

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.348 JUNE 2020



Restored Essendon Courthouse

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President's Report

To say the past two months are unprecedented is now a hackneyed phrase. How quickly that has become the case. The RHSV has closed its doors to volunteers, members and visitors for the first time in 111 years that I am aware. Other historical societies have also closed for the first time in their history. As I continue to read newsletters, some of them have written in red capital letters across the front page: 'CLOSED'. So how do we get out of this?

First, by all of us maintaining our services where possible. The paid staff at the RHSV are either at the large drill hall social distancing or working from home. Other historical societies are continuing to offer research services or at least answering correspondence.

Second, we need to keep offering our existing programs where possible. Our RHSV website reveals many of these, including: the Victorian Community History Awards which are vital to authors and societies across the state; our grants program; articles about images from our collection; the ongoing work of our Heritage Committee to protect our built history (see the report on page two of this issue); and the Publications Committee which is busily producing *History News* and the June issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*. The latter contains some wonderful articles, one by prominent historian, Lynette Russell and some by younger postgraduate scholars. We also have a list of podcasts on offer. Our RHSV committees are also meeting on Zoom and, by now, we will have run a Zoom-based AGM. We all need to provide

ongoing value to our members and not enter hibernation.

Third, we need to remain connected. RHSV's Cheryl Griffin is running a very successful RHSV History Writer's Group on Zoom. Even our volunteers met for morning tea on Zoom, which was extremely successful - and fun. I recommend to all societies that if they have not tried it, get zooming, or skyping, or teaming. There are many platforms. Our historical societies have always added value to our lives by supporting our mental wellbeing, through the satisfaction of volunteering, and of adding to the identity of our local communities. We need currently to be very aware of boosting our own wellbeing by ringing other members of our society, checking how they are going and sharing ideas.

Fourth, planning is a wonderful way to spend time in lockdown. It is too easy most of the time to fail to plan the future of our society because of the constant demands of the moment. This is the time to plan your next exhibition, working bee, publication or membership campaign.

Lastly, expect a phone call from the RHSV over the coming months. Members of the History Victoria Support Group, RHSV Councillors and other RHSV volunteers, are taking to heart the message of being connected, and have established a phone tree. Each of us will over time ring 15-20 societies just to check in to see how you are travelling in this difficult year and how we might all help each other. So, stay online, and on the line, and we will get through 2020.

Richard Broome AM



Forward planning: Entertainment

The October issue of *History News* will have an 'entertainment' focus. So, put your thinking caps on:

- Perhaps you have already researched and written about entertainment in years gone by and would like to edit and submit previous writings. This might be a part of something already published or material that you didn't use in a publication.
- At the back of your mind there might be something relevant you came across in the past, but didn't pursue. This might be the time to research and write about it.
- What are your memories of entertainments from times gone by or activities that your parents spoke about.

Let's think broadly, not just the professional entertainment industry; consider how children entertained themselves and how people entertained themselves in their homes before our current technology revolution.

All submissions, between 200 and 800 words and with an image or two, are very welcome for consideration by 16 September 2020: sbetridge@outlook.com

History News

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COVER Restored Essendon Courthouse, see page 7

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Protecting the World Heritage Environs Area: Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens



Protection of the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens World Heritage site must be reviewed every seven years. A review is currently underway and the RHSV, as a major stakeholder, has responded. Our response is on the RHSV website: <https://bit.ly/2X6JpiM>

This is the last chance to change planning provisions and prevent the Gardens from being further encroached on by skyscrapers on their southern and southwestern perimeter, skyscrapers which would completely transform the area and dwarf the Dome of the Exhibition Building. Already the twin tower 65-storey Shangri-La Hotel is under construction, almost at the southern boundary of the Carlton Gardens.

How was this possible? The Australian Government nominated the site for World Heritage listing in 2004, arguing 'The Royal Exhibition Building in its original garden setting is the most authentic remaining example of an *in situ* Palace of Industry from a significant international exhibition'. 'There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world today', wrote the eminent UK historian, Professor David Cannadine. UNESCO and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) agreed.

The Exhibition Building put Melbourne on the international map with the 1880 and 1888 Exhibitions and became the incarnation of 'marvellous Melbourne'. With the opening of Federal Parliament in 1901 and the inauguration of Melbourne as the nation's first capital, the building became the incarnation of the new nation, immortalised in Tom Roberts' iconic 'Big Picture'. It is Melbourne's only World Heritage cultural site.

To protect a World Heritage site, you have to protect its surrounding area, which is called the World Heritage Environs Area. You can't have a World Heritage site covering in the shadow of modern skyscrapers. But the CBD grid touches the Carlton Gardens at the corner of La Trobe and Spring Streets, right at the beginning of the 'Grand Allée', as the Victorians called it, which leads to the Hochgurtel Fountain and the Exhibition Building main facade.

Accordingly, the Australian Government promised UNESCO that not only were the Exhibition Building and Gardens protected, but also that 'any action which may have a significant impact on a world heritage property, *whether inside or outside the boundaries* of the property, is prohibited'. And the government added, 'all planning policies in these [i.e. the surrounding] areas discourage the demolition of Victorian-era buildings and require any development to enhance heritage values. These provisions would also apply to any redevelopment of existing modern buildings around the site, including the [nearby] Central Business District area'. Moreover, 'the State Minister for Planning intends to enact a special provision to establish a formal buffer zone around the site.

These promises were made in 2004 but the buffer zone wasn't formally established until 2009. In the aftermath of the GFC, Justin Madden, by then Minister for Planning, may have been more sensitive to pressure from developers. So, when the buffer zone was drawn for legal planning purposes, it was divided into an 'Area of Greater Sensitivity' and another 'of Lesser Sensitivity'. The crucial CBD block at La Trobe and Spring Streets was now in the 'Lesser' area and 'Lesser' turned out to mean no special protection.

So, approval was granted for a number of buildings which will impact upon the views of and from the Dome; which is soon to be reopened to the public. The worst of these is the twin tower 65-storey Shangri-La Hotel now under construction, almost at the southern boundary of the Carlton Gardens. It will dominate the skyline that Australia promised to protect.

These twin towers are under construction, but more will follow if protection is not improved. The RHSV's response calls for the government to keep the promises it made in seeking World Heritage listing for the site, to restore the buffer zone to the full extent promised and indeed to extend it slightly to ensure that no more skyscrapers will impinge on the experience of visitors attracted to Melbourne to see the only remaining

International Exhibition building still intact in its, almost, original setting.

This is our last chance to save this site. The threats of development before the next review are too great. If we succeed, generations of Victorians and visitors will enjoy a unique experience. If we fail, the result will be a curtain wall of development destroying much of what the site still offers.

The Minister for Planning will make the final decision. Write to him.

For reference cited, see: <https://whc.unesco.org/uploads/nominations/1131bis.pdf>

Charles Sowerwine,
16 May 2020.

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History Victoria Support Group

Well, that's been a strange few months for us all, hasn't it? We often research and report on major events but, this time round, we are part of history. And of course, groups in the far east and north east had barely time to take a breath after devastating fires before they joined the rest of us with a new challenge.

Many societies have added the impact of COVID-19, also for some the impact of those devastating fires, on their local communities to their major research projects: inviting submissions from the public and making photographic records of strangely empty streets and businesses. Hopefully our own research, which often produces only partly documented images and reports, has encouraged us all to properly document the events and individuals we have recorded.

The change in tempo has certainly produced a flurry of family history and similar enquiries as people take advantage of having some spare time to sort out their research and explore ways to extend their knowledge about the lives of their forebears. Others are just following-up on a passing reference to a place or event that has piqued their interest in the past to learn more about our history.

Our museums have all been closed under COVID-19 regulations and meetings abandoned or held online via Zoom or similar programs. But many have managed to continue work on digitisation, research or special projects in preparation for the 'other side'. The numerous Facebook pages for local history groups or towns is a great way to share our research and respond to queries with shared research. History Victoria Support Group members are a good cross section of historical society volunteers in their experience with this unique period.

Larina Strauch, of Kyneton Historical Society, has continued with her secretarial duties and provided responses for some researchers, but misses the routine of regular meetings and the opportunity to catch up at the museum. She's done some work on a book she is co-authoring on 'Kyneton Then and Now', researching early images to uncover the back story and photographing the same site today. Laurina has had to inform some enquirers that some resources aren't accessible for the moment but all appreciate the help they receive, which will hopefully encourage them to visit in

person when everything re-opens, even from interstate. Also, those squares Larina has knitted over the years have finally been stitched together into blankets ready to be donated!

Bernard Bolch of the Walhalla Heritage and Development League is keen to turn the 'mountain of research' he did several years ago on the 1869 smallpox scare into a book, which he believes will be very timely right now. WHDL has also continued with the development of the 'Walhalla - Adventures in History app' which provides a self guided tour featuring audio and images. Compiled by Inverloch based media company Drift Media, the app includes special schools activities. See: walhalla-app.com.au

In Stratford, the museum may be closed but volunteers are still keeping the lawns mown and working on some collection items, reports Judy Richards. As well as closing the museum, the restrictions also led to the cancellation of the annual Shakespeare Festival with its Faire Day, which was a major fundraiser for the society. The local school plans to hold its production later in the year and Judy is hoping a substitute event may coincide with October's History Month.

A significant project to compile oral histories has been put on hold for Camberwell Historical Society where George Fernando is president. A day-long grant-funded training session was attended by members from Camberwell and other societies, but follow-up actions have been delayed. An excursion and a number of speakers had to be cancelled when restrictions were introduced. George is hoping things will be back to normal by October when he has Geoffrey Blainey lined up to talk about his memoir.

