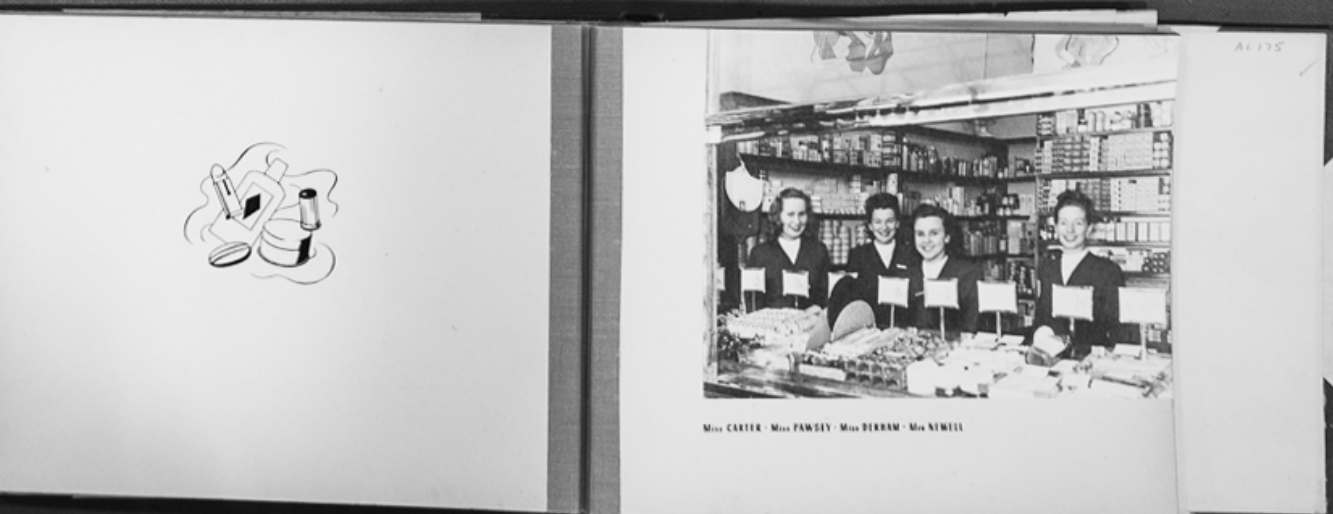
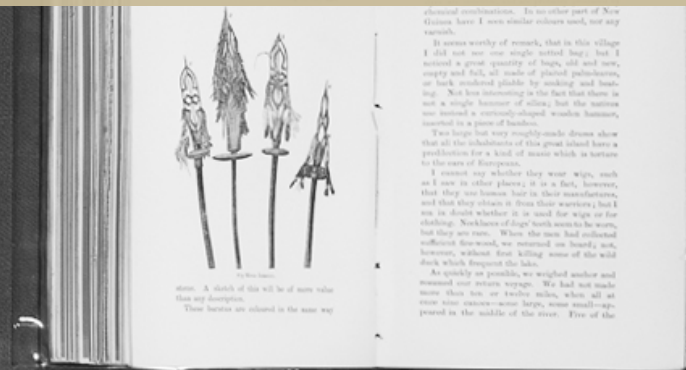




2020

ANNUAL REPORT



MISS CARTER - MISS PAWSEY - MISS DERRAM - MISS NEWELL

IMAGES

The RHSV began collecting material from its very earliest days. Over the years, calls were put out in newspapers here and overseas for donations. The collecting zeal of our founders is reflected in the breadth and depth of the material we now hold. While we concentrate on collecting material on Victorian history, past donations have included material on early explorers in Oceania and objects – as you will see from some of the images in this report – that were included in family archives brought to Australia from the immigrant's home countries. All these items have a place in informing us about our larger cultural narrative.

We have an estimated 92,000 plus items, of which only a small portion is on public display. So whilst our general book collection is easily viewable, the balance of material kept in stable storage and only accessible upon request. This material is usually fragile and /or significant and its use is supervised to ensure its long term preservation. Managing a collection of this size is something like

painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge, we are constantly re-evaluating the material to identify information or topics that have been not noted previously. While time consuming, the rewards can be very rich for ourselves and future researchers.

The images in this Annual Report are from our manuscripts, images and objects collections.

Jillian Hiscock | Collections Manager

Object research | Julia Jackson

Photography | Matt Deppeler

Cover illustration | Books and albums from the RHSV Collection, including a spread of Manning Chemist Album (AL175), photograph at right depicts a group of pharmacy assistants.



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT

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



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



ANNUAL REPORT

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**RHSV Collection
objects:**

*Centenary of Australia,
dish (see opposite);
Grimwades Ltd.,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire
(manufacturer) 'What
time do they feed the
sea-lions, Alf?', plate,
detail (OBJ-0088)*

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Melbourne has many important cultural institutions that help to make it a great city, and it has been awarded the title 'world's most liveable city' on a number of occasions in recent times. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) is one of these key cultural institutions, albeit less well funded than many, and it serves a dual role. Based in the heart of Melbourne, capital of Victoria, it fosters the history and protects the heritage of both city and state. The society is now in its 112th year and can be proud of its work over the previous 111 years, having built up a key collection of Victoriana and sustained the second oldest journal of Australian history, the *Victorian Historical Journal* (1911–2021+).

The RHSV is supported by our patron, Her Excellency, the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AO. In 2020 she presented three of our volunteers with Australia Day awards for service to the RHSV: Judith Smart AM, Carole Woods OAM and me (Richard Broome AM). The mayor of the City of Melbourne, Sally Capp, is our civic patron, which is appropriate given our work to protect the history and heritage of Melbourne. Our ambassador, former RHSV president Bill Russell, assists us with external relations to better secure the society's future. We are grateful too to the Honourable Martin Foley and his successor as minister for creative industries, the Honourable Danny Pearson, for the support they and their staff continue to give our society. We are also in a reciprocal relationship of support with 340 affiliated societies throughout Victoria, and together we have kept the community history movement strong during a difficult year.

2020 will be remembered by every citizen of the world as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which killed over a million people by year's end, devastated millions more survivors, shocked the world's economies and disrupted the lives of all in myriad ways. Melbourne experienced one of the world's longest lockdowns—successfully preventing a threatened large-scale spread

of the virus—but not without great cost. In these circumstances the RHSV has relied on its friends and supporters, and I would like to acknowledge them all for their contributions.

Like many organisations, the RHSV was required to alter its methods and how it connects to its individual and affiliate members as well as its many followers. We were able to meet this challenge successfully because of the quality and dedication of the RHSV staff, led magnificently by our executive officer Rosemary Cameron and our collections manager Jillian Hiscock.

Rosemary Cameron managed our Zoom presence over the many society committees, all of which kept operating; she also organised many online events for the RHSV and for our affiliates and drove the bookshop to greater heights. Jillian Hiscock, for her part, was able to exploit the extra time suddenly made available by devoting herself solely to cataloguing, in which she made significant strides during the long lockdown. Together they choreographed the successful series of arabesques and pirouettes that reorientated the RHSV. They were ably assisted by Jessica Scott, our communications and marketing officer, whose role became even more vital in 2020. Jessica increased our online following and prepared lectures for remote delivery and viewing. In the final half of 2020 we were delighted to welcome Rebecca Toohey as our office administrator, and she has proved to be a wonderful asset. In November we employed Liridon Shaqiri as our part-time bookkeeper to lighten the load on our executive officer. Liridon hit the ground running.

I must thank most profoundly the federal and state governments for their pandemic assistance, the former for subsidising wages through 'Jobkeeper' and the latter for government grants to cultural institutions. This assistance, together with our own efforts and those of our supporters, has enabled us to stay afloat. It was the willingness of all Australians to support assistance by



Henry Greener & Company, Sunderland (England 1858–1921) (manufacturer)
Centenary of Australia, dish (1887–88)
pressed glass.
RHSV Collection (OBJ-0078).

This plate, made by Sunderland firm Henry Greener & Co. commemorates the Centenary of Australia. Pressed glass items are manufactured by using a plunger to press molten glass into a mould. This method was popular for mass-producing inexpensive glasswares for consumers.

government, as well as to offer support themselves to their fellow Australians, that enabled most to survive during 2020, though perhaps not to flourish. Even where official assistance was not forthcoming, communities stepped up to assist those in need.

Of course, many things were put on hold, including an initiative to create the RHSV Jessie Webb Society to honour those who have made a bequest in their will to the RHSV and to encourage others to do so. So too was the new Hugh Anderson Melbourne Day Oration, which the family of Hugh Anderson agreed to support financially, initially over three years, as a tribute to Hugh, one of our former vice presidents, a fellow of the society, and an eminent biographer and historian of popular culture. Both important initiatives will commence in 2021, COVID permitting. The virus was characterised by our premier, Daniel Andrews, as a 'wicked thing', and, for all of us, it has assumed a grim intimacy. Historians are already recording Victoria's day-to-day responses to this catastrophic event in our lives.

The long closure of the Drill Hall stymied the labours of our wonderful cohort of volunteers too. But, while most were forced to take a break from their activities, a few were able to work on projects online, including Cheryl Griffin, who created our At Home Festival and continued her History Writers Group by Zoom, as well as embarking on a mammoth new project to create an online biographical dictionary of RHSV women. Among other volunteers who continued to work remotely were Lenore Frost in our bookshop, Amy Miniter, Alan Ritter and Richard Barnden in cataloguing, and David Thompson on preparing for 2021 exhibitions, while Greg Buchanan and Margaret Fleming continued their valuable commercial site research. We thanked all volunteers, not with the usual Christmas lunch, which was thwarted by social distancing, but with a mind-teasing jigsaw formed from one of our images of Melbourne's Yarra/Birrarung waterfront around 1950.

Carole Woods made 2020 her final year on the Victorian Community History Awards panel, after 20 years as a judge and seven years as chair of the central judges' panel. During this time the VCHA has grown to become one of the brightest gems of the RHSV's work for the community history movement. We thank the twelve judges for 2020 for their outstanding commitment to the awards. Carole is also RHSV secretary, and she has been ably assisted by assistant secretary Cathy Butcher. Elisabeth Jackson has supported the society in many ways as vice-president. Daniel Clements, amidst his busy life in an accountancy firm, Nexia Australia, continued to give wise and prudent service as our honorary treasurer.

