



History NEWS

**BOOK SALE
BARGAINS GALORE
15 SEPTEMBER**

Issue No. 308 Sept-Oct 2013

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

History Week 2013

Make sure your event is on the calendar!



History Week is shaping up to be another stunning success this year, with events flooding in from around Victoria to be listed on the official calendar.

To celebrate the Week, Victorians look set to be able to:

- don their best hat and celebrate the history of the Melbourne Cup's Fashions on the Field; learn about the defence manufacturing work carried out on the former Albion Explosives Factory site; wander the tree lined streets of Malvern East and explore the Spanish Mission style houses;
- experience the lavish interiors, enjoy afternoon tea and a glass of sparkling wine in one of Victoria's most significant nineteenth century mansions; and much more.

If you are holding a history related event during the 20-27 October, join in the History Week celebrations and submit your event via the History Week website – www.historyweek.org.au

Once approved, we'll include your event in the official History Week calendar, email you the History Week logo to use in promotional material and send you out a handful of History Week postcards to promote the event.

For more information visit www.historyweek.org.au or email info@historyweek.org.au

History Week is generously supported by the Vera Moore Foundation.

For History Week events see pages 6-7.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are advised that a Special General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 17 September

Time: 5.15 for 5.45

Place: 239 A' Beckett Street Melbourne

Business:

To adopt the new Model Rules as required under the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012

Please Note: There are no changes from the current constitution other than the History Victoria Support Group Co-ordinator will

Asking Matthew Guy the big question!

Mr Brian Tee, Shadow Minister for Planning asked on 21 August, 2013 for an adjournment in the Legislative Council.

Quoted from Victorian Hansard, Page 2427

Mr TEE (Eastern Metropolitan) – My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Planning. It relates to the location of the premises of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, which represents about 340 historical societies across Victoria and provides support and training for a large number of volunteers. The society also has a large historical collection and is currently located at the drill hall opposite the Flagstaff Gardens and has been there for some time, but unfortunately its lease has expired and has been extended until July 2014. Members of the society are concerned because the drill hall is currently on the state government's asset sales program, and they fear their premises will be sold from under their feet.

I understand that an evaluation of the sale has been made and is before the Minister for Planning, but members of the society do not know what is in that evaluation and do not know what the recommendation is. They do know that it is difficult for them to continue to plan with any confidence or operate effectively while they are in the crosshairs, and they are very concerned that they may be kicked out of the hall without being given any alternative.

Members of the society have attempted to meet with the minister, but as we heard today that can be a very difficult proposition. Notwithstanding the fact they are at risk of being kicked out, they have been unable to meet with the minister -- indeed, he has been unwilling to meet with them -- so they have not been able to put their case for why they should remain in the drill hall premises, where they have operated for some time. They ask that the hall be removed from the state government's asset sales program and for a hearing with the minister.

They would like to get some feedback from the minister, an update in terms of where the sale process is up to and some assurance that they will not be turfed out and end up on the street. Ideally they would like to see their premises developed into a 'history house' where they could include other organisations, including the Genealogical Society of Victoria, in there too.

My request is that the minister provide an update and undertake to meet with members of the society to try to explore with them opportunities to expand the role of the current location to include a broader 'history house'.

See Associate Professor Don Garden's petition letter on page 2.

no longer also be Vice-President. This is being done at the request of the History Victoria Support Group

The new Model Rules are available on the RHSV website. Any member who wishes to have a copy emailed or posted, please notify the office 9326 9288.

To be followed by:

The National Trust but not as you know it – Innovative approaches to heritage

President's Report

RHSV President Assoc. Prof Don Garden writes:

A State of Uncertainty: RHSV and the Drill Hall

Thanks to the Victorian government, the RHSV has resided at the Drill Hall opposite the Flagstaff Gardens for about fourteen years. Previously the state government had provided us with an area in the old Mint building, but when it was decided to use the Mint for commercial purposes Minister Robert Maclellan kindly found us much larger accommodation in the heritage listed Drill Hall.

And with a ten year lease!!

Since then we have had a number of short term leases with no guarantee of security until a few weeks ago when we were offered an extension until July 2014.

In the meantime, the government has been evaluating the Drill Hall for possible sale, and a recommendation has been sent to Minister Matthew Guy. We do not know the content or result of that recommendation, so we are in a state of ongoing uncertainty.

We all know how hard it is to plan with confidence and operate effectively under such conditions. And RHSV has hanging over us the possibility that next year we may be required to leave the Drill hall, and with no suitable alternative unless the government is again kind to us. Even then, the process of removal will be very expensive and highly disruptive.

Our immediate goal is a renewal of our lease for a long period at a similar low rental to what we have enjoyed until now.

We have been attempting to speak with the Minister and others involved in the decision,

but so far without success. We would very much like to put our case before a decision is made.

Beyond that, the RHSV has long sought to have the Drill Hall enhanced to serve as Melbourne's History House - a permanent home for Victoria's state-wide historical and genealogical societies and kindred bodies.

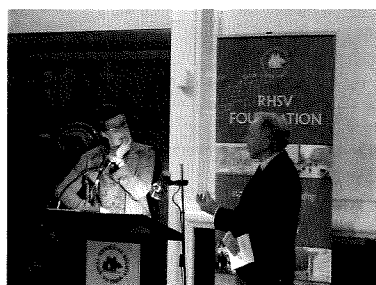
Prior to the last election we believed that we were close to an agreement with the government to do this, but we have not been able to proceed with the idea under the current government.

Nevertheless, we have the support of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, the History Council, the National Council of Women Victoria and the History Teachers Association of Victoria.

We have also recently obtained Museums Australia accreditation for the RHSV section of the building. The presentation was made in a ceremony conducted by Heidi Victoria, the Arts Minister, to Dr Robert Barnes (RHSV Treasurer) as I was interstate.

We are calling on societies and members of the history and heritage community in Victoria to support the RHSV in its quest for secure accommodation and the establishment of History House. Please email Matthew Guy, Minister for Planning, matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au

We also ask that the Drill Hall be removed from the state government's asset sales program if it is part of that program.



Robyn Annear delights the audience with thoughtful insights as she and Andrew Lemon discuss the writing of *Bear Brass* at one of the RHSV Melbourne Day Events. 30 August.

A podcast of Robyn's talk is now available on:

www.historyvictoria.com.au



Representatives from the Museum of Australian Chinese History, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Schramm's Cottage, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Hawks Museum & the College of Surgeons Museum receive their Accreditation certificates at the Victorian Museum Awards 2013.

Legal deposit at the State Library of Victoria

Kim Wilson of the State Library of Victoria writes:

One of the most important functions of the State Library of Victoria is to preserve the documentary cultural heritage of Victoria for present and future generations. Provision has been made in the Libraries Act (Victoria) 1988 for a copy of every Victorian publication to be deposited with the State Library of Victoria to assist us in fulfilling this function. The provision provides every Victorian based publisher (whether a commercial publishers, a private individual, a society or institution) is required to send a copy of their publications to the State Library of Victoria within 60 days. The legal deposit requirement covers many types of material that might not normally be associated with libraries such as annual reports and newsletters to which the public may have access (regardless as to whether or not such materials are available for sale). The requirement also covers materials that have been published in non-print formats such as sound and video recordings, computer disc and microfilm/fiche. Items deposited are permanently archived (with preservation action being taken when necessary) but in most instances will remain accessible to researchers upon request.

