

# HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.349 AUGUST 2020



## General Motors Holden Social Centre mural

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# President's Report

The stories about the past are never finished, because while the past is fixed, history is not. What do I mean by this? What happened in the past is past and cannot change. But our ability to know that past is imperfect. For instance, of the myriad of things that happen each moment of each day in the past, mere fragments of evidence of those events survive. History is formed from a minute selection of those fragments that the historian collects as significant, and this selection is shaped by her or his questions, skills, guiding values and ideas, and the social and cultural contexts and circumstances of the historical investigation.

That is why history is not fixed, for what we see in the past is shaped by the present and that present changes as we change. History is a dialogue between the past and present. This does not mean history is arbitrary, for it is constructed by rules of evidence and agreed procedures. It does mean, however, that it is limited by what we can know of the past at any one time and shaped by our current ideas and questions. We now write urban, women's and Aboriginal history for instance, but did not a hundred years ago, as they were not then questions of current interest.

For the reasons given above, monuments like our wills, need to be reviewed from time to time, as circumstances change. They were like a bit of history writing, constructed at a moment in time and reflecting a certain set of intentions and values. For instance, a lot of monuments were erected at a time of nation building, where members of the community

were trying to make heroes, celebrate achievements and create civic identity. Generally, they reflected supposed achievements and were mostly the story of winners.

Reviewing monuments should be undertaken by community consultation involving relevant stakeholders and critical reflection and is perhaps best led by local councils that have the resources to manage community consultations. This process could decide if a monument is now too partial a view or gives offence to a group. How might this be rectified, by a new or additional plaque or perhaps an additional monument? The latter course might be appropriate where the original monument is now seen as totally inadequate. Additions of a plaque or monument allows the viewer to decide how to understand the past with the aid of these contesting views.

Removal of a monument should only happen in cases of extreme partiality or offence. Such an action leaves all monuments and sacred places open to attack. Worse, it erases not only the monument, but also the awareness of the offence it caused and the knowledge of the other side of the history, so that we lose the ability to change minds and educate people.

See RHSV policy on this matter: 'What to do with our Monuments and Statues' on our website: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/what-to-do-with-our-statues-and-monuments/>

**Richard Broome AM**



*Members of the Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street Station Ballroom c.1910-1915. SLV*

## Messages from the editor

Firstly, affiliated societies are most welcome to use articles from *History News* where appropriate in their own newsletters.

If doing so, please make sure the author's name is included, and the RHSV and *History News*, including the issue, is acknowledged as the original source.

Secondly, the October 2020 edition of *History News* will contain many of our regular features as well as a focus on 'entertainment'.

I am seeking articles about the professional and commercial entertainment industry as well as how people have created their own entertainment as children and as adults before our current technology revolution.

We look forward to reading your research, including discussions or interviews with older people in your communities as well as your own reflections.

All submissions, between 200 and 800 words and hopefully with an image or two very welcome: [sbetrIDGE@outlook.com](mailto:sbetrIDGE@outlook.com)

## History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV  
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**COVER IMAGE:** GM Holden Social Centre, Port Melbourne, 2017. One of two murals depicting the progress of transport painted by GMH employee Eileen Robertson. Photo by Michael Kluge. Social Centre at the General Motors Holden plant... The Social Centre was the employee's canteen and hosted concerts, balls and social functions. General Motors Holden, Fishermans Bend, mural on the wall of the Social Centre, see pages 4-5

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# Mountain huts obsession



*Horsehair Hut rebuilt after the 2003 fires*

It began when, as a student at Birmingham University in the UK when I joined the mountaineering club and spent weekends climbing in Snowdonia in North Wales. A coachload of us would travel to a wooden hut called *Glan Dena*, owned by the Midland Association of Mountaineers, near the mountain Tryfan. Four of us travelled to Morocco in 1964 to climb Mt Toubkal (4167 m), the highest mountain in the High Atlas Mountains, where we stayed in the Neltner Refuge which had been built in 1938 by the French Alpine Club along the lines of European alpine huts.

I emigrated to these fair shores in 1967 and joined Melbourne Bushwalkers. For the Queen's Birthday long-weekend that year three of us drove in a panel van to Thredbo, NSW. We made our way via the chairlift to Seaman's Hut where we finished up in the middle of a search for some misplaced walkers, so that was probably my first stay in an Australian hut. I was hooked; what a wonderful country with huts and snow.

I was president of the Melbourne "Bushies" 1975–1977 having become very familiar with our Victorian huts on the High Plains. Several club members, such as John Siseman, Tyrone Thomas and Fred Halls, published bushwalking books which included photographs of Victorian huts. I decided in about 1991 to start taking photos of Victorian huts with a particular emphasis on their interiors

which told so much about their heritage from the graffiti left on the walls by previous visitors. This culminated in the publication of my book *Havens of the High Country* (1996), which contained my photographs from 22 different huts. I must record my gratitude to Lorenzo Iozzi, curator of the RHSV, for inviting me to stage an exhibition of my photographs in the Old Royal Mint and launching my book at that time.

I continued to visit more huts and added their photographs to my collection. I always knew I was on to an interesting hut if it took me more than one attempt to find it. I felt as if I was making visual time capsules of the huts which showed them exactly as I found them on one particular day. My most challenging hut was probably Jans Hut which was built on the Baw Baw Plateau by Johan and Frederick Jans in 1939. It took me three attempts, foiled by difficult scrubby terrain and inadequate maps, before I finally got there. Many people had heard of it but finding it required the right bit of local knowledge.

The High Country changed forever with the alpine fires of 2003 which started in January and burnt through over 60 percent of the Alpine National Park (ANP) and a significant area of the surrounding State Forest. Some 29 huts from within the ANP and 16 in the adjoining State Forest were burnt or damaged beyond repair, as recorded in, *Victorian Alpine*

*Huts Heritage Survey 2004–05* (2005), Graeme Butler and Associates.

The silver lining was the formation of the Victorian High Country Huts Association (VHCHA) in March 2003 as the smoke from the fires was dispersing. This organisation was founded by historian Dianne Carroll and author Fiona Magnussen and I found myself as inaugural secretary with the aim to look after all the boring paperwork so that the real enthusiasts could get on with the important work of caring for the huts that were left.

The oldest hut in the Victorian High Country before the fires was Horsehair Hut, on Horsehair Plain on the road between Mt Hotham and Omeo. It had been built around 1887 by Tom Goldie for Fred Box and was destroyed by the alpine fire on 26 January 2003. It was the loss of this hut that inspired Dianne and Fiona to take the first steps to form VHCHA. They then motivated the Freemasons Task Force and the Range Rover Club to join with VHCHA in rebuilding Horsehair Hut replica, on a different site on Horsehair Plain over the ANZAC Day long weekend in 2003, a mere three months after the hut had been destroyed. Dianne was good at public relations, she organised two television crews, from the ABC Landline and Channel Nine to record the rebuilding for posterity. After a baptism of fire like that VHCHA took off "like a Bondi tram" and rebuilt McNamara's Hut, Buckley Plain, over Easter 2004.

I am sure it will not surprise you, dear reader, to know that I was there to photograph the rebuilding of both these huts and subsequent ones. Somebody had to do it.

