

# HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.340 FEBRUARY 2019



## Stringer's Creek Walhalla 1880s

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report

What's On

Walhalla 'How an old photograph...'

Halls of Fame

Carole Woods

Alan Hall

Pankaj Sirwani

The Chiko Roll

The Maddest Place on Earth

Broadford HS

RHSV web page

Around the Societies

Books received

History Victoria Bookshop

# President's Report

For the RHSV the start of 2019 is symbolized by our new website – sparkling, bright, working well, the result of many months of development by our staff and diverse volunteers and financed by a generous bequest (the late Doug Gunn). Please view it, as it facilitates many of our functions such as membership (now on a rolling start date rather than mid-year), event bookings and bookshop orders, as well as providing efficient access to our catalogue, publications and other functions.

The website perhaps also symbolizes the RHSV's broader transitions. In staffing, Amy Clay is on maternity leave. Her daughter, Eloise Margaret, was born 15 January 2019. We welcome Pankaj Sirwani as our Administration Officer for 2019. Rosemary Cameron has been busy clearing and reorganising the Drill Hall to increase its efficiency and attractiveness. Honour boards are imminent to recognise the generosity of donations and bequests since 2009.

We are also continuing our reconsideration of how the RHSV operates and its organisational needs, particularly in light of ongoing uncertainty about our security of tenure in the Drill Hall. I am delighted to announce that Professor Bill Russell, a former RHSV President with extensive experience in government and as a policy advisor, has agreed to become our new RHSV Ambassador. We are very grateful and look forward to working with him.

Our Planning Day in October produced ideas and plans about our future. In particular, the RHSV Foundation is being given a clearer definition of its purposes. First, it will be mainly devoted to raising

a substantial sum that will enable us to establish long-term or permanent accommodation. This may be in the Drill Hall if a satisfactory arrangement can be made with government (a quest for almost a decade) or it may be elsewhere if government does not support us and we are able to raise sufficient funds. We are developing a business case and accompanying material in support of this project. Second, the Foundation will also raise funds to enable us to employ an Outreach Officer who will mainly work with our 350 affiliated societies to support their needs and to advise them. This position will supplement and partly take over the role of the History Victoria Support Group which, while doing an excellent job within its means, is unable to achieve its full potential without staff support.

To support the Foundation, we are seeking to recruit new members with experience in fund-raising and with links to potential benefactors. To supplement the Foundation's work, we will invite significant figures in the community to become independent advisors to the RHSV, to help us to gain access to the networks of foundations and benefactors that exist within Victoria, but to which we as historians are sadly seldom connected.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge yet again the superb generosity of Gordon Moffatt who has once more given the RHSV a very significant donation. He is the largest donor to the RHSV in its history. We will show our appreciation of his generosity by naming one of our meeting rooms after him.

**Don Garden**  
President

## RHSV Donors

July - December 2018

The RHSV is deeply grateful to the following donors, listed in alphabetical order. If our records are inaccurate, and a name has been inadvertently omitted, the Society would appreciate advice to the contrary.

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## History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF VICTORIA INC.

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*Stringer's Creek, Walhalla* 1880s. Albumen silver, photographer unknown, gift of J. Boddington (1997.228), courtesy of National Gallery of Victoria.



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# What's on

## for February and March

Note, for all event bookings: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/>

### EXHIBITION: CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF OPERATIONAL WOMEN AT THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE

Runs until Friday 22 February

Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm

RHSV Gallery Downstairs

The 1980s was a decade of great change in Australia as people actively fought for a fairer society for women. It was during this period that Melbourne's Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) first opened its doors to women.

This exhibition explores and celebrates some of the stories of the pioneering women who became the first women to take on operational roles in the MFB as well as those who followed. Very few of the women who joined MFB grew up picturing themselves as Communications Operators or Firefighters.

### CURATOR'S TALK

Wed 13 February, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

RHSV Gallery Downstairs

Bookings: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/>

Join us for a lunch-time curator talk and conversation with the team from *Way Back When consulting historians* and the MFB Director of Culture and Transformation, Dr Corinne Manning, about the making of this exhibition.

### LECTURE

Tuesday 19 February

Drinks 5:15pm RHSV Gallery Downstairs

Lecture: 6pm RHSV Officers' Mess Upstairs

Speaker: The Hon Simon Molesworth AO QC

Bookings: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/>

Topic: History-in-the-Round, the Evolving Role of Heritage Conservation – Taking History to the People.

We are honoured to launch our 2019 Distinguished Lecturer Series with The Honorable Simon Molesworth AO QC who will deliver the 2019 RHSV Augustus Wolskel Lecture. Commencing with an overview of the history of the worldwide National Trust movement, this lecture will explore the evolved and still evolving role of heritage conservation as a means by which the telling of history, or at least the depiction of aspects of history, is assisted by the presentation and utilisation of historic places. The lecture will explore the differing approaches adopted over the last half century, which reflect changing social mores, taking us through to the challenges and concurrent opportunities of the current day at the cusp of virtual reality.

### The Hon. Simon Richard Molesworth AO QC BA, LL.B, FAICD, LFEIANZ, FAIML, FVPELA, PIA(HonF), C.Env.P, M.ICOMOS, MRSV

2019 is Simon Molesworth's forty-first anniversary of his first elected position within the Australian heritage conservation movement. Those 41 years have seen Simon hold the most senior executive roles in the National Trust movement in Victoria, nationally and globally, including having been Chairman then President in Victoria for nearly 20 years and the Inaugural Executive Chairman and President of INTO, the International National Trusts Organisation during its first 10 years.

Simon has held numerous heritage advisory roles with government at both state and federal level, including being a Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission for 5 years and a member of the Commonwealth's National Cultural Heritage Committee for 14 years.

Founding the first environmental law association in Australia in his first year of legal practice, his entire legal career has been focussed on environmental, planning, heritage and natural resource law during which time he has held numerous legal advisory roles at both state and federal level influencing the formulation of environmental and heritage laws and policies across Australia.

Appointed a Queens Counsel 24 years ago, most recently he has been an Acting Justice of the Land and Environment Court in NSW, with his two year judicial commission having just concluded on Australia Day.



**The Honorable Simon Molesworth AO QC**

### EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Thursday 7 March 5pm – 7pm

Exhibition: Cold War Games: Espionage chills Melbourne's 1956 'Friendly' Olympics

Research by Dr Harry Blutstein

Bookings: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/>

Join us in launching this intriguing exhibition. In 1956 the world was beset with Cold War anxieties. Tensions between East and West had been heightened less than a month before the Games when the USSR invaded Hungary to crush an uprising. Then Israeli, French and British armies invaded and occupied the Suez Canal. Would the Melbourne Olympic Games be remembered as the "friendly" Games, a sea of tranquility in a stormy world, or would they become a victim of the Cold War? Keeping Australia safe from the frigid winds of the Cold War was ASIO which was busy conducting surveillance of possible Soviet agents, dealing with defectors and trying to control agent provocateurs in the refugee community who wished to damage the Soviet and its satellites.

