

# HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.341 APRIL 2019



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# President's Report

I am writing this from History House. RHSV has long aspired to develop the Drill Hall as Melbourne's History House, and in its March meeting Council agreed that we should start using the title on our letterhead, website, etc., as a small start in achieving our ambition.

As reported previously, we have been focusing on strengthening the RHSV Council, and the RHSV Foundation. It is critical that the Foundation is able to increase its activities so it can raise funds towards achieving a full History House. As part of this campaign we are renewing our encouragement of members and supporters to donate generously to the Foundation, and to remember the RHSV in their wills. Watch this space for further information.

We are also (perhaps belatedly) setting out to recognize more appropriately those who have donated and left bequests in the past. An impressive new honour board listing our generous benefactors has been installed on the wall above the exhibition space. I mentioned in my last report the many donations that have been made over the years by Gordon Moffatt who, among other achievements, was the first Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne. This month we will hold an event to honour him by naming the former Executive Officer's office, now a meeting room, the Gordon Moffatt Room. We are deeply grateful to Gordon for all he has done for us.

I draw the attention of all members to the notice of the Annual General Meeting that is to be held on Tuesday 21 May. One important aspect of the evening will be consideration of a several changes to the RHSV Constitution. These are mainly updates to recognise current practices (such as the use of email addresses, and membership renewal via the website) and clarification of matters such as the capacity of the Council to make By-Laws. Details of the changes will be sent to all members via email and they will be available on the website. We hope that all members will find the changes appropriate and will support them.

It gives me much pleasure to welcome two new councilors. Cathy Butcher has agreed to become Assistant Secretary and will be the Council minutes taker. Cathy was the OHS Coordinator with Victorian Trades Hall Council and in 2016 a member of a ministerial panel of three reviewing Worksafe Victoria's compliance and enforcement regime. Dr Charles Parkinson is a barrister with a doctorate from Oxford University in constitutional history. Among his history publications are a biography of Sir William Stawell and a chapter in *Judging for the People*.

**Don Garden**  
President



## Annual AGL Shaw Lecture in partnership with the C J La Trobe Society:

'Garryowen: The Voice of Early Melbourne' by Dr Liz Rushen,  
Chair History Council of Victoria

**Tuesday 16 April 2019, 6.30 for 7pm**  
**RHSV Officers' Mess Upstairs**

This lecture will explore how Edmund Finn's 1888 impressions of pre-1851 Melbourne shaped what people understood to be relevant, important, democratic, and even Victorian.

**Note to RHSV members:** *this is not a free event and bookings are available through the RHSV website* [historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/)

## Annual Weston Bate Oration

'Making History by Saving it' by  
Kristin Stegley OAM, Chair of  
the National Trust of Australia  
(Victoria)

**Tuesday 21 May 2019, 6.30 pm**  
**after the AGM at 6pm**

**RHSV Officers' Mess Upstairs**

**Bookings:** [historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/)

Kristin will explore the nexus between history and heritage, especially the advocacy required to maintain and strengthen the vitality and integrity of both.

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

Research by Dr Harry Blutstein author, freelance journalist and adjunct professor at RMIT.

**Exhibition open until 4 June,**  
**Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm**

To promote Melbourne's 'Friendly Games' in a Cold War context, America's Cold War warriors, the CIA, were told by ASIO not to attend. However, the CIA operated covertly encouraged fifty defections among athletes and officials, gaining a propaganda coup for the 'free world'.

## History Week 2019

starts on Sunday 13 October. More details from RHSV soon. Start thinking.

## Congratulations to Dr Simon Smith,

a former RHSV Councilor and Vice President, for being awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours for significant service to the law.

## History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF VICTORIA INC.

**PRESIDENT** Don Garden  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER** Rosemary Cameron  
**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER** Pankaj Sirwani  
**COLLECTIONS MANAGER & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** Jillian Hiscock  
**EDITORS** Richard Broome [rbroome@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:rbroome@latrobe.edu.au)  
Sharon Bettridge [sbettridge@outlook.com](mailto:sbettridge@outlook.com)  
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor  
**EMAIL** [t.broome@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:t.broome@latrobe.edu.au)  
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### COVER

Portrait of a fellow prisoner at Camp 13 Murchison by Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt 1942c. Courtesy of the Murchison and District Historical Society

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF VICTORIA INC.

History House  
239 ABeckett Street Melbourne 3000  
**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm  
**Library Hours:** Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm  
**Phone:** 9326 9288  
**Website:** [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)  
**Email:** [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)  
ABN 36 520 675 471  
Registration No. A2529

# Notice of Special General Meeting and 2019 Annual General Meeting

All members are advised that a Special General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 21 May 2019

Time: 5:00pm

Place: RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Business:

To adopt amendments to the RHSV's Constitution.

The proposed amendments will be available on our website for the calendar month prior to the AGM.

All members are advised that the Special General Meeting will be followed immediately by the 109th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc which will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 21 May 2019

Time: 5:15pm

Place: RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2018.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018.
4. To appoint the auditor for 2019.
5. To elect office-bearers and members of Council.
6. To receive expressions of interest for the History Victoria Support Group.
7. To elect any members or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.

8. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
9. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

The SGM and AGM will be followed by the Weston Bate Oration, *'Making History By Saving It'*, to be delivered by Kristin Stegley OAM Chairman of the National Trust Australia (Victoria).

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Four ordinary positions on Council will be open for re-election/election. Three Councillors are retiring by rotation as their two-year terms are completed and are eligible to re-stand; a fourth Councillor will not be standing.

Two office-holder positions, those of President and Secretary, will be open for re-election/election as their two-year terms are completed. The present incumbents are eligible to re-stand.

Nominations for ordinary positions on Council and office-holders will close on Tuesday 14 May 2019. Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer and the RHSV website.

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Affiliated societies are encouraged to provide expressions of interest for membership of the RHSV's History Victoria Support Group. These should be forwarded to the Executive Officer by Tuesday 14 May 2019.

**Rosemary Cameron**

20 March 2019.

[Executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:Executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au)

## History Victoria Support Group (HVSG)

### GOOD NEWS:

HVSG are pleased to announce that a limited number of grants of \$1000 are available for societies to run their seminars for themselves and others. Further details can be obtained from Rosemary Cameron EO, RHSV.

Members of HVSG are happy to talk to societies, visit your museum or archival rooms, or offer helpful advice. Contact HVSG at the RHSV.

Two successful workshops on digitising by Sophie Shilling have been held to date in 2019 at the RHSV. Please indicate if your society wants more workshops on this topic. The HVSG is presenting three more workshops set out below. These practical workshops will address some of the current needs of societies.

### WORKSHOP ON PUBLISHING LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS

By RHSV author and History Victoria Bookshop manager' Lenore Frost and Kay Ball (Murchison Historical Society), who has published many books, won awards, and obtained Holsworth grants.

**RHSV Drill Hall Friday 5 April 1.30- 4.30pm**

Bookings: [historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/)

### WORKSHOP ON ARCHIVES STORAGE STRATEGIES

Castlemaine Historical Society, 7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine VIC 3450

**Friday 17 May 2019 noon-4pm**

Bookings: [historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/)

Cost: \$20 for RHSV members and members of affiliated historical societies, others \$30. BYO lunch, free afternoon tea

There are four sessions after an hour's networking at noon:

- storage of paper based material [Alleyne Hockley, CHSI Archivist].
- photographs – framed and unframed [CHSI member].
- digital archival files [David Langdon, HVSG, President Richmond & Burnley HS].
- storage facilities [Dr Ken Gifkins, CHSI Treasurer]

### WORKSHOP 'ENSURING SOCIETIES ARE FINANCIALLY VIABLE'.

June time date and venue to TBA

Rapid changes in technology, extra financial burdens being imposed on societies and the need to balance the books are increasing the pressures historical societies are experiencing. Practical advice will be imparted for societies to understand their financial requirements, comply with rules and regulations, safe keeping of their assets and plan for their financial futures.

Bookings: [historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/rhsv-events/)

Alleyne Hockley Convenor HVSG (RHSV)

Are you descended from a David Clark passenger?

