

HISTORY NEWS

ISSUE 367 | AUGUST 2023



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What's on at RHSV

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



EXHIBITION: GARRYOWEN'S MELBOURNE

Date: Until March 2024

Time: 9am-5pm, Monday– Friday, excluding public holidays

Cost: Free

Event type: In person

Curator: Dr Liz Rushen

Designer: Marianna Berek-Lewis, 5678 Design

See Melbourne through Garryowen's eyes: the people and places of early Melbourne. Garryowen's Melbourne brings to life many of the characters and buildings in early Melbourne. The exhibition incorporates lively descriptions taken from Garryowen's (Edmund Finn's) *Chronicles of Early Melbourne: historical, anecdotal and personal 1835 to 1852* published in 1888, set alongside images from the collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

TOUR: ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Date: Friday 4 August 2023

Time: 11am–12:30pm

Cost: \$15

Event type: In person

Venue: 15A Anderson Rd Thornbury 3071

The RHSV has organised a curator's tour of the Islamic Museum of Australia with special emphasis on the artistic and cultural heritage of Muslims in Australia. The arrival of Muslim Macassan fisherman from Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia, on the Northern Australia coast in the early 1700s marked the beginning of a long-lasting trade relationship between the Macassans and First Nations people. Over time, these communities developed a mutual respect for one another, and shared cultural and religious traditions. Another section of the exhibition pays homage to the Afghan cameleers, highlighting their important contributions to our country's infrastructure and economy.

GEORGE ARDEN, GENTLEMAN DRUNKARD

Date: Tuesday 8 August 2023

Time: 1–2pm

Speaker: Susan Priestley

Cost: \$5 | \$10

Event type: In person

We are delighted that author and historian, Susan Priestley FRHSV, will be delivering this lecture which explores the background and career of editor and author George Arden, whose life compiled by the late P.L. Brown, Geelong

and Western District historian, was an entry in the first volume of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (1966). Arden, and his two brothers, provide variant exemplars of the lifestyle and widely variant fortunes encountered when gentlemanly emigrants, along with the multitude of others, took the colonial plunge into Britain's 19th century world, thereby illuminating the idiosyncrasies of multi-coloured humanity.

BOOK LAUNCH: LINE OF BLOOD: THE TRUTH OF ALFRED HOWITT

Date: Tuesday 22

August 2023

Time: 6–7:30pm

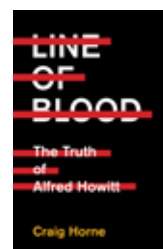
To be launched by

Hilary McPhee

Cost: Free

Event type: In person

Line of Blood: The Truth of Alfred Howitt tells the full story of Australia's so-called 'ablest anthropologist'; the botanist, geologist, senior public servant and explorer Alfred Howitt, an ancestor of the author, Craig Horne. Howitt first made his name in Australia as a bushman and explorer; Mt Howitt and Howitt Plain in the Victorian Alps are named in his honour. That he was an extraordinarily capable polymath is not challenged. What this book challenges are the contributions of Howitt's anthropological conclusions, coupled with his social and political influences, in legitimising the murderous advance of white settlement upon the Australia landscape. For Howitt, the 'line of blood' that followed white settlement was nothing more than the iron law of replacement, whereby an 'inferior race' is inevitably usurped by a 'superior civilisation'. Howitt's racial ideologies facilitated a pattern of Australia's mechanical dismissal of First Nations peoples; identifying them as 'savages', 'blacks', and in need of saving through a determined white policy of paternalistic neglect.



History News

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COVER IMAGE: Private residence of Sir W. J. Clarke's on the corner of Clarendon St. and Wellington Pde. East Melbourne (1887) Mr. S. Armstrong, builder. Melbourne: David Syme and Co. https://find.slvic.gov.au/permalink/61SLV_INST/1sev8ar/alma9917700943607636 See 'Windows on history: a warm Welcome', page 12-13

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President's report

The month of June was a wild ride at the RHSV. First, we had the great pleasure of an AGM bursting with attendees, both in the Drill Hall and on Zoom. Please consult our 2022 Annual Report on the website for our 2022 activities and outcomes, which reveal once again we gain strength with each passing year. See the report in this edition of *History News*, page 16 on the Weston Bate Oration held on the same night.

The end of June also saw a truly wonderful response to our EOFY appeal, which this year contained a list of important projects from which to choose. There was a magnificent response from our members and friends. Their generous giving, both large and small, will enable us to bring the Butler heritage collection into the RHSV to enhance our own; digitise our large maps etc. with a brand-new purpose-built camera; protect our collection against mould with a freezer; conserve our carved piano facade, and also conserve two important early Victorian paintings: one by William Barak and one of Jack Wetherly. Also, our forthcoming Melbourne's Lanes book, an update and expansion of that by Weston Bate in 1994, will be out next year, thanks to our members and friends. This book has already significantly enhanced our images collection as reported in the June *History News*. Once again, the RHSV will fulfil its role in disseminating knowledge of the history of the Hoddle Grid, of which we are the custodians. Sales of the book next year will also provide precious income for our future work. So, our deepest thanks, one and all, for what you have done for us!

Some very dispiriting news during June included hints that government

support for the Community History grants program and for the Victorian Community History Awards (VCHA) both funded by government through the Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) seemed not to be included in the May state budget. There was general dismay that these two important programs, which have enjoyed modest funding support for well over a decade, might be axed. Letters flowed to government from the community history sector and the RHSV. I was approached by the *Age* for comment and appeared in a page three article on the loss of funding, which brought forth more concern.

As I write this report, the situation is unclear but still hopeful, especially for the VCHA. If no government funding is forthcoming either through the PROV or direct to the RHSV, the RHSV Council decided at its meeting in late May it will fund a no-frills awards program in 2023. Therefore, the VCHA seems likely to happen in 2023, but its exact nature is still under consideration. We also hope for better news about the small grants program. Whatever the outcome for both programs it is unfortunate that governments at all levels appear to undervalue the importance of history in our community.

The federal government's long awaited cultural policy statement, while so positive in many areas, did not include History in its vision. This must be altered in the future, for History generates many of the stories Australians and cultural creators use to tell themselves about themselves, to build our Australian identities.

Richard Broome AM

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Heritage report

'Queen Vic Market' replaced by hospitality pods

The Queen Victoria Market has been in the Heritage column of most issues of *History News* since 2015, when then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle proposed his drastic plan for a rebuilt, 'brighter, lighter, cleaner, greener and ... subtly contemporary' market. The Doyle plan was totally discredited and roundly rejected in 2017, but zombie Doyle still walks abroad. Recently announced plans are to convert much of the traditional shed space into non-market uses and to convert the carpark into an event space to be called 'Market Square', while surrounding the market with high-rise towers.

Last September the City of Melbourne sought approval from Heritage Victoria for plans to convert the space under five Peel Street Sheds (A-E) from "fruit and veg" to hospitality and 'back of house' operations. Shed A, nearest Victoria Street, will house 20 shipping container 'hospitality pods', while Sheds B, C, D and E will be screened off for delivery bays, parking, and other operations. This is wrong-headed. The market thrives on retail and all efforts should be devoted to making the Sheds vibrant and active spaces for shoppers. Open-air trading of foodstuffs is the basis of the market's heritage value. That's what the sheds were built for and that's what they should be used for. Screens and shipping containers block the open-air feel which is essential to the experience of the market.

We argued these points in a major submission last year to Heritage Victoria. In December, HV issued a permit with restrictive conditions. In particular, permission was only granted for a two-year trial, the space to be occupied by the pods was restricted so as not to block views from Peel Street, and the screens around the 'back of house' areas were reduced in visual impact. Subsequently, in a shocking twist, the City of Melbourne met with Heritage Victoria and pressured them into substantially altering their decision by threatening to appeal the decision. Contesting such an appeal would cost Heritage Victoria much of its budget. In the end, Heritage Victoria issued an 'amended' permit, providing for a seven-year 'trial', and withdrawing most of the other conditions.

At the end of June, the City of Melbourne announced a new developer-driven project to surround the market with high-

rise. Huge towers, 45-49 storeys, will be built on what was originally planned to be a low-rise buffer of heritage buildings purpose-built to serve the market. Council claims the new towers will provide shoppers for the market, but there are only 479 apartments. Most of the buildings will be commercial. Council makes much of converting the carpark to 'Market Square', but this will discourage patronage for big shoppers of fruit and veg. Worse, it's not a park but an event space hemmed in with high towers. Council strategy is events, fast food and hospitality, which will crowd out fresh food.

One can see why this gets support from councillors with links to the Property Council, like Lord Mayor Sally Capp, but what about Greens Councillor Rohan Leppert or Labor sympathiser Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece. Shouldn't they be putting people first?

The QVM is not the only site under attack. The Property Council, builders and their friends are calling for loosening if not eliminating planning and heritage restrictions across the state. I argued against this in my last column. An important article in the *Age* points out that the biggest problem is developers land banking, holding onto land without building, waiting for value to rise and then on sell. (*Age*, 24 June 2023.) The reporters found that, in Melbourne CBD alone, 'there are active permits for almost 100 sites which have not been acted on: 118 residential buildings and 22,000 apartments where work has not begun'. In comparison heritage is responsible for stopping very few developments.

