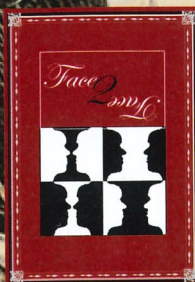




History NEWS

Issue No. 310 Feb – March 2014

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



Face2Face exhibition

Opens 18 March 2014

You are invited....see p. 3

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RHSV FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS of MERIT

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations for 2014 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited.

The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

Closing Dates

Fellows NominationFriday 22 March

Awards of Merit.....Friday 18 April

Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley on 9326 9288 or kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM on Tuesday 20 May and published in our June newsletter.

By publicly recognising the outstanding work of volunteers in local history we hope that these awards will be an inspiration to others.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Victorian Historical Journal

The VHJ is produced twice a year by a committee that operates on an entirely voluntary basis.

The committee is now looking for help in the role of:

Production Coordinator

The Production Coordinator is an important member of the Publications Committee.

The Production Coordinator converts the Word documents supplied by the editor into Adobe Indesign files, sometimes including photographs supplied by the author or the RHSV provides the editor with proofs and makes corrections as supplied by the editor creates a contents page produces a final version of the entire journal after each component has been approved by the editor supplies the graphic design firm that finalises the journal with copy and photographs for the cover liaises with the graphic design firm, the RHSV Publications Committee and the editor where necessary on production and scheduling issues.

We welcome interest in this volunteer position.

Contact Kate Prinsley at kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au or 9326 9288

PHARRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

Established 1854

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

AUTUMN EXHIBITION

Face2Face: Behind the Scenes

'Portraits have been woven through many of our past exhibitions,' says Jill (Suzanne) Evans, lead curator of the RHSV's first exhibition for 2014, Face2Face: portraits in the RHSV Collection into the 1940s.

'In our "Right Royal" exhibition, obviously we used many exemplar images of the British Royal Family, and in our "Melbourne Theatres in Transition" exhibition (curated by Mimi Colligan), so many theatrical celebrities were on show. However, this time we wanted to concentrate on portraiture in its many forms as revealed in the RHSV's collection.'

Many tasks are involved in putting an exhibition together. Selection takes the longest time and is the most 'fraught'. 'We have tried to maintain a balance between format, style and subject matter', Jill continued.

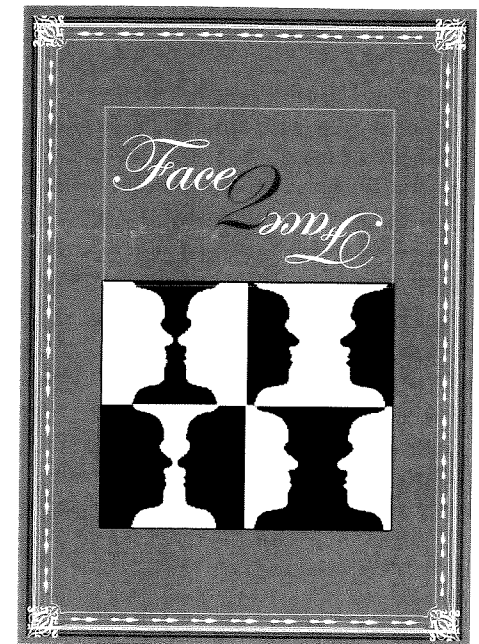
'Portraiture' – the rendering of personal likeness – will be shown in many of its various forms: photography, caricature, sketch or line drawing, lithograph, oil paint etc. 'A determined effort has been taken to include items from significant Victorian photographers, artists and their studios. We have assiduously attempted to identify the creator of the portrait. This has revealed a number of images that are by photographers who are more known for their pictorial work – buildings, scenery etc. How many of us would expect to see a baby portrait from the studios of Charles Nettleton?'

'Full length, knee length, side face, bust, studio, plain air, head and shoulders, "happy snap"; we have aimed to include all styles of presenting the human form – but all our subjects are clothed. We thought about sneaking an image of Chloe into the exhibition, but she is not the real subject of one of Ludovico Hart's images of the Melbourne International Exhibition, 1880 (when she was exhibited in the French Court of the Fine Arts Gallery). Nor are there "selfies" in this exhibition. The only representation of a self-portrait in the collection is of Francis Greenway, and that is "attributed"; we can't be sure he actually did it.

The RHSV has collected portraits since its foundation in 1909. The subjects of the earliest accessions were clergymen, physicians, lawyers, merchants and industrialists. Since that time the extent and range of portraiture in the collection has broadened – so that nearly a fifth of the RHSV Collection represents portraiture of some kind. Bountiful, one might say, but with a collection based on donations, not necessarily a 'comprehensive collection'. Keeping within the RHSV Collection limits what we can be exhibited.

When the first 'rough' selection was made, it was realised that the chosen images dated from the mid-1850s through to the middle of the 20th century. This established the first parameter to the selection of subject matter. Then five broad themes emerged and these will become evident to exhibition visitors: traditional ownership, power, social contribution, celebrity and family life. Together these portraits provide glimpses of past life in Victoria over nearly a hundred years. Visitors are encouraged to view each image from three perspectives: the subject's, the creator's and their own (based on their historical knowledge and personal experiences). A fourth way of looking at an image is to assess it as art, historical record, memento, gift, commemoration and/or political tool. The striking exhibition poster, designed by Daisy Searls, is a symbolic invitation to appreciate these portraits from these many perspectives.

Exhibitions give the RHSV a chance to show some of our special treasures to members and to the public. Treasures in this exhibition include etchings, drawings and engravings used by James Bonwick in *The Last of the Tasmanians* (1870), as well as caricatures from the 'Masks and Faces' series published in *The Weekly Times* between 1873 and 1875. Catalogue notes for



'Face2Face: portraits in the RHSV Collection into the 1940s'

An RHSV Exhibition at the Drill Hall,
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne,

from 18 March to 18 June.

INVITATION

All members and their guests
are warmly invited to the
opening of the exhibition
Face2Face.

It will be held at the RHSV,
239 A'Beckett Street, on
Tuesday 18 March at 5.00pm.

At 6 pm, Professor Richard
Broome of La Trobe University
and member of the RHSV



A County Court Judge - 'Sober as a Judge'

Previewing Face2Face

Robert Williams Pohlman (1811-1877)

A County Court Judge - 'Sober as a Judge'

Lithographic print, Tom Durkin, artist,

No 9, 'Masks and Faces' [Series 1873-1875], *The Weekly Times*, Jan. 17 1874

RHSV Collection : ART-0348.019

This caricature ['a picture, description, or imitation of a person in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect'] of John Williams Pohlman - 'Sober as a Judge' was published 18 January 1874 in *The Weekly Times*, which then described itself as 'a Journal of literature, sport, agriculture, science and politics'.

