

# HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.351 DECEMBER 2020



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**Melbourne  
Cup winner in  
stained-glass**

# What's on AT RHSV

## EXHIBITIONS

Our glorious exhibition *The Swamp Vanishes*, curated by Lenore Frost, has been extended until Friday 5 February so that everyone will have the opportunity to see it.

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

This exhibition traces how a significant wetland vanished from sight.

Our next exhibition is due to open at **5pm, Thursday 4 March 2021** so pencil that date in your diary.

## FLAGSTAFF GARDEN GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Chris Manchee is taking his very entertaining guided walking tours of Flagstaff Gardens again. The tours are at 11am or 2pm every Monday and cost \$10. Bookings on 03 9326 9288. Chris can often accommodate larger groups on other days too.

Visitors will climb Flagstaff Hill to consider its place in Melbourne's topography and

pre-European history as well as its early roles as a burial ground, flagstaff signalling station and magnetic and meteorological observatory.



## LECTURES

We are lining up lots of talks with authors from the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards for early next year: these will be hybrid events that you can attend in person or by Zoom.

## BOOK FAIR

Throughout lockdown everyone had spring-cleaning mania and we've benefited by accumulating a vast mountain of books for our world-famous second-hand history Book Fair.

Members evening will be **Thursday 18 February** before we open to the public so pencil that date in too.

## HOLSWORTH LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS

This year was a boom year for the Holsworth Local Heritage Grants and we were able to fund more projects, more fully than we have in the past. These grants have now enabled well over 100 publishing projects, focussing on regional Victorian history, to come to fruition. Every

year the bar is raised and we can see this in the flow-on to the Victorian Community History Awards. We are deeply grateful to Carol Holsworth for her vision and inspiration in establishing these grants which champion regional and rural history.

Congratulations to the successful grant recipients in 2020:

- Charlton Croquet Club
- Chiltern Athenaeum Inc
- East Gippsland Family History Group Inc
- Gippsland Association of Affiliated Historical Societies
- Heytesbury District Historical Society
- Romsey Lancefield & Districts Historical Society Inc
- Mortlake & District Historical Society Inc
- Stanley Athenaeum
- Warragul & District Historical Society Inc

Applications for the Holsworth Heritage Trust Grants close on the 31 July each year.

## Gift Membership

**Give RHSV Membership to someone you care about.** The RHSV is an active history hub enjoyed by some 900 individual history lovers from around the world and 350 other historical societies from across Australia. Members enjoy a subscription to the *Victorian Historical Journal* and *History News* and a full program of events in a friendly environment. There are also member-exclusive events, tours and viewings. Members use the library and collection free-of-charge, they also get discounts on room hire and image purchases and our Collections Manager, Jillian Hiscock, is there to help them with any research projects. During lock-down we continued to offer our members digital events and in future our members will have the choice of hybrid events: zoom and attendance.

Use our website's membership form for Gift Membership or phone Rebecca (03 9326 9288). We can send the membership to you or directly to the recipient.

[historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/](http://historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/)

Your gift helps us preserve our unique collection of manuscripts and images for future generations to enjoy.

## History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV  
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**COVER IMAGE:** Briseis: 1876 Melbourne Cup winner in Stained-Glass, photo by Ray Brown. See pages 12-13

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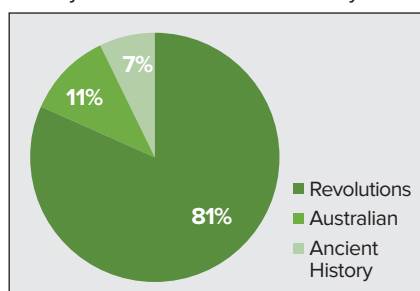
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# President's report

The Study of Australian History is like a curate's egg. At tertiary level it is in relatively good health, although the Humanities in general are under attack under the current restructuring of university fees.

In Victorian schools to Year 10, History and Australian History are covered at each year level. However, in 2019 at Years 11 and 12 it was at a much lower level and has been trending down for decades. About 15,000 students do a History 1 and 2 Unit, but not Australian History, at Year 11. In Year 12 over 83,000 do an assessable 3-4 unit; of those 5,811 or seven percent do a history. Of those seven percent of VCE students: 4719 do Revolutions; 649 do Australian History and 433 do Ancient History.



A new Australian History Study Design begins in 2022 but until recently no publisher had committed to publishing textbooks for this new course due to the economics of publishing for such low numbers.

However, Cambridge University Press has now committed to publishing four textbooks, one for each of the specific Areas of Study in the Study Design. They have done so, not in the expectation of any profit, but as a social good as they are strictly a not-for-profit publisher.

I am to be the general co-editor with a practising teacher Ashley Pratt, of the

series called 'Analysing Australian History'. I am also writing two halves of the four books and other RHSV members: Graeme Davison, Marian Aveling and David Harris are writers too, along with a group of teachers. We are proud to be giving back to Australian History after our years of teaching and researching in this area.

The four books each follow a theme, or Area of Study, and each student chooses two themes for their Year 12 study of Australian history. The themes are vital ones in Australia's past and reveal that our history is dynamic and at times revolutionary: as war, power and resistance creates upheavals that reshape relations between groups enhancing our freedoms: a strong and venerable democracy is created; and our ancient land is transformed and fought over. The four themes for investigation are:

- Custodianship to the Anthropocene
- Creating a Nation
- Power and Resistance
- War and Upheaval

Each book is composed of contextual narratives, many historical documents, key illustrations, questions and classroom learning modules shaped by teachers. The emphasis is on students learning from investigating documents and evaluating for themselves contested views about episodes in the past.

The RHSV is proud to be involved in this series. Indeed, we had contemplated a series of our own before deciding the massive task and punishing deadlines were prohibitive. We therefore warmly welcome and wholeheartedly support the commitment of Cambridge University Press to Australian History. Once the Study Design is live in 2022, all parties involved hope to grow Australian history numbers thereafter.

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Local historical societies can help by working with local schools that offer Australian History. The Federation of Australian Historical Societies provides valuable guidance to historical societies on how to connect to local schools. <https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Local-History-and-Schools-Curriculum-FAHS.pdf>

To understand our past is to comprehend our present and future more clearly. If we don't study our own history, who will?

**Richard Broome AM**

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## Heritage report: in praise of roadside trees

*Preparing to fell roadside trees on the Midland Highway; Mt Buninyong in background (photo Peter Hiscock, November 2019).*

Roadside trees are a much-loved aspect of Victoria's rural landscape and they often carry great historic significance. Awareness of the need to protect trees culturally significant to Indigenous peoples has been raised by the recent controversy over trees for the Western Highway Duplication and, indirectly, by Rio Tinto's appalling destruction of the Juukan Gorge rock shelters; you can see the RHSV submission to the parliamentary inquiry on this: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-makes-a-submission-to-juukan-gorge-inquiry/>. We strongly support the right of Indigenous Australians to protect their heritage.

In general, the trees which mark our roads should weigh more heavily in considering road projects, whether the trees be culturally significant to Indigenous Victorians or of social or historic value to non-Indigenous Victorians. The felling of trees for road projects has been and continues to be a major issue for the RHSV and for many of our local historical societies. Roadside trees often have historic significance. Some pre-date

European settlement and may have served as landmarks before the roads were built. Others were planted by early settlers from an instinctive sense that tree-lined roads were appropriate. Still others were planted to form Avenues of Honour after World War I or to prepare for the 1956 Olympics.

Roadside trees help us to make sense of our landscape. Tree-lined roads identify our paths. They show us where the road is and affirm us as we drive, offering us shade and comfort. Across Victoria, they define our rural landscape.

We can all remember the pain we felt when roadside trees were lost. From Ararat and Beaufort to St Kilda Road, Melbourne, many have been felled, some at great cultural and historic cost. I myself was deeply pained by the felling in 2016 of the great Flemington Road Gum at the entrance to the Tullamarine Freeway. Many of us still mourn the loss of the great trees of St Kilda Road.

In the country, trees constitute a major feature of the rural landscape. The Buninyong and District Historical Society last year protested in vain against the

planned removal of more than 400 trees to widen the Midland Highway. Many of these trees were very old growth Manna Gums, some planted to commemorate the 1956 Olympic Games. The Society argued that these trees were 'an essential part of the vista of Mount Buninyong'. They were part of a significant landscape overlay in the Ballarat Planning Scheme and formed an important wildlife corridor. The Society asked the Minister for Roads, Jaala Pulford, for consultation; but did not even receive the courtesy of an answer to their letter.

It's time to go back to the drawing board and ensure that current and future road projects give sufficient weight to the trees along our roads that form such an important part of the Victorian rural landscape. This is especially applicable to culturally and historically significant trees. Planting saplings as replacements is not sufficient compensation for either loss of heritage or loss of shade and wildlife habitat.

When we weigh up trees for road widening, are we thinking of the future? Most of our roadside trees were planted





Preparing to fell roadside trees on the Midland Highway (photo Peter Hiscock, November 2019).

before cars and trucks became our dominant mode of transport. When our forebears built the railways, they assumed this was the future, but within two generations the motor car began to challenge the railways. My grandparents grew up walking or riding on carts and buggies. How will my grandchildren travel? Can we assume that our transport won't change again? In a period of rapid technological change, facing climate change and global pandemics, change is likely. Will our grandchildren still need cars and trucks? They will certainly need trees. Roadside trees bear witness to our past. They give meaning to our rural landscape for all Victorians. We will need them long after we have found new ways to travel.

**Charles Sowerwine**

## WWI: *The Missing*

The unprecedented death toll of World War I generated a mass of grief. Particularly heartbreaking was the vast number of dead who were 'missing': their bodies never found.

A short documentary film, *The Missing*, celebrates two unsung Australian humanitarian efforts connected to the crisis of the missing in WWI: the Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau and the post-war Australian Graves Workers.

In 1915 the newly formed Australian Red Cross Society set up a volunteer network of Information Bureaus to help families of the missing discover what had happened to their loved ones. Integral to the network was Vera Deakin, young daughter of Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, who headed up the Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau's overseas offices.

"You're talking of hundreds, hundreds of Australians volunteering their time for the duration of the war," says Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, Chair of History at Flinders University and historian of the Australian Red Cross Society.

Then, for three years after the war ended, 1100 volunteer ex-servicemen and new recruits laboured on the now-silent battlefields consolidating burial sites into newly created cemeteries and locating missing bodies where they could. "Their role was to identify and exhume dead soldiers and then to rebury them, and photograph the place where the cross was marked for each soldier," explains Associate Professor Fred Cahir, historian at Federation University, whose grandfather Frank

volunteered for Graves Detachment work after surviving Gallipoli and the Western Front.

It was "a very grizzly job", says Associate Professor Cahir.

"They were working for the bereaved at home," says Dr Bart Ziino, a Senior Lecturer in History at Deakin University.

Many elements of the story connect Melbourne's history, as it was the Federal capital at the time of the World War I and the location of the Australian Red Cross Society headquarters.

Featuring rarely seen historic images from the Victorian RSL and Australian Red Cross Society archives the documentary includes interviews with Professor Melanie Oppenheimer and Dr Ziino and incorporates original music by Federation University Arts Academy Director Associate Professor Richard Chew.

Skilfully crafted and edited by director Jary Nemo, the eleven-minute film is a moving and visually rich reflection on war, grief, commitment and loss, a fitting vehicle to commemorate the centenary of the Great War's aftermath.

