

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE 361 | AUGUST 2022



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What's on at RHSV

Where possible we offer all our events as hybrid: both in our premises at 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne and via Zoom. Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website

KALEIDOSCOPE EXHIBITION

Until December 2022

Curated by Dr Cheryl Griffin and designed by Katrin Strohl. Women have always played a pivotal role in the RHSV's long history however their achievements are rarely spotlighted. This splendid exhibition highlights just 50 of those women who have helped shape and nurture community history in Victoria through the RHSV.

MARKETING 101

**Mondays 8 August and
12 September 2022
12 noon**

by Zoom, Free

Christina Browning, our RHSV Marketing Manager, brings a wealth of experience to the RHSV. The forums are low-key and not recorded. You can bring your questions and problems and you can also ask Christina to tackle some specific issue in a future forum.



HUGH ANDERSON LECTURE

Tuesday 23 August

5:30- 7:00pm

\$10 – \$20

**RHSV, Gallery Downstairs
plus Zoom**

We are delighted that Professor Frank Bongiorno will be delivering the inaugural RHSV Hugh Anderson Lecture, a new addition to our Distinguished Lecturer series. Hugh Anderson (1927-2017) was a scholar of formidable breadth, productivity and versatility. While it is as a folklorist that he is arguably best known both in Australia and abroad, Anderson's

prolific output also included biography, bibliography, history, school textbooks and documentary collections.

CATALOGUING CLINIC

Thursdays 25 August and 28

September

11am–12noon

by Zoom, Free

Jillian Hiscock, RHSV Collections Manager, hosts these monthly hour-long clinics which are a relaxed gathering of people who are finding their way through the intricacies of cataloguing material in historical collections which, as we all know, fall between a library and a museum with sometimes a bit of art gallery thrown in. Jillian always prepares some material on a specific topic and questions are encouraged. If you are new to cataloguing or an old hand you will find plenty to interest you in these sessions. Look on our website for 2022 dates and Zoom log-in.

FATAL CONTACT: INTRODUCED EPIDEMICS AMONG AUSTRALIA'S COLONIAL AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATIONS

Tuesday 20 September

5:30-7:00 pm

\$10.00 – \$20.00

**RHSV Gallery Downstairs
plus Zoom**

This talk explores the devastating infectious diseases introduced into the Indigenous populations of Australia after the arrival of the British colonists in 1788. Epidemics of smallpox, tuberculosis, influenza, measles and sexually

transmitted diseases swept through the indigenous populations of the continent well into the twentieth century.

OCTOBER IS HISTORY MONTH 2022

**Celebrating 150 years of free secular
and compulsory education for
Victorian primary school kids!**

A century before the Whitlam government's institution of free university education, Victoria was ahead of the game and flew the flag of progressive liberalism. The Education Act 1872 made Victoria the first Australian colony, and one of the first jurisdictions in the world, to offer free, secular, compulsory education to its primary-school children.

History Month is a wonderful opportunity for each historical society to hold an event with a local primary school, or two or three! Take in a box of historical objects, perhaps some antique toys, or photos of your area. Or play a game you used to play as a kid! The list of ideas is endless.

So put the dates in your diary, and start planning! We'll send more event ideas and the Department of Education is developing curriculum suggestions for release in term 3. Some activity resources are currently available at <https://www.carnamah.com.au/education>

The 2022 Children's Week Grant (\$1000) is an option for the last week of History Month. For more information email - childrens.week@education.vic.gov.au

WRITING LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Saturday 20 August 9:30am – 4pm

Saturday 27 August 9:30am – 4pm

**RHSV Gallery Downstairs or via Zoom
\$35-\$50**

We are thrilled that Dr Rosalie Triolo will be, once again, offering her Writing Local History workshops to RHSV members and friends.

Participants will:

- gain new perspectives on local history
- discover how to locate and use new primary and secondary sources
- learn how to write and present well for different audiences, both established and new.

History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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COVER IMAGE: Castle House, 1866-69, 37 Farnsworth St, Castlemaine, described on the Register as 'a single-storey picturesque Elizabethan house built by William Downe, architect and Castlemaine town Surveyor' — VHR H0591
See: Heritage report, p4

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President's report

Our collection is one of our three pillars of the RHSV; the other two being our publications and our volunteers. In my last report I explained the decolonising of our collection over time. Now I want to report on our digitisation policy and raise the matter of volunteers as well. Our resource digitisation policy has just been reviewed by the Collections Committee.

Why do we digitise and what happens to the originals once completed? We digitise our collection for three main reasons. First, as a risk management strategy to create a true and accurate record of the original in case of a disaster. Second, to create a working copy to prevent overuse of the original, although if researchers need to inspect the original, they may do so. Third, to enable our collection to be more easily accessible through exhibitions, media and other means. The originals are always kept and not destroyed.

How do we know our digital copies are any safer than the originals? We use ATOM and Archivematica software to store our digital records in the cloud. There are daily back-ups and a separate digital copy on an external hard-drive is kept offsite as well. Digital records are not invincible but they are an important measure to preserve our history. A low-resolution image, watermarked with the RHSV logo, is usually attached to the catalogue record. We don't attach images in situations where we don't own the copyright or, in the case of images of First Nations people, only after consultation with relevant communities. Because of the cataloguing software we have chosen, our catalogue is harvested by TROVE and reaches a global audience.

What are our priorities for digitising? Our main priority is to digitise what is fragile, unique or of significant historical value: namely, the manuscripts and images. Then we digitise what is needed for research; what is needed for the RHSV's publications and exhibitions; and finally, what is needed for accessibility through our websites and media.

The RHSV aims to provide leadership in the digital space to the historical societies of Victoria. Our policy states: 'The approaches, standards, procedures, tools, and experiences of digital preservation efforts of RHSV are to be shared'.

How is all this to be done? A few years ago, we paid for external digitising of records, but we have now invested in more and upgraded equipment and the refurbishment of workspaces to be able to do much of this ourselves. However, to do this we need volunteers - our third pillar of strength.

Will you volunteer to be trained in the art of digitisation? It would be wonderful if you could give some time on a regular basis to help protect our collection, which is, to a significant degree unique. We hold many records not held by any other organisation or individual.

If you would like to participate in this great endeavour and have a pleasant time with other volunteers, please contact Rosemary Cameron our Executive Officer or Jillian Hiscock our Collections Manager, through the RHSV office **office@historyvictoria.org.au** or phone 03 93269288

Richard Broome AM

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Editor's message: Holidays

Our October issue of *History News* will have a focus on the history of holidays. Thank you to all of those who have already sent in submissions on this topic. If you would like to send in your research or stories about the history of holidays, please do. We need all submissions by 2 September, or earlier. I encourage you to think about holidays in Victoria in the years gone by. Did you stay in a Guest House? What was that like? Did you live in the country and holiday in a city or perhaps

lived in the city and holidayed at the beach or in a rural setting? What do you recall that was different from your home setting? Were your holidays annual events or otherwise. Were school holidays spent at home with maybe outings for a day. Was there a special day outing that you did each school holiday or once a year. What did you see? Maybe you would like to write about school camps. Or, perhaps you'd like to share the stories of your parent's holidays. Article submissions between



80-800 words are all most welcome. Or maybe send me a few notes and I'll write them into a piece for publication.

Image from <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/550d20cb2162f110a840f248>

Sharon Betridge
Editor

HERITAGE report

Portable buildings: can your Historical Society help?

The RHSV has been involved in the effort to obtain World Heritage status for Australia's unique collection of extant 19th-century portable, we might call them pre-fab, buildings. A surprising number of these buildings are in the areas of Victorian historical societies. We will be writing to all these societies for help in getting more information on buildings in your area. To explain this, we will hold a meeting and lunch at the RHSV, with Zoom available, on Wednesday, 24 August, from 11 to 2. We look forward to seeing you all.

