Victorian Community History Awards 2018

Proudly participating in History Week
The arresting title sets the tone for this compelling book. In the 19th century, Victoria had the highest rate of insanity in Australia, not surprising given the turmoil of the gold rush. Efforts in Victoria to implement humane treatment for insanity culminated in the carefully planned, palatial Kew Asylum opened in 1873. Paradoxically, by then reformers favoured the cottage system, which had grown like Topsy at nearby Yarra Bend.

The author deeply engages the reader by focusing on three figures whose lives converge in sadness. George Foley, an artist from a distinguished English family, survives only when cocooned in Melbourne asylums. The mystery journalist known as the Vagabond gains increased popularity by undercover reports on the asylums but dies destitute. Dr Edward Paley, inspector of Victoria’s lunatic asylums, achieves good curative rates despite gross overcrowding, only to be denigrated.

Jill Giese, a clinical psychologist, writes with professional insight on a subject of wide relevance. She finds a colleague from earlier times in the Vagabond, whose essays give immediacy and vibrancy to her controlled, concise narrative. Jill Giese elevates a shunned subject to centre stage through a brilliant fusion of serious scholarship and imaginative writing.

*The Maddest Place on Earth*
Jill Giese
Australian Scholarly, Melbourne, 2018
A coach tour conducted by the authors in 2003 was the catalyst for the publication of this lovely book. Chronologically organised within themes, eleven chapters comprehensively review buildings constructed from the distinctive sandstone of the Barrabool Hills in the hinterland of Corio Bay.

Chapter sections also include entries about the Aboriginal people of the Barrabool Hills, and brief biographies of the surveyors of the land and the architects and sculptors who designed and created buildings and memorials from the sandstone. While concentrating on the Geelong district, the book goes far beyond to encompass many buildings in Melbourne constructed from the stone.

Recognition of the distinctive qualities of Barrabool sandstone underpins the importance of recording and, where possible, conserving homes, churches, other public buildings, and cemetery memorials created from the stone.

This 474 page publication, printed on quality paper, has a bibliography and index, and entries are linked to their Victorian Heritage Register numbers where applicable. The many images reproduced in this fine book demonstrate the beauty of the architecture characteristic of the Geelong district.
Collaborative Community Award

This award recognises the best community collaborative work which involves significant contributions from several individuals, groups or historical societies.

Although Victoria was innovative in the education field in a number of ways, for example as the first state to require teacher registration, until 1910 the State exerted little if any regulation of schooling or career training between elementary school and university. As a result, most people in Victoria left the school system at about 14 years of age. This all changed with the implementation of the Education Act 1910, which required students to undertake secondary schooling, and provided the facilities for them to do so.

Much has occurred in the field of education over the century since the passing of the Act. This history of state secondary schooling covers a wide spectrum of themes, topics and issues, taking in schools, students, curricula and vast changes in teaching practices. A collaborative approach was undoubtedly necessary to achieve this end and the two principal authors have been well served by many other contributors.

Commendations

Kim Dovey, Rob Adams and Ronald Jones (editors)  
Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2018

_Pentridge. Voices from the Other Side_  
Rupert Mann  
Scribe, Melbourne, 2017

_'A Secondary Education for All'? A History of State Secondary Schooling in Victoria_  
John Andrews and Deborah Towns  
Australian Scholarly, Melbourne, 2017

_Heathmont Sketchbook_  
Heathmont History Group  
Penfolk Publishing, Melbourne, 2017

Peter Black  
Yarra Valley Orienteering Club, Melbourne, 2018
Local History Project Award

This award recognises activities that enhance access to records of significance to local communities.

Elizabeth O’Callaghan is a former secondary college principal who for many years has contributed to the Warrnambool Historical Society. In this book she has made extensive use of diaries, letters, early newspapers and other documentary resources to reveal the lives of women of Warrnambool who have, until now, been silent in the record of social history. The result is a display of both her dedication to right an historical imbalance, and her masterful use of the available resources.

The first chapter, where the fate of Indigenous women is discussed with compassion, sets the pattern for the whole book. The narrative is interspersed with perceptive and compact biographies of representative women, related to the various topics. Thematic discussions include women in paid employment, particularly as school teachers, their recreational interests, political activities and charitable work, examined and analysed within the social context.

