

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE 356 | OCTOBER 2021



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What's on at RHSV

Because of COVID we anticipate that all events in October / November will be Zoom events.

Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website.

OCTOBER IS HISTORY MONTH

Check out the History Month website for a plethora of virtual history events across Australia that will keep you entertained every day in October. Historical societies, heritage groups, individuals, tourist attractions, local councils, schools, historic houses and libraries all embrace History Month and offer great events which add to our understanding and love of Australia's history.

Historymonth.org.au



LUNCHTIME MARKETING

**Mondays 11 October and 8 November
12-1pm by ZOOM**

FREE

Jess Scott, the RHSV Marketing Officer, will be conducting these monthly social media forums to help historical societies harness the power of social media communication to build your society and your community. Over the months Jess will look at Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, websites – how to maximise your investment of time to yield the most.

Jess will have prepared material but it is also your opportunity to bring your queries and issues to a forum for discussion.

EMERGING HISTORIANS

Tuesday 12 October

6-7pm lecture by ZOOM

FREE

**Presented in partnership with
Professional Historians Association
(Victoria & Tasmania)**

Each year we present a panel of professional historians to talk about an aspect of their current work. It is always a fascinating insight into the process of researching and writing history. There will be more information about the historians and their topic on our website.

RHSV PIONEER REGISTER

**Thursday 14
October**

**11am – 12noon
(booked out) or
7-8pm by ZOOM**

FREE



BOOKED OUT

In partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the RHSV is holding a free Zoom seminar on one of the jewels in its crown: the Pioneer Register. This will be of great interest to those interested in family history or wanting to know more about this unique collection and how it can help your research. Jillian Hiscock, the RHSV Collections Manager will be delivering the seminar.

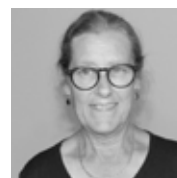
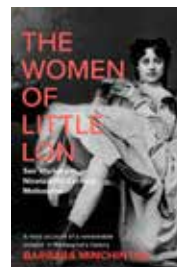
THE WOMEN OF LITTLE LON

Tuesday 19 October

**6 – 7pm lecture by
ZOOM**

\$10 members

**Lecturer: Barbara
Minchinton**



Sex workers in nineteenth-century Melbourne were judged morally corrupt by the respectable world around them. But theirs was a thriving trade, with links to the police and political leaders of the day, and the leading brothels were usually managed by women.

While a popular bar and a city lane were famously named after Madame Brussels, the identities of the other 'flash madams', the 'dressed girls' who worked for them and the hundreds of women who solicited on the streets of the Little Lon district of Melbourne are not remembered. Who were they? What did their daily lives look like? What became of them? Drawing on the findings of recent archaeological excavations, rare archival material and family records, historian Barbara Minchinton brings the fascinating world of Little Lon to life.

What's on is continued on page 20

History News

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COVER IMAGE: A.C.I. (Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd) float in Melbourne's first Moomba parade, 1955. (From the RHSV Collection)

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President's Report

Many of us feel trapped in a scene from the comic movie 'Ground Hog Day' (1993), in which a reporter, played by Bill Murray, wakes up each day to the same day as yesterday. He proceeds through the same events as the day before to his puzzlement. Lockdown Six, for those of us in Melbourne, has been like this. For our regional friends it has not been much better.

Hope beckons as vaccination numbers rise, only to be dampened by new cases somewhere else on the east coast, and the age groups of the infected widen. Yet Melburnians stick at it and know they will in the end prevail.

This pandemic is much longer than that in 1919, although fortunately by this stage less deadly, due to better management and treatment. The 1919 pandemic was just that: it was over in Australia in less than twelve months. It did of course claim about 15,000 lives in an Australia six times smaller than today. It originated in the USA, spread to Europe's battlefields, then from troop ships arriving home to Melbourne. It spread to NSW where one third of Sydneysiders were estimated to have been infected. There were 2.27 deaths per 1,000 in Australia, a lower death rate than in other parts of the world, where over 50 million died. Indigenous Australians suffered a higher rate per thousand. It led to state against state restrictions as today. Curiously this pandemic has not been much studied by historians, except for several of our own RHSV members, since disease generally has not been of much interest to historians. It did not rate a mention in Gordon Greenwood's *Australia* (1955), and just one paragraph in Stuart Macintyre's volume of the *Oxford History of Australia 1901-1942* (1986) and other works, despite the number of pandemic deaths being a quarter of the loss of Australian servicemen in WW1.

2020-21 has been extremely difficult and historians of the future are sure not to ignore it in the same way as the 1919 pandemic. I suspect their interest will be due to its longevity and economic impact - eighteen months and counting.

However, we should be buoyed by the knowledge that in the last 100 years Australians endured the anguish of the Great War often with limited knowledge

about loved ones for four years; the unemployment and economic hardship of the Great Depression which lasted for an equal time; and during the Second World War Australians again faced anguish about their service men and women and POWS for some years. One Brisbane couple, to whom I am related by marriage, had their three children, all sons, in peril in 1942-43. One was missing never to be found, one was in a POW camp in Europe his fate unknown to them for well over a year; and one lost an eye from shrapnel in PNG being millimetres from death.

With this context in mind, we know that Melburnians - Australians - can get through this pandemic if we keep helping each other.

Why not phone a friend today?

Richard Broome AM

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Editor's message: Where did they settle?

Our February issue of *History News* will focus on, 'where did they settle and what impact did they have?'

Since 1788 people from other countries have come to make this country their home. Their decisions to do so have been based on a wide range of events in their lives and in their home countries. Some of those events, such as wars or famine, have forced large groups of immigrants to arrive from one country and settle together in a particular region of Victoria their home. Evidence of those initial settlements, such a suburb and street names or cuisines, remain after descendants move on. For instance, in

Boroondara where I am, there is Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Chatham, Middlesex and Essex Roads as the area's first settlers were mostly English. Victoria has had settlers from many many countries: Scotland, Germany, Netherlands and Vietnam, to name but a few.

The deadline for that issue will be 2nd January 2022. We welcome articles about specific regions within Victoria that have been home to groups of specific national or cultural groups of immigrants. Who were they? Where did they settle? And especially, what impact did they have on physical and cultural aspects of the region that they made their home.

Remember, the deadline is 2nd January for these pieces, and submissions before deadlines very welcome.

Sharon Betridge



Heritage

Report

All of last week, I was involved in a Planning Panel by zoom. The Panel was considering Amendment C387, which would extend local protection (the Heritage Overlay or HO) to 137 period buildings and five precincts within the Hoddle Grid. It's massive. Every one of those building owners has hired barristers, town planners and heritage experts to fight C387. The hearing is planned to last more than a month!

Reader, you would not believe the time barristers spend trying to destroy expert witnesses by incredibly aggressive cross-examination. The barrister for the owners of the former MLC Building (photo on right) got stuck into a heritage consultant because there was uncertainty about the building's architect. As a result, the City of Melbourne Heritage Team made enquiries to the architecture firm and a few days later provided the parties with their response. Now you would think that everyone would be happy about this. Not so. Another barrister objected and followed suit with a legal letter demanding that the Panel Chair force the City of Melbourne to produce all correspondence with the architects. The Heritage Team duly replied with a letter stating that a team member had phoned the architects and they had written back.

Now as I lived through all this, I thought it would be the basis of my article for this issue. But I'm not going on to complain about the planning process set up in the 1990s. But I thought, hang on, my readers know that our 1990s neo-liberal planning system is costly, litigious and ineffective. The words Beethoven used to introduce the hymn in his Ninth Symphony suddenly rang in my ears:

Oh friends, not these sounds!

Let us instead strike up more pleasing and more joyful ones!

If not joyful sounds, let's have some hopeful thoughts.

I'm hopeful that C387 will get through the Panel largely intact. Usually these heritage studies run into trouble when the Council is besieged by ratepayers who fear application of the Heritage Overlay will prevent them from selling to developers for gazillions. But the City of Melbourne held firm against these wrong-headed

fears. Now that C387 has got to the Panel stage intact, there's real hope. And with this protection, everyone will win because we will retain the city's character.

As I was listening to the barristers, I tried to destress by looking at emails and found my stepson had sent me an article by Elizabeth Farrelly from the *Sydney Morning Herald*; why don't we get her columns in *The Age*? She complained that so much contemporary building seemed ugly:

A hundred years ago our society was far from wealthy. Yet the meanest post office or substation, school or haybarn from that time will have noble proportions and handsome composition. ('Why build ugly? We can't regulate for beauty, but we can relearn its lost art', SMH, 21 Aug 2021.)