*A reunion for the 180th anniversary of the David Clark's dropping anchor in Hobson's Bay on 27 October 1839:*

**Sunday, 27 October 2019, at Gulf Station, 1029 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen, Vic.**

Descendants of those 229 passengers are invited.

For information as plans progress, email now to: [davidclark1839@gmail.com](mailto:davidclark1839@gmail.com)

# Bass Strait Lighthouses and a Japanese Reconnaissance Flight in 1942

The iconic lighthouses of Bass Strait are usually associated with maritime stories and tragic shipwrecks. Few people however are aware of the important role four of these lighthouses played, in an audacious flight made by a Japanese reconnaissance plane over Melbourne in early 1942.

Residing in Point Lonsdale on the Victorian coast for many years, I heard tales about a Japanese two-seater Yokosuka E14Y (Glen) float plane flying down the Victorian coast during World War Two. The Japanese Navy categorised this type of plane as the Zero-type Small Reconnaissance Seaplane. The allies assigned it the codename: 'Glen'. I was inspired to probe deeper.

The story of the Japanese reconnaissance flight began at the north end of King Island. The most prominent feature at the northern tip of King Island is the Cape Wickham lighthouse. It is the tallest lighthouse in Australia, constructed in 1861, standing 48 metres tall, with a range of 24 nautical miles. The lighthouse is an amazing sentinel standing approximately midway between Victoria and Tasmania.

On 26 February 1942, the Japanese submarine I-25 under the command of Captain Meiji Tagami was 10 miles off the Cape Wickham lighthouse. 'The submarine was 108 metres bow to stern. The I-25 was normally crewed by 12 Officers and 88 enlisted men. It also amazingly housed a small floatplane!

On that particular day in February 1942, Captain Tagami ordered the launch of the small (Glen) floatplane. It was an incredible piece of engineering. David Jenkins in *Battle Surface* published in 1992, wrote that this 'small two seater plane with wood and fabric wings and cumbersome floats could remain aloft for more than 5 hours. The Yokosuka E14Y had a wingspan of 11 metres and a length of 8.54 metres, a cruise speed of 165 km/hr and a range of 880 kms.' What is also fascinating, is the fact that this small plane was stowed with her wings removed, in a cylindrical watertight hangar, forward of the conning

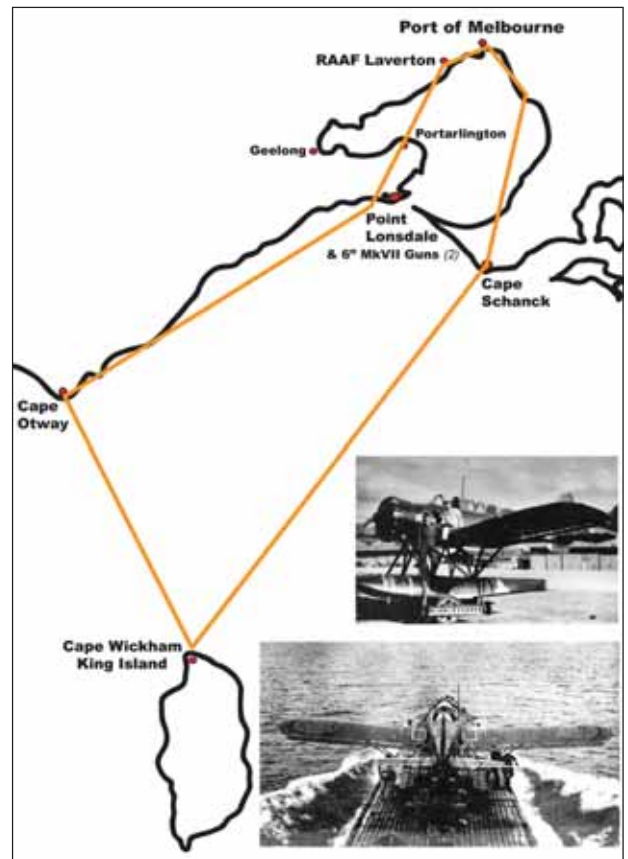
tower. Pilot Warrant Flying Officer, Nobuo Fujita, and Observer/Gunner, Petty Officer Second class Shoji Okuda, crewed the floatplane. The purpose of this daring flight was a reconnaissance mission over the Port of Melbourne.

The Cape Wickham lighthouse is situated in a very remote location. But, because the lighthouse is such an obvious landmark, it would prove to be an ideal landmark for the returning floatplane. Captain Tagami and Fujita had learned, when performing a reconnaissance mission in the same plane over Sydney Harbour on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1942 that prominent landmarks were critical and essential. On that particular flight, fuel had become critically low, as the returning (Glen) floatplane, searched for the I-25 submarine.

On 26 February 1942, just before dawn, the floatplane was moved from its watertight hangar and quickly and efficiently assembled on deck. There were twelve main components. The wings were attached and then the flaps and ailerons unfolded, and the floats attached. The tail plane was unfolded and the propeller was fitted. This incredibly only took about one hour! There was no spare set of wings, so the crew had to be very cautious regarding gusts of wind, which might blow one into the sea aborting the mission.

Once assembled, the dark green seaplane was launched by catapult along a 20 metre long inclined ramp. At the end of the ramp, the plane lifted clear of its supporting trolley. The submarine would have increased its speed to 18 knots into the breeze, to create the necessary lift for takeoff. The seaplane would then climb away at 90 knots.

On this particular mission Fujita, made full use of the Bass Strait maritime navigation



*Schematic diagram of the approximate flight path Fujita flew on 26 February 1942 drawn by Lester Hunt. Yokosuka E14Y & the I-Class submarine deck Courtesy David Jenkins, Battle Surface.*

beacons. He flew north towards the Cape Otway lighthouse and then tracked along the coast, towards the Point Lonsdale lighthouse.

He turned more northerly and crossed the coast west of the Point Lonsdale lighthouse to avoid its defences. There were two Mk VII 6-inch guns that had been installed on the sand dune-tops. There were also searchlights and machine guns on the Point Lonsdale defence reserve.

Cloud cover on this particular day was dense. It was ideal in that it allowed the floatplane to fly undetected over the Bellarine Peninsula towards Portarlington. However, the cloud cover did not relent and Fujita made the decision to descend below the cloud, and confronted a terrifying sight! They were above the Laverton RAAF air base. "It was a terrible place to come down," said Fujita, who survived WW2 and recalled this and other flights to David Jenkins recorded in *Battle Surface*.

Aware that many ground crews would have identified the Japanese floatplane, Fujita flew in and out of cloud towards Melbourne. The Lieutenant in charge of defences at Laverton RAAF base had not given the immediate order to open fire. Instead, he phoned headquarters to gain permission. The ground defences quickly lost sight of Fujita. By the time

fighters were scrambled, the floatplane had disappeared.

Fujita continued, flying over the Port of Melbourne, St. Kilda, Brighton and Sandringham. Flying south he identified the next maritime beacon: the lighthouse at Cape Schanck. From this waypoint, he set his return course to Cape Wickham. On this incredible mission, Fujita and Okuda had noted the docks and ship repair facilities at Melbourne, nineteen ships at anchor in the Bay, plus one light cruiser and five destroyers, line astern, heading to Melbourne.

Fujita, was overwhelmed by the beauty and colors of the landscape. He recounted to David Jenkins how he had thought that the large flocks of grazing sheep looked so much like 'pieces of raw silk'.

Upon Fujita's return to Cape Wickham, he was most concerned to find that the 1-25 submarine had drifted to within six miles east of the lighthouse. The submarine would have been visible from the lighthouse. He landed successfully on the water, only to be further alarmed by the sight of four people in white running near the lighthouse. He told David Jenkins: 'I was scared to death!' He expected the Australians to open fire, but fortunately for the Japanese, no alarm was raised.

The 'Glen' floatplane subsequently was lifted by derrick onto the deck, disassembled and stowed for the next mission, a flight over Hobart on 1 March 1942.

US Army General, George S. Patton, told the officers under his command that, 'you can never do too much reconnaissance..... use every means available.'

