

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.343 AUGUST 2019



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President's Report



A New President brings a New Era

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome was born and educated in Sydney, where he graduated with first class honours from UNSW and a PhD from the University of Sydney. During his career he has risen to become one of Australia's leading historians. Richard is the author of fourteen books and numerous articles and has edited several journals: including the RHSV's *History News* and *Victorian Historical Journal*. Richard lectured at La Trobe University for most of the period between 1977 and 2012. In 2006 Richard was appointed a Fellow of the Academy of the Humanities. He supported the History Institute of Victoria for ten years and has been Patron of the History Teachers Association of Victoria since 2013.

In May 2019, at this year's AGM, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria was very pleased to announce the election of Richard Broome to the position of President. Richard's contributions to the RHSV in recent years have supported the Society's development and growth. He has been a Councillor of the RHSV and chair of the Publications Committee since 2013 and served as Vice-President from 2014–17. Richard was the driving force behind the highly successful *Remembering Melbourne* and once joked that although he was accustomed to co-operating with a few other authors, this was the first time he had co-ordinated one hundred contributors! At present Richard is preparing another RHSV cooperative project, *Melbourne's Twenty Decades*, for publication.

Richard has been a passionate teacher, not only of university students but also in the secondary education domain; he has lectured for forty years to secondary school history teachers and students and written two texts for VCE students. Richard's contributions to the teaching of history have been recognized with university, industry and national awards.

While Richard has written on a wide range of subjects, it is his work on Indigenous history with its emphasis on Aboriginal agency and capacity for negotiation and self-empowerment that has been most influential. His book *Aboriginal Australians: A History Since 1788*, first published in 1982, is now in its 4th fully revised edition and has sold over 60,000 copies in that time. It is the most widely read work in this field and Richard is now preparing a 5th edition. He has also written *Aboriginal Victorians: A History since 1800*, published in 2005 and the most comprehensive account available of Aboriginal history since white settlement in this state. His history of the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League, *Fighting Hard: The Victorian Aborigines Advancement League*, was published in 2015 to document the fight against policies of assimilation and the struggle for civil rights. In the clarity and accessibility of his writing, his great capacity for story-telling and his meticulous research, Richard has opened up the history of Aboriginal Australians to a much wider public readership than academic historians. His early books include *Arriving* (1984) and *Coburg: Between Two Creeks* (1987) and his recent book *A Naga Odyssey*, written with Visier Sanyu, reflect his longstanding interest in the immigration experience.

Known for his kindness and strong interpersonal skills, Richard is innovative and entrepreneurial. Richard's ability to bridge the gap between the academy and the wider community has been a hallmark of his career as a historian. As president of the RHSV Richard is keen to acknowledge and continue with its many current strengths while enabling the wider community to understand that history is both a 'creative and truth telling enterprise'. As President, Richard's priorities for the RHSV include developing future multicultural diversity, the importance of tactical efforts to generate income, extending its digital imprint and securing a home for this 110-year-old institution.

I am honoured to have assumed the presidency of the RHSV at this exciting and challenging time for our Society. Don Garden, the immediate past president, gave important service to the RHSV over six years, overseeing important administrative change, key projects such as the digitisation of our collection, and the vision of the Drill Hall as History House.

My challenge is the sustainability of the RHSV to ensure its progress through the twenty-first century. Change can be difficult, but it also creates opportunities as we respond to challenges, leading to vibrant new arrangements. I am endeavouring to meet with staff, committees and volunteers as well as our Ambassador Professor Bill Russell, to explore how best to facilitate sustainability. Recently, decisions have been made that I am sure you will find reasonable and which I hope you will strongly support.

Our membership fees have risen by the very small amount of \$5 per annum for individual and affiliated societies, where it includes digital copies of *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal*. If you wish to receive posted hard copies of the VHJ, or of both publications, fees will be higher to cover the costs of printing and posting. This accords with common practice, which we are belatedly adopting. We have introduced a three-year membership, including a \$10 discount for each of the three years.

To be sustainable, we must cover the costs of every event we stage. Therefore, the wonderful lectures we present, accompanied by a glass of juice/wine and nibbles, will now cost members \$10 per lecture (\$20 for non-members) to cover the

costs of refreshments, staff and the venue.

Exciting new things are happening as well. Rosemary Cameron and I have met with the Chairperson of the National Trust, Kristin Stegley and the CEO Simon Ambrose. Together we are planning new partnerships, cross promotion of events and exploring joint ventures. We are continuing talks on the Drill Hall as well in new and fruitful ways. To encourage new and younger members into the Society, we are continuing to offer one-year free memberships to University postgraduates (university by university in rotation) and to history teachers to induce new vitality.

Members have responded magnificently to the offerings in our new drop-down donor's box atop our homepage: help for our publications, collections, and equipment. Please monitor this drop-down box to see new options as they emerge; ones you may find especially attractive.

In the next six months we will host a range of interesting functions: an informative and fun wine tasting night (Friday 13 September) hosted by a Victorian wine judge and a historian of wine in Australia; the launch of our new venture, the Jessie Webb Society, to engage more fully with RHSV donors; and a series of lectures on early Melbourne to launch our new book, *Melbourne's 20 Decades*.

The RHSV's 2.6 paid staff, its many volunteer-staffed committees, and the host of daytime volunteers, are all engaged in numerous projects to enhance the RHSV. We will continue to communicate their efforts to you month by month.

Richard Broome

History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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PRINTED BY First Class Mailing 9555 9997
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EMAIL sbetridge@outlook.com

History News Copy closes 16th, September, November, January, March, May and July, unless in consultation with the editor, Sharon Betridge
RHSV welcomes submission of articles for inclusion in *History News*.
Publication and editing will be at the discretion of the editor and Publications Committee as directed by our Terms of Reference.

PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011 ISSN 1326-2619



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COVER
National Gallery of Victoria, great
hall glass ceiling
Photographer Saiko, 11 March 2009,
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:National_Gallery_of_Victoria_great_
hall_03.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:National_Gallery_of_Victoria_great_hall_03.JPG)

What's On

Attendance at any and all RHSV events should be booked through our website: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/>

All events are held at RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000, unless otherwise stated.



WORKSHOP: MAKING ARCHIVAL BOXES

Presenter: David Thompson

Wednesday 11 September 11am-1pm

RHSV Gallery Downstairs

\$10 / \$20

Learn how to custom make archival boxes for books or objects in your collection. Over the years David and other volunteers have made all the beautiful boxes the RHSV uses to protect our more fragile items. The workshops are limited to 4 persons each and all materials and equipment will be supplied.

CELEBRATING ENGINEERING HISTORY: A MINI-CONFERENCE

Thursday 15 August

1-5pm

RHSV Officers' Mess Upstairs, 239 A'Beckett St

Our afternoon mini-conference is organised by Engineering Heritage Victoria in partnership with the RHSV.

Engineering has been defined as being "a vital art, working with the great sources of power in nature for the wealth and well-being of the whole of society". We often mistakenly think of engineering as being something that started when engineers became a separate profession, but engineering dates back many thousands of years.

Victoria has many outstanding world-leading engineering works, but many of these achievements are not well documented or have been forgotten, and need to be re-discovered and celebrated.

This year Budj Bim became the first indigenous cultural landscape in Australia to gain World Heritage recognition; it also marks the 150th anniversary of the Great Melbourne Telescope; and the 100th anniversary of the Electrification of Melbourne's suburban railways; and the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.



VICTORIAN HISTORY SHOWCASE

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 August

10.30am -3.30pm

Prahran Mechanics Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran.

Gold coin donation.

To celebrate National Family History month the RHSV will have a table at the PMI's two day family history extravaganza. It is ideal for students, genealogists and anyone interested in learning more about how to and where to research their families. We'll show you how to put flesh on the bones of your family history. There is great range of organisations taking part and there are great door prizes.

TRIVIA-AU-GO-GO

Friday 23 August

6-9.30pm

RHSV, Gallery Downstairs, 239 A'Beckett Street

\$25

Has your society or organisation put together a table yet? It is always a great night when Andrew Lemon, once again, puts us to the history test. Time to get competitive and pit yourself against all those other history buffs at the RHSV's world-famous Trivia-au-go-go.



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA: NATURE, CULTURE AND SCIENCE

Speaker: Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens

Friday 30 August

Lunch-time lecture from 12.30-1.30pm

RHSV, Gallery Downstairs, 239 A'Beckett Street

\$10 / \$20

To celebrate Melbourne Day, Professor Tim Entwisle will talk about the history of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, about what makes a modern botanic garden and about his plans for the Melbourne Gardens which centre on the three pillars of culture, nature and science. Tim blogs (*TalkingPlants*), tweets, and looks for any opportunity to promote science, plants and gardens. He is a frequent guest on Australian radio and television, and writes opinion pieces for the major newspapers. Over the summer of 2014-15 Tim hosted ABC Radio National's first gardening show, *Talking Plants*, and he contributes regularly to RN's *Blueprint for Living*. He writes for a variety of science, nature and garden magazines and maintains an active social media profile.