Castlemaine success

Good news from Castlemaine. Residents took Council to VCAT to stop proposals which VCAT ultimately termed 'two ... double storey, flat roofed and mostly sheer walled dwellings', much larger than planning had originally approved, impacting on some of Castlemaine's most important heritage buildings, notably Castle House, described on the Victorian Heritage Register as 'a single-storey picturesque Elizabethan house built by William Downe, architect and Castlemaine town Surveyor' — VHR H0591; Downe was also architect of the famous Castlemaine Market. The residents raised \$12,000 and engaged a town planner. Congratulations to all concerned.

That the residents had to raise funds and engage a professional says a lot about the onus for protecting heritage in Victoria. We are building a register of town planners who can handle heritage issues well. If you know of one or if you need one, please contact me.

Bad news from Melbourne.

The City decided in June to recommend to the Minister demolition of the 1864 Great Western Hotel (originally Star of the West) on King Street. The Great Western was built just after the Gold Rush and



■ Projection, proposed apartment building 450 Queen Street viewed from QVM. Thanks to David Lansley of the Heritage Committee. Source: The Urban Developer 6 May 2022.

is a witness to the impact of the Gold Rush on Melbourne life and sociability. In architectural terms, it is a witness to Melbourne's character before the high Victorian boom. It would be a tragic loss.

The City of Melbourne is also pressing ahead with plans for high rise around the Queen Victoria Market. Just to the south of the market, the Council reversed its strategy of protecting the heritage warehouses that serviced the market, sold the property to developers and have just approved a 21-storey building, adding to the twin 10 and 38 storey towers already under construction.

Within the market, Council are pressing ahead with 'renewal'; the latest revamp of Robert Doyle's 2013 plan to shift the market to 'value add' and modernise it, replacing the traditional setting up by traders with semi-permanent stalls selling prepared food. To service the new mode market, two new buildings will go up on or abutting Queen Street: Trader Shed and Northern Shed. Both are at odds with the market's scale and character.

In tandem with the changes already underway to the market itself, all this spells the end of the market as we know it. Not only will its mode of operation as it becomes more of a food court, but also the stalls will be too expensive for new

generations of migrants to enter and grow new clientele. The RHSV supports the Friends of the QVM in their campaign to stop and reverse these policies before it's too late.

A win or a loss for Richmond?

The City of Melbourne also recommended to the Minister that Richmond Football Club be allowed to demolish the historic Jack Dyer Stand on the Punt Road Oval. Labor Prime Minister Andrew Fisher opened the stand on 6 June 1914. It is of great significance as the only surviving symbol of the Richmond Football Club's presence at the Punt Road Oval and as a tangible witness to the heroic period of Aussie Rules.

The Richmond Football Club claimed that demolition was required to obtain space for a full oval on which its AFLW team could play. But the Club's consultants found they could obtain the space by demolishing the 1984 Swinburne Centre, a blot on the landscape. So, there could be a win-win solution, in which a beautiful, historic stand would be preserved.

Instead, a piece of the soul of Melbourne may be lost forever.

Charles Sowerwine

Chair, Heritage Committee

Contact c/o office@historyvictoria.org.au

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Vale Warwick Henry Finlay



Murchison lost a prominent citizen on February 14 this year when Warwick Finlay passed away. Warwick made an enormous contribution to the Murchison & District Historical Society and also to many other organisations in the town over his life-time.

He was born at home on the family farm 'Paringa Park', South Murchison in October 1934, and lived most of his life in the area. He attended primary school locally and completed his schooling as a boarder at Melbourne Grammar School. He returned to Murchison to work on the family farm, then after his father died and the farm was sold, Warwick trained as a Law Clerk. He had a long and respected career with local law firm Dawes and Vary.

Warwick met his life partner while travelling in Western Australia when Anne and her girlfriend, both nurses, were on a working holiday. They were married in Anne's home village in Wales in 1973, then settled back in Australia to make their home in Murchison, Victoria. They raised two children, Jocelyn and Gareth, and enjoyed a large amount of time in the great outdoors as a family: swimming, camping, skiing and travelling around Australia.

Warwick was elected inaugural President when Murchison and District Historical Society formed in 1985, and led the Society for the next 28 years, a very impressive record. During this time the Society established the Heritage Centre in Stevenson Street, with Warwick overseeing the re-modelling of the building to create an award-winning facility.

Warwick developed an amazing memory for family connections and details of local events that he was able to draw on to record the history of the district. Warwick wrote two notable books *The Doctor, the Captain, the Poet, and others: commemorating the 150th anniversary of the survey, naming of the town and sale of land at Murchison* (2005), and *Winter-Irving* (2016): both excellent accounts of local people, historic events and the growth and development of the region. He was thorough in his research, always striving to produce an accurate record. Warwick not only wrote books, he wrote many articles for local papers, produced display panels about pioneering families, irrigation and district development, and also a DVD about the importance of the Goulburn River to the local area.

Always ready with a camera, Warwick recognised the value of recording events with an image and has contributed thousands of photographs to the Collection at the Heritage Centre.

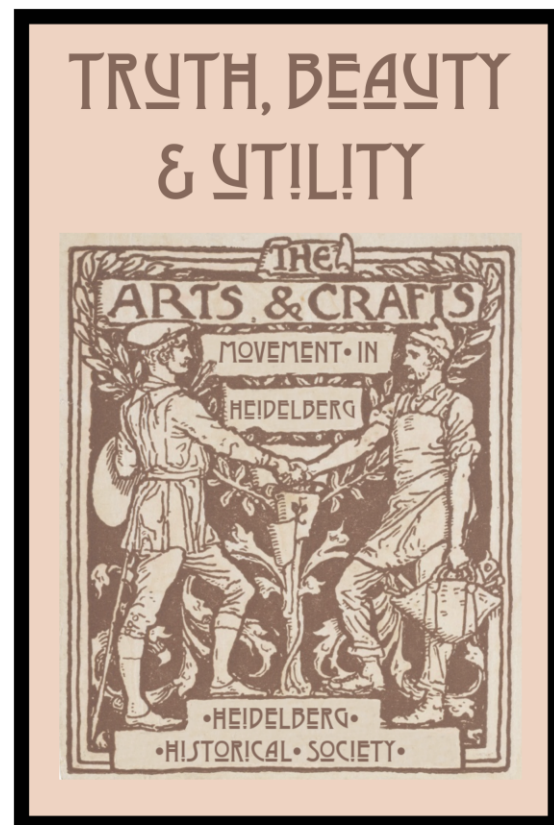
Warwick was instrumental in the formation of Friends of Day's Mill, an organisation that provided volunteers to actively restore and promote the history of this outstanding nineteenth century flour mill located at South Murchison and was President of this group for 9 years.

In 2002 he was awarded Life Membership of Murchison & District Historical Society and in 2006 he received an Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award for his active involvement in a great many community organisations.

Warwick passed away peacefully on 14 February 2022 aged 87 years. He was dearly loved by the family he leaves behind, wife Anne, daughter Jocelyn in Boston, son Gareth in Brisbane and six grandchildren.

Kay Ball

Murchison & District Historical Society Inc.



EXHIBITION

This exhibition traces the Arts & Crafts Movement, from the sudden craze for Japanese-inspired decoration in the 1880s to the non-historical 'Art Nouveau' of 1900, to the rugged Californian bungalow of 1920 — all as seen in our local area.

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The Longwarry and District History Group: historical interpretative boards

It was a much longer process than imagined but the Longwarry and District History Group have at last unveiled their seven historical interpretative boards.

The project began way back in 2019 when we were delighted to receive a grant for the boards from the Public Records Office Victoria's 'Local History Grants Program'.

