

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE 365 | APRIL 2023



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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

LAW AND ORDER UNDER LA TROBE: THE FIRST PRISONS OF PORT PHILLIP



Date: Tuesday
18 April 2023
Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm
Speaker: Dr Ashleigh Green
Cost: \$35 | \$50
Event type: In person

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, in partnership with the C J La Trobe Society, presents the annual A G L Shaw lecture delivered by Dr Ashleigh Green, the current La Trobe Society Fellow at the State Library of Victoria.

Dr Green has investigated the planning and construction of the first purpose-built penal and psychiatric institutions in the Port Phillip District and Colony of Victoria during the La Trobe administration (1839-1854). Her project provides an in-depth history of the construction and early administration of four of these key institutions, and how they set the precedent for the design and construction of gaols, prisons, and asylums in the colony that came after.

There will be catered refreshments served before the lecture from 5:30pm – 6pm.

THOMAS BENT, FRANCIS BRADFORD AND ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS IN MELBOURNE 1904-1909

Date: Thursday 20 April 2023
Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm
Speaker: Ken McInnes
Cost: \$10 | \$20
Event type: Hybrid

In our first co-presentation for 2023 with Engineering Heritage Victoria, Ken McInnes will speak about the controversies surrounding the electrification of Melbourne's suburban railway system in the early years of the twentieth century.

In 1904, electrical and mechanical engineer Francis Edwin Bradford (1869-1927), a recognised American electric tramways pioneer, was controversially contracted directly by Thomas Bent, Victorian Minister of Railways, and Premier, to report on and progressively electrify Melbourne's suburban railway system. But Bent postponed work on the report, and instead requested Bradford design and supervise the construction of an electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton, as a first stage of electrifying the railways. Bent's instructions did not sit well with the Railway Commissioners. After Bradford completed the work, Bent again postponed work on the report, and asked Bradford to operate the system and extend it to Brighton Beach. Bent gradually lost support, and the Railways instead appointed English engineer Charles Merz to report on electrification.

TOUR OF VICTORIAN TRADES HALL

Date: Thursday 11 May 2023
Time: 10-11:30am
Cost: \$20 RHSV members only
Event type: In person
Location: Trades Hall, 54 Victoria St, Carlton

During the COVID years the Victorian Trades Hall underwent a massive renovation which focused on not just the building but the vital cultural heritage that lives within its walls.

The Trades Hall, on the corner of Victoria and Lygon streets in Melbourne, is one of the world's oldest trade union buildings. It has been the home of trade unionism in the state of Victoria since 1874, and is associated with the history of the Australian Labor Party and with events significant to the whole country.

The Trades Hall was constructed in ten stages. It is principally recognisable for its imposing two-storey Classical Renaissance Revival façade. The earliest section (1874) is at the southern end of the site, directly behind the present Victoria Street entry building (1925). The original architects were Joseph Reed (1822-1890) and Frederick Barnes (c.1823-1883), of Reed and Barnes, designers of much of Melbourne's grand 19th century architectural heritage, including the Royal Exhibition Building.



History News

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COVER IMAGE: In 1954 Queen Elizabeth II visited the town of Yallourn during her tour of Gippsland. In the 1980s Yallourn was demolished to make way for further brown coal mining. Today the Old Brown Coal Mine Museum tells the story of the town that once was and of the history of coal mining in the region. Read page 7 for further information.

Image: Old Brown Coal Mine Museum Facebook page

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What's on is continued
on page 6



President's report

The importance of connections for the RHSV was again recently demonstrated in several ways. As you may now know, the Publications and Collections Committees are organising a new version of *Essential But Unplanned* (1994), the coffee-table book on Melbourne's lanes by our former president the late Professor Weston Bate. I, and Professor Andy May, an urban historian from the University of Melbourne and a member of the RHSV, will be authoring the updated parts of the book. RHSV volunteers and staff are recreating as close as possible the original book ready for the new edition. Our former Councillor George Fernando and I have organised that the Camera Club at the U3A Hawthorn group take images of the lanes as they are now for the new parts of the book.

During my meetings with the Camera Club, I asked the 15-20 participating photographers at the U3A Club if they would donate all the images they take to our Images Collection, as it is slim for the recent decades. They wholeheartedly agreed. Over the next month or two over 2,000 images will come into our collection.

But there is more. One of the club's members, Noel Henderson, has a friend who has also taken images of our city for years. I met with Peter Grimm, and he has agreed to donate about 8,000 images of Melbourne and its lanes taken since 2007. Peter has specialised in street art and has recorded these ephemeral artworks before they too

disappeared under new street art. It is an absolutely unique record of our city. Peter also experiments with High Resolution Convergence (HRC) imagery, whereby one image is created from the best components of up to fifteen.

To thank all photographers for their marvellous donations that will transform our collection, we have organised 'An Evening with Melbourne Lanes' on 11 May at 5.30 to 7.00pm at the RHSV. Over 60 images from these photographers will be shown and discussed. Everyone, RHSV members and non-members, are invited.

Another connection for us is that Judy Maddigan, our esteemed member who always presents the prizes at the Victorian Community History Awards, has assisted us once again. In December I had invited the Minister for Creative Industries to visit the RHSV to see what we do and to discuss our loss of an annual government grant from the end of 2023. Ministers have enormous calls on their time and often find it hard to accept all invitations. However, Judy Maddigan, the former member for Essendon and former Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly has advocated for us face to face with the Minister, and prevailed on him to attend. This will happen in April.

If YOU have a connection that might further the work of the RHSV or that of community history generally, please make this known to me or Rosemary Cameron, our Executive Officer.

Richard Broome AM

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Heritage Report:

Legislative Council Inquiry into the Planning Framework; Robur Tea House; Jack Dyer Stand

Legislative Council Inquiry into the Planning Framework

Among many heritage issues on the agenda, one stands out for us: the need to restart the Legislative Council Inquiry into the Planning Framework. Readers may recall that in the previous legislature this inquiry got off to a great start. The committee received 287 submissions, many of them very detailed and substantial. We made a significant submission and looked forward to the planned hearings. These were called off for want of time before the election. The committee filed an interim report proposing that the Inquiry be restarted in the next legislature.

The new legislature has met and the Legislative Council has elected a new Environment and Planning Committee. We are calling on them to ask them to restart the Inquiry. Something to raise if you're in contact with a Victorian MP!

We have been busy over the past few months. We face four different reviews and threats to the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Site as well as ongoing issues with the Queen Victoria Market. But I want to point now to two current issues that will be decided in the next month or so.

Robur tea house

This splendid warehouse is one of few intact remnants of Southbank's industrial heritage. It is one of the finest examples of a 19th century warehouse in Melbourne and, indeed, Australia. The building is of seminal historical importance as 'one of the few remaining traces of the industrial and warehousing establishments that until the 1970s and 1980s dominated the south bank of the Yarra'. There is little else that prevents Southbank from becoming a rabbit warren of soulless buildings. We believe that it's important to protect it.

A developer has proposed partial demolition to permit a massive development to incorporate the Tea House into a cluster of towers. Because the Tea House is on the Victorian Heritage Register, the developers have to obtain a permit from Heritage Victoria. Using the Norwegian 'starchitects' Snøhetta is meant to persuade Heritage Victoria that the loss is mitigated by the quality of the architecture. Snøhetta have designed

rectilinear buildings sitting at odd angles to the Tea House, connecting to it at every level, and swamping it.

On our behalf, Committee Member David Lansley prepared a strong submission to Heritage Victoria. He points out that the proposed 'Tea House Hotel' would be in excess of 100 metres tall and dwarf the original six storey building which currently stands 27 metres tall. This very tall and intrusive tower would destroy the Tea House's unique landmark status in this area and effectively relegate it to being a façade for retail spaces and food and drinks operations.'

Sadly, this is a repeat. We defeated a proposal to build over the Tea House in 2018. Developers have the funds to keep trying because one win gives them a huge profit.