USING CATALOGUING SOFTWARE

Friday 6 September

1- 4pm

RHSV Officers' Mess Upstairs, 239 A'Beckett St
\$25 / \$35

Module 2 in our series of 6 graded workshops covering all you need to know on cataloguing and digitisation. This workshop is for small organisations that are going to start using cataloguing software. Participants will have the opportunity to create catalogue records using cataloguing software, and will learn how to import an existing catalogue from Excel. This workshop is suitable for those who have created catalogue records using Excel and are looking to try some good cataloguing options before committing to one software application.

RHSV WINE-TASTING

Hosts David Dunstan and Ron Leslie

Friday 13 September

5.30-7.30pm

RHSV, Gallery Downstairs, 239 A'Beckett Street
\$40

Join us for a very different and very convivial history event. Our hosts, David Dunstan and Ron Leslie, know their wine and their history and will be guiding us through both. A talk by David and a tasting of six wines organised by Ron will be book-ended with some mood-lightening Prosecco.

BOOK FAIR

Thursday 3 to Saturday 5 October

The donations have been staggering (thank you everyone) and I'm sure this year will be the best book fair ever. Please keep those donations coming – ring or email the RHSV to organise pick-up 9326 9288 / office@historyvictoria.org.au

HISTORY WEEK

Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 October 2019

Have you got your History Week events planned? If you are ready to load them into the website go to: historyweek.org.au – or send the details to rosemary.cameron@historyvictoria.org.au

We'll be loading up good ideas for events that you might hold during History Week onto our website – keep an eye out for our next email bulletins for great ideas.

History Victoria Support Group Workshops



Jan Braham (Numurkah and District HS) with Rosemary Cameron (EO RHSV) and Sophie Shilling.

History Victoria Support Group (HVSG) have recently held two practical and hands on workshops for the benefit of our country societies, one in June and one in July. Thank you to the presenters and all attendees who have often travelled great distances to attend.

On the 29 June, on an extremely cold and wet day, Sebastopol Historical Society warmly welcomed attendees into their cosy Old School building for a workshop on how to increase membership. Guest speakers highlighted the various ways societies can grow their membership and adjust to current times. Speakers disseminated the fact that we live in a changing society, and explained what the rapid changes in technology mean. Societies need to adapt their operations to match these changes. There are different values in our various communities. Volunteers often have different attitudes to volunteering.

Jane Nigro, a member of HVSG and the Malvern Historical Society, spoke on how to increase membership and get people involved in a variety of innovative ways. Sue Walters, the President of Malmsbury Historical Society, took participants on a journey she had experienced since she joined Malmsbury in 2002. Sue told how their society has been able to address the technological era. While Rosemary Cameron, Executive Officer for the RHSV, shared her expertise on how to involve volunteers and grow membership.

Numurkah & District Historical Society hosted the 13 July workshop on basic cataloguing. Rosemary Cameron and Sophie Shilling made the long journey to conduct the workshop. Sophie covered a variety of topics relating to the pursuit of cataloguing of a collection using Excel. She commenced with a demonstration of using Trove and the State Library of Victoria's catalogue. She then explained

the use of Excel as a cataloguing tool, and highlighted the necessary steps required to set up a spreadsheet. Attendees used their own laptops to follow the instructions given. Sophie strongly stressed the need for using a thesaurus and ensuring consistency in cataloguing.

Rosemary has advertised a series of six graduated workshops on cataloguing and digitisation to be held by Sophie Shilling at RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne commencing on Friday 26 July between 1pm - 4pm. For further details, see RHSV website.

During the month of August HVSG will conduct an online survey of societies to gain an overall comprehension of where and how societies are operating. Please take the time to fill in this short survey, as it will assist the RHSV councillors and HVSG members better understand and appreciate your individual situations. It will correct some errors we know are in the current data base of societies. With the collection of this data, a more defined and beneficial program for 2020 can be planned.

Alleyn Hockley

Convenor HVSG (RHSV)



Attendees at Sebastopol with speakers Sue Walter (Malmsbury HS) and Jane Nigro (HVSG) sitting in the front row.

Don Gibb

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Prize

The 2018 winner of the prize of \$300 and three years membership of the RHSV is George Ganitis, awarded the highest mark in undergraduate Australian History at La Trobe University. If you wish to top up the Don Gibb prize fund please visit the top tab on the RHSV homepage, labelled 'donate'.

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Planning is Destroying Melbourne's Historic Strip Shopping Centres

Town planner and former National Trust Conservation Manager Ian Wight, a member of the RHSV Heritage Committee, offers a column here on a very serious threat to heritage, not only in Yarra, but to all Melbourne's Victorian and Edwardian shopping strips.

Launching the National Trust's Advocacy Toolkit at History House in May 2018, Trust Chair Kristin Stegley issued an impassioned call to arms against the increasing threat to our built heritage from developers and VCAT alike. 'Who ever said that facadism is OK?' she asked.

What most of us failed to realise was that the propensity to grant development permits that retain only façades arises not just from overreaching developers or the vagaries of VCAT decisions. Rather, a concerted bureaucratic thrust to legitimise façading of historic buildings throughout the historic strip shopping centres of the inner and middle suburbs threatens to undermine the effectiveness of the Heritage Overlay (HO).

Inner city councils, frustrated by very loose interpretations of 'preferred' height controls, have been lobbying the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) to introduce mandatory height controls, particularly in activity centres where state planning policy encourages intensive development. However, it is also state planning policy to grant mandatory controls only in exceptional circumstances. It appears that DELWP officers are using this exceptionality as a bargaining chip to advance urban consolidation objectives over those of urban conservation.

Height limits are effected through Design and Development Overlays (DDOs), which allow preferred and mandatory heights and setbacks (both maximum and minimum) to be specified, effectively creating a building envelope within which development can occur.

In heritage areas, if the building envelope follows the existing buildings' form, it can provide further protection for built heritage. Conversely, if the volume of the envelope substantially exceeds that of the existing built form this would allow development that exceeds what could normally be expected under a Heritage Overlay (HO). An impossible tension is

set up between the objectives of the HO, which are to conserve heritage fabric, and those of the excessive DDO, which are to promote development.

Unfortunately, in almost every case the DDOs being introduced in the historic strip centres provide for development greatly in excess of the existing built form.

Despite some variation from centre to centre the basic approach is the same. The first step is to establish the 'street wall height': the maximum height for buildings at the street frontage. This is usually 11 metres, not much more than the existing building heights.

A setback for development above 11 metres is then selected. This varies between centres and precincts within centres but is usually only 5 or 6 metres. The next stage is to determine how much of the new development will be visible. This also varies but usually results in development of around 6 storeys.

This diagram quickly dispels any thought that heritage fabric might be retained in the setback area. The words in the hatched area of the right-hand buildings read: 'Heritage Façade'!

The falsity of this approach is apparent in the ready visibility of the higher built form, rising just 5 metres back from the frontage. It is uncomfortably obvious that the retained façade has nothing to do with the new building behind and appears to have been just 'pasted on'.

Most of the amendments seem to focus on achieving height controls at the immense cost of encouraging demolition of almost all of the heritage fabric in these centres.

This amounts to a major policy shift at state level that has been occurring largely unnoticed. These amendments have all been negotiated one by one by different councils so their cumulative effect is not appreciated. It will also take some time for their destructive consequences to become obvious, and by the time the outcry does happen it will be too late.

The one exception has been Queens Parade in North Fitzroy where local resident groups have combined to try to stop this formula being applied to their centre.

The RHSV Heritage Committee supports this coalition, which achieved 400 submissions against the proposal. Our

committee is also working to raise awareness though opposing similar amendments, engaging with the National Trust and making a submission to the Heritage Council, emphasising that:

Burra Charter principles should be applied to administration of the Heritage Overlay starting with the need to understand what is significant about the place and see that it is conserved.

The type of heritage guidelines that have had success in managing heritage precincts in residential areas should also apply to industrial and commercial areas.

The heritage part of the shopping strip is usually a small section of the area designated as the activity centre, and scope usually exists for intensive development just beyond this part.

These historic strip centres are valued by existing and potential residents. If protected they could continue to be major drivers of urban consolidation.

Ian Wight

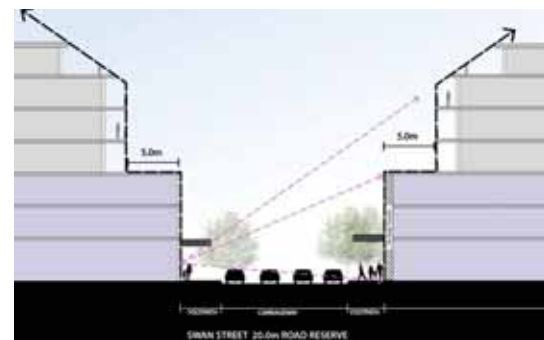


Figure 1: Sight Lines and building envelopes Swan Street Richmond. Source: City of Yarra amendment C191 Swan Street Activity Centre Built Form Framework p. 31



Figure 2: 3D Visualisation of Swan Street Richmond looking west from Church Street showing chopped off buildings. Note that it is unlikely any of these roofs will survive.

