

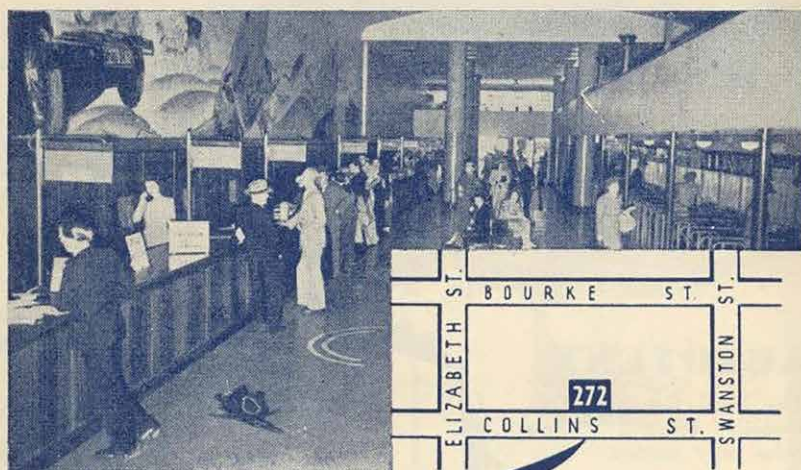
# HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE 362 | OCTOBER 2022



2 *Broadbent's Guide—Mornington Peninsula and Phillip Island.*

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### **Inside this issue**

The Educational Publishing  
Awards Australia

'The Collingwood of the Bush'

Professional Historians  
Association

Inaugural Hugh Anderson  
Lecture

# 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

## MARKETING 101

**Date: Monday 10 October**

**Time: 12:00-1:00 pm**

**Free, RSVP Now**

ZOOM, join from anywhere in the world Christina Browning, our RHSV Marketing Manager, brings a wealth of experience to the RHSV - and not just in social media. Christina started her working life as a journalist before seguing into marketing. The forums are low-key and they not recorded. You can bring your questions and problems and you can also ask Christina to tackle some specific issue in a future forum. They will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 12-1pm.



## OFF THE DRAWING BOARD, A NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA PRESENTATION

**Date: Monday  
October 17**

**Time: 10:30-11:30 am**

**Free, RSVP Now**

**ZOOM, join from anywhere in the world**

A History Month event: Did you know that the National Archives' Victoria office holds over 5,000 architectural drawings of public



buildings across Victoria? Dating back as early as the 1850s, the drawings document not only famous Melbourne landmarks, but also humbler suburban and rural facilities, such as local post offices and drill halls. This makes these drawings an invaluable resource for anyone researching local history and heritage.

## EMERGING HISTORIANS SHOWCASE

**Date: Tuesday October 18**

**Time: 5:30-7:00 pm**

**\$10 - \$20**

**Hybrid event**

Each year, the Professional Historians Association (VIC & TAS) and the RHSV partner to present this eagerly awaited event which showcases some of the fresh and exciting work being undertaken by emerging historians.

In 2022 the emerging historians we'll be showcasing include:

- Sarah Craze: The Battle to Play Sport on Sunday in Camberwell
- Portia Dilena: The Albury Study Centre of the RCAE and feminism in 1970s Albury-Wodonga
- Nicola Dobinson: British-Iranian Diplomacy in the 1970s: Insights from a History of Emotions Approach

To be chaired by Dr Andrew Lemon AM for the RHSV and Kimberley Meagher, President of the PHA (VIC & TAS).

## VCE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY WORKSHOP ON STUDY DESIGN YEAR 1

**Date Sunday**

**23 October**

**Time: 1pm- 4:30 pm**

**Free, Hybrid event**

The RHSV is hosting a workshop for teachers of VCE Australian History. Leading classroom teachers, textbook writers and educators, including Bill Lewis, James Jacobs, Jo Leech, Erin Crook, Richard Broome, Graeme Davison and Rosalie Triolo will speak and participate in teacher Q & A and discussions of each Study Design.



## CATALOGUING CLINICS 2022

**Date: Thursday 27 October**

**Time: 11am-12pm**

**Free, RSVP Now**

ZOOM, Join from anywhere in the world Free monthly cataloguing clinics via Zoom. The clinics run on the 4th Thursday of each month. It is a relaxed gathering of people who are finding their way through the intricacies of cataloguing material in historical collections which, as we all know, fall between a library and a museum with sometimes a bit of art gallery thrown in.



## History News

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

**EDITOR** Sharon Betridge

**DESIGN & ARTWORK** Centreforce Pty Ltd 5975 8600

**PRINTED BY** Southern Impact 8796 7015

Items for publication should be sent to the Editor

**EMAIL** sbetridge@outlook.com

History News copy closes 2nd of the month: January, March, May, July, September and November, unless in consultation with the editor. RHSV welcomes submission of articles for inclusion in History News. Publication and editing will be at the discretion of the editor and the Publications Committee as directed by our Terms of Reference.

**COVER IMAGE:** 'Victorian Government Tourist Bureau, 1949' from Broadbent's Official Guide Mornington Peninsula and Phillip Island. John Young Collection, 'Victorian Places': <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/node/65530>

PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011 ISSN 1326-269



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## EMPERORS IN LILLIPUT: CLEM CHRISTESEN OF MEANJIN & STEPHEN MURRAY-SMITH OF OVERLAND

**Date: Tuesday 15 November**

**Time: 5:30 - 7pm**

**\$10 - \$20, Hybrid Event**

Literary magazine editors used to be rather imperial in style, exercising a great deal of influence in what has always been a rather restricted field: literary culture. Clem Christesen and Stephen Murray-Smith projected real authority as they fought the cultural and political battles of the day.

We are delighted to welcome back Jim Davidson who will remind us of the reach and power of these legendary literary figures.

# President's report

The RHSV is now 113 years old, yet it is remarkable that until a decade ago, it was impoverished by having little behind it, either property or investments. Fortunately, our budgetary situation in recent times has remained in the black, despite some challenging years during COVID.

However, our financial capital for the premier historical society in our state, is not yet strong enough, especially given we are in our 114th year! To address this, in 2021 Council launched the Jessie Webb Society for bequests, formed an Investment Policy and Strategy, an Investment Committee, and appointed a financial adviser. It is now in the process of creating a new Fundraising Committee. Council's moves were stimulated by some recent very generous donations from the late Doug Gunn, Gordon Moffatt AM, Prof. Bill Russell and the late Gwen Jones. The giving of Gwen Jones, by way of a collection, with associated financial support, is outlined in this edition of *History News*, p16. These donations together with many fine smaller ones, have created financial capital that will now be expertly managed to boost our annual income. It is a base on which we must build.

However, regarding a home, we are still beholden to the State Government and that has been the situation for our Society's entire life: being dependent on others for accommodation. We have been at various sites over the years, including the Mint for over a decade and now the Drill Hall for a bit longer, which we call History House. Fortunately, we

are to be placed under a new building management regime at the Drill Hall by State Government. This will lead to better maintenance, but also increased rent. How much rent is still to be determined.

Fortunately, our cultural capital is in a magnificent state. Our Council is active and always seeking to improve itself. Our collections are significant in Australian terms and well managed by a Collections Committee and two excellent part-time collections staff. The *VHJ* and *History News* grow in excellence and recognition. Our Heritage Committee continues to make its mark. Our events continue to attract strong audiences. We recently made a submission to the national inquiry into Cultural Policy, available on our website, about the importance of history. Our human capital is also excellent in terms of our paid staff, our committee members and other volunteers. However, our membership at about 1,200 is not as large as it could be, given what we do and how well we do it. A rate of \$75 per annum for an individual digital membership is modest and helps foster the historical knowledge and heritage of our state.

What if many of us gained a new member from among our history loving or philanthropically-minded friends? It would dramatically boost our financial, human and hence our cultural capital. Perhaps they might give a tax-deductible donation instead, to help us collect, protect and support the dissemination of historical knowledge in this state. Let's ask our friends if they might assist?

**Richard Broome AM**

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## Editors message:

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### A good situation leads to an apology

*History News* is in the pleasing situation of having too many submissions. Thank you to everyone who submitted articles on the holiday theme. I have loved reading all the submissions, as will our readers. This October issue is now bursting at the seams with many more pieces yet to be added. Therefore, regrettably, the articles not included in this October issue of *History News* will be published in future issues; as space provides and in the order that they were received.