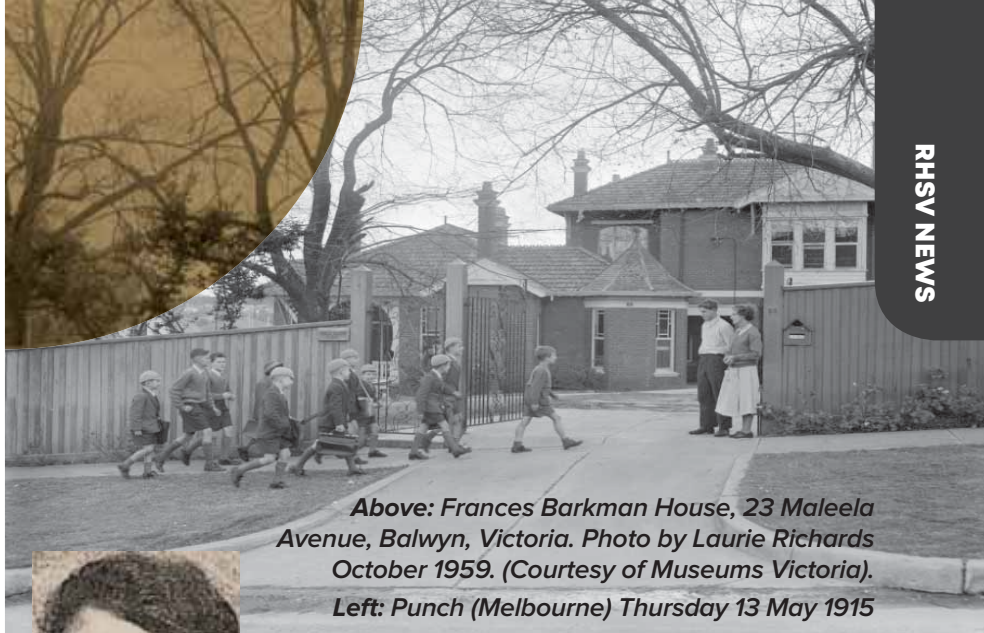
The I-25 and the Glen floatplane certainly adhered to this dictum completing an extensive range of missions over Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Wellington, Auckland, Pacific Islands and the mainland United States.

Lester Hunt

Despite significant investigation the copyright holder of the plane's images above could not be found. The RHSV and the author welcomes any information on this matter.

The author acknowledges assistance for this article from David Jenkins, *Battle Surface. Japan's Submarine War Against Australia 1942-44*; Random House, Australia. (1992); Heritage Victoria database: Point Lonsdale Lighthouse; Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Precinct.

General Patton's words are from Headquarters; 3rd US Army; APO 9563; 6 March 1944, Subject: Letter of Instruction No1; To Corps, Division, and Separate Unit Commanders.



**Above: Frances Barkman House, 23 Maleela Avenue, Balwyn, Victoria. Photo by Laurie Richards October 1959. (Courtesy of Museums Victoria).  
Left: Punch (Melbourne) Thursday 13 May 1915**



## The Indefatigable Frances Barkman – Philanthropist and Teacher (1885-1946)

I encountered the late Frances Barkman in 2009 while researching the family history of a former resident of the Frances Barkman House in Balwyn, Victoria. Frances was a Jewish child refugee, born in Kiev, Russia (now Ukraine) in 1885. Joseph, Anna and daughter Frances, had fled the Russian pogroms and arrived in Melbourne in 1891, where Joseph Barkman taught Hebrew at Ormond College, Melbourne.

Frances (aka Fanny) was educated at the Rathdowne Street State and Secondary School, Carlton and trained as a teacher, graduating with a BA from the University of Melbourne. Her major areas of interest were French and drama. She became an examiner in French at the University Public Examinations, and was a lifelong member of Alliance Française, an international organisation that promotes French language and culture. She received two awards in the 1930s from the French government for her 'outstanding interest and promulgation of French literature, art and teaching'. Frances joined the Lyceum Club, open to women graduates and those who have distinguished themselves in the arts, education, science and philanthropy.

In 1936, the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (now Jewish Care) was established in Sydney and soon after in Melbourne. Frances served as the Melbourne branch honorary secretary ensuring that refugees arriving from Europe were guaranteed safe haven.

In 1939, Mary Hutton, the headmistress at MacRobertson Girls' High School in Melbourne, appointed Frances, a member of the teaching staff, to oversee the school's war relief. In 1942 the American Army took over the school's site. Frances

was President of the Women's Committee of the Free French Movement and a leading advocate of its cause during the German occupation of France. A high-ranking officer of the Australian Military Forces, wrote that, 'nobody was more welcome at the internment camps than Miss Barkman, and that nobody commanded the respect of commanding officers more than this earnest and indefatigable Jewish lady'.

Frances Barkman who never married, was instrumental in establishing Larino Children's Home, Balwyn, giving up many hours of leisure time to teach them English. After her death the name of Larino Children's Home was changed in 1948 to the Frances Barkman House, acknowledging her services as honorary secretary.

Frances died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy, Melbourne, on 28 September 1946, aged 61 years and was buried in the Hebrew section of Fawkner Memorial Park, Melbourne. Her will named the University of Melbourne and the Australian Jewish Welfare Society as her chief beneficiaries, with the AJWS providing bursaries for students in the Jewish Refugee Children's Homes. Professor Chisholm, Head of French at the University of Melbourne wrote: 'She was one of the most stimulating teachers of French in Victoria and turned out some of the best students we have had in French at the University'.

### Rose Raymen

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of MacRobertson Girls' High School, Melbourne; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; Museums Victoria, Melbourne; Trove – National Library of Australia.

# Our Youngest Councillor



Historical Societies yearn for younger members. The RHSV is fortunate to have Lucy Bracey as both member and Councillor (2013-2015), (2018 – present). But youth is not Lucy's claim to fame, rather the skills and experience in public history she brings to RHSV.

Lucy completed a BA (Hons) from the University of Melbourne in Australian history, her thesis on women, morality and Melbourne winning the Jessie Mary Vasey prize for the best thesis in women's history. She completed

an MA in Public History at Monash University, her thesis being on 'Queens of Harlotry' – sex, power and moral panics in nineteenth century Melbourne. More recently she finished an MA in Information Studies from the University of Canberra.

During her undergraduate degree Lucy held a student placement at the Public Records Office, Victoria, working with archivists and record keepers in developing a 'how to' guide for new researchers to the archives. During her postgraduate degree Lucy completed an internship at ABC Radio National, researching, writing and producing an audio documentary for the then Radio National history program, Hindsight. Moving into the paid history world, Lucy was an assistant curator at the City Museum, Old Treasury Building and later the State Library of Victoria. Lucy joined the team at Way Back When as a consulting historian in 2010. There she communicates the past in meaningful and dynamic ways, making it relevant and connected to the present. Lucy has worked on a variety of different commissioned history projects in the past ten years, using archival research and oral history interviewing. Besides writing, Lucy is also an editor and presenter.

Lucy has published four academic articles; and written or co-written eight commissioned publications; curated seven exhibitions; constructed four websites; and made two audio

programs. These projects cover the history of suburbs such as Brunswick and Fitzroy; organisations such as the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Victorian AIDS Council and the Engineering Department at Monash University; schools such as Bialik College and Springvale Primary; events during the First World War; and buildings like the Rialto and Robert Blackwood Hall.

The RHSV Council benefits from Lucy's presence in several ways. She connects the RHSV into the world of public historians, those who earn their living practising history outside the Academy. She is a member of the Professional Historians Association of Victoria and Tasmania, serving as both President (2014-2015) and Vice-President (2010-2015). Lucy has pertinent communications skills honed by her MA in this area and her practice of professional history. This is sorely needed on Council to understand how the RHSV can best connect to its constituency. She has a great deal of historical knowledge also due to her experiences with the ever-changing demands of doing commissioned histories. Lucy is also a creative person, again honed by her role as a public historian. Finally, she is hard-working and passionately committed to the role of history in the community. Thus, it is in her abilities not her youth, that her true value to the RHSV Council lies.

**Richard Broome**

## A Life of Adventure

Norma Mullins has been a Thursday volunteer with the Society for about the last ten years. She came to us after working as a guide at Como and in the Cabrini gift shop. Their loss was our gain! She has done much administrative work: managing our regular mail outs – including annual membership and insurance renewals and keeping our site search and vertical files clearly labelled and organised.

