

HISTORY NEWS

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Windows on History

The John Stanton
Bell Window

President's Report

This past summer has been a terrible one for all Australians, but especially those in the line of fire. Our great thanks forever to the tireless firefighters and their supportive families. Our members and member societies may have been directly affected and our best wishes go to them. Chips Sowerwine has written in this issue about the heritage implications of these conflagrations.

However, for the RHSV the year 2019 was positive. Our financial position ended strongly due to an increase in income, notably book and ticket sales and donations, and a decrease in expenditure due to careful management. The final figures will reveal not a deficit for our operating budget as in 2018, but a modest surplus in operating costs for 2019. Our reserves and moneys set aside for future use continue to remain very strong. These pleasing results are a tribute to our Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, our Treasurer Daniel Clements and the Executive & Finance Committee.

Our membership has grown somewhat, our current level of activity is more vibrant with a new initiative among schools, and the spirit of our many volunteers is remarkable. We celebrated a new batch of more than fifty members in 2019 and Emeritus Professor John Poynter's 90th birthday. Our new book *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* is soon to break even within two months of publication and we welcome its strong financial and reputational contribution to the RHSV.

We farewelled our administrative officer

Pankaj Sirwani, who had replaced Amy Clay, while she was on maternity leave in 2019. Amy has now decided not to return, so we will soon be searching for a replacement. Other farewell news is that two councillors have stepped down due to health concerns, Alleyne Hockley and Jim Dixon. We are saddened by the loss of RHSV members John Murphy of Leongatha HS, fifty-six year membership, and former Victorian premier John Cain, sixteen year membership.

In 2020 we aim to reaffirm one of our strengths, our work for member societies. I have recently written to the presidents and members of our 330 affiliates, reiterating how the RHSV assists with their many challenges and our new initiatives to assist them. We aim to create a scheme to allow most societies without DGR tax status to funnel donations for projects or equipment through the RHSV. We aim to make grants to regional networks of historical societies, and to hold a regional conference that will feed into a special rural issue of the VHJ. The RHSV is keen to reintroduce excursions to historical societies in 2020, a tradition dating back fifty years, which has lapsed in the past decade. This will allow local societies to display their treasures to RHSV members.

I hope to visit societies in the city and country as time permits, although with three-hundred and thirty member societies it is a daunting task. The RHSV together with our History Victoria Support Group has in one way or another had

face-to-face contact in 2019 with more than one-hundred and fifty affiliated societies and assisted more through phone and email contact. I recently met members of some Mallee societies at the launch at Ouyen of a book three colleagues and I wrote, *Mallee Country*. There, I was made more aware of the challenges of maintaining their important collections, and of succession planning in remote historical societies, exacerbated by declining rural town populations. Our work connecting to local societies remains a vital part of our mission.

Richard Broome



Australia Day 2020 Honours List

We were thrilled to see, in this year's Australia Day Honours, that six of our own were awarded Orders of Australia. We congratulate:

- Our President, Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM
- Our Hon Secretary, Carole Woods OAM
- Our Victorian Historical Journal co-editor, Dr Judy Smart AM
- A member of our Foundation committee, Emeritus Professor John Fitzgerald AM
- Our next exhibition's curator, Noel Jackling OAM
- RHSV member, Peter Williams OAM

History News

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

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COVER Windows on History: The 'John Stanton Bell Window', Gardenvale St Stephens Anglican Church, 'Army in Our Region', M. Napier Waller 1951

See page 8

Photo: Susan Kellett

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What's On

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

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

Queries: office@historyvictoria.org.au or (03) 9326 9288

EXHIBITION: THE SWAMP VANISHES

January to July 2020

Curator: Lenore Frost

Before European settlers arrived in the Port Phillip district, a large wetland that lay between the Yarra River and the Moonee Ponds Creek sustained the indigenous people and the cultural traditions of the Kulin nation. It was known by the new settlers as Batman's Swamp, later West Melbourne Swamp. In less than 20 years that important wetland had been despoiled by European settlers, who turned it into a receptacle for sewerage and rubbish. By the end of the nineteenth century significant engineering works had changed the very shape of the land.

A feature of the land which had sustained Aboriginal people for millennia prior to European settlement in 1835 became a refuge for the down-and-out during the 1930s depression. 'Reclamation' works continued, until the wetland is now represented by the Dynon Road Tidal Canal, parallel to Dynon Road, and a small Wildlife Reserve.

This exhibition traces how a significant wetland vanished from sight.

BOOK LAUNCH AND LECTURE: JOHN MARSHALL AND BOUNTY MIGRATION TO PORT PHILLIP

Tuesday 18 February 2020

5:15pm drinks, launch and lecture at 6pm

Free event

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, Chair of the 'History Council of Victoria', will launch Dr Liz Rushen's book, *John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent*.

After the launch, Dr Rushen will deliver a paper which explores the significant role John Marshall played in the white settlement of the Port Phillip District. When Port Phillip was first opened up for settlement, Marshall was Britain's most active emigration agent: in the three years 1839-1841, he sent twenty-



one ships containing nearly 5000 bounty migrants to the new settlement. A major shipowner of London, Marshall instigated reform of *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* and established Britain's first emigration depot at Plymouth, but today his contributions to the ship-owning and merchant worlds of the nineteenth century have been largely forgotten.

LECTURE: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE

Tue 17 March 2020

Professor Lynette Russell
5:15pm drinks, launch and lecture at 6pm
\$10 / \$20



Lynette Russell AM is a Professor at the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre at Monash University. Professor Russell's focus is on developing an anthropological approach to the story of the past. Her historical interests are far ranging - across the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, from Aboriginal people in the maritime industry, to museums and museum collections, to the history of anthropology itself.

For her research achievements, Professor Russell has held the positions of President and Vice President of the Australian Historical Association and was elected Fellow to the Royal Historical Society in 2012 and Fellow to the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia in 2013.

GIPPSLAND WORKSHOPS: SOPHIE SHILLING ON CATALOGUING AND DIGITISATION

Saturday 15 February,
Saturday 21 March,
Saturday 18 April 2020
9:30am – 12:30pm /
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Federation University Gippsland Campus Library, Northways Road, Churchill, VIC.

\$30 / \$45 each or \$150/\$225 for series of 6

The RHSV is offering a series of 6 linked



workshops (three Saturdays over three months) which cover cataloguing and digitisation. This series of workshops is progressive, starting with basic concepts and building in complexity. We have spaced the workshops so that participants have time in which to put into practice their new skills before the next workshop. Participants need to bring their own lap-top.

Some participants will want to book for the full series of 6 workshops and others will want to choose those individual workshops that are most suitable for them. So, although the series is designed as a cohesive whole, the individual workshops also work as stand-alone training sessions.

SEMINAR: STARTING FAMILY HISTORY

24 February 2020

Presenters: Jenny Redman (current President) and David Down (immediate Past President)

1:30–3pm

Genealogical Society Victoria, level 6,
85 Queen Street, Melbourne

\$5

The Genealogical Society of Victoria offers RHSV members and friends an introduction to the resources and skills needed to immerse yourself in family history.

For anyone contemplating researching their family this event is key. It is also of great interest for those undertaking more general research as family research skills and resources can be used to create histories for any characters, not just your family. As we all know family research is more than births, deaths and marriages and good research skills and resources are needed to put flesh on bones. Topics to be covered:

- Introduction to the GSV
- Starting family history
- DNA
- ending with Q&A.