On receiving the grant, we designed the structures and specified materials to be used, even the depth of the concrete footings that Baw Baw Council required before granting us permission to place them in the park. Contracts were signed, decisions made on just what text and photographs would be used, and a finish date of June 2020 was set.

Then before construction of the boards had even begun along came COVID and everything was put on hold for two years. When restrictions began to be lifted in late November 2021, we were ready to launch back into the project; the frames were constructed, boards printed and a location in the park agreed to with Council Officers.

Costs had of course gone up and one budget item we had not counted on, the underground inspection to locate infrastructure such as telecommunications, electricity, gas and water were setbacks. However, we were fortunate, the community were aware of what the project was and were very supportive. A highly qualified welder volunteered to do the steel construction. We were

assisted in the project by the Baw Baw Shire Council, the Labertouche Community Hub and the Rotary Club of Drouin. We were able to develop a very good working relationship with Council Officers in relation to placing the boards in the park and we certainly learnt that there are many things to consider when it comes to design, materials and safety when placing structures such as these boards in a public space. To be able to work with professional graphic designers was also a valuable learning experience for our Project Team. The Rotary Club of Drouin, which had qualified concreters amongst their members, volunteered to do the installation and so the whole project came in slightly under budget.

Four boards have been placed in the Longwarry Memorial Park and two at the Labertouche Community Hub. Another board has been completed and is only awaiting installation at Modella Public Hall. These boards have historical photos and some brief text detailing the history of each district.

Despite the long delays, the Project Team is delighted with the result; but probably more importantly, the coming together of community groups to support an important part of delivering to a rapidly growing local population, some of the history of the town where they have chosen to live.

Russell Ford
President
Longwarry and District History Group



History Victoria Support Group: Dr Rosalie Triolo



Everything RHSV offers in the course of usual business seeks to support the many facets of members' work related to History in Victoria.

This includes promoting, preserving and sharing vibrantly, authentically and inclusively Victoria's, and Australia's, many pasts, peoples, places and perspectives. Such work is vitally important, and few people reading this item will require convincing that knowing about peoples and places of the past, for all of those peoples' and locations' experiences of triumph and challenge, can inform our and others' lives in the present and into the future. This wisdom applies not only within Victoria and Australia, but beyond. Nevertheless, RHSV seeks also to ensure that promoting, preserving and sharing knowledge of the past is an *enjoyable experience* for all as much as it might be a leisure-time or professional pursuit: and not even require justification in a liberal definition. Historical knowledge and heritage 'matter' simply in and of themselves.

The *History Victoria Support Group* exists to enhance the opportunities for all above worthy aims.

RHSV is, indeed, already achieving many of its aims, supporting the largest number of historical societies it has been able to attract in its 113 years of existence, being just short of 350 societies; an achievement in itself given the past two years of COVID challenges, demonstrating also how RHSV has been nimble in the face of the challenges, for example, offering successful and well-attended hybrid Zoom and in-person options for events. The number of individual members in different membership categories remains 'steady', indeed, slowly increasing. I share these facts with you as the past Chair of the Membership Development Committee.

RHSV thanks all members for their support. Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, refers often to RHSV as 'a community of History lovers' and this certainly appears to remain true. Within, or independent of, historical societies, RHSV's members include devoted and skilled people from galleries, libraries, archives and museums and field-site contexts; teachers and other educators in tertiary, secondary and primary settings; other professionals in other fields invested in history and heritage, such as heritage-sensitive architects; and, importantly, the all-embracing category of *anyone* who loves History, especially Victoria's history within the wider Australian history.

■ Collegial discussions can be rich sources of inspiration: Chris Manche, Margaret Connor and Rosalie Triolo examine primary source materials and local history publications.

I am delighted to be working with the large team of dedicated councillors, staff and volunteers as RHSV's new Vice-President, as well as the new Chair of the History Victoria Support Group, the latter appointment ratified in this week's RHSV Council meeting. I am delighted also that I will be working with the above many groups and individuals committed to 'history and heritage' – including *you*. I know many of you from school membership of RHSV as a Years 9, 10 and VCE Australian History teacher long ago. I knew back then that joining RHSV, later as an individual member, would support my work and interests; also support my decades-long membership of and contributions to the History Teachers' Association of Victoria, and my work in training specialist History teachers at Monash University. I know you by name or through having read or viewed your work, also seeing you referenced in RHSV publications and exhibitions, or having met you in person at events in the regions, at the city premises or by Zoom. I have also met numerous of you through the 'Writing and Publishing Local History' workshops I delivered pre-COVID and which I am set, amidst others, to bring to you with competent other specialists in the next twelve months. As our world opens all the more, we hope!, I look forward to renewing acquaintances or meeting many of you for the first time. For the moment, I am reviewing information provided by many 'sample societies' through the HVSG 'Phone Tree' exercise that saw volunteers call or email many of you across the past two years. In the meantime, please keep reading all that RHSV shares with you by way of *History News*, other email updates and social media as applicable. I thank also, Pauline Hitchins, the previous HVSG Convenor, who had to negotiate many completely new challenges presented by COVID.

In the meantime, 'keep doing as you do', enjoy and learn from everything offered in this *History News* and note that RHSV avowedly, and with its HVSG arm, exists to *support* the many facets of members' work – *your work* - related to *History in Victoria*.

More in time,

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Convenor HVSG (RHSV)

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Around the societies

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

We welcome societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year.

FOR THE OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 August 2022.

BOX HILL: Sunday, 21 August 2022, 2pm
58th Annual General Meeting. Following the business meeting, Whitehorse Mayor, Councillor Tina Lui, will launch a jubilee history of the Society. With the help of current and former members of the committee, the president has written this history of the Society, to celebrate its first 50 years of operation. In lieu of a guest speaker, Dr Presland will talk briefly about the writing of the history, bringing in what he saw as the major events and significant individuals that have shaped the story of half a century of preserving the past of Box Hill. It is intended that, once it is launched, copies of the book will be freely provided to all Society members.

BRIGHTON CEMETORIANs: AGM: Sunday 7 August, 1pm, Guest Speaker Colin Smith, 'Life and Art of Penleigh Boyd' to be held at the Camden Hotel in the upstairs function room, 414 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South. 16 October: "In Da House", a Brighton Cemetery walk, highlighting the quirky lives of people who lived in local and country towns, and ended up here! 6 November: Remembrance Day, this walk will utilise eight of the next 50 flags to be placed on 4 November and they will be flying till the 14 November making it 100 flags in all.

DAYLESFORD: Formerly known as Jim Crow or Wombat, the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs area is situated on the northern fringes of the Wombat Forest and is an easy 80 minute drive (110km) from Melbourne. We have the largest archive of historical artefacts and documents in the Central Highlands region. Visit our extensive display at the Daylesford Museum, 100 Vincent Street, Daylesford 3460. See our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DaylesfordHistory>



EAST MELBOURNE: 7:30pm Wednesday 17 August 2022, John Glover and local resident, Dr Susan Barker, has a family connection to the artist, John Glover. She will talk about his life and work from a personal perspective. Members free, non-members: \$5. At East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne. <https://emhs.org.au/>



ECHUCA: Sunday 21 August 2022 at 2pm at Echuca Uniting Church Hall. Come join us to commemorate the 'authentic voice of the real Australia', 100 years since Lawson died. The Campaspe Players relate the dramatic, often tragic life story of this greatest of Australian writers, through his legendary, much-loved poems about the bush, the city, mateship, kindness, endurance and resistance to the oppression of the common people. Tickets: \$20 adult, \$5 under 18. The Society will receive all the proceeds of this show! Bookings and information: Gwen Potter 0456 223 184



FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF GULF STATION: Established in the 1850s, Gulf Station was farmed for nearly 100 years by the Bell family. Scottish settlers Agnes and William Bell were the first to lease the land where the property was established. From the 1850s to the 1950s, Gulf Station supplied produce to gold miners of the district. The National Trust acquired stewardship of the property in 1976 and restored its buildings and cottage garden. Gulf Station hosts regular events and activities including heritage festivals, talks, workshops and 'Lost Traditions' days where you can see working horses, sheep being sheared, butter being made in traditional churns and wood being worked without using

power tools. Visit the first Thursday of each month 10am-2pm. Please note that Gulf Station will be closed for winter in July and August. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/gulf-station/>

FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN: Westgarthtown is an historic dairy farming settlement sixteen kilometres north of Melbourne established in 1850 by German and Wendish immigrants. Although now located within the residential suburbs of Thomastown and Lalor in the City of Whittlesea, many of Westgarthtown's outstanding bluestone heritage buildings and structures still survive. These include Ziebell's Farmhouse (c.1850-51), Victoria's oldest German immigrant building; a picturesque Lutheran Cemetery (1850); and Australia's oldest operating Lutheran Church (1856).