Source: City of Yarra amendment C191 Swan Street Activity Centre Built Form Heritage Review p.77

Halls of Fame: A Hidden Past



Middle Park theatre with veranda



Hall, 2010

A blue plaque on the wall of the Hall in Armstrong Street gives the only indication that it has experienced colourful times.

The brick building erected in 1907 served as a post office, savings bank, and Masonic Lodge rooms before becoming the centre of Middle Park's entertainment when the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company screened films there, known as Biograph entertainment, between 1909 and 1913.

A later development was activated by Alfred King Smith, a cinema entrepreneur, using two projectors, initially hand-cranked, but later motor-driven. Selling his business in 1923 Smith was replaced by Basil and Jack Flae as lessees who installed sound and renamed it the Middle Park Picture Theatre. It was renovated to increase the seating to accommodate 340 people. Numbers attending gradually reduced as other picture theatres began in Albert Park and Port Melbourne, until it opened on Saturday evening only and sometimes for Community Singing.

By 1944 Sydney Blacker Turnbull had formed a business partnership with Lorna Forbes who had established the Lorna Forbes Repertory Players in 1941. They wished to produce musical and dramatic shows to give young people a chance to develop their talents. Turnbull leased and altered the cinema building, to convert it into the Melbourne Repertory Theatre. The stage was extended, and the seating reconfigured, comprising 210 upholstered tip-up seats.

The opening production was *The School for Scandal* by R.B. Sheridan, which Lorna Forbes directed, playing Mrs Candour. The famous playwright Ray Lawler relates that he had taken voice lessons from Lorna Forbes. He recalls her as 'a fine Australian actress'. Accordingly, he was delighted to be asked to play Sir Benjamin Backbite. His own first full-length play, *Hal's Belles*,

was produced there in 1945, with nineteen year old Frank Thring (1926-1994) making his first appearance on stage as an adult performer, playing the part of Henry VIII.

Lorna Forbes and Sydney Turnbull did not renew the lease of the theatre when it expired at the end of 1949 as Lorna became involved in a teaching venture called Theatre Workshop. It became the Arrow Theatre in 1951 when Frank Thring took over as artistic director, assisted by Frederick Farley, an English actor-director who became resident director. Under the aegis of Thring, as actor-manager, 22 plays were presented during the Arrow's three-year existence. Staged in an avant-garde fashion they were decidedly radical and non-mainstream in their presentation. The theatre received no Government subsidy. Redecoration was undertaken by Francis Burke, textile designer and printer. The theatre director was Irene Mitchell and the photographer Helmut Newton, later internationally renowned as a fashion photographer. Other famous names associated with this theatre company were actors, June Brunel, wife of Newton, later known as the photographer 'Alice Springs', Sheila Florance, remembered as Lizzie in the TV series *Prisoner*, Bunny Brooke, Wyn Roberts, Zoe Caldwell, Kevin Colebrook, and Moira Carlton. Robin Lovejoy did the designs. The first production was sensational – Salome by Oscar Wilde, with Thring and June Brunel playing leading parts. Later his interpretation of the Moor in *Othello* was considered by the Port Phillip Gazette to be of a 'savage intensity'.

Meanwhile, in 1953, John Sumner formed a professional theatre at the University of Melbourne, with the title of the Union Theatre Repertory Company, and this drew actors from local amateur companies, including the Arrow. Frank Thring decided to close the theatre,

relinquish his lease, and move to London where he became well-known on stage and in film. Barry J. Gordon, later founder of Thomas' Record Bar, arranged Sunday evening gatherings in the theatre which drew packed houses, and included Barry Humphries. Thring had asked Gordon to keep the Arrow as 'a going concern', becoming the Arrow Associate Company in 1956. On one occasion he exhibited ceramic tiles made by his friend Arthur Boyd in the foyer.

The Little Theatre, South Yarra, then in St. Martin's Lane, used the Hall during their renovations, followed by the Coburg Charity Players, until the building reverted to a cinema when the Shell Company of Australia applied to lease the building for eighteen months to show 16mm films three nights a week.

Short leases or hiring ensued, the New Arrow in 1960, the Malvern Theatre company 1960-61, Moral Re-Armament, various meetings, Cambridge Film & TV Productions, while the upstairs area was turned into a dance school. An important film was shot there: *A City's Child*, which received an AFI Bronze Award, and Monica Maugham Best Actress of the Year Award. In 1965 the stage and seating were removed as the building became clubrooms for the Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

The Lemnian Brothers Club, a Greek community group, took over the entire building in 1981 and currently remains the owner. It is used as a gymnasium, named the Sweat Club, with leased shops on either side of the entrance, one by a dry cleaner and the other by Aris, a shoemaker.

Diana Phoenix

Liaison Officer, Middle Park History Group inc.

Antonio Rodrigues

– dancer, musician, sculptor and painter (1930-1986)

“He was larger-than-life and one of the most talented and charismatic individuals I’ve known”

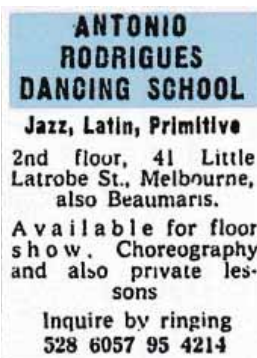
It’s difficult to visualize Melbourne in the 1960s and 1970s without dancer, musician, sculptor and painter, Antonio Rodrigues. Antonio was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 2 March 1930, to Antonio Ramos Rodrigues and Carmen Rodrigues Rocha. He left Brazil at the age of 18 and subsequently joined the New York-based Katherine Dunham and her company of African-American dancers, singers and musicians. Antonio came to Australia in 1956, as a principal dancer with Katherine Dunham and when the troupe left a year later, Antonio stayed behind on a visitor’s permit. His friendship with Dame Zara Holt, turned a string of two-year visas into an invitation from the Immigration Department for Australian citizenship. “They were shocked when I walked into the office, they thought I was white,” he remarked, “they said it would take a little longer than they first thought when they found out I was coloured.” Antonio settled in Melbourne, performing in a number of extravaganzas in the 1960s and establishing a dancing school in the 1970s, where he taught Jazz, Latin and Primitive dance.

In 1971, I came across a newspaper advertisement for the Antonio Rodrigues Dancing School, located on the 2nd floor, 41 Little Latrobe Street, Melbourne. I showed the ad. to my former school friend and work colleague, May Howah, who was interested in joining a jazz ballet class. The two of us were not only introduced to the wonderful world of modern dance but to an eclectic mix of Latin, African and Israeli music. Antonio

was also the proprietor of a Portuguese restaurant called Kai Kai Curry, located at 121 Little Collins Street, Melbourne and would frequently invite students for a meal after the class.

May and I were usually the last to leave the restaurant and became part of Antonio’s inner circle of friends. We met his wife Margaret and infant daughter Miranda, the apple of her father’s eye. Antonio spoke about his childhood in Rio de Janeiro and the time he was with the Katherine Dunham dancers. He asked about us too and I told him we’d met during our final year at Princes Hill High School in North Carlton and that May was Australian born of Chinese parentage, while I was a Chinese born Australian of Polish Jewish ancestry. Antonio and I had arrived in Australia the same year but in somewhat different circumstances.

Antonio Rodrigues was not only an extraordinary dancer, portrayed in *Australian Dances: Creating Australian Dance 1945-1965* but his sculptures, primitive in nature, are also represented in the *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art*. Rodrigues performed in a number of productions at Melbourne’s Lido Theatre Restaurant and in the stage musical *Finian’s Rainbow* at the Princess Theatre in Spring Street. He organised the first street carnival in Melbourne and led the iconic Moomba Festival parade on more than one occasion. Bruno Benini, the Melbourne-based fashion photographer’s artistic black and white portraits of Antonio taken in the 1960s, are now part



Antonio Rodrigues Dancing School advertisement (top left), Photo given to me by Antonio signed, ‘To Rose, Antonio Rodrigues, 11/12/1971’ (above)

of the Powerhouse Museum’s permanent collection in Sydney.

Antonio died from cancer at his sister Marlene’s residence in Chatswood, Sydney, on Sunday 16 November 1986, aged 56. He was cremated at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, North Ryde followed by a memorial service at the Toorak Uniting Church, Melbourne. Antonio married twice and had three children, Antonio Arandy, Miranda and Urska. In his lifetime, Antonio had been nominated by the South American and Australian Friends Society as ‘the first South American Cultural Ambassador to Australia’. He was larger-than-life and one of the most talented and charismatic individuals I’ve known. The death notice from Antonio’s family summed up the impact he had on all of us, ‘friend and entertainer of many’.