Another threat, surprisingly came from the CIA. ASIO worried that the US spy agency would stir up trouble by urging athletes to defect, which could result in a walkout by Eastern European countries. So their agents were told not to come to Melbourne during the Games. American Cold War warriors, however, found a way around this and by the end of the Games had encouraged over 50 athletes and officials to defect; a propaganda coup for the free world.

### Dr Harry Blutstein

Harry Blutstein has worked as a freelance journalist since 1972 and his articles have appeared in the Nation Review, The Australian, The Age, The West Australian, The Canberra Times and the Australian Financial Review. More recently he has published several books including *An Insider's Guide to Australia* (Kummerly and Frey, 1995), *Ascent of Globalisation* (Manchester University Press, 2016) and his latest, *Cold War Games* (Echo Publications, 2017). He is also an adjunct professor at RMIT University.



# How an old photograph brought a derelict gravestone back to 'life'

By Rose Raymen



*Unknown, Stringer's Creek, Walhalla (1880s) albumen silver photograph 10.1 x 14.9cm (image) National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Gift of Mrs J. Boddington, 1997 (1997.228)*



*Left to Right: Photo taken at Walhalla Cemetery in 1973, Photo taken in front of Sarah Horn's tombstone in 1973, Sarah Horn's damaged gravestone 2013 (Source: Gravestone Photographic Resource)*

I have always had a fascination with historic towns and cemeteries. When my friend Lesley and I visited the old gold mining town of Walhalla, located in the Baw Baw ranges in Victoria's Gippsland district. Walhalla was originally named Stringer's Creek, after the creek that runs through the valley, but in 1869 the name was changed to Walhalla. The present name appears to derive from Valhalla, the hall of immortality in Norse mythology, where warriors who die as heroes in battle dwell eternally.

Lesley Howard and I met in the late 1960s, while studying art at Prahran Technical School in Melbourne; we have remained lifelong friends. I had never heard of Walhalla back in 1973, when Lesley asked if I'd like to visit the town with her parents Muriel and Norman Howard. I had no hesitation in accepting her invitation and the four of us set out on the 185 km journey.

It was a warm summer's day and while Muriel and Norman relaxed in the shade, the two of us began exploring the township. Lesley had brought her camera along and took photographs of the historic buildings and surrounds, with me as her subject. Walhalla cemetery has over 1300 known burials, the earliest of which was recorded in 1866 and many of the burials are situated on the side of a very steep hill. Although a graveyard since 1865, it was not gazetted as a cemetery until 1879. The gravestones tell the story of love, loss and survival during the town's boom period between 1863 and 1900.

Lesley had suggested that it would be a good idea to take some photographs at the cemetery and so we searched for a suitable location.

She had already taken one photo of me when we came across the gravestone of the late Sarah Horn who died in 1895. It was a magnificent tombstone with a touching epitaph which read:

*"In Loving Remembrance  
Of  
Sarah Horn  
Died 11th November 1895  
Aged 86 years  
We miss thee from our home dear  
mother  
We miss thee from thy place  
A shadow o'er our life is cast  
We miss the sunshine of thy face  
We miss thy kind and willing hand  
Thy fond and earnest care  
We miss thee everywhere"*

We stood at the gravesite for some time wondering who Sarah was and what her life must have been like. Lesley and I then decided that it would be best if I knelt in front of the tombstone so as not to obscure any of the inscription.

I happened to come across the cemetery photos recently and decided to have them restored to their original condition. Lesley had also sent me additional images she'd taken on the day and with the information found online I was now able to construct an account of our visit to Walhalla. Chloe Marrable, the Tourism Officer at Latrobe City Council, suggested that I contact historian Yolanda Reynolds, author of *"WALHALLA Graveyard to Cemetery"*. I was saddened to hear that Sarah Horn's gravestone had been damaged over the years and sent Yolanda the two cemetery photographs including that of Sarah Horn's headstone.

Yolanda had mentioned that when she

visited Walhalla cemetery in the 1980s Sarah Horn's tombstone was still intact so was grateful to receive the photo taken in 1973. It was a case of how an old photograph brought a derelict gravestone at Walhalla cemetery back to 'life.'

I recently learned that the late Sarah Horn (nee Savage) was born in Stratton St. Margaret, Wiltshire, England, about 1810 and arrived in Victoria on the *Oceanica* on 11 July 1865. Sarah's first marriage was to Charles Clack and her second to James Horn. Sarah died in Walhalla on 11 November 1895 aged 86 years from Influenza.

**HORN. – On the 11th inst., at Walhalla, Sarah Horn, aged 86 years. Her end was peace.**

**The Argus (Melbourne) Saturday 16 November 1895**

I will always remember that warm summer's day when Lesley and I walked among the graves at Walhalla cemetery all those years ago.

## Acknowledgements

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
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Sue Biddiss, Old Walhalla Post Office Museum

Lesley Bray

Peta Davies

Gina Fraser

Sally Erwood-Carryer



## RHSV Community Historian Carole Woods

Carole Woods was born in Melbourne and has lived most of her life in Camberwell. She did a BA Hons in History at Monash University where one of the giants of Victorian history, Dr Geoffrey Serle introduced Carole to local history, supervising her honours thesis, which partly focused on the Dandenongs. Carole later completed an MA thesis in History on Beechworth, which later became the well-regarded *Beechworth: A Titan's Field* (1985).

While completing her graduate diploma of librarianship, Carole researched the nineteenth-century library in the grand Fitzroy Town Hall. This led to several commissioned published works for the Fitzroy History Society and philanthropist Mrs Margaret Cutten, including *The Fitzroy Public Library 1877-1997: A History* (2000), and two chapters in *Fitzroy: Melbourne's First Suburb* (1989). Carole has published entries for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, various articles, essays in *History News*, and the book, *Vision Fugitive: The Story of David Allen* (1998): With a Foreword by Joan Sutherland. This is the story of a young baritone from Surrey Hills, who became a household name through

Hector Crawford's radio musical series; he later performed at Covent Garden but died in tragic circumstances aged 35.

Carole worked as a librarian in the Australiana collection of the State Library of Victoria and then for Dietrich Borchardt, chief librarian at La Trobe University. Dietrich was a scholar-librarian in the European tradition and secured funding for bibliographies. Carole (then Carole Beaumont) produced the important *Local History in Victoria: An Annotated Bibliography* (1980). While researching this project, Carole visited the RHSV in 1979 and, as she has commented, 'never left'.