Jack Dyer Stand Richmond Oval

We have followed this issue for several years. In April 2022, Melbourne City Council suddenly caved into the Richmond Football Club (RFC) and agreed to recommend demolition of this significant historic monument to Aussie Rules' heroic days. Labor Prime Minister Andrew Fisher opened the stand before the match between Richmond and South Melbourne on 6 June 1914. It is a rare surviving example of an Edwardian-era grandstand, the earliest surviving building on the site and largely intact. It is of great significance as the only surviving symbol of the RFC's presence at the Punt Road Oval and as a tangible witness to the heroic period of Aussie Rules.

The RFC initially claimed that demolition of this historic stand was required in order to obtain space for a full oval on which its Australian Football League Women's team could play. But the Club's consultants offered a viable alternative: obtaining the space by demolishing the 1984 Swinburne Centre, which is a blot on the landscape. So, there was a win-win solution, in which a beautiful, historic stand would be preserved and given a new lease on life while a peculiarly egregious building would disappear, thus improving the landscape.

City of Melbourne officers initially recommended protecting the Jack Dyer Stand and demolishing the Swinburne



Top: Proposed Development with Partial Demolition of the Robur Tea House (Snøhetta)

Bottom: Robur Tea House (1887), current view

Centre. There were secret discussions with the Club which led to the officers' changing their minds or being overruled. As a result, Councillors voted unanimously for demolition, even those Councillors who profess concern for heritage.

Sadly, the Jack Dyer Stand is not on the Victorian Heritage Register and, following the Council decision, Heritage Victoria refused to propose it for listing. We felt that the chances of saving the stand were slim. To his credit, Adam Ford, also known as 'The Bloodied Wombat', took up the challenge of applying to the Heritage Council to overturn the Heritage Victoria decision not to list the stand: see <https://bloodiedwombat.heritagenetworkvic.com.au/2022/11/why-jack-dyer-stand-must-be-saved.html>). He produced an impressive case, which Judy Smart supported on our behalf. We await the Council's decision.

Charles Sowerwine,
Chair, Heritage Committee,
5 March 2023.

2022 RHSV Donors

We would like to warmly thank the following generous individuals and foundations who, in 2022, supported our day-to-day work and also ensured that the RHSV has a strong future. Our members and friends are an eclectic group but they all share one characteristic; they love and value our stories, our history.

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Top: Rachel Standfield accepts a bouquet from Richard Broome
Bottom: Rachel Standfield

What's on at RHSV

continued from page 2

FINDING PLACES: HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Date: Monday 15 May 2023

Time: 10-11 am

Speaker: Patrick Ferry

Cost: Free

Event type: Zoom

Did you know the National Archives of Australia holds fascinating records which help tell the stories of local communities and historic sites? This free Zoom session will showcase some of the many items in the national archival collection which document local history and heritage including building plans and drawings, photographs, post office history records and other records.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY: COLONIAL FOUNDATIONS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN VICTORIA

Date: Tuesday 16 May 2023

Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm

Speaker: The Honourable Chris Maxwell AC

Cost: \$10 | \$20

Event type: Hybrid

We are delighted that The Hon Chris Maxwell will deliver the Society's inaugural Paul Mullaly History and Law Lecture during Law Week 2023.

This lecture will explore the value of legal history, both as a window into social and political history and as an aid to understanding the present state of the law. By way of illustration, the lecture will draw on Paul Mullaly's foundational work, *Crime in the Port Phillip District 1835-51* and highlight key aspects of criminal justice in colonial Victoria: jury trials, the role of the trial judge and early ideas about proof and punishment.



Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture

On 20 February a sell-out crowd of close to 200 from diverse backgrounds and ages gathered in the Drill Hall and on Zoom to hear Rachel Standfield and Karen Jones deliver the second Indigenous History annual lecture. At the opening, the President Richard Broome announced that after negotiations with the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Aboriginal Corporation, the lecture would be known from that moment as the Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture. Billibellary was the most eminent Kulin *ngurungaeta* or Elder of his generation who created a vision for resisting the invasion of

this Country, not by violence but by cultural maintenance, negotiation and transformation.

The lecture entitled: 'Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Histories in Early Colonial Melbourne: Country, Ancestors, and the Management of Newcomers', discussed the distinct strategies of resistance used by Wurundjeri elders, despite them being closely linked by kinship. Rachel Standfield was in the Drill Hall; her collaborator Karen Jones spoke from zoom. It is intended to publish the lecture in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.



■ A recent visit by a group from Stratford Historical Society included David Tulloch (left), grandson of one of the founders of the brown coal industry William Tulloch, pictured chatting with David Roberts (right).

Old Brown Coal Mine Museum, Yallourn North

A royal fountain, a light pole, an Olympic torch, a coal dredge and a gaol, coupled with hundreds of photographs and some innovative display techniques, provide a fascinating exhibition to tell the story of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley at Yallourn North.

The Old Brown Coal Mine Museum building itself played a significant role in the history, being constructed in 1948 as a recreation hut to complement the rather basic accommodation provided for the many migrants who came to work on construction of the Valley's brown coal open cuts and power stations.

In 1950 part of the main street slipped into the encroaching open cut leaving the bakers shop on the edge of the mine and leading to removal of the old township. The recreation building then became the post office and also provided temporary homes for some of the shopkeepers. Later, for around 40 years, it served as a local youth club; after closing in the early 1990s, the building became derelict.

After extensive renovations by the Yallourn North and District Historical Society, the building reopened in April 2002 as the Old Brown Coal Mine Museum.

With stalwarts such as President David Roberts, the museum continues to develop. A newly constructed addition, known as Yallourn Power Station Turbine Annex, houses a small 6 mega watt turbine that was removed from the Yallourn Power Station during its demolition. Other Power Station artefacts are displayed in this room.

In the museum grounds are an original concrete light pole from the Yallourn township's 'Monash Square', and one of two fountains installed in the town after Queen Elizabeth II visited in 1954, now restored to working order. Located in the rear courtyard is one of the two No 8 Dredge Drivers Cabins, and recently obtained is a Boiler Feed Pump from the original Yallourn A Power Station.

One room has three shallow shop fronts carrying the names of once familiar local businesses: W A Purvis Stores, Meadows Bakery and Meers Boarding House, with evocative memorabilia items behind the shop windows.

Another of David's innovations is the use of three doors joined top and bottom to create a Y-shape of display surfaces.

Lignite, known as brown coal, was first discovered in the region

by prospector David Ryan in 1873 but it was the discoveries in 1879 by Henry Godridge and William Tulloch which eventually led to commercial mining a decade later. Over the following decade, the Great Morwell Coal Mining Company proved the value of open cut mining and the potential of briquettes, despite inferior manufacturing equipment. However, the mine went into liquidation in 1899.

There were a couple of short term revivals to cover strikes in black coal mines but it was the formation of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in the 1920s which finally provided a long-term future for the brown coal industry in providing briquettes and generating electricity.

The Old brown coal Mine was originally the north camp of several around the coal deposits, the birthplace of the state's Brown Coal industry. The town which grew up there after the Victorian Mines Department took over the abandoned mine was known as the Brown Coal Mine but changed to Yallourn North in 1947. With major works escalating at the Yallourn site, the Yallourn North Camp was closed in 1952.

The Society has an extensive photographic display of the township, and the mine slip that caused the old town business centre to be moved. Also on display is the Olympic torch which was carried through the town for the 2000 Sydney Olympic games, war time memorabilia and much more.

The grounds include a gaol, which is the former lockup from the Yallourn North Police Station, a prefabricated version that was possibly at Morwell before being relocated to Yallourn North in the mid-1950s. The walls, floor and ceiling have 20mm steel bars through the 75mm timber wall panels.

The town of Yallourn has long gone, but photographs and memorabilia keep the spirit of the town alive, and Yallourn North continues to enjoy the setting described in 1905 as 'sylvan beauty'.