"I wanted to create something which feels cinematic and modern but connects you to what it might have felt like at the time," says Mr Nemo.

*The Missing* was produced by independent Ballarat based film-makers Wind & Sky Productions and is the first output of the 'Ordinary People in Extraordinary Circumstances' project collaboration between Federation University Australia, Wind & Sky Productions, Australian Red Cross Society and RSL Ballarat. It is supported by the Victorian Government through the Victoria Remembers Program.

A digital gallery, book and education resource kit are in production.

*The Missing* can be freely viewed online at: [www.windsky.com.au](http://www.windsky.com.au) or direct via the YouTube link <https://youtu.be/YwVDDXN6Lpk>



### *Thank you, Jackie Watts*

Cr Jackie Watts has stepped down from Melbourne City Council after ten years. During that time, she has been a great friend of the RHSV and has fought valiantly for the Queen Victoria Market and for heritage in general. We look forward to working with her in the future on other projects in which she continues her involvement.

# Sunbury Memorial Hall



When I was a child, I fancied that old buildings absorbed the energy of past events and people, and when the lights were turned off and the doors were locked, the ghosts of the past would cautiously emerge from the walls to re-enact good times and bad. To this day, when driving at night, I roll down my windows in a foolish attempt to catch echoing music and watch darkened windows with the childlike hope of seeing spectral forms dancing before my eyes.

Between the grand Rupertswood mansion and the abandoned but much loved asylum, lies the unassuming, but no less historic, Sunbury Memorial Hall. For most of 2020 it has lain dark and silent, as the community it serves sheltered in homes under a COVID-19 lockdown order. Built in 1885 and having been the witness to 135 years of a community's challenges and triumphs, I like to believe that Sunbury Hall has been alive with the ghosts of the past as we waited out the coronavirus threat.

Originally the Sunbury Mechanics' Institute, everybody who was anybody attended a grand opening ball on 2

September 1885. As a newspaper commentator speculated, the event was a 'grand shoost,' with a 'galaxy of youth and beauty' in attendance. The festivities were even graced by the presence of Sir William Clarke of Rupertswood mansion and Alfred Deakin, who gave an opening speech. Events at local halls can tell us what was important in small-town life, and the history of Sunbury Memorial Hall suggests that Sunbury residents were generous, lively, resilient and community minded.

## Snapshots of village life

For a time, the hall housed the Shire of Bulla Council offices. It was remodelled in 1922 due to a community wish to commemorate the town's participation in World War I and it was re-named Sunbury Memorial Hall.

At a fancy-dress ball in March 1923, Sunbury danced to the sounds of Maurice Guttridge's jazz band until 2.00 am. Attendees cheered Miss Greta Curtis, who won first prize for her costume 'The Pink Lady'.

Tragedy struck on 28 March 1938 when, just before midnight, the hall caught alight. Firemen were able to save the council offices and the returned soldiers' clubrooms, but the hall and rear buildings were lost. It was rebuilt using the design of architect Stuart Calder and is the building that Sunbury residents enjoy today. Architectural features include 'a mixture of stripped classical motifs such as the fluted pilasters which flank the central entrance and edge the corners, and the flattened triangle of the parapet.' The main hall is fronted by an entrance, with a central hallway that leads to meeting rooms on either side. There are auxiliary rooms at the back, a kitchen and a stage.

On the 8 November 1941, the annual Sunbury flower day was held at the hall with proceeds aiding St Andrews Presbyterian church. The feature was a display of roses which came from a famous garden in nearby Bulla.

A bazaar was held at the hall on 5 August 1950 in order to raise £1,000 for repairs to St Mary's church. There were several stalls: sweets, cakes, a man's stall, a





c1920s Built as the Mechanics Institute in 1885 and taken over by the Shire of Bulla in 1922 to be remodelled as the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Image provided courtesy of the Hume Civic Collection

jumble sale and a refreshment stall. Mr Beggerly won a milking cow in a raffle.

Ten young debutants were presented on 22 August 1951, to a crowd of 500 attendees. The young ladies danced the delightfully named 'Parma Waltz'.

In modern times, the hall plays host to the Sunbury Neighbourhood Kitchen, the Market on the Green, pro wrestling, model train shows, bluelight discos and blood donation; it remains a social hub for the entire community.

Every time I pass by the Sunbury Memorial Hall, I imagine that in the quiet hours of the evening, you might hear faint sounds of a lively violin and the stomping of dancing feet. Perhaps just quiet muttering of serious men discussing matters of business, or smell an intangible perfume of roses. In the month of March, you might catch a whiff of smoke and the alarming crackle of flame. Maybe you see a fabulously coiffed young lady in an elaborate white dress dashing into the hall out of the corner of your eye.

More likely you've noticed none of these spectres, and they went about their ghostly business unnoticed during lockdown. However, we are now cautiously beginning to emerge from our homes and will once again set up market stalls, attend lectures, commemorate our war dead, and remain the generous, lively, resilient community Sunbury has been for over 135 years. The hall will be witness to it all.

Lee Sulkowska

Inscription: 'A memento of a Firemen Ball, Sunbury 26.8.36'

Image provided courtesy of the Hume Civic Collection



**THE FLORAL BALL.**  
**A GREAT SUCCESS.**  
On Tuesday night the much talked of Floral Ball, which had been postponed from the previous Thursday so as not to clash with the Rev. Father Gallivan's entertainment, was held in the Sunbury hall, and must be classed as a decided

## SUNBURY QUEEN

Sunbury, 25 miles from Melbourne, will stage its own Coronation ceremony on Monday night, Coronation Eve.

Townpeople at a Coronation Ball in the Sunbury Hall will see a queen crowned, and a tableau representing the London Coronation ceremony.

## LECTURE ON HOME RULE.

AT THE SUNBURY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

A lecture was delivered at the Sunbury Mechanics' Hall on Tuesday evening by the Rev W. Currie on the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone's "Home Rule Bill." The attendance, no doubt

THE DISTRESSED OF  
SUNBURY.  
COMPLICATED OPINIONS.  
AN ENTERTAINMENT TO BE  
GIVEN.

A public meeting was held at the Sunbury Mechanics' Hall on Wednesday evening for the purpose of procuring a scheme to relieve the existing local distress. The meeting was attended by a number of gentlemen interested.

## "DANGEROUS TO DEMOCRACY"

Reform Proposals

SUNBURY, Wednesday. The leader of the United Australia party (the Hon. Mr. Agnew) spoke at the Sunbury Memorial Hall in support of the candidature of the Hon. Mr. A. G. Wilson, who is the rising member.

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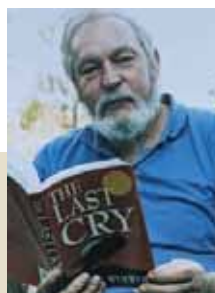
# The self-taught historians:

## Arnold Rex Harcourt OAM

(1925-2020)

## and Michael Francis Woiwod

(1929-2020)



Mick Woiwod



Rex Harcourt

A strength of the RHSV has been its support for both the amateur and the academically trained historian. My early-career work as an archivist at the Public Record Office, Victoria introduced me to dedicated, even obsessed, researchers who had made themselves the complete expert on their chosen topic. Many never published. Few that did were great writers, but they were indefatigable in their research. If you sought an obscure fact on their topic, you went to them first.

I have this in mind in acknowledging the recent deaths, in their nineties, of two men I would call self-taught historians, Rex Harcourt and Mick Woiwod. Neither played a part in the work of the RHSV, though both at times used the Society's resources. Both were deeply involved as volunteers in local and special interest historical societies. Both made notable contributions to the study of Victoria's history, including indigenous history. And both began writing history only in their retirement.

Mick Woiwod, born at Ferntree Gully to English parents, grew up in Frankston and attended St Bede's Mentone, an education that he said provided 'good sport but little intellectual stimulation'. He finished without completing his Leaving Year 11 Certificate. A bricklayer by trade, three times Mick literally built his own homes. The last of these three was the one he loved best. In the 1980s, with his wife Marg, family and friends, he spent weekends making mud bricks on site and building Wombolano, by the Yarra River at the unique Bend of Islands, in the hilly Christmas Hills territory between Kangaroo Ground and Yarra Glen.

Mick turned to formal study only as he

neared 60, when hip problems forced semi-retirement. In his lively, self-published 2011 book, *Round & round the mulberry bush: an autobiography*, he explained that he had always been an avid reader of Australiana; and, increasingly, 'anything to do with this country's Aboriginal people'. Now he successfully applied to La Trobe University to enrol as a mature age student in history. Reading was one thing, writing another. He recalled his first 300 word assignment: 'Back in 1989, it was way beyond my capacity to put pen to paper'. He mastered the skill. Professor Richard Broome was one of his acknowledged mentors at La Trobe.

Mick finished his degree and was invited to continue with an honours year. A spell in hospital derailed its completion, but his project soon enlarged into a community history centered on his local Christmas Hills. Mick was a determined man and a natural publicist. Amazingly his first book, *Once around the Sugarloaf: the transformation of a Victorian landscape and the story of its people*, was completed and published within a year, and sold its print run.

Mick's Sugarloaf book revealed a distinctive voice and style. He had a gift as a storyteller, a rare appreciation of the natural environment and an imaginative capacity to wind back time to evoke the people who had lived in and changed those landscapes.

Mick joined the Eltham Historical Society and helped create the innovative Andrew Ross Schoolhouse Museum at Kangaroo Ground. In local resident Bruce Nixon, Mick found another essential mentor. Bruce, inaugural president of the C.J. La Trobe Society, ran his own imprint, Tarcoola Press. He commissioned

Mick to write a history of Kangaroo Ground, *Kangaroo Ground: the highland taken*. Significantly, he then backed Mick's scheme of writing an historical novel about the local impact of white settlement. The result was *The Last Cry* endorsed by Wurundjeri elders. Mick revised and reissued the novel as *Wrath of the Myndie* in 2015.

Mick wrote several short community histories of Kangaroo Ground Cemetery, of Rye Cemetery, and Research Rural Fire Brigade. He transcribed and edited two important pioneer diaries. His saw the connection between indigenous history and contemporary issues, and was a prime mover in establishing the influential Nillumbik Reconciliation Group.

In 2012, again backed by Tarcoola Press, Mick published two documentary resource guides, *Birrarung Database* and *Coranderrk Database*. The latter won the RHSV-PROV Victorian Community History Award for a research project. His final book, on the Coranderrk reserve, was his *Culture clash: Barak vs the Black Hats of Melbourne* (2017). Mick's deteriorating physical condition enforced a move from Bend of Islands to Eltham, to a house with a bush view. Being wheelchair bound never stemmed his energy. In his final days he was completing a manuscript on his theories of massacre and Aboriginal dispossession at Kangaroo Ground.

Rex Harcourt similarly was fascinated by the story of first contact in Port Phillip District. Growing up in Preston, graduating in Commerce at Melbourne University, working as a Commonwealth public servant and raising his family in Northcote in the 1950s, Rex became absorbed



in collecting information about John Batman and commemorating the famous treaty and land claims of 1835. Batman's diary of his travels in Port Phillip had given rise to many interpretations, because it is imprecise and internally contradictory. Rex studied this and associated documents in detail, always intent on proving that the signing took place at a specific Northcote location by the Merri Creek.