THE SERIES

This is one of a series of 36 caricatures by Tom Durkin: 35 were published between September 1873 and April 1875 as a series titled 'Masks and Faces'; one was not published - an unnamed Roman Catholic priest refused! Apart from Signora Maria Palmieri (b. 1842), who was in Melbourne for the 1874 operatic season, all the subjects were male. Most portrayed people alive, living in Victoria, and probably known to *The Weekly Times* readers. The RHSV holds all but two of these caricatures - the priest, and the politician James Goodall Francis (1819-1884). Complementing each image was a half-page biography, most signed 'Sagittarius'. Eighteen of the caricatures were also sold as a set of prints on 'fine-toned paper' with letter-press descriptions. Initially these could be obtained from *The Weekly Times* offices; later they were sold at booksellers and newsagents. The 35 images were also printed on a single broadsheet under the title *Victorian Celebrities Past and Present* (lithograph, Gordon and Gotch; c. 1880). The RHSV holds a very fragile copy of this (ART-0107).

Seven more of this series will be exhibited at the RHSV's autumn exhibition : *Face2Face: portraits in the RHSV Collection into the 1940s*.

THE ARTIST

Thomas Coleman Durkin (1853-1902) was a cartoonist and inventor who worked around Australia. Born at sea near Victoria, he trained at the Williamstown School of Design and started work in Melbourne as an apprentice to an engraver, going on to become a 'jeweller's journeyman'. He left this trade to illustrate and edit many publications including the *Bulletin* (where he contributed to the Melbourne page) and the *Queensland Punch* (drawing elaborate chalk lithograph plates for their 'Latest Fashions' section), as well as many other Melbourne publications.

In a profile published in *The Tatler* (where Durkin worked between 1893 and 1898), J. Buckley Castieau wrote that Durkin's drawings 'represent the humors, absurdities, follies, political events and social freaks of Melbourne and Victorian life during the period which they cover, and are evidence more than enough of Mr. Durkin's prolific powers of observation, satire, fun, wit and artistic comment' (May 28 1898, p. 6).

Durkin's mark appears on the first few of the 'Masks and Faces' series. By the late 1880s, he signed simply 'Tom'. In 1896, he wrote a book of verse titled *Rhymes from the Mines* and around 1900 he invented a weighing machine. He left for London in 1898. There is some evidence of a farewell event at the Victorian Artists' Society said to have raised £60 for his trip, but if he went it was a short stay: he died at Newport, Victoria on 10 May 1902, aged just 49.

THE SUBJECT

In this striking image of Robert Williams Pohlman seated at the Bench, one immediately notices that his eyes are obscured by blanked-out spectacles. This is an obvious reference to 'Lady Justice', the goddess often, but not always, depicted with her eyes blindfolded, and meaning that justice is or should be meted out objectively, without fear or favour, regardless of identity, money, power or weakness. Certainly it would be expected that all judges be clear-headed. But in Pohlman's case the reference to sobriety most probably has more to do with his concern for the consequences of drunkenness and alcoholism. He was a devoted official of the Merri Creek Northcote Inebriates Home committee of management. He came down hard on anyone who worsened the liquor problem by adulterants or bad brews. He was also president of the Early Closing Association (through which retail workers sought to reduce the number of work hours and to introduce early closing on Saturdays).

Born in London, Pohlman studied law and was admitted as advocate in Scotland in March 1839. In October 1840 he arrived at Port Phillip and in 1841, with his younger brother Frederick Roper, he bought several thousand head of sheep and part of Darlington Station, which became Glenhope Station, near Kyneton. In April 1841 Pohlman was admitted to the colonial

Bar; he practised until 1846 when appointed commissioner of Insolvency. Further legal and legislative roles followed, including appointment as first County Court Judge and Chairman of Quarter Sessions for Victoria. His political career ended in March 1856, after he failed to win a seat for South-West Province. Some observers described him as sphinx-like but philanthropic, with a kindly disposition. Although 'Garryowen' [Edmund Finn] said he was 'a respected nonentity, esteemed by many and disliked by none', Finn admired Pohlman's honesty and painstaking application; he claimed that Pohlman 'dispensed more justice in greater quantity than a more perceptive and intelligent man could have done'.

Pohlman was active in many areas other than the law and his concern about over-indulgence in alcohol. He was founding chairman of the Denominational Board of Education from 1848 until it merged with the National Board after the Common Schools Act of 1862. As a senior layman of the Anglican Church, he welcomed Bishop Perry on his arrival, represented Trinity College in the Church of England Assembly, and led in building churches: he offered the first cheque towards St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. He was a regular at local 'tea meetings', where he often spoke. Active in public charities, he had a long association with the Melbourne Hospital and was guardian of the Port Phillip Orphan Immigration Committee. Pohlman died at his home in Punt Road, Richmond, on 6 December 1877 and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery, of which he had long been a trustee.

References and Further Reading

Robert Williams Pohlman (1811-1877) *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (Online version) : <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pohlman-robert-williams-4407>

Caricatures and Cartoons in Australia M Mahood, *The loaded line: Australian political caricature, 1788-1901*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1973

Richard Scully and Marian Quartly (eds) *Drawing the Line: Using Cartoons as Historical Evidence*, Clayton, Monash University ePress, c2009

Thomas Durkin *The Tatler*, May 28 1898, p. 6
Design and Art Australia Online : <http://www.daao.org.au/bio/tom-durkin/>

Merri Creek Northcote Inebriates Home : Andrew Lemon: *The Northcote Side of the River* Hargreen, North Melbourne, 1983
<http://heritage.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au/article/377> / <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=O DT18731029.2.22.9>

Early Closing Association <http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore/history/fight-rights/workers-rights/fight-retail-hours>

Sharing our ideas, programs, tips and our experience between our historical societies, enables us all to improve and grow.

Here, Nepean Historical Society shares their latest innovative program.

If you have something to share, please send it to: The editor, *History News*, Charles Sowerwine c.sowerwine@gmail.com



A excited gathering of invited prize winners and proud families filled the society's gallery area where Professor Weston Bate enthusiastically presented awards and donated his poetry books to the winning poets.