In 1989 Carole joined the Publications Committee and is still a member. In 2008 she was made a Fellow of the RHSV for her notable service to community history and significant publication record to that date. In 2009 she became Honorary Secretary of the RHSV, which also made her a member of Council and the Executive and Finance Committee, key positions she still holds. She also chairs the Fellowship Committee, and has given many talks at RHSV and elsewhere.

In what was a most significant step, the RHSV appointed Carole in 2000 to the

judges' panel of the Victorian Community History Awards, founded in 1998. Highly protective of this competition, Carole was one of several RHSV leaders who saved it from extinction in 2010. As convenor of the judges' panel for the last seven years, Carole oversees deliberations about the now eleven prizes and liaises with the Public Record Office Victoria, which now co-manages the VCHA with the RHSV. Over the past twenty years the VCHA has gained in stature and led to an impressive increase in the quality and quantity of community history writing.

Carole Woods has curated two exhibitions at the RHSV: 'The Australian Red Cross in the Great War' (2014) and 'Vera Deakin's World of Humanity' (2018). Of the first Toni Aslett, then executive director, Australian Red Cross, commented that it 'beautifully told the story of the work of Red Cross during the war through carefully chosen memorabilia and personal stories'. The second exhibition provides a taste of Carole's forthcoming book on Vera Deakin to be published by the RHSV in 2019.

Carole has made a major contribution to the RHSV and community history in Victoria.

**Richard Broome**

## Alan Hall



Alan joined the RHSV as a volunteer in 2014 whilst completing a degree in Internet Communications from Curtin University. Previously, he was employed in mortgage insurance underwriting and fraud investigation and is currently

launching Web Specifix, a web analysis and design business.

His interest in becoming a volunteer at the RHSV was piqued whilst building two small history-based websites for a University assignment, one on the formation of the Collingwood Football Club, and another that recounted the story of Martin Wiberg, who stole 5,000 gold sovereigns from the R.M.S.S Avoca back in the 1870s. Researching information on these topics made him keen to contribute to preserving and sharing Melbourne's history, and therefore applied to become a volunteer.

Alan began as a "Site Searcher," under the tutelage of Margaret Fleming, researching historic uses of residential and commercial properties for clients. Some months later he joined the images team, led by Richard Barnden.

Within the images room, Alan assists with image requests received from RHSV members and the general public. This often involves searching for relevant images, carefully scanning them, and responding to the enquiries. He always has the client at the forefront of his mind, doing what he can to assist them. When he is not responding to requests, he is busy scanning the vast images collection.

Aside from these responsibilities, Alan has also helped manage the development of the new RHSV website, and customer relationship management tool, Zoho.

Alan thoroughly enjoys his time spent at the RHSV, including the banter and discussions with both volunteers and clients alike, and looks forward to helping the RHSV well into the future.



# Hall of Fame: Kongwak's Valley of Peace

In rare, magnificent August weather, one hundred years ago, in Kongwak, Victoria family and friends planted about 40 trees to commemorate their district's soldiers who had enlisted in the Great War. Among the trees chosen as 'a living memorial' were Horse Chestnut, Pin Oak, Turkey Oak, Lombardy Pine and English Oak.

Quite a few are still alive and well today including the handsome Bunya Bunya Pine that stands outside the present-day Kongwak Hall, opposite the State School. A willing band of workers under the President of the Hall Committee, Mr C D Tulloch prepared the site, while Hall Secretary Mr H Tate, also the school principal carried out the arrangements for the planting day itself on 29 August 1918. Pioneer settler Mr W J Williams spoke about the history of the war that still had not ended, the sacrifices men had made. His own son would not return.

These men and others, along with women and district newcomers, had been the driving force behind the building of the hall in 1898. Many had only just established themselves as farmers in the district. A butter factory had been their first priority, established in 1896. Then came the hall. A simple weatherboard structure, built on a site uphill from the Foster River, soon became the hub of public life in this small South Gippsland town, then the centre of a thriving dairy industry. The hall also provided space for a decade of the Kongwak State School, housing 60 students before a dedicated school building was opened in 1910.

Contemporary newspaper articles provide a window into the hall's activities in those first few years. Apart from the meetings of the Hall Committee itself, it provided the venue for the factory's shareholder meetings, farewell functions for departing citizens, bazaars and euchre parties that raised funds for the hall, school and

church, regular concerts and the curiously named 'Spinster' and 'Bachelor' balls, with their 'beautiful decorations' and 'refreshments in abundance'.

At the outbreak of the First World War the hall became the scene of farewells to soldiers, Red Cross fundraisers, patriotic balls and carnivals, including the popular 'queen' carnivals, where the rival queens of Victory, Allies, Belgium and Peace, raised funds for the war effort. By war's end there were 'welcome homes' and meetings to discuss the necessity of a new hall to better accommodate its varied functions, on a more level and accessible site.

Would the hall be sold off and a new one built? Or dismantled and rebuilt? Or just moved in one piece? This last was the cheapest option. It was May 1924. The hall, 60 ft. by 26 ft. would be moved downhill, without first removing 'furniture or fittings'. A Ballarat firm used 42 bullocks just to get the empty jinker uphill to the hall. The building was loaded, but because of difficulties turning around, jinker and building were lowered down to the main road using two wire rope tackles. A local bullock team from Bena completed the move to the new site.

The operation deemed to be 'almost impossible' was watched in excitement by the local population. Workers took time off, while school children were released from their classes to observe the 'hazardous work'. People from all over the district brought picnic hampers and made a day of it.

The hall was the place for everything: from the 'splendid' debutante balls to 'successful' agricultural shows, from the coming of electricity in 1930 to the popular back to's in 1935 and 1967. The hall's beautiful jarrah dance floor, prepared by local gentlemen for many hours with their potion of sawdust and

kerosene, was the best in the district. Kongwak dances of old are legendary.

In World War Two, the hall once again hosted the many patriotic fundraising events. At the end of the War the hall accommodated the official 'welcome home' to returned soldiers in May 1946 and on 11 November saw the unveiling of an honour board with 52 names of servicemen and women, raised alongside the honour boards from World War One.

Regular maintenance and occasional improvements kept pace with Kongwak Hall's growing popularity. Additions were financed by local auxiliaries: a foyer, dressing-rooms, toilets, a modern kitchen and supper room that also served as an infant welfare centre for 26 years.

In 1986 the Kongwak Public Hall Incorporated came into being. The improvements continue, while the hall's traditional roles adapt to the changing times. It remains a place of celebration and commemoration. The Australia Day Breakfasts are held there every 26 January.