Rose Raymen

Acknowledgements National Library of Australia, State Library of Victoria, AusStage, Toorak Uniting Church, Melbourne

An amendment

In our RHSV *History News*, June 2019, page eleven ‘Halls of Fame: Horticultural Hall, Victoria Street Melbourne’ there was some confusion between the ‘Victorian Horticultural Improvement Society’ and the ‘Horticultural Society of Victoria’.

Please note: ‘They were different organisations and the Victorian Horticultural Improvement Society had nothing to do with the Burnley Gardens which were set up by the Horticultural Society of Victoria’.

The *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (2002), page 316, has a good explanation under Horticultural Societies. ‘... the HSV catered for the wealthy amateur gardeners, elite professional gardeners and the nursery trade and ran shows and Burnley Gardens while the Horticultural Improvement Society followed the British model and concentrated on lectures and shows.’

I would like to thank Jane Wilson, Manager of the Burnley Campus Archives, University of Melbourne, for noticing this error and providing the information above to help us better understand these two organisations.

Sharon Betridge
Editor



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Windows on History: National Gallery of Victoria

'How would you like to do the biggest glass ceiling in the world, laddie?'

Thus, Leonard French recalled the architect, Roy Grounds, opening informal discussions on the possibility of a new 'art work' for the proposed new National Gallery of Victoria on the Wirth's Circus site in St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

French was somewhat taken aback by the grand concept, especially as glass was not a material he had worked with previously. But Grounds, undoubtedly encouraged by the Gallery's Director, Eric Westbrook, had selected his artist wisely. At the time, the early 1960s, Leonard William French, the boy from Brunswick and former signwriter, was creating distinctive paintings and receiving justifiable acclaim from critics and collectors. Grounds recognised French's underlying understanding of bold forms, symbolic references and monumentality that would be essential to realising the massive finished work.

Bringing together artist and architect early in the planning process was not unusual in the post-Second World War building boom. Significant new buildings at the University of Melbourne, such as Bates, Smart and McCutcheon's new Wilson Hall (1956) and the Beaurepaire Centre designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb (1956-7) had commissioned artworks from Douglas Annand, Lyndon Dadswell and French that were integral to the architecture. At the Beaurepaire, French designed an interior frieze and the external tiles executed in Italian glass mosaic.

The idea of a new National Gallery, separated from the Public Library and Museums in Swanston Street, was not new, but had never been more than a bright idea. It took post-1945 enthusiasm and years of sustained commitment by an extraordinary group of individuals and organisations before it would be opened in 1968, the first major public building in Melbourne since the end of the First World War. The ceiling for the Great Hall may have been only one part of this overall concept, but it was to become the vibrant heart of the otherwise austere building, a grand space, measuring 60.9 x 15.24 metres and soaring more than 13 metres high. If Roy Grounds envisaged the slender steel columns as trees as it is thought, then French's canopy referenced a multi-faceted forest canopy that was always changing with the seasons and time of day.

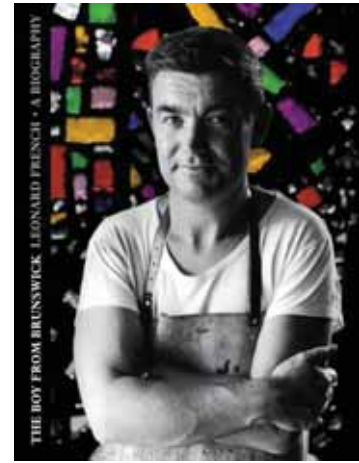
Traditional stained glass, in which glass pieces

are held in place with lead comes between them, would not have been suitable without a vast network of structural support. Instead, glass sections were to be made from *dalle de verre* – 2.5 cm thick flagstone slabs of glass - and set into a matrix of ciment fondu or epoxy resin. The process was already popular in Europe and America and in 1950-52 Fernand Léger created a monumental work at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Audincourt, France, in which he combined the bold Cubist abstraction of his paintings with Christian symbolism to great effect. French's approach to painting, themes and symbols were equally adaptable to this modern use of the *dalle de verre* method.

By 1963 the concept was transposed into a marquette of balsa wood columns that radiated triangular sections of celluloid, which gave a sense of scale of the ceiling, while the finer details remained to be fully resolved. Materials and processes were tested in the spacious studio attached to the old McIvor flour mill in Heathcote, bought by French to accommodate such an ambitious work-in-progress. French made a full-sized cartoon (pattern) of the complete ceiling to ensure the design and interplay of colours and black outlines could be fine-tuned and maintain the aesthetic, architectural and engineering demands of the commission. Ciment fondu, a type of concrete, proved unsuccessful, as well as being very heavy, and the decision was made to use a rubbery resin to hold the glass in place. The black outlines that define the mosaic ceiling were achieved by using a black surfaced aluminium-plywood sandwich (Alumply) punctured by hundreds of holes cut to the shapes of the coloured glass by French's assistant, Les Hawkins.

More than 20 tonnes of *dalles* in 50 colours duly arrived from France and Belgium and French set to work to teach himself the art of cutting slabs of glass. After less vigorous methods failed, his crude method of scoring and whacking the 3 kg slab against a 'make-do' anvil was not so different from the approved method of breaking out the shape. But the successful use of the *dalle de verre* method involves faceting of the slab edges to create clam-shell shapes that refract and reflect light passing through the glass at different angles. French learned the hard way as his blood stained leather apron and bandaged fingers showed, but he achieved the desired glittering effect across all 224 triangles of his design.

It was a massive task that would ultimately take almost five years of back-breaking



Leonard French: cover of *The Boy from Brunswick: Leonard French, a biography* by Reg MacDonald (2018)

work to make, move and install. Each triangle took four men to manhandle into a sling before painstakingly craning each one carefully into its allotted place against the steel structure and the geometric design based on birth and creation, gradually took form, well before the new building opened its doors in 1968. And Roy Grounds was right – it was the biggest glass ceiling in the world.

Over the decades following its installation, the Great Hall ceiling gradually lost its lustre and by the late 1990s was seen by some as out-dated - a colourful product of the 1960s or a last hurrah of the heroic. The Gallery was undergoing a much-needed major redevelopment but the suggestion that the Great Hall ceiling might be moved or removed as part of the re-imagining of the building provoked an immediate outcry. Victorians would not hear of it, and so the ceiling (and the equally loved water wall) remained firmly in place. Children and adults alike appreciate the way the ceiling captures colour, light and pattern in a vibrant interplay, many lying on the floor gazing upwards to discover turtle and serpent among its geometric circles, pyramids, triangles and rectangles, just as generations did before them.

Last year marked the fifty-year anniversary of Leonard French's glass ceiling that was completed in 1968.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM

Stained Glass Historian and Consultant.

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W. E. Stanbridge:

'a sheep farmer' promoting recognition of Indigenous Australians and women's rights

William Edward Stanbridge was born in Astley, Warwickshire about 1816, the eldest son of Edward and Ann and brother to Edith and Oliver. His father is recorded as being a ribbon maker, later a hosier. His early education is unknown, but his later writings showed he had a reasonably good grounding.

Stanbridge came to Australia in 1841 at the age of 24, and was immediately involved in grazing and shearing sheep, first at Broken River near Wangaratta in 1842 and later at Mt Gambier in 1846; on both occasions he was working for someone else. By 1847 Stanbridge had amassed enough money to lease a large acreage near Sea Lake where he established Tyrrell Station later named Astley after his birthplace. While he managed this pastoral run, he befriended the local Aboriginal tribe, the Boorong people, a clan of the Wergaia language group, who taught him their customs and beliefs. This made an immense impression on Stanbridge who later put his knowledge into words when he wrote *The Astronomy and Mythology of the Aborigines of Victoria* ten years later. He presented his work to the Philosophical Institute of Victoria in 1857.

In 1851 he had purchased the Holcombe Run near Glenlyon, from Robert Clowes; Stanbridge named it the Wombat Run. In a very happy stroke of luck it happened to cover a vast alluvial goldfield, buried in the ancient creek beds, covered with rich volcanic soil. By giving permission to miners to sink shafts and tunnel into this cornucopia, Stanbridge received a return of twelve percent. Signs of these mines can still be seen on the Malmsbury Road, where the huge mullock heaps of the Astley and Cosmopolitan mines bear testament to the work of the miners.

This wealth enabled Stanbridge to travel back to England in 1860 to see his family for the last time and to fulfill his desire to present his Aboriginal studies to a wider audience. While in England, we can gain a small insight into his life through the 1861 Census, when fortuitously, he was counted as staying with his mother and brother in Islington, London. His age is given as 44 and his occupation as a 'sheep farmer in Australia'. While in England he became a member of the Royal Society

and the Ethnological Society of London, where he presented an extended version of his *Aboriginal Astrology and Mythology*, something that must have given him great pleasure.