Another Time, Another Life Sorrento Museum Schools' Competition

Attracting and involving young people is an important focus for our Nepean Historical Society as it is for many historical societies. We offer school group visits and Family Fun days at our MAP accredited museum with activities such as old fashioned games, butter making and wash days set around our original 19th-century Watts' cottage. Group visit numbers are growing.

But we wanted something else to attract local schools. A Watts' descendant recalled winning a Sorrento history competition over 50 years ago and set us thinking. The theme 'Another Time, Another Life' was chosen and enabled students to select any person, place or period of local history. They could choose their format - digital, multi-media, photographic or written. Schools were given 12 months' notice and were invited to bring groups to the museum or have volunteers make a presentation. Mornington Peninsula Shire supported this venture through assisting with the design and printing of the brochures/entry forms.

Local businesses and organizations were very generous, donating many excellent prizes including vouchers, history books and significant cash. Our originally planned modest prizes swelled considerably!

On the September 2013 closing date, competition co-ordinator Bergliot Dallas and

NHS volunteers were thrilled that over 300 students had entered, overwhelmingly from the local Sorrento Primary School where teachers had built this into their curriculum. The only disappointment was that no secondary students entered.

The standard of many entries was outstanding. Teachers commented that students put in greater effort knowing the audience for their work was to be outside judges (and the prizes probably helped too.) As many as possible entries were displayed and finalists' digital presentations were compiled and projected. Interestingly there were many more written than digital entries.

On Saturday morning November 23rd an excited gathering of invited prize winners and proud families filled our gallery area. Professor Weston Bate enthusiastically presented awards and donated his poetry books to the winning poets. A community grant from the Mornington Shire enabled a special yummy morning tea for all. It was a happy day for everyone and worth all the time spent. The key was that Sorrento teachers took on this project as part of classroom activities.

Many parents/grand parents had never before been into the museum and we had some terrific conversations about growing up in Sorrento, with ideas for a possible 1960s-1980s exhibition in the future.

Joy Kitch, NHS Hon. Secretary.

WW1 Centenary Poppy Project

Between 1914 and 1918 some 112,399 Victorians enlisted to fight in the First World War. Those who died from causes associated with battle are commemorated by the War Graves Commission. Those who returned and then lived out their lives in the community, and are buried in our cemeteries, are not recognised unless their family has recorded this fact in their inscription.

Many graves have been forgotten by families over the years and have become neglected. Younger family members may be unaware that their ancestors served at all unless their family memories and history are strong.

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, in conjunction with the Returned and Services League of Australia (Victorian Branch), wishes to encourage families to renew their links to their family members who enlisted in the Great War and to urge them to place a permanent record of their service on their gravesite.

The GMCT plans to make available a decorative packed kit which will include two highly glazed white porcelain tiles, one 50mm x 50mm and one 30mm by 30mm, both with a striking red Flanders Poppy printed onto the surface in a slightly raised finish. These commemorative tiles, signifying war service, are able to be simply fixed to a surviving headstone or cremation niche using the strong, but safe, self-adhesive patch already applied to the tile. The kit also includes an alcohol wipe to clean the base plate. Once the selected tile is applied the second tile can be fixed to a home letterbox or gatepost to signify that this family has links to the First World War. Packages will be available for sale at all GMCT cemeteries and RSL branches. The packaging will feature the original Flanders Poem plus the Ode of Remembrance and show images of the Flanders Fields. The package has been designed with the assistance and support of the RSL.

Costings are still in process but the set should be able to be sold for @\$10 complete with fixing instructions. The package is designed to be cost neutral to all parties involved and any realized profits will be donated to an appropriate charity.

Orders can be placed with GMCT by emailing poppytile@gmct.com.au by mid-February for 1 March pickup. Extra kits will be available throughout 2014 through GMCT or RSL branches. Small orders can be mailed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Historical Societies and the RHSV: Victoria's History and Heritage Team

I have been privileged during the last eight months to be RHSV President. There has been a steep learning curve but there have been many rewarding experiences. I have had opportunities to see first hand the work of Victoria's historical societies, from Seymour to Box Hill, Lilydale to Camberwell, Nepean to Kyenton. Their research, museum displays, digitization and other work are most impressive.



Having been one of the judges in the Victorian Community History Awards in the last couple of years has also stimulated my awareness of the excellent quality of the various publications by historical society members and other Victorian history enthusiasts. In this, and in the annual RHSV Merit Awards, the RHSV seeks to recognize and acknowledge all this invaluable work.

The RHSV also provides support for societies through the History Victoria Support Group, particularly the seminar days that are held across the state. New Councillor and HVSG Convenor, George Fernando, is announcing the 2014 programme in this issue of History News.

At times the protection and promotion of history and heritage can be an uphill battle against governments, local government and some in the wider community who would rather rip our built heritage down and replace it with something modern and glitzy.

Nevertheless, as a team of heritage volunteers, across Victoria we are doing great work that is enhancing the community on many levels. The RHSV plans in coming issues to feature the 'good news stories' and successes of affiliated societies and we welcome contributed articles.

The RHSV also works with other peak bodies such as the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, the National Trust, Professional Historians Association, History Teachers Association of Victoria and the History Council to promote Victorian history and heritage. We form a very important team!

The value of this team was demonstrated during 2013 when we sought assistance to obtain a meeting with Minister Matthew Guy to discuss the RHSV's tenure in the Drill Hall. We eventually met with the Minister and received some short-term assurances. We now have to negotiate a longer-term arrangement.

Our thanks to all those bodies and individuals who gave us support.

The RHSV also has its own very important team. Our excellent staff - Kate Prinsley, Ged Horgan and Jason Odering - are supported in the day-to-day work at the RHSV by more than a hundred RHSV volunteers. They bring a diversity of life experiences and skills and contribute many hours in numerous ways including caring for the collection, mounting exhibitions, running the library, undertaking research, assisting the administrators and organizing special events such as the annual book sale. The RHSV could not function without their dedication and expertise. Becoming an RHSV volunteer is a great way to pursue your interest in history and to meet other like-minded people. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, come to our information session for new volunteers on 3rd March. See What's On, p. 7, for details.

Another group of volunteers consists of the twelve members of Council. The RHSV is fortunate to have a particularly well qualified and hard-working set of councillors who, besides their work on Council and its sub-committees, bring wider community and professional expertise.

I wish all members of the RHSV and everyone involved in local history a happy and productive 2014!

