ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VICTORIA

Annual Report

2024 | historyvictoria.org.au

Images

Images for this year's Annual Report have been drawn from the Royal Historical Society's premier publication for 2024, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential But Unplanned*.

The book, launched in October, is a completely revised, reimagined and updated version of a work compiled by Professor Weston Bate (1924-2017) and published in 1994. Professor Bate was President of the RHSV from 1991 to 1997 and 2002 to 2005. The original volume was published as *Essential But Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*. Its republication coincidentally marks the centenary of Weston Bate's birth.

As part of reconstituting this new work, additional chapters and text were contributed by Professor Andrew May and Dr Nicole Davis, urban historians from the University of Melbourne. This part of the book reflects the immense changes in the cityscape over the past 30 years.

The images reproduced here, selected in consultation with another of the book's co-authors RHSV Collections Officer (Images) Helen Stitt, include both photographs from the original work and a collection of 120 new images chosen from around 3000 taken by the Hawthorn Camera Group under the direction of former RHSV Councillor George Fernando. These images now form part of the RHSV's collection. The original image files had been lost and so RHSV volunteers undertook the mammoth task of rediscovering both the images and their descriptions. The book has again been produced in cooperation with State Library Victoria. All of this occurred under the enthusiastic direction of RHSV President Emeritus Professor Richard Broome.

Weston Bate's original work reflected a prevailing utilitarian view of Melbourne's laneways that dated to the city's earliest days. But a remarkable transformation has occurred over the past three decades. While many lanes remain practical places, some even rough and dark ones, many others have become vibrant centres of city life for dining, entertaining, commerce and artistic expression.

Melbourne's lanes remain, for many reasons, both essential but planned.

John Schauble FRHSV
| Chair – Publications Committee

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Transport and Planning

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President's Annual Report 2024

On Thursday 22 August 2024, 150 people gathered at Government House to celebrate the 115th birthday of the RHSV, graciously hosted by our Patron-in-Chief, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC. Attendees heard speeches by the Governor, the Minister for Planning the Honourable Sonya Kilkenny MP, and me. The respect and credibility accorded the RHSV was evident in these speeches, published in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol. 95, no. 2, issue 302, December 2024.

The Governor has involved the RHSV and the History Council of Victoria in a new venture, 'Understanding Victoria', to increase literacy about our history. The program comprises a series of short presentations with discussion from a small audience on key moments in Victoria's past. As RHSV President and co-editor of the *VHJ*, I offered publication of each discussion in the series. The Governor was delighted. The first discussion—on the disruptions of the gold rush period—was published in the December 2024 *VHJ*. The following two discussions—on Federation, and protest in the 60s and 70s—will be published in 2025.

We are delighted to assist this important venture as Professor Gardner is extremely supportive of History and the RHSV. Our other patron is the Lord Mayor, the Honourable Nicholas Reece, who agreed to become our Civic Patron after Sally Capp AO stepped down as Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

The RHSV is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation. Any individual who supports the purposes of the RHSV can become a member, and any society or organisation that supports the purposes can become an affiliated member. These purposes are defined in our Constitution as:

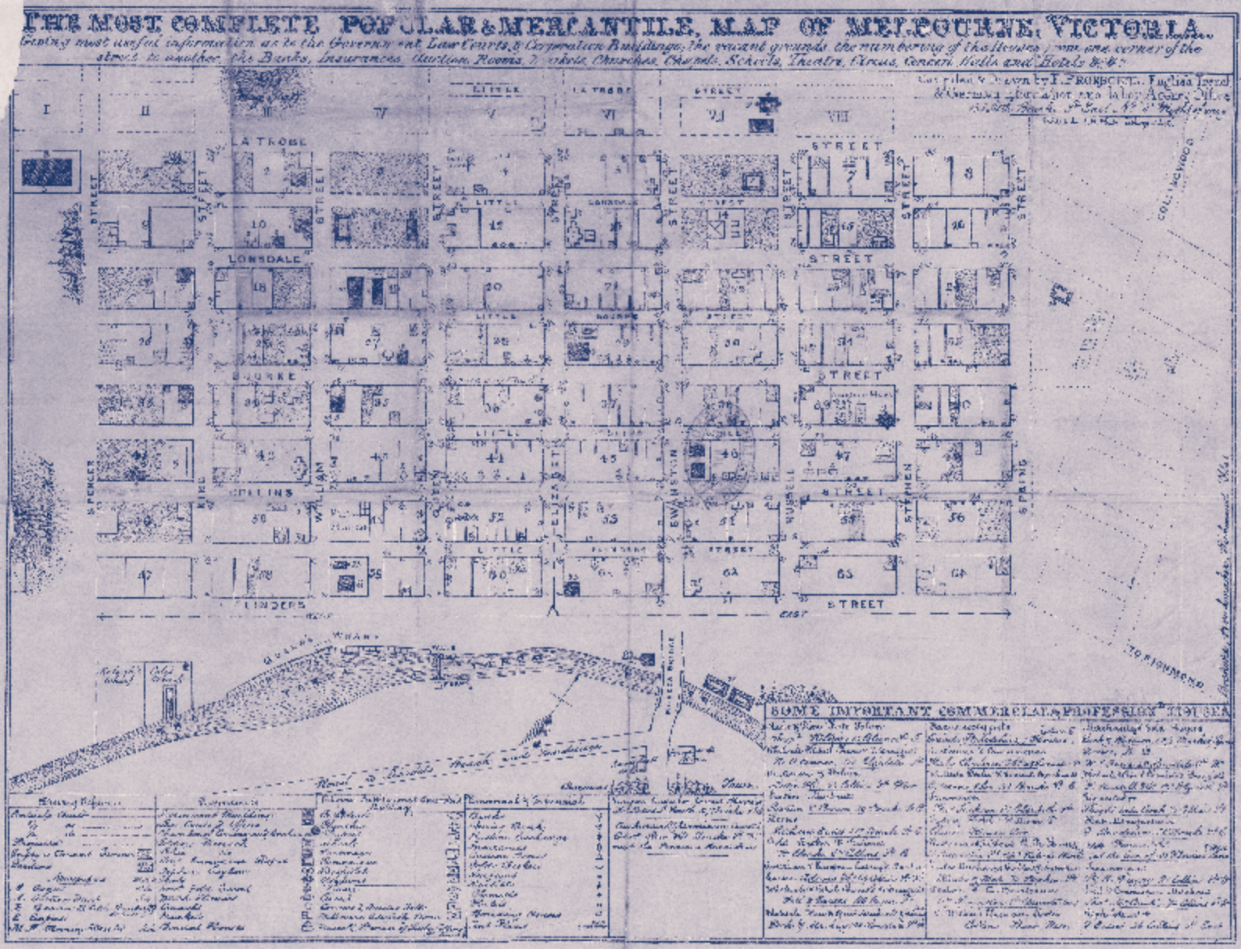
1. promoting research, knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of our histories to the widest possible audience;
2. developing and conserving the collection of Victorian history, with a special interest in Melbourne;
3. promoting all aspects of Victorian history through exhibitions, publications and events for its members and the general public;
4. recognising outstanding achievement in Victorian history;
5. supporting affiliated historical societies;
6. acting as an advocate for the Victorian history sector and in the conservation and promotion of Victoria's cultural and built heritage.

