

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE.354 JUNE 2021



Festive flag & eucalypt leaves

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What's on AT RHSV

All events are held at the RHSV unless otherwise noted. Bookings are recommended for all events and can be made through the RHSV website: historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/

TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Thursday 24 June
Refreshments from 5:30pm – 6pm
Lecture 6pm – 7pm
\$5



Twentieth Century Science, Technology and Engineering presented by Laureate Professor R. J. Evans. Engineering Heritage Victoria and the RHSV are, once again, partnering to present some fascinating events which are of interest to anyone interested in history and the history of engineering in its broadest scope. This talk explores the development of key scientific and technological advances over the past 100 years. Building upon the great achievements of the Victorian era which saw huge advances in fundamental sciences coupled with breathtaking engineering achievements.

Rob Evans was born in Melbourne, Australia. After completing a BE degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Melbourne in 1969, he worked as a radar systems engineering officer with the Royal Australian Air force. He completed a PhD in 1975 at the University of Newcastle followed by postdoctoral studies at the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, MIT, USA and the Control and Management Department, Cambridge University, UK. In 1977 he took up an academic position at the University of Newcastle, where he served as Head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 1986 until 1991 and Chief Investigator and Co-Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence on Industrial Control Systems between 1988 – 1991.

In 1992 he moved to the University of Melbourne, where he has served in many roles.

Rob is currently a Melbourne University Laureate Professor and a Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery.

Rob's research and industry engagement has ranged across many areas including theory and applications in control systems, industrial electronics, radar systems, signal processing and telecommunications. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, a Life Fellow of the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers USA, and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia.

VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS – NOW OPEN

Closing date: 5pm, Wednesday 7 July, 2021

Digital entry available on the RHSV website. The 2021 awards cover projects which will come to fruition between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 (inclusive).

The awards are not just for publications but cover collaborative community projects, oral history, multimedia, podcasts, apps, maps, walking tours, virtual tours, exhibitions, musical interpretation, journal articles, videos, projects which cover cultural diversity and activities which enhance awareness of local community records including digitising, indexing, and original research.

HISTORY OF THE SPENCER STREET BRIDGE

Thursday 8 July
Refreshments from 5:30pm – 6pm
Lecture 6pm – 7pm
\$5

Have you ever noticed the Spencer Street Bridge? Arguably nondescript,

this dependable 1930 structure has a backstory of political infighting, pioneering technology and an unexpected obstacle pre-dating the bridge by several millennia. We are delighted to partner again with Engineering Heritage Victoria to present this talk by Fiona Campbell, Local History librarian at East Melbourne Library and bridge enthusiast.



THE MACROBERTSON INTERNATIONAL AIR RACES EXHIBITION

Mondays – Fridays
9am–5pm until late September
FREE



MacRobertson's International Air Races of 1934 produced feats of great courage and derring-do. There was tragedy and triumph. A tragedy was averted in the middle of a stormy night when the inventive locals of Albury used their towns lights to flash A L B U R Y in morse, then turned their race-track into a make-shift airstrip using their car headlights to allow the lost Dutch entry, the Uiver, to land. The next morning the same locals hauled the bogged plane out of a quagmire so that it could continue to Melbourne to claim 2nd place. Every entry in that race had an amazing story to tell. Visit the exhibition and be immersed in the romance and drama of early flight.

PLAN FOR HISTORY MONTH NOW

October is History Month. We encourage all historical societies to hold an event during history month – there is a great suggested list of events on our website which is a great place to start your brainstorming. We encourage you to think about collaborations with local schools, libraries and other community organisations – spread the joy!

History Month overlaps with the Seniors Festival and Children's Week so why not devise an event or two which can be featured in more than one program?

historyvictoria.org.au/brainstorm-history-month-event-ideas/

History News

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EMAIL sbetridge@outlook.com

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COVER IMAGE: Festive flag and eucalypt leaves.
Image courtesy of Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

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BOOKKEEPER Liridon Shaqiri

History House

239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne 3000

Office & Library Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

P: 9326 9288 W: www.historyvictoria.org.au

Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

ABN 36 520 675 471 Registration No. A2529



President's report

In 2022, a new Year 12 Study Design for Australian History will begin. It has been designed by a committee of teachers and academics appointed by the state government's Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and has undergone a rigorous consultation process with teachers, academics and the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association (VAEIA). The Study Design was to begin in classrooms in 2021 but was delayed due to the COVID outbreak.

Victoria is the only state in the Commonwealth of Australia that teaches our history in the final year of school. However, only 6,000 of 80,000 Year 12 students do History; just over 10 per cent of those do Australian history, meaning only about 600-700 students do Australian history at this senior level, predominantly in country and private schools. This is of course of great concern for understanding our society and its history. It is to be hoped these numbers will increase over the life of the new Study Design, which is five possibly ten years. Of even more concern is that our own history is not studied at a sophisticated level by any other students in Australia in their final year of schooling.

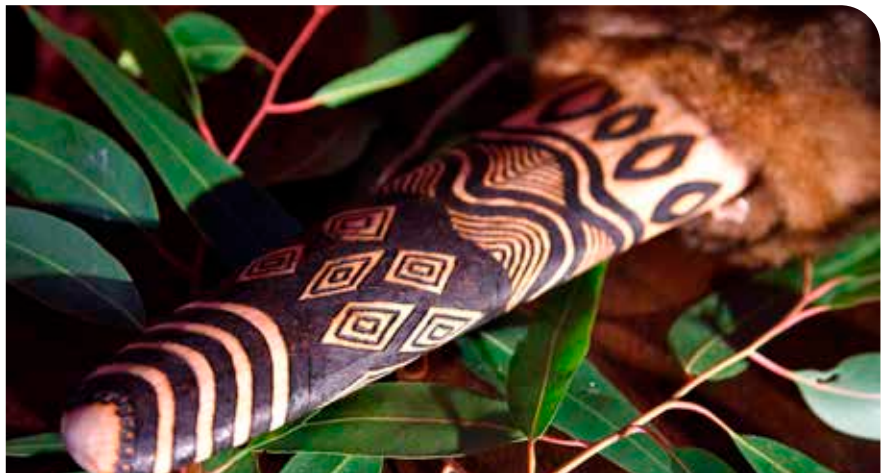
The study of Australian history at senior level has been through many iterations over the last fifty years and until recently Indigenous Australians featured largely in frontier history only. But their place in VCE history has been slowly expanding. In the 2022 Study Design, Indigenous history is given a significant and overdue place in the four streams of the Study Design of which each student will choose two.

