



Annual Report

2022



Images

All images in this Annual Report are from our Images collection.

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.

Kent 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 sparkling 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 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 foundries.

Helen Stitt | Collections Officer (Images)

Photography | Kent Watson

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Royal Historical Society of Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Historical Society of Victoria currently stands, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders past and present, and those young people destined to become their elders.

CREATIVE VICTORIA



Department
of Transport
and Planning



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President's Annual Report 2022

The third year of COVID was in many ways harder than the previous two. Community fatigue set in, some continued to rebel, and deaths from COVID variants—shocking to all in the first year of the pandemic—accelerated and approached 8,000 by year's end in Victoria. This was ten times those first stunning statistics of 2020! The RHSV began to open during 2022, but we continued to employ Zoom for most events, having, by necessity, perfected its use during the pandemic. However, in the past year, we have worked to combine Zoom with live activities and have hired dedicated casual staff to achieve this. The RHSV even helped to record the momentous events enveloping us by devoting a special issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal* in December to the pandemics of 1919 and 2020+.

By the end of 2022 the RHSV was stronger in most respects than in 2021. We have wonderful human capital in the form of patrons, 4.1 FTE paid staff, many volunteers and committee members, and donors.

The RHSV is supported by our patron, Her Excellency, the Hon. Linda Dessau AO, CVO, governor of Victoria; our civic patron, the mayor of the City of Melbourne, Sally Capp; and former RHSV president Bill Russell, our ambassador. During the year the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos succeeded Danny Pearson as minister for creative industries. We thank the government's funding body for the arts, Creative Victoria, under CEO Sam Strong, for our end-of-grant transitional funding. Rob Heath, our honorary legal adviser, continued to provide excellent *pro bono* advice. Personal Financial Services, our financial advisers, merged with the Yarra Lanes Group and gave important advice to diversify our investments. Financial support for the *Victorian Historical Journal* is provided by an important group of patrons who are acknowledged in each issue of the journal. In addition, our reciprocal connections with almost 350 affiliated societies throughout Victoria continued to keep the community history movement strong in a difficult year.

Our full- and part-time staff are led by our energetic and creative executive officer, Rosemary Cameron, who has orchestrated many wonderful events, exhibitions and developments over the year. She has enabled the RHSV to emerge successfully from COVID lockdowns. Our part-time collections manager, Jillian Hiscock, continues to enhance our collection and has been focusing especially on the important work of identifying material on Indigenous people, to whose presence cataloguers of the past were largely blind. Jillian and her volunteers then load up the fruits of their labours to TROVE to enhance our global profile. Helen Stitt is employed three days per week to manage the images collection. Both Jillian and Helen work with volunteers to advance work on our collection.

Our administrative staff includes Christina Browning, our part-time marketing officer who began work at the RHSV in early 2022. She has maintained our profile on the web, Facebook and other social media, which has assisted attendance at our events and directed traffic to our bookshop. Emily Maiolo began as our administrative officer in December 2021 and has provided excellent service on the front desk as the face of the RHSV and in back-of-house work, including the bookshop and scores of other administrative matters. Our part-time bookkeeper Noha Ghobrial resigned in April, causing difficulties for our audit-in-process; Rosemary Cameron, our executive officer, stepped into the breach before a replacement could be found. Our new bookkeeper, Kristin Adnams, a qualified accountant bringing professional skills and efficiency to the task, has enhanced our financial reporting immeasurably.

The RHSV is assisted by a wonderful team of volunteers numbering close to 80 people. During 2022 they enhanced our digital and paper collections and ran our committees. Each of them gave many hours weekly to further the work of the RHSV, whether in preparing for exhibitions, cataloguing, and sorting our own archives, or in helping with the bookshop and the mails-outs. In particular, I must acknowledge the work of Margaret Fleming and Greg Buchanan, who continued our commercial site searches, thus bolstering our income; and David Thompson who worked on exhibitions and

the image collection. Ashley Smith and Cheryl Griffin prepared monthly articles for *Docklands News* and *CBD News* respectively, and Cheryl Griffin wrote articles for the Genealogical Society of Victoria's magazine, *Ancestor*. Cheryl also prepared a most significant exhibition, *Kaleidoscope*, celebrating women of the RHSV, and her assiduous research will appear in many articles on our website into the future.

Adrian Jones, formerly associate professor of history, La Trobe University, chaired the 2022 Victorian Community History Awards panels, assisted by Gary Presland and Helen Doyle. Together they led an impressive team of fifteen judges for the twelve awards, namely: Jessica Bram, Alicia Cerreto, Keir Reeves, Jo Clyne, Lucie Paterson, Jessica Ferrari, Amanda Lourie, Seamus O'Hanlon, John Petersen, Jill Barnard, Carolyn Rasmussen, and Alistair Thomson. All judges worked conscientiously to assess the 133 entries across these twelve award categories.

Thanks also to our many partners. The Victorian government has funded the Victorian Community History Awards since 1998; Public Record Office Victoria, led by its director Justine Heazlewood, co-hosted the awards with the RHSV; and the Oral History Association partnered on the Oral History Award. Special thanks for the hard work yet again by Tara Oldfield of PROV and Jade Koekoe of the RHSV who administered the awards. Judy Maddigan, president of the Public Records Advisory Council, again presented the awards in her inimitable style. The major award, the Victorian Premier's Prize, was presented to Janet McCalman for her book *Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria*. Most of the VCHA entries can be bought at our bustling bookshop.

Our committees also do much of the work of the RHSV. The Collections Committee, led by Elisabeth Jackson, oversees the work of our two paid collections staff and their volunteers. The Heritage Committee, headed by Charles Sowerwine, has raised the profile of the RHSV in working to protect our built, cultural and natural environment in the Hoddle Grid and other places. The Publications Committee, led by Richard Broome, continues to publish quality material on behalf of the RHSV, including regular issues of *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal*. The History Victoria Support Group (now Historical Societies Support Committee) headed by Pauline Hitchins (first half year) and Rosalie Triolo (second half) continued to work for our affiliated societies to enhance their skills and knowledge. The Membership Committee, headed by Rosalie Triolo, was closed down at the end of 2022 when Council



decided our computer databases had largely replaced its work. Its remaining activities will be taken up by the enhanced Events Working Group led by Andrew Lemon. Finally, our new Investment Committee began operating to oversee our financial planner's decisions and performance.

I urge you to read about the work of the committees in the 2022 annual report, for much of the impressive work of the RHSV is done by these hard-working and creative teams. I also recommend reading my chairman's report of the Council's activities.

Our donors, large and small, continued to assist the work of the RHSV, and a full list appeared in the April 2022 *History News*. Special mention must be made of Allan Myers AC KC and Maria Myers AC and our ambassador, Bill Russell, who gave generously.

There were a number of new initiatives in 2022. Among them were two distinguished annual lectures, now added to the RHSV calendar. These were: the Indigenous History Lecture, presented in February by Professor Julie Andrews of La Trobe University. Julie Andrews, a Yorta Yorta woman, spoke about Indigenous women's activism



in Victoria. In August the Hugh Anderson Lecture was given by Professor Frank Bongiorno of the ANU, who spoke of the work of Hugh Anderson, a former vice president of the RHSV and noted scholar of Australian folklore. Both lectures were sponsored and subsequently published in the December 2022 issue of the *VHJ*.

In October we held a two-day conference to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Victorian Education Act of 1872, which established a state-wide system of schooling based on the transformative aims of free, compulsory and secular education. The conference was organised by a team headed by Dr Andrew Lemon and included Drs Deb Towns, Rosalie Triolo and Judith Smart. Emeritus Professor Kwong Lee Dow, an eminent educationalist and former vice chancellor of the University of Melbourne, opened and sponsored the conference. The Department of Education agreed to fund publication of the conference papers in a special issue of the *VHJ* in June 2023, to be edited by Andrew Lemon.

Financially, the RHSV posted a small deficit in 2022 for the first time in years, created by a downturn in our equities investments. However, our operational results were solid, and our assets and overall financial position

are both strong—as revealed in the treasurer’s report. However, there will be structural challenges to our operating costs in the years ahead that we must face. First, for the last decade we have received an annual grant from Creative Victoria, currently equivalent to about 12 per cent of our income, but in the latest funding round of 2021 we were not successful owing to a change in funding criteria. We fortunately received some lesser interim funding, tapering off over eighteen months and due to end in late 2023. Also, a long-term income stream from dedicated volunteers doing commercial site-search reports for development projects in the CBD, equivalent to 5 per cent of our income, is being eroded due to competition from private providers aided by State Library Victoria’s digitisation of the *Sands & McDougall* directories. Furthermore, our building lease continues to remain in limbo, throwing our long-term future and rental costs into some uncertainty. These challenges will be confronted in 2023.

Richard Broome AM | RHSV President



Executive Officer's Annual Report 2022

2022 - how wonderful to return to some level of normalcy! The beginning of 2022 was still a bit shaky with an understandable reluctance by members to join audiences and travel on public transport. Zoom continued to be a boon. We bought an air purifier for the team who work in the Images Room as our air conditioning doesn't reach those outer realms.

With time, however, the RHSV returned to its pre-COVID busyness with a growing number of organisations hiring our spaces and audiences returning. Use of the collection remained high during COVID as often we'd be open when other larger and less-nimble institutions were closed.

I would like to thank the entire RHSV team, led by our president Richard Broome and the RHSV Council, and including committee members, volunteers and staff for achieving more than I dreamt possible.. And, of course, we have been assisted in many ways by governments, foundations, and private individuals who share our vision. You will see mention of this generosity throughout this Annual Report.

Support

We thank **Creative Victoria** for their support of our operating costs. In 2022 we were staggered to learn that our application for operational funding for the four years, June 2022 - June 2026, had been unsuccessful and that we would be receiving reduced transitional operational funding for 18 months before funding disappeared completely at the end of 2023. This was a massive blow. We were not the only history/heritage organisation to lose our funding and it appears that there is a design flaw in the new grant criteria which works against collecting organisations. Creative Victoria have appointed consultants to advise on this flaw and to see if it can be rectified.

2022 saw a revolving door at DELWP, our landlord, which also changed its name to the **Department of Transport and Planning**. We farewelled long-time Minister for Planning, The Hon Richard Wynne

in mid 2022. Richard was succeeded by The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn for 6 months and, just prior to Christmas, a new Minister, the Hon Sonya Kilkenny was appointed. We thank all three ministers for their generosity in housing the RHSV in the Drill Hall. We also farewelled Russell Maunder who had managed our tenancy admirably for 23 years for DELWP. At the end of 2021 the department appointed Jones Lang LeSalle as building managers for the Drill Hall and it has been delightful working with JLL to ensure that this building is made fit for purpose. We still have a way to go.