Unfortunately as the relevant provisions concerning legal deposit were drafted over twenty years ago they did not anticipate the digital revolution that has since occurred in publishing so that while there is no statutory requirement for publishers to submit born digital or online publications as legal deposit, it is in the spirit of the Libraries Act that publishers grant the State Library of Victoria permission to archive such publications in a digital format.

If you or your Society produce any such publications, newsletters or annual reports, it would be most appreciated if you could please arrange for these to be deposited with the State Library of Victoria. If you have been depositing your publications the State Library of Victoria would like to thank you. If you are uncertain about which publications you have historically deposited, or would like further information concerning legal deposit or how your online publications may be preserved digitally, please contact us at the phone number, email or post address:

Kim Wilson,
Victorian Serials Technician
Serial Acquisitions
State Library of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne. Vic. 3000
phone: 03 8664 7138
email: kwilson@slv.vic.gov.au

Hidden treasure on your doorstep

Want to know the secret to finding family history "gold"? It might lie closer than you think.

Megan Gibson – founder of *Family Tree Time* and researcher for some episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* writes:

If you have only ever approached a family history or genealogy society to assist with your family history research, now's the time to spread your wings. While these groups are important to your progress, immersing in the often overlooked world of *local* history can reveal a fuller picture of your ancestor's life, or even solve a mystery or two.

Local history, including local knowledge and social history, brings your ancestor to life by giving you detail and context. What was his/her town like then, is there a photo? What about the sports or women's clubs they joined? Is the church there today the same church the family christenings took place in back in the 1860s? Is Duke St really named after great-grandfather and why?!

Who were the schoolmates and neighbours? One client of mine wondered how on earth two of her great-grandparents could have met and married. After studying the local history, I discovered that their fathers owned businesses next door to each other! And there was a photo to prove it. Gold.

Context is everything. Doesn't it frustrate you when you find a single newspaper clipping mentioning your ancestor, without anyone having noted down the date, or name/location of the newspaper? Without location and era, the information is useless. However, if someone left you the entire page instead, or the entire edition...

It's not all on the internet. When I worked as a freelance researcher on a few episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* (SBS), some of the best advice I was given was "at some stage, you have to get AWAY from the desk!". And what better place to visit than a local history collection.

Local history resources vary widely, but could include photo collections (groups often inherit extensive collections such as those of the town's main pioneer photographer), published or recorded recollections of "old timers", indigenous history, industry records, maps, rate books, the history of buildings such as schools and private residences, local anniversary publications (often not found in any other collection), rare ephemera and plenty more.

You just never know what you will find. At the recent VAFHO Conference I was shown a Ballarat dog registration book. So what? Well, one entry might be the only proof of where and when your ancestor and family lived.



The more local knowledge you have, the more accurate your research will be. I once stood outside a house in Melbourne adoring it as the home of my great-grandmother, only to learn the next day, while visiting the local history library, that the house numbers changed decades earlier. It was the wrong house!

If you don't have a local history group nearby, or in your ancestor's town, contact the local library. They may have a dedicated local history section.

To save time, check the website of your destination before visiting. Browse online catalogues, check opening hours, fees, publications for sale and so on. (If you have Victorian ancestry, you're particularly lucky to have a fabulous collection of local and state history at the RHSV!)

Provide as much relevant information as you can, concisely, to staff, such as names, dates, occupation, religion, addresses – or even copies of old photos of the family business, sports team or school.

Nothing beats walking in your ancestor's footsteps, and meeting or connecting with local experts. The staff

and volunteers at your local history group might just lead you to that missing piece of your family history jigsaw. They may even turn out to be related!

So find your local history collection, and start exploring

...before it's too late.

Megan Gibson founded *Family Tree Time* after working as a freelance researcher on some episodes of the hit Australian TV series *Who Do You Think You Are?* (SBS). She shares tips from her book *How To Get More Family Tree Time – Tips for the Time Poor!* at events Australia-wide.

A member of the Society of Australian Genealogists and the Oral History Association of Australia, and a former magazine editor, Megan is a freelance writer and researcher, a guest speaker at history events and on radio, and is the Canberra Tour Guide for Customised Heritage Tours. Her passion is to help people beat the "I'm too busy" blues to start or progress with their family tree research ...before it's too late.

Megan will be holding seminars in Melbourne in November.

Visit www.familytreetime.com.au



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BOOKS RECEIVED:

We note below relevant items sent to the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in the News and through possible deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the Journal.

Crescy Cannan, *The Iron House, Jane Cannan and the Rush to Melbourne*, Bugloss Publishing, Devon with Blooming Books Melbourne, 2013, pp. xiv + 185. ISBN 9780957404601. Jane Cannan's beautiful sketches of Gold Rush Melbourne are a priceless part of the RHSV collection. They contribute much to this narrative of Jane's life told by her descendant who has already published a short article about the drawings in our *VHJ*. Jane's short sojourn in Melbourne began in 1853 when she arrived with her husband who was managing the Melbourne branch of Morewood & Rogers, a British firm specialising in galvanised metals, including prefabricated houses. Her life and observations have been skilfully drawn in this engaging book. It is also an important contribution to our understandings of Melbourne in the 1850s.

Samuel Furphy, *Edward Curr and the Tide of History*, Aboriginal History Monograph no 26, ANU E Press, Canberra, 2013, pp. xvi + 229. ISBN 9781922144706. An important assessment of Curr whose *Recollections of Squatting in Victoria* (1883) and *Australian Race* (1886) have been widely used in Australian history writing. Curr wrote well especially on the environment. This biography gives a clear account of Curr's life and work as pastoralist, Aboriginal administrator and early anthropologist. Furphy provides an important critical context for his attitudes to Aborigines: they should be treated as children and they could not be assimilated. The authority given to Curr in the judgement in the Yorta Yorta native title case (1994-2001) in Furphy's view was misplaced as well as influential in the failure of the claim. Through examining Curr's attitudes to Aborigines and the contemporary criticism of his work by AW Howitt and others, the author presents a very cogent argument against the use of Curr in the case. He underlines the preference given to the written language over the oral.

Ai Kobayashi, *W Macmahon Ball Politics for the People*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2013, pp. xiv + 278, \$39-95. ISBN 9781921875915. Mac Ball was a public intellectual known to many for his broadcasting and newspaper writing on international affairs from the 1930s. First professor of politics at the University of Melbourne (appointed 1949), he was responsible for building a formidable department and for extending political education, his lasting legacy. He had an abiding interest and involvement with Asia but did not have any Asian languages; he published little and was not active in research. This is a thoroughly researched biography that does more than highlight his professorship

and academic teaching and his important public activities as Director of Broadcasting Activities during World War 2, as observer in the Netherland East Indies in 1945, as British Commonwealth Representative on the Allied Council for Japan 1946-7 and his leadership of the Goodwill Mission to Southeast Asia in 1948.

Hamish Townsend, *Missionaries, Radicals, Feminists: A History of North Yarra Community Health*, North Yarra Community Health, 365 Hoddle Street, Collingwood, 3066, pp. 158. ISBN 9780646585574. North Yarra Community Health, an amalgamation of Collingwood, Carlton and Fitzroy centres, had its origins in John Singleton's creation of the Collingwood Free Medical Mission Dispensary in 1869, claimed as the first of its kind in Australia. Its particular concern as in its successors was to provide medical and social services with the emphasis on community. Radical in origins and continuously so, the health centre provided advocacy against poverty, homelessness, discrimination and substance abuse, always present in Collingwood but also in pockets of Fitzroy and Carlton especially before their gentrification. The narrative focuses on the beginnings and the post-Whitlam era, on the staff and their supporters, on the clientele from the community, and on the continuing struggles to make a difference in often hostile political and medical contexts.