The first stream investigates human relations to land in Australia's past from Deep Time to 2010, beginning with in-depth explorations of Indigenous custodianship and management of land. The second stream explores how the Australian Nation was created and investigates how First Nations peoples became part of the nation in the late twentieth century, as the idea of citizenship was expanded. The third study follows the theme of power and resistance, examining how Aboriginal peoples struggled against colonisation

and then fought for civil and land rights, alongside struggles by women and other minorities excluded from power in colonial society. The last theme is war and upheaval in the twentieth century, and how all Australians, including First Nations peoples, participated in overseas conflicts and the impacts these involvements had on Australian society.

Cambridge University Press has rescued Australian history from an imminent lack of a textbook, by publishing four volumes at breakneck speed by the end of 2021, one for each theme. They have been written by prominent academics and teachers to match the Study Design, and reviewed and advised by Indigenous readers. Five per cent of income from the series, *Analyzing Australian History*, will be donated to the Indigenous Reading Project. I am proud to be a co-general editor of the series along with Ashley Keith Pratt. I am also an author.

Richard Broome AM



Message Stick, Mick Harding, Taungurung Elder

Message from the editor

A special thank you to those who have shared their thoughts and writings celebrating Australia's Indigenous history. Your words and images empower us as readers as we build our knowledge and understanding of this unique history.

We welcome and look forward to the submissions of more articles on this broad history for future editions of *History News*.

Please note, that the views expressed in all content are not necessarily the views of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

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History Victoria

Support Group

As we slowly make our way back to normal operations after the COVID chaos of 2020, there are lots of ongoing success stories and plenty of challenges around our societies.

Our phone tree callers continue to make contact with societies to see how they are progressing and what are the key issues confronting members. Membership Development Committee chair Rosalie Triolo says she found the exercise both rewarding and enlightening. She enjoyed her chats with the societies and found those she called were appreciative of the opportunity to share their story. Rosalie noted that each society has its own focus and there are dozens of interesting initiatives from which we can learn.

As we've noted in the past, COVID provided the opportunity for many people to sort out their family stories. For some societies, that led to an increase in family history enquiries: post-COVID activities continue to be pretty busy for some groups.

Another result of local families reviewing their history has been numerous donations to societies: hopefully there will be useful and meaningful items among these treasures once they can be sorted.

A downside has been that some groups have lost volunteers who have decided not to return to their previous level of involvement and this is exacerbating the assessment and cataloguing backlog. The age-old challenge of attracting new and hopefully young members continues for many. Young parents are busy with children and volunteer with sporting and other groups linked to their offspring's activities, 'grey nomads'

are travelling, many more are occupied with grandparent duties and the COVID threat has led to many deciding it is safer to stay at home. Technology continues to be a barrier to many would-be older volunteers contributing in meaningful ways to the work of a society. Even obtaining email addresses for members to enable cost-effective communication remains a challenge.

Conversely, many groups have lost income because so much information is available online through Trove and similar resources as people are able to pursue their own research.

Alexandra Historical Society explained to Rosalie it has a valuable and historically precious wash basin and jug set as well as many antiques in its historical house, 'Dove Cottage' and is intending to apply for a grant to securely protect and display this one precious set.

Birchip Historical Society noted how pleased it was that it videoed some significant people within the community talking about their personal and community experiences, including a short video still on its website funded some years ago. Two of the people in the video have since passed away and the society is all the more pleased, as are the men's families, to have record of them while they were well. BHS would like to do more of this recording.

Boort Historical Society has decided to tap into the tourism opportunities that have grown in recent years due to the lake. Since tourism took off locally, the society has had more visitors; and it is able to reference 'catering to tourists' in its grant applications.

Brighton Historical Society receives many



Cover of Home Beautiful, 2 February 1931, home in Grosvenor Street, Middle Brighton

inquiries about its historic homes and has become skilled and efficient in tracking down and providing that information.

Essendon Historical Society is planning to introduce 'guided' walking tours of Ascot Vale as a new and COVID-safe set of activities. Rosalie also shares the anecdote from the Essendon HS they believe that their rule of 'the last person leaving the old courthouse each day must close all solid wooden doors' is what helped minimise the damage in the fire at its former Court House premises several years ago: a timely reminder of the need to be vigilant about safety procedures.

Sandringham & District Historical Society has had some good writers over the years and proudly has its own online bookshop. The newest publication is on 'self-guided' walking tours as another COVID-safe historical activity.

Traralgon Historical Society annually produces historical calendars: 2020 was of little local country schools; 2021 was of public halls and 2022 will be of influential women in the community who might not be well-known or widely-known by some measures, but who have been very important in their local communities in other ways.

These and other ideas can easily be shared. And don't forget the resources available on the RHSV website: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/societies/guide-to-managing-historical-societies/>

Pauline Hitchins

Convenor HVSG (RHSV)

Phone: 0437 29 69 25

Email: hvsg@historyvictoria.com.au



The Kellys of Pyramid Hill

The J H Kelly Coach building, painting and trimming works was on the site in Kelly Park now occupied by the museum. J H Kelly is in the centre of the photo with his employees.

Pyramid Hill Historical Society recently commissioned a mural on one of its building's outer walls abutting Kelly Park. The mural was of Jack Kelly from the long-established and still resident farming and blacksmithing Kelly family. Jack served in the Royal Australian Navy in WWII. The mural of 'a sailor in Pyramid Hill' has generated a lot of interest from locals. Moreover, the mural is a feature for visitors and encourages some into the historical society.

Chris Duffy, assisted by Sarah Wallace-Smith, painted this representation connecting local and national history. Both artists are from Bendigo. Duffy, originally from the UK, studied art in the late 1990s focusing on figurative art and has now forged a reputation as being a pop street artist. He has been excited to bring communication and connection to the town by telling a story through art. Chris has enjoyed the interest this work has created and loved it when people came and chatted about the progress of a piece as it was being painted.

Jack Kelly's ancestor, J. H. Kelly, was a mover and shaker, a businessman who was very involved in his local community as a councillor in the Shire of Swan Hill, based at Kerang, then the Gordon Shire when it was formed in 1885. He was in the brass band, the Fire Brigade and many other organisations in the fledgling town of Pyramid Hill which had moved from the hill to the railway line in 1884

when the line came through. Today's Kelly Park was once the site of J. H. Kelly coach building, painting and trimming works and is now the location of the museum. Kelly Street is also named after J. H. Kelly.