Don Garden has been Canberra based for the lock-down but has been busy with a number of reports for the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, including guidelines for re-opening museums, and a submission to government on the impact of COVID-19 on Art and Culture, noting the missed income from cancelled openings and events. Sandringham and District Historical Society, where Don is Vice President, has continued with some digitisation, its newsletter and is also encouraging locals to record their experiences during this unusual time.

Jane Nigro of Malvern Historical Society continues to monitor the big picture

across Victoria by monitoring numerous newsletters from local historical societies to highlight some of the great activities organised in 'normal' times.

My own Wellington Shire Heritage Network members have kept busy answering a number of queries from all corners, but I'm enormously grateful we are going through 'iso' in this day and age, with such a plethora of online resources and the technology for most of us to keep in touch and continue a great deal of research. Despite competing with Working from Home and Home School demands, it's all gone relatively smoothly and there are lots of answers we can provide from our home computers.

It's rewarding that so many people are showing an interest in their past, either through their ancestors or places with which they have some historic links. Some of the queries may be very basic and the solutions obvious to us, but we can help newcomers take on similar enthusiasm for history by showing them how to get at least some of the answers.

Hopefully, as restrictions are reduced in the coming months, our activities will start to get back to normal. RHSV council and HVSG members will be making contact by phone in the coming weeks to get feedback from societies on current issues and your hopes for the future.

I encourage you to let us know of your plans and difficulties caused by the current situation, to help us direct our assistance in the best possible way.

Pauline Hitchins

Convenor HSVG (RHSV)

Phone: 0437 296925

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Heathmont's fruitful past reflected

Heathmont's history is similar to that of many other Melbourne eastern suburbs: European orchardists replacing the original indigenous occupants and eventually being superseded by the suburban spread as residential development overtook the rural land use. A Heathmont History Group project to recognise the early orchardists has continued in recent weeks despite the COVID-19 issues.

Over a century from around 1850 to 1950, the orchards spread from Doncaster and Templestowe, with the preferred fruits being apples, lemons, pears, cherries and plums.

The location of today's Heathmont shopping strip once boasted orchards on each side of Canterbury Road; the Pump family west and the Sharp family east. On the Sharp orchard site there is now a long row of shops, many service road car park spaces, and 150 bollards. The Sharp orchard was there from 1903 to 1960 with 'Sharps to Shops' the alliterative historical catch-cry.

It was the orchardist community who started the local sporting teams, kindergartens, schools and churches, and it is as tribute to their pioneering that the Heathmont History Group is decorating the bollards in an orchard theme. Various folk, including students from the three local Primary Schools, have continued to design artwork for the decals, which are being mounted on

the 150 shopping centre bollards. The 54 installed to date, featuring designs by artists ranging in age from four to 100, have been very well received by the local community.

The pioneer tribute bollards are just one of the projects the Heathmont History Group has been able to continue with despite the serious drawback of the coronavirus. The group has also had printed another batch of its popular *Street Names in Heathmont* booklet. However, weekly meetings have had to be cancelled, and research on *Heathmont Backyards past and present* and the Chivers family projects has been reduced.

The inability to conduct face-to-face research and visit backyards are among the virus casualties. However, the group recognises the historical opportunity that these 'unprecedented times' present; so it is busy taking photographs of shops and traffic and, like a number of other societies, it is inviting community accounts and documenting the local effects of the pandemic.



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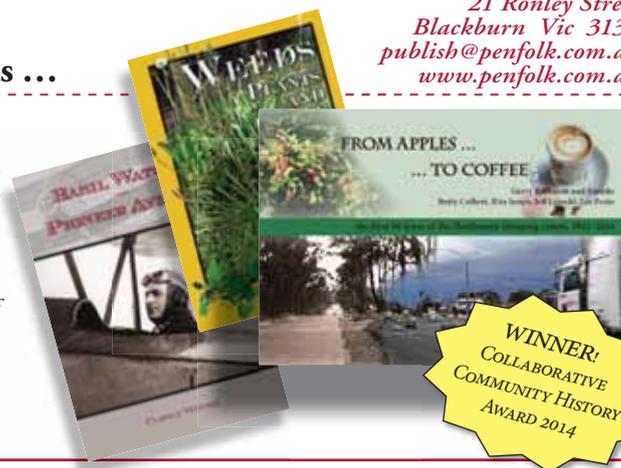
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Briagolong Mechanics' Institute

The 146-year-old Mechanics' Institute in Briagolong retains its unique original library collection and the building and its collection is included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The timber building may not look grand, but it has been the centre of the community for all that time, with an active committee ensuring it is relevant and useful to today's needs.

Expanded many times, today the hall has become the base for the town's history group and continues to host a highly successful film festival, fundraisers, balls, concerts, meetings, weddings and funerals. Less common these days are early activities such as quoits, billiards, draughts, chess, and educational classes such as music, drawing and dancing lessons. It served for several decades as a movie theatre and apparently even hosted at least one séance!

Briagolong is a small village in Central Gippsland, north of Stratford, boasting a primary school, hotel, general store, café, art gallery, and an iconic log cabin RSL which features an unusual gate fashioned by nature from a fallen tree. The district's community have always been adventurous and innovative. The early recognition of the benefit of a mechanics' institute, schools and churches came from settlers who tried their hand at wineries, hops, bee farming, orchards and cider making, tobacco growing, sugar beet, potatoes and other vegetables, timber milling that provided red gum blocks for the streets of Melbourne, eucalyptus oil distilling, dairy farming, cheese and butter making and even a filbert (hazelnut) plantation.

A mechanics' institute was first mooted at a meeting at the local primary school in 1872. The funds were raised within a year but before the town had been surveyed,

so the money was invested until a site was available. Work commenced in 1874 with local funds supported by a £20 government grant and low priced timber from the local mill and considerable voluntary labour helping reduce costs. The original 40 foot by 18 foot building was officially opened on 20 March 1874 with a day of sports followed by a concert and ball with dancing until 5 am. A new main hall was built in 1887 and further additions made in the early 1900s.

More recently, a new kitchen was added in 1985, the hall roof was replaced in July 2017, solar installed August 2018 and the 'old kitchen' renovation was completed November 2018. The original flooring was turned over, sanded and sealed and this year rotting windows in the main hall have been replaced. A Community House is the latest major addition.

The hall includes pictures of local pioneers. A local honour roll includes six sons from one family, the Whitelaws, who all signed up; three were lost during the war and another from his wounds shortly after. When Mrs Whitelaw came to a function at the hall, a blind was apparently pulled down over the board so she wasn't reminded of her losses.

A Briagolong History group was formed in February 2017, though the hall and secretary, Margaret Anderson, had been a repository for items, photographs and documents relating to the town for some 20 years or so. Recognising the importance of having this history researched, documented and stored safely for future generations, the group successfully applied for funding from Wellington Shire Council for materials to catalogue the collection, which they hope to complete this year.

The small room used by the group started as part of the original 1874 hall, that became the library with the 1887 extension and, when the 1907 billiard room became the library, the room became a ladies cloak room. "We have just been handed a copy of the library catalogue published in 1907," says Margaret, "and at that time the Institute had quite a sizable collection of books. It's no wonder they repurposed the room they had built as a billiard room as a library."

As well as the library of more than 1300 volumes, about three quarters of which are fiction, the collection includes Maffra amateur photographer A. J. Waugh's stereographic photograph collection, illuminated addresses to local community members, the 1920s 'Rules and Regulations' banner and two early hand-painted stage backdrops. This collection is a rare example of a preserved Mechanics' Institute library, which reflects the tastes and interests of a Victorian country community from 1874 until the early 1960s.

The Victorian Heritage Register notes, 'The architectural design is distinctive yet simple and uses materials which were locally sourced. Although the building has been expanded and adapted, the original buildings remain intact and to a large extent, unchanged. In tracing the development of the institute over time, one can trace the development and growth of a Victorian town and how its Mechanics' Institute was adapted and extended to meet the needs of the community over a long period of time.'

Pauline Hitchins



The Briagolong Mechanics Institute with the hall to the left, the supper room encompassing much of the original section in the centre and the Community House to the right, with the library behind that.

Essendon: A Fire, a Restoration and a Celebration

Four years ago, the Essendon Historical Society (EHS) had little to celebrate. Not only had a major electrical fire on 27 June 2016 caused extensive damage to its home at the Moonee Ponds Court House, but the society had discovered the building wasn't insured by the State Government as it had assumed.

But this year, the Society will not only be revelling in the completion of restoration work, the reopening of the court house and an inspired 'History Reclaimed' exhibition, it is also making plans to celebrate its Golden Jubilee.

The fire in the 1890s court house, originally Essendon Court House, destroyed the Welsh slate roof and most of the elevated timber ceiling of precious kauri and oregon. The magnificent courtroom was severely damaged: most of the elaborate timber carvings, plasterwork and ornate mouldings were lost. Other losses included some of the original courtroom furniture, including the magistrates' bench and the desk of the Clerk of Court. Various historic paintings and pictures were also destroyed.

But, says restoration manager Mary Cahill, the firefighters were wonderful. Because of their efforts, the fire didn't spread to other rooms where the EHS Local History Collection was kept, so thankfully most of the archives survived. Fortunately, some of the original furniture, such as the

magistrates' table, barristers' table and washstands, were salvaged.

A large 1866 gilt frame containing photos taken by Charles Nettleton was rescued and then professionally restored, and now hangs proudly in the courtroom once again. Only one panel of the kauri ceiling was able to be successfully scraped to remove the char and has been retained – a reminder that the fire is now part of the history of the Court House.

It has taken nearly four years to obtain the funding and complete restoration. The scarce kauri timber was sourced from a local demolition site and machined to produce the ceiling boards. Paint scrapings from walls were successfully used to determine the early colour scheme in the courtroom. The whole building was re-wired, all rooms refurbished and a new kitchen fitted. Heritage Victoria approved the installation of an access ramp which suits the appearance of the heritage building. Work on the external brickwork and tuckpointing of the walls of the building took many months.