Don Garden
President

History Victoria Support Group - RHSV

All Members of Historical Societies are invited to:

Seminar: Saturday 29 March 2014

RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne

Topics

Current and future challenges in Information Technology for Historical Societies

How to build and maintain your membership

9.45 - 10.15: Registration (with morning tea)

10.15 - 10.30: Welcoming addresses and updates from RHSV

CHALLENGES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

10.30: Liz Pidgeon, Yarra Plenty Libraries - Local & Family History Services

In 2013 Liz Pidgeon undertook a Reid scholarship through the State Library of Victoria. Reporting on her study to the UK and USA Liz will highlight online innovations used to showcase collections and connect and engage with communities.

11.30: Sue Thompson, Lilydale & District Historical Society - Digitise your Photographic Collection and Reap Rewards.

Using the Lilydale & District Historical Society as a case study, Sue Thompson, the society's secretary, will outline the digital development of the society's photographic collection from negatives to income generating on-line galleries and interactive projects linking text, images, audio and video.

12.30 LUNCH

HOW TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1.30 Representatives from Richmond Historical Society, Malvern Historical Society, Professional Historians Association and National Trust Victoria will share their expertise in how to successfully build and maintain memberships.

The session will be a panel and open discussion.

3.00 Jason Odering, RHSV Local History Librarian.

Social Media and the RHSV.

3.30 Closing remarks from Convenor HVSG George Fernando.

Costs: \$15 per head includes a light lunch and morning tea.

Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged by email -

office@historyvictoria.org.au

or phone 9326 9288, or use our online Trybooking via

www.historyvictoria.org.au

Bookings close Wednesday March 26. When booking, please advise of any dietary requirements.

What's On at RHSV FEB - MARCH 2014

LECTURE

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

'Observations on the upper classes in Melbourne, 1924-74.'

Speaker: Paul de Serville

Time: 5.15 Drinks 5.45 Lecture

Cost: Members Free

Non-Members \$10.00

Paul de Serville is an authority on colonial society, notably in the Port Phillip District and Victoria. His first book, *Port Phillip Gentlemen* (Oxford University Press 1980), was a pioneering study, described at the time as 'a study of a neglected class and a neglected period in Australian history: the gentlemen colonists of Port Phillip and the society that they created in Melbourne before the gold rushes'. He followed with a sequel, *Pounds and Pedigrees: the Upper Class in Victoria 1850-80* (OUP 1991). In this he described the upper class as 'a mixed bag in terms of origin and upbringing.'

Paul has since published histories of the Australian Club in Melbourne, the Weld Club in Perth and the Riverina station Tubbo. His biography *Rolf Boldrewood: a Life* was published by Melbourne University Press in 2000. His most recent study is *The Athenaeum Club: a New History of the Early Years*. Many of his works include detailed lists and genealogical information that have been widely appreciated by other researchers. Paul de Serville (MA, University of Melbourne) has written for the *Victorian Historical Journal* and has contributed a dozen entries to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

NEW VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION

NEW VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MORNING

When: Monday 3 March

Time: 10.00 am - 1.00pm

We need your help!!!!

There are lots of opportunities to become involved with the work of the RHSV.

Activities include research, working with photographs and maps, exhibitions, digitizing and administration. We also need volunteers with library experience.

During this information morning Jason Odering, RHSV Local History Librarian, will provide a tour of the collections and activities of the RHSV and highlight areas where you might like to become involved.

Volunteers will receive inductions, training and support.

Volunteering with the RHSV is an opportunity to meet like-minded people and become involved in the stimulating and fun programmes at the RHSV.

A light lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out ways in which you can contribute, please RSVP to Jason Odering 9326-9288, jasonodering@historyvictoria.org.au by Thursday, 27 February, and Jason will send you initial documentation.

TUESDAY 18 MARCH

'Aboriginal Activism and the Aborigines Advancement League'

Speaker: Professor Richard Broome

When: Tuesday, 18 March, at 6.00pm, following the Opening of Face2Face at 5.00pm (see P3)

Cost: Members Free

Non-Members \$10

RSVP: By 15 March to Ged at the RHSV Office:

office@historyvictoria.org.au
or 9326-9288

This lecture traces the origins of aboriginal activism in the generation from the 1930s which led to the creation of the Aborigines Advancement League in 1957, now the oldest Aboriginal organisation in the country. The League, led by key activists, both black and white, played a central role in dismantling protectionism in Victoria. It was itself altered by the rise of Black Power in the late 1960s.

Richard Broome is the author of eight books, including *Aboriginal Australians: A history since 1788*, now in its fourth edition (2010), and the award winning *Aboriginal Victorians: A history since 1800* (2005). He has taught history at La Trobe University, where he is now Emeritus Professor. He is also a Councillor at the RHSV and Chair of the Publications Committee.

TUESDAY 15 APRIL

'A Sense of Place: Australian Style in the Post War Years: Ellis Stones, Gordon Ford, Betty Maloney and Jean Walker'

Speaker: Dr Anne Vale

Date: Tuesday 15 April

Drinks 5.15, Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members Free

Non-Members \$10

This lecture will discuss the new breed of designers to emerge after World War II who accepted, valued and embraced the Australian landscape and Australian flora. These alternative garden-makers, led by Peter Glass, Alistair Knox and Gordon Ford, amongst others, had a different perspective of the Australian landscape than their pre-war predecessors. The natural landscape designers of the middle years, Stones, Ford and Maloney and Walker, crystallised and expressed the perspectives of their times, but did so in significantly different ways.

Dr Anne Vale is an author and lecturer in Australian Garden History with a focus on 20th century practitioners. She is an active member of the Australian Garden History Society, a passionate gardener and photographer. As the principal of consulting practice Heriscapes (www.heriscapes.com.au), Anne enjoys assessing and researching 'gardens with history'.

Anne has published garden guides and histories on significant heritage gardens such as Dalvui, Werruna Nursery, Durrol and the Kyneton Botanic Garden. Her latest book, *Exceptional Australian Garden Makers* (Lothian Publishers), was launched at the Australian Garden History Society Conference in October 2013. It is typical of Anne's significant research relating to exceptional Australian garden people - horticulturalists, writers, designers and philosophers. It is a scholarly, but very readable text, generously illustrated with photographs by Simon Griffiths, Clair Takacs and Rodger Elliot, as well as many Anne has taken herself.

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Helen Boak and Lenore Frost on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by societies, either by email or contained in their newsletters. For the April 2014 issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to lenore10@hotmail.com.

ANGLESEA: Anglesea Seniors are being encouraged to record their life story on the new touch screen computer provided by the Broadband for Seniors program. Assistance is available in computer skills and writing. An additional grant of \$2000 was received through the program. Email: bodman@netspace.com.au.