Norma was born in Maffra but was there only a short time before her sawmill-owning father moved the family to Glenhuntly. That is where she went to school during the Depression, and she

has strong memories of families in the street selling off possessions to make some money.

She attended a business college in Malvern, then worked at the Returned Solders League in Collins Street. Her next move was the biggest change. Her father who had been a wireless operator, encouraged her to train at the Marconi School of Wireless, which would enable her to join the WAAF. Frognall in Mont Albert Road, Canterbury was being used by the RAAF's Melbourne Wireless Telecommunications Station. Norma worked there for about five years, sharing a dormitory with twenty other women, and translating Morse Code messages.

After the War, Norma ended up on Nauru Island, working for British



Phosphate Commissioners (BPC). She married there and started a family. She later managed the hotel and, at one point, ran a general store with one of the locals. She lived on Nauru for over thirty years.

The Society has greatly benefited from this rich life experience. Now aged an amazing 97 – making her our oldest volunteer – Norma is still managing our major mail outs. Norma's immaculate dress sense has raised the bar high and her dry sense of humour and vivid stories keep us entertained.



*Victoria May James (1898-1994)  
the last librarian*

# Hall of Fame:

## Eaglehawk Mechanics' Institute and Free Library

Eaglehawk on the Loddon Highway, north west of Bendigo, is the site of one of the largest goldfields in Australia. After gold was discovered in Golden Square in 1851, rapid development occurred at California Gully, Sailors Gully and Eaglehawk. Rows of tents, slab huts then shops, schools, transport and water emerged over the next decade, culminating in the establishment of the Eaglehawk Borough in 1862. Many fine buildings revealed heady aspirations and pride of place.

A public meeting was convened by the Mayor, John W. Williams on 18 May 1868 for the purpose of 'taking steps to establish a Free Library'. A committee was formed, which requested the use of part of the council chambers as a public reading room. This opened on 27 May 1869 with a collection of 55 books, various journals and newspapers. Botanist Ferdinand von Mueller offered volumes from his own collection, free of charge, boosting the collection to over 1,000 volumes. Serious fundraising for their own building in Sailors Gully Road began. In 1883 the Eaglehawk Mechanics' Institute opened in a stately single-storey, red-brick and white-rendered building of six rooms serviced by a wide passage. It was designed by Henry Edmeades Tolhurst (1837-1902), who designed the adjoining Eaglehawk Town Hall.

The Eaglehawk Mechanics institute (EMI) and Free Library (FL) is now a time capsule. Not only does this stately original building contain all the elements of a typical mechanics' institute-library, reading room, museum/class room and billiard room, but it also contains the original

nineteenth century library collection and shelving, parts of the reference collection and the fundraising billiard tables. The all-important mineral collection, a valuable teaching tool in the gold mining areas, remains in place. A painting of the Opening of Federal Parliament has recently been returned to the EMI. There are also original building plans – framed. Two displayed honour boards list the EMI Presidents 1909-1944 and a restored WW1 Roll of Honour, which includes the names of three local WW1 nursing sisters.

The local community in Eaglehawk has cared for this valuable heritage building for 151 years. Not only has it survived intact, but a revival has taken place with upgrades to the building. The Eaglehawk Public Library has occupied the former Reading Room since 2012, its contemporary collection, computers, wi-fi, children's story time and community activity space being appreciated by the local community.

The Eaglehawk Heritage Society was formed in 1994 when council amalgamations placed Eaglehawk within the City of Greater Bendigo. This Society has played a pivotal role in ensuring that Eaglehawk's unique identity and heritage is preserved. Its members' stoic efforts to preserve and ensure the on-going use of the Eaglehawk Mechanics' Institute is to be applauded. The building is on the Victorian Heritage Register and 'is rare as an early and continuing lending library in Victoria and rare as a relatively intact although small building of its type'.

The first librarian was James Abbott (1877-

85). The last was Mrs Victoria May James, who was appointed honorary librarian of the EMI Library in 1958, aged 60. When she retired in 1962, the library door closed, but the library collection remains.

In 2007 the building was handed over to the City of Greater Bendigo by Trustee Owen Davies and a committee of management appointed consisting of local and user groups and the Eaglehawk Ward councillor. Conservation work to the external facade, two internal rooms and the roof began soon after. The building has now been refurbished, painted with part of the original border retained and cedar shutters installed. The library books were cleaned, doors enlarged, street signage added, disabled access, heating and cooling installed.

Fundraising is important and necessary to continue preservation of this building. In 2012 the Friends of the Library formed and were part of the collaboration with the Goldfields Library and the council to expand the Goldfield Library services to the mechanics' institute. Since then the rooms have been utilised by the Annual Dahlia and Arts Festivals and let to various organisations for art shows and book launches, and used by the committee of management for meetings. The library and community service legacy proudly continues at the institute for the Eaglehawk residents, just as the early committee envisioned in 1868. Well done Eaglehawk! It is now open six days a week from 10:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night!

**Pam Baragwanath**

# The Struggle Over Local Heritage

*We are amid several major battles, most of which concern local heritage, the likely big issue of 2019.*

The Queen Victoria Market and surrounds illustrate this point. Lord Mayor Sally Capp's People's Panel initiative seems to have saved the market itself because it is on the state heritage register. However, we have lost most of the Queen Victoria Market Historic Precinct, which was protected only by a local Heritage Overlay. These buildings were not remarkable enough to justify listing on the State Register, but they were essential parts of the market.

The Council purchased the block south of Therry Street (opposite the Deli Section), known as the Munro Site. The Council sought to make a profit from this site to pay for the proposed redevelopment of the Market. A 196-metre tower was proposed but Planning Minister Richard Wynne reduced the height to 125 metres or 41 stories. The new development is now under construction. To maximise the profit from the development, the Council voted for demolition of the same buildings on which it had earlier placed a Heritage Overlay, and the Minister agreed. The tower will be based on a five-storey podium. Instead of a low-rise complementary historic facade opposite the Deli Section, we will have five storeys of flats looking down on the Therry Street seating. I was there on 18 January this year and took this picture of the demolition.

This case illustrates the vulnerability of local Heritage Overlays to the whims of councils, which are the responsible authority for initiating any Heritage Overlay and for subsequent planning involving buildings covered by their own Heritage Overlays (subject to appeal to VCAT of course).

We are facing increasing problems with Heritage Overlays as the state government presses councils to maximise development. Most areas of Victoria are covered by Design and Development Overlays (DDOs), which specify what development is regarded as appropriate. These DDOs coexist with Heritage Overlays (where they exist).

The secret of the Corkman Hotel—illegally demolished in 2016—is that it was covered not only by a Heritage Overlay but also by a DDO. While we all thought that it was protected, in fact it was earmarked for intense development. This classic gold-rush era Victorian pub, dating from

1857, had a Heritage Overlay but that wouldn't have protected it. At the time of demolition, the authorities thundered that the developers would have to rebuild the hotel, but last October, threatened with legal action from the developers, the authorities gave them what they would have got had they acted legally. The Council and the Minister accepted a Planning Scheme Amendment that will allow the developers to build a 40 metre apartment tower.

This points to an emerging problem with DDOs and other planning imperatives that override Heritage Overlays. Yarra Council is currently considering Proposed Planning Amendment C231 for the historic Queens Parade shopping strip. It provides that most of the shopfronts covered by Heritage Overlay can be demolished, leaving only the facade and the front six metres, and calling for six-storey development behind the facade.