And on sale at the museum is *The Old Brown Coal Mine* by the late Kath Ringin, that provides a comprehensive history of the valley's coal history.

The museum, located at the corner of Third Street and Latrobe River Road, Yallourn North is open on Sundays from 10:00am to 4:00pm, Monday and Tuesday from 10:00am to 3:00pm, and other days by appointment. Phone (03) 51671046

Pauline Hitchins

HSSC Reading the lines: making the most of *History News*

As a teacher of VCE Australian History years ago, I joined my school as an RHSV school-library member then took up individual membership when my school's funding declined.

My purpose was to read the then A4 black and white stapled *History News* mailouts, all of which I still possess, and the similarly stapled but smaller and thicker *Victorian Historical Journal* (VHJ) editions to find 'new historical content'. I wanted content that was entirely relevant, but 'new' and 'different' from that found in the essential textbooks and readings that all teachers and students thumbed. As excellent as those VCE-focused publications were, I knew that exam assessors would repeatedly read the same authors and quotes, and that something fresh for my students and reflected in their work would make their essays stand out in the pile. In pencil, I underlined authors, their publication titles, even key quotes from *History News* and *VHJ* and integrated those discoveries in my teaching and student handouts.

In the December 2022 'HVS' Report, I encouraged you to comfortably reacquaint yourselves, or visit for the first time, the RHSV website. I wanted you to visit what has progressively been building over the years as RHSV's overall contribution to members. I wish now to encourage you to read *History News* with a purpose. Your purpose might be to find an achievable but interesting new challenge for 2023 that will stimulate your and colleagues' thinking and activity and lift your society's profile in your community. What relevant but new ideas, historical content or worthwhile activities can you find from the reading of *History News* that might be applied to your society's or your specific work?

I, for one, usually read all of *History News* but I look especially closely at 'What's On' and 'Around the Societies'. I read both not only in my HSSC voluntary 'work' capacity to know what is happening but because I learn about events I should try to attend or new publications I should try to purchase or access: both in keeping with my personal interests. The initiators of the events or authors of publications

can be easily contacted and, by my experience, enjoy talking to someone interested in their work. Most historical societies have their own web presence but, if not, RHSV publishes contact details for historical societies.

I apply a similar methodical approach to my reading of *VHJ*, not only noting whole articles relevant to my interests but following their rich footnote and bibliographic trails then contacting the authors or accessing the next items down the trail. And, of course, I credit all sources.


Historical societies with big committees and memberships are less likely to have difficulty generating new ideas. Even so, committee members of all societies, large and small, can find a wealth of ideas from close reading of *History News*. Some of us might have moved away from handling posted paper copies and pencils; although there is nothing wrong in doing so. Nevertheless, we are all seeking to preserve and promote diverse facets of Victoria's history and heritage: and you, your society or your network will find much inspiration in each *History News*.

More in time,

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Chair, Historical Societies Support Committee

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Australia Day 2023 Honours List

On the 26th January this year, the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, congratulated, "... the outstanding Australians," recognised on this year's Australian Honours list as "... having significant impact at the local, national and international level ... quite simply, inspiring".

We add our further congratulations:

Officer (AO) In The General Division

Emeritus Professor Robert Manne AO

For distinguished service to tertiary education, to political and social commentary, to public affairs and to the Indigenous community.

Member (AM) In The General Division

Emeritus Professor Judith Brett AM

For significant service to education and public debate, particularly in social science and politics.

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Hocking AM

For significant service to the preservation of Australian political history.

The Honourable Eadley "Graeme" Stoney AM

For significant service to the community and to the Parliament of Victoria.

Medal (OAM) In The General Division

Carol Bunyan OAM

For service to community history.

Edward Charles David OAM

For service to the community of Mooroonpa.

Jill Fenwick OAM

For service to community history preservation.

Gillian Francis OAM

For service to community history.

Mr Gifford Hatfield OAM

For service to youth through Scouts and to the community.

Ms Dorothy Haynes OAM

For service to the community of Doncaster.

Mrs Lesley KOOL OAM

For service to palaeontology.

Mr Colin Mockett OAM

For service to the arts and to local history.

Lynette Skillern OAM

For service to the community of Leongatha.

The late Mr James Dowling Wilson OAM

For service to the community through a range of roles.



Campaspe floods

The 1874 Common School in Rochester has seen the Campaspe River flood many times, including a monster flow reported in the 1870s where the water was ‘up to the windowsills’.

But certainly none of the members of the Rochester Historical and Pioneer Society, which has its museum centred on the Common School, had seen anything like the floods experienced in October 2022. There was a major flood in 2011 but the 2022 flood waters were perhaps three times higher and devastatingly quick.

This 2022 flood has led to a six-month hiatus for both personal and museum activities for a large percentage of the town, exacerbating the struggle every society has to keep its volunteer workforce intact and growing.

RH&PS secretary John Foster reports ‘our tea has almost cooked and we had to evacuate within half an hour; a four-wheel-drive came to collect us.’ John, his wife and relatives on holiday from Holland moved to stay with friends at nearby Lockington for three weeks and then obtained a unit in the caravan park in Rochester where he expects to be until perhaps April; now there’s a holiday story.

At the Society, hours were spent securing items up out of what everyone hoped would be the flood peak. While this was largely successful at the museum, for John and the majority of locals, the flood was devastating for their homes. “There were heaps of people’s personal items in piles outside each house, ruined by the floodwaters, just waiting to be carted away,” says John. Then the streets were full of houses stripped out with plaster removed up to the high-water mark.

And while the museum’s collection was largely safeguarded, restoring order to the displays and working towards reopening has been limited to a couple of members because everyone else has been trying to restore some normality to their life. Few were able to return to their homes and many were relocated to nearby towns where emergency accommodation was established. John estimates two-thirds of the 3000 plus population could not return to their homes.

The main museum building, the Former Common School No 795, saw around a metre of water through but its contents were all raised in time. A couple of good machinery reference books suffered damage and, because of their printing process, the print ran and could not be saved through the freeze-drying process the Society had used in the past. The main fatality was a large photocopier and an old motor which was not quite out of reach of the flood waters.

The Society’s second building, the relocated old Salvation Army hall, where the information-technology and newspaper records are located, is on high ground and the water went under it, but not inside it.

Lots of the equipment in the machinery shed and the dairy display will need to be pressure washed before it’s suitable for the display to reopen.

Because of volunteer numbers and limited hours, the extensive family history research the society usually does to generate income, has largely been on hold. Its other major project, digitising old local newspapers, has also slowed. The Society had received a large scanner from a Community Bendigo Bank grant

with additional IT funded by the local Campaspe Shire for this important work.

The Society often attracts bus tours for which it also provides catering, but this was also on hold after the floods. An April 2024 bus tour booking has provided a target for re-opening but it’s hoped that will happen a month or two earlier.

The town’s Sports Museum at the former Railway Station escaped flood damage and has reopened.

As the Campaspe River leaves Rochester it heads to Echuca where several rivers merge but luckily they did not converge at the same time and, with an elevated location, Echuca Museum escaped flood damage, although was closed for a period because the floods restricted access to the area.

Echuca Historical Society representative Dot Hammond says the water was close and higher than expected but without the convergence of waters, the museum was safe, using surrounding landmarks as ‘warning’ signs. Located in the 1869 Echuca Police Station and Lockup in the historic Port Precinct at 1 Dickson Street, Echuca, the museum has a strong focus on the early settlement on the Murray River and the river’s impact on the locality.

When you can, go visit these and other areas affected by those floods to help reinvigorate the local economies and support the volunteers in their important work.

Pauline Hitchins

Around the societies

Prepared by volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the Historical Societies Support Committee.

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 JUNE 2023 ISSUE please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 April 2023.

