



History News

ISSUE 370 | FEBRUARY 2024



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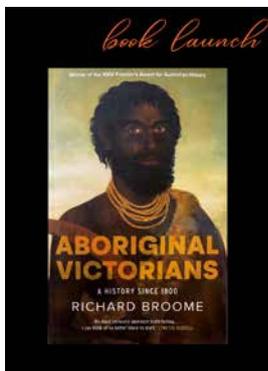
Where possible we offer all our events as hybrid: both in our premises at 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne and via Zoom. Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website.

BOOK LAUNCH OF ABORIGINAL VICTORIANS: A HISTORY SINCE 1800.

Date: Tuesday 13 February
Time: 5:30 for 6pm, ending at 7pm
Cost: FREE
Event type: in person only

Please join us for the launch of this second edition of the double award-winning history by Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM.

- Music by singer songwriter Butjulla and Gubbi Gubbi man, Gavin Somers.
- To be launched by Gunditjmara woman, Jill Gallagher AO, CEO of VACCHO (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation).
- The MC will be La Trobe University's Indigenous Studies Professor Julie Andrews OAM, a Yorta Yorta and Woiwurrung woman and member of the Dhul-an-yagan family clan of the Ulupna people.



3RD BILLIBELLARY INDIGENOUS HISTORY LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR LYNETTE RUSSELL AM

Date: Tuesday
20 February
Time: 5:30pm for a 6pm lecture,
ending at 7pm
Cost: \$10 | \$20
Event type: Hybrid: in person and Zoom

Lynette Russell describes the genesis of her lecture, "Years ago one of my son's friends assured me that my passion for Australian history was a fool's errand. 'Nothing ever happened here, no wars, no famines, no empires, nothing, just nothing'. After reviewing the school texts, I had to concede that Australian history, as it was being taught, might well be construed as boring. Even in the late 1990s, the most popular textbooks were outdated, divided into a chapter or two on pre-European history, and then wandered through Cook's 'discovery', the First Fleet, the Rum Rebellion, and the rise of squatters, bushrangers, depressions both great and not-so, Federation, railways, wheat, and wool. There was a clear division between Indigenous and non-Indigenous histories; Australian history was celebrated, heroic, masculinist and very, very white. First Nations history was to be covered quickly and contained primarily to pre-European times. Subtly, things are changing. There is a new generation of school teachers using new resources. What might we imagine the landscape will look like as we contemplate the future of Indigenous history?"



BOOK LAUNCH OF UNIVERSITIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND DISRUPTION BY LORRAINE LING AND KAY LIVINGSTON

Date: Sunday 25 February
Time: 1:30pm ending at 3pm
Cost: FREE
Event type: in person only

To be launched by Professor John Dewar AO of La Trobe University.

This book examines the role and future of universities in times of chronic disruption and crisis: presented via an original conceptual framework which the authors term 'dislocated complexity'. It discusses how to move forward in the face of severely disrupted social, political, economic and environment contexts.

Author Lorraine Ling is Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia and has worked as an education academic in universities for over 35 years, during which time she has fulfilled a range of roles including lecturing, executive Dean of Education, Head of Campus and Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Kay Livingston is Professor of Educational Research, Policy and Practice at the School of Education, University of Glasgow, UK. She has worked as an education academic for over 30 years, holding a range of roles in universities including Co-ordinator of International Education, Director of an Education Research Centre, Research Impact Champion and undertaken a secondment to a government agency as Director of International Research and Innovation in an educational policy context.

What's on is continued
on page 17



History News

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COVER IMAGE: Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum.
See pages 6-7 for more information
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President's report

'Happy 115th'

The New Year marks a significant milestone for the RHSV. The Historical Society of Victoria, as it was called before 1952, was established 115 years ago in May 1909.

The context of its formation is revealed by the people who proposed the Society's creation and those who accepted an initial leadership role. In April 1909, William Hughston, a Victorian born teacher wrote to the *Argus* newspaper in Melbourne calling for a state historical society. Alfred Greig, an accountant in the Registrar's Office of the University of Melbourne responded, and they invited Edward Petherick, a former bookseller and bibliophile, to meet and plan the Society's birth.

The Society was formed at a meeting on 21 May 1909, Frank Madden, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly being elected as first president of the Historical Society of Victoria, remaining in that position until 1921. Three vice presidents were elected: Alfred Deakin on the eve of becoming Prime Minister for the third time; William Watt, the Victorian Treasurer and soon to be Victorian Premier (twice); and H. G. Turner, who had written a history of Victoria. The role of those in government at this time who believed in the power and importance of historical knowledge was remarkable.

These people, mostly men, reflecting the times, and many of the other 70 who attended the May meeting, had many things in common: their birthplace and patriotism, their belief in liberalism and education, and their belief in the

importance of history and the need to foster it. Most were Australian and Victorian born, children of that optimistic gold rush generation who thought they were building a new world in the Antipodes.

Many like Deakin and Watt were self-made men who believed in the power of education. Besides the schoolteacher Hughston, other initial members were Charles Long a teacher, school inspector, textbook writer and editor of the influential *School Paper*, and Frank Tate, Director of Education. Together with Alfred Greig, the University of Melbourne provided key initial members, including Harrison Moore Professor of Law and Ernest Scott a journalist, soon to be appointed Professor of History at the University. Jessie Webb, a lecturer in Ancient History also became a member and provided the rooms for the Society's first meeting. Ernest Scott and Alfred Greig remained long-time supporters and were the second and third HSV presidents from 1921-1925, after Madden stepped down.

Many in this age of Federation were nationalists and their sense of history was bound up with this nation building. To collect the documents of early Victorian settlement and to tell stories of the state's early European founders drove the activities of the HSV for its first decades.

The current members and leadership of the RHSV still share many of these founding ideals, including the belief in the power of education and the importance of collecting and telling stories about the past.

However, most current RHSV volunteers and members are women, and the stories

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the RHSV collects and tells are more recent and diverse. Our December 2023 *VHJ* included an equal number of pre and post 1900 lectures, articles and notes; and a third focussed on First Nations people, multicultural and women's history. Let's celebrate our traditional past and look to our innovative future. Happy 115th!!

Richard Broome



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Heritage report:

New depredations to be imposed on the QVM



Well, folks, here we go again. Heritage Victoria has approved 'Gurrova Place', a council-supported development proposal for two towers of 38 and 47 stories, immediately on the southern boundary of the Queen Victoria Market. The towers are almost completely devoid of articulation, presenting what architect John McNabb called a flat "mega-wall". This mega-wall will form a barrier separating the city 'from the pulsing low-profile oasis of the Queen Victoria Market' (Age, 24 July 2023). It will isolate the Franklin Street Stores from the market for which they were designed.

The towers are cantilevered over the heritage listed Franklin Street Stores, an aspect obscured in the developer's renders. And the canopy and roof detailing of the stores beneath the cantilevered building 'will be permanently removed', thus destroying the most highly articulated sheds of the market. The RHSV, together with the Friends of the Queen Victoria Market and Planning Democracy, has asked the Minister of Planning to intervene under the EPBC Act, given that the market is listed on the National Heritage Register.

At the same time, construction of the 'Trader Shed' next to the meat and dairy pavilions is proceeding apace, with disastrous effects on the viability of the

traditional market. The 'Trader Shed' will be four-storeys high, with three storeys underground. The aim is to provide services for market workers, such as 'toilets, showers, lunch rooms, meeting rooms, lockers, public toilets and parents room'. The traditional family operated stall-holders don't need such services. They're aimed for a future market where most if not all stalls are operated by large corporations with armies of young workers. The aim is to shift the market to a modern corporate environment dominated by fast food, hospitality, and glossy high-end stalls, with a few token 'fruit and veg' stalls.

The 2017 People's Panel voted by a substantial majority against 'gold-plated services' crowding out traditional family-operated stalls. But the City of Melbourne has stuck resolutely with former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle's plan to modernise the market. Surveys and studies have shown time and time again that shoppers and tourists come for the character of the market. There are plenty of high-end shops and hospitality spaces in Melbourne, but there is only one market and its pulse is beating less strongly thanks to Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the Council sticking to Robert Doyle's zombie plan and its corporate vision.

Charles Sowerwine,
Chair, Heritage Committee,
8 January 2024.

Left: Trader Shed. (Image: NH Architecture; 'Plans Unveiled for Queen Victoria Market Facilities', Sidespace, 28 February 2020)

Right: Render of the proposed Market Square, showing the north-south pedestrian spine aligned with the roadway between the Franklin Street Stores (Bryce Raworth, Heritage Impact Statement Queen Victoria Market, Application for Permit June 2023, fig. 46, p. 36).

Note that this image doesn't even depict the full height of the towers!

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HSSC report: Succession planning: Working with teachers, university educators and students

This is the second article to tackle the most commonly reported challenge for historical societies Victoria-wide: attracting new visitors, members and volunteers.

With most of us refreshed from the summer break, this article invites you anew to find, in the next 12 months, at least one new member for your society, and hopefully for the RHSV. Indeed, in re-visiting the strategies already offered in December 2023's *History News*, finding one member might be setting the bar too low. In any case, this edition's strategies invite you to connect with school and tertiary communities, whose constituents will also be fresh from their break; attract at least one teacher, other school official, tertiary educator or student to become a member and ideally a volunteer within weeks or months of your invitation.

