May 2018 at the Sale Historical Museum, 130 Foster Street, Sale. Open Wednesday & Sunday 1.30-4.00pm.

**STAWELL:** The Society possesses a large collection of museum and historical records. It includes: 35,000 cards telling the history of local residents, businesses and clubs, dating back to the 1860s; 4000 photographs depicting events in Sale; local newspapers dating back to 1868; Realia (Museum objects); Family enquiry files; maps including parish plans from around the district; cemetery records; a library which includes reference books, and local research findings. The Society's Museum is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM and everybody is welcome to visit.

**WOADY YALLOCK:** Volunteers required for the sausage sizzle and Devonshire teas at the Smythesdale Country Market stall, Saturday 17 February 9:00 – 1:00. Books and bric-a-brac at bargain prices.



**SPECIAL ISSUE**

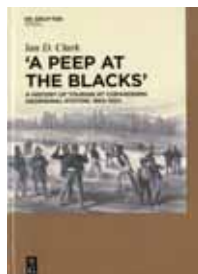
This special issue, which is sure to whet legal appetites, is available for \$15 at the RHSV and \$20 posted. It will make an ideal gift for legal friends.

# Books Received by Lee Sulkowska:

**AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE BOOKS TO THE RHSV FOR THE LIBRARY AND FOR CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN BOOKS RECEIVED.**

## 'A Peep at the Blacks' A History of Tourism at Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, 1863-1924

Ian D. Clark, De Gruyter Open Ltd, Warsaw/Berlin, 2015, pp ix-263, ISBN 9783110468236



This is a very thoroughly researched book highlighting an uncomfortable and often ignored subject. The Aboriginal station of Coranderrk was one in a line of 'human zoos', a concept that horrifies today, however was a popular tourist attraction in the 19th century British empire. Reading almost like a PhD project, Clark has left absolutely no stone unturned in documenting the history of the reserve, the hard-to-read condescending accounts of the visitors and how the Aboriginal peoples responded to this fish bowl existence. There is a very extensive index and wide referencing for those interested in further study.

## Benalla Migrant Camp: A Difficult Heritage

Bruce Pennay, Benalla Migrant Camp Inc., Benalla, 2017 50 Year Celebration Revised Special Edition, pp iv-55, ISBN 97806469393131

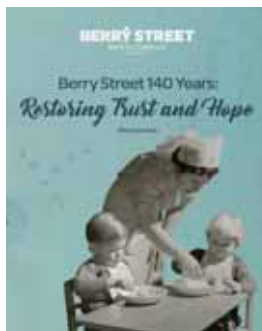


This is a commissioned history of the Benalla Migrant Camp, a part of an ongoing attempt to document the post-war migrant past of Benalla. This is no easy task as Pennay himself attests, due to the strange apathy around commemorating this particular camp. Artfully constructed, the book has a three-pronged approach; approaching the history from the view of the nation, the town of Benalla and the camps' former residents. While Benalla did not have a dark or particularly dramatic past, the author nevertheless paints an interesting picture of the attitude of a nation, a Victorian country town and personal accounts of the migrant experience post 1945.

## Berry Street 140 Years: Restoring Trust and Hope

Alicia Cerreto, Berry Street Inc, Richmond, 2017, pp 99, ISBN 9780994635556

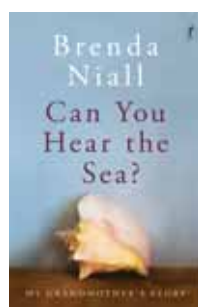
A beautifully laid out history of Berry Street, a charitable institution for mothers and children in need, follows 140 continuing years of operation. Chapters are presented in decades from the 1870s to 2010s with page breaks containing short memoirs of past and present volunteers. Rich with images from the Berry Street archives, common themes jump out; the struggle for funding, the demand for infrastructure and the changing social beliefs around childcare. Not to be confused with a fluff piece, the book pays due diligence to the mistakes made around the Stolen Generation and forced adoptions in the 50's and 60's.



## Can You Hear the Sea? My Grandmother's Story

Brenda Niall, The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, 2017, pp 276, \$29.99, ISBN 97819254987790

Brenda Niall is an award-winning biographer for good reason. The life of her grandmother Aggie is beautifully penned and very hard to put down. Aggie did not change the world, nor would she be otherwise remembered outside her family. She was nevertheless, a remarkable woman. An independent spirit lasted a lifetime and saw her through emigration, class struggle, death, poverty, motherhood and war to conclude her life as the absolute centre of gravity for her family. The extraordinary events of the late 19th and early 20th centuries are reflected in the ordinary lives of this unassuming woman from Liverpool and her family in rural Victoria.