The best overview of Batman historiography is Bain Attwood's 2009 *Possession: Batman's Treaty and the Matter of History*. His commentary underplays Harcourt's labours in pre-internet days in compiling data. In the intervening years the heroic view of brave Batman, founder of Melbourne, was giving way to one of bad Batman who met a sorry end. Rex found himself falling on the wrong side of history. He sought to put the record straight in his self-published book *Southern Invasion, Northern Conquest: the story of the founding of Melbourne* (2001). He claimed it made 'a convincing case

for the reinstatement of Batman – a person maligned in fiction and ignored as a person of good intentions'. Professor A.G.L. Shaw, expert on the period more broadly, gently chided the book in a review for the *Victorian Historical Journal* (Issue 257, 2002).

Less contentiously, Rex Harcourt laboured for years as a volunteer researcher at the Melbourne Cricket Club with a group that played an essential part in upgrading and professionalising the club's library. It is now recognised as one of the finest sporting libraries in the world. Locating new information from the MCC archives, Rex encouraged Professor John Mulvaney to update and reissue his 1967 book: the first published by that exceptional historian and archeologist and originally titled *Cricket Walkabout: the Australian Aboriginal Cricketers on Tour, 1867-1868*. Mulvaney accepted Rex as co-author when it was reissued in 1988 and again in 2015. Rex's final self-published work in 2003 was *My Fifth Gospel* where he set about putting the record straight on the life of Jesus.

It is tough trying to get published in Australian history, even for academics with high status, hard to get publicity and distribution. So, it is a tribute to the doggedness of both Mick and Rex that they achieved recognition in their own ways. Rex Harcourt in 2012 was awarded the OAM "for services to the community as an author, researcher and historian, particularly of the founding and early days of Melbourne and Victoria".

Mick Woiwod, who had struggled with 300 words in 1989, could claim by the end 25 publications. At his Covid-19 restricted funeral in September, a video link was made to Coranderrk, to Dave Wandin, a Wurundjeri elder, who performed a smoking ceremony in Mick Woiwod's honour. Mick, he said, had helped him understand the traditions of William Barak and the truth, pain and joy of the people of this land.

What historian could ask for a better accolade? Just like William Barak, Dave explained, Mick went as the wattle bloomed.

**Andrew Lemon**

## History Victoria Support Group: Resilience and tenacity shines through



*The remains of Genoa School*

As we research the stories and legacies of our forebears, we are often struck by their resilience and the tenacity which saw them overcome so many difficulties. Future generations will no doubt make a similar reflection on 2020 and wonder at what a strange and difficult year it was for us.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, many museums have been able to open, while others have not. How do you socially distance in the confined spaces of a water tower, a bunker or the small rooms of houses and offices now converted to museums. The challenges for many continue.

And for some, such as the Genoa School museum lost in the New Year fires, there won't be a return to a 'new normal' at all. The fire was a blow to the district and to all who had a connection to the site both as a school, as a museum and as a repository

of so many local stories.

The finality of such an event spurs us all to ensure that our records are copied and duplicated to guarantee they are preserved for future generations. And some times it is the obvious that is overlooked; have you recorded your museum and its displays on a regular basis?

While we can be grateful for the electronic advances which have made keeping in touch much more practical for most, there was a grinding halt to many activities, from research to fundraising; but little cessation of those bills which still have to be paid.

Many groups will experience ongoing impacts on activities and membership. Some are positive with an increased online presence for many and providing presentations online, which have drawn greater numbers than physical meetings

traditionally have attracted. However, most of the changes will provide yet more challenges for the volunteers in charge of caring for and presenting our history.

We will just have to keep working with government at all levels to ensure they recognise the worth of our work.

Please contact the History Victoria Support Group to let us know about your upcoming projects and what areas we should target for training and information resources in the future.

I do hope you all have a great Christmas after this very strange year. As someone said recently, 'I'm staying up until midnight this New Year's Eve to make sure 2020 leaves'.

**Pauline Hitchins**

Convenor HVSG (RHSV)

Phone: 0437 296925

Email: hvsg@historyvictoria.com.au

# 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 FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE** please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 4th January 2021.

**BALLAN:** From *The Ballan Times*: Thursday, October 11, 1945. 'Ballan Shire Patriotic and Comforts Fund - Forty parcels have been forwarded to the Food for the Motherland appeal, made by the R.A.N. for the bombed out children and war widows of the Motherland. Each parcel contains 16oz tins of lard, peanut butter and Horlick's malted milk, 12oz packet of mixed fruits, 4oz packet of fruit jelly crystals, two packets of Koolmints and tin of Mayfair ham loaf.'

**BOX HILL:** At the conclusion of the AGM, on Sunday 15 November, the Committee will be pleased to welcome fellow Committee member, Rev. Shane Hubner, to present to the meeting, on the subject 'The Anglican Community in Box Hill - 130 years in the making, with plans for the next 130!' Shane, who is the current Vicar of the Box Hill Anglican Parish, will provide an examination of the development of the Parish, from humble beginnings in 1889 to its multi-cultural focus in 2020.

**CAMPERDOWN:** It's time to remember that 'Past Matters'. In other words, it's time for the latest edition of our newsletter and at last it appears on our Facebook page. Lots of different subjects covered in this edition - have a look at the contents list - and it's full of heaps of good reading - including the interesting 'Every Picture Tells a Story'. Visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/camperdownhistory](https://www.facebook.com/camperdownhistory) or website at [www.camperdownhistory.org.au](http://www.camperdownhistory.org.au)

**CORNISH:** Last Chance for the 'Agan Kernow Project' (Our Cornwall). It's the last chance to write down a story or two about your Cornish ancestors and your memories of visiting Cornwall. Your stories don't even have to be typed: just send us what you have and we will gladly edit them. We have received stories from all over Australia, Canada and the United States. Even the New Zealanders have now promised to send us some stories as well. We won't close off the project until the end of 2020. Your edited story will be sent to you for approval. When we have enough material, the CAV will send to a publisher a book or an anthology of stories about 'Our Cornwall'. Phone: 0400

309 469 Email: [pkicons29@bigpond.com](mailto:pkicons29@bigpond.com)

**ECHUCA:** For an easy stroll or drive in the Echuca Heritage Precinct an Audio Poetry Trail is available to residents and visitors. Several poems inspired by our heritage, the natural environment and the atmosphere of this special place can be heard. Visit the Poetry Trail page at [echucahistoricalsociety.org.au](http://echucahistoricalsociety.org.au) and scroll down to 'The Poetry Trail' and listen to the poems. QR codes are displayed at the five listening stages indicated by Poetry Trail plaques. By following the map (GPS) and using a SCAN app on a smart phone, visitors may listen to readings of these poems which acknowledge our early peoples, those who came afterwards and the ever-challenging river and bush.

**LEONGATHA:** The Seven Historical Wonders of Gippsland. Which seven historic sites would you choose if you were selecting the seven historic wonders of the South Gippsland Shire? The historians of Gippsland came up with the idea of having a region wide Facebook poll to come up with the Seven Historical Wonders of Gippsland. The historical networks from each shire in the region have been working to come up with a list of historic wonders for their shire. The nominations were posted on a history Facebook page related to that shire and the public has been invited to vote. Due to security concerns only those who are members of the group Gippsland History were able to vote. You can join the Gippsland History Facebook group by applying on that page. The results are in; see them at: <https://bit.ly/2IVSpD3>

**LINTON:** For those of us who lived through the 1960s and 1970s, those times seem like yesterday, and don't yet feel like an historical era. However, they are very much part of our modern history, and in not too many years will be ancient history for a new generation. We have become aware that the Society is lacking in historical material relating to this era, so we are keen to build up this collection. Accordingly, we would be very grateful if you have any donations you could make that would help preserve the stories of that era in Linton. We would love to hear from you if you believe you have any

documents that help to tell the story of those fascinating and transforming times. Photos or newspaper cuttings about businesses or town events, photos of social gatherings, school photos of the late '60s and early '70s, memorabilia from sports events, or even a photo of you dressed in flares and looking like a member of ABBA would be particularly welcome. If you are not sure whether something might be of interest, please phone, 03 9489 5939 or 0439 895 939 or email the Society: [enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au](mailto:enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au)

## MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE:

In April 2020, the federal government granted the Mawson's Huts Foundation (MHF) \$321,000 for a 2020-2021 expedition to conduct urgent conservation work on Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison. Expedition Manager and six others will depart Hobart late 2020 to spend up to six weeks at the historic site. The French Antarctic programme will transport the team on the voyage south. It will be the 16th expedition organised by the MHF. The program will include major work on the fragile Transit Hut, used by Mawson in 1911-14 and take star sightings to determine its exact position. This is pleasing and aligns with the MMHN approach to conservation - looking 'forward' in the installation of an automatic weather station to monitor the changing climatic impacts on the historic site.



**MOUNT EVELYN:** Hidden Histories of Mount Evelyn. In the past we have held exhibitions in October to coincide with History Week. This year we were inspired by other historical societies running online exhibitions because of the Covid-19 shutdown. We have many stories about Mount Evelyn which are tantalisingly



brief: 'This boy reckons he's found a tunnel', 'The friend of a mate of a friend said ...', 'I heard something in the bush which might have been a Panther'. But a History Group's role is to investigate the story and find facts to prove or disprove it. One of our stories is a collection of reports of Mount Evelyn ghosts. While we can't prove or disprove anything yet, a first step is to collect data. We invite you, our audience, to contribute information you might have to support or contradict the stories, and we hope some questions might be finally answered. We invite you to share your stories and provide new chapters. And thanks to the many people who have shared their stories and their photographs. We hope the exhibition will be launched by a small, possibly online ceremony before Christmas, but we will let you know when the exhibition is up and running on our Facebook page - Mount Evelyn History Group <https://bit.ly/393xpoD>.

**NARRE WARREN FAMILY:** Digital Annual General Meeting Wednesday 9 December 2020. 2020 has not been what anybody expected, but it has been a year of the 'first'. We invite you to join us for the 'first' Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc. Digital Annual General Meeting. There will be the formalities of any other AGM but this will be the 'first' AGM conducted via Zoom. It may be the 'first' time you are using Zoom - don't worry we plan to have the 'first' Zoom Training AGM. We will not have a guest speaker at this year's AGM, so we plan to have the 'first' digital group family history Q&A session afterwards. It will be the 'first' time that we can have our interstate and regional Victoria members join in the meeting. Be the 'first' to contact Eileen Durdin, our Secretary, at [Secretary@nwfhg.com.au](mailto:Secretary@nwfhg.com.au) if you want to attend either meeting. Eileen will forward you our 'first' Digital Annual Report and links to our 'first' Digital Annual General Meeting and to our 'first' Zoom Training Annual General Meeting.

**ROCHESTER:** The Rochester Historical & Pioneer Society will be open to the public as from Wednesday 11 of November 2020. Our Research team have been very busy conducting family research and we also have two new books that will be available for purchase from the 11 November. *Channels of hope: the Nanneella Timmering district celebrates the centenary of irrigation and education* is a 316 page book on the Nanneella

& Timmering District, written by the members of the Nanneella Timmering Heritage Group. The second book is a 306 page family history of *A Family History of Cornelia Creek Run and the Simmies* which covers the history of the settlement of Victoria and Cornelia Creek squatter's run from the 1840s until today, written by Mike Hamblin a maternal descendant of George Simmie.