Paul de Serville, *Athenaeum Club Melbourne, A New History of the Early Years 1868-1918*, Athenaeum Club, 87 Collins Street, Melbourne, 2013, pp. xx + 514. ISBN 9780957915411. Most of Melbourne's clubs have produced substantial histories but none can match this sumptuous, impeccably researched, beautifully expressed and extensive account of the Club's first 50 years. With few surviving archival resources from the Club, the author has masterfully constructed his story about the people of the club always related to the wider society. This book adds considerably to his previous studies of Victoria's social elites in the 19th century and the framework echoes much of his earlier accounts. Is there to be a history of the period since 1918 that will complement this important book?

Jane Mayo Carolan, *Visionary Lives, Five Hundred Biographies from the Brighton General Cemetery*, Melbourne, 2013, pp. vi + 136. ISBN 9780646595504. More than 77 000 people have been buried in the Brighton Cemetery since it opened in 1855. Jane Carolan selects 500 for short biographies set in context of both place and time. The criteria for inclusion are somewhat vague: the well known that are fully covered elsewhere are curtailed here; war veterans are largely excluded because of their coverage online; educationists are minimally featured because they are usually in school histories; murderers and crooks are omitted because they may reawaken sadness for families. Those included are grouped in chapters entitled 'Keeping

the Peace'; 'Cultural Pursuits and Sporting Activities'; 'Professionals'; and 'The Rulers'. There is an excellent index to the names, far more men than women. There appears to be a promise of notes in the National Library Cataloguing but none in the book. There is such a fund of interesting, well-written and researched biographies that tell much about those who patronised the cemetery at death that not providing more indication of where the material comes from seems regrettable. Very readable and informative and a formidable example of what might be written about other cemeteries.

Paul Terry, *The True Story of Ned Kelly's Last Stand, New Revelations Unearthed about the Bloody Siege at Glenrowan*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2012, pp. xix + 275, \$29-99. ISBN 9781743310069. The author was engaged in the 2008 archaeological dig at the Glenrowan inn site and was a producer on the TV documentary *Ned Kelly Uncovered*. The book contains codes that allow videos of the dig to be downloaded. 'True' stories have been penned about the Kellys before but this is the first time that attempts have been made to examine the inn site archaeologically, no mean feat since there have been two further buildings since Ann Jones's inn was burnt to the ground on 28 June 1880. Terry sets his account of the dig itself in the context of the Kelly literature. The dig located the outlines of the first inn but could not extend the dig to her kitchen and house to its rear. This prevented the discovery of evidence that might be the final word on whether Dan Kelly and Steve Hart could have survived in a cellar and escaped. The artefacts from the inn show that Ann Jones provided good quality glasses and ceramic ware for her guests and the large numbers of bullets taken from the inn give a very good indication of the volume of the police attack given the presumed numbers of 'souvenirs' taken from the site over the intervening years. Ann Jones's life is more fully dealt with than elsewhere. A useful addition to the crowded field of Kelly literature, despite the fact that it has no index.

Margaret & Graham Bride, *The Borough And Its People, Port Melbourne 1839-1939*, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, PO Box 552, Port Melbourne, 3207, 2013, pp. ix + 325. ISBN 97809757542869. A lively narrative of the history of the port and its relationships to the growing metropolis in shipping and manufacturing in its first 100 years. This laying out of an independent suburb with its places of worship, schools, municipal institutions, sporting clubs and entertainments, and its trade unions, and the lives of those who made the borough provides interesting fare for locals and outsiders. The borough was a place apart as well as a place with important connections to the metropolis. One hopes that there will be a further volume on the period after 1939.

Arts Access: Valuable tips for improving access to Heritage Buildings

Recently Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer, RHSV attended a two day workshop examining strategies for arts organisations to be inclusive of people of all abilities.

Adapt - the organisers of the workshops have kindly shared these websites:

Improving Access to the Built Environment Including Checklist

http://www.arts.vic.gov.au/Research_and_Resources/Resources/ADAPT_-_The_Arts_Disability_Action_Plan_Training_Project/Top_Tips_and_Practical_Resources/Improving_Access_to_the_Built_Environment_Checklist

Improving Access to Heritage Buildings

The publication *Improving Access to Heritage Buildings* is no longer available in hard copy, however it is available to download from the website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/access-heritage-buildings.html>.

Access for all Heritage Places

(This is an easy to read pamphlet. No longer available in hard copy but very useful for 'at a glance' reading). This is the link to the brochure on the Canberra architects site http://www.emaa.com.au/documents/accessdocs/HVC015_Disability_Access_dc05.pdf

Removing the Obstacles

Disability Access and the Arts (in Heritage Buildings), Accessible Arts NSW. Located at <http://www.aarts.net.au/policy-research/access-heritage/>. This page also has general commentary on heritage and access matters.

Get involved with Social Media

In November 2012, the RHSV launched its forums.

Divided into four forums Cataloguing, History Victoria Support Group, General Inquiries and Members Research – the forums are increasingly active in discussing, reporting and engaging the local history community.

Currently there is a discussion on the Forum about blogging for historical societies. The Carnamah HS in WA posted a link to this toolkit for bloggers that is highly recommended. <http://www.carnamah.com.au/blogging-toolkit>

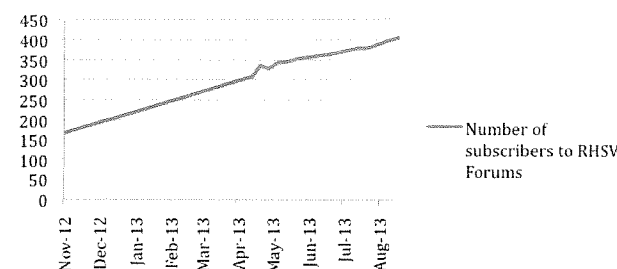
At the History Victoria Support Group Seminar held in Warragul on 31 August, Lisa Fletcher, Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator, Infoxchange gave a presentation called:

Getting Started with Social Media

This presentation can be found at:

prezi.com/vrn2qyo0jrvy/getting-started-with-social-media/

Number of subscribers to RHSV Forums



Coach Tour

Mechanic's Institutes of Victoria Inc. is running a tour as a prelude to Home is Where the Hall! is month

Pieces of Eight – Eight Central Victorian Mechanics' Institutes Coach Tour

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

Departs Melbourne Athenaeum, 188 Collins St Melbourne 8.45 Sharp

Halls visited include: Kyneton, Malmsbury, Taradale, Elphinstone, Chewton, Fryerstown, Sutton Grange, Mia Mia, Redesdale, Barfold

The Tour Leaders: Ken James – author of 27 titles of local history; and Noel Davis – Sutton Grange based local historian.

At Barfold the Tour will launch Ken & Noel's latest book of the eight Central Victorian Mechanics Institutes as a prelude to the Home is Where the Hall Is! Month of November.

Tour cost: \$50.00 includes morning/afternoon teas and light lunch and notes.