<http://www.westgarthtown.org.au/>

HEATHMONT HISTORY GROUP: Heathmont East Primary School is on land formerly owned by orchardists Walter and Irene Chivers. Our Group has worked with Chivers family descendants to produce a plaque to be presented to the school in September. It reads 'In 2022, Chivers family members have pleasure in presenting to the school this centenary plaque. It marks one hundred years since pioneers Walter and Irene Chivers bought this Armstrong Road bush block of 5 acres (3 ha). Here they raised a family of six children and developed a farm which featured an orchard of 200 lemon trees. There was also an extensive vegetable garden, a horse paddock, and a dam where the assembly area is now. In 1957 they sold to the Education Department, and Heathmont East Primary School opened here in 1962'. Our Group has paid tribute to our suburb's orchard history in a number of other ways. Our row of 159 orchard-decorated bollards in the shopping centre is nearly complete, and we are researching for a book on a particular district orchard, 'Roslyn', which, in the 1930s, had 500 lemon trees and 1000 chooks. Our book will be launched in 2023 within the centenary celebrations of the naming of Heathmont. Many other events are planned for Heathmont Hundred 1923-2023.

KILMORE: Mitchell Shire Council is currently planning to conduct a Heritage Gap study to supplement their existing heritage listings. The Society may well be asked to assist in providing information. The first part of the Gap Study will focus on expanding the information listed for buildings that are already on the list, as many of the currently covered buildings have very little data on their history or significance. The second part of the Gap Study is expected to look at adding new buildings. We may be posting addresses and names of buildings that we are seeking information on. Keep an eye on our web page, our publications and our Facebook page. You may well have some critical information that exists nowhere else.

www.facebook.com/kilmorehistory and www.kilmorehistory.info



KNOX: The society will be hosting a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 10 December, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm. There will be food, drinks, children's games, activities and music. This event will be in conjunction with the very popular 'Chestnut Avenue Christmas Lights'. We will need volunteers to help. If you can donate some of your time, please email us. <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~khsinc>

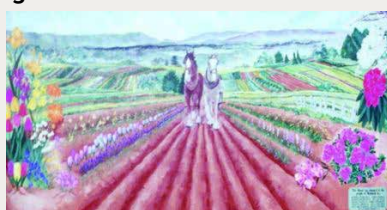
KYNETON: The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival Thursday 1 September to Sunday 11 September. The festival looks forward to its 50th year in the Macedon Ranges with an exciting series of enjoyable activities for all ages. The history of the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival can be traced back to the late Alister Clark of 'Glenara' at Bulla. Alister is the best known and most successful rose and daffodil breeder from between the two world wars. When it was decided to hold an annual Kyneton festival, the daffodil seemed the obvious symbol for our town. So began the planting of massed daffodils along the main thoroughfares; and the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival was born.



MARYSVILLE: A familiar sight in the centre of Marysville from the mid-1950s to early 1970s was the sign originally erected by the Marysville Tourist and Progress Association at a roundabout. However, VicRoads objected to it and it was moved down the road to outside the park near the Big Log. It is believed Sam Ross did the original signwriting. A replica of the sign can be seen at the History Centre and forms part of the 1950s Mural in Lou's Shed. Visit us Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 12-3pm at 39 Darwin St, Marysville.



MONBULK: The many murals of Monbulk became a real tourist attraction and it is sad that we have lost so many of these murals. In 2020 Monbulk Historical Society commissioned artist Tim Bowtell, to paint two murals of early Monbulk scenes in the Monbulk Community Hub. One is of the main road of Monbulk with Olinda Hill in the back ground in the 1920s. The other is of Robert Nation's coach outside Monbulk Post Office at 'Siddle's corner' in 1903. The Society is now working with the Monbulk & District Community Opportunities Workinggroup (MADCOW) in hope that we can recreate the Monbulk Mural theme throughout the town. The work will be done by a diversity of artists adding interest, variety and enjoyment to the many people who see them. If you wish to participate in this community project with ideas or donating your time or money, please contact us explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au



MURCHISON & DISTRICT: We are delighted to have been invited to stage an art exhibition at the fabulous new Shepparton Art Museum in partnership with Murchison RSL sub-branch. Large murals owned by the RSL and hundreds of art works in our collection that were created by German prisoner of war, Hans Wolter von Gruenewaldt, are on display until Sunday 11 September. The diversity of style, talent and humour that the art portrays is outstanding. His story is contained in the award-winning book by Kay Ball, *Art Captured*.

NHILL: Save the date - Nhill Heritage Weekend. Make sure you set aside the weekend of Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October 2022 for the inaugural Nhill Heritage Weekend. Following on from the Nhill A&P Society Show, Thursday 13 October, comes a fantastic initiative and opportunity to celebrate the wealth of heritage in the Nhill area. Planning has commenced and ideas for how the Historical Society can extend its involvement are welcome from all members. Commitments have already been received from: Nhill Vintage Club, Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre, Nhill Silo Heritage Project and a private vintage fashion collection.

NILLUMBURI: The current class of VCAL students from Diamond Valley College are hard at work again in Ellis Cottage garden, breaking up and digging old paths and beds and forming and laying new rock edges. We have worked with the students to plan a brick path through the garden, upgrading the arbour seats, a planter box for herbs and maybe some new seating under the peppercorn. If you have dahlia tubers to spare, we would appreciate donations. As most of the new plants we plan to add to our garden will be propagated or donated by our committee and other members, donations of hardy cottage style plants would be appreciated too. Please let us know how you can help: elliscottage@gmail.com or leave a message on 9438 5619. Visit our website at <https://www.nillumbikhistory.org.au>



WANDONG: We have an exciting list of activities and events coming up toward the end of the year. In August we will be fulfilling our promise to the families of the airmen who were remembered last year with the unveiling of a plaque on Mt Disappointment. Due to the COVID restrictions at the time many of the families were not able to attend so this year we will have a special event for them. There will also be the official reopening of the church following its conservation and restoration through a Living Heritage Grant from DELWP and our Annual History Week Exhibition. Visit our facebook page at [facebook.com/wandongheathcotejunction](https://www.facebook.com/wandongheathcotejunction)





Windows on history: One Tiny Jewel

Tucked into a wall in a bedroom at the far end of a corridor in ‘Beleura’ on the Mornington Peninsula, is a very small stained-glass window that incorporates the text, ‘East of the Sun and West of the Moon’: designed and made by Melbourne artist, Christian Waller (1894-1952).

At first glance, the tiny window, measuring just 390 x 290 mm, may appear insignificant, but the dynamic sweep of line, superb colour and tone, subtle decorative elements and the clever capture of light demand closer inspection by every visitor.