**SANDRINGHAM:** The very popular *Gipsy Village Walk* booklet has been out of print for some time. We have been working on a new edition with up to date photographs, some text updating and editing. The booklet is now with our volunteer graphic designer. Once this work is finished, it will be available as an eBook from our online shop, and once finances permit, it will be published in hard copy. We are delighted to advise that one of our members, Dr Cheryl Threadgold OAM, has been awarded the 2020 Collaborative Community History Award by the Public Records Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for her book, *In the Name of Theatre*. Our congratulations to Cheryl and don't forget the book can be purchased through the online shop on our website: <https://sandringhamhistorical.org.au/product/in-the-name-of-theatre/>

**STAWELL:** We are still receiving donations during the lockdown. These include photos of the Warriors Football team (premiers 1954), Nalder's Garage in Patrick Street (1955 and 1962) and Navarre School (1910). A cricket blazer of the Stawell West Cricket team, which is in very good condition, has been donated. This Cricket Club ceased to exist many years ago. Our Society has also received the records of the Stawell Rifle Club (1915 to 2017) which includes minute books, ledger, competition lists and score books.

**WARRANTDYTE:**

85 years ago, on Saturday 9 November 1935, the Gold Memorial Cairn was unveiled. This commemorates the discoveries of gold at Andersons Creek, Warrantdyte, which led to the proclamation of the field as the first in Victoria. The cairn was built of stone sourced from Fourth Hill, the builder is not known. On the front face was a white marble tablet with an



inscription: 'Gold found here, June 1851 by Louis J Michel and party. Rewarded by Government as discoverers of the first goldfield in Victoria. Erected 1935'. The anniversary prompted the Society to ask for repair and restoration advice from a stonemason and the report has been forwarded to Parks Victoria for consideration.

**WERRIBEE:** Recently discovered by the Werribee Half Battery is a late Victorian 1½ storey hay loft and carriage house, Liverpool bond double brick on a blue stone foundation with a variety of window styles. The building was previously part of the depot of the noted local builders Rushford and Walsh and has been overlooked in the past as it is not on a street frontage. Given its location it may well be one of the outbuildings of the historic Beamish farm. The Werribee Historical Society has nominated it for a Council heritage listing.



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## Windows on history: Briseis, 1876 Melbourne Cup winner

In 1876 a horse named after Briseis, the legendary princess in the *Iliad*, became the first filly to win the prestigious Melbourne Cup. She was owned and trained by James Wilson at his St Alban's Stud near Geelong, and the Jockey, Peter 'St Albans' Bowden, was the youngest to ever ride in the Cup. In fact, Peter was not yet thirteen, the minimum age for a jockey when he led *Briseis* past the Flemington post to a roaring crowd of 75,000 for a one and a half length win over second placed *Sibyl* and third placed *Timothy*. She had a triple win of the Derby, the Oaks, and the Melbourne Cup all in the space of six days. At odds of 13:2 Wilson took the champions' purse of £1,775.

In 1891 Wilson commissioned the Ferguson & Urie stained-glass company of North Melbourne to create a tribute to Briseis for his new Camberwell home:

*'Last week we had the pleasure of inspecting 'Aire', the residence of Mr James Wilson, senr, late of St. Albans Geelong, the well known racing veteran... At the end of the hall is a door opening*

*into the breakfast room having a stained glass upper panel (manufactured by Ferguson & Urie, of Curzon street North Melbourne); in the centre of the panel is a medallion in which is painted the head of Briseis who won the Melbourne Cup in 1876... This panel presents exceedingly rich appearance. In the lower panels are painted racing trophies, jockey cap, whip, etc. painted in the colors of Messrs Wilson, senr and jun, these have been treated in a very artistic manner...'* - North Melbourne Advertiser, May 1891.

I came across this clue in 2011 and I had no idea if Wilson's Camberwell home still existed. A virtual Google Street view tour lead me toward the likely house and I contacted the owners. Amazingly, they knew a story of a window depicting a horse in the house over a century ago. The rumour indicated that when Wilson sold the house in early 1900 the furniture and contents would be included for sale, except for the Briseis window. That left me at another dead end.

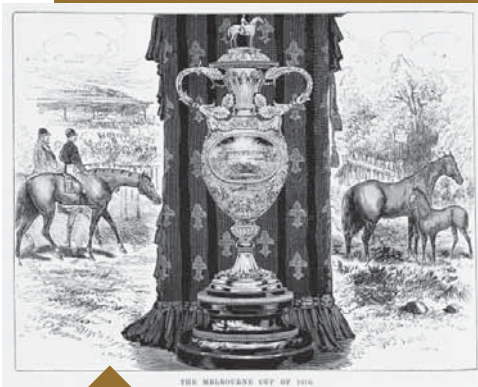
Months passed with no further clues until

I stumbled across an article from 1989 titled 'Form to Please a Horseman'. What piqued my interest was; *'... the glorious colors [sic] in the Briseis stained-glass door...'* in the review of the restaurant at 'Suma-Park' homestead, Marcus Hill near Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula. It turns out it that it had been one of Wilson's horse studs known as 'Frankfort-on-sea'.

I contacted Suma-Park in January 2012 and was excited to hear there was a window depicting a race horse. The owners were amazed to hear the history and invited me to visit. I had pre-conceived visions of a grand stained-glass tribute to the famous Melbourne Cup winner, but exuberant expectations rarely live up to reality. The only remaining section of the original window containing the roundel of Briseis is set into the top half of a lonely wooden door leading to the old smoking room, now relegated to storage for tableware.

Photo by Ray Brown





*Australasian Sketcher,  
2 September 1876, p. 4.*

The intricate and expertly detailed head of Briseis appears in the tiny roundel less than twenty centimetres in diameter. Surrounding Briseis are simple floral designs and textured glass in various colours. I believe it may have been the work of Charles William Hardess who was apprenticed to Ferguson & Urie circa 1873. Sadly, the whereabouts of other glass depicting racing paraphernalia that was described in the 1891 article is not known.

Between 1868 and 1886 only one Melbourne Cup trophy was awarded for the race, coincidentally in 1876 when Briseis was the victor. The Gold Etruscan shaped cup had two handles and was the first to be made in Australia by the Austrian immigrant Edward Fischer. The Geelong Racing Club has many tribute items to Briseis: there's the Briseis Cup, an exclusive members' club, a viewing stand of the track from the members' room, a tribute cabinet and the annual Peter St Albans Jockeys' Trophy. The Victorian Racing Club has the annual Briseis handicap on their Flemington calendar.

In 1879 Briseis was sent to stud but reared and fell backwards in the stable fracturing her skull and was put down. She was inducted to the racing hall of fame in 2015.

The Jockey, Peter Bowden, died in 1898. His funeral was recorded as the largest of the time at Geelong, yet he was buried a pauper. The exact location of his grave at the Eastern Cemetery is not recorded.

James Wilson died at Marcus Hill in 1917 and has an imposing monument at the Melbourne General Cemetery. The location of his gold Melbourne Cup trophy remains a mystery to this day.

Further information can be found at:  
<http://fergusonandurie.wordpress.com>

**Ray Brown**

## The Anglican Historical Society

The Church of England, now Anglican, Historical Society was established in 1955. It was at a time when a number of parish churches were celebrating their centenaries, with a corresponding heightened interest in matters historical.

The focus of this interest was the diocesan Mollison Library and its librarian, the Reverend Sydney Smith. In September 1954, a letter in *The Anglican* sought expressions of interest from those interested in forming an historical society for the Diocese. An inaugural meeting was held on 26 November 1954 with a sparse attendance of six. An annual subscription was set at five shillings. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Bishop John McKie on 29 July 1955, on 'Some aspects of the History of the Diocese of Melbourne' to an attendance of 47 persons.

The historical society has three main aims:

1. To promote interest in and understanding of the history of the Diocese of Melbourne, its parishes, its institutions and its individual clergy and laity.
2. To collect and preserve material relating to the history of the Diocese. This is now forwarded to the Diocesan Archives in North Fitzroy.

3. To encourage and assist the publication of historical writing about the Diocese.

The Society has met at various locations over the years; St Paul's Cathedral Crypt and other rooms in the Cathedral buildings, Trinity College, and now at Holy Trinity, East Melbourne.

The late Bishop James Grant AM was involved with the Society since its inception, and it was he who, as Patron, found speakers on subjects relating to historical anniversaries, centenaries and sesquicentenaries.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of February to June, and September to November. The meetings commence at 6.30pm and conclude by 8pm.

The Society also makes occasional visits to churches, institutions, and conducts occasional cemetery walks.

We do not have a website, but for further information please contact the Secretary, Roger Meyer, at [roger.meyer@bigpond.com](mailto:roger.meyer@bigpond.com).

All are welcome to join and the annual subscription is \$25.



*Bishop Grant introducing members to 'prime Anglican Territories'.*



*Bonegilla: Newcomers were provided with a meal within an hour of arrival.*

*'Migrants collect their meal (rear), and help themselves to tea (foreground), in the dining-hall at Bonegilla, Victoria, 1949 NAA Series/Control symbol*

*A12111, 1/1949/22/8' <https://bit.ly/36VE5CF>*

## Wodonga through and beyond the Second World War

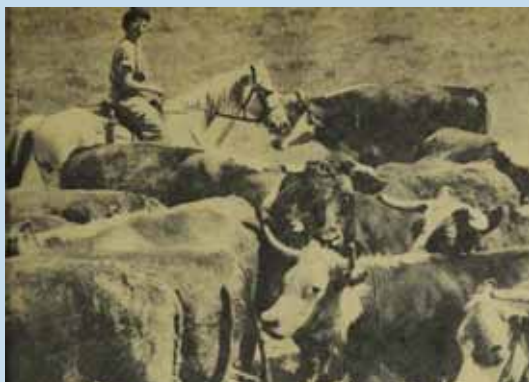
An online exhibition, 'The impact of the Second World War on Wodonga and its surround', just launched traces the era as it impacted a Victorian country town, during then after the war.

Wodonga, with Albury, was strategically important at the break of railway gauge. During the conflict, the railway junction was improved. Huge military encampments were built at Bonegilla and Bandiana, so that troops and their equipment could be rushed north or south in case of invasion.

Wodonga became a garrison town. It doubled in size helping to provide food and recreational needs for the 11,000 service personnel stationed in the district.

The exhibition invites viewers to explore reports on Trove about how the war and its aftermath were reported in the local press and in national popular magazines. So, for example, one issue of *Pix* on 5 December 1944 featured a story on how Elyne Mitchell was coping at nearby Towong Hill: 'Husband a prisoner, woman runs big fat stock station'. The same issue applauded the way a





*'Expert: Many women prefer to see cattle from a distance, but they hold no terrors for Mrs. Mitchell. She knows all the finer points of fat stock raising.'*

Pix (1944) 'Husband a prisoner of war: Women runs big fat stock station', 5 February, p8-9, National Library Australia <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-389050162>

local entertainment group had hospitably mustered to support the soldier lads and lasses stationed in the district: 'Albury's Victory Vanities'.

Post-war Wodonga was called upon to be the immediate host community for the arrival of large numbers of displaced persons at Bonegilla. Two magazine illustrative stories drawn from *Australian Women's Weekly* show how immigration department publicists tried to allay community concerns about the arrival of non-British displaced persons. The first features the carefully stage-crafted arrival of the first cohort in 1947: 'Romance in the air at Bonegilla's migrant camp'. The second, two years on, tries to allay community concern about the treatment of the displaced persons at Bonegilla: 'Tense drama of fight for migrant babies lives'.