The restoration was led by the EHS executive, President Bob Chalmers, Treasurer Terry Scott and Mary: all volunteers. Heritage architects and builders were employed and Heritage Victoria staff provided helpful advice. The restoration funding was obtained through the Victorian State Government's

Living Heritage Program. There were also many donations from EHS members, local businesses, community organisations and local Rotary clubs. "We were especially grateful for the support from other historical societies from across Victoria," says Mary, "A heartfelt thank you to all."

A commercial partnership has now been established with the Moonee Valley City Council which will have part-time use of the Court House. The Council will run programs such as lectures, meetings and workshops at the Court House. This partnership is a significant development which helps cover the costs of insurance, cleaning, safety compliance, maintenance and security. Again, this has kept Mary busy creating a handbook and organising inductions for users.

The Samuel Edward Bindley designed Court House was re-opened in November 2019 by the Member for Essendon, Danny Pearson, a great supporter of the restoration project. Successful open weekends were held in December and January, a 50th anniversary 2020 calendar was produced and the Cataloguing Committee has settled well into its home in the Ted Smith Room.

The 'History Reclaimed' exhibition provided a spotlight on the court house and its restoration, as well as the Burley Griffin Incinerator, the Moonee Ponds Town Hall and Lowther Hall Anglican Girls Grammar School.

Recognised as being of state significance, the former Essendon Court House presents an extraordinary example of an architectural style in its use of uncommon and successfully adapted stylistic elements from medieval sources and is a combination of polychrome brick, stone and polished timber finishes.

The Society's Golden Jubilee celebrations are being planned for October, current restrictions permitting.

**Pauline Hitchins
with Restoration Manager Mary Cahill**

Essendon Historical Society
(Moonee Valley Court House),
668-770 Mount Alexander Road (corner
of Kellaway Avenue), Moonee Ponds.

Email: esshissoc@mail.com and find
the Society online at: <https://esshissoc.org.au/> and <https://www.facebook.com/EssendonHistoricalSociety/>



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 AUGUST 2020 ISSUE please send details to aroundthesocieties@historyvictoria.org.au by 8th July 2020.

BALLARAT: With the temporary closure of the Gold Museum and Sovereign Hill, connections are being maintained through Instagram and Facebook pages which go behind-the-scenes to rediscover favourite onsite experiences and collections, and find new ones. Stories from collections and exhibitions are being shared through the Gold Museum's social media: @thegoldmuseum and facebook.com/thegoldmuseum. Sovereign Hill's online channels: @sovereignhill and facebook.com/sovereignhill highlight everything from buildings and animals, to that favourite sweet treat, those famous Raspberry Drops.

BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS: In conjunction with Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust the Cemeterians are initiating a new project to honour Returned Service Persons interred in the Brighton Cemetery. Australian Flags on flag poles placed in sleeves will be anchored into the ground at the front of the grave to publicly commemorate the role these people had in representing Australia as part of the war effort. Please note that flags cannot be placed at cremation memorial positions, wall positions or public grave areas. They hope to have 100 flags in place for the week prior to Remembrance Day. Do you have a Returned Service Person interred in the Brighton Cemetery that you would like to be included in this project? Please contact Lois on 9558 4248 or info@brightoncemetorians.org

COBURG: Coburg Historical Society has already started with its COVID-19 Community collecting. Thanks so much to all for participating in this important project. Every brochure, community notice, government leaflet and photo that is related to the pandemic is an important contribution to this collection and helps to document the history of this extraordinary and challenging time. By collecting and preserving now, they will be able to tell future generations about the impact this pandemic had on our society. Although in isolation at home, members are already working, behind the scenes and in front of screens, on a future exhibition about COVID-19 and its impact on residents of Coburg. Do you want to share your

experience with us? Email your thoughts to coburghistory@gmail.com

What was the biggest change for you? What do you miss most? What are some positive changes? How do you keep in touch with family and friends? What do you look forward to doing? We look forward to hearing from you.

CORNISH ASSOCIATION: As the days get shorter and colder, why not write down a story or two about your Cornish ancestors or your memories of visiting Cornwall for the 'Agan Kernow Project' (Our Cornwall); or maybe write about both. Stories can be short, they can be funny, but best of all they should be told from the heart. Then there are the vignettes of our ancestors coming out from Cornwall to Australia. These stories should not be lost; they should be written down on behalf of the 'Cousin Jacks and Jennys' who literally helped forge our nation. We want as many members as possible to put together their stories and send them to Ken Peak for editing. We hope to publish a booklet of these short stories about our ancestors or stories about our time spent in Cornwall. More information can be found at <http://www.cornishvic.org.au/agan.html>

FRIENDS OF KASTELLORIZO: With the entire world bunkered down at home and leisure travel grounded for the foreseeable future, visiting Friends of Kastellorizo's Instagram page offers a virtual getaway to paradise. In an attempt to lift our collective spirits from all the grim news around us, we have been posting a new image every single day. If you have photographs to share, we encourage you to do so using the hashtag #kastellorizofriends on your Instagram posts, and we'll look to repost as many of your images as we can.

FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN: The museum is currently closed but will reopen when COVID-19 restrictions permit. We have on offer new educational resources which can easily be adapted for children who are not necessarily part of a school group. You might be surprised what you discover about Westgarthtown. Also, the Friend's new Facebook page, 'Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Garden', is receiving positive responses

to recent posts regarding WW1 and the Gumleaf Germans plus the broken china doll. Please see: westgarthtown.org.au/schools and our Facebook page, <https://bit.ly/2z6oALo>



GOLDFIELDS: Gold was first discovered at Jones Creek, Waanyarra, between Dunolly and Tarnagulla, in 1853 and the Waanyarra Cemetery opened in 1858. So, there is a six-year period where it is not known where the deceased were buried. Some 200 metres west of the cemetery and on the opposite side of the road, there are seven graves hidden among the diggings. When the gold diggings started spreading close to the burial ground, the miners dug a trench to mark the point where no more digging was allowed. The trench can still be seen in places. None of the graves are named. Two have local stones on them that may have once been painted or had names scratched on them. In the 1990s wooden pegs were placed to mark each grave, and a parking bay made in front of the burial ground.

LEONGATHA: Some suggested activities during self isolation: the Society is always interested in preserving the history of the region and people's own recollections and stories are very valuable. If you felt inclined to use some of this extra spare time to record some highlights and experiences of your life in Leongatha and district, you could write about them and the Society would document your story for posterity. Everyone has a story and they are all interesting. Spend some time sorting out your photos. Select some that might be copied by the Society, ensuring they are labelled and dated. Handwritten stories can be sent to P.O. Box 431, Leongatha 3953 or pushed under the Society's door at 10 McCartin St. Emailed stories are also welcome: leongathahistory@gmail.com

MURCHISON: The year started well with Australia Day Awards for Community Event of the Year - Murchison and overall

Vale Robert Haldane APM, PhD

The RHSV notes the passing of Dr Robert Haldane, who died on 26 April 2020 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Robert joined Victoria Police as a Cadet, aged 17, in 1968, and retired almost 34 years later, at the rank of Superintendent. Whilst a uniform member of the Force, he began tertiary studies, enrolling at La Trobe University in 1977. He completed a B.A. (Hons) degree in 1981, submitting a thesis in the Department of Legal Studies on the 1923 Victoria Police Strike. He followed this with a PhD in 1985, from the History Department at La Trobe, on the history of Victoria Police. This was published by Melbourne University Press in 1986 as *The people's force: a history of the Victoria Police*, and has since been twice republished in updated editions.

Dr Haldane was the author or co-author of seven books and at least 45 articles or book chapters on historical subjects. Among these articles were five entries in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, two in the *Oxford Dictionary of Biography* and two pieces that were published in the *Victorian Historical Journal*. These last were the printed versions of presentations Robert had made to the RHSV: at a meeting in 1985 and the conference to mark the sesquicentenary of Victoria Police, in 2003.

While perhaps half of his published historical work focused on past aspects of Victoria Police, this was by no means Robert's only interest. In retirement, he turned his attention to local history. A long-time resident of Buchan, between 2000 and 2011 he contributed eight articles to Gippsland Heritage Journal, and published three centennial histories of local institutions: *Bairnsdale Bowls Club 1901-2001: a centenary history* (2001); *A caving pioneer: Frank Moon and the caves of Buchan: celebrating 100 years of the Fairy Cave discovery, 1907-2007* (2007); and *A century of service: the story of the Buchan Bush Nursing Association* (2011).

In brief, Robert Haldane had a long and distinguished career as a Victorian police officer; he also made a significant contribution to the study of various aspects of Victorian history.

Dr Gary Presland FRHSV

winner for Community Event of the Year - City of Greater Shepparton for our 'Rock on Murchison' event last September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the fall of the Murchison meteorite. This was a fitting acknowledgement of the efforts of a great team of local Murchison people. Marg Lock's book, *Space Gem: mysteries of the Murchison Meteorite*, continues to be in demand. It can be purchased at Collins Booksellers in Shepparton, Melbourne Museum Shop as well as the RHSV bookshop or by mail order via email address below. The talks by 11 Scientists who spoke on a variety of topics relating to Murchison meteorite at 'Rock on Murchison' are now available on USB flash drive, five hours of viewing. To obtain a copy of the lectures or *Space Gem* contact Kay: murchison-historical-society@hotmail.com

The Heritage Centre Saturday morning open times 10am–12.30pm; currently in recess due to Coronavirus. Groups very welcome once restrictions lifted; to book telephone Janet 5826 2363. For general information go to our website: <http://murchisonhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>

PAYNESVILLE MARITIME MUSEUM: Paynesville Maritime Museum is dedicated to researching, recording and retelling the maritime heritage of the village and surrounding area of Paynesville on the Gippsland Lakes. The Paynesville Maritime Heritage Trail has 14 interpretive signs along the foreshore, commencing at the Raymond Island Ferry and running through to Sunset Cove. Each of the signs records and interprets a brief history of significant maritime events or locations. Open all hours, just take a leisurely stroll and let the history seep in.