On his return to Australia in 1862 he was appointed the Honorary Correspondent in Aboriginal Affairs for the Daylesford area, an appointment with very little work attached as by then local Dja Dja Wurrung people had largely either died or been moved to the community established at Healesville, called Coranderrk. Stanbridge farmed large flocks of sheep, supplying fleeces to wool merchants and meat to the increasing numbers of gold seekers. His good fortune enabled him to send £100 per annum to his sister for her remaining years and £200 annually to his brother.

In 1863 Stanbridge was elected as a member of the Anthropological Institute of Victoria in recognition of the contribution of his knowledge of Aboriginal Astronomy and Myths. Stanbridge was elected to the very first Daylesford Borough Council and was its first chairman. In 1868 he was elected to the Victorian Parliament where he served almost continuously until 1892, and he was a Magistrate in the Daylesford Court from 1862 to 1880.

Stanbridge showed great respect for opportunities and education for women in various ways. In 1863 he gave permission for two milkmaids, daughters of his workers, to mine on a reef close to his house. The reef, later named Milkmaids Reef, must have been quite lucrative as it enabled one of the young girls, Elizabeth Abbott, to purchase a dairy farm at Ararat. He also made a speech in Parliament on women's suffrage saying that any woman who paid the same rates on a property as a man should be just as entitled to vote: at this time property ownership was one of the requirements to vote. In 1864 he donated money to the Church of England in Daylesford to add a girl's wing to the existing church school. A plaque affixed to the room reads 'This Girl's School is a gift to education by W. E Stanbridge out of gold obtained from the Concordia Tunnel and the Defiance Paddock'.

In his Will Stanbridge donated a sum of £1100 to create the 'Florence Stanbridge' women-only scholarship at Trinity College, Melbourne University, and also gave



W. E. Stanbridge

£1000 to build a female ward at the Daylesford Hospital. Also, in his Will was £5000 to build a chancel onto the Church of England in Daylesford, with a tablet to commemorate. The chancel still stands, the tablet being affixed to the floor.

Among the many donations listed in his Cash Book are the names of the Ladies Benevolent Society, the football and cricket clubs, the hospital, the Church of England and many others. He also gave to institutions in other towns such as Maldon, Castlemaine, and Kyneton.

Stanbridge's philanthropy, his support of women's suffrage, women's education and promotion of Aboriginal culture are to be celebrated. His work on Indigenous astronomy continues to be referred to by researchers and educators throughout Australia.

Les Pitt

Annual Wesson Lecture: A Case for Space

Presenter: Associate Professor Alan Duffy, noted lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology, professional astronomer and science commentator

Saturday 21 September • 11am
Pahran Mechanics' Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Pahran

Further Information:
<http://mivic.org.au/wesson-lecture.html>

An inspiration to challenge the national delivery of science in education and to our daily lives. Australia was a pioneer at Woomera from 1947 and the Australian Space Agency has placed space back on the curriculum in 2018.

An Esteemed Gippsland Historian: John Murphy OAM FRHSV



On Thursday 22 May 2008 regional historian John Murphy gave a lecture at the RHSV on the history and economics of onion growing in Gippsland. He spoke from direct experience and specialist knowledge as a former onion grower in Gippsland and author of the informative, recently published book *One Bag in Six*. Helen Broad, RHSV volunteer caterer, fostered the convivial atmosphere by serving bowls of onion soup.

A longtime supporter of the RHSV, John had represented Gippsland on the society's State Committee for 12 years, including as president; he travelled across Victoria for quarterly meetings and various functions. John also represented Gippsland on the RHSV Council from 1988 to 2000; attending meetings held from 5 pm to 7 pm at the society's rooms in William Street, Melbourne, involved long return drives from his South Gippsland home. The RHSV bestowed a Fellowship on John in 2000, citing his outstanding contribution to history at local, regional and state levels.

Coinciding with his 80th birthday celebrations, John received an OAM in 2004 for service to the community 'as a contributor to the preservation of history relating to the Gippsland region'.

Born in 1924, John grew up with his six siblings on his father's dairy and onion farm adjoining Ruby Creek in Leongatha North, thus the delightful name of the family property, Rubybank. John's long immersion in literature and history began at the local 'one-teacher' primary school and later the high school in Leongatha. He memorised reams of poetry and started on the avid reading that would underpin his prolific writing.

John worked for the PMG as a telegraphist for five years, before being called back during the Second World War to assist on his father's farm. In 1950 he married Kathleen O'Brien from the Mallee and they had a family of 8 children. Kath was John's companion on numerous history trips in Victoria and further afield. A devout Catholic and committed community leader, John served on the high school advisory council, in the National Catholic Rural Movement, as treasurer of the Free Library and as a member of the Mechanics' Institute of Victoria Association.

John's involvement with the Leongatha Historical Society as a founder and

inaugural president in 1964 was the springboard for success as an author. The *Leongatha Labour Colony 1893-1919* was one of his early books, and he wrote many articles for *The Great Southern Star*. Starting in 1996 with a history of the Mirboo North Bush Nursing Hospital John wrote successively *Faith of Our Father: A History of St Laurence O'Toole's Parish, Leongatha*; *The Meeting Place: Leongatha Memorial Hall*; and histories of the Leongatha Butter and Cheese Factory and town waterworks. These small books were all clearly written, well-illustrated and indexed.

John's two major commissioned books reveal his identification with a beautiful and fertile region extending from the coast to the Strzelecki Ranges. *No Parallel: The Woorayl Shire* celebrated the shire centenary in 1988 and *On the Ridge: The Shire of Mirboo* coincided with the centenary of the neighbouring shire in 1994. Meticulously researched and comprehensive in scope, these two books are interspersed with first-hand accounts, giving a sense of immediacy. Resembling a rich tapestry, full of striking detail, they are a valuable portrayal of the two shires on the eve of absorption in 1994 into the large South Gippsland Shire.

Attachment to place has been the hallmark of Victoria's community history, a counterbalance to the disconnectedness of contemporary society, and this theme is perfectly exemplified in John Murphy's writing. Repeatedly he returned to the local features that together with family formed an anchorage throughout his life, and he devotedly charted their history for posterity. Even the little primary school at Leongatha North is not forgotten; long after its removal, John and a neighbour organised a sign board marking its location.

John Murphy died aged 95 on 1 June 2019. In a gracious eulogy at the St Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church, his oldest son Damian observed that the service for John 'took place in a church that he worshipped in for his whole life, in which he was married 69 years ago, in a town that he wrote the history of [and] up the road from the high school where he was educated'.

Carole Woods

I thank Damian Murphy for permission to base this tribute on his eulogy.

Awards Winners

The winners of the Alexander Henderson and Don Grant Awards for 2018 were announced at the Family History Connections annual lunch on Sunday 26th May at the Box Hill Golf Club.

ALEXANDER HENDERSON AWARD 2018

The Alexander Henderson Award is a prestigious award, given to an author who has taken considerable effort to research and write a family history that complies with the specified criteria. This year, there were eleven entries, all a delight to read. The judges had a very difficult time choosing a winner and eventually decided to name joint winners and a runner up.

JOINT WINNERS, in alphabetical order of author:

***Threaded Lives: stories of the Symonds, Price, Walker, Hitch and Moody families* by Eril Jolly.**

Threaded Lives is an impressive piece of work that traces the histories of five connected families who came from various parts of Britain in the nineteenth century and settled in different parts of the Australian colonies, but who over time had their families interconnected through marriage.

AND

***Sarka to Westgarthtown: the Wuchatsch Family in Germany and Australia* by Robert Wuchatsch.**

Sarka to Westgarthtown is the history of a Wendish German family who migrated to Victoria just before the gold rushes and settled in Westgarthtown, near Melbourne. It contains numerous individual detailed biographies of the family members and their descendants.

SECOND PLACE:

***From Devon to Australia: a nineteenth century narrative through unpublished letters of the Merrifield family*, by Virginia Noonan.**

This book has made excellent use of a collection of Merrifield family letters to provide the basis of an insightful account of the family's transition from Devon to Victoria. They were an interesting family of largely educated middle class professionals who, through their letter writing, have left a very valuable record of their lives in England and Australia.

DON GRANT AWARD 2018

There were four entrants in the Don Grant Award this year. The judges have chosen a particularly fine example of a family biography for this year's award.

The winner of the Don Grant Award for 2018/19 is ***Snips and Snaps: The Friths: nineteenth century portraitists, miniaturists, caricaturists and photographic artists*, by Noel Tozer.**

This is an impressive piece of work that follows the artistic careers of three siblings, members of the highly talented and artistic Frith family who worked in Britain, New Zealand and three Australia colonies in the nineteenth century – as the title says, as portraitists, miniaturists, caricaturists and photographic artists. Because their careers were so intertwined, they have been brought together in this impressive generational biography. It makes a significant contribution to art history as well as our knowledge of the talent of a particular family.