Many events were held at the RHSV's Drill Hall in 2024 to further these purposes, including our Distinguished Lectures: the Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture; the Women's History Month Lecture; the AGL Shaw Lecture (shared with the CJ La Trobe Society); the Weston Bate Oration; the Hugh Anderson Lecture; and the Gwenda D.M. Jones Memorial Lecture. The Paul Mullaly Law and History Lecture alternates annually with the Jones Lecture and will be next held in 2025. All these lectures are published in the *VHJ* for your future reference and interest.

Many other lectures were held, and book launches too, including my own book *Aboriginal Victorians: A History Since 1800* in February, which was launched by Aunty Jill Gallagher AO, head of Victoria's First Nations health umbrella body, VACCHO. In December our friend and colleague, Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, Chair of the History Council of Victoria, had his book *An Environmental History of France* launched by Maxine McKew AM, an event also attended by the Governor in a private capacity. These events bring new people into the Drill Hall and allow new engagements to be made.

One of our most sparkling nights at the Drill Hall during 2024 was the launch of our latest publication *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned* on 3 October. Speeches were given by renowned urban planner Professor Rob Adams about the origins of the lanes as cultural icons; by Dr Nicole Davis about how her grandmother instilled in her a love of lanes; and Professor Andy May on the lanes in urban history. Their addresses will be published in *History News* during 2025. This publication contributes significantly to article 1 of the Society's purposes, with over 800 copies of the book sold by Christmas.

Volunteers are vital to the RHSV. Dozens work on the ground each week enhancing our collection and growing our bookshop. Other volunteers manage and participate



in our committees: the Executive and Finance Committee, which advises Council; the Heritage Committee; the Historical Societies Support Committee; the Publications Committee; the Collections Committee; the Fellowships and Awards Committee; and the Investment Committee. The RHSV also has several working parties: Fundraising, Events, and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Fellowships and Awards Committee launched a new initiative in 2024, the Victorian History Hall of Fame, to honour those who have helped shape understandings of Victoria's past. This project is an important step towards fulfilling article 4 of the Society's purposes. The first three posthumous inductees were William Barak, Geoffrey Serle, and Marjorie Tipping, and the first two living appointees were Geoffrey Blainey and Janet McCalman. The inductees, both posthumous and living, are approved by Council like all our awards and listed each year in the *VHJ*, beginning in December 2024. I urge you to read about their contributions to our history. I also commend to your attention the accounts of the work of all our committees in this annual report.

Our paid staff are key to the operation of the RHSV. We have grown a great deal in recent times, resulting in both leadership and workspace challenges. Fortunately 8 of the 10 are part time, which allows workstation sharing. By December staff numbered 5.27 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees, up from 2.88 in 2017. Council in December recommended and advertised for the employment of an Operations Manager (0.6 FTE) to assist the Executive Officer by taking over the roles of building, IT, and event management.

My deep thanks go to all our staff: to Rosemary Cameron our skilled and hard-working Executive Officer; Jillian Hiscock our enthusiastic and expert Collections Manager (0.68 FTE); and Helen Stitt our Collections Officer (0.6 FTE) who has brought our picture collection into the digital age. We are also ably supported by our bookkeeper Kristin Adnams (0.25 FTE), who skilfully manages our accounts. Emily Maiolo, our Administration Officer, left in August to pursue a career in archives, now that her studies are finished. Emily was replaced in September by Chelsea Pinkard, a History Honours student, who has

shown exceptional and adaptive skills in a very short time. These five staff were the core of our workforce.

Our Marketing Officer Sean Reynolds (0.4), whose fascinating book *Melbourne Ghost Signs* was launched at the RHSV in October, left in December to pursue other opportunities. Susannah Beardsley (0.2 FTE) again acted as our Project Officer for the Victorian Community History Awards, admirably managing in 2024 a staggering 168 entries. Several casuals have ably filled the role of Events Assistant (0.15 FTE), enabling our hybrid zoom lectures to proceed smoothly.

We appointed two new staff, Archive Manager Cathy Dodson (0.6 FTE) and Archive Officer Bronte Laffin-Vines (0.4 FTE), who are employed to take in and catalogue two important heritage collections, those of leading Victorian heritage architects Allan Willingham and Graeme Butler. The work of these two archivists is funded for three years (2024–26) by the Gidleigh Foundation to which we are extremely grateful. These two collections will not now gather dust in unopened boxes but will instead become progressively available to researchers.

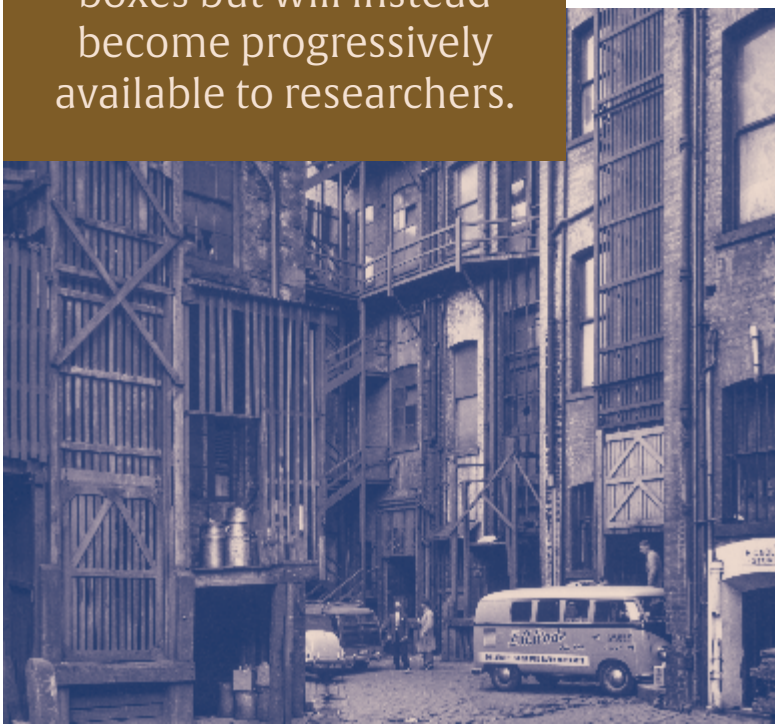
The great generosity of the Myer Foundation, enabled by our member Stephen Shelmerdine AM, along with gifts from the many supporters of our EOFY campaign, have also helped advance our collection and the sustainability of the work we do. Please look at the lists of donors for 2024 at the back of this annual report.