For further information and bookings contact Jim Lowden & Bron Lowden

Ph: (03) 9873 7202 email: theruralstore@bigpond.com or bronlowden@hotmail.com

Box Hill wins award

BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sir Rupert Hamer Record Management Awards

Digitising the City of Box Hill Rate Books

The Box Hill Historical Society has won the 'Community Archives - providing enhanced records access' category of these awards presented recently at Parliament House.

Box Hill's winning project was the digitisation of a missing decade from their collection of City of Box Hill rate records. The rate books are among the Society's most requested records.

The project was completed in collaboration with the Public Record Office Victoria which allowed a 5-member team from Box Hill access to the rate books and their digitising facilities. Daniel Wilksch, Co-Ordinator Digital Projects provided guidance and the volunteers took 23000 images to complete the missing decade and complete the run of rate books from 1863 up to the 1980s.

This is the first time a volunteer-based local history group has entered into a digitising project with the PROV. It is hoped other local history groups will be encouraged to make local records available to researchers.



Dr Gary Presland, one of digitising team members, accepted the award from Justine Heazlewood, Director & Keeper of the Public Records.

History Week – a glimpse of what's on

Croydon Historical Society

History week will coincide with the 50 year anniversary of the Croydon Historical Society. The Society was formed by Muriel McGovern who was our foundation secretary in 1963 and stayed in that position until 1988.

The events during history week will include:

A talk on the 50 years of the Croydon Historical Society and how *Muriel Made History* by our President Les Hutchinson. The talk will be held in the Croydon library and will be open to the public.

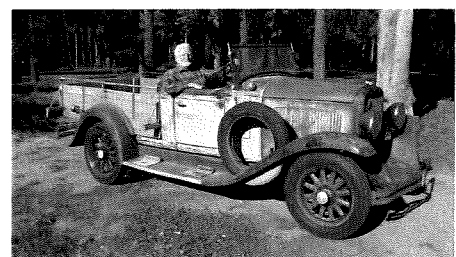
A photographic display in the Croydon Historical Society museum which will include the theme of *Croydon Then and Now* based on our successful publication of that name.

Gippsland Vehicle Collection Touring Group

The Gippsland Vehicle Collection Motor Museum at Maffra have a 'touring group' which enables members of the museum to use and display their historic motor vehicles. These are enjoyable social activities for the members and also help support local community events.

On Sunday 20th October there will be a static display of some of the member's vehicles at the Stratford Heritage Farm Day at Pine Lodge Park, Lowalong Road, Stratford. Amongst the varied vehicles on display will be Doc Doherty's 1930 Dodge Farm Ute. Many years ago after the vehicle completed its useful life as a family car, it was converted into a 'farm' ute, and is currently used on his property at Briagolong to collect and store firewood.

Other vehicles that will be displayed on the day will include tractors, trucks, cars and motorbikes, as well as farm machinery and implements and stationary engines.



Heathcote McIvor Historical Society

Heathcote McIvor Historical Society is pleased to be part of History Week 2013.

We will have our Historic Lockup and Police Residence Museums open to the public from the 20th - 27th October from 10 am to 3 pm daily.

Guided tours will be given throughout each day with many exciting and unique items on view.

As part of this years display, there will be a focus on the Railways and Timber industry which played a vital roll in the history of the Heathcote McIvor District.

During the year we have had several special donations four christening gowns, some early ledger and order books dating back to the 1870s also a table top printing press with all the type. These items have been donated by local families some of which have connections to the district by several generations and we are pleased that we are now able to have these items on view for our visitors.

For further enquiries we can be contacted via email emurfitt3523@rocketmail.com or 54333776 to book a bus or large group tour.

Kyneton Historical Society

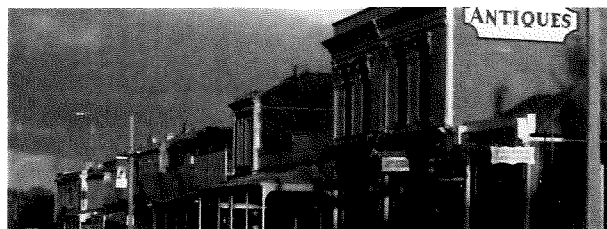
Kyneton HS writes: "Two separate shop windows in the town will display some of our collection and on the days that we open to the public, there will be an opportunity to see how we work and view the more interesting items we have within our archives. The overall aim of our displays is to educate the general public in what history is and means and that before they throw or toss things into the bin, they take a look and get in touch with the society so that we can make an assessment before they are lost forever. These windows will display such items that they may have and by this it is educating the public in history they have within their own four walls.

Shop Window – 74 Piper Street – will showcase the Agricultural history of the town of Kyneton and district. From Minute books, invoices, show ribbons and photos – step back and peek into a farming legacy that will evoke memories of a time gone by. Business is not open to the public, but window is accessible to the passing trade.

Shop Window – 24a High Street – will showcase items from the former Shire of Kyneton Records that the society has now taken into care. Again the emphasis is on what is historical and how important they are for family researchers. The shop is open 7 days a week and informational material will be available for those interested in the historical society.

Open house at 75 Piper Street – the historical home of the society will open their archives and its collection. Old film footages of the past have been migrated to DVDs and will be shown on a loop for those interested along with slide show of the photographic collection.

The two shop windows will be 24/7 and available to all who pass by. There will be no charge but if people want to leave a donation that is acceptable."



Korong Historical Society

The Korong Historical society in Wedderburn will hold a number of events during History week.

The events will include:

A photographic display to be held in the Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall

An open day on the Monday in the old Korong Shire Office with members on hand to answer questions and to explain aspects of Wedderburn's history.

A tour through the old school class room at the rear of the old Korong shire office by society members.

Opening of General Store Museum

Draft of Wedderburn's new History Book available with invitation to Wedderburn people to provide feedback. In early 2014 the Korong Historical Society will have a celebration and book launch of its new publication.

Upper Yarra Museum

Yarra Ranges Heritage Network Open Day

History Week in the Yarra Ranges will kick off with the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network (YRHN) Open Day.

After a successful, inaugural event in 2012 members of the YRHN were keen to arrange another Open Day in 2013.

An invitation from the Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society to hold the Open Day at the Upper Yarra Museum (UYM) was duly accepted and a (successful) grant application was submitted to the Yarra Ranges Council.

Hence, over 20 Yarra Ranges heritage and history groups will mount displays and information booths at the UYM. Work carried out by the member groups, some selected historical items and volunteer opportunities will be to the forefront. Other community groups will be invited to participate.

A local school will sell food and refreshments, children's activities (old-fashioned) will be organised in the Museum's new children's area and the diverse collection of the UYM will be accessible.

Event: Yarra Ranges Heritage Network Open Day

When: Sunday, October 20

Times: 11am to 3pm

Where: Upper Yarra Museum, Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction

Entry: Gold coin donation (to assist volunteers to maintain collection and buildings)

Contact: Tom O'Meara

0427707730 (Pres. UYVHS)

info@upperyarramuseum.org.au

Sorrento Museum

HISTORY FUN AND GAMES

Sorrento has a rich history – the Boonwurrung people, first European Settlement on Port Phillip Bay in 1803, early limeburners, the 1870's when paddle steamers brought thousands of day trippers from Melbourne and trams took them up the main road to the Back Beach Coffee Palace.