This beautifully designed and well-illustrated book of 374 pages is well supported by comprehensive endnotes, extensive index and bibliography.

Silent Lives. Women of Warrnambool and District, 1840–1910
Elizabeth O’Callaghan
Warrnambool and District Historical Society, Warrnambool, 2017

Commendations

The Welsh on Victoria’s Central Goldfields. A Dictionary of Biography
Peter Griffiths
Published by the author, Ballarat, 2018

High Country History Hub
Mansfield Historical Society
http://www.highcountryhistory.org.au

Top Dog of the West. A Study of the Belfast and Western District Civil Service 1841–1885
Pamela M. Marriott
Published by the author, Melbourne, 2017

Vagrants and Murderesses
Amber Evangelista
https://vagrantsandmurderesses.com
Granville Stapylton was a late but important addition to Major Mitchell’s so-called ‘Australia Felix’ survey of 1836. Following his death in the Moreton Bay area in 1840, Stapylton’s field notebooks had been returned to his family in England; for more than 140 years they were unavailable to scholars. In the mid-1980s when Gregory Eccleston was researching the proposed Major Mitchell Trail, he traced the notebooks to Chichester in Sussex and had them microfilmed. They now form the primary text of this magnificent publication.

On its own, the information within these notebooks is of great significance to the early European history of Victoria, but its value has been greatly enriched and supplemented here through the precise and meticulous research carried out by Eccleston.

The smallest details of explanation and context relating to entries in the notebooks are provided through marginalia, annotations and end notes to each chapter. The book is also lavishly illustrated in colour throughout. It is both a mine of information and a work of art.

**Granville Stapylton. Australia Felix 1836. Second in Command to Major Mitchell**
Gregory C. Eccleston  
Evandale Publishing, Melbourne, 2018

**Commendations**

**The Enigmatic Mr Deakin**  
Judith Brett  
Text, Melbourne, 2017

**Hanging Rock – A History**  
Chris McConville  
Friends of Hanging Rock, Woodend VIC, 2017

**The Buxtons. 150 years of Developing Melbourne**  
Peter Yule  
Nero (Schwartz Publishing), Melbourne, 2018

**Made to Order. George Thwaites and Sons, Colonial Cabinet Makers**  
Robert La Nauze  
NewSouth Publishing, Sydney, 2017

**The Good Country. The Djadja Wurrung, the Settlers and the Protectors**  
Bain Attwood  
Monash University Publishing, Melbourne, 2017
Local History - Small Publication Award
This award recognises the best small publication or e-book which features Victorian local, cultural or social history.

Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt, born in Hamburg, worked in the South African mining industry. When his efforts to return to Germany after the outbreak of World War II failed, he was interned in Britain and sent to Australia on the infamous Dunera voyage of 1940. Captive for more than five years at the Prisoner of War Camp near Murchison, he enlivened the camp with his artistic talent. He produced murals (many of which remain in the town), traditional portraits, caricatures of officers and compatriots, cartoons, landscapes and theatre scenery. After the war he settled in South Africa with his family, dying there in 1973.

Axel von Gruenewaldt, son of the artist, presented his translation of his father’s wartime recollections and 200 of his artworks to the Murchison Historical Society in 2007. This handsome book, based on Axel’s gift, is a significant addition to studies of detention camps in the Tatura district and the wealth of talent unwittingly transported to Australia by the crew of the Dunera.

Art Captured. Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt Prisoner of War Camp 13 Murchison. His Story and His Art
Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt and Kay Ball (compiler)
Murchison and District Historical Society, Murchison VIC, 2017

Commendations

And the Women Came Too. The Families of the Founders of the Melbourne Mechanics’ Institution
Anne Marsden
The Melbourne Athenaeum Library, Melbourne, 2018

Linton. A Photographic History
Jill Wheeler and Del Atkinson
Linton and District Historical Society, Linton VIC, 2017

A Pictorial Guide to the Long Lost Lancefield and Kilmore Railway
Kylie McKay and Bob Tomkins
Romsey and Lancefield Districts Historical Society, Lancefield VIC, 2018

Ballarat’s Blooming Begonias
Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens
Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Ballarat, 2018
Cultural Diversity Award
This award recognises the most outstanding project or publication that highlights the cultural diversity of Victoria.