I also wish to express the society's deep gratitude to the Trustees of the **Vera Moore Foundation** and their admirable secretary, David Richardson AO OBE, for their ongoing support of History Month. October, aka History Month, is the highlight of our year with a multitude of events happening across Victoria. It keeps us very busy. The generosity of the Vera Moore Foundation is key to our ability to promote the History Month activities of historical societies across Victoria, as well as those of the RHSV in Melbourne.

Each year we administer the allocation of grants from the **Holsworth Local Heritage Trust**, which was established through the generosity of Bendigo resident Carol Holsworth to encourage the publishing of local histories in rural and regional Victoria. In 2022 Carol decided to broaden the scope of the Holsworth grants to include digitisation and its related costs as well as publishing.

We congratulate Cosmo Varty who, in 2022, was awarded the **Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History** for the highest marks in Australian History at La Trobe University.

Staff

In 2022 we had more stability in our staff. Unfortunately not total stability. Our bookkeeper, Noha Ghobrial, resigned as the 2021 audit was about to start in early 2022 and I had to step into the breach as book-keeper until we could appoint the wonderful Kristin Adnams in May. Kristin is an accountant and she has improved our book-keeping immeasurably. A great addition to our team.



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Helen has plans to create a digital studio which will allow us to permanently set up equipment capable of digitising documents which are larger than A3 and also objects.

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Christina Browning, our marketing officer, started in early 2022, replacing our inaugural marketing officer, Jess Scott. Christina continued to deliver monthly Zoom Marketing Forums which are a great way for our historical societies to improve their social media skills.

Jade Koekoe became our project officer for both History Month and the Victorian Community History Awards which she managed with great aplomb.

Thomas Spiteri quickly became a favourite of our members as he was our Events Assistant at all our Drill Hall events. During the year we upgraded our equipment substantially to allow us to offer hybrid events and Thomas mastered this new skillset with great enthusiasm.

Helen Stitt continued as our Collections Officer (Images) making great strides in setting up teams of volunteers to increase our digitisation rates. Helen has plans to create a digital studio which will allow us to permanently set up equipment capable of digitising documents which are larger than A3 and also objects.

And finally, Jillian Hiscock continued as our stellar Collections Manager, beloved by all. In 2022 we installed 4 museum-quality archival plan-file cabinets for maps and large works on paper and there is constant reform of the collection, its catalogue and its presentation. The 2nd tranche of the Jones Collection arrived in 2022. Jillian has decanted the material in the old Scrapbook Room into the new Research Room 2 – a major undertaking involving much remedial work. Jillian also continued her popular Cataloguing Clinics via Zoom.

Book Shop

The bookshop continued to shine in 2022. The high website sales reached during lock-down continued so COVID has wrought a permanent change in book-buying habits. Lenore Frost who had managed the bookshop so admirably for many years decided that a change was needed and has moved into the Images team where she puts her mammoth historical knowledge to work in enriching the images catalogue records.

We all miss Lenore.



You will have noticed that the bookshop is gradually expanding in size - bookshelves are popping up everywhere in the Drill Hall. This allows us to stock more titles and also to carry a large second hand section which is growing in popularity. We pride ourselves on stocking books which cannot be found anywhere else.

We thank those many members and friends who donate their collections of Victorian history to the bookshop (we always check first to make sure that the books are in our collection) - I love seeing books recycled to find a new owner.

Summary

As you read this annual report you will learn about the depth of talent and the number of people involved in the RHSV's operations and the gargantuan amount that we achieve each year. We operate with a paid FTE staff of 4 and about 90 volunteers. Everyone involved has my deepest gratitude.

The RHSV is of course a cog in a larger sector, and we work collaboratively and productively with a wide variety

of history and heritage organisations, including the extensive network of local historical societies throughout the state. We want to keep on developing these alliances - we are definitely stronger together.

My greatest thanks go to our members - we are a membership-based organisation and our members have skin in the game. They pay annual fees, buy books, attend events, make donations, volunteer and shape and steer this organisation to improve each year. They have diverse and exceptional skills and networks which they use to the RHSV's benefit. As other organisations moan about falling memberships and lack of volunteers, it gives me enormous pleasure that our membership is growing and we have more applications for volunteer work than we can handle.

Future operational funding is an issue but every other aspect of this organisation is strong and getting stronger. We are a small organisation which continues to punch above its weight.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer



RHSV Council Annual Report 2022

The role of the Council is to provide leadership for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. In doing so it will guide and monitor the society's business and affairs; ensure the society is properly governed; and increase the society's value to members and the Victorian community in accordance with its purpose and mission. The Council may by resolution establish committees to consider and advise on any specified matter or matters in achieving its purpose.

The Council of the RHSV has been energetic this year and has worked to enhance its performance. In April it asked regional councillor, Peter Yule, to undertake a review of the Council, particularly its committee structure, in the tight time frame of six weeks. Peter Yule

interviewed the president, executive officer, secretary and assistant secretary, key councillors, and committee chairs. He submitted his report 'Review of the Committee Structure and Council of the RHSV' in June. Council decided to discuss it at a special meeting in August.

The 112th Annual General Meeting of the RHSV was held on 17 May 2022 at the Drill Hall, attended by 60 people in person with another 40 on Zoom. It was a very successful meeting, although approval of the financial statements was adjourned—with the permission of the meeting—under the provisions of the society's constitution. This was a consequence of the bookkeeper's resignation at a vital time for the filing of the accounts, thus delaying finalisation of the auditor's report. A special meeting attended by 31 RHSV members was held by Zoom on 23 December when the audited financial reports for the calendar year 2021 were approved.

The membership of Council from January to the AGM in May was Richard Broome (president), Elisabeth Jackson (vice president), Carole Woods (secretary), Cathy Butcher (assistant secretary), Daniel Clements (treasurer), Judith Smart, Margaret Anderson, Rosemary Cameron ex-officio (executive officer), Rosalie Triolo, Peter Yule, Charles Sowerwine, Nikita Vanderbyl, Pauline Hitchens and Don Garden (previous past president).

At the AGM in May, Pauline Hitchens, who had been on Council as the co-ordinator of the History Victoria Support Group, resigned from that role and did not stand for election as an ordinary member of Council. Pauline was thanked for her work during a period made particularly difficult by the COVID pandemic. Elizabeth Triarico, who has links with multicultural Melbourne through her role as manager of CO.AS.IT Italian Historical Society, was elected. Don Garden stood down as immediate past president in August owing to his relocation to Hobart, Tasmania. Elisabeth Jackson stood down as vice president but remained on Council, and Rosalie Triolo was elected vice president in her stead. In June, Council agreed that Peter Yule would continue as a co-opted regional member under section 54 (5) of the constitution until the AGM of 2023. Council also agreed to co-opt Paul Fearon onto Council owing to his professional skills in working with government authorities and his experience with another not-for-profit fund raising committee.

The special Council meeting in August agreed that Council's work would be enhanced and better governed by having a board charter, and that the terms of reference of all committees should be revised as well. Drafts of these were in progress by year's end. Council considered the number of committees and decided that the Membership Development Committee should be closed as its work had been made largely redundant by new membership software. Rosalie Triolo was thanked for the energetic and creative job she did as MDC chair. Some of her event ideas were passed on to the Events Committee, which was reconstituted as a smaller more informal Events Working Party. A Fundraising Committee was mooted, to be headed by Paul Fearon, but it was agreed that it would function as a working party until its role and purposes have been formulated.

Council agreed that an item 'strategy/governance/risk' should routinely be included on its agenda. In December, under this item, Council considered the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)'s new reporting requirements, to be implemented from July 2023. Council also discussed the ACNC's guidelines for societies' self-evaluation and an



accompanying paper 'Governance for Good', as well as two papers from our bookkeeper Kristen Adnams and Rosemary Cameron on 'Financial and Data Risk' and 'Data Breach Response Plan'. It was further agreed that in 2023 Council would develop a cash-flow perspective in its accounts to better face financial challenges.

In August the president drafted for Council a three-page submission to the National Cultural Policy inquiry instituted by the new federal government. The submission argued that history is foundational to the nation's culture and identity, and that the word 'history' should be evident and indeed prominent in cultural policy.

Council also asked two of its councillors, Nikita Vanderbyl and Elizabeth Triarico, to prepare discussion papers on inclusion and diversity. They produced two papers: Elizabeth Triarico's 'Is there a Need for an RHSV Cultural Working Party?' and Nikita Vanderbyl's 'RHSV and Social Inclusion: How to Make the RHSV as Welcoming as Possible to Diverse Communities'. After discussion of these excellent papers, Council agreed to establish a Working Party on Inter-cultural Inclusion and Diversity for the RHSV, with Elizabeth Triarico and Nikita Vanderbyl as the initial members.

Richard Broome AM | Chair of RHSV Council

Collections Committee Annual Report 2022

The RHSV collection is the society's most valuable asset. The books, journals, manuscripts, images and objects collected since the formation of the RHSV in 1909 provide a priceless record of life in Victoria. The Collections Committee has the task of overseeing the management and publicising of this resource with the work carried out by the collections manager, images officer and many dedicated volunteers.

This year we were delighted to take delivery of the Jones Collection. Ebenezer and Meda Jones bought a house in Coburg when they married in 1921 and lived there for the rest of their lives. Their daughter Gwen spent nearly all of her 98 years there. Gwen Jones had a successful career as a teacher and lecturer in education and expressed a great interest in history throughout her life. She joined the RHSV in 1966 and, after her retirement in 1986, was very active in the History Institute of Victoria.

Prior to Gwen's death in October 2021, her goddaughter, Kirsten Binns Smith, decided that the RHSV was the most appropriate place for Gwen's collection of letters, research notes, diaries and many documents relating to suburban life over the preceding century. This donation came with a substantial financial contribution, which provided for the purchase of a compactus to store the collection and to employ an archivist to catalogue and interpret it. Historian Richard Aitken, a Jones family friend, meticulously sorted and listed the material and housed it in archival storage before it was delivered to the RHSV. An exhibition, an annual lecture and a book are planned in order to publicise and utilise this unique collection.

Another significant donation was the book collection of the late Paul Mullaly. Judge Mullaly was a long-time friend of and volunteer for the RHSV who did substantial work on the Judge Willis Casebooks. The collection includes a number of local history titles that were not already in our collection.