Ian Wight of our Heritage Committee has led our opposition to this amendment. On Tuesday, 12 March, Yarra Council held a public meeting. There had been over 400 submissions, the vast majority seeking significant change in the amendment. Nearly everyone called for a four-storey limit or less. We called, and so did many others, for retaining at least the front ten metres or the main body of the shops. I



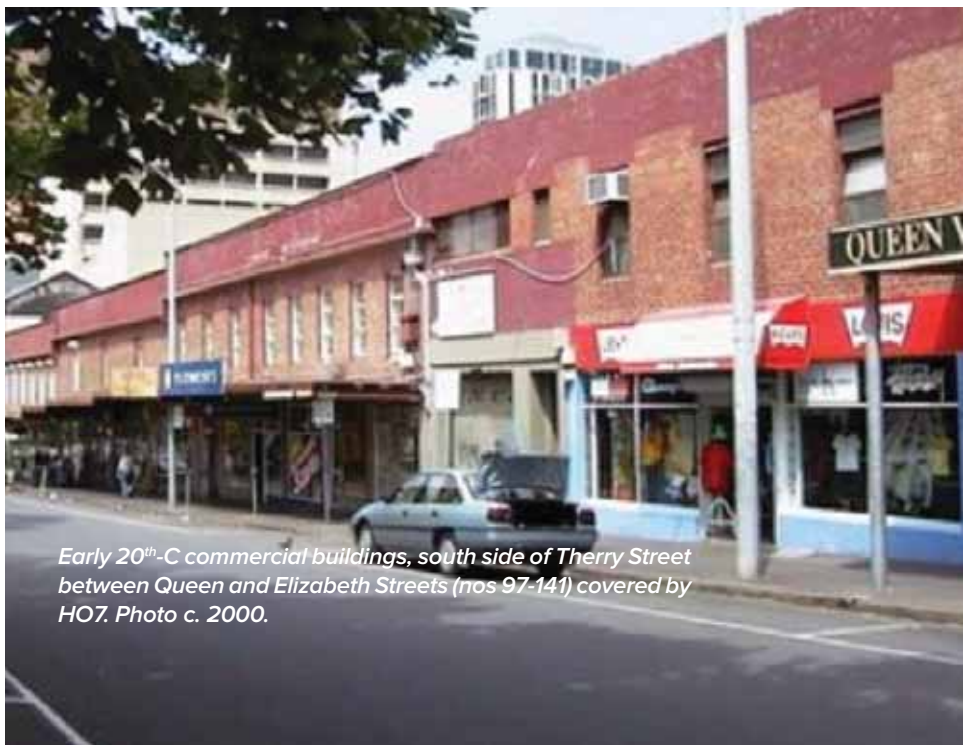
*Demolition of early twentieth inter-war commercial buildings, south side of Therry Street between Queen and Elizabeth Streets (nos 97-141), 18 January 2019 (photo C. Sowerwine).*

spoke at the meeting and pointed to the fact that the shops envisaged would be too small to be viable. Council clearly heard the community message. Cr Stephen Jolly moved to refer the draft back to officers to revise in accordance with the submissions. That was passed unanimously. We'll see in May what this brings.

So local heritage is the big issue. Professor Stuart Macintyre, Chair of the Heritage Council, heads a panel investigating the problems of local heritage. We hope for good news on this front and on Federation Square by the next issue of *History News*.

**Chips Sowerwine,**

Chair of the Heritage Committee, RHSV



*Early 20<sup>th</sup>-C commercial buildings, south side of Therry Street between Queen and Elizabeth Streets (nos 97-141) covered by HO7. Photo c. 2000.*





## Capturing the Story of the Art – ART CAPTURED

*Left: mural painted on the wall of Garrison Hall, and right, Camp 13 garden and guard tower by Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt. Courtesy of Murchison & District Historical Society.*

Seventeen large and colourful murals portraying caricatures and comical figures, today hang in three public venues in the central Victorian town of Murchison and are a unique feature of this small rural community.

Questions are often raised: 'where did these paintings come from?' 'What's the story behind this artwork?' The answers are connected to a part of Australia's World War II history that is not widely known.

Large numbers of the enemy were captured by the Allies in the North African campaigns during World War II, reportedly 145,000 by April 1941. Also, large numbers of civilians of European background living in Britain at the outbreak of war and considered to be a security risk, were interned when Winston Churchill issued the order 'collar the lot'.

An enormous logistical problem in housing, feeding and guarding arose concerning these internees and Prisoners of War (POWs). Commonwealth countries agreed to take some of them under an agreement with the British Government. In Australia, detention camps were set up in every state except the Northern Territory. Civilians living in Australia, who were thought to be a risk to security, were also detained and placed behind barbed wire in these camps.

In Victoria, except for a POW camp in the north at Myrtleford, these purpose-built camps were clustered around the Waranga Basin, a large water storage in the Goulburn Valley, central Victoria. Camps 1, 2, 3, and 4 were for civilian internees. Military prisoners were held in Camp 13 Murchison. A large mansion nearby called 'Dhurringile' housed the German officers, while at Graytown there

was an outpost timber cutting camp.

Caught up in this mix, was civilian Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt, a German mining engineer. He was captured with other German nationals while trying to leave South Africa to avoid internment. He had signed on as crew of a German vessel, but the ship was intercepted by a British destroyer and he was taken prisoner, his incarceration to last 6 and half years.

His following journey was far from smooth sailing. After being moved from one temporary holding in Britain to another, he was placed aboard the ill-fated *Arandora Star* that was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Many lives were lost in this disaster. Things did not improve. The second means of shipping these prisoners to Australia was the notorious 'hell ship' *Dunera*, notable for the appalling treatment of the Jewish Internees and POWs on board. Classified as a merchant seaman, Hans-Wolter was eventually placed upon disembarkation in POW Camp 13. This camp, west of Murchison, was the biggest of the compounds built and was able to accommodate 4000 prisoners.

Recognising his talent as an artist, the Commanding Officer of the camp, Lieutenant Colonel Bush, asked Hans-Wolter to decorate the walls of the large Garrison Recreation Hall. After the camp was no longer required, this building was transported to Murchison township for use as the Returned Soldiers League meeting rooms and venue for local social occasions. The artwork adorning the interior was always an intriguing feature admired by users of the building. When the Hall was demolished in 1982 the murals on the walls were salvaged, framed and still hang in locations within the town.

Hans-Wolter's son gifted an extensive portfolio of his father's work to the Murchison and District Historical Society. It then became obvious that Hans-Wolter's ability to paint, draw and sketch extended far beyond the familiar style of the well-known murals of Murchison and accepted as von Gruenewaldt's 'signature' style of art.

Hans-Wolter had the talent to paint serious portraits, scenes around the camps, backdrops for concert and plays, illustrate and write in attractive script the text for a concert production, and execute detailed drawings of wildlife near the compound. His cartoons of the daily work party and quirky caricatures of his compatriots demonstrated his ability to portray, with a few simple strokes, the amusing features of the individuals with whom he shared his incarceration. Depression was common behind barbed wire as the years dragged on, with no ending in sight. Hans-Wolter added some humour and light-hearted contribution to the situation.

*Art Captured* contains Hans-Wolter's own account of his hazardous journey to Australia, life in the camps and contains many images of his art, showcasing his diverse talent and wide range of artistic styles. This book relates a unique and unknown story of Australia's war-time history on home soil. It also answers to the often-posed question 'what is the story behind these murals in Murchison'?

### Kay Ball

*Art Captured* won the local history – small publication award at the VCHA (2018) – and is available from the RHSV bookshop and the M & DHS for \$25 plus postage.

# Victoria House, London

Editor: 2019 marks the existence of Victoria House on the Strand in London for 110 years. It is home to the Agent-General of Victoria in London. Victoria House played a key role in how Australia House, London came to be built, as is indicated in this abridged excerpt from Eileen Chanin, *Capital Designs, Australia House and Visions of an Imperial London, Melbourne*: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2018. Available soon from the RHSV bookshop.

Victoria House, as the new building for the London offices of the Government of Victoria came to be called, was officially opened on 30 March 1909. It was the first building erected on land cleared on the Strand by the London County Council to revive central London at the start of the twentieth century. At one hundred and twenty feet high, it fronted the Strand for twenty-five feet, and ran sixty-five feet deep along a new street that separated it from the Council's vacant land surrounding Victoria's block. Melbourne Place became the name of the new street leading from the Strand to Aldwych.