VHCHA then settled in for the long haul of working out the best way to care for the remaining huts, based on the experience of the Kosciusko Huts Association which had been founded in 1971. I was amazed, as secretary of the newly-founded organisation, that we were recognised by Parks Victoria as the voice to speak for the huts and we enjoyed a productive working relationship right from the start. In the high country, lightning does unfortunately strike twice, so we had the 2006–2007 fires followed by the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and the latest in 2020 which claimed even more high country huts. My own small contribution has been the recent publication of *Havens Portfolio: Victorian High Country Hut Photographs 1992 – 2010* (2020) available from the RHSV bookstore.

**David Oldfield**



## Heritage Report: RHSV Protests Minister's Short-Circuiting Heritage Listing of GMH Site

*GMH Administrative Block, Fishermans Bend (Photo courtesy National Trust of Australia [Victoria])*

On 20 November 2019, the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, recommended that the iconic General Motors Holden site at Fishermans Bend be listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. The Heritage Council began moves to consider registration. The National Trust and the RHSV made strong submissions supporting registration.

In February, however, Planning Minister Richard Wynne called in the nomination, 'sidelining' the heritage process, as Chloe Booker recently wrote in *The Age*. Our fear is not that the Minister might block the nomination, but rather that he is short-circuiting the heritage and planning processes to facilitate development by cutting out much of the historic fabric before it is registered.

We're talking about the site where the first Holden was launched by then Prime Minister Chifley, the site that, more than any other in Victoria if not Australia, embodies the post-war recovery and the new society of suburbs and motor cars. It symbolises Melbourne's significance at the front line of the new trend toward Australian manufacturing.

The key historic parts of the complex are still intact, including the Administration Building, Parts Building and the elegant Social Centre, with its original murals still in place, where Chifley unveiled the first Holden.

Development Victoria purchased the site in 2017, announcing that 'this vacant industrial site will be redeveloped as a centre of innovation for advanced

manufacturing, engineering and design'. The purchase was in partnership with the University of Melbourne, which plans a 'new world-class university engineering campus' for the site.

That is a great idea. What better reuse could there be for this site than an engineering campus and manufacturing centre? The problem is that the Ministry is already planning the development with little regard for the heritage. The heritage listing will then be tailored to suit the development.

The first plans were submitted to Melbourne City Council at the beginning of July 2020. They confirmed our fears. Council officers found the plans 'overwhelmed' the heritage elements. Building heights up to 141 metres were





*Prime Minister Ben Chifley launches the Holden 48-215, 29 November 1948 (National Archives of Australia: A1200, L84254)*



*GMH, Fishermans Bend, Social Centre*

proposed in an area where 80 metres was to be the maximum, leading to 'excessive' bulk and buildings 'not responsive to the heritage context'. The plans were 'inconsistent' about the proposed extent of demolition.

The plans were problematic in planning as well as heritage terms. Officers noted a poor 'balance between built form and public realm,' and 'poorly articulated public realm provision, with what appears to be limited open spaces within the site, and limited opportunity for tree plantings'. Above all, there is good reason to fear loss of most of the heritage fabric, with much of it reduced to facades covering bulky box architecture.

By allowing the developer to dictate the plan first, the Minister risks the destruction of one of our most significant industrial heritage sites and the creation of a high-rise slum where there is potential for a great future campus worthy of the heritage around it.

We have written to the Hon. Richard Wynne, MP, Minister for Planning,

protesting at this short-circuiting of process, and to Professor Duncan Maskell, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Melbourne, asking the University to reconsider its plans in the light of the need to make better use of the heritage fabric in the new campus.

The significance of the GMH site for Melbourne and indeed for our idea of Australia cannot be overstated. The Minister should do the right thing. He should circulate the Heritage Council report for public comment, consider submissions, and register this site. Only then should planning the new engineering campus proceed.

For further information:

GMH <https://bit.ly/3eGEuLb>

National Trust <https://bit.ly/2ZJB46b>

If you share our concerns, write to the Minister today.

**Charles Sowerwine,**

Chair, Heritage Committee.

## What's On AT RHSV

### Book Club with Robyn Annear. Nothing New.

**August 10**

**5:30pm - 7:00pm**

Upholders,  
shoddy, Petticoat  
Lane, frippers  
- Nothing New



opens up a wonderful world that, despite our love-affair with op-shops, is all but hidden from us in today's world of consumerism and obsolescence. Join the wonderful Robyn Annear when she talks about *Nothing New*, her latest book, which chronicles the history of second-hand trade across the world and down the ages 'Jesus' clothes would have been divided up among the soldiers guarding the crosses as their perquisite or perk as we'd say today'. We are asking those that join bookclub to bring their own favourite story of an op-shop find or hand-me-down.

### Zoom Cataloguing Clinic

**August 13**

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Calling all historical societies across Victoria. Our inaugural clinic was very well attended with people zooming in from across Victoria and Darwin. The clinics will be held monthly and they are a relaxed forum in which to raise your queries about any aspect of cataloguing. They are managed and led by Jillian Hiscock, our RHSV Collections Manager. We will be having guest speakers at future clinics and if you have an issue which you'd like discussed you can always email the details to Jillian before the event: [collections@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:collections@historyvictoria.org.au)

ZOOM, Join from anywhere. Information to access these events using Zoom, is available on the RHSV website.

# A Hall of Fame:

## Bendigo Town Hall



Local government came to Bendigo in 1855, just four years after gold had been discovered there and a population began to arrive, largely impoverished and not too keen on paying for the roads and other requirements of the new settlement.

An expression of the ratepayers' reluctance to waste money is reflected in the Town Hall they erected in 1859, and which they added to, but never demolished, making it possible today to identify all the stages of its growth. The grandeur and integrity it shows from the outside is the result of restyling the building, while retaining the earlier structures in its development.

The site of the Town Hall in the middle of Market Square enabled the building to be viewed from all sides with the front facing Hargreaves Street, giving it a presence lacking in most others, few of which have more than one or at most two street frontages.

One aspect that the ratepayers would have approved of was that the original 1859 building and the subsequent

additions in 1866 and 1870 were designed by the Town Clerk, George Avery Fletcher, which possibly meant no extra fees were required for design and supervision. The architects of the town were less impressed, because it denied them an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

The provision of a decent public place to hold the annual Mayoral Ball was an expense that also found little popular support from the ratepayers, so an acceptable alternative had to be found that could also fulfil that need. A large Corn Exchange was designed to be built onto the front of the existing buildings and the proposal to obtain loan funds to build it was pushed through when two dissenting council members were absent. A large room corresponding to the present-day dimensions of the main hall, but devoid of plaster internally and ornamentation externally, it was built in 1871-1872 and was universally condemned as being unworthy of our grand city. This time Fletcher had used the services of architect Edward

Anderson to draw the plans, but to his own design. The Corn Exchange appears to have rarely been used for that purpose and in 1873 was only open once a week for a few hours. It became of greater value in 1873 as a temporary school, when the 1872 Education Act found the City short of space for students.

And there was the annual Mayoral Ball. The roof of the main hall was supported on six columns that the dancers complained about, so something had to be done. By the late 1870s, plans for a large project to restyle the Town Hall were drawn up by William Vahland, the principal regional architect of the time and a former Bendigo councillor. Vahland had trained in what had by then become Germany, arriving on the Bendigo Goldfield in 1854, and by 1878 had a substantial body of work to demonstrate his ability. The existing walls remained, but towers were added and the deficiencies addressed over the next seven or eight years. A mansard roof, with timbers spanning the width of the building, allowed the main hall to be





*Bendigo Town Hall, interior.  
Photographer Richard Gibbs*



*Bendigo Town Hall. 1861. Photographer  
Benjamin Pierce Batchelder. SLV*

free of supporting columns. The interior plaster decoration was undertaken by Otto Waschatz, who was then teaching at the Bendigo School of Mines. He had previously ornamented the Royal Palace in Copenhagen, so his credentials were impeccable. The result was much as we see it now, except the main hall remained unpainted. That came in 1902, when the walls were embellished with murals and gold leaf.