The outbreak of peace was a transitional time, and the exhibition traces something of the clamour of ideas about how the post-war years might be different.

The planning to establish a Murray Valley Region drew Wodonga and its cross-border, bigger sister town Albury closer together. It marked the awakening of a cross-border solidarity that continues stubbornly, even defiantly, 75 years on through a pandemic.

The online exhibition was supported by the Victorian Government and the Victorian Veterans Council as part of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two Grant Program.

<https://historywodonga.org.au/the-impact-of-the-second-world-war-on-wodonga-and-its-surrounds/>

**Bruce Pennay**



*Holdenson and Nielson Fresh Food Pty Ltd supplied milk, butter, cheese and ice to the military camps and, then, to the Bonegilla Migrant Camp. It made and delivered 60 gallons or 273 litres of ice cream to Bonegilla each week. Thank you for June Shanahan and her family album.*



*Cantani Arch, St Kilda*

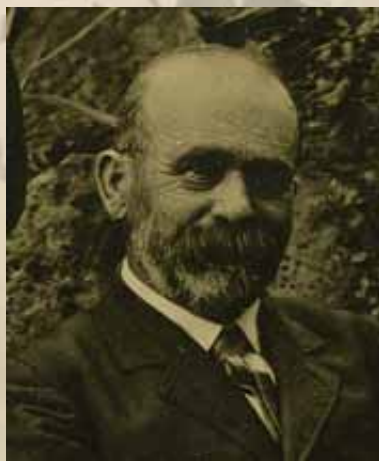
## Carlo Catani's vision

Many recreational pursuits we still enjoy today were enhanced by an Italian migrant described as seeing 'possibilities to which others were blind'.

Parks, gardens, lakes, and access roads to popular tourist destinations can be credited to civil engineer Carlo Catani who spent the majority of his career with the Victorian government. Some of his work might be recognised by his name but not everyone appreciates the significance of his contribution. St Kilda's foreshore and gardens, Alexandra Avenue and Gardens, Mt Buffalo's Lake and roads to attractions such as Mt Buffalo, Arthurs Seat and Mount Donna Buang all benefitted by his vision and commitment.

Significantly, he was also responsible for the draining of the Koo-Wee-Rup and Moe swamps. His Village Settlement Scheme encouraged workers to make their own commitment to the development of the area and became a benchmark in helping the unemployed regain employment and independence. The tiny township of Catani recognises the engineer's contribution over a couple of decades to the success of this huge project. There's even a locally grown potato that is named after him!

Carlo Catani (1852–1918) came to Australia, via a brief stopover in New Zealand, in 1876 with two other Italians who were also to make their mark on Victoria. Ettore Checchi (1853–1946) became a hydraulic engineer and played a significant role in Victorian and New South Wales irrigation schemes and Pietro Baracchi (1851–1926) who became



*He is credited with the vision which saw its transformation to today's Heritage-listed Catani Gardens.*

the Government Astronomer at the Melbourne Observatory.

Catani joined the Public Works Department and was soon involved with a number of significant projects, quickly rising through the ranks to become Chief Engineer of Public Works in 1892. In 1896, under Catani's supervision, a section of the Yarra River was widened and improved upstream from Princes Bridge which has allowed for the safe passage of both people and vehicles from the south to the north.

As the Yarra works, and the Monier concrete Anderson Street bridge, now the Morell Bridge, he championed and supervised, were underway, Catani started work on Alexandra Avenue. This included planting a variety of trees, ensuring the river banks would always look lush and green, providing a grand entrance to the city and developing the adjacent gardens which allowed the 'citizens to promenade around a circuit formed by both sides of the river and the Princes and Anderson Street bridges'.

In the early 1900s Catani was involved in two major projects: a road up to Mt Buffalo and a recreational lake named after him, and the development of St Kilda foreshore.

The road to Mt Buffalo, another project providing work for the unemployed, opened a significant year-round tourist attraction for the state. Lake Catani has bought pleasure to swimmers, skaters,

canoeists, and fishermen among other visitors.

However, it is Catani's work on the St Kilda foreshore which is probably his most lasting legacy. He was appointed to the multi-government St Kilda Foreshore Committee in June 1906 to work on the reclaimed foreshore. He is credited with the vision which saw its transformation to today's Heritage-listed Catani Gardens.

The palms, winding paths and rockeries, now part of St Kilda's signature image, were Catani's vision to create 'a European style resort atmosphere' providing among other features 'a long promenade for the summer girl to display her figure and dainty garments'. The Foreshore Committee secretary, H. O. Allan, who provided the earlier quote regarding Catani's vision, described him as 'a landscape genius if ever there was one, [responsible for] the engineering work, together with the beautification.'

"It would be hard to say to what enormous extent Melbourne is indebted to this artist," said Allan, referring to the 'expansive lawns and beautiful palms, vistas, eminences, and graceful curves', in Catani's design 'with none of your diamonds, crescents, and grave-like beds breaking the lawns...'

After 41 years in the public service, Catani retired in 1917 but, at council's request, remained involved with the committee. He died in July 1918 at the age of 66.

When the clock tower, which had also

been part of Catani's vision, was erected in 1932 to honour him as 'A Great Public Servant of Victoria 1876-1917', *The Sun* describe him as having transformed the foreshore 'from reeking marsh to garden beauty'.

Marking the centenary of his death, 'Carlo Catani: Visionary, Creator, Genius,' an enlightening bi-lingual exhibition showcasing his life and significant achievements was presented by CO.AS. IT. Italian Historical Society at the Museo Italiano in Carlton. The exhibition ran from 20 November 2018 to 23 March 2019 and in 2019 the exhibition was awarded the Victorian Community History Historical Interpretation Award.

While the foreshore may evoke St Kilda's heyday as a resort for promenading, reflecting both Edwardian formality and the festivity of a seaside resort, it is still a popular destination today with regular markets and other events in normal times and an ideal exercise venue for walking, cycling, skating, running or promenading in COVID and other times.

**Pauline Hitchins**



# The Victorian Community History Awards in Challenging Times



Amanda Scardamaglia received the Victorian Premier's History Award for her book *Printed on Stone*

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Public Record Office Victoria constantly improvised this year to allow the Victorian Community History Awards to proceed despite the lockdown caused by COVID-19. Emily Maiolo, the outstanding project officer, meticulously recorded 176 entries, the second highest ever received. She emailed digital projects to the judges while Rosemary Cameron, the RHSV executive officer, ran an express delivery service of books. The judges worked at home and held meetings using Zoom.

Instead of the traditional prize-giving at the Arts Centre, Tara Oldfield, Communications Officer at PROV, arranged announcement of results on 28 October by video on social media. Videographer Ben Milward-Bason combined films taken of presenters at home into a masterful video. Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM, president of the RHSV, and Danny Pearson, Minister for Government Services, introduced the event. Justine Heazlewood, Keeper of Public Records, PROV, and Professor Alistair Thomson announced the category awards while historian Catherine Andrews, who has had a long association with the VCHA, read out the citation for the Victorian Premier's History Award.

This year the RHSV organised four judging panels. Carole Woods, OAM, chaired the central panel, working with Dr Gary Presland and Dr Helen Doyle. Belinda Ensor, creative producer at the Tiny Empire Collective, chaired Digital Storytelling and cooperated with Seb Chan of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and Dr Jo Clyne of the History Teachers Association of Victoria. On the initiative of Professor Alistair Thomson, the VCHA entered into partnership with Oral History Victoria. Alistair chaired the Oral History category, deliberating with Elizabeth Triarico, manager of the Italian

Historical Society, and Alicia Cerreto, president of the Professional Historians Association (Vic.). Associate Professor Seamus O'Hanlon chaired the History Article category, assisted by historians Dr Carolyn Rasmussen and Alicia Cerreto.

The best entries this year again showed the hallmarks of excellence, diversity and originality. At a time when lockdowns devastated the performing arts, the competition featured several glowing tributes to theatre in Victoria. Cheryl Threadgold's remarkable collaborative book *In the Name of Theatre* portrays more than 150 musical and non-musical amateur theatre companies scattered across the state. Rachel Fensham and Andrew Fuhrmann were joint winners of Digital Storytelling with their entry on *La Mama: The Biggest Little Theatre in Australia* while Jen Rose, in partnership with The Boîte, took the Community Diversity Award for the vibrant multicultural digital entry, *The Boîte. History through Music, Song and Story*. Amanda Scardamaglia's *Printed on Stone* has a stunning section on theatre posters.

War has been a strong theme in the Awards since commemoration of the centenary of World War I. Lucy Bracey's *Annie's War*, illustrated by Gregory Mackay, gained the Historical Interpretation Award. This poignant story of the war from a child's perspective is closely based on family letters and the memories of Annie's daughter. A collaborative book marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II won the Local History Project Award. *Blood, Toil, Tears & Sweat* by Patrick Ferry with Wally Nye includes many documents relating to the Pakenham district.

The innovative character of the VCHA was exemplified this year by the augmented reality game *Misadventure in Little Lon* by Emma Ramsay and Andy Yong. The judges

related the brilliance of this entry to the 'bold use of mobile locative storytelling' and its 'great capacity to share this history with a broad and diverse audience other mediums struggle to reach'.

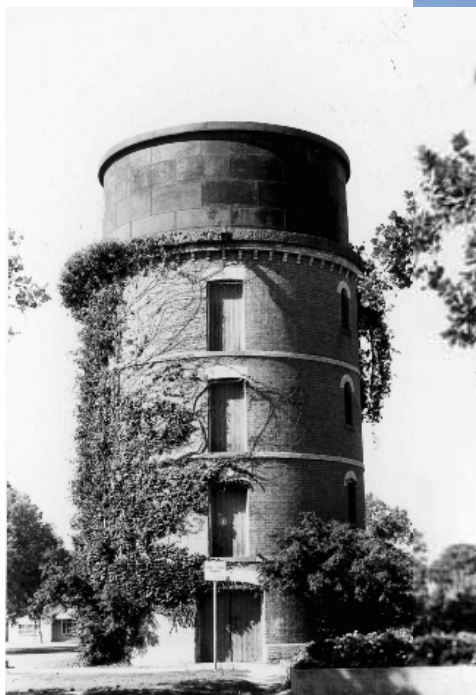
Amanda Scardamaglia's book *Printed on Stone. The Lithographs of Charles Troedel* claimed the Victorian Premier's History Award. Based on the huge Troedel archive in the State Library of Victoria, this book has multiple dimensions. It is a history of 19th century Australian advertising 'through the lens of the lithograph', a study of how a technological breakthrough can affect social patterns, and a cultural history, firmly grounded in Melbourne. Visually splendid, this book blends scholarship with popular appeal.

The first prize-giving for the Victorian Community History Awards was held in Toongabbie in 1998 and regional Victoria has remained a strong presence in the competition. A sense of belonging, attachment to place and community, has been a constant theme. Digital entries are increasing each year but continue to be outnumbered by books. Although the competition was suspended in 2006 and nearly extinguished in 2010, it is now an established, prestigious part of Victoria's cultural calendar. As I stressed in my article in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, June 2013, monetary rewards are relatively small but contestants above all value recognition.