## Darlington

Florence Charles, Editor Craig Proctor, Darlington Mechanics' Institute and Recreation Reserve Inc, 2017, pp 220, ISBN 9780646966649

It is true of many tiny rural towns in Victoria (indeed Australia wide) that the identifying landmark is the pub. The Elephant Bridge Hotel is Darlington's core, the only remaining commercial building. This book is a meticulously researched reference of the comings and goings of this tiny township from its beginnings in the early 1800's until today. Readers will find that the Darlington of the 19th century still holds relevance in the present; churches, town halls, meetings at the pub, parks, sale yards and colourful characters that lived, worked and died within its boundaries.



## Fiery Creek: Connecting the Catchment (DVD)

Glenelg Hopkins CMA, 2016  
A unique offering in the form of a 30-minute video documentary on Fiery Creek and the surrounding farmland and communities.

Made in conjunction with a number of local institutions including Deakin University, the story of Fiery Creek is told through rich imagery. Footage of golden fields of wheat, flocks of sheep, flowing water and drought ridden earth is interspersed with snippets of interviews of farmers, agricultural experts and indigenous elders with an aim to garner awareness of the importance of the creek to the local area. The documentary shows the struggle between conservation and economics, the tricky balance between tradition and progress.



**George and Sarah Suttor Pioneers of Early Australian Horticulture**

Margaret Winnill, Legion Office Works, Castlemaine, 2015, pp 323, \$35.00, ISBN 9780987336132

The author is fortunate to be a descendant of early Australian pioneers, George and Sarah Suttor. This is a family history project with a twist - George was privy to, and an integral part of the building of the nation. A horticulturalist who could boast one of the first orange groves in the country, a witness to the infamous rum rebellion of 1808, friend of Bligh and testifier against Macarthur, family man and diarist of early Australian history; Winnill's forbear lead a unique life. Colonial history has a tendency to be dense, date heavy and difficult to read, however this book is well researched with an excellent narrative.



judicial system. Mann is on a mission to ensure the unsightly heritage of Pentridge is not sanitized by the developers that now own the site. Haunting photographs show the forbidding remains of Pentridge, and are coupled with recollections of former prisoners, guards, a journalist, a chaplain, a nun, even visiting musicians. Sadness, regret, reflection and acceptance pour out of the pages to give the reader a small window to the complexities of the institutionalised life within Pentridge. An emotional but excellent and enlightening read.

**Picturing and Re-picturing Bonegilla**

Bruce Pennay, Specialty Press, Wodonga, 2016, pp 98, ISBN 9780959988529

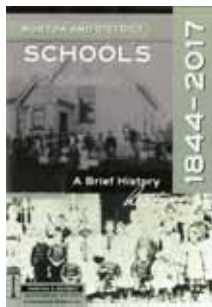
Pennay has an ongoing connection to the immigrant history of Victoria, in particular, Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre. This book is an illustrated history, broken in to three distinct time periods of migration. The displaced Europeans era of 1947-52, the assisted passage migrants of 1951-59 and the migrant workers of 1960-71. Pennay has a knack for chronological storytelling, with the right ratio of text to image to evoke an emotional response from the reader. The book balances snippets of cheery government propaganda, alongside the reality of the monotony and bureaucracy that was the migrant/refugee experience during the final decades of the White Australia policy.



**Murtoa and District Schools 1844-2017: A Brief History**

Editor Kendra Clegg, Murtoa District Historical Society Incorporated, Murtoa, 2017, pp 63, ISBN 9780646975849

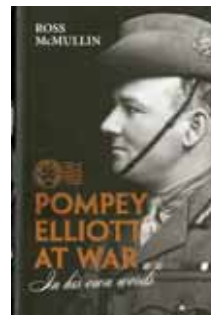
The Murtoa District Historical Society has put together a comprehensive record of the early schools in the area. The listing of building details, headmaster and teacher names and student records accompany pictures from the late 19th to mid 20th century. A notable inclusion is a short chapter on student life in the late Victorian period. Many students, having to travel for an hour or more barefoot would surprise contemporary readers. The conditions of education in earth floored huts, with the threat of snakes, although seemingly incomprehensible to modern schooling, was simply par for the course 170 odd years ago. There is an excellent addition of a surname index for the use of finding family members.