BALLARAT: The current project, *The Inside Story*, is about the social history of the Ballarat Town Hall, the Ballarat Train Station and the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute. Head to the website to read the stories so far and share your own, adding colour, life and a cultural legacy to these iconic buildings: www.ballaratheritageweekend.com.au/tis.

BAPTIST: Trove has been an invaluable resource in researching some fascinating church activities that were recorded in colonial newspapers. One in particular gives an account of the short ministry of a Reverend born in Denmark, migrated to South Australia in 1877 and was known as "the singing evangelist". Email: kmanley@iprimus.com.au.

BENDIGO: You can look forward to more interesting talks in 2014 including the very popular Short Talks and presentations on the mining disasters at the Great Extended Hustlers Mine, the centenary of World War 1, and the proposal for the 'Aspire' museum. Enquiries: admin@bendigohistory.com.

BOOROONDARRA (KEW) CEMETERY: Commencing in February 2014 there will be a tour on the first Sunday of each month through to November, (but excluding the winter months). Tours commence at 2.00pm, meeting at the cemetery gates. No Bookings required. Enquiries: info@fobkc.org.

BRIGHT: Looking for information on the area? We have books for sale including on *Gold Fossicking, The Buckland Valley Riots, Grave Recollections, Chinese Deaths and Burials in Harrierville*, plus DVDs on the *Mill Bright Pine Mill, The Buckland Valley Goldfield*, and *Wandiligong*. Contact: The Secretary, PO Box 265, Bright, Vic 3471.

BUNGAREE: The Society has found an article on the "Bungaree Cyclone" and the devastation as reported in *The Argus* newspaper from June 1927 to August 1927 with damage estimated at £6,100 pounds. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Bluestone School, Bungaree. Email the secretary: trigg11@bigpond.com.

CASTLEMAINE: The Trash and Treasure Sale for 2014 will be held on Saturday 22 March, contributions welcome. On Saturday 26 April CHSI will host a talk by Margaret Iskov entitled "The Adventure of a Lifetime" about nine local lads who enlisted in the First World War. Cost \$20. Email: chsi@castlemainehistoricalociety.com.

CRESWICK: A busy 2013 saw the launching of two books: *History of the Creswick Hospital*, available for \$8 plus postage, and *Portraits of Creswick through the years*, at \$30 plus postage. Also all surviving Church records for the town and district have been digitized and are available. Contact: 5345 1310.

EAST GIPPSLAND: Interested in boating history? Then don't miss the opportunity to help identify and record boats from Paynesville locale and its long boating history. Particular boats will be recommended for the National Maritime Museum register. Contact: Phone: 0419 347 845 Email: abould@bigpond.net.au.

ESSENDON: Our latest book, *The Grand Mansions of Essendon and District 1880-1892*, contains information on homes that were built during the Land Boom period of the 1880s and the social history surrounding them. This interesting book is available for \$25.00 plus postage \$5.00 if required. Email: EssHisSoc@gmail.com.

FLINDERS: In 2014 we are celebrating our 150th year, taken from the date of our earliest properties that were gazetted in 1864. There will be a series of fireside chats, a celebration of Flinders Hotel's 125th anniversary in October, and the unveiling of a sculpture later in the year. Enquiries: 5989 6562.

FRANKSTON: The society received a wonderful reaction to the dressing of their Homestead for a "Victorian Christmas" with coach tours from as far away as Werribee, Keilor and Knox. The exhibition highlighted the value of Frankston Historical Society volunteers who made it all possible.

HEIDELBERG: The permit for development of Banyule Homestead site development was refused by Banyule City Council; this was backed by the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal. This result came about due to lobbying by a number of local groups, including HHS to protect the site from inappropriate development. Enquiries: 9455 2130.

HUNTLY: Is your group planning a trip in 2014? Consider visiting Huntly & Districts' Historical Society at 624 Midland Highway, Huntly. Phone 0429 488 237 to make a date. The cost is only \$6.00 per person and includes morning or afternoon tea plus a history talk. Email: huntlyheritage@hotmail.com.

KEW: Our book sale is on Sunday 16 February between 1 pm and 4 pm at the rear of Kew Library. There will be lots of bargains. On March 19 at 8.00 pm Sir Gustav Nossal, AC, CBE will deliver the McIntyre Lecture 2014 at 188 High Street, Kew. Phone 9818 0364 or email: info@kewhistory.com.au.

KOO-WEE-RUP SWAMP: An early diary date for 2014: don't miss the Annual Dinner and 40th Anniversary Party, to be held as a luncheon at the Community Centre, on Sunday 12 October. For more local information, be welcomed at the society's meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (excluding January). Contact Phone: 5997 1357.

KORUMBURRA: Keep an eye out for the speaker program and other interesting historical information in our February 2014 Newsletter. Workshop afternoons where cataloguing and research takes place, are held each Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 pm. For more information or to volunteer contact the secretary at PO Box 329 Korumburra Vic 3950.

LILYDALE: The launch of the "Gun Alley" project in November 2013 was the culmination of hundreds of hours of research and many phone calls by society members over a two year period. Each house in Gun Alley and its residents were researched, adding many photos of the street to the collection. Explore Gun Alley here: <http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gunalley>.

MALDON: Attendance at "The Care of Collections" a course run by the Public Record Office of Victoria, is an invaluable experience. Once aware of the way items deteriorate if not stored correctly, action can be taken. Over a couple of sessions participants were shown how to appropriately store individual items saving space, cost and providing maximum protection. Email: secretary@maldonmuseum.com.au.

MIDLANDS: A Facebook site called *Lost Maryborough*, created by a past resident, has provided hundreds of photographs and reminisces. A website of the same name has also been created. This initiative has sparked an interest in the history of Maryborough and illustrates an imaginative sourcing of information. Email: Worscott@bigpond.com.

MIRBOO: During History Week the official opening of the relocated and renovated Police Lock-up was made, appropriately, by a local resident and serving Police Force member. Also a grant was received from the Mirboo & District Bendigo Community Bank to further the work of the historical society. Contact: Ph/Fax 5664 1209.

MORDIALLOC: The Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens continue to make sure the gardens are kept in pristine condition. This year it will be eighty years since Violet and Bill Murrell lost their live in a stable fire attempting to rescue their beloved horses and suitable tribute is planned for 2014. Contact: 9583 5553.