**Sharon Bettridge**  
Editor



# HERITAGE *report*

## A full inquiry; 'Victory House'; and our portable buildings



### A full inquiry into heritage protection?

The Victorian elections are coming. This is a once in every four years chance to make our voice heard in favour of better heritage protection. We will be asking members and historical societies to put to candidates the question; will you commit to supporting a Legislative Council Inquiry into the Victorian planning framework? This is desperately needed and it is feasible because the current Inquiry has done much of the spadework and received 285 submissions, many of them important: (<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc-lc/inquiries/article/4652>).

Two upper house MPs, Clifford Hayes and Samantha Ratnam, obtained the support of both major parties to initiate the Inquiry, but early this year the committee decided not to hold hearings and instead to issue an interim report based on the written submissions. It summarises the submissions and demonstrates how our planning policies fail to preserve significant heritage. Its recommendation, there was only one, was that a full inquiry be initiated at the beginning of the next Parliament, based on and in effect continuing this Inquiry.

This would be a crucial step forward. If a full Inquiry is begun and holds public hearings, the short-comings of current heritage protection will be on full display and it will be possible to push for reform. So, we will be asking candidates to

commit to a full Inquiry. More importantly, we will be urging you, our members, to ask this vital question of candidates. Local voices will have considerable impact. If you have any queries, please contact me using the RHSV email: [admin.officer@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:admin.officer@historyvictoria.org.au)

### 'Victory House', Ballarat

A good example of the problems we face in heritage protection is a recent Ballarat Council decision to allow the demolition of 'Victory House', in Geelong Road, Canadian Gully. James Wong Chung, a successful Chinese goldmine manager, built 'Victory House' in 1906 and named it after the 1902 Melbourne Cup winner, The Victory. Mr Chung had clearly adapted to Victoria's love of racing!

The Chung family lived in the home for more than a century, until it was sold in 2008. During this time, 'Victory House' played a significant role for Ballarat's Chinese community, often hosting gatherings and celebrations. This alone makes it worthy of protection under Criterion H, 'Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history'. 'Victory House' represents a success story for Chinese involvement in the Gold Rush and thus more worthy of protection.

Ballarat's Heritage Consultant Dr Robyn Ballinger determined that 'Victory House' was of local significance and Council officers recommended that

Council seek interim and permanent heritage protection for the site, but Councillors voted 4-3 to allow demolition. Councillor Mark Harris led the vote against protection. He told the ABC that Council must draw a line on interference with privately owned property.

Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, of Buninyong Historical Society, called this, 'a very bad decision for Ballarat, particularly with this push to get world heritage listing for the Goldfields'. Charles Zhang, President of the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat plans to seek an interim protection order from Heritage Victoria. In addition to our member societies, both Ballarat Heritage Watch Incorporated and the National Trust have expressed the greatest concern about this threat. Like these bodies, the RHSV points to the significance of 'Victory House' as an important part of Ballarat's heritage.

Given the loss of so much of Ballarat's tangible Chinese heritage and the World Heritage bid, it would be foolhardy for Council to sacrifice yet another heritage asset.

### Workshop on portable buildings

Seeking a better outcome for Australia's unique collection of extant 19th century portable buildings, the RHSV hosted a

■ 'Victory House', the home of James Wong Chung, in 1907–08, with Mabel Wong Chung and her siblings, Martin and Lillian (ABC Photo)

“

Given the loss of so much of Ballarat's tangible Chinese heritage and the World Heritage bid, it would be foolhardy for Council to sacrifice yet another heritage asset.

”



workshop at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 24 August, where Professor Miles Lewis explained how historical societies could aid the bid for World Heritage status by gathering information about portable buildings in their area. Representatives of some 20 societies attended in person and others by Zoom. Professor Lewis gave an illustrated talk on the state of the database at present and the information we still need to be in a position to make the bid for world heritage status. More societies have come on board since then. There is still plenty of time for other societies to join the effort by investigating the portables around them.

**Charles Sowerwine,**  
Chair, Heritage Committee.

Footnote

Fortunately, just after I submitted this article, I learned that the Heritage Council has issued an interim protection order for Victory House. Fingers crossed!

■ Participants at the Workshop on 19th-Century Portable Buildings, 24 August 2022 (Photo Christina Browning, RHSV)

## The Educational Publishing Awards Australia



**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

### **Analysing Australian History** **Richard Broome, Ashley Keith Pratt, et al.**

Written specifically for the new Study Design, *Analysing Australian History* is the first series of resources to cover all the requirements of the VCE Australian History syllabus. Led by Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, our expert author team of highly experienced teachers and historians draws on a wide range of compelling historical sources and activities to explore key themes in our past and captivate students with the various continuities and changes in Australian history.

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A percentage of each sale will be donated to the Indigenous Reading Project. Learn more about their valuable work at <https://irp.org.au>.

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Photo by T. Miller from the collection of the late Kitty Higgs, See MEHG 2013, *The Happy Hermits & Diary of a Trip to Evelyn*

## ‘The Collingwood of the Bush’: holidays at Mt Evelyn

Not well known today as a tourist destination, Mt Evelyn was, in the first half of the 20th century, extremely popular among the working people of Melbourne. The opening of a railway line to Lilydale in 1882 helped access to the small settlement, but it was the opening of the Lilydale to Evelyn line in 1901 and the subdivision of small bush blocks from 1914 onwards, which proved the impetus for a tourist deluge. By that time railway and mass market tourism was well underway in Australia, with sea-sides, mountains and natural attractions like rainforests and waterfalls most popular.

The earliest visitors were mainly male and represented a form of ecotourism. Between 1903 and 1907 a hut dubbed ‘Walden Hut’ on the Olinda Creek became a regular visiting site for three ‘Woodlanders’, with an interest in bird-watching and the ideas of Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, first published in 1854. Intellectuals, journalists and field naturalists joined E. Brooke Nicholls, Charles Barrett and Claude Kinane on holidays and weekends in the Village Settlement of small allotments called Olinda Vale at this time. Here they observed, took notes and photographs, and discussed ideas; many of which were published in a series of articles in the *New Idea* (1905-7) and later in the books of Charles Barrett.

Another group of young men, from Collingwood, made Evelyn the base for annual camping holidays on the Olinda Creek, between 1908 and 1911. The young men, apprentices and clerks, called themselves ‘The Happy Hermits’. No doubt taking advantage of cheap excursion fares, and a free site, they invited friends, family and young women they met from boarding houses to join them in various activities: afternoon teas; shared musical entertainment with keyboard and singing; hikes to Mt Dandenong, and visits to the jam factory on the Monbulk Road and to a local farm for raspberries and cream.

By 1912 the Evelyn Progress Association set free 400 brown trout into the Olinda Creek in order to encourage tourism. This active group aimed to augment the bush experience for others with signs, tracks and reserved places for holiday makers. In 1919 the name of the station was changed from Evelyn to Mt Evelyn, matching the name change with the same aim of encouraging tourism, made by the Post Office, six years earlier.

With the end of the First World War, these preparations bore fruit. Middle and working class people, particularly women, married and unmarried, found they could afford to buy a small block of bush within walking distance from a railway station. Cottages and shacks soon appeared, some being manufactured from flattened

kerosine tins and saplings at hand. On weekends hundreds of people alighted from the Lilydale to Warburton trains and disappeared down bush tracks like rabbits down a warren. They arrived with food and building materials and went home with large bunches of gumtips. In this period Mt Evelyn was referred to as ‘The Collingwood of the bush’.

The block-holders, their relatives and friends, and other young women and men staying and working in local boarding houses supplemented the weekend and holiday crowds. ‘Holly Lodge’, ‘The Outlook’ and ‘Grantully’ provided cheap boarding house holidays for Melbourne families and young women. They shared meals, went on short bushwalks, attended local dances, played cards and participated in evenings of musical performances and recitations.