The ongoing work of decolonising the collection has been overseen by the committee during the year. This is part of the process of reconciliation with First Nations people that is being undertaken by the RHSV. Our first task is to identify references to Indigenous peoples in the collection that may not have been captured in earlier cataloguing. To this end, volunteers and staff have been examining the manuscripts collection and the images in particular. The next step





is to liaise with Victorian Aboriginal communities to discuss items relevant to them. The Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust has been approached as a starting point for this process. Monash University student intern Natalie Demenzies wrote a discussion paper on the issues connected with decolonisation and, with Helen Stitt, conducted interviews with curators of relevant collections around Australia.

Cataloguing of the collection and adding information to eHive, which is harvested by the National Library Trove website, has continued. Digitisation of images with low resolution versions visible on the online catalogue has continued, with more than 2000 images digitised by the end of 2022. This has greatly increased the visibility of the collection, with a commensurate increase in sales of images. A large number of volunteers has been recruited to assist with the digitisation.

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With more staff now employed in the collections area, we decided it would be appropriate to increase the role of outside experts.

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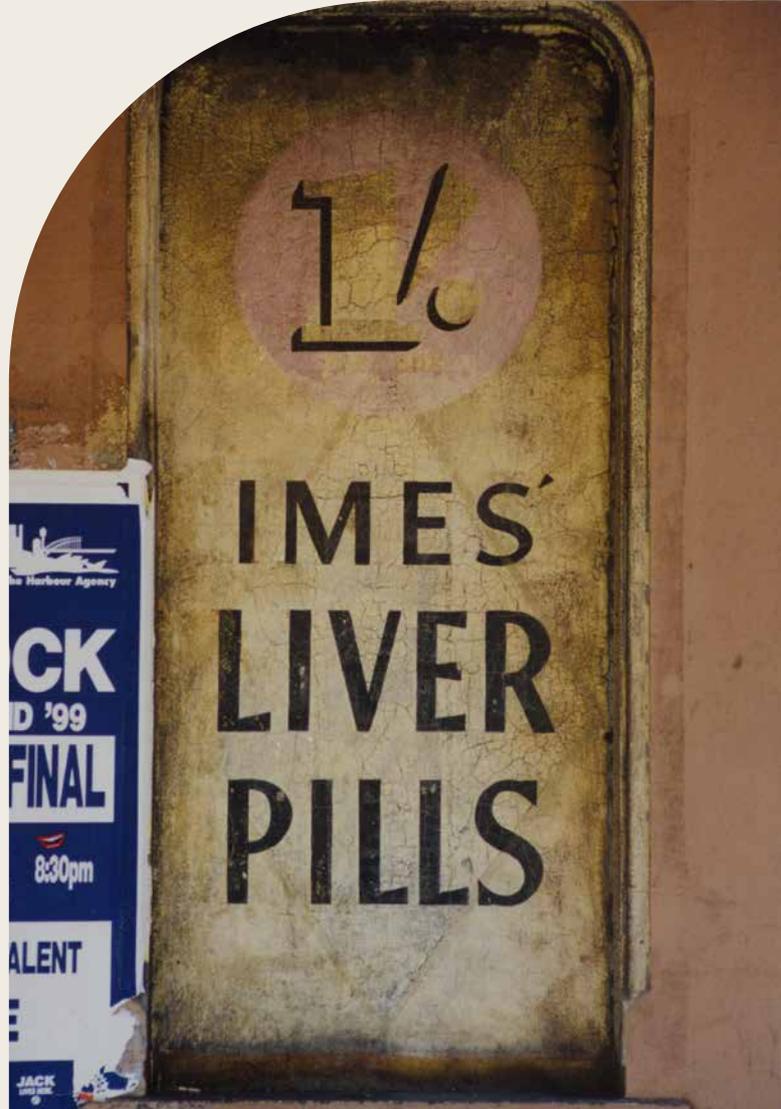
The major exhibition staged in 2022 was *Kaleidoscope*—highlighting the contribution of women to the RHSV throughout its history. This was curated by Dr Cheryl Griffin, who has also been co-ordinating the compilation of an online biographical dictionary of women involved with the RHSV.

Amongst the many uses of our collection in 2022 there was one stand-out. Filmmaker Gus Berger used many of our Pierre Robin images in his documentary film, *The Lost City of Melbourne*. The documentary was launched at MIFF22 and had a cinema release soon after. It won an award from the Australian Film Critics Association for Best Australian Documentary, and Madman Entertainment has requested permission to distribute the DVD and will try to get a television network broadcast.

The committee revised its terms of reference during the year and has changed its composition as a result. Previously it included three volunteers working with the collection. With more staff now employed in the collections area, we decided it would be appropriate to increase the role of outside experts. The newly constituted committee now consists of one RHSV councillor, who chairs it, the collections manager, the images officer, the executive officer, and three outside experts in the fields of collection management, curatorship and conservation. The RHSV president is an *ex officio* member. Expertise of other staff and volunteers will be called on as required.

My thanks are expressed to the committee members of 2022: Cheryl Griffin, Margaret Fleming, Lorenzo Iozzi and Elizabeth Willis, as well as the collections staff, Jillian Hiscock and Helen Stitt, and executive officer, Rosemary Cameron.

Elisabeth Jackson | Chair Collections Committee



Events and Outreach Committee Annual Report 2022

This was the year when we at the RHSV cautiously re-emerged blinking into the daylight after the necessary restrictions and constraints around public meetings during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the previous year most of our offerings could be shared only via the medium of the internet, but as noted in last year's report this did allow us to improve our mastery of the technology. It also established a pattern whereby many of our future in-person lectures can be shared more widely by platforms such as Zoom. The so-called 'hybrid' lectures are here to stay.

During 2022, thanks in particular to the initiative of our president, Richard Broome, and executive officer, Rosemary Cameron, we have consolidated what we are calling our Distinguished Lecture Series. Already on our annual calendar we have had the A.G.L. Shaw Lecture, presented in conjunction with the C.J. La Trobe Society, and the Weston Bate Oration. These lectures honour the memory of two of the RHSV's most distinguished past presidents and benefactors of this society.

The A.G.L. Shaw Lecture for 2022 was delivered by Dr Peter Yule, a former RHSV vice president and Council member—and a first-cousin-once-removed of the late Professor Shaw. Dr Yule spoke on 'The Barristers of the Port Phillip District 1839–1851', the topic arising from his new history of barristers in Victoria, *Vic Bar* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2022). I was honoured to be invited to present the Weston Bate Oration in May. I spoke on 'Australian History as Literature, Australian Literature as History'. The lecture was published in the June 2022 issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Then, in August, we were delighted to present the inaugural Hugh Anderson Lecture as a regular replacement for our former Melbourne Day lecture. Dr Hugh Anderson (1917–2017) has been rightly described as 'a scholar of formidable breadth, productivity and

versatility'—schoolteacher, folklorist, publisher. Fittingly, it was a long-standing friend of Hugh's, Professor Frank Bongiorno AM, who gave the inaugural address, a brilliant exposition of Anderson as historian and biographer, with insights into the man himself. It was published in the December 2022 issue of the *VHJ*.

Now, as regular features of our events calendar, we also hold the RHSV Women's History Month Lecture in March and the Indigenous History Lecture. For the former, we were honoured in 2022 to be addressed by Emeritus Redmond Barry Professor Janet McCalman AC, author of the important new book *Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria* (Melbourne University Press, 2022). Prof. McCalman outlined the basis of her research and findings in a talk titled 'Unprotected: Aboriginal, Convict and Poor Women in Colonial Victoria: Or How Everything Bad Was Made Worse by Being Female'. The inaugural Indigenous History Lecture was presented by Dr Julie Andrews, chair of the Aboriginal Studies and Indigenous Strategy Committee for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University. Her topic was 'Milestones in Aboriginal Women's Activism, Melbourne 1930 to 1970'. Both lectures were published in the June 2022 issue of the *VHJ*.

The RHSV's normal schedule of featured monthly lectures continued around the Distinguished Lecture Series. The ever-popular writer and historian Robyn Annear took us on a virtual walk around the hidden histories of the inner city, inspired by her new book *Adrift in Melbourne* (Text, 2021). Canberra-based archaeologist and historian Dr Peter Dowling spoke on his book *Fatal Contact: How Epidemics nearly Wiped Out Australia's First Peoples* (Monash University Publishing, 2021). And, in November, Jim Davison, cultural historian and editor of *Meanjin* from 1974 to 1982, spoke on his newly published *Emperors in Lilliput* (Melbourne University Press, 2022). This is a wide-ranging juxtaposition of the literary careers of Clem Christensen and Stephen Murray-Smith, founding editors of *Meanjin* and *Overland*

respectively. The talk, like the book, was illuminated by Jim Davison's recollections of and reflections on his own challenges in succeeding Christensen in the *Meanjin* editor's chair.

In October we had a small in-person audience and a larger Zoom audience for our annual Emerging Historians session in conjunction with the Professional Historians Association (Victoria and Tasmania). This I chaired with Kimberley Meagher, PHAVT president. The format demands short, crisp presentations. The speakers this year all rose to the challenge: Dr Sarah Craze (on the battle to play sport on Sundays in Camberwell), Portia Dilena (on the Albury Study Centre of the RCAE and feminism in 1970s Albury-Wodonga), Nicola Dobinson (on British-Iranian diplomacy in the 1970s: insights from a history of emotions approach) and Dr Andrew Kilsby (on the Simmie family of Simmie and Co. and the property Harpsdale, near Craigieburn). The RHSV was delighted to offer each of the speakers a year's membership. For Andrew Kilsby, it was a perfect segue to his book and to the exhibition on the Simmie family to be featured at A'Beckett Street during 2023.

The RHSV co-hosted other lectures during the year with Engineering Heritage Victoria and with the Genealogical Society of Victoria. The state surveyor-general, Craig Sandy, spoke in May on 'The Role of the Surveyors in the Establishment of Melbourne and Victoria'. Prof. Miles Lewis AM spoke in June on 'The Rise and Fall of the Iron Bridge'. In July, as a Zoom event with the GSV, Dr Carla Pascoe Leahy discussed the history of children's play.

By far our biggest and most demanding event for 2022 was the two-day RHSV conference on the weekend of 1 and 2 October. This marked the 150th anniversary of the passing of the 1872 Education Act, which provided for universal free, secular and compulsory schooling—the backbone ideal of public education in Victoria ever since. The conference was an ambitious undertaking, made possible by the financial support of the Victorian government through the Department of Education and the generous sponsorship of the eminent educationist, Professor Kwong Lee Dow, who officially opened the conference.

An organising committee of Dr Deborah Towns OAM, Dr Judith Smart AM, and the RHSV vice president, Dr Rosalie Triolo, helped me plan and execute the event. Organisation of the venue and administration fell to the RHSV team, and we received invaluable help from the project officer Kelly Wong and, especially on technical matters, events assistant Thomas Spiteri.