Bring the family, explore the history and step back in time to enjoy some old fashioned fun when life was simpler – try craft activities like weaving, knitting, play card games and knucklebones, try croquet in the park, guess the Museum's mystery objects and join a scavenger hunt, imagine life in the authentic limeburner's cottage.

Sessions from 10.00am until 3.00pm on Sunday 20th October, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October at Sorrento Museum 827 Melbourne Rd and the adjoining Pioneer Gardens.

\$10.00 per family includes entry to the Museum and Watts' Cottage.

Professional Historian's Association

"Well-behaved women seldom make history"

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, American historian, 1976

What do these women have in common?

The bilingual lesbian granny who got up Joh Bjelke-Peterson's nose

The five-foot-tall mining magnate from Broken Hill who defended her first claim with a rifle

The horse-whip-wielding governess who beat Chloe to the Young & Jacksons site

The frontline war correspondent who reviewed her own obituary

The answer?

None were 'well-behaved', and they all made history.

Flashback is a new forum for History Week in which members of the Professional Historians Association (PHA) present lively and thought-provoking lightning talks. This year our line-up of professional historians will explore the idea of 'difficult women' at Melbourne Museum on Sunday, October 27th.

Lucy Bracey (co-author of *Under the Red Ribbon* a history of the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre) reveals the long life of Ethel May Punshon, the 'world's oldest lesbian'.

Dr Barbara Lemon (Curator, *Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill*) discusses Tess Alfonsi, the first woman miner in Broken Hill.

Dr Liz Rushen (author of *Single & Free: female migration to Australia, 1833 - 1837*) examines Nichola Cooke, governess and founder of Melbourne's first girls' school.

Dr Richard Trembath (co-author of *Witnesses to War: the History of Australian Conflict Reporting*) explores the life and work of war correspondent Kate Webb.

Hosted by PHA member **Michelle Rayner** from ABC Radio National, with special guest writer, commentator and self-proclaimed difficult woman **Clementine Ford**, who will respond to our historians with her thoughts on the current climate for 'well-behaved women'.

Where: The Theatre, Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens

When: Sunday October 27th, 2pm – 3pm.

Cost: Free, but bookings are essential. RSVP to: HistoryWeek2013@museum.vic.gov.au

This **FREE** event is brought to you by the **Professional Historians Association of Victoria** with the generous support of **Museum Victoria**.



How to deal with mould on collection material

Why do we need to know about mould?

Mould represents a significant risk to cultural collections and can cause devastating and irreversible damage to collection material. It also poses health risks to staff/volunteers and anyone handling the material. There are some simple procedures that can assist in preventing mould outbreak in the first instance, and procedures to limit the impact of mould when it does occur.

What is mould?

Moulds are types of fungi that are present in small quantities in the air and on most surfaces. Moulds become active when conditions are conducive to their growth, such as warm, damp, dark and still environments. Moulds are extremely resilient, being highly adapted for survival and dispersal. They can remain dormant for many years, even decades, only becoming active when conditions are right for germination. Once active, moulds can grow quickly and when mature are easily dispersed by light air flow, allowing them to readily spread within a collection area, cross-contaminating adjacent and nearby collection material.

If mould-affected collection material is identified, it should be isolated from the rest of the collection immediately. Wrap or bag in polyethylene, taping all openings, and label the package so that other colleagues are aware of the situation eg.

Caution: Mould affected collection material

Do Not Handle

Name:

Date:

The moisture content of the substrate is the most critical factor governing mould growth. Temperature is not so critical in determining whether or not mould will grow, eg. mould will still grow on food that is in a refrigerator, but it will influence the rate of growth. Mould is typically found on organic collection materials such as paper, photographs and textiles, which can absorb moisture from the atmosphere and also provide the necessary nutrients and trace elements for mould growth. Mould can also be found on inorganic surfaces such as glass and metal, if there is a layer of organic material, such as dust, on the surface. This highlights one reason for good housekeeping for collections.

Identifying active vs dormant mould

Knowing whether the mould is active or dormant will give you an idea of how urgently action needs to be taken. Examination of the appearance, smell and dampness of the object will provide clues. As a general rule, dormant mould has a dry, powdery appearance because it has a low water-content. It will tend to puff up if disturbed. Active mould has a higher water-content and tends to smudge if touched. It often has a noticeably damp smell. If the area where the collection material is stored has a relative humidity above 65% and the material itself feels damp, it is likely that the mould is active. If the collection material is noticeably damp, drying it as soon as possible is important to prevent the continued growth of the mould.

Damage to collections

Mould secretes enzymes that break down the substrate of the affected collection material, resulting in weakening and destruction of the structure and damage to the surface, such as pitting or the loss of media. There is typically a loss of mechanical strength and an increase in the porosity of the material. Further, mould produces pigments that can cause permanent and disfiguring discolouration and staining in a variety of often vivid, colours including green, black, red, and yellow.

Mould on a book

Health and safety issues

Whether active or dormant, mould can cause health issues and affected collection material needs to be handled with caution, even after treatment. Types of health issues resulting from high levels of exposure include skin rashes, irritation of eyes, nose and throat, headaches, and respiratory problems, or pre-existing conditions, such as asthma or dermatitis, can be aggravated by even low levels of exposure.

To protect yourself and lower the exposure risks, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is strongly recommended. Depending on the likely level of exposure, you may want to consider the following options.

- Lab coat or similar protective clothing over your own clothes.
- Gloves – latex or nitrile. Note that some people react to the powder in latex gloves.
- Eye protection such as plastic safety glasses.

- A respirator mask fitted with particulate filters. Recommended brand of respirator is the Sundström half mask SR100. (www.sea.com.au/2007_web/prod_sund/sun_sys_msk_sr100.htm)

Fitted with a Prefilter SR221 and a Particle filter P3 model SR510.

(www.sea.com.au/2007_web/prod_sund/sun_sys_ft_nonus.htm)

Supplier: Protector Alsafe www.protectoralsafe.com.au/

PPE Equipment

Fabric dust masks don't provide a high level of protection as the size of mould particles is very small and can penetrate the pores of these masks. Also the fabric masks do not provide an adequate seal around the face. However, if you don't have access to a respirator mask, a dust mask is better than no protection at all.

After handling mouldy materials, remove all protective equipment, discard gloves and dust masks, wash lab coat, sterilize eye protection and respirator mask by wiping with a 70% solution of methylated spirits in water. Wash face and hands thoroughly.

Cleaning of mould affected collection materials

The aim of the cleaning is to remove as much of the mould as possible from the collection material, to reduce the amount of mould that can re-grow, to limit the likelihood of cross-contamination of collection material, and limit the chances of human exposure. It is inevitable that some mould will remain in the substrate, and likely that there will be staining or other signs of degradation remaining on the material.

The first step in cleaning is to ensure the collection material is dry. Establish a work area away from all other collection material to avoid cross-contamination. Cover tables with cheap paper such as clean newsprint or butcher's paper, which will be discarded at the end of each day. Plastic sheeting can also be used.

Lay out the collection material to air dry. Do not use fans to dry material as this can result in dispersal of the mould and cross-contamination. Sometimes laying material out in the sun for a short time (about 15 minutes) is a good way to dry it, though only do this on a still clear day. A courtyard area is ideal as it is protected from the wind. Once

you are confident the material is dry, it can then be cleaned.

Change the paper covering the work table as it is likely to have become slightly damp during the drying stage. The most reliable cleaning technique used is the brush vacuuming method, which combines gentle brushing of the mould towards the nozzle of the vacuum cleaner.