The blockholders added verandahs, outhouses and rudimentary furniture to their shacks and cottages. Clusters of relatives and friends bought adjacent blocks so little holiday communities arose. An informal entertainment leader of ‘Billy Goat Hill’, now Fernhill Road, was Harold Schultz, a jeweller from Clifton Hill. He arranged Christmas bonfire parties where onions were roasted, Father Christmas attended and small gifts given. He also organised a New Year’s Day yabby catching competition at the dam in the main street of Mt Evelyn and cricket



Photo courtesy of Beryl Carroll. Harold Schultz and the O'Connor family



Sepia-toned postcard of Belgrave, c. early 1930s  
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/61d8d9b0e64ed9ac86ce2e80>  
 image courtesy of the Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society and Victorian Collections

## Holiday reflections: day trips

The hills were a day trip from the suburbs. The newspapers of the 1950s posted many photos of happy groups visiting the hills: church groups, sporting and social clubs: refreshing healthy air, escaping the city heat, horse riding, hiking, cycling, exploring the bush and swimming at Belgrave seem to be some of the popular activities.

People holidayed in the hills for one reason or another. In the mid-century couples and groups were still staying at Emerald, Kalorama, Mount Dandenong and Selby guesthouses. Others camped out at locations such as Belgrave.

My own experiences of the hills, as a boy from the 'burbs, and in a family with not much money and no car, were all day trips. From the suburbs where I grew up three families bonded by membership of a tennis club and the kids all at the same school. These families, including their combined five children enjoyed picnics at the picnic grounds which used to exist opposite today's 'Grants on Sherbrooke' in Kallista. This was a time before the cockatoos moved in and the rosellas would keep a fairly safe distance. On another occasion, almost the same group of family and friends, except it was mid-week, so no fathers just mums and kids who played tennis at Ferny Creek and swam in that pool that used to be open to the public about half way between Monbulk and Kallista.

There were various children's 'holiday' camps such as the Grantulla children's holiday camp and Gilwell Scout Camp where, when, a little older, I spent an Easter or two as a scout.

These are happy mid-20th century childhood memories: perfect weather, ice-creams, no fear of trees killing people, glorious tree ferns, wonderful smells of the bush and an open camp fire for a billy and some snags.

**Robert Jungwirth**

President

Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society

matches against the permanent residents of the village. Hiking; seeking and collecting orchids, heath, gum tips and ferns; communal cooking for large groups; making music; and, above all, dances in the local public hall, contributed to fond holiday memories of conviviality and laughter.

With the Depression in the 1930s and World War II (WWII) following, many of the blocks and cottages were a valuable fall-back position for those who lost houses, jobs or were evicted from Melbourne properties. Holiday visiting continued well into the 1940s but post WWII housing shortages also saw more people making use of holiday blocks and buildings to make their permanent homes. A survey of houses in the 1990s revealed how many domiciles appeared to have grown from those early 1920s shacks or cottages. What differentiated Mt Evelyn as a holiday destination was its proximity to Melbourne and to a railway line, and the cheapness of the land. It enabled families and young working people of both sexes to enjoy the luxury of leisure and holidays away from the city in a bushy environment, to which they were increasingly attracted.

**Dr Janice Newton**

for Mount Evelyn History Group

Professional  
 Historians  
 Association (Vic & Tas)  
 30th anniversary



The RHSV heartily congratulates our colleagues at the Professional Historians Association (Vic & Tas) (PHA) on reaching 30 years in 2021! For Victorians, PHA started in 1991 with a small collective of Monash History graduates striking out on their own as public historians under the auspices of the History Institute of Victoria. Tasmanians had formed their PHA branch in 1990 evolving from the Hobart Urban History Group of the late 1980s. In 2000 the Victorian branch became an Incorporated Association, and by 2018 the Victorian and Tasmanian branches amalgamated. Three decades have seen a wonderful history of collegiate growth and development. Past and present members and friends of the association are warmly invited to join us from 2-5pm on the 13 November 2022 at Graduate House Carlton to celebrate the anniversary. For details and bookings see <https://www.phavic.org.au/>.

## Vale John Bennett AO

With the passing of Dr John Michael Bennett AO, aged 86, on 17 July 2022, Australia lost its most eminent legal history scholar. A gentleman of the old school, his extensive scholarship was characterised by its meticulous research, the scrupulous fairness with which he treated his subjects and by his beautifully clear writing. He was particularly known for his remarkable 18 volume series, 'Lives of Australian Chief Justices'. Included in that were biographies of three Victorian Chief Justices: Sir William a'Beckett, Sir William Stawell and George Higinbotham. The value of John's contribution to our understanding of legal history in Australia cannot be overstated and it is unlikely that the scope of his research will ever be equalled.

**Simon Smith**



# History Victoria Support Group

Historical societies and schools;  
histories of Victoria's schooling  
and VCE Australian History



1872-2022

## Public Education

RHSV's October 'History Week' expanded several years ago to become 'History Month', largely because there were more activities on offer than could be managed and enjoyed in seven days. For 2022, the many excellent events available can be found on RHSV's 'History Month' page: <https://historymonth.org.au/>. Emails are welcome from individuals or societies who believe they also have an event that might qualify for RHSV calendar promotion: [info@historymonth.org.au](mailto:info@historymonth.org.au).

Although not officially a theme, RHSV's October program has taken on a significant 'education' flavour, thus this month's HVSG report takes up the opportunity to profile 'RHSV and schools' in terms of events already planned. But it serves also to introduce some preliminary ideas, if you have not already considered the possibilities, of activities between your historical society and local schools.

*A more comprehensive set of resources will be posted on the RHSV website and advised through our bulletin, 'Old News'.*

### Engaging with schools

History Month often sees a concerted approach by societies to share their community's history with school audiences. In some cases, societies commence the conversations; in others, teachers do. The most common exchanges are between societies and local primary schools, but secondary schools should not be overlooked. In either case, teachers and students enjoy the excitement of special visitors and the different experiences they bring.

Here are some useful tips to help you start thinking about engaging with schools for the first time, or in different ways.

### Checking requirements before any excursion or incursion in person or by Zoom: Child Safe Standards

The facilities that historical societies possess, standard occupational health

and safety (OHS) measures, as well as individual school requirements, will determine whether a school group visits a society, an 'excursion', or society representatives visit a school, an 'incursion'. Zooms are increasingly common but far less ideal than seeing people and 'history' in three-dimensional form.

School excursions require very careful consideration before anything is proposed: is there enough space in any room for social distancing; have all tripping and other hazards been removed; are there adequate toilets for the number of visitors; are there first aid facilities; how many society representatives will be required to work 'in sight at all times' with the students; and, how many teachers will attend? Importantly, all society representatives working with students, whether as part of excursions or incursions, must have a valid 'Working with Children Check'.

An especially useful website brought to my attention by RHSV Councillor Paul Fearon should answer many of your questions and facilitate your preparations in the above regards. Visit the Victorian Government Commission for Children and Young People - New Child Safe Standards: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/new-child-safe-standards-now-apply/>

Many individuals and societies will probably find taking stories and objects to students the easier form of interaction and one that a school might prefer; teachers then do not need to worry about transport time and costs and increasingly complicated excursion forms.

### Preparing for meaningful and enjoyable sharing

Although not always the case, teachers who are either still working or retired,

are often members of historical societies. However, schools certainly do not expect society representatives to be experienced teachers, nor that representatives will have a strong grip of curriculum requirements. In depth knowledge of the local history is any society's 'badge of honour'.