RYE: The recent publication *Rye, a book of memories*, 2nd Edition, added a number of new 'old' photographs to the public consciousness, prompting the idea of creating and installing some illustrated interpretive signs around the town. Eleven signs have now been created and installed. Each has a historical image, and relevant text. Among others, they include: Whitecliffs Store, St. David's Presbyterian Church, the Rye Post Office and Cliff House.

ST KILDA: Short Story Competition: win \$1,000. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Society is holding a short story competition. You may write on any theme, in any genre and in any time period, providing that the story is inspired by or set in St Kilda. Make sure your entry is in by 7 August 2020. For more information: <https://www.stkildahistory.org.au/news-and-events/item/348-short-story-competition>

STAWELL: In 1857, during an overland trip from Gawler S.A. to the goldfields of Victoria, young Willie Humphrey, aged 8 years, died and was buried in a bark coffin made by his father. He was buried where he died, under a tree on the side of the road at Barkly, Victoria. He was travelling with his siblings and his parents Joseph and Frances. They had packed their supplies and belongings in a wagon pulled either by horse or a cow. They would have had to travel at least 600 miles in those days as there were no roads or bridges and they went around hills. To supplement their provisions of flour, grain and salted meat, they shot wallaby and birds with a muzzle loading gun. The tree, now marked, is still to be found on Frenchmans - Navarre Rd, Barkly.





Window dedicated to Edmund George Taylor (1852-1868): St Luke's Anglican Church, Yea

"Oh, Lord, I am shot".

These aren't the most inspiring words to begin a story about an historic stained-glass window and it's unlikely that you would find them on one, but many memorial windows have tragic stories to tell.

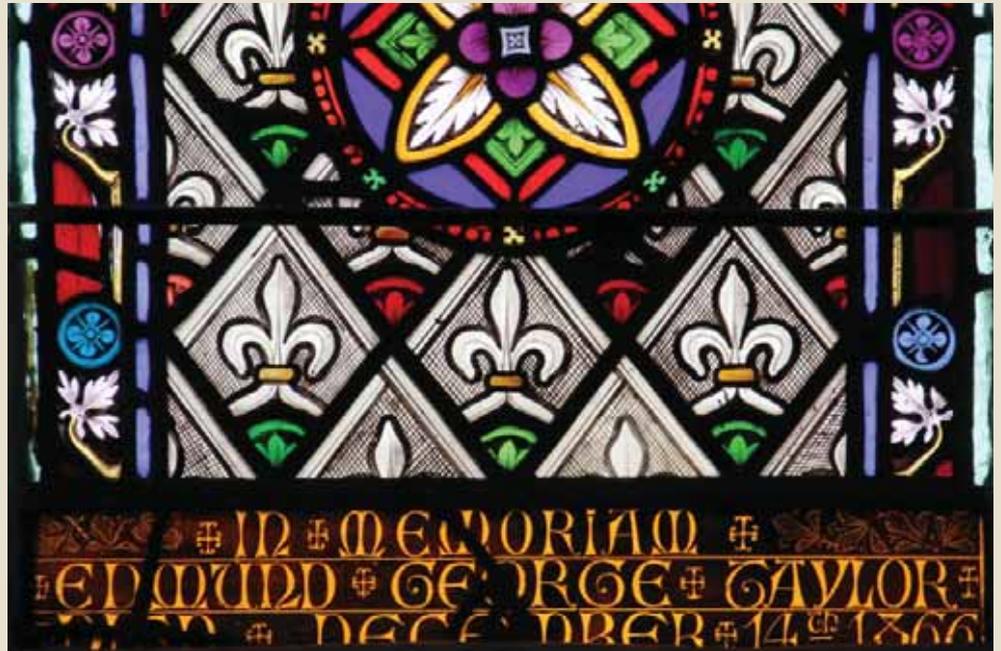
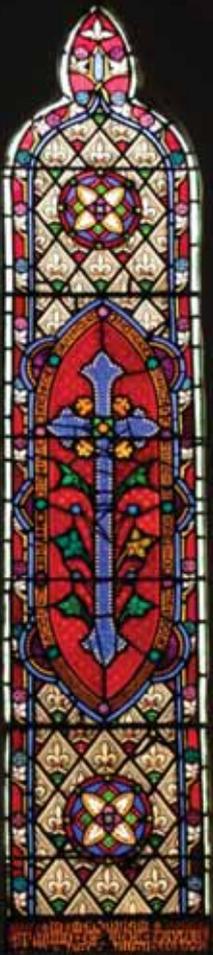
The oldest stained-glass window in St Luke's Anglican Church at Yea, in central Victoria, commemorates the life of Edmund George Taylor whose life was taken in tragic circumstances. Interestingly, all other figurative stained-glass windows in St Luke's date after the 1950s.

The exact date the window was erected in St Luke's is not known. The edifice you enter today didn't even exist at the time of Edmund's death in 1866. The foundation stone of the church, designed by Albert Purchas, was laid on the 10 March 1868. It can only be assumed that Edmund's memorial window was in position at the time of the church opening in June of that year.

As you step inside the tiny vestibule on the liturgical north-west side of St Luke's, the vibrant colours draw you through the inner arched doors. When you continue inside your eyes remain fixated on the window and unconsciously, it seems that

your peripheral vision has been lost. If you thought moths were the only things in nature to be drawn to light, you would find yourself mistaken!

The colouring and decorations in Edmund's memorial are excellent examples of early neo-Gothic designs by stained-glass artist John Lamb Lyon (1835-1916) from the North Melbourne firm Ferguson, Urie and Lyon. The Company was established in 1853 as 'Plumbers, Slaters and Glaziers' and ventured into the medieval stained-glass craft in late 1861. Lyon became a partner in the firm in 1866.



The central symbol in Edmund's window is an intricately designed Gothic cross in cobalt blue set on a ruby red background. It's surrounded by stylised depictions of the passion flower, vines leaves, floral emblems and Fleur-de-lys patterns. Bordering the cross is Biblical text from Ecclesiastes 12:7.

"THE DUST SHALL RETURN TO THE EARTH AS IT WAS AND BE SPIRIT UP TO GOD WHO GAVE IT".

The memorial text at the base of the window reads: 'IN MEMORIAM – EDMUND GEORGE TAYLOR – DIED DECEMBER 14th 1866.

The window merely mentions Edmund's name and the date he died. It gives no indication that he was a 14-year-old boy who died in tragic circumstances.

On 14 December 1866, Edmund George Taylor cried his last words as he fell from the bullock dray in the Plenty Ranges, twenty miles from Whittlesea, on his way to the township of Yea.

The Age, 18 Dec 1866 reported, 'A boy, named Edmund George Taylor... son of Mr. Taylor, solicitor, living at

Boroondara, was accidentally killed last Friday. It appears that, together with his brother, he was in company with a man named John McCessey, who was taking a bullock dray to Yea. He was on the dray with a gun in his hand, when by some means or other it went off, and the contents were lodged in his chest, causing almost instantaneous death. His companions... only heard the report, and saw the deceased fall off the dray. He exclaimed, "Oh, Lord, I am shot," and never spoke afterwards. An inquest was held... by Mr Candler, when Mr Bragge, Surgeon, deposed that he made a post mortem examination of the body, and found a most extensive gun-shot wound in the stomach and chest, the third, fourth, and fifth ribs being shattered, and the right lung broken up, and in the apex witness found a mass of wadding and shot... The firearm causing it must have been quite close to the person of the deceased. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.'

One of Edmund's elder brothers, Charles, was on the dray with him on that fateful day. The shocking scene and testifying

at his inquest later would have been imprinted on his memory for life. To make matters worse, one tabloid unfortunately reported that it was Charles who had died, and a hasty retraction was subsequently published.

Edmund's father, George, died twenty years later, in 1886. Another elder brother, Herbert, then minister of St Barnabas at Balwyn, commissioned Ferguson & Urie to create a stained-glass window to his memory. Whether by coincidence or design, the window at St Barnabas has a striking resemblance to Edmund's window at Yea.

Edmund and other family members are buried at the Kew Boroondara Cemetery in Melbourne's east. Their fading gravestone is almost unreadable today, but father and son are memorialised in stained-glass. One hundred kilometres away at Yea, Edmund is remembered at the destination he never reached.

Further history about the Ferguson & Urie stained-glass company can be seen at: <http://fergusonandurie.wordpress.com>

Ray Brown ©2020

Mallacoota fires

The Genoa bridge, photo courtesy of Ryley Broome

The loss of the Genoa School Museum provides a blunt wake-up call for all museums regarding the need to develop emergency plans and implement back-up contingencies to preserve records during disaster situations.

The one-room school and its related buildings were completely destroyed during the New Year fires, along with more than 100 houses in the area. A great deal was lost but luckily some of the school and mining records had been copied and a history of the school had been published.

Unfortunately, four people lost their lives in the East Gippsland fires, which continued for several weeks and blanketed much of the state, including Melbourne, in smoke. Recent reports note that January's fires burnt 1.5 million hectares and razed 1000 structures as they tore through the east of the state. The latest economic figures for the year to March show the bushfires cost the Victorian economy about \$500 million but that will be dwarfed by the pandemic's impact, predicted to be 140 times worse.