Equipment:

- HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter vacuum cleaner, ideally with a variable suction control
- Micro attachments for the vacuum cleaner – available from Godfrey's for around \$20.00
- A variety of brushes ranging in width and softness – available from art suppliers
- PPE equipment as noted above
- Small weights – may be needed to hold material while it is being cleaned.

Technique:

The ideal area to work is a fumehood or similar system of air extraction, if you have access to one. If not, work in an area with adequate space, that can be cleaned, and where the chance of mould coming into contact with collection material or other staff/volunteers is minimal, and wear additional PPE as required.

With the vacuum cleaner on low suction, hold the nozzle of the micro-attachment near the edge of the object. It may help to clamp the hose of the vacuum cleaner to the edge to the table with a clamp device. Carefully brush the mould off the surface of the object towards the nozzle so that the mould is picked up by the suction. Be very careful not to further damage the surface of the object, which is likely to be compromised by the mould. Select your brush according to how fragile the surface is. Use a soft brush for an object with a badly compromised surface or a stiffer brush for an object with a more robust surface.

Cleaning mould from a work on paper using micro-attachments on a HEPA vacuum cleaner

If the object has loose or friable media (eg. pastel or charcoal, flaking paint, flaking photographic emulsion), consult a trained conservator.

Pastel Drawing – Before Treatment After Treatment

On completion of cleaning, discard table coverings, gloves and even the brushes. Bag them and seal the bag, labeling the bag so no one opens it. If the brushes are kept, wash them in clean soapy water and do a final rinse in ethanol or methylated spirits. Label the brushes so that they are not used for any other purpose than mould cleaning.

The collection material can then be re-packed into clean archival-quality storage boxes etc. Label the box with the date that it was cleaned. Before returning the material to the collection store, ensure that whatever was causing the mould problem has been rectified (eg. leaks, down pipes, rising damp, lack of air circulation etc). The storage area should also be thoroughly cleaned. Metal shelving can be wiped down with microfibre cloths to remove any dust and mould and even a final wipe with ethanol or methylated spirits. As a precaution, wooden shelving may need to be replaced if it has been affected by the mould.

It is advisable to regularly check material that has been previously mould affected to ensure that the problem has not recurred. Check once a month for the first three months, every three months for the next year, and then every six months. If the material has been carefully cleaned and the environment is stable, there is unlikely to be a re-occurrence of the problem.

This article has been provided by The Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at The University of Melbourne. The CCMC - Commercial Conservation Services can be contacted on (03) 9348 5700.

For further information regarding CCMC-CCS, see www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/ccmc-conservation-services

WINE SALE

PRESERVE VICTORIA'S PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has worked for 100 years to preserve Victoria's history, during good times and bad, war and peace, periods of support for history and periods when we had to struggle to collect and preserve the stories, documents and images of our past.

Your contribution to this mighty project is always appreciated. But here are two more ways to help.

Support Victoria's History at TAX TIME!!!

Donations to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation are fully tax deductible. If you make a donation before you do your tax return, it will help preserve Victoria's history and give you the best value possible for your donation.

Support Victoria's History WHEN YOU REVISE YOUR WILL!!

When we revise our wills, we want to show our love and support for our children and grandchildren, and we also want to support the causes and organisations we believe in.

Please consider including in your Will, when you next revise it, a bequest to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation. It is through such bequests that a firm foundation can be built for preserving Victoria's history into the future. We are building this bedrock through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation, and we need your help!

Prof Bill Russell, Chair, Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation.

Support the RHSV Wine Drive by ordering wine online:

<http://www.prospectwines.com.au/?k121P&Mji&4F5>

All profits go to the Foundation – by ordering wine online.



Community Heritage website launched

www.communityheritage.net.au

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water, has officially launched Australia's Community Heritage. The website provides individuals and heritage organisations with the opportunity of freely sharing their local heritage at a centralised location.

Historical societies around Australia are strongly encouraged to create a free account and add information about their organisation and their district's heritage. The site can also be used to promote heritage-related events.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies has engaged Andrew Bowman to assist historical societies in this endeavour. If your society would like further information, guidance or info added for you, please contact Andrew by e-mail –

andrew@carnamah.com.au

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost and Helen Boak on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by societies, either by email or contained in their newsletters. For the November 2013 issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 October to lenore10@hotmail.com.

BALLAN: An exhibition to commemorate 100 years since WWI began is planned for 2015. We are seeking and researching information, items and photographs to include, particularly on the home front, rationing, war stories, diaries, letters, uniforms etc. Items can be loaned or donated and will be securely held. Contact: bshsinc@hotmail.com.au.

BELLARINE: The new Sunday opening hours are: January, Sundays 1.30 to 4.30 pm; February to December, the first Sunday of the month, 1.30 to 4.30 pm. The guest speaker on Wednesday 11 September will be Bob Marion on "Murders on The Bellarinel!", and on 6 October the speaker will be Rod Charles on "Bicycle Beginnings in Geelong & District". Contact: pj23513@bigpond.net.au.

BOOLARRA: The Boolarra Cemetery Trust presented the society with the 110 year old original rules and regulations and scale of fees for the Boolarra Cemetery. The Museum, at the Old Boolarra Primary School, is open on the first Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 pm, or by appointment : 5169 6210.

BOX HILL: The guest speaker on Thursday 19 September 19 will present "Le Pine Funerals in Box Hill over the last 50 years". The 17 October guest speaker will talk on "John Blogg: Woodcarver". Wednesday 13 November is the 50th Anniversary celebration with a guided tour of Parliament House, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9285 4808.

BRIGHTON: The *Winter Journal* includes articles on the installation of seats and balustrades of the Prince George Theatre at the society rooms. A further well-illustrated article looks at the stages of restoration that was applied to those artifacts. The *Journal* also includes a page of queries the society has received. Enquiries: 03 9553 8650 or vhs2@vicnet.net.au.

BROADFORD: *Winter Newsletter* reports on Suffragettes in 1891, and online resources for research. A snippet tells of a prisoner charged in 1896 with intimidating female voters by having a live mouse with string attached that he let run across the floor!! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 4 pm. Contact: broadfordhistorical@gmail.com.

CAMPERDOWN: "Moonshiners of South West Victoria" is the topic for the Tuesday 1 October meeting. The guest speaker, local historian and tour operator Wendy Reid, will enlighten members on "Whiskey Tom" Delaney and operations in the Curdievale area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Contact: camperdownhs@gmail.com.

CARISBROOK: Recent acquisitions for the collection have included the Minute books of the Moolort Branch of the VFF, and the Minutes books of the Moolort Tennis Club. The guest speaker at the meeting to be held on Tuesday 15 October will be Terry Allan. Enquiries: brookhistorical@hotmail.com.

CLUNES: Primary School 1552 will hold a reunion of past students and teachers on Sunday 17 November, the day after the Clunes Show. The school will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. Bring a picnic lunch or have a Devonshire Tea and reminisce.

COBURG: Members are collecting stories, photographs and memorabilia on Flinders St Station, Victorian Railway apprentices, The Avenue of Trees at Lake Reserve, and The Arts in Coburg any time in their history. If you can contribute any articles please contact the society at: coburg_historical_society@yahoo.com.au. Check out their Face book page www.facebook.com/CoburgHistoricalSociety.