ALTONA LAVERTON: Once the home of the Langhorne family, Altona Homestead is now the home of the Altona Laverton Historical Society. We warmly welcome visitors and invite you to explore beautiful Altona and savour our famous Devonshire Tea: at 128 Queen Street, Altona, open Tuesdays from 11:00am – 2:00pm, Saturdays 10:00am – 12:00pm, and the first Sunday of the month 10:30am – 2:30pm. Visit our website for more information about the homestead, and our collection. <https://alhs.com.au>

ANGLICAN: The Society meets monthly from February-November (except July and August), at 6.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month, at Holy Trinity, East Melbourne. New members are welcome at any meeting. 19 April: Dr Paul Nicholls, 'The Henrician Reformation'; 17 May: Dr Peter Campbell, 'Giving an Anglican tone to the higher education of the University: Trinity College and its place in the Church'; 21 June: Dr James Doery, 'The Anglican Chinese Mission'.

CORNISH ASSOCIATION: Meeting Saturday 15 April at 1:30pm. Our speaker will be Dr Stephen Morey and he will speak about the 'Rotten Boroughs' in the UK. Stephen is the Associate Professor in Linguistics at La Trobe University. This will be a Zoom Meeting. On Saturday 13 May 2023 at 5:00pm our speaker via Zoom will be Dr Lesley Trotter from Cornwall. Lesley focuses on untold stories and uses her family history research to explore aspects of Cornish history. Her recent research project explored neglected aspects of Cornish migration, concentrating on the Cornish wives left behind, resulting in her book *The married widows of Cornwall: the story of the wives 'left behind' by emigration*.

EAST MELBOURNE: 'The Men who went to War': 7:30pm Wednesday 19 April, East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne. In 2014, Major-General Mike O'Brien gave us a list of men with a connection to East Melbourne who had volunteered for World War I. As a result of enthusiastic volunteers, we now have an archive of around 600 war records, some of which we would like to share with you at our April meeting.

GEELONG MUSEUM ASSOCIATION: 2023 'Last Sunday Series' at the National Wool Museum, 1:30pm – 3:00pm. Entry by gold coin donation. Details of talks are updated on the Geelong Museum Association Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/geelongmuseum>. 30 April: Dr Ruth Pullin, 'Eugene von Guerard and Geelong'; 28 May: Edward "Ted" Stephens, 'The Langlands – Australian Pioneers'. Some of Ted's books will be available for purchase after his talk. 25 June: Lambis Englezos, a retired Melbourne teacher, 'Fromelles, Naming the Dead'. Lambis' book, *Fromelles, Naming the Dead*, will be for sale after his talk.

HAMILTON: The Hamilton History Centre is located at the Mechanics Institute Building, 43 Gray Street, Hamilton, Victoria, 3300. Take a driving tour around Hamilton with the useful guide booklets in hand, available from the Centre for \$10 each. Or we have 8 informative history walks in and around Hamilton: 'CBD - Gray Street walk', 'Grangeburn walk', 'Memorials walk', 'Church Hill walk', 'Botanic Gardens walk' and 'Thompson Street walk'. To find out more about our Centre, and collection, visit our website at <https://hamiltonhistorycentre.org.au/>

HAWTHORN: Upcoming event on Sunday 28 May, at 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell, commencing at 2:00pm, Pamela Carter: 'A bigamist in the family'. This talk will interest family historians, especially those who have found something untoward in their own family background. Hawthorn Historical Society:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064994744207>

KEILOR: Sunday April 16: 'Heritage Sites in Keilor'. Join Overnewton Castle and Keilor Historical Society to explore some of the most significant heritage sites in Keilor: starting with Overnewton Castle, 51 Overnewton Rd, Keilor and then going onto Harrick's Cottage and Police Hut, 52 Harrick Rd, Keilor Park. Overnewton Castle, 10:00am – 2:00pm: visit the open gardens, unique chapel and original six room colonial homestead. Harrick's Cottage and Police Hut, 12pm - 5pm: viewing of the Prefabricated Police Hut, established at the Keilor Plains in the

1850s including an exhibition detailing its history.

KOROIT: The Society operates from the Tower Hill Historic Common School, found in Victoria Park. Built in 1857, the building was saved by the Society from demolition in 1983, and restored to hold the many records of history that share the story of Koroit and surrounds. Open on the second Sunday monthly from 1:00pm – 4:00 pm, or by appointment.

<https://www.facebook.com/koroithistoricalsociety>



LILYDALE: The society is located in the Old Lilydale Court House in Castella Street, Lilydale. For the past couple of months, several members have been busy gathering images for 'Our Towns', our new display at the Courthouse. The display has seven themes: Carts to Cars, Parades, All Aboard (the history of our Lilydale Railway Station), Caring for the Sick, Melba's Lilydale, Keeping Fit (sport in the district) and A Cut Above the Rest (our various butcher shops). To provide a present-day context for our visitors and members, we have included photos from the past and the same location today. Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyInc>

MELBOURNE ATHENEAEUM: Join us at 4:00pm on Saturday 15 April when Andrea Goldsmith will launch *The Detective's Chair: Prose Poems about fictional detectives* by Melbourne writer Anne M Carson. Dedicated to Dorothy Porter, who put poetry and detective fiction on the map and drawing inspiration from a range of fictional detectives, Anne has produced 32 short prose poems which explore creative problem solving. This event is free for members, but numbers are limited, so please email library@melbourneatheneaeum.org.au or call

9650 3100 to register. For more events and information visit:

<https://www.melbourneathenaeum.org.au/>



PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: Saturday 13 May: **Judith Buckrich**, author of fifteen books about Melbourne people and places, 'Life on the Yarra/Birrarung'. Venue: Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 253A Burke Road, corner of Malvern Road, Gardiner. Visitors welcome, doors open 1:30pm. Two dollars entry includes refreshments. Our meetings generally end around 4:00pm.

RINGWOOD: All meetings are on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30pm at North Ringwood Community House, 35 Tortice Drive, Ringwood North. Upcoming speakers: 26 April: Ralph Bartlett, 'The Study of Vexillology'. Ralph is an extremely knowledgeable person, whose passion is the study of flags and its symbolism. He is co-founder and secretary of the Flag Society of Australia and has recently been looking at the flags and crests around the Maroondah area. 24 May: Richard Carter, 'South Side Story'. Richard is a past-president of RDHS and guru when it comes to researching properties and the families that CE Carter P/L have serviced over the years. 'South Side Story' examines the often forgotten, but important, part of Ringwood from Wantirna Road to Olive Grove, south of the highway. A wonderful study presented as Richard does in his precise and entertaining manner.

WANDONG: Located in St. Michael's Catholic Church, 11 Dry Creek Crescent, Wandong. The Society is proud to announce the launch of its website funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Development (FRRR) and The Ross Trust. Visit the site to learn more about our town and provide feedback on this exciting new initiative.

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>

Or contact us: 0432120736 or wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com for further information.



WARRACKNABEAL: 54th Annual Wheatlands Warracknabeal Vintage Machinery Rally is held over Easter on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April, at 34 Henty Highway. Our unique collection of agricultural machinery is on display, plus restoration enthusiasts from many parts of Australia exhibit their own collections of vintage cars, engines and machinery. Shearing demonstrations, model aeroplanes, craft stalls, vintage street parade on Easter Saturday from 11am, twilight vintage tractor pull held Saturday night. Admission: Family \$20, Adult \$10, Students aged 12-18 \$5, Primary students free. <https://www.warracknabealhistory.org.au/easter-rally>

WHITEHORSE: We are based in the Local History Room at Shwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. The Society's Local History Collection is open Wednesdays 10.30am to 2.30pm: visitors welcome. Phone 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times. Box Hill Cemetery Records and Nunawading Gazettes for 1964-1974 are available on microfiche for research. Upcoming dates for your diary at the Shwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex: Saturday 1 April 1.00pm: General Meeting, George Petruo, 'The Art of Sacrifice'; Saturday 3 June 1.00pm General Meeting, Max Beck: 'A Different Earth'. For more information visit our website at <https://whitehorsehistory.org.au>