Several other significant heritage landmarks were also lost during the fires including:

The Genoa bridge over Genoa River on the Old Princes Highway was included on the Victorian Heritage Register. The 100 metre long timber truss and concrete bridge was a parallel girder truss bridge opened in 1928. Alterations included realigning the timber decking to longitudinal and the introduction of some steel supports for decking.

Around half of O'Gradys Creek rail bridge over the Wairewa Road was burnt. Opened to trains in 1919, it was a gentle curving bridge 142 metres long although unused for about 30 years.

The Murrindal River Truss Bridge on Basin Road north of Buchan was built in 1927 and also included on the Victorian Heritage Register. It consisted of a single timber Howe truss span and five stringer approach spans, supported on timber trestles fixed to concrete piers.

Stringers Knob Fire Tower on Monument Track, Bete Bolong North, another included on the Victorian Heritage Register. It was constructed in 1941 following the devastating 1939 fires.

Mt Nowa Nowa Fire Tower, a timber firetower constructed around 1926.

School houses at Wairewa and Suggan Buggan escaped the fires. The Buchan Caves reserve was seriously hit but reopened to the public on Valentine's Day.

As one would hope, the Mallacoota Bunker Museum survived the fires and is looking forward to installing historical displays on a series of panels near the town's supermarket to tell more of the stories from the district's history. Bunker manager Pierre Forcier says the road to the Bunker was closed for several weeks but is now open again.

The base for Mallacoota and District Historical Society, the bunker was a former major Advanced Operations Base used by the RAAF during WWII for Communications. The restoration of the bunker commenced as an RSL project in 2002. The Society, formed in 1974, is now responsible for the ongoing development, management and interpretation of the site and collections to preserve the region's local and WWII history.

The society has digitised some 7000 photographs and a huge number of documents and provides research services, led by member Lindsay Carter,

who also contributes a history column to the local paper. Of course there's also the award winning 'Secrets from the Mallacoota Bunker' available online at www.mallacootabunker.com.au

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the society has continued on some projects. New history display boards in the township went into operation late March. Four members worked on the Riverina lifeboat, cleaning it out and one of the crew painted the port side: the side on view to the public. Another member has been digitising some of our security footage.

Several other members are collating material about the fires after a flyer was distributed and placed on the website inviting input from the public for its Saving Mallacoota Memories project. We want stories written by local people, the young or not so young, or visitors who were in Mallacoota, Genoa, Gipsy Point, Wangarabell or any of our outlying districts over the period last week of 2019 and the end of January 2020, that reflect your experiences during those difficult times. These will help future generations understand what the community went through and how it coped during that extremely difficult time.

Email: secretarymallacootadhs@gmail.com

Mallacoota Bunker Museum,
Airport Road, Mallacoota

When restrictions are lifted: Open Tuesdays 9:30am to last entry at 11:30 am and Sundays 1 pm to last entry at 3 pm Sundays.

Phone 0459 437 474 or email: admin@mallacootabunker.com.au

Reopening your historical society

As Victoria moves into another phase of COVID-19 management we are holding our breaths to see how this greater freedom impacts the spread of the disease. Many of you will be considering the processes for re-opening your historical societies. Below, RHSV's Executive Officer shares her thoughts and points you to the FAHS site for its a splendid article on its website: <https://bit.ly/3bA7d2H>

From Rosemary:

I thought I'd outline some of the processes that the RHSV is engaging in which might assist or guide your decisions. I will be speaking about Victoria although I acknowledge that we have members in most states and territories and their time-lines and government dictates will be different; also, all historical societies differ in their operation and housing. We should also be aware that the situation is extremely fluid and these steps and dates might change should there be a second wave.

Background

For the RHSV, one guiding principle is that a lot of good things have come out of this lock-down. Fewer cases of flu and other communicable diseases have occurred so it is in our best long-term interest to incorporate some of the measures we have adopted recently as permanent. And whilst we are all suffering from Zoom-overload, it will become a feature of our future work practices as we will be working hard to also create events which are accessible digitally. One of the future problems for us is how do we make these digital events an income stream? During COVID-19 we've all scrambled to create lots of digital content but it has been generously given away.

For a long time we will be maintaining the 1.5 metre distancing and the 4 square metres limit per person, so, even if the Framework says you can have 20 patrons in a museum, if your museum is only 40 square metres, you are limited to 10 patrons not 20.

By the time you read this, in Victoria we should be in Step 2 of the Australian Government's 3 Step Framework for a COVIDsafe Australia which means that galleries, museums and libraries can open for a maximum of 20 patrons. Once Step 3 kicks in we will be allowed 100 patrons; we don't have a date for this yet. Once Step 3 kicks in we will be allowed 100 patrons; we don't have a date for this yet.

Consult your volunteers

It is important that early in the future planning process, you consult your members and volunteers. Ask what would make them comfortable re-engaging with your historical society; people will have their own personal time-table. Build in flexibility to your meetings and events so

that volunteers can avoid public transport during peak hour.

Collections

Your collection is probably the mainstay of your society and it may require extra attention at the time of re-opening after many weeks, perhaps months, of closure. Some exhibition layouts may need adjustment in order to prevent congestion by visitors. Some displays, such as those that involve touch-screens or 'hands on' interactive exhibits, may need to be redesigned, disabled, fenced off or removed. There is collection-specific advice to be found on the following websites:

- A list compiled by Australian conservators for Australian conditions. <https://aiccm.org.au/news/covid-19-collection-and-conservation-resources>
- First published in late March, then expanded with Version 1.2 on 29 April Blue Shield Australia's 'Getting back to normal', page 8, includes many points about re-opening. <https://bit.ly/3fR2s8d>

Sanitising

At the RHSV we are now experimenting with allowing very small numbers of researchers back into the library so we have implemented the following:

- We spent \$65 on a hand sanitiser stand (nothing fancy) for the front door – it will be mandatory for all people entering the building to sanitise their hands. You don't need a stand, a bottle of sanitiser on the front counter is sufficient; I've bought a stand because it is more visible.
- We bought some floor decals to remind people about social distancing, especially at our front counter. These are surprisingly expensive; using brightly coloured adhesive tape from the hardware store to mark lines and crosses will achieve the same purpose.
- We have also bought a Perspex 'sneeze-guard' for the front counter to protect our staff and volunteers from the public. Once again, a handy person could produce a frame covered in clear plastic which would be just as effective.

Bottlenecks

We are looking at areas where people congregate. For us the lunch-room is difficult; we often have 6-8 people crowded into a very small space which is very convivial for both us and the COVID-19 virus! We are putting extra tables in our gallery space so that volunteers can spread out whilst still lunching together. The collegiality of volunteering is a huge positive factor that we want to maintain but also keep everyone safe.

Other bottlenecks might occur in foyers, lifts, stairwells, around the photocopier, at the lockers, in the toilets and

bathrooms. Think about all these areas and how you can manage the flow of people so social distancing can be maintained.

Limiting exposure

We are looking at ways of changing the ways volunteer sign in so they don't have to share a pen. We will remove any magazines available for people to browse. We will suggest to volunteers that they bring their own mug, or claim one from the lunch room and keep it for the duration of COVID-19. We are traversing a bit of a tightrope trying to be COVIDsafe and environmentally sound so I'm not prepared, yet, to go down the disposable cup path. We are looking at providing single-serve packets of sugar and coffee. The biscuit barrel will probably go, sigh! But good for our waistlines.

We all share equipment: pens, desks, computers, laptops, the photocopier, scanners, etc. Think about how you can sanitise these between uses. Make it standard for everyone to wipe down equipment *before* they use it. We usually have a pot of pencils in the libraries for people to use whilst working in the library. We'll be encouraging people to bring their own pencils however, if they don't, we will generously donate a pencil to them. Books that are used by researchers will be wiped down before being returned to the shelves or re-used. We will be providing more gloves, Nitrile powder free; gloves and sanitising wipes are available from hardware and stationery stores.

Cleaning

As we ramp up the number of people coming into the building so we will ramp up our cleaning: more wiping down of commonly used surfaces like light switches, door handles, copiers, hand rails etc. Take a good hard look around your building and list the areas that need vigilance. All staff and volunteers will have some level of responsibility for this.

Events

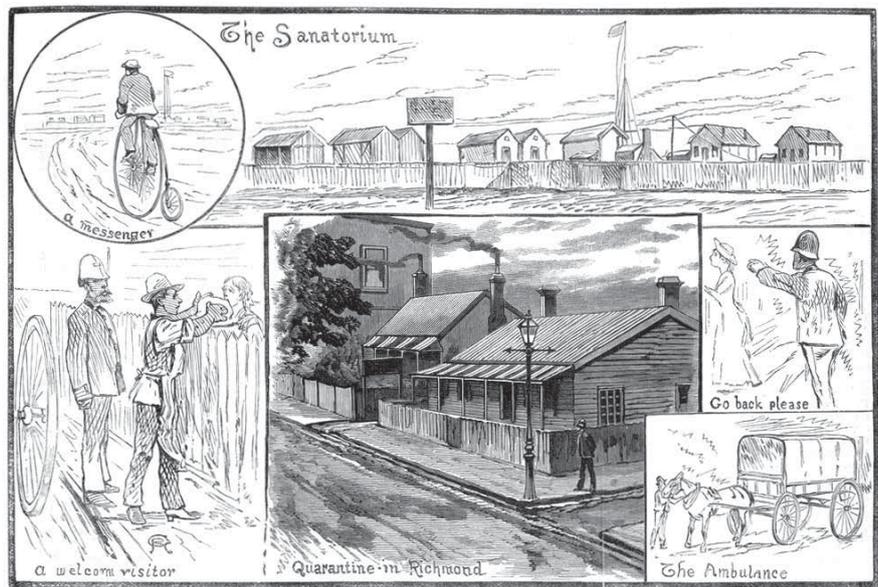
With regard to events, we will take a softly, softly approach with the introduction of just small events even after we reach Step 3. Our main lecture room seats 100 usually but in COVID-19 terms we can probably only seat 30.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact myself or Jillian Hiscock at the RHSV.