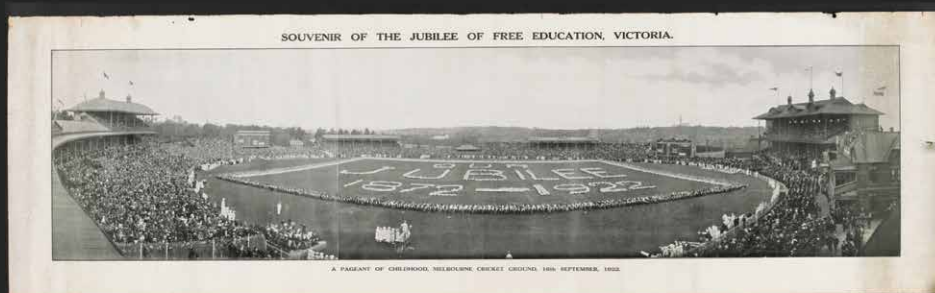
Schools will, however, be more receptive to interacting with societies if the societies offer some broad links to curriculum requirements at the targeted year level. To understand 'History' at different year levels in Victorian schools, visit the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority website:

<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/the-humanities/history/curriculum/f-10#level=3-4>

A keyword search of "Victoria history curriculum" will take you to the same page. The key headings for History from Years Foundation, 'Prep', to Year 10 are easy to find, for example, 'Levels, years or grades, 5 and 6: From Colony to Nation'. To keep your preparations as simple as possible and allow the focus to be entirely on 'history', review the titles and helpful key questions then scroll down past 'Historical Concepts and Skills' to 'Historical Knowledge'. And, to keep preparations even simpler, use only the original headings, the questions and any keywords that stand out under 'Historical Knowledge' to inform what stories you might share and which objects from your collection will be relevant.

Schools are largely seeking the stories that are most significant to the community they share with you. Having established the key headings, questions and 'buzzwords', the next question to ask, if using the same Level 5-6 example, is 'Does our society hold objects that say something about our community in





Victoria, at any time from local settlement through to 2000?' It surely does ... Where possible and safe, according to the initial OHS and Child Safe Standards, such objects might then form the basis of a collection to be taken into a school or that students might visit on society premises.

### Delivering an exciting history experience

No matter who is presenting, a huge tip is *not to try to tell a community's whole history in too short a time*. A 'lecture' rarely works with school groups of all ages. Rather, allow the objects tell the stories. Clever presenters can ask students a series of simple 'descriptive' questions about each object, even as simple as 'what is the object, who might have used it, where was it used and when' then the more complex 'how was it used and why was it used'. Students' answers, along with presenters' affirmations or gentle prompts to 'keep thinking' and then presenters' final summaries, will create a more interactive experience that still covers significant elements of a community's history. The presenter can 'bounce off' the students' responses; being sure to encourage responses from as many students as possible, and from girls as much as boys. All up, students will feel special for being 'their own historians' and presenters will more likely enjoy the happy interactions.

Again, these are only introductory ideas with more to come. In the meantime, you

might benefit from reading two items on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies website:

Ann Parry, (2016) *Local History and Schools' Curriculum Guidelines*, <https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Local-History-and-Schools-Curriculum-FAHS.pdf>.

Suzanne Boatto, Sarah Cammarano, Shehani Rukanayake and Rosalie Triolo 'Teachers, Historical Societies and Primary School Children: "Doing History"' *Federation of Australian Historical Societies Newsletter*, June, 2017, pp 14-15: [https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FAHSNewsletter43\\_June2017.pdf](https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FAHSNewsletter43_June2017.pdf)

### Learning about Victoria's Schools: RHSV's conference 'Free, Secular, Compulsory. 150th Anniversary of the Victorian Education Act, 1872', 1-2 October 2022

RHSV's biennial conference commemorated the sesqui-centenary of Victoria's Education Act 1872. The program boasted a strong cast of presenters delivering papers on diverse facets of the successes and shortcomings of the Act in relation to different peoples, places and local and world events. However, the days also showcased resources about schools that are available for societies' and individuals' use with schools or when writing school histories. The conference details may be found

here: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/free-secular-compulsory-150th-anniversary-of-the-victorian-education-act-1872-conference-2022/>

### Supporting the new VCE Australian History Study Design

RHSV members are always stunned to learn that Victoria is the sole Australian state or territory offering a Year 12 course wholly dedicated to Australian history. Consequently, RHSV historians and some of Victoria's best History teachers worked with Cambridge University Press to produce a series of four textbooks to support the Study Design in its first year and strengthen the work of the small band of competent and dedicated teachers who have kept the subject alive. Some of these and other teachers and historians have collaborated for an event that will review the first year as well as enable networking and support for 2023. The event is free and RHSV members other than teachers may wish to attend to learn about Australian history at the most senior school level: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/vce-australian-history-workshop-on-study-design-year-1/>

We look forward to your participation in one or more of the above events.

### Dr. Rosalie Triolo

Convenor HSVG (RHSV)

Email: [hvsg@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:hvsg@historyvictoria.org.au)



## Camping at Merricks Beach

Each summer in the mid 1920s a group of young, single men camped on the cliff top at Merricks Beach fronting Western Port. The view was spectacular. They had a miner's-style tent; canvas with no floor. A kerosene lamp provided light and meals were prepared over a kerosene stove. Water was fetched in buckets fashioned from two old kerosene tins. Each day two of the campers made the three-kilometre, uphill hike to the Merricks store for their water supply. Days were spent swimming and body surfing in the water or athletic fun on the beach.

Ilma Hackett

Balnarring & District Historical Society

# Around the societies

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

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

**FOR THE DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE** please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 16th October 2022.

**APOLLO BAY:** Plans have been developed by the Society to utilise the whole Museum site in order to maximize the potential of the property to improve exhibition, research, education and volunteer facilities. A grant from the Apollo Bay Community Bank branch of the Bendigo Bank is helping us to extend our activities by opening up the house, which was built for the manager next to the Apollo Bay Cable Station in 1935. We are looking to purchase furnishings and fittings in keeping with the era of the house; that is, 1930s-1950s and set up the rooms to reflect this era. If you have items from this period that you have tucked away and which are now no longer of use to you, please contact us to see if they would fit with our refit of the house.



**BENDIGO:** Walks into History: First Sunday of the month at 10:00am

Cost: Non members \$10.00, Members \$5.00 (unless otherwise specified)

Events remain subject to COVID restrictions.

October 2 – 'A meander through the White Hills Cemetery', with Stan Cue. Meet at the main entrance. November 6 – 'Balak Kalik Many: Walking Together', A short stroll through Dja Dja Wurrung's history of Bendigo. Meet at the TAFE courtyard. December 4 – 'A Cricketer's tour of the Queen Elizabeth Oval and caretaker's house museum' with Dennis Johanson and Stan Cue, former curator. Meet at the View Street entrance of the GEO. <https://www.bendigohistory.com/events/>

**CAMPERDOWN:** The Camperdown Cemetery Trust is to be congratulated for completing their latest project of signage featuring twenty 'Burials of Significance', each with a photo and short biography. A visit to the cemetery to view the signage and many other improvements is highly recommended. Our society is proud to have assisted with content for this worthwhile project. Also, July 2023 - 140 years since the railway opened to Camperdown. For more information, keep an eye on our website

<https://camperdownhistory.org.au/> or Facebook page [facebook.com/camperdownhistory](https://facebook.com/camperdownhistory)



**CASTLEMAINE:** 'All That Steams' - Sunday October 16, 2022, celebrating the 160th anniversary of the first train arriving in Castlemaine, on October 15, 1862. Join us for a historic walking tour of the Station and explore the history of the precinct, on the same day that the VGR train travels back and forth to Maldon. Two tours available: 10am and 2:30pm, meeting outside the VGR museum on Platform 3. Come early to look at the museum, or grab a coffee at their kiosk or at the V/Line café on Platform 1. Tour cost: \$25 adult / \$10 student / \$60 family. Ticket sales can be purchased through both the Mount Alexander Shire website: <https://book.bookeasy.com/mount-alexander-box-office/events/95792> and at the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre, either online or in person.



**CHELSEA:** After many weeks sorting and packing, the Society moved to our new home at The Hub, Showers Avenue, Chelsea on Friday 5 August. Currently we are busy unpacking boxes and generally getting organised: much like moving house! With the move to the new premises, we have new opening hours. The Society is now open for visitors on Tuesdays between the hours of 10am and 3pm. We receive many enquiries from members of the public looking for information, articles and photos. Enquiries can be made by email to: [chelseadistricthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:chelseadistricthistorical@gmail.com) or in person on a Tuesday. The Society has collected many family stories, photos and recollections over the years from residents. If you would like to contribute your personal story, family history or activity let us know. The stories of today's residents will be the history of future generations.

**COBURG:** Talk - Professor Zoe Laidlaw: 'Australian legacies of British slave ownership'. Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 8pm. Talk - Dr Annely Aeuckens: 'Post World War II industries in northern Melbourne'. Wednesday 16 November at 8pm. Held at the Coburg Library meeting room in Victoria Mall.