Stella Dimadis, Director of Medea Films in Melbourne, captures a variety of immigrants’ experiences through videos of 30 short interviews. Although these interviews focus on the challenging first year of immigration, they often cover longer periods and give information on fractured homelands. Nearly all of the immigrants from non-English speaking countries find language a formidable hurdle. Some recall escape from repressive regimes. Thus we meet Suzanne Kiraly, who was smuggled out of Communist Hungary as a baby; her rescuer was killed on his next mercy mission. Many speak of acute homesickness; Rosa Voto from Italy longed for the piazza, church bells and intergenerational support. Others extol freedom and opportunity.

Stella Dimadis’ degrees in art history and film production ensured she had the skills required for this enterprise. However, it was her own story as the granddaughter of a refugee and daughter of parents who migrated to Victoria from Greece in 1967 that gave her the impetus and empathy to embark on this impressive project.

Commendations
The Melbourne Welsh Church. In the Beginning 1852–1914
Bill Jones
Anchor Books, Melbourne, 2017

Grandmothers MMV Group Project (Exhibitions)
Multicultural Museums Victoria, 2017–2018
http://mmv.org.au/grandmothers

Migrant Stories
Stella Dimadis, Medea Films

Passages
(An exhibition tribute to the Greek community)
Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, 2017
Multimedia Award
This award recognises the best presentation of history which uses non-print media and has a broad community reach.

Secrets from the Mallacoota Bunker
Mallacoota and District Historical Society, 2018
https://www.mallacootabunker.com.au

In July 1917 an Australian freighter was sunk by a German raider off Gabo Island, near Mallacoota in east Gippsland. This incident alerted authorities to the vulnerability of the east coast of Australia, so between the Wars, preparations were made for the defence of the coastline. With Australia becoming a greater target during World War II, a radio communications facility was constructed by the RAAF in an underground bunker, close to Mallacoota. At the end of the war the base was abandoned and almost forgotten. More than fifty years later, a group of local men restored the facility and it was taken over by the Mallacoota Historical Society as headquarters and a display space.

The story of the bunker, from its inception through to its present-day use as a museum, is told through an engaging combination of media. The video makes excellent use of historic photographs and movie footage, as well as contemporary film and personal reminiscences by local individuals.

Commendations

Demonwiki.
The History of the Melbourne Football Club
Adam Woolcock and Travis Warren
http://www.demonwiki.org

Miss Showgirl
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Heritage
https://youtu.be/41yDoMk2Inc

ReCollection (Exhibition)
Memento Media and Moreland City Council, 2017
**Historical Interpretation Award**

This award recognises the most outstanding local history project presented in a unique format.

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Wangaratta Historical Society, Wangaratta Art Gallery, and Bangerang Elder Uncle Freddie Dowling, worked collaboratively with the Museums Australia (Victoria) Roving Curator Program to produce and present a twelve-month exhibition about the history of Wangaratta.

The exhibition included four short films, objects, a collection of photographic images, artworks, information panels, documents, detailed captions, and a selfie banner (with a backdrop from an early 20th century photographic studio). The aim was to tell significant stories of Wangaratta history, with an emphasis on the city’s riverside location, textile and other industries, participation in the world wars, and strong local musical traditions.

The exhibition opened to the public seven days per week from December 2017 at the modern Wangaratta Visitors Information Centre Gallery, and so far has attracted about 10,000 visitors. This was a valuable opportunity for the historical society to enhance its skills through co-operation with related organisations, raise its profile and professionally exhibit important parts of its collection.

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**Commendations**

- **Castlemaine Cemetery. A Walk with Glimpses of the Past**
  Ian Hockley
  Castlemaine Historical Society, Castlemaine VIC, 2017

- **Stanley Women of the 19th Century. Hearts of Gold—Minds of Mettle (Exhibition)**
  Friends of Stanley Athenaeum, Stanley VIC, 2018

- **Torquay Museum Without Walls**
  Cheryl Baulch and Chris Barr
  https://torquayhistory.com/torquay-history-app-2

- **Walks in Port Phillip**
  (Set of six self-guided walks with maps)
  Meyer Eidelson and others
  City of Port Phillip, Melbourne, 2018
Centenary of WW1 Award

This award recognises the best work or project on the impact of WW1 on Victoria or Victorians.