All entered books can be viewed on display at the Family History Connections Resource Centre, 1/41 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Opening hours and further information about the Awards (including entry forms for both awards) can be found on the web site www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Entries for the 2019 Awards close on 30 November 2019.

Congratulations

Dr Andrew Grant Lemon AM FRHSV

Andrew Lemon has been honoured, becoming a Member of the Order of Australia for services to community history and the racing industry, in the Queen's Birthday list of honours.

Andrew Lemon has written 16 books, four of which have won prizes, in subjects ranging from local history, education, sport and biography. His recent publication, *The Master Gardener* (2018), reveals the story of L. R. Garnett, a principal of Geelong Grammar and a noted garden and environmental writer for *The Age*. Andrew received his doctorate of letters from the University of Melbourne in 2004 because of the excellence of a body of work, not one single piece as in a thesis.

Andrew's three-volume history of Australian thoroughbred racing completed over twenty years, is monumental. These volumes have made Dr Lemon a key authority on racing. He regularly advertises the Melbourne Cup for the VRC, touring throughout Australasia to show the Cup and speak of its history. He has even slept with the Cup under his bed for safe keeping at country venues.

Andrew is also a highly skilled public speaker and is continually in demand from radio stations, historical societies, U3A groups and other community groups to speak, which he does gratis.

Andrew is a volunteer par excellence. In the late 1970s he helped to create a professional body for archivists, served on its executive and edited its journal. He was a co-founder of the History Institute of Victoria in 1981 and served as treasurer and then secretary over

the next decade. He was treasurer, vice-president and president of the Friends of the State Library, being honoured with a life membership. He served on the State Library Development Committee, the Board of the State Library of Victoria for eight years and was a member of the Heritage Council of Victoria, chairing its accreditation committee for several years to 2003.

Andrew has worked tirelessly for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria since 1990, his longest voluntary commitment for which we are extremely grateful. He edited the *Victorian Historical Journal* for a decade; was a Councillor from 2009 and then president till 2014; and since then continues his work for the Society by devising the events program and acting as MC at each RHSV monthly lecture.

Richard Broome
President RHSV

Further congratulations

The RHSV also honours the following historians who were recognised in the Queen's Birthday honours list:

- James Andrew Lerk OAM, Bendigo Historical Society. James was the recipient of an RHSV Award of Merit in 2018.
- Lella Cariddi OAM, Ivanhoe.
- Diane Elizabeth White OAM, Mornington & District Historical Society.
- Reverend Shirley Davies OAM, Hastings Historical Society.



Isaac Selby: Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!

Professor Geoffrey Blainey opened our exhibition, 'Isaac Selby: Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!', on Thursday 13 June 2019. Geoffrey's speech brought Isaac Selby to life from his cockaded Napoleonic hat and cape to his siren-like melodious voice. And somehow Geoffrey wove in Leonie Kramer's kindergarten and Don Chipp.

Selby was an intriguing man with a broad range of experiences and interests. One of the many things he lobbied and advocated for was the reinstatement of John Batman as the founder of Melbourne. Selby organised, with the (Royal) Historical Society, annual pilgrimages to Batman's grave for over 30 years. Macabrely, he commissioned photographs of Batman's skull, taken when the body was exhumed from the Old Melbourne Cemetery.

This exhibition, curated by the talented Alison Cameron, with assistance from Richard Barnden and David Thompson, is well worth checking out and it will be in situ until January 2020. All the launch photos are on Facebook in an album. We will be putting the speeches on our website as a podcast shortly.

The exhibition is open 9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri, RHSV 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

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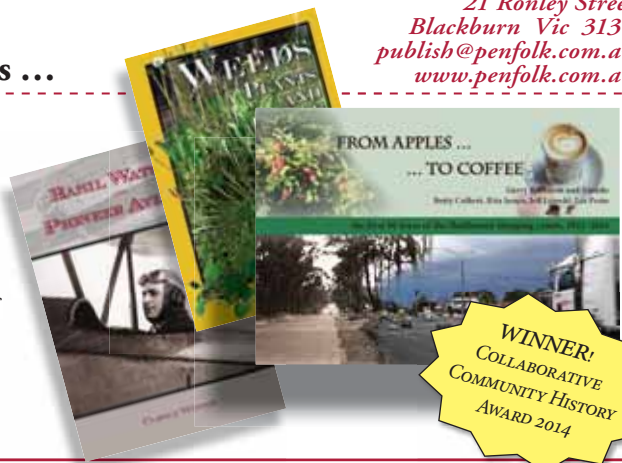
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Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Members 2018

Heritage Initiatives Greater Shepparton City Council



Cover of 2019 Open Days guide booklet

The survey conducted through RHSV for the Heritage Council of Victoria in May this year seeking information on local heritage arrangements, caused reflection on the excellent initiatives in place in the City of Greater Shepparton, central Victoria. Shepparton may not have glaringly obvious, eye-catching grand heritage buildings, but commendably Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) is very active in fostering strategic projects identifying, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage of the area.

Many initiatives have been driven by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) which was formed in 2012 with the primary role to act as an advocate for cultural heritage matters and provide informed advice to Council. The Committee meets monthly, and having no executive authority, operates in an advisory capacity under Terms of Reference reviewed biennially. The voting membership of the Committee consists of up to two Councillors, one representative of the ten History Groups within the municipality including local Indigenous representation, and six community members unaffiliated with these organisations. Two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team and Council's Heritage Advisor have a non-voting membership. Members bring to the Committee a great range of professional and heritage qualifications and experience. Some representatives are preservers and guardians of museums holding and displaying significant items of local importance, and others have undertaken research into historical aspects of the Greater Shepparton area, including producing published works and comprehensive manuscripts. HAC representatives, therefore, come from a range of backgrounds, including private enterprise, local government, agriculture, education as well as building and construction. All HAC representatives are committed to the research into, and preservation of, local heritage and bring their expertise to a

range of active strategic working groups and sub-committees that provide regular reports back to Committee meetings. Valuable networking opportunities are fostered between Committee members at monthly meetings. The Committee keenly responds to any opportunity to raise the profile of local heritage related issues.

Council employees provide secretarial support, recording and circulating minutes.

Committee members participate in educational visits across the Municipality, broadening knowledge of heritage assets in places beyond Committee members own, familiar local area. Master Classes are held at the end of Committee meetings, usually bi-monthly, to give members opportunity to hear from 'experts in the field'.

Particular programmes initiated by the Heritage Advisory Committee are:

Heritage Open Days: These have been conducted in association with Council for the past two years. Bus tours, walking tours and visits to over 50 heritage places are all free, and include many places rarely available to the public. These Open Days have been so successful that they were held on one day in the first year, two days during the second year and they are now planned to be held over three days in future.

Cultural Heritage Awards: Biennial Awards recognise those in the community who have made outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, training or awareness-raising within the Municipality.

Biennial Heritage Lecture: A high profile person, having expertise in heritage matters, is invited to present this lecture to the general public and interested local History Groups, providing stimulating exposure to a variety of topics relating to Cultural Heritage.

Heritage Grants Programme: The Committee supports this programme providing financial support to maintain

and conserve properties within the Heritage Overlay. Owing to the success of the programme, the pool of funds available has increased markedly over the three years in operation and is currently set at \$65,000 offering grants up to \$15,000.

Heritage Strategy: The Committee has input to the Council Heritage Strategy, which outlines the vision and priorities for heritage protection in the municipality for the medium and longer term.

The Heritage Adviser employed by GSCC is well qualified in Architecture, Conservation, History and Urban Planning. Assisted by researchers and with input from HAC members, extensive Heritage Studies have been compiled by the Heritage Advisor identifying more than 1000 places of significance and has highlighted worthy nominations for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Associates who move across local government areas tell us they see different levels of commitment to protection of heritage places. Planning schemes manage heritage issues with varying degrees of success. What makes Greater Shepparton City Council unique is its commitment to regularly reviewing their heritage assets and increasing the community's awareness of culturally significant places through wider education programs. All of the events are well attended and places on the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee are always filled. Recent Open Days, for example, clearly demonstrated the interest that is out in the community as many of the venues were quickly booked out.

Greater Shepparton City Council's heritage program is enviable and hugely successful in terms of preservation, as well as education and promotion.

Compiled by member of the Heritage Advisory Committee: Kay Ball

Books Received

By John Schauble

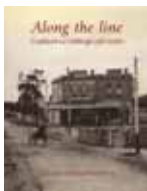
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

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



Dust From Unmade Roads – Frankston. Alfonso Folle, Follestudio Publishing, Australia, 2018, 2nd ed., pp.1-197, ISBN 9780648453284.

This photographic essay documents Frankston past and present and was inspired by a similar project Alfonso Folle witnessed in Poland. Interestingly, the former Italian military engineer had no particular attachment to the Melbourne bayside suburb. In what evidently became a labour of love, he collected up images of Frankston past, restoring many of them while replicating and juxtaposing the modern view of several scenes. There are buildings, people, streetscapes, organisations – many from the time when Frankston was a popular seaside holiday destination for Melburnians – all set out in a large landscape format. By way of introduction, he reproduces a remarkable four-part history written for the *Frankston and Somerville Standard* by schoolboy (and later noted author) Don Charwood.