That said, you would be wise to adopt a longer view than weeks or months. For example, many societies benefit from the work of *retired* primary school teachers, as well as secondary teachers of The Arts, English and Humanities, and especially of History, Geography and Politics. They also benefit from the input of academics in specialist fields. Quite possibly, however, those same people were not members, or very active ones, when working full-time; their retirement has facilitated their connection with you now. Even so, HSSC members have recently been buoyed to meet at RHSV and HSSC regional events a genuine spread of not-yet-retired school and university educators who have chosen to keep themselves fresh and close to the sources of Australia's past and present through membership and active engagement with RHSV and their local societies.

As for students, very few under 18 will join or volunteer at your society in ongoing fashion on the basis of a school excursion to you, a visit by you to the school, or a project for which you provided assistance: although some might. Tertiary students might be more likely to engage if they see relevance to their known career directions or leisure-time interests. All up, your best work with any students might be through alerting them to your existence and show-casing what you do, and why, with view to securing support in later years.

The time to commence promoting yourself to any education-related parties is now.

1) Write to schools or tertiary institutions in your local area, introduce your society and invite representatives to visit late-afternoon for an exposé of collection highlights along with refreshments. Suggest some dates. By email or letter, you might address the invitation to 'the principal and all interested teachers at X primary school'; you will be far more successful if you first invest in a phone-call to learn the name of the principal and who might be the teachers most interested in what you offer. In the call, mention just a few highlights to give the person on the other end something to work with, for example, that you would like to show representatives your founding documents, early photographs, special artworks, unusual objects, or to develop a different focus with the school. Have something manageable in mind: never attempt to cover everything you know, have and do. Also ask confidently, 'Is there anything our society might be able to help you with?' An offer to generate a new and mutually beneficial relationship, or to lessen an educator's usual workload, will have greater appeal.

Definitely adopt this more targeted approach with the usually bigger secondary schools where communications 'to the principal: please pass on' have little chance of reaching a spread of the best people. Ask specifically for the names of the coordinators of The Arts, English and Humanities and perhaps, where relevant, Religious Studies, or the Library Resource Centre.

Being put through by a university switch-board operator to the right people might be your biggest challenge; then again, university websites with keyword searches and staff member profiles can sometimes provide excellent shortcuts. And, if after two-three weeks, you have not heard back from the busy educators, call the institution to speak specifically with X.

Your society does not need to be expert in curriculum but, together, you will be able to ascertain key requirements.

HSSC would like to think that the people to whom you have reached out might join as a token of gratitude, or perhaps their institution can support a bigger membership overall. If a membership has not emerged naturally from the relationship you have nurtured, perhaps you might mention in passing that memberships enable you to do what you do.

- 2) Some societies which have already established their relationships with schools or universities either have annual programs where groups of students visit or society members take presentations and objects to them. ***If school-age students come to you, ensure that all of your society attendees have Working with Children Checks.*** The regular connection and word-of-mouth will increase chances of securing members and volunteers, short or long term.
- 3) Many Victorian State primary schools are presently celebrating, or soon to celebrate, the sesqui-centenaries of their existence. (See *Victorian Historical Journal: 1872 Sesquicentenary Issue*, Vol. 94, No. 1, June 2023.) Become involved in schools' celebrations and build your existence and community value into their publicity. For some positive accounts of how primary school History pre-service teachers and historical societies have worked well together, read Suzanne Boatto, Sarah Cammarano, Shehani Rukanayake & Rosalie Triolo "Teachers, Historical Societies and Primary School Children: "Doing History"", *FAHS Newsletter*, No. 43, June 2017, pp 14-15: https://www.history.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FAHSNewsletter43_June2017.pdf
- 4) Look also beyond the History and Humanities teaching and learning opportunities in education settings. Think creatively. Can Drama educators and students become involved in historical society re-enactments? Can Art educators and students contribute to historical displays? Can English or Media Studies become involved in creative thinking and writing of stories about objects? Can Trades' educators and students contribute to small building and fixture tasks? All such possibilities build connections and feelings of belonging and purpose in young as well as older minds, now or into the future.
- 5) Can your society offer formal and mutually beneficial work experience programs to school students?
- 6) Can your society offer internships to university students, such as those undertaking Museum Studies or Collection

Remembering Malta

Management and Archiving? Can it offer casual employment, such as helping at events? Experience shows that you will be far more successful in securing and retaining quality casual workers if you appeal, specifically, for History-inclined tertiary students. Sell the opportunity as one which will sit well on a curriculum vitae. For general advice, see Museums and Galleries of New South Wales, 'How to Engage with Young People': <https://mg NSW.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/exhibition/how-engage-young-people/>

- 7) Offer free digital memberships which cost little to administer to school or tertiary students and which will only require those students to opt to re-join free while they are students then transfer thereafter to paying, if they wish.
- 8) Several Victorian historical societies have competent secondary school and tertiary History students on their committees; yes, because the societies have approached those students to join and take up the roles, have mentored them and have made the students feel special. For ideas on how to engage with young adults overall, read 'Engaging with younger members', *Associations*, edition 57, April 2020, p. 23:

<https://associations.net.au/magazine/AssociationsEdition57>

Do you have a different strategy to share? HSSC would value knowing it.

More in time,

Rosalie Triolo

Chair: HSSC

Email: hssc@historyvictoria.org.au



Mario Sammut explains the many exhibitions in the museum

Editor's note: throughout 2024 we are hoping to feature in HistoryNews history societies and organisations representing culturally and linguistically diverse communities who settled in Victoria.

On these pages we thank Pauline Hitchins for writing the first of these features, showcasing the Latrobe Valley Maltese Community Centre and Museum.

We look forward to receiving other promotions from like organisations with the history of the arrival or settlement of 'your community' in Victoria and the work and perhaps challenges of your organisation. Submissions for these feature articles can be sent at any time, though the earlier the better. They should be 200-800 words and include an image or two if possible. Please send submissions or queries to History News editor: sbtridge@outlook.com
Sharon Betridge

Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum and Community Centre

Henry Street, Morwell

Open 11 am – 4 pm each Sunday or groups by appointment

Entry \$5 donation

Contact 0412 411 719 to confirm opening or make a booking

Most migrants bring mementoes of their homeland when they move to a new country: something to hold to reinforce the connection to their roots. Often, they keep that token to themselves, and, when they pass away, younger generations may not understand the significance or even exactly what the item is. Sometimes the once-precious mementoes are bundled with items donated to charity and opportunity shops; sometimes the connection is recognised and they are donated to an appropriate museum. Australia's only Maltese museum receives



■ Top Left: Carpentry tools brought to Australia by a Maltese migrant
 Bottom Left: Intricate lacework on display
 Left: Colourful Mdina glassware

many items through donations, but also through scouring local op shops!

Located next to a recreation reserve in the residential streets of Morwell, the Latrobe Valley Maltese Community Centre and Museum addresses every aspect of Maltese heritage. The Maltese culture is obviously a key focus for President Mario Sammut, who was appointed the honorary vice consul for Malta in the Latrobe Valley in 1989. In 2012 he was awarded an OAM for services to the Maltese community of Victoria.

The former home of the Morwell Pigeon Club was converted to the Centre and Museum in 2019 and opened in February 2020. This year an extension has been added to demonstrate everyday home life, including agricultural implements, carpentry tools, utensils, carts, clocks, linen and musical instruments.

The lantern roofline of the main museum room displays the numerous Knights of St John grand masters who were Malta's rulers from the 16th century, demonstrating the mix of cultures and the influence on language. Maltese is Arabic based but uses a 30 letter Latin alphabet.

Malta was later under French control, then British, gaining independence in 1964. However, the withdrawal of Britain led to fewer job opportunities: one of the drivers of migration to places such as Australia.

A feature of the museum is the 15 models of

significant Maltese landmarks donated by artist Charlie Camilleri and restored and painted in the traditional limestone colour by volunteers. These include the Royal Opera House, destroyed during the World War II, and the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Mosta, which miraculously survived the war when a bomb failed to explode after hitting the dome.

The museum highlights many Maltese features from its buses, once a different colour for each route, fishing boats and the colourful balconies ever-present in the streetscape. Huge antique keys, government enforced measuring implements and traditional costumes are on display. There's also striking handcrafted Mdina glass, Maltese pottery and intricate bobbin lacework: some examples adapting Australian symbols to the craft.

Mario explains that every item has its own story, even if it is similar to another item in the collection; for example, the two portable stoves which each lost a control knob: one replaced with a token and the other with a coin.

Then there's the pristine pin-striped suit with the photo of its owner and his family before departing for Australia. Kept for best, it demonstrates the fine workmanship of the Msida tailor.

Mario and his wife Vivienne offer Sunday lunches for members and visitors, and

occasionally host a Maltese Restaurant Day with traditional dishes such as rabbit or fish stew and the ever-popular Lasanja Maltija (Maltese lasagne), also available along with a choice of roasts most Sundays. They also sell Maltese beer and Kinnie, a bittersweet carbonated soft drink.

Rather like the island country in the Mediterranean Sea that it showcases, the Maltese Museum crams much into a relatively small space. It's rich with history, colour, character and distinctive adaptations, and tells stories which date back centuries, enhanced by guides such as Mario.