WONTHAGGI: The Society is the custodian of the town and district's mining, social and cultural heritage. Local newspapers, documents and manuscripts, photographs, maps, local histories, oral histories and objects all make up our archives. The historic former Wonthaggi railway station building is both a museum and home to the society. Open from 11.00am to 1.00pm every Saturday. If you haven't been before we think you'll be surprised. Running out of reading material, then don't forget the Society has an incredible selection of local history publications for sale: coal mining, railway, the hospital, local towns, local identities and much, much more. <https://www.facebook.com/wonthaggianddistricthistoricalsociety>

YACKANDANDAH: The society's collection is housed in the Museum at 21 High Street, Yackandandah. Our current joint exhibition relates to the 20th Anniversary of the Yackandandah Community Development Company and its impact on the Yackandandah Community. The Yackandandah Primary School and the Yackandandah Men's Shed are also featured in this exhibition. <https://www.facebook.com/yackmuseum>





■ Myrtleford St Pauls Church
exterior November 2010

Windows on History: One family's war

As we approach Anzac Day each year, our thoughts often return to the service and sacrifice of family and friends over more than a century of war: from the Boer War to Afghanistan. In that respect, stained glass has provided a point of remembrance in the aftermath of all conflicts, and often contain stories of people and conflicts that are almost forgotten today.

One window in St Paul's Anglican Church, Myrtleford, was dedicated to a local woman, a nurse who was drowned when Japanese submarine 1-177 torpedoed the hospital ship *Centaur* at 4:00am on 14 May 1943, as it sailed northward along the Queensland coast. Despite the ship's full lighting, prominent display of Red Cross symbols and green lines along the length of the hull, the attack was without warning, and an explosion on board caused the ship to sink within minutes. The lives of 332 personnel were lost, with Sister Eleanor Savage the only one of the twelve nurses to survive.

Alice Margaret, known as "Girlie" within her family, was the eldest daughter of Sidney and Letitia O'Donnell, born in Myrtleford in 1901. Her parents were well known in the Myrtleford community where Sidney was a prominent auctioneer with land and livestock agents, W E Flanagan & Co, later, Gippsland & Northern, only retiring in his 80th year in 1948.

At the time of her enlistment in 1942, Alice was highly experienced as a nurse, serving at 115 General Hospital, Heidelberg and formerly at Royal Melbourne Hospital where she was a well-regarded theatre sister. Her 15

months in the Australian Army Nursing Service, culminated with the posting to *HS Centaur*, her first overseas tour.

The family of Sister Alice Margaret O'Donnell paid tribute to their lost daughter and sister in a memorial window that was to be unveiled during the consecration and 75th anniversary services at the church in 1947. The window, entitled 'Hope', was undoubtedly chosen to represent Alice's faith, her dedication to her nursing profession and possibly to acknowledge her death at sea. The figure of 'Hope', one of the theological virtues more commonly seen with 'Faith' and 'Charity', holds one of the oldest Christian symbols, the anchor of hope that combined the Cross with the reliable anchor flukes denoting steadfastness of belief. The window's design and manufacture by the Melbourne firm, Mathieson & Gibson, was typical of the firm's clear bold colouring and ornamentation and the same cartoon was the basis for another window of *Hope* at the Stratford Uniting Church in the following year.

Alice was not the only member of the O'Donnell family to enlist during World War II. Her younger brothers, Ian and



“

It pictured St Luke, patron saint of doctors, reinforcing his calling with the inscription, ‘Giving his life to a ministry of healing’.

”

Patrick, enlisted in the AIF and both became prisoners of war under the Japanese. Engineer, Lieutenant Colonel Ian J O'Donnell OBE was in Malaya when it was overrun and, after a short stint at Changi, he was transferred to Zentsuji in Japan. He was later mentioned in despatches for services rendered to his fellow prisoners. Younger brother Patrick was a doctor at the 10th Australian General Hospital, which was captured in the fall of Singapore in February 1942 and operated thereafter at Changi. Two other brothers, Bryan and Sidney, both in the banking profession, enlisted in July 1942, only a few months after the drowning death of Alice; Bryan served with an anti-aircraft regiment and Sidney was part of the movement and transportation group based in Townsville to support the troops fighting in New Guinea and Bougainville.

Alice's oldest brother was Kenneth Francis O'Donnell, who also became a doctor. Like his brothers, he enlisted after Alice's death, despite being 43 years old, with four teenage children and with a medical practice at Hamilton in Victoria's Western District. Kenneth spent the majority of his war service in New Guinea during 1944 and 1945, after which

he, along with all his brothers, returned to civilian life. For Kenneth however, further tragedy awaited him and his family as his eldest daughter, Nancy Elizabeth died at the age of 19 in 1949. Kenneth died within months, aged only 49, leaving his wife Mary Alison and children James, Helen and William to mourn the loss of them both.

A window to Kenneth's memory was installed in St Paul's Church, Myrtleford in 1951. It pictured *St Luke*, patron saint of doctors, reinforcing his calling with the inscription, 'Giving his life to a ministry of healing'. It was ordered from Brooks, Robinson & Co, Melbourne, by the vicar, the Reverend Titler, but the inscription suggests it was the gift of his mother, Letitia, who had now lost her three oldest children, her first child dying when he was only four weeks old.

These two windows allow us to remember one family's war and remind us that war's aftershocks continue long after the silencing of gunfire.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM



A M O'Donnell, *Argus* 19 May 1943



■ Glovers sand dunes
From left: Roy Glover and his wife Maisie, his mother Ellen, and siblings Inez, George and Edie with friend H. Broom and Norman, Roy and Maisie's son.

Glover family beach holidays

Australians have been taking to the beach for generations, even if relaxing on the beach looked quite different for our forebears.

These snaps shows the extended Glover family of Sale relaxing on the beach at Seaspray around in the late 1920s. While the coats may be justified by the weather, the hats, ties and shoes would be unlikely today.

The family's association with Seaspray, an unspoiled beachside town on Gippsland's Ninety Mile Beach, continues to this day, some six generations later, with several owning houses or annual cabins there.

Pauline Hitchins
(Granddaughter of Roy and Maisie)



■ Left: Beach house
Around the same time, the extended family banded together and the boys built this typical beach house at Seaspray. The beach is just over the sand dunes across the road in front of the house.

Bottom: Glovers relaxing
From left: Inez, Maisie, George, Edith (with nephew Norman on her knee), their parents Ellen and Alex Glover, Roy Glover, and Margaretha and James Chubb (Maisie's parents).



Wonthaggi Beach: 1920s

In the mid 1920s my Grandparents, A Jean Hartley and W E "Ted" Watt, were teenagers living and working on neighbouring dairy farms in Leongatha. At times Nan spoke of those years and one of her favourite stories was days spent at "Wonthaggi Beach". She used to explain that once or twice a year, the young workers from the farms rose very early in the morning, firstly to milk the cows and then to load the dray with picnic baskets and other supplies for a day at the beach. Some rode horses but most travelled aboard the dray being pulled along by horses from the farm. Nan remembered those as days of great fun and I imagine them in their 1920s swim costumes.

But, where was 'Wonthaggi Beach': Inverloch, Cape Paterson or maybe Cutler's Beach?

Sharon Betridge

■ Wonthaggi c1954 'Tabeners Hotel, Showing Whales Jaw Bones Which Were Washed Up On The Wonthaggi Beach, Vic.' Rose Stereograph Co.
SLV <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/67547>



Beach holidays in the 1960s and 1970s: Point Lonsdale and Aireys Inlet

The thoughts of my childhood holidays bring back so many many memories....

I remember when I was very young, maybe four or five years old, we were on holiday at Point Lonsdale and the SS *Orcades* was coming through the rip at night. Mum and Dad took me, wrapped in a blanket, down to the beach to watch it come through and I remember mum singing to me, "A little ship was on the sea".

We lived in Ballarat and used to rent a holiday house near the sea for two weeks each year, usually the first two weeks in February, after the school year had commenced. That was ok until I, being the eldest child in our family, started high school. That first year at high school I fronted up in the third week, not good!