The principal changes during the twentieth century were the addition of

a 1915 staircase in the enclosed lightwell, a stage with proscenium arch across the Hargreaves Street entrance and, presumably to avoid maintenance costs, the once glorious walls of the hall were painted over. The decision not to demolish the building was carried by one vote in 1973, when new civic offices were to be erected. From then on, in spite of losing its former purpose, the building began its long path to restoration.

In his 1993 Conservation Plan, Trevor Westmore recommended returning the

building to its nineteenth century form, with the restoration of the main hall and the reinstatement of the original court room at the rear by e+ architecture, a local architectural firm. Further conservation work is currently being undertaken to ensure the Town Hall remains as one of the city's major attractions into the future. For further information see images and video: <https://bit.ly/3jjjPQH>

**Mike Butcher**



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# 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 OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE** please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 4 September 2020.

**BRIGHT:** Thanks to a grant from the Shire, the Court House area, now known as 'The Government Hill Arts Precinct', has new signs and pathways which give the general public easier access for when they amble around town, following the Blue Plaque Walk trail. Start from your desired point in town and make your way around Bright looking for blue plaques providing information about the most significant historical sites in town.



**DAYLESFORD:** The current restrictions have some people likening our conditions to those experienced in wartime. Our archives contain a number of copies of a WW2 Red Cross knitting pattern book, with garments for sick and wounded soldiers. There are three different sock patterns, one for bed socks without heels, and one with 'Dutch heels'. There are two patterns for golf stockings, presumably longer than socks, cardigans, pullovers, scarves, slippers, waistcoats, vest mittens and gloves. There is a more unusual item, a 'helmet', with chest and back pieces. And a rug for really ambitious knitters.



**FITZROY:** We hope you have had a chance to explore the history of your house and some associated stories and or characters. This is a reminder that if you have used the online resources and discovered interesting facts, we would love to hear from you. A recent email to members included a template for you to record your findings. If you are still searching, the Society has prepared a resource guide that is available on the website at [fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/research/](http://fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/research/) then look under Branch Local History Collection, Researching history of your house in Fitzroy. Further, the Fitzroy Library has an excellent collection of resources to assist in researching your house: directories, rate books, maps, heritage studies, indexes, etc. So have some fun in exploring and benefit the Local History collection by completing the template and emailing to: [fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au)

**INVERLOCH:** The *Amazon* barque, which was wrecked at Inverloch, has again shown itself when Wreck Creek forced a new exit to the sea. The site is amazing. Just a reminder you should not remove or take any pieces from the site. Heritage Victoria is involved in its preservation and safety. More information, and photos can be found on our website: <http://inverlochhistory.com/the-amazon-shipwreck/>

**KYNETON:** While in isolation during this pandemic our members have, in the last couple of weeks, been working behind the scenes catching up on many jobs that otherwise are relegated to the bottom of the pile. Many years ago, the society received a box of photographs from W.T Jones & Son, monumental masons of Piper street. Many of them were of completed headstones and monuments that were erected in the Kyneton Cemetery. Carol, one of our members and the secretary of the Kyneton Cemetery Trust decided to address these lonely images and to index them, give the location of the graves and re-house them into albums, and in doing so providing another tool for the society to broaden their research capabilities for public research. Most

of the photographs date from 1885 to 1960, with majority prior to 1910. This project has allowed the cemetery trust to see how many of the monuments have deteriorated over time, what the landscape was like before trees grew and even exposed part of the beautiful Victorian Sexton Cottage.

**LILYDALE:** Our new display, 'Writing for the Future', features the society's various deceased member authors, their contribution to the society and their publications. The authors are: Leigh Blackburn, Ruby Kwijas, Keith Lithgow, Jack Lundy-Clark, Val Sheehan, Sandy Ross and Pamela Vestey. Our volunteers painstakingly researched their story and their publications. When opened in February, no one knew our doors were closed so no-one could visit and see the display. However, we have now transformed each display board into an e-book which is freely available for download. Also check out all our on-going activities at our news and events page on our website [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au)

**MALDON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES:** The Association has recently gained Accreditation from the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria. We met set criteria and join the 80 Victorian museums, galleries and collecting organisations accredited in Victoria. Housed in the original 1859 Market Hall building in the historic town of Maldon, we provide a variety of rich experiences for researchers and visitors to the area. Managed by volunteers, the association has created delightful thematic exhibitions which tell the story of Maldon's rich and varied history based on highlights from the collection including the recently heritage listed Banner of the Amalgamated Miner's Association of Australasia – Maldon No. 14 Branch, one of only two AMAA banners known to have survived. The museum also includes a research centre and online search facilities to encourage the general public to engage with local history. Another highlight of the visitor experience is the ability of visitors to explore Maldon's stunning historic 19th



and early 20th century buildings and streetscapes through the walking tour app Maldon Rediscovered.

**MALMSBURY:** We are seeking assistance from our readers on the following subjects:

'Former sawmill' - does anybody have any information, especially photos, of the sawmill which used to exist on the west side of Lauriston Street between Mitchell Street and Harvey Street? It was erected sometime between 1945 and 1965.

'Sign of the times' Does anyone have any old records, such as letters, postcards, rate notices or maps, of Malmsbury which clearly show McGrane Street recorded on them, as opposed to the present-day name McCrane street? The most recent record we have found to date is a survey plan dating to 1920. When did it become (erroneously) recognised as McCrane? It was gazetted in 1878 as McGrane street, after local councillor and publican Richard McGrane.

If you can help please email us at [malmsburyhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:malmsburyhistorical@gmail.com)

**MARYSVILLE:** The History Centre holds information provided to it members of the public. We have much on the early pioneers, but not so much on our grandparents and our own times. Send us your memories, your facts and funny stories. We will keep them for future generations. The Gould Memorial Drive - From time to time we receive enquiries about this great avenue of poplars. The Society has a couple of photos of the trees in Autumn and we know Lloyd Gould planted them. But when? If you can tell us about the planting and the date please phone or email the details and your story: [historymarysville@gmail.com](mailto:historymarysville@gmail.com).

**PORT FAIRY:** The Walls of Belfast is a project aimed at displaying the mason's skill and stone variety in Port Fairy structures dating from the 1840s to the current time. It started with the National Trust's intention to repair the stone wall in front of Mills Cottage, which is slowly falling forward. It is hoped that, when the stonemason undertakes this

work, there may be an opportunity for a 'clinic' demonstrating the methods of construction etc. This led to the idea of having a walk around the immediate area of Mills Cottage to look at the different walls. This would primarily be aimed at tourists in the holiday season, with the National Trust conducting the walks. At the same time, a photographic display would be mounted at Mills Cottage showing the wide variety of walls around Port Fairy, both those on the walk and further afield. These photographs are being taken by Peter Grenfell and he has already built up a formidable portfolio of pictures. At the same time, it has been suggested that a few volunteers might walk different blocks of Port Fairy, taking photographs of walls as they go, and that Peter could then follow up on anything that he might have missed. Heather Wood, Secretary of the Port Fairy National Trust, is keen to hear from anyone wishing to assist with this project: [comanton3@bigpond.com](mailto:comanton3@bigpond.com)

**RINGWOOD:** During isolation, the membership for our Facebook site has exploded. Membership has gone from 3,800 to nearly 5,500! The activity has been incredible, with many people cleaning their attics and finding valuable photos and stories. The Society also published a daily jigsaw, with a suitable historical location to adorn it. As well, a number of Facebookers have now become RDHS members, which is very encouraging.