COLAC: *A Further History of Colac 1830's to 1930's*, writings and articles by Isaac Hebb (1852 - 1939), was launched late in 2012. Diary writings of Dr Arthur Brown were also presented in "One Quiet Life - Memoir of a Country Doctor", a valuable record for the collection. Contact: PO Box 73 Lakes Entrance 3909 Ph: 03 5155 3939.

CORNISH: On Saturday 19 October the library will open from 10 am to 1 pm, followed at 1.30 pm with guest speaker Max Garner on "Researching and writing about the 300 year history of a Cornish family". Meetings are held at the Oakleigh Baptist Church, corner of Warrigal Road and Moorookyle Avenue, Oakleigh. Enquiries: jwhiffin@bigpond.com.

DANDENONG: The exhibition "Dandenong: Then & Now: 1963 - 2013", celebrates 50 years of collecting, preserving, researching and sharing local history. The exhibition runs from Saturday 20 September to Sunday 6 October, 10 am to 4 pm, at the Laurel Lodge, Heritage Hill, Langhorne Street, Dandenong. Enquiries: 9794 8967.

FITZROY: Members will tour the State Library Exhibition on Tuesday 19 November at 5.30 pm. Meet in the Swanston St Foyer. "Free, secular and democratic", the Library, founded in 1913, was established by a group of colonial liberals, including judge Sir Redmond Barry, a Fitzroy resident, and architect Joseph Reed. Contact: fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.

GLEN EIRA: The Mechanics Institute specialises in the history of Victoria, established in 1854 with over 25,000 books and items for loan. It is community owned and run with historical society members being entitled to full membership at no charge. To learn more about this library visit www.pmi.net.au. Enquiries: gehs@optusnet.com.au.

GULF STATION: Members will participate in the Heritage Open Day on Sunday 20 October, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Upper Yarra Museum, Yarra Junction, unless there is a Total Fire Ban Day. The emphasis will be on childrens' activities. Enquiries: 9435 8404 or email Irene.Kearsey@bigpond.com.

HEALESVILLE: To celebrate 150 years of Healesville in 2014, the society is undertaking a project to revitalize The Nook precinct and Fountain monument. Further details and progress will appear in future issues of *Healesville History News*. The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday September 22 followed by a speaker. Contact: hhsociety@optusnet.com.au.

HORSHAM: Video interviews are ongoing for the Zumsteins centenary celebrations to be held at 10.30 am Sunday 22 September at Zumsteins. A grant to publish a book on Zumsteins has been received. If you have any memories or photos that could be included please contact Rod on 5382 2573.

INVERLOCH: Members of the Committee met with Councillors at the Rocket Shed to discuss where to store and display its large collection of artifacts, books, maps, photographs, etc, currently stored in private homes. The Councillors were supportive of our needs. We will go through the various options proposed at the meeting.

KYNETON: The society is now the custodian of many of the former Shire of Kyneton records. It is also looking for information on the Gardeners' Cottage at the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. Information can be forwarded to PO Box 466, Kyneton 3444 or call 0418 545 648.

LAKES ENTRANCE: Resources at the library include a large collection of booklets on Australian and New Zealand shipping registers. Listed alphabetically, there is information on each vessel that plied the waters around Australia from prior to 1850s to early 1900s.

LANDSBOROUGH: Having been offered a collection of household items from a Landsborough home from the 1930s and 40s, the society successfully applied for a Pyrenees Shire Community Grant to convert a store room into an exhibition room. Enquiries: dwestern3@gmail.com.

LIGHT RAILWAY: New books available from the society are *Wombat Woodsmen: sawmills and timber tramways of the Wombat State Forest, 1853-2008* by Norman Houghton, and *The Narrow Gauge: Whitfield, Gembrook, Croves, Walhalla* by Nick Anchen. See www.lrrsa.org.au for details.

MAFFRA: The *Bulletin* for June includes an interesting photo and article about an "Early Motoring Excursion on Licola Road", circa WWI, and another article about the Macalister Hotel and bridge in Johnson Street, Maffra. The society is seeking early photos of the Maffra Vegetable Dehydration Factory. See www.maffra.net.au/heritage.

MALMSBURY: The room at the front of the Mechanics' Institute is open for research enquiries on Fridays, 9 am to 2 pm during school terms. Please check before travelling by calling Sue Walter on 5423 9383 or email malmsburyhistorical@gmail.com.

MALVERN: Following the commitment of "Taking local history to the community" an Events Coordinator has been appointed. Positive liaisons with Stonnington Council resulted in the society information being included in *Walking for Pleasure*, and Stonnington History Centre listing society publications on the website: www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history. The Centre staff have copies for distribution of *Exploring Stonnington*. Contact: malvernhistorical@yahoo.com.

MOE & DISTRICT: *Coach News* is packed with articles including the 50th Anniversary of the City of Moe and Gippsland Blue Metal and Fuel Quarry. They have a DVD of *Moe 1860s to 1960s: 100 Years of History* available for \$20 posted. Send your details and payment to Moe & DHS, PO Box 3, Moe 3825. Contact: moehist@vic.austliis.com.au.

NHILL AVIATION: On the Western Highway you will see new signage indicating the Second World War RAAF air base at Nhill Aerodrome. The Centre has been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status by the Australian Taxation Office, encouraging the public to donate. Information on the Heritage Centre is on their new website: www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au.

PRAHRAN HISTORICAL: In 1992, Mayor Leonie Burke, approached Nobby Semour to paint a mural on the stage of the Prahran Town Hall. It was designed as a theatrical installation showing Victoria Gardens, complete with backdrop, scrims and tabs. Nobby tells the story of that mural, fate currently unknown, in the July-August newsletter. Enquiries: prahranhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.au or phone 9529 7442.

RINGWOOD: On Tuesday 27 August Russ Haines will address the meeting on "The History of the Ringwood Mechanics Institute". We have invited further interesting speakers for our meetings held on the 4th Tuesday, at 8 pm in room 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. Visitors welcome, supper afterwards.

ROMSEY & LANCEFIELD: Sunday 3 November will see a celebration at Seymour Cottage to commemorate 100 years since Sidney Seymour's death, and to install a Heritage Victoria plaque. Lunch and afternoon tea will be available. There are Committee vacancies available for anyone interested in making a contribution to the society's organisation. Contact: lancefieldcourthouse@gmail.com.

RYE: Happenings - A Dinner and a 'Historical Murder Mystery' in the Roaring Twenties theme will be on Wednesday 11 September. Contact Jill Bastow 5985 7535. On Saturday 19 October volunteers are needed for a fundraiser at Bunnings. On Sunday 27 October an Open Day will be held at historic "Bimblehurst". Contact: PO Box 65 Rye 3941 Ph 5985 2231.

SANDRINGHAM: The society had many additions to their collection during May and June, including books on *The Last Poultry Farm in Hampton*; *The Early History of the Mornington Peninsula*; *A Shire Preceded Three Cities*, and *State Government Education in Hampton*; and photos and documents. Contact: sandringhamhistorical@gmail.com.

SEYMOUR: At the Annual meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria it was announced that member Glenise Heywood-Outch is to receive an Award of Merit. Further details will be included in a later newsletter. Congratulations and thanks are extended to Glenise for her huge contribution to our society. Enquiries: 03 5792 2311.