The museum is open each Sunday, as well as providing tours and sometimes catering for tour groups often several times a week. It's closed some Sundays, like Father's Day, when the Centre has already hosted a members' Father's Day dinner the previous Friday night.

Mario hopes the success of the museum will encourage other ethnic communities to follow the Maltese lead in promoting their culture and its valuable contribution to Australia. He's happy to provide advice and guidance to any group that wishes to add to the story of the productive role of migrants in our history. And Mario has many more plans to expand and enhance this unique museum in regional Victoria.

Pauline Hitchins

Revitalisation of an historical society

All local historical societies have their ups and downs. Post-COVID a lot seem to be having a 'down' time. Over the last two years Margaret Fleming, Cheryl Griffin and I, all active RHSV members, have revitalised the Brunswick Community History Group (BCHG) and I am sharing what we have done responding to a suggestion that it may benefit other societies.

BCHG was founded in 1983 by a group of local enthusiasts including the respected heritage consultant Chris Johnston. Initially it did very well with hosting well-attended events and producing an impressive series of publications. However, as the founding committee members retired or moved on to other projects it suffered a decline from the 1990s. Then, COVID lockdowns were a major problem as there were almost two years when no events could be organised with any confidence that they would be able to take place. In 2021, the President, who had done a sterling job in keeping the society going during difficult times, announced he was moving to rural Victoria at the end of the year. It looked as though the society would cease altogether.

Cheryl, Margaret and I felt this was wrong. Brunswick has a particularly rich history as one of Melbourne's first suburbs and as the first Australian home for successive waves of immigrants. It often seems that everyone in Victoria has some connection with Brunswick. At some point, either they, or their ancestors, had lived there. It now has a high student population and many retirees who have downsized to live in new apartments so there should be a big pool of potential members.

We were elected to the Committee at the AGM in October 2021 and commenced our rebuilding efforts. Our first tasks were to replace the website and the constitution which both dated from 1997. We used the pro-forma constitution from Consumer Affairs which is entirely suitable.

We were fortunate in finding a retired web designer who designed our new website at minimal cost. The website still needs a lot of work which we have not had time to complete but it provides the capacity to join online. Previously, joining had involved filling in a paper form at a meeting or as a printout and either posting it with a cheque or paying by cash



■ Merri-bek Awards 2023. Troy Stuchbree from Sydney Road Brunswick Association, Elisabeth Jackson and Councillor Monica Harte. Photo from Merri-bek City Council.

or cheque at a meeting. New members flowed in almost immediately once the process had been simplified in this way. We also have a research request form on the website which encourages people to submit enquiries in writing rather than phoning or buttonholing committee members at meetings with complicated family history questions.

We decided early on that we did not want a museum. We have neither the space nor the expertise to operate one. Our focus has been on fostering interest in Brunswick history, collecting documents and photographs that shed light on the past and using these to tell stories to be publicised in our newsletters, publications, social media posts, walks and talks.

We have had a lot of success over the past two years. Some achievements:

- Increase in membership. In 2021 we had about 60 members of whom only 20 lived in Brunswick. It is now over 100 with most living locally.
- Good attendances at monthly talks with one exception. Hint: it's not a good idea to have a talk about a sporting club on Saturday afternoon. We usually have 40-50 people attending, composed of members and other people interested in that particular topic.
- Increase in Facebook followers from about 400 to nearly 2000. We try and post something each week advertising our activities or displaying a photograph with attached information. We also share our posts with related sites such as 'Who Grew Up in Brunswick'.
- Setting up an Instagram account which attracts younger people.
- Developing links with local organisations such as the traders' association, Brunswick Residents' Network, Bicycle Users' Group and the local newspaper *Brunswick Voice*. This has regular online

bulletins and a printed edition four times a year.

- An historic walks' program. We were approached by the traders' association, Sydney Road Brunswick Association, and over the last two years have run 24 walks along sections of Sydney Road in partnership with them. The Association takes bookings and payments, produces a booklet from information supplied by us and publicises the walks. All walks have been sold out. This partnership received the Collaborative Partnership Award at the Merri-bek Council community awards. We have also organised our own walks of the Phillipstown area and along the Upfield Railway line and conducted two bike tours with the Bicycle Users' Group.
- Publications. We reprinted two older publications which had sold out and in December launched a new 190-page book *The Streets of Brunswick*. This was written by Cheryl Griffin, based partly on a typescript compiled by the legendary Brunswick historian Les Barnes in the 1980s. The book has been sold through the local bookshop and the RHSV bookshop and has been a great success. We have sold about 300 copies in three weeks. A Square reader has been a worthwhile investment, enabling credit card payments at our events.

Some of our success has been due to luck: taking the right approach at the right time and place. The strategies we have used such as Facebook and the walks program may not work for other societies in other places. My main advice to others is to take up opportunities when they are offered and work on developing community connections. Energy and commitment will take you a long way.

Elisabeth Jackson
President,
Brunswick Community History Group.

Public holidays from the past

Declarations of public holidays by local councils were common in the 19th and 20th centuries, often with only a day or weeks' notice, as celebrations of local and international events and tradesmen's holidays. The post-World War II era saw a change in public holidays. Today they are gazetted by Federal and State Governments and rarely by Local Governments, a reversal of our earlier times.

More than 120 years ago the 31-week siege of Mafikeng (today Mahikeng) in South Africa ended. This was a morale boost for British forces and celebrated widely by Britain and its colonies. On Thursday 24 May 1900 *The Argus* carried the headline, 'Relief of Mafeking(sic.): ... Melbourne rises to the occasion'. Crowds gathered in the streets wearing Union Jacks and houses were decorated with bunting. Una Constable, 11 years old, from Woosang, near Bendigo, wrote a letter to the *Weekly Times* explaining that she went to school, but the teacher told the children to go home and 'enjoy themselves'. Una wrote that she was, 'very glad when she heard that Mafeking(sic.) was relieved'.

In recent years there has been a range of reactions to Melbourne's Grand Final Day holiday. However, in years gone by, holidays were often declared for sporting events. Each region looked forward to local sports days and their organisers usually petitioned their local council to have these days declared as holidays. The folk of Geelong enjoyed a holiday on Friday 24 November 1871 for a regatta. The activities of the day included Punt Sailing Race, Fisherman's Race, Maiden Fours and a Tub Race. Castlemaine and Chewton councils declared a half-holiday on the Thursday 21 June 1888 to enable the local population to watch a cricket match between Englishmen and a local team. Friday 6 April 1894 was declared a holiday 'throughout the Shire of Pyalong, on account of the Glenaroua sports'.

Local Councils agreed to also support other events by announcing relevant days public holidays. On 5 August 1893, the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* and *Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* announced, 'The Orbost bridge is to be opened on Wednesday. In honor of the occasion the day has been declared a public holiday'. In 1906 the

'Chief Secretary of the Euroa Shire Council declared a public holiday for Wednesday 14 March for the Mooroopna Hospital Fete Day'.

Each February in the latter years of the 19th century, the people of Castlemaine took full advantage of their 'Citizens and Pioneers' Annual Marine Excursion' public holiday. They left the town of Castlemaine virtually deserted as they rode the special trains to the Melbourne, Mornington or Bellarine beaches. In 1892 'the excursionists ... numbered about 1,200', by 1896 the estimated figure of those who enjoyed a day at the beach was 2,000.

For certain events it was acknowledged appropriate to celebrate with state-wide holidays. On Wednesday 1 August 1888 'a public holiday throughout the colony' was observed for the opening of the International Exhibition. On that day the public could enjoy a grand procession, a race meeting at Elsternwick, an English team versus Melbourne Rugby Union on the East Melbourne cricket-ground and VFL exhibition matches: Carlton against South Melbourne at the MCG or Fitzroy versus Williamstown at the Fitzroy cricket ground.

For approximately 100 years various trades enjoyed annual holiday days. The *Winner* newspaper reported in 1916 the February date of 'the annual holiday of the cycle and motor cycle trade... all shops and factories dealing in cycles must close that day'. The *Geelong Advertiser* reported in 26 February 1916 the "Compulsory Trade Holiday" ... for the ... brush making, carpentry, coach building, coopering, furniture and sawmilling' works. Such compulsory holidays included the grocers, tobacconists, fruiterers, fish markets, milk and bakery trades. Breaking with these days of 'compulsory holidays' could, and did, see some businesses in courts for continuing to work. Butchers were one of the last of the trades who continued their Butchers Picnic holiday into the 1970s.

By the 1950s newspapers carried more and more headlines which included the words, 'Too many holidays'. In 1956 *The Argus* reported, under the headline 'Holidays gone haywire', that 'Victoria has 13 public holidays that year, PLUS 27 trade holidays...'. And so, many of the trade and regional holidays of the 19th and 20th centuries are no longer.

Sharon Betridge



THE BUTCHERS' BAND.

CASTLEMAINE.
WEDNESDAY EVENING.
The Citizens and Pioneers' annual marine excursion, which was held to-day, has left the place almost deserted. In point of numbers the trip is one of the most successful yet held, fully 2,000 travelling by the three special trains which left this morning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.
Sir,—There are too many holidays in the Commonwealth, and I believe that if a vote were taken on the subject the majority would be in favour of reducing the number. Take yesterday, for example. It was declared a public holiday in all Government offices. This is all right for civil servants, as they invariably receive their full pay for the time lost. But take the case of the working man, from whom generally the day's pay is deducted, and it not only means that his pay is deducted, but he probably feels that he is not in a position to spend money for a day's outing while losing the day's wages. Therefore he is idle for the day.