A clean up for Flinders Street Station underpass

Time for a good news story. We have called for restoration of the underpass at the Elizabeth Street entrance to Flinders Street Station. This underpass serves not only the station but the thousands of people crossing to and from the Evan Walker Bridge and Southbank. The

excellent restoration begun in 2018 did not look at the underpass. It's a dog's breakfast. A cheap-looking graffiti covered partition makes the space unpleasantly crowded. The walls are lined with rusting conduits installed over the past century and never repaired, with wires and pipes sticking out all over. Moisture makes them rust and the walls are covered with stains. This space could be renovated to realise its potential. Restore the tiles, remove the conduits and fix the skylight domes over each platform access and you could have a pleasant, well-lit space. The entry on Flinders Street also needs restoration. This is a beautiful façade under the tower, but up close the beautiful art deco leadlight over the entry is dirty and surrounded by stray pipes. The *Herald Sun* (1 July 2023) ran a good story to which I contributed. Let's get this cleaned up.

Charles Sowerwine,
Chair, Heritage Committee



Artists Impression, *The Age*, 28 June 2023



Image courtesy of Darkon, the edge of light (nd) <https://darkon.com.au/projects/flinders-street-station/>

HSSC report: five tips for historical societies and networks

Historical Society Support Committee members continue to enjoy their encounters with individual societies and networks beyond their own. In no particular order but for the benefit of all *History News* readers, this edition offers a further five tips of practical advice. Again, the advice is offered generally and does not name the sources because there are almost certainly other individuals and groups thinking and acting as recommended below.

Checking that this and other RHSV and Federation of Australian Historical Societies communications go further

RHSV regularly dispenses this informative *History News* to all members as well as old news e-updates and other communications as matters arise. Occasionally, HSSC members hear that such publications are not being forwarded automatically to the members of RHSV-subscribed societies. Check if your society is forwarding such items to all members. All are worth reading; as is the reviewing of past editions of *History News*, at: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/publications/history-news/>

Also, and less well-known and distributed, are the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) communications: eBulletins at <https://www.history.org.au/ebulletin/> and Newsletters at <https://www.history.org.au/newsletter/>

These links will take you to web pages which provide information from local historical societies from around Australia providing further updates and ideas. There is much to learn from the FAHS, as a further exploration of its website will also reveal: <https://www.history.org.au/>

While joining FAHS for an annual fee is a possibility to sustain the important voice of local history and heritage at the Australian national level – and there

absolutely needs to be such a voice when the Federal Government will usually only deal with national representative bodies – individuals and societies can still sign up free for FAHS communications. HSSC encourages individual and society RHSV members to share FAHS publications with others.

Publicising your paper and online publications and entering Australian history awards

There are a wide range of options and opportunities for the publication of histories: books, booklets, digital items including eBooks, web sites including online blogs. All are valuable for what they capture of local histories, and many are excellent examples of how to conduct research and publish it. Many authors and societies are too modest about their publications, which with greater promotion might attract both a wider readership and public recognition.

Some local councils and community groups publish newsletters and are often looking for local stories. The same and other groups, not ostensibly history-related, can also offer awards. Further, there might also be regional, Victorian and Australian awards which might be appropriate for authors to enter depending on the topics explored. At the time of writing this article, the future of the Victorian Community History Awards is being discussed but RHSV which will very likely continue to run the awards. It and HSSC warmly encourages all individuals and Victorian local history societies to not be humble or undersell themselves, to widely publicise their work and consider entering all possible awards.


Also recently announced is the new biennial prize, the John Adams Prize: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/recognition/the-john-adams-prize/>. It, too, encourages and rewards historical research published in the RHSV's *Victorian Historical Journal*. Again, all 'like minds' in the wider local history and

heritage community are the beneficiaries of new knowledge not only in terms of content but in drawing upon the skills and approaches in publishing it.

Nominating members for RHSV and other awards

Further to publication and research awards, one of the great joys of RHSV's Annual General Meeting is the presentation of RHSV awards of merit. While volunteers do not give their time for years, if not decades, to earn awards, the pleasure for them in receiving acknowledgement, as well as for those who nominate them alongside the audiences who learn of the contributions, is wonderful. Nominations for these RHSV awards are assessed by an experienced RHSV panel. Rather than wait for the 2024 round to open, start thinking about who in your community might be deserving and commence collating the information now. The details for 2023 awards and names of past winners are provided here. The criteria will likely be similar in 2024: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/recognition/awards-of-merit/>

Some local community groups and councils also offer awards for meritorious



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community service. Here, too, is a wonderful opportunity for the champions of the community's local history and heritage to be acknowledged. Such positive reporting might also encourage others to join their local historical society to extend their support.

Sharing what has been learned: historical knowledge, skills and other updates

Most societies agenda 'any other business' at the conclusion of their meetings. That business, often and understandably, includes local matters but the suggestion here is that societies regularly agenda an item where members share what they have learned beyond the local society and community of

benefit to their society's wellbeing. This new information might come from attendance at other history and heritage events or observations from visits to other local, Victorian, national and international historical associations or GLAMs (galleries, libraries, archives or museums). The agendering of such an item will facilitate discussion and possible uptake of what is being achieved successfully by others.

Shelving books cleverly

This final tip may seem a small one but could still prove useful. One society recently shared that the shelf space for its carefully catalogued book collection had reached full capacity and that the society was struggling to house its book collection. An investigation revealed that

the society, which had adjustable shelf sizes, was spreading across its shelves many tall publications, thus necessitating a high next shelf placement. The advice here is what large libraries have discovered: the advantage of placing all of their tall or larger publications on the ground-floor shelf, enabling more shelves of moderate spacing above. Yes, this is a small suggestion, but it assisted one society and just might help yours.

Stay warm and well.

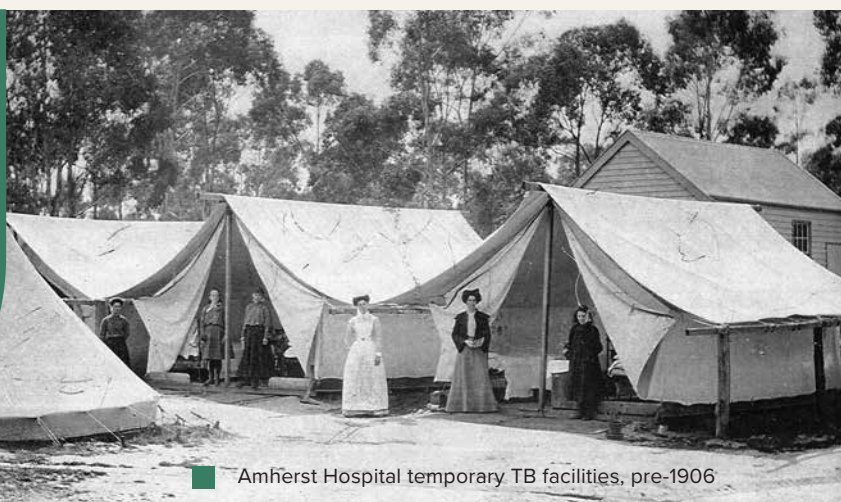
More in time,

Dr Rosalie Triolo

Chair HSSC (RHSV)

Email: hssc@historyvictoria.org.au

Amherst Hospital and contagious diseases



Amherst Hospital temporary TB facilities, pre-1906

Amherst District Hospital was founded in 1857 when there were several thousand diggers on the Amherst goldfield north of Ballarat. Starting with a ten-bed timber ward provided by local landholders, a Board of Management was established in 1859 and the hospital opened officially in 1860.

Across Australia, contagious diseases were an ongoing problem with repeated epidemics of smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, tuberculosis (TB), referred to as "consumption", and influenza: most notably the deadly 'Russian flu' in 1891 and 'Spanish flu' after World War I. Children were particularly at risk from scarlet fever, whooping cough, chicken pox, mumps and measles. By 1880 such cases at Amherst were treated in a building containing 2 two large, well-ventilated isolation wards and a separate bedroom for the attending nurses who were also isolated while working with contagious cases. By 1887 the Amherst contagious diseases ward remained the only one in the area, with other hospitals

across the region referring patients to Amherst as needed.

The rise of TB in Victoria was accelerated by migration of British TB sufferers, following encouragement from popular literature and medical opinion claiming the climate to be healthy and even curative. Resulting immigration led to a general upsurge of cases across Victoria; until in the early 1900s it became the leading cause of death for women and the second-highest cause of death for men. In response, the Victorian government made it a notifiable disease in an attempt to control its spread and this led to the establishment of Greenvale Sanatorium, near today's Broadmeadows, the first dedicated public tuberculosis sanatorium, in 1905.

In keeping with the accepted prescription for rest with clean air and plenty of sunlight, Amherst was an ideal location for a sanatorium. Patients were already being treated in the general wards in 1903 in an experimental program which was noted as 'very successful'. The case for development of an official Sanatorium Section was greatly strengthened by the

presence of Dr Peter Cunningham, whose experience in TB treatment was largely responsible for the initial experiment.