History Month 1–31 October 2020

As a reflection of its success, History Week will, in 2020, become History Month for the whole of October each year.

Start planning your events now. The website will be operational in March and the earlier you upload your events, the more we can publicise them.

Some great resources are available to help you plan an event with your local school and many of these ideas are also relevant for your local library. Your events don't have to be complicated but it is a great opportunity to interact with your local community and to attract new members.

<https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Local-History-and-Schools-Curriculum-FAHS.pdf>

<https://www.htav.asn.au/curriculum/history-week>

If Trees Talked: a River Red Gum Guards your Journey

Aboriginal people believe that anything with a form or a shape has a spirit of its own. You only have to stand in front of the massive five-hundred year old River Red Gum at Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen, to know this is true. It was obvious to the earliest settlers in this area from the 1840's that this was a special tree, not just because it was scarred by a canoe having been cut from it, but because local Aboriginal people also once congregated there.

The land on which the tree stands was eventually bought by artists John and Sunday Reed in 1934. They opened up their home to like-minded artists such as Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester, and this gave birth to the present day Museum of Modern Art 'Heide'. This stately tree stands in Heide's upper car park at 7 Templestowe Road in Bulleen.

Standing at the tree you can see that a couple of hundred years ago, a four metre length of bark was harvested to make a canoe. The precise year this was done can't be determined, the month certainly can. In the ninth lunar month, which occupies all of August, the sap starts to rise in trees. This means they give up their bark more easily, so August is the Aboriginal Bark Harvest Season. This also precedes the October rains and the annual flooding along the Yarra Valley; so, this is when new canoes were needed.

Harvesting bark in August also gave the tree the greatest chance of survival, so it could begin healing before the heat of summer. These scars are almost always on the south-east side, which was also a deliberate strategy to ensure the tree's survival. Most of the heat of the day in summer is from the north and west, whilst the desiccating winds are from the south-west and north-west. It is after all, just common decency to protect the spirit of the tree, especially when it has just given birth to the spirit of a canoe.

Since the Upper Yarra Dam was built in 1956, the Yarra rarely floods nowadays and Red River Gums suffer from not having their feet wet each spring, but this tree is in obvious good health and houses colonies of birds and bees.

This is because the gardeners at Heide regularly soak its root system and trim any dead wood.

The height of the scar on the south-east side is about four metres. The width of the original cut has been reduced by the bark slowly growing back over the scar. However, about half-way up, you can see by the way the tree branches grow laterally, that its growth was interrupted. This was probably caused by a lightning strike about 200 years ago. When this happens, the sap instantly boils and the tree explodes as if hit by a bomb.

This is however no ordinary canoe tree. It is also a 'Songline Marker Tree'. In other words, it is a silent sentinel that marks a traditional Aboriginal travel route. These routes are called 'Songlines' because just like the GPS in your car, Aboriginal people composed songs recounting the various natural and man-made landmarks, so they could find their way, even in unfamiliar territory. Just as when you travel overseas to another country you wouldn't think to go without your passport, neither would Aboriginal people, and the song was in fact your passport to safe travel.

The longest known Songline stretches 3,500 kilometres from Uluru to Byron Bay. It was also celestially coded into the constellation movements and would have taken over four months to complete one way. The reason why such trips would be made is simple. People from Byron Bay wanted to see the Sacred Rock and the people from Uluru wanted to see the sea.

Marker Trees come in four types: Scarred, Ring, Arched or Spiral. Yingabeal is a good example of a Scarred Marker Tree. A Ring Marker Tree is where two branches are tied or spliced so they fuse and leave a hole like the eye of a needle. An Arched Marker Tree is where two saplings are fused to grow from two trunks into a single trunk. Such trees usually mark a birthing spot. A Spiral Marker Tree is a genetic freak where about one in every 20,000 trees grow with a spiral grain. These 'corkscrew trees' were only allowed to grow on Songlines, and because they were useless for timber, settlers rarely cut them down, so they can often still be seen along our highways.

The Heide River Gum is however, no ordinary common-or-garden Scarred Marker Tree. It in fact marks the junction of Songlines going in five different directions. First leads west over the river ford near the Heidelberg Bridge, then splits off to Songlines along today's Greensborough Road, Bell Street and Heidelberg Road. Second leads south past Bolin-Bolin Billabong and on to meet the Doncaster Road-High Street Songline. Third heads south-east along Manningham Road to Shoppingtown where it joins the Doncaster Road-Mitcham Road Songline. Fourth heads east along the high floodline route of Templestowe Road. Fifth follows the meandering northeast course along the south side of the Yarra from Melbourne to Healesville.

In October 2013 a special ceremony was held at which Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson named the tree 'Yingabeal'. The name is drawn from the Woiwurrung words 'Yinga' meaning sing and 'Beal' meaning River Red Gum. So together, it means the 'River Red Gum Songline Marker Tree' at Heide.

Dr. Jim Poulter



'Yingabeal - Heide Scar Tree' by Sonia Hankova (2018) <http://sonhank.com/education/heide-sustainability-art-trail/indigenous-stories/yingabeal-heide-scar-tree/>

Heritage Report:

Bush Fires and Bush Heritage

The bush fires are a continuing national tragedy. Our hearts are torn by the loss of lives and property. Heritage too is being lost and it too is irreplaceable. Already we know that we have lost the lovely Genoa Schoolhouse Museum, 'Mallacoota and District Historical Society', and several important railway trestle bridges in Gippsland. Another is the Stony Creek Trestle Bridge. Built in 1916, it is or was the longest railway trestle bridge in Victoria at two-hundred and forty-seven metres. It was weakened structurally before the fires and is unlikely to stand much longer. By the time this article appears, we will know of other tragic losses. Updates are being provided by the excellent Gippsland History Public Group Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755971574632862/permalink/2682664761963534/>.

Such losses can include both built heritage and collections amassed by local historical societies. The RHSV stands ready to offer support and assistance to member societies as they seek to rebuild and restore. We will be doing our best to make sure that claims against RHSV insurance for historical societies are settled quickly and fully.

If a collection, or part of a collection, is lost, it may be possible to build a new one through a public appeal for materials. In the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires, the 'Marysville & District Historical Society' tragically lost all its collection. They put in a great effort to build up a new one. Since nearly all residents of Marysville were affected, only 25 buildings remained after the fire, new items had to come from ex-residents and family members living outside the district as well as tourists who had spent time in the town. The Society reached these people through mainstream media, automobile clubs and seniors' magazines. The State and National Libraries and the Public Record Office Victoria all searched out information to help. The RHSV helped by providing digital copies of records. Thanks to their efforts and this widespread support, the Marysville Society built a new collection that helps them continue to tell the story of their community.

This could be an example for local historical societies affected by the current

bushfires. Many will, like Marysville, want to call on people outside their area across the state and beyond. The RHSV stands ready to help with state-wide calls. While particular artefacts may be lost forever, we will make every effort to find new ones.

In the longer term, we need to reflect on what can we do to protect heritage buildings, archives and artefacts. The 'Federation of Australian Historical Societies', (FAHS), of which the RHSV is a member, collaborates with 'Blue Shield Australia' (BSA), part of the international Blue Shield, which works to protect the world's cultural heritage in the face of armed conflict or natural disaster. Here in Australia, BSA offers advice on disaster preparedness plans and resources. Their web site offers useful links for groups coping with losses after disaster as well as on prevention: <https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/>.