Rather than detail the 27 separate speakers at this conference, I refer you to the forthcoming special June 2023 issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*, which includes most of the papers delivered at the conference, along with two other refereed articles relating to the history of education in Victoria.

Mentioned elsewhere in this annual report are the numerous other events organised or held by the RHSV, including book launches, exhibition openings and the Victorian Community History Awards, back at the Victorian Arts Centre in 2022 as an in-person celebration. Every one of these events places considerable demands on our small staff, special event organisers and volunteers. Their work behind the scenes includes bookings and ticketing, cleaning before and afterwards, and organising seating, catering and technical arrangements (doubly complicated where Zoom is involved). We thank everyone who helped with events throughout 2022.

Andrew Lemon AM | Chair Events and Outreach Committee

Foundation

To mark the RHSV's centenary year 2009, Council established a Foundation for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The aim was to safeguard the RHSV's future.

The Foundation's purposes are:

- a. To receive charitable donations to further the work of the RHSV
- b. To receive charitable donations to create a permanent home for the RHSV.

In the early days, the Foundation was fortunate to garner support from Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Gordon Moffatt AM, our most generous donor over many years. Plus, each and every year, a multitude of donations, large and small, from our members and friends also buoy the Foundation. At the end of 2022, the Foundation had grown substantially to \$830,694. This growth is despite the financial uncertainty of the last three years.

The Foundation is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and is entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts.

The Foundation's DGR status is applicable through two of the eight items listed in the table in section 30-15 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*

- **Item 1** a list of funds, authorities and institutions such as public hospitals, overseas aid funds and public museums (including entities listed by name).
- **Item 4** describes funds, authorities or institutions that may receive donations of property under the Cultural Gifts Program.

Donations to the foundation can be made by:

- **Cheque** made out to RHSV Foundation, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000 or
- **Credit card** through the Donations tab on our website (at the top of our home page) or simply phone 03 9326 9288 or
- **Bank Transfer** Royal Historical Society of Victoria, BSB 013040 A/c 3475 70336

A receipt will be issued for all donations of at least \$2, which may be deductible for tax purposes.

Library art gallery and museum fund

The RHSV also operates a second DGR fund, the Library, Art Gallery and Museum Fund and its principal activities are:

- To receive charitable donations to further the work of the RHSV
- To support the conservation and preservation of the RHSV's nationally significant collection
- To promote the RHSV and Victoria's history.

This fund's DGR status is applicable through the same two items as the Foundation Fund and donations can be made in the same way.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer



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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Heritage Committee Annual Report 2022

During 2022 we welcomed Christina Browning, the RHSV's marketing officer, onto the Heritage Committee to assist Jeff Atkins and David Lansley with managing the committee's pages on the society's website, and with publicising our activities through Facebook and other forms of communication. Christina's work has been of considerable value in promoting our heritage work. However, we were sad to lose the wise assistance and advice of Felicity Watson, the National Trust of Victoria's executive manager, advocacy, who resigned to take up a position as heritage coordinator, Wyndham City Council. We have valued her counsel and support over many years and look forward to hearing of her success in preserving heritage in one of Melbourne's rapidly growing areas. In her stead, we welcomed Madeleine Moore, the National Trust's heritage advocacy advisor, onto our committee. Continuing members of the committee are: Charles Sowerwine (chair), Ian Wight (co-deputy chair), Judith Smart (co-deputy chair), Elisabeth Jackson, Peter Hiscock, David Lansley, Jeff Atkinson and Don Garden.

During 2022, we have attracted press coverage for our views on a number of continuing issues relating to the Royal Exhibition Building World Heritage Site and to development proposals for the Queen Victoria Market, the Jack Dyer Stand (Punt Road Oval), the John Curtin Hotel, the Great Western Hotel, and the No. 2 Goods Shed (originally part of the Spencer Street rail yards).

We have been successful on some issues, perhaps most importantly the extension of the Royal Exhibition Buildings World Heritage Environs Area, which has now received ministerial approval. However, Heritage Council hearings, at which we will be represented by Ian Wight, are still to be held in May. We have recently heard too that the John Curtin Hotel has been added to the Heritage Register, and that Heritage Victoria has refused a permit for the proposed development of the No. 2 Goods Shed.

There have, however, been some setbacks and defeats, including, unfortunately, the Victorian Legislative Council Inquiry on Planning and Heritage, to which we made a major submission, and which cancelled hearings and, owing to the proximity of the state elections, issued a hasty interim report. We are now agitating for the inquiry's reconstitution and resumption of activities including hearings. We are also looking at ways to better involve our member historical



societies in our work. While we have been involved in a number of cases at the request of local societies, we need to be seen more widely as the first port of call in cases of heritage under threat. To this end we have offered to speak to historical societies and at events organised by the Historical Societies Support Committee.

Here is a case-by-case summary of the main foci of our work during 2022.

1. Royal Exhibition Building/Carlton Gardens World Heritage Site and the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)

1.1 Review of the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) Strategy Plan

This is a review of the planning controls for the area around the REB/CG World Heritage site, the so-called buffer zone promised to UNESCO but torpedoed by the Victorian government upon implementation in 2009. We were stakeholders from the start of the review process in early 2020 and made several submissions during all stages. Thanks to good leadership from Heritage Victoria, a new WHEA Draft Strategy Plan (DSP) was prepared. The Heritage Council was to proceed with a formal hearing in March 2022. This was delayed after it was discovered that only the minister has the power to change the WHEA boundaries as was proposed in the plan. In July Minister Blandthorne agreed to and gazetted the extension proposed, and the Heritage Council hearings have been rescheduled for May 2023. Committee chair and deputy chair, Charles Sowerwine and Ian Wight, have prepared a very substantial submission supporting the extension but also arguing for the further proposal to eliminate the distinction between the Area of Greater Sensitivity and the rest of the WHEA. Our submission argues too for changes to the Design and Development Overlays (DDOs) governing the area surrounding the Carlton Gardens in order to reduce the likelihood of future threats to what is widely regarded as the ‘most authentic remaining example of an *in situ* Palace of Industry from a significant international exhibition in its original garden setting’. The committee will be represented at the hearings by Ian Wight.

1.2 Draft Strategic Vision World Heritage Steering Committee for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

In April 2022 the committee chair made a further submission with respect to the governance and operation of the World Heritage site as a whole, arguing for stronger measures to ensure a collaborative approach to decision making by giving full voting rights to the

current non-voting members and extending membership to include community stakeholders, the minister for planning, and the chair of Visit Victoria. We have recently been informed that the RHSV’s submission was positively received but, although we obtained stronger language regarding the need for the steering committee to be more proactive, we did not obtain the expanded voting rights or membership we suggested.

1.3 Revised Draft World Heritage Management Plans

This five-part set of documents, completed at the end of 2022, brings together all aspects of the World Heritage Management Plan reviewed in stages from 2020. We have made submissions on all of these sections of the WHMP except Part 1: Overview Site Management Plan. We have recently put together a new submission on this overview, urging that this part of the review, which looks to wrap-up the whole process, focus on governance and coherence of planning controls as a way of resolving confusion over the review’s organisation and nomenclature. Our very strong recommendations are for: 1. significant strengthening and major reform of the steering committee to centralise the overview of the REB & CG World Heritage site; 2. making the executive director, Heritage Victoria, the determining referral authority for the WHEA, with specific triggers for referral.

2. Tanner Street Industrial Heritage Complex and Yarra Planning Scheme Amendment C269

Early in the year we were notified of what seemed to be a small win with regard to the Tanner Street industrial complex. While a Heritage Overlay applied to the site, Yarra Council and DELWP (now Department of Transport and Planning), in the proposed planning amendment C269, sought to extend to it the designation ‘Major Activity Centre’. The planning panel that considered C269 agreed with our contention, put by Ian Wight, that this extension had not been properly exhibited. However, this leaves the door open to another attempt to include it in the adjacent Major Activity Centre if properly exhibited. Furthermore, we obtained little of the other protections we sought in the hearings on this amendment, and we have subsequently learned that development plans for some sections had already been approved.

3. Jack Dyer Stand

This beautiful stand was opened in 1914. Richmond Football Club now seeks its demolition to make room for an adequate oval for AFLW, but their own consultants

found that this could be achieved by demolishing the 1984 Swinburne Centre, a blot on the landscape. In the wake of Judith Smart's submission to Heritage Victoria at the end of 2021, Charles Sowerwine wrote to the Future Melbourne Committee and spoke at the meeting (2 May 2022). The committee, however, voted to allow demolition, apparently a result of secret discussions with the club. The *Inner East Review* ran a story (10 May 2022) with a picture of Dr Smart and David Langdon of Richmond & Burnley Historical Society and a quotation from Professor Sowerwine. We have continued to follow this issue, and, in the wake of the recommendation of the executive director Heritage Victoria not to list the stand, we joined others in appealing to the Heritage Council. The outcome of their deliberations has not yet become available.

4. Former Hoffman Brickworks, Brunswick

Elisabeth Jackson has been following this matter. It is a regrettable but all too common example of demolition by neglect. The developer obtained approval from Heritage Victoria in January for demolition of the historic steam engine house, which was inevitable because of the state into which the site had fallen. Demolition has now occurred. The next stage will see the developer submitting plans for multiple apartments. We will almost certainly make a submission.

5. John Curtin Hotel

We learned in March that the John Curtin Hotel, opposite the Trades Hall in Lygon Street and long associated with the history of the labour movement, was under threat even though it is covered by a Heritage Overlay (HO). This is because, like the infamous Corkman Hotel, it is also the subject of a DDO allowing for an eight-storey building on the site. Furthermore, it was only classified as 'contributory' to the HO. Along with the National Trust, we lodged an application to Heritage Victoria for the hotel to be listed on the Heritage Register. Drawing on the work of historian Dr Chris McConville, Professor Sowerwine pointed out that not only is the hotel a remarkably intact example of Arts and Crafts style architecture, but its completion in 1915 marks it as one of the last pubs built before the introduction of six o'clock closing in 1916 changed the design of hotels to facilitate rapid ordering and drinking. We have recently learned that the Heritage Council has approved the hotel's VHR listing.

6. Great Western Hotel

The RHSV has been campaigning to save this important piece of Melbourne's history for five years. A classic Regency design hotel, virtually unaltered since its opening as Star of the West on King Street in 1864, it

was sold to a developer in 2017 but was subsequently onsold with permit and is now the object of a huge development proposal. We became aware of this in May when Professor Sowerwine was contacted by Carolyn Webb of the *Age* and quoted in her article. Recently the hotel was included in the extensions to heritage protection under the Hoddle Grid Study, but permission to demolish was nevertheless granted.