MORNINGTON: In the 2013 Victorian Community History Awards the *Pioneer Graves in Mornington Cemetery* website won the Best Multimedia Award. On Monday 24 March we are offering a trip to Werribee Homestead and garden for the cost of \$40 plus lunch. Book early to ensure a seat, phone 0407 500 510.

NARRE WARREN: The November *Spreading Branches* has an article about a new database on the *Residents of Upper Beaconsfield*. The database has used a number of sources, including electoral rolls, service records, war memorials, birth, death and marriage indexes. The website also includes local postcards. You can see the website at <http://www.upperbeac.rocke.id.au/index.htm>.

NEPEAN: The giant wombat discovered on Sorrento's ocean coast in 2012 has now been recovered by Melbourne Museum scientists. The wombat, a large marsupial mammal, is well preserved and is between 40,000 and 200,000 years old. Look forward to a presentation on our local Diprotodontid. Email: nepeanhs@satlink.com.au.

NILLUMBUK: Last year the society celebrated many years of success with its 40 year anniversary celebrations, showing minutes of the first meeting held. It is important to preserve and record our local history. Nillumbuk has an extremely good collection and needs volunteers to assist in its maintenance. Contact: 9717 6672.

OAKLEIGH: The exhibition "The West Wing" highlighted the importance of events that draw people to the society. Invaluable contact was made with visitors from far and wide and they in turn have enriched the archive and increased sales of O&DHS publications. Email: oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au.

PLENTY: As a member of the Combined Historical Group, nine societies, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, and Nillumbuk Tourism Association meet four times a year at different historical venues to discuss activities and to keep up with heritage matters. Our own committee needs two additional volunteers, to join us: Email kerlan@inet.net.au.

QUEENSLIFFE MARITIME: The Maritime Weekend is scheduled for March 28, 29 and 30. There will be plenty for visitors to enjoy including the Blessing of the Fleet, a fish barbeque, Marine Safety boats and displays. The *John Norgate* survey vessel of the Port of Melbourne Corporation will be open for inspection, plus plenty more. Email: info@maritimequeenscliffe.org.au.

QUEENSLIFFE: The museum possesses bound copies of the *Queenscliffe Sentinel* newspaper, spanning the years 1882-1919. Browsing through the information you will find many interesting articles and old advertisements with quaint language. Phone: 5258 2511 to arrange a visit.

RICHMOND & BURNLEY: The launch of the Book *Redemption at the Diamond Creek and Richmond Flat*, by Allan Meiers, highlighted the importance of recording history about people, places and events. Books like this one recognise the heritage and providence of our community through the contribution of our ancestors. Available for \$20 through the society. Email: richmondhs@optusnet.com.au.

ROSEDALE: The open day held to celebrate the centenary of Rosedale was well attended by many previous residents or relatives of pioneers, who were keen to return in 2014. Roses and plaques were available to purchase per family name as a tribute and a memorial. Contact: rosedaledhs@hotmail.com.

SALE: "150 Years of Local Government in Sale" exhibition features photographs and memorabilia drawn from the Borough, Town and City era, including some remarkable items such as *Photographic Views of Local Institution sent to Indian and Colonial Exhibition 1886*. The exhibition runs until April 2. Enquiries: 5144 2109.

ST KILDA CEMETERY: There are many interesting people buried in the St Kilda cemetery, amongst them some of Melbourne's most famous and eccentric booksellers, early writers about Port Phillip District, and pioneer authors, historians, and the founding fathers of the Prahran Mechanics Institute.

SHEPPARTON: In 2013 enthusiastic Primary School visitors took advantage of the Museum tours. More are available in 2014. Within the galleries, more space has been created to form guided walkways through the exhibits, so that, with interpretive signage, visitors can follow highlighted themes or displays. Contact: info@heritageshepparton.com.au.

TERANG: At the next meeting on Monday 24 February, we will welcome you and advise the dates for visits to the Old Presbyterian Manse and Uffington. The museum will open on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm in The Dixie School, Museum Complex on the grounds of the Terang College. Email: historysociety04@hotmail.com

TRARALGON: Our guest speaker for Tuesday 11 February will present items from an early medical practitioner. The AGM is on Tuesday 11 March. Please consider nominating for the position of Treasurer. The speaker at the AGM will talk on "Melbourne Cable Trams". The following month on 8 April David Langmore will talk about his book *Planning Power*. Contact: secretary@traralgonhistory.asn.au.

WARRACKNABEAL: "What's On" has a packed agenda in 2014. The Management Committee AGM will be held at the Museum at 8 pm on Monday 10 February, followed by the Historical Centre AGM on Thursday 13 February at 4 pm. A Rally Meeting at the Museum on Monday 17 February at 8 pm. Email: honeywise@bigpond.com.

WESTGARTHTOWN: Recently Ziebell's Farmhouse and Westgarthtown have appeared on two television shows. To watch the segments go to: www.westgarthtown.org.au/news. The Unmack/Ziebell family reunion has been expanded to have a Westgarthtown Descendants Day that will be held at Ziebell's Farmhouse on Sunday 2 March. Email: enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au.

WHITEHORSE: The work continues in 2014 with a series of working bees, each one commences at 9.30 am and finishes around noon, with a great morning tea. All assistance will be welcome. The dates on Saturdays are 8 March, 10 May, 13 September and 8 November. Email: whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com.

YACKANDANDAH: We have been given an Indigo Shire Community Funding grant to purchase equipment - camera, tripod and extras - to digitise our large format documents and objects. Scanning so far - photographs and documents up to A4 size. Some larger items have been digitised by outside agencies. Help is needed with the rest of the collection. Enquiries: email: museum@yackandandah.com.



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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.

Steele Creek and the Lady of the Lake, The Early History of Niddrie, Airport West, Keilor East, Avondale Heights, Keilor Park, West Essendon and Tullamarine.

Christine Laskowski, edited by Lenore Frost.

Christine Laskowski, PO Box 531, Essendon, 3040, 2013, 284 pages.

This book presents the considerable research output concerning the areas in the title that cluster about Steele Creek and the Maribyrnong River. The material is largely arranged under the headings of survey sections taken from the parish plan of Doutta Galla. There are excursions into the naming of Steele Creek, early stock routes and other infrastructure, and the inn that gave part of the title to the book. Very well illustrated, documented and indexed, it is a substantial resource for anyone with an interest in the districts themselves as well as the wider interest of how European settlement of outer areas of Melbourne took place.