BSA also runs an annual 'MayDay Campaign' promoting disaster planning and awareness amongst archives, libraries, museums, heritage places, historical societies and similar organisations. To coincide with this campaign, the FAHS is preparing a project on time capsules to raise awareness of the need to protect heritage. An announcement will be made at the start of February.

The bushfires remind us, however, that what matters is what we do on the ground. Later in the year, once the immediate danger from bushfires has passed, the RHSV will be seeking information from all member societies as to what they have done and what they want to do to preserve their buildings and collections. Are there any fire prevention measures that can be put in place? The installation of rooftop sprinklers, for example, may be considered. What other possibilities should be considered? Would member societies like the RHSV to campaign actively for Commonwealth support for such safety precautions? The bushfires are as big a threat as terrorism, bigger perhaps in the bush. As reported in *The Age*, 18 March last year, the Commonwealth allocated \$55 million in community grants for security upgrades at mosques, churches, synagogues, temples and religious schools after the Christchurch terrorist attack; the Prime Minister's own

church has received a grant of \$110,000: <https://www.grants.gov.au/?event=public.GA.show&GAUUIID=AEAE2A84-EDF5-81A2-66F680A6F96B8C41>.

Are there lessons to be learned from the new, more intense fire seasons regarding disaster management plans for local historical museums and their collections? It will be tough because volunteers may be too busy defending their own homes as well as the society's buildings and collections, but it is important to consider what steps can be taken if fire threatens. Do officers and members have an up to date list of emergency contacts, from fire services to utilities?

What about archives and other records? They can be digitised and apps for collection management offer some security of at least keeping track of holdings, but is there a back-up and where is it stored? Societies may need to ensure that there is back-up on the cloud and, perhaps a separate hard drive stored out of the local area. The RHSV would be prepared to store these in our armoury if societies desired.

In the face of the national tragedy we are suffering, our work of safeguarding the past to inform the future is more important than ever. The more a community has lost, the more important its past becomes. Let's work together to continue helping people understand the stories of their communities.

Charles Sowerwine,

Chair, Heritage Committee.



*Stony Creek Trestle Bridge, Nowa Nowa, Vic., October 2019, now partially destroyed by fire.
Photo by Peter Hiscock, RHSV.*



A Hall of Fame: The Coburg Taj Mahal

Left: Town Hall, Coburg, Vic., Rose Stereograph Co. [c1920-1954]

State Library Victoria

Right: M. Moore, photographer, November 2019

Coburg has an Interwar Town Hall, with a spacious Bell Street landscaped setback, dominated by two English oaks (c1922) and the unique ‘Lutyensesque’ false concrete dome above its central front entrance. Locally nicknamed the ‘Taj Mahal,’ it was built to celebrate the proclamation of Coburg as a city in 1922, completed and opened in 1923 and so has celebrated its 96th birthday in 2019. However, this was not the first hall located on the one-hundred and thirty-two hectare Pentridge Village Reserve: first surveyed by Robert Hoddle in 1837. Today’s hall replaced a wooden hall, built in 1869 and extended in 1909, which originally served as a drill hall for the Pentridge Volunteer Rifle Corps until their disbandment after 1875. It became the Coburg Shire public hall following a municipal area name change in March 1870 to differentiate the area’s settlers from the prison stockade. When Coburg was proclaimed a Borough in January 1905 and a Town in September 1912, this structure remained the municipal hall. The new double storey purpose-built Town Hall also replaced a bluestone and wooden courtroom and municipal office building, which opened in 1867 and was extended in 1876, and two Bell Street cottages.

The 1922 complex was designed by prominent local architect Charles Robert Heath (1867-1948) and built by ‘Cockram

and Cooper’. Its dome was believed to have been inspired by Lutyen’s Viceroy’s house in New Delhi of the 1920s. Its 1922 plans show a large hall and smaller eastern banquet hall, Municipal Offices on its western side, with the council chamber and councillors’ rooms above and a small library in its south east corner, until 1983, with a second committee room above. There was a front ex-serviceman’s room for a club, which dates from 1918, with separate entrance and adjacent office. The RSL erected a cenotaph in 1924 outside and it remained in front of the Town Hall until 1956. The complex was enlarged in 1928 with a larger northern supper or concert hall, library space, foyer, lounges and main hall balcony able to accommodate an additional four hundred people. These alterations are believed to have included its Art Deco décor.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the popular Coburg Horticultural Society held twice yearly floral displays and competitions in the Town Hall. In 1929 the Council rented out the Town Hall for the showing of silent movies twice weekly and in June 1930 bought equipment to allow ‘talkies’ to be shown. The Council used the money to pay back the building loan and buy vegetables for the unemployed and struggling families during the 1930s economic depression. The Town Hall was used for a marathon dance

competition in April 1931 and for regular community singing to uplift the spirits of residents “doing it tough” in the depression years. This was the reason for the suspension of the annual Mayoral and debutante Balls from 1931 until 1936.

During the later World War II years, to cheer up its citizens and after in 1946-8, to increase pride in their northern working-class municipality, the Coburg Council organised annual Arts Festivals, believed to be the first in Melbourne. The Town Hall was the main venue for concerts, plays, operas, recitals, musical comedies, art exhibitions, lectures and talent quests. It had also been the venue for a meeting to form the first Victorian suburban National Theatre branch in 1945, which continued until the early 1960s. Coburg and later Pascoe Vale Rotary clubs organized more limited revivals of the festivals with an art, craft and historical display in mid 1976, mayor art exhibitions in 1988, 1989 and 1990; the 1988 exhibition was opened by the MP for Wills, Robert J Hawke.

After World War II, there were Saturday night Town Hall dances, annual local primary schools’ balls, annual church boys and girls’ gymnasium club displays and recitals and award nights for pupils of some local music and elocution teachers. Between the 1950s and 1980s, it was a place of mass public inoculations administered by the Council’s health staff.

Before a school hall was constructed at the municipality's first High school, Coburg High, the Town Hall opposite was used for speech nights, 'scripture', Monday school assemblies, movie events, stage productions, concerts, 'Education Week' display nights and the annual ANZAC and Remembrance Day services. Newlands High also used the Town Hall for assemblies before their hall was built. From 1979 until Council amalgamations, it provided a venue for annual Christmas concerts and lunches for Coburg Seniors. The hall was the home of the Coburg RSL dinner dance and 1990s commercial choral performances and provided space required for large local secondary school graduation ceremonies in the 2000s.

The Town Hall building and offices were threatened with demolition but saved by resident protests from the late 1960s. There was an office extension opened in early 1983 and a redevelopment after the formation of Moreland City Council in 1998. When the elected Council was suspended in 1994, and State Government appointed Commissioners administered the new City of Moreland, an amalgamation of the former Cities of Coburg, Brunswick and the southern section of Broadmeadows, community advisory panel members successfully argued for the retention of the centrally located Coburg Hall with its large capacity for a larger population.

Since 1996, every City of Moreland annual Mayoral ceremonial meeting has been held at the Coburg Public Hall. The Town Hall is still used for other special Moreland Council civic occasions: the 2016 celebration of life for Moreland's first Mayor, Mike Hill, the return of democratically elected local government milestone celebrations, annual Moreland Council award nights, regular Blackburn orations featuring prominent guest speakers, citizenship ceremonies and ethnic community lunches and dances. The Theatre Organ Society of Australia installed a Christie Theatre Pipe Organ under its stage in 2000. In this user pays era, it is hired out for weekend markets and other events.

Our Town Hall remains an important civic and community focus, not only for Coburg but now for the whole Moreland municipality.

Marilyn Moore,
Coburg Historical Society

History Victoria Support Group

This is a very short article, as I have had to resign due to ill health. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the best wishes and kind thoughts I have received in recent weeks.

I have been a member of HVSG since its inauguration in 2004. During that period, I have had the privilege to work with many dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable people. I would now like to say my personal thanks to those members, and all historical societies I have had the pleasure to work with, and wish everyone all the best for the future.

May 2020 be a rewarding and fulfilling year for all.

Alleyne Hockley



Ashley Smith has been with us as a volunteer since about 2016. In this picture, Ashley is standing next to the 'Cabinet of Curiosities'. This was a small exhibition he curated about the history of Victorian Football League come Australian Football League using material from our collection and a few pieces he negotiated the loan from the Ephemera Society of Victoria.

The RHSV collection is being enriched by Ashley through his manuscript accessioning and descriptions, reference enquiry research, research for the RHSV Olympic Games exhibition and writing articles for the RHSV website. George Coppin and the Cremorne Gardens, the life of Kong Meng and Victorian social life are the topics of some of Ashley's research and writing. His article, 'Smoke Night

A talented & energetic volunteer

Socials' is included in this edition of *History News*.

Ashley is always prepared to go the extra mile with his research. For example, when doing the Kong Meng article, Ashley travelled to South Melbourne to take a photograph of the house Kong Meng lived in.

At the time of writing he is migrating the catalogue records of photographs of people into our main database and at the same time researching the subjects to add more information

To all these tasks he brings knowledge he gained when he did his Masters of Professional Writing and Masters of Cultural Studies at Deakin University. Ashley is also able to use these skills in volunteer work he has done with the National Trust and at the Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society.

Jillian Hiscock

RHSV, Collections Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

Windows on History: The 'John Stanton Bell Window', St Stephen's Anglican Church, Gardenvale

Stained glass is traditionally associated with biblical figures rather than military commemoration. During World War I (WWI), memorial windows donated in memory of lost soldier-sons found acceptance in churches across the nation and then, from the 1920s, images of Australian servicemen began appearing in commemorative glass. These windows fulfilled the same purpose as a public war memorial: a place for individuals, families or congregations to gather to mourn their loss and reflect upon the memory of the fallen. This religious tradition continued after World War II (WWII) and, at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Gardenvale, the 'John Stanton Bell Window' appears as one of six windows that depicted secular themes in its commemorative Warriors' Chapel. Showing service personnel from both World Wars, this window's representation of loss remains as meaningful today as when Melbourne artist, M. Napier Waller, conceived it nearly seventy years ago.

John Stanton Bell was 22 years old when he was killed during the battle of Tarakan in May 1945. His father Tom, a veteran of the Gallipoli campaign, channelled his grief into creating a fitting memorial for his only child. With the vicar's support, Bell worked tirelessly to transform existing space within St Stephen's into a Warriors' Chapel. He financed the carved panelling separating the chapel from the main body of the church; paid for the vellum book of remembrance and its illumination with the names of those from the parish who served in both conflicts; carved unit colour patches onto the ends of the chapel's pews and involved himself in all aspects of the furnishing and fit-out. Bell even grew white gladiolus for its altar and

donated two of the chapel's six stained glass windows.

St Stephen's was designed by Melbourne ecclesiastical architect Louis Williams, who remained in touch with the parish after the church was completed in 1929. His preference for professional artists over commercial companies for the design and production of stained glass in his churches led to the recommendation of Napier or Christian Waller when a patron could afford the couple's higher fees. Waller, a graduate of the National Gallery Art School, Melbourne, and a veteran of WWI, specialised in murals, stained glass and mosaic. Major commissions in Melbourne and interstate had earned him a reputation as one of the county's leading architectural artists. Waller was in the final stages of completing the windows for the Hall of Memory, the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, when he accepted the Gardenvale commission in early 1950.

Like a public war memorial, the 'John Stanton Bell Window' privileged sacrifice as death on a distant battlefield. The upper half of the Window shows 'a Papuan supporting a wounded Australian in New Guinea'. The artist used John Bell as the model for this panel. He is shown with his hand over his heart in a final gesture of patriotism as a "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel" lowers him to the ground. John's parents would have taken comfort from their son's flawless appearance and the illusion that, in his final moments, their son did not die alone. Until her own death two decades later, Agnes Bell sat in the pew beside John's window taking solace in the light his window shed upon her.

In the lower half of the window, with face set in grim determination, an artilleryman



John Stanton Bell, c1939. Warriors' Chapel, St Stephen's, Gardenvale. Kellett, Susan Elizabeth Mary, RN 'Australia's Martial Madonna: the army nurse's commemoration in stained glass windows (1919-1951)'

charges past a body slung over four strands of barbed wire and into battle at Bullecourt in May 1917. Waller based this scene on his own terrible experience. The explosion shown behind him drove a round into the artist's right shoulder and ultimately cost him his arm several days later. Waller subsequently taught himself to paint again using his left hand. He was exhibiting within 12 months of his repatriation with some of his works entering the collections of State and National Galleries. Waller's heroic return to artistic competency rapidly became part of his defining and enduring narrative. However, it barely addresses the considerable impact the trauma stamped on his personal life. His was a struggle that continued to play out in countless homes across Australia as servicemen, nurses and, in latter wars, servicewomen, transitioned back to civilian life while haunted by memories of their service.

For many thousands of returned servicemen, the loss that service inflicted went unrecognised and was broadly omitted from Australia's commemorative tradition. By using his experience on the Western Front to inform his art, Waller quietly nuanced sacrifice to acknowledge a population of service personnel that is only today emerging within the nation's commemorative agenda: those physically, medically and/or emotionally wounded by their service. Warfare has evolved considerably in the seven decades since Waller conceived and painted the 'John Stanton Bell Window': his message remains just as relevant.

LEST WE FORGET

Dr Susan E M Kellett



140 Years: Congratulations and Celebrations

We congratulate the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents' Association, (P&ORA), which will celebrate 140 years of collecting, preserving, protecting and promoting Castlemaine's historic memorabilia in March 2020.

The P&ORA held its first meeting on 17 March 1880 following some informal meetings amongst like-minded gentlemen who were keen to form an organisation to support one another in times of need and to enhance the society they lived in.

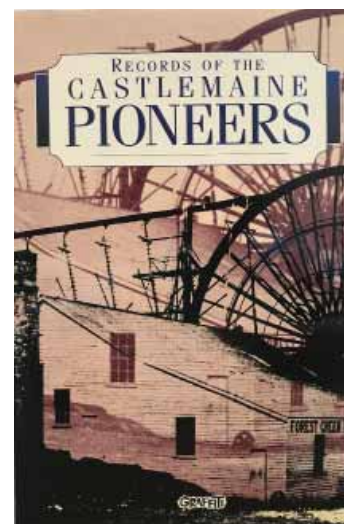
One of the early rules states 'that the organisation will collect, store, preserve and promote the area's local history'. The P&ORA is not a Historical Society as such, but they do own a lot of historical 'stuff' as past members were reluctant to throw anything out.

Until the late 1980s the P&ORA was orientated toward helping to improve their society. These days their members are spending time sorting, digitising, cataloguing and storing their collection in an effort to establish a legacy for future generations.

The Old Telegraph Station at 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine is their home. It was built in 1856 and opened officially on 1 January 1857. The building, and the land it stands on, was granted to the P&ORA on 22 December 1893.

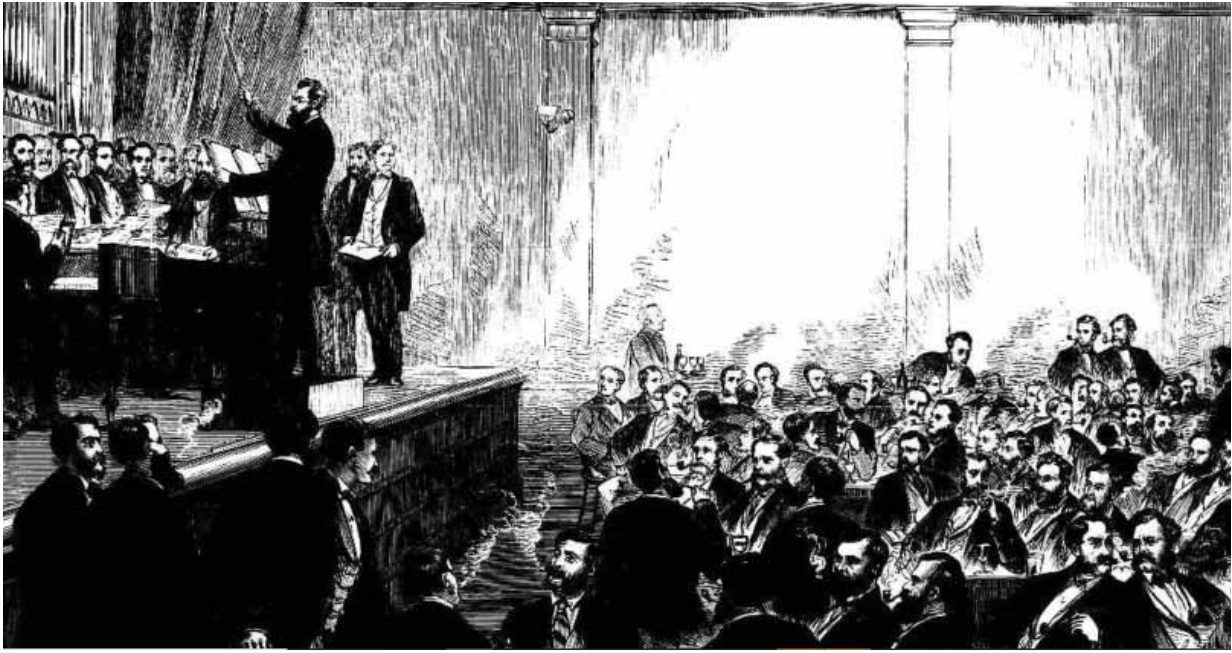
Their celebrations will take the form of a special meeting on the 19 March and a four day Historical Exhibition in the Castlemaine Town Hall: Thursday 19 March-Sunday 22 March, 10am-4pm, gold coin entry.

'Transport' is the theme of the exhibition: from when Major Mitchell first passed through the Castlemaine area, 29 September 1836, up until the present day. The exhibition will cover some of the sailing ships that brought the early settlers to our shores. It will also include the journey from Melbourne and Geelong to the Mount Alexander gold fields; some on foot pushing a wheel barrow, others walking beside a horse or bullock drawn wagon, while a few travelled in style in a stage coach.



Main: The Old Telegraph Station, built in 1856 and opened officially on 1 January 1857, has been the home of the 'Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents' Association' since 1893

Above: Castlemaine Association of Pioneers and Old Residents, Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers, Castlemaine, Graffiti, 1996. Available from Castlemaine and Old Residents Association.



'Metropolitan Liedertafel, Melbourne' (1875). *The Illustrated Adelaide News* (p. 13) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224358398>

Smoke Night Socials

A common social event up until the mid-twentieth century, was the smoke night. Also known as the 'smoke social', these events were essentially get-togethers run by organisations where everyone could smoke at their leisure, as well as sit down to a formal dinner. These events also reflect a time when Australia's smoking culture was very different to today.

Like the smoke that perhaps permeated the air of these nights, the origins of such events are hazy. In Victorian-era England, smoking was seen as a gentleman's habit; in Australia it had become associated with masculine identity. At that time smoking was a behaviour not encouraged among women in polite society. Robin Walker, in *Under Fire: A History of Tobacco Smoking in Australia*, highlights that this separation of the sexes was common smoking etiquette, as men were encouraged to not 'insult a lady' by smoking in her presence.

One of the earliest forms of social gatherings, that allowed men to smoke away from female eyes, were gentlemen's clubs such as the Melbourne Club. This club provided the men of elite society the opportunity to relax away from home. As explained in an *Age* article of 1855, these men could congregate to 'moisten and smoke their clay': the 'clay' referring to the clay pipes that were smoked at that time. It might be inferred that these

men's gatherings were early, but informal, versions of the smoke night.

The exact timing of when smoke nights became more formal affairs is not clear, but it is likely that the earliest examples were known as 'Gentlemen's Nights'. In 1875 *The Illustrated Adelaide News* reported on an event that is evidence of the 'great increase in the cultivation of music in Melbourne' with a performance by the Melbourne Liedertafel, a choral group. An engraving accompanying the text shows an all-male audience, many smoking pipes and sharing drinks as a pianist and the choir on stage provide entertainment. An article in *The Weekly Times* on November 13th 1880 reports the Liedertafel running a gentlemen-only event at Melbourne's Athenaeum theatre, at one-point disapproving of the rendition of a Liszt composition as 'hardly a selection for a "Smoke night"'.

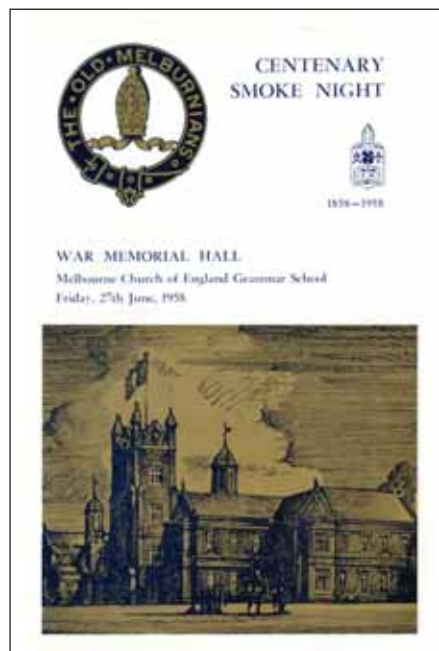
During the twentieth century slowly women joined the ranks of the smokers. By 1950, 70% of adult men and 30% of women were smoking in Australia. But, 'smoke events' continued to be male-dominated events. For example, a 1939 social event at the then newly built hall in Pyalong was a meeting of sixty men. A 1952 photo of a Meter Shop smoke night reinforces this sentiment, with no women in sight.

It should be noted that the lack of women at these events may also relate to the gender roles and the patriarchal norms of the time, women's roles were in domestic duties. Often, at social events, women were reduced to catering, with a 1913 *Herald* article on the Church of England Men's Society reporting that 'ladies' were credited for supplying refreshments. However, sometimes there would be rare exceptions when a smoke night would be held to honour a woman. An article from *The Malvern Standard* in 1908 reports a Smoke Night that celebrated the homecoming for a Mrs Freemantle, the proprietress of the Adelaide Hotel in Windsor, who had just returned from a trip to Western Australia. Whilst the article does imply a reinforcement of patriarchal norms, with the men doing the toasting and no indication that Freemantle made a speech, it does at least show that women, or at least those respected in the community, could be allowed to participate.

On the surface, many of these events appear to offer little variation. Along with smoking and a dinner, key members of the organisation would provide speeches on organisation activities, provide toasts and be treated to musical performances. However, the purpose would vary depending on who was hosting the event.



'Smoke night and supper invitation - American Fleet visit.' (1938)
RHSV collection



'Centenary smoke night' [A program with separate invitation to a centenary Smoke Night hosted by The Old Melburnians of Melbourne Church of England Grammar School on June 27th 1958] RHSV collection

For some, it was a celebratory event. In 1897 the *Fitzroy City Press* recorded how such an event was put on in the aftermath of the local elections, which congratulated the successful candidates and 'the unsuccessful one told to hope for better results next time'. Sports clubs would run smoke nights to celebrate recent success, as was the case for the Camperdown football club in 1914, with various people toasting the players and members that won them the 'shield' that year.

Sometimes smoke nights recognized a massive milestone or reunion. Other times the events were organised to introduce new or promoted staff. The Australian Natives Association magazine, *Advance*

Australia, records a Smoke Social that was held by their organisation at Camberwell in 1919. Sometimes such events were to bring up issues dear to the community. The Pyalong example shows the participants discussing the Hall itself and whether the government should allocate money to the local highway.

The RHSV collection includes a range of smoke night invitations. One, dated 1938, promotes the 20th anniversary of the 8th Battalion; it reviewed activities of the previous year and elected office bearers for the year ahead. Another is evidence of a 'Smoke Social' run by the Melbourne Grammar School in 1958, to celebrate its 100th anniversary, where attendees sang

songs such as 'Waltzing Matilda'.

Attitudes toward smoking have changed and smoke nights are a thing of the past. Links between smoking's adverse impact on health began in the 1930s. So, rather than being a social activity, today smoking at most social events is considered anti-social. The activity is restricted by legislation in public areas, there are bans on tobacco advertising and in our schools we teach young people about the detrimental effects of smoking.

Ashley Smith

Book Fair

Our second-hand history book fair is planned for November and we happily collect donations of history books throughout the year. Please contact the RHSV office if you'd like your surplus history books collected. (History is interpreted very broadly and is global – not just Victoria.)

Enhance your next book with an Index by Terri Mackenzie

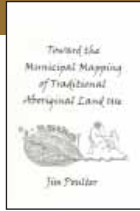
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Books Received

By John Schauble

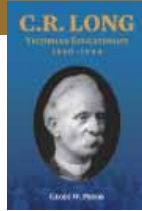


Toward the Municipal Mapping of Traditional Aboriginal Land Use. Jim Poulter, Red Hen, Melbourne, 2019, pp. 1-12, ISBN 9780949196347.

In this short paper, Jim Poulter sets out to map the land use by Aboriginal people in the Manningham municipality along a section of the Yarra River, using patterns described before European occupation. The paper points to the use of land for what would now be described as permaculture farming, centred around seed production, myrning plantings in the gullies and fostering habitat to suit animals, birds and fish used for food.

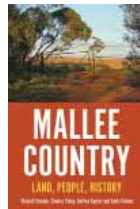


Mirka & Georges. Lesley Harding and Kendrah Morgan, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, 2018, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2019, pp. i-230, ISBN 9780522873300. Mirka and Georges Mora embodied the brave new world that post-World War II Australia would become, if at first slowly. They brought with them from Europe a level of energy that had been absent from the culinary and artistic landscape. Their response to the Holocaust they had escaped was to embrace with joie de vivre the very blank canvas of 1950s Melbourne offered. Their names became synonymous with good food through their cafes and restaurants, fine art through Mirka's own paintings and their championship of modern art and culture as they became a focus of the creative avante-garde. This is both a history of family and a cultural history of a city, into which are delightfully woven the recipes and illustrations that defined the Moras' lives together.



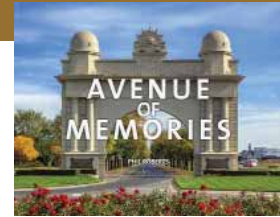
C.R. Long, M.A.: Victorian educationist 1860 - 1944. Geoff W. Pryor, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2019, pp. 1-236, ISBN 9781925801941.

In a sense, C.R. Long lived and worked in the shadow of his better-known superior, Frank Tait. Both were, however, extremely influential in the shaping of the Victorian public education system in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rather than rivals, they were collaborators and as young men even shared a home. Long was a teacher, educational lecturer, school inspector and later headed up the Victorian Education Department's publications section. It was in that role that his most influential contribution was made. In 1896 he started and for 30 years edited the *School Paper*. Long later commissioned the *Victorian Readers*, which many readers may also recall. He was also a foundation councilor of the RHSV in 1909 and an early editor of the *Victorian Historical Magazine*.



Mallee Country. Richard Broome, Charles Fahey, Andrea Gaynor and Katie Holmes, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2020, pp. i-415, ISBN 9781925523126.

Not many Victorians think about 'mallee country' or appreciate that there are significant tracts of it in South Australia and Western Australia. Defined as a semi-arid zone in which mallee eucalypts predominate, in Victoria this accounts for a large chunk of the north west of the state, spilling over into NSW and SA. This comprehensive environmental, social and political history traces the story of the mallee country from Deep Time to the present. The story is a quintessential tale of transition from natural to cultural landscape. Managed for 50,000 years by the Aboriginal people, the fragile soils of the mallee country were transformed utterly in the hundred years following European settlement. The irreversible change wrought in Victoria by closer agricultural settlement in the Mallee during the first half of the 20th century defines it still.



Avenue of Memories. Phil Roberts, Arch of Victory – Avenue of Honour Committee, Ballarat, 2018, pp. 1-254, ISBN 9780980284492.

It is no surprise that when many Victorians think of an "avenue of honour" remembering those who served in World War 1, they think of this one. One of the longest such avenues in the world, Ballarat's grand tribute is pre-eminent in Victoria. It commemorates the 3,801 local volunteers who enlisted. This is a fascinating story, not in least as the whole project was itself largely overseen by volunteers and because of the unique contribution made by one local company over the life of the project. The deleterious impacts of time followed by a resurgence of interest and renewal add to this rich local history. It is a thorough piece of research, beautifully presented and illustrated. *Avenue of Memories* is also winner of the 2019 Victorian Premier's History Award.

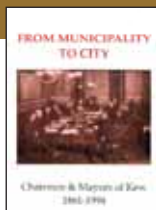


"My Country All Gone The White Men Have Stolen It": the invasion of Wadawurrung Country 1800-1870. Fred Cahir, Australian History Matters, Ballarat, 2019, pp. i-348, ISBN 9780646801780

The country of the Wadawurrung people extends through central Victoria including the districts of Ballarat and Geelong. Fred Cahir's study of the interaction between the Wadawurrung and the white strangers who dispossessed them between 1800 and 1870 is both thorough and compelling. This was a part of Victoria which endured overwhelming invasion on a scale and at a speed not seen elsewhere in Victoria beyond the immediate district of Melbourne – first through journeymen, then squatters and their shepherds and finally the gold rushes and their accompanying hordes. Cahir uses the accounts of settlers, other journal keepers and official sources to enrich his account, which is at once scholarly and accessible.

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.



From Municipality to City : chairmen & mayors of Kew 1861-1994. Kew Historical Society, Kew Historical Society Inc., Kew, 2019, pp. 1-110, ISBN 9780646809359.

This is a collaborative history which details the chairmen and mayors of the Kew municipality from 1861 until it became part of the City of Boroondara in 1994. Some of these leaders, such as Sir Stanley Argyle, went on to greater things: in his case a Premier of Victoria. Marie Dalley became first female mayor of the city in 1954. There were many other civic leaders drawn from the commercial and legal world. While a small number gained broader prominence, detailing pen portraits of the lives of the remainder to match the rich pictorial record held by the Kew Historical Society proved more challenging. This is an important local record, with context provided to the story of the municipality and a foreword from Don Garden, past RHSV President and past Kew Historical Society Vice President.



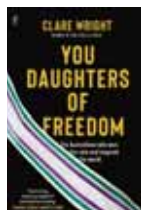
The Shelf Life of Zora Cross. Cathy Perkins, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2019, pp. i-285, ISBN 9781925835533.

This biography of Zora Cross recalls an Australian poet and writer now largely forgotten but who in her day both scandalised and delighted. Cross is credited as being the first Australian woman poet to celebrate sexual passion. Her best-known work, *Songs of Love and Life*, was something of a sensation when it was published in 1917. She went onto journalism, wrote novels, produced an early study of Australian literature and much more poetry, particularly in the 1910s and 20s. She corresponded extensively with other writers and publishers. Cathy Perkins's delightfully written work elevates Zora Cross to a more deserved position in our literary past.



Ebb and Flow. James Mulcahy, Toorloo Arm Primary School, Lake Tyers Beach, 2018, pp. 1-147, ISBN 9780646985688.

To mark its centenary, the school that has become Toorloo Arm Primary School No.3968 has published a fine account of its history. Written by retired principal James Mulcahy, with an enthusiastic team behind him, it traces the story of education in the area which had its origins in Rural School No.11 at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission in 1870. Other schools opened, and closed. Lake Tyers Road State School came into being in 1918, sharing its first teacher with the Aboriginal station school. Like so many rural schools, it became a centre of community, surviving and prospering into a new century. At the heart of the story is growing inclusivity: of Aboriginal community members and later post-war European immigrants.



You Daughters of Freedom: the Australians who won the vote and inspired the world. Clare Wright, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2018, pp. i-553, ISBN 9781925603934.

Clare Wright is an accomplished historian, best-known for the award winning *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*. This latest book tells the story of Australia's suffrage campaigners and the way they shaped an infant nation's leading role in winning the vote for white women. Australian women were the first in the world to not merely vote but also be allowed to sit in parliament: New Zealand women won the vote in 1893 but not the right to election. The story focuses on the roles of five women: Vida Goldstein, Dora Montefiore, Muriel Matters, Nellie Martel and Dora Meeson-Coates. Of them, to date perhaps only Vida Goldstein and more recently, courtesy of a biography by Robert Wainwright, Muriel Matters have punctuated the public consciousness. Engagingly written, this is a fine study of near universal suffrage.



Swanston. Eleanor Robin, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2018, pp. i-284, ISBN 9781925588897.

Captain Charles Swanston is a largely forgotten figure in Victoria's history, recalled only in the major Melbourne thoroughfare that bears his name. As a prominent Van Diemen's Land banker and sometime member of the Legislative Council, he was a leading member of colonial society. A brave soldier and audacious entrepreneur he promoted the land grab by squatters in the nascent Port Phillip District. Swanston was a risk taker who would ultimately face financial ruin with the collapse of the Derwent Bank and die mysteriously at sea en route to California. His ignominious end meant he was effectively blotted out of colonial history, and his story became a salutary lesson in speculative greed. Eleanor Robin's worthwhile study is a kinder detailed re-evaluation.



Best We Forget. Peter Cochrane, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2018, pp.1-264, ISBN 9781925603750.

Amid the flurry of histories marking the end of World War 1 there are some more thoughtful exploratory works. Peter Cochrane, who previously disassembled the mythology of Simpson and his donkey, looks at the war through the prism of the white Australia policy. The conventional view of the rally of the Empire to protect the interests of Britain is displaced by an argument that focusses on the fear of abandonment in the face of teeming Asian hordes and the loss of racial purity. Certainly, fear of invasion was a preoccupation in the newly federated nation; Cochrane explores this obsession in the context of 'buying' security in the Pacific through engagement in a European conflict.

Around the Societies

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

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

FOR THE APRIL 2020 ISSUE

please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 8th March 2020.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE: On Saturday 20 June we will be commemorating 150 years since the death of Adam Lindsay Gordon. Our commemoration will be held in the ground floor premises of the RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne. Our committee will be working to provide an afternoon of talks, music and displays to honour Adam Lindsay Gordon who stirred the imaginations of the newcomers to our land with his skills at riding and writing. We are currently working on producing an Adam Lindsay Gordon Encyclopedia to be launched at this event. Many have offered to provide us with entries, and the closing date for these is at the end of February 2020.

GLEN EIRA: We were very excited when our book, *Along the line: Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories*, received a Commendation in the Victorian Community History Awards 2019. The book is available from the RHSV and other outlets, email gehs@optusnet.com.au or phone 9077 5395. Our office at 965 Glen Huntly Road Caulfield re-opens on Tuesday 4 February 2020. Opening hours for 2020 are Tuesdays and Fridays 9-12pm. Our 2020 Speaker Series commences on Wednesday 25 March with a talk by Dr Daryl Moran on his recent book *Empire's Noble Son* about Caulfield Grammarian Lyle Buntine: his school days and military experiences. 7.30pm, Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, Caulfield.

HASTINGS WESTERNPORT: Can you help? If you can help with any of the following, please email hwphs@outlook.com. Family Histories: if you have any photos or family papers that we could borrow to scan and file; Newsletter contributions or suggestions; Written pieces for the 'Feature Article' about local history are especially welcome, recipes, tried and true, or little items of whimsy. Volunteers are not so plentiful in our area so we are very grateful to our volunteers who do a variety of jobs: cataloguing, administration, research, maintenance, gardening, facilitating group visits, and more - more volunteers are always welcome. We receive used stamps; these are sent to Rotary who then sell them to raise money.

HEALESVILLE AND DISTRICT: The Society is thirty-five years old! Although there's been no formal celebration of the occasion, we do recognize that it is no small feat for a voluntary organization such as ours to have had a presence in the local community for such a long period. Over the years, some details of the Society may have changed, but the essence remains the same: to act as the custodian of the district's history. We are supported by our team of ten or so regular volunteers who all have a specific role, covering most aspects of the society's activities. Although we have laboured in very limited spaces, a tremendous amount has been achieved over the years. Our main source of income for a long time has been

the sale of books written by our members. Thank you to all past and present members who have contributed to the successes of our society.