SNAKEVALLEY: *If Walls Could Speak: A Social History of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria* is being revised. Snake Valley is looking for social history of

the Carngham Mechanics Institute to be included, if you have any information contact Pat on 5344 9281. Contact: esther.yeoman@gmail.com.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE: The next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday 26 September at 10.30 am. Dr Ian Howie-Willis will present his paper "Almost a Royal Tour", a brief biography of Edwina Lady Mountbatten, including a description of the tour of Australia she undertook in 1945. Enquiries: 0419 77 00 66.

SUNSHINE: Sunshine Technical School is opening on Sunday 13 October from 10 am to 5 pm for a Centenary Reunion. All are welcome for a day of memories. A Pioneer Lunch is planned for Monday 18 November 18. See www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au for details. Enquiries: 9249 4614.

WALHALLA: A well-presented newsletter, including colour photos, local advertisers, historical articles and the announcement of their AGM at 10 am on Sunday 20 October. Ghost Tours are held very Saturday night by the society. For books ring 03 5165 6250 or visit their website www.walhallaghosttour.info.

WANGARATTA: The society has been included in Wangaratta Tourism website, reaching world wide, which is free to not for profit organisations. Museum contributions are featured on the Museum's webpage, with six features and more to be added under Victorian Collections. Five members have transcribed the Edna Harman diary from the 1700s. Contact: wanhistsoc@hotmail.com.

WARRAGUL: The July *Monthly Bulletin* reports the last guest speaker, John Delzoppo, a former Buln Buln Shire Councillor, and former State member for Narracan, spoke about the history of his little corner of Jacksons Track, where he and his wife have lived for almost 30 years. Enquiries: 03 5623 2644.

WAVERLEY: Celebrations for their 43rd Birthday will be at St Philips, Stephensons Road, Mt Waverley at 1.30 pm, on Sunday October 6. Please bring some afternoon tea. The society will attend an Anzac Service in 2014 at the City of Monash War Memorial and hope many others will join them. Contact: whs@kepl.com.au.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

Established 1854

Over 25,000 items of Victorian history,
resources for genealogy and much
more available for loan.

www.pmi.net.au
(03) 9510 3393

140 High Street, Prahran VIC

WILLIAMSTOWN: A recent focus has been on the Williamstown Botanic Gardens which are older than 150 years. Speaker Andrew Laidlaw emphasised its history and the need to look to its future. The Gardens rank in the top five similar gardens in Victoria. The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 September. Contact: 9397 1534 or andyhill6@iprimus.com.au.

WOODEND: The Bendigo Art Gallery has donated a collection of large display copies of stereoscopic images from their recent exhibition, "Her Majesty's Territories - Stereographic views of Australian Sceneries", to historical societies in the Macedon Ranges. The photos were taken by John H Jones and first published in 1862. Enquiries: wdhs@vicnet.com.au.

NOTE FOR NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Could you please check that you regularly include in your newsletter the location of your museum and/or meeting place, as well as the times of meetings and a contact number or email? Not only will it help the RHSV promote your activities, it will help potential visitors.

History NEWS



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

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Registration No. A2529

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9am to 5pm

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10am to 4pm

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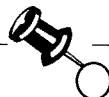
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What's On at RHSV

Sept – Oct 2013

Unless stated otherwise all events will take place (or at least begin) at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000. 93269288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au

EXHIBITION AT RHSV

Archie Cowan: A local history in drawing

Tuesday 15 October – Tuesday 26 November

In September 2012 the estate of the Late Archie Cowan donated to the RHSV many drawings of houses, streetscapes and hotels, beautifully sketched by Archie Cowan. Collectively they create a loving and personal local history of the Yarraville and Moonee Ponds areas.



A local history in drawings – this exhibition captures the architecture, street life and mood of these areas by an artist who himself became part of the local character.

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

BOOK SALE – Now in its 20th Year!!!

10am – 3pm

Come and support the RHSV book sale.

Collected from the libraries of the well read – the book sale is a treasure trove of pre-loved publications.

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

HISTORY WEEK

Barry and The Fairies of Miller Street

Speaker: Barry Dickins

Time: 12.30 coffee/tea

Lecture 1.00 – 2.00pm

Cost: Members Free

Non-Members \$10.00

Barry will talk and read from his book *'Barry and The Fairies Of Miller Street'*

Barry Dickens writes:

"My own historical being was launched in an obscure region of West Preston where the only night life was or still is an object known as 'The Hump' by locals who have ridden ratty green and rusty trams over it, or stooped to walking over it from Saint Georges Road To Dundas Street, both ancient sort of streets lined by The Melbourne And Metropolitan Board Of Works building which is colossal and gave generations steady employment manufacturing trams. It is still sort of there like everything and everyone else.

West Preston was once awarded The World's Flattest City Award because apart from 'The Hump' it doesn't boast a solitary hill anywhere at all no matter how hard you look for them. In the 1950s my Paternal Grandfather Arthur Dickins built my Grandmother Gertrude a plain two bedroom residence on the corner of Miller and Davies Streets and I often stayed with them over long school holidays around the year; winter and summer and I loved them in an entirely different way from my parents Len and Edna who lived, it seemed to me deliberately, in Reservoir, which was and is three

miles away. It has one little hill but not a very good one for children on their bicycles and in my day Billy Carts.

West Preston was where folks lived in a very unexciting way in neat dark brick homes with pigeons on the rooftops, when in 1954 bitumen was installed as the new road surface the people there had a street party.

I grew up within an industrial suburb but not a wasteland, it was full of eagerness and expectation and there was no sign of inward or outward despair or desolation. Folks were too busy for despair rushing off to work and the factories were too busy constructing trams and tram brake linings and cricket bats and tennis racquets and thousands of gleaming new pints of sparkling bottled milk made by Pura Dairies. Carnation Condensed Milk was manufactured in West Preston, guaranteed made by Contented Cows. of that fact there could be no doubt.

When I go there on a return journey in the new year 2013 there is nothing whatever of the old place that I grew up in and saw as a kind of Heaven rattling with new-made trams and whose streets seemed to grow new fresh fruit shops the very instant a sunbeam came out.

There once were droll postmen and droll squat letter boxes slitted into brick fences and there used to be a different history all together and I have to say that it used to be more fun than it is now. But at least the fairies are still there.

So too are the histories that take the form of fairy conversations made in jest to anyone who will listen to them, and as a consequence see them.

I was born one of the four sons of a printer named Len and a mother called Edna, ours was a happy home with lots of laughter and emotional encouragement for the futures we hoped for, and my future was to write for my living, something I've done since I left High School in 1965. I teach poetry composition at several schools and learning centers particularly Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council and All Hallows Girl's School in Balwyn. I have won The Prime Minister's Medal for Literature and The Premier's Award For Drama for the play 'Remember Ronald Ryan' which looked at the political truth behind Australia's last execution."

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

INDEXING FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Speaker: John Adams

Date: Friday 25 October

Time: 10am – 3pm

Cost: \$40 – Members

\$ 45 – Non members

Fee includes a book and morning tea.

BYO Lunch

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – 9326 9288 or through www.historyvictoria.org.au

John Adams, a member of the Australian Society of Indexers and Fellow and honorary indexer for our Society's Victorian Historical Journal, will outline the processes of indexing including the selection of key words and formatting index entries. Particular issues relevant to the peculiarities of indexing non-book items (periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs and other non-text materials) will also be discussed. A copy of *Indexing for Historical Societies* will be provided to each participant.