On Anzac Day locals gather near the Bunya Bunya Pine to raise the flag, to bow their heads in silence, to hear the bugle call rise on the morning air and to place poppies on the cairn where the Avenue of Honour begins: at the Kongwak Hall.

**Jillian Durance**



# Frank and the Legendary Chiko Roll

Francis Gerald (Frank) McEnroe born on 11 October 1908 at Castlemaine in Victoria was destined to create an Australian icon.

Frank attended primary school in Castlemaine and later went to the Marist Brothers' College in Bendigo. He married Anne Doreen Nolan in 1932 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo who in 1933 gave birth to twins, Patricia and Peter. He became a boiler maker at Thompsons Foundry, Castlemaine and later worked with his brothers at a dairy farm in the vicinity of St Aidan's Orphanage in Bendigo. During World War II Frank and Anne ran the Court House Hotel in Paul Mall, while Frank worked as a boiler-maker at the Bendigo Ordnance Factory. As boiler-making was declared an essential service, Frank could not enlist for active service (although he tried to several times without success).

From the late 1930s Frank and his brothers, Gerard and Leo, ran a catering business providing food at agricultural shows, athletic meetings, race meetings and other sports gatherings. While watching a man selling Chinese Spring rolls outside Richmond Football ground around 1950, Frank conceived of a hot snack that could be cooked quickly and eaten with one hand. He returned to Bendigo with this newly-formed idea and set about creating his first rolls with the help of his two brothers, using a hand operated sausage machine donated by a butcher friend.

They invented a concoction of chopped meat, celery, cabbage, barley, rice, carrot and spices. This mixture was wrapped in a thick slab of egg and flour dough and the ends painted by hand. The resulting cylinder was then deep fried. These first versions were called the 'Chicken Roll'

which was later shortened to 'Chiko Roll'. They were first sold at the 1951 Wagga Wagga Show and were a sell-out. The Chiko Roll left one hand free for a beer, a significant (and appreciated) consideration for most sporting spectators!

Frank, Anne, Peter and Patricia moved to Melbourne to set up a factory in Moreland Road, Coburg near the Floyd family ice works. The Floyds encouraged Frank to freeze his products for distribution. In 1955 they formed Frozen Food Industries to market the Chiko and other fast foods. Freezing proved to be the key to the Chiko roll, which became a standard in fish & chip and hamburger shops. By 1956 most milk bars and fast food outlets in Australia could extract a Chiko out of the freezer, pop it into hot fat, squirt it with sauce and slide it into its own little iconic bag! This white bag emblazoned with the words 'CHIKO' in red print within an orange circle, contained commands to 'GRAB A CHIKO', or 'GET INTO A CHIKO'.

The factory moved to Keilor Road, Niddrie, followed by an office move to Mt Alexander Road, Essendon. This factory again proved to be too small and a new bigger factory was built in Tullamarine. The company became a public one in 1963.

Since the 1950s its advertising appealed to men and featured the Chiko Chick, a raunchy often leather clad young woman astride a motor bike, with Chiko Roll suggestively in her hand. From 2008 a more wholesome 'girl next door' or beach-girl image was promoted by the brand's owners, still to appeal to men, but to accord with the times.

After his retirement, Frank McEnroe moved to Queensland with Anne and remained there for some years. He

returned to Melbourne in the mid 1970's due to ill health and to be with family. Frank passed away in 1979. At the time of his death, 40 million Chiko Rolls were consumed annually, with a further one million exported to Japan. Frank often said that if he tried to make his mark on the fast food industry at any other time, he would never have made it due to the fierce competition in recent decades.

In 1995, Simplot Australia assumed ownership of the Chiko Roll brand and moved production to Bathurst. While its popularity has waned, close to ten million originals are still consumed annually. The brand now includes corn jacks, mini chicken kiev, beef croquettes, pluto pups, fish cakes, chiko dimees, crumbed onion rings and chunky chiko chips. In 2016, a plastic Chiko Hand Holder was made in the shape of a fist that could hold a Chiko and designed to sit in a car cup holder. Its slogan was 'Keep Both Hands on the Wheel and another on a Chiko'. In October 2017 Simplot Australia showed the Chiko Roll to the world at the International Trade Show in Cologne, Germany. The Company's Managing Director, Graham Dugdale expected the Chiko to attract significant interest. 'This is the first step in expanding the global footprint of Australia's most famous hot snack as well as raising the profile of Australian manufacturing expertise'. Dugdale added: 'Chiko's home is take away, sports games and other outdoors events and we think it has its place in similar venues all over the world'.

**Suzanne Smith (grand-daughter) and Andrea Clements (great granddaughter) of Frank and Anne McEnroe**



*Anne and Frank McEnroe 1978  
courtesy McEnroe family image*



## Pankaj Sirwani



Early in December last year Pankaj Sirwani joined the RHSV as Administration Officer for 2019. Pankaj was born in Pune, India, where he went on to attend The Bishops School. Pankaj has also completed a Bachelor of Business Administration, specialising in finance. He is eager to undertake further studies and Pankaj is encouraged by his parents in these endeavours. Recently Pankaj has completed studies in accounting and financial management as part of his Masters studies at LaTrobe University.

Pankaj has a range of employment experiences. He was employed as an account's administrator for four years part time while completing his Bachelor Degree. After arriving in Melbourne his first job was to deliver Pizza and 'having an inquisitive personality', Pankaj learnt to operate the whole shop by himself. At Telstra Pankaj was employed as a customer advisor and 'was promoted twice within a year'. After working with Telstra Pankaj was employed as 'a senior business consultant supporting

businesses and individuals to digitally connect and become technologically advanced'.

Pankaj has not had specific interests in the studies or recording of history but has already become interested in the work of the RHSV. He believes 'learning is a continuous process; we learn something new every day'. He feels 'honoured to be a part of one of Victoria's oldest heritage [institutions] with invaluable historical information'.

Pankaj's other general interests include 'going for long road trips, hiking and meditating'. He is also 'trying to prioritise playing guitar, cooking and dancing'. In future Pankaj wants 'to make a substantial contribution in the accounting and finance industry by exploring an area where accounting and technology can overlap or amalgamate by creating new processes to handle critical data efficiently and securely'. The motto of Pankaj's old school, The Bishops School, is 'Thorough'; and we're sure he will be.



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# Journey to the maddest place on Earth

*Jill Giese, winner of the 2018 Victorian Premier's History Award for her book *The Maddest Place on Earth*.*

Shrouded by eucalypts in my local walking haunt stands a towering bluestone gate pillar – the stoic remnant of Victoria's first lunatic asylum at Yarra Bend. It sparked a casual interest in learning a little more history of the mental health system I'd toiled in as a clinical psychologist, but soon I was engrossed in the intriguing world of Victoria's colonial asylums. These institutions overflowed with disordered minds as Victoria grappled with a soaring rate of insanity. The proud and prosperous colony responded with earnest efforts to cure the excessive lunacy with an enlightened treatment.