Our councillors and committee members maintained their excellent work for the RHSV, and I commend to you the separate committee reports within this volume. Jim Dixon stepped down from council after five years of dedicated

service and financial advice. Two others who stepped down are George Fernando, who devoted much time and energy over many years to both the council and the History Victoria Support Group (HVSF), and Lucy Bracey, who continues to assist the RHSV through management of the Heritage Committee's web presence. New councillors included Pauline Hitchins, Elizabeth Triarico and Nikita Vanderbyl, and Judith Smart re-joined council after an absence of two years.

Pauline Hitchins also assumed leadership of the HVSF from Alleyne Hockley, who had been a member since 2004 and its convenor from 2018. Pauline implemented George Fernando's idea of a phone tree, by which councillors have been contacting affiliated societies to check on their welfare. This direct contact has been important as many of our affiliated societies had to close their doors during the COVID-19 lockdown. We offered them assistance when and where we were able to do so. The word was that, behind the scenes, work continued for many societies: answering queries, shifting to Zoom meetings and planning for the future. I wrote to dozens of them during the lockdown extending our good wishes and offers of support.

I wrote also to our kind donors, who kept up a steady flow of both small and sizable donations, often tied to their membership renewal or a bookshop purchase. They are all important to our continued financial stability, and we thank them most warmly.

At its December meeting, the council passed a statement of intent for reconciliation and Indigenous engagement, resolving to pursue four aims:

As an organisation our managerial processes, actions and future planning will reflect best practice in Indigenous engagement and cultural competency;

Our future activities will be conducted with full acknowledgement of the importance and continuance of knowledge held by First Nations peoples, including their connection to country, language, and cultural practices;

As custodians of a significant collection of Victoria's history we will manage it in a culturally respectful manner and create beneficial access to First Nations peoples;

As the senior historical society in Victoria we will lead and encourage other historical societies to follow our example and develop their own Reconciliation Action Plans.

The council also registered 'this intent in full knowledge of the complexity of engaging with, listening to, and partnering with First Nations Victorians, who may wish to walk this journey with us to make the RHSV truly inclusive'.

My best wishes to all our members and friends for a safe and prosperous 2021.

Richard Broome | President

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The RHSV's experience of COVID has been thankfully mild compared with that of the many Australians who have seen family members fall ill, die, lose jobs and suffer isolation. Border closures have ruptured families and communities, and businesses have failed with many long-term repercussions rippling out from those terrible events.

At the RHSV we re-invented ourselves, and, in retrospect, I am slightly surprised at what we achieved in times of great uncertainty. Still, as I write in 2021, the inability to plan continues to be our greatest hurdle.

During 2020 some aspects of our work all but died and others blossomed. For all their dedication and innovation in fraught times, I would like to thank the entire RHSV team, led by our president Richard Broome and the RHSV Council, and including committee members, volunteers and staff. And, of course, we have been assisted in many ways by governments, foundations, and private individuals who share our vision.

Support

We thank Creative Victoria for ongoing major and crucial support for our operating costs. We have an excellent relationship with this government body, and I am especially grateful to our manager there, Linda Lucas, for her support and encouragement. During 2020 we also received much-needed extra funding from Creative Victoria to ameliorate the effects of COVID lockdowns on our income.

We also thank the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions for COVID-related funding in 2020 and the federal government for 'JobKeeper' and other support

channelled through the Australian Taxation Department. That much-appreciated income kept us going through a difficult year. We also received a small and welcome grant from the City of Melbourne to buy film and sound recording equipment to assist us as we move into a more digital space.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, our landlord at the Drill Hall, earns our gratitude for generously housing the society. I also thank the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's officers, Russell Maunder and Sarah Keating, who look after the Drill Hall so well.

I also wish to express the society's gratitude to the Trustees of the Vera Moore Foundation and their estimable secretary, David Richardson AO OBE, for their ongoing support of History Month. Each year for over a decade History Week has grown stronger, so we decided to expand it into History Month for the whole of October 2020. It was an inauspicious year in which to launch History Month, but it turned out to be a festival like no other in that it was entirely digital. History Month was surprisingly and gratifyingly successful, and our members across Australia were able to attend events that had previously been geographically impossible. It also meant that we could have speakers Zoom in from around Australia and, indeed, internationally. The generosity of the Vera Moore Foundation is key to our ability to promote the History Month activities of historical societies across Victoria, as well as those of the RHSV in Melbourne.

Each year we administer the allocation of grants from the Holsworth Local Heritage



King George VI (issuer) (England 1895–1952) Garrard & Co. Ltd., London (manufacturer) (England est. 1735) Sebastian Henry Garrard (silversmith) (England 1874–1946) *Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Order, lapel pin (awarded to Lady Mary Miller) (1918), (struck 1928), silver-gilt, silk, white metal.* RHSV Collection (OBJ-0142)

Trust, which was established through the generosity of Bendigo resident Carol Holsworth to encourage the publishing of local histories in rural and regional Victoria. The number of books that have been supported by these grants is now very substantial and a testament to one woman's determination to support local history. As with the Victorian Community History Awards, the standard and sophistication of the projects improves each year.

In 2020 we installed museum-quality archival shelving for our manuscripts collection, funded through the Federal Community Heritage Grant Program, which is administered by the National Library of Australia. We also installed similar museum-quality archival shelving in a second research room, greatly increasing the availability and quality of our storage facilities. This funding initiative is invaluable for collecting organisations like ours.

We congratulate Emma Humphries and Caitlin Thomas who, in 2020, shared the Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History for the highest marks in Australian History at La Trobe University.

Staff

Staffing was perhaps the most difficult challenge thrown up by COVID. In the first half of the year we had a pool of short-term staff filling the administration officer's role and I thank Amy Miniter, Leigh Bassett, Sophie Shilling, Julie Johnson and Kate Laing for holding the fort. At the end of June we were extremely fortunate to engage Rebecca Toohey, fresh from the apple orchards of Stanthorpe, Queensland. Rebecca, with her sunny charm, rapidly re-organised us, set up new systems and made the bookshop visually appealing. She took control of us in the nicest of ways.

We were also without a bookkeeper for most of the year. When lockdown ended from November, we were finally able to appoint Liridon Shagiri to that role, and I could feel a huge burden lift off my shoulders! Liridon first had to prepare for our audit with our new auditors DFK BKM Audit Services, and then he set us up to be totally digital, which, in this uncertain world, means we can move seamlessly from office to home and back again.

Jess Scott, our marketing manager, became even more pivotal as the social media sphere grew to be the centre of action during lockdown. Jess also managed History Month, once again in the digital sphere. Organising the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards seemed to bring changes and new challenges each week, but our very competent coordinator Emily Maiolo handled them with aplomb. Although at times we wondered how we would pull it off, it was one of the strongest years on record. Working with PROV, and especially Tara Oldfield, was a delight as

together we solved knotty problem after knotty problem.

Jillian Hiscock, our collections manager, was stripped of her volunteer helpers for most of the year, which was both a curse and blessing. The upside was that it gave her time to clear the decks of some serious cataloguing backlogs and bring everything up to date. Some of the volunteers continued to work from home and were able to access the RHSV through our VPN. I thank Greg Buchanan and Margaret Fleming who continued their invaluable commercial research, David Thompson who did many jobs but most importantly curated our 2021 exhibition whilst in lockdown, and Richard Barnden who was always on the end of the phone to share his deep corporate knowledge with Jillian. Cheryl Griffin segued her History Writers Group from real space to a digital space, and she created our wonderful Stay @ Home Festival designed to give us all history activities to accomplish at home or share with loved ones on Zoom.

Book Shop

The bookshop was our star performer in 2020. Book sales increased by 15 per cent on 2019, which blew all my theories about needing foot traffic in the building out the window. Online shopping became the norm and has continued to stay strong in 2021. Lenore Frost continued to manage our History Victoria Bookshop, albeit remotely. She was ably assisted by Rebecca Toohey, who was permitted to come into the Drill Hall once a week during lockdown to deal with bookshop sales.

Summary

As you read this annual report you will understand the depth of talent and the number of people involved in the RHSV's operations. We operate with a paid FTE staff of 3.2 and about 90 volunteers. I can mention in this report a mere few of those wonderful people who make us such a vibrant organisation. Everyone involved has my deepest gratitude.

The RHSV is of course a cog in a larger sector, and we work collaboratively and productively with a wide variety of history and heritage organisations, including the extensive network of local historical societies throughout the state.

My working days are endlessly varied—no one day is ever repeated, and the queries and challenges that are thrown up are fascinating. We have great and ambitious plans that we will take pleasure in revealing gradually to our members, friends and stakeholders over the next three years. After surviving and indeed thriving in 2020, I remain confident that the RHSV will continue to grow and stay strong no matter what is thrown at us.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Publications Committee, comprising academic, public and community historians, met five times in 2020 to oversee the publication of the *Victorian Historical Journal* (twice yearly) and *History News* (six times yearly). The committee also produces RHSV occasional publications.

The *VHJ* publishes both double-blind refereed academic articles and editor-reviewed shorter historical notes. In this sense it remains a true society journal, while striving for the highest quality and ethical standards.

Two issues of the *Victorian Historical Journal* (*VHJ*) were published in June and December by co-editors Judith Smart and Richard Broome. Feedback received is that both issues contained excellent articles. This was recognised in the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards section on peer-reviewed journal articles. The winner in 2020 was Ruby Ekkel for ‘Woman’s Sphere Remodelled: A Spatial History of the Victorian Woman’s Christian Temperance Union 1887–1914’ (*VHJ*, June 2020), while two other articles published in the journal—by Jacqui Durrant and James Lesh—received commendations. The John Adams prize is awarded biennially for the best article in the journal over the previous two-years. It was first awarded in 2019 and a new winner will be announced at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the RHSV.

Jonathan Craig continued to act as an efficient and assiduous book reviews editor, while preparation of the index for the journal under Terri Mackenzie, is now close to completion for 2016. The journal is indexed by Scopus and the Web of Science, both international citation indexes. These listings depend on having an editorial board, as well as policies regulating the journal’s governance, editorial

practice, ethical behaviour and plagiarism. The journal’s digital reach is extended by citation indexing. It is also available in digital form (1911 to the present) on State Library Victoria’s website, and INFORMIT (1994 to the present). Two-thirds of RHSV members now take the *VHJ* digitally, while those receiving hardcopy pay a higher membership fee to cover the extra cost.