Jack Kelly was the third-generation blacksmith on the site and likewise he was very involved in the Fire Brigade. He also looked after the weighbridge which was on the side of the road opposite his blacksmith shop.

Jack Kelly enlisted 25 July 1941. He had tried to enlist earlier but was refused due to his occupation being deemed reserved. He served on HMAS Lonsdale, HMAS Cerberus and he was on the HMAS Canberra at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands when it was sunk during an

encounter with the Japanese on 9 August 1942 at Battle of Savo Island. During this battle Jack was wounded, and rescued with other members of HMAS Canberra's crew who had managed to abandon ship; 84 crew were killed. Jack continued to serve in the Royal Australian Navy during the war and advanced to Petty Officer. After the war he returned to his blacksmithing business at Pyramid Hill.

Chris Duffy and Sarah Wallace-Smith's mural of Jack Kelly and the HMAS Canberra has created much interest and the Pyramid Hill Historical Society are hoping to secure a grant to produce more murals around the town.

Pauline Hitchins



Old Tarnagulla in Colour

After an extended Covid induced sabbatical, the Tarnagulla History Archive re-opened its doors on 11 January 2021 with an extensive and elaborate display entitled 'Old Tarnagulla In Colour'. This display featured poster-sized and beautifully coloured photographs of people and places in and around Tarnagulla in the early years. For those of you familiar with the historic Victoria Theatre at Tarnagulla, the display occupied almost the entire large hall as well as ancillary rooms, and was put together by volunteer members of the Tarnagulla History Archive.

Along with many other towns in central and western Victoria, Tarnagulla has a rich history dating back to the gold rush era. Although now scaled back from the large town that it was in its boom years of the 1800s, Tarnagulla still retains a healthy nucleus of historic public buildings, churches and private residences which leave visitors to the town and district with a vivid impression of what was once a large and important gold-mining centre.

Tarnagulla has long felt the need to preserve its history for future generations, and several years ago the Tarnagulla Hall Committee applied for and received a grant from Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) to refurbish and refit a room adjoining the Victoria Hall for use as a secure repository for the large volumes of historical photographs and memorabilia which had been gathering in private collections. This facility is now known as the Tarnagulla History Archive.

Tarnagulla is very fortunate in having the voluntary services of local resident Dr Megan Cardamone and her small band of volunteers in not only putting a process in place to seek the PROV grant but also in overseeing the time-consuming task of setting up the History Archive, and also cataloguing and managing what is rapidly becoming a very large collection. Megan is a highly experienced museum consultant.

It is now eighteen months since the Tarnagulla History Archive opened its doors on a monthly basis and, excepting the Covid restriction period, has proven to be very popular focal point for ex-



Tarnagulla-ites visiting their old home town as well as numerous family and local historians looking to put flesh on their research bones. On the subject of research, the Tarnagulla History Archive is also in the fortunate position of having access to a comprehensive index of the old town's local newspaper, the *Tarnagulla Courier*, for the period 1864 to 1920. This is, of course, a boon to researchers, especially family historians. The recent Open Day on 11 January attracted many, many visitors as the result of a focused promotional campaign, and the response to the historical colourised photographic display was outstanding and well worth travelling to see. Our visitors usually come from all over Victoria and even interstate, and we are continually amazed at the numbers of visitors with strong old-time family connections to Tarnagulla, who have never visited the town until attracted by the opening of the History Room. In

fact, in January we received an entire family group of descendants of the acknowledged 1852 first discoverers of gold at Tarnagulla who had had no connection with the town since 1853! Similarly, other visitors included a group who were descended from a very wealthy quartz miner who left Tarnagulla in 1870 and had never been back. As you can imagine, we welcomed with open arms these descendants of our earliest and long-lost pioneers!

Our 'Old Tarnagulla In Colour exhibition' in February and March this year was a huge success. In addition to our special exhibitions, the Tarnagulla History Archive is open from 10am until 3pm on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year. If you would like more information or wish to arrange a private viewing, you can email on tarnagullahistoryarchive@gmail.com.

David Gordon



NATIVE POLICE, PT. PHILLIP

Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve:

the most historically significant post-contact Indigenous site in Victoria

In the decades following settlement of the Port Phillip region by Europeans, interaction between the Indigenous population and the settlers took a wide variety of forms. Ongoing relationships involving Koories and police became a common feature in the colony, particularly in the Melbourne area. Of the many sites of historical importance resulting from such cross-cultural interaction, the area in Narre Warren now known as Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve can be considered as unparalleled in its significance.

In a period spanning almost 100 years this area was a pivotal location in on-going associations between traditional owners and the policing authorities of the time.

The first episode in this long sequence occurred when the site was chosen in October 1837 as the base of the first Native Police Corps, commanded by Christiaan de Villiers. The area straddles Dandenong Creek and was within Woi wurrung country but it also bordered the estate of the Ngaruk willam, a clan of the Boon wurrung language group. William Barak later referred to the country as 'half good', meaning that it could be used by members of either of the two urrungs. Perhaps for this reason, the site was suggested by some of the 15 Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung men who enlisted in the Corps.

This initial attempt at forming an Aboriginal Police force was short lived, lasting only 10 weeks, until January 1838, when de Villiers resigned. A couple of years later, the Dandenong Creek site was given over to the newly-created Aboriginal Protectorate, as the base for the Westernport area. In October 1840 Assistant Protector William Thomas took up residency with the

intention of creating a viable agricultural station and attracting Woi wurrung people to settle there permanently. The Woi wurrung were willing to move to the site but Thomas had trouble in persuading them to stay and labour in the fields; by 1842 he had virtually abandoned use of the area.

At about the same time a decision was made to reform an Aboriginal Police Corps and, once again, the base was located at the Narre Warren site on Dandenong Creek. With good leadership provided by Henry Dana, and the co-operation of Kulin clan headmen, this Corps proved to be a success. For slightly more than a decade from its beginning in February 1842, the uniformed members of the Corps saw duty in many areas within the Port Phillip District. Ultimately the Police Corps was made redundant by the formation of Victoria Police in 1853. It had been dealt a serious blow in the previous years, with the death of its Commandant, Henry Dana.