Top: 'The Butchers' Carnival' (1894, June 9). *Weekly Times* p. 21

Middle: 'Castlemaine'. (1896, February 20). *The Argus*

Bottom: 'To the editor of the Argus'. (1910, June 28). *The Argus*

Around the societies

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

We welcome societies to submit an article or event details of around 50 words or email your newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. If your Society has a logo you would like attached to your information, please send along a high-resolution image. For the April 2024 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 February 2024.

APOLLO BAY: Our biggest success story for 2023 was the completion of the renovation of the Cable Station Manager's residence to meet the requirements for public access. This year we will introduce members and the Apollo Bay community to a new community asset. The residence gives us a sneaky view into what everyday life was like in the mid-20th century for local people in Apollo Bay. Importantly it will also be a place where people can research their family history, or that of the local area using our extensive files and library. Small groups can meet or hold workshops. There will be outdoor space for musical or arts events. apollobaymuseum.com.au

BOX HILL: The general meetings of the Society have been organised for the start of the year. 18 February, Helen Elliott will speak about working in the BH Library in the 1960s; 17 March, Liz Downes will relate her mother's family history. Her mother has been a resident of the same house, in Mont Albert Road, for the entirety of her 100 years. www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au



CAMBERWELL: 2024 meeting dates and talk topics at 25 Inglesby Rd, Camberwell. Tuesday February 27 at 7.30pm Dimity Williams, Nature, Our Medicine; Tuesday March 26 at 7pm Zac Gorman, The Menzies Watershed; Tuesday April 23 at 7.30pm Lambis Englezos, WWI and Fromelles; Tuesday May 28 at 7.30pm Ian Penrose, The history of the Yarra River. www.facebook.com/camberwellhistoricalsociety

FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY: We start our 2024 tours on 25 February at 2pm, rain, hail or shine as per usual. Murder Most Foul and Other Tragic Stories. Tours leave from the main entrance gates on Dandenong Road, St Kilda East. Bookings essential: phone 9529 7442 www.foskc.org

HAWTHORN: 2024 marks 50 years since the Hawthorn Historical Society was formed and we are making it a year of celebration. We will be seeking recollections from our long-term members. If you have kept photographs or memorabilia about the Society, please let us know. We are also excited to report that the Society has been accepted for the Community Exhibitions Program at the Town Hall Gallery at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. This exhibition will run from March 20th until 4th May 2024. www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au



Hawthorn
Historical
Society

HEIDELBERG: Some museum objects seem to be asleep in our storage rooms. They are like 'secret agents'. From the extensive array of objects collected over the past 55 years, this exhibition presents more than 150 secret agents. We have awakened an amazing range of gadgets, badges, fashion, plaques, and quirky things. Bring your family to play the "I Spy" game with our objects; amongst their names you'll find something beginning with each letter of the alphabet. Eye Spy offers multiple interpretations of our chosen objects to awaken your curiosity. New research findings will intrigue you. Recollections from our members and friends will enlighten and amuse. What ideas and memories will our secret agents stir for you? Exhibition open from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays, 4 February to 12 May. www.heidelberghistoricalsociety.com.au



HEIDELBERG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LANDSBOROUGH AND DISTRICT: Thanks to all who continued their support for our Historical Group by renewing their yearly membership, and viewed and commended on our Facebook posts on our page. Work is continuing on compiling pioneer family histories for all those who came to Landsborough and the surrounding district in the early days. Some families are represented on the plaques on the memorial wall near the Landsborough Hall. You can read even more in our monthly articles in the *Landsborough & District News* which comes out every month. You can take out a subscription at landsboroughvicnews@gmail.com and also view the copies online at the Landsborough, Vic Facebook page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066833657529

MALMSBURY: COVID compelled many organisations to find innovative and effective ways of reaching their members, patrons and readers. The MHS was no different and we embraced Zoom meetings with alacrity. Continuing this we now have a YouTube Channel with the aims of bringing conversations with older residents, vistas of Malmsbury and talks of historic note to our audience. The new year is intended as the first of many conversations that we will bring to you. Of approximately five minutes duration we hope that you will find them interesting and informative. For us it is a great way of preserving firsthand witness accounts of their experiences which help enrich the history of Malmsbury. Here is the link to our trailer as we celebrate, what we believe, is a notable step in embracing technology to reach a wider audience. www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxYIX6GitFo

MARYSVILLE AND DISTRICT: Founded in 1969, the Society's History Centre Museum provides visitors and researchers with an opportunity to learn about the rich history of Marysville and its surrounds. The museum houses a unique collection of items based around four main themes: Pioneers, Timber, Tourism and the RSL. The museum ONLY contains items which have a direct connection to the Marysville Triangle region, which includes Fernshaw, Narbethong,

Buxton, Taggerty, Cambarville, Lake Mountain, Marysville, Granton and Wilks Creek. Visit us Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 12noon to 3pm at 39 Darwin St, Marysville. And find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065128114992



MORDIALLOC COLLEGE ALUMNI: Mordialloc College is celebrating 100 years of education on 16 and 17 February at the school at 1 Station St. The schedule is: On Friday 12-1pm is the formal part of the event with parliamentarians, other dignitaries and past students; speeches; presentation to our longest serving teacher, longest serving principal, oldest past student and youngest current student; cutting of our Centenary Celebration Cake; presentation of commemorative plaque. 1-2pm, BBQ and refreshments. 2-3pm school tours, memorabilia display. On Saturday 10am-2.30pm will be the plaque installation, school tours, memorabilia display. BBQ, coffee and tea van; free souvenir booklet. 2.30pm onwards all welcome to Rosedale Golf Club for a casual gathering for all eras. More info at mordialloccollegealumni.org/live/



NILLUMBIK: Whenever we meet and talk to people on open days or at events it is always interesting to hear about their family links and stories and about how our area was when they grew up here, visited, or discovered they had links to the district after being drawn back after their family moved elsewhere. If you have stories to share with us, we would like to hear them. Our archives need your stories and recollections, photos, or if you have them, family trees and family histories. Many in our district who went to Diamond Creek Primary School had parents and grandparents who were students there

too. The same applies to our local sporting teams, with generations of cricketers and footballers giving their time to make sure they are successful. Please contact us at: www.nillumbikhistorical.org.au While you're there, read some of our articles.



PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: 2 March, Peter Mitchelson, Working with history; stories from a paper conservator; 11 May, Peter Yule, The Bar of Port Phillip, 1839-1851 at Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, corner Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner. Visitors welcome. Doors open 1.30pm. Two dollars entry includes refreshments. Our meetings generally end around 4pm. www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au



RINGWOOD: 2024 Meetings: All meetings are monthly, on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30pm at North Ringwood Community House, 35 Tortice Drive, Ringwood North. A raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of supper. February, Jim Connor, Maroondah Aqueduct; March, Greg Hill, Ringwood's Potteries; April, Dennis Johnston, Ringwood Biala's Story. rmhaines5.wixsite.com/ringwoodheritage

TERANG: Our museum is in the former Dixie School building in the Terang College Primary Campus, School Road, Terang, turn left at the Presbyterian Church. The

Museum is open on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 1-4pm or at other times by appointment. Entry fees: museum, adults \$2.00, members free. Research: adults \$5.00, members free. We have a growing collection of photographs, newspapers, business ledgers, organisation minute books, history books, cemetery records, maps and memorabilia relating to Terang and District.

We welcome donations of any of these items for our collection. We are also happy to borrow photographs in any format, or documents for copying. Also located in our complex is the old Boorcan Railway Station building which has an array of railway memorabilia. www.facebook.com/teranghistoricalsociety

WODONGA AND DISTRICT: We are ready for visitors in our new premises: Bonegilla Migrant Experience, Hut 97, 132 Bonegilla Road, Bonegilla. Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday 10am-3pm. The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except January, at 2pm in Wodonga Football Club Rooms, Vermont Street, Wodonga. Visitors welcome. historywodonga.org.au

Post Script

ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Irene Kearsey will talk about the career of Senior Constable Dungey and the Eltham police house: once his home and now our Local History Centre. If you had ancestors in 19th century Victoria, Irene has a suggestion for your research that might reveal similar details. 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 February in the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place, Eltham.

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Windows on history: St Peter's Anglican Church, Mornington



On entering the nave of St Peter's Anglican Church, Mornington, the first window to catch the eye is the three-light window, set behind low panelling and holy table, where it is best seen in the gentle early morning light. Conceived in the traditional Gothic Revival mode, with architectural tabernacling and borders, it pictures Jesus as *The Good Shepherd*, flanked by Christ blessing the children and with his disciple Peter. Closer inspection reveals the text ribbon 'Glory to God' in the predella of the central light, and an inscription in memory of '...Senator Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood KCMG MP born May 30th 1834 died Janr 2nd 1903.'