Three captivating individuals emerged from the archives, each revealing a compelling story as they quested for something ennobling in their lives. They became my guides to the asylums and the energies of the times – the ambitious doctor, newly arrived to take charge of the overflowing institutions armed with his curative treatment; a gifted young artist, severed from his homeland with his madness, whose sanity was restored under the modern approach; and a mysterious champion of the underdog who gained undercover access to the asylums to expose the thronging patients' plight.

These three immigrants' interwoven tales illuminated the remarkable story of insanity in nineteenth century Victoria. With its surprising humanity and striking contemporary relevance, I had to give voice to this history.

The alarm about Victoria's mental health travails spawned eleven government enquiries in the space of just thirty years. At the most extensive royal commission in 1885, the head of Victoria's asylums presented a comparison of international insanity statistics that left the commission's chairman aghast. "This gives us the most unenviable position of being the maddest place in the world?" he asked the asylum chief. "Yes", was the blunt reply.

Local medical experts testified with learned explanations for Victoria's surfeit of insanity, which included the effects of the intense Australian sun on fair British souls, the religious fervour whipped up by Salvation Army meetings, excessive masturbation, Victoria's high meat diet, and even the heady pace of modern life in contemporary Melbourne.

However, more promising historical insights lay in the colonials' curative treatment for insanity. The enlightened treatment was transported from Britain, where a revolution in managing mental illness had occurred in the early 1800s following dark centuries of brutal, subhuman abuse.

The British reforms had their unlikely beginnings with the notions of a tender Quaker, who believed people with insanity may have lost their minds to madness, but not their hearts. He established his own asylum, speaking to the hearts of

patients by treating them with dignity in pleasant environs with purposeful activity. Unsurprisingly, when patients were no longer treated like wild beasts, the Quaker's efforts produced impressive results. Seizing an opportunity, the progressive among Britain's medicos adopted the enlightened treatment, spearheading a wave of reformed asylums that eventually spread to the British colonies.

In Victoria, three purpose-built grand asylums were constructed, with sweeping views and landscaped gardens to provide uplifting surroundings for patients. Treatment prescribed nourishing food, strict daily routines, and meaningful occupation working around the asylum. A variety of organised amusements – including the fortnightly asylum ball, lawn bowls and caged birds in the exercise yards – aimed to divert patients from fixating on their disordered thoughts.

The asylums were intended as therapeutic places of recovery to gradually restore disturbed minds to sanity. And Victoria's magnificent asylums, despite bulging with patients, attained a peak 'cure' rate of 54 per cent in 1876 – greatly exceeding that of English asylums in the same year. But it was downhill from there, as the grand asylum project was eventually ambushed by the sheer number of patients, inadequate clinical knowledge, mostly ill-suited staff and accumulation of

*The Italianate grandeur of Melbourne's Kew asylum, opened in 1873 and once home to over a thousand patients (image courtesy State Library Victoria)*





*Top: Lunatic asylum branding, used on patient clothing and objects throughout Victoria's colonial asylums (image courtesy Museums Victoria [<http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/256124>])*

people with chronic mental illness. The asylums' crumbling grandeur saw some dark chapters in the twentieth century until they finally closed their doors in the 1980s and 90s in the new age of community care.

Victoria's three palatial colonial asylums still dominate the landscape in Melbourne's Kew, and in regional Ararat and Beechworth. They stand as testament to the state's once enlightened public largesse and progress in treating mental illness. Yet today, despite profound treatment advances, people with mental disorders are increasingly numbered among our homeless and imprisoned, specialised community services are severely overstretched, and our suicide rate is on the rise.

As we continue to grapple with the

challenges and complexities of mental disturbance, the historical foundations of our mental health system resonate with surprising relevance. The nineteenth century vision of therapeutic asylums to cure insanity may have failed, but they were built with sincere intentions to offer refuge and recovery for people ravaged by inner turmoil. And the enlightened treatment principles recognised the importance of social connection, structured routines and purposeful activity – fundamental requirements for the sense of a contributing life, and just as vital today for those struggling with this ancient human malady.

**Jill Giese**

# Around the Societies

Prepared by volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

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 2019 ISSUE**

please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 10 March 2019.

**BALMORAL:** The Society is proud to announce that its application for a grant from Heritage Victoria's 'Living Heritage' program has been successful. The Society has been granted \$50,000 to restore the Balmoral Courthouse. After many years of investigation, fund raising and grant applications our Courthouse will become a part of the community again. The Courthouse is to be restored from the ground up. Many of the furnishings and artefacts are still intact and so the Courthouse will be predominately set up as Court but adapted for displays. Hopefully, all this will be completed in the New Year. The Society has recently received many donations to its collection and Restoration Fund. We think that this is due to the news about the restoration of the Courthouse, our Facebook page, items that are placed in the local *Balmoral Bulletin* and Open Garden Days at historical homesteads; all evidence that the Society is alive and well and working in the Community.

**BENDIGO:** In November 2018 the Society participated in Bendigo's first Open House weekend. We were overwhelmed when over 1180 visitors poured through our small 'Specimen Cottage' – the oldest building in old Bendigo's commercial district. Half of these visitors lived in

Bendigo but had never been inside. This Heritage listed building is actually two stone cottages co-joined in the 1970's. The earliest the size of a miner's cottage and the other abutting was built as a sample two storey four room residence with a unique front cantilevered verandah. Our society has only been in the cottage for five years and has been open only two days a week from 10 to 4pm.

In 2019 we will be opening also on Saturdays from 1 to 4pm. We wish to celebrate our two new glass display cases funded by a grant from Strathfieldsaye Community Enterprises. Our material and paper objects will now be displayed upstairs, away from the dampness in the lower floors.

Please check our website and our monthly newsletter 'Marunari' for further information. We run many walking tours during the year as well as special tours every Sunday afternoon and tea at the old Shamrock Hotel.

**BOX HILL:** The next meeting of the Society will be in Meeting Room 1 of the Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, beginning at 2:00 pm. On Sunday, 17 February 2019, we have two guest speakers from Box Hill's two horticultural societies: Helen Harris OAM and Bob Yeomans. Helen Harris, BHHS Secretary

and Archivist, will detail the history of the first such group in the Box Hill area; and Bob Yeomans, a former President of the Box Hill Horticultural Society, will speak about the history and activities of the later group.

**BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS:** On March 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm a walk focused on the Spanish Flu will begin near the Office. The first wave of the pandemic hit Melbourne in January 1919 and proved to be the most virulent, the number of infected reaching their greatest height in the second week of February. Worldwide this pandemic is thought to have killed an estimated 50 million people, although some experts suggest the total might actually have been twice that number. More died during the pandemic than in the course of the entire First World War. On this walk we will meet just a few of the many hundreds who died and were buried within the walls of the Brighton Cemetery including the first to be buried at this time: Jeanette Mary Anderson Plain who died 26 January 1919.

**COBURG:** All 2019 meetings will be at the Coburg Library meeting room on the third Wednesday of the month EXCEPT for the June (Saturday 15 June), July (Saturday 20 July) and September (Saturday 7 September) meetings. Guest speakers:



February 20: Dr Bart Ziino, 'After the World War 1, Armistice in Australia and Victoria'.

March 20: Dr Carolyn Rasmussen, 'Doris Blackburn'.

April 17 Dr Cheryl Griffin: 'After the World War 1 Armistice in Coburg'.

There is also a proposed combined Moreland Historical Societies meeting for Saturday March 2, 1.30 at Sherwood House, Saxon Street off Dawson Street Brunswick. The proposed topic is the Upfield Line and the impact of the level crossing removals on its heritage significance.

**EAST LODDON:** The Society has been busy working with the East Loddon P12 College to finalize their long awaited project to recognize the effort of the residents of the former Shire of East Loddon during WW1. Eight bollards are now erected at the Memorial Gates in front of the College telling the story of the Great War and the East Loddon community. The students, led by a very enthusiastic staff, have been heavily involved in the research of the war effort and design of the bollards. The Society have identified nearly all the soldiers and nurses who enlisted from the former Shire of East Loddon. Other names have been included because of the family connection to the Shire even though they enlisted as far away as Sydney, Western Australia and South Africa. So far 326 have been recorded. An interesting snippet that emerged from this research showed that there were many young men who had recently arrived in Australia from England, were working on farms in the district then enlisted with the AIF and served under the Australian Flag. Most returned to Australia after the war. This bollard project will be linked to the East Loddon Anzacs website created by the East Loddon P12 College year 9 students.

**GOLDFIELDS/DUNOLLY:** To celebrate the discovery of the 'Welcome Stranger' gold nugget, the Goldfields Historical and Arts Society will be hosting an event at the site of the discovery of the largest gold nugget ever found. The 150th anniversary of the discovery is Tuesday February 5th, 2019. A guided walking tour will start at the monument at Moliagul at 10:00am. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a display of photos and other items relating to the nugget at the Dunolly Museum.

**FITZROY:** After our AGM, we had a presentation from the guest speaker Professor Miles Lewis who spoke on 'The Portable Buildings of Fitzroy and around the World'. Miles has a long-established interest in portable buildings in early Melbourne. He presented photographs, plans and sketches of different types and manufacturers of portable buildings in Victoria, several of which remain in various states of repair and of modification. During Miles' presentation he spoke about the 1853 J. H. Porter Prefabricated Iron Store located in the Yarra Council depot in North Fitzroy (the Gasworks site). The depot is the subject of development proposals and intense debate within State Government, Local Government and local protest groups as it is one of the few remaining portable buildings in Melbourne, and the only known standing structure J. H Porter building in the world.

**PORT FAIRY:** An active few months to close 2018. Recent achievements have included improvements to the exterior of the courthouse, mounting and maintaining our major new museum displays, preparation for the 5 year review of our museum accreditation and the start to building of our new Archive facility. We were also pleased to be invited by Marten Syme to his book launch, *Port Fairy : the town that kept its character, a history of Port Fairy 1835-2018*; an important reference for the research at the Society.

**PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS:** The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden is open to the public and is located near one of the approaches to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

The gardens were opened on 8 June 1935 with the unveiling of two bronze plaques, one by Lady Hungerfield, wife of the Governor of Victoria and the other by Mrs. Isidore Henry Moss (Alice Frances Mabel, nee Wilson), C.B.E., J.P., President of the Women's Centenary Council. The Melbourne "Argus" reported Mrs. Moss's words at the time, "We want you to realise that this is a garden in the making. Imagine what it will be like in 10 years - a haven of rest and peaceful contentment for those women who come and sit within its borders. I feel that we women of to-day have left our mark on the present and the future in having brought it into being."

A Reception was held in the Melbourne Town Hall that evening.

**STAWELL:** Stawell is located on the Western Highway approximately 240 km north-west of Melbourne. It is the western-most part of the Victorian Goldfields, alluvial gold having been discovered there by William McLachlan at Pleasant Creek in 1853, and quartz gold, at 'The Reefs', in about 1856. The Historical Society is located in the Pleasant Creek Historical Precinct, 46 Longfield St (Western Hwy.) Stawell. Currently on display is a history of Stawell Timber Industries, as well as a display on the Stawell Woollen Mills (Norwell). Our ongoing displays are on the history of Stawell and District, and the H.M.A.S. Stawell. Our Research room and Museum are open 10 - 4 Wednesdays and Thursdays or by appointment.

**YARRAWONGA MULWALA:** 2018 has seen many highlights. Firstly, Tim Fischer AC officially opening our popular Museum display on General Sir John Monash, which has received visits from several school groups, as well as the general public who have come to the region especially to visit the museum.

In October Yarrowonga celebrated 150 years of township, the inaugural event being the Launch of our long-awaited book, *A bridge across time : a general history of Yarrowonga Mulwala*. The production of this book has taken 10 years, with many dramas and sadnesses during the process. However, the 400-page book has received rave reviews and is selling extremely well at the Pioneer Museum and other town retail outlets; two members presented the RHSV with a copy. Members have also organized and participated in a colourful and memorable street parade and other town events.

# Broadford and District Historical Society

The Broadford and District Historical Society has existed for over 50 years. It was founded in 1968 to preserve important aspects of the history of the local area: the aim of most local societies. The event that gave the society impetus was the centenary of the Broadford Shire in December 1974. A small group received much support for Centenary projects from the Shire to build a replica of an early Pioneer cottage, and to publish the records and stories that had been collected by members.

There are some successes to point to and several challenges that have to be faced. A key area is to demonstrate to a changing community the value of understanding the town's and area's origins and developments.

The Society has been able, with the assistance of the shire, to establish a precinct of important buildings. They include the Kurkurruc schoolhouse, the Broadford Courier printing office, the original police lock-up and the Mills Cottage. The society built a pavilion to display larger items. This collection gives the Society a physical presence in the town as the precinct is directly opposite the Post Office and War Memorial. The schoolhouse, which has been in many locations, holds most of the records. It is used for the monthly meetings and for the weekly sessions run by many active members. We are particularly proud of the Courier Office as it housed what we believe to be the last handset newspaper produced in Australia. We have the two printing presses used to produce the paper between the 1890s and the 1970s. A significant study, run through the National Library, established that the office has rare pieces of equipment. The cottage, which is a typical drop slab building, is also fascinating, because it was rediscovered when the House that was built around it was being demolished.