Farrelly wonders why we lost the art of building. I think it's worth looking at our obsession with privatisation and cost-cutting and even our accentuation of individualism. Our grandparents took pride in civic institutions such as post offices or schools. A privatised Australia Post pays huge salaries to its executives but sells our beautiful post offices and makes us use cheap shops instead.

Farrelly instead blames modernism for doing away with proportion and ornamentation, with entrances that attract and roofs that shelter. Now there is some truth in this. Modernism at its most extreme reduced everything to functionality. But modernism expressed the dynamism and optimism of the 20th-



Former MLC Building (1970-73), 303 Collins Street (photo: Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, Vol. 2b, p. 190).

century. We need some reminders of that right now.

The MLC Building is a pleasing landmark addressing the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. People would be surprised to know it has no heritage protection. That's why its important street-level plaza could be demolished a few years ago.

Of the individual places proposed for protection, 55 date from the postwar period (1945-1975). Most of them are modernist, like the MLC Building. Buildings like this are part of Melbourne's character and we should protect them. Another 82 of the individual places proposed for protection date from before World War II, many from before World War I. It is shocking that so many were not protected; it's time to protect them too.

Thanks to the work of Cr Rohan Leppert and the excellent Heritage Team at the City of Melbourne, there's a good chance that will happen.

Charles Sowerwine,
Chair, Heritage Committee.
3 September 2021.

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Pierre Robin photograph, TRA-R-131, 'Oriental Hotel Terrace, Collins Street, March 1959'. RHSV collection

The *what* end of Collins Street?

Visitors' Book – Oriental Hotel (1913-20) / RHSV (1950-71)
MS-000527

Among the cardboard boxes, held on shelves in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's (RHSV) manuscript storage room, lies a box indistinctly marked 'Box 02'. Opening the box, one will find that we are well rewarded as new histories are brought to light, perhaps having been banished to the darkness for close to a century.

The first book encountered, is quite unremarkable: a ledger of the Melbourne Fire and Marine Insurance Company and its monthly financial dealings. Yet, the second, simply inscribed *Visitors Book*, unlocks stories long forgotten in the history of Melbourne. The red-and-navy-bound book once belonged to the prestigious Oriental Hotel, 17 Collins St, Melbourne. Within its pages, one finds the signatures, addresses and comments of hotel visitors from 1913 through to 1920.

Built in 1878, the Oriental Hotel quickly became a popular destination for Melbourne's more discerning visitors. It was particularly well-known for its fine dining. In 1910, it was purchased by wealthy Victorian businessman, Pearson Tewksbury, allegedly after he was asked to leave by the manager. He took no time in extending the hotel by the building of a new wing and the creation of a private fleet of cars that eventually became Melbourne's first taxi company. Despite council permission to expand the hotel, he was outright denied permission to create a European-style outdoor dining space as it was believed that it would interrupt the flow of the footpath. It was not until the 1950s when the hotel was purchased by Leon Ress, that this addition was allowed. The outdoor café became the first of its kind and gave birth to the moniker, "the Paris-end of Collins Street".

Given the importance of the hotel, one can imagine the glamorous stories of those who stayed there. Perusing the visitors' book pages, one entry from early 1914 catches the eye. Next to a large list of names is written: 'New York Giants, Chicago White Sox, Baseball World Tour'.

In 1913, John "Mugsy" McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, and Charles Cominsky, owner of the Chicago White Sox, concocted a brilliant plan that would make them as famous as Albert Spalding, baseball manager and founder of the sporting company bearing his name. They decided that they would send their teams on a world tour which would begin immediately after the 1913 World Series of Baseball and visit 11 countries, Australia included. When the teams arrived in Melbourne on the 6th January 1914, they were greeted by fans at Spencer Street Station, now Southern Cross, and later treated to a reception at Government House. The teams played two games, the first of which was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, 4pm on 7 January, to some 7,500 spectators. To mark the game's importance, the Governor-General, Lord Denman, pitched the first ball. *The Age* reported that

His Excellency's delivery was what cricketers call "a bit short," but it was treated with great respect by the visitors, who subsequently presented the ball to Lord Denman as a memento of the occasion.

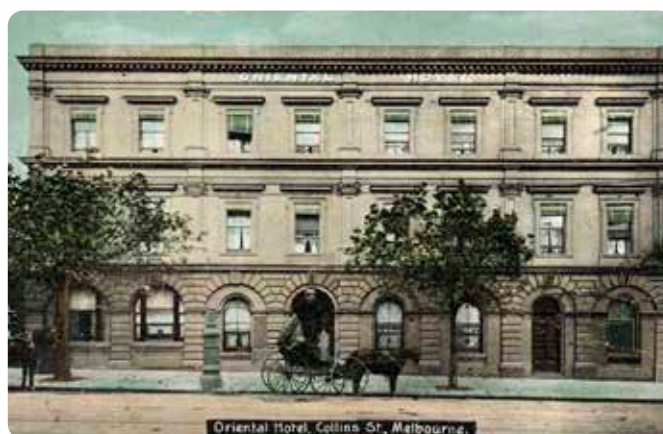
By all accounts the American baseballers enjoyed their time in Australia as much as the Australians enjoyed their company. In the visitors' book one comment reads, 'Our one regret in

leaving the Oriental and Melbourne is that we have to leave the charming ladies in charge of the office'.

Another, less grand, story found within the pages of the visitors' book is that of Captain Arthur Seaforth Blackburn. Born in Woodville, South Australia in 1898, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) at the outbreak of the First World War. He was one of the lucky ones who survived the Gallipoli Campaign and, while fighting on the Western Front in 1916, was recommended for the Victoria Cross for bravery after almost single-handedly storming an enemy trench while members of his troop were dying around him. He became the first recipient of the VC from South Australia. Blackburn was discharged in 1917 due to injury and returned home to Adelaide where he married Ada Rose Kelly on 22 March 1917. Entered in the visitors' book, in what one assumes to be Blackburn's own hand, is the name 'Capt. & Mrs A.S. Blackburn' and address '72 King William St, Adelaide'. The entry is undated but given dates in the entries around this one, it appears that the couple arrived at the Oriental to enjoy their honeymoon.

These are just some of the stories to be discovered within the RHSV's collection.

Lisa Jacomos



Oriental Hotel, Collins St, Melbourne (c.1906) postcard, State Library Victoria
H96.200/242
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/15625>

A stroll through the historical Castlemaine Botanical Gardens



Wickham's arbour

Centred north of the Castlemaine CBD, on the banks of Barkers Creek, are the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, this area being reserved for botanic gardens purposes in 1860. They are an outstanding example of a nineteenth century provincial gardens created in colonial Victoria.

Take a slow stroll, not a brisk walk, in these beautiful gardens because you may miss too many special features if you hasten by.

We begin our stroll of these magnificent Victorian Heritage registered gardens at the corner of Walker Street and Downes Road by entering through the formal iron gates and monumental pillars of blue stone near the weeping elm trees (*Ulmus glabra Camperdownii*). The gates were constructed in the 1870s by the nearby foundry, Thompson & Co, as a grand entrance to the picturesque gardens with formal flower beds set in green lawns with a collection of outstanding typical botanical trees of different species including some rare conifers, palms and indigenous plants.

Take the tree covered right hand path which is part of the circular informal park-like layout of the original garden's infrastructure. We pass the ornate bronzed water fountain with a granite bowl with Lake Joanna, complete with an island, in the distance. The island is refuge for a range of birdlife, including

spur-winged plovers, water hens, ducks, cormorants, and nesting ibis. During the spring there are many fledglings being watched over by wary parent birds.

Continue up the path under the oak trees (*Quercus carmariensis* x *Q. robur* and *macrocarpa* var. *olivae* forms). Next you will encounter the garden beds full of rare heritage roses. When in bloom these roses are a brilliant show of colourful varieties of different specimens. Sited amid the rose gardens are two 1960s memorials: a sundial and a bird bath. They chronicle the lives of two local residents; Senator James Michael Sheehan and his sister, Miss Nellie Sheehan. Nellie was an early councillor and the first female Mayor of the Castlemaine Borough Council. Interestingly, these rare memorials do not comply with the period of conservation significance (The Doran Era - c.1866 – 1913) as cited in the 1991 management plan. This is the reason that there are limited numbers of memorials within the gardens.

Located in the middle of the less

formal gardens, is a digger pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) and a large building constructed by Castlemaine Citizens Charity Club (4C's) as a tea rooms in 1919. Social events have been centred in and around this building and in the gardens generally; like musical performances, festivals, family reunions, parties and even memorial services. The gardens are used by locals especially for walking and exercise. It is the best flat area in the district for people requiring rehabilitation, and those undertaking all forms of exercises.

Just a little further on we find the steep roofed reconstructed summerhouse, with a stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) and a wonderful shady playground for children with a BBQ pavilion. The children's playground is full of special play equipment including a miner's cottage and a wooden log train where many happy hours are spent by children and parents alike.