Ivan Rudolph, *Eyre, The Forgotten Explorer*, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2013, xii + 404 pages. ISBN 9780732297152. Eyre is probably not as well-known as other inland explorers but his epic journeys into northern South Australia and to the southwest coast of Western Australia were important in the European 'discovery' of Australia. More has been written about his later life as a colonial administrator culminating in his governorship of Jamaica where he rigorously put down a rebellion in 1865, lost support from the British government and was forced to retire. This book revives the Australian experience of Eyre when he reached 'hero' status in the early 1840s. A very readable biography focused on that Australian experience.

The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka

Clare Wright, Text, Melbourne, 2013, xix + 539 pages, \$45. ISBN 9781922147370.

Eureka and the Victorian goldfields have invariably been seen as dominated by males, the majority of whom were recent arrivals. This engagingly written large book not only establishes a place for women in the accounts but also shows that women played pivotal roles in the period of alluvial mining. Clare Wright finds notable women like Sarah Hanmer, theatre owner, Ellen Young, prolific published poet, Clara Seekamp, newspaper editor, and many others who ran stores and hotels, had miner's licences, raised children, made the Eureka flag, provided support for diggers and the military and some who lost their lives at Eureka. Her tracking of scarce material about women and children provides new dimensions to the treatment of goldfields society as well as the Eureka event. She asks new questions and provides answers, sometimes necessarily speculative because of the thinness of the evidence. A valuable addition to Victorian and Australian history.

Finding Home, The Masson Family

RJW Selleck, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2013, xiii + 442 pages, \$39-95. ISBN 9781921875885.

David Orme Masson came to Melbourne as Professor of Chemistry at the university in the 1880s. This book is based on rich family resources and discusses the lives of David, his wife Mary, son Irvine, and daughters Marnie (Bassett) and Elsie who married the anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. It tells much about Melbourne society and university life from the 1880s sometimes through to the 1950s; it depicts the strong ties to Britain of an upper middle class family that also develops strong ties with Melbourne; it also depicts recurring levels of brilliance that family members displayed in academic life and research especially in science and engineering. It presents a richly drawn picture of a family responding to the changes brought by war, depression and other world events. A very substantial contribution to our understandings of Melbourne society from late 19th century.

Therese Radic & Suzanne Robinson (eds), *Marshall-Hall's Melbourne: Music, Art & Controversy 1891-1915*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2013, xviii + 265 pages, \$44. ISBN 9781921875502. This book comprises 16 essays drawn from a 2010 symposium on Marshall-Hall's life and work at the Grainger Museum, arranged in sections: art and artists; culture and controversy; music and thought. Much has been written about Marshall-Hall's removal from the Ormond Chair of Music at the university but these essays add much about the state of music in society, interconnections in the world of art, musical patronage, music education, as well as serious discussion of Marshall-Hall's extensive compositions. Altogether, an illuminating collection.

From Megafauna to Macquarie

The Unauthorised History of Australia, Volume I: David Hunt, Girt, Black Inc., Melbourne, 2013, 274 pages, \$29.99. ISBN 9781863956116.

Its title is derived from the 'girt' in the national anthem. As Hunt suggests in his introduction, 'No other nation can rival Australia for sheer maritime girtitude'. He goes on to discuss both its 'girtuosity' and its 'girtage'. As the title suggests, this is a romp through early Australian history written by somebody with clever wit, capacity to locate the absurd, and a comedic style. Diverting and telling nevertheless.

Joan Nathan, Ken Nathan and Melchior Bajada, *Snapshots of Sunshine and District*, Sunshine & District Historical Society, PO Box 720, Sunshine, 3020, 2013, 30. ISBN 9780959598971. An attractive booklet containing historic and contemporary photos that convey some of the riches of Sunshine's buildings and activities from its early days to the present. While many of the items are memorable, few would rival the wonderful blending of art and industrial production shown in the items from Nettlefolds using screws and bolts manufactured by them.

From Apples...To Coffee, the first 90 years of the Heathmont shopping centre, 1923-2013

Gerry Robinson and friends, Penfolk Publishing, Blackburn, available from Gerry Robinson, 34 Walwa Street, Mitcham, 3132, 232 pages, \$30. ISBN 9781875894895.

The development of the Heathmont shopping centre is very much tied to post-Second World War suburban expansion. Located adjacent to Canterbury Road, the centre has undergone considerable change since its first appearance in the 1950s reflecting the importance of the car, competition from larger centres and online shopping, changes in domestic demands, changes in retailing and service provision. This substantial book, the product of the author and a group of four friends represents an admirable community effort. Focused on the shopping centre, it tells much about its area and people over the past 90 years. It is greatly enhanced by extensive visual material – photos, paintings, contemporary advertisements – as well as oral recollections, newspaper extracts, contemporary surveys of shopping and traffic, and an extensive history of each of the premises of the shopping strip. Very well produced and written with verve, it undoubtedly will have many local readers but it also is of considerable interest as a case study of a post-war suburb seen through the dynamics of its shopping centre. It provides a model for what can be achieved in community history, according to the introduction, by a group of friends drawn together by coffee!

Circus and Stage, The Theatrical Adventures of Rose Edouin and GBW Lewis

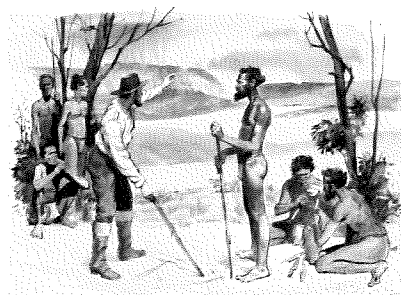
Mimi Colligan, Monash University Publishing and State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 2013, xvii + 236 pages. ISBN 9781922223502.

George Lewis and Rose Edouin were significant figures in show business from the time of the Gold Rushes. She began her long professional acting career as a child and later was a significant character actor, director, and teacher. He was a circus gymnast and equestrian performer and later pursued a career managing circuses and theatres. They both came to Victoria from England in the 1850s. They married in Shanghai in 1864 when Rose was 20 and George 46. In a skilful narrative, their lives in the entertainment industry in the second half of the 19th century are traced in Melbourne, other Australian cities, New Zealand, Calcutta, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Britain. The breadth of their repertoire and the extent of their touring are stunning. Their story is beautifully told. In the process we are exposed to much of the nature of stage and circus performance both in England and its colonies. This book revives attention to the world of two largely forgotten theatre figures.

Space does not permit us to include all books received over the summer. More will be found on the web and we will try to include more in the next issue.