In terms of achievement the first one is that the society still exists. For a few years at one stage we were reduced to three active members. Fortunately we have increased our membership. This has allowed our skill base to improve so that we have been able to assemble databases in order to carry out hundreds of pieces of research about families in the area. This has been added to by the publication of several books, the most recent, *When Broadford was young and so was I: my memories of its buildings and people* by Ruth Davern, documents the history of all the houses and businesses in the original part of the town.

As part of our aim of informing the broader community about its history our regular newsletter has featured articles about important people in the town's history and the origins of many of the street names. A particular focus has been on the biographies of local men who served during World War I. Their life stories were published in the area newspaper. Our open days have recently featured displays of sporting club memorabilia and next year we plan to focus on the important paper mill. We have hosted many visits from school groups. As part of our last two Heritage Week displays, we provided a bus to take people to the Reedy Creek homestead.

The Society has a peppercorn rent on the building, which was once owned by the local squatter. The lease is for 99 years, which is an ambitious undertaking for such a small society. The house has some fascinating decorations, but it is in a poor state. We were able to obtain a grant from Heritage Victoria, which was used to stabilise the homestead. Any sort of restoration will be a difficult task for the local community and for the society. As there were gold rushes in the area, the homestead represents many aspects a Victorian history, dispossession, squatting and gold.

The challenges we have include sustaining an active and capable membership and to maintain our buildings and resources. As Broadford could be described as originally a timber town, preservation of our buildings is a particular struggle. Termites destroyed our Mechanics Institute, once a vital centre of community life. The same creatures have recently undermined the Printing Office and Mills Cottage. The local Shire is assisting us in an attempt to make sure that the experience with the Mechanics Institute is not repeated. Fire is a risk and therefore safe storage is an issue. We hope that our website can be re-established and not have endure another hacking. We have worked with the Shire of Mitchell to both maintain our resources and also to build a greater understanding of Heritage issues, particularly regarding planning decisions. There is another major challenge that we have barely started to deal with, that regarding the indigenous history of the area. That surely would be a key aspect of our wish to continue to build closer connections with our community. We have a dedicated membership but need to broaden it.

**Rod McKenzie**



**A School Group Visits BHS**





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# The Royal Historical Society Victoria's new web site

Since the end of 2018 members and others interested in Victoria's history have benefitted from a new website. It is clearly laid out, divided into clear sections, with consistent font and hyperlink words in blue; each of these features making it easier to use. The logo remains on the top of each page, supporting easy return to the home page and, in most cases, 'breadcrumbs' are provided in the top left corner as you search; again enhancing navigation of the web site.

The home page begins with access to the library catalogue, bookshop, societies and the website sections with a search box at the top of the page.

Using the 'Heritage Matters: major threat to historic shopping strips' link readers can learn about the objection lodged by the RHSV to a planning amendment which threatens the heritage fabric of the North Fitzroy Queens Parade shopping strip and risks being extended to other historic shopping strips. The 'Heritage Matter's link below the top banner provides access to information about other issues concerning developments around the state.

As users scroll down the page they are provided with access to the latest information about:

- 'Recent News': currently, 'City Circle Tourism Tram script', 'Submission to the Heritage Council: Federation Square' and 'RHSV gains a grant for 2019 from the FRRR' to engage and train a Digital Co-ordinator to work with 4 historical societies which are all in areas affected by the 2009 bushfires...
- 'What's on at the RHSV'
- 'Cabinet of Curiosities' and 'Exhibition: Main Gallery'
- 'Featured books'

Towards the bottom of the front page access to the many allied societies is provided through the interactive map as well as the search box where you can enter the names of towns around the state of Victoria.

Included in the frame at the base of the page are RHSV contact information, Office and Library hours and access to subscription of the RHSV newsletter.

Also, under the heading 'About', links provide information about:

- 'RHSV council members' and 'RHSV staff', with brief biographies
- What the RHSV provides, 'What we do'
- Society Objectives
- Constitution & bylaws
- History of the RHSV, '100 years of the RHSV'
- 'RHSV Headquarters: Drill Hall'

The '100 years of the RHSV' uses the medium of film produced by Shannon Owen and is curated by Elizabeth Willis. The narration commences with information relating to the formation of the RHSV with footage of 1800s Melbourne and includes extracts of interviews with volunteers explaining their roles.

'RHSV Headquarters: Drill Hall' history link provides a brief history of the building, with details relating to its architecture and original use.



# 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.**

Please note: these books listed are not necessarily offered to the bookshop by authors, please check the shop catalogue.



**Cold War Games: Spies, Subterfuge and Secret Operations at the 1956 Olympic Games.** Harry Blutstein. Echo, Victoria Australia, 2017, pp ix, 348, ISBN 9781760405687

The 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games was hailed 'the friendly games'. All global sporting events carry a political undertone, depending on the climate of the time, however the 1956 games were held during the heightened tensions of the Cold War. This book is spectacular; from a revolutionary and violent water polo match to a forbidden East/West romance, defectors, spies, and propaganda on both sides. Blutstein should consider adapting this novel to a screenplay as the Cold War Games would be as thrilling and gripping on screen as it is on the page.



**The Church on Bakery Hill: St Paul's Ballarat and its place in the community.** Anne Doggett, Sovereign Press Pty Ltd, Ballarat, Victoria, 2018, pp 296, ISBN 9780646986906.

Anne Doggett aptly cautions readers that to chronicle the entirety of St Paul's in Ballarat would take several volumes. In lieu of this, Doggett has artfully contextualised the history of the church in how it relates to the wider history of Ballarat. The church has witnessed the madness of the gold rush, the expansion of the town, served through war, depression and prosperity. The chapters are named after the various Reverends who served, and this gives the book a relatable feel. Their tenures of service give distinct personality to each time period. The reader becomes part of the community, just as the church continues to be.



**A Second Chance: The Making of Yiddish Melbourne.** Margaret Taft & Andrew Markus, Monash University Publishing, Melbourne Australia, 2018, pp ix, 345, ISBN 9781925495850

Most of the literature on the Jewish experience in the 20th century is focussed solely on the Holocaust and the rebuilding of lives after liberation. This book however explores the development of the Yiddish community in Melbourne both pre and post war. Taft and Markus, through the accounts and interviews of Jewish Australians, discuss pre-war immigration and anti-Semitism. The book covers the development of Yiddish speaking communities such as Carlton, the uncertainty and fear of the war years, the massive influx of survivor immigrants, conflicts with the White Australia policy and even internal conflicts within the community. This book is excellent and encourages the reader to question their preconceived beliefs about what they know of the Victorian Jewry.