**DONCASTER TEMPLESTOWE:** The Society now has a social media 'Instagram' page. Follow us: @doncastertemplestowehsoc and please ask your family and friends to also follow us. Photos and short videos will be posted from time to time showing aspects of our collection and activities. And remember we have a Facebook page where information of interest regarding the Society and its activities are more widely shared: <https://www.facebook.com/DoncasterTemplestoweHistoricalSociety/> There is also our web page which has all our Society's articles and information saved in a fully searchable format: <https://dt-hs.blogspot.com>





**HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT:** The 50th anniversary of our Society is in 2023. If anyone has any ideas regarding this function, most likely to be held mid-year as a luncheon at the Hastings Club, or can contribute with information about the past 50 years, please contact us. For family histories, if you have any photos or family papers of interest that we could borrow to scan and file please also contact the Society. If you wish to write down your experiences during the time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, these could be placed in family histories. What is happening now will be of historical value. Email: [hwphs@outlook.com](mailto:hwphs@outlook.com) or phone 0490 132 011 Website: [www.hwphs.org.au](http://www.hwphs.org.au)

**HAWTHORN:** Sunday 23 October 2022 at 2pm at the Hawthorn Community Precinct - Dr. Madonna Grehan: William Henry Archer. In 1853, Governor Charles La Trobe chose statistician William Archer to recommend a plan for the compulsory civil registration of births, deaths and marriages in Victoria, appointing him as acting registrar general until a permanent head was chosen in 1859. Archer held substantial property in Burwood Road, Hawthorn, on the corner of Henry Street, until moving to 'Alverno' in Mary Street, Hawthorn. This talk will be preceded by the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

**HISTORY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA:** Each year, the History Council of Victoria presents a public lecture that shares fresh thinking and new evidence on an historical topic. This year Associate Professor Catherine Kovesi will present on 'Beauty in Response to Plague: the city of Venice'. **This is a free event and will be presented online.** October 20 2022, 5:30-7pm. Contact: [info@historycouncilvic.org.au](mailto:info@historycouncilvic.org.au) or 0422 519 322. More info at [https://www.historycouncilvic.org.au/annual\\_lecture](https://www.historycouncilvic.org.au/annual_lecture)

**LINTON AND DISTRICT:** Formed in 1981, the Society was one of the first in the region. It continues to promote the history of Linton and district, making it more accessible to both locals and non-locals alike. The Society holds an extensive collection of paper records, photographs, memorabilia and artefacts that are accessible to members and non-members for research purposes.

Nominal fees are charged for this service. The Society conducts regular meetings, has regular Open Days, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Society Notes*. Its headquarters is the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre, formerly Nelsons Undertakers, which the Society rents from the Shire and which it has been restored and maintained since the 1980s. The Society has also been the Committee of Management for the restored 1874 Linton Free Library next door since 1999. Visit our website at <https://www.lintonhistory.org.au/>



**MARYBOROUGH MIDLANDS:** Worsley Cottage and Research Centre, 3 Palmerston Street, Maryborough 3465. Telephone: (03) 5461 2518. Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am–12noon, Sundays 2-4pm. email: [mmhs@outlook.com.au](mailto:mmhs@outlook.com.au). Website [mmhs.net.au](http://mmhs.net.au) In a recent press release, Central Goldfields Shire announced that funding had been allocated for repairs to Worsley Cottage. The cottage has been closed for over two years pending repairs, which has unfortunately led to misunderstanding over the work of the Society. We can assure potential researchers and visitors that our Research Centre and Museum Complex are well and truly open for business. It's hoped that repairs to the Cottage itself can begin soon, and that visitors will once more be able to access the Cottage itself as well as the collection inside.

**NARRE WARREN AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP:** Berwick Cemetery Walk - Join us on Sunday 30 October 2022 at 10am as we revisit graves at Berwick Cemetery to tell stories about our local pioneers. There are stories of murder and misfortune, and the horror and heartbreak of the World War I. The easy ninety-minute walk includes light refreshments at the conclusion of the walk. Berwick Cemetery

is at the corner of Inglis and Buchanan Roads. Cost is \$5 per adult paid on the day, children under 16 free. Bookings: Jane 0412 084 671 or email [cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au)

**SUNSHINE:** The Society has organised a day-long excursion to the H V McKay Rural Discovery Centre in Elmore Saturday, 15 October 2022. On arrival, visitors will be provided with an interactive tour of the agricultural museum and tourist information centre. You will be able to discover the unique history of the Sunshine Harvester, which was developed in the Elmore area by Hugh Victor McKay. The Annual Pioneers lunch and the Society's 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee is on Sunday 20 November 2022, 12:30pm to approximately 3:30pm at the Sunshine RSL, 50 Dickson Street, Sunshine. Cost: \$25 per person includes a two-course meal. For further information or bookings, email [hewsonkerry@gmail.com](mailto:hewsonkerry@gmail.com) Bookings by, or before Friday, 11 November. [www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au)

**WESTERN VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:** 2022 Zone Meetings: Southern Zone Meeting - Saturday 22 October at Camperdown. Hosted by Camperdown and District Historical Society, Venue: Heritage Centre, 241 Manifold Street, Camperdown, [camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com). Wimmera Zone Meeting - Saturday 22 October at Dimboola, 10am for 10:30 start. Hosted by Dimboola and District Historical Society, Venue: R.S.L. Hall, 113 Lloyd Street, Dimboola, [ddhs3414@gmail.com](mailto:ddhs3414@gmail.com). Midlands Zone and W.V.A.H.S. Executive Meetings Saturday 29 October at Nullawil, Hosted by Nullawil Historical Society [nullawilhistorical@hotmail.com](mailto:nullawilhistorical@hotmail.com). 2023 W.V.A.H.S. AGM Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 April in Charlton



# Windows on history: 'A Royal and Ancient Game...'



On an unseasonably warm summer's day in December 1929, Commonwealth Golf Club's 'magnificent new clubhouse' was opened by Lord Somers, the Governor of Victoria, at the end of a week of competition marking the anniversary of the 4th Annual Open Day. In the 1920s, Oakleigh's sandy soils were farmed as dairy runs, flower farms and market gardens; they also provided the right ingredients for laying out golf links, as Metropolitan and Yarra had already done.

The Oakleigh site was to be a permanent home for the club after several changes of venue. It was started by a small group of enthusiasts, who began 'knocking a golf ball' around a rough six-hole course in Carnegie, known as Flatman's paddock. But, by 1914, around two dozen foundation members established a club on leased land to the east of the Darling railway station, later to become Waverley Golf Club.

The course at Oakleigh was originally only 12 holes, but it was gradually expanded and completed by 1924. Its growing popularity demanded a suitable premises for members and a design competition for the clubhouse drew sixteen entries, with Melbourne architects, Sale and Keage's elegant solution selected by the building committee. The firm had previously created appropriate spaces and up-to-date amenities for the eight-storey

Royal Automobile Club of Victoria premises in Little Collins Street and rejuvenated the old St Kilda Town Hall into a civic building worthy of the municipality's importance. By siting the low-profile Commonwealth clubhouse on a small rise, the architects were able to incorporate views of the entire course through large plate glass windows in all the spacious main rooms and the length of the balcony and terraces, as well as make provision for locker rooms and services on a lower level.

The proposed building plans drew special attention to the dining room with a large stone fireplace that would create a sense of warmth and domesticity, despite the dining room seating 100 persons. The fireplace was to be flanked by two angle windows, offering views of 'the country and the Dandenong mountains beyond...'

By the time the building opened, the angle nook windows were filled with two stained glass windows that, through image and verse, reminded members of the vagaries of hitting a small white ball across fairways and into tiny cups. In the window to the left of the fireplace, two Elizabethan gentlemen are on the fairway, one about to swing his club, and in its pair on the right, a white-bearded old gentleman, watched by his young caddy, is hunched over his club as his putt overruns the hole.