7. Hoddle Grid Review, Planning Amendment C386–387

On 9 September 2022, the minister for planning approved and gazetted Planning Amendment C387, extending the CBD Heritage Overlay to protect 121 individual buildings and five precincts. Of these sites, roughly one third date from before 1914, somewhat over a third date from 1914 to 1945, and somewhat less than a third date from 1945 to 1975. For the past five years, the RHSV has been calling for a review of protections in Melbourne. In 2020, the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review was initiated. We have strongly supported it since then, and we congratulate the minister on approving the protections proposed in the review. This represents a major victory for the preservation of heritage in Melbourne.

8. Queen Victoria Market

We learned in September that the City of Melbourne was once again seeking to make radical changes to the Queen Victoria Market with an application to Heritage Victoria for a permit to alter the operation and appearance of half the historic 1878 fruit and veg sheds (A–E) by installing containers for hospitality booths, loading docks and a fenced-off area for storage. This would radically transform the visual impact of the market, traditionally characterised by transparent views across the various stalls on trestle tables, by blocking the view with 2.6 metre containers and fences. It would also transform the market's mode of operation, replacing the low-key traders' stalls with fixed 'pods'. The RHSV lodged a submission with Heritage Victoria strongly opposing this application but was unsuccessful, though the permit is currently limited to two years.

9. No. 2 Goods Shed

No. 2 Goods Shed in the Spencer Street rail yards was built in 1889 and was then the longest building in Australia (385 metres, with 26 doors on the east side and 28 on the west side). Despite its listing on the Victorian Heritage Register (HO933), it was cut in half during the Kennett era by the Collins Street Extension and the two halves redeveloped as office spaces in the early 2000s. In August 2022 Walker Corporation applied to Heritage

Victoria for a permit to demolish part of the shed and build two office towers. No. 2 Goods Shed is one of the most significant buildings in Victoria's rail and industrial history. It is still the largest and most architecturally elaborate 19th-century railway goods building in the state, and most of it is still intact. Ian Wight prepared and lodged a submission with Heritage Victoria opposing the developer's application. We have recently learned that Heritage Victoria has refused the permit, though the developer may still appeal the decision to the Heritage Council.

10. Legislative Council Inquiry into Planning and Heritage

This has been among our most important concerns during the past year and remains a major focus of our advocacy work. Officially titled Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework, this committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Council on 28 October 2020 to seek community views on, among other things, protection of heritage. In October 2021 it advertised for submissions to be received by 28 January 2022, with hearings scheduled for the first half of 2022. Ian Wight and Charles Sowerwine, with assistance from Judith Smart, prepared an extensive submission, which can be found on the RHSV website. However, on 16 February during a Zoom meeting with the Hon. Clifford Hayes MLC, deputy chair of the inquiry, we learned that the committee had on the previous day voted to postpone hearings until after the state election. In effect this amounted to mothballing the committee. Although an interim truncated report drawing on some of the 257 submissions received to date was released in August, it shows many signs of haste, and important issues have been ignored. It also recommended that the committee be re-established. We continued discussions with members of the committee and joined with other heritage advocates in lobbying upper house candidates of all parties during the state election campaign, asking them to commit to supporting the resumption of the inquiry. The assistance of the RHSV's Christina Browning and Emily Maiolo was indispensable to this work. In the wake of the election, we have begun to lobby new members of the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee to reconstitute the inquiry, hold hearings on the basis of the 257 submissions received, and prepare a comprehensive report.

11. Other Issues

During the year we were active in a range of other issues including: writing to the new Commonwealth minister responsible for heritage with respect to the deleterious

effect of the 1-9 Gertrude Street development on the Exhibition Building WHEA; encouraging local historical societies' assistance with data collection for the Portable Buildings Taskforce; preventing demolition of Victory House, an important part of Ballarat's Chinese community heritage; assisting the Ringwood & District Historical Society in preventing demolition of the 1914 Blood Brothers Store for a carpark; working with Boroondara Heritage Group for Advocacy and Protection to support the creation of a Wattle Road Hawthorn Heritage Precinct; working with the Froomes Road Action Group in Castlemaine to preserve an historic bridge; continuing discussion with the Apollo Bay & District Historical Society about the best means of ensuring recognition of the heritage significance of their home, the Cable House Museum; and assisting the Wodonga Historical Society in successfully opposing demolition of the local racecourse grandstand.

Conclusion

The Heritage Committee has continued to work hard to support local historical societies and to defend major heritage sites. However, we remain concerned that, in the current framework of policies, heritage remains in danger throughout Victoria, as well as Australia as a whole. In this context, we will continue in 2023 to push for resumption of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Planning and Heritage and, in the context of the federal environment minister's plans for revision of the EPBC Act, will also pursue vigorously reforms required to make it an effective instrument for protection of the nation's built and cultural heritage as well as the environment.

Charles Sowerwine | Chair Heritage Committee





Historical Societies Support Committee Annual Report 2022

The members of the History Victoria Support Group (HVSG), renamed the Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC) at the end of 2022, are committed to preserving and promoting Victoria's history and heritage and embracing the state's many peoples, places and perspectives within the bigger picture of Australian history. Throughout this report we use the acronym HSSC to cover both the current committee and its earlier iteration as HVSG. During 2022, members have sought to provide practical support to local historical societies to further develop their knowledge, exhibition, presentation and advocacy skills, as well as their collegial activities. Largely through the regional and area networks but also through well-established connections with individual societies and their leaders, HSSC members have in various ways supported many affiliated organisations, regardless of location, size and resourcing, to achieve an array of goals.

The HSSC members' intention in determining a new name was to present a more professional appearance, especially when interacting with bigger stakeholders and funders, than the term 'group' suggests. The new title was also intended to clarify the new committee's purpose and to provide consistency of nomenclature within and beyond the RHSV community. In addition, the HSSC revised the committee's terms of reference to more accurately capture what HSSC has achieved in recent times and is seeking to achieve in the near future.

HSSC also began the process of rolling out an exciting initiative. A list of potential speakers would be emailed to historical society network leaders. Most HSSC members, and some councillors, have offered one or more topics on which they have expertise and can offer practical advice. Network leaders are encouraged to source speakers for their upcoming events from the very comprehensive list. The initial responses have been positive, and HSSC will monitor how well this 'self-serve' scheme is taken up.

Among their other activities during 2022, HSSC members have:

- Collated and reviewed the data from the 2020–21 COVID ‘phone-tree calls’ to better understand both the strengths of and the challenges faced by societies and to determine priorities for action beyond lockdowns;
- Interviewed councillors and other members of HSSC of recent years, as well as reviewing written records such as seminar day outlines, to ascertain what activities organised by RHSV and HSSC have worked well in the past and what might be improved;
- Updated the spreadsheet of network records by asking through RHSV bulletins for all current network leaders to identify themselves and their network’s society members;
- Recommended planning full-day seminars, with one already held early in 2023 in Melbourne in person and by Zoom, and three others planned with site visits in western, central and eastern Victoria;
- Conducted three ‘Writing Local History’ full-day seminar days, one in person at RHSV, the other by Zoom, and one in Bairnsdale, each with many resources;
- Offered one half-day seminar and written advice on ‘Connecting Historical Societies and Primary Schools through Objects’ to help societies engage more productively with primary school curriculum documents and audiences;
- Conducted one ‘Writing Family History’ half-day seminar with written advice that also tapped into the 150th anniversary of the 1872 Education Act and the use of school histories;
- Offered, through *History News* or by presentations at society events, significant practical advice, including what is also available through RHSV and relevant others’ activities, events, publications and websites;
- Presented papers on diverse topics of historical knowledge specific to societies’ interests and often tailored to their locations within Victoria;
- Answered simple questions related to some societies’ exhibitions and education programs;
- Presented RHSV awards of merit or individual societies’ awards to recipients either at the RHSV’s city premises or at meetings of the relevant societies;
- Provided written contributions to *History News* and historical societies’ newsletters;

- Assisted societies in their submissions to local community and national school awards;
- Offered advice with regard to applying for Holsworth local heritage grants;
- Responded to small inquiries specific to changes in local council requirements, such as building leases and maintenance, as well as those arising from larger government policies such as child safety and occupational health and safety standards;

An annual report offers an opportunity to convey thanks to those who have contributed to HSSC work. The first is to the RHSV councillors, staff and volunteers who have supported our activities. The second is to the members of HSSC whose hard work has made possible the committee’s achievements. The members for 2022 were: George Fernando, Don Garden, Pauline Hitchins, Helen Laffin, Dalis Law, Rosalie Triolo (chair), Peter Yule and ex-officio Richard Broome and Rosemary Cameron. We also extend our thanks to the thousands of members of Victoria’s historical societies, almost wholly volunteers, who are, collectively, essential to the preservation and promotion of Victoria’s history and heritage.

Rosalie Triolo | Chair Historical Societies Support Committee





Investment Committee Annual Report 2022

This committee reflects the following four principles pursued by Council.

1. **Financial stewardship:** In 2008 the RHSV Council created the RHSV Foundation to provide a fund to ensure the future stability of the society. The Foundation has grown more than tenfold since that time to over \$830,000, thus allowing the RHSV to smooth some of its financial undulations. Whilst the Foundation is the largest of the RHSV reserves, when we combine it with the RHSV's other reserves, we have over \$1 million invested.
2. **Financial prudence:** In 2017 the Council decided to invest 50% of the RHSV reserves in equities (50% remaining in cash). In 2022, the Council amended their earlier decision slightly so that now 60% of our investments are in equities and 40% in cash. These decisions, together with gifts from Gordon Moffatt AM (2020), Bill Russell (2022) and A.J. Myers AC and Maria Myers AC (2022), substantially boosted the RHSV's growth. Gordon Moffatt's gift stimulated further improvements in financial governance.
3. **Financial literacy:** In 2021 Council took the *pro bono* advice of Marisa Broome, then chair of the Financial Planners Association of Australia, and adopted a Financial Philosophy and Policy which was a modified version of two documents that Ms Broome had drafted for not-for-profits.
4. **Financial responsibility:** In 2021 Council redefined our investments and cash, allocating them into a small cash Working Capital Fund (WCF) and a much larger Long-Term Investment Fund (LTIF). It is the LTIF which is invested 60:40 in equities:cash. In addition, Council tendered for a financial adviser.

The Terms of Reference of the Investment Committee adopted by Council in 2021 stated that it will:

- advise Council on the appointment of a financial planner;
- review the actions of the financial planner; and
- advise Council on the financial planner's performance and the performance of the LTIF twice yearly.