Originally built in 1864 for James Butchart, ‘Beleura’ was designed by Melbourne architect Joseph Reed to stand for generations, with thick outer walls of lime-rendered handmade bricks, rooms with fourteen-foot ceilings and wide verandahs supported by Corinthian columns, making it an elegant and appropriate dwelling for the retired stock and station agent, reputedly once the richest man in the colony. The residence was sited on the cliffs overlooking Port Philip Bay on 180 acres, one section of a pastoral estate that ran from Mount Eliza in the north to the township of Schnapper Point in the south. Butchart contributed to the local community, most notably through his trusteeship and support of the Presbyterian church, but he had few years to enjoy a gracious life in rural Victoria. He died in 1869, aged 47.

After a succession of owners, ‘Beleura’, and its ever-shrinking acreage, was purchased by George Tallis, later, Sir George, of J. C. Williamson Pty Ltd. *Punch* reported on the purchase in its

usual tongue in cheek style. “‘Beleura’ is a most beautiful place, standing on the thickly wooded cliffs above Mornington, it looks like a great white mediaeval castle, though its interior is amazingly up-to-date. Electric light, sea and fresh water baths (hot or cold) on the premises, radiators for drying damp towels or bathing dresses, every kind of modern luxury, in fact.’ But the window, ‘*East of the Sun...*’, was not installed in the mansion until decades later.

Jack Morton Tallis, also known as John, was the youngest of the Tallis children, aged 17 when he sailed to Europe and England in 1929 on the *Otranto*. On board he met and formed a strong bond with artists Christian and Mervyn Napier Waller, despite a significant age difference. John Tallis kept a shipboard diary that was illustrated by Christian with imaginative ink-over-pencil drawings, including the cover page entitled ‘The Adventures of a Musician in search of Music Vol 1’.

Tallis was starting his musical journey, while the Wallers, accomplished printmakers and painters but lacking experience in stained glass, were heading to London to study with the celebrated Arts and Crafts artist, Veronica Whall. While in London, the Wallers completed windows that were shipped home and, after returning to Melbourne, both artists added stained glass to their oeuvre. Christian fully embraced the medium, designing and making more than 65 windows, mostly for churches and school chapels over the next two decades. Her broad interests in theosophy, mysterious myths and legends, medieval and romantic literature, as well as religious symbolism, refreshed stained glass through new interpretations of age-old subjects.

In the ‘*East of the Sun...*’ window Christian reinvigorated a Norse version of the Cupid and Psyche legend, a tale of overcoming enormous obstacles to find love. The Danish artist, Kay Neilsen, superbly illustrated the story in a book of the same name, one of many legendary and medieval volumes in the Waller library.

By the late 1930s, Christian Waller had completed windows for churches at Geelong East, Shelford, Canterbury, Frankston, Camberwell and Murrumbidgee in Victoria and Gilgandra and Canowindra in New South Wales. She also designed and printed the fine work, *The Great Breath* and two large scale murals, a remarkable body of work which may well have contributed to her ill-health at this time. In 1939, she joined the group surrounding the Afro-American spiritual leader, Father Divine, in Harlem, New York. Soon, the world was at war and Christian returned home in April 1940; John Tallis was also in America and it is thought he escorted her home, at the behest of her family. *East of the Sun and West of the Moon* window is thought to have been the gift of the artist, in gratitude for her safe return to Australia. Whatever its true history, John Tallis undoubtedly appreciated not only its beauty, but also as a symbol of his enduring friendship with Christian.

‘*East of the Sun and West of the Moon*’ ranks among Christian Waller’s finest works and illustrates her complete command of the medium of stained glass. It is her only known window to be executed for a residential setting, taking pride of place in the collection of ‘Beleura House & Garden’, now operated by the Tallis Foundation, thanks to the generosity of the last custodian, John Tallis.

Bronwyn Hughes OAM

RHSV collections: Cecil Henry Harper, a quiet achiever

Cecil Henry Harper died in Armadale in May 1922. He left behind two family members, a brother and sister, and a large legacy of information gathering for the RHSV. He was a foundation member of the Society, and held the position of Honorary Librarian from March 1910 until his death. He was also a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Victorian Branch.

I want to acknowledge that the huge benefits of the rich collection that we now enjoy is, in part, because of the collecting and creation of content that Cecil did for the RHSV. In today's terms he would have been seen as an information manager *par excellence*.

Cecil Harper came to my attention when recataloguing photographs. I realised that he was named as the photographer of two photographs of South Yarra and then I started to notice his name in our accession register as the purchaser and donor of books, photographs and prints. As Judith Bilszta noted in her *Victorian History Journal* article, 'One Hundred years in the library collection', it is only by looking at our old accession registers and noting all the information written in his distinctive hand that we are able to identify how much material he gathered.

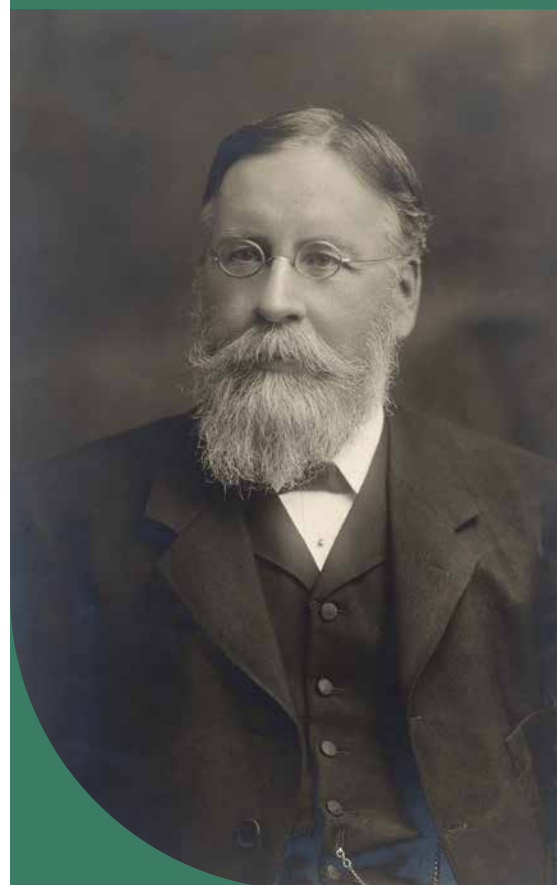
Cecil was born in January 1852 to Henry Harper and Eliza Downs Prout. He had trained and then worked as a teacher in Fitzroy and then from 1873 as

a clerk with the Education Department. He was described as having a 'retiring disposition' and that he devoted a large portion of his leisure time to the work of the Society. At the time of his death many were surprised at the sheer amount of work he had achieved. Given the parlous state of the Society's finances at that time, he had also paid for a lot of the material out of his own pocket.

It is worth noting that in 1910, one year after the establishment of the RHSV, Cecil oversaw the RHSV collection of roughly 300 items: newspapers, books, documents, pamphlets and a small collection of token coins and medals and a few photographs. I imagine that collection would have trebled in his time.

Cecil was a frequent browser in Hanley's Bookstore in Bourke Street where he purchased photographs and publications. He made a point of collecting local histories and jubilee souvenir publications relating to schools and churches. He frequented book sales, negotiated with the Melbourne Athenaeum committee to acquire a complete set of *Sands & MacDougall directories* 1851-1912 and collected Parliamentary papers covering the period from 1853. He drew up the format for the Early Colonist, now Pioneer Register, forms. He acquired the volumes we hold from John Pascoe Fawkner's collection at the Congregational Union Library sale.

More recently I have become aware that Cecil was also indexing content from manuscripts and registers held at other libraries and in church collections, his index of the members of the Old



■ Cecil Henry Harper, photograph
8 November 1910
RHSV P-286-E

Colonists Society and indexes of burials taken from registers in the old Melbourne churches are two cases in point.

Like many historical societies, we benefit from the hard work done by volunteers over the years, Cecil is prime example of the dedication and thought given to building a collection.