Top: Flinders St, looking west from Swanston St, c1905, with the old Flinders Street Station to the left and Young & Jacksons to the right in the foreground and Sargood warehouse. Victorian Collections <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/645d7363ae2f568df8e5d165>

Bottom: Mornington St Peters Anglican north transept Faith Hope Charity

The small seaside village of Mornington may seem an unlikely site for a grand memorial to this well-known and respected figure from Melbourne, who made his name initially as a successful softgoods merchant but more prominently in the Legislative Council of the Victorian parliament before his election as Senator in the first parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. He served in several Victorian Ministries, became an authority on defence matters, is credited with the formation of the school cadet corps, and earned a reputation as a moderate who sought consensus among disparate voices, and for his 'assiduous attention to the legislative process'. John Rickard explored his many roles and significant achievements for his entry on Sargood in the Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate.

Today, Sir Frederick Sargood is more generally remembered as the man who built Ripponlea at Elsternwick, an estate only five miles (8 km) from Melbourne's city centre. Built in grand style in 1868-69, it was then known as 'Rippon Lea', Rippon was his mother's maiden name and Lea the old English term for a meadow. This Sargood family home was also the scene of many entertainments, some attended by hundreds of people: dinner parties, theatricals, musical events, concerts and picnics. His ten children were all musical and took part in the entertainments along with professional musicians and guests who included Dr Ernest Wood, organist at St Paul's Cathedral, and Congregationalist, Dr Bevan who sang in Welsh.

Summer holidays were spent at 'Ellerslie', a smaller home of 16 rooms instead of the

30 at Rippon Lea, situated on the cliff road to Mount Martha, about four miles (6.4 km) from Mornington. At various times during the 1880s and 1890s Rippon Lea was extended and at those times 'Ellerslie' became their home and the family, already part of the small peninsula community, strengthened their involvement, which included attendance at St Peter's Anglican Church, along with other prominent local or summer resident families.

Sir Frederick has been characterised as an 'unobtrusive Congregationalist', and when at home at Rippon Lea, the family travelled by train to Melbourne's Independent Church to hear Dr Bevan preach each Sunday. When at Mount Martha, St Peter's Mornington was part of Sunday ritual during holidays; Sir Frederick is recorded as one of the original pew holders, a



Left: 'TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF SENATOR SIR FREDERICK THOMAS SARGOOD K.C.M.G., M.P BORN MAY 30th 1834 DIED JAN 2nd 1903.'

Right: Mornington St Peters Hope memorial to Richard and Elizabeth Shotten AF 1912

vestryman and churchwarden. As they did at Rippon Lea, the children displayed their musical talents at concerts, occasionally with Sir Frederick as master of ceremonies in aid of St Peter's church funds.

Sir Frederick Sargood died unexpectedly while on holiday in New Zealand in 1903. On Saturday 17 January a private funeral service at Rippon Lea was conducted by Dr Bevan and the Reverend A. Skene, incumbent of St George's Presbyterian Church, St Kilda. The service was followed by an impressive cortege, with full military honours, to the St Kilda cemetery. Thousands came from around the city and beyond to line the two-and-a-half-mile (4 km) route and watch the various military units pass by, followed by the coffin mounted on a gun carriage and nine mourning coaches filled with family and close friends: at the hushed graveside, the solemn service was conducted by Dr Bevan and the Reverend Skene once again.

By comparison with his grand funeral, the dedication of the Sargood memorial at St Peter's was a much simpler affair. Not installed until December 1910, the window was dedicated by former vicar, the Reverend B Newport White on Christmas Eve; it also received the blessing of the Archbishop of Melbourne Lowther Clarke on 1 January at the Jubilee service marking the 50th anniversary of the building of St Peter's.

The Light of the World in memory of the pioneers, Alexander Balcombe and his wife of The Briars was dedicated on that day and, later that same year, two

more windows to prominent locals were unveiled: *St Peter* in memory of the Anne and Richard Grice, first churchwarden; and, *Come Unto Me...* to Captain and Mrs Freyer. *Hope*, also by Auguste Fischer, was unveiled on Christmas Day 1912, a tribute to another vestryman of long-standing, Richard Shotten, and his wife Elizabeth.

The Melbourne based English stained glass artist, Auguste Fischer was selected to design and make the Sargood memorial. Fischer seems an unlikely choice, especially as the plain diamond quarried windows it replaced were most likely provided by Brooks, Robinson & Co, the same firm that supplied *St Peter* and many of the other windows from 1911 onwards. Furthermore, Fischer made few windows for religious buildings, although examples of his work can be seen in Anglican cathedrals in Ballarat and Wangaratta and churches at Castlemaine and Richmond and at the Presentation Convent chapel, now the Convent Gallery, Daylesford. Fischer was favoured by Melbourne Anglican Diocesan architect, Walter Butler, who regularly commissioned his stained glass for his Arts & Crafts residential designs, where his flair for colour and bold composition was given greater rein. Fischer may have been recommended by A Rutter Clarke, Frederick Sargood's son-in-law whose Toorak home was designed by Walter Butler.

The Building & Engineering Journal reported the opening of Auguste Fischer's studio and workshop in Watsons Place, Melbourne in 1891, an inauspicious year as the country entered the disastrous decade of economic

depression and commissions for stained glass became very rare. Unlike dozens of other small stained glass establishments, Fischer's business survived into the new century; the Sargood memorial was a significant commission and undoubtedly enhanced his reputation and assisted his business recovery.

Artists like Fischer, Montgomery and Brooks, Robinson & Co, consolidated their shaky enterprises as they responded to the call for World War I memorials in glass from 1915. As anti-German feeling increased, Auguste Fischer suddenly found that his surname was a liability, especially when he was reported to the Australian Intelligence Corps for speaking in the 'German Language' while 'intently reading' the War Notices outside the Age offices. His lengthy written explanation, 'teaching his friend, the architect Charles Ogg to speak French', and personal assurances of his loyalty to King and Empire apparently won the day and his file was marked 'N.F.A.' (no further action). However, he soon changed his name and that of his business to 'Fisher'. Sadly, he died at the age of about 56 in 1916, when his decades of artistic achievements were noted in the daily press and trade journals. *The Australasian Decorator and Painter* was typical of many reports when it wrote '[p]erhaps the best stained glass church window that Mr Fisher designed is that to the late Sir Frederick Sargood, in St Peter's Mornington'.

Bronwyn Hughes OAM

RHSV collection: improving image access to First Nations communities



Since 1997, when the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home Report on the Stolen Generations* was released, managers of government or church archives have been very conscious of their responsibility to identify First Nations records and make them available to their communities. Those responsible for local history or private collections, usually much smaller in scale, have also been conscious of wanting to do the right thing but have not been confident of the right approach to take. On these pages are 10 steps as identified by the RHSV Collections Team and student interns, through research and interviews, as most useful in managing collection images of First Nations peoples. We hope that in providing this information it will encourage others working in historical collections to reassess their collection management with a focus on finding ways to better identify and respectfully share Indigenous cultural materials.

Over the last 2 years, the RHSV has been working on better documenting and making accessible images in its collection which relate to First Nations people, starting with those relating to Aboriginal peoples. No images of Torres Strait Islanders have so far been identified. This is the beginning of a larger project which will encompass all RHSV Collection items that relate to First Nations communities. We understand how important historical records are in strengthening connections of First Nations peoples to identity, people and Country. Reaching out to First Nations peoples to make them aware of historical items reflecting the lives of their ancestors, whether photographs, documents or objects, enables better connection to family, community and cultural heritage and enables that knowledge to be passed on to future generations.

Student interns have provided invaluable help with our project to decolonise the RHSV Images Collection starting in 2022 with the assistance of two History students from Monash University. Prudence Foster

researched current professional literature and best practice in 'decolonising collections', i.e. how to adopt ethical protocols to support the cultural rights of First Nations peoples in relation to collection items, including reassessing the language used to describe them.

Natalie Dermenzie's focus was on best practice in making images accessible. She studied ways in which contemporary digital technologies assist First Nations communities access their history. Natalie also reviewed RHSV catalogue records of images relating to First Nations communities, taken between 1870 and 1990, ensuring their content is fully described and complete with provenance information where known.

Between them, Prudence and Natalie conducted 12 interviews with collection managers and historians expert on this topic from across Australia, including five Indigenous interviewees, to help form recommendations to the RHSV on our collection management practices.

In 2023, Cindy Le became the third student intern to contribute to this project, as part of her Master of Information Management course at the University of South Australia. She continued Natalie's work and has so far made the images Natalie identified available to 13 of the Aboriginal communities to whom they relate. She has also overseen the process of identifying further images in our collection which contain Aboriginal people, objects, or sites as subjects, as often the records of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are 'hidden' in Australian archives and collections. They are 'enveloped' in other stories catalogued as station records, settler histories, the records of anthropologists or ethnologists, or the private papers of individuals, and are often difficult to locate through simple catalogue searches.

1 Objectives and resources

It is important to be clear in your objectives when undertaking this task. Do you want to increase access by Aboriginal peoples to

the items in your collection, digitally share them, as the RHSV has done, or repatriate the physical items?

Does your organisation have paid staff it can dedicate to this project or is it dependent on part-time volunteers? Human resources at the RHSV are limited, so we decided to start with photographs and progress gradually on a locality-by-locality basis with these, rather than working on the RHSV collection as a whole, including manuscripts and archives, and potentially overwhelming ourselves. We identified students who had studied Aboriginal History as interns, as they began with a strong appreciation of the project aims and a good knowledge of relevant cultural issues.