Following the pilot program, it was agreed that the number of TB cases in the General Section of the hospital had to be limited. Two small "chalet" style timber huts were located in the back corner of the hospital grounds to provide complete isolation for serious cases; extra beds for TB patients were made available in canvas tents provided by the Board of Public Health. The success of the TB treatment program was noted by Hospital President, E P Dowding, at the official opening of the Sanatorium Section: 'The results were such as to demonstrate the suitability of the climate and the Institution...out of a number of experiments in different parts of the State, the results at Amherst were the best of them all. (*The Argus* 2 August 1904, p9) reported that of 43 cases treated in 1904, 37 had 'markedly improved' with a general outcome of 20% effectively cured and 'a large proportion' of cases achieving an 'economic cure' which was defined as the ability to



■ Amherst Hospital chalet hut, 2023

return to work. Even so, the fledgling sanatorium was closed in 1906 with the patients transferred to the new and larger Greenvale Sanatorium.

While hospital records indicate that the Inspector of Charities 'expressed his astonishment' at this decision and the hospital's Board of Management was severely disappointed, the following year the Board of Health sought provision of beds for 'indigent advanced consumptives' and the idea of another sanatorium took hold; in seeking funding for it, house surgeon and local M.P. Dr Charles Salmon advised the Premier in 1908 that, 'the results in the treatment of consumption [at Amherst] had not been excelled in any part of Australia' (*The Age*, 19 March 1908, p5).

The hospital's new Sanatorium was officially opened by the Premier in April 1909. Described at the time as 'bungalow-style' (*Talbot Leader*, 3 April 1909), each of the 5 matching buildings was approximately 7.5 x 5m to hold 8 beds and they were built of canvas-covered timber to the mid-height of the walls with canvas shutters above to provide ventilation. Over the following years, the Hospital Board was granted extra land and volunteers developed outdoor recreational facilities as well as indoor amusements for convalescent TB patients.

Even with the new sanatorium, demand exceeded supply and in 1910 the hospital was asked to make a further 30 beds available for consumptives. The Hospital Board agreed to hand over the Contagious Diseases Ward, the men's dining room and the linen room to hold a total of 30 beds, on condition that the Board of Health provide the required infrastructure, fittings and equipment. Treatment results continued to be

positive; over 1910-11 the Sanatorium had 161 patients, of whom 141 were discharged once cured or stabilised, 1 died and 19 remained in hospital for further treatment. Patients were allocated to the hospital by the Board of Public Health and arrived on one month's probation that was then extended to 3 months if they responded to the treatment. Further extensions of time were possible, but not generally beyond 6 months.

In 1914 there were 40 patients in the sanatorium, all women, from all over Victoria, and in 1919 a formal decision was made to send all female patients to Amherst rather than Greenvale. Although other public sanatoria had been established by this time, health authorities seemed to see a parallel between Amherst and Greenvale and in 1924 the decision was made to transfer the Amherst sanatorium patients to Greenvale and make Amherst a men-only facility with Greenvale to be female-only.

By 1933, new treatments for TB were available and it was decided to introduce modern facilities and equipment at Mont Park Hospital and transfer all patients from Amherst to the new Gresswell Centre. With the general section of the hospital no longer viable because of local population decline, Amherst Hospital was closed in November that year.

One of the chalet huts was moved to Maryborough and then donated to Talbot Museum in 2006. In 2008 the oldest known – and heritage-protected – example of this style of building in Victoria was lost in a fire lit by vandals, leaving the Amherst chalet as a rare example of this style of isolation hut and believed to be the oldest surviving example in Victoria. It has recently been restored with support from the Strengthening Rural Communities program.

Amherst had a proud history of treating infectious diseases from its earliest years, but the sustained outcomes of

TB treatment are particularly worth examining. Carol Putland in her thesis *Tuberculosis and the Australian state: Australia's national anti-tuberculosis campaign 1898-1948, an administrative history of a public health policy* provides a range of statistics, which are partly reproduced here. First it should be noted that Amherst was numerically significant in the Victorian sanatorium system; in 1905, with tents containing 25 beds, it was the largest sanatorium in the state, according to Putland, and in 1928 Amherst was still the third-largest sanatorium after Heatherton and Greenvale.

The table below illustrates the comparison in treatment outcomes where Putland provides comparable statistics.

Putland argues that, in the absence of effective methods for early detection and permanent cure of TB, the sanatorium system was actually disappointing as a curative measure. Against this background, statistical returns for improved cases from Amherst were consistently better than other Victorian sanatoria, supporting the claims by Dr Salmon and others that Amherst Hospital had a leading role in the treatment of TB. This view was also evident in a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Health in 1912, stating that 'the Minister of Health desires to convey to the Doctor, Matron and Staff his warm thanks for the untiring devotion displayed in the work [of] combating consumption'.

Key References

Amherst Hospital Board minute books, photographs and other records held by Talbot Arts & Historical Museum.

Brewster, B., 2003 *Amherst District Hospital*, Talbot Arts & Historical Museum.

Marion Miller

Talbot Arts & Historical Museum

Year	Location	Improved	Incurable	Discharged early	Deaths
1908-1910	Amherst	86	13	1	0
	Greenvale	70.2	11.1	18.5	0.02
	Daylesford	77	11	6	6
1921	Amherst	80	7	7	6
	Greenvale	50	23	23	4
1924	Amherst	89	3.5	4	3.5
	Greenvale	42	24	31	3
1925	Amherst	88	7	0.7	4.3
	Greenvale	45	25	27	3

Treatment outcomes, calculated as % of completed cases



■ Illidge, Ralph (1936) The Kindergarten Holiday Home Forest Hill Vic.
https://rosetta.slv.vic.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_func=stream&dps_pid=FL15820915

Forest Hill Holiday Home and Residential Kindergarten: 1926 to 1991

Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten was established as a result of graduates from the Melbourne Kindergarten Training College buying the property in 1926, for use as a holiday home for needy children.

These young kindergarten teachers generally worked in inner industrial suburbs of Melbourne, where they cared for many youngsters who lived in appalling poverty and stress. The children often had to be bathed and dressed in clean clothes by the teachers, before they could join their classes. Many suffered malnutrition and had sores and head lice. They played in the streets and rarely saw animals, flowers or trees.

The teachers learned of a 14-acre property for sale in Forest Hill for £100 per acre. The property included a 60-year-old farmhouse comprising a kitchen, one bedroom, a lean-to storeroom and bathroom, plus a dairy. With the help of many friends, they raised funds or received donations to the value of £1400, enabling them to purchase the property and establish the home that was to be part of Forest Hill for the next 65 years.

The original building was renovated by the teachers themselves and was ready for the first group of 10 children in 1927. The property was virtually self-sufficient with a cow milked daily for milk requirements, hens provided eggs and a large vegetable garden provided fresh healthy food. Like many that followed, the experience of fresh air, good food and consistent care made an impact on the children.

Many staff and directors worked at the kindergarten, including Maie (Kathleen) Gregory. She started as assistant to the first director, then became director for 45 years. Many referred to the property as “Gregory’s”.

The original building slowly felt the strain of its age. Legs of chairs, sofas and even the bath kept falling through the floorboards. £4000 was required for a new building. Intervention from the Charities Board enabled the money to be raised via an Appeal held during May 1937 and in June 1937 a new building was officially opened.

The number of children increased from the initial number of 10 that could be housed, to 20 when the new building was completed. Only children between

the ages of three and six, were accepted at the kindergarten. Changes were also made regarding which children came to the kindergarten. Rather than children coming from just one kindergarten, the neediest from several kindergartens were included in the groups that were accommodated.

An outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) hit Melbourne in 1937, closing all kindergartens. The Forest Hill kindergarten was offered to the Charities Board for after-care treatment of polio victims. Seven temporary bungalows were built. These bungalows and the use of the day care nursery, meant 35 children were housed. The children were sent home or transferred to other institutions after 8 months and the kindergarten reopened as a holiday home.

In 1955 the kindergarten was enlarged to take children from all kindergartens and day nurseries. In 1959, children were admitted through Social Workers of Public Hospitals and various social welfare agencies. In 1960 the home changed from a holiday home to emergency care and the name was changed from Holiday Home to Residential Kindergarten for Emergency Care.



The mid 1960s and early 1970s were difficult financial times for the kindergarten. Where previously the kindergarten had survived on voluntary donations, it was evident that the future lay in increased government support. In 1974 the state government agreed to pay half the award salaries of mothercraft nurses in addition to the kindergarten teachers and assistants. The effort of staff over the duration of the running of the kindergarten was vital.

Over 10,000 children had passed through its doors when the facility closed in 1991, after 65 years. The land was subsequently sold for residential housing.

Robyn Harvey

Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Images courtesy of WHS and Victorian Collections

- **Top Left:** Illidge, Ralph (1936) The Kindergarten Holiday Home Forest Hill Vic. https://rosetta.slv.vic.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_func=stream&dps_pid=FL15593167
- Top Right:** Illidge, Ralph, (1936) The Kindergarten Holiday Home Forest Hill Vic. <https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE5622078&mode=browse>
- Above from Left to Right:** Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten - Childrens' bathroom, c1938 Victorian Collections <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/60d923316e5f99545134fffc>
- Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten Outside Nursery Wing, c1938 Victorian Collections <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/60d923316e5f99545134fffe>
- 'Jones Flower Farm'
- On photo verso: 'Muriel Jones visiting Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten, 1930s NP2596.' 'Merry Christmas from Enid Stephenson.' ' Jack & ? Holiday Home 1926'. Victorian Collections <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/60d923316e5f99545134fc60>

Enhance your next book with an Index by Terri Mackenzie

Professional Back of Book Indexer
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Society of Indexers
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Around the societies

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

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

FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 July 2023.