This collaborative project, initiated by Grahame Thom and the Kilmore Historical Society, was joined by other individuals representing history and community groups from the southern Mitchell Shire. The aim was to commemorate all of the men and women of their districts who enlisted in World War 1.

Having identified all the volunteers, the project team researched and wrote a profile of about 300 words on each. The predominant sources used were databases held by the Kilmore Historical Society and the National Archives of Australia. These databases were accessible through the respective websites. In addition, members of the project team consulted many other biographical sources.

As each profile was completed, it was submitted for publication to The North Central Review, a newspaper based in Kilmore. This ensured that each veteran’s story was readily and easily accessible to the widest audience within their community. For entry in the VCHA, all of the 294 published biographical profiles were collated into one volume.

Commendations

Chinese ANZACs of the Loddon-Mallee Region (travelling exhibition and e-book)
Golden Dragon Museum

The Bendigo Roll of Honour
Murray Poustie
https://bendigorollofhonour.com.au

Victorian War Heritage. The Rich War History of Springvale War Cemetery and Springvale Botanical Cemetery
Celestina Sagazio
Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Melbourne, 2017
Through careful and imaginative use of visitor books from Lake Tyers and Ramahyuck Aboriginal missions between 1878 and 1909, Vanderbyl’s article evokes the experience of an emerging bush tourism in Victoria, and illuminates European Australian attitudes to Aboriginal mission life and about the future of Aboriginal Australians.

Reading against the grain of the sources, Vanderbyl also finds intriguing clues about how the Aboriginal residents of Lake Tyers and Ramahyuck responded to tourists and understood their own lives and future prospects.

“The happiest time of my life”: Emotive Visitor Books and Early Mission Tourism to Victoria’s Aboriginal Reserves
Nikita Vanderbyl
Aboriginal History, Volume 41, 2017
Thank you

Listed are the entrants who have not already appeared in previous pages of this book. Thank you for your continued contribution to capturing, preserving and sharing our State’s memory.
Jasmine Graham, Fred Cahir, Brigid Corcoran, Sofia Fiusco, Bryon Porrell, Jidah Clarke, Luke Russell, Shaun Stoew, Michelle Dunn
Rethinking the Australian Legend
Greensborough Historical Society
Do You Recall? A Collection of Stories, Volume 2: Country to Suburbia
Victoria Grounds
Ranelagh Seats and Signs
Eoin Ha Hessy
Storyline
Gideon Haigh
A Scandal in Bohemia: The Life and Death of Mollie Dean
Fiona Harari
We Are Here: Talking with Australia's Oldest Holocaust Survivors
Healesville and District Historical Society
Images of Time Volume 3 1950–1994: Marking the Milestones
Leanne Howard and Keir Reeves with Ballarat Community Health
Looking Back As Well As Forward: A History of Ballarat Community Health
Dr Tammy Wong Hulbert
Anonymous Sojourners in the Australian Bush
Inglewood and District Historical Society
Red Metal Poppy Project
Betty May Jackman
Anne Caudle: The Lady 1812–1865
Rebecca Jones
Slow Catastrophes: Living with Drought in Australia
Katandra and District History Group
Ruth Tate's Scrapbook (1913–1923): War Comes to a Country District
Vanessa Kiessling (ed)
A Landmark or Two: The Building Record of Peter and David Rodger
David King
A Famous Old Club: A History of the Brighton Cricket Club from 1842 to 2017
Jonathan King
Palestine Diaries
Glenice Wood Lake
The Land They Learnt to Love: Ten Years in the Life of a Squatting Family in the Port Phillip District, 1839–1849
Macedon Ranges Health
Macedon Ranges Health 60th Birthday Celebrations
Malvern Historical Society
Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!
Georgie Mattingly and Zoe Barry
KCAT 2018
Ross McMullin
Pompey Elliott at War
Mechanics Institutes of Victoria Inc
MIV Art Project
Melbourne History Workshop
My Marvellous Melbourne
Melbourne Library Service
The Orbweavers
Helen Mulraney-Role
Bringalbert Bat and Ball
Nilumbik Historical Society
Diamond Creek Farmer: The Story of William and Nathaniel Ellis
Nilumbik Historical Society
When Did it Happen in Diamond Creek? A Chronology of Events in Diamond Creek from Settlement to the Early 20th Century
Virginia Noonan
From Devon to Australia: A 19th Century Narrative Through the Unpublished Letters of the Merrifield Family
Kevin Peoples
Trapped in a Closed World: Catholic Culture and Sexual Abuse
Fiona Pepper
Penguins Impossible to Hate
Vikki Petraitis
Once a Copper: The Life and Times of Brian 'The Skull' Murphy
Phillip Island Conservation Society, Christine Grayden (ed)
Women in Conservation on Phillip Island
Stuart Piggin and Robert D. Linder
The Fountain of Public Prosperity: Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1740–1914
Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society Inc
Port Talks
Jim Poulter
Manningham Aboriginal Heritage Education Initiatives
Bruce Reynolds and Peter Stokes
Directory of Paynesville Boat Builders and Wooden Boats
Thomas James Rogers
The Civilisation of Port Phillip: Settler Ideology, Violence, and Rhetorical Possession
Rolf Schlagloth, Fred Cahir and Ian Clark
The Importance of the Koala in Aboriginal Society in Nineteenth-century Victoria (Australia): A Reconsideration of the Archival Record
Ian W. Shaw
Murder at Dusk: How US Soldier and Smiling Psychopath Eddie Leonski Terrorised Wartime Melbourne
Showcase Wangaratta
Vacation: Travels Here, There, and Everywhere
Simon Smith
James Seccull: A Tale of Two Families
Philip W. Smith
The Blacksmith’s Family