The competition has immeasurably strengthened community history in Victoria and remains unique in Australia. In recent years the prize-giving has been held at the Arts Centre Melbourne, thus giving community history an honoured place in the arts precinct of Victoria.

**Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV**

Chair of the central VCHA Judges' panel, 2020



## Tower showcases more Sale history

Sale, in Central Gippsland, now boasts four museum sites and local historian Peter Synan has been a key player in each of them. A long-time member of Sale Historical Society, he's been the lead archivist and researcher at the society's main museum in the original Borough of Sale council chamber on Foster Street for many years.

Peter was Mayor of Sale in 1983 when the original railway station was moved from its unusual location on a spur line into the town and the site replaced with a shopping centre. He was among those who ensured the original signal box was retained and is now a small railway museum. In the early 1990s, he discovered the town's Powder Magazine, neglected and overgrown and modified as a residence, but with its signature barrel vaulted ceiling, designed to limit any explosion, still intact. Opened in 2000 after extensive works, the Powder Magazine is a unique and outstanding example of a purpose-built facility, now serving as an interpretive centre for Gippsland gold. In 2016 Peter Synan showed these sites and the unique Swing Bridge to the

visiting Heritage Council of Victoria and outlined the work which had been done to restore these important local heritage sites. Peter's passion, knowledge and commitment to the heritage of the area was obvious and he was chosen as the 2016 recipient of the Heritage Council's Ray Tonkin Heritage Volunteer Award. The award included a \$2000 cheque, which Peter ambitiously chose to use as the seed-funding to restore an early brick water tower in Sale's Victoria Park. Starting with that \$2000, Peter Synan has led the redevelopment of the 1888 brick tower in a restoration and redevelopment project worth around a quarter of a million dollars. Water supply for the Borough of Sale was quite contentious for many years: was the town of less than 500 large





*Johann August (John) Niemann was a pioneer of the use of artesian water and under Niemann's guidance, Sale was the first municipality in Australia to trial artesian water as a public water supply.*

*Previous page:*

*Left: Sale. Brick Water Tower. Victoria Park, cnr. Marley and Cunninghame Sts. Photographer Collins, John T. March 9, 1984 <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/4122630>*

*Right: The restored Sale water tower.*

*This page:*

*A wood water pipe on display.*



enough to justify a reticulated system? Where would the funds come from? How could a water supply compete with the need for a town gas supply and a canal to link the railway with the lakes?

For a time from the late 1870s, the locals were diverted by the availability of artesian water. Johann August (John) Niemann was a pioneer of the use of artesian water and under Niemann's guidance, Sale was the first municipality in Australia to trial artesian water as a public water supply. Peter reports that Sale's artesian well of 1880, when water rose as high as 43 feet above the surface, caused much excitement and many inquiries from water authorities Australia-wide. However, there were endless issues with the water corroding the pipes: later lined with a casing of Californian Red Pine. Residents still had their own rain tanks and had to use water carriers to deliver water or collect it from the bore or the river.

An 1886 proposal for a reticulated system using water from the Thomson River was defeated by ratepayer ballot, no doubt influenced by council Health Officer Dr Macdonald who emphasised

the pollution from mining, farming and other activities along the river. A further poll in 1887, sweetened by the inclusion of a swimming pool, voted in favor of the scheme.

The engineer for the new proposal was John Harry Grainger, father of composer, arranger and pianist Percy Grainger. Grainger snr. was also responsible for the 1883 Swing Bridge at nearby Longford.

Both Niemann and Grainger are recognised in the new Water Tower museum with one level each featuring their work. The top level, termed the observation deck, provides a great view of the surrounding streets and landmarks such as the Cathedral and Lake Guthridge.

The project wasn't all smooth sailing: rampant ivy had to be removed from the brickwork, repointing, plans to reuse the floorboards on each level were thwarted by their poor condition, competition with cockatoos over the timber wooden window frames and a never-ending quest for funding to complete the project.

But many local businesses and individuals came to the party with donations of goods, services and specialty skills. One of the few existing timber window inserts was replicated for all the openings, new floorboards were installed and polished, a metal staircase replaced the wonky ladders and professional exhibition boards were installed on each floor. Water history memorabilia, from wooden pipes to valves, was donated and others donated special fittings and a donation box.

And a bonus of this project is, of course, being able to view other landmarks around Sale: an opportunity not to be missed.

With an enthusiastic team of volunteers, the water tower opened each Saturday afternoon after its opening in April 2019, attracting dozens of visitors each time until forced to close under COVID-19 restrictions. The narrow staircases make social distancing tricky to manage but the team will be back just as soon as possible.

**Pauline Hitchins**

# History Victoria Bookshop

**239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne 3000**  
**Mon- Fri 9am – 5pm**

## VERA DEAKIN AND THE RED CROSS

Carole Woods

HB | 244PP | 66 IMAGES

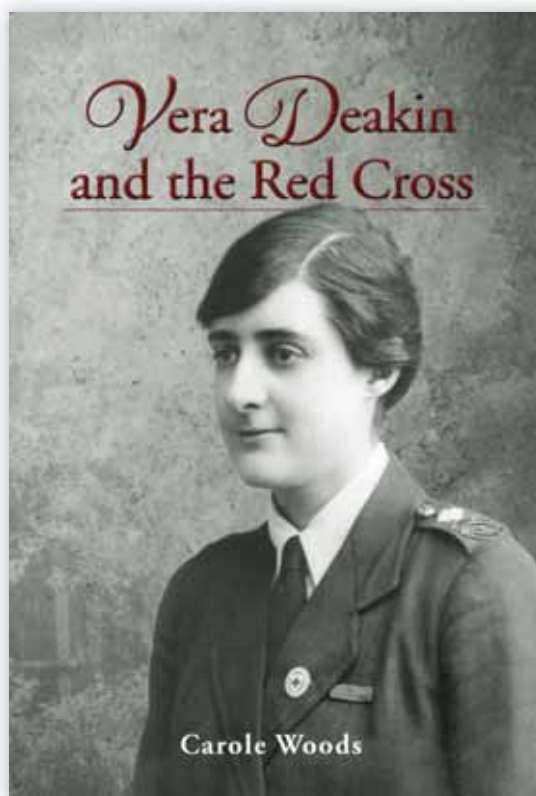
**\$35**

Vera Deakin, daughter of Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, was motivated by imperial fervour during World War I to sidestep the Australian government's restrictions on women's service. On the eve of WWI she was studying music in Budapest but later joined the fledgling Australian Red Cross and sailed to Cairo. There she became founding secretary of the Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau, an organisation devoted to finding information on behalf of the relatives of Australian soldiers who had gone missing or been wounded or killed during the war, then focused at Gallipoli. She was 23 and formidable. A self-styled despot, she welded a disparate group of women into a committed team. Scientist Sir David Rivett said Vera brought 'an infinity of consolation to so many people'. In 1916 she moved the bureau to London. In 1918, at just 26, she was awarded an OBE for her service to the bureau. She led similar work for the Red Cross in Melbourne during World War II.

In 1920 after a whirlwind romance, Vera married Captain Thomas White, an Australian pilot who had served in the Mesopotamian campaign before being captured by the Turks. She undertook varied welfare work together with lifelong service to the Red Cross.

Vera was honoured during her lifetime but later largely forgotten. The centenary of World War I revived interest in her and the Enquiry Bureau's 32,000 case files on missing soldiers. Now Carole Woods has captured this significant figure in Australian history through her perceptive and poignant biography. Carole explores Vera's humanitarian activism within the defining events of the 20th century and shines a light on a woman who defied society's expectations in order to help those in need.

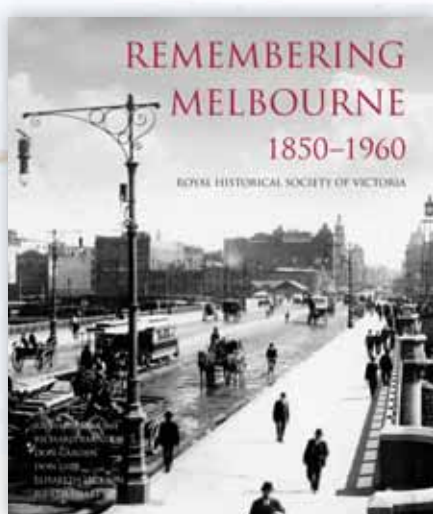
Carole Woods OAM, is a Fellow and honorary secretary of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. For 7 years she chaired the judges' panel of the Victorian Community History Awards. Her books include *Vision Fugitive*. *The Story of David Allen* and *Beechworth. A Titan's Field*. She lives in Camberwell.





# History Victoria Bookshop

The History Victoria bookshop is fully open again and is bursting with gorgeous books that will please every member of your family this Christmas. During lockdown our on-line bookshop was sending books around the world but nothing beats coming in to browse..



## REMEMBERING MELBOURNE 1850-1960

Ed Richard Broome, Richard Barnden, Don Garden, Don Gibb, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart

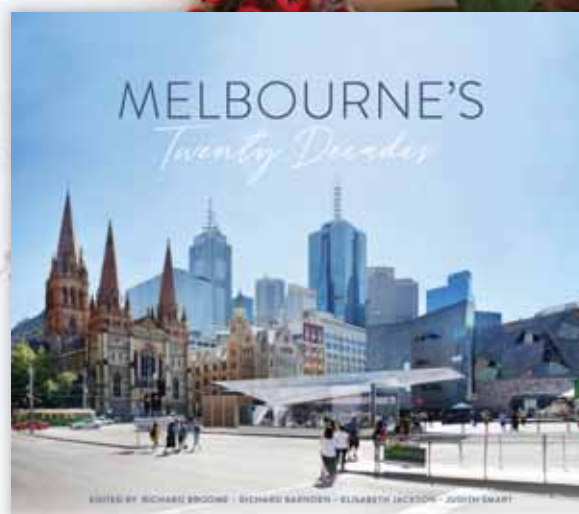
HB | 366PP | 679 IMAGES

**\$35**

Every house and every business in Melbourne should have a copy of this magnificent homage to our marvellous city. Melbourne has been reshaped since the 1950s, the completion of ICI House in 1958 being symbolic of the glass tower revolution that changed the face of this graceful nineteenth century city. This book captures what has been lost and forgotten, concealed and overlaid, demolished and reborn, in the transformation of a city's buildings and streetscapes. Each chapter is introduced by a short essay written by an expert, catching the essence of that precinct.

**The first half of this book looks lovingly at Melbourne's inner city which is examined street by street. The second half goes further afield and there are chapters looking at Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell-Hawthorn-Balwyn, Canterbury, Carlton, Coburg, Collingwood, East Melbourne, Essendon, Fitzroy, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Middle Park, North & West Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond, Sunshine & district and Surrey Hills.**

This book is a priceless trove of a city's memory.



## MELBOURNE'S TWENTY DECADES

Ed Richard Broome, Richard Barnden, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart

PB | 148PP | 167 IMAGES

**\$28**

Melbourne had two foundations. The first was in deep time as an Aboriginal place, about 50,000 years ago. The second was when European settlement began on the Yarra in 1835, a mere 185 years ago. This book which devotes a chapter to each decade of Melbourne's history, starts in deep time and then follows the development of this great metropolis until we are projecting the future in the 2020s. Each chapter has been written by an expert historian and is lavishly illustrated with images from the RHSV collection.