The windows were the gift of one of Commonwealth's foundation members, William Wheildon (1868-1941), formerly senior stained-glass artist and head of the stained-glass department and, by the 1920s, a director of Brooks, Robinson & Co, Melbourne; the firm that made the windows. Wheildon is thought to have spent time researching the scenes before the designs were finalised, and then he ensured that only the best mouth-blown glass was used for the images, while 'bulls-eyes' and quality English glasses were used for borders.

Like all artists employed by that firm, Wheildon trained in Warwick and Birmingham before he accepted the Australian appointment and arrived in Melbourne in May 1900, just as Melbourne was beginning its recovery from the 1890s economic depression.

Almost immediately, Wheildon was involved in the firms' major church commissions, such as the Frank Grey Smith memorial at Christ Church, St Kilda and then the Edward Henty jubilee window at St Stephen's, Portland in 1901. As well as hundreds of church windows throughout Victoria and interstate, Wheildon oversaw commercial and domestic works, including the extensive and spectacular leadlights throughout the new Commercial Travellers' Association building in Flinders Street, Melbourne, designed by H W & F B Tomkins in 1913 and refurbished as a boutique hotel a century later.

Close connections between Frank B Tompkins and William Wheildon were to be found on the golf course where both played a very creditable game. However, their friendship continued beyond the links, as Frank was a witness at the marriage of William to Alice Munro in 1910. The couple had a son and two daughters, and the year before Commonwealth's clubhouse opened, Wheildon gave two small windows *Prudence* and *Fortitude*, to his daughters' school, Toorak College, for the new building at Mount Eliza.

One Commonwealth golfer told of the advice he was given when still a teenager struggling with the 600-yard 17th. The veteran recommended that he, 'line up the shot with the stained-glass windows son, that way you will lay the ball in precisely the right place'. The advice proved valuable, and the windows remain intact, apposite and elegant reminders of the history and purpose of Commonwealth Golf Club.

**Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM**



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## Holidays in Monbulk: early 1900s

The early years of the 20th Century saw the opening up of the Dandenongs to tourism as Melbourne's suburban population sought to spend leisure time in the nearby hills. As railways came through the district and roads were improved, small townships such as Monbulk drew day-trippers for picnics. Others, who wanted to spend an extended time over weekends or holidays, would book rooms in district guest houses.

The natural beauty of the area, with small creeks quietly meandering their way through ferny gullies, was accessible through miles of walking tracks, both within nearby Sherbrooke Forest and along the Tourist Track from Sassafra, through Monbulk and on to Emerald. Along with the golden blossoms of the wattles and the majestic mountain ash, this made the relative proximity of this area to the metropolis a holiday magnet.

Picnic grounds were established for the benefit of these seekers of relaxation. For those who sought greater comforts, some of the larger guest houses would even provide tennis courts, croquet or billiards. Monbulk's best known guest house was Nathania Springs, which was established around 1900 and drew everyone from Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, Dame Nellie Melba, and royalty when the Prince of Wales visited in 1924. At the other end of the spectrum, gangster Squizzy Taylor was also a frequent visitor. Monbulk was a holiday destination that welcomed all.

**Armin Richter**

President Monbulk Historical Society



**TOP** 1928 Picnic at Kallista besides Clematis Avenue (Sherbrooke Road) with Bob Wiley's bakery in the background





■ The Darwin camp at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory. The Don peeping in on the edge. Don Darwin with children and cousins.

## Darwin and Blair holidays

The call for reminiscences of early holidays had my wife, Heather and I reaching for the photo albums. Heather's parents had frequented a rented house in Rosebud over Christmases and Easters and then May school holidays at Marylands guest house in Marysville; a practice that commenced with their honeymoon in 1947.

My parents purchased a Don caravan from the Oakleigh manufacturer. The family then spent six weeks at Tidal River, Wilson's Promontory, Dad returned to work after two weeks. We had the same site each year and Dad's cousin and family were nearby. I recall a general store that stocked everything including your mail, an open-air theatre, fishing and kayaking in the river and hiking everywhere. Our trusty 1946 Austin 16 towed the caravan until 1960 when it was replaced with a newer Austin A60.

A highlight one year was hiking the 20 or so kilometres to the lighthouse. We had gained an entry permit from my grandfather, Mick Bourke, who controlled all light house and Antarctic supply shipping. Then the lighthouse was run by a keeper and his wife, and she maintained a magnificent collection of seashells, collected by trading them across the globe with other lighthouse keepers.

By contrast Marylands guesthouse, run by the Haycrafts for many years, provided something for everyone, young and old. Arrival was on a Saturday or Sunday night with a talk by Jack Haycraft who ran a tight ship, there was an expected appropriate behavior. There was a quiet lounge room for the readers but Heather's parents took on the game's organization for the two weeks they were there. There was plenty to do, horse riding

was a favourite along with tennis, badminton, billiards, table tennis, cards, of course a few dances during the week and a picture night at the local cinema. At the end of the fortnight trophies were presented. As Empire Day, 24th May, fell during the stay there was a massive bonfire and crackers. Marylands employed university students to wait on the tables, all silver service. Trips to Mt Margaret to see snow, every year then, and local attractions: Upper Yarra Dam and Snobs Creek Trout Farm. Marylands supplied a hamper for any day excursion, and what a hamper.

Prior to Marysville, Heather's holidays at Easter and Christmas were in a rented house at Rosebud from the age of about 2 years old. When Heather was very little the first stop when arriving at Rosebud was to walk with her father down to the newspaper shop and buy a shell boat ornament. Towards the end of Christmas holidays at Rosebud grandma Blair came to Rosebud to stay and then both Heather's mothers and fathers extended family came, a big family lunch. Rosebud had a carnival at Christmas time, Heather and her parents would walk there. The spinning wheel was the favorite, a shilling or two shillings for a ticket. One year Heather won the two shillings spinning wheel selection at the top of the table which was a very lovely cream leather suitcase. Her Mum won many prizes including Krupps kitchen scales and a crystal vase. Heather's father often went out with the fishermen in an old wooden Couta boat early in the morning and brought home flathead tails which were cooked for breakfast.

**Dr. Norm Darwin**

President Automotive Historians Australia Inc.  
Australian Automotive Historian



■ Don Caravans were produced by "Don" Caravan Co Pty Ltd between 1934 and 1965. The company built its caravans in a factory located at 609-615 Neerim Road, Oakleigh, Victoria. This photo shows the factory and staff, probably sometime in the late 1940s. Also shown in the picture is a Model 140 caravan (14 ft, four berth).

Image courtesy of Don Ricardo and 'Vintage Caravans Forum': <https://vintagecaravans.proboards.com/thread/2014/don-caravans-oakleigh-vic>



“

Kirsten realised what a treasure trove of documents and objects was in the house: receipts and household accounts over a long period, letters and diaries, Gwen’s research notes, photographs and many miscellaneous documents reflecting life over the century.

”

## RHSV Library: The Jones Collection

**The RHSV has been fortunate to receive an extraordinary donation of documents covering over a century of family life in Coburg.**

When Ebenezer (Eb or Ted) Jones and Meda Maag married in 1921 they purchased a small weatherboard house in Coburg. They had a strong interest in music and literature which they passed on to their only child, Gwenda Dagmar Marie “Gwen” Jones. Gwen was born in 1923 and she and her parents kept a remarkable trove of documents relating to everyday life.

Gwen Jones was an accomplished musician but her career was in teaching. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1947 and taught at various schools in Melbourne and country Victoria. In 1953 she was awarded a travelling scholarship and spent a year in London studying drama education. In 1955 she was appointed to Geelong Teachers’ College where she trained students in drama, English, and history teaching. In 1964 she was appointed to Coburg Teachers’ College and this enabled her to return to the family home in Coburg. Gwen joined

the RHSV in 1966 through her friendship with Les Blake, then RHSV President. Following her retirement in 1986, Gwen was very active in the RHSV.

Gwen remained in the Coburg house until she was well into her nineties. Her mother had died in 1961 and Gwen continued living with her father until his death in 1985. Gwen spent the last five years of her life in care, before her death in October 2021 (obituary by Richard Aitken in *History News*, December 2021).

Kirsten Binns Smith, Gwen’s goddaughter and close friend, cared devotedly for Gwen in her later years.