The historical significance of the area is further increased by an additional feature dating from the period of this Corps. Located within the reserve is the grave of Bungelene, a Gunai/Kurnai man who had been captured with his family by the Native Police Corp in 1847, and held at the Narre Warren station. It was alleged that he had captured a white woman in Gippsland. He died on 21 November 1848 and was buried at the station.

The Nerre Nerre Warren site was taken over by the newly-formed police force and came to be used as a stud depot for breeding and training horses for the Mounted Branch. This use of the area by Victoria Police continued for almost 80

William Strutt, print after Native Police, Pt. Phillip 1851 from The Illustrated Australian Magazine (Melbourne: Ham Brothers, vol. 2, no.9, 1851) chalk-lithograph National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. <https://aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com.au/8-native-police/>

years, until July 1931, and is the reason the Reserve is today known as 'Police Paddocks', and an adjacent thoroughfare is named 'Stud Road'.

From February 1884 the Dandenong stud depot was also the base from which the force operated a small team of trackers. In the wake of the capture of the Kelly Gang in July 1880, Victoria Police had created a scheme which saw Indigenous Queenslanders brought to Victoria to perform tracking duties as required. Initially, these Murri people came on 12-month contracts, but in later years, as it became harder to attract experienced trackers, the length of an individual's service was extended. Over the period in which the scheme operated, these trackers exercised their skills in most parts of Victoria. When they were not employed in tracking criminals or people lost in the bush, they assisted the Police Studmaster in training horses.

The relocation of its horse breeding and training depot, along with the Aboriginal trackers, to the northern side of Melbourne in 1931, brought an end to the Indigenous police connection with the Dandenong reserve. However, the significance and importance of the site has not diminished; indeed, an increased interest in the study of Indigenous culture and history in recent decades has served to bolster the appreciation of such historically-rich sites. Places such as Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve, which are culturally and temporally layered, have much to tell us about a past shared by First Nations people and colonising Europeans.

Dr Gary Presland FRHSV



Windows on history: two cultures, one vision

At first glance, the stained-glass window in the Chapel of Marist-Sion College at Warragul appears as an upward-weaving ribbon of gentle colour and light, which allows glimpses of playing fields and rolling Gippsland country in the landscape outside. It fits comfortably into the curved straw-bale walls that wrap around the building, designed by Y2 Architecture to reflect college values within a tranquil environment. The chapel opened in 2018 as a light-filled, warm sanctuary for the college community and the window was installed the following year.

Led by Robin Rebecchi, a college committee overseeing the project determined that *The Creation* would be the main theme of the window, but it was adamant that the design should not be literal or clichéd in its interpretation. Instead, biblical and scientific creation stories should be brought together to reflect the past, the present, and point to the future. The committee drew up an

ambitious list of optional subjects for the window, which included references to the two schools that only came together as one in 1975: St Joseph's College founded as a boys' college in 1951 and Our Lady of Sion College, for girls, founded in 1905. It was also to be representative of the country and people of Gippsland, including the Indigenous Gunai/Kurnai people.

After Michael Pater, Pater Leadlights, Berwick, was commissioned, he quickly discerned that to realise fully the themes, required not only leadlight, coloured glass joined by lead comes, to fill the tall seven-panel space, but also painted and stained glass for the diverse and delicate motifs, texts and details to be interpreted with subtlety and clarity. Glass designer Lis de Deugd worked from Pater's concept sketch to explore the journey from the Big Bang, rising through geological and biological time and culminating in stars and planets at the top of the window.

Each of the seven lights has a clear glass background with a central image. The dark base of the window, before the division of earth and air, is blue black, followed in the next panel with early life under water and on land. Human history and achievement are represented in the next panels, intertwined with the Incarnation and Ministry of Christ, rising up to the Empty Tomb, the Eucharist and Salvation. Hope for the future is represented through the leaves of the olive trees and violets, symbolic references to the Marist and Sion origins of the College exemplified by the addition of a Hebrew prayer shawl and the Hebrew letter 'Sin'. Rays of light thrust upwards at the top of the window, symbolising the evolutionary or unfinished nature of Creation.

The Christian message is wrapped around with a wide golden DNA-like ribbon. Unlike the central images which are painted onto the glass, the ribbon was embedded with images and patterns by



kiln-firing the glass over fine moulds. The First Nations people's long cultural history in western Gippsland is first seen in panel #1 entwined with and surrounding the more recent non-indigenous history. A Gunai/Kurnai totem, the blue wren, is prominently displayed, as are eucalypt leaves, wattle and cherry ballart, representing their long association with the land. Throughout the progression of the design, ideas and images were fine-tuned with representatives of the Gunai/Kurnai people, Kayleen McKinnon and Linda Mullett, before they and their elders signed off, well pleased with the result.

Readers may remember the overall winner of Victoria's Community History Award in 2000 was a remarkable book, entitled *Jackson's Track: memoir of a Dreamtime place* by Daryl Tonkin and Carolyn Lanyon. This story of one white man's experience of a life among Australia's First Nations people happened not far to the north of Marist-Sion College, in the Labertouche - Jindivick area. Despite hard work and hardship, Daryl Tonkin found happiness in his work and

family life, but prejudice, bureaucracy and betrayal ultimately brought tragedy to many Indigenous people who had been part of this community on Jacksons Track. The window provides a significant link to that past and has the potential to point to a better future.

Underlying the Christian and Indigenous beliefs and experiences symbolised in the window is the expectation that it encourages students to become engaged with subtle details: biblical texts hidden among the leaves on the olive tree, the smaller, no less significant, creatures such as ants or snakes, and become familiar with Indigenous symbols, including running water, meeting place, stars and sun. This Creation window stands as one example of the College's aim 'to build a community within which all are nurtured, valued and respected'.

With thanks to Michael Pater, Holly Pater, Lis de Deugd and Stan Hawksworth for their assistance and photographs for this article.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM

The John Adams Prize, Victorian Historical Journal 2019–2020

From a short list of six articles this prize was awarded to Charles Fahey, 'Happy Valley Road and the Victoria Hill District: A Microhistory of a Victorian Gold-rush Mining Community, 1854–1913', *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol. 90, no. 2, December 2019, pp. 271–300.

An honourable mention was given to Barbara Minchinton, 'The Rise and Fall of Lady Gillott in Melbourne's Turn-of-the-Century Society', *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol. 91, no. 2, December 2020, pp. 291–318.

The distinguished judges, Emerita Professor Marian Quartly and Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, gave Dr Charles Fahey high praise. Their report is found in the *Victorian Historical Journal* for June 2021.