**Authors: Jill Barnard, Richard Broome, Michael Cannon, Graeme Davison, Don Garden, John Lack, Andrew Lemon, Andrew May, Seamus O'Hanlon, Judith Smart, Charles Sowerwine.**

As a lighter book than *Remembering Melbourne*, this is an ideal gift for posting overseas or interstate.

# History Victoria Bookshop



## "BONLEIGH" GRAND DAME, BELOVED HOME

Abigail Belfrage  
HB | 240PP | 200+ IMAGES | **\$75**

**Commended 2020 Victorian Community History Awards**

Bonleigh, in its eponymous avenue in Brighton was originally built on 5 acres that ran down to Port Phillip Bay. For her current owners Jill Davies & Graeme Samuel it was love at first sight in 2015 when they were introduced to Bonleigh. Jill commissioned Abi Belfrage to research and write not just the history of the house and its owners but to tie it into a broader context, the social history of Melbourne during Bonleigh's occupation. This large format book spans the European history of the land from 1852 to 2015.



## PENGUIN LAND

Gregor Buchanan  
PB | 155PP | 110 IMAGES | **\$25**

Summerland housing estate was the last place Philip Island's threatened penguin colonies were to be found. Greg Buchanan traces the history of the penguins and Philip Island and how John Cain's government bought back the land and turned a suburb into a national park.



## ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

Richard Broome  
PB | 336PP | 68 IMAGES | **\$35**

In the creation of any new society, there are winners and losers. So it was with Australia as it grew from a colonial outpost to an affluent society. Richard Broome tells the history of Australia from the standpoint of the original Australians: those who lost most in the early colonial struggle for power. Highly regarded, fully updated for this fifth edition.



## ARADALE THE MAKING OF A HAUNTED ASYLUM

David Waldron, Sharn Waldron & Nathaniel Buchanan  
PB | 170PP | 8 IMAGES | **\$29.95**

Built in 1867, the remarkable Gothic structure of the former Ararat Lunatic Asylum, known as Aradale, is acclaimed as 'Australia's most haunted building' and is home to a flourishing dark tourism industry. Throughout its history it has seen transformations in western society's treatment of the mentally ill, and it has participated in some of their darkest scandals.



## A GUIDE TO HISTORIC ST KILDA

David Willis  
PB | 276PP | 249 IMAGES | **\$39.95**

**Commended 2020 Victorian Community History Awards**

Nearly everyone in Melbourne has a St Kilda story. David Willis' new book tells the stories of many of the places you've visited in the suburb and hear some nifty facts you may not have known. Where was the alpaca paddock? Who has the Palais chandelier? Was there a Banksy painting in a St Kilda laneway?



## WALTZING MATILDA AUSTRALIA'S ACCIDENTAL ANTHEM

W. Benjamin Lindner  
PB | 352PP | 80 IMAGES | Was \$32.99 **Now \$24**

This song that started as an accidental collaboration in outback Queensland in 1895 caused the death of a seven-year relationship and went on to inspire a nation during WWII, following Banjo Paterson's death in 1941. Forensically examines many of the myths which have accrued. With a foreword by Geoffrey Blainey.



## MALDON A NEW HISTORY 1853 - 1928

Brian Rhule  
HB | 382PP | 73 IMAGES | **\$50**

**Winner 2020 Victorian Community History Awards**

Maldon was declared a 'notable town' by the National Trust (Victoria) in 1966. This is a history of key social, economic and cultural developments in the former gold mining town and its community. It examines the discovery of gold, the formation of a township, the emergence of early gold mining companies & social organisations, and the politics of 'labour and capital'.



## THE GHOSTS HAVE NEVER LEFT

John & Marie Watt  
PB | 270PP | 134+ IMAGES | **\$39.99**

In words and images this beautiful book captures both the glory days and haunting reminders of 21 Victorian gold rush towns, which today are either small, sleepy, or non-existent. The lights of Cobb & Co, the pen of Henry Handel Richardson, the sinking of the HMAS *Sydney*, and the birth of an iconic wine, all have a link to at least one of the towns explored.



## JUDGING FOR THE PEOPLE: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COURT IN VICTORIA 1841-2016

Ed Simon Smith  
HB | 308PP | 130+ IMAGES | Was \$60 **Now \$50**

In the 179 years since controversial Judge John Willis convened the first Supreme Court sittings, the court has been a window on the people and events that have shaped the history of the state. Copiously illustrated, *Judging for the People* contains robust contributions from 13 distinguished law and history scholars and is a splendid large format book.



# History Victoria Bookshop



## GRANVILLE STAPYLTON. AUSTRALIA FELIX 1836 SECOND IN COMMAND TO MAJOR MITCHELL

Gregory C. Eccleston  
HB | 250PP | 225+ IMAGES |  
**\$145**

### Winner 2018 Victorian Community History Awards

This gorgeous large format book is generously illustrated with colour photographs and maps. Assistant Surveyor Granville Stapylton's intimate journal is here published as a faithful transcription from the original field books for the first time. This expedition proceeded down the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers into far western NSW, before crossing into what is now Victoria and proceeded south past the Grampians to the coast at Portland, before returning via Mount Macedon to the settled areas near Gundagai.



## VISIONS OF VICTORIA. THE MAGIC OF KODACHROME FILM 1950-1975

Nick Anchen  
HB | 184PP | 170+ COLOUR  
IMAGES | **\$70**

### Winner 2020 Victorian Community History Awards

A journey back in time to a very different place with red trains and green trams, Moomba parades, FJ Holdens and men wearing hats viewed through the wonders of Kodachrome. Features: Melbourne Street Scenes & architecture, 1954 Royal Visit, 1956 Olympic Games, Flinders Street station, MCG, 1972 Melbourne Flood, Moomba parades, Melbourne suburbs, Ballarat, Bendigo and rural Victoria plus Melbourne's railways, tramways, shipping and aviation.



## JOURNEYS INTO CHINESE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY HISTORY

Ed Sophie Couchman  
PB | 191PP | 30+ IMAGES | **\$25**  
**Commended 2020 Victorian  
Community History Awards**

Members of the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria (CAFHov) demonstrate that the challenges in researching their Chinese ancestry are not insurmountable and you don't have to face them alone. The book covers both the diverse paths CAFHOV members have travelled in order to understand more about their families are described & the historical sources and skills which are valuable to those researching their Chinese ancestry.



## PRINTED ON STONE. THE LITHOGRAPHS OF CHARLES TROEDEL

Amanda Scardamaglia  
HB | 232PP | 124+ COLOUR  
IMAGES | **\$69.95**

### Winner 2020 Victorian Premier's History Award

This book is the first to document the visual history of print advertising in Australia and in so doing provides a valuable illustrated social history of Australia. Charles Troedel (1835–1906) was a master printer and lithographer, and the face behind the production of most of Australia's early advertising posters, product labels, and other print ephemera, as well as the iconic Melbourne Album.



## YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE JOINED. GENERAL SIR PETER COSGROVE A MEMOIR

Peter Cosgrove  
HB | 426PP | 47 IMAGES |  
**\$49.99**

### Signed by the author

General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) is one of Australia's most significant public figures. As a soldier he saw action in Vietnam, winning the Military Cross & becoming Chief of the Defence Force. In 2014, Cosgrove became Australia's Governor-General. His memoir allows us an incredible insight into the role and world of Australia's Governor-General. He was there as two prime ministers were toppled by their own party. He was there through disasters both natural and man-made, such as the destruction of MH17.



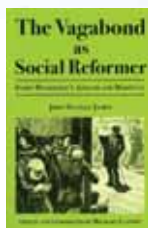
## BLUE LAKE. FINDING DUDLEY FLATS AND THE WEST MELBOURNE SWAMP

David Sornig  
PB | 392PP | 30+ IMAGES | **\$35**

### Winner 2019 Victorian Community History Awards

David Sornig examines how the 8km-square zone to the west of Central Melbourne became the city's blind spot. Once a fertile wetland with a large blue saltwater lagoon, it passed through various incarnations: from boneyards and rubbish tips; through the Depression-era Dudley Flats shanty town; to the modern-day docks. Sornig weaves social history, geographic meandering and the personal with concepts of belonging, identity, race and class into the Blue Lake narrative. Don't forget to visit our exhibition, The Swamp Vanishes, which traces the disappearance of Sornig's Blue Lake.

# History Victoria Bookshop



## THE VAGABOND AS SOCIAL REFORMER. INSIDE MELBOURNE'S ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS

John Stanley James, Ed Michael Cannon

PB | 239PP | 83+ IMAGES | **\$20**

This is the writing that has inspired many others. 'The Vagabond' was the alias of a famous nineteenth century journalist, John Stanley James. Under various guises he infiltrated Melbourne institutions and, taking humble employment, was able to observe their daily operations. His reports led to important reforms and a degree of social justice for the poor, the unemployed, and the unfortunate.



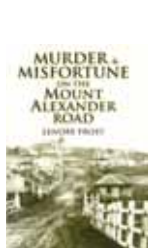
## POOR SOULS THEY PERISHED: THE CATARAQUI - AUSTRALIA'S WORST SHIPWRECK

ANDREW LEMON & MARJORIE MORGAN

PB | 192PP | 56+ IMAGES | **\$29.95**

### Winner of the Wilke Literary Award

2020 is the 175th anniversary of Australia's worst civil disaster. A sailing ship stranded just 150m off the deserted shore of King Island, isolated by rows of reefs; victims clinging, for up to 2 days, to the disintegrating vessel. The miraculous rescue of the few survivors by an ex-convict, the response to the news in Melbourne and England, and the gruesome aftermath of burial and salvage complete the tale.



## MURDER & MISFORTUNE ON THE MOUNT ALEXANDER ROAD

LENORE FROST

PB | 80PP | **\$10**

Based on selected coronial inquests held in the district of Essendon, Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale and Flemington between 1840 and 1866. The evidence presented at the inquests are eye-witness accounts of events in the early days of the settlement.



## IN THE NAME OF THEATRE. THE HISTORY, CULTURE & VOICES OF AMATEUR THEATRE IN VICTORIA

Cheryl Threadgold

HB | 343PP | 250+ IMAGES | **\$45**

### Winner 2020 Victorian Community History Awards

Cheryl Threadgold's sumptuous book, *In the Name of Theatre*, is a kind of encyclopaedia of the Victorian stage. From early colonial settlement when entertainment included the viewing of executions, amateur theatre has come a long way. Amateur companies from across the state are documented & we are entertained with a cavalcade of writers, directors, performers, designers, set builders, technicians, judges, critics and musos. This book is a celebration of and for theatre lovers across Victoria.

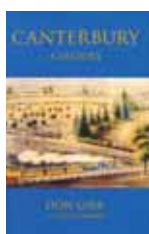


## MY COUNTRY ALL GONE THE WHITE MEN HAVE STOLEN IT. THE INVASION OF WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY 1800-1870.

Fred Cahir

PB | 348PP | 42+ COLOUR IMAGES | **\$55.95**

This book chronicles the three waves of colonial invasion in the Ballarat + Geelong districts by the ngamadji — 'the white stangers from the sea'. Using the invaders' own words, the author presents a challenging history of the colonial invaders' interactions with the Wadawurrung between 1800-1870.