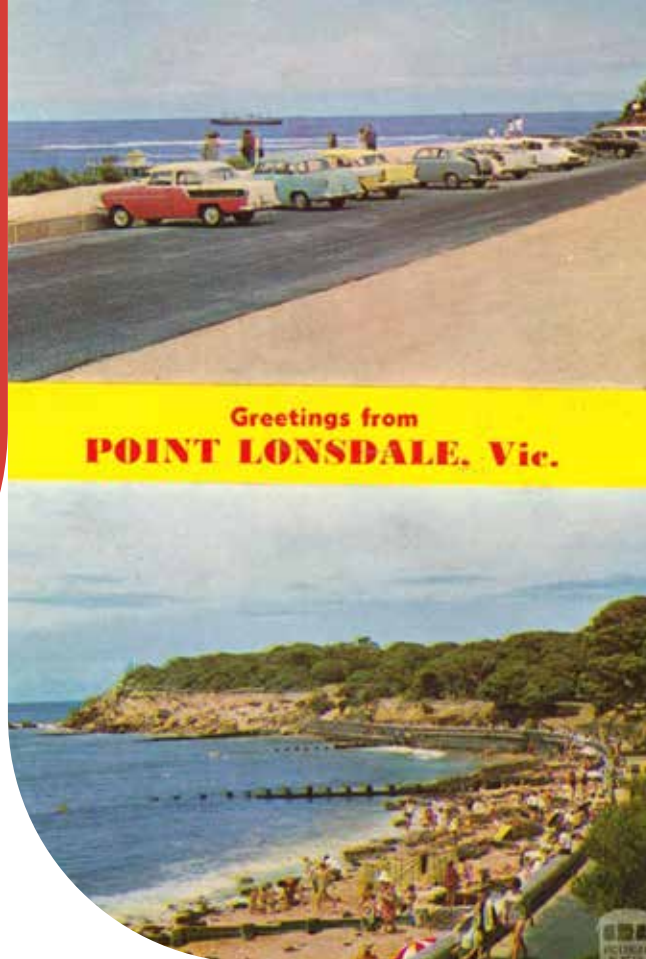
Packing to go on holiday was a dreadful chore for a small impatient child. We had a Hillman Minx car and dad would get a trailer from somewhere. With three children arguing in the car the trip took a long time. We played I spy for quite a while until it was, "I can see the sea!" and great excitement took over. The trip was nearing its end.

At first, Point Lonsdale was the place to go, gathering shells along the beach, learning to swim and building amazing sandcastles with Dad. I particularly remember the cenotaph which had a ground of shells and there was amazing sand dune grass with a lovely fluffy head as well as Christmas beetles. I collected the lot. We also played board games together with Mum; Dad was not into those and would prefer to read and listen to the cricket! Listening to the cricket on the radio was another of the rituals of these holidays. We were not a particularly sporting family but the cricket on holidays was essential

Years later, a friend lent us her holiday house at Aireys Inlet; what a wonderful place it was in the 60s and 70s. Beaches you could have on your own, steep tracks down the cliff, cliffs that had all sort of fossils embedded in them, and rock pools that contained all sorts of different sea creatures. Dad and I were 'into nature'. We had joined the local Field Naturalists Club and this environment just suited our enquiring minds.

Another advantage was the walks we took away from the beach. The first year we met the Gladman family who owned a dairy and pig farm. This was my introduction to milking cows and feeding pigs. Each year we went to their place and became great friends. They would come to us also after milking and have a 'cuppa' and a chat. They were lovely people and we all enjoyed their company.

A drive to Queenscliff at least once during our holidays with fish and chips on the beach, surrounded by the seagulls, was



■ 'The Beach, Point Lonsdale, 1970'

Publisher: Rose Series, Contributor: John Young Collection

'Victorian Places' <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/node/70634>

another of the highlights of our beach holidays. We also had a day in Geelong and I used to look at the school children in the playground and think how lucky I was to be on holiday.

Our meals were often simpler, to give Mum a rest. Corned beef and salad or the German sausage that Mum used to get from my uncle who worked at a bacon factory. Ice-creams were a luxury ritual during our holidays. We'd go for a walk, and be allowed to get an ice cream, which we thought was wonderful!

Sleeping arrangements at the rented holiday houses were somewhat interesting. At the first house at Aireys, my sister and I were in a double bunk in the living room. At that house Dad cut the grass with scissors after he discovered a snake slithering around. We did not know about that for a long time. That house also had rats! The toilet was a deep sinker, sometimes known as a pit toilet, something that took a bit of getting used to.

The bedrooms were divided with curtains in another house that we rented for many years. My brother was relegated to the laundry shed out the back and when a boyfriend of mine rode his bike down one weekend, he slept there also. That house fronted the Painkalac Creek and came with a rowing boat! What fun we had rowing up and down the creek. When the said boyfriend came, he taught us to fish and we landed home with these little fish, [maybe no Victorian Fisheries Authority minimum sizes in those years]. Mum didn't quite know how to prepare them, but prepare them she did and we each had a tiny morsel.

This probably sums up my experience of family holidays at the beach: a great relaxation in the type of meals we had, the timing of them and the simple pleasures we looked forward to. Packing up to go home was always a sad occasion, but we had our memories!

Nina Netherway

Bakery Hill, Vic.



RHSV Collections: Time-travelling: a history of commercial Melbourne through ghost signs

When Kent Watson arrived in Melbourne in late 1999 he explored the city on weekends, camera in hand. Struck by the number of ghost signs still visible on the facades and side walls of Melbourne shops, offices and inner-city factories he set about recording them.

A talented amateur photographer, with a Master of Applied Arts in History, Kent was drawn to these evocative reminders of the distant past that he had not noticed to the same extent in his previous home city of Sydney. He recognised that their survival was precarious, as the rapid development of the city led to facades being remodelled and side walls being built-in, painted, or covered with modern billboards. Eighteen months later, Kent had created a collection of approximately 1,000 ghost sign photographs from the CBD and thirty-seven Melbourne suburbs documenting obsolete building signs and old advertisements. He has generously donated these to the RHSV and we are cataloguing them so they will be searchable on our online eHive catalogue.

Kent admires the signwriters' skills. There are both artistic and physical demands in depicting a shimmer of light reflecting off a convincingly three-dimensional bottle of a 1960s sweet sparking white, Kaiser Stuhl Pearl, when executed on an uneven brick wall, two storeys up via a ladder.

As Kent states, finding ghost signs is a form of time travel in the city. There is a thrill in encountering a 1920s advertising sign and feeling like you could be walking the city streets a century ago. For older generations, retro advertisements evoke nostalgia for past periods of their lives, looking back to a time when Melbourne was firmly a tea-drinking rather than a coffee-obsessed city. Signs for Tarax and Marchants soft drinks evoke memories of childhood birthday parties, or possibly for pre-baby boomers ghost signs might help recall the pleasures of a 'McCracken's Prize Ale' or 'Penfolds Maison Marnay Brandy' and dry.

Ghost signs highlight the changing character of the built environment over the decades. Gen Z observers might wonder that buildings once needed a special 'letter delivery' entrance and that temperance halls were common. The Gen X ambler learns from ghost signs that Pennants kerosene was a common cooking fuel for the home and gloves were a major sales item in ladies' fashion stores. We can all be glad we no longer



The industrial character of the inner city has been substantially altered, with ghost signs often the sole reminder of the original function of modern apartment blocks



have a need for Kyne's coppers and stands but may still be curious about the efficacy of Dr Scott's Balsam Horehound for treating coughs, or Marshall's Rhubarb Pills for remedying liver complaints. The industrial character of the inner city has been substantially altered, with ghost signs often the sole reminder of the original function of modern apartment blocks that once housed Mitchell lime stores, Colony woollen mills and general iron founders.

