

John Adam Prize 2020–2022

Prize winner

Mary Sheehan, 'A Grassroots View of Spanish Influenza in Melbourne', *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol.93, no.2, December 2022, pp.349–372.

Judges' Citation

The Covid 19 pandemic has sparked renewed interest in its predecessor, the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1919. This well-researched and lucid account of the three phases of the pandemic in Melbourne demonstrates how divisions between medical and public, central and local authorities affected the provision of emergency hospital care, especially in impoverished districts. While the First World War heightened vulnerability to the epidemic, it also stimulated the formation of Voluntary Aid Detachments and patriotic groups that could be mobilised in the response to the disease. The article blends exploration of public policy with case studies of the disease's impact on stricken families in North Melbourne and Cremorne. The author's perspective as a one-time nurse heightens her insightful contribution to the history of epidemics in Australia.

Judges

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, FAHA, FASSA, FFAHS, FRHSV

Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV