

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**109th RHSV Annual General Meeting****5.15 pm Tuesday 21 May 2019****239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne****1 Attendance and apologies**

Acting President Elisabeth Jackson welcomed about 50 RHSV members and 40 visitors attending. A list is attached.

Apologies were received from Sheila Byard, Janice Bate, Chris Bate, Tristan Bate, Mandy Bede, Sam Hicks, Robert Renton, Gwladys Mclachlan, Helen Menadue, Ann Gibb, George Fernando, Susan Priestley, David McCarthy, Judith Smart, Rosemary Nixon, John Schauble, Madonna Grehan, Dianne Reilly, John Drury, Virginia Nixon, Russell Yeoman, David Hall, Chris Manchee, Barbara D Latham, Deborah Towns, Charles Parkinson, Stephen Shelmerdine, Pera Wells, Valda Cole.

Elisabeth Jackson stated that Associate Professor Don Garden had recently resigned as president but she hoped he would rejoin the RHSV Council later in the year; there would be a special RHSV event to honour him. She praised Don's remarkable ability and skill as President for six years. He constructively led the RHSV, had been a great advocate for the society with government, and had engaged with local historical societies across the state. He was one of the four longest serving RHSV presidents since the society's foundation in 2009.

The meeting applauded Don Garden.

2 To confirm the minutes of the 108th Annual General Meeting

Moved Jim Dixon, seconded Richard Broome: *That the minutes of the 108th AGM are a true and accurate record.* Carried.

3 To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2018

In presenting the Annual Report, Elisabeth Jackson reported on a stable and successful year. The Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, had done wonderful organizational work and Jillian Hiscock had been excellent in building collections and recruiting volunteers. Elisabeth discussed the three exhibitions: Standing on the Corner, Vera Deakin and the Red Cross and Melbourne in the 1970s. She also briefly referred to the impressive work of the various RHSV Committees. Elisabeth said a major issue had been inability to gain a secure home for the RHSV and to develop 'History House'. We will be working on this over the next year.

Moved Margaret Anderson, Seconded Daniel Clements: *That the Annual Report be received.* Carried.

4 To receive and consider the financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018

The Treasurer, Daniel Clements, began his report by confirming that the RHSV, due to its size is required to undertake an audit review not an audit and that all legal requirements have been met.

He reported that a change in the recording in the financial statements means that there is some difficulty comparing 2018 with 2017 as accounts for the Foundation are no longer shown separately but are included in the RHSV accounts.

Funds are slightly down due to market fluctuations in the UCA Funds but the market is now tracking upwards. Daniel stated that the UCA is considered a reputable, ethical and reliable scheme.

The reports reflect changes made to ensure reliable reporting with roughly \$20,000 in surplus. However some of the income has been earmarked. Although the financial position is strong Council is undertaking further analysis to ensure that operational costs are covered without the need to access reserves.

Moved Daniel Clements, Seconded Jim Dixon: *That the Financial Statements for 2018 be accepted.*
Carried.

5 To appoint the Auditor for 2019

The Treasurer recommended that Stephen Allen, Alkemade & Associates, be re-appointed as Auditor for 2019.

Moved Daniel Clements, seconded Daniel Langdon: *That Stephen Allen be appointed as Auditor for 2019.* Carried.

6 To elect members of Council and office-holders

Elisabeth Jackson stated that there were 3 nominations for 4 ordinary places on Council, so no election was deemed necessary.

Robert Barnes,

Jim Dixon

Rosalie Triolo

These nominations were elected by acclamation.

Elisabeth declared 2 office-holder positions were open for election, that of secretary (currently Carole Woods, who has completed her two-year term) and president (Don Garden had recently resigned after almost completing his two-year term). The nominations were:

Secretary: Carole Woods FRHSV

President: Emeritus Professor Richard Broome FRHSV

These nominations were elected by acclamation.

Richard Broome, the new RHSV President, gave the Acknowledgement of Country:

‘We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Historical Society of Victoria currently stands, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders past and present, and those young people destined to become leaders.’

Richard then briefly addressed the meeting. Don Garden had assured him of assistance. He congratulated Carole on returning as secretary and thanked Cathy Butcher, the new assistant secretary, on her meticulous work on revision of the Constitution. The society had three magnificent paid staff, namely Rosemary Cameron, Jillian Hiscock and Pankaj Sirwani. The RHSV had been the main body representing the history and heritage of Victoria since 1909 and the *Victorian Historical Journal* was the second oldest historical journal in Australia. Over 100 volunteers were supporting the RHSV. The society was strong but needed to be made even more resilient in the future; above all it needed a secure home.

7 To receive expression of interest for History Victoria Support Group

Richard Broome briefly discussed the importance of HVSG in connecting with and assisting local historical societies across the state. He introduced the HVSG chair, Alleyn Hockley from Castlemaine.

Alleyn Hockley thanked David Langdon for his huge work for HVSG over many years. He would not be re-nominating.

Alleyn announced members of HVSG for 2019:

Bernard Bolch

George Fernando

Pauline Hitchins

Alleyn Hockley

Jane Nigro

Larina Strauch

Sue Thompson

8 To announce the inaugural recipient of the John Adams Prize

Richard Broome explained that the late John Adams, a lecturer in librarianship, had been a former RHSV Councillor, and had indexed the *Victorian Historical Journal* from 1954 to 2012; this index was now being integrated into Trove. John Adams had left a bequest of \$10,000 to the RHSV and this was being used to fund a prize for the best article in the VHJ every two years. The inaugural winner of the John Adams Prize was Nicola Cousen for her article ‘The Legend of Lalor’s Arm. Eureka Myths and Colonial Surgery; VHJ, vol.88, no.2 November 2017, pp.212-34. Richard read the report from the distinguished judges, emerita professors Patricia Grimshaw and Marian Quartly.

9 To elect two RHSV members who have been nominated for election as Fellows (see at end of minutes for the nominations)

Adjunct Professor Simon Smith, nominated by Emeritus Professor Richard Broome

Moved Richard Broome, Seconded Lucy Bracey: *That Simon Smith be elected a Fellow of the RHSV*. Elected by acclamation.

David Thompson, nominated by Carole Woods and Richard Barnden
 Moved Carole Woods, Seconded Julia Jackson: *That David Thompson be elected a Fellow of the RHSV*. Elected by acclamation.

10 To announce recipients of Awards of Merit (see below for brief citations.)

Richard read out citations for 11 nominations for Awards of Merit

To announce recipients of the Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award (see below for citations)

Jillian Hiscock read out citations for Julia Jackson and Alan Hall.

James Nixon, son of Barbara Nixon, presented the awards.

11 To transact any business of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules of the Society.

None received.

Richard thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 6.15 pm.

The meeting was followed by the Weston Bate RHSV Oration, delivered by Kristin Stegley OAM, Chairman National Trust Australia (Victoria)

Fellowship Nomination of Dr Simon Smith

21 February 2019

Dr Simon Smith AM, PhD (Monash), LLM (Monash), LLB (Monash), B. Juris (Monash), is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law at Monash University and an Adjunct Professor at the Sir Zelman Cowan Centre, Victoria University. He was a co-founder of Australia's first community legal service, the Springvale Legal Service. He has contributed to law education. Dr Smith was also the first ombudsman in the Australian financial services sector. He curated the Suncorp Insurance Archive now at the State Library of Victoria.

Dr Smith has been a longstanding member of the RHSV, in which he demonstrated significant leadership skills. He was a Councillor 2008–2012, Vice President 2009–2011, and was a driving force in establishing higher governance standards within Council. He was instrumental in establishing the RHSV Foundation to help secure the future of this society. The Foundation now holds significant assets to further the Society's work. Dr Smith championed retention of the Victorian Community History Awards during the competition's survival crisis of 2010 to 2011 and became inaugural chair of the RHSV's VCHA committee in 2011.

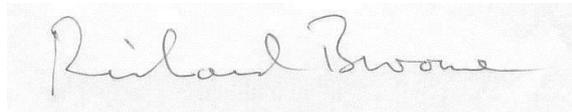
Dr Smith has made significant contributions to law and history writing. His publications include *Maverick Litigants: A History of Vexatious Litigants in Australia 1930–2008* (2009); *Barristers Solicitors Pettifoggers: Profiles in Australian Colonial Legal History* (2014); and a chapter on the community legal services movement, *Breaking Out: Memories of Melbourne in the 1970s* (2015). In recent years he edited the outstanding *Judging for the People: A Social History of the Supreme Court in Victoria 1841–2016* (2016).

The history of the Supreme Court project to commemorate the Court's 175th anniversary was the brainchild of Dr Smith. This history, besides being a ground-breaking social history approach to institutional legal histories, has significantly boosted the presence of the RHSV in Melbourne and Victoria. Dr Smith conceived this idea and also managed this difficult project's implementation in a sustained way during 2014–2016. This involved securing the *pro bono* contribution of a dozen authors and the support and cooperation of many legal entities. With the help of the RHSV President, as well as several councillors, Dr Smith convinced the Chief Justice of Victoria and the Court to fund the RHSV to manage this project, significantly adding to the RHSV Foundation's reserves. He also persuaded leading law bodies and firms in Melbourne to fund the book's publication and liaised with Allen & Unwin to do so.

The book, associated conference and exhibition have and will continue to bring significant prestige to the RHSV. I commend Dr Simon Smith's award of a RHSV Fellowship.

Dr Richard Broome FRHSV, FAHA

Emeritus Professor in History, La Trobe University and RHSV Councillor



**RHSV Fellowship Nomination of David Thompson
14 March 2019**

David Thompson was born in Northern Ireland and gained a PhD from Queen's University, Belfast. An aeronautical engineer, he accepted an Australian government contract to join the Aeronautical Research Laboratories in Port Melbourne. He worked there from 1969 until his retirement in 2001.

David started volunteering at the RHSV in 2002 and increasingly gravitated towards the Images room. Here he indexed the Topographical Maps, then quickly moved to cataloguing and re-housing the ArtWorks, and improving storage of the Maps and Objects Collections, tasks which continue. He has shared his archival box-making skills in-house and with local historical societies through workshops.

Although based in the Images Room, David has supported the RHSV in multiple other ways. He was involved with the Disaster Management Plan and has helped with the set-ups for

numerous events. He has contributed to general maintenance and the design and provision of storage facilities. In recent years, he has heightened the society's profile through monthly articles on history and heritage subjects in the *CBD News*.

David's outstanding contribution has been as the curator of or assistant to the curation of successive RHSV exhibitions. His collegial attitude, disciplined work ethic and practical skills have made him invaluable to the implementation of exhibition concepts, especially in the artistic mounting of images and display of objects. His first significant contribution was to *Ships and Shipping*, 2005, which showcased RHSV ArtWorks. *Volunteers and Valour*, 2006, focused on volunteer defence forces while *History Begins at Home: The Story of the RHSV Neighbourhood*, 2007, dovetailed with a VCE History subject. *Melbourne's Moving Markets*, 2008, and *Spirit of the Time*, 2012, followed. Later exhibitions included two relating to the Australian Red Cross and the current *Cold War Games*.

David's own exhibition *Dancing the Skies*, 2011, reflected his strong interest in aviation and the depth of the collection. David curated the RHSV's most successful exhibition *Nail Can to Knighthood: the Life of Sir Macpherson Robertson KBE* in 2015, cooperating with the MacRobertson Girls' High School, Fitzroy History Society and History Teachers Association of Victoria. Jo Clyne of the HTAV in partnership with the RHSV developed a digital version of this exhibition for the Culture Victoria website.

Although David is modest about his curatorial work, it is actually a long, detailed process of research, design, planning and execution, all achieved with comparatively little cost and angst to the organization. Through this, David has saved the society tens of thousands of dollars. In addition to RHSV service, he has volunteered for many years at Museums Victoria and Heritage Victoria.

Through his creative and highly professional work at the RHSV, David has enhanced the reputation of the society and made a significant contribution to the history movement in Victoria. In recognition of this, the RHSV has already honoured him with an Award of Merit, 2012, and a Distinguished Service Award, 2016. We commend David Thompson for the society's highest honour of a Fellowship.

Richard Barnden, FRHSV
Coordinator, RHSV Images Collection

Carole Woods, FRHSV
Hon Secretary RHSV

AWARDS of MERIT (with abbreviated citations)

Joan Anderson nominated by Gisborne & Mount Macedon Historical Society

Award to be presented locally.

Joan joined the Gisborne & Mount Macedon Historical Society 22 years ago and during that period has attended almost every weekly working session; she has been involved with research enquiries, membership records, digitizing of photographs and displays.

Joan has been a committee member since 2007 and Treasurer for the last 5 years. She also attends the bi-monthly meetings of the Macedon Ranges Heritage Council.

Robert Baker nominated by Kew Historical Society

Robert Baker has been a member of the Maldon Historical Society since 2006 and one of the mainstays of the Kew Historical Society since 2011. He has the title of Archivist on the Kew Historical Society's Committee of Management but performs an astonishing number of additional roles.

Robert is Convenor of the Collections Group, which oversees more than 2500 objects and 3000 photographs and Convenor of the Volunteers, who meet weekly for various duties. He is the newsletter editor and website content editor and a member of the research group, the events committee and the publicity team. He has successfully applied for grants which recently enabled the purchase of 3 computers and publication of a book on the mayors of Kew.

Robert's contribution extends beyond Kew. He is one of the Society's representatives on the Boroondara Historical Societies Association Committee and a member of a working group formed by the Boroondara Council to facilitate development of a new Heritage Centre.

A greatly valued member of the Kew Historical Society, Robert is also highly esteemed by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the history community across Victoria.

Judith Biddington nominated by Carlton Community History Group

Judith and her family have been Carlton residents since the early 1070s. A former teacher, Judith initiated the Carlton Community history Group about 13 years ago, and has sustained it ever since. She has recruited speakers from local community groups, recorded interviews with Carlton residents, highlighted talented local residents through special events, and launched a publication series, starting with her own booklet on *Some Women of Davis Street*.

Using her talent for making the past relevant to the present, Judith has stimulated interest in history among Carlton residents and made a major contribution to the Carlton Community History Group.

William (Bill) Church nominated by Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society

Award to be presented locally.

Bill Church, was a former local shire councillor and president prior to local government amalgamations in 1992. He then retired to Yarrowonga, joined the historical society and served as president from 1994 until 2008. As president he oversaw the transformation of an

indoor sports centre into the Pioneer Museum, obtained funding for a local history book, and helped save the Yarrawonga historic railway station from demolition.

Jacye Symes OAM nominated by Yarrawonga Mulwala Historical Society

Award to be presented locally. This society was allowed two awards owing to special circumstances.

Jacye retired to Yarrawonga in 1993. Since then she has steadfastly supported the Yarrawonga Mulwala Historical Society, fulfilling the roles of Secretary and Treasurer for 18 and 20 years respectively. She has catalogued almost 4000 items at the Pioneer Museum and assisted with the publication of a local history book.

Jim Connor nominated by Eltham District Historical Society

Jim Connor has been a member of the Eltham District Historical Society for more than 25 year; he was vice president from 2002 to 2008 and has been president since 2009. His record is one of impressive achievement.

He secured funding for major renovations to the Local History Centre and negotiated three-year sponsorship packages with local commercial organisations. He is editor of the society's bi-monthly newsletter and regularly presents talks to schools and community groups.

Under Jim's leadership, the society has updated technology, implemented a digitization program and improved collection management and education programs.

Recognising the importance of networking, Jim has contributed to the Association of Regional Historical Societies and the Yarra Plenty Heritage Group and initiated the new Our Eltham History Network.

Jim Connor has excellent communication skills and is an exemplary and inspiring leader of the Eltham District Historical Society.

Helen Gobbi nominated by History Monash (formerly Oakleigh & District Historical Society)

Helen has researched, protected and promoted local history in Oakleigh for more than 20 years. She has served 9 terms as president of History Monash, conducted hundreds of oral history interviews, assisted many schools and other groups with history projects, given talks, led excursions, and through the Oakleigh Leadership Group stressed the importance of heritage in local planning.

Helen edits the society's quarterly journal and contributes most of the articles. Her own publications include a history of Oakleigh.

Helen is responsible for many improvements to the Monash Federation Centre, including the design and 'history windows'; she compiled a comprehensive archive catalogue, and attracted numerous donated artefacts. She annually curates 3 exhibitions. Helen works collaboratively with other history and heritage organisations.

'Much of Oakleigh's history would be forgotten or devalued without Helen's exceptionally dedicated and skilful preservation and promotion of local heritage.'

Russ Haines nominated by Ringwood and District Historical Society and by Jim Connor, President, Eltham District Historical Society. Award to be presented locally.

Russ Haines joined Ringwood and District Historical Society in 2002 and has been president since 2007. He is a highly competent archivist and an excellent communicator. He presented a monthly historical program on Eastern FM radio for 10 years and has given numerous talks to Ringwood's primary schools and other groups.

Since 2007 Russ has been secretary and sometimes president of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies. He has been the main organizer of the association's last 4 successful conferences.

Russ has been a tireless promoter of the value of local historical societies and he himself personifies all that is best about them.

Elizabeth O'Callaghan nominated by Warrnambool & District Historical Society Award to be presented locally.

Born in Colac, Elizabeth taught in primary and secondary schools throughout Victoria. After retiring as a secondary college principal, she joined the Warrnambool Historical Society in 1997 and has been involved in the society's full gamut of activities for the past 22 years.

As newsletter editor she wrote many extended articles which have been published as booklets. She leads the cataloguing team and has written statements of significance for more than 2000 items.

In 2018 she won a Victorian Community History Award for her book *Silent Lives* about the 19th century women of Warrnambool.

Robert Ousley nominated by Richmond and Burnley Historical Society

Robert has made an exceptional contribution to the Richmond and Burnley Historical Society for nearly 20 years including as a committee member, Treasurer from 2011 to 2014 and the mainstay of the society's weekday service to visitors to the rooms; he has guided hundreds of school students and other visitors through the collection.

Robert played a major role in the digitization of the Richmond Rate Records and subsequently in the digitization and organization of the society's large and varied collection; he has scanned over 15,000 items.

Robert was made a life member of the society in 2009. 'His generous and willing nature as well as his dedication and skills have been invaluable' to the Burnley Historical Society and the wider community.

John Szekfy nominated by Yarrambat Historical Society

John became inaugural vice president of the Yarrambat Historical Society in 1989 and in 1991 he started an amazingly long term as president. The great achievement of his presidency was the development of the Yarrambat Heritage Museum and relocation of a large gold-crushing battery from Clayton's mine to the new museum. Also relocated to the

museum was the first classroom, built in 1878 for the now demolished Yarrambat Primary School.

The success of the Yarrambat Heritage Museum and activities of the Yarrambat Historical Society are largely due to John Szekfy 'who has been a quiet but most influential leader of these two groups for almost 30 years!'

BARBARA NIXON VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nomination of Ms Julia Jackson for an RHSV Barbara Nixon Award in 2019

Despite a full-time senior position in Readings Bookshop, Carlton, Julia Jackson spends half a day each week working for us. In this last 12 months she has been cataloguing our small but important objects collection. This work has given this material a better provenance and context, as well as improved archival housing. Julia is an archivist and her willingness to share her skills and knowledge is much appreciated. Her knowledge of current museum technologies has been of benefit in assisting us to use our cataloguing software, eHive, to its fullest. But it is more than sharing that makes her a suitable candidate for the Barbara Nixon Award. Julia comes up with new solutions and new ways of doing things; new ways of introducing rigour and richness to our cataloguing and new ways to improve and make more speedy our digitisation program. Given her work background, Julia has also proved useful with advice regarding our History Victoria Bookshop.

Nomination of Mr Alan Hall for An RHSV Barbara Nixon Award in 2019

Alan Hall is an essential member of our much admired RHSV Images Team where he does sterling work. However, it is for his innovative work on the RHSV's new website and database which, I believe, earns him a Barbara Nixon Award. Alan received a small fee for the work he did around the website build but the fee doesn't come close to the hours he put in.

The website catapults the RHSV into a new level of engagement with our community and gives our organisation a fresh look and feel. The functionality of the new website has also meant a diminution in duplicated data entry, increased timeliness and less opportunity for human error.

Our CRM, Zoho, which Alan has built is the workhorse behind so much of what we do. So many of the improvements to member benefits which we've seen over the last 18 months are only possible because of Alan's work building a sturdy, comprehensive database. The database also has the capacity to grow and change with the RHSV.

Databases are often taken for granted as they are never seen by the public but the design is crucial and takes much thought to get it right. Alan has designed a database which is endlessly flexible and, most importantly has a easy interface for our other volunteers and staff. It is used in all aspects of our administration – membership, recording volunteers, marketing, public relations, insurance tracking and donor tracking. More functionality will be added in the future.

AGM Attendees 2019**Members**

Alan Hall
Grace Inau
Alleyne Hockley
John Lack
Sue Lack
Anne Beggs-Sunter
Bruce Miller
Bruce Jager
Annette Webb
Bill Russell
Greg Eccleston
Carole Woods
Yana Ostapenko
Cathy Butcher
Christine Bayly
Peter Hiscock
Daniel Clements
David Langdon
Elisabeth Jackson
Elizabeth Pidgeon (Jim Connor's party)
Felicity Watson
Noel Jackling
Gail Thornthwaite
Ian Wight
Jacqueline Sanders
Di Foster
Jeff Atkinson
Jim Dixon
John Dwyer
Judith Harley
Julia Jackson
Liz Rushen
Lucy Bracey
Lyn Sherwood
Margaret Anderson
Margaret Birtley
Mary Reid
Renate Howe
Brian Howe
Richard Broome
Margaret Donnan
Robert Barnes
Rosalie Triolo

Rosemary Cameron
Rosemary Noble
Charles Sowerwine
Sandra Torpey
John Torpey
Simon Ambrose
Simon Smith
Tim Gatehouse
David Down

Non-members (General Public)

Laura Szekfy
Lisa Szekfy
Judith Biddington
Judith Scurfield (Robert Baker's party)
Kristin Stegley
David Vivian (Kristin Stegley's husband)
Margaret Robinson (Robert Baker's party)
John Szekfy
Matthew Bate (with Jackie Donkin)
Michael O'Brien
Margaret O'Brien
Natalie Senjov-Makohon
Peter Cock (Jim Connor's party)
Peter Pidgeon (Jim Connor's party)
Ric Pawsey
Robert Baker
Robert Ousley
Felice Rocca (Rolla?)
Sandra Cock (Jim Connor's party)
Jack Eastaugh
Agnes Tan
Ann Nield (Helen Gobbi's party)
Marion Turnbull
Ann Horrigan-Dixon
Brendon Smith
Joan Smith

R Daughy
Claire Barton
Jacquie Connor
Desley Reid (Robert Baker's party)
Helen Gobbi
John Biddington
Peter Biddington
David Biddington
Susan Crow
Jackie Donkin (Bate)

James Nixon
Jane Nigro
Jillian Hiscock
Jim Connor
Irene Gerrard
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