In late 2021 Council appointed Daryl Hawkey, a former councillor and investment banker, and Keith Kendall, a member of the former Foundation Committee and chair of the Accountancy Standards Board, as the external members of the Investment Committee. The new committee also included the RHSV's president, treasurer and executive officer. The Investment Committee recommended that Personal Financial Services (PFS) be appointed the society's financial adviser, given PFS's 25 years' experience and its alignment with Council's financial strategy.

The Investment Committee met in March 2022 to review the investment advice of PFS and recommended to Council that it be implemented. The RHSV had solely invested in Uethical until this point but it was recommended, to help minimise exposure and risk, that we diversify our investments which we have done. In October 2022 Personal Financial Services merged with the Yarra Lane Group, a move that did not affect our fees or services but provided a stronger infrastructure of financial advice. The Investment Committee was apprised of and approved the change.

Richard Broome AM | President RHSV

Publications Committee

Annual Report 2022

The Publications Committee is a key committee of the RHSV. It oversees publication of the *Victorian Historical Journal* (twice yearly), *History News* (six times yearly) and, in some years, publishes a book using our collections.

In 2022 the committee met five times and comprised the following members: Jill Barnard, Sharon Bettridge (*History News* editor), Marilyn Bowler, Richard Broome (chair and *VHJ* co-editor), Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig (*VHJ* book reviews editor), Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard, John Schauble ('Books Received' editor in *History News*), Judith Smart (*VHJ* co-editor), Carole Woods, and, *ex officio*, the RHSV's executive officer Rosemary Cameron. Most members of this hard-working committee have allocated tasks, and those without assist with advice and proof-reading. Terri Mackenzie, our Honorary *VHJ* indexer, generally completes an index of one year of the journal annually. In 2022 she completed issue 2 of 2017 and issue 1 of 2018.

The Publications Committee publishes the *Victorian Historical Journal* (twice yearly) on behalf of the RHSV. The *VHJ* contains both double-blind refereed academic articles and, as a society journal, editor-reviewed shorter historical notes by members and others. The editors strive for the highest quality and ethical standards. The December 2022 issue was a special one on health emergencies, being devoted mostly to articles on the 1919 and 2020+ pandemics in Victoria.

The John Adams prize for the best article over two years was not due to be awarded in 2022.

The journal strives for excellence and is listed/indexed by Scopus (Elsevier BV) and the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), both international citation indexes, and INFORMIT. These listings depend on having an editorial board, as well as policies on the journal's governance, editorial policy, ethical behaviour and plagiarism. The journal's digital reach is extended by citation indexing. The *VHJ* is also available in digital form (1911 to the present) on State Library Victoria's

website and INFORMIT (1994 to the present). Two thirds of RHSV members now take the journal digitally, while those receiving hardcopy pay a higher membership fee to cover that form of delivery.

We give special thanks to our honorary designer, John Gillespie, for over a decade of service to the *VHJ*. His meticulous design work and his conscientious approach is essential to the journal's delivery and reputation. John was honoured with an RHSV Distinguished Service Award in 2016 for wonderful service to the journal. He has since doubled that service to the end of 2022.

History News edited by Sharon Bettridge informs our members of upcoming events, promotes local societies and their publications, and advises members of key issues in the practice of history in Victoria. Sharon is assisted by a group of volunteers who provide regular copy for *History News*, namely: John Schauble ('Books Received'); Glenda Beckley ('Around the Societies'); Charles Sowerwine (Heritage Committee); Richard Broome (President's Report); Rosalie Triolo (Historical Societies Support Committee—formerly HVSG); and Bronwyn Hughes ('Windows on History'). RHSV staff Rosemary Cameron, Jillian Hiscock, Helen Stitt and Emily Maiolo also provide copy.

The Publications Committee, together with the Collections Committee, is responsible for producing occasional publications, drawn as much as possible from our collections. These include the much-admired *Remembering Melbourne 1850–1960* (2016, 2017), and *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* (2019). Total sales to the end of 2022 were 3,843 and 960 respectively. During 2022 planning commenced on a revised and updated version of former RHSV president Weston Bate's *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*, to be published in 2024.

The *VHJ* fund, created in 2016 to secure the journal's future, has been built from first edition sales of *Remembering Melbourne* and *VHJ* patrons' annual giving. In December 2022 patrons for the journal numbered 21 and contributed over \$15,000. The *VHJ* fund totalled \$87,707 by the end of 2022. With interest from this fund, continued patrons' giving and hardcopy membership fees, the journal's production

“

In July 2022 the committee chair secured funding from the Victorian Department of Education for those conference papers to form a special issue of the *VHJ* in 2023 to commemorate the ground-breaking 1872 Act.

”



and postage costs are now independent of the RHSV's operational budget.

The *VHJ* Editorial Board did not meet in 2022 as the co-editors Richard Broome and Judith Smart have been implementing publishing strategies hammered out in 2021, including a special pandemic issue in December 2022. The co-editors also planned a special issue for 2023 out of the October 2022 RHSV conference on the 1872 Education Act sesquicentenary. In July 2022 the committee chair secured funding from the Victorian Department of Education for those conference papers to form a special issue of the *VHJ* in 2023 to commemorate the ground-breaking 1872 Act.

In 2022 the members of the *VHJ* Editorial Board were:
Chair: Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO

(Monash University). Members: Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM (La Trobe University, president RHSV, co-editor *VHJ*); Associate Professor Kat Ellinghaus (La Trobe University); Professor Katie Holmes (La Trobe University); Professor Andrew May (University of Melbourne); Professor Emerita Marian Quartly (Monash University); Emeritus Professor John Rickard (Monash University); Dr Judith Smart AM (co-editor *VHJ*); Carole Woods OAM (secretary RHSV) and Dr Bart Ziino (Deakin University);

The *Victorian Historical Journal* is proud to be published in Melbourne, a UNESCO City of Literature.

Richard Broome AM | Chair Publications Committee



Victorian Community History Awards Annual Report 2022

Things returned to normal in 2022, with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Public Record Office Victoria again combining to run the Victorian Community History Awards in person. Our beloved face-to-face awards ceremony returned on Friday 21 October 2022. No more Zoom links for the celebration ... hooray! The awards ceremony was held once again in the Arts Centre in Melbourne. The Hon. Danny Pearson MLA gave a lively address in his capacity as minister for government services. His speech demonstrated a clear understanding of our mission, emphasising how historical imaginations have shaped and reshaped communities. Our return to the Arts Centre was also appropriate as it acknowledged the many creativities summoned when historians begin to turn away from their own research and focus on presenting their findings in ways to interest and inform public communities. Our awards are Victorian *Community* History Awards after all, so our judges look for historical works that best address and affect communities, howsoever those Victorian communities are defined.

The work of the assessment panels was ably assisted by VCHA project officer, Jade Koekoe, and RHSV executive officer, Rosemary Cameron. This year Drs

Adrian Jones OAM, Helen Doyle (Historian at *Context*) and Gary Presland continued to serve on the Central Panel, reading scores of books, large and small, and learning a great deal from each. Historical imaginations in Victoria remain as lively as ever, we three believe! The Central Panel judged three awards: Local History (small publication), History Publication, and Community Diversity, as well as the Premier's Prize and Special Prize. Adrian Jones again served as chair in 2022. With an eye to enlarging skill sets and mentoring colleagues into new roles, we have decided that Helen Doyle will chair the judging in 2023, Adrian Jones will continue as a judge, and Gary Presland will take a year's break while he travels. We will therefore be able to add a new member to the Central Panel in 2023, enlarging our pool of expertise in this demanding and rewarding role.

The Central Panel:

- applauded Janet McCalman for *Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria* (Melbourne University Press), awarding it the **2022 Victorian Premier's Award**. This is an imaginative study of 200 convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land who then came to Port Phillip (Victoria). This book is lively, innovative, full of irony: a collective biography. McCalman's work built on the research of family historians compiling the dataset. Researching and writing history can be a community enterprise.

- admired David Rowe's *About Corayo: A Thematic History of Greater Geelong* (<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/geelong/documents/item/8d97c1c5405a0b1.aspx>), awarding it a **Judges' Special Prize**. The Central Panel praised *About Corayo* as setting a new standard for heritage studies and municipal histories. Rowe's meticulous research, with documents, photos, maps and plans, was then linked to contemporary community perspectives.
- commended Alexandra Dellios, awarding her our **Community Diversity Award** for *Heritage Making and Migrant Subjects in the Deindustrialising Region of the Latrobe Valley* (Cambridge University Press). Dellios's focus on remembered personal-familial experiences of migrant labour traced every aspect of migrant community diversity.
- awarded Dr James Lesh the **Local History (small publication) Award** for his 'Report to the City of Moreland on the Place Name "Moreland"' (<http://heritage.city/2022/04/13/release-of-report-on-the-place-name-moreland/>), seeing it not only as an exemplary response to an unusual local government brief, but also as a model of 'applied history'.
- congratulated Barbara Minchinton as the recipient of its **History Publication Award** for *The Women of Little Lon* (Black Inc.). A notorious neighbourhood of Melbourne's Hoddle Grid came alive as archaeology, geography and history were combined in this account. The superb detail of Minchinton's research restored respect and agency to the sex workers and madams her sources routinely shunned and decried.

A second judging panel considered four further awards. This group comprised Jessica Bram (CEO at Jewish Museum of Australia), Helen Penrose (Historian at HistorySmiths) and John Petersen (CEO at Multicultural Museums Victoria). The respective winners were:

- **Historical Interpretation:** Benjamin Gray retrieves the wonder in our lost past through his

evocative and beautiful combination of art and (natural) history in *Extinct: Artistic Impressions of Our Lost Wildlife* (CSIRO Publishing);

- **Local History Project:** *Queer-ways*, a set of tangible and intangible heritage walks in the City of Yarra developed by Luciano and Georgia Keats, and supported by the *Australian Queer Archives*: <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/visiting-yarra/heritage-walks/queerways-retracing-queer-footprints>;
- **Collaborative Community History:** an absorbing self-published collective centenary memoir of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club: *Still on Track*;
- **Small Organisation History Project:** a superb example of a community and family endeavour marking a centenary of local soldier settlement: *Red Cliffs Recollections* (Red Cliffs Historical Society).

As in previous years, judging partnerships with external organisations continued. Prof. Alistair Thomson again led the judging for the **Oral History Victoria Award**, assisted by Alicia Cerreto and Jessica Ferrari. These three gave the award for 2022 to Nat Grant's *Prima Donna Podcast* (<https://www.primadonnapodcast.com/>) about elder women artists, evoking what each brought to her art, the challenges of being an artist and a woman, and why art matters—for them and for all of us.