Designed by London architect Alfred Burr with modifications by the pre-eminent architect R. Norman Shaw, Victoria House was a six-story building with entrances from the Strand and Melbourne Place. Three distinct parts of the building (the ground space, the office space above and the upper roof section) expressed its intended purpose to serve as a showcase and meeting place as well as house offices. The basement was used for storage, the ground floor was an exhibition space for Victoria's products. Administrative offices occupied the next three floors. The Agent-General used the second floor; the third floor held an office and a Board Room. The fourth floor displayed Mining Exhibits. The fifth was devoted to reading rooms and served as a rendezvous for Victorian visitors to London. The sixth floor held storerooms and could be used for additional displays and other purposes. The building was said to cost approximately £16,000. The *British Architect* acclaimed its design and Victoria House was universally regarded as a fine structure.

Anticipating that the Commonwealth or other Australian States would build on the rest of the block it occupied, Burr saw Victoria House as part of a complete

scheme, the western corner of a larger single building to extend eastward along the Strand and to face St Clement Danes. The Commonwealth had been negotiating with the London County Council which approved Burr's scheme. London's *Daily Telegraph* endorsed Burr's design, saying that it would transform the Strand. Victoria House was the keynote for the as yet unbuilt composition. For now, Victoria's building merely signalled possibility.

Victoria House was an imposing presence on its site on the Strand (as photographs taken in 1909 show). 'Very like a skyscraper,' is how the New Zealand *Herald* described it. The paper's report catches the significance of the building in terms of when it was built. Victoria House went up when buildings were racing to the skies. Chicago's Masonic Temple (1890–2), built just fifteen years ahead of Burr's building, was briefly the tallest building in the world at twenty-two storeys. The record holder in 1908–9 was New York's Singer Building. Only seventy feet square, it rose to a height of 612 feet (forty-seven floors). Four years later, Cass Gilbert's Woolworth Building (1910–13), stood almost thirty per cent taller. With fifty-seven floors at 792 feet, it was the tallest building in the world, and remained so until 1930.

Because building regulations in London strictly controlled height, Victoria House could not match these buildings in height, but it was advanced. Taking high-rise building for granted, as we do today, we should not underestimate the boldness of the race to the skies made by the first high-rise tower buildings in the early years of the past century. They were as revolutionary as were Gothic constructions that transformed architecture in the twelfth century.

Victoria House seemed a towering form, a 'cloud-presser' or 'elevator building'



*Victoria House, London. New Offices for the Government of Victoria, Strand, 1909 (Alfred Burr, F.R.I.B.A., Architect). Courtesy State Library of Victoria.*

(as the new high-rise structures were known), when it soared high above the empty Strand land. Its upward thrust was in marked contrast to the vacant space spread out beneath it. 'The new 'Cornstalk' building that has arisen out of the Aldwych' is how the building's steel frame appeared, being 'conspicuously alone' (just as *The Age* relayed English comments on it).

The State of Victoria led the Dominion and Colonial representatives in London, being the first of them to build a permanent office there. Unsurprisingly, many press reports of the building's opening expressed their hope that the London offices of the Commonwealth would arise alongside it. The *Daily Telegraph* carried a leader, two columns in length, devoted to the opening of Victoria House. It suggested that the Imperial ideal was at last finding expression in London architecture: 'The Commonwealth, New Zealand and South Africa must follow with edifices expressive of the greatest factor in modern political life [the Empire], as the medieval cathedrals were of the life of their time'.

**Eileen Chanin**

# Around the Societies

We welcome Societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year.

## FOR THE JUNE 2019 ISSUE

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

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

**AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY: Thursday 11 April** - Lecture by Su Laird: 'History of Japanese Gardens'. Venue: Mueller Hall, National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. 6 for 6.30 pm start.

**Sunday 28 April: Working Bee Mooleric, Birregurra.** Contact Fran on 9853 1369 or email [franfaul@gmail.com](mailto:franfaul@gmail.com) for details;  
**Sunday 12 May: Working Bee Mt Buninyong, Buninyong.** Contact Fran on 9853 1369 or mail [franfaul@gmail.com](mailto:franfaul@gmail.com) for details.

**BALWYN:** Thursday 11 April - 'Wartime Experiences in Vietnam' by John Haward a Vietnam Vet and member of Box Hill RSL. Thursday 9 May 'Orchards and Fruit Shops in Doncaster and Box Hill' by John Barnao. He will cover the heyday of farm production in the Doncaster area and how businesses along the Maroondah Corridor, mainly Box Hill, catered for the district's orchardists. Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn.

**BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS:** 19 May - Law Week: "'Guilty or not' you be the Jury". This walk begins at the Cemetery Office. As the Jury you will hear the case of the death of two wives of a doctor; be asked who caused the death of the body found in a lane; whether a brother's dispute was responsible for a murder; and while out shooting rabbits was a death an accident? In total six cases will be heard and as the Jury you will be asked to consider if they are 'Guilty or Not Guilty'.

**CAMPERDOWN:** As well as the regular work of cataloguing, researching and hosting visitors, plans for new projects are always being discussed. A major project for 2019 is our 'Businesses Project'. This will entail listing the history of the shops, owners and businesses carried out in the two main retail blocks of Manifold Street. A great deal of work has already been done in preparation for this, including current photos of each of the premises. These can then be compared with older photos from our catalogue. Lots of work still to be done and it's still in the planning stages but it's going to keep members busy for some time!

**CARLTON:** The Melbourne General Cemetery has been embroiled in controversy, scandals and criminal activity. Since its first burial in May 1853, the cemetery has seen interments of people from all walks of life, from prime

ministers and prominent citizens through to paupers in common graves. The cemetery was originally designed by Albert Purchas in the manner of a public park, with trees, shrubs and open space, and was the first of its kind in Victoria (possibly also in Australia). As originally envisaged, the cemetery was an attractive place for passive recreation and peaceful contemplation. But the management of the cemetery has not always been peaceful. Jeff Atkinson conducts the very popular cemetery tours, organised jointly by the Princes Hill Community Centre and CCHG. The next tour is on Saturday 27 April 2019, from 10 am till 12 noon. Book online to secure your place. <http://princeshill.org.au/programs/history/107-2/>

**CIVIL AVIATION:** 12:00 noon Friday 1 June - Special Event! Christine Negroni: will speak on: 'Human, Hazard or Hero? What Malaysia 370 and the Miracle on the Hudson Teach Us About the Role of the Human in Aviation Safety'. Christine writes about aviation for *The New York Times*, *Air & Space* (Smithsonian Institution), *Travel + Leisure*, the *Chicago Tribune* and other publications. She is the safety consultant to the American ABC News and worked with the network in Malaysia during its coverage of the disappearance of Malaysia 370. Christine is in Melbourne to speak to the Australian New Zealand Association of Air Safety Investigators. For information contact <https://www.asasi.org/>

**FITZROY:** On Sunday 5 May, as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, the FHS will conduct a guided walk with Michael Shelford of Melbourne Historical Crime Tours. The walk will commence at 10.00 am on the northern corner of Gertrude and Nicholson Street (outside Royal Terrace) and finish about 11.00 am at the corner of Napier and Little Victoria Streets. It will look at criminal activities in the area from the 1880s to the 1920s. The walk is limited to adults 18 years of age or older. Children 15-17 can attend with a parent or guardian. The cost will be \$10.

**FRIENDS AND RELATIONS OF GULF STATION:** This year, Gulf Station will again take part in the Trust's Heritage Festival. Last year, the Trust did us proud with our entry in the program, which resulted in excellent visitor numbers. If you are not already a regular volunteer but think you might be able to help on our 2019 date (18 April), please send Irene an email at [Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com](mailto:Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com)

**GEELONG MUSEUM:** During 2019 the 'Last Sunday Series' of illustrated talks, will continue on the Last Sunday of each month, February to November inclusive. These talks from 2-4 pm in the National Wool Museum, Geelong are followed by afternoon tea (gold coin donation) and sales of books related to the talk when available. Details on our Geelong Museum Facebook page.

Sunday 28 April: 'Otway sawmilling history exploration. 20 years of bush bashing - rugged fieldwork in the Otway's for sawmilling history'. Norman Houghton has produced several books dealing with sawmills and their tramways in the Otway ranges. In this presentation, he will discuss his methods and findings. Booking essential: <https://trybooking.com/BBBWO>.