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Around the societies

**Prepared by volunteer
Glenda Beckley on
behalf of the History
Victoria Support Group.**

We welcome Societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year.
FOR THE AUGUST 2021 ISSUE please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 June 2021.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE:

Meeting dates for 2021: 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 12 September (AGM), 3 October, 11 November, and 5 December. Significant dates: 24 June - Gordon's death, Flemington races named event (to be confirmed); 15 August - Great Western Steeple, Coleraine; 1 September - Wattle Day; 19 October - Gordon's birthday. The Great Western Steeple event is scheduled for Sunday, 15 August. The new Manager of the Coleraine Racing Club, Elle Guthrie, is keen to promote our involvement in this event including a social event on the Saturday night. For more information, visit our website at <https://adamlindsaygordon.org>

CAMPERDOWN: Save the date: tickets now available for the Camperdown Robert Burns Festival 2-3-4 July 2021. The festival promotes the legacy of Robert Burns and the cultural heritage of Scots in south-west Victoria. Family Festival Fun, Kilt Optional! For more information visit <https://camperdownburnsfestival.com.au/>

FITZROY: Our Society continued to meet via Zoom during the long lockdown including the launching of a new project, Citizen Historians to encourage community members to research and document the history and life of our houses. The City of Yarra has agreed to collect and produce a data base so that this work will be available to future researchers and other interested persons. During 2021 talks will be given by our members: Governor LaTrobe and his specific relevance to Fitzroy; an epidemiologist will discuss the similarities and differences between the 'Spanish' flu and COVID; the results of certain redevelopment sites from VCAT hearings. The Ewing Trust has been preparing podcasts on walks on various areas of Fitzroy and the Society has been providing research and the recording. The availability of these will be advised in our newsletters and online at www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au

HAMILTON: We are fortunate to have the Ernest Cameron photographs in our collection. They comprise around

26 boxes of negatives and contain over ten thousand photos. The project to digitize the negatives has been ongoing for over two years now and it includes, so far, portraits of babies, children, weddings, adults, debutante balls, family groups and nurses. The photos have also been catalogued and indexed. Local school records has been completed. For the current list please visit the 'Our Collections>Registers' page on our website. The project to compile the Centre's 12 WWII brieflets into a single book is progressing quickly, and it is hoped the book will be available for purchase by Anzac Day this year. Visit our website to pre-order hamiltonhistorycentre.org.au

KNOX: Did you attend school in the Knox Area? The Society copies or collects school group photographs and currently has 18,000 school photographs, some dating back 100 years, from 54 schools. This is an important project as it documents the children who grew up in the area and aids researchers undertaking family history research. One room in the Museum at Ambleside Park is devoted to the school photograph collection. Visitors enjoy looking for photographs of themselves or family members and often help the historical society by identifying some of the faces on the photographs. Copies of photographs from the collection can be purchased as scanned image on a disk unless other arrangements are made.

MALMSBURY: Mystery Stone: This large, worked piece of Malmsbury bluestone lies at the western end of the Arboretum. It has a metal plate bolted on the far side. While we can guess it might be a base plate for some sort of vertical structure, does anyone know its history or have any clues as to the function of this item? Any reasonable suggestions are welcome.



MARYSVILLE: Founded in 1969, the Society's History Centre at 39 Darwin Street provides both visitors and researchers the opportunity to learn about the rich history of Marysville and its surrounds. The museum houses a unique collection of items based around four main themes: Pioneers, Timber, Tourism and the RSL. The museum only contains items that have a direct connection to the Marysville Triangle region. The Marysville Memorial Heritage Rose Garden at the History Centre is always well worth a visit.

MELBOURNE TRAM MUSEUM: After a successful re-opening on 27 March, we are delighted to announce that as from April 2021 the Melbourne Tram Museum will return to its normal operating schedule, with open days on the second and fourth Saturdays each month. Further information, including all scheduled 2021 open days, can be found at <http://hawthorntramdepot.org.au/visitors.htm> Open days will be subject to no further lockdowns being announced: please check for announcements on our website and on social media. We hope to see you at the museum soon.



MIDDLE PARK: Project 3206 - The 'Committee for Urban Action photographic survey 1970-1974 street-scapes' project, available on the MPHG website <https://middleparkhistoryg.wixsite.com/mphg> has been renamed Project 3206. This has been done to reflect the scope of the survey and relate it more to the area covered by the Middle Park History Group. Almost all of the relevant streets covered by the CUA images have now been completed and we hope to be able to commence adding stories contributed by members and the public.

NEPEAN: The Society was formed in March 1965. The then Flinders Shire Council made available to the Society the Mechanics Institute building in Melbourne Road, Sorrento, which was opened as a museum in September 1967. The building which is classified by the National Trust was built of local limestone between 1876-90. A multi-purpose heritage gallery, including multimedia and lecture facilities, was added in 1994. The Museum will be open on Saturdays from 10:00am-2:00pm. To discover more visit



our website at nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au

PORT MELBOURNE: Members and the general public can now find items in the collection via <https://victoriancollections.net.au/> We had been thinking about moving to Victorian Collections (VC) for a number of years and after a visit to the Ringwood & District Historical Society in January 2020 to see how they were using the system, a proposal to move to VC was approved by the Executive Committee. During lockdown, David Thompson undertook the huge task of preparing the PMH&PS collection information for migration to the VC system: a total of 6,349 records. This involved achieving consistency with the requirements of the VC. It also revealed duplications, cataloguing questions and gaps: all of which required investigation and resolution. We encourage all members to visit the site and search for your favourite Port Melbourne topic. A word of warning! There are over 1,200 organisations represented on VC so you could get side-tracked down any number of interesting rabbit holes. Any record relating to Port Melbourne will be revealed in a general search, not only those of the Society.

RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY: Opened in 1855, St Kilda Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries

in Melbourne and contains many famous and notable Australians. It was one of the principal burial places south of the Yarra River during the nineteenth century and its heritage values have been recognised by the Commonwealth and State Governments. The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery are a not-for-profit community group, incorporated as an association in 1999 with the aim to promote the conservation and appreciation of the Cemetery as a place of remembrance, of historic importance and of natural beauty. Visit our website at foskc.org or our page at facebook.com/FOSKC

SALE: The Society is responsible for the Sale Museum in the old Council Chambers in Foster Street, Sale, the Powder Magazine, the Railway Signal Box and the new Water Tower Museum. The Museum houses original Council furniture from the Borough of Sale as well as many other artefacts and archives from 1863. The main chamber re-creates the original Council meeting room. Some memorabilia from West Sale Migrant Holding Centre, local author Mary Grant Bruce, a collection of local honour boards and items from early businesses and homes are also on display. There is a main exhibition room featuring items related to a specific theme such as manufacturing or other businesses <https://salemuseums.com>

SANDRINGHAM: Our latest community project is the Sandringham Village Historical Walk 2021 in conjunction with the Sandringham Traders Association. This project is effectively connecting our society and Sandringham's history with the local traders, as the walk goes past all of their premises. We anticipate that many other traders and local community members will support us with membership and or donations to our collection, once the book is launched. The seventy-page book is printed in full colour and will also be available electronically from our website <https://sandringhamhistorical.org.au>



sandringhamhistorical.org.au

TERANG & DISTRICT: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our soldiers' book: *They served with Courage*. We launched the book on Thursday, 22 April in the Terang Civic Hall. Copies will be available at Terang Post Office at a cost of \$30.00 each. Or you can email the Society for details of how to purchase if you are not in the area. Email: historysociety04@hotmail.com or like our facebook page at facebook.com/teranghistoricalsociety

TORQUAY MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS: The latest *History Matters* Magazine is now available at the Torquay newsagents, featuring a range of stories related to the Torquay district. The cover features Rex 'China' Gilbert and inside the magazine there are stories of his life. In this edition we also feature the story on Voss's Lookout Car Park and how it got its name; Catherine Tait: Invisible Guardian and her fight to have the farm put in her name; a new section of stories from Bellbrae Cemetery. Visit our website at <https://www.torquayhistory.com> or find us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/torquay.museum.without.walls>

WARRANTYTE: Through the Neighbourhood Recovery Grants aimed at supporting local communities to recover after the lock downs, Jane Annois, potter, organiser of the Pottery Expo and North Warrandyte resident, applied for a grant to mount an exhibition to display at Taffy's Hut. The photos in the 'Year of Wonders' Photographic Exhibition, taken by Warrandyte's talented photographic artists, are a wonderful display of our local beauty and wildlife and looked mightily impressive on the once empty walls of Taffy's hut. The photos will stay on show for six months thus encouraging visitors to the historic hut site which proved an ideal place for such an exhibition.

Returning our Ancestors



The remains of 38 unprovenanced Aboriginal Ancestors were laid under this stone, King's Domain Reburial Place. (Photo: Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria).

"Our spirit cannot rest when our Old People's remains are not in place. By repatriating their remains to rest, we reset time and space to allow spirit to continue its journey. Without resting, their spirit is unable to be free. It is captured in darkness and cannot continue to its dreaming. There is a cycle for everyone and everything, including the human spirit, and when the cycle is incomplete or interfered with there are consequences. For Aboriginal people there is a deep spiritual connection to the universe through our religious beliefs. All is connected. Nothing stands alone and nothing can succeed alone."

Sissy Pettit, Wemba Wemba descendent and Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council Ancestral Remains Unit Manager

Aboriginal Peoples' burial places have been desecrated in the name of curiosity, science and research. Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, Ancestors, the skeletons of the forefathers of today's Traditional Owners, were stolen from their land. They were dug from their graves, where they had been placed with care and ceremony, to be housed in metal boxes as specimens or ornaments of curiosity by individuals, families and institutions.

The 1980s saw Ancestors start to return to rest on Country. But the journey is by no means complete and there are many more Ancestors still to come home. We can all walk together and help in this essential work but it is the day to day responsibility of Traditional Owners and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council's Ancestral Remains Unit (ARU).

Council's responsibility through the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is for the

custody and repatriation of all Ancestral Remains in Victoria that are not in the care of their Traditional Owners. It is both a statutory and cultural responsibility that weighs heavily on Council and the ARU, who undertake this work.

"We will not be well until this is done."

Aunty Eleanor Bourke, Wergaia Elder

In 2014 the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council talked to the community about the importance of returning Ancestors to Country and their protection on Country. Aunty Eleanor Bourke articulated that Council's work in this area was based on the fundamental understanding that the wellbeing of Aboriginal People was intrinsically linked to the return of their Old People. Now, as then, the capacity for communities to grieve and heal through repatriation of Ancestors is essential to Aboriginal Peoples' wellbeing and cultural strength.

In all its work, Council embeds principles of truth-telling:

- To speak frankly about our history and the ongoing impact of colonisation on our People;
- To do so with sensitivity to the lived experience and trauma that this history continues to have on our People; and
- To live our inherited responsibilities to Country, Culture and Community through the process of healing that truth telling enables.

Council speaks this truth about the theft of forefathers from their graves so that the process of return and healing can start. In working with the broader community, Council hopes to promote awareness, engender respect and call for action to return and protect Ancestors.

Council is asking for your help, to support Traditional Owners in the repatriation of their Ancestors.

"Our People were dug up... we want them back. You may know somebody who has bones, skeletons, under the bed or in the sheds. We need them so we can find peace and we can have closure."

Uncle Jim Berg, Gunditjmara Elder

The history and nature of collection of Ancestral Remains is a disturbing one. However, as contemporary people with the capacity for informed reflection, it is understood that the motivations of the 19th century collectors are not the same as the custodians of these collections' today.

Council's ARU is working with curators and collection managers to identify both Ancestral Remains and Secret and/or Sacred Objects in their collections.

"There is heaps to gain by working together, as we have done with Dja Dja Wurrung and the Ancestral Remains Unit. Being able to share, understand and collaborate has allowed us (Daylesford and District Historical Society) to help facilitate telling Dja Dja Wurrungs' story in a respectful way. It's seen as the great untold story, and we must acknowledge the good and bad."

Gary Lawrence, Daylesford and District Historical Society

As an inclusive Victorian community, it is essential to the fundamental wellbeing of us all that we work together for the rightful and respectful return and protection of Aboriginal Ancestors, now and into the future.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council



Tattambo, the last ngurungaeta of the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people and "Queen Mary", a Wemba Wemba woman and second wife of Tattambo and their descendents.

Ngurai-illum Wurrung: the forgotten people

In northern Victoria, a range of factors have contributed to a lack of awareness of the history of a significant group of Aboriginal people: the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people. These factors include the relatively small number of descendants, their disconnection from country, their limited resources and the territorial and political ambitions of other groups. Recent research has highlighted the importance of the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people. There is an urgent need to gather their stories together, thus providing the basis for future education and enlightenment of the wider community.