Rosemary Cameron
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 Jillian Hiscock
collections@historyvictoria.org.au
 + 61 3 9326 9288

Rosemary Cameron, with excellent advice from Margaret Birtley regarding collections.

We've been here before



THE SMALL POX IN MELBOURNE

Isolation is not new to our world; though most of us have not experienced it before. However, Australia has experienced several waves of pestilence. Our Aboriginal peoples suffered high rates of mortality when exposed to diseases brought here by people from other countries. In the 19th and 20th centuries Victoria experienced several major health crises that sent people into isolation or quarantine: sometimes by force, at other times voluntarily: tuberculosis diphtheria, typhoid, pneumonic influenza, polio, scarlet fever.

We have managed these epidemics in a range of ways: isolation and immunisation being the most successful. Victoria has had quarantine stations since 1840 and from 1904-1996 the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital provided isolation for those suffering from infectious diseases. From 1996 its functions were relocated to other Melbourne hospitals.

In October 1889 passengers aboard the *Duke of Sutherland* were inspected at Williamstown and the captain was told not to land Juan Sing, a policeman from India, suspected of having cholera. This was ignored and he made his way to a house in Young Street Fitzroy where he died. All occupants of the house were then quarantined. In November 1889 authorities were alerted that the SS *Yarra* carried passengers with smallpox. The passengers had not been inspected in accordance with regulations. One of the passengers made his way to friends in Waterloo Street, Camberwell. Once this was discovered the household was quarantined with a constable outside. In December 1889 Inspector-General Steel of the Public Works Department and three of his children, aged between 3-6 years, all died suddenly from diphtheria at Armadale. Immediately after her husband's funeral Mrs Steel, with five of her household, was taken by authorities to the quarantine station at Point Nepean.

Pneumonic influenza, sometimes referred to as Spanish flu, spread around the world in 1918 with troopships returning soldiers to their homes. From early October Australia instigated a range of measures, including quarantining all ships with any sign of influenza. Early January 1919 Victoria's newspapers were filled with articles of thanks to our leaders for their efforts to keep the State free from this epidemic and grumbles from others about the way their lives had been interrupted. On 2 January Dr Cumpston, Director of Federal Quarantine, said that 'not all risk is past, but it is certain that the critical period is over'. But others were sure the worst was still to come and by late January newspapers were reporting increasing daily figures of reported cases and deaths. Throughout 1919 pneumonic influenza cast a very dark shadow over the lives and actions of Victorians. At the end of January, the Melbourne Bowling Club, held a social gathering outside for the unveiling of their new Honour Roll in memory of members who had served. In February printers from the *Argus* postponed their annual fishing competition and the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum and Orphanage announced that they were closed to visitors. The Government announced the closure of theatres, libraries and other venues where the public met, except churches. It was recommended that people wear masks and gatherings be held outside.

During 1919 all ships from South Africa and New Zealand were quarantined regardless of sickness. Where influenza was discovered the local district was quarantined. Several cases were diagnosed at Yarram, consequently that area was quarantined within a 20-mile radius. While travel across state borders was restricted, this did not apply to those residing within 10 miles of the borders and did not include transport of goods or mail. The Red Cross produced masks from six-

folds of muslin sprinkled with eucalyptus and creosote. These face masks were worn by front-line workers including medical personnel, bank workers and tram conductors.

Not everyone accepted the management of those eras. In January 1889 Australia's leaders, the Federal Council at that time, discussed uniform quarantine regulations. A severe smallpox outbreak in Tasmania during the preceding October had resulted in what the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Fysh, considered overly stringent restrictions on vessels travelling between Tasmania and the other colonies. He stated that when the colonies of New South Wales and Tasmania had previously had outbreaks of smallpox, Tasmania was not so strict on the ships coming from those colonies. He explained his concerns about the adverse effects on trade between the colonies and the flow on damage to economies. In 1919 our Commonwealth Government expressed concern that State Governments imposed restrictions without consultation. During 1919 people complained that restrictions were constantly changing.

Come the first quarter of 1920 activities started to return to normal once pneumonic influenza cases diminished. Brighton District Poultry Society celebrated their first meeting for twelve months. The Young Phonographer League announced recommencement of their monthly meetings. The Catholic Church celebrated St Patrick's Day; the celebrations having been cancelled in 1919. Schools closed from the beginning of February 1919 opened 10 May and to make up for lost time they 'abridged the term holidays of that year'.

Sharon Betridge

*Image from Illustrated Australian news
3 September 1884
Courtesy SLV*

Vale Marjorie Jean Morgan

1930–2020

Before the internet and digitised resources, before Trove and newspapers online, before Ancestry dot com... Older researchers who speak of these things today are like their parents or grandparents recalling the days before cars, wireless and aeroplanes. Marjorie Jean Morgan, who died on 26 April 2020 in her ninetieth year, helped democratise local and family history research for the ordinary enquirer.

Born at Blackburn, Marjorie Sanders grew up on the Mornington Peninsula where her father was an orchardist. After leaving school she became a kindergarten teacher at Frankston and then director at Upper Yarra Dam kindergarten. Here she met Bill Morgan, a civil engineer working on the construction of the dam. They married in 1954, moving to Box Hill in 1957.

As a mother of two, Marjorie found her immune system compromised by allergic reactions to penicillin, an affliction she did not fully overcome for nearly thirty years. Her self-published 1980 booklet *Allergies: a Patient's Perspective* chronicled this journey and gave practical advice to fellow sufferers.

During this period, often housebound, Marjorie developed her interest in family history. She undertook voluntary work for the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) and the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). The PROV online shipping indexes of today owe much to her immense work of careful transcription.

In 1978 she collaborated with the Rev. H.W. Coffey to publish the first of four volumes, *Irish Families in Australia and New Zealand, 1878-1978*. She was elected a Fellow of the GSV and served as its vice president.

Marjorie's next major project was her guide to *The Old Melbourne Cemetery, 1837-1922*, published by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS, now Family History Connections) in 1982. Her most influential publication was the booklet *Family and Local History: an ordered approach towards publication*, co-authored with Frances Brown at the State Library of Victoria and Dom Meadley from the AIGS. This work, through several editions, guided the work of many an amateur and professional historian.

Many more book collaborations, large and small, followed, with a range of co-authors, notably *Poor souls, they perished: the*

Cataraqui: Australia's worst shipwreck, Prelude to Heidelberg: the artists' camp at Box Hill and Buried by the sea: a history of the Williamstown cemetery. Independently she published, *Legacy in sculptured wood: an appreciation of the work of John Kendrick Blogg (1851-1936)*, an Australian woodcarver.

Putting genealogy to practical ends, Marjorie undertook voluntary work for the Huntington Disease Association. She also served as a committee member of the Friends of the La Trobe (later the State) Library.

Marjorie was never closely involved directly with the RHSV. She was, however, for more than half a century a dedicated member of the Box Hill Historical Society: president 1987-93, vice-president 1995-97 and a Life Member since 1982. She helped the society publish a series of illustrated books on the history of the suburb. She lectured widely to community groups on family and local history.

Beyond history and genealogy Marjorie had many local charitable interests and was a fundraiser and volunteer for Box Hill Hospital, Box Hill Rotary and the Princes Elizabeth Junior School for Deaf Children (Aurora School). With her allergies long since mastered, she travelled widely. In 1992 Marjorie was elected as a councillor at the City of Box Hill, an office that came to an end with municipal amalgamations and creation of the City of Whitehorse.

For these and all her community contributions, Marjorie Morgan, in 1994, was awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia).

Andrew Lemon

Seeking Collection Items on 19th-Century Girlhood

I am looking for items in local historical society collections having to do with girlhood in Victoria before 1914. I am beginning a PhD thesis on girls in Victoria in the nineteenth century, up to 1914, with a focus on their material culture. I'm trying to give a broad account of girls' lives across the colony, focusing on expressions of agency and creativity. I'm thinking of toys, of course, and things girls produced, such as samplers, quilts and scrapbooks, but also household items girls might have used. If you have ideas about such items in collections you know of, please contact me: cgay@student.unimelb.edu.au

Cat Gay, Melbourne University PhD Candidate.

Amendment and editor's apology: page 12, April 2020 edition of *History News*

In the April edition of *History News*, page 12, the final paragraph of Karen Mather's article, 'Mistresses of the House in Doveton Street', misrepresented the author's content. The final paragraph on that page should have been:

As Pauline wrote in 1987, the year before relinquishing it: 'I doubt that anyone has ever loved this old house as much as I have, but we are finding it difficult to keep it up to the standard that it was back in 1990. It then changed hands twice in two years, finally coming into the possession of its current owner who has faithfully restored the house and who is undoubtedly the equal of Pauline Rough in devotion to it; carrying on the tradition of the female version of the 'pioneer miner narrative'.