Kent remembers always being interested in history, with his paternal grandfather, who was a former Royal Marine, reading to him the history of Scotland and the history of places he had been to on Royal Navy ships. A career in IT kept Kent busy but also gave him the necessary technical skills to embark on his major history project, an online database of Australian monuments: <https://monumentaaustralia.org.au/>

With his interest in monuments sparked by a History Masters assignment on public memory, Kent looked for a comprehensive summary of Australian sites to no avail.

Lists existed, but were incomplete and heavily weighted towards military monuments commemorating the sacrifices of Australians who had served in conflicts. This motivated him to compile his own list, encompassing the full breadth of Australian monuments telling a wide variety of stories. Kent was ahead of his time in planning the project, deciding on a website for the publication of his digital database rather than the more traditional medium of a book. The website has the benefit of being more accessible and additions are easy to make. Initially Kent worked on the project alone, but was later joined by his sister Diane Watson. Monument Australia now has nearly 40,000 entries, is well-utilised, being accessed, on average, once every 1.3 seconds, and is of broad appeal; 15% of users accessing the site are from overseas. Volunteers assist in managing the non-profit database and individuals, community groups, organisations, and government departments are invited to submit contributions.

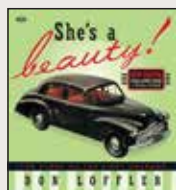
Local history relies on the vision, passion and many non-paid hours of researchers like Kent who are dedicated to preserving the sources of our shared history. If you have photographs reflecting changes to your local area over time, please consider following Kent's example and donating these to the RHSV Collection so we can catalogue and preserve them and make them accessible. If you are travelling around Australia and visit an interesting monument not yet recorded in the Monument Australia database, share your knowledge and photographs by contributing to this valuable resource. It's extremely useful to local and family historians, tourists, and government departments and agencies. Indeed, it's a fascinating resource for all those curious to learn about the people and events of the past deemed sufficiently significant in their own time to be memorialised in perpetuity.

Helen Stitt
Collections Officer, RHSV

Bookshop

See our online bookshop at

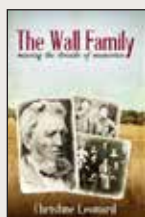
www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/



She's a Beauty! The story of the first Holdens

Don Loffler (2023)
HC 304pp \$59.95

She's a Beauty! is back in print – but with a difference. Now in two volumes, this lavishly illustrated first volume documents the Holden story from 1934 to 1948. Originally published in 1998 to mark 50 years since the launch of the Holden 48-215 ('FX'). This volume rich with new stories, photographs and facts, includes not only material from the 2006 enlarged edition of *She's a Beauty!*, but also relevant material from its sequel, *Still Holden Together*, which is unlikely to be republished.



The Wall Family: Weaving the threads of memory

Christine E Leonard (2022)
eBook 158pp \$7.99

This digital publication follows the story of the Wall Family over a period of 180 years, in two parts. Part 1 focuses on William's convict years, serving out his sentence as an assigned servant in Tasmania, and how he played his part as a pioneer in early Central Victoria and Warrnambool. Part 2 explores the next 117 years of the Currency, the 13 surviving children and their descendants. The Currency refers to the first generation born in the colonies, born to their free-settler mothers and ex-convict father.



Murders & Mysteries in Ferntree Gully Shire

Ray Peace (2021)
PB 98pp \$15

In a new look at the history of Ferntree Gully Shire, local author, Ray Peace, catalogues local tales of crimes and disappearances, from the early years of settlement to the post-war era. This compendium of criminality ranges over the comic to the tragic. Many well-known local families were peripherally involved in many cases. On some occasions, prominent local figures provided crucial evidence at trials. Many of the cases unearth new details about local families, whose lives were enlivened by crimes of passion and jealousy.



Bold and Lucky: Australia's colonial navy 1824-1831

Alan Powell (2022)
PB 135pp \$39.95

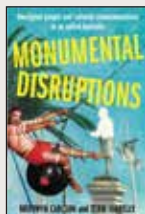
Bold and Lucky celebrates the small ships of Australia's colonial navy. Brigs, cutters, schooners and sloops were pressed into service in a rag-tag assembly of 'seagoing maids of all work', cramped and overloaded with provisions, building materials, livestock and even convicts. The crews of these 'doughty little craft' sailed with courage and often blind faith in their ultimate survival as they toiled through some of the world's most treacherous seas to deliver life-preserving supplies to the military outposts that ringed Australia in the early nineteenth century.



Power and the Passion: Our ancestors return home

Shannon Faulkhead and Jim Berg (2022)
PB 192pp \$34.99

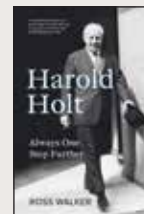
With the 1985 landmark reburial of Ancestral Remains in Melbourne's Kings Domain Garden as a guiding point, Shannon Faulkhead, Uncle Jim Berg and a range of contributors provide an incisive perspective on the historically complex relationships many of Australia's cultural institutions have with the repatriation of First Peoples' Ancestors. This text provides personal, in-depth perspectives on the ongoing battle for self-determination in caring for Ancestors, and is essential reading for anyone seeking information on decolonising Australia.



Monumental Disruptions

Bronwyn Carlson and Terri Farrelly (2023)
PB 336pp \$39.95

In June 2020, on the heels of Australia's James Cook anniversary commemorations and statue-toppling Black Lives Matter protests in the USA, dozens of police were sent to guard a statue of Cook in Hyde Park, Sydney. Despite the police presence, two women spray painted 'sovereignty never ceded' across the statue. Scenes like this spread all across the country and the world. It investigates why commemorations were erected, their meaning for Aboriginal people in Australia, both then and now, and it compares Australia's experience with that overseas.



Harold Holt: Always One Step Further

Ross Walker (2022)
PB 368pp \$34.99

Harold Holt was a pivotal prime minister in Australian history. Nowhere was Holt's legacy more significant than in the 1967 referendum, and in helping to end the White Australia policy. In this evocative, intimate and deeply researched biography, Ross Walker captures the worlds in which Holt moved and the people who were close to him. He reveals a popular, gentle, yet at times self-destructive man, whose tendency to always go one step further would have fatal consequences.



500 Million Years on Phillip Island

Linda Cuttriss and Eric Bird (2nd ed. 2021)
PB 90pp \$22.50

This fascinating natural history of Phillip Island spans 500 million years and travels along the majestic coastlines tracking changes still occurring today. Glimpses of the First People's lives on the island they call Millowli, the arrival of European explorers and sealers and firsthand accounts of the McHaffie pastoralist family are woven into a rich narrative. *500 Million Years on Phillip Island* explores how generations of farmers and tourists have impacted the landscape and how people can work together to nurture and restore the landscape.

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.



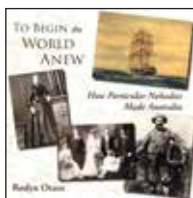
White Gold: How the Sunburnt Country took on the World in Winter Sports. Jim Darby, Gro-Set, Thornbury, 2022, pp. 1-304, ISBN 9780646846293.

Australia has emerged in recent years as a serious competitor in winter sports but until the 1990s the few individuals competitive at international level had scant support. Australia's first winter Olympian was ice skater Ken Kennedy, the sole Australian athlete at the 1936 games in Germany. While Australia has fielded teams at the Olympics since 1952, our early hopes were largely pinned on a handful of skiers, like Victorians Malcolm Milne and Steven Lee. An expanded range of events saw many more athletes rise to prominence but it was another speed skater, Steven Bradbury, who secured Australia's first winter gold in 2002. This large format history of Australian involvement in international winter sports focuses on the athletes.



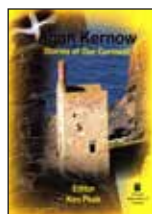
Success in Kangaroo Land: the Crooke family of 'The Holey Plain'. Ann Andrew, The Author, Sale, 2022, pp. iv-164, ISBN 9780645452112.