Sunday 26 May: 'History of the You Yangs'. The You Yangs are visible from many locations in Geelong and district, but few probably know much about them. Richard Critchlow is someone with knowledge to impart regarding these interesting peaks.

Booking essential: <https://trybooking.com/BBBXX>

**HOTHAM:** Talk by Ian Shears 'Greening Melbourne'. Melbourne's urban forest includes approximately 20,000 trees in the private realm. These trees help keep our landscape resilient, our city liveable and sustainable and maintain Melbourne's character and heritage. City of Melbourne's Exceptional Tree Register was adopted by Council in 2012. It enables us to recognise, celebrate and protect the exceptional trees that exist on privately owned or managed land in our city. 28 May, 7.30-8.15, North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street North Melbourne, Victoria.

**LEONGATHA:** This year we are planning a cemetery walk with an ANZAC flavour. On Sunday 14 April, Lyn Skillern will lead a walk in the Leongatha cemetery telling the stories of our war graves, graves of noted personnel, and memorials to those resting elsewhere in the world. The walk will commence at 2:00pm.

**LILYDALE:** On Saturday 6 April we will be holding a society first when we host 'The Postie and the Builder Q & A' session at the Old Lilydale Court House, 2.30pm after our general meeting at 1pm. This session will feature local former postie Ron Norman and builder Ray Oliver answering your questions about their

lives growing up in Lilydale. Both now in their 80s, they have amazing memories of people, places and events. Come with your questions and our postie and builder will try and answer them. Gold coin donation for non-members.

**MALDON:** Maldon's involvement in the Heritage Festival (18 April-19 May 2019) coincides with Maldon's own Easter Fair celebration. Events include:

'An Enduring Thread' by Maldon Museum & Archives, at Maldon Museum. Easter Saturday & Sunday 1:30-4:00pm, Easter Monday 12:00-2:00pm. Entry by donation. The 'Easter Procession Pictorial' exhibition over Easter weekend reveals some of Maldon's rich social and cultural history. Bring your own photos, memorabilia or stories of past processions to share. This year's Easter Monday Procession commences at 10:30am.

'Hidden Stories of Your House' by Maldon Focus Inc. is at Maldon Community Centre on Sunday 5 May 2:00-3:30pm. Adults \$5, children free, afternoon tea included.

'Maldon - Notable Town' by Maldon Incorporated - brochures and a web-based app at [tours.maldonmuseum.com.au](http://tours.maldonmuseum.com.au) will help you discover historic gems.

'Ephemeral Artworks Reveal Maldon History' commissioned by Maldon Incorporated is a temporary art installation of faux commemorative plaques during the Heritage Festival. It exhibits works by Castlemaine Secondary College art students, mentored by local artist and teacher, Clayton Tremlett.

**MALVERN:** Saturday 13 April at 10.30 am. Join members of the Society for our walk adjoining Heyington Station including Lawrenny Court, Torresdale Road and the northern sections of Lansell Road and Heyington Place. Heyington House was an early home built by artist James Turner. Bookings: Lorraine 9885 9082 Members: Gold coin. Non members: \$5 All welcome!

**MARYBOROUGH:** As part of the 2019 National Trust Heritage Festival April 18 - 19 May, we present an exhibition

on the 'Life and Work of Maryborough's Alec Chisholm' at the local Library, open during library hours: Monday to Friday: 10-5pm; Saturday: 9 - 12pm. Alexander Hugh (Alec) Chisholm (1890-1977) was born in Maryborough, (the now demolished family home was opposite the new fire station in Napier Street) attended PS 404 and began his working life at the *Maryborough Advertiser*. He became a prominent journalist, editor and naturalist, and was awarded an O.B.E in 1958.

**MORNINGTON:** Coffee mornings at the Mornington Fire Brigade rooms - Cost \$5. Tuesday 9 April at 10:30: 'Dromana Drive-In' by Paul Whittaker. His family has run this now heritage-listed venue for many years, and will take us down memory lane. Tuesday 24 May at 10:30: 'Rev George Cox - a Renaissance Man', by Joy Cullen who will share her research about this amazing Mornington resident.

**PLENTY:** On Sunday 23 June the Society will tour the beautiful Mont De Lancey Estate in Wandin North. The cost is \$8 and includes: the homestead and gardens, St Mary's Chapel, blacksmith's shop, vintage engine shed, and the extensive museum.

**UNITING CHURCH:** 'Discovering Ecumenism and Asia: The Harvey Perkins story', by Assoc. Professor Brian Howe, at 2:30 on 28 April, in the Mountview Uniting Church, Corner Whitehorse and Doncaster East Roads, Mitcham. Further details from Synod Archives on Thursdays 95715476.

**WARRNAMBOOL:** Family History Seminar - Saturday, 18 May, 2019 at Hammond Centre, Christ Church, cnr Koroit and Henna Streets, Warrnambool. Registration from 9.15 am for 9.45 am start.

Speakers: Bronwen Bennett, librarian, bookseller, lifelong bibliophile; Jill Geise, author *The Maddest Place on Earth: A Life in Victoria's Asylums*; Ken Flack, genealogist and historian from Horsham on 'Research - a different approach'; Janet Macdonald, President, W&DHS, on 'Houses and Land in Warrnambool and District - local records'; Kate Moneypenny,

SLV librarian, 'Researching your Family History at the State Library of Victoria'. Note: order of speaking to be determined on the day. Admission: \$25 (\$20 for WFHG, W&DHS; AIGS Members) includes morning and afternoon teas - BYO Lunch. Enquiries: Mike Roche [mroche001@gmail.com](mailto:mroche001@gmail.com)

**WAVERLEY:** Wednesday 24 April 2pm. Our guest Bill Brown will speak on: 'John Monash, more than a Military Commander'. Bill will explore Monash's other skills and abilities. At the Society's rooms above the Mt. Waverley branch of the Monash Public Library, 41 Miller Crescent, opposite the Mt. Waverley Railway Station - North side.

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# Books Received

By Lee Sulkowska

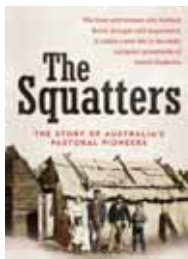
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

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



**A Scandal in Bohemia: The Life and Death of Mollie Dean.** Gideon Haigh, Hamish Hamilton, Australia, 2018, pp 1 – 310, ISBN 9780143789574.

Mollie Dean was always described with impersonal adjectives. A painter's girlfriend. A young schoolteacher. A bohemian muse. A tragic murder victim. Mollie Dean died over 85 years ago and with the case gone cold and no closure gained, journalists, writers, musicians and artists have filled the gaps of her death with their own scandalous visualisations and even fictions. Mollie has become a caricature of herself. Yet in this riveting book Haigh attempts to humanise her once more, telling the story of Mollie's life, which has for too long been overshadowed by her death.



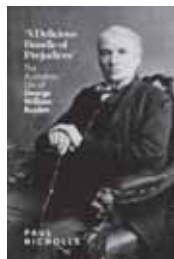
**The Squatters: The Story of Australia's Pastoral Pioneers.** Barry Stone, Allen & Unwin, NSW, Australia, 2019, pp 1 – 245, ISBN 9781760291532.

Australia in the present day is so advanced, our cities large, our populations multicultural and our global impact so impressive that it sometimes remains unfathomable that it's colonial history only spans a couple of centuries. Only a few short generations ago did the first white settlers and emancipated convicts decide to strike out of Sydney further into Australia's wild heart. Stone's book is about their struggle and determination to make a life for themselves, often at the cost of Aboriginal blood on their hands. Those who succeeded became what was known as 'scrub aristocrats,' creating their own social class, and for good or ill, paving the way for Australia to be known as 'the lucky country.'



**The Enlightenment, Philanthropy and the Idea of Social Progress in Early Australia: Creating a Happier Race?** Ilya Lazarev, Routledge, New York, USA, 2019, pp ix – 265, ISBN 9781138334298.

An expansion on Lazarev's PhD thesis, this book is a philosophical dive into Australia's early colonial 'civilising missions' from around 1788 – 1850. Lazarev discusses how the colonialists of Australia adapted the ideals from the Scottish enlightenment to Australia with the view of creating a progressive society. It also explores the relationship between these social ideals and early Anglo-Aboriginal interactions, and how this influenced future Aboriginal policy. It's a justifiably advanced read, but it's well worth sitting down with some of the concepts and considering the nature of civilisation.