**SNAKE VALLEY:** In June 1932, the 115th Branch of the CWA, the Snake Valley Branch, was formed and sat within the Beaufort Group. Sadly, the earliest minute books were lost, however it is documented that the first President was Mrs. H Greenbank and the Secretary was Mrs. A Brumby. In 1937 Snake Valley CWA changed its name to the Carnham-Snake Valley Branch where Mrs. H Greenbank was president and Mrs. Scott held the position of Secretary. Skimming through the 50+ years of minute books, I was in awe of the hard work and dedication of the Carnham-Snake Valley Branch, and their ongoing effort to improve

our community: particularly for women and children. In addition to their local work, they also contributed widely to the broader Victorian community and assisted with National CWA initiatives. What was most evident was the sense of fun, generosity of spirit and pride in the work they achieved together. For more information see our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/snakevalleyhistoricalsociety/>

**TERANG:** In September 1920 a fine bell was placed in the steeple of the Thomson Memorial Church and was dedicated by the Rev. E.M. Baird and rung for the first time by Mrs. Crawford Harvie, who was one of the principal contributors to the fund having given £50. It was called the Peace Bell. Mr. W.K. Mackinnon added £100 and the congregation willingly subscribed the balance of the cost, £246/8/1. The bell was cast in Dublin to the order of Messrs. James McEwan and Co. Pty. Ltd. of Melbourne and was hung by Mr. J.H. McConnell, under supervision of Messrs. Bates, Peebles and Smart. It was dedicated on 12th September 1920. It is a 31.5 inch church bell, and weighs 5.75 hundred-weight and 19 pounds (approx 300kg). The bell has a very beautiful tone and possesses a sound range of about five miles. The bell has been rung most Sundays ever since, by many bell-ringers, some of whom have left their name written in the bell tower.



**TRAFALGAR:** The Society is pleased to welcome back an original telephonist's desk which served the district well until 44 years ago. The desk had been rescued when the exchange cut over from manual to automatic on 1 February 1976. It eventually found its way to Boolara South where it remained in the care of Mr Ross Gervasi for many years. It was rediscovered by Mr John Hanley while he was researching the history of district exchanges. They both agreed that the desk would be better placed in its original home. It was brought across and deposited with the Trafalgar Men's Shed volunteers, who carefully restored it to its former glory. It has been installed in the place set aside for it in the Society's new home at the front of the Trafalgar kindergarten and is greatly valued by the Society.



**WANDONG:** Last month the Wandong History Group had been successful in gaining a grant to renovate St Michaels Church at Wandong. We have now received a grant to relocate the old internment hut from Range Avenue, Heathcote Junction to the Wandong Memorial Park where it will be set up as a military history and interpretive centre. Karen Christensen, the History Group president, was the driving force behind the grant. She wanted the history of our local soldiers and the service and sacrifice they made to be showcased in a permanent display for locals and visitors alike. Karen also expressed thanks to Chris and Kerry Bellomo who donated the hut to the History Group. The following months will be a very busy time in restorations for the History Group.



**WAVERLEY:** We have been sorting through the Society's family folders, and would love to see them include more people. We are eager for any members who have information about their families to send us a brief background to your family's history in the Waverley and Monash district. It doesn't matter how long you have lived here. It all leads to a better knowledge of the history of families in our area. Drop in at our rooms when we reopen with any information you have or email [kerriewhsv@gmail.com](mailto:kerriewhsv@gmail.com)



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# The old lolly shop



Elizabeth Cohen in the 'Old Lolly Shop', circa 1950  
Donation by Mr Alan Cohen in memory of Elizabeth and Henry Cohen (Source: Museums Victoria)

Elizabeth and Henry Cohen, opened their milk bar, located at 314 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North, an inner suburb of Melbourne, in 1939. Born in Victoria, Elizabeth Solomon and Henry Aaron Cohen, descended from European Jewish immigrants. The Cohen's shop was always crowded at lunch time with school kids from the Lee Street State School, later the Lee Street Primary and now the Carlton North Primary School, located around the corner at 60 Lee Street. It was their tuckshop, and every Friday 'good' children were rewarded with a free handful of boiled sweets from the big lolly drum that Elizabeth kept behind the counter. The milk bar gradually became known as the 'Old

Lolly Shop'. For adults the milk bar was a place to sit and talk or to meet in the evening. The name 'Milk Bar' appears to derive from Englishman, James Meadow Charles, who named his first business in Bangalore, India, 'Lakeview Milk Bar'. The milk bar or corner store, was one of many small family businesses that became the linchpin of countless families and the heart of many suburban communities. The post-war years saw enormous changes to Melbourne: the arrival of a million immigrants over a twenty-year period, beginning with displaced persons from war-ravaged Europe. Many immigrants, embraced the opportunity to run a small business: greengrocers, delicatessens,

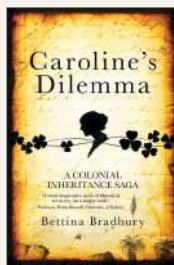
restaurants and milk bars. It was common for the whole family to be involved in running such businesses.

The Cohens saw the neighbourhood change over time. Carlton's Jewish community was moving out to the middle suburbs, to be replaced by immigrants from Italy and Greece in the 1950s and 1960s. Supermarkets multiplied and schools ran their own tuckshops. Henry Cohen passed away at the Rathdowne Street address in 1962 aged 63. Elizabeth Cohen closed the Old Lolly Shop in 1975. By that time, she had served generations of Carlton children and their parents. Elizabeth Cohen died in 1990 aged 85 years.

By Rose Raymen

## History Victoria Bookshop

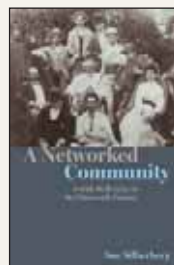
New Books in store for August 2020 [www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/)



**Caroline's Dilemma: A colonial inheritance saga.** Bettina Bradbury, New South, Sydney, 2019, pp. 352, ISBN 9781742236605

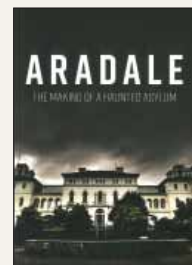
Shortlisted for the 2020 Ernest Scott Prize for History

Caroline Kearney was a 31-year-old mother of six when her husband died in Melbourne in 1865. Having no legal rights herself to the sheep station in Wimmera, that her late husband owned, she had great hopes that her sons would inherit it. But that was not to be. This extraordinary book combines storytelling with an historian's detective work. Pieced together from evidence in archives, newspapers, genealogical sites, legal records and old-fashioned legwork. *Caroline's Dilemma* reveals much about women's property rights, migration, settler colonialism, the Irish diaspora and sectarian conflict. It shows how one middle-class woman and her family fought to shape their own lives within the British Empire.