We continue to strive for a permanent home, a quest now 115 years old. In March we met with our landlord, Planning Minister Kilkenny, to request a 30-year lease at a peppercorn rent as we have no lease at the moment. The Minister accorded us an interested and engaged hearing. The building is now better managed and cared for by the Ministry, but as yet we have had no news of a lease.

This will be my last annual report as I will step down at the May 2025 AGM after six years as President and twelve years on Council. It has been a great privilege to hold this position, and I feel certain the RHSV is in a far stronger position than it was when I first arrived on Council. My predecessors have all made advances—Bill Russell and Andrew Lemon AM created a Foundation to secure our sustainability; and Don Garden OAM modernised the staffing of the Society and began the transformation of our accounts with the assistance of Rosemary Cameron and our Treasurer Daniel Clements.

I have sought to continue that trajectory, assisted by the hard work of the Executive and Finance Committee and of our Secretary Cathy Butcher. Their dedication has resulted in the modernising of our governance, compliance procedures, and risk management. Among

These two collections (those of leading Victorian heritage architects Allan Willingham and Graeme Butler) will not now gather dust in unopened boxes but will instead become progressively available to researchers.



my own contributions are oversight of tighter investment strategies with an Investment Policy, an Investment Committee, and the appointment of our Financial Planner Yarra Lane. I have also helped move the Society to a greater awareness of the place First Nations people play in our history through sponsoring the Billibellary Lecture and encouraging other initiatives such as diversity and inclusion policies, and critical reassessment of collection categories.

The work of so many mentioned above makes for a stronger RHSV but cannot eliminate the challenges ahead.

Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS | RHSV President

Calvin Klein
MUSEUM

Executive Officer's Annual Report 2024

2024 was a splendid year for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. For the first time in our history our income exceeded $1 million—I know this should not matter, but it gave me a thrill! We accepted more large donations of material to be added to our collection and also a number of large and small financial donations that enabled us to install more storage facilities and engage sufficient staff to deal with these incoming collections. It has been an exhilarating year as we continue to grow.

All that we achieve is through team effort and I would like to thank the entire RHSV team, led by our President Richard Broome and the RHSV Council. My thanks especially go to our brilliant and expanding professional staff, ably supported by committee members and volunteers. Together they are transforming the collection and the organisation.

Support

Department of Transport and Planning

We thank the Hon. Sonya Kilkenny, Minister for Planning, for housing the RHSV in our Drill Hall. We are extremely grateful for our heritage-listed home, which we have occupied since 1999. At the Department of Transport and Planning we are well looked after by Sarah Keating and Anna Giannacos. The Drill Hall is maintained by the Department of Planning through property managers Jones Lang LeSalle (JLL), and we thank Janene Hansford and Goran Licinar for all their attention to detail and assistance.

Vera Moore Foundation

The Vera Moore Foundation has generously supported History Month for many years, and they have our deepest gratitude for their never-wavering belief in the worth of the RHSV and the work we do. History Month (October) is the highlight of our year with a large program of events across Victoria. History Month and its sister celebration, Women's History Month (March), have ready support in the community and are observed widely. The trustees of the Vera Moore Foundation and the Foundation's Secretary, David Richardson AO OBE, have our sincere thanks for their support.

Sidney Myer Fund

We thank Stephen Shelmerdine AM for his unflagging support and advocacy for the RHSV. In 2024 we received an unexpected but very welcome donation of $155,000 from the Sidney Myer Fund following a recommendation from Stephen Shelmerdine. This kind of largesse is usually the stuff of dreams. The $155,000 was not a random amount but represents the aggregated 90 years that the Sidney Myer Fund and the 65 years the Myer Foundation have been supporting not-for-profits across Australia. This is an extraordinary record for one family to maintain over many generations. As the Myer family continues to grow new generations are introduced to the culture of philanthropy, and all Australians are in their debt. Long may the funds flourish.

Gidleigh Foundation

We also successfully applied to the Gidleigh Foundation for major funding over five years to enable us to absorb and catalogue both the Butler and Willingham Collections. As mentioned elsewhere in my report, this funding supports the engagement of our two archivists, Cathy Dodson and Bronte Laffin-Vines. Over the five years of its duration, the funding will also support a publication, two historians in residence, and two major exhibitions that you will hear about as the projects unfold. We are eternally grateful to the trustees of the Gidleigh Foundation, John Davies and William Jones, and also commend the visionary and generous benefactors behind the Foundation, the late Reverend Cary Mansell and his partner, the late Ray Williams.

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History

Our congratulations go to Ms Ruby Oosthuizen, who was awarded the 2024 Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History for the highest marks in Australian History at La Trobe University. This award was established and funded by Don's family in his memory in 2018.

Staff

Jillian Hiscock, our Collections Manager, has overseen a period of tremendous growth in both the Collection and the number of professional staff we engage to work on it. We are one of the few collecting institutions still accepting large donations of material, although limited space is

becoming a problem for us too. Off-site storage is looking more attractive. Our expansion started when we engaged Helen Stitt to work on images, followed by Cathy Dodson working on archival cataloguing of large collections. Then, in 2024, we engaged Bronte Laffin-Vines, who assists Cathy with the large donations. Jillian also oversees a huge team of enthusiastic and generous interns and volunteers.

In 2024, *Cathy Dodson*, our Archives Manager, completed her work on the Jones Collection and turned her attention to the Butler and Willingham collections—both massive and incredibly rich heritage archives. We were fortunate to raise funding through the Gidleigh Foundation to support Cathy's archival work and cataloguing of these two major collections over three years. Cathy was joined in 2024 by *Bronte Laffin-Vines*, whose work is also supported by the Gidleigh Foundation. In addition, Bronte does an extra day each week on the Ann Jackson Collection and the Save the Brunswick Brickworks Archive, and her work on these last two collections was fully funded by our 2024 annual appeal and members' philanthropy, for which we are deeply grateful.