Our honorary designer John Gillespie now embeds digital commands in the journal to aid readers in searching content. We give special thanks to John for his continued honorary, time-consuming and meticulous support of the journal over the past decade. His specialist skills and assistance are essential to the journal’s viability and timely delivery. John was presented with the RHSV’s Distinguished Service Award in 2016 for his dedicated work.

History News includes short articles of historical interest, informs our members of upcoming events, promotes local societies and their publications, and advises members of key issues in heritage and the practice of history in Victoria. It is edited by Sharon Betridge, assisted by John Schauble (‘Books Received’), Glenda Beckley (‘Around the Societies’) and Lenore Frost (‘History Victoria Bookshop’).

The Publications Committee, together with the Collections Committee, is responsible for producing occasional publications. In 2019 members from these two committees produced *Melbourne’s Twenty Decades*, sales of which during 2020 repaid the full costs of its production loaned by the *VHJ* fund, with the second half of its print run of 2,000 left to sell for profit. *Remembering Melbourne* is still selling, with sales of 2,500 in the first edition and over 900 in its revised edition, thus returning considerable funds to the society.



Detail of manuscript
from the RHSV
Collection



Detail of *Miss Carter, Miss Pawsey, Miss Derham and Mrs Newell* (1948) from *Manning Chemist Album* (1950), gelatin silver photograph, RHSV Collection. (AL175). Herbert William Manning relocated from Sydney and opened Manning's Chemist together with his son Bill in 1932. The pharmacy was situated on the concourse at Flinders Street Station. It was owned and operated by subsequent generations of the Mannings, Jim, and then Nigel, who put together the album which was bequeathed to the RHSV in 2010.

The *VHJ* fund, created by sales of *Remembering Melbourne* and patrons' giving, reached \$70,000 by the end of 2020. It was originally set up in 2016 to help secure the journal's future and to lessen the burden on the RHSV general operations budget. However, as the journal's digital readership has increased and printing costs are now covered by more realistic membership fees, the fund can support other significant publications activities. The RHSV was proud to publish Carole Wood's *Vera Deakin and the Red Cross* in 2020, although the cost in this case was covered by the Harley family and the author. The list of the journal's patrons, who now number fifteen, is published in each issue of the *VHJ*.

In 2020 the Publications Committee comprised Jill Barnard, Rozzi Bazzani (till February), Sharon Betridge (*History News* editor), Marilyn Bowler, Richard Broome (chair and *VHJ* co-editor), Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig (*VHJ* reviews editor), Bronwyn Hughes (from April), John Rickard, John Schauble, Judith Smart (*VHJ* co-editor), Lee Sulkowska and Carole Woods. Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron was a member of the committee *ex officio*. Rozzi Bazzani stepped down to pursue her own writing after several years of creative contributions to the committee and *History News*. She introduced Bronwyn Hughes to the committee, and Bronwyn accepted an invitation to join.

The members of the *VHJ* Editorial Board in 2020 were:

Chair

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, FAHA, FASSA, FFAHA, Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor, Monash University

Members

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and Co- editor *Victorian Historical Journal*

Associate Professor Kat Ellinghaus, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University

Professor Katie Holmes, FASSA, Director, Centre for the Study of the Inland, La Trobe University

Professor Emerita Marian Quartly, FFAHS, Monash University

Professor Andrew May, Department of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne

Emeritus Professor John Rickard, FAHA, FRHSV, Monash University

Adjunct Professor Judith Smart AM, FRHSV, RMIT University

Ms Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV, Secretary RHSV, Community History representative

Dr Bart Ziino, Senior Lecturer in History, Deakin University

Richard Broome | Chair Publications Committee

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

As is the case with other areas of RHSV operations, and the world in general, this has been a strange and challenging year. The RHSV offices were closed for much of the time owing to COVID-19 lockdowns, which meant that neither staff nor volunteers were able to work there. However, we found that much could be done remotely, and a surprising amount was achieved.

There were periods when staff were allowed to be in the building, but this did not include the public or volunteers. The collections manager, Jillian Hiscock, made use of this time to undertake a lot of reorganising and sorting of the collection. She and volunteers operating from home did a great deal of work on the catalogue and the arrangement of the collection to ensure that material can more easily be found and that like subjects are kept together. More than a century of cataloguing by many volunteers had resulted in a number of inconsistencies that we are now sorting through. Richard Barnden, who has been in charge of the images collection for many years, worked from home cataloguing images and transferring records to eHive. Additional information, where available, has been added to catalogue records for both images and manuscripts, making the entries much more informative.

We currently have 32,140 records available on the National Library TROVE website. This means they are searchable online, and many appear on Google, so large parts of our collection are now accessible throughout the world. Records available through TROVE include photographs and postcards (many with a thumbnail reproduction), maps, art

works, objects and manuscripts—including much of the unique *Pioneers Register* recording the experiences of early settlers. We are receiving increased numbers of inquiries, research and reproduction requests as a result.

In 2020 over 1,000 new items were added to the collection. About 300 research inquiries were responded to, and the collection also provided the basis for Facebook posts and articles in *CBD News* and other publications.

Site searches continued to be conducted by volunteers working remotely. However, the COVID-depressed economy impacted on the building industry, so the number of requests declined this year.

RHSV received its renewed museum accreditation early in the year. The Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) team made a number of recommendations that are being progressively implemented. These include employing an additional staff member, which we hope to do early in 2021, clarifying the conditions for donations and revising the donation forms, and shifting parts of the collection to remove them from possible sources of damp. In 2019 we were successful in receiving funding from the National Library for new shelving for the manuscripts and scrapbooks, and these were installed during the year, thus allowing unique items in our collections to be more appropriately stored.

Owing to COVID disruption only one exhibition was held during the year. This was *The Swamp Vanishes*, curated by Lenore Frost, with assistance from Dr Gary Presland. It displayed the history of the West Melbourne Swamp, which, prior to European settlement, had been an attractive lake utilised for food



Detail from album in
RHSV Collection

and water by the Indigenous community. Over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it became polluted and was then drained, so that little evidence of it now remains. The exhibition included many items from the RHSV images collection.

The Collections Committee continued to meet every two months to consider policy matters and review items offered to the collection. Lorenzo Iozzi, a senior curator at the Melbourne Museum, was recruited to the committee. Lorenzo had previously worked as the collections manager at the RHSV, so he brings to the committee great knowledge of our holdings as well as his other skills and experience. Other members of the committee are Richard Barnden, Margaret Fleming, Cheryl Griffin and Elizabeth Willis. Richard Broome, Jillian Hiscock and Rosemary Cameron attend *ex officio*.

My thanks are expressed to the wonderful volunteers—listed on page 48—whose dedicated work ensures that our priceless collection is cared for and made accessible. Special thanks to Collections Manager Jillian Hiscock, whose dedication, skill and organising ability mean that the work of curating the collection has been able to continue in these challenging times.

Elisabeth Jackson | Chair Collections Committee

RHSV Collection
object *A lady reading
a book* (c. 1860)
(see opposite), and
storage box



HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2020

We realise this year has been like no other, and so our program and report are very different from those of previous years. Our members have continued to contribute as much as possible during the prolonged shutdown. Most are long-serving members of HVSG such as Bernard Bolch (Walhalla Heritage & Development League), George Fernando (Camberwell Historical Society), Don Garden (Sandringham & District Historical Society), Jane Nigro (Malvern Historical Society), Judy Richards (Stratford Historical Society) and Larina Strauch (Kyneton Historical Society). We also welcomed a new member, Ric Pawsey (Box Hill Historical Society), who has become an active worker in our group. And we have had excellent support from Emeritus Professor Richard Broome (president) and RHSV staff.

We were sad to farewell convenor Alleyne Hockley from Castlemaine Historical Society and Sue Thompson from Lilydale & District Historical Society, both of whom had provided valuable service for some years and did sterling work catching up with societies across the north west on an extended road trip in 2019.

We started the year with the first of a series of cataloguing workshops at Federation University in Churchill, led by archivist/digital media specialist Sophie Shilling and our collections manager, Jillian Hiscock, but COVID-19 prevented the rest of the workshops continuing face to face from the classroom. Like lots of activities during 2020 and beyond, the remainder will be delivered online.

Following the example of personal contact set by Alleyne and Sue, we established a 'phone tree' to touch base with member

groups across the state. Volunteers from the RHSV Council and HVSG have been calling societies to check on how things are working out during 'lockdown' and to speak generally about the issues facing them. We are eager to discover the best means by which the RHSV and HVSG can develop and deliver courses, workshops and seminars to help us all grow and prosper. It has been rewarding for the volunteers to learn about the outstanding work of our societies across Victoria, and those contacted have appreciated the call. We still have a few more to phone, but we are hoping to get to everyone soon.

This program was developed before we understood the impact of COVID and just how it would swallow up the entire year. We have all struggled with deferring events, balancing our group's books with limited income but ongoing expenses, suffered restricted access to our records, and missed the interaction with like-minded enthusiasts that we enjoy through our local and specialist societies.

To share these struggles and successes, we have increased the coverage of the activities of historical societies in *History News* to encourage and inspire other groups. We hope societies are sharing *History News* with all their members—so much easier with an electronic copy and one of many resources we have at our fingertips through the RHSV. Thanks to Glenda Beckley for her magnificent work in compiling 'Around the Societies' each issue.

Online meetings and events have shrunk the geographic barriers during the year, and we hope to build on this to widen the reach of our activities in the coming months. An



Unknown *A lady reading a book*
(c. 1860) ambrotype, colour dyes, wood, leather, velvet, glass, and gilt-metal (case).
RHSV Collection (ART-0338).

Ambrotypes are an early photographic technique, patented in 1854, whereby a positive image is produced on glass (resulting from a collodion positive emulsion) and mounted against a dark background, such as velvet, in a presentation case.



Unknown (manufacturer) Portable writing desk, detail (early 19th century), wood, brass, ebonised wood, leather, felt, metal, silk, ivory. RHSV Collection (OBJ-0112.a-h).