Jillian Hiscock

RHSV Collections Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA					LIBRARY REGISTER.	
Number	Date Received	How Acquired	Donor or Vendor	Description	Title or Subject	Author or Artist
3184	June 16 1919	Don	C. Harper	photo.	Gallies St. from Isaac Cooper	
3185	"	"	"	"	" " from Isaac O.	"
3186	"	"	"	"	" " from Russell O.	"
3187	"	"	"	photo	Elizabeth St. from Hinders	"
3188	"	"	"	"	Hinders St. from Hinders	"



TARNAGULLA FIREMEN'S TWELFTH ANNUAL BALL

TARNAGULLA HALL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1969

Belle of the Ball

Open to both Married and Single Ladies
(The "Sun" Sash and Trophy)

Ballerina of the Ball (Trophy)

Gold Star Orchestra Good Floor
50-50 Dancing Excellent Supper
Uniforms

GENT, \$1.20 LADY, 80c

B. C. CONDICK, Captain, Phone 3 3385. L. G. WILLIAMS, Secretary

W. A. Smith, Printer, Bendigo

A reflection on local history: Tarnagulla's Victoria Hotel and Theatre

Left Monochrome photograph depicting people standing outside the Victoria Hotel and Theatre in Commercial Road, Tarnagulla. Members of the Davies family and hotel employees can be seen. The gentleman on the left is William Morgan Davies, Licensee.

Murray Comrie Collection

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5d0c986521ea710eacb0e495>

Right Donald Clark Collection.

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5d947eca21ea670f7803331a>

Europeans began settling around the area of Tarnagulla in the 1840s. In the following decade the population swelled as over 5,000 migrants were inspired to search for gold in the district's Sandy Creek goldfield. By the mid 1860s the people of Tarnagulla enjoyed the establishment of five bakers, two banks, four blacksmiths, two bootmakers, two breweries, three butchers, two chemists, one corn factory, four quartz crushing machines, two drapers, a fruiterer, a gold broker, four hotels plus a multitude of unlicensed sly grog shanties, an ironmonger, a steam saw mill, a flour mill, a painter, nine general stores, three surgeons, a tailor, a tobacconist, a watchmaker and two wheelwrights.

Today, as you walk along of Tarnagulla's main street, taking in the facades of the remaining buildings from that era, it is easy to imagine a once vibrant gold mining town with horse drawn vehicles, women in their long skirts and the men in heavy moleskin trousers and loose-fitting shirts perhaps with a bright kerchief at their necks walking along what would then have been a muddy road in winter and dusty in summer. Now the road is sealed and usually quiet, with only the noise of the occasional modern vehicle and social banter from the one remaining pub. Today the town's population is approximately 130.

The region, that today we think of as Victoria's golden triangle, was originally the home to the Dja Dja Warrung People. In the nineteenth century the miners cut down trees for firewood and buildings, diverted creeks and rivers and pulled up large volumes of earth. Despite the damage to the land and the oppression of the Dja Dja Warrung community, they are still present in the region and continue an ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to the land.

Tarnagulla's main street is Commercial Road, or the Bridgewater-Dunolly Road: Dunolly being 15 kilometres to the south and Bridgewater 24 kilometres to the north. At the northern end of Tarnagulla's main road stands a building completed

in 1861: the Victoria Hotel and Theatre, now generally known as the Tarnagulla Hall. The hotel remained licensed until 31 December 1916. The people of the town purchased the complex as a public hall in 1924. Now it is managed by the Tarnagulla Public Hall Committee and houses the Tarnagulla History Archive which was established with funds from a Public Record Office Victoria Local History Grant. The archive is a repository for all things related to the local history of Tarnagulla and its surrounding district: Newbridge, Llanelly, Arnold, Laanecoorie, Waanyarra and Murphys Creek.

The Victoria Hotel and Theatre is on the Victorian Heritage Register where its statement of significance reads: 'In summary, the Tarnagulla Public Hall is of historic importance for the following reasons:

1. the former Victoria Theatre and Hotel features an externally intact complex recalling the heady days of Victoria's gold rush towns.
2. the theatre is the oldest known purpose-built theatre attached to a hotel in Australia.
3. the buildings have been used almost continuously as Tarnagulla's social and civic centre since the 1860s.'

The many events witnessed by this historic building over the past 161 years



■ Soldiers in uniform in front of Victoria Hotel, Tarnagulla, 8th November, 1919
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5cf1edfe21ea67102074ad14>



■ Tarnagulla Public Hall, early 1900s
 Donald Clark Collection.
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5d6f6d2921ea671048369952>

are, of course, too numerous to list. But by dipping into them we can build a snapshot of this once vibrant town and the history of a local community within the history of Victoria.

The Theatre, over many decades, has been the venue of countless social occasions. The rip-roaring years were the 1860s, when there were regular big-name entertainers in action, including Charles Thatcher and Madame Carandini. Also, during those years, Tarnagulla's Philharmonic Society frequently entertained the local community at the Theatre. In 1898, Tarnagulla's annual fete drew over 1,000 people to the district to enjoy fancy dress competitions, a range of races, Scottish and Irish dance exhibitions and a quoits competition. As was often the case, the day's celebrations were concluded in the Theatre with a dramatic performance, this time by the Maryborough Musical and Dramatic Club.

Balls were held at the Theatre to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated in June 1887, firstly with a street parade headed by the mayor and councillors followed by Tarnagulla brass band, 600 'state school' children carrying flags, the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOO) and then the fire brigade. Athletic sports events filled the afternoon and an amateur concert in the evening at the Theatre once again concluded the celebrations.

The Dunolly and Inglewood Hospitals were among the community organisations that benefited from the many fundraising events enjoyed at the Theatre by the Tarnagulla community. In 1862 two hundred people attended a performance from the Dunolly Dramatic Club in aid of the Dunolly Hospital. They performed a range of plays for five hours and the *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser* reported that 'sitting for five hours watching amateur performance... [was a] trial of patience'. In May 1904 a 'poster fair' was enjoyed by attendees at the Theatre. This included a range of stalls where 'about 30 young ladies, who had charge of the various stalls, wore costumes with advertisements of local and metropolitan business firms' and raised funds for the new Church of England parsonage. In May 1919 another concert raised funds for science equipment for the State School.

Many a politician has presented himself to the people of Tarnagulla in the Theatre or Hotel to promote their commitments to the electorate. A Mr Young, standing for election in November 1882 was asked if he was 'in favour of railway extension from Dunolly to Inglewood... that would give the farmers the choice of Ballarat or Melbourne Markets'. From what can be gleaned from reports, he doesn't seem to have answered that question.

In May 1901 Mr H. Honan promised that if returned he would not 'favour the abolition of the Upper House as it acted as a check upon hasty legislation... He favoured old-aged pensions, [but not] women's suffrage...'. In April 1902, before 'Messrs. D.J. Duggan (Minister for Lands) and Mr. T. Comrie M.L.C.' a large assembly of farmers 'lamented the need for greater water supply'. Mr Bride, a candidate in April 1904, explained that he 'was in favor of legalising the totalisator, and much against a gun tax but he was in favor of women's suffrage'. In October 1906 the essence of the speech by the 'Hon. W. H. Irvine' was his belief that Victoria had not fared well under Federation and he spoke of the need for protection, he believed that support of protectionist policies would best support individual States 'against the extravagant proposals ... of the Federal Parliament'. He announced that he 'was in favor of giving a preference to British goods ... and was in favor of making our market [favourable] to the mother country...'