**A Delicious Bundle of Prejudices: The Australian Life of George William Rusden.** Paul Nicholls, Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd, Melbourne, Victoria, 2018, pp vii – 488, ISBN 9781925801507.

If George William Rusden was asked as a child what he wanted to be when he grew up, his answer was probably 'everything.' Having migrated from England and exceptionally bright, Rusden put his mind to countless endeavours in his new country, and as such his name is peppered throughout Australia's colonial history. Rusden was an educator, a historian, a founder of schools, an Aboriginal rights activist, a man of religion, a lawman and a holder of definite political opinion. Nicholls explores Rusden's contradictions in this hefty and detailed biography with elegance and diligence.



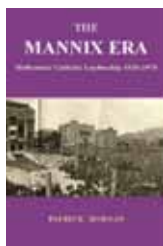
**Port Fairy: The Town That Kept Its Character.** Marten A Syme, Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia, 2018, pp ii – 295, ISBN 9780957929531.

This book is absolutely a labour of love for historian Marten Syme, who has been a resident of Port Fairy for the last forty years and spent the last ten years researching this work. The initial chapters cover the first colonial contact with the Aboriginal peoples in 1835, through development of a township, the building of a railway, war, and the hard years of the early 20th century. The second half of the book focuses on the challenges Port Fairy faced moving in to the modern day, its continued modernisation and its triumphant transformation into one of the world's most liveable towns.



**War Worn & Weary: The Convalescent Nurses of Osborne House Geelong 1917 – 1919.** Cheryl Scott and Margaret Phelan, Osborne Park Association Ltd, Geelong, Victoria, 2018, pp iv – 276, ISBN 9780646597744.

When one hears the term 'war wounded', images of impossibly young men who were torn and twisted by the horrors of conflict, convalescing in pristine white beds with pretty nurses bustling over them generally come to mind. Less considered is those nurses who were themselves battered by war, requiring rest and recuperation. This is an absolutely brilliant book, with short biographies of 47 nurses who were sent to recover at Geelong's Osborne House. At the same time pitiable and inspirational, these women led the full gambit of experiences in returned veterans; some never recovered either physically or psychologically and others went on to live full and happy lives. This book is a testament to them all.



**The Mannix Era: Melbourne Catholic Leadership 1920 – 1970.** Patrick Morgan, Connor Court Publishing, West End, Queensland, 2018, pp v – 304, ISBN 9781925826166.

This book, a sequel to Morgan's previous work *Melbourne before Mannix*, covers the archdiocese in Melbourne from 1920-1970. Archbishop Mannix, trained in Maynooth lent Melbourne Catholicism an Irish flavour. As a result, Mannix walks the pages of a great number of historical events during the early 20th century, such as the Irish rebellion, and the mid 50's Labor party split. However, this book also documents the interwar years, other key Catholic players during those decades, and the immense participation of the Catholic community during Mannix's Archbishopship. Instead of a purely biographical angle, Morgan skilfully contextualises Mannix in the wider Catholic community of Melbourne.



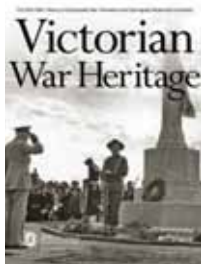
**Ballarat Old Colonialists.** Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat Inc, Ballarat, Victoria, 2018, pp 1 – 33, ISBN 9780646982250.

The Old Colonists Association of Ballarat was formed as an altruistic gold miners club in 1867. It was created to help those diggers down on their luck, the widows of the unlucky and the community that was built up around the Ballarat Goldfields. This booklet is a brief history of the club, documenting the ups and downs of its 150 years. It describes the custom-built Hall, the club's charity services, the achievements of its pioneers and its struggle to maintain patronage in modern times. In true Association style, the proceeds of the booklet are going to the Charles Anderson Grove Fundraising Appeal.



**The ANZACS of Maroondah: Lest We Forget.** Geoff Arnott, Croydon Historical Society, Croydon, Victoria, 2018, pp 2 – 345, ISBN 9780648361701.

This is an absolutely visually stunning book and is similarly staggering in its wealth and depth of content. As the title suggests Arnott chronicles the ANZACS of Maroondah, describing the townships of Croydon and Ringwood, how the call of war in 1914 took away many young men and women from the region and never returned them. He documents their involvement in many major battles, life in the trenches, those who won medals of bravery, many who perished and the lives of those who returned post-war. The book is rich with images and is a valuable source of ANZAC history for the Maroondah region.



**Victorian War Heritage.** Celestina Sagazio, Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Springvale Victoria, 2017, pp 1 – 40.

This booklet is a walkthrough of the Springvale War Cemetery, created in 1939. Most of the graves listed in this booklet are the dead from both World Wars and the Vietnam War. Readers can plan their visit with an excellent tour map with notable internments whilst reading about the lives and military service of the Australian men and women buried there. The cemetery has a Garden of Remembrance for quiet reflection, after which you can wander to the Botanical Cemetery section.



**Ballarat's Blooming Begonias.** Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Ballarat, Victoria, 2018, pp 1 – 40.

This is a charming and informative booklet for those interested in Begonias, their history and how they came to be one of the biggest tourism draws in Ballarat. It details the different Begonia categories, growing and cultivation tips, how the plants came to Ballarat and even their multiple brushes with British Royalty. A lot of history is crammed into this tiny booklet; Begonias were once used to polish swords, and in 1946 the Ballarat Botanical Garden's Begonia houses were empty due to war and drought. A fantastic booklet to pick up when visiting the Botanical Gardens in Ballarat.

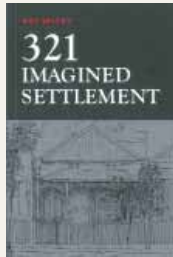


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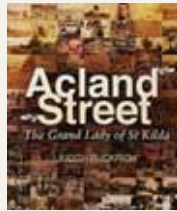
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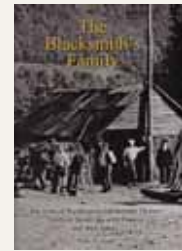
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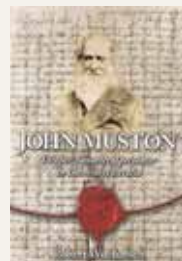
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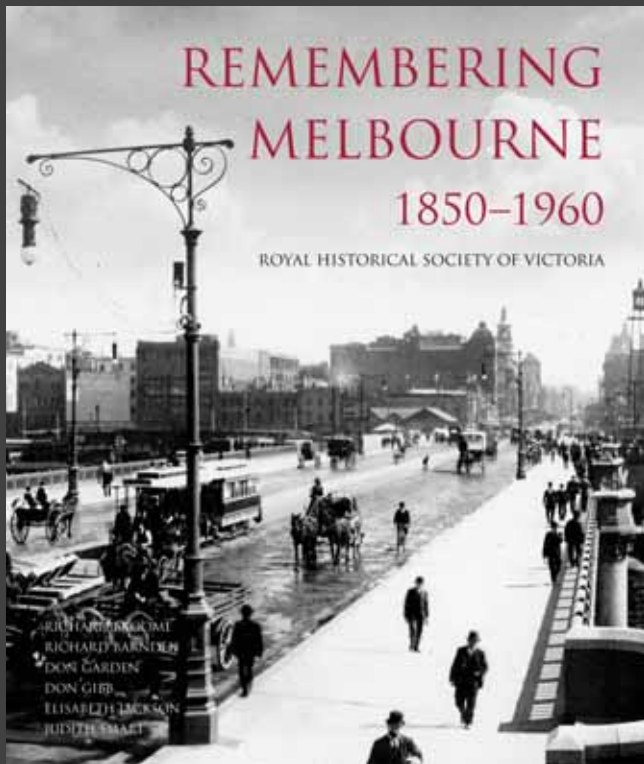


White Hot Flame, A: Mary Montgomery Bennett, author, educator, activist for indigenous justice. By Sue Taffe. \$34.95

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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.)