Kirsten realised what a treasure trove of documents and objects was in the house: receipts and household accounts over a long period, letters and diaries, Gwen’s research notes, photographs and many miscellaneous documents reflecting life over the century. Kirsten assisted Gwen to fulfil her testamentary wish, that the Jones Collection of papers be donated to the RHSV.

Kirsten realised that the collection would need extensive sorting and in this she was assisted by her brother-in-law, historian Richard Aitken. Richard spent

most of the lockdown period sorting and listing the collection and housing it in archive boxes. Eighty boxes have now been delivered to the RHSV and there are about another fifty to come. It is rare for the RHSV to receive such a well-organised collection!

The family also knew that there would be expenses connected with the cataloguing and storage of the collection so they also made a substantial financial donation to assist with this. So far this has been used to purchase and install compactus shelving and in due course an archivist will be employed to build on the work done by Richard Aitken and add the records to the RHSV online catalogue. In addition, funding has been provided for a biennial lecture and a publication. Both these will focus on suburban life in the twentieth century and will make extensive use of the Jones Collection.

The RHSV is very appreciative of the foresight shown by Kirsten Binns Smith in facilitating the donation of this remarkable collection and ensuring that it is properly curated and made accessible.

**Elisabeth Jackson**  
Chair, Collections Committee



# Shire of Flinders & Kangerong.

## **REGULATION No. 4.**

In the pursuance of the powers conferred by Part IX of the 13th Schedule of the "Local Government Act 1903", the President, Councillors and Rate-payers of the Shire of Flinders and Kangerong order as follows:

## **BATHING PLACES.**

No person over Ten years of age shall bathe within 200 yards of either side of the Dromana Pier without Consent of the Council.

No person over Ten years of age shall bathe from the foreshore, commencing at a point distant 200 yards north west of the Sorrento Pier, thence along the Foreshore to the Bathing Boxes at Webster's Corner, without Consent of the Council.

## **DRESS.**

No person over Ten years of age shall bathe from any beach within the Shire, unless dressed in a Canadian Bathing Costume, or some similar costume, which shall effectively cover the body from the neck to the knee, so as to observe proper decency.

No person in bathing costume shall sit, lie, loiter on, or run along any part of the beach or seashore within the Shire, but shall proceed in a direct line to and from the dressing place.

No person in a bathing costume shall walk, ride or drive through any of the streets or thoroughfares of the Shire. Any Officer of Police, or any Officer of the Council may request any person who, in his opinion, is not sufficiently or decently dressed when in bathing costume, to forthwith resume ordinary dress, and such person shall forthwith comply with the request.

This Regulation shall apply to, and have operation throughout the whole of the Municipal District of the Shire of Flinders and Kangerong and 300 yards seawards of the boundary of the Shire, as set forth in the said Part IX of the 13th Schedule of the "Local Government Act 1903".

Adopted, 28th September, 1912

E. CLARK, President

Confirmed, 28th September, 1912

A W FARRELL, Sec.

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## Prue McGoldrick, née Hyett, 26 July 1925– 11 February 2022



Noted writer, Prue McGoldrick, née Hyett, died earlier this year, aged 96. Her legacy includes a number of local histories, relating to Sunshine and Gippsland. She lived in Gippsland for three quarters of her life. Her book, *When the Whistle Blew: A Social History of the Town of Sunshine 1920–1950* (1989), commissioned by Sunshine City Council, was the first detailed history of Sunshine to be published. Prue herself was the first writer on Sunshine's history to be born locally. She wrote brilliantly about her childhood years in the area in her book *My paddock: An Early Twentieth Century Childhood* (1994).

Prue began her life, with her twin sister Mary, at St Andrew's Hospital, King Edward Avenue, Sunshine. Her parents were Agnes Elvira Hyett, née O'Sullivan, and J. S. or Sam Hyett. Her grandfather Jacob Hyett and his family had migrated with H.V. McKay and his workers from Ballarat to Sunshine in 1906–1907. One of seven children, including three sets of twins, Prue spent the first quarter of her life in 'Tiny Town', South Sunshine. She and her twin sister Mary attended Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Sunshine, and Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne. They worked for CSIRO during World War II.

In 1949 Prue married Val McGoldrick, an engineer, and they moved to Yallourn, then to Paynesville. She began working as a journalist with the *La Trobe Valley Express*. When the town of Yallourn came to an end, about 1980, the McGoldricks moved to Paynesville and Prue worked for the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*.

Prue McGoldrick's works are a valuable contribution to the story of Victoria. Gippsland Printers published her centenary history of Morwell, *Steamhorse to Power: A Centenary History of Morwell Town* (1979). Prue also wrote *Yallourn was-* (1984), *St. Patrick's Church, Paynesville: a Catholic Church in Transition* (1996) and *Jaberanda & co.: Living in the Twentieth Century, 1950–2000* (2001).

A hard-working researcher who carefully cited her sources, Prue had a talent with words. Like her cousin, Jack Hyett, noted naturalist, teacher and writer, she loved nature. She was humble and generous and gave valuable help to Sunshine & District Historical Society by reviewing drafts of later books on Sunshine's history. She never forgot her roots.

She leaves four children and thirteen grandchildren.

**Olwen Ford**



## Inaugural Hugh Anderson Lecture

On 23 August, Professor Frank Bongiorno of the ANU presented a sparkling lecture to over 50 people at the Drill Hall, with another 25 people on Zoom. His lecture outlined the career and writings of the late Hugh Anderson, a celebrated author and collector of Australian folklore. Hugh was also a vice president of the RHSV in the 1980s. The full text of the lecture will be printed in the December issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*. Hugh's widow, Dawn Anderson, spoke at the end of the lecture and some of Hugh's family, including his children Warwick and Marcia, were present as well. Some retired to the Radisson across the road for dinner.

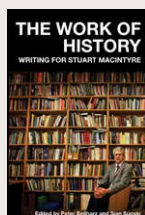
■ At the Radisson Hotel, from left to right: Frank Bongiorno, Richard Broome, Warwick Anderson.



# Bookshop catalogue

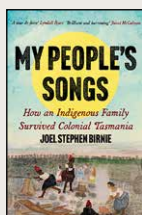
See our online catalogue at

[www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/)



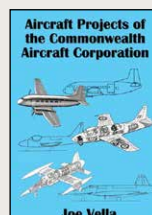
## **The Work of History: Writing for Stuart Macintyre**

Edited by Peter Beilharz and Sian Supski (2022)  
PB 408pp, \$39.99  
An exploration of the work and legacy of one of Australia's most distinguished historians: Stuart Macintyre. This collection of essays and responses revisits and extends this extraordinary life of achievement and engagement. Leading scholars write here of Macintyre's contribution to understanding radicalism and communism, post-war reconstruction, education and civics, universities, liberalism, historiography and the history of wars. It serves both as a snapshot of the state of the historian's art, and an introduction to those who come more recently to this highly contested field.



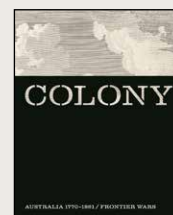
## **My People's Songs: How an Indigenous Family Survived Colonial Tasmania**

Joel Stephen Birnie (2022)  
PB 256pp \$34.95  
Joel Stephen Birnie tells the story of his ancestors, starting with Tarenootairer who, along with her daughters, fought for the indigenous communities they founded, and sparked a tradition of social justice that continues in Birnie's family today. *My People's Songs* is both a constellation of the damage wrought by colonisation and a testament to the power of family. Revelatory, intimate and illuminating, it does more than assert these women's place in our nation's story, it restores to them a voice and a cultural context.



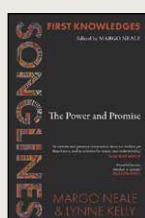
## **Aircraft Projects of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation**

Joe Vella (2022)  
PB 410pp \$65.00  
Starting with a brief history of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, this book documents and describes the aircraft projects initiated by the CAC during its 64-year history. Projects are described in chronological order, ranging from those that were brief conceptual works, to those that entered series production. Alongside the descriptions are 114 line drawings and CAC factory drawings. Data tables which cover performance and dimensions for most of the projects round out the information this book provides. A must have for anyone interested in Aviation history.