Background

The Ngurai-illum Wurrung people are part of the Kulin Nation, closely linked to other Kulin groups by some shared language, with dialect variations on country, shared moiety, marriage rules and culture. Much of their country was and is between the Campaspe and Goulburn rivers, which includes present day towns of Rushworth, Colbinabbin and Murchison. To their north were the Bangerang and Yorta Yorta people, who spoke a different language, and to their south were the Taungurung people, who were also part of the Kulin Nation.

Every Ngurai-illum Wurrung person identified with one of two moieties: 'Bunjil', the eaglehawk (Wedge-tailed Eagle) or 'Waa', the crow. The moiety that a person identified with was that of their father, in a system known as patrilineal. Moiety determined kinship relationships, marriage partners and social responsibilities.

Ngurai-illum Wurrung country

Ngurai-illum Wurrung country has many sites of great interest that were part of the songlines traversed by the people over tens of thousands of years. The Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers were

important waterways that the people relied on in dry periods.

The Mt Camel range, which runs on a north-south axis roughly from Rochester to Heathcote was important for many reasons, not least of which was that it was the site of greenstone quarries. The greenstone is of similar high quality to that from the renowned Mt William near Lancefield. It was used for axe-heads and other blades and it was an important trade item. From the top of the range on a clear day, you can get panoramic views of most of Ngurai-illum Wurrung country.

Reedy Lake near Nagambie is an important wetland where one of the clans spent the winter months. Other wetlands such as Lake Cooper (Paboinblook), Wallenjoe Swamp and the area now covered by Waranga Basin (Baangyoobine), as well as many ephemeral creeks were also key points along the songlines. Near Whroo (wooroo = lips or mouth), an old gold mining town south of Rushworth, there is an Aboriginal waterhole, one of a number on a route between Reedy Lake and areas to the west.

First contact

As with many First Nations people, European colonisation was devastating for the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people. Their oral history notes the passage of Major Mitchell's expedition in 1836. Within two years, clashes were taking place between the two cultures, most notably along the two main rivers. Squatters wanted the resources that had been in the custodianship of the Ngurai-illum Wurrung: reliable water and good grazing land. Ironically, the good grazing land was there in large part as a result of traditional burning regimes.

There were massacres, introduced diseases, access to unhealthy food such as white flour and sugar and alcohol. There was an almost immediate disconnection from country.

Staple crops such as myrniong, which had reliably fed generations of people, were destroyed by grazing sheep and cattle within a couple of years. Songlines were fractured and rich cultural lives were rapidly destroyed.

A new threat

In recent years, a new issue has emerged which threatens to derail truth telling and the accurate recording of our ancient history, as part of the learning and reconciliation process. Politically active groups who are well-resourced are, by some of their actions, effectively writing the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people out of the history of their own country.

The current system of relying solely on Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to provide historical and cultural advice is flawed, resulting in a rash of inappropriately worded signage in northern Victoria. The processes for registering Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) needs revision so the voices of smaller groups can be effectively heard.

This is an unfortunate trend, when all Australians should be warmly embracing the wonder that is the oldest living culture in the world, while recognising the great diversity within Aboriginal history and culture.

Tony Ford

0423557120

boze24@hotmail.com

reviewed by Vin Peters, a Ngurai-illum Wurrung Elder



Welcome Helen Stitt

We are thrilled to welcome Helen Stitt to the RHSV team as the inaugural Collections Officer, Images. Helen, of course, will be standing on the shoulders of giants as there always has been, and will continue to be, a strong and dedicated team who look after our very significant images collection.

Helen was selected from an amazingly impressive field of 61 strong applications for the position.

Helen's email is images@historyvictoria.org.au and she can be found in the Images Room. She can be found in the Images Room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Helen began her career in heritage working as a historian for a Melbourne-based architectural conservation practice. Her formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public History and Heritage from the University of Melbourne.

Helen has taught architectural and urban design history at the University of Melbourne for over a decade. Over the same period, she worked as RACV's Heritage Curator, managing a large and diverse collection including a fleet of historic vehicles. This role gave her experience in making collections more accessible through producing exhibitions and publications, delivering talks and tours, assisting researchers and digitising photographs, film, manuscripts and printed materials.

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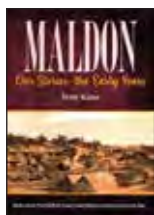
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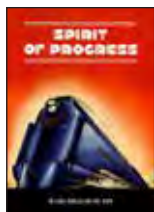
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

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



Maldon: our stories – the early years. Tony Kane, Maldon Museum and Archives Association Inc, Maldon, 2019, pp.1-140, ISBN 9780958070355.

Maldon's historical significance is well-known. This collection of stories, published as historical vignettes in the local *Tarrangower Times*, is an important addition to the historical record. Several are tales of individuals who have contributed to the town or, having been born or lived there, made their names on a broader stage. The book demonstrates the value of local historical organisations by using many photographs drawn from the Maldon Museum and Archives Association collection. Some intriguing tales from the gold rush era and beyond, including that of William Haslem, Maldon's town crier for more than half a century and George Ah Mi, a market gardener who devoted a lifetime to Maldon's community before returning to China.



Spirit of Progress. Chris Banger and Phil Dunn, Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division), Alexandria, 2019, pp.1-376, ISBN 9780909650049.

When the Spirit of Progress first ran in 1937, it brought a new era of rail travel to the Melbourne-Sydney route. It was glamorous: air conditioned and featured sleeping, buffet and parlour cars. When, in 1962, the train was able to run the entire route with the introduction of standard gauge, the service became more important even as air travel both outpaced and finally overtook rail. Eventually the service was amalgamated with the Southern Aurora in 1986. This detailed study of one of the great trains of Australian history is certainly one for rail buffs, but also contains much for those with a broader interest in the social, economic and political dimensions of Australia in the 20th century.



Mining Mud & Medals. Yvon Davis, et al, Victorian Interpretive Projects Inc, Ballarat, 2019, pp.3-153, ISBN 9780958070355.

This is a commemoration to mark the ANZAC Centenary of the men from Ballarat who joined the tunnelling and mining companies in the AIF during World War 1. Drawn from the Schools of Mines in Ballarat, Clunes, Creswick and Daylesford, these men played an essential part in the battles on the Western Front in particular. The experience of Gallipoli had highlighted the need for tunnellers with specialist skills and in August 1915 the Australian Mining Corps was formed. It was dangerous, often fatal work and many did not return. In addition to chapters outlining the raising, despatch and work of the tunnellers, the book concludes with selected biographies of individual members from the Ballarat electorate.