This fragile object, a portable (or travelling) writing desk, or slope, as they are sometimes called, dates from the early part of the nineteenth century. It understood that this writing desk once belonged to Captain George Brunswick Smyth (c. 1815-1845), of the 80th Regiment, and first commander of the mounted police in the Colony of Victoria.

example was History Month, which grew from a week to a month while becoming entirely digital and was surprisingly successful as event holders and audience members were both freed of geographical constraints.

Many of our activities continued to flourish unexpectedly during lockdown. The bookshop, which promotes many books published by historical societies, had a bumper year with sales increased by 20 per cent despite the lack of foot traffic in the building. It was a record year for the Victorian Community History Awards too, and the Holsworth Grants, which benefit our member societies, were also in high demand.

Now that our groups are resuming some face-to-face activities, please do not forget that societies can still upload notification of their events to the RHSV website. We look forward to increased opportunities for all our affiliates in 2021 with the continuation of digital events enabling members to join in an even wider range of activities and the 'new normal' providing many benefits for us all.

Pauline Hitchins | Convenor History Victoria Support Group

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Membership Development Committee (MDC) thanks the many members of the wider RHSV community for their support for the society and dedication to the preservation and promotion of Victoria's history and heritage. Recruiting and retaining members and monitoring trends for reporting to the RHSV Council are MDC's official roles, but no less important is MDC's larger purpose of enabling members to interact with, learn from, contribute to and enjoy diverse aspects of Victoria's history and heritage in like-minded company.

Member numbers at the time of writing this report are slightly higher than at this time last year, at 1,041. This is a very positive outcome considering the straitened circumstances brought about by the pandemic and a corresponding expectation of decline. We can attribute our success to maintenance of member benefits such as *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal* and the continuation of many events, even History Month, via Zoom. Over 340 historical societies remain affiliated with the RHSV. In 2020, we also reached out to other historical societies across Australia whose state and territory peak bodies do not provide a group insurance scheme. The vision and hard work of RHSV staff, council members and volunteers, as well as an increase in digital media reach, sees the society in better condition than might otherwise have been expected.

To cater to changing times, MDC reviewed and updated the membership form as well as categories of membership on offer, and a free copy of *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* was offered as a '2019 Christmas join a member for 2020'

incentive. President Richard Broome again wrote personal letters to lapsed members, and the positive responses as well as number of renewals suggested that members may not always consciously decide to let memberships lapse. In each meeting, MDC also discussed the merits of a list of 'recruit' and 'retain' strategies recommended by Associations Forum; we were pleased to observe that the RHSV already employs many of these strategies or that new ones can be easily introduced to the society's operations.

MDC commenced 2020 with an impressive list of intended member-only site visits and did manage one well-attended event at the Old Melbourne Observatory. While the other visits could not be realised owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the list was retained and extended for future use. Plans are already underway for a gradual reintroduction of some of these opportunities to the 2021 calendar.

While face-to-face interactions remain most members' preferences for history-rich professional and social opportunities, many newer as well as some longer-term members found benefit and convenience in engaging with the RHSV online during lockdown, with some members suggesting that, for a variety of reasons, this is how they may choose to engage more often. As a result, MDC is adopting an open and flexible approach to offering face-to-face, hybrid and online member opportunities.

Other initiatives continued the society's aim of recruiting and retaining young members as 'the next generation of RHSV'. The Weston Bate Fund was initially established when Janice Bate, Weston's widow, generously suggested that friends at Weston's funeral



Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York (United States est. 1888) (manufacturer) No. 3-A Folding Pocket camera model B4, and case (c. 1908), leather on aluminium, leather, cotton, chrome, wood, glass, brass, metal. RHSV Collection (OBJ-0053.a-b)

This camera can only be fully appreciated for its beauty once opened. The front panel drops down and clicks into place, allowing the camera to stand upright on a surface. Its red leather concertina 'bellows' structure allows for the lens and shutter mechanism to be pulled out and then retracted into its body.



**RHSV Collection objects,
clockwise from top left:**

*No. 3-A Folding Pocket camera model B4, and case (c. 1908) (see previous page); Stereoscope (OBJ-0036), see caption p.; Presentation trowel 1855, silver, Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) (OBJ-0096), see caption p.27, and box.*

The *Presentation trowel* was given to George Coppin to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the New Theatre on Lonsdale

St, 18 April 1855. At the ceremony Coppin handed the trowel back to his giftors stating 'Mr Brooke, allow me to hand you the working tools of this degree in Masonry. You have already received instruction for their uses; and if your practical application of them equals your strict observance of their moral tendency, your labors as a master mason must be crowned with success...' See *The Age*, 18 April 1855, p. 5, via Trove.

donate to the RHSV in lieu of flowers. Weston's commitment to engaging young people in history, especially in the study of Victoria's past, was legendary. The society thus decided to use the income from the fund to attract new young members. Initiatives to date have enabled postgraduate history students from La Trobe and Deakin universities to enjoy one year of free RHSV membership, with other universities' arts faculties scheduled to follow. During the society's 110th year in 2019, one year of free membership was also offered to the first 110 members of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria to indicate their interest. History teachers took this up across 2019 with their memberships extending late into 2020. These free membership offers sought to introduce the RHSV's activities and collections to people who engage variously with the past in their professional roles, and to develop mutually beneficial outcomes including, for the RHSV, workplace intern support and new members. The society further hopes that these generous yet inexpensive gestures will translate into future paid memberships among young history professionals who have thereby come to recognise the value of the RHSV as a research and education resource.

MDC encourages all readers of this report to visit the RHSV website, which is continuously updated with member professional learning and event opportunities, and to contact MDC with any new ideas for the engagement and benefit of members.

MDC's chair is Rosalie Triolo, and the committee members for the twelve months covered by this report have been Richard Broome (RHSV president), Don Garden, Carole Woods, Robert Barnes, Rosemary Cameron and Liz Bath. Meetings have been largely bi-monthly but with many email communications between times. All members have brought a deep commitment to the wellbeing of the RHSV as well as to making the rich and diverse facets of Victoria's history and heritage known and valued by as wide an audience as possible.

Rosalie Triolo | Chair Membership Development Committee



Red Cross Society badges (early 20th century), photo-offset lithograph, enamel and printed paper on metal, steel. RHSV Collection, accession nos to be assigned.



Detail of RHSV Manuscripts
Collection items with spidery
handwriting. Nineteenth-
century penmanship is often
difficult to decipher.

EVENTS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Like the rest of the world, the RHSV found its events schedule for the year 2020 completely upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. We had begun developing plans for a regional conference in Bendigo for the middle of the year, in conjunction with La Trobe University Bendigo Campus. Its theme was to be 'Local History as an Essential Tool in Regional and Town Planning'. To that end we had invited Professor Tom Griffiths AO to present the keynote address and our most prestigious oration, the Augustus Wolskel Lecture, on the topic of fire and what we can really learn about it from the past.

Despite the early decision to cancel the conference, Professor Griffiths generously prepared and delivered his Augustus Wolskel Lecture in the form of an article 'Past, Last and Future Summers: How History Can Help Us Live on the Fire Continent', published as the lead article in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol. 91, no. 2, December 2020. It is a brilliant essay, an important contribution to a topic of vital significance to all Victorians, and should be widely read and shared.

Similarly, we had scheduled our lecture for March 2020 as part of Women's History Month and had invited Professor Lynette Russell, Monash University, to reflect on twenty years since she set out to write her memoir, *A Little Bird Told Me: Family Secrets, Necessary Lies*. This lecture was scheduled for the week that Victoria's first lockdown under a state of emergency came into effect. Professor Russell kindly rewrote the lecture for publication in the *Victorian Historical Journal* of June 2020. It is a fascinating reflection on memory and family stories, on what we tell, what we remember and what we sometimes choose to forget.

It should be recorded that we did enjoy one well-attended, even boisterous, live event at the RHSV in February 2020 before the pandemic drama began. Dr Liz Rushen, a former executive officer of the RHSV, invited Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison to launch her new biography, *John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's Reformer and Emigration Agent*. As Professor Davison explained in a lively speech, Marshall deserves greater recognition as the most active emigration agent of the early nineteenth century. A large crowd attended the launch and enjoyed the songs of Penny Larkin of the Good Girl Song Project before listening to Dr Rushen deliver a lecture on the subject of her research.

With the lockdown set to continue indefinitely, we rescheduled April's planned A.G.L. Shaw Lecture, always presented in conjunction with the C.J. La Trobe Society, to the following year. The same decision was made for our Weston Bate Oration, which has become a regular postscript to the Annual General Meeting in May, although the AGM itself went ahead online. When conditions briefly eased in mid-June, we began exploring ways of using technology to share panel discussions through the internet. Thoughts of hosting such events live from the RHSV at the Drill Hall were again eliminated, however, when hard restrictions resumed at the start of July.

In October we immersed ourselves in a deluge of online Zoom events. On 9 October, I joined the RHSV's president, Professor Richard Broome, and historians Dr Charles Fahey and Professor Katie Holmes in a discussion based on their recent wide-ranging book, *Mallee Country*, which explores the area's history



William Edwards
(England c. 1819–
c. 1889, worked in
Australia 1857–
c. 1889)
(manufacturer)

*Victorian Volunteers
Rifle Shooting Trophy
1864*, detail of base
(1863–4), silver,
silver-gilt, Blackwood
(*Acacia melanoxylon*).
RHSV Collection
(OBJ-0118)



Unknown (manufacturer), *Stereoscope* (early 20th century), wood, aluminium, glass, brass. RHSV Collection (OBJ-0036). One of three hand-held stereoscopes in the Collection. This one features leaf sprays and a perched eagle stamped into the aluminium viewfinder, and wooden sliding bar with brackets to hold the stereograph cards.

from deep time to specific settler communities—and their horses! The RHSV hosted this event in conjunction with the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies, thanks to its president, Michael Menzies.

On 13 October I was in online conversation with Dr Sue Silberberg, discussing her book *A Networked Community*, which describes the distinctive character of nineteenth-century Jewish immigration to Victoria from the time of Melbourne's settlement in 1835, including the central role many of those individuals and families played in the building of the city and indeed the shaping of Victoria.