**A networked community: Jewish Melbourne in the nineteenth century.** Sue Silberberg, Melbourne University Publishing, Melbourne, 2020, pp. 256, ISBN 9780522876345

In 1835 a renegade group of Tasmanians wishing to expand their landholdings disembarked in what was to become Melbourne. This colonising expedition was funded by a group of investors including the Jewish emancipist Joseph Solomon. Thus, in Melbourne Jews were at the foundation of colonisation. Unlike many other settlers, these Jews predominantly came from urban backgrounds, principally London. In Victoria, as in the other new Australian colonies, there were no civil or political restrictions on the Jewish community. The political and social environment of a new city such as Melbourne provided a unique set of opportunities. As the city expanded, they influenced the formation of the urban fabric and their connections brought new political and intellectual ideas and networks to the colonial experience.



**Aradale: The Making of a Haunted Asylum.** David Waldron, Sharn Waldron & Nathaniel Buchanan, Arcadia, Melbourne, 2020, pp. 170. ISBN 9781925984910

First built in 1867, the remarkable Gothic structure of the former Ararat Lunatic Asylum, colloquially known as Aradale, has overlooked the regional town of Ararat for over 150 years.

Throughout its history it has seen remarkable transformations in the history of psychiatry and western society's treatment of the mentally ill; and it has participated in some of their darkest scandals. Today in popular press, the labyrinthine complex is commonly acclaimed as 'Australia's most haunted building' and is home to a flourishing dark tourism industry boasting tens of thousands of visitors a year. This book explores the history of the former asylum, and examines what is it that makes a place 'haunted' in the popular imagination, and what it is about hauntings that so invariably connects them with problematic histories.



*Salt glazed bung jar, 1885-1889, 260 x 175mm. Attributed to the Richmond Pottery.*

## An Inconspicuous Jar: Addendum to Victoria's Earliest Potteries

My first outing after the first COVID19 lockdown has come up trumps! The item: a simple, salt glazed bung jar with no markings commonly made in Australia from 1860 to 1890. I stood in front of the jar, deliberating over if there was enough reason to buy yet another brown pot. This example has slight differences to those usually found in Victoria, made by the Bendigo Pottery, Cornwell's Brunswick Pottery or the Dahlke's Filter & Pottery Co Melbourne. These differences could prove to be identifying features of another maker, something for which I am always on the lookout. They are, notably: the recess below the rolled lip, used to keep string or some other tied restrictive material around a cloth, such as muslin, covering which seals the jar; and the sharpish

point where the shoulder starts to curve away from the straight sided body.

I have just published a book, *Victoria's Earliest Potteries*, which is mainly concerned with identifying this type of pottery, so I am keenly aware of it. Often these differences in manufacture come down to pottery made interstate or overseas and do not indicate a new local manufacturer. However, my interest was sustained by a paper label, which probably identifies the production of the article as post 1930 because of the vulnerability of time induced wear and tear. If this is the case it would place the jar outside the period I was hoping for.

The general condition of the label was almost too good, another cause for apprehension as reproduction of old Australian labels have been made over

the last twenty years, giving enough time for some wear to appear. My suspicions abated as I read what I could of the label; 'Sutherland / S&S /----- / SANDWICH PICKLE / MANUFACTURED BY / CREMORNE ST. RICHMOND VICTORIA.'

The pickle reference rang true as bung jars were often used for pickling but the important part was the address. This was one street away from Dover St. in Richmond which was where William Marshall's Richmond Pottery (1855-1893) was located. If a pickle company needed pottery jars, where else would you buy them but from the pottery works behind your factory. The ducks were lining up, enough for me to buy the jar and its label, a genuine 135-year-old survivor.





*Base, note three clay pad marks and angled edge.  
Gregory Hill*

Once home I dived into the research and found that John Sutherland & Sons Vinegar Factory Distillery had been making vinegar from 1885 to the late 1970s. However, pickles had been a major part of their business. Their first address had been Cremorne Steet before expanding to new premises in Wellington Street in 1889 which are now heritage listed. The new research also presented some problems such as the Richmond Pottery relocating in 1872 but this was only 800 metres further away and hardly changed my reasoning. It also means that the jar was probably made between 1885 and 1889 as the second address is not mentioned on the label.

I also closely inspected the jar and found some other anomalies. The rim of the jar has been slightly distorted during firing which is not uncommon but rare to appear in the wares from Bendigo, Cornwell or Dahlke. This reinforced

my original ideas about a different provenance. There is an angled bottom corner to the jar of 15 mm, which is quite large. Usually these are smaller or even rounded, giving a better shape and are used as a purchase point when drawing a piece of wire between the jar and the throwing wheel in order to separate them.

The jars are usually salt glazed inside and out but our example has a cream coloured Bristol glaze on the inside. Bendigo did this on their larger items such as water filters but it is yet another unusual feature. There are four circular marks on the rim and three under the base which are the remains of clay pads that separate the items from one another in the kiln. This was to stop the jar glazing itself to the shelf, on which it sat, or to any objects sitting on it. This method was typically used when salt glazing but such factors as number, size, shape of the blobs and their positioning

are all characteristics which could point to future Richmond Pottery attributions.

After years of researching the Richmond Pottery and putting together a considered account of its workings and history in *Victoria's Earliest Potteries*, I was unable to find a single piece of pottery made there. I think, I now have; but, it mightn't be long before irrefutable evidence may appear. At least one of the houses that stands on the Richmond Pottery site is being sold and evidence suggests this often leads to demolition and new building which creates an opportunity to search the site. I will be very surprised if we didn't find shards identical to my pickle jar and it would clearly justify the decision to buy another inconspicuous jar.

*Victoria's Earliest Potteries* is for sale at the RHSV. More info can be obtained from [ghillpublications@hotmail.com](mailto:ghillpublications@hotmail.com)

**Gregory Hill**



# Windows on History: Marvellous Melbourne?

On entering the foyer of Bayview Eden Hotel, which overlooks Melbourne's Albert Park Lake, guests are greeted with an elaborate wall of stained and painted glass, representing Melbourne. This eye-catching feast is a vast improvement on the usual bland corporate backdrop to hotel reception desks and guests are instantly intrigued and delighted to discover intricate details that seem to hark back to the 1880s, the time of Marvellous Melbourne. But all is not quite as 'nineteenth century' as it might appear.

This stunning evocation of Melbourne was installed in 1999 after months of work by artists, Magda and Janusz Kuzbicki, for the new tower hotel on Queens Road. Just as Spowers Architects physically linked the newly-designed building to the adjacent Victorian mansion, this new glass installation aimed to reflect the stained glass window in the old wing. This typically Victorian window featured

bird roundels that were restored by Kuzbickis some years earlier, ultimately leading to this commission.