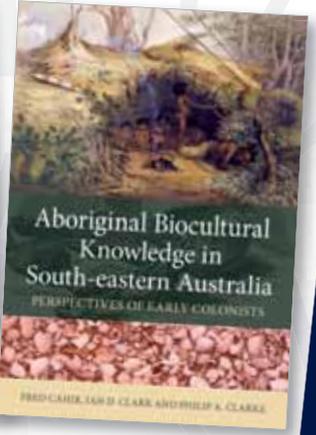
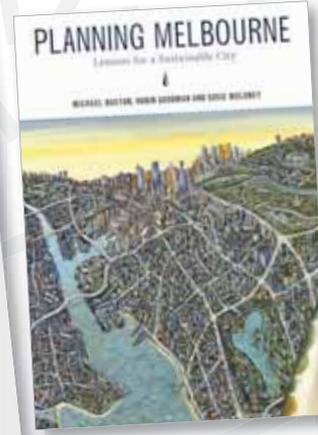
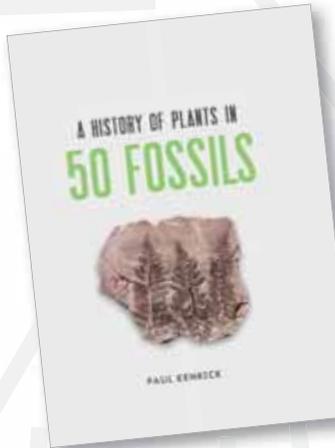
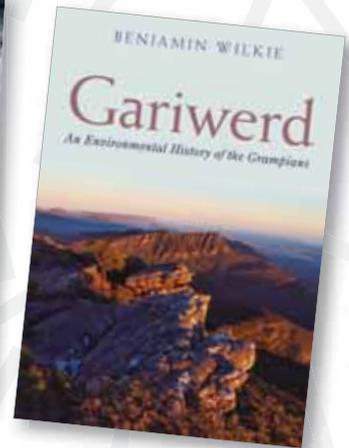
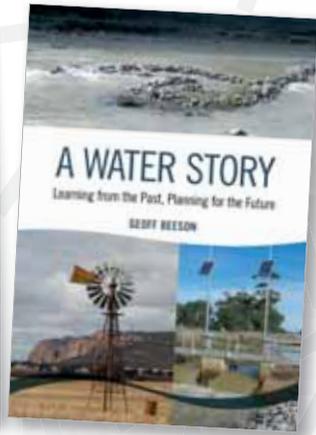
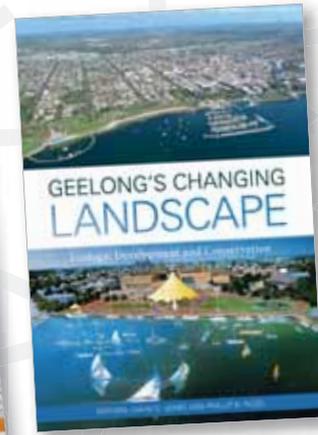
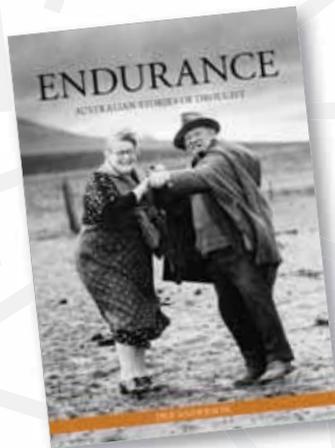
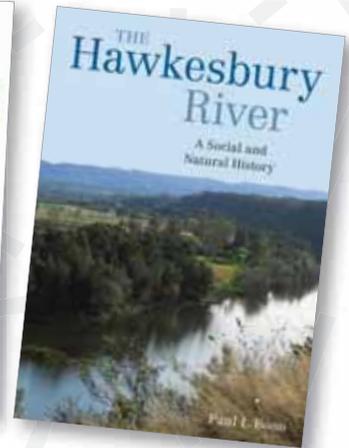
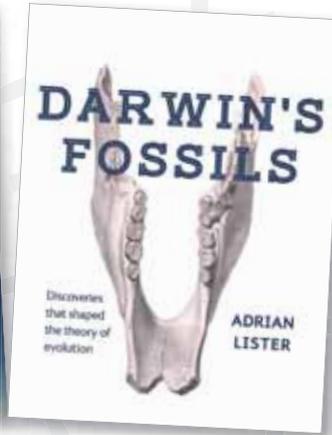
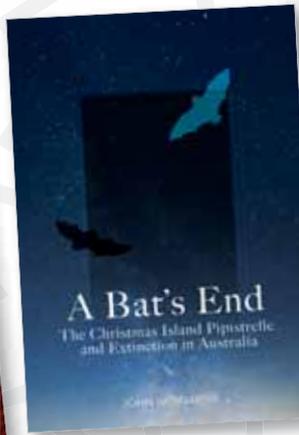
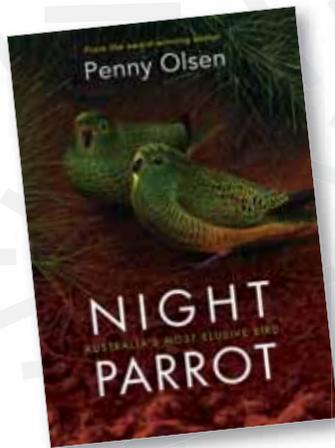
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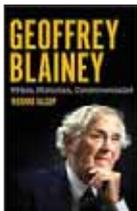
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Please note: these books listed are not necessarily offered to the bookshop by authors, please check the shop catalogue.



Honour to whom honour is due: Bacchus Marsh & district volunteers 1914-1918. Katrina Lyle and Katrina Bradfield, Bacchus Marsh & District Historical Society Inc, Bacchus Marsh, 2018, pp. i-414, ISBN 9780648431305.

Published to coincide with the centenary of the end of World War 1, at the heart of this book are the 463 individual biographies of the men and women from Bacchus Marsh and district who served in that conflict. The book takes its title from the commemorative medal struck by the local shire council and presented to those who volunteered. This is a prodigious work that tells some remarkable and diverse stories of service. One local soldier, Rupert Moon, won the Victoria Cross. Sixteen others were awarded the Military Medal. One quarter of the enlistees who served overseas died as a result.



Geoffrey Blainey: writer, historian, controversialist. Richard Allsop, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2019, pp. i-294, ISBN 9781925835625.

Geoffrey Blainey has without question been one of Australia's most significant historians. His earlier writings influenced the course of Australian historiography for more than a single generation. A prodigious author, his books *The Rush that Never Ended*, *The Tyranny of Distance* and *Triumph of the Nomads* in particular were innovative, even revolutionary, causing Australians to think differently about their past and present. He was also an inspiring teacher. The latter part of his career has been overshadowed by the controversy flowing from his 1984 comments about Asian immigration and led him to be pigeonholed as a conservative as the history wars erupted around him. This book is an important insight into his life and times.



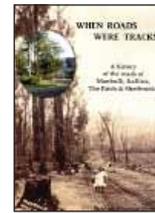
Solicitors and the Law Institute in Victoria 1835-2019: pathway to a respected profession. Simon Smith, Law Institute of Victoria, Melbourne, 2019, pp. i-250, ISBN 9780646806198.

Simon Smith is well-known to the RHSV and as a chronicler of Victoria's legal history. His latest account focuses on the 'lower branch' of the legal profession; the solicitors who make up the bulk of the state's legal practitioners. Despite their influence, theirs is a story that has remained largely untold until now. This is also the history of the Law Institute of Victoria, the professional organisation which both represents and regulates solicitors. Beyond telling of the origins and development of the legal profession, its institutions and characters, however, the book reveals much about the development of social and political structures, and most importantly, the rule of law from pre-colonial to modern Victoria.



Space Gem: mysteries of the Murchison meteorite. Margaret Lock, Murchison and District Historical Society Inc., Murchison, 2019, pp. i-174, ISBN 9780992476830.

At 10.58am on 29 September 1969, a peaceful Sunday morning was shattered in Murchison in Victoria's central north when a loud sonic boom echoed across the town as a meteorite exploded over the district and showered its pieces on the landscape below. No one was injured and there was comparatively little damage to property. Ranging in size from a few grams to almost seven kilograms, bits of meteorite were scattered about and eagerly sought after by scientists, gem collectors and the general public. Comprised of carbonaceous chondrite, this was one of the most primitive and oldest meteorite forms. This book marks in great detail the 50th anniversary of this dramatic event.



When Roads were Tracks: a history of the roads of Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch & Sherbrooke. Armin Richter and Jill A'Vard, Monbulk Historical Society Inc., Monbulk, 2019, pp.1-248, ISBN 9781875301638.

Settlement in the Dandenong Ranges, like most places, was dictated by access. This history defines the development of townships at Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch and Sherbrooke by their roads and tracks. Each is interrogated and its part in the growth of places from forest to farmland to tourist destination and eventually residential enclaves is detailed. This interesting approach to local social history has earned the resulting book the honor of winner of the Local History Project Award, 2019 Victorian Community History Awards. Richly illustrated with photographs, maps, real estate advertisements and other ephemera.



Shedding Light: The Murtoa Stick Shed saga. Leigh Hammerton, Murtoa Stick Shed Enterprises, 2019, pp. 1-64.

What is now known as the Murtoa Stick Shed began life in 1941 as an emergency wheat storage, constructed to store the enormous surplus of wheat building up as a result of the interruption of grain exports during the war. This massive structure comprised a concrete floor, iron sheeting walls and roof suspended on huge 20-metre mountain ash poles. It held 92,500 tonnes of wheat and covered some four acres in the old measure. It served in this capacity for half a century. This is the story of preserving a unique industrial structure against the odds; it now has both heritage listing and a loyal following, and has become an attraction in its own right.



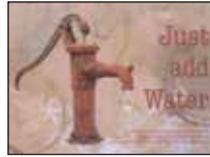
Narrow Ways: lanes in the CBD of Ballarat. Elizabeth A. Wood, Elizabeth A. Trudgeon, Buninyong, 2019, pp. i-90, ISBN9780648327608.