2 Guidelines

To further investigate what is best practice in managing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander records or objects in your collection we recommend these guidelines:

The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network \(ATSILIRN\) protocols](#) (2012) is a key resource for libraries, archives and information services.

The [Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration](#) (2019) is an important document produced by the International Council on Archives emphasising the rights of Indigenous peoples to their cultural heritage.

The clear guidelines of the [University of Sydney Library](#) (2021) are very helpful. While designed for the management of academic libraries, the principles and practices described apply to diverse collection types.

The [Australian Museums and Galleries Association \[AMaGA\]](#) (2018) has excellent resources defining best museum practice, if your collection is mostly object-based.

Professional development is available for librarians and archivists through the Australian Society of Archivists which offers a three-hour online course in [Indigenous Recordkeeping and Archives](#).



Former Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission (Bung Yarnnda), 1989. RHSV TRA-910
Photographer: Kevin Patterson

3 Collection assessment

As mentioned above, identifying what you have is not necessarily a simple task. Not every item will be identified with an appropriate keyword or catalogue description term, as there is the problem of 'hidden' records in collections.

Some kind of collection audit will likely be necessary to find other relevant images in your collection, beyond those an initial catalogue search will uncover. We located a sizeable number of photos of Aboriginal people in family and business photograph albums, where they were mostly photographed as employees and not mentioned in the original catalogue description of the album.

Your collection assessment may reveal items that are not a good fit with your current collection policy. In our case, this resulted in a 1922 photograph album of over 200 images of Alexandria Station being donated to the Northern Territory archives. It contained many named images of Aboriginal employees and their families that do not appear to be held in other collections and that will be a great family history resource to the local community.

4 Image grouping

We grouped our images according to the location in which they were taken and used the [AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia](#) to identify the name of that Country. This enabled us to determine which Aboriginal group with which to liaise about the images.

Next, we created sub-groups according to the recommended 'traffic light' system, which identified sensitivities. These are described well on p. 15 of the University of Sydney guidelines mentioned above. 'Red' are images that contain secret or sacred material, depict gendered activities, show violence, or are otherwise of a derogatory nature. 'Amber' are images that do not seem quite right to openly publish in a catalogue, but it may be more difficult to pinpoint why. 'Green' are images where consent was very clearly given for the photograph to be taken and there are no other sensitivities indicated in the image. It is especially important to consult with

the First Nations community about how they would like the 'red' and 'amber' images in your collection to be managed. It is also important to recognise cultural sensitivities around gendered images, as only men should view images depicting men's business and vice versa.

5 Image research

Have you recorded all the information that is available about the image in your collection? As well as the catalogue description, make sure you have noted any donation or acquisition details to record the image's provenance.

We checked Trove and other collections to see if our images are held elsewhere, as often copy prints were made of photographs and widely distributed. We then focused on the unique photographs we hold.

Further investigative research may be necessary. In the RHSV Collection we hold images by 19th century photographers from across Australia. Sometimes subjects of photographs can be identified by comparing anthropologists' and ethnologists' photographs with their notes from the same expedition, for example.

6 Catalogue record review

Catalogue records can contain descriptions of photographs written in historical language deemed offensive today. It is important for the contemporary viewer of the catalogue record to understand the difference between descriptions written at the time the photograph was created and present-day descriptions of the image written by archivists.

We have chosen to remove potentially offensive terms from photographic descriptions, but where we have done this, we have included a note in the record description stating that the full original title of the image and/or inscription is available on request. This is kept in the catalogue record but not in the public view. The online cataloguing software we use allows us to do this. No primary source information is lost in this process. It simply allows researchers to search for images without encountering racist or other derogatory terms.

If you choose to retain the original wording in the catalogue description, then it is appropriate to include a caution that the wording to come is historical language and has been retained for research purposes only.

Make sure your catalogue includes appropriate keywords, such as the name of the mob to which the images relate. Utilising the AustLang thesaurus of [languages](#) and [peoples](#) and [AIATSIS subject headings](#) will increase discoverability and help connect material to Country.

7 Digitisation

Digitise the image, if this has not already been done. Use the National Library of Australia [image capture standards](#) to determine at what resolution you need to scan the original.

If you are not familiar with digitisation, PROV's [digitisation resources](#) are a good place to start.

8 Making contact

We compiled a list containing small versions of the images with their catalogue descriptions included, to send to each local [Registered Aboriginal Party](#). In Victoria these are the traditional owner groups responsible for managing and protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on Country. There are 11 in Victoria that cover approximately 75% of the state.

Many of these Aboriginal Corporations do not yet have formal keeping places for historical items, however, so may not necessarily be the best group to approach. We have had some quick and enthusiastic responses but are also still waiting on responses from some Corporations. One First Nations curator advised us that most communities associated with the former Aboriginal Missions and Reserves in Victoria have closed Facebook groups, so it's possible to message the group leader to ask who is the most appropriate person to liaise with about historical photographs from that community. If your organisation is a local historical society, you may already have the contacts to get in touch with the right people. As the RHSV is approaching groups across Victoria and interstate, our task is a little more difficult. However



■ Cindy Le, RHSV student intern.

Cindy has done a terrific job of working on this project over the last 3 months and returned sets of images to 13 Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal colleagues are very supportive of this process and the SLV Koori Librarian and the Koorie Heritage Trust have offered their assistance in making contact if required, so we are confident of eventual success. Local councils may also be useful in helping establish contact, particularly local libraries that already have relationships based on local history interests.

A key recommendation is to compile all your images and information about them carefully in one document

and make the approach once, as you want to minimise the time required to respond. Allow a good amount of time before you follow up.

9 Liaising over permissions and descriptions

In our correspondence with Aboriginal communities, we've asked for permission to upload the image to our online catalogue. We've also asked for feedback on the catalogue wording as we want the image description to reflect its meaning to its community, not only the way it was categorised in the past by non-Indigenous custodians. This act of 'participatory archiving' can also be seen as a process of value-adding to our understanding of the image by combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems. Again, no primary source information is lost in this process, but a fuller catalogue description is enabled.

It is best practice in decolonising collections to obtain the permission of the Community before making the image accessible online. Try to identify as much information about it as possible before doing this, such as identifying the right Country, language group and people depicted.

Indigenous communities may also want input into who has the ability to access these images in your collection and possibly publish them, which is another consideration to bear in mind in your discussions. After all, it's reasonable that communities exercise some control over images that were often taken with consent that was barely informed, if it was there at all. If the community is happy for the image to be released and be published, this permission should be given by you on condition the image will not be used for any derogatory purposes.

If you do publish the image in an online catalogue, then it's best practice to also include a 'take-down' option in the catalogue record, so that anyone who believes the image should not be in the public domain can speedily get in touch via email or phone to request that the image be removed.

10 Finalisation

After liaising with the relevant community, the final steps are to: send high resolution digital copies of the images, at no charge, if these have been requested; update the catalogue description to a mutually-acceptable wording, if alterations have been requested; and apply any restrictions to the use of the image, if these are required.

We hope this outline of our process has helped demonstrate how you can improve the management and accessibility of items in your collection that relate to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples. If you'd like to discuss any of these points further, don't hesitate to get in touch via images@historyvictoria.org.au, or phone Helen Stitt, Images Collection Officer, on (03) 9326 9288, Wednesday to Friday.

Helen Stitt

Collections Officer (images)

Editors note: usually in the *RHSV History News*, we strive to include only content that is relevant to the history of Victoria. At times there seems to be good reason to do otherwise. Below is the case; with a media release highlighting an event that will be of interest to many Victorian history enthusiasts.

Old trades make a return at Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail

Over 100 artisans from across Australia will inspire the next generation of craftspeople at the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail from 16-17 March 2024.

Rare and lost trades are making a big comeback as new audiences are drawn to the beauty, passion and health benefits of learning a craft. There's also a trend toward sustainability and hand-made items that are made or mended and not discarded. This renowned event is a must-do for anyone seeking inspiration and to 'meet the makers' all in one place, with some fabulous add-ons for visitors to explore Bathurst over the weekend.

"A record number of people, over 3,000, attended the event last year with more families and young people coming than ever before. There's so much to inspire young minds and old!" said Cr Jess Jennings, Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council.

The huge two-day program features a fair at the historic Bathurst Showground with stalls, demonstrations, workshops, food stalls, live music and entertainment. New exhibitors in 2024 include a professional sand sculptor and sock maker, joining blacksmiths, bodgers, candle-makers, First Nations tool makers, violin makers, spinners, weavers, upholsterers, furniture makers and winemakers.

Attendees can ride an authentic Cobb & Co coach, crack a whip, learn to crochet, stomp on wine, and hear first-hand from a variety of authentic and unique artisans.

"The event is a celebration of the cultural heritage of the Bathurst region and of heritage trades across Australia." said Cr Jess Jennings.

As Australia's first inland city, Bathurst is the ideal location for this annual celebration. It is a signature event of the Autumn Colours Heritage Festival, held annually throughout the Bathurst region, Wiradjuri Country. The event was awarded the Silver Award at the 2023 NSW Tourism Awards in the 'Festivals and Events' category. The event is supported by the NSW Government through the Destination NSW Regional Event Fund.

For more information and tickets to go www.bathurstregion.com.au

Event details:

- Tickets: Tickets are \$20 online early bird entry or \$25 at the gate for unlimited entry over both days. All accompanied school age children are free. Tickets are valid for entry to both days of the Trail.
- Date and time: 10am-4pm on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March 2024
- Venue: Bathurst Showground, 28 Kendall Ave, Bathurst.