Walking past the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) we reach the end of the gardens and an avenue of various



Summerhouse



Bronze acorns

Monterey cypress trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), where we commence our stroll back. Looking north over Froomes Road was the area known as the “Pleasure Gardens” of Castlemaine. During the 1860s this was a venue for much pomp and pleasure for local residents. A remnant of one of the walled gardens can be seen just over the Froomes Road bridge.

If you care to walk over the road bridge and walk back along Barkers Creek you will enter the Bushland area- a flora and fauna reserve. There are various nature walks in that area of the Botanical Gardens where a colony of the rare and endangered species, the Emerald Copper Butterfly was located. On a recent walk, a turtle was spotted swimming in the water just below the bridge.

But we will continue on the path back to the playground, passing several cork oaks (*Quercus suber*). At the playground we find the magnificent Royal English Oak tree (*Quercus robur*) with a memorial celebrating the wedding

of The Prince and Princess of Wales in 1863. An interesting small bronze sculpture of acorns can be found nearby. Along the path is the remnant and replanted Lombardy Poplar Row and also many oaks, pines and eucalyptus trees to be admired. Shortly the 1965 fish hatchery appears. It was built by the Castlemaine Angling Club. Another octagonal rotunda is located in the middle of an open lawn section at the top of the lake. The bridge over the creek leads to the Fleay Memorial Play Ground and an avenue of elms. The playground was originally a smelly swamp which was converted to become Lake Augustus (but locally known as Lake Disgusta). The lake was filled in to become a passive sports oval. The caravan park and Olympic sized swimming pool are also sited on that side of the creek.

At the end of our path, located near Walker Street on Barkers Creek is the 1880s sandstone weir which can be seen gushing plentiful amounts of water after heavy rains, and especially when the gardens are flooded. However, we

will turn left just before the gardener’s shed, which was once a kiosk where Lolly Barnes sold his famous “Castlemaine Rock” in the 1940s.

As we walk under the large leafed lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*), plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*) and Indian bean tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) we pass through the wisteria covered pergola (William’s arbour) and see Wickham’s octagonal arbour on the lake’s edge. In summer this shady structure is covered thickly with vines which turn brilliant red in autumn.

We arrive back at our starting point, having experience some of the wonders and sights of the awesome Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

Alleyn Hockley

Archivist

Castlemaine Historical Society Inc.



Playground





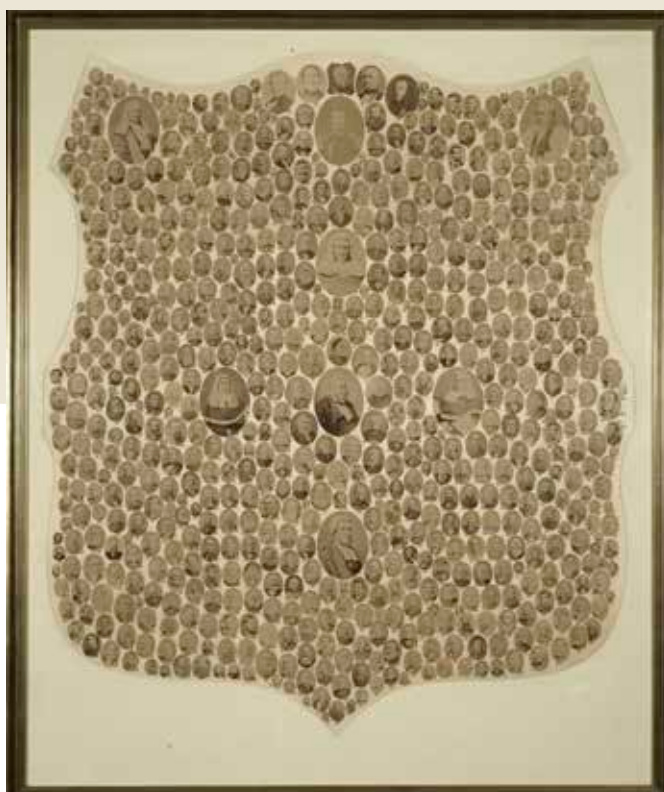
Melbourne's Rankins Lane

Rankins Lane, situated off Little Bourke Street, between Elizabeth and Queen Streets, is said to be named after one of my forebears, Henry Rankin, who arrived at the Port Phillip Settlement in 1838. He purchased land on the corner of Bourke Lane and Elizabeth Street, building a simple wattle and daub hut for himself and his family. His wood-working business grew steadily. However, the creek running along Elizabeth Street, famous for flooding, was proving costly. Thus, in 1841, Rankin moved his family and his business further uphill along Bourke Lane. It was here Henry bought four perches of land from the brewer John Mills. Mills had brought this land in the first Melbourne land sales on 1 June 1836; making Rankin the second non-Aboriginal person on this land. He built a two-storey brick dwelling and double shopfront where he, and later his children, would run the family business for almost 50 years.

Henry Rankin did not figure largely in the history of those early years of the Port Phillip Settlement. He had minor scrapes with the law, served on juries several times, appeared in court as a witness to an assault that occurred near his home and was involved in small ways in the politics of his era.

In 1845 there was a 'destructive fire' at the brewery of Henry Condell, Melbourne's first Lord Mayor, at the corner of Swanston and Little Bourke Streets. The 'dwelling-house, brew-house, stabling and company were saved by the active exertions of a few individuals... Among the most active of these daring fellows Mr. E. C. Greene, of the British Hotel, Mr. Henry Rankin, cabinet-maker...'

Although the fire was contained within an hour the business of Alderman Condell suffered heavy loss. In 1845 Melbourne did not have a public 'fire brigade', instead relying on the might of insurance companies. In 1842-1843 the 'Melbourne Fire and Marine Insurance Company' had bought axes, leather buckets and 'iron-work for ladders'. The 'Cornwall Fire Insurance Company' had Melbourne's first fire engine, a manual affair that required bucketed water and 'a number of men working constantly on the pump handles... to keep the water flowing...'. This engine made its debut at Condell's fire in July 1845



*The explorers and early colonists of Victoria
A mosaic comprised of over 1000 portraits arranged in a shield shape, identities include Edward Henty, John Fawkner, Robert Hoddle, Sir Redmond Barry, Hamilton Hume and Captain Hovell. Chuck, Thomas Foster, photographer (1872). State Library Victoria, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/17839>*

Top Left: Henry Rankin 1808-1883
Chuck, Thomas Foster, photographer (1872).
State Library Victoria, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/18046>

The fire at Condell's property prompted the citizens of Melbourne to organise their first public fire brigade. A meeting was called and the 'Melbourne Fire Prevention Society was formed'. Funds were raised via public subscriptions and donations. Some of this money went to the 'reward the water carters... at Condell's fire'; one of those to benefit from this reward was Henry Rankin. The meeting also resolved that this new 'Brigade should consist of a Superintendent, a foreman, or pipe leader, and as many fire men, as the funds ... permit.' Salaries were set at £25pa for the Superintendent, £15pa to the Foreman and £10pa each for six fireman, Henry Rankin being one of those first firemen of Melbourne's first public Fire Brigade'.

When looking back at the ebbs and flows of streets and laneways, residential living and businesses that made our city, it is stirring that Rankins Lane has survived. The current buildings of Rankins Lane, were mostly built between 1890-1965.

By way of passive reward for his steadfast nature, Rankin's portrait was included on Chuck's Shield of 'The explorers & early colonists of Victoria'. When Henry Rankin died, at his residence in Post Office Place, Rankins Lane, his passing was noted as 'old colonist of 44 years standing'. And the lane that he made his home for all those years still bears his name.

Skye

[illegible]

One way many societies have been able to maintain an income is through research fees, a topic we discussed when the History Victoria Support Group met recently. Restricted access to collections can make this tricky, however, when societies have their collections digitized often answers can then be found in online resources that the enquirer, through lack of experience, has not explored. Therefore, a member of the group, trained and skilled in accessing online resources, can respond to enquiries while working from home. Trove, Public Records Office Victoria, State Library Victoria, Births Deaths and Marriages or their interstate or overseas equivalents, can provide results that are just as useful as unique collection resources.

In our meeting, we looked at the range of charges set by societies. Some use it to encourage membership with discounted research charges for members. Most have a base rate for initial research, covering an hour or two, which is often the only charge. This seems to range from \$10 to \$35. But if there is extensive research to undertake, an estimate is

It's a great way to help develop and enrich your community.

Pauline Hitchins
 Convenor HVSG (RHSV)
 Phone: 0437 29 69 25
 Email: hvsg@historyvictoria.com.au

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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 DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE** please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by Friday 22 October 2021.