The Theatre supported the community needs during and after WWI. In August 1915 the State School children put on a performance, that was well attended by their families, in aid of the Red Cross. To start the performance the children sang 'God save the King' and then continued with songs such as 'God bless our men', 'This bit of the world belongs to us' and 'I want to be a soldier'. In June 1917 250 people attended a recruitment meeting at the Theatre. In its report of the meeting the *Bendigo Advertiser* noted that, 'It is fair to say that there are no single and fit and very few eligible married men left in Tarnagulla'. In July 1918 a meeting of the Welcome Home Club noted that 20 returned soldiers had received medals which had been paid for from the £100 raised in funds to that date. These funds were raised from a stall held in the main street each alternate Friday when 'a few patriotic ladies' sold produce and donations from farmers.

The Tarnagulla Victoria Theatre has been, and continues to be, the venue for celebrations, performances, fundraising, and the many groups that have been important to the community. It has stood witness to the history of a community: the impact of world wars and many issues of concern: women's suffrage, support of mining and agriculture, aged pensions, changes created by Federation and the role of the Upper House. Today, the building as a public hall and the archives that is shelters, continues as vital to the region of Tarnagulla.

For more information on the Tarnagulla and District History Group, their resources and events: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~tarnagul/>

Sharon Betridge

Bookshop catalogue

See our online catalogue at

www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/

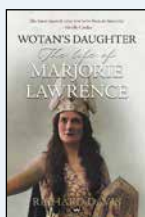


Daughters of Melbourne: A Guide to the Invisible Statues of Melbourne

Maree Coote (2002)

HC - 160pp \$55

In this book you will meet the daughters of Melbourne. The rich gals; the gorgeous gals and the gals who'd rather paint. Meet aboriginal warriors who don't care for compromise. Meet divas dubbed 'difficult' while their men are never so. Discover the real Melbourne through the lives of the fabulous women who built the city, its culture, community and commerce. Everyone is a giant. Most were labelled 'difficult'. All have been denied a statue. Why? Read this book to find out.



Wotan's Daughter: The Life of Marjorie Lawrence

Richard Davis (2021, 2nd ed)

PB - 360pp \$39.95

Wotan's Daughter recounts the turbulent life and career of Marjorie Lawrence, one of Australia's most renowned opera stars. From humble beginnings in rural Victoria, Lawrence rose to become one of the pre-eminent Wagner singers of her generation, acclaimed and honoured in Europe and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York where she shared roles with the legendary Kirsten Flagstad. Stricken by polio at the height of her career, Lawrence fought back courageously against physical disability and prejudice to rebuild her shattered life and return to the stage.



Australia: A Seventy-Year Love Affair: From Hungary to Australia, from Post-war Refugee to Patriotic Australian

Susan Bardy with John Holmes (2021)

PB - 264pp \$34.95

This is an honest and loving story of how, after losing her Hungarian national identity and becoming a refugee in Austria, Australia was the country that became Susan Bardy's and a precious homeland as it helped develop her latent abilities. Arriving as a young woman in Melbourne, initially separated from her family, she was given the opportunity to start a nursing career that lasted nearly fifty years. Marriage, children, marathon running and academic study packed her life in Australia.

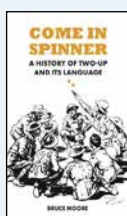


Friends, Fashion and Fabulousness: The Making of an Australian Style

Sally Gray (2017)

PB - 317pp \$39.95

Australia in the 1970s was 'the most creative place in the world' stated the acclaimed shoe designer Manolo Blahnik. He was referring to the fashion and art worlds created by the principal characters in this book, first in Melbourne and then in Sydney, in the 1970s–90s. With limited material resources, an abundance of originality and style, and seemingly unlimited creative energy, a group of young people helped transform the cultural landscape. Their creative trajectories and interactions, their collaborations, passion and politics, continue to resonate in the present.

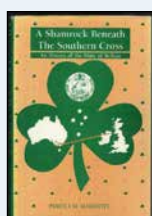


Come in Spinner: A History of Two-Up and its Language

Bruce Moore (2022)

PB - 206pp \$39.95

Bruce Moore describes how the Australian concept of the 'fair go' had its origins in two-up, and how working-class tenacity saved the game from the efforts of authorities and wowsers to wipe it out. He explains that 'come in spinner' is just one of the more than 140 Australian words and phrases that originated in the gambling game, and he provides new evidence that aspects of the game and its terminology have their origins in Ireland. This is your chance to learn about 'alley loafers', 'two-uppians' and more!



A Shamrock Beneath the Southern Cross: A History of the Shire of Belfast

Pamela Marriott (2022 2nd ed)

PB - 237pp \$29.95

This is a history of the beginnings of the Belfast Road District, and the Belfast Shire. After more than 20 years of this book being out of print, it has been brought back. Including the entirety of the first edition, this second edition has several extras: an index, errata for the first edition, more research material relating to a variety of people and subjects associated with the Shire of Belfast and correspondence from interested readers of the first edition in an Open Forum context.



Matthew Flinders: The Man Behind the Map

Gillian Dooley (2022)

PB - 272pp \$39.95

Born at the end of the Age of Enlightenment and growing up as Romanticism took hold of European culture, Matthew Flinders was the embodiment of these seemingly irreconcilable movements. His achievements as a navigator and leader are impressive, but he was much more than an action hero, idolised by generations of admirers. This book looks to primary sources to discover the many facets of Flinders: a friend, a son, a brother, a father, a husband, a writer, a researcher, a reader, and a musician – and, as a romantic scientist.



My Mother and The Prince: Jana Shindler Fristacky in Kabul 1946–1952

Jackie M Fristacky (2021)

PB - 245pp \$30

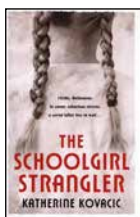
This book is an account of the challenges of a recently married adventurous young woman, Jana Shindler Fristacky, escaping the aftermath of World War II in Europe, to journey to Afghanistan. Afghanistan then had a promising future, as its benign and astute rulers sought to develop and modernize their nation. The story highlights her love affair with an Afghan noble, her efforts for the emancipation of Afghan women, the birth of her daughters, then exile, house arrest, despair and her eventual departure for a new life in Australia.

Books received

John Schauble

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

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



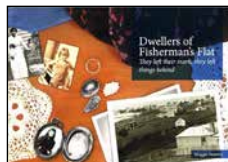
The Schoolgirl Strangler. Katherine Kovacic, Echo, London, 2021, pp.3-316, ISBN 9781760686635.

Arnold Sodeman was not the first, and certainly not the last, serial killer in Victoria, but that he is all but forgotten these days is remarkable. Sodeman was convicted of killing six-year-old June Rushmer at Leongatha in 1935. In the course of the investigation into her murder, he revealed he was responsible for killing three other young girls over the previous five years, deaths which until then had police baffled. This detailed and careful account of the murders and their dreadful impacts upon the families involved is a page turner; a story of police failures, a lack of understanding of mental illness and the early stirrings of advocacy against the death penalty in Victoria.



What Came Out of the Box: A Biography of AGM Michell. Stephen Phillip, Tellwell, Melbourne, 2020, pp. 1-506, ISBN 9780228820152.

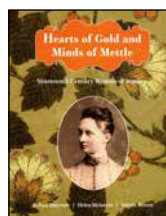
The story of A.G.M. (George) Michell, who was an innovative and brilliant engineer, may already be familiar to readers of the *Victorian Historical Journal*. While Michell is largely forgotten today, his most famous invention, the tilting pad thrust bearing, revolutionised ship propulsion as vessels moved from piston to turbine engines. He grew up in Maldon, South Yarra and London before returning to Victoria at age 20. His early work focused on pumps and water meters, and he became a global expert on hydraulics. But Michell also found time to work on other innovations such as crankless engines. This detailed account of Michell's life is a generous acknowledgement of his important contribution as a theoretician and practical engineer.



Dwellers of Fisherman's Flat: They Left Their Mark, they Left Things Behind.

Maggie Stowers, Queenscliffe Historical Museum Inc., 2020, pp. 1-108, ISBN 9780646831237.