Helen Stitt continued as our Collections Officer (Images), managing effective teams of volunteers working on the technical work of digitising images, colour-balancing, and making low-res watermarked thumbnail images for the catalogue records. Helen was one of the editors on our best-selling publication, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned*, which was finally launched in October 2024.

Our Marketing Officer, *Sean Reynolds*, aka 'Mr Ghost Signs', left at the end of 2024. We thank Sean for all his contributions, especially in working closely with Heritage Victoria on RHSV's contribution to the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Victoria's Heritage Register. Sean also created our very popular podcast, which is having a hiatus at the moment, but … it will be back.

We were sad to farewell our Administrator, *Emily Maiolo*, who, on completing her Information Management studies, wanted to spread her wings. Members loved Emily's friendly manner on the phone and at the front desk. We were fortunate to engage *Chelsea Pinkard* to replace Emily. Chelsea has an undergraduate degree in History and is leaning towards postgraduate study. She has also worked in Dymocks, and you might have noticed that the bookshop suddenly looks much more professional. We have adopted what we call the 'Dymocks Swirl'—where a stack of books is artistically arranged in a swirl rather than a dull, dull vertical stack. In 2024 the bookshop's sales increased by just under 60 per cent on the previous year, which was partly due to the sales of *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes* but also, undoubtedly, to the Dymocks Swirl and Chelsea's professionalism.

Kristen Adnams continues as our sane and level-headed bookkeeper, who can always see the best and simplest solution. Since Kristen joined our staff, our audits hold no fear. Our finances are undoubtedly becoming more complicated every year as we both spread our investments to mitigate risk and increase our turnover. Kristen has dealt with this increasing complexity extremely

Being 116 years old does not give us a free pass—we always have to adapt and prove that we are a contemporary organisation that engages with a contemporary audience.

effectively. *Susannah Beardsell* was our organised Project Officer looking after the annual Victorian Community History Awards. This turned out to be another drawn-out process that finally culminated in the Awards ceremony in March 2025. Following the 2023 Public Record Office Victoria's loss of government funding for the Victorian Community History Awards and Local History Grants Program, the RHSV galvanised our history community into a very effective advocacy machine. It happened again in 2024. We thank everyone who took part in successfully advocating for the restoration of funding in both years. Unfortunately, the funding eventually granted in both of those years was only for that year and, as I write this report, we are waiting for the Victorian Government to hand down its budget on 20 May 2025. We hope our advocacy has borne fruit, yet again, but this time for quadrennial funding.

If you have attended any of our RHSV events you will have met our wonderful event assistant, *Johnny Yuen*. Johnny has a degree in IT, and I know that one day he will disappear into the full-time workforce, but for now we enjoy his calm and charm as he copes with all the dramas that inevitably explode at events.

Finally

In our Annual Report each year we talk of success and growth; however, there are always challenges as the RHSV works to stay relevant and connect with younger history enthusiasts. Being 116 years old does not give us a free pass—we always have to adapt and prove that we are a contemporary organisation that engages with a contemporary audience.

We still do not have security of tenure at the Drill Hall, which holds us back from investing in this property to make it fit for purpose. We hope, each year, that this will change, and we continue to encourage the Minister for Planning to sign off on our Drill Hall tenancy.

Our staff is still mostly part-time, and I would dearly love to increase the hours of those staff to make them full-time.

I would also like to see philanthropic development of study grants to encourage use of our rich, magnificent, and significant collection. All the major collecting institutions offer study grants to enable historical research. These grants can vary from a few thousand dollars to quite major amounts.

Another challenge is to build diversity and inclusion into all aspects of what we do—from employing staff, to our exhibitions and publications, and everything in between. It is important that we reflect contemporary Victoria's demographics.

I would like to engage an Outreach Officer who could work with our affiliated member societies.

I would also like to explore more digital exhibitions and podcasts—there is a massive audience interested in our work that cannot reach us owing to geography or other access problems, but technology can diminish those barriers.

I think as an organisation we need to advocate for funding for the entire history sector—over the years this has been whittled away to almost nothing. We need something like a state lottery to fund the sector.

When I started at the RHSV in late 2017, I wanted to change the culture of the organisation from one of 'computer says no' to one of 'yes'. It is difficult, of course, when resources are tight to say yes, and our staff have engaged in years of unpaid overtime to change that culture. I am very proud of the RHSV today. I am proud of the collegiate relationship we have developed with the many other history organisations in Victoria and interstate, not the least being the many historical societies that are valued members of the RHSV. There is enormous pleasure in seeing these community-led organisations prosper and go from strength to strength and, in the process, we learn so much from our colleagues undertaking this work.

Our dreams and ambitions will always outstrip our resources, but give us time and we get there! We have great plans for 2025, and we invite all our members to engage fully with the RHSV whether it is through events, the bookshop, volunteering, donating, or reading our publications.

As this annual report goes to print, we will be contacting our membership to support our annual appeal. Throughout this report you can see evidence of the vast difference that your donations make. Join us in creating extraordinary possibilities for all our members and friends, today and into the future.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer

RHSV Council Annual Report 2024

The Council of the RHSV continued to look forward not backward, and to be both inward and outward facing, to confront more robustly the challenges of 2025.

The role of the Council is to provide leadership for the members of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. In doing so it guides and monitors the Society's business and affairs; ensures the Society is properly governed and meets all governance requirements; and increases the Society's value to members and the Victorian community in accordance with its Purposes and Mission. The Council may, by resolution, establish committees to consider and advise on any specified matter or matters in achieving its purposes.

The Council is ably advised by the members of the Executive and Finance Committee, whose expertise enables Council to make more informed decisions. In 2024 before the May AGM, it comprised Richard Broome (President and Chair), Rosalie Triolo (Vice President), Cathy Butcher (Secretary), Paul Fearon, and Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer, *ex officio*). After the AGM to December 2024, it comprised Richard Broome (President and Chair), Paul Fearon (Vice President), Cathy Butcher (Secretary), Michael Tonta, and Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer, *ex officio*).

The composition of Council from January 2024 to the May 2024 AGM was Richard Broome (President), Rosalie Triolo (Vice President), Cathy Butcher (Secretary), Daniel Clements (Treasurer), Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer, *ex officio*), Margaret Anderson, Paul Fearon, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Charles (Chips) Sowerwine, Elizabeth Triarico, Nikita Vanderbyl, Carole Woods, and Peter Yule (Regional Councillor).

Immediately before the AGM on 28 May 2024 a Special Meeting of the RHSV was held to tweak the purposes of the RHSV listed in the Constitution to comply with ACNC and ATO requirements and to adopt amendments to the model rules from changes to the *Victorian Associations Incorporation Act* and its regulations. All amendments were passed unanimously. At the 114th AGM immediately afterwards, reports were given in the usual manner and elections held.