ANGLICAN: The October meeting is a joint lecture with the La Trobe Society. The title of Dr Liz Rushen's lecture is 'The Bishop and the Lieutenant-Governor'. The date of the meeting is Thursday, 28 October (previously advertised as Wednesday 27th). On 17 November 'The James Grant Memorial Lecture' is to be presented by Bishop David Farrer. He has titled his lecture 'The Church is always in danger; from within more often than from without'. Contact roger.meyer@bigpond.com

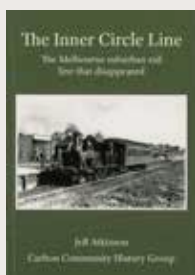


BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS: 10 October 2pm cemetery, this walk will begin at the front gate on North Rd. 'Sporting people overcoming adversity to achieve'. For many the dream begins at an early age and over many years the commitment to be the best in their chosen sport drives them onwards. For many their dream will become a reality but for some it will never be. On this walk we meet: John Stanley Nicholes who became a weightlifting champion before he became a major pioneer of the application of weight training and conditioning of athletes around the world, Charles Lawrence as Captain Coach took the first Aboriginal Cricket team to England in 1868, Richard Henry Whitecross whose dream it was to become a professional golfer didn't eventuate and Jennifer Anne Zeffert who was a gifted junior swimmer representing Victoria in the Australian Championships. Join us to hear about these and other amazing sportspersons who are buried at the Brighton Cemetery.

October 24th: Boyd Family of Artists Walk at 2pm – this walk will begin at the top gate on Hawthorn Road.

November 14th: Remembrance Day Walk at 2pm

CARLTON: *The Inner Circle Line: the Melbourne suburban rail line that disappeared* is a new book that tells the story of the development of Melbourne's suburban rail lines, and in particular of the ill-conceived Inner Circle Line that ran through the inner northern suburbs from 1888 until its final closure in the 1970s. It tells of the political events that led to the line being built, the life and death incidents that occurred along the line when it was in operation, and after it had closed, the struggle of a residents' group to have the land and a station building converted into facilities for community use. Copies available from Carlton Community History Group for \$15 (plus \$6 postage if applicable); <http://www.cchg.asn.au/publications.html>



DAYLESFORD: Formerly known as Jim Crow or Wombat, the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs area is situated on the northern fringes of the Wombat Forest. The Society was formed in 1964 and the Museum at 100 Vincent Street was established in 1971. The Museum has approximately 800 square metres of interior displays and approximately 250 square metres of covered yard and houses a large collection of local memorabilia and artefacts. Visit our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DaylesfordHistory>



GISBORNE MOUNT MACEDON: The beautifully restored, 1858 Gisborne Court House, home of the Society is open to the public each Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. The Family and Local History Resource Centre at the Court House may be opened at other times by appointment. Visitors to Gisborne are surprised to find that Gisborne's original 1858 lockup and the stable are situated at the rear of the Court House. If you visit the lockup today, you will find an automated sound and light diorama featuring stories adapted from court records. The stable is currently closed. Displays are open daily from 10:00am - 2:00pm - free of charge. Before your visit, please contact the centre to confirm opening times during COVID lockdowns: 03 5428 1450 or email



history@gisbornemountmacedon.org.au

GOLDFIELDS (DUNOLLY MUSEUM): Located at 75 Broadway, Dunolly 3472, the Society holds unique records and information often useful to people researching family history in the district. It is also a museum with a large collection of relics both wondrous and strange. Don't be fooled by the apparent small size, the museum extends almost the full depth of the block. Our next tour will be to the sites connected with the Murderers Hill murders of 1857. This starts at 10:00am at the museum on Monday 18 October. We are on facebook at

facebook.com/groups/289487515096170



HAWTHORN: We have been very pleased with the responses to our first blog. This is part of our effort to reach a younger and more diverse audience and the recent post on social media

reached over 3,000 people with almost 500 people going on to engage with it. We hope you enjoy reading our first blog as it talks about some of the fine street art around Hawthorn and gives a little glimpse into the history of each location. <https://www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au/street-art-in-hawthorn-2/>



HORSHAM: We are planning to hold several activities throughout October. Saturday 2 October: Pop-up stall at Haven Market with information and book sales. Friday 8 October: Historical Street Walk. Wednesday 13 October: HHS General Meeting followed by a slide/film session. We are located at the Mechanics Institute, 33 Pynsent St, Horsham. Visit our facebook page at facebook.com/Horsham-Historical-Society-Inc-101458272033748

KOO WEE RUP SWAMP: The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society was established in 1974. We operate a museum at 325 Rossiter Road in Koo Wee Rup. We preserve and promote the history of Koo Wee Rup, the Koo Wee Rup Swamp and surrounding towns such as Bayles, Caldermeade, Catani, Cora Lynn, Dalmore, Monomeith, Yallock, Yannathan. Visit our facebook page at facebook.com/kooweerupswamphistory

KOROIT: Over the past months the Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee has mounted interpretive boards along the trail at the Koroit Station Precinct. They emphasise the structure and timeline of the building of the station, the sewerage system and goods shed, and the saleyards and cattle yards. The Society assisted with information and photos for this project. A sculpture which shows an image of the volcanic structure of Tower Hill had been constructed in toughened glass with ceramic insert. This area of Koroit is now a showpiece with gardens, a children's playground and exercise circuit and a skatepark on past rail land.

LILYDALE: The Society was formed in 1971 to help plan and mount suitable displays for the Shire of Lilydale's Centenary in February 1972. We opened and operated the Lilydale & District Historical Museum in the old Lilydale Shire offices in Castella Street from 1976 to 1989. The custodian of the collection today is the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. Since 1971, the society has gathered and maintained its own archives of the people, places and events of Lilydale and the surrounding districts of Chirnside Park, Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere, Killara, Seville, Silvan, Montrose and Kilsyth. We also have more than 5000 photographs and negatives in our collection. The society is located in the Old Lilydale Court House in Castella Street, Lilydale. Visit our interactive map on our website to see historic points of interest in the area: <https://lilydalehistorical.com.au/interactive-map-history-lilydale/>

MONASH: History Monash Inc is the former Oakleigh & District Historical Society Inc., established in 1961. Our volunteers are dedicated to studying, collecting, preserving, exhibiting and publishing local history within the City of Monash. Our home is the Monash Federation Centre at 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, a former post office building built in 1924. We also support the heritage listed Oakleigh Pioneer Memorial Park Cemetery (1860-1960). The Centre is a dedicated local history outlet in the City of Monash, offering changing exhibitions, an archive, reference collections, for-sale publications, brochures, postcards and a research service. Visit our website at <http://www.historymonash.org.au/> or our facebook page at facebook.com/History-Monash-118529895432335

NAGAMBIE AND DISTRICT: The Society has been active during the past six months, renovating the historic 1912 Powerhouse which forms part of their courtyard display. The restoration will complete the buildings of interest behind the 1870s courthouse museum. On 14 November, from 11am-3pm, the Society will host 'Out of the Box: collectables and ephemera show and tell', as a unique way of sharing history. \$30 includes lunch. For booking details: nagambiehistorical@outlook.com or 0428263929

NARRE WARREN AND DISTRICT FAMILY: 'No time to say goodbye' - October Cemetery Walk at Cranbourne.

'We often sit and think of you. Of things you used to say and do; we wonder why you had to die, Without a chance to say goodbye' Our walk at the Cranbourne Cemetery will be paying respect to those who were suddenly taken, whether by accident or an undiagnosed health issue. Sadly, some of these people were by themselves when they passed, which left them with no one to say goodbye to. We would love to see you at our next Cemetery walk planned for 24 October 2021 at 10.30am, if COVID restrictions permit it. Please check our Facebook page closer to the time facebook.com/NarreWarrenDistrictFamilyHistoryGroup

PHILLIP ISLAND: Our museum is closed until further notice due to the building being demolished during 2021. We will be re-locating to the new Cowes Cultural Centre which is due to be completed 2022-2023. We have temporarily moved into the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society's rooms, in the former Kindergarten in Chapel Street. We are still happy to research your enquiry and accept donations, especially of photographs or digitised photographs and smaller objects. All donations must relate directly to Phillip Island. Contact the secretary, Pam Rothfield: history@waterfront.net.au

ROCHESTER: The Rochester Historical & Pioneer Society has a 2022 Calendar for sale at \$10 each. The calendar has been produced with the generous support of Rochester businesses. The calendar contains many old photos of Rochester from the late 1800s to about the 1950s. Obtainable from the Society in High Street and at the Rochester Town Market. The Historical Society also has had a painting of the Rochester Court House generously donated for a prize in a raffle for the Society. The painting is by the well-known artist from Echuca John Stevens. <http://www.rochesterhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