ARAPILES: The Society is volunteer run and community supported. Based in the town of Natimuk, we have three sites: the Court House, the former Natimuk Garage and the former Natimuk Masonic Hall. The Arapiles Historical Society (AHS) was formed at a public meeting in Natimuk on 1 March 1962. Since then, AHS has been the custodian of a growing collection of items from around the Arapiles region; these have the potential to present aspects of the history of the Arapiles district in a detailed and lively fashion. The Arapiles Climbing Museum is located at 57 Main Street Natimuk and is open Sunday afternoons, 2-4pm. <https://arapileshistoricalsociety.org/>

BALLAN: Do you know these former presidents of the Shire of Ballan: Patrick Carney (president 1922-23), William Wilton Chapman (president 1941-42 & 45-46), Herbert John Clifford (president 1926-27), Temple John Crowe (president 1902-03), George Hopwood (president 1918-19), Kenneth McLennan (president 1951-52), Roderick Robertson (president 1905-06), William Henry Roffey (president 1954-55), Lionel H. Rosenow (president 1906-07), Denis Ryan (president 1871-72), Alexander Stewart (president 1915-16), James Walters (president 1908-09)? The Society is working on a publication to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Shire of Ballan. The publication will outline a brief history of the Shire from its establishment in 1864 to its ending in 1994, and will include a short profile of each of the Shire Presidents. We would like to include a photograph of each of the 79 former Shire Presidents, where possible. We do not have photographs for the Presidents listed at the start of this article. We also need group photographs of the Ballan Shire Council from 1899 to 1975 and any earlier group photographs. We will scan your original photographs for inclusion in the book and acknowledge you as the owner of the photographs. Please contact bshsinc@hotmail.com.au

BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS: Diary dates: Sunday 6 August, at 1.15 for a 1.30pm start, our AGM plus guest speaker, Terry Young, on 'The Forgotten Chinese of Melbourne', at the Murrumbidgee Bowls Club, 10 Blackwood St, Carnegie.

Walks: Bookings essential, walks begin at 2pm. \$15.00 cash. Sunday 15 October,

'Melbourne Grammar School Walk', highlighting a few of their past pupils and their parents. Friday 3 November, 'Flag Commemoration' when another 50 flags will be placed, adding to the current 150 flags. Sunday 5 November, 'Remembrance Day Walk'. On this walk we will visit eight Service Persons who have been honoured with a flag.

BRUNSWICK: Saturday 12 August at 1.30, Robyn Annear, author of *A city lost and found: Whelan the Wrecker's Melbourne*, will talk about this iconic Brunswick firm. This meeting is in partnership with Brunswick Library. Saturday 2 September at 1.30, the birth of progressive Brunswick. The legendary Gil Freeman was instrumental in a number of progressive initiatives in Brunswick in the 1970s. These included CERES, the Sydney Rd Community School, BRUSEC and others. Gil will talk about his experiences after our AGM. Both talks are in the Kirrip-Djerring Room, Brunswick Town Hall.

CHARLTON GOLDEN GRAINS MUSEUM: Located in the former Mechanics Institute building (1882), at 1 High Street, the Museum showcases a diverse collection of over 3000 artefacts and photographs from Charlton district's First Peoples through to today. Local family history research is available from the museum's extensive collection of resources. Research fees apply. Check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CharltonGoldenGrainsMuseum>



KYNETON: Kyneton Museum has been closed for six months for maintenance work and we now invite you to celebrate the re-opening. Works have included repairing the heritage roofing and chimneys, improving subfloor ventilation and water drainage and giving the exterior a refresh with a new sign, landscaping and a fresh coat of paint. In collaboration with the Kyneton Historical Society, Kyneton Museum presents the

Stitch in Time exhibition highlighting local craft and folk art and the materials which assisted in making them. On display until October, the museum at 67 Piper Street is open Friday to Sunday 11am-4pm.

LILYDALE: Saturday 2 September 2.30pm, Former Lilydale CFA Captain and President of District 13 Council Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, Frank Whelan OAM and his brother John Whelan, the family historian, will be our guest speakers. They will speak on the history of the Whelan family in the district and perhaps share stories about their lives growing up in Lilydale.

<https://lilydalehistorical.com.au/>



Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.

LINTON: The sculpture of Dr Vera Scantlebury, OBE, was unveiled in the Avenue of Honour, Linton, by The Hon Natalie Hutchins MLA, Minister for Women. The commissioning of the sculpture was the result of a combined effort by the Linton and District Historical Society, Golden Plains Shire Council, and the Victorian Government. As there are few statues of women in public places in Victoria, the Victorian Government embarked on a project to install six statues, of significant Victorian women, throughout Victoria. Lucy McEachern, an artist who lives in the Shire, was selected as the sculptor. The attendance at the unveiling was estimated to be between 150 and 200 people. Photo courtesy of Drew Hopkins.



MALDON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES: Due to the extreme cold in the Museum Hall, the Museum will be closed to visitors after Wednesday 12 July and re-open on Sunday 3 September, EXCEPT for the special opening on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August for the 'Festival of Dark Ideas'. As part of the festival, our

volunteer, Helen McBurney is leading guided tours of the Maldon Cemetery on the Saturday and Sunday at 10am and 2pm: there is already a waiting list. The Museum will be open on both days of the festival from 11.30am until 2.00pm and will feature a special temporary display, both pictorial and textual, concentrating on 'Dark times in early Maldon': featuring stories about the hardships of life in Maldon for its' miners and families: living in tents, accidents and hard work. For more information on the 'Festival of Dark Ideas': www.goldfieldsgothic.com



MALMSBURY: Our home is the Malmsbury Mechanics Institute located at 71 Mollison Street, Malmsbury. We are generally open on Friday mornings from 9am until 12pm except for school holidays. If you are planning a visit, please let us know in advance so we can ensure that there is a volunteer present who is able to assist you. Other times are available by appointment, please contact the Research Officer to arrange a suitable time and date. The society can undertake both family and property research using our local records, the majority of which cannot be found elsewhere. The society also has a list of publications on Malmsbury's history for sale which may be posted out for a small additional fee. Our new website has undergone a complete review and refresh with some added information in a format that we think is more welcoming and easier to read. See what you think: <https://cbyrnes101.wixsite.com/malmsbury-historical>



MALVERN: The Society is delighted to announce that our exciting new website is now accessible to the online world! The Society acknowledges the generosity of the late Michael MacGeorge whose bequest has funded the website. Special thanks to everyone involved and to our enthusiastic and talented web designer Paul Churton, for his fantastic support throughout the project. Enjoy exploring our new website and we look forward to receiving your feedback: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/>



PAYNESVILLE MARITIME MUSEUM: Sunday 13 August, 9am-12.30pm, 'Open day' at the PMM Display Facility in Gilsenan Reserve. The Museum has a selection of maritime history publications available on museum open days and includes several of local author Don Love's books on shipwrecks, maritime incidents, steam traders and sailing ships. <https://www.pmm.org.au/>

RINGWOOD: Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday February until November at 7.30pm, North Ringwood Community House, 35 Tortice Drive, North Ringwood. Upcoming meetings: August, 'Four stories from the Society's archives', presenter, President Russell Haines, Ken and other. September, Judith Vimpani will speak on finding the lost pieces of Maryville's history. The AGM will be held. Everyone is welcome.

TERANG: The Museum is currently located in the former Dixie School Building now situated in Terang College Primary Campus grounds, School Road, Terang: turn left at the Presbyterian Church. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month from February until November at 7.30pm. Contact us for details. We welcome new members and visitors to our museum. <https://www.teranghistory.org.au/>



VICTAS UNITING CHURCH: The Society meets four times a year at various venues around Melbourne and conducts a church tour annually. Our 2023 meetings include: Sunday 6 August, Graeme Davison, 'Methodism and migration in the Age of Empire' at North Essendon Uniting Church, 132 Keilor Road, North Essendon and Tuesday 19 September, tour of Geelong churches. We welcome visitors and new members. <https://www.facebook.com/ucavictas>

WHITTLESEA: Society Fundraising Days at the Diamond Creek Rotary Tram Café, 28 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek, serving up all kinds of treats as a fundraising activity, so come along and say "hi" to us on these Saturdays from 8.30am-4.30pm: 26 August and on Sunday 1 September October 8.30am-4.30pm. The Epping Cemetery Tour is on Saturday 19 August at 1pm presented by Tanya Gook. Come and learn the history of the Epping Cemetery and hear stories about some of the past residents. Miller Street, Epping. \$15.00 per person.

Robin McRobinson

.....

Talbot Arts & Historical Museum members were very sad to hear that our President and Life Member Robin McRobinson passed away peacefully on 23 June 2023. Robin, a founding member of the Museum Committee, spent 40 years dedicating his time to the establishment, growth and ongoing activities of the Museum, and we will deeply miss his friendship, leadership and extensive knowledge of local history.

Vale Robin



Windows on history: a warm 'Welcome'

Melbourne's National Gallery Victoria Australia (NGVA) holds an unusual installation: an imposing three-light window which depicts a handsome woman, leaning forward, arms outstretched as if to welcome her guests. At either side of her, tabarded heralds blow their raised trumpets to announce the arrival of visitors. Originally, this grand installation, appropriately known as the *Welcome* window, was sited on the main staircase at *Cliveden*, the town residence of Sir William and Lady Janet Clarke.