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E: gabrielle@gabriellebrewer.com

Media release, supplied by Gabrielle Brewer

What's on at RHSV

continued from page 2

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.

TRADES HALL & CURTIN HOTEL TOUR

Date: Thursday 29 Feb

Time: 2 – 4:30pm

Cost: \$35

Event type: in person

Venue: Victorian Trades Hall and Curtin Hotel

This 90 min tour is a repeat of a hugely popular tour from 2023 to the newly and fabulously restored Trades Hall. Our guide will once again be Antony Moore. Antony was a long-time union official with the Vehicle Division of the AMWU. Unfortunately, with the closing of Australia's car manufacturing plants, Antony no longer had a role, however, for the past 6 years, he has been heavily involved in the renovations at Trades Hall: working alongside archaeologists, conservators and many other experts who have ensured that this important building and its cultural heritage are preserved. Antony is a passionate amateur historian and advocate for the building and its cultural heritage.

After the tour we are crossing the road to the Curtin Hotel, a Labor stronghold, where we will be educated and entertained by David Cragg, Labour History Melbourne Vice President, former Trades Hall Assistant Secretary, a Life Member of the ALP, a Trustee of the Victorian Trades Hall and Literary Institute and all-round labour history raconteur.

CURATOR'S TOUR OF GARRYOWEN'S MELBOURNE, WITH DR LIZ RUSHEN

Date: Tuesday 5 March

Time: 2 – 3:30pm

Cost: Free

Event type: in person

Followed by afternoon tea

Historian Dr Liz Rushen will take you behind the scenes of our current exhibition, *Garryowen's Melbourne*, which Liz curated. The exhibition grew from Liz's research her book, *Garryowen Unmasked: The Life of Edmund Finn*, which was aided by her deep knowledge of the RHSV collection and its treasures.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR JOY DAMOUSI

Date: Tuesday 19 March

Time: 5:30pm for a 6pm – 7pm lecture

Cost: \$10 | \$20

Event type: Hybrid

Lecture Title: Women's humanitarian work is never done: Women humanitarians and war child refugees in the 20th century

We are delighted that Professor Joy Damousi AM FASSA FAHA, one of Australia's most distinguished historians and humanities thought leaders, will deliver the 2023 Women's History Month Lecture, part of our Distinguished Lecture series.

She is currently the Director of the Australian Catholic University's Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, and has held leadership positions as Professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Head of School, Associate Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne.

Joy's areas of research include Australian social and cultural history, gender history and memory and the history of emotions. Her current research project is a history of child refugees, humanitarianism and internationalism from 1920, for which she was awarded an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship.

ROBYN ANNEAR TALKS CORNERS AND ORANGE PEEL

Date: Wednesday

20 March

Time: 5:30 for

a 6pm lecture,

ending at 7pm

Cost: \$10 | \$20

Event type: Hybrid

What better defines a city than its street corners? A corner gives you a starting point, a destination and a place to turn. It's furnished with pillar boxes, newsstands and tram stops, and lamp-posts for light and lounging. Where would you be likeliest to find a pub? At the corner, of course. And who better than Robyn Annear to usher you around the corners of Melbourne, and reveal their bizarre, baroque and mostly forgotten stories?



WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT TOUR

Date: Tuesday 26 March

Time: 8:45am – 12:45pm

Cost: \$55

Event type: in person

Venue: tour starts and ends at the RHSV

The Western Treatment Plant, Werribee, can only be accessed through an organised bus tour so don't miss this opportunity to discover the historical and environmental importance of this fascinating site. The Western Treatment Plant was added to the Victorian Heritage Register in 2021, recognising its historical, archaeological and technical significance. The historic Western Treatment Plant in Werribee is a world leader in environmentally-friendly sewage treatment, and one of Victoria's most unlikely hidden treasures.

We will have two brilliant guides for the day – firstly, whilst we drive from the RHSV to Cocoroc, historian Tony Dingle who has researched and written extensively about Melbourne's water and sewerage will explain the historical importance of this treatment plant and then we'll pick up a guide at the Treatment Plant to give us the contemporary information.

DOCTOR, TEACHER, GARDENER, SPY

Date: Tuesday 26 March, 2024

Time: 1 – 2pm

Speaker: Patrick Ferry, NAA

Cost: Free

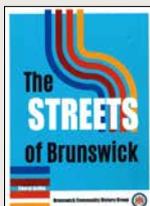
Event type: Hybrid, via Zoom or at the VAC.

Venue: Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne 3051 and via Zoom

Patrick will examine four of the real-life individuals from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) files. But who were they and why was ASIO interested in them? Come along to find out about their fascinating stories.

Bookshop

See our online bookshop at
www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/



The Streets of Brunswick

Cheryl Griffin (2023)

PB 190pp \$40

Let your curiosity guide you. If you want to know more about Brunswick, its streets and its history, this is the book for you. Read it with a map to bring more meaning to your journey through the streets of Brunswick, dip in and out as you please looking up this street and that. The history of Brunswick's streets was last updated ten years ago and there has been much more added. This updated and revised publication is just the start.

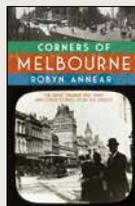


Passionate Friends: Mary Fullerton, Mabel Singleton, Miles Franklin

Sylvia Martin (2021)

PB 229pp \$40

Mary Fullerton (1868-1946) and Mabel Singleton (1877-1965) met in Melbourne as suffrage and peace activists in Vida Goldstein's Women's Political Association. They remained loving friends for thirty-five years, raising Mabel's son born in 1911 and becoming literary friends with Miles Franklin. Mary's manuscript eventually made its way to the Mitchell Library. It contained poems, many dedicated to Mabel, which trace a love story that sheds light on how women of the early twentieth century may have understood their love for each other.

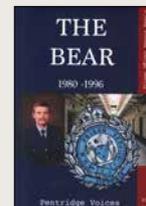


Corners of Melbourne: The great orange-peel panic and other stories from the streets

Robyn Annear (2023)

HC 336pp \$35

What better defines a city than its street corners? A corner gives you a starting point, a destination and a place to turn. It's furnished with newsstands and tram stops. Where would you be likeliest to find a pub? At the corner, of course. Who better than Robyn Annear to reveal the bizarre and mostly forgotten stories around the corners in Melbourne? Featuring the civic reprobates who discarded orange peel to the endangerment of life and limb.

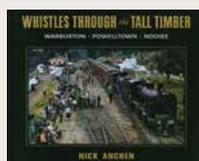


The Bear 1980 -1986: Prison Officer Dennis Bear's Time in D Division

Dennis Bear (2023)

PB 78pp \$15

The Bear follows the story of Dennis Bear, who, on his first day in prison service, witnessed a shooting at the Supreme Court in Melbourne. He was awarded a commendation for helping people to safety. This would be an introduction to the next 16 years, when he served as a prison officer at the Metropolitan Reception Prison. Called the "The Bear", 85% of the prison population respected him and looked out for him. The other 15% gave him hell.

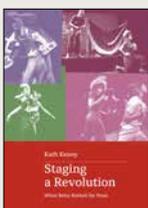


Whistles Through the Tall Timber: Warburton, Powelltown, Noojee

Nick Anchen (2023)

HC 264pp \$99.95

The majestic mountain ranges east of Melbourne stand some of the finest stands of hardwood trees in Australia. To access the timber, a fascinating network of railways and tramways was built. This publication tells the story of the Warburton, Powelltown and Noojee railways, along with the prominent timber tramways of the region, from an era when the tall timber was extracted by steam and sweat. The fascinating memoirs of legendary railwaymen and timber workers are complemented by 260 magnificent photographs: many never before seen.

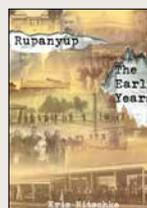


Staging a Revolution: When Betty Rocked the Pram

Kath Kenny (2022)

PB 270pp \$30

In January 1972, five women took to the stage of Carlton's Pram Factory to preview their women's play *Betty Can Jump*. Claire Dobbin, Helen Garner, Evelyn Krape, Jude Kuring and Yvonne Marini mocked the ocker character beloved by Pram Factory playwrights, and performed monologues about men, sex, and how they felt "as a woman". Produced by the Carlton Women's Liberation group, the play's frank revelations stunned audiences. Kath Kenny uses interviews and archival material to tell their story.



Rupanyup: The early years

Kris Nitschke (2023)

PB 258pp \$49.99

Every township has a beginning. Rupanyup is a small farming town located on the plains in the Wimmera district. Around 150 years ago the first selectors began arriving and acquiring their farming land, building their livelihoods from the ground up. With so many families arriving, a township was soon built. This is the story of that township and the people who farmed the area. Enduring hardships and success in those early years, generations have now continued the legacy the selectors left behind.



Always in Need of Reform: Reflections of a policeman

Bryan Harding (2022)

PB 530pp \$39.95

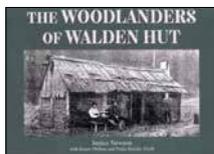
As a career cop, Bryan Harding was a walking contradiction. A likeable man who attracted enemies, a union man who fell out with his union, and a hard detective who considered himself a pacifist. This memoir is an absorbing story of a journey through arguably the most crucial decades of modern Victoria Police history. It lays bare the need for, and the costs of, trying to make policing better. It's an important read, which will make you laugh as much as you will frown.