WOADY YALOOK: Located at The Court House, Brooke Street, Smythesdale, the society was formed in 1985. The Society is a both a local and family history organisation with a museum in the Historic Police Precinct in Smythesdale. Our area of interest is the goldfields towns surrounding the Woady Yalook Creek from Haddon to Springdallah. Visit our Facebook page at <https://tinyurl.com/cujj6xz5>

Windows on history: Fitzroy's Fairy Windows

*While underneath in phantom shells
The Fairy Sailors go
And shining o'er the silent dells,
The Fairy Beacons glow.*

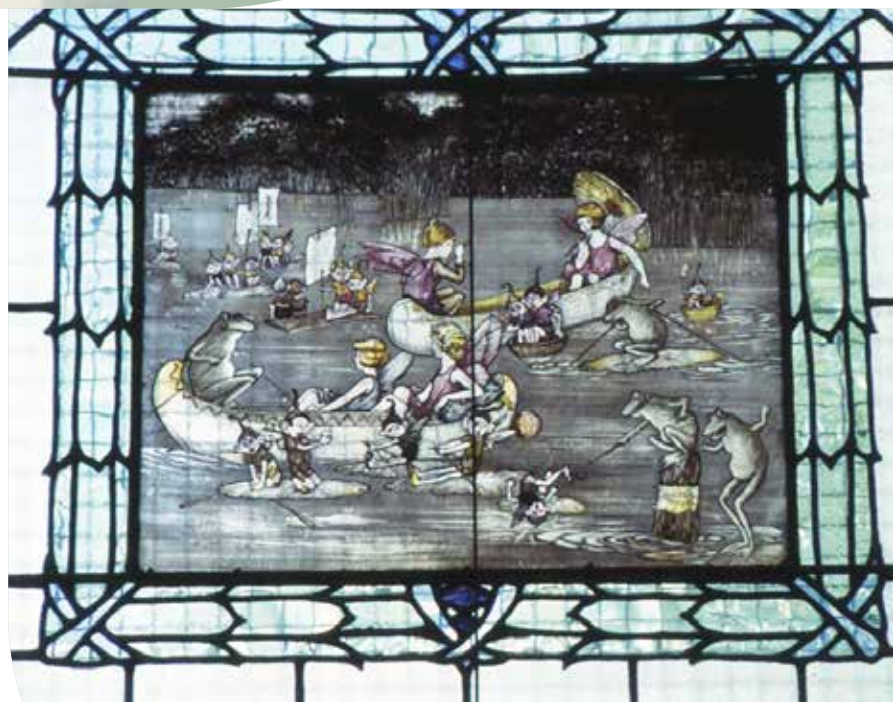
This little verse is painted onto glass and is part of a suite of windows, tucked away in a Community Centre, next to St Mark's Anglican Church, Fitzroy. In all, there are four windows, picturing scenes of fairies, elves, goblins and witches, each accompanied by a verse or caption, and evoking a time when childhood included such fantastic and enticing stories. The windows were especially commissioned to enhance a small room that began life as Victoria's first free Children's Library where they provided an appropriate backdrop to the imaginary world portrayed by children's picture books of the 1920s.

Each of the four windows tells a different story. One, simply entitled 'Regatta', includes a large cast of characters in a night scene: fairies, in double-ended canoes, grinning goblins enjoying themselves on rafts, frogs punting by on lily pads, and water policemen pulling the odd goblin into line as many tiny craft mill around the pond. In another painting on glass, a fairy plays a golden flute to a rapt audience of one small boy perched on a log, with goblins and other fairy creatures peeking around the trees to listen in. A golf course provides the setting for the third window, with koala golfers on the wide fairway, watched by goblin caddies struggle with bags of clubs, a goanna with a great view of the scene up a nearby tree, and two kookaburras having a laugh as a backswing connects with another of the golfers. And the last of the scenes, referred to in the verse above, pictures delicate nautilus-shell boats, harnessed by fairies, sailing across a pond under the light of the moon.

The windows, all double-hung sashes, were to be installed in a new brick building designed in 1923 by architects Gawler & Drummond, which opened in 1926. In keeping with the community purpose of the building, and this room in particular, the windows were residential in scale and designed in the prevailing style of domestic leadlights of the inter-war period, which used textured clear glass to great effect. In the Children's Library, it allowed light into the room while obscuring the interior from the street outside. The fairy pictures, surrounded by a 'frame' of soft green and mauve glass, were set into the upper sash, with the verse in the lower panel. This little suite of glass paintings was made from watercolours by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite (1888-1960), and illustrate verses written by her older sister, Annie Rentoul (1882-1978).

The girls were daughters of Annie Rattray and the Reverend John Laurence Rentoul, growing up with two brothers at Ormond College, University of Melbourne, where their Presbyterian Clergyman father was Professor at the Theological Hall. All the children were 'intellectually precocious, romantic and articulate', encouraged by their parents. The fairy images and verses of these talented sisters appeared in print from the early 1900s, while Ida was still at school. Their first published book, *Mollie's Bunyip* (1904), wove together themes of children's fairy tales within an Australian bush setting, a theme that continued throughout their work for children and seen again in the Fitzroy windows. The Fairy Sailors on their nautilus shells and the Koala Golf Game were first published as illustrations in *Elves and Fairies*, a sumptuous book published by T C Lothian in 1916. Ida's husband, Grenbry Outhwaite, whom she had married in 1909, championed her career, and drove a hard bargain with Lothian to ensure that





this folio edition matched the quality of their earlier 1916 publication, *The Art of Frederick McCubbin*. These two books, along with *J J Hilder: Watercolourist*, published by Tyrrell in Sydney, marked a new respect for Australian book production. Ten or more years later, Ida's illustrations were faithfully transposed onto glass by the talented glass-painters of Melbourne's Brooks, Robinson & Co stained-glass department.

The surviving Brooks, Robinson job books (1923-c1966) note few details of the commission, except that the

windows were ordered by the Reverend Reginald G Nichols in April 1927. Nichols was appointed to St Mark's in 1922 and immediately set about rebuilding a neglected church, congregation and community, and finding innovative solutions to religious and social problems in his parish. Unlike some clergy who condemned movies in the 1920s, he introduced them into his services, formed a church orchestra and encouraged live performances. His broad social outreach included his 'Brother Bill' radio spot on 3AW, soup for kindergarten children,

lunches in a local school during the Depression, and care for Fitzroy's people for twenty years. By establishing the children's library with 800 books, he also fed tiny minds when he ordered the fairy windows, making the library a very special place for little children to visit then, and for all of us ever since.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes

Sharing Diamond Creek's history



Ellis Cottage today

Ellis Cottage was a solitary rubble-stone hipped-roof four-room home in the middle of farming land when it was built around 1865, north-east of Melbourne. Although not grand, the Diamond Creek cottage boasted a pair of statement Italian cypress trees flanking the stone steps to the front door, which are still thriving today.

Today the once isolated cottage is well and truly in the middle of suburbia but on the edge of a popular seven-acre park reserve. As well as an evocative example of an early pioneer cottage, Ellis Cottage is home to the Nillumbik Historical Society, which aims to preserve and share local history.

After 40 years of collecting, the society has acquired a large archive of photographs, artefacts and historical documents relating to people who have lived, worked, farmed and mined locally, with a particular focus on the wider area around Diamond Creek.

The society has come full circle, with its inaugural meeting in 1973 held at what was then Lovitt Cottage, now Ellis Cottage. Its researchers meet a growing demand for information about the area and it hosts regular open days and events at the cottage. Most of its photographs are digitised and it is working on its documents, and on transcribing many of the letters, particularly those from local families during WW1. It is also photographing artefacts to put online for those worldwide with local links to view the collection.

The society has made a number of additions to the precinct since 1989, as well as creating a beautiful garden around the cottage. With fundraising over 15 years, the society added a barn to maintain and display items from the district. Used for meetings and other gatherings, it also houses an archival facility. The barn and archives area,

along with the cottage, hold its historical documents, photographs, and artefacts. The historic lock-up from the site of the Collins Street Police Station was donated and moved to the cottage precinct and is now a standalone display. The latest addition to the historical precinct is the Lone Pine Memorial, completed in October 2017 after six months of dedicated work by VCAL students from Diamond Valley College, and Diamond Creek Men's Shed, and with the support of the Montmorency-Eltham RSL and Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network.

The Society recently launched a new website which enables it to highlight many local stories and examples of its archives. The Shire of Nillumbik has also launched the digital Nillumbik Heritage Guide, which showcases the rich history of Nillumbik through photographic images, interactive maps, pop up discoveries, and storytelling. It features arts and cultural attractions, driving and walking tours, memorials, cemeteries and other local historic sites, such as Ellis Cottage.