Press reports of the day on the construction of the Clarke's new East Melbourne townhouse, at the corner of Clarendon Street and Wellington Parade, excited much interest as the imposing edifice grew over two years, from 1886 to 1888. Architects, Wardell and Vernon, designed the three-storey 100-room residence in grand 'Italianate' style, among the largest homes ever built in the colony. Melbourne's newspapers

described in detail the lavishness of its fittings and furnishings, although the extensive stained glass was only mentioned briefly among the marble mantelpieces, Elizabethan carved oak furniture and collection of bronzes and other delights which filled the visitor's gaze. Nevertheless, it seems that stained glass was integral to the vision of both architect and owner, aimed to beautify and, just as importantly, to bring light into various reception areas, with the staircase window, the most spectacular of all, designed to impress and overawe guests as they ascended the stairs.

Stained glass was seen as an important element of numerous grand mansions built during Melbourne's economic boom of the 1880s, with reception areas, particularly entrance halls and staircases, often adorned with large and lavish fully painted glass windows. The theme of hospitality was also seen at Essendon's *Earlsbrae* (1889), *Illewarra* (1891) in



Toorak, *Benvenuta* (1892) in Carlton and elsewhere, while other windows proclaimed the mansion owners' learnedness through classical or literary allusions. For instance, Sir Walter Scott and William Shakespeare were celebrated in the two entrances at Canterbury's *Cullymont* and *Eyrecourt* (1890), semi-detached residences built for the Reverend Alexander McCully, a professor of elocution, and his father; in the same year, two wide staircase windows exuberantly portrayed aspects of *Art and Music* in *Stonington*, built for Mount Morgan gold millionaire and Cobb & Co partner, John Wagner. At *Cliveden*, the *Welcome* window referenced Shakespeare in the inscription at the top of the window, 'Welcome Ever Smiles', and Alexander Pope in the laurel wreath on either side 'None Come too Early' and 'None Too Late Return'. Sadly, other Boom-style mansions, including *Werndew* in Toorak and *Norwood* in Brighton, with their wonderful Scott and Shakespeare windows, were demolished in the 1950s.

In addition to the entrance and staircase, *Cliveden*'s supper-room was 'glazed in...stained Renaissance style' French doors along one end that opened into a courtyard; the dining-hall contained glass panels with subjects 'derived from the Flora and Fauna of Australia'; and the billiard room was glazed with jewel-like roundels. All these windows were made in Melbourne by the Anglo-Australian stained-glass artist, William Montgomery, unlike the staircase window that was imported from England.

The order, placed in 1887 by 'Clarke, Sunbury... £98', was noted in the account books of James Powell & Sons, Whitefriars, London and designed by the highly regarded English artist, John William Brown (1842-1928). Despite this, the window was erroneously identified as 'Italian' or 'Florentine', which may stem from a very early report in *Table Talk* of European artists working on fittings and furnishings. The myth went unquestioned for decades.

Brown was engaged as senior glass-painter at James Powell & Sons in 1874 and was soon designing for the firm. He parted company with Powell in 1886, but continued to produce designs for them, while also pursuing a career as an independent glass artist, most notably for the Arts & Crafts Church of St. George's, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1888-89) where the east and west windows echo the sumptuous colour and ornamentation of the *Cliveden* window.

J W Brown had an unexpectedly close relationship with Australia when he came to Melbourne for health reasons in 1891. He was employed as senior artist in the stained-glass department of Brooks, Robinson & Co and although he remained for only three years, his designs brought new life to the firm and substantially enhanced its standing for years afterwards. Possibly his most significant Australian designs were for Presbyterian churches: the McBain Memorial Window (1894) at Toorak and *Faith Hope and Charity* (1893) at Carngham.

But *Cliveden* hit hard times during the 20th century and when the building was demolished in 1968, only representative decorative elements and adornments were retained, and some relocated into the 18-storey brown brick Hilton Hotel, built on the *Cliveden* site in 1970. The Hilton's *Cliveden* dining room and adjacent reception room housed the stained glass, until removed again and sold into private hands when the hotel was refurbished in 2017. The glass was purchased and generously donated to the NGVA by Krystina Campbell Pretty, where *Cliveden*'s grand *Welcome* window continues to remind visitors of the social, aesthetic and historical significance of 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

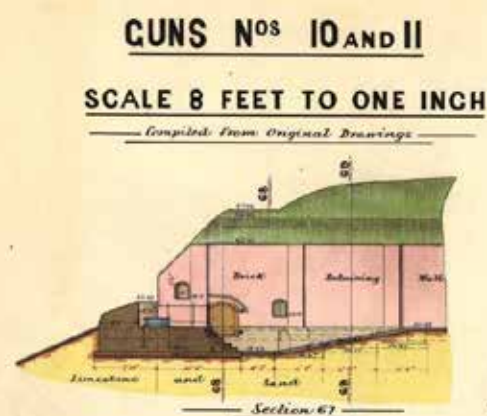
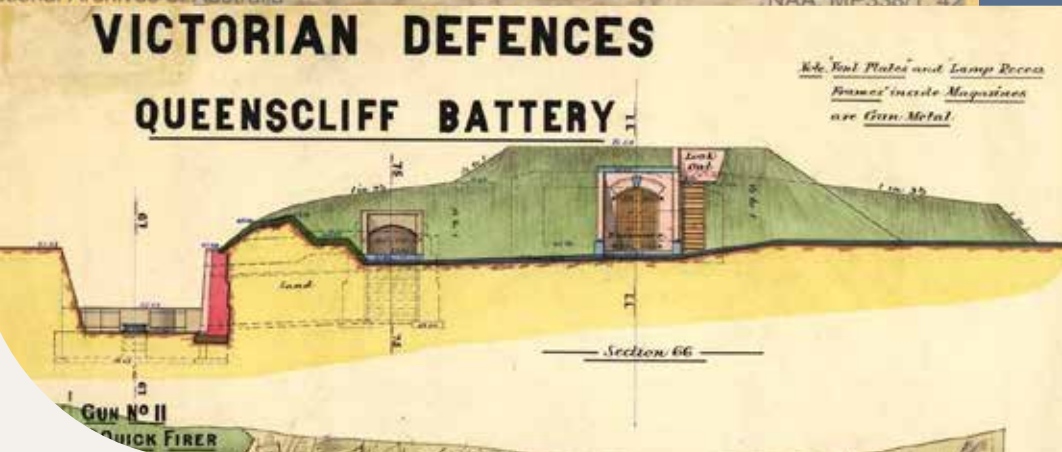
Bronwyn Hughes OAM

■ **Previous Page and Left:** Courtesy of National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Presented by Krystina Campbell-Pretty and the Campbell-Pretty Family through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2018 <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/126794/> [15 July 2023]
Cliveden Room at the Hilton Hotel, Melbourne



Left: General plan of Point Nepean Battery, 1895. NAA: MP338/1, 42

Below: Queenscliff Battery – Guns Nos. 10 and 11, July 1895. NAA: MP338/1, 109



NAA: Architecture in the archives; The Russians are coming!

The National Archives of Australia recently presented its 'Researching places: Local history and heritage resources' seminar at Portland in south-west Victoria. Amongst the records showcased in this seminar were original plans and records relating to Victoria's historic colonial coastal defences.

Colonial Victoria's coastal defences

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Great Britain and Tsarist Russia were locked in intense geopolitical rivalry. This played out in places as far-flung as Crimea, Persia, Central Asia and Tibet. It also generated much anxiety in colonial Australia.

From the 1850s onwards, there were periodic 'Russian scares' and rumours of war fuelled fears that Australia was vulnerable to enemy naval raids. Victoria's prosperity following the discovery of gold increased its sense of vulnerability. This prompted the construction of coastal defences, ranging from the

major fortifications guarding Port Phillip Bay to smaller artillery batteries erected along the colony's south-west coast at Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland. There was a substantial strengthening of coastal defences in the 1880s. This followed detailed recommendations made by British military advisors Major General Sir William Jervois and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Scratchley.

After Federation, responsibility for defence, including coastal defence facilities, passed to the Commonwealth Government. As a result, many records relating to Victoria's historic coastal defences are now held by the National Archives of Australia. These include series of detailed architectural drawings (for access to these resources, go to the NAA website>Record Search>Advanced Search>Series and then enter the Series number from below into the 'Series number' box):

- MP338/1 – Point Nepean Port Phillip [Victorian Defences], 1880-1912. This series contains 144 drawings relating to historical defences at Point Nepean, including Eagles Nest; Queenscliff,

including Crow's Nest; Fort Franklin and South Channel Fort.

- MP427/1 – *Plans and drawings of defence sites, buildings and installations, Victoria, 1885 – 1945*. This series relates mostly to the fortifications around Port Phillip, including Point Franklin, Point Nepean, Swan Island, Point Gellibrand and Queenscliff.
- B3712 – *Folders of construction drawings, numerical series, 1850-1975*. This series of public works drawing also documents several coastal defence sites, including the Port Fairy and Warrnambool batteries. Related facilities, such as Portland's Drill Hall and Navy Rifle Range are also documented in this series, which is currently being catalogued at item level through the National Archives' Defend the Past, Protect the Future program.
- Many of these hand-drawn drawings are works of art in their own right.
- The National Archives also holds records relating to the colonial military personnel who operated these defences, including:



■ **Left:** Royal Victorian Artillery volunteers at Portland with their 32-pounder canon c1868. Courtesy of Portland Family History Group.