There were several changes to the membership of Council. Elisabeth Jackson retired from Council after nine years, having been Vice President over several years and leader of the RHSV's MAP accreditation in 2019. Elisabeth continued as Chair of the Collections Committee, thus affording the Society ongoing benefit from her expertise. Charles (Chips) Sowerwine also retired after nine years on Council but retained his leadership of the Heritage Committee, which has established the RHSV as a key advocate in the heritage space. Both were warmly farewelled. Michael Tonta, with an impressive background in local government and the City of Melbourne's administration, was elected to Council. All other existing members were re-elected. Peter Yule was elected a member of Council so, from May he was no longer a co-opted regional member under section 54.5 of the Constitution.

The composition of Council from the AGM to December 2024 was Richard Broome (President), Paul Fearon (Vice President), Cathy Butcher (Secretary), Daniel Clements (Treasurer), Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer, *ex officio*), Margaret Anderson, Judith Smart, Elizabeth Triarico, Michael Tonta, Rosalie Triolo, Nikita Vanderbyl, Carole Woods, and Peter Yule (Regional Councillor).

The Council's approved new fellowships and awards for 2024 were announced at the AGM and are listed at the back of this report.

As usual, the AGM was followed by the Weston Bate Oration delivered by Dr Fiona Gatt in the presence of Janice Bate, Weston's widow, and two of their children, James and Chris Bate. The lecture was sponsored by residual funding from the late Gordon Moffatt, who financed the first Historian in Residence, Dr Bart Ziino. Dr Gatt's title was 'The Forgotten Class? Shopkeepers of Nineteenth-century Melbourne'. Her fascinating lecture appeared in the December 2024 issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

The Council was hard working and productive in 2024, striving to enhance its governance and performance to better strengthen the Society. To these ends, RHSV Council:

- Instituted the Board Charter created in 2023;

The Council was hard working and productive in 2024, striving to enhance its governance and performance to better strengthen the Society.

- Revised most of the Terms of Reference for Standing Committees;
- Revised the Vision and Mission statements;
- Revised the RHSV's Purposes ratified by the AGM;
- Ensured compliance with the ACNC;
- Completed the new ACNC self-evaluation led by Secretary Cathy Butcher;
- Began work on a new Strategic Plan for 2025–29 led by Michael Tonta;
- Prepared with a *pro bono* Risk Consultant, Ms Dalis Law, a risk audit and action plan for the RHSV;
- Conducted a review of itself led by the President;
- Oversaw the Fund-raising Working Party 2024 EOFY Campaign;
- Celebrated the RHSV's 115th Anniversary at Government House on 22 August graciously hosted by our patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria;
- Created a Working Party to progress inclusion and diversity. The DIWP composed of Nikita Vanderbyl, Elizabeth Triarico, Margaret Anderson, Cathy Butcher, and Rosemary Cameron (*ex officio*) produced an 'Inclusive Language Style Guide', which was endorsed by Council;
- Recommenced lobbying the Minister for Planning for a long lease of the Drill Hall;
- Successfully lobbied to restore funding for the Victorian Small Grants Awards and the Victorian Community History Awards for 2024;
- Held a successful search for a new Treasurer and a new President, who were endorsed by Council in December 2024 ready for a sound handover by the 2025 AGM;
- Oversaw Council's hardworking committees throughout the year, each of which has contributed an account of its activities and achievements to this Annual Report 2024.

Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS
| Chair of RHSV Council

Collections Committee Annual Report 2024

The Collections Committee is responsible for overseeing the care of the RHSV's Collection of books, manuscripts, images, maps, and some objects acquired since 1909. It is one of the most comprehensive collections on Victorian history—second only to State Library Victoria.

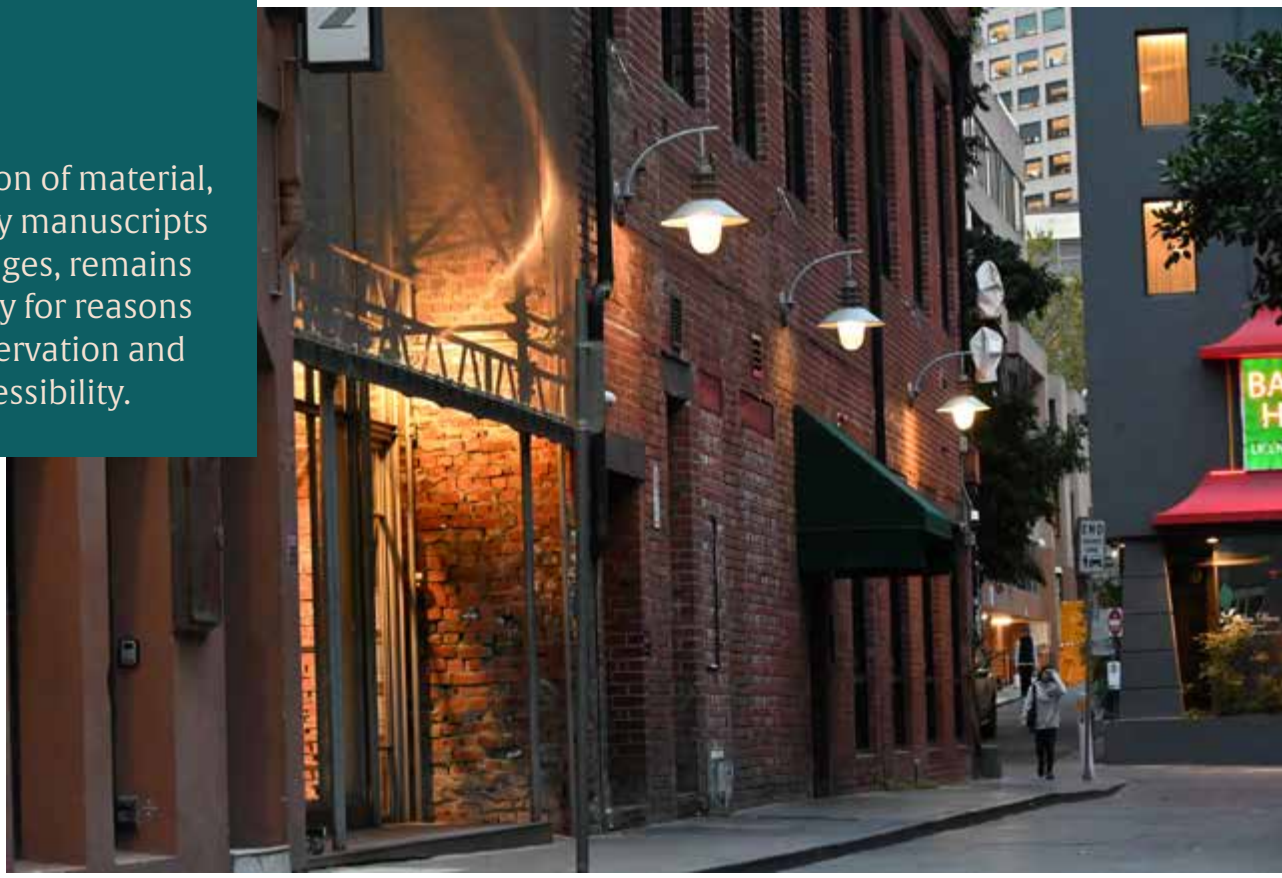
The Committee is chaired by Elisabeth Jackson, RHSV Councillor until mid-2024, and consists of the RHSV Collections staff, together with the RHSV President and Executive Officer, plus three experts in various fields. In 2024 these were Elizabeth Willis (curatorship skills), Jock Murphy (collection management skills), and Shelley Jamieson (conservator skills). Elizabeth Willis retired from the Committee at the end of 2024 after ten years of service, and we thank her for her advice and participation over this period.