**Pompey Elliott At War In His Own Words**

Ross McMullin, Scribe Publications, Brunswick, 2017, pp xiv-524, ISBN 9781925322415

This book is a skillful curation of Pompey Elliott's war experiences, mostly in the form of letters to his wife Kate, but also includes letters to compatriots, other relatives, diary entries and excerpts from radio discussions after Elliott's return home. It is easy to paint a one-dimensional, larger than life picture of Elliott, a temperamental senior officer that struck fear into junior soldier's hearts. However, it is Elliott's earnest professions of love towards his wife, his yearning to see his children and his devastation over losing young men in his care that makes him a real and whole person. It is a sad and poignant biography of a complex and troubled man.



**Pentridge: Voices From The Other Side**

Rupert Mann, Scribe Publications, Brunswick, 2017, pp 277, \$49.99, ISBN 9781925322446

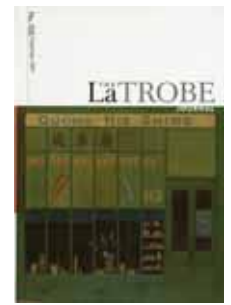
A passionate eight-year project turns this urberx photography coffee table book into an affecting look at the social history of Victoria's recent penal-



**The La Trobe Journal - Celebrating 50 Years of the La Trobe Journal**

Editor John Arnold, State Library Victoria, Melbourne, 2017, pp 128

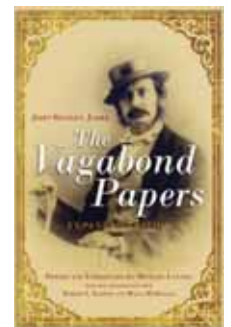
To celebrate 100 issues and 50 years of the La Trobe journal, a fitting 50 items have been carefully chosen from the collection of the State Library of Victoria. Covering many years of creation and acquisition, treasures such as a First Edition of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and the diary of a Ballarat goldfields miner are included in this showcase (among many others of note). Diaries, books, letters and photographs have been scanned with a brief explanation, the variety of which is wide enough to entice the most obscure of interests to the State Library's extensive collections.



**Vagabond Adventures in Asia and the Pacific - John Stanley James**

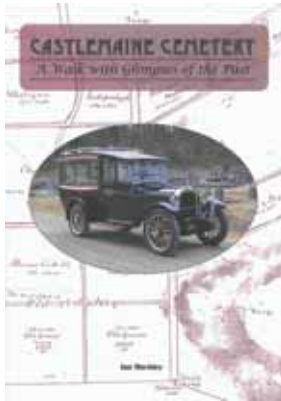
Michael Cannon, Griffin Press, Australia, 2018, pp 222

As his moniker suggests, John Stanley James, 'The Vagabond' spent most of his life drifting. Cannon has compiled James' extensive writings of his journeys through Asia and the Pacific to put together a travel diary of sorts. James was an archetype of his time, racist, sexist, imperialist and entitled, which sometimes makes for difficult reading. However, the reader gets a real sense of colonial beliefs during the 19th century through his social commentary and his fastidious attention to every detail. Cannon notes that it is important not to sanitize distasteful parts of the past, so as to not de-humanize important historical figures such as James.



# HISTORY VICTORIA BOOKSHOP

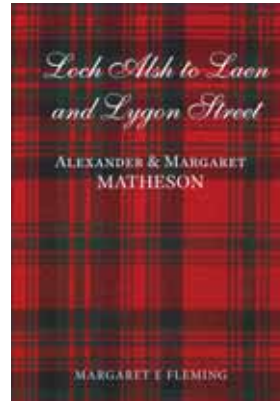
## New Books in store for February 2018



Castlemaine Cemetery – a walk with glimpses of the past.  
Ian Hockley \$15.60



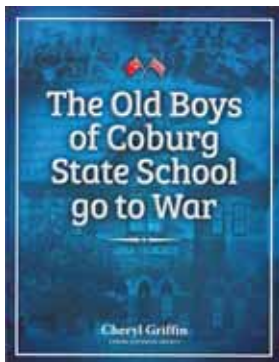
Fighting for the Trees: Blackburn, 1959-2016.  
David Berry (ed) \$30