Kingsley: a history of the Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre. Isaac Douglas Hermann, Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Elwood, 2019, pp.1-69, ISBN 9780646807317.

This brief history of the Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre traces the story of the house and eventual transformation into a place of community and learning. Initially it was a family home to several families and it is their stories that are also captured here. Some such as the Watson family, whose elder "Wattie" would rise to the mayoralty of St Kilda on more than one occasion, lived at Kingsley for decades. For others, it was a far shorter ownership. Since 1982, the house has been the centre of much and varied local community activity.



Fire on the Plateau: a history of fire and its management in Stanley. Jacqui Durrant, Stanley Atheneum and Public Room, Stanley, 2019, pp.7-109, ISBN 9780648395515.

An interesting study of fire in the Victorian landscape. It features a traditional view of fire suppression, but also looks to a future of fire in changing landscape. Stanley, in the state's north-east, is not historically considered at high risk from bushfires. For over half a century, there had not been a significant fire in the local area. All of that changed in 2003, when 5,300 hectares burnt. In February 2009, fire returned burning 10,000 hectares and destroying 15 homes as one of a number of blazes across the state. The transition from Aboriginal burning through European settlement to a time of climate change is mapped out here in microcosm.



Journeys into Chinese Australian family history. Sophie Couchman (ed.), Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria Inc., Melbourne, 2019, pp. vii-191, ISBN 9780648372028.

This collection of essays by family and professional historians offers a guide through some of the difficulties faced by those tracing their Chinese-Australian heritage. As Sophie Couchman notes in her introduction, for much of Australia's modern history 'it is impossible to ignore the prejudice and racism that shaped the lives of Chinese Australian families'. The very documents upon which researchers rely are a product of this and there are gaping holes in the record. While there are challenges in probing family history in these circumstances, the point of this book is to show that these are not always insurmountable and that there are pathways to more data and understanding than might at first be thought.



The history of Jordanville South Primary School. Jane Turton, Tablo, Melbourne, 2019, pp. 1-101, ISBN 9781922309808.

School histories are important windows into the local communities that surround them. In many suburbs and towns they are the central, sometimes only, public institution. Jordanville South Primary School lasted just 40 years from 1953, serving a Housing Commission estate in what is now part of the suburb of Chadstone. As the author notes in this brief account, 'it is believed no Nobel Prize recipients, brain surgeons, astronauts or even astrophysicists went to Jordanville South' but thousands of happy and successful people can proudly say they did, living up to the school motto "Our best always". The school was one of many to disappear under the rationalisation of small schools by the Kennett Government.



From coast to country: a history of district golf on the Mornington Peninsula: 1949-2018. Trevor Roberts (ed.), Golf Peninsula Victoria, 2019, pp. 1-299, ISBN 9780648418504.

Golf has been played on the Mornington Peninsula, an area well suited to the sport, since the beginning of the 20th century. Indeed, the Flinders Golf Club, which dates to 1903, is the oldest club in Victoria still playing on its original course. In total, there are some 18 active public courses on the peninsula. This history of District Golf traces the story of these courses: which extend as far as the Warburton Golf Club and includes others at Berwick and Cardinia. This historical record details the achievements of local champions over many decades. A handsomely produced and illustrated volume.



Les Knight: Australia's dambuster. Marcus Fielding, Echo Books, West Geelong, 2019, pp. iii-140, ISBN 9780648355281.

Les Knight was one of a small number of Australians involved in the famous 'Dambuster Raids' in Germany's industrial heartland in 1943. The pilot of the last Lancaster bomber to drop its load, his crew successfully breached the Eder Dam with one of the specially designed bouncing bombs. This feat earned the 22-year-old from suburban Camberwell the Distinguished Service Order. Four months later while on another raid Knight, after ensuring his crew successfully bailed out and his plane avoided hitting a village, was killed when his bomber crashed during a forced landing in the occupied Netherlands. This all too brief account of a young Australian lost in World War II pays tribute to his legacy.



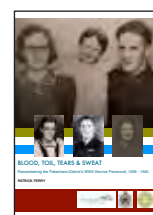
Row Up, High School. Barry Ryan and Robert Simmonds, Ballarat High School, Lake Gardens, 2020, pp.1-116, ISBN 9780646814537.

Blessed with access to Lake Wendouree, it is little wonder that in 1910 the newly established Ballarat Agricultural High School identified rowing as one of its favoured sports. Despite an initial lack of a boat shed, and more importantly a boat to put in it, together with rejection by the local public schools' competition, rowing eventually flourished at the school. The shift from an agricultural high was accompanied by a hiatus of more than a decade after which Ballarat High School's involvement in rowing strengthened to Olympian glory. Not just a sports history, this celebration of rowing from 1910 to 2019 reveals something of the social structure, issues and challenges of life in a provincial city.



The Poison of Polygamy: a social novel. Wong Shee Ping, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2019, pp. vii-446, ISBN 9781743326022.

This gem is the earliest known Chinese-Australian novel, first published in 1909-10 in serial form in Melbourne's *Chinese Times*. Its author has been identified as Wong Shee Ping, a journalist, editor, Chinese nationalist, Christian and Kuomintang activist, who lived in Australia during the first two decades of the 20th century. Translated into English for the first time by Ely Finch and with extensive introductory notes by historians Mei-fen Kuo, who rediscovered it, and Michael Williams, this bilingual publication offers a unique window on the Chinese-Australian diaspora. While the novel is one of historical fiction looking back to the goldfields era, there is much in it to delight historians in its description of the social, moral and political context of its era.



Blood, toil, tears & sweat: remembering the Pakenham District's WW2 service personnel, 1939-1945. Patrick Ferry with Wally Nye. Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society/Pakenham RSL, 2020, pp. i-230, ISBN 9780648416340.

This book marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and follows an earlier volume commemorating the Pakenham community's contribution to World War I. It was the very worthy winner of the Local History Project Award in the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards. While recording the contributions of almost all of the 188 individuals from the Pakenham district who served, this book is much more: it uniquely puts their service in the context of the whole community's war effort. With high production values and prolifically illustrated, drawing on the author's experience as a professional archivist, it serves as a remarkable, thoroughly researched and well-written record that will doubtless be valued by this community.