We have been fortunate to receive two significant donations of material this year. Heritage consultant Alan Willingham donated his collection, which includes documents and photographs of numerous heritage studies he has completed, and Michal Tonta donated a large collection of ephemera he had amassed over many years. The Willingham collection will complement the Graeme Butler collection donated in 2023.

These collections and others received earlier require significant resources to organise and catalogue. In 2024 the RHSV annual End of Financial Year appeal was directed towards providing support for the Society's Collections operations. Money was raised to purchase an additional compactus for the Willingham collection, to catalogue the papers of feminist activist Ann Jackson, and to purchase archival materials. Chris Johnston made an additional donation to process the papers of the Save the Brickworks (Brunswick) group with which she had been closely involved.

RHSV was fortunate to receive a substantial grant from the Gidleigh Foundation, and, among other projects, this

Digitisation of material, especially manuscripts and images, remains a priority for reasons of conservation and accessibility.



will enable us to extend the employment of our archivists, Cathy Dodson and Bronte Laffin-Vines, for an extended period to work on the Willingham and Butler collections.

Digitisation of material, especially manuscripts and images, remains a priority for reasons of conservation and accessibility. Money received through the 2023 EOFY appeal has financed the setting up of a digitisation studio to facilitate the scanning of documents in various formats. Helen Stitt (Collections Officer, Images) has recruited a large team of skilled volunteers to carry out this work.

We have added more than 600 catalogue records to eHive, which is a database harvested by the National Library Trove website. We now have several thousand items catalogued there. These include records for over 2000 images with thumbnail images attached. Use of the Collection and the numbers of inquiries received have increased markedly as a result. Staff answered 650 information inquiries from members of the public.

Helen Stitt made a substantial contribution to the publication *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned* to the extent that she is credited as one of the authors. Her input involved extensive sourcing and checking of photos from the original 1994 edition and work on the new photos provided for this book.

Work has continued on identifying First Nations items in the images and manuscript collections. In some cases, these related to other states, and we have negotiated with the relevant institutions to send them there. In the case of Victorian items, we have approached the relevant First Nations communities and offered digital copies while also requesting permission to use the images and include them on eHive. As a result, we have sent digital copies of images to the Wurundjeri Corporation and an album of photographs of a property in the Northern Territory depicting First Nations workers to the Territory.

Two exhibitions were held during the year. These were an exhibition of the photographs from the *Melbourne's Lanes* book and an exhibition on the history of the Yarra River, *Yarra Birrarung,* curated by Judith Buckrich. Both included items from the RHSV Collection.

The Committee's thanks are expressed to the Collections staff—Jillian Hiscock, Helen Stitt, Cathy Dodson, and Bronte Laffin-Vines—for their dedicated work, and to the many volunteers who carry out most of the tasks involved in management of the Collection.

Elisabeth Jackson OAM, FRHSV
| Chair Collections Committee

Publications Committee Annual Report 2024

The creation and publication of works of history speaking to Victoria's past has been a central function of the RHSV since it formed in 1909. While the means and modes of delivering this role may have changed, the essence of the work remains as it was in the beginning.

The Publications Committee meets five times annually. Its core business is to oversee the production twice-yearly of the *Victorian Historical Journal* (*VHJ*) and *History News* (*HN*) six times a year. It also publishes occasional monographs. Much of this output is now delivered in both hard copy and digital formats. The Committee also awards the John Adams Prize for the best article in the *VHJ* over two years.

The *Victorian Historical Journal* is one of the most significant ways in which the RHSV fulfils its purpose of advancing culture. It is proudly published in Melbourne, a UNESCO City of Literature. The journal features both double-blind refereed academic articles and editor-reviewed shorter historical notes. It maintains a long tradition of publishing the RHSV Distinguished Lectures. The journal is listed/indexed by Scopus (Elsevier BV) and the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), both international citation indexes, and the Australian-based INFORMIT, ensuring good governance in editorial policy and behaviour, policy on plagiarism, and oversight by an editorial board. The *VHJ* is available in digital form (1911 to the present) on State Library Victoria's website, INFORMIT (1994 to the present), and issues since 2013 on our own website. More recent issues can be purchased, in both hard copy and digital format, from our bookshop.

The June 2024 and December 2024 issues combined amounted to almost 450 pages of historical research, lectures, commentary, and reviews, marking out the journal as the premier periodical devoted to Victoria's history. It is also the second oldest Australian history journal. The depth and range of its subject matter reflects the rich and changing past of our community.

The June issue included articles and notes on criminal history, urban land speculation, sport, music, and the alienation of rural land. It was crowned by the text of the third annual Billibellary lecture, in which Professor Lynette Russell AM examined a different approach to Indigenous encounters with Europeans. The December issue opened with papers delivered at the first of three Government House discussion sessions focused on the impact of the gold rush on ideas, identity, and society in

Victoria. It also noted the creation of the Victorian Hall of Fame, honouring the first tranche of distinguished contributors to understanding our past. There remained room for articles and notes on art, literature, politics, social welfare, and mines engineering. Across both issues were some nineteen reviews of recent books on Victorian history.