The panel judging the **History Article Award** comprised Assoc. Prof. Seamus O'Hanlon and Drs Carolyn Rasmussen and Amanda Lourie. They chose Adrien McCrory's 'Policing Gender Conformity in Victoria, 1900–1940', *Provenance*, no. 19, 2021, noting how McCrory's case studies model ways to understand archives and histories of overlooked individuals and under-researched communities.

Judging for **Digital Storytelling** was chaired by Belinda Ensor (creative producer at Tiny Empire Collective), assisted by Sebastian Chan (ACMI) and Jo Clyne (HTAV). They gave the award for 2022 to *City of Melton 150th Anniversary Online Exhibition* (<https://heritage.melton.vic.gov.au>) for its accessible and accomplished use of digital technology to create a comprehensive and user-friendly resource, based on collections in local historical societies and councils.

Adrian Jones OAM | Chair Victorian Community History Awards Judges' Panels



RHSV Treasurer's Annual Report 2022

After a couple of years of very significant uncertainty, the 2022 financial year for RHSV saw the return to some level of normality (or the new “Post Covid” normal). The media attention regarding Covid-19 has diminished over time, and, whilst we know that Covid-19 is still a very real part of our lives, 2022 was free of lockdowns and a reduction in restrictions. This also meant a progressive and increasing return of Melbourne’s population to the CBD, and a return to consistent access to the RHSV Drill Hall for staff, members and friends.

It is quite pleasing that with the assistance of some Government subsidies, but mostly due to the strong and loyal commitment of the members and council, RHSV has weathered the uncertainty of Covid-19 exceptionally well. It is noteworthy that whilst there was a minor reduction in the 2022 year, RHSV has increased its Financial (or Net Asset) Position over the past 3 financial years.

In terms of financial performance, RHSV reported a net deficit of \$(37,439) (2021: surplus of \$100,868).

One challenge of the 2022 financial year was the downturn in the financial markets which despite some recovery during the second half of the year, saw a reduction in the market value of the United Ethical Growth Fund of approximately 9.48% which unfortunately significantly contributed to the result reported above.

It should be noted that whilst the downturn in the financial markets gave rise to an investment loss in the 2022 financial year, RHSV is still the beneficiary of good financial gains over the term of these investments.

Foundation – Reserve

The balance of the investments held by the Foundation as at 31 December, 2022 as reported at note 10 of the financial statements was \$830,694 (2021: \$704,646), which represents an increase of \$126,048 over the 12 month period. This increase is the net result of

revenue generated from these investments, additional funds received and the application of these funds (costs incurred) to their purpose.

Summary

As a Treasurer, it is never a pleasure to use the word “deficit”. However, as a not-for-profit organisation, our primary responsibility is to fulfil our purpose, and as we balance the fulfilment of our purpose against the necessity of maintaining appropriate reserves, this may result in deficits occurring in some years; particularly where there are external influences such as downturns in financial markets.

It is very pleasing that the financial position of RHSV remains strong as is demonstrated by the balance sheet enclosed, and that the initiative and commitment of the Executive and Council has provided the organisation with this financial stability.

Daniel Clements | Treasurer





RHSV Financial Statements 2022

A close-up photograph of a window with a dark, possibly black, frame. The word "TEMPERAN" is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the window. The letters are slightly weathered and the background is dark. The window is set in a light-colored stone or concrete frame. In the bottom left corner, there are some yellow flowers.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Committee's Report

The committee members present the financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. ("the association") for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Committee Members

The names of the committee members at any time during or since the end of the year are:

President	Richard Broome
Vice President	Elisabeth Jackson (until May 2022) Rosalie Triolo (from May 2022)
Secretary	Carole Woods
Treasurer	Daniel Clements
Member	Margaret Anderson
Member	Cathy Butcher
Member	Paul Fearon (from July 2022)
Member	Associate Professor Don Garden OAM FFAHS FRHSV (until August 2022)
Member	Pauline Hitchins (until May 2022)
Member	Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV (from May 2022)
Member	Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV
Member	Emeritus Professor Chips Sowerwine FRHSV
Member	Elisabeth Triarico (from May 2022)
Member	Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV (until May 2022)
Member	Dr Peter Yule FRHSV
Member	Dr Nikita Vanderbyl

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to develop and conserve our collection of Victorian history, to promote all aspects of Victorian history through exhibitions, publications and events for its members and the general public, to recognise outstanding achievement in Victorian history, to support affiliated historical societies and to act as an advocate in the conservation and promotion of Victoria's cultural and built heritage.

o significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

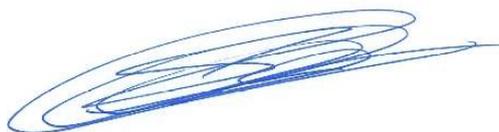
Operating Result

The operating deficit of the association for the financial year amounted to \$37,439.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:



Professor Richard Broome
President



Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 30 May 2023

Auditor's Independence Declaration
Under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

To the Committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2022 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

DFK BKM Audit Services
DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria



Director: Kevin P. Adams

30 May 2023

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Research fees	22,177	32,760
Project Fees	15,455	15,000
Sales publications	63,308	67,943
Donations	248,456	219,776
State government grants – Creative Victoria – OIP	42,158	84,315
State government grants – Creative Victoria – CEP SI	37,500	-
Government grants stimulus packages – Treasury	-	5,521
Annual subscriptions	83,779	84,643
Insurance – member societies	144,860	130,784
U Ethical investment income / (loss)	(31,566)	89,541
Interest income	424	111
Other income	78,152	45,851
Total Revenue	704,703	776,245
Expenses		
Advertising and marketing	9,171	11,115
Accounting and audit fees	25,789	30,267
Bank charges	4,223	3,779
Books	30,032	44,787
Computer and internet	19,543	18,616
Consultancy costs	6,000	-
Depreciation	13,967	8,228
Grants – Holsworth Fund	6,820	2,000
Insurance	157,294	102,425
Insurance assets historic societies	-	15,112
Member support services	35,695	9,721
Occupancy costs	32,283	38,099
Postage	16,493	15,798
Printing and stationeries	14,141	13,793
Publications	18,487	18,528
Staff costs	338,419	311,714
Telephone	2,644	3,093
Other expenses	11,141	28,302
Total Expenses	742,142	675,377
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(37,439)	100,868
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	(37,439)	100,868

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	322,464	426,568
Trade and other receivables	3	17,062	18,326
Other assets	4	51,875	43,226
Total Current Assets		391,401	488,120
Non-Current Assets			
Other financial assets	5	1,099,936	948,686
Collections, plant and equipment	6	1,880,218	1,873,881
Total Non-Current Assets		2,980,154	2,822,567
Total Assets		3,371,555	3,310,687
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	258,591	219,637
Income received in advance	8	182,883	134,308
Provisions	9	26,945	19,732
Total Current Liabilities		468,419	373,677
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	13,046	9,481
Total Non-Current Liabilities		13,046	9,481
Total Liabilities		481,465	383,158
Net Assets		2,890,090	2,927,529
Equity			
Reserves	10	2,770,587	2,674,883
Retained surplus		119,503	252,646
Total Equity		2,890,090	2,927,529

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Reserves \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	2,577,944	248,717	2,826,661
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	100,868	100,868
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	96,939	(96,939)	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	2,674,883	252,646	2,927,529
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(37,439)	(37,439)
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	95,704	(95,704)	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	2,770,587	119,503	2,890,090

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		655,560	569,272
Government grants received		112,158	106,406
Payments to suppliers and employees		(668,702)	(493,856)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities	11	99,016	181,822
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of collections, plant and equipment		(20,305)	(18,415)
Purchase of financial assets		(182,815)	(25,001)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities		(203,120)	(43,416)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(104,104)	138,406
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		426,568	288,162
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	2	322,464	426,568
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement by the association in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(c) Collections, Plant and Equipment

Collections are measured on the valuation basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis or a diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

(d) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date the association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. On initial recognition, all financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value.

Financial assets

Classification

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

Amortised cost

The association's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables in the statement of financial position. Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any provision for impairment. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Fair value through profit or loss

The association has a number of strategic investments in managed funds over which they do not have significant influence nor control. The association has made an irrevocable election to classify these investments as fair value through profit or loss. These investments are carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Distributions and other net gains and losses are recognised as income in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities

The association measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(e) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

(h) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(i) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The committee evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	301	278
Cash at bank	322,163	426,290
	<u>322,464</u>	<u>426,568</u>
NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade receivables	2,680	9,990
Accrued income	14,382	8,336
	<u>17,062</u>	<u>18,326</u>
NOTE 4: OTHER ASSETS		
Current		
Prepayments	45,823	32,975
Inventories – at cost	6,052	10,251
	<u>51,875</u>	<u>43,226</u>
NOTE 5: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Non-Current		
U Ethical Growth Portfolio – at fair value	512,065	549,235
U Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust Wholesale – at fair value	398,674	399,451
Yarra Lane Wealth - Investments - at fair value	189,197	-
	<u>1,099,936</u>	<u>948,686</u>
NOTE 6: COLLECTIONS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Collections – at valuation	1,841,804	1,841,804
Furniture & Fixtures – at cost	30,567	16,847
Accumulated depreciation	(8,404)	(3,662)
	<u>22,163</u>	<u>13,185</u>
Plant and equipment – at cost	31,402	60,292
Accumulated depreciation	(15,151)	(41,400)
	<u>16,251</u>	<u>18,892</u>
	<u>1,880,218</u>	<u>1,873,881</u>

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 7: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Trade creditors	49,806	7,723
GST payables	8,156	4,148
Other payables	6,942	14,004
Funds in advance	193,687	193,687
	<u>258,591</u>	<u>219,562</u>
NOTE 8: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		
Current		
Subscriptions in advance	65,879	51,626
Insurance in advance	34,731	32,909
Grants in advance	82,273	49,773
	<u>182,883</u>	<u>134,308</u>
NOTE 9: PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	<u>26,945</u>	<u>19,732</u>
Non-Current		
Provision for Long-Service-Leave	<u>13,046</u>	<u>9,841</u>
NOTE 10: RESERVES		
Foundation	830,694	704,646
Weston Bate Reserve	-	19,384
Don Gibb Reserve	10,382	11,131
Estate of John Adams Reserve	-	12,200
Vic Historical Journal Reserve	87,707	85,718
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,841,804	1,841,804
	<u>2,770,587</u>	<u>2,674,883</u>
NOTE 11: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(37,439)	100,868
Non-cash flows in surplus/deficit:		
- depreciation	13,967	8,228
- U Ethical investment income reinvested	31,566	(89,541)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- decrease in trade and other receivables	1,264	12,438
- increase in other assets	(8,649)	(2,201)
- increase in trade and other payables	38,954	167,431
- increase (decrease) in income received in advance	48,575	(23,464)
- increase in provisions	10,778	8,063
	<u>99,016</u>	<u>181,822</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>99,016</u>	<u>181,822</u>

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement by Members of the Committee

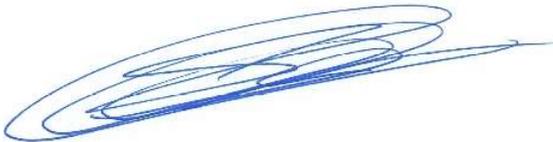
In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc., the committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee of the association declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 3 to 11, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. comply with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Professor Richard Broome
President



Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 30 May 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control that the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's review report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our review of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the review or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc, would be in the same terms if given to the committee as at the time of this auditor's review report.