For 20 October we multi-tasked with a vengeance! Alicia Cerreto, then president of the Professional Historians Association (Victoria and Tasmania)—and incoming executive officer of the History Council of Victoria—joined me to anchor the now traditional but ever-evolving session, 'Emerging Historians'. Four up-and-coming historians were invited to share a Zoom presentation on their selected topics. Fiona Gatt, a PhD candidate at Deakin University, took us into the early colonial streets of Hotham, now North Melbourne, and the lives lived there. Lee Sulkowska, embarking on her PhD at Deakin after completing her honours thesis, guided us through historic cemeteries for insights into the colonial mind. Harshini Goonetilleke shared conclusions from her recently completed study for her Masters of Cultural Heritage (Deakin University) on the intriguing public relations role of British journalist and broadcaster Alan Bell in Australia during the Second World War. And Elizabeth Offer, completing a PhD at La Trobe University on religious diversity on the colonial goldfields, gave us insights into the Jewish communities in both Ballarat and Bendigo. Michelle Bashta was our behind-the-scenes facilitator.

On 13 November, Professor Richard Broome had the privilege of interviewing our former governor-general, Sir Peter Cosgrove, for the RHSV on Zoom. They discussed aspects of Sir Peter's upbringing and influences on his life's trajectory as revealed in his new memoir, *You Shouldn't Have Joined*. Evident from the discussion was Sir Peter's enthusiastic interest not just in military history but in history more broadly.

As our ever-innovative executive officer, Rosemary Cameron, remarks:

for some events, Zoom was perfect and they flourished. Jillian Hiscock's cataloguing clinic, a low-key monthly discussion works perfectly on Zoom. The Book Club worked well on Zoom. And people's Zoom etiquette improved remarkably over the months—now we rarely have anyone answering the phone whilst their microphone is on! We also had Cheryl Griffin's Festival At Home, which worked in a low-key way to encourage people to write, and gave them activities to do with their grandchildren over Zoom.

History Week became History Month and went entirely web-based. And a big plus is that geography is no longer a barrier and people can participate in events no matter how geographically challenged the lecturer or the audience is.

We missed the chance to see each other in person at the RHSV, but Zoom brought a new audience to our events and it challenged us to think about how we might better use this technology in the future.

Andrew Lemon | Chair Events Committee

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

During 2020, the committee has been more active than ever. We continue to correspond with RHSV affiliated societies and others who desire information. Most of our workload, however, involves submissions to heritage organisations (usually Heritage Victoria or the Heritage Council) and to other bodies such as local councils and VCAT on matters affecting heritage. During 2020, the committee made changes to its structure. Former RHSV Councillor Lucy Bracey joined the committee as spokesperson, responsible for putting material on the web and for raising our profile on social media and in local historical societies. Judith Smart and Ian Wight have become deputy chairs. The RHSV web site contains a comprehensive list of all our submissions.

1. Heritage Council State of Heritage Review

In 2019 the Heritage Council of Victoria asked us to consult our member societies with regard to the adequacy of heritage, and we undertook a major survey of our 340 affiliates, with responses from 113 of them. The resulting document formed the basis of the Heritage Council's report to the minister, *The State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage*, published in December 2020. It recommends that the state take greater responsibility by actively supporting local councils to undertake heritage protection.

2. Historic Strip Shopping Centres

Ian Wight and Judith Smart attended Yarra Council on 25 February for consideration of Amendment C231—Queens Parade, North Fitzroy. The final version considerably reduced the maximum height of developments behind

Queens Parade shop fronts and increased the minimum setback originally proposed. We have been less successful with other shopping strips. On 5 August, Ian Wight ably represented the RHSV at the Planning Panel considering the proposed amendment for Swan Street, Richmond. The panel report handed down in October agreed with Yarra's recommendation to increase the upper level setback from 5 to 6 metres. We believe our submissions influenced this decision, though it will not prevent façadism.

3. Development overlooking Princes Park prevented

Elisabeth Jackson was supported by the committee in opposing plans for a tower on the corner of Sydney Road and Park Street, Brunswick. Elisabeth reported, 'The main heritage concern related to the proposed removal of a 1920s electrical substation ... built and operated by the former Brunswick Electricity Supply ... Moreland Council rejected both the original plans and a revised set'. VCAT confirmed the council's decision.

4. Statues

When the statue of slave trader Edward Colston was thrown into the River Avon on 7 June 2020, we realised that the RHSV would need to formulate some guiding principles on iconoclastic activity, especially since some of Victoria's controversial statues are on the Heritage Register. Even more concerning, the RHSV, and especially its predecessor the HSV, had led the way in erecting statues and memorials to explorers whose relations with Indigenous landowners were mostly destructive and exploitative. In formulating a



HRH Princess Mary (issuer) (England 1897–1965) *Princess Mary's Christmas gift 1914*, brass tin (1914–15) brass. RHSV Collection (OBJ-0156). These small tins were sent to active servicemen and women of the British, Colonial and Indian forces during the First World War, to be received on or just after Christmas Day. The tins usually contained tobacco, confectionery and other small consumables as well as a Christmas card and a picture of the Princess, who conceived this gift idea.



King George VI (issuer) (England 1895–1952) Garrard & Co. Ltd., London (manufacturer) (England est. 1735) Sebastian Henry Garrard (silversmith) (England 1874–1946) *Award of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Order (awarded to Lady Mary Miller), and presentation box* (1918), struck 1928, silver-gilt, silk, metal, brass, leather over cardboard, velvet, printed silk, gold embossing. RHSV Collection (OBJ-0155.a-b)

Formerly thought to be OBE awarded to Sir Edward Miller, the tied bow indicates the recipient was female. For men, the OBE is suspended from a single ribbon. The likely recipient was Lady Mary Miller, wife of Sir Edward, was awarded the Officer of the OBE for her war work in 1918. Interestingly, the award, which includes the lapel pin, pictured at left (see caption on p. 5), were struck in 1928.

response, the Heritage Committee consulted with RHSV president and historian of Aboriginal Victoria, Richard Broome, and with heritage experts Stuart Macintyre and Graeme Davison. We believe that the resulting statement, posted on the RHSV website, was generally well received. Professor Broome has responded in depth to the few who objected, and I thank him for this.

5. Juukan Gorge

On 22 July 2020, we made a strong submission to the Parliamentary Committee investigating Rio Tinto's destruction of these 46,000-year-old rock shelters, sites sacred to the traditional owners and important to world heritage as a whole.

6. Submission to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC)

Prior to review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the VAHC issued a discussion paper entitled, *Taking Control of Our Heritage*, and sought comment from relevant heritage bodies, including the RHSV. Judith Smart prepared and lodged a substantial submission on 27 November, acknowledging the complex and delicate issues at play. The RHSV supports greater Indigenous control of First Nations cultural heritage and will participate in further consultation sessions designed to involve the whole community.

7. EPBC Act

The Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Interim Report was published on 20 July. On 16 August, the Heritage Committee made a submission to the review. Before the final report could be published, the government proposed a new Act legislating devolution without the controls and safeguards recommended in Professor Samuel's interim report. On 28 August we appealed to three crossbenchers whose opposition then forced the government to delay its legislation. The final report, given to the government in October 2020 and released to the public on 28 January 2021, was promptly rejected by the minister in favour of the government's proposal to gut the 1999 EPBC Act (itself a weakened version of the earlier conservation and heritage Acts).

8. Royal Exhibition Building/Carlton Gardens World Heritage Area

The REB/CG, granted World Heritage listing in 2004, is one of only two World Heritage cultural sites in Victoria. While there is no threat to the building itself, we have become increasingly alarmed by the lack of protection for the surrounds, the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA), since we found in 2017 that there was no legal basis to

oppose the construction of a 65-storey double tower near to the main entry to the gardens. The WHEA is essential to the world heritage value of the site, since the REB/CG are unique among extant exhibition building sites in having maintained their surrounds as they were at the 1880 and 1888 Exhibitions.

UNESCO requires a review of the protection and management of WH sites every seven years. The process for the REB/CG began in 2020 with a review of the planning protections (or lack thereof) for the WHEA. Heritage Victoria commissioned an excellent discussion paper to initiate this review. The RHSV Heritage Committee was asked to respond to a 'targeted consultation' of stakeholders before the final version went out for public comment. We discovered that the buffer zone the Australian government promised to UNESCO when it sought WH status in 2004 was significantly cut back by the Victorian government in 2009. That led to the incursion of many inappropriate buildings on the southern and south-eastern perimeter of the Carlton Gardens. While we cannot undo these, we can prevent further incursions. The discussion paper recommendations, which we strongly supported, would give greater protection, but are two years away from implementation if accepted. The second review concerned the confusingly named Heritage Management Plan, which is in fact the Conservation Management Plan rebaptised for the requirements of the EPBC Act. In our submission, we highlighted the incoherent governance structure of the World Heritage REB/CG site, which is administered by the City of Melbourne and Museums Victoria, and, for the environs, by the City of Melbourne and the City of Yarra, with oversight by Heritage Victoria and the Commonwealth minister for the environment. While these reviews were in the early stages, we learned of two development proposals in the City of Yarra that threaten the world heritage values of the REB/CG: a five-storey building on Gertrude Street, located within the 'Area of Greater Sensitivity' of the WHEA; and replacement of St Vincent's Hospital's Aikenhead Wing, on the corner of Victoria Parade and Nicholson Street, with a bulkier and more visually obtrusive building. We lodged very strong objections to both on 14 December 2020 and 11 January 2021 respectively.

9. Queen Victoria Market

Our efforts to preserve the QVM continued during 2020. On 29 April, I spoke at a public forum organised by the Friends of QVM and the National Trust, 'The Queen Victoria Market Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Heritage and Emotion'. Continuing its quest to modernise the market, Melbourne City Council applied to Heritage Victoria for permits for two new structures, 'Northern Shed' and 'Trader Shed'. In April 2020, we made



Detail of Portable writing desk (early 19th century), see caption p. 12.