Towards the end of June 2024, Committee Convenor Professor Richard Broome relinquished that role as part of transitioning leadership responsibilities across the RHSV. Richard has chaired the committee with enormous energy for the past twelve years, writing in and editing its significant publications, including not just the *VHJ* but also *Melbourne's Twenty Decades*, *Remembering Melbourne*, and the substantial revision and updating of Weston Bate's 1994 book, now republished as *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned.* The impact of Richard's leadership and contribution not just on this Committee but to the RHSV more broadly cannot be overstated.

In December 2024, John Gillespie also signalled that his extraordinary contribution as a publications designer at the Society was at an end. For fifteen years from 2002, John designed almost 100 issues of *History News.* He also worked on the *Victorian Historical Journal* from 2008 and was solely responsible for the design and layout from 2013. In addition, he worked on the book *Remembering Melbourne*. Much of this work was undertaken *pro bono*. John was awarded a Distinguished Service Award in 2016, and the committee and the Society are deeply indebted to him for his remarkable contribution.

The *VHJ* fund was created in 2016 to secure the journal's future. It was initially funded from the first-edition sales of *Remembering Melbourne* and *VHJ* patrons' annual giving. In 2024, seventeen patrons gave $9,900, which pushed the fund's total to $105,828 by December 2024. Interest from this fund, together with continued patrons' giving and fees for hardcopy membership paid by a third of RHSV members, means the journal's production and postage costs are fully funded.

The *VHJ* Editorial Board, created in 2019, advises and mentors the journal's coeditors, Richard Broome and Judith Smart. In 2024 its members, drawn from universities and community history circles, were: Chair Graeme Davison AO (Monash University); Richard Broome AM (La Trobe University, President RHSV, coeditor *VHJ*); Kat Ellinghaus (La Trobe University); Katie Holmes (La Trobe University); Marian Quartly (Monash University); Andrew May (University of Melbourne); John Rickard (Monash University) [until July 2024]; Judith Smart AM (coeditor *VHJ*); Carole Woods OAM (Councillor RHSV); and Bart Ziino (Deakin University).

History News, which informs our members of upcoming events, promotes local societies' news, and discusses key issues in the practice of history in Victoria, is ably edited by Sharon Betridge. Regular copy was supplied in 2024 by John Schauble ('Books Received'); Glenda Beckley ('Around the Societies'); Charles Sowerwine (Heritage Committee); Richard Broome (President's Report); Rosalie Triolo (Historical Societies Support Committee); Bronwyn Hughes ('Windows on History'); and RHSV staff Jillian Hiscock, Helen Stitt, Rosemary Cameron, Emily Maiolo and Chelsea Pinkard.

In recent years, the Publications Committee has also been behind the publication of *Remembering Melbourne 1850–1960* (2016, 2017), and *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* (2019). In 2024, total sales for these books were 4,041 and 1,042 respectively. Even more substantial and resource intensive was the production of a completely revised, updated, and expanded version of Weston Bate's 1994 book *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*. Launched in October and double the size of the first edition and with additional authors Richard Broome, Nicole Davis, Andrew J. May, and Helen Stitt, the book was again co-published with State Library Victoria. By December, 800 copies had been sold.

The Committee along with the broader history community were saddened by the death in July of longstanding member Emeritus Professor John Rickard, FAHA, FRHSV (1935–2024), who made a learned and charming contribution to our work as a Committee member for 25 years, including a lengthy period as book reviews editor. His obituary was published in the December issue of the *VHJ*.

In 2024 the following were members of the Committee: Jill Barnard, Sharon Betridge (*History News* editor), Marilyn Bowler, Richard Broome (Chair until June, and *VHJ* coeditor), Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig (*VHJ* book reviews editor), Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard (until July 2024), John Schauble (Chair from July 2024 and 'Books Received' editor in *History News*), Judith Smart (*VHJ* coeditor), Michael Sturmfels (from August 2024), Carole Woods, and, *ex officio*, RHSV Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron. Most members of the committee have allocated tasks, and those without assist with advice and proofreading. Terri Mackenzie, our *VHJ* indexer, also attends meetings and each year works towards completing an index of one year of the journal. In 2024 she partially completed the index for 2019.

John Schauble, FRHSV
| Chair Publications Committee

Historical Societies Support Committee Annual Report 2024

The Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC) organised and staged four seminar days in 2024, two in Melbourne and two in regional areas.

