

**MELBOURNE'S
STORIED
LANEWAYS**

Exhibition curated by
David Thompson

11 April – November 2024
Open Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm
RHSV
239 A'Beckett Street,
Melbourne 3000

historyvictoria.org.au

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VICTORIA

IMAGE: TONY IRVING'S ETCHING, DREWEY LANE MELBOURNE, 1990 ADAPTED BY EXHIBITION DESIGNER, DAISY SEARLS

We all have our favourite Melbourne laneway and curator, David Thompson, has chosen his favourites which reveal some intriguing Melbourne stories. When we think of today's gussied-up tourist-friendly laneways like Guilford Lane and Hosier Lane, it is hard to imagine that a mere 50 years ago the laneways were workaday places full still of small factories and light industry. And earlier still there was the desperation of Little Lon. Today we get just glimpses of those rough and ready laneways that serviced the city and a frisson as the mouths of some still grimy and squalid laneways beckon us deeper in.

This exhibition has grown out of the RHSV's latest publication which is an updated version of historian Weston Bate's *Essential but Unplanned: Melbourne's Laneways* which came out 30 years ago in 1994. The new laneways book will be launched in a few months.

The exhibition was launched on 11 April 2024 by Julian O'Shea, a popular online creator with millions of views across YouTube, Instagram and TikTok. Julian recently won the 2023 Victorian Community History Award for best Digital Storytelling Award.