Along the Line: Caulfield to Oakleigh Rail Stories. Glen Eira Historical Society Inc, Caulfield, 2019, pp. v-196, ISBN 9780648540601.

Along the Line owes its origins to the recent removal of the railway level crossings through the elevation of the line between Caulfield and Oakleigh. That work has also meant the demolition of the ground level stations of Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale. The line, opened in 1879, was pivotal in linking Melbourne to Gippsland but later developed into a busy commuter route serving the city's suburban expansion to the east. The decision to elevate the line was divisive at community level, but this book is carefully neutral. Its focus is on the paying homage to the lost stations and celebrating the memories and of those who have lived along and used the line through more than 40 personal stories.



The Ball Family from Wedderburn – Pioneers and Community Leaders. Geoff Arnott, Croydon North, 2018, pp. i-236, ISBN 9780648361718.

James and Jessie Ball arrived in the Australian colonies in the 19th century as a convict and a bounty immigrant respectively. By the time Jessie died in 1916, there were no fewer than seven Ball families and 1000 direct descendants. Jessie, who lived to the age of 90, herself gave birth to 13 children of whom four died in childhood and another two predeceased her. The seat of the Ball family was Wedderburn in the central goldfields. James, who became a butcher, took his own life at the age of 57. Their descendants fanned out across Australia – to Western Australia, the Gulf country, the Pilbara and across Victoria. These women and men became farmers, soldiers, blacksmiths, miners, railway workers, firefighters, racehorse trainers, scientists, process workers, family and nation builders. This detailed work will be of great interest to family historians.



Two Armstrong Uncles. Heather R. Mathew, Penfolk Publishing, Blackburn, 2018, p. iv-208, ISBN 9781925467031.

It is the very ordinariness of these two stories that makes them so important. Arthur William Armstrong and Oliver John Armstrong were brothers, born 17 years apart in East Gippsland. Arthur served in World War 1 and John in World War 2. Arthur died at Pozieres, John at Singapore. Their deaths were not marked by heroics and might otherwise have passed unnoticed but for the determination of Heather Mathew to ensure that her uncles would not be forgotten. Collected and transcribed here are their letters home from the wars, preceded by a short biography of each man. Mathew has done a great service by underlining the futility of war through these intensely personal family records.



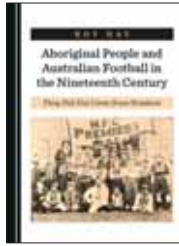
Conscientious Objection: A Personal Story. Geoffrey A. Sandy, Busybird Publishing, Montmorency, 2018, pp.1-22, ISBN9781925830903.

In a brief personal account of his conscientious objection on moral and religious grounds to the Vietnam War, Geoffrey Sandy points to the historical revisionism that has lately seen COs diminished in the dialogue around that conflict. Conscript for overseas military service has always been contentious in Australia. Twice rejected by referendum during World War 1 and allowed only in limited circumstances during World War 2, its introduction during the Vietnam conflict prompted widespread disquiet and opposition. A tiny minority (1,242) of conscripts managed to avoid military service, compared to those who served in the army (63,735) by claiming a conscientious objection to war. To do so involved a court hearing, the outcome of which was by no means certain. "Our stories," writes Sandy, "are part of Australia's history and should not be forgotten, nor should conscientious non-compliers."



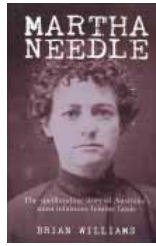
Contesting Australian History: Essays in Honour of Marilyn Lake. Joy Damousi and Judith Smart (eds), Monash University Publishing, 2019, pp.vii-264. ISBN 9781925835069

The essays in this collection honouring historian Marilyn Lake reflect her influence on the academic discipline in Australia over the past four decades. They also reflect her work in promoting history in the community, at a national and international level. Lake's field of endeavour has spanned the impact of war, the history of Anzac, feminism and women's history, gender, post-colonialism, biography, labour history and social reform among other areas. Eminent colleagues and former students have contributed to this collection, borne of a Festschrift held at the University of Melbourne in December 2016.



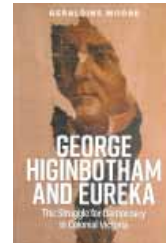
Aboriginal People and Australian Football in the Nineteenth Century. Roy Hay, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2019, pp.v-306, ISBN 9781527526488.

The AFL made a surprising decision in June 2019 to draw a direct link between Aboriginal ball games (especially marngrook) and the original Australian football. This was despite the finding by a panel of eminent historians a decade ago that there was no real evidence of such a link, which makes this book timely indeed. Many, including Hay, consider the AFL is trying to rewrite history for its own purposes. His book clearly shows that indigenous players adopted the game from the 19th century onwards, transformed it and became exceptionally good at it, despite many barriers put in their way. Through historical scholarship, the stories of the people and places and the indigenous embrace of the game is set out here in detail. A prohibitive list price means this work will be, for most, library access only.



Martha Needle. Brian Williams, New Holland Publishers, Sydney, 2018, pp.1-390, ISBN9781921024955.

There is evidently still much interest in the ghastly deeds of Martha Needle well over a century after her execution at the Old Melbourne Gaol. Needle poisoned and killed her husband and at least two of their children, probably three other people and possibly even four more. Cast as the 'Black Widow', she garnered the sort of notoriety up until then reserved for bushrangers. Was she insane, a sociopath, driven by greed or just unremittingly evil? Just what drove Needle to slowly poison her victims with arsenic (a key ingredient in the 'Rough on Rats' rodenticide she allegedly used) remains a matter of conjecture. Some clues may be found in her brutish upbringing. Lawyer and historian Brian Williams looks at the old and some new evidence in a fresh quest for answers.



George Higinbotham and Eureka. Geraldine Moore, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2018, pp.i-381, ISBN 9781925801491.

As the most comprehensive biography of George Higinbotham to date, the fractured development of democracy in colonial Victoria is central to Moore's account. Higinbotham's time in politics spanned an era when questions of self-government, constitutional law and the rule of the people were essential questions. Looking back from an era in which governance in Victoria is mostly about service provision, Higinbotham still has much to teach us. As a journalist and editor, parliamentarian, Attorney-General and Chief Justice, he was noted as a liberal who put the public interest and the quest for responsible government ahead of his own or sectional interests at a time of chaotic and often corrupt growth. Even so, one suspects he would be unsurprised by the lamentable state of politics today.

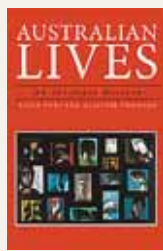
History Victoria Bookshop

New Books in store for August 2019

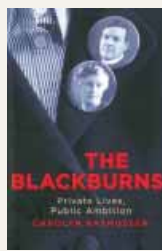
See our online catalogue at www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/ or visit the Bookshop at the RHSV.



Australia: a cultural history. John Rickard \$39.95



Australian lives: an intimate history. Anisa Puri et al. \$39.95



Blackburns, The: private lives, public ambition. Carolyn Rasmussen \$44.99



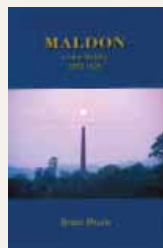
Flinders Island Secret: WW1 Radar Station. Ian McKellar \$15



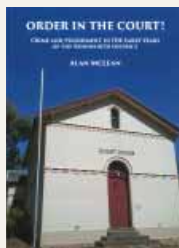
Grass-seeds and thistles: ... Moora, Gobarup and Wanalta. Alan McLean. \$35



Lost Pipe Organs of Australia. Geoffrey Cox, et al \$50



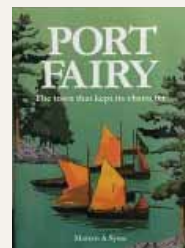
Maldon: a new history, 1853-1928. Brian Rhule \$50



Order in the court! Rushworth district. Alan McLean \$35



Outcasts, Mists & Shadows: ... Yarra Bend. Colin Briton \$15



Port Fairy: a history of Port Fairy 1835-2018. Marten Syme \$42.50

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 OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE
please send details to
office@historyvictoria.org.au
by 8th September 2019.

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

ANGLESEA AND DISTRICT: Sunday 4 August at 2:00: members to bring a very old item and briefly talk about it. Thursday 19 September: outing to Dean's Marsh and Film at Waterlands 'Interrupted Melodies' - story of Marjorie Lawrence Cost: \$15 plus lunch at Moriac Hotel. Members and visitors welcome to all activities. Transport can be provided to all meetings and activities by phoning 0448 526 311.