The story of the Crooke family and 'The Holey Plain' is a significant slice of Gippsland history. It is remarkable on a couple of counts. Firstly, the same family has occupied and farmed land around Rosedale and elsewhere in Gippsland continuously since the 1840s. Perhaps more remarkably, Edward Crooke formed the habit of retaining all of his letters and other miscellaneous papers, which were in turn kept by his son and grandson, giving author Ann Andrews a remarkable launching pad for her research. As early squatters, the Crookes' holdings were extensive, and they would in time become a family of influence, with members as local and state politicians.



To Begin the World Anew: How Particular Nobodies made Australia. Roslyn Otzen, Mono Unlimited, Melbourne, 2022, pp. iii-389, ISBN 9780645375428.

Roslyn Otzen's study of the generations from whom she is descended is something of a departure from similar family histories. In it she explores the branches of a family that for the most part came from humble origins. Some would come to prosper in the new world of the Australian colonies, others not so much. A former private school principal and church historian, Otzen used the time allowed by the COVID pandemic to explore the range of online sources historians and genealogists now have at their disposal to stitch together the disparate tales of her ancestors. The result is a series of snapshots of colonial families, none famous, whose fates determined the future nation.



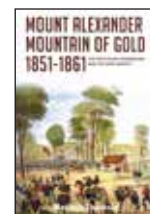
Agan Kernow: Stories of our Cornwall. Ken Peak (ed.), Cornish Association of Victoria, 2022, pp. 3-262, ISBN 9780646861234.

Cornish migration to Australia is mostly associated with copper mining communities in South Australia, but many Cornish miners were attracted to the goldfields at Bendigo and Ballarat, especially as deep lead mining became more common. The Cornish community has had an enduring impact. At least three Prime Ministers – Menzies, Hawke and Morrison – have Cornish ancestors. This book is a collection of 76 stories by 51 authors reflecting in a variety of ways upon the Cornish diaspora. Some stories look back upon their origins, others are rich in detail about descendants who settled and prospered in Australia. There is much here to interest those of Cornish heritage.



Wild Colonial Greeks. Peter Prineas, Australian Scholarly Press, North Melbourne, 2020, pp. vii-322, ISBN 9781922454133.

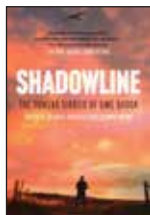
It is easy to consider Greek migration to Australia as simply a post-World War II phenomenon, for it is since then that Melbourne has grown to become the largest Greek-speaking city outside Greece and Cyprus. The premise of this study is that there were, of course, Greeks here in colonial times. The goldfields attracted many, while others came as sailors and remained. The story of Andreas Lagogiannis, embattled hotelier at Sandridge and later Bendigo, 'raised in Greece where wine and spirits were not regarded as a social evil but as a natural complement to food', is emblematic of their early struggles. He seemed to spend as much time in the licensing court as serving behind the bar.



Mount Alexander Mountain of Gold 1851-1861: The Gold Rush Generation and the New Society. Marjorie Theobald, Chewton Domain Society Inc, Chewton, 2021, pp.1-348, ISBN 9780646842035.

Since returning to her hometown of Castlemaine, Marjorie Theobald has pivoted her attention from the history of education to the social history of the central goldfields; this is her third book on the subject. The thesis of her latest book throws out a challenge to the orthodox view that The Eureka rebellion in Ballarat was the catalyst for democratic reforms in Victoria. Instead, she argues, earlier movements in Chewton and Bendigo laid the foundations for change. The social and environmental changes wrought by the gold rushes and their impact on the Dja Dja Wurrung people are other central themes offering a different view of life in the goldfields.

Books received



Shadowline: The Dunera Diaries of Uwe Radok. Jacquie Houlden and Seumas Spark (eds.), Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2022, pp. vii-181, ISBN 9781922633620.

It is only in recent years that a more nuanced view has emerged of the 2542 'enemy aliens' who endured expulsion from Britain aboard the *Dunera* during World War II. Uwe Radok was among them, having survived the torpedo sinking of the *Arandora Star*, only to be reshipped to Australia on the *Dunera* a week later. Radok would go on to a distinguished career as a meteorologist at the University of Melbourne. His diary, transcribed by his daughter during the COVID lockdowns, is a remarkable account that explores not just his detention and displacement, but his sexuality, his social status and his struggles with injustice. It is a remarkable story, unlike any other told of the *Dunera* to date.



Always in Need of Reform: Reflections of a Policeman. Bryan Harding, The Author, 2022, pp.vi-530, ISBN9780646864860. Memoirs of Victorian police officers are not unknown, but nor are they numerous. John Sadleir's *Recollections of a Victorian Police Officer* (1913) is perhaps the best known and Bryan Harding's vast store of anecdotal recollections from 40 years of policing in the latter half of the 20th century is oddly reminiscent of it. A reformer who sought change in an organisation where change is not always welcomed, Harding would rise to the rank of chief inspector and head the Victorian Police Association for three years before a vote of no confidence ended that role. His recollections of the daily grind of police work and encounters with some of Victoria's more notable criminals make for interesting reading.



The Illustrators' Artistry: as Displayed in the News Letter of Australasia, Published 1856-1862 in Melbourne. Peter Barwood et al, The Author, 2022, pp.v-128, ISBN 9780646859828.

The idea of an 'illustrated' newspaper for the past century has meant the use of photography. For decades earlier, it rested upon illustration by drawing and engraving. In the 1850s, Melbourne was a centre of such illustrated colonial newspapers. More than 55 per cent of all colonial images of the era were of Victorian scenes. This fascinating self-published tribute to the illustrators and engravers of that era is focussed upon *The News Letter of Australasia*, 76 issues published in Melbourne from 1856 to 1862. Printed on rice paper, it could be sent by mail locally and overseas as a letter: thus cheaper than a newspaper. Its artists included Eugen von Guerard, S.T Gill and Nicholas Chevalier.



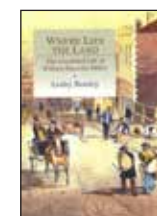
Taking to the Field: A History of Australian women in science. Jane Carey, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2023, pp.vii-309, ISBN 9781925835410.

The history of Australian women in science has been told in only the most piecemeal fashion to date. Here the impact of early women scientists and their struggle in a male dominated field is addressed more detail, which should set the scene for even more research. This is a general account but one which highlights some remarkable stories, such as that of Dr Georgina Sweet, the first woman to achieve a PhD in Australia in any discipline, whose research began into giant Gippsland earthworms and moved into marsupial moles as she herself embarked upon a distinguished academic career at the University of Melbourne. This book highlights the need for more research into the contribution of women in science.



Along the Tracks of Cobb and Co.: Cobb's Coach Drivers: History Speaking for Itself ..., Book 3. Hazel Johnson, The Author, 2022, pp.1-207, ISBN 9780646870106.

This is a curious book, not so much a history as a compilation of historical data relating to the drivers of Cobb and Co, the coaching service that defined rural transport in eastern Australia from the 1850s until the 1920s. Started in Victoria by American Freeman Cobb, it expanded into NSW and Queensland. The story has been told previously but this work focusses on locating those who drove the coaches, based on extracts from a wide range of previously published works, including local histories, newspapers, and annual reports. It will be invaluable for anyone trying to connect a name to the role. The book would have benefitted from a more synthesised introduction to this iconic business.



Where Lies the Land: The Unsettled Life of William Knowles Miller. Lesley Beasley, The Author, Adelaide, 2022, pp.1-405. ISBN9780648069355.

In 1852 William Knowles Miller was appointed inaugural Inspector and Agent of the National Schools Board. The board was charged with establishing a system of education which would provide government sponsored secular schooling. It was a heady appointment for a brash 22-year-old who came to the colonies with little other recommendation than a few years of legal education in London and a father who was a prominent advocate. The appointment was a failure. Miller absconded after a few months with £100 of public money raised to open schools and died a few years later incarcerated as a lunatic in South Australia. As the subtitle suggests, his was an unsettled life, well documented here.