Splinter Contemporary Artists
Splinter Contemporary Artists: 20 Years of Creating

St Faith’s Anglican Church
From Orchards to Trenches: The Men on the St Faith’s Roll of Honour

Leonie Stevens
Me Write Myself: The Free Aboriginal Inhabitants of Van Diemen’s Land at Wybalenna

Peter Stokes
Regatta: The Pioneers of Yachting on the Gippsland Lakes

Sue Taffe
A White Hot Flame: Mary Montgomerie Bennett, Author, Educator, Activist for Indigenous Justice

David Thomas, Gerald Jenzen, Clare Gervasoni
Ballarat Old Colonists

Les Twentyman
The Mouth That Roared

David Waldron, Tom Hodgson and Katrina Hill
Tales from Rat City

Bernard Wallace
Place Names of Portland and the Glenelg Shire of Victoria

John and Grace Whadcoat
Whisper Lake Tyers

Marjorie Williams
Before I Forget: A Bendigo Girl 1928–1951

Brian Williams
Martha Needle: The Spellbinding Story of Australia’s Most Infamous Femme Fatale

Elizabeth Willis
People of the Risen King: A History of St Jude’s Carlton 1866–2016

Joan Wilson
The Britannia Quartz Mining Company Disaster

Arthur Wizenried
A Century of Volunteering

Mick Woiwod
Barak vs the Black Hats of Melbourne: The Untold Story of How the Black Hats Destroyed Coranderrk

Clare Wright
Shooting the Past

Robert Wuchatsch
John Muston: Draper, Squatter, Speculator in Colonial Australia
This year marks the 20th Victorian Community History Awards held in Victoria. The Awards are held in celebration of activity undertaken to explore and preserve the State's history. The range of award categories acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

The Victorian Community History Awards are presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The 2018 Awards ceremony was held during History Week on Monday 8 October at the Arts Centre Pavilion in Melbourne.

Start planning your project for 2019 and uncover your local history today.

Public Record Office Victoria
prov.vic.gov.au

Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street North Melbourne
10am–4.30pm Monday to Friday
(and the second and last Saturday of the month)

Ballarat Archives Centre
Cnr Mair and Doveton Streets Ballarat
10am–4.30pm Mondays and Tuesdays

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
historyvictoria.org.au

239 A’Beckett Street Melbourne
10am–4pm Monday to Friday
03 9326 9288

Front image cover:
A group of skiers at unknown location, Melbourne Harbour Trust collection.
Public Record Office Victoria. VPRS 8375/P1, Unit 4, Item 003/014.