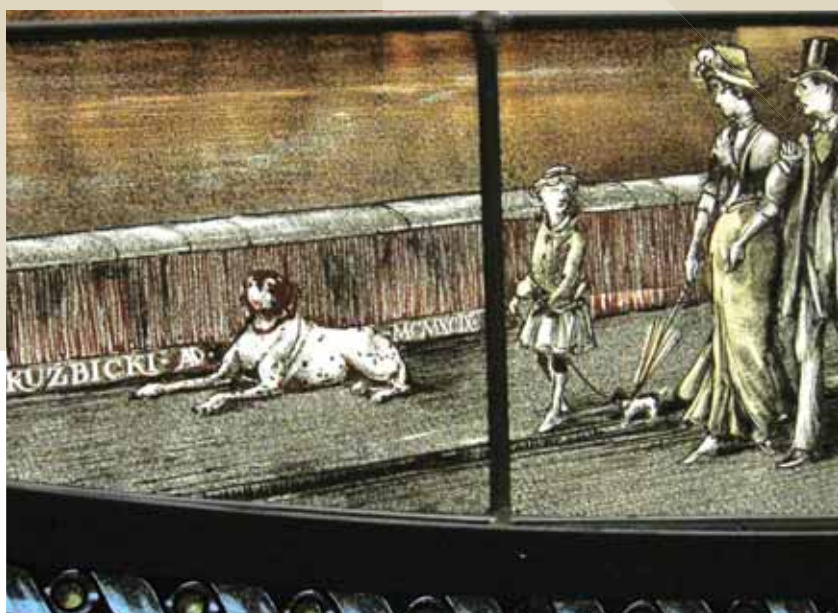
The 2800 mm high x 8000 mm wide light box is designed in three sections, dominated by an elliptical central image of Swanston Street and St Paul's Cathedral viewed from an elevated position near Princes Bridge south. Two flanking panels show life-sized sulphur-crested and yellow-tailed black cockatoos, faintly echoing the old Victorian window. The rhythmic composition is united by decorative ornaments, flourishes, ribbons, swags and borders, which add a sense of nineteenth-century exuberance to the overall installation.

Centrally, the scene is filled with people taking the air on the bridge or strolling the Yarra embankments, taking a cable tram, driving their carriages or on horseback; all undeterred by the overcast sky that is marginally relieved by a blue break in clouds to the north.

The prominent polychromatic façade of St Paul's, the distinctive Gothic Revival Melbourne Gas Company building next door, the dome of Flinders Street Station and Melbourne Town Hall (partially obscured and almost obliterated by smoke from the steam trains) are recognisable even today. However, it is a different story with the skyline where the towers of Scots' Church and Eastern Hill Fire Station stand above the surrounding buildings with no inkling of the multi-storey towers that would dwarf these landmarks in the 20th century.

To create their vision, the Kuzbickis researched old lithographs and photographs of the burgeoning city, but they playfully moulded the past into a new reality, leaving their audience to unpack the anomalies and quirks within the painted glass. We might remember that those distinctive spires on St Paul's Cathedral were only erected in the 1930s, and that this federation-style Flinders Street Railway Station was





not designed until 1899, but other differences are unlikely to reveal themselves. In the foreground, next to the 'M&J Kuzbicki' signature picked out in the footings of the Yarra balustrade the artists had the joy of painting their much-loved former liver and white pointer, while, not far away, firmly held on a leash by a young girl strolling with her family, is their equally loved replacement, a chihuahua and Jack Russell cross.

Melbourne has been home and studio for Magda and Janusz since they came from Poland via Paris in March 1980. After studying at art academies in Poland, Magda became a tapestry artist and Janusz completed post-graduate studies in monumental structures at the Fondation de Coubertin in Paris. A French artist introduced him to *dalle de verre*, same glass as in the Great Hall ceiling, National Gallery of Victoria, and glass in many forms

became one important aspect of his subsequent work. The couple works closely through the research and design stages, discussing how best to interpret the brief, but Magda, who describes herself as the more organised of the two, precisely cuts all the glass and builds the leadlights to ensure a long life for the finished work; the all-important glass-painting is shared by them both.

Despite an international reputation, few know of their Centenary of Australian Federation Heraldic Window in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle (2000-02) or more recent Victorian commissions: a vast project for the new St Peter and St Paul's, Church, Buninyong (2010-12) and sculptural glass installations for the recently completed Music School and Chapel at Catholic Ladies College in Eltham.

But Magda and Janusz's most

appreciated local work is the west entrance to St Paul's Cathedral (2005), the outcome of a rigorous international competition. The principal theme of the *dalle de verre* Processional Doors, *Saul's Vision on the Road to Damascus*, is symbolised by radiating light, which completes the St Paul story, which is told in the nave windows. Maybe if the commission had preceded the installation at Bayview Eden Hotel, the artists could have been tempted to add another twist to their painting of St Paul's and allow a glimpse of the light and colour that now marks the main entrance.

#### **Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM**

Hughes Hughes Associates  
Stained Glass Historians and  
Consultants

e: drbrwnynhughes@gmail.com



## Gippsland mentor will be missed: Florence Amey Pearce

As she was for many who are or have been involved in Gippsland History, Flo Pearce was a significant mentor to me.

She was president when I became secretary of Maffra and District Historical Society Inc. around 1978: I was new to the area, although my family originated in nearby Sale, but Flo had been President since the formation of the group in 1974 and was to continue in the role for another decade.

Flo was born in Boisdale, where her grandparents settled in 1911 on a double 'closer settlement block' as dairy farmers and to grow sugar beet. Flo spent 75 years in Boisdale before retiring to Maffra and was 101 when she passed away on 7 July.

She attended school in Boisdale and Maffra but 'ran away' by staying home to help on the farm before her final Intermediate exams. "But that," she said, "didn't stop me learning for the rest of my life by reading books and listening to people who had interesting and enlightening things to say".

Flo attributed the direction of her life to a Seventh Day Adventist from Sri Lanka who spoke at her local church. "He talked about life as 'saved for service'," she recalled. "I didn't have any desire to go away in a missionary capacity, but this inspired me to do things of service in my own community."

As a result, Flo was in the Red Cross for nearly 80 years and in Save the Children from 1954 where she was the Secretary for 50 years. She also spent a lot of her time collecting and sharing local and

regional history. "Why history?" she asked. "It's very interesting, all around you if you open your eyes, and important to learn about and from the past."

Flo worked on the farm where there was no electricity or powered equipment in the early days, 'so milking by hand, growing beets and all the farm work took a lot of effort.'

In 1973, when the Maffra Shire wanted a focus on history for the upcoming 1975 centenary, Flo became involved in the formation of the Historical Society. A member of Apex chaired the first meeting but by the second meeting he was gone and Flo was the President; a position she held for the next 13 years.

Maffra and District Historical Society has a focus on the unique local sugar beet industry and established a museum in the relocated weighbridge from the Maffra Sugar Beet Factory. While Flo claimed she 'didn't know much about it to begin with', the group worked hard to get pictorial records together and to establish the museum, holding an art competition to raise money; a pretty strenuous event to organise, especially as, at that time, she was also caring for her parents.

Flo's publishing began when she attended a course run at Monash Gippsland by Patrick Morgan. She selected herd improvement as her topic. Her family had been herd testing since it first started in 1926 and were part of the push for artificial breeding in the 1950s. In 1956 Flo worked at the AB Co-op in Maffra to help Otto Marks get the service underway.



*A young Flo Pearce (front) with (from left) her brother Bill, father Ernest, mother Mary and sister Elsie.*

*Left: Maffra and district historian Flo Pearce*

Many more publications followed over the years. Her major publication was *Boisdale from Squatter to Settler: A Pictorial History of the Boisdale Closer Settlement Scheme* (1980), showcasing her beloved Boisdale, a unique village settlement initially developed by the Fosters of the Boisdale estate.

Another of Flo's major legacies was her successful campaign to retain the historic verandah posts on Maffra shops and businesses when there was a state-wide push to allow only cantilevered verandahs.

In 1988 she was awarded the Maffra Bicentenary Citizen of the Year Award and in 2001 she was recognised with an Award of Merit from the RHSV as 'the acknowledged authority on the history of Maffra'.