- B5395—*Volumes of records of service for the Victorian Volunteer Forces, 1863-1884.*
- B5437 – *Volumes of muster rolls and pay lists for Victorian militia forces, 1884-1935.*

A brief history of the Portland Battery

A detachment of the Royal Victorian Artillery was first established at Portland in 1866. They drilled using a 32-pounder cannon set up on the cliff top overlooking the beach. In 1884, the Portland Battery Garrison Artillery was formed. In 1889, the Portland Battery was constructed on what was then known as Lighthouse or Observatory Hill. To facilitate the construction of the new defences, the lighthouse and keeper's cottage were removed, stone by stone, to North Bluff. The Portland Battery consisted of gun emplacements, parapet walls and a magazine. The contract for the first stage of these works was worth £2,000. The 80-pounder muzzle-loading cannon installed in the new battery was cast in England in 1866 and was originally purchased for use at Hobson's Bay. The Portland Battery was transferred to the Commonwealth after Federation for £963. However, in 1904, the local artillery detachment was disbanded, despite protests from the local community. The Portland Battery site then fell into disuse and disrepair. At times, local farmers even requested permission to graze their stock at the site!

In 1926, the Portland Progress Association suggested that the battery be thrown open to the public for recreational purposes. In 1929, the Borough of Portland was granted permissive occupancy of the site for public recreation purposes, literally for an annual rent of one peppercorn, so long as it made the site safe. A clause in the agreement permitted the Defence Department to resume control of the site when needed and during the World War II, it was used by the local Volunteer Air Observers' Corps. In 1962, the site was sold to the Portland City Council for the sum of £25. The site was restored in the 1980s and is a local tourist attraction. Of the three artillery pieces at the site, the 80-pounder is the original one installed in 1889.

Based on the entry for the Portland Battery in the Victorian Heritage Database, information supplied by the Portland Family History Group and records held by the National Archives.

The National Archives would like to thank Martin Boyer and Gary Bartlett of the Portland Family History Group for their assistance with this article.

Patrick Ferry

National Archives Australia
Assistant State Manager, Victoria National Network
Coordination, Victoria Office

Vale Guy Wilson 1955-2023



There was an air of excitement and bursts of applause at the AGM of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on 27 June as three Fellows of the society read out citations for Awards of Merit and congratulated recipients. Then a hush fell over proceedings as Rosemary Cameron, the Executive Officer, announced that the Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award would be given posthumously. Guy Wilson, one of the society's most treasured volunteers, had died suddenly on 21 June after an accident in his home.

The RHSV had introduced this volunteer award in 2018 to honour Barbara Nixon OAM, honorary librarian at the RHSV for 40 years. Her son James Nixon, who read the citation for Guy Wilson, drew parallels between his mother and Guy; both were librarians dedicated to the RHSV collection and through their sociability they encouraged other volunteers.

Guy Wilson, born in 1955, grew up in Blackburn and Mt Waverley. He completed a Bachelor of Economics at La Trobe University followed by a Graduate Diploma of Librarianship at the Ballarat College of Advanced Education. An avid reader, he was especially interested in history and archaeology. During widespread travels, Guy became enamoured with Turkey and Jordan, and later studied archaeology at the University of London. In 1992 he married fellow librarian Lisa and became the proud father of daughters Madeleine and Georgia.

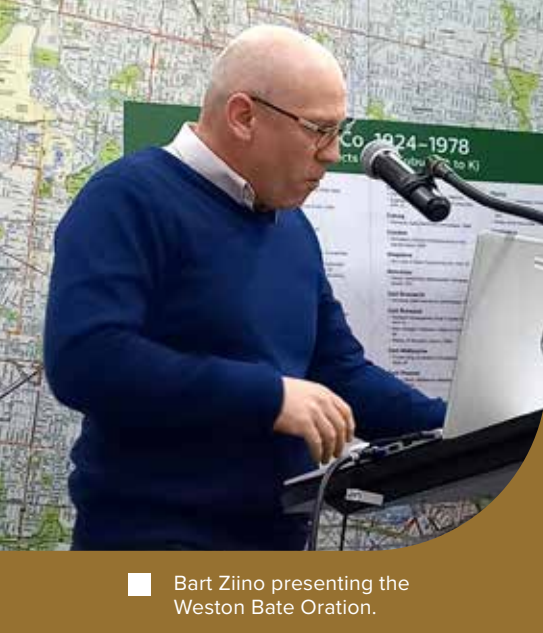
From 1991 to 2003 Guy worked in public libraries including the Moonee Valley Libraries. Here he became Multicultural Services Librarian and Flemington Branch Librarian. At vibrant inner-city Flemington he coped with challenges calmly and efficiently. 'He was popular with staff and played a key role in developing collections in many languages in this diverse municipality.' Guy worked at RMIT for the last 17 years of his career, managing the site facilities, resources and staff at the Brunswick and Bundoora campus libraries. He retired in 2020.

According to Rosemary Cameron, the RHSV 'struck gold' when the experienced and talented Guy Wilson started as a volunteer in January 2021. Working under Jillian Hiscock, RHSV's Collections Manager, Guy quickly grasped plans for improvements and helped her to implement them. He worked one and sometimes two days a week, undertaking many tasks which are the bedrock of professional collection management. A quietly focused presence, he became Jillian's right hand man. His friendliness at morning teas and lunches endeared him to staff and volunteers alike. It was a joy for Guy to return in some ways to his beginning, to working again with books alongside congenial colleagues rather than on managerial tasks largely distant from collections. He did this while immersed in his favourite subject of history, in this case the history of his home state of Victoria, in the RHSV's heritage building.

Carole Woods

With thanks for assistance to Lisa Wilson

■ Guy Wilson. Courtesy Lisa Wilson.



■ Bart Ziino presenting the Weston Bate Oration.

RHSV Annual General Meeting and Weston Bate Oration

The RHSV June 2023 AGM was a well-attended affair. Seventy people in the Drill Hall and another 30 on Zoom is quite a sensational attendance for an AGM. No doubt the attraction was the giving of many awards including: Gordon Moffatt's Distinguished Service Award; the late Guy Wilson's Barbara Nixon Award for volunteering at the RHSV, and eleven RHSV Merit Awards for service to their own societies, seven given out at the ceremony. The other Awards of Merit will be presented at the recipients' home society. The Annual Report, which is available on our website, is a very informative and beautiful document. It is full of information about the RHSV's activities in 2022 and graced by images of 'ghost' advertisements on old Melbourne buildings. Kent Watson created these photographs and donated a thousand of them to the RHSV's collection.

The 5th Weston Bate Oration was given by Dr Bart Ziino of Deakin University, the inaugural RHSV Historian in Residence. His large audience included Janice Bate, Weston's widow, and their sons Christopher and Tristan. The lecture was created from research by Bart and his colleague Dr Brad Underhill on the Protected Workers legislation current during World War II. This research was funded by Gordon Moffatt AM who is seeking recognition for the war service of workers controlled and often trapped in a particular job by this legislation. The lecture elicited a great many questions from the audience, many of whom had a story about workers under the Act and how they suffered shame and injustice. An edited version will appear in the December 2023 issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

MORWELL SEMINAR

Date: Saturday 26 August

Time 10am-4pm

Event type: in person

Venue: Morwell Historical Society, 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell

The third RHSV seminar for 2023, and second in rural Victoria, is being hosted by Morwell Historical Society with optional activities in the La Trobe valley on the next day.

The program includes:

1. Family history research and writing – Gippsland case studies. Speaker: Carol Smith
2. Capacity Building: Leading and retaining volunteers and attracting new visitors and members. Speaker: Paul Fearon
3. Hitchhiker's Guide to Collection Management. Speaker: Jillian Hiscock
4. Writing engaging exhibition labels and appealing visitor 'self-guided' tours. Speaker: Rosalie Triolo

Followed by

Optional dinner, at Morwell Bowling Club Bistro, 52 Hazelwood Road, Morwell

The full program and speakers' details are on the RHSV website.

GEORGE WEICKHARDT (1906-2000) AND THE PIONEER ENGINEERS OF VICTORIA.

Date: Thursday 17 August

5:30pm for 6pm lecture

Event type: hybrid

Speaker: Ken McInnes

This presentation brings to the fore the research by George Weickhardt (1906-2000), and in particular his research on the pioneer engineers of Victoria and their contributions to the early developments in the colony.

George was an active member of Engineering Heritage Victoria (EHV) in the 1980s, and presented and published many papers on engineering history. He also produced a well-received series of articles about pioneer engineers published in The Victorian Historical Journal and his unpublished research papers and manuscripts are held in the archives at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV).

George, together with his more well-known brother Len, regularly attended and participated in EHV and RHSV meetings, and both contributed biographies to the Australian Biographical Dictionary.

This overview of the life, the works and contributions of the pioneer engineers, as researched and described in George's published papers and recently catalogued archives, is relevant to all who are interested in the history of Victoria.