Books received

John Schauble

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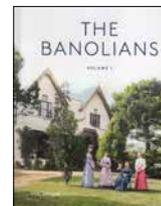
The Woodlanders of Walden Hut. Janice Newton, Mt Evelyn History Group, Mt Evelyn, 2023, pp. 1-116, ISBN 9870957858855.

The modest format of this book belies its importance. At its heart is the story of three early Victorian naturalists: Claude Kinane, E. Brook Nicholls and the prolific author Charles Barrett, who rented an old settler's hut on the Olinda Creek in the foothills of the Dandenongs. They dubbed their getaway Walden's Hut in a nod to the venture of famed American nature writer and philosopher Henry David Thoreau on the edge of Walden Pond in Massachusetts. The strength of this book is its survey of the key figures in the history of nature writing in Australia and the legacy of those early 'amateurs' who elevated environmentalism in Australia.



The Greatest Gift: a 200-Year Chronicle of My Australian Jewish Family. Trevor Cohen, Real Publishing, Melbourne, 2022, pp. 1-384, ISBN 9870645213195.

This labour of love and indeed scholarship by Trevor Cohen documents six generations of his family's story in Australia. Emanuel and Vaiben Solomon were convicted of theft and transported for seven years. It was an inauspicious beginning for a family which would grow and in time prosper and make a significant contribution to Australian life. Much of this would be centred upon the Jewish community in Melbourne where branches of the Solomon, Cashmore, Cohen and Davis families would enter commerce and the law. This is a rich and unusual family story, beautifully produced, that reflects upon its contribution and place within a broader community.



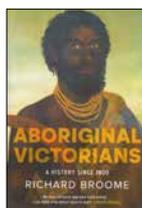
The Banolians. Vicki Steggall, Hardie Grant, Melbourne, Volumes and 2. 2023, pp. vi-314, x-380, ISBN 9781743799819, 9781743799826.

This is family history on a grand scale, 'unlike any, except *War and Peace* perhaps' as Andrew Lemon notes on the cover. The story of the Yencken family in Australia begins with a noble family in Estonia, ranges through London, Calcutta, Ireland and elsewhere to Melbourne. The title is taken from 'Banole', the family's home for half a century, in Prahran. The family secured their place in Melbourne society from the late 1860s. Barely surviving the crash of the 1890s, they regrouped to again become prominent members of Melbourne's commercial aristocracy. This is an epic saga rendered in an appropriately lavish style.



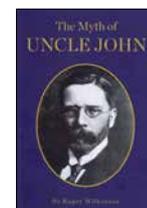
In Search of the Last Continent: Australia and Early Antarctic Exploration. Andrew McConville, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2022, pp. v-227, ISBN 9871922669940.

In the early 19th century, the impetus for heading south was commercial and exploitation by sealers and whalers led some species to the brink of extinction. As the great powers turned away, seeing neither commercial nor strategic value, a group of Melbourne scientists formed the Antarctic Exploration Committee in the late 1880s. Thwarted by the economic bust of the 1890s, nothing came of it but a renewed interest in the frozen continent. A private expedition was a commercial failure. Subsumed by more famous international expeditions in the early 20th century, the AEC and these early expeditioners have been forgotten. Andrew McConville has done well to revive their story.



Aboriginal Victorians: a History Since 1800. Richard Broome, Allen&Unwin, Crows Nest, 2024, pp. ix-502, ISBN 9871760879471.

Many Victorians grew up in the mid-20th century barely aware of our First Nations people, save perhaps for a handful of sportsmen and outspoken advocates. The first edition of Richard Broome's seminal work, published to much acclaim in 2005, revealed the richness of this community to many for the first time. This new and updated edition further reflects changes in the fortunes of First Nations Victorians over the past two decades. While the nation might have faltered at creating a Voice to Parliament, in Victoria there has been sustained progress in reckoning with the past through the Yoorrook Justice Commission, the First People's Assembly and negotiations towards a treaty. Richard Broome is president of the Royal Victorian Historical Society.



The Myth of Uncle John. Roger Wilkinson, HistorySmiths, Thornbury, 2023, pp. 1-191, ISBN 978064895745466.

Dr John Wilkinson made a solid professional, religious and community contribution to society in Victoria across the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His is essentially a middle-class story that was replicated in many families, differing only by profession and faiths. It is not an extraordinary story, but neither is it ordinary, for Dr Wilkinson made many important contributions as a country GP, later as a specialist physician in Melbourne, as a churchman and eco-tourist. His medical career led to specialisation in diabetes and gastric disorders. His interest in the Victorian high country saw him champion Mount Buffalo as a holiday destination. This biography by his nephew provides an insight into many aspects of a Victoria now passed.

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John Schauble

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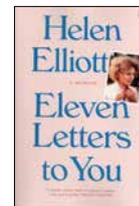
No Longer a Wandering Spirit: Family and Kin Reclaiming the Memory of Minang Woman Bessie Flowers. Sharon Huebner and Ezzard Flowers, UWA Publishing, Crawley, 2023, pp. vii-358, ISBN 9781760802226.

Bessie Flowers was one of several young Noongar women brought from Western Australia to Victoria in the second part of the 19th century. Raised as a Christian and educated as a teacher, Bessy was dispatched to the service of Moravian missionary Reverend F.A. Hagenauer, who clearly had a view to her becoming a wife of one of his trusted Koori disciples, Donald Cameron. Bessy bore eight children and led a life far from the promise of her youth. This is the story of the reconnection of her Minang-Noongar family with her Victorian descendants, a story of reconnection with country and people.



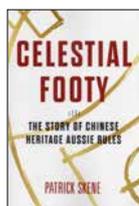
On Bunurong Country: Art and Design in Frankston. Jane Eckett (ed.), McClelland, Langwarrin, 2023, pp. iv-396, ISBN 9780994619198.

This ambitious work examines context and place in an artistic history of Frankston and its surrounding district. The area has a remarkable art and design lineage that begins with the original Bunurong inhabitants and stretches through to modern public art installations. It is a rich heritage and the natural landscape attracted many artists and members of notable artistic families such as the Lindsays who lived there, others such as the Boyds to create, and patrons such as the Murdochs to offer support. The collection looks broadly at the visual arts, architecture and the establishment of the influential McClelland Gallery more than 50 years ago.



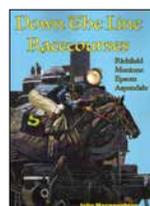
Eleven Letters to You. Helen Elliott, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2023, pp. 1-261, ISBN 9781922790224.

Helen Elliott, well known as a literary critic and journalist, grew up in Boronia in the 1950s and 1960s, a time when it was in transition from countryside to suburbia. Out on the edge of Melbourne and the very foot of the Dandenongs it was a setting that promised of a new post-war life for returned servicemen and their young families as well as migrants. This very different memoir, styled as eleven letters to the neighbours, relatives, teachers and friends, brings to life a very different time. Elliott's recollections are sharp and poignant as she seeks out those parts of her upbringing and education that shaped her at a time of rapid social change.



Celestial Footy: the Story of Chinese Heritage Aussie Rules. Patrick Skene, Hardie Grant, Richmond, 2023, pp. v-267, ISBN 9780646879017.

Participating in Australian football has been a gateway for many marginalised groups in Australian society: First Nations people, post-war immigrants and more recently those from North Africa. But what of the Chinese? Even keen supporters of the game might be hard pressed to name a Chinese-Australian player and yet there have been Chinese players and Chinese teams around since the gold rushes. How could it be that the story of the Golden Point Rice Eaters, a Ballarat club formed in the late 19th century, is not better known? Or Wally Koochew, the first VFL player of Chinese descent? This significant social history sheds light on an untold past. Desperately needs an index.



Down the Line Racecourses: Richfield, Mentone, Epsom, Aspendale. John Macnaughtan, the author, Somerton, 2023, pp. 1-144, ISBN 9780646979748.

For most Melburnians with only a casual knowledge of horse racing, Flemington, Moonee Valley, Caulfield and Sandown are known as homes to the sport. But in its late 19th century heyday, there were more than a dozen suburban racecourses across Melbourne. This book briefly traces the history of four such tracks, linking their growth to the expansion of the bayside rail line. Richfield lasted just six years, closing in 1893. While closed to racing decades ago, Mentone and Epsom had an 'after life' as training tracks. Aspendale was a very early centre of motor racing. All were sold off to housing development.



The Wandinong Story: the Origins of Wandinong Sanctuary, Blackburn as a Family Home and Its Transformation Into a Public Park. Wandinong Sanctuary Advisory Committee, PenFolk Publishing, Blackburn, 2023, pp. iv-110, ISBN 9781925467154.

Wandinong Sanctuary is a parcel of about four acres of land bequeathed to the local council in the 1970s. It is one of a small network of local reserves which contribute to the suburb's reputation as a leafy oasis in the eastern suburbs. Owned by the Hooke family for six decades, it is now a sanctuary for birds, wildflowers, native vegetation and as a place of passive recreation. This is the charming story of the family's occupation, the property's transition and management by an active local committee as a place for the whole community to enjoy.