A feature of travelling writing desks, which can be found in museums around the world, is their versatility. This example opens out into a sloped, tabletop writing desk, but can also be configured into a book stand. At the upper end of the

desk are receptacles for ink bottles, as well as a removable tray with sprung panel that conceals three small drawers (with ivory pulls) in which to keep writing paraphernalia (pen nibs, seals etc). The lower panel of the desk (the lid) lifts back to reveal another area for storing papers.

substantial submissions opposing both these developments. On 3 December Heritage Victoria refused a permit for a modern canopy over 'Northern Shed' on the basis that it was 'of a scale, form and materiality that is at odds with the architectural significance of Queen Victoria Market' but, disappointingly, granted permits for the loading docks and waste facilities proposed. It also approved the brutalist 'Trader Shed', intended to provide facilities for an anticipated fast-food workforce.

In July 2020, MCC also began discussing a Charter for Market Square, the proposed new 'events space' to be built on the current car park. We made a submission to the MCC Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) to ensure that the Charter acknowledges the space's inclusion in the heritage site and the complementarity of its functions to the market. Consultation with Cr Jackie Watts and negotiations with other councillors have resulted in some improvements to the Charter.

10. Hoddle Grid Heritage Review/ Melbourne City Council Amendment C386/C387

We played an active role in the study that led to major new heritage provisions proposed by MCC: Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendments C386 and C387. C386 proposes interim controls for 74 individual places that do not already have them to ensure these places are protected while permanent controls are considered. C387 will, if implemented, be the final form of protection. During 2020

MCC progressed toward presentation of these amendments before a Planning Panel scheduled for 2021 prior to final approval by the minister and implementation. The amendment proposes 137 individual Heritage Overlays (including 82 new Heritage Overlays plus 55 with existing interim controls) and 5 precinct Heritage Overlays, all with existing interim controls. Of the proposed sites for Heritage Overlays, 82 are pre-1945 and 55 range from 1945 to 1975. Regrettably the study did not go beyond 1975. On 18 August, I gave a presentation on C386/C387 to the Eastenders group on the initiative of former RHSV Councillor Jim Dixon.

11. Development of Mount Buninyong

We were approached by the Buninyong and District Historical Society, which objected to a proposal to build tourist accommodation in the form of giant wine barrels on the slopes of Mount Buninyong near Ballarat, a site significant to Indigenous and settler populations alike. Ballarat Council rejected the application unanimously. The developer has appealed to VCAT, and we have submitted a statement of grounds in the case. The developer has meanwhile commenced construction of the first unit, allowable without a permit provided it conforms to the code.

12. Hoffmann's Brickworks, Brunswick

Elisabeth Jackson represented the RHSV in this case. Nearly two decades ago, a developer was granted permission to demolish portions of this historic brickworks

for apartments in exchange for preserving the most historic parts and making a museum, to which the local council granted \$200,000. But owing to the developer's inaction, the museum did not eventuate, squatters broke in and set fires, and the roof collapsed. The owners made a demolition application to Heritage Victoria, which Moreland Council strongly opposed. On 5 November the RHSV Heritage Committee lodged a submission against the developer's plan to demolish the heritage buildings and replace them with a replica.

13. Submission to Moonee Valley Council Opposing North Park Subdivision & Redevelopment

On 4 September, we lodged a submission opposing plans for subdivision and development of the grounds of the former North Park, Essendon, a splendid Victorian mansion dating from 1888 with grounds listed on the VHR 'as an outstanding example of the gardenesque style'. On 16 September, Heritage Victoria refused the permit application as did Moonee Valley Council on 8 December. Residents anticipate revised plans and the need for future action.

14. Olderfleet Building, 471–77 Collins Street, Melbourne (VHR H0037)

On 8 September, I lodged with Heritage Victoria a submission prepared by the Heritage Committee's deputy chair, Ian Wight, supporting Heritage Victoria's refusal of a proposal to obscure the highly significant cast-iron gates with glass doors. On 9 November, Heritage Victoria granted a permit for a revised proposal with stringent conditions that go some way toward meeting our concerns.

15. GMH Fishermans Bend

This iconic site, where Ben Chifley launched the first Holden, is a great example of modernist industrial architecture. We made a strong submission supporting nomination for registration by the executive director, Heritage Victoria, but before the Heritage Council could consider the nomination the minister called in the application. The University of Melbourne bought the site in 2018 for a new engineering campus. DELWP has been secretly working with the university to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C371 governing the site. We believe the minister should make public the Heritage Council's report and proceed to a determination of the extent of registration before planning proceeds. MCC's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) considered the issue on 7 July and concluded that the plans would reduce the heritage to a few façades, greatly restrict public open space, and allow 141-metre towers in an area with an 80-metre recommended maximum. We made a strong submission to FMC, and their resolution reflected our views.

On 13 July we wrote to both the minister and the vice-chancellor of the University of Melbourne urging them to proceed with registration and then to planning, in line with the opinion of CoM planners and FMC's resolution. The vice-chancellor's reply promised 'to create a distinct campus rooted in its ecological, Indigenous and industrial legacy—that celebrates history, while allowing for change, adaptation and regeneration of the local ecosystem'. The minister's reply, dated 29 September, 'noted' our request for registration and refused to release the Heritage Council report on the site.

16. Submission to the City of Yarra Regarding Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C269

The City of Yarra has undertaken a complete rewrite of its local planning and heritage policies. Ian Wight has led an analysis and proposed revision of the proposals on behalf of the RHSV. Yarra's planning policies are of particular significance because of the considerable heritage extant within this jurisdiction.

17. Mission to Seafarers Maritime Centre

On 18 August, CoM's FMC heard and accepted a proposal from Cr Jackie Watts to undertake a feasibility study for a 'Maritime Centre' in the Mission to Seafarers building. Members of the Heritage Committee made a strongly supportive submission, believing the proposal has great potential merit and that its success would ensure preservation of this important building.

18. Federation Square

The *Age*, 8 August 2020, carried an article by Jewel Topsfield in which the recently appointed CEO of Fed Square, Dr Xavier Csar, spoke of opening the square to the Yarra River. The Heritage Committee participated extensively in the reviews that followed rejection of the Apple Store and had been awaiting the results. I wrote to Dr Xavier Csar, CEO of Fed Square, seeking an interview. On 7 September, Judith Smart, Ian Wight and I met by Zoom with Dr Csar, who reassured us that there were no plans for building works and that 'embracing the Yarra' meant improved signage, access, and food services at the riverside. He also reassured us that (as we had argued) Fed Square's revenues would suffice for expected maintenance.

The Heritage Committee's membership during 2020 included Lucy Bracey, Don Garden, Peter Hiscock, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Felicity Watson (National Trust), and Ian Wight. I thank them all for their contribution to the committee's work during 2020.

Charles Sowerwine | Chair Heritage Committee



*No. 3-A Folding Pocket
camera model B4, and case,
detail (OBJ-0053.a-b), see
caption p. 13*

THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Public Record Office Victoria constantly improvised in 2020 to allow the VCHA 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 by 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, which attracted about a thousand views. Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM, president of the RHSV, and Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson introduced the event. Keeper of Public Records Justine Heazlewood 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 outsourced three categories. 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 showed the usual 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 about 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* also includes a stunning section on theatre posters.

War has been a strong theme in the Community History Awards since commemoration of the centenary of World War I. Lucy Bracey's *Annie's War*, illustrated by Gregory Mackay,



No. 3-A Folding
Pocket camera model
B4, and case, detail
(OBJ-0053.a-b), see
caption p. 13



Objects from the
RHSV Collection,
see caption p. 15

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 Victoria, this book has multiple dimensions. It is a history of nineteenth-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 at Toongabbie in Gippsland 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 and have permeated every category; they remain outnumbered by hard-copy books but probably not for long. Publication of a shortlist, first adopted in 2019, was repeated in 2020, securing increased publicity.

At the end of 2020 I retired from the VCHA after twenty years as a judge and seven years as chair of the central judges' panel. It was a wonderful experience to work with congenial colleagues and contribute to the emergence of community history from a dismal backwater into the public arena. The holding of the ceremony for ten years at Queen's Hall, Parliament House, conferred dignity and kudos on the competition.

My historical note in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, June 2013, covers the foundation and early years of the competition. Although the competition was suspended in 2006 and nearly extinguished in 2010, it is now an established, prestigious part of Victoria's cultural calendar. Monetary rewards are 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, thus giving community history an honoured place in the arts precinct of Melbourne.

Carole Woods | Chair VCHA Judges' Panel 2020

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

It was a year ago that I was drafting my 2019 Treasurer's Report with one eye on the twelve months that have just finished, and the other eye on the twelve months that were underway. At that time, we were a couple of months into COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions, with more questions ahead of us than answers. Now, as I prepare my 2020 Treasurer's Report, it is incredibly pleasing to relate that we have come through the last financial year, when more than three-quarters of that year was significantly or severely affected by lockdowns and restrictions, with no apparent impact on the organisation, and actual growth in our financial position.

2020 Financial Year

A review of the profit and loss statement for the year ended 31 December 2020 provides, dare I say, an 'interesting read' in respect to the impacts that COVID 19 had on the organisation. During a period when there was reduced foot traffic in the CBD and people were largely stuck at home, we saw a reduction in research fees and donations. Quite pleasingly, we also saw an increase in publication sales and annual subscriptions. Overall, we did record a marginal increase in total revenue, which was partially contributed to by the state and federal government stimulus packages. Overall, we had a net surplus for the financial year of \$78,407 (2019: \$109,622).

In terms of operating surplus, which is our net surplus less/plus the net of allocations to/from reserves, we achieved \$72,289 (2019: \$31,740). The operating surplus represents the net outcome from operating activities, which is applied against our

retained earnings and not set aside for specific purposes or projects.

Foundation—Reserve

During the 2020 financial year, the chair of the Foundation Committee made the decision to step down from his role at the RHSV. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Dixon for his contribution to the Foundation and to the RHSV.

In 2018, the decision was taken by the Council to consolidate the financial statements for RHSV Inc. and the Foundation. This was done largely because the Foundation is part of RHSV Inc. and not a separate entity in its own right. We therefore consider it prudent that, at the very least, the two sets of financial statements be consolidated. We also determined that, rather than providing a separate set of financials for the Foundation, we would just provide reporting on the Foundation within the RHSV Inc. financial statements.

We wish to advise that we are currently re-assessing the function and purpose of the Foundation Committee. We believe that the Foundation does fulfil an important role for the Society in terms of promoting the organisation and attracting donations and other financial support.