You can learn a lot about cities from the laneways that service their main streets. They have a life and a history all their own, more often than not neglected. Elizabeth Wood's study of the lanes of one of Victoria's oldest provincial centres tells us a little of each of the significant byways of Ballarat. It is based on a series of photos taken mainly in 2002 and details the people and businesses associated with each, past and present. Often unimposing, now largely repurposed, many of Ballarat's lanes can be dated to the goldrush era; cobblestone alleys that have stood the test of time.



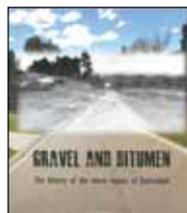
Knox Reflections: a pictorial history. Ray Pearce, Knox Historical Society Inc., 2018, pp. 1-108, ISBN 978064699552.

The municipality of Knox in Melbourne's outer east came about upon the division of the old Shire of Ferntree Gully in 1963. Constituted a city in 1969, Knox then had a population of 50,000. Centred on suburbs such as Boronia, Bayswater, Ferntree Gully, Rowville and Scoresby, it is now home to over 150,000 people. The transition over time from a semi-rural to wholly suburban community is now complete. Until the 1970s, there were significant areas of Knox still used for agriculture, in particular orchards and vegetable growing. These days housing and light industry prevail. This extensive collection of photos charts that progression.



Just Add Water: a collective history of the people involved in the construction, maintenance and recreational activities of the Wallaby Creek, Toorourrong & Yan Yean Reservoirs. Friends of Toorourrong Inc., Kilmore, 2019, pp. 4-109, ISBN 9780646998206.

The history of Melbourne's water supply is well documented in various histories. But this is a story of a different kind. It tells of the workers who built and maintained the Wallaby Creek, Toorourrong and Yan Yean Reservoirs: the key elements of the city's earliest supply schemes that helped make Melbourne's water supply among the finest in the world. The catalyst for this richly illustrated reflection was the disastrous 2009 bushfires, which swept away much of the peripheral built infrastructure and devastated the natural environment, including the giant mountain ash at Wallaby Creek. The preservation of the remaining heritage assets and the rebirth of the Toorourrong Park are testament to community action and resilience.



Gravel and Bitumen: the history of the street names of Bairnsdale. Anthony A. Meade, Bairnsdale, 2018, pp.1-212, ISBN 9780646973494.

This a different take on history looks at the story of a town through its street names. Bairnsdale, gateway to East Gippsland, has been a thriving town since the late 1850s. On the lower reaches of the Mitchell River, Bairnsdale continues to serve as centre of a prosperous agricultural and tourism area. Looking at a town through its street names tells us something of the way in which communities work. Some thoroughfares are named for the distant and famous, such as members of the royal family, while others honour local people and their contributions to community. Tony Meade, a longtime local historian, has teased out these stories which add much to Bairnsdale's story.



The Vagabond as Social Reformer: inside Melbourne's asylums and hospitals. John Stanley James (edited by Michael Cannon), Michael Cannon, 2020, pp. 1-240.

Michael Cannon has for many years championed the republication of the 19th century journalism penned by 'The Vagabond' (John Stanley James). Among the works in this collection are those which made the then anonymous writer famous: his infiltration of Melbourne's hospitals, lunatic and benevolent asylums. The Vagabond's graphic exposés led in turn to significant reforms in the treatment and care of the unemployed, impoverished and mentally ill. They make for particularly interesting reading against the backdrop of current inquiries in Australia into the care of the mentally ill and the aged. This collection features works concerning the Kew Asylum, the Alfred Hospital, Pentridge Prison, the Benevolent Asylum and the Little Sisters of the Poor among others.



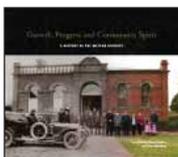
Suburbia: the familiar and forgotten. Warren Kirk, Scribe, Melbourne, 2018, pp. 1-160, ISBN 9781925713114.

This collection of photographs of suburban Melbourne captures, as its subtitle suggests, the forgotten and the familiar. In this volume, William Kirk has cast his net wider than in his first, *Westography*. There are shadows here of a suburbia that has largely disappeared or is just about to. Many of the images here are determinedly working class, both domestic and industrial. It is, as William McInnes suggest in his introduction, photography that is both "affectionate but precise". These photos of ordinary Melbourne remind us that nothing remains the same, that change is constant and that sometimes this is for the better.



From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage: how Australia got compulsory voting. Judith Brett, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2019, pp. 1-200, ISBN 9781925603842.

There is something deeply comforting about compulsory voting in Australia. Everyone is compelled to cast their ballot, to make a choice about who should govern. Even if the outcome is idiotic, in Australia at least we know that ALL the idiots have voted. Only nine countries strictly enforce compulsory voting. None of them are major western democracies; the United States and the United Kingdom do not compel electors to vote. Not only do we vote with compulsion, but, since its introduction in 1924, we have embraced the fact. Historian Judith Brett has written an intriguing account probing the 'hows and whys' of voting and the electoral system in Australia and its unlikely celebration.



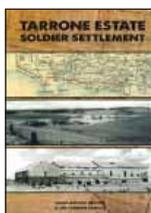
Growth, Progress and Community Spirit: a history of the Melton district. Lucy Bracey, Fiona Poulton and Ellen Spalding, Melton City Council, Melton, 2018, pp. v-214, ISBN 9780646992044.

Melton, on the western outskirts of Melbourne, has been totally transformed in recent decades from a sleepy rural centre on the vast basalt plains to a further extension of Melbourne's sprawl. Melton has a rich history that the book sketches more in outline than in detail. This is a work commissioned by a local government and written by consulting historians. It is a handsome production, but in some respects has an almost generic quality. The chapter on Melton's Aboriginal prehistory, for example, is curiously disconnected in both content and illustration. Melton's growth from the 1950s onwards was exponential as it made the rapid transition from rural centre to suburbia; there is much still to explore here.



Eureka: one bloody Sunday. Hugh Dolan and Dave Dye, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2019 pp.1-88, ISBN 9781742235950.

As a vehicle for encouraging younger readers to explore history, the graphic novel makes a lot of sense – especially for those who find reading slabs of texts challenging. In this case, the story of the 1854 Eureka stockade is told in such a way that younger readers are encouraged to make up their own minds as to the rights and wrongs of the event. The book traces out the conflict, bringing alive in simple terms the story of power and injustice on the Victorian goldfields. The story is told through the eyes of Bernie, a boy living on the goldfields with his parents and witness to the event that triggered rebellion.



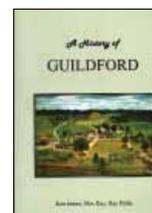
Tarrone Estate: Soldier Settlement. James Affleck (ed.), Warrnambool and District Historical Society, Warrnambool, 2019, pp. ii-147, ISBN 9780987120243.

Tarrone Station, near Koroit, was once a vast sheep run established in 1840 and then owned by the Boyd family for three generations. In 1947, the 23,000-acre station was sold to the Soldier Settlement Commission for subdivision and allocation to returned service personnel from World War 2. In all, 52 blocks, varying from just over 200 acres to more than 700 acres, were allotted, more than half to local returned men, and a new local community developed. It was doubtless tough on this land ... mostly unprepossessing to look at and with its share of rabbits and rocks. But the overwhelming sentiment of these vignettes drawn by the next generation is a positive one.



At Home on the Hill: stories of pioneers in the Phillip Island Cemetery 1870-1900. Pamela Rothfield, Rhyll, 2018 pp. 1-186, ISBN 9780646995526.

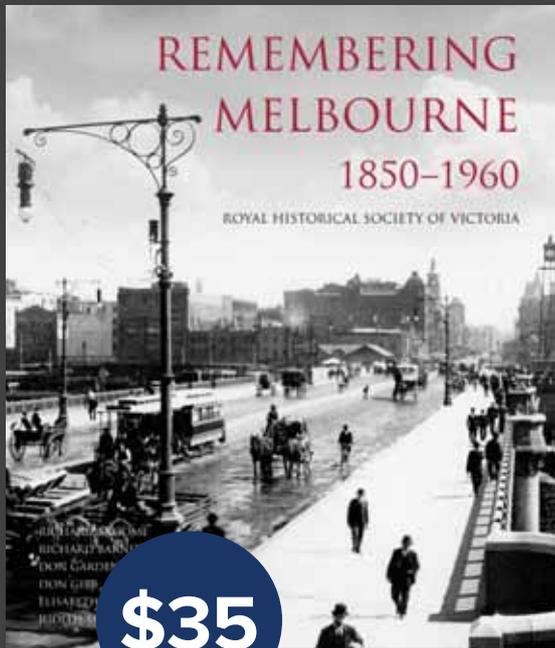
This beautifully presented, self-published book details the stories of those buried in the Phillip Island cemetery between 1870 and 1900. Phillip Island was one of the earliest places in Victoria to attract the attention of sealers and explorers. But it was not until 1842 that the island itself was settled on a permanent basis. The cemetery was established in 1870, not on the site allotted by the Government but on one "nipped off" a crown reserve by the locals. Each of the 73 burials is detailed and the individual stories of those interred there recorded. This book will be invaluable to family historians but also to anyone with an interest in the island's past.



A History of Guildford. Ken James, Max Kay and Ray Pattle, The Authors, Guildford, 2019, pp.1-492, ISBN 9780648222859.

Guildford is a small township 12 kilometres to the south of Castlemaine on the banks of the Loddon River. Since it was proclaimed a township in 1855, its population has waxed and waned. In 1871, it peaked at a little over 1100 but for most of its history, it has seldom broached more than 400. This extraordinarily comprehensive documentation of a community details, across almost 500 pages, just about everything that has ever happened there, and everyone associated with the place through its families and institutions. It is an extraordinary resource for both historians and genealogists alike with an interest in this part of Victoria. It is rich in data and records.

REMEMBERING MELBOURNE & MELBOURNE'S TWENTY DECADES



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