HISTORICAL SHOWCASE

Date: Saturday 26 August

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: gold coin donation

Event type: in person

Venue: Prahran Mechanics Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran 3181

The RHSV will have a table at the

PMI Historical Showcase so come and say hello. There will be over 20 historical societies, family history and genealogical history groups, archives and special interest groups, from across Victoria gathered together for one day to show you just how they can help you with whatever enquiry or history related curiosity you may have. The PMI is conveniently located near public transport and many places to eat, so you can comfortably spend all day exploring what is on offer.

BOOK LAUNCH: MY GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK: FOUR CENTURIES OF A BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN FAMILY

Date: Tuesday 19 September 2023

Time: 5.30-7pm

Cost: Free

Event type: in person

A great-aunt's bequest - a 200-year-old grandfather clock - sends historian Graeme Davison on a journey deep into his father's family's past. From their tribal homeland on the Scottish Borders, he follows them to the garrison town of Carlisle, from industrial Birmingham to Edwardian Australia, and from World War I to his own suburban childhood. This is the story of an ordinary family's journey from frontier warfare and dispossession through economic turmoil and emigration to modest prosperity. At each step, we are led to reflect on the puzzles of personal identity and the mystery of time. Based on a lifetime of creative scholarship, *My Grandfather's Clock* is a moving testament to the power of family history to illuminate the present.

HUGH ANDERSON LECTURE: HAVEN FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: 'WANDA COURT', A MELBOURNE SUBURBAN ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE 1940S AND '50S

Date: Tuesday 26 September 2023

Time: 5.30pm for 6-7pm

Speaker: Sheila Fitzpatrick

Cost: \$10 | \$20

Event type: hybrid

Sheila Fitzpatrick turns her historian's gaze to the block of flats where she grew up and where most other residents were European Jewish refugees. Sheila is primarily a historian of modern Russia, especially the Stalin period, but in recent years has added a transnational dimension with her research on Russian migration to Australia. She received a Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award in 2002 and the American Historical Association's Award for Scholarly Distinction in 2012. She is past President of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (formerly AAASS) and a member of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Having worked for most of her career in the United States, Sheila moved back to Australia in 2012.



Vale Pat Grainger OAM 1930-2023

Pat Grainger, for many years, was the public face of the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society (PMH&PS) and her influence extended far beyond her district. She was named Port Melbourne Citizen of the Year in 1994 and received the OAM in 2016. She won further acclaim through exhibition projects submitted to the Victorian Community History Awards, and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria honoured her with an Award of Merit in 2017.

Born in Spokane, Washington State, USA, in 1930, Pat née Herman gained a BA in fine art and music at Whitman College before studying commercial art in Los Angeles. She married fellow graphic designer Les Mason and, with their daughters Mary and Lou, they moved to Melbourne in 1961. After this marriage ended, Pat married Brian Grainger in 1977 and co-founded a graphic design studio in Cambridge, England. Five years later she returned to Melbourne and became a freelance graphic artist.

Pat moved to 70 Station Street, Port Melbourne, in 1983. A protest against the

proposed closure of the Port Melbourne to the city railway was the catalyst for what became Pat's intense community activism concerning heritage and social justice issues. In 1992 she edited the oral history book *They Can Carry Me Out: Memories of Port Melbourne*, and the following year became a founding member of the PMH&PS; she acted as treasurer for five years and as secretary until January 2017.

Pat brought her design skills honed in leading studios 'freely and generously' to the society and to various wider projects such as Wendy Lowenstein's *Under the Hook*, an oral history of Melbourne Waterside workers. Pat designed the logo of the PMH&PS, edited its newsletter, designed the society's annual historic pictorial calendar for more than twenty years and produced striking images for posters, flyers and banners. Her writing included *Chartered Scoundrels: A Brief History of Port Melbourne Hotels* and she gave creative leadership to ten exhibitions.

The Victorian Community History Awards several times highlighted Pat's exhibition submissions. *Women of Port Melbourne*,

which covered 34 women and included a 64-page guide, gained a commendation in 2007. Pat won the exhibition category two years later with *The Navy in Port: a month of celebration for the centenary of the Great White Fleet visit*. In 2018 the society received a commendation in the cultural diversity category for the exhibition *Passages*, a study of the local post-war Greek community.

Pat became so absorbed in the history of Port Melbourne that she sometimes drew on other people's stories as if they were her own. Her work 'contributed to a growing sense of community' during a period of rapid change. Pat died on 19 March 2023. The City of Port Phillip passed a condolence motion while the historical society held a celebration of her life and produced a handsome website tribute.

Carole Woods

With thanks for assistance to Janet Bolitho, Pat's longtime friend.

■ Pat Grainger c.2007. Courtesy Port Melbourne Historical Society

Second RHSV Historian in Residence

Dr Fiona Gatt is the second Historian in Residence at the RHSV, courtesy of the unspent funding in Bart Ziino's project. Fiona Gatt completed her PhD at Deakin University on shopkeepers in late 19th century North Melbourne. Her thesis was rated highly by the examiners who required no changes be made. Fiona had previously published an article on war and family history methodology in the VHJ's June

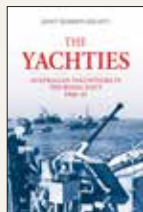
2021 edition. Dr Gatt will extend her ground-breaking study of shopkeepers in society beyond North Melbourne to include two other Melbourne suburbs: working class Footscray and middle-class Malvern. She will make great use of the RHSV's collection.

Richard Broome AM

Bookshop

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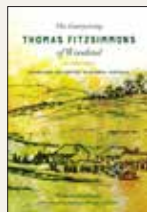
www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/



The Yachties: Australian Volunteers in The Royal Navy 1940-45

Janet Roberts Billett (2023)
PB \$45

The Yachties is a unique saga of valour displayed by Australian volunteers who served in World War II as officers with the Royal Navy. Recruited under the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme, their war service in the Northern Hemisphere was as diverse as it was dangerous. Most sailed in convoy duties in the Battle of the Atlantic and some in the Arctic run to Murmansk in Russia. The majority served in Combined Operations. As a group they are the most highly decorated Australian volunteers.



The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons of Woodend: Adventures and Survival in Colonial Australia

Paul Burke (2022)
PB 148pp \$25

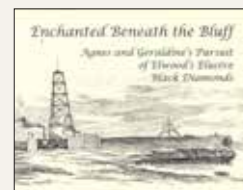
This is the story of Thomas and Eliza, their family and the enterprises they created to survive and prosper. He was a blacksmith, a publican, a timber miller and a farmer. Above all, his hotel, the 'Sydney', and land investments were the tangible assets that he held onto and which ultimately proved to be the salvation of his family. The family grew to maturity in Woodend but the restless spirit in Thomas reached out and explored possibilities in Kyneton, Mt Macedon, Bendigo and Melbourne.



Heritage Matters: 70 years of the East Melbourne group 1953-2003

Jill Fenwick (2023)
PB 169pp \$34.95

In 1953, City of Melbourne workers appeared in George Street, East Melbourne and started to chop down the magnificent elm trees which had lined the street for decades. Residents were outraged and soon realised that this was a battle which would not be easily won. They needed to work together to preserve the heritage of the suburb. The East Melbourne Group was formed, the earliest residential group to take responsibility for protection of their suburb and preserve its heritage.



Enchanted Beneath the Bluff: Agnes and Geraldine's Pursuit of Elwood's Elusive Black Diamonds

Isaac Hermann and Heather Arnold (2023)
HC \$50

Where Elwood's Swamp met St. Kilda's Red Bluff, two daring theosophists, Agnes Simmons and Geraldine Minet, with their Victorian Coal Mining Company, challenged prudence and geology. They sought prosperity in the midst of the 1890s Depression. Their engine, 'Helena' was fired up to bore deeper for their black diamonds, than any other coal exploration. Their spirit world's prophecies plummeted with cold hard facts and bitter disappointment.



The Colonial Fantasy: Why White Australia Can't Solve Black Problems

Sarah Maddison (2019)
PB \$34.99

The Colonial Fantasy considers why Australia persists in the face of such obvious failure. It argues that white Australia can't solve First Nation's problems because white Australia is the problem. Australia has resisted the one thing that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want, and the one thing that has made a difference elsewhere: the ability to control and manage their own lives. It calls for a radical restructuring of the relationship between black and white Australia.



The Simonsens of St Kilda: A Family of Singers

Roger Neill (2023)
PB \$29.95

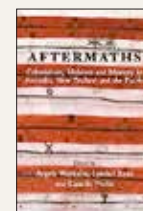
The fascinating story of a family of singers and their pioneering opera company. Extraordinarily, twelve of the children and grandchildren of Martin and Fanny Simonsen became professional singers, several of them performing members of the Simonsens' pioneering opera company, which toured Australia and New Zealand in the late 19th century. Two became international stars in Europe and America, while another went to prison in San Francisco for robbery. Their home base was a noisy house of song in St Kilda, Melbourne.



Prahran Market: Celebrating 150 Years

Lesley Sharon Rosenthal (2014)
HC 93pp \$34.95

The Prahran Market celebrates 150 years of fresh produce and community. Since 1864, the Market has survived significant social and technological changes, two world wars, the Great Depression, devastating fire and prospective property developers. Today it is a thriving market, nourishing the community, and is the first choice of gourmet shoppers for quality local and specialist produce. This book tells the story of the Market, its struggles and triumphs, and the stories of those who have kept it alive for future generations to enjoy.