The reserves and investments built up through the work of the Foundation Committee over a number of years continue to be managed by the Executive and Finance Committee of the RHSV and are overseen by the Council. The balance of the investments held by the Foundation as at 31 December 2020 as reported at note 10 of the financial



Red Cross Society badges (early 20th century), photo-offset lithograph, enamel and printed paper on metal, steel. RHSV Collection, accession nos to be assigned.



*Red Cross Society badges (early 20th century),
photo-offset lithograph, enamel and
printed paper on metal, steel. RHSV
Collection, accession nos to be assigned.*

statements was \$625,202 (2019: \$624,721), which represents an increase of \$481 over the 12-month period. This increase is the net revenue generated from these investments and the application of these funds to their purpose.

Summary

Twelve months ago we believed that we were in a strong financial position and that, with the support of the government stimulus packages, we would be resilient against the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. This by no means and in no way diminishes the horrific devastation that this pandemic has had on our nation and so tragically throughout the world, and our thoughts are always with those experiencing such suffering and trauma. However, as an organisation, and from a financial perspective, the RHSV has so far weathered this storm very well. The storm has not yet passed, and there is still a degree of uncertainty, but we hope that, with the rollout of vaccines and the expansion of our knowledge and understanding, the future will continue to be manageable for us as an organisation.

We welcome Liridon Shaqiri to our finance team as a part-time bookkeeper and express our thanks to Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron for her ongoing support and commitment to the effective financial management of this organisation.

Daniel Clements | Treasurer



Unknown (JL maker) (silversmith) (active mid 19th century) Anton Eick (engraver) (born Germany? 1829, arrived Australia 1851, died 1896) *Presentation trowel* 1855, silver, Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). RHSV Collection (OBJ-0096)



RHSV FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

ABN 36 520 675 471

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Committee's Report

The committee members present the financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. ("the association") for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

Committee Members

The names of the committee members at any time during or since the end of the year are:

- Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV (President)
- Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV (Vice President)
- Daniel Clements (Treasurer)
- Carole Woods OAM FRHSV (Secretary)
- Margaret Anderson
- Dr Robert Barnes FRHSV
- Lucy Bracey (until AGM May 2020)
- Cathy Butcher
- George Fernando (until AGM May 2020)
- Associate Professor Don Garden OAM FFAHS FRHSV
- Pauline Hitchins
- Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV (from AGM May 2020)
- Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine
- Elizabeth Triarico (from AGM May 2020)
- Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV
- Dr Nikita Vanderbyl (from September Council Meeting 2020)

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to develop and conserve our collection of Victorian history, to promote all aspects of Victorian history through exhibitions, publications and events for its members and the general public, to recognise outstanding achievement in Victorian history, to support affiliated historical societies and to act as an advocate in the conservation and promotion of Victoria's cultural and built heritage.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The operating surplus of the association for the financial year amounted to \$78,407.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:



Professor Richard Broome
President



Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 17th May 2021

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

To the Committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2020 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

DFK BKM Audit Services

DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria

Kevin P. Adams

Director: Kevin P. Adams

17 May 2021

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
Research fees	17,985	33,670
Sales publications	54,415	47,118
Donations	69,850	104,172
State government grants – Creative Victoria	108,457	84,315
State government grants – Public Record Office Victoria	15,000	15,000
Federal government grants – National Library of Australia	13,540	-
Government grants stimulus packages – Treasury	104,647	-
Government grants stimulus packages – Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	20,000	-
Government grants stimulus packages – City of Melbourne	1,817	-
Annual subscriptions	78,633	72,485
Insurance – member societies	125,078	138,132
U Ethical investment income	32,228	106,611
Interest income	334	1,120
Other income	23,984	61,067
Total Revenue	665,968	663,690
Expenses		
Advertising and marketing	2,909	3,288
Accounting and audit fees	5,756	5,380
Bank charges	3,660	3,723
Books	37,189	20,711
Computer and internet	20,084	17,591
Consultancy costs	930	8,645
Depreciation	5,438	874
Grants – Holsworth Fund	11,874	-
Insurance	48,020	46,302
Insurance assets historic societies	55,819	45,991
Member support services	6,404	18,158
Occupancy costs	41,117	52,903
Postage	17,264	14,422
Printing and stationeries	8,623	7,245
Publications	13,092	21,704
Staff costs	300,456	265,236
Telephone	2,699	3,333
Other expenses	6,227	18,562
Total Expenses	587,561	554,068
Surplus for the Year	78,407	109,622
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	78,407	109,622

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	288,162	238,478
Trade and other receivables	3	29,600	51,871
Other assets	4	41,025	41,001
Total Current Assets		358,787	331,350
Non-Current Assets			
Other financial assets	5	835,308	810,252
Collections, plant and equipment	6	1,863,694	1,845,882
Total Non-Current Assets		2,699,002	2,656,134
Total Assets		3,057,789	2,987,484
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	52,206	43,154
Income received in advance	8	157,772	196,076
Provisions	9	21,150	-
Total Current Liabilities		231,128	239,230
Total Liabilities		231,128	239,230
Net Assets		2,826,661	2,748,254
Equity			
Reserves	10	2,577,944	2,571,826
Retained surplus		248,717	176,428
Total Equity		2,826,661	2,748,254

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Reserves \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	2,493,944	144,688	2,638,632
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	109,622	109,622
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	77,882	(77,882)	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	2,571,826	176,428	2,748,254
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	78,407	78,407
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	6,118	(6,118)	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,577,944	248,717	2,826,661

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
	Note	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		387,243	463,376
Government grants received		237,636	129,355
Payments to suppliers and employees		(551,945)	(598,439)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	11	72,934	(5,708)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of collections, plant and equipment		(23,250)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(23,250)	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		49,684	(5,708)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		238,478	244,186
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	2	288,162	238,478

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement by the association in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(c) Collections, Plant and Equipment

Collections are measured on the valuation basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis or a diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

(d) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date the association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. On initial recognition, all financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value.

Financial assets

Classification

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

Amortised cost

The association's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables in the statement of financial position. Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any provision for impairment. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Fair value through profit or loss

The association has a number of strategic investments in managed funds over which they do not have significant influence nor control. The association has made an irrevocable election to classify these investments as fair value through profit or loss. These investments are carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Distributions and other net gains and losses are recognised as income in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities

The association measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(e) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

(h) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(i) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The committee evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

(j) Consolidation of RHSV Inc and RHSV Foundation

It was determined in 2018 by the Board to consolidate the RHSV Foundation into the accounts of RHSV Inc for completeness and simplicity of reporting. The Foundation held a share of managed funds in the name of RHSV Inc and was previously reported separately. The effect of the consolidation is an increase in the value of investments held and an increase in Reserves within Equity.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	1,308	973
Cash at bank	286,854	237,505
	<u>288,162</u>	<u>238,478</u>
NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade receivables	22,428	51,871
Accrued income	7,172	-
	<u>29,600</u>	<u>51,871</u>
NOTE 4: OTHER ASSETS		
Current		
Prepayments	30,093	26,061
Inventories – at cost	10,932	14,940
	<u>41,025</u>	<u>41,001</u>
NOTE 5: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Non-Current		
U Ethical Growth Portfolio – at fair value	464,886	453,232
U Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust Wholesale – at fair value	370,422	357,020
	<u>835,308</u>	<u>810,252</u>
NOTE 6: COLLECTIONS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Collections – at valuation	1,841,804	1,841,804
Plant and equipment – at cost	58,724	35,474
Accumulated depreciation	(36,834)	(31,396)
	<u>21,890</u>	<u>4,078</u>
	<u>1,863,694</u>	<u>1,845,882</u>
NOTE 7: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Trade creditors	25,190	11,254
GST payables	5,038	2,697
Other payables	21,978	29,203
	<u>52,206</u>	<u>43,154</u>

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTE 8: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

Current

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Subscriptions in advance	52,710	50,545
Insurance in advance	38,289	35,060
Grants in advance	66,773	110,471
	<u>157,772</u>	<u>196,076</u>

NOTE 9: PROVISIONS

Current

Provision for annual leave	<u>21,150</u>	<u>-</u>
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NOTE 10: RESERVES

Foundation	625,202	624,721
Weston Bate Reserve	17,616	17,097
Don Gibb Reserve	10,384	10,370
Estate of John Adams Reserve	11,058	10,731
Vic Historical Journal Reserve	71,880	67,103
Asset Revaluation Reserve	<u>1,841,804</u>	<u>1,841,804</u>
	<u>2,577,944</u>	<u>2,571,826</u>

NOTE 11: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus for the Year

Surplus for the year	78,407	109,622
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	5,438	874
- U Ethical investment income reinvested	(32,228)	(106,611)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- decrease in trade and other receivables	29,443	20,866
- increase in other assets	(24)	(17,694)
- increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	9,052	(27,551)
- increase (decrease) in income received in advance	(38,304)	14,786
- increase in provisions	<u>21,150</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>72,934</u>	<u>(5,708)</u>

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement by Members of the Committee


In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc., the committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee of the association declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 3 to 11, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. comply with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Professor Richard Broome
President



Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 17th May 2021



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control that the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Directors

Cheree F Woolcock

Tim M Kelleher

Kevin P Adams



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Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria



Director: Kevin P. Adams

17 May 2021

**Manuscripts from the RHSV Collection.**

In 2020 the shelving in the Manuscripts Room was upgraded, adding several more shelf metres of storage space. The addition of large span shelves will allow for storage of elephant folio-sized items.

SUPPORT THE RHSV FOUNDATION

To mark the RHSV's centenary year 2009, Council established the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation.

The aim of the Foundation is to safeguard the RHSV's future and its principal activities include:

- To receive charitable donations to further the work of the RHSV
- To raise funds to support the work of the RHSV
- To develop a long-term investment fund on behalf of the RHSV
- To build capital without undue risk
- To support the conservation and preservation of the RHSV's nationally significant collection
- To work towards creating a permanent home for the RHSV - a History House
- To promote the RHSV and Victoria's history.