CAMBERWELL: Boroondara Historical Societies Valuation Day Sunday August 25 at the Hawthorn Community Precinct (next to the Hawthorn Library), 584 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn. 1-4pm. Please check your cupboards and bring along a piece or two to be valued. Cost: \$5.00 for 2 items. Afternoon tea provided. Queries: 98078081 or hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM REGIONAL CEMETERIES: The Committee had planned that our first tour for 2019 would be The Streets Where We Live – however we will now present this tour later in the year, in October. It will be based on streets named after some of the families and individuals buried at Pioneer Cemetery. Streets that may be included are Comport and Woff Streets Beaumaris, Cullinane Street Black Rock, Tootal Road Dingley, Bloxside Lane Mordialloc, Kingston Road Heatherton, Watkins Street Spendale, Ferdinando Lane Sandringham, Crawford Street Cheltenham and the three streets in Cheltenham named Charles Edward Booker. If you are able to contribute to our research on these families and streets or would like to suggest another interesting street, please contact us.

GLENTHOMPSON: Temporary closure. We operate out of the old railway station and the owners, Victrack, along with representatives of the Southern Grampians Shire Council have been through and assessed the building. They are going to do the required repairs and upgrade a few things to assist us in both managing our collection better and removing the risks to both our volunteers and the general public. We look forward to notifying everyone of our re-opening, anticipated for August or September.

GREENSBOROUGH: The society was raised in March 2010 when a large attendance of interested people responded to an article prepared by Noel Withers and printed in the Diamond Valley Leader (11/3/2010). The meeting quickly formed a working committee and an active group of committed members formulated the necessary requirements for a new society. Thanks to the Banyule Council a location was found at Glенаuburn Road, Lower Plenty. To suit all the members' needs, the monthly meetings are held alternatively on the last Friday or Saturday of each month. The Club room is open each Thursday for research. Members have produced and printed two books on local history, edited by archivist Sue Ballantyne. Their latest success is the installation of thirteen plaques in Main Street Greensborough marking historical land marks. Many old timers have shown their delight that their families are remembered. Enquiries: President Noel Withers 9435 4513 or email info@greensboroughhistoricalsociety.org.au

KILMORE: Kilmore's pillar box to be restored. The Postal Department has agreed to renovate and re-paint the old post box at the corner

of Mill Street. It is a cast iron structure of the pattern installed between 1860 and 1920. The Kilmore box dates back no further than 1891. There are several references in the Kilmore Free Press to Council sessions between March and April of 1891 discussing the erection of what was originally intended to be three boxes in Sydney Street. The most serious threat to the existence of the Pillar Box came as recently as 2000, when Australia Post resolved to replace all the old cast iron boxes in Victoria. According to the National Trust, this was to be done for the sake of efficiency and standardisation, and the plan was to replace them with the newer swing door boxes. At that time the Kilmore Historical Society and the National Trust co-operated in a campaign which was ultimately successful. The box was retained, and restored in 2007.

MURCHISON: Our book, *Art Captured*, received another publication award at the Greater Shepparton City Council Cultural Heritage Awards recently. President Kay Ball provided a stimulating talk about the Prisoner of War and Internment Camps in the local area. Plans for 50th anniversary celebrations of the fall of the Murchison meteorite are progressing well. Leading scientists in the field of meteoritics will give presentations to the public over the weekend of 28th and 29th September as well as activities for the whole family.

KEW: Kew Tapestry Project - During 1988 and 1989, six of the eight panels were completed, framed and displayed on the south wall of the Kew Library. The six tapestries were 'rested' after thirty years on permanent display and are now stored under archival conditions. Two tapestries have not been completed. In recognition of the contribution of Joy Stewart and Dorothy Benyei, as well as the stitches of those who part-completed the remaining two panels, we are aiming to complete the Kew Tapestry. Our Collections Group is leading the completion of the panels. We are treating the activity as a conservation exercise, ensuring that the completion follows the standards set by the designer, using moth-proof embroidery wool in the colours designated on the original templates. Each of the two remaining panels is mounted on wooden stretchers to facilitate their completion. Jan is seeking volunteers from within and outside the Society to complete the final stages of this living history project that pays tribute to the efforts of the men, women and children who began these panels over thirty years ago.

KOO WEE RUP: Early years of the Society, from *The Good Country: Into the dawn of a new day, 1968- 1988* by Fred Hooper (1988). The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society was formed in 1974 as a result of the threatened demolition of an historic landmark, Ward Hubbard's blacksmith shop in Station Street. The old timber building on railway land was demolished and three citizens Jack Mills, Lindsay Black and Ken Huxtable decided to form an historical society with the aim of preserving sites and records of historic significance. The disused Island Road Primary School became the headquarters for meetings in 1985, after 11 years of effort by the Society. In 1984, the Society acquired the former home of pioneer O'Riordan family, 'Mallow', (1916) as its headquarters. The old house was

transformed into a museum and archives for the area. We are grateful to those early members who had the foresight to establish the Society, collect records and photographs and give us the security of owning our own building by purchasing 'Mallow'.

NARRE WARREN FAMILY: To celebrate Family History Month, join members and the local History Librarian, Heather Arnold, for a morning of family and local history. Ask us a question about your family history or local history. We also want to collect information and images, so come along and tell us what you know about your area from the past. If you want to share your photos, we can scan them on the spot and return the original to you straight away. All welcome, no bookings required. All sessions are 10am-1pm.

Doveton: Wednesday, 7 August; Endeavour Hills: Monday, 12 August; Emerald: Wednesday, 14 August; Pakenham: Thursday, 15 August; Hampton Park: Friday, 16 August; Cranbourne: Tuesday, 20 August; Bunjil Place: Friday, 23 August.

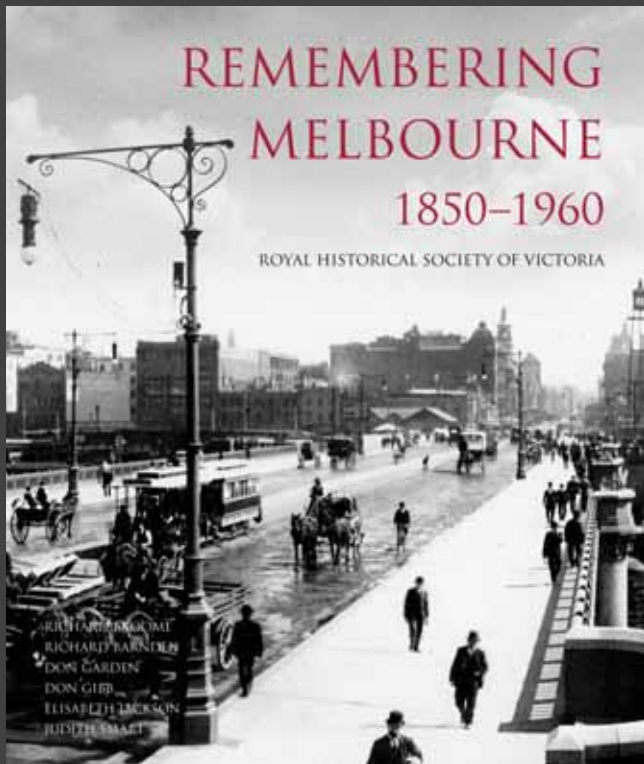
PHILLIP ISLAND: AGM, 14 August All members are welcome to nominate for any committee position and we are always looking for new input and ideas. Instead of a speaker we will have a 'Show and Tell'. Bring along anything interesting. It doesn't have to be old or relating to Phillip Island. So, something picked up in your travels, or even bought from a market stall!

POLISH MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES: With The Rats of Tobruk Association, we invite you to the opening of the exhibition – 'Destination Australia - Post WWII Odysseys of Polish Soldiers' on Saturday, 17 August 2019, 2pm at Tobruk House, 44 Victoria Avenue, Albert Park. In 1947/48 Australia accepted 1,500 Polish military who were part of the Polish free forces in the UK and who decided not to return to Poland which was in the Soviet sphere of influence. Thanks to the lobbying and support of the Australian Rats of Tobruk, their comrades in arms in 1941, this special group of men were the prelude to the large post war migration of displaced Poles to Australia. This exhibition presents this unknown story of Australian Polish relations and comradeship between these veterans. During the opening, the accompanying booklet *Destination Australia: Polish Soldier Migrants 1947-48* will also be launched. RSVP – 11 August 2019 polishmuseumarchivesaustralia@gmail.com

PORT FAIRY: Vintage Weekend 27, 28 and 29 September. As extra activities to mark the Vintage Weekend celebration we will organise a special exhibition of vintage clothing in the museum and a book sale to be held on the portico. The AFL Grand Final creates a long weekend and the book sale will be held Friday 2-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. The Museum opening times will be extended to include those times. The second hand books for sale will include quality donations received from the estates of Tim Reeve and Victor Gillatt who were both avid collectors of books and history. Members able to donate quality vintage books for a place in the sale will be very welcome. Working teams will sort and price the books.

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

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

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.)