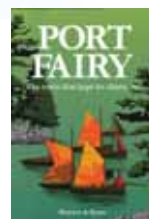


## CANTERBURY A HISTORY

DON GIBB WITH JILL BARNARD

HB | 187PP | 50 IMAGES | **\$45**

Covers the history of Canterbury, Victoria from its Aboriginal history as part of the country of the Wurundjeri people to its completed development as a prosperous middle-class suburb by the late 1950s. Noted for its conservative politics and Protestant moral values as well as its leafy streets and large homes.



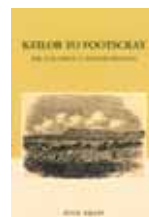
## PORT FAIRY THE TOWN THAT KEPT ITS CHARACTER.

MARTEN A. SYME

HB | 295PP | 77 IMAGES | **\$42.50**

### Winner 2019 Victorian Community History Awards

Syme has reviewed the published histories and examined activities, people and events in greater detail. These segments cover contact with the indigenous inhabitants; whaling; the town in the 1840s and 1850s; the commercial dealings of James Atkinson, William Rutledge and their associates; and the shipping business. In the twentieth century the story has a wider horizon.

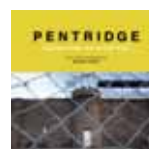


## KEILOR TO FOOTSCRAY. MR SOLOMON'S MARIBYRNONG

Rick Keam

PB | 123PP | 59 IMAGES | **\$34.95**

Before the punt near the junction of the Saltwater & Yarra rivers at Footscray, a circuitous track from Melbourne to Geelong crossed the river at 'Solomon's Ford'. But where exactly was it, and who was Solomon? Rick Keam has sought answers by walking the riverbank and re-examining contemporary documents and historic photos. His fresh account of the Solomon era is placed in a wider context, from early exploration, through the degradation of the river, to its rehabilitation as today's Maribyrnong.



## PENTRIDGE VOICES FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Rupert Mann

HB | 279PP | 141 COLOUR IMAGES | **\$49.99**

Pentridge was, for 146 years, an integral, if unwanted, part of Melbourne's identity. Within the decaying walls of this once-shining fortress, 15 people, former inmates and staff, return to their memories and to Pentridge — to bear witness to its end, to tell their stories and to be photographed amongst the decay, as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.



# History Victoria Bookshop



## ALBERT 'POMPEY' AUSTIN: A MAN BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Roy Hay

PB | 265PP | 63 IMAGES | **\$29.95**

This book follows in detail the life and times of 'Pompey' Austin (1846–1889) who endeavoured to exist in both a white European culture and his own indigenous culture. From taking the athletic world by storm by winning foot races, to cricket, racehorse owner, jockey, boxer, horse thief, artist, explorer, savant, entertainer and musician to playing for Geelong in the 'new' Melbourne football he was one of the most important multi-sports Indigenous persons of that era.



## ST KILDA FAMILIES. MEMORIALS IN CHRIST CHURCH

Jennifer F. O'Donnell

PB | 243PP | 158+ IMAGES | **\$40**

This book details the history of Christ Church St Kilda until the start of WWI in 1914. Part 2 then introduces some of the ways the war affected the St Kilda community, and the development of local war memorials, especially the one at Christ Church. Part 3 profiles the men and women who served in the war and part 4 profiles past parishioners who have memorials in the church.



## THE WORLD IS ONE KILOMETRE: GREVILLE STREET, PRAHRAN

Judith Buckrich

PB | 213PP | 200+ IMAGES | **\$50**

This book begins in the 1830s and leads to the Greville St we know and love which found fame with its groovy music venues, clothes shops and eateries in the last 30 years of the twentieth century. In the 1970s it was a venue for Captain Matchbox Whoopie Band whose members lived in the street as did Chrissie Amphlett. Photographer Rennie Ellis 'captured' the street for decades. His studio was on the same corner where Marcus Clarke had lived in the 1870s after one of his many bankruptcies.



## THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF WILLIAM BUCKLEY. MURRANGURK AMONG THE FIRST PEOPLE

Robert Larkins

PB | 248PP | 14 IMAGES | **\$44**

William Buckley was a British soldier who fought against Napoleon, but a drunken escapade led to transportation to Australia, an escape from custody and 30 years of isolation among the First People who sheltered him. Known to his saviours as 'Murrangurk', Buckley learnt their language and forgot his own. When eventually Europeans returned and conflict between them and the First People flared, Buckley was at the heart of the tumult.



## OUT OF THE MADHOUSE. FROM ASYLUMS TO CARING COMMUNITY?

Sandy Jeffs & Margaret Leggatt

PB | 255PP | **\$34.95**

**Winner 2020 Victorian Community History Awards**

Larundel Psychiatric Hospital was 'the madhouse on the edge of town' – until the 1990s, a Melbourne cultural icon shrouded in mystery in the outer suburb of Bundoora. This story takes us into the heart of Larundel through the voices of former inmates and staff. It shows the shifts in psychiatric treatments, the social forces at play, and changes driving mental health policy.



## IN THE SHADOW OF THE PROM. EARLY SOUTH GIPPSLAND TIMES, TALES AND TRAMLINES

Mike McCarthy

HB | 286PP | 200+ IMAGES | **\$66**

A history of the early settlement of south Gippsland from Foster to the Mullungdung forest north-east of Yarram. The development of the towns and the importance of coastal shipping to their survival is comprehensively covered. It includes extensive details and maps of numerous tramways, which provided transport from the coast before the coming of the South Gippsland Railway.



## MADNESS & THE MILITARY. AUSTRALIA'S EXPERIENCE OF SHELL SHOCK IN THE GREAT WAR

Michael Tyquin

PB | 262PP | 16 IMAGES | **\$44**

Michael Tyquin deals with war neurosis or 'shell shock' in the years after WWI. He breaks new ground; the psychological casualties, the mental debris, of that war have been largely forgotten. He describes a neglected generation of war veterans and challenges long-cherished myths surrounding the commemoration of their war and examines the treatment of wartime psychological casualties.



## THE ACCIDENTAL TOWN. CASTLEMAINE, 1851 - 1861

Marjorie Theobald

PB | 330PP | 44 IMAGES | **\$39.95**

**Commended 2020 Victorian Community History Awards**

The alluvial gold rushes of 1851 spawned a ramshackle village known as the Canvas Town which later became Castlemaine. The first decade is rich in characters and egos. They were astonishingly young, assertive and determined to shape a better way of life. 'The Accidental Town' recreates an era when Castlemaine was poised precariously between a mining camp and a settled town.



## HOW THE WEST WAS ONE

Ed Karyn Howie & Sue O'Brien

PB | 268PP | **\$29.99**

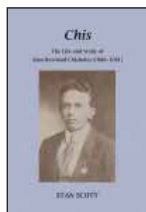
A heart-warming collection of memoirs about growing up in the western suburbs of Melbourne during the 1950s, '60s & '70s. These eye-witness accounts will appeal to anyone who loves the western suburbs or has an interest in the post-war years of multi-cultural Australia.

# Books received

John Schauble

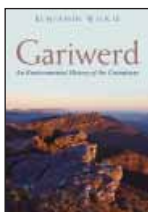
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

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



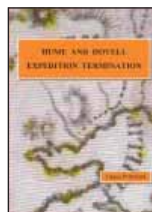
**Chis: The Life and Work of Alan Rowland Chisholm (1888-1981).** Stan Scott, Ancora Press, Monash University, 2019, pp. v-219, ISBN 9780648118985.

A couple of generations after his retirement as a professor at the University of Melbourne, the significance of A.R. Chisholm's role in the intellectual life of the city and the nation might seem difficult to fathom. 'Chis' gained prominence as an intellectual through both scholarship and his contribution to the history of education. Interrupted by service in the First World War and driven by the moral crisis of the second, his contribution to journalism, Australian literature and to the education of generations of students taught was immense. His 25 years of 'retirement' were among his most productive. This biography written more than 30 years ago, has only seen publication through an extraordinary effort.



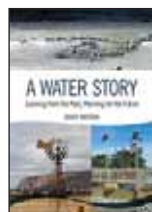
**Gariwerd: An Environmental History of the Grampians.** Benjamin Wilkie, CSIRO Publishing, Clayton South, 2020, pp.iii-134, ISBN 9781486307685.

This new history of Gariwerd traces the influence of humans upon this environment across thousands of generations. It begins by looking at its geology and landforms, climate, water, soils, plants and animal life. A second approach traces the human interactions with the landscape, how this has changed and how it has transformed the environment. The third aspect of this history is an approach to the landscape in terms of how people have thought about Gariwerd, colonising and reimagining it as the Grampians and then realigning it back to the Jardwadjali and Djab wurrung. Historian Benjamin Wilkie has written a thoughtful and illuminating exploration of this unique part of Victoria.



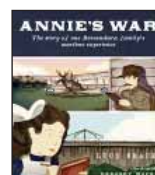
**Hume and Hovell Expedition Termination.** Lance Pritchard, Sunshine West, 2019, pp. 1-104, ISBN 9780646816814.

The premise of this slim volume is simple enough: the overland Hume and Hovell expedition in 1824-25 ended not at Corio Bay as has commonly been believed, but at the Werribee River. Hume and Hovell were charged by the Governor of NSW, Sir Thomas Brisbane, with finding new grazing lands in the south of the colony. Lance Pritchard visited the State Library of Victoria in 2018. On display was a foldout map attached to an early account of the trek. The map showed a dotted line indicating where the expeditioners ended their travels. It finished well short of Geelong. Pritchard has since chased down a range of maps and other materials to support his thesis.



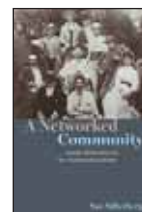
**A Water Story.** Geoff Beeson, CSIRO Publishing, Clayton South, 2020, pp.iii-289, ISBN 9781486311293.

Not just in Australia but across the globe, the scarcity of fresh water has already become one of the defining issues of our age. This account of water use in Australia past, present and pointing to the future helps readers to enhance their understanding of why the water crises in this country are not about to go away anytime soon. The interconnected nature of Australia's river and other natural water systems means that the parochial dialogues of the past are no longer relevant. Finding a workable solution to water management and use in the driest continent will take an understanding of the issues raised here so that historic blunders are not repeated.



**Annie's War.** Lucy Brace, City of Boroondara, Camberwell, 2019, pp. 1-59, ISBN 9780958087414.

This book for younger readers uses handsome illustrations by Gregory Mackay to supplement the family story of seven-year-old Annie Slade. Annie's father has joined up to fight the distant war in Europe. But the war touches those at home too. This is Annie's story of growing up in Kew in a country at war but far removed, at a time when newspapers carried the great and increasingly tragic news of the day. An offshoot of the Boroondara Remembers project to mark the centenary of World War One, the story is partly fictionalised but based in large measure upon Slade family letters. This story of a family at war will help another generation understand its futility.



**A Networked Community: Jewish Melbourne in the 19th Century.** Sue Silberberg, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 2020, pp.vii-243, ISBN 9780522876345.

Many will know something of the wave of Jewish migration to Melbourne before and after WWII. Oddly less familiar is the Jewish community that thrived here for many decades from the very beginning of settlement at Port Phillip. By 1860 the first Jewish colonist had taken his seat in the Victorian Parliament. The community prospered and became influential across the sweep of commerce, the professions, especially the law, and the press but not the public service. This was a sophisticated urban community, which developed with few civil or political constraints, adapting its religious observance to suit the colonial circumstance. Silberberg has presented an important account of Melbourne's early Jewish community, its history and influence.