Donations to the foundation can be made by:

CHEQUE

made out to RHSV Foundation

CREDIT CARD

Or

DIRECT DEBIT

ANZ

Royal Historical Society of Victoria,

BSB 013040

A/c 3475 70336

A receipt will be issued for all donations of at least \$2, which may be deductible for tax purposes.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RHSV

[historyvictoria.org.au](https://www.historyvictoria.org.au)

We value our members - they are our lifeblood. Members enjoy not only a wide range of benefits but they have a multitude of opportunities to volunteer and to become involved in the RHSV through its many committees or by working on the Collection or in Administration and Marketing.

To become a member download information from our website: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/>

Or phone the office on +613 9326 9288.

We thank all our members and hope we continue to deliver programs, advocacy and value for money and, of course, to champion Victoria's history and keep it alive.

RHSV COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria

CIVIC PATRON

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp

AMBASSADOR

Prof. E.W. (Bill) Russell FRHSV

PRESIDENT

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV

VICE PRESIDENT

Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV

TREASURER

Daniel Clements

SECRETARY

Carole Woods OAM FRHSV

COUNCILLORS

Margaret Anderson

Dr Robert Barnes FRHSV

Lucy Bracey (until May 2020)

Cathy Butcher

George Fernando (until May 2020)

Associate Professor Don Garden OAM FFAHS FRHSV

Pauline Hitchins

Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV (from May 2020)

Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine FAHA

Elisabeth Triarico (from May 2020)

Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV

Dr Nikita Vanderbyl (from September 2020)

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

Pauline Hitchins Convenor

(Maffra & District Historical Society)

Bernard Bolch

(Walhalla Heritage & Development League)

George Fernando

(Camberwell Historical Society)

Don Garden

(Sandringham & District Historical Society)

Jane Nigro

(Malvern Historical Society)

Ric Pawsey

(Box Hill Historical Society)

Judy Richards

(Stratford Historical Society)

Larina Strauch

(Kyneton Historical Society)

Ex-officio

Richard Broome

Rosemary Cameron.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Executive & Finance Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Cathy Butcher, Daniel Clements, Elisabeth Jackson, Carole Woods, Rosemary Cameron (ex-officio).

Responsible for governance, financial management, strategic planning.

Publications Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Jill Barnard, Sharon Betridge, Marilyn Bowler, Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig, Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard, John Schauble, Judith Smart, Lee Sulkowska, Carole Woods. Honorary indexer: Terri Mackenzie.

Responsible for Victorian Historical Journal and other RHSV publications.

Events and Outreach Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Rosemary Cameron.

Responsible for specific events such as conferences, the lecture program, the book fair.

Membership Development Committee

Rosalie Triolo (chair), Robert Barnes, Liz Bath, Don Garden, Carole Woods. Ex-officio: Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron.

Responsible for strategic planning to increase and retain membership.

Collections Committee

Elisabeth Jackson (chair), Richard Barnden, Margaret Fleming, Cheryl Griffin, Lorenzo Iozzi, Elizabeth Willis, Ex-officio: Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron, Jillian Hiscock.

Responsible for library, images, manuscripts, IT

and research projects.

History Victoria Support Group

Pauline Hitchins (convenor).

Delegates as listed above.

Responsible for historical societies, networking, professional development.

RHSV Foundation

Vacant (chair), Daniel Clements, John Fitzgerald, Keith Kendall, Michael Liffman. Ex-officio: Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron.

Responsible for the promotion and development of RHSV Foundation.

Fellows Committee

Carole Woods (chair), Robert Barnes, Richard Broome, Don Garden.

To meet as required under the RHSV Constitution.

Heritage Committee

Charles Sowerwine (chair), Margaret Anderson, Lucy Bracey, Don Garden, David Harris, Peter Hiscock, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Ian Wight. Ex-officio: Richard Broome.

Works to protect built heritage in Melbourne and, with local historical societies, across Victoria.

Victorian Community History Awards Organising Committee

Carole Woods (chair), Rosemary Cameron (ex-officio).

Responsible for management of the RHSV part of the Victorian Community History Awards.

The RHSV is represented on the following committees

Australian Heritage Council

Federation of Historical Societies

History Council of Victoria

Holsworth Heritage Trust

Joint Consultative Forum - Victorian Archives PROV

State Library User Organisations Council

Office of Geographic Place Names.

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Rosemary Cameron

Full-time.

Administration Officer

From Jan - Jun 2020 this position was filled by part-time staff:

Amy Minitier, Julie Johnson, Kate Laing, Leigh Bassett, Sophie Shilling

Rebecca Toohey (from June 2020)

Full-time.

Collections Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Jillian Hiscock

0.6 FTE

Marketing Co-ordinator

Jessica Scott

0.4 FTE

Project Officers

Emily Maiolo

Sophie Shilling

Auditor

Keith P. Adams

DFK BKM Audit Services

L3, 689 Burke Road,

Camberwell VIC 3124

Hon. Legal Officer

Robert Heath

Barrister

Chancery Chambers

Level 25, 200 Queen St.

Melbourne VIC 3000.

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living in December 2020 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below.

1967 Emeritus Prof. Geoffrey Blainey

1995 Assoc. Prof. John F. Lack

Dr Andrew G. Lemon

1997 Prof. John Rickard

1999 Assoc. Prof. Don Garden

2001 Susan Priestley

2004 Judith Bilszta

Valda Cole

2006 Dr Mimi Colligan

2008 Dr Gary Presland

Carole Woods

2010 Peter Yule

2011 Richard Barnden

Allan Willingham

2012 Adjunct Prof. Judith Smart

2013 Prof. Bill Russell

2014 Dr Robert Barnes

Lenore Frost

2016 Emeritus Prof. Richard Broome

2017 Dr Dianne Reilly

2019 Dr Simon Smith

Dr David Thompson

2020 Elisabeth Jackson

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Distinguished Service Awards 2020

Margaret Fleming

Cheryl Griffin

Awards of Merit 2020

Liz Bath, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Sylvia Black, East Melbourne Historical Society

Christopher Boddy, Knox Historical Society

Les Hutchinson, Croydon Historical Society

David Langdon, Richmond & Burnley Historical Society

Chris Manchec, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Kay McGregor, Bendigo Historical Society

Merle Pole, Ouyen Historical Society

Val Rohde, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Dr. Susan Walter, Malmsbury Historical Society

Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award 2020

Alison Cameron

Zoe Henderson

Benefactors

Professor Weston Bate OAM FRHSV

The Estate of Doug Gunn

Gordon Moffatt AM

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE

Prof. A.G.L. Shaw AO FAHA FASSA FRAHS FRHSV

Allan Willingham FRHSV

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History 2020

Emma Humphries, La Trobe University

Caitlin Thomas, La Trobe University

GRANTS AND DONATIONS**The RHSV wishes to thank the following organisations for support in 2020.**

The Estate of Esther I. Stump

Australian Museums & Galleries Association (Vic)

Creative Victoria - Organisations Investment Program

Holsworth Local Heritage Trust

Kate and Stephen Shelmerdine Family Foundation

The Myer Foundation

Public Record Office Victoria

Vera Moore Foundation

And expresses its gratitude to the following individuals

Gordon Moffatt AM

Jim & Karin Dixon

Patricia Peck

Annette Webb

Carole Woods

VOLUNTEERS

Barnden, Richard

Barry, Marc

Bassett, Leigh

Bath, Liz

Bede, Mandy

Betridge, Sharon

Boak, Helen

Bouma, Kristen

Bright, Laura

Buchanan, Greg

Cameron, Alison

Coates, Jenny

D'ath, Lynette

Douglas, Lynne

Eastaugh, Jack

Elliston, Simon

Fleming, Margaret

Frost, Lenore

Gill, Catherine

Graham, Fiona

Griffin, Cheryl

Hall, Alan

Henderson, Zoe

Herrington, Pam

Jackson, Julia

Mackenzie, Terri Anne

Maiolo, Emily

Manchec, Chris

McDonald, Alex

McKenzie, Greta

Miller, Jan

Minitier, Amy

Morrison, Rowena

Muirden, Sallie

Pascoe, Jeremy

Ritter, Alan

Robb, Kerri

Rohde, Valerie

Rose, John

Sherwood, Lyn

Skye, Kellie

Smith, Ashley

Strohl, Katrin

Thompson, David

Torpey, John

Torpey, Sandra

Donations

A participant in the Cultural Gifts Program, the RHSV also enjoys status with the Australian Taxation Office as ‘an income tax exempt charitable entity’. The RHSV Library, Art Gallery and Museum Fund has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a ‘deductible gift recipient’. This method of contributing to the growth, preservation of and access to our splendid collection of books, manuscripts, pictures, artefacts, or enabling the Society to add to its collection, provides a benefit both to our Victorian heritage, and to the donor.

Donations of cultural items through the Cultural Gifts Program offer attractive taxation benefits - donors receive a tax deduction for the market value of the donation, which can be spread over five income years and donations are exempt from capital gains tax. Advice on the Cultural Gifts Program is available from the Australian Taxation Office or from the Department of Communications and the Arts.

www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program

www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising

Bequests

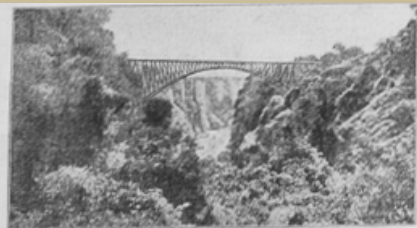
Making a bequest is an extraordinary act of generosity. By making a bequest to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria you can support the development and nurturing of current and future historians and ensure our collection continues to grow and to be accessible. As custodians of this important collection, we have a responsibility to maintain its legacy.

We are happy to discuss with you any special areas of interest. Your bequest can be untied or it will be used solely for your nominated purpose. A bequest acknowledges the important role that the RHSV has played in your life and your gift will, in turn, enrich the lives of others. A bequest to the RHSV enables you to make a contribution that you may not have been able to during your lifetime.

The Society has had wonderful bequests in the past that have allowed it to make its collections accessible to all through digitising the Pioneer Records and indexing the on-line Victorian History Journals as well as restoring original artworks and building a new website.

We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice from your solicitor or financial adviser in arranging a bequest.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, please contact your solicitor or our Executive Officer on
+613 9326 9288
executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au.



The picture reflects the large masses of tropical vegetation on each side of the river and in the background.