This is a delightful account for the fisher families of Queenscliff, an important hub of professional fishing in and around Port Phillip for generations from the mid nineteenth century. Fishing for a living was perilous and precarious, full of challenges but also camaraderie. Many families lived at Fishman's Flat, a small area of land set aside from the main township, a mixed community mostly made up of men with a nautical background, including many Chinese and Italians. This innovative visual record of the Flat relies on a marvellous collection of images to tell the story of what life was like in this unique community, some of whose cottages survive today. Shortlisted in the 2021 Victorian Community History Awards.



Hearts of Gold and Minds of Mettle: Nineteenth Century Women of Stanley: from Mary Rawes to Maud Ah Quon to Mariette Craig. Robyn Harcourt, Helen McIntyre and Valerie Privett, Stanley Athenaeum & Public Room, Stanley, 2021, pp. i-213, ISBN 9780648395522.

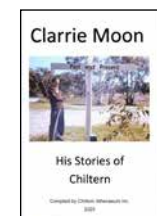
Once also known as the Nine Mile and Snake Valley, the small community of Stanley in north-eastern Victoria has produced some interesting histories in recent years. This one stems from a project to document the lives of more than 100 women in its community during the nineteenth century. Its importance lies in telling the stories of people whose contribution to European settlement has often been hidden and deidentified behind the titles of 'Mrs' or 'wife'. These are not stories of great fame or wealth, but of toil and mettle, as the title suggests, in a tough environment transitioning from mining to agriculture. They are lost lives revived through skilled and careful research.



Edinburgh to Mia Mia: The Story of Robert & Jessy Fleming. Bill Fleming,

The author, Melbourne, 2021, pp. 1-322, ISBN 9780645117806.

It is easy to forget the discomfort in which the early European settlers to the colonies travelled on the "fat and dumpy" sailing ships that preceded the faster clippers. The Flemings arrived in Hobart on just such a vessel in 1831 and settled briefly in Launceston. In 1836, Robert became a pioneer butcher in the infant settlement of Port Phillip, then successively a publican, farmer, landholder and respected Old Colonist. There were tribulations, like being raided by bushrangers at their Plenty Valley farm and the tragic loss of small children, but the family grew and prospered, as did many of their descendants. A fascinating insight into the growth of early Melbourne through the story of one family.



Clarrie Moon: His Stories of Chiltern.

Compiled by Chiltern Athenaeum Inc., Chiltern, 2020, pp. i-128.

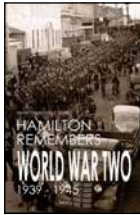
Clarence Arthur Moon was born in Chiltern in 1900, schooled there until the age of 14, then embarked upon a varied career as a grocer's assistant, road worker, soldier, driver, construction worker, farmer and PMG linesman. After retiring in 1965, he researched and wrote stories for the Chiltern newspaper, the *Federal Standard*. This collection of those articles is partly biographical, but also taps into Clarrie's deep connections within the Chiltern community. Dating from the mid-to-late 1960s, they are an important link to an earlier time. The stories present a picture of a rural Victoria long gone: of swagmen, streets filled with pubs, hawkers, local manufacturing, nature studies and business. Sometimes he is feisty, sometimes gentle, always passionate.

Books received

John Schauble

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

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



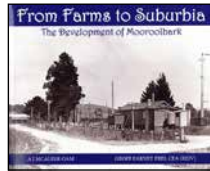
Hamilton Remembers World War Two 1939-1945. Compiled by Hamilton History Centre Inc., Hamilton, 2021, pp. 1-251. ISBN 9780646837093.

At the heart of this book is the synthesis and repackaging of a dozen 'brieflets' produced by Hamilton local historian Margaret Gardner in 1995 about life in Hamilton during World War II. To these have been added a chronology, roll of local war service and appropriate photographs. While the end product is not a definitive history of the impact of the war on the Western District, it makes this history more accessible. Topics covered include rationing of food and fuel, the military presence in Hamilton, wartime industries, clothing and transport. The story of life on the home front, away from the horrors of the battlefield, is often forgotten despite the many challenges it presented.



A Goldminer's Fortune. Anne Ridley, Cremorne1.com, Cremorne, 2020, pp. 1-480, ISBN 9780648948803.

The story of Martin Loughlin and his nephew Thomas O'Loughlin, told here by a descendant, is emblematic of the rags-to-riches tales that sometimes emerged from the Victorian gold rushes. Martin Loughlin did indeed strike it rich after he arrived in 1855 and became involved in quartz mining of the "rivers of gold" under Ballarat. Amassing a vast fortune, he died single and passed on his wealth to his nephews, one of whom was Thomas O'Loughlin. Tom was a noted benefactor to the Catholic Church during the era of Archbishop Mannix, of whom he was a confidante. He was made a papal count by Pope Pius X. The family story adds ballast to important aspects of the state's history.



From Farms to Suburbia: The Development of Mooroolbark. A.J. McAleer and Geoff Earney, Methven Professionals, Mooroolbark, 2020, pp. 1-181, ISBN 9780648509912.

This history of Mooroolbark, an eastern suburb of Melbourne, was interestingly produced by a local real estate business, partly as a gift for their clients. Compiled by a noted local historian, this is more a considered history than mere promotional artefact. The Earney family have been in real estate locally for more than 60 years. They also have had a long and sincere commitment to community and legacy. The story of the transition of Mooroolbark from lush pastoral to rich dairying to suburban subdivisions is replicated across outer Melbourne. Significant historical areas such as the Chirnside Park estate and Edna Walling's Bickleigh Vale fall within Mooroolbark's much transformed landscape.



Rentsch Family in Australia 1851-2020. Ruth Walter editor, Rentsch Book Committee/Open Book Howden, St Marys SA, 2020, pp. iii-430, ISBN 9780646837086.

The Wendish diaspora which occurred in the mid-nineteenth century saw several families come to Australia as they escaped hunger, political and religious disadvantage and sometimes oppression. Wends are a Slavic people from eastern Germany. Families, like the Rentsch, were as much grasping the possibilities of the new world as escaping the old. Their initial port of call was South Australia, but the lure of new country to the east saw some travel overland to western Victoria and beyond in the early 1850s. The Rentsch family eventually put down roots in Hamilton, from where they would spread across Victoria across generations. This detailed tabulation of their descendants will be of interest to both local and family historians.



Lizzie's Journey to Yarra Bend. Linley Walker, Ginninderra Press, Port Adelaide, 2021, pp. 1-262, ISBN 9781761091889.

Those familiar with the records of Victoria's mental health system in the nineteenth century will recognise how appalling conditions were in many of the facilities built to house patients suffering mental illness. The law around lunacy, as it was then termed, and a range of other conditions including delirium tremens, was harsh. Some, like Eliza "Lizzie" Agnes Merritt (1817-1900), languished for decades in 'asylums'. This is an imagined family history told in the first-person voices of Lizzie, her daughter and estranged husband. It is rooted in truths unravelled from historical records. Lizzie suffered from bipolar disorder, a condition misunderstood when she arrived in the colony in 1855 and when mental disorders were treated as criminal.



Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack: More than a Bauhaus Artist. Resi Schwarzbauer with Chris Bell, HistorySmiths.com.au, 2020, pp. v-352, ISBN 9780648975446.

Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack is probably less well-known in Australia, where he spent half his adult life, than he is in Europe and the US. His extraordinary life symbolised the disruptive tumult of his generation. Having fought in World War I, he was a foundation student of the Weimar Bauhaus studying under Walter Gropius and Paul Klee. His Jewish heritage led him to seek sanctuary in England, narrowly miss resettlement in the US and finally be exiled to Australia aboard the *Dunera*. An artist, teacher, musician and inventor, he taught at Geelong Grammar, where he inspired students before retiring to the Dandenong Ranges. This detailed biography draws extensively on family records and interviews.