Flo hadn't travelled a great deal but said, while she was happy to see other parts of Australia, she was always very happy to get home. She said reading and listening to the radio had taken her to many other places she loved to visit, 'on the pages or over the air'. Flo continued her interest in history, politics and local and world events until the very end.

Flo's philosophy, well worth adopting, was: 'If you think something is important you have to have a go; [it's] not a bit of good sitting back and moaning.'

**Pauline Hitchins**

Convenor HSVG (RHSV)

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# Books Received

Lee Sulkowska & John Schauble

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

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

BOOKS



**Cranlana: the first 100 years: the house, the garden and the people.** Michael Shmith, Hardie Grant, Melbourne, 2019, pp. 257, ISBN 9781743795859.

This is a beautiful book about an unquestionably beautiful place. Cranlana, set in generous grounds in Toorak, has for four generations been the home base of the Myer dynasty. It has been a place of leadership, of enterprise and of privilege. While no member of the Myer family has actually lived there for almost 30 years, since 1993 it has served as base for a non-partisan, non-profit centre to promote leadership excellence. On one level, it is a fascinating insight into a Melbourne that has long since passed. On another, it is a fine depiction, splendidly illustrated, of a significant Melbourne place. It is the product of a skilled storyteller: commissioned by the Myer family.



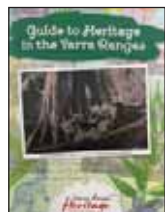
**1880 Melbourne International Exhibition: fifty years of commerce and trade between Italy and the Australian colonies.** Annamaria Davine & Piero Genovesi, Italian Australian Institute, Macleod, Victoria, 2018, pp IV – 541, ISBN 9780994227638.

This is the kind of book that tells a wider story than what is written on the page. The content is self-explanatory; it's a fifty-year history about Italian/Australian trade and commerce, and the Italian presence at the 1880 Exhibition. It touches on the creation of Italy, it's relationship with Britain and the nature of Italian immigration to the Australian colonies. However, it is the metadata that will further delight readers. There is a giddy number of primary sources; the kind that makes historians' hearts skip a beat. The sheer heft of the book speaks to the passion of the authors and the personal foreword is filled with yearning that Italian Australians retain knowledge of their heritage.



**More Than Just Housing: The South Port Community Housing Group story 1983-2018.** Beris Campbell, Janet Goodwin & Heather McKee, South Port Community Housing Group Inc, South Melbourne, Victoria, 2018, pp v – 152, ISBN 9780646992020.

While COVID19 has been devastating for Australia and the world, have highlighted the positive impact and vital importance of community: locally, nationally and across the globe. This beautiful book is a 2019 history award winner, and a celebration of that vital community role. Not only does it detail the 35-year history of the South Port Community Housing Group, it is also an architectural record, a series of biographies, a property portfolio. It is a testament to the genuine civic spirit that benefits residents, volunteers and the wider Melbourne community. As the title suggests, this group is more than just housing.



**Guide to Heritage in the Yarra Ranges.** Yarra Ranges Heritage Network, Victoria, 2018, pp 2 – 43.

When Victoria celebrates the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, many families with cabin fever may find this guide helpful to planning socially distanced trips out of the house. Compiled by the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network, the guide is broken up into categories: Urban, Lower and Upper Yarra Valley and Northern and Southern Dandenongs. Each category has numbered maps, GPS coordinates, a short caption of the historical significance of the site, a picture and helpful opening times, addresses, entry cost, etc. After months of isolation, it does give the reader an anticipatory thrill to plan their next adventure.



**A Guide to Historic St Kilda.** David Willis, St Kilda Press, Melbourne, Victoria, 2019, pp 1 – 276, ISBN 9780994375612.

If you're a St Kilda local interested in learning about the colonial history of your favourite haunts, or an international tourist mapping out your post-quarantine trip, or even an armchair traveller curious about one of Melbourne's most interesting suburbs – this is an excellent read. You'll discover a theatre cat called 'The Duke', skinny dipping scandals, teetotal coffee houses, the *Ngargee* tree in a sacred Yalukit Weelam meeting place and, of course, learn about the history of the various famous landmarks like Luna Park, the Palais theatre and the Pier. Designed to be picked up and put down at random, it is also a visual feast that doesn't scrimp on the photographs of fascinatingly beautiful St Kilda.



**Window on Winton: A Who, When, Where of Those in the Winton Cemetery.** Wendy Webster, 2019.

There is something special about cemeteries that excites strong emotions in those who come across them. Sometimes it is revulsion and fear. In others it is fascination and a desire for knowledge. The second is true for Wendy and Dave Webster, who have compiled, so far, two volumes on the lives of those buried in Winton Cemetery. In what must have been an absolute labour of love, their work lists most buried in Winton, photographed headstones, transcribed inscriptions, provided biographical details of the deceased, where possible, and included pictures and archival documents they could find. This book is a remarkable and commendable feat.



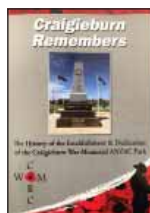
**St Albans Settlers From 1905.** Joseph Ribarow, Community Research and Management Services, Ascot Vale, Victoria, 2018, pp 1-116, ISBN 9780987435354.

This book is another Ribarow's volume recording the colonial history of St Albans. An earlier volume covers the years from 1868. He documents the personal histories of settlers to the area from 1902 – 1922 and gives an insight to the then-regional suburb of St Albans. The stories of forty-eight local families are meticulously researched. It is evident that Ribarow is passionate about the history of St Albans, as reading this book feels intensely personal and is a definite insight into early-twentieth century life in federation Australia.



**Gita: Melbourne's First Yoga School – 65 Years of History.** Fay Woodhouse, Hindsight, Lancefield, Victoria, 2019, pp vii – 130, ISBN 9781647131678.

Known today as Gita World, the yoga school celebrates 65 years of operations and the honour of being Melbourne's first Yoga school. More than detailing the history of the yoga school in Melbourne, Woodhouse discusses the intersection between the spirituality of yoga and its impact on the feminist movement of the 1970s. The book explores how the school evolved, developing teachers' courses, a teaching guild and a charitable foundation. It describes the lives of its founder and current owners, the changing fashions of yoga and its important connection to the wider yoga community.



**Craigieburn Remembers: The History of the Establishment & Dedication of the Craigieburn War Memorial ANZAC Park.** Kevin O'Callaghan, ESM & John Lynch, OAM, KSJ, JP, Stradbroke Printing, Somerton, Victoria, 2018, pp i – 120, ISBN 9781642554946.

The Craigieburn War Memorial is a wonderful example of what community and commemoration can achieve. This book chronicles the ten-year journey that the Craigieburn community took to unveil the memorial in 2017. It is wonderfully detailed; from first recognising the need for a more accessible war memorial, to fundraising, planning, building and finally unveiling. The theme of community runs across every page: a joint effort to realise a shared need.



**What Happened at the Pier: Recalling the Journey II.** Lella Cariddi, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, 2018, pp ix – 182, ISBN 9780987181008.

The migrant story of Australia is fraught and contested, but also historically significant and worth documenting. Cariddi states that only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can claim true Australian heritage. Everyone else has an immigration story, be it a multi-generational or a first-hand account. This book is a further instalment in an ongoing micro biographical migrant history project, with 26 stories ranging from the mid 1850s to as recently as 2012. The stories in this book are heart-achingly personal; poignant and sad, uplifting and beautiful. They ask the reader to consider where they come from, and be aware of the history of the land they now call home.