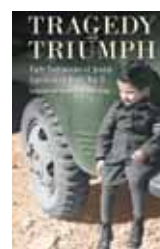
**A Landmark or Two... The building record of Peter and David Rodger 1889 to 1928.** Vanessa Kiessling, PenFolk Publishing, Blackburn Victoria, 2018, pp iv, 127, ISBN 9781925467017.

If you ever walk in to heritage listed buildings in Australia and ponder about the people whose hands laid the bricks, swore when their thumbs met hammers and whose sweat, blood and tears are forever part of the living history before you – this book is for you. This book is a record of the works of Scottish brothers, Peter and David Rodger. From news articles to contracts, court proceedings and pictures. The brothers have an impressive rap sheet; they worked on Flinders station, the Hobart GPO and St John's Cathedral in Brisbane (and so many more!). An excellent read if our historical architecture leaves you in awe.



**Jean Berthe: The Quiet Frenchman.** Sandra A Hargreaves, Queenbee Publishing, Victoria Australia, 2018, pp 124, ISBN 9780646983844

This book is simultaneously heart-breaking and uplifting. It documents the unlikely meet-cute of an Australian World War One digger and displaced French war orphan on the front line of the Great War. Jean Berthe was just one of the 900,000 French war orphans, but through a stroke of fate was met and adopted by Robert Simpson and the 3rd Australian Pioneers. Hargreaves has an excellent narrative writing style, setting the scene of equilibrium for Simpson's rural life in Paynesville. She guides the reader through the disruption and destruction of the War and returns to equilibrium (albeit transformed) with Simpson smuggling Jean Berthe back to Australia to live a life of peace that both profoundly deserved.



**Tragedy and Triumph: Early testimonies of Jewish Survivors of World War II.** Freda Hodge, Monash University Publishing, Melbourne Victoria, 2018, pp ix, 222, ISBN 9781925523676.

The early testimonies of Holocaust survivors capture the still-raw horror and desperation of Jews who narrowly escaped the Nazi war machine with their lives. These accounts were taken in the years immediately after liberation, between 1946 and 1948. These memories were documented before the survivors rebuilt their lives, before they found new homes, new countries and new families. This book is absolutely gut wrenching, and yet impossible to put down as it feels necessary to read, to remember, and bear witness.



# History Victoria Bookshop

## New Books in store for February 2019



### **The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields, A Dictionary of Biography.**

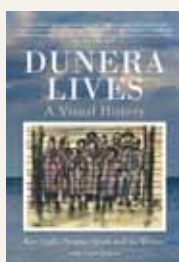
Peter Griffiths, Victoria Australia, 2018, pp v, 282, ISBN 9780648159902.

This is an absolutely fascinating dictionary of Welsh men and women who lived, worked and died on the Victorian central goldfields. In what must have been a herculean effort with dogged determination, Griffiths has given snapshots into the lives of a unique culture and language that tried, and tragically failed to survive outside the cradle of Wales. Albeit, echoes remain in Welsh language gravestones, the tradition of Eisteddfods and generations of Welsh descendants thriving in Australia today. It is very easy to get lost in the lives of these people who were trying to keep themselves, their families, their fortunes and their cultural identities alive.



**Half the Perfect World: Writers, Dreamers and Drifters on Hydra, 1955-1964.** Paul Genoni and Tanya Dalziell, Monash University Publishing, Melbourne Australia, 2018, pp vii, 425, ISBN 9781925523096

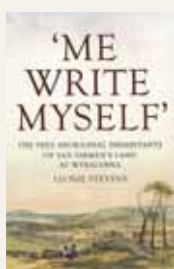
The stereotype of singers, writers, painters and creatives of the miscellaneous kind running away from society's ills to live on an isolated commune is a somewhat weary one. Yet, something about the idea of casting off all expectations both cultural and familial holds a certain appeal. This book is about two Australian writers, George Johnston and Charmian Cliff who did just that. The post-war community that built up around them on the Greek island of Hydra was idealistic, romantic and wanted to live a more 'authentic' life. Genoni and Dalziell capture that 'itchy feet' idealism that so many young people experience, and similarly the realisation that the world with all its mundanity and practicalities, catches up with us all.



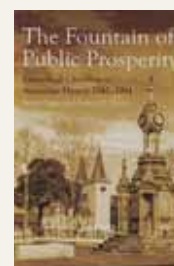
**Dunera Lives: a visual history.**  
By Ken Inglis, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter with Carol Bunyan  
\$39.95



**Good Country, The: the Djadja Wurrung, the settlers and the Protectors.**  
By Bain Attwood \$29.95



**Me Write Myself**™ the free aboriginal inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land at Wybalenna.  
By Leonie Stevens \$29.95



**Fountain of Public Prosperity, The: evangelical Christians in Australian history 1740-1914.** By Stuart Piggin and Robert D Lindner \$49.95



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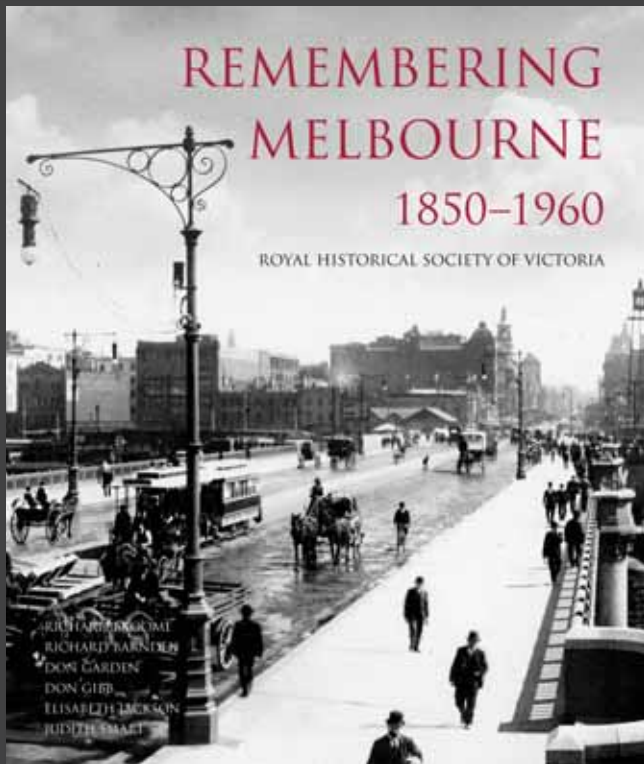


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# REMEMBERING MELBOURNE

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.)