William Ellis migrated to Melbourne from Devon in the mid-1840s and was an early settler in the district, initially working on a farm in Kangaroo Ground, until he took up land along the Diamond Creek in 1850. He bought 147 acres at what was then 'Nillumbik' or 'Nillumbik on the Diamond Creek', adding to his land holding in 1861 with the purchase of a neighbouring property. William lived in a hut near the creek but, once established, he built today's cottage using local stone, completing it around 1865. The 40cm thick stone walls were plastered inside with mud and straw. The design was simple: a central passage with two rooms either side, each with its own fireplace. The kitchen fireplace was built large enough to cater for all cooking needs. A doorway from the

kitchen led outside to a dairy and other farm buildings. The roof was of hand-cut wooden shingles and there was a domed well that collected rainwater from the roof.

As William and his wife had no children and needed help, William's nephew Nathaniel migrated from Devon in 1879 to support them on the farm. William and Nathaniel prospered during their time on the farm, giving back to the community and supporting development of the area.

The farm stayed in the Ellis family until after William's death in 1896 when part of the farm was sold off according to conditions in his will. William also left a bequest of £100 to build the gateway at Nillumbik Cemetery, Diamond Creek which is inscribed with the Latin words 'Janva Vitae' meaning Gate of Life.

The property had various occupants until the Lovitt family purchased the remaining land, including the cottage, in the 1960s. Phillip Lovitt and Peter Marriage rebuilt the cottage during the summer of 1972-73, as it was by then in an advanced state of disrepair and had been used for some time to store hay. It was sold, subdivided and developed in the early 1980s.

As part of the subdivision, the cottage and surrounding seven acres passed to the Shire of Diamond Valley who repaired and rebuilt the cottage, handing it to the Nillumbik Historical Society in 1989. The reserve is still a public open place and is well maintained by the Shire of Nillumbik.

Ellis Cottage is at 10 Nillumbik Square, Diamond Creek and is open on the first Sunday of each month or by appointment, subject to COVID restrictions.

Nillumbik Historical Society: <https://www.nillumbikhistory.org.au/>

Nillumbik Shire digital Nillumbik Heritage Guide: <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Council/About-the-Shire/Local-history>

Pauline Hitchins

RHSV collections: You can't judge a book by its cover

Two books held in our collection are frequently mentioned when writing about the history of rowing and regattas in Victoria. Beyond the very interesting lists of crews and regattas in both books, there is a thread of information that is interesting for other reasons: the descriptions of the Yarra and two maps.

The Victorian Rowing Register and Oarsman's Companion, 1878, compiled by M. S. Glynn, is described as 'very neat little book' in the review in *The Australasian*, 11 May 1878; the paper also made a few pointed comments about some perceived errors.

Glynn describes himself on the title page as 'late member of the Melbourne Regatta Committee'. In 1875 he was crewing with the Williamstown Rowing Club, a couple of years before the *Launceston Examiner* reported that he was well known in 'boating circles in the Tamar'. He also wrote slightly controversial articles about rowing under the name of 'Argomene' in the *Williamstown Chronicle*.

The Victorian Rowing Register and Oarsman's Companion, 1878 is seen as one of the first records of the regattas from 1860 held on the Upper Yarra and Saltwater River, today the Maribyrnong River. What fascinates about Glynn's neat little book is a couple of reflective pieces, one on coaching, and the other on the river Yarra.

Glynn writes about what can be seen when rowing up the Yarra from Princes bridge toward the 'Botanical Bridge and a chain or two further' with a waterway only wide enough to allow two boats abreast, 'and a direction so far removed from a straight line as to make it one of the most difficult courses in the world'. In the 1860s the banks were clear of vegetation and the spectators could see most of the race. By the late 1870s, 'from the efforts of nature and the learned Baron Von Mueller, the scene is ... shut out by a thick

growth of indigenous timber and willows'.

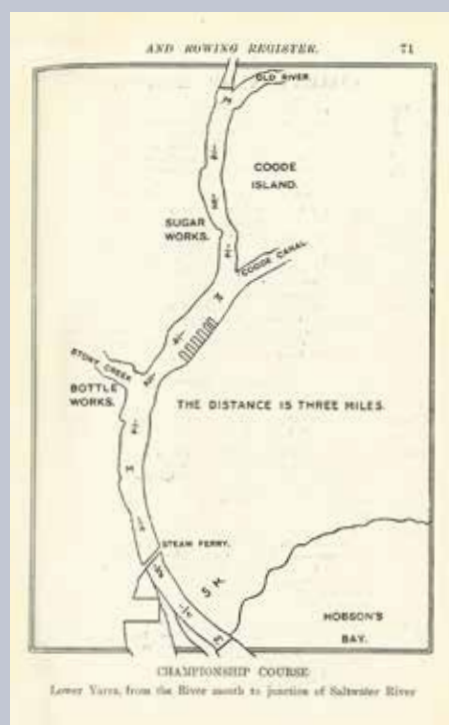
The four-mile Intercolonial Regatta was held on a Wednesday afternoon on the Lower Yarra in 1878. It started near Stony Creek then 'to the Melbourne Gasworks, passing bone mills and soap and fellmongering establishments by the dozen'. Glynn adds comments about navigating the mudflats, the spectators crowding the banks, and the all-pervading smell from the factories.

It was not until 1919 that another author, John Lang picked up the topic again in his book, *The Victorian oarsman: with a rowing register, 1857 to 1919*. He was a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and member of the Victorian Rowing Association. Included in this book is a chapter 'Victorian rowing fifty years ago' by Thomas Colles who describes the Upper Yarra with steep banks on the north side, lagoons and swamps on the south side, tight turns for the rowers and location markers Brander's ferry and Baths Corner to the finishing post a few yards from the Botanical Gardens Bridge.

Lang has included two maps in his book, one of the lower Yarra course and the other a map of the 'Henley Mile' course. This particular map shows the river at the time of printing from the Princes Bridge to Punt Road Bridge and has the old channel of the river with its adjacent lagoons superimposed. It provides us with a visual reinforcement of Glynn's description of a winding and narrow river.

Jillian Hiscock

RHSV Collections Manager and
Volunteer Coordinator



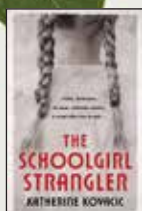
Map and image from John Lang's *The Victorian oarsman* (1919) published by Massina in Melbourne

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book for
Christmas



The Schoolgirl strangler

Katherine Kovacic (2021)
PB – 329pp \$32.99

Keeping the stories of four young girls who were murdered in Victoria in the 1930s foremost in the narrative, Kovacic uncovers the police struggle to identify potential suspects, especially in the time before quick communications, easily accessible records, and forensic techniques. It's also the story of what false accusations can do to somebody, and the terrifying prospect of a perfectly normal seeming person who is capable of the most awful crimes.



Cranlana: the first 100 Years: the house, the garden, the people

Michael Shmith (2019)
HB – 288pp \$80.00

Breathtakingly designed and lavishly illustrated this is fitting celebration of Cranlana during its first 100 years. 1920 was a momentous year for Sidney Myer: in January he married Margery Merlyn Baillieu and by November he had bought a Toorak residence at 62 Clendon Road, Cranlana.



Keilor to Footscray: Mr Solomon's Maribyrnong

Rick Keam
PB – 123pp, 59 images -
\$34.95

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



Seymour Cottage Romsey: 165 years of history and heritage

Fay Woodhouse (2021)
PB – 28pp \$15.00

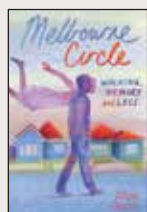
Seymour Cottage was constructed 165 years ago and was the home of Sidney Seymour and his family for over 60 years. Made of meranti doors imported from Singapore, it is now listed as one of 104 pre-fabricated buildings remaining in Australia. It is considered by Professor Miles Lewis to be 'one of the most interesting buildings in Victoria'.



First Australians: an illustrated history

Rachel Perkins and Marcia Langton (2010)
PB – 312pp \$29.99

First Australians is the dramatic story of the collision of two worlds that created contemporary Australia. Told from the perspective of Australia's first people, it vividly brings to life the events that unfolded when the oldest living culture in the world was overrun by the world's greatest empire.



Melbourne circle: walking, memory and loss

Nick Gadd (2020)
PB – 210pp \$29.95

Over two years, writer Nick Gadd and his wife Lynne circled the city of Melbourne on foot, starting at Williamstown and ending in Port Melbourne. Along the way they uncovered lost buildings, secret places and mysterious signs that told of forgotten stories and curious characters from the past. Melbourne Circle is the story of their journey, a memoir and a stunning meditation on personal loss.