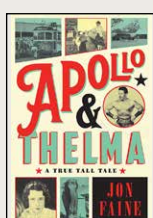
## **Colony: Australia 1770-1861 / Frontier Wars**

Edited By Cathy Leahy, Judith Ryan, Isobel Crombie and Megan Patty (2019)  
HC 37pp \$80.00  
*Colony* explores the immediate and far-reaching impact of British colonisation of Australia through historical, 20th century and contemporary art. Drawing on 1000 essential pieces of our cultural heritage, this book highlights the confronting and complex perspectives of the shared history of First Peoples and European settlers. This is an essential exploration of Australia's complex colonial mindset: from the tragedies of a contested beginning to the conversations that allow us now to contemplate a better future.



## **Songlines: the power and promise**

Margo Neale and Lynne Kelly (2020)  
PB 207pp \$24.99  
*Songlines* is part of the 'First Knowledges' series co-authored by Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers, edited by Margo Neale, senior Indigenous curator at the National Museum of Australia. Songlines are archives of powerful knowledge that ensured Australia's many Indigenous cultures flourished for over 60,000 years. Much more than a navigational path in the cartographic sense, these vast stores of information are encoded through song, story, dance, art and ceremony. This book was on the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2021 Shortlist.



## **Apollo and Thelma: A True Tall Tale**

Jon Faine (2022)  
HC 384pp \$45  
Apollo was a legendary strongman and circus star, famous for pulling trams with his teeth and having an elephant stand on him. Apollo's sister, Thelma, on the other hand, ruthless and rugged, had survived decades single-handedly running one of the most remote pubs in the outback until dying unexpectedly, leaving behind a complicated estate. Immersing himself in Thelma's estate, Jon is forced to untangle a long line of astonishing stories and episodes in our distant and recent history that keep intersecting with his own.



## **Hell Ship: The True Story of the Plague Ship Ticonderoga, One of the Most Calamitous Voyages in Australian history**

Michael Veitch (2020)  
PB 272pp \$22.99  
This book contains the riveting story of one of the plague-stricken sailing ship *Ticonderoga* that left England in August 1852, setting sail for Victoria with 800 doomed emigrants on board. *Hell Ship* is a brilliantly researched narrative of one of the biggest stories of its day, now all but forgotten. Broader than his own family's story, Michael Veitch brings to life the hardships and horrors endured by those who came by sea to seek a new life in Australia.



## **Winning for Women: A Personal Story**

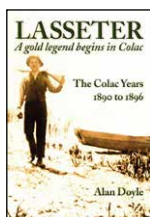
Iola Mathews (2019)  
PB 352pp \$29.95  
Iola Mathews was one of the first-generation women trying to 'have it all': a career and children. She was one of founders of the Women's Electoral Lobby, a journalist at *The Age* and an ACTU advocate for women workers during the 'Accord' with the Hawke-Keating Government. This memoir takes us inside the work required to bring about reforms, as well as recording a pivotal time for women in Australia's History. This is a vital source for those interested in policymaking, women, work and families.

# 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.**

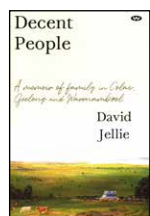
Please note: these books listed are not necessarily offered to the bookshop by authors, please check the shop catalogue.



### **Lasseter: A gold legend begins in Colac.**

Alan Doyle, Self-published, Colac, 2022, pp.1-70, ISBN 9780646854946.

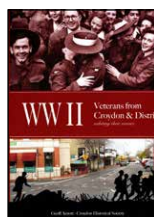
The question of whether Lewis Lasseter was a fabulist or simply delusional has been debated for decades. Lasseter's claim to have discovered a gold reef of immense richness in Central Australia was the stuff of legend in the depression blighted 1930s. The story of the lost gold reef spawned a popular romantic novel by Ion Idriess not long after a fateful mission set off into the dessert to 'rediscover' it. Lasseter was born into troubled circumstances at Bamganie in Victoria in 1880. This account of his younger years spent in Colac between 1890 and 1896 sheds new light upon forgotten aspects of his character which might well have indicated what was to come.



### **Decent People: A Memoir of Family in Colac, Geelong and Warrnambool.**

David Jellie, Wakefield Press, Mile End, 2020, pp. x, 1-274, ISBN 9781743057520.

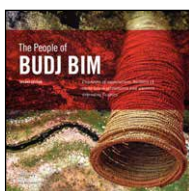
The second part of David Jellie's family story focuses on his antecedents, the earliest of whom came from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Croatia. They laid down roots in the Western Districts of Victoria, notably around Colac. Some were farmers, while later generations went into business; most notably as owners of Bilson's department store, the merchandising hub for the town and surrounding district. This enterprise endured two world wars, the Great Depression and disasters but remained focal to community, employing over 150 people at its height, before succumbing to takeover by a larger retailer. There are many family stories here of service to community and to the nation by the decent people from whom the book takes its title.



### **WWII Veterans from Croydon & District: Saluting Their Service.**

Geoff Arnott, Croydon Historical Society, Croydon, 2021, pp. i-382, ISBN 9780648361732.

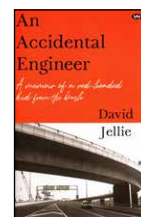
This expansive account of the contribution of the Croydon community during World War II looks at both community and individuals. In its broad sweep are included many servicemen and women who came to live in the district after the war. The book claims for Croydon several prominent people beyond those who were born or raised there. Among them is Hugh Clifford, son of a British aristocrat, who would later take his seat in the House of Lords. Barrie Dexter who went on to prominence as a diplomat. One homegrown celebrity was Alan Moorehead who earned fame as a war correspondent and author. Most stories, just as interesting, are of more humble men and women. The book suffers from sometimes poor pictorial reproductions.



### **The People of Budj Bim: Engineers of Aquaculture, Builders of Stone House Settlements and Warriors Defending Country.**

The Gunditjamara people with Gib Wattenhall, 2nd edition, em Press, Heywood, 2022, pp. 1-92, ISBN 9780955777820.

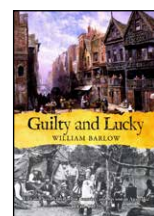
Since the first edition of this work, the Gunditjamara people have succeeded in having their cultural landscape recognised through World Heritage listing. This was the first such Indigenous community-led nomination in Australia. The fish trap systems embedded and used in the landscape for millennia demonstrated a continuity of culture that satisfied the World Heritage Committee. The system allowed for a settled community of Gunditjamara people, who built permanent stone houses next to their aquacultural resource. The first edition of this book was overall winner of the 2011 Victorian Community History Awards. Two new chapters detail the struggle to achieve the important goal of global recognition. It is an important story of dispossession and repossession, of healing and restorative land management.



### **An Accidental Engineer: A Memoir of a Red-headed Kid from the Bush.**

David Jellie, Wakefield Press, Mile End, 2020, pp. xi, 1-394, ISBN 9781743057537.

This is the first volume of David Jellie's family biography. In this instance it is autobiographical; a memoir of a nobody, as he puts it. Rather, it is a well written story of life in post-war Australia and a reminder that the lives of 'ordinary' people enrich us all. Jellie was an engineer, a career which saw him involved in building some of Victoria's most significant infrastructure. The pinnacle of his road building career was the West Gate Freeway. Along the way were other challenges, such as his amusing role in the demolition of the old suspension bridge to Phillip Island. He also became an adjunct professor at RMIT University. An "ordinary life" indeed.



### **Guilty and Lucky: Edward Needham Barlow, Convict, and his Son in Australia 1840-1922.**

William Barlow, the author, Malvern East, 2020, pp. 1-291, ISBN 9780648898405.

This is the story of two of William Barlow's ancestors, both named Edward. The elder was a convicted burglar, transported on the last convict ship to New South Wales in 1840. He would spend the balance of his life on the western plains of that colony, in 1849 fathering Thomas Edward Barlow, who in turn would have nine children. For the elder Edward, transportation was 'lucky' it relieved him of servitude in the English penal system and the chance of a new beginning. Edward the younger struggled to provide for his large family, shifting around the colonies before settling in Bendigo during the 1890s depression. This is a detailed family story, well researched and contextualised.