Aftermaths: Colonialism, Violence and Memory in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

Edited by Angela Wanhalla, Lyndall Ryan and Camille Nurka (2023)
PB 312pp \$49.95

Aftermaths explores the life-changing intergenerational effects of colonial violence in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific. The settings of these accessible, illustrated short essays range from Ōrākau pā in the Waikato to the Kimberleys in northwest Australia, from orphanages in Fiji to the ancestral lands of the Wiyot Tribe in Northern California. Story by story, this collection powerfully reveals the living legacy of historical events.

Books received

John Schauble

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

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



Great Australian Places. Graham Seal, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2022, pp. xii-340, ISBN 9781761067136.

Graham Seal is emeritus professor of folklore at Curtin University and has spent a lifetime chronicling stories and yarns, language and songs which many more 'serious' historians have overlooked. These stories are from around Australia, but it is interesting that the first three Victorian locations nominated are all attached to crime! Two of them, Stringybark Creek, site of the notorious Kelly murders, and Little Lonsdale Steet, centre of Melbourne vice in the 19th century, are well known. The third, Codrington near Port Fairy, is a largely forgotten and mysterious locale named for the pseudonym of an equally forgotten habitual criminal of the same era called Harry Rouse. There are many such curious tales here.



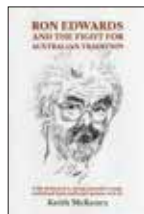
The Champion of the Seas. Rod Fraser, Pilgrim Printing Services, Glen Waverley, 1999, pp. 1-320, ISBN 0957720203.

Belatedly received, this is the story of the record-breaking 2447-ton clipper *Champion of the Seas*, which brought around 5300 settlers during 15 voyages from Liverpool to Melbourne between 1854 and 1868. It is an eclectic compendium of material which includes selection of shipboard diaries, extracts from the Captain's Log, a sprinkling of poetry and full reprint of the 'Champion of the Seas Gazette', and the 'Champion of the Seas Times', printed weekly onboard. With a complete list of passengers covering all of her voyages, this book will be of interest to descendants of anyone with a connection to the vessel.



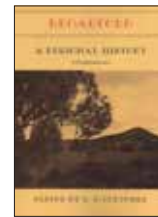
Transforming lives: Alan Ramsay House Secondary Men's Teachers Hostel. Marilyn Bowler (ed), Penfolk Publishing, Blackburn, 2023, pp. v-198, ISBN 9781925467147.

Until the 1970s, the Victorian government offered studentships to teachers; these covered both their tertiary fees and a living allowance. In return, recipients were bonded to teach in the state system for three years upon graduation. For students from the country, the Education Department also offered accommodation in single-sex hostels. Alan Ramsay House in Queens Road, Albert Park was one such. This brief history of hostel life captures a time from 1959 until the 1970s when young men from the bush adapted to the city and to careers in education. The hostel story is just part of it; the 44 individual stories of former residents spell out in fascinating detail the transformative experience.



Ron Edwards and the Fight for Australian Tradition. Keith McKenry, Arcadia, North Melbourne, 2023, pp. v-362, ISBN 9781922952042.

Ron Edwards was an indefatigable collector and publisher of Australian songs, folklore, a documenter of Aboriginal rock art and a keeper of traditional crafts. As founder of Rams Skull Press, he would become the largest publisher of books on Australian folklore and bushcraft. While he spent much of his life in north Queensland, Edwards was originally from Victoria. In the 1950s, he taught at Swinburne while living at Ferntree Gully where he was involved with a small but influential group of artists centred on The Hut Gallery. From the late 1970s, he travelled often to China and Japan. This is the story of a rich life, lived with purpose and zeal.



Broadford: A Regional History. B.J. Fletcher (ed), Lowden Publishing Co., Donvale, 2023, pp. v-252, ISBN 9780909706029.

This history was first published almost 50 years ago in part to mark more than 100 years of local government. That version was edited by June Fletcher, who died last year at the age of 90. The original collaborative work drew upon the talents of the Broadford and District Historical Society, as does this new edition which reproduces it in full along with a new chapter on the indigenous Taungurung people and an updated list of local councillors up to the Shire of Broadford's incorporation into Mitchell Shire in 1994. Profiles of many early families in the district are included and an excellent and far more comprehensive index has also been added.



Inner Song: A Biography of Margaret Sutherland. Jillian Graham, The Miegunyah Press, Carlton, 2023, pp. ix-283, ISBN 9780522878233.

Margaret Sutherland's family made a significant contribution to Australia's intellectual life in the late 19th and early 20th century through journalism and education. That she herself is not more well-known is something of a mystery and one which Jillian Graham has set about to redress through this biography. Sutherland overcame the inherent challenges of her times to become not just a female composer but a highly innovative and respected one. Her music and her students are part of her legacy. Her other lasting gift to Melbourne was early advocacy for the creation of what is now the Victorian Arts Centre. This is a fine account of a sometimes difficult life.

Books received



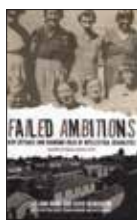
With Pencils Poised...: A History of Shorthand in Australia. Carmel Taylor, Australian Scholarly Press, North Melbourne, 2021, pp. v-243, ISBN 9781922454935.

This history of shorthand in Australia gives an insight into how central an assortment of 'squiggles' has been to recording our past. That Jacob Pitman was an early emigrant to the colonies helped popularise the craft. Shorthand writers have captured the proceedings of parliaments, the courts and a range of commercial and other discourse. Journalists were among the first shorthand users and until recently it was a required skill. Competition between styles was intense: including Pitman, Gregg, Dacomb, developed in Melbourne, and Teeline. While steadily falling from favour in the digital age, there is no question of its utility. This is an engaging and interesting read.



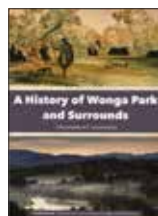
St Kilda 1841-1900: Movers and Shakers and Money-Makers. Carmel McKenzie, Manneton Publishing, Caulfield North, 2023, pp. 1-196, ISBN 9780646870212.

More than a century and a half on, it is hard to imagine St Kilda in its glory days. For much of the 19th century, it was Melbourne's most desirable suburb, a place where the monied class built its mansions, grand hotels and its shoreline attracted visitors from across the city. But the depression of the 1890s marked the beginning of its decline. This large format book, while not seeking to be a definitive history, revisits a period when influence of the suburb stretched far beyond its boundaries. Extensively illustrated, it provides a fascinating insight into St Kilda's rise and points to its decline.



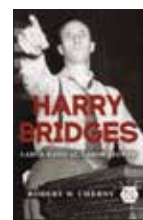
Failed Ambitions: Kew Cottages and Changing Ideas of Intellectual Disabilities. Lee-Ann Monk, David Henderson et al, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2023, pp. vii-357, ISBN 9781922633781.

For more than 120 years, Kew Cottages were part of the backdrop of Melbourne and a place of which many were dimly aware, an institutional home for intellectually disabled children and adults. More accurately, they were locked away and, at various periods of the institution's history, neglected. During its darkest times it was dubbed 'a hillside of sadness' by a visiting journalist; though, there were periods when the intentions of those responsible for its administration were genuinely aimed at improving the quality of life for those in care. This is a challenging and important book.



A History of Wonga Park and Surrounds: Dreamtime to Communities. Geoff Arnott, Wonga Park Community Cottage History Group, Wonga Park, 2022, pp. ii-348, ISBN 9780646866598.

Wonga Park is a semi-rural community nestled along the Yarra River between Warrandyte, Kangaroo Ground and Croydon. From a long history of indigenous inhabitation then pastoralism from the 1840s and in the 1890s it was carved out as a settlement for the impoverished. As many settlers had been involved in the labour movement it was originally known as the Croydon Eight Hour Day Pioneer Settlement. The area was favoured by orchardists for many years. Much of the material for this work was collected by the local community history group. It will be of interest to all those with a local connection.



Harry Bridges: Labor Radical, Labor Legend. Robert W. Cherny, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 2023, pp. x-478, ISBN 97809252044748.

That a boy born in the Melbourne suburb of Kensington in 1901 should become one of the most influential and legendary labour leaders in the United States was largely a matter of chance. Harry took to the sea aged 16 on coastal steamers in Bass Strait. He arrived in the US at 19 and set a course which would see him build the longshoreman's union there into one of the most powerful in a land where, unlike Australia, unionism was weak. Successive prosecutions and attempts to deport Bridges for his communist sympathies failed. This is a definitive biography, based on interviews with Bridges and many years of scholarship.



The German-speaking Community of Victoria between 1850 and 1930: origins, progress and decline. Volkhard Wehner, Lit Verlag, Berlin, 2017, pp. v-292, ISBN 9783643910325.

There has been very little scholarship around German settlement in Victoria, particularly in the 19th century. From the time of the gold rushes, German-speaking immigrants played a significant role in the cultural, scientific and daily life of the colony. Volkhard Wehner is the author of an eclectic range of local histories, biographies and social history. This book is the published version of his PhD thesis. It argues that rural communities of German speakers fared better than those in urban centres, where a German-speaking community failed to coalesce as the German Reich grew, and ultimately collapsed under the pressures faced during WW1.