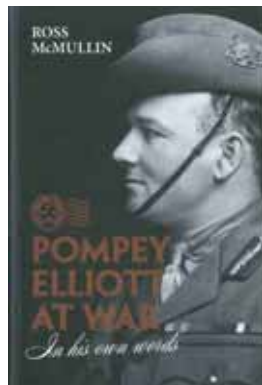
Loch Alsh to Laen and Lygon Street, Alexander and Margaret Matheson.  
Margaret Fleming \$45



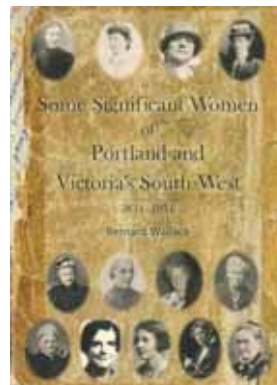
Mystery of Fairyland, Kew.  
James Nicolas \$30



Old Boys of Coburg State School Go to War.  
Cheryl Griffin \$20



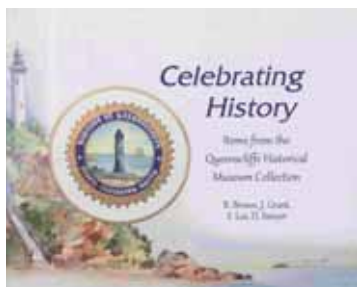
Pompey Elliott At War: in his own words. Ross McMullin \$59.95



Some Significant Women of Portland and Victoria's South West, 1834-1934.  
Bernard Wallace \$15



Five Victorian Mechanics Institutes Cards. Watercolours.  
Damian Callanan \$7.50



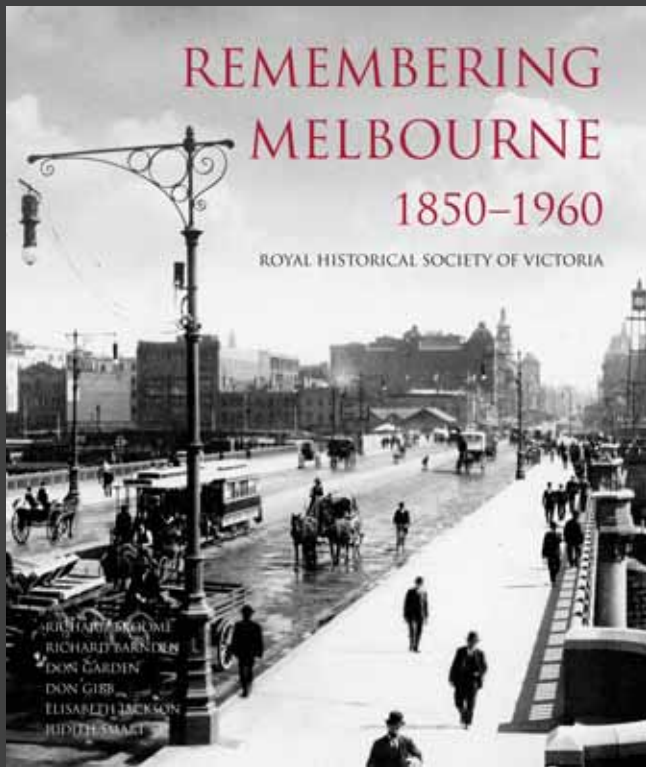
Celebrating History: items from the Queenscliffe Museum.  
R Brown, et al. \$40

To order online go to...

[www.historyvictoria.org.au/shop](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/shop)  
Ring 9326 9288 or visit the Bookshop at the RHSV

# REMEMBERING MELBOURNE

Returns - and for \$35!



On Melbourne Day, 30 August, the updated version of Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960 was launched at the RHSV and is now on sale. This stunning book, which sold out at the RHSV in just four weeks, is currently available to enhance your book shelves and delight those who receive it as a gift. The price is again a sensational \$35 (pick up from the RHSV), or plus postage and handling for mail orders <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>

All proceeds from sales will boost our growing Victorian Historian Journal Future Fund, aimed to secure our century-old journal, currently the second oldest, continuously published, history journal in Australia.

## GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

### 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 email</b>	At reception, or 9326 9288 <a href="mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au">office@historyvictoria.org.au</a>

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.)