Teaching Australian History: Another Take

Richard Broome argues that Australian history is actually truly revolutionary, and it should not be beyond the wit of any teacher to excite students by such dramatic change.



In the case of the European settlement of Australia (or was it an invasion?) there was in many ways a greater transformation than in the great democratic revolutions: the English Civil War, the American Revolution and the French Revolution.

Professor Macintyre suggests (*History News*, November-December) that if set in a world context, Australian History 'could be fascinating to students'. This world history approach has won support in the teaching profession and will be in part the basis for the Year 1-10 compulsory history curriculum across Australia.

Certainly a wider context is important for Australian History. I cut my teeth on AGL Shaw's *Australia in the Modern World* at a high school in Sydney in the 1960s, and was the better for it. Students of History at La Trobe University throughout the 1990s studied Australian History though the frame of the cultural baggage the settlers carried from eighteenth century Britain and how that affected their settlement of Australia. British History enabled students to understand how British elites held power through land and paternalism and how the power of elites in Australia was eroded in the command economy of convict society and then overthrown by immigrant aspirations in a New World society of labour shortages, the availability of cheap land and golden aspirations.

But should we accept that 'many students find Australian history boring' and that, by making it part of a larger history, we can 'dispel the common view that it is insular and uninteresting'. It is likely that many also find Chemistry, Mathematics and English boring too – that is the nature of young people of that age. Also some journalists pedal this view too, to make slick points or out of ignorance or some hang-over of a cultural cringe to the Old World.

My approach would be, not only to adopt wider contexts for Australian History teaching, but also to transform the way we conceptualise Australian History. The Year 12 Revolutions subject in Victoria is four times larger than Australian History. Revolutions are certainly exciting and the most studied at Year 12, the French Revolution, is second to none. Can Australian History match this? Why yes.

Australian history is revolutionary too. In the case of the European settlement of Australia [or was it an invasion?] there was in many ways a greater transformation than in the great democratic revolutions: the English Civil War, the American Revolution and the French Revolution.

The autonomy of Aboriginal systems of law, social structures and cultural and language systems were displaced as the Aboriginal population plummeted, or these systems were driven underground and beyond the eyes of colonists for generations.

The Aboriginal economy of perhaps three quarters of a million people collapsed under the expansion of settlement and the occupation of Aboriginal land, forcing economic output in Australia to spiral downwards, until reversed by the pastoral expansion in the 1830s.

The colonists introduced revolutionary ways of using the land – introducing domesticated animals and seeds from the Old World and new modes of transaction such as the market economy tied to world capital, and the gold standard. Land and minerals assumed new value and created revolutionary pressures on Nature.

Landscapes that had felt the light touch of 2000 Aboriginal generations – albeit with human burning of the land – and soft pawed marsupials, faced the onslaught of millions of sheep and cattle within decades, impacting the ground and eating out native grasses and vegetation. The new mode of farming, cleared, chopped and gouged the land to plant exotic grains. Rabbits and other species introduced by acclimatisers trying to recreate Home, compounded the impact of millions of cloven hooves. Miners following newfound value in the ancient minerals of Australia, dug, sluiced and hosed down the land, creating rivers of sludge and placing infertile layers on top of vast stretches of land, rendering them barren to this day, save for gorse bush. Towns and cities later emerged further transforming the landscape.

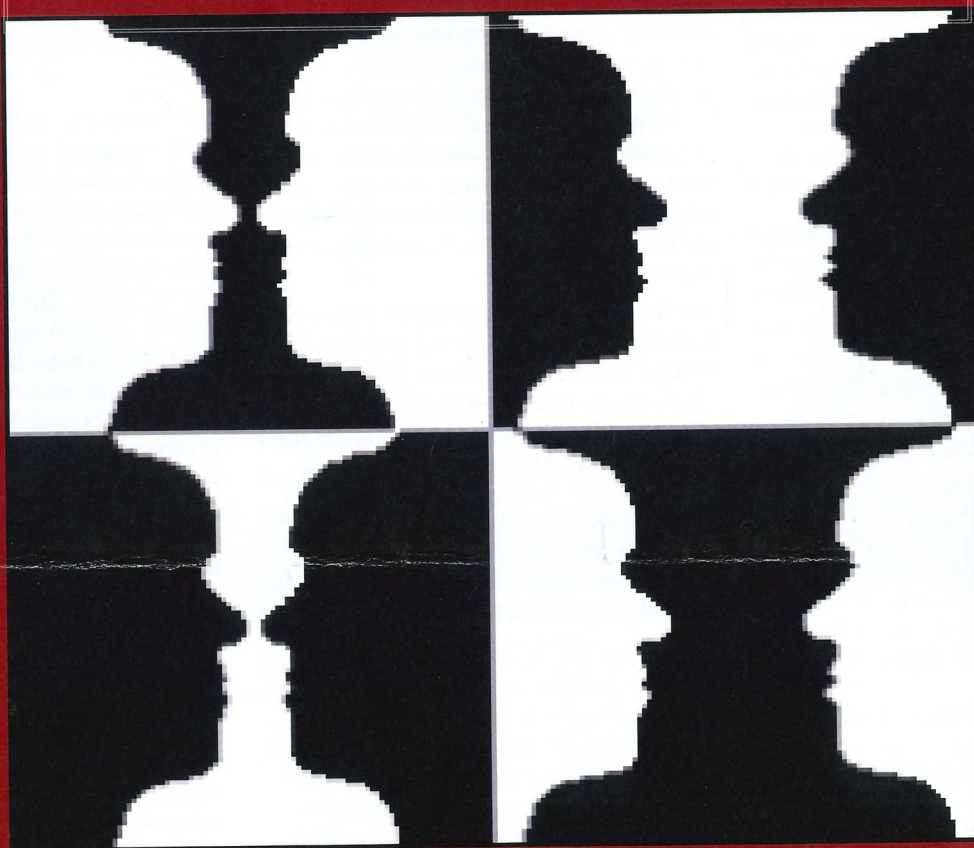
This was truly revolutionary, and it should not be beyond the wit of any teacher to excite students by such dramatic change. Stuart Macintyre argues for a world context as 'it takes us to other times and places, confronts us with the unfamiliar, enables us to see historical forces operating in different contexts'. Australia's past is equally unfamiliar to our students, and subject to exciting historical forces as great as the transformation in settled Australia of Nature itself.

Richard Broome

Emeritus Professor in History at La Trobe University

RHSV Councillor

Face 2mfc



'Face2Face: portraits in the RHSV Collection into the 1940s'

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