**A Golden Age in Flemington: 10 Years of Active Aging.** Moonee Valley Golden Age Women, Minuteman Press, North Melbourne, Victoria, 2019, pp i – 68, ISBN 9780646997292.

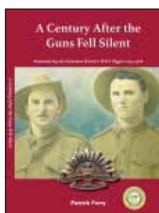
This is an absolutely delightful book, for an equally wonderful community initiative. The Moonee Valley Golden Age Women group is a socio-geographically diverse group of Chinese seniors, who have overcome cultural, linguistic and age barriers to find kinship and community after migrating to Australia. Documenting their ten-year history, the MVGAW have navigated social isolation, language barriers, local legislation and the challenges of funding and much more, moving from strength to strength. This book is a celebration of their achievements and is a joy to read.



**The Victorian Teachers' Union era of reform 1970 - 1995: turning a 'friendly society' into a union.** Emma Russell with Alannah Croom & Carissa Goudey, History@Work, Melbourne, Victoria, 2018, pp 3 – 70, ISBN 9780648343707.

Teacher unionism in Victoria has existed since the mid 1880s. This is a story of passionate Victorian educators coming together with diverse goals and challenges in order to centralise and organise a cohesive union. Prior to the 1970s, union groups were disparate and found it difficult to affect significant change. However, with Gough Whitlam announcing, 'it's time', the VTU began its era of reform, led by the late Don Bull. This is a rather triumphant history, as the reform of the VTU resulted in the success of a wider membership base, improved salaries and working conditions.





**A Century After the Guns Fell Silent: Remembering the Pakenham District's World War One Diggers, 1914-1918.**

Patrick Ferry, Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society, Victoria, 2018, pp iii – 326, ISBN 9780648416302.

The expertise of a master archivist is evident in this book. Ferry has spent years compiling an extensive record of the World War One soldiers from the Pakenham District. Aware of the danger of WWI diggers passing from living memory into 'names chiselled into stone or stencilled in gold leaf,' Ferry has worked tirelessly to preserve their personal stories for generations to come. He contextualises the districts war effort into the wider WWI narrative, noting the soldiers who didn't come home, those who came back irrevocably changed and how the living and the dead impacted the community they served.



**The Boy from Brunswick: Leonard French, a Biography.** Reg MacDonald, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Kew, Victoria, 2018, pp 4-539, ISBN 9781925801392.

Everyone who has ever walked into the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria has looked agog skywards to the panelled stained-glass ceiling. This is the masterwork of artist Len French, subject of this hefty biography written by his friend Reg MacDonald. French was a prolific Australian artist, riding the fickle waves of the art world; sometimes on top, sometimes at the bottom of the heap. MacDonald recorded 30 or so hours of interview with French, and along with the stories of his friends and contemporaries, weaves an enchanting narrative of French's life; interspersed with personal photographs and his eye-catching art.



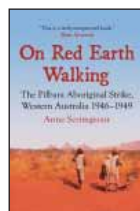
**Attending to the National Soul: Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1914-2014.** Stuart Piggin and Robert D. Linder, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, Victoria, 2020, x – 640, ISBN 9781925835366.

As a culmination of a decades long historical study on Evangelical Christianity, this is the second book that Piggin and Linder have produced on the effects of evangelism on nation making in Australia. Having focussed on the period between 1740-1914 in the first volume, the second details the crisis of the two world wars and the secularisation of Australian society after that. Rather than take a fatalistic approach, the book chooses to highlight the adaptability of the Bibles' message with hope directed to the future of Evangelical Christianity.



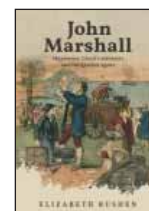
**Wonders Never Cease: 100 Australian Engineering Achievements.** Engineers Australia, Barton, ACT, 2019, pp iv – 236, ISBN 9781925627305.

In 2019, Engineers Australia (EA) celebrated their centenary with the publication of 100 impressive Australian engineering feats. Put together by volunteers from Engineering Heritage Australia, readers can discover how engineering has shaped how we deal with waste, the changes in approach to energy, the developments of roads and rail systems, innovation in defence, technology, manufacturing and agriculture and more. As the world tackles challenges such as climate change, economic failure, inequality and inclusion across every industry, EA also looks toward their next 100 years. Acknowledging gender disparity in the industry, EA hopes to encourage diversity in STEM subjects, which will hopefully not only enrich careers and lives, but help to solve the problems we face today.



**On Red Earth Walking: The Pilbara Aboriginal Strike, Western Australia 1946-1949.** Anne Scrimgeour, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, Victoria, 2020, pp viii – 510, pp 9781925835687.

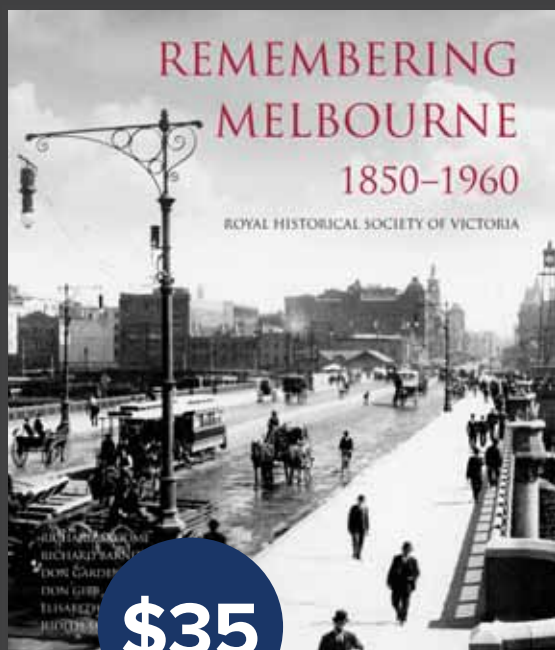
As Aboriginal communities continue to fight systemic and institutionalised racism in Australia, *On Red Earth Walking* is a breathtakingly relevant piece in today's socio-political climate. In 1946, Aboriginal workers walked off pastoral stations in WA's Pilbara region. Scrimgeour takes an Aboriginal centred research approach, combining archival evidence with important Aboriginal oral histories of the events. The book explores the intersection between colonial dominion and Aboriginal agency and link can be made between the activism of older Aboriginal generations with the younger, who have so recently been protesting for their very lives. For those who are interested in the historical links between current events and the recent past, this is an excellent book to sit with and read.



**John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's Reformer and Migration Agent.** Elizabeth Rushen, Anchor Books Australia, Melbourne, Victoria, 2020, pp vii – 206, ISBN 9780648061663.

Historians all know, and secretly search for that giddy thrill upon discovering a gap in the literature. I'm sure Rushen felt this way when undertaking her doctorate and stumbling across this 'footnote' in colonial Australian emigration history. John Marshall's fortunes waxed and waned three times in his life; he reformed British shipping ledgers, dabbled in coal mines, but, most importantly for Australian colonial history, served as an emigration agent for countless colonists seeking a new life across the sea. Rushen discovers Marshall to be a brilliant but flawed man whose defensiveness and bluster saw his reputation in ruin. This is an excellent book, taking Marshall out of the footnotes and into Australia's colonial narrative.

# REMEMBERING MELBOURNE & MELBOURNE'S TWENTY DECADES



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