KNOX: 'Ferntree Gully Cemetery History and Mystery Tour': Friday 7 February and Friday 27 March at 7.30 pm. Venue: Meet at The Hut Gallery for sherry and canapes before Karin Orpen leads the tour of the Ferntree Gully cemetery. Bring a torch and wear shoes suitable for uneven surfaces. Cost \$20 pp. Bookings required: email ftghistorymystery@gmail.com.

MORWELL: On Sunday 9 February, 12-4pm, we are having a special day for those who worked at L M Ericsson; come along to a reunion and to bring your photos. As we have no photos or memorabilia of the time, we hope to scan photos and memorabilia to add to our collection and we will return them to their owners. When La Mode closed in 1965, the Morwell Shire Council bought their factory in Church Street and leased it in 1967 to L M Ericsson Pty Ltd, makers of components for telephone switch systems. During the peak of operations, in the early 1970s, the factory employed seven hundred staff. This factory closed in 1988. For catering purposes would any former Ericsson staff and employees who intend to come along please register your attendance by phoning Elaine 0438 631 460 or Shirley 0409 436 019.

NILLUMBIK: We would like to thank Terry Phillips for his donation of a replica of Ned Kelly's armour. In order to display it well, Maggie and Gwen used the dressmaker's model, and Ron adapted a wire coat hanger to secure Ned's helmet. We were originally going to 'hang' him in the glass cabinet but he didn't fit and it would have been rather difficult to add other items to the display with a Ned Kelly theme. We thought his placement in the Barn was a good location rather than scaring the living daylight out of people visiting the cottage.

PHILLIP ISLAND: If you are looking for information on a particular topic of Phillip Island history, you may find something about it on our website pidhs.org.au under 'Essays and Talks'. There are almost fifty essays and talks on a wide variety of topics. Or you may find just the image you are after by searching our online cataloguing program: victoriancollections.net.au. We have catalogued and scanned thousands of images, many books and newspaper cuttings from our collection onto this online catalogue: quite a treasure trove! And we are on Facebook too: <https://www.facebook.com/pidhs/>

SALE: The lovely brick water tower in Victoria Park, Sale, has been fully restored over the past three years and is now open to the public as a water museum and scenic lookout. This tower and tank, designed by distinguished engineer and architect, John Grainger, was built in 1887-88. Grainger, the father of

celebrated composer and pianist Percy, had previously designed the Swing Bridge at Longford. With the commissioning of this water tower in 1888, Sale residents, for the very first time, had water at the turn of a tap. Previously Sale residents, including those who had a tank at home, were dependent on water carriers, known then as "watermen", who sold water from door to door.

SANDRINGHAM: 2020 history forums: In addition to guest speakers at general meetings, we will be holding history forums throughout the year. Each forum will consist of a small group of members and non-members who have a like-minded interest in a particular topic, to discuss with a knowledgeable speaker - over light refreshments. Tickets will be sold for the forums with discounts for members. As fundraisers, the speakers for the forums will be separate from speakers arranged for general and annual meetings of the society. These will be held in our Resource Centre and therefore limited to 10 people. So far, we have the following speakers confirmed: Dr Don Garden OAM, Dr Cheryl Threadgold OAM, Lorraine Huddle and Graeme Disney OAM JP. Dates and topics are yet to be decided.

ST KILDA: 2019 has been a busy year for the Society with an even bigger year to follow. 2020 is the Society's 50th anniversary with a twelve-month program of events and celebrations including speaker forums, a short-story writing competition, a display of artefacts from the SKHS Collection, launch of the Mirka Mora documentary, publication of an overview of the Society's fifty years, and much more. Details of the full program of events will be announced soon. Check our website at stkildahistory.org.au

WARRANTYTE: Plans are afoot for 2020. The first major work will be a display and float for the Warrantyte festival with the theme 'Show us your Colours'. We have been fortunate in receiving a grant from Manningham City Council for a display entitled 'Pure Gold'. Work is also underway on installing some of our gold equipment in the rear garden. 2020 also commemorates 75 years since the end of WW2 and there are plans for a display to honour the men and women of Warrantyte who took part in the conflict.

WEDDERBURN: 2019 saw a name change from the 'Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society Inc.' to the 'Wedderburn Historical Records Museum Inc.' Our volunteers have now digitized and indexed over 32,000 records including over one-hundred audio tapes of past presentations given by locals talking about their early years in the district. Selected records and documents can be copied to a USB for visitors to take away with them. Further digitizing will continue throughout 2020. You can see us at our web site: wedderburnhistorical.com.au

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Weston Bate Oration

Tuesday 19 May

At our AGM we present our annual report including financial reports to our membership and we also present our Fellowships and Awards of Merit. The AGM is followed by the Weston Bate Oration. Details of voting, agenda and reports will be sent to all members one month prior to the AGM.

Award of Merit

Closing date: Thursday 9 April

It is time for our affiliated historical societies to nominate one of their outstanding members for a 2020 RHSV Award of Merit. Nominees should have given meritorious service to an affiliated Member Society of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) or to the RHSV. The service should be exceptional and go beyond the routine holding of office. The nominee should have been involved in the work of the Member Society or the RHSV for a minimum of ten years.

More information: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/recognition/awards-of-merit/>

Holsworth Local Heritage Grants

Applications open 1 March and close 31 July each year.

Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for the publication of any specific or general local history or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. The Grant is intended for small organisations with an interest in publishing works of historical value, even where the organisation has little or no experience of self-publishing work. Joint projects encompassing several groups or annual/special edited journals incorporating submitted historical articles from a wide community are encouraged.

More information: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/programs/holsworth-local-heritage-grants/>

Victorian Community History Awards

We are still waiting on confirmation of the date of the awards ceremony in October which is always the highlight of History Month; the closing date for entries will be early July. Entry forms will be available on our website from April. Keep an eye on our eBulletins, Old News for updates and confirmation of dates.



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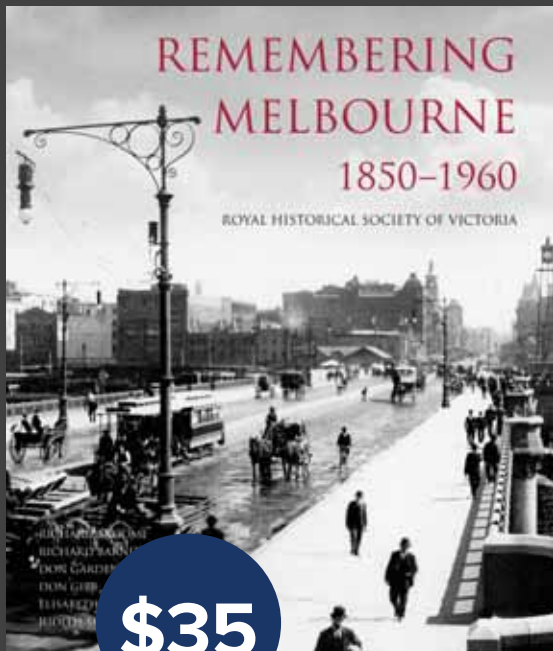
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GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

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.)

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