Little Lon

Andrew Kelly, illustrated
Heather Potter & Mark Jackson (2020)
HB – 40pp \$24.99

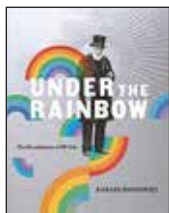
This evocative children's book, *Little Lon* scrapes back the layers of history to show how people lived and worked in a post settlement Australian city. Behind the grand buildings of the big streets was 'Little Lon'; a working-class district of little houses and narrow lanes, bursting with life and the stories of the people who lived there.



I am Melba

Ann Blainey (2008)
PB – 336pp \$34.99

The story of an Australian girl who defied convention and became the most famous singer of her era. Dame Nellie Melba was Australia's first international superstar. In this important biography, enhanced by new research, Ann Blainey captures the exuberance, controversy and pathos of Melba's remarkable career.



Under the rainbow: the life and times of E.W. Cole

Richard Broinowski (2020)
HB – 323pp \$44.99

Under the Rainbow is the life story of E.W. Cole, a colourful and much loved figure of 19th century Melbourne. Best remembered for his Funny Picture Books, his sense of the absurd and his marketing genius, his wonderful arcade was the first 'department store' in Melbourne, replete with a live orchestra, an aviary and monkeys alongside books, ornaments, art, curios and tearooms. Cole's journey from an impoverished sandwich seller on the streets of London to owner of one of the most memorable establishments of early Melbourne is remarkable.



A spanner in the works: the extraordinary story of Alice Anderson and Australia's first all-girl garage

Loretta Smith (2019)
PB – 384pp \$32.99

A Spanner in the Works is the first complete story of Alice Anderson's life. The never before told story of an entrepreneur and pioneer, who established the first motor service in Australia run entirely by women. It traces Alice's numerous achievements since erased from the public imagination, and reveals details of her death wrapped in a family secret kept hidden for almost a century.



Matthew Flinders: adventures on leaky ships

Carole Wilkinson, illustrated by Prue Pittock (2020)
HB – 32 pp \$24.99

Matthew Flinders was determined to map the entire coast of the continent we now call Australia. His story is packed to the gunwales with adventure: storms and shipwrecks, death and danger, a race to beat the French. But more than this, it is a story of loyalty to his crew, love for his wife, and affection for the brave little cat who sailed with him. A delightful children's book.



In the shadow of the Prom: early south-east Gippsland times, tales and tramlines

Mike McCarthy (2020)
HB – 285pp, 212 images \$66.00

In the shadow of the Prom is a history of the early settlement of south Gippsland from Foster to the Mullungdung forest north-east of Yarram. The development of the towns and the importance of coastal shipping to their survival is comprehensively covered. It includes extensive details and maps of numerous tramways.



Farmers or hunter-gatherers?: the dark emu debate

Peter Sutton & Keryn Walshe (2021)
PB – 264pp \$34.99

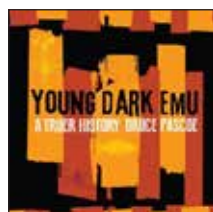
In *Farmers or hunter-gatherers?* the authors ask why Australians have been so receptive to the notion that farming represents an advance from hunting and gathering. Drawing on the knowledge of Aboriginal elders, and decades of anthropological scholarship, they provide extensive evidence to support their argument that classical Aboriginal society was a hunter-gatherer society and as sophisticated as the traditional European farming methods.



Frances Burke: designer of modern textiles

Nanette Carter and Robyn Oswald-Jacobs (2021)
HB – 240pp \$69.99

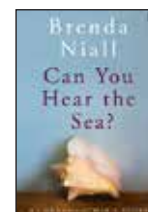
Frances Burke was Australia's most influential and celebrated textile designer of the 20th century. In this long-awaited, richly illustrated work, the authors have located and unpacked the different components of a body of work never presented as art or intended simply for display, but which contributed so much to the felt experience of Australian life in the middle decades of the twentieth century.



Young dark emu: a truer history

Bruce Pascoe (2019)
HB – 64pp \$24.99

Bruce Pascoe has collected a swathe of literary awards for *Dark Emu* and now he has brought together the research and compelling first-person accounts in a book for younger readers. Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Bruce Pascoe compellingly argues for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians.



Can You Hear the Sea?: my Grandmother's story

Brenda Niall (2017)
HB – 304pp \$29.99

An insightful and moving story of life in 19th and early 20th century Australia, from one of the country's most celebrated biographers. Brenda Niall has turned her biographer's eye to a personal subject: her grandmother. Aggie dealt with hardships and loneliness after the early, drawn-out death of her husband, and brought up her seven children. But it was the memory box and her longing for the sea that captured the imagination of her granddaughter.

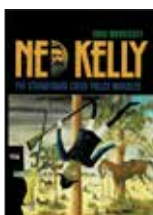
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John Schauble

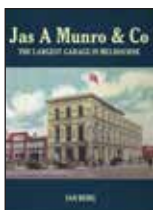
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

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



Ned Kelly: the Stringybark Creek police murders. Doug Morrissey, Connor Court Publishing, Redland Bay, 2020, pp.ix-400, ISBN 9781922449153.

No outlaw in Australia has generated more attention than Edward Kelly. That his story remains so politically charged 140 years after he was hanged adds to the fascination. The lines are well and truly drawn between those who consider him a romantic, downtrodden rebel, propelled into a life of crime by the corrupt agents of the state and those who believe he was no more than a brutal career criminal. Doug Morrissey falls squarely into the latter camp and his account of the murders of police troopers at Stringybark Creek is the final instalment of a trilogy in which he forcefully argues that case, concluding: "The national celebration of Ned Kelly insults and belittles us all."



Jas A Munro & Co: the largest garage in Melbourne. Ian Berg, the author, Melbourne, 2020, pp.1-146, ISBN 9780646823522.

If people remember the name Jas A. Munro at all today, it is because it remains embossed in the stonework above a fast-food restaurant across from the deli hall at Queen Victoria Market. This precinct was once the headquarters of an unrivalled coachbuilding, motoring, spring making, agricultural implements and furniture business. James Munro arrived from Scotland in 1891 with a shilling in his pocket and ambition in his heart. The empire he soon built in a depression struck city was based on innovation: firstly, in springs for bedding and mattresses, and later motor cars. Based largely on family archival material, this handsomely illustrated volume gives a marvellous insight into early 20th century Melbourne.



Roots: how Melbourne became the live music capital of the world. Craig Horne, Melbourne Books, Melbourne, 2020, pp.1-269, ISBN 9781925556957.

In an era of lockdowns and limited gatherings, this account of Melbourne's vibrant live music past almost takes on the qualities of a poignant reflection. But it also speaks of a creative vibrancy that will return in time. The book traces the history of live music from jazz through folk, rhythm and blues, to country and rock. It is in large measure an oral anecdotal history, leaning on the author's own easy familiarity with the musicians and an intimate knowledge of his subject. Anyone who has ever crouched in a dingy jazz den or trodden the beer sticky carpet of a pub venue will enjoy this.



Pentridge Prison: inside out. Adrian Didlick, the author, Melbourne, 2020, pp.1-288. ISBN 9780646825014.

Pentridge Prison in Coburg was closed almost 25 years ago, yet for generations of Victorians the place of the "bluestone college" in our history is indelible. Conceived as a modern centre of incarceration, it began life as a penal stockade in 1851. The remnants of panopticons modelled on the ideas of reformist Jeremy Bentham were unearthed after its closure. Pentridge replaced the old Melbourne Gaol at the top of Swanston Street as the state's principal prison in 1924. The history of the prison has been documented elsewhere; this work is a 10-year pictorial record of the decaying remnants of a penal complex in the midst of redevelopment for genteel housing. The images tell a bleak story.



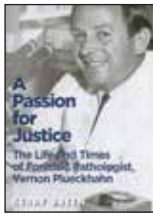
Coragulac. Jennifer F. O'Donnell, the author, Moonee Ponds, 2021, pp.1-146, ISBN 9780992532871.

Jennifer O'Donnell is a biographer of houses and in them she finds not just buildings but rich stories that demand to be preserved. Coragulac is on the edge of Lake Corangamite near Colac. This is country with an enduring First Nations history that transcends that of European settlers, and which is outlined in some detail here. Built as part of a grand estate in 1872 by the Robertson family, Coragulac House reflects the wealth of its original owners and their immediate successors but its fate over the succeeding five families has been more nuanced. Happily, it has now been restored to something of its former glory. A fascinating tale of a house and its people.



The people's hero: the career of Henry Hayden BA in colonial Victoria. George Milford, Harcourt Heritage and Tourist Centre Inc., Harcourt, 2021, pp.1-101, ISBN 9780648657415.