DFK BKM Audit Services
DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria



Director: Kevin P. Adams

30 May 2023

Become a member of the RHSV

We value our members - they are our lifblood. Members, through their fees, donations and engagement with our events, keep this vital organisation growing in both size and importance.

Members enjoy not only a wide range of benefits but they have a multitude of opportunities to engage with history and the RHSV. Many of our members become volunteers and step up their involvement with the RHSV through its many committees or by working on the collection or in administration and marketing.

To become a member download information from our website:

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/>

Or phone the office on

+613 9326 9288.

We thank all our members and hope we continue to deliver programs, advocacy and value for money and, of course, to champion Victoria's history and keep it alive.





RHSV Councillors and Staff

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria

CIVIC PATRON

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp

AMBASSADOR

Prof. E.W. (Bill) Russell FRHSV

PRESIDENT

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV

TREASURER

Daniel Clements

SECRETARY

Carole Woods OAM FRHSV

COUNCILLORS

Margaret Anderson

Cathy Butcher

Paul Fearon (from July 2022)

Associate Professor Don Garden OAM FFAHS FRHSV (until August 2022)

Pauline Hitchins (until May 2022)

Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV

Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV

Emeritus Professor Chips

Sowerwine FRHSV

Elisabeth Triarico (from May 2022)

Dr Peter Yule FRHSV

Dr Nikita Vanderbyl

Ex-officio

Rosemary Cameron

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Executive & Finance Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Cathy Butcher, Daniel Clements, Elisabeth Jackson, Rosalie Triolo, Carole Woods. *Ex-officio*: Rosemary Cameron.

Responsible for governance, financial management, strategic planning

Collections Committee

Elisabeth Jackson (chair), Rosemary Cameron, Margaret Fleming, Cheryl Griffin, Jillian Hiscock, Lorenzo Iozzi, Helen Sitt, Elisabeth Willis, *Ex-officio*: Richard Broome

Responsible for library, images, manuscripts, and research projects.

Events and Outreach Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Rosemary Cameron, Nikita Vanderbyl.

Responsible for specific events such as conferences and the lecture program.

Fellows Committee

Carole Woods (chair), Richard Broome, Don Garden (until Aug 22), Elizabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Charles Sowerwine, Rosalie Triolo, Peter Yule. *Ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron.

To meet as required under the RHSV Constitution.

Heritage Committee

Charles Sowerwine (chair), Ian Wight (co-deputy chair), Judith Smart (co-deputy chair), Jeff Atkinson, Don Garden, Peter Hiscock, Elisabeth Jackson, David Lansley, Madeleine Moore.

Ex-officio Richard Broome.

Works to protect built and cultural heritage in Melbourne and, with local historical societies, across Victoria.

Historical Societies

Support Committee

Rosalie Triolo (chair), George Fernando, Don Garden, Pauline Hitchins, Helen Laffin, Dalis Law, Peter Yule. *Ex-officio* Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron

Responsible for historical societies, networking, and professional development.

Investment Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Daniel Clements, Daryl Hawkey, Keith Kendall and *ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron

Responsible for overseeing the RHSV's investments

Publications Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Jill Barnard, Sharon Betridge, Marilyn Bowler, Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig, Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard, John Schauble, Judith Smart, Carole Woods. *Ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron. Honorary indexer: Terri Mackenzie.

Responsible for Victorian Historical Journal and other RHSV publications.

THE RHSV is represented on the following committees

150th Anniversary External Stakeholders Committee, Dept of Education & Training
Federation of Australian Historical Societies
History Council of Victoria
Joint Consultative Forum - Victorian Archives NAA
State Library User Organisations Council.

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Rosemary Cameron

Full-time.

Administration Officer

Emily Maiolo

Full-time.

Collections Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Jillian Hiscock

0.7 FTE

Collections Officer (Images)

Helen Stitt

0.6 FTE

Marketing Co-ordinator

Christina Browning

0.4 FTE

Book-keeper

Kristen Adnams

0.24 FTE

Project Officers

Jade Koekoe

Thomas Spiteri

Kelly Wong

Auditor

Keith P. Adams

DFK BKM Audit Services

L3, 689 Burke Road,

Camberwell VIC 3124

Hon. Legal Officer

Robert Heath

Barrister

Chancery Chambers

Level 25, 200 Queen St.

Melbourne VIC 3000.

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living in December 2022 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below.

1967	Emeritus Prof. Geoffrey Blainey
1995	Assoc. Prof. John F. Lack Dr Andrew G. Lemon
1997	Prof. John Rickard
1999	Assoc. Prof. Don Garden
2001	Susan Priestley
2004	Judith Bilszta Valda Cole
2006	Dr Mimi Colligan
2008	Dr Gary Presland Carole Woods
2010	Peter Yule
2011	Richard Barnden Allan Willingham
2012	Adjunct Prof. Judith Smart
2013	Prof. Bill Russell
2014	Dr Robert Barnes Lenore Frost
2016	Emeritus Prof. Richard Broome
2017	Dr Dianne Reilly
2019	Dr Simon Smith Dr David Thompson
2020	Elisabeth Jackson Dr Rosalie Triolo
2021	Emeritus Prof. Charles Sowerwine
2022	Dr Cheryl Griffin Peter Hiscock AM FCPA Emeritus Prof. Graeme Davidson AO FAHA FASSA FFAHS

Distinguished Service Awards 2022

John Schauble
Judith (Judy) Maddigan

Awards of Merit 2022

Kathleen (Kay) Ball, Murchison and District Historical Society
Linda Barraclough, Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Marilyn Bowler, Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Margaret Bride, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society
William Thomas (Bill) Gleeson, Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society
Janette (Jan) Lewis, Apollo Bay and District Historical Society

Andrew Mackenzie RHSV
John Power, Traralgon and District Historical Society
Craig Proctor, Mortlake and District Historical Society
John Douglas (Doug) Stirling, Lorne Historical Society
Violet (Vi) Stuchbery, Yarrambat Historical Society

Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award 2022

Sharon Bettridge
Ian Wight

Benefactors

Professor Weston Bate OAM FRHSV
The Estate of Doug Gunn
Gordon Moffatt AM
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE
Prof. A.G.L. Shaw AO FAHA FASSA FRAHS FRHSV
Allan Willingham FRHSV

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History 2022

Cosmo Varty, La Trobe University

GRANTS

The RHSV wishes to thank the following organisations for support in 2022:

Creative Victoria - Organisations Investment Program
Creative Victoria – Creative Enterprises Program
Public Record Office Victoria

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers
Sophie Antulov
Marley Baldwin
Liz Bath
Susannah Beardsell
Joel Becker OAM
Glenda Beckley
Elizabeth Bernard
Julie Bevan
Helen Boak
Greg Buchanan
Sharon Byers
Luis Calleja
Alison Cameron
Grace Mary Colbasso
Robin Curwen-Walker
Lynette D'Ath

Matthew Deigan
John Denney
Natalie Dermenzies
Lynne Douglas
Alison Dredge
Simon Elliston
Teresa Ellul
Margaret Fleming
Lenore Frost FRHSV
Fiona Graham
Cheryl Griffin FRHSV
Jennifer Halat
Ian Hazewinkel
Zoe Henderson
Pam Herrington
Liam Holmes
Joanne Horsley
Kim House
Julia Jackson
Siobhán Kelly
Freya Kulasegram
Cindy Le
Marnie Lester-Smith
Monique Lucas
Zoe Lyons
Chris Manchee
Amanda Mulrooney
Sallie Muirden
Sheeneez Mutheeu
Peter Orelli
Danae Papadopoulou
Tony Payne
Madeline Pentland
Katherine Pigott
Hazel Popp
Jacob Richardson
Alan Ritter
Michael Robinson
John Rose
Marion Silver
Ashley Smith
Eleanor Thomas
David Thompson FRHSV
Sandra Torpey
John Torpey
Hong Wagg
Guy Wilson
Laura Wilson
Kelly Wong
Jennifer Young
Marina Zovko

The Jessie Webb Society

In 2021 we launched the Jessie Webb Society which both honours those who have already made bequests to the RHSV and encourages others to do so.

Making a bequest is an extraordinary act of generosity. Through a bequest to the RHSV you can support the development and nurturing of current and future historians and ensure our collection continues to grow and to be accessible. As custodians of this important collection, we have a responsibility to maintain its legacy.

We are happy to discuss with you any special areas of interest. Your bequest can be untied or it will be used solely for your nominated purpose. A bequest acknowledges the important role that the RHSV has played in your life and your gift will, in turn, enrich the lives of others. Sometimes a bequest enables you to make a contribution that you may not have been able to during your lifetime.

“My bequest to the Jessie Webb Society is made in acknowledgement of the enduring value and worth there is in the study of history. I am pleased to provide support for a discipline that gave me not only many years of enjoyable employment, but also enduring friendships, and opportunities to contribute to an understanding of our past. I am proud to think that, through the Jessie Webb Society, my achievements can be of benefit in the future. That, surely, is what ‘history’ is about.”

Dr Gary Presland FRHSV

We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice from your solicitor or financial adviser in arranging a bequest.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, please contact your solicitor or our Executive Officer on

+613 9326 9288

executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/support/bequests/>

Donations

A participant in the Cultural Gifts Program, the RHSV also enjoys status with the Australian Taxation Office as ‘an income tax exempt charitable entity’. The RHSV Library, Art Gallery and Museum Fund has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a ‘deductible gift recipient’. This method of contributing to the growth, preservation of and access to our splendid collection of books, manuscripts, pictures, artefacts, or enabling the Society to add to its collection, provides a benefit both to our Victorian heritage, and to the donor.

Donations of cultural items through the Cultural Gifts Program offer attractive taxation benefits - donors receive a tax deduction for the market value of the donation, which can be spread over five income years and donations are exempt from capital gains tax. Advice on the Cultural Gifts Program is available from the Australian Taxation Office or from the Department of Communications and the Arts.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising>

<https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program>