Henry Hayden was one of those interesting characters who burst onto the colonial scene in the 1840s, full of radical spirit. An educated Irish Protestant, he would enter Port Phillip via Van Diemen's Land in the employ of the Henty brothers as a bookkeeper before becoming an auctioneer, private tutor, journalist, teacher and country school principal. Along the way he would go broke and be charged with deserting his family. A champion of land law reform and a skilled orator, he was passionate about educational and social reforms. His activism eventually brought Hayden into conflict with his community and his removal as head teacher at Harcourt school.



A passion for justice: the life and times of forensic pathologist, Vernon Plueckhahn. Kerry Breen, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, pp.v-259, ISBN 9781925984040

In these days of celebrity epidemiologists, that a forensic pathologist was a household name 40 years ago might seem a mystery to a younger generation. Plueckhahn grew up in South Australia and decided early he wanted to become a doctor. World War II intervened but also provided opportunities. After serving on a hospital ship as a technician, he completed medical studies after the war. He became a pathologist at Geelong Hospital, specialising in the forensic branch. A pioneer in many areas, he is probably best known for exposing the flawed evidence in the case against Lindy Chamberlain. However, his enduring legacy is the creation of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. This is a fine read.



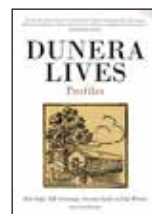
Black Byng. Barry Wright, the author, Balnarring, 2021, pp.vi-424, ISBN 9781034424086.

This study tracks the story of John Byng, son of a former slave who left his home in Nova Scotia and surfaced in Melbourne in 1839. This is not the first time Byng's story has been told, but as an African-American in a society which was in the process of decimating its First Nations peoples, Byng would not have gone unremarked. One of Melbourne's earliest publicans, he took over the licence of the Victoria Tavern in 1840 and prospered as a hotelier in Melbourne, Mount Gambier and Kyneton. He earned the moniker "Black Byng" in Mount Gambier, but the colour of his skin was no impediment to his progress in the world of colonial commerce.



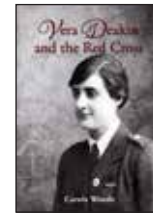
Australian Galleries: the Purves family business, the first four decades 1956-1999. Caroline Field, Australian Galleries, Collingwood, 2019, pp. vi-319, ISBN 9780648116233.

This is the story of the first 40 years of the Purves family business, 'Australian Galleries'. Influential as a centre of modern Australian art, it was started by a couple who knew nothing about dealing in art in a market that at the time barely existed. Artists represented at the gallery's first exhibition included William Frater, George Bell, Sali Herman, Max Middleton and V.G. O'Connor and before long the likes of John Perceval, Arthur Boyd, Judy Cassab, Fred Williams and John Brack. That a commercial gallery would become such an important institution was probably unforeseen. Caroline Field has produced a detailed and thorough account.



Dunera Lives: profiles. Ken Inglis, Bill Gammage, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2020, pp.vii-476, ISBN 9781925835656.

This is the second volume profiling the lives of some of the 2750 internees who arrived in Australia on the Dunera and the Queen Mary. Most were opposed to Nazism but came having been declared enemies of Britain and its allies. Most were Jewish. The story of the 'Dunera boys', as most were men, has found expression in many ways before. Many of them would rise to prominence in post-war Australia and elsewhere becoming leaders as lawyers, scientists, academics, doctors, artists, businessmen and any number of other fields. This is another small selection of their stories, part of a project led by historian Ken Inglis and his last major work before his death in 2017.



Vera Deakin and the Red Cross. Carole Woods, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 2021, pp.ix-244, ISBN 9781875173105.

It is perhaps a little indulgent to 'receive' a book published by RHSV, but Carole Woods's biography of Vera Deakin fully deserves every mention it gets. Reading this biography of a woman who could easily have retreated to a life of idle privilege is to be reminded of a time when duty was something more natural than a matter of noblesse oblige. As the daughter of a prime minister, Vera used her parents' connections to construct a life of humanitarian service within the context of a British Empire that has long since faded. The author has laboured to bring this book to fruition and the result is well worth it.



Out of the madhouse: from asylums to caring community? Sandy Jeffs & Margaret Leggatt, Arcadia, North Melbourne, 2020, pp.vi-255, ISBN 9781925984262.

How a society deals with mental health is a signpost to the sort of community it is. In Victoria, where a royal commission into the mental health system has recently exposed great failings, there is a renewed commitment to tackling the mental health of our community. This book is largely an anecdotal social history of the now closed Larundel Psychiatric Hospital. The anecdotal evidence is discussed and dissected by poet, activist and former inmate Sandy Jeffs and mental health services advocate Margaret Leggatt. Both the consequences of Larundel's closure and the de-institutionalisation of those who lived there are central themes that reflect its interrogative subtitle. The book was a winner in the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards.



The totem poles of Ouyen United: travels in country footy. Paul Daffey, Daffey Publications, Northcote, 2019, pp.xii-416, ISBN 9780646804163.

Country football in Victoria is told in some measure through the prism of the Ouyen United club. The nine whimsical totem poles painted by local students, which stand at the edge of Blackburn Park in Ouyen, represent all the local clubs that over the years have folded into one. Therein lies the story of modern country footy, as much a story about rural decline as the pivotal role sport plays in country communities. While the focus is on the dry country of the north-west, the book stretches across the rural landscape of Victoria as it follows a season of a game that continues to bind communities in important ways as they face new and different challenges.



The world is one kilometre: Greville Street, Prahran. Judith Buckridge, Prahran Mechanics Institute Press, Prahran, 2019, pp.vii-213, ISBN 9780980453683.

When people think of Prahran these days, then tend to think of the rising and ebbing fortunes of Chapel Street, the main shopping drag. But for 160 years the centre of much of the suburb's civic, cultural (and counterculture) activity has been a much narrower thoroughfare. Greville Street contains a town hall, the library and once housed the police station, court house, a fire station and the famous Leggett's dance hall. As Melbourne and its inner suburbs changed, so did Greville Street. It later became an entertainment and music hub, a place of radical thought and sometimes deed. Judith Buckridge has written an engaging account of the heart of a suburb through all its incarnations.



Jessie Traill: a biography. Jo Oliver, Arden, North Melbourne, 2020 pp.v-288, ISBN 978192598101.

This first full biography of Jessie Traill (1881-1967) casts much new light on a long overlooked Australian woman artist who as a child met her mentor Tom Roberts, studied under Frederick McCubbin and Bernard Hall as a young woman and whose work drew serious praise from Arthur Streeton. Traill was a printmaker, a skilled etcher whose work has in recent decades been wisely collected by the National Gallery of Australia. Her other great passion was travel, both in Australia and overseas. She boldly interrupted her career to work as a volunteer nurse in France during World War 1. The author has made extensive use of Traill's diaries and letters in telling this interesting story.

What's on at RHSV

► continued

Because of COVID we anticipate that all events in October / November will be Zoom events.

Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website.

BRINGING YOUR DIGGERS BACK TO LIFE

Saturday 23 October
2:30 – 4:00pm by
ZOOM
FREE



Presented by Patrick Ferry in partnership with the National Archives of Australia

This seminar will show family and local historians how to mine the range of resources available to help tell the story of a town / suburb / district's soldiers. Patrick will focus on the great range of records the NAA has but would also include information about other valuable sources of information e.g. the War Unit Diaries held at the AWM (and listed on RecordSearch); the PROV soldier settler records etc.

CATALOGUING CLINICS

Thursdays 28 October and 25
November
11am – 12noon by ZOOM
FREE

Jillian Hiscock, the RHSV Collections Manager, hosts these clinics an hour from 11am on the fourth Thursday of each month. It is a relaxed gathering of people who are finding their way through the intricacies of cataloguing material in historical collections which, as we all know, fall between a library and a museum with sometimes a bit of art gallery thrown in. Jillian always prepares some material on some specific queries but questions are encouraged and, remember, a problem shared is a problem halved. The clinics are conversational in format rather than a seminar. If you are new to cataloguing or an old hand you will find plenty to interest you in these sessions.

THE SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEMES OF VICTORIA

Thursday 11
November
6 – 7:30pm
FREE



A joint presentation with the Genealogical Society of Victoria and the RHSV. We are delighted that Dr Charles Fahey has agreed to deliver this seminar on Soldier Settlement Schemes. The Soldier Settlement Schemes encompassed thousands of WWI returned soldiers who occupied farming land on conditional purchase leases across Victoria between 1919 and the 1960s. If you are researching family or Australian history this talk will help you understand the individual experience of a soldier settler, as well as the historical context of the Victorian Soldier Settlement Scheme. The talk will make special use of files from the parishes of Wagant and Kulwin to illustrate the information and stories to be found in vast archive left by the settlers.