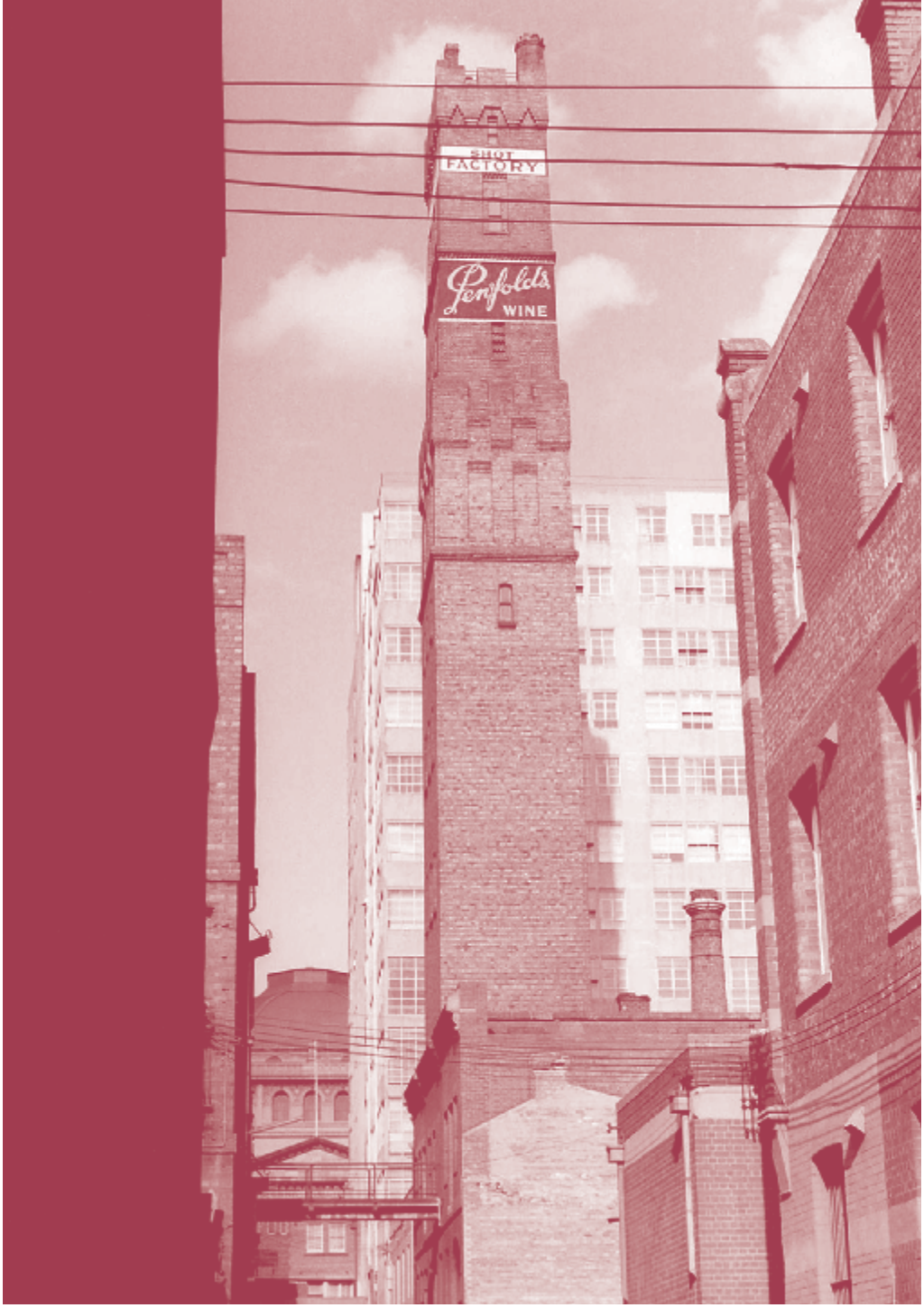
The Mortlake and District Historical Society hosted the first event for the year on 18–19 May. The theme was 'Strengthening your Historical Society', and a number of RHSV personnel—Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, Dr Rosalie Triolo, Paul Fearon, Dr Peter Yule, Rosemary Cameron, and Helen Laffin—all committed their time to travelling to South West Victoria for a weekend to give presentations. This highly successful event was the first to reverse the traditional program structure by commencing with a local tour followed by a dinner on the Saturday and the seminar day on the Sunday. Those participating felt that this altered program structure worked very well and was more 'leisurely' for those travelling considerable distances to attend. The number present on the seminar day was 46, with participants travelling from areas in South West Victoria, the Wimmera, and also from metropolitan areas. By this measure alone the event was worthwhile, reflecting the value members of regional historical societies see in such programs. This event also reminded us that a host society does not have to be a large one in a regional centre; it just needs to be centrally located in a large 'catchment area'.

The Leongatha Historical Society and the South Gippsland Historical Network hosted the second regional event on 17–18 August, the main subject matter being 'Utilising your Historical Research'. This was an ambitious and comprehensive program with presentations relating to the local area by three local historians and three more generic 'how to' presentations by Rosemary Cameron, Dr Rosalie Triolo, and me. This event reverted to the traditional format of holding the seminar program on the Saturday with a local tour on the Sunday.

In July the HSSC staged its inaugural Network Leaders Day in Melbourne. Ambitious in scope, the purpose of this event was to give leaders of networks throughout the state the opportunity to meet with and listen to others giving presentations but also to share concerns and strategies. Topics included the role of newsletters in the age of social media, building capacity and maintaining community interest, staging events, and applying for grants. While the number attending was lower than hoped for, the feedback from those present was that it had been a very worthwhile initiative.

The second event in Melbourne was held on 18 October, focusing on the theme 'Practical Strategies for a Successful, Vibrant Organisation'. Several of the addresses at the July Network Leaders Day were reprised for this event, and, again, several presenters travelled considerable distances from regional Victoria. Unlike the July event, however, this one was hybrid in delivery.

As the incoming Interim Chair of the HSSC, I would like to acknowledge formally the unstinting efforts of the outgoing Chair, Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM, FRHSV, who has steered the HSSC for the previous three years. Having worked closely with Rosalie during the past two years, I



am very conscious not only of her total commitment to the work of the HSSC but also of the support she has provided to historical societies across the state by attending events in sometimes remote areas of the West and North, and publishing a regular information and advice column in the RHSV newsletter, *History News*. Rosalie is very well known in different regions as a result of the work she has done and the lines of communication she has established during her stewardship of the HSSC. Her attendance at regional events and her occasional presentation of RHSV honours has been greatly appreciated by many. Rosalie's formal handover of the role of Chair to me was rigorous and exhaustive, reflecting her commitment to excellence and meticulous compliance with the principles of governance endorsed by the RHSV.

The HSSC comprises Glenda Beckley, George Fernando, Don Garden OAM, Graham Goulding, Pauline Hitchins, Jacque Hocking, Helen Laffin, Craige Proctor, Rosalie Triolo OAM, Jane Turton, Robyn Vincin, Peter Yule, with Richard Broome AM and Rosemary Cameron being *ex officio* members. Jane Turton and Robyn Vincin were appointed to the Committee in the course of 2024. The majority of the Committee members are from the metropolitan region, although there are several members from the Gippsland and Western Victorian regions. HSSC meetings are conducted four times a year via Zoom.

Craige Proctor | Chair, Historical Societies Support Committee

Events and Outreach Committee Annual Report 2024

Book launches, exhibition openings, talks to audiences large and small, along with our 'Distinguished Lectures Series', contributed to a crowded RHSV calendar throughout 2024. The hard work of providing refreshments, technology, hospitality, and administration was accomplished with a discreet and welcoming touch by our Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, and her small team. Their efforts are much appreciated.

Professor Lynette Russell AM returned to the RHSV in February to deliver the third 'Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture'. Lynette's topic was The View from Here: Thinking about Australian Indigenous Histories and their Future. This was preceded a week earlier by the launch of the second edition of *Aboriginal Victorians: A History Since 1800*, a major historical work written by RHSV President, Professor Richard Broome AM. Richard produced the first edition of his influential book nearly twenty years ago.

Late in February, Professor John Dewar AO, Vice Chancellor and President of La Trobe University, launched the book *Universities in Times of Crisis and Disruption* by Lorraine Ling and Kay Livingston.

In March, Dr Liz Rushen AM, a former Executive Officer of the RHSV, conducted a Curator's Tour in the closing days of the RHSV 2023–24 exhibition 'Garryowen's Melbourne'. Professor Joy Damousi AM delivered our Women's History Month Lecture on 'Women's Work is Never Done'—a discussion of women humanitarians and war child refugees in the 20th century. Later in the month Robyn Annear entertained and informed her audience with stories of 'the great orange-peel panic' and other colonial highlights from her new book, *Corners of Melbourne*.

A large crowd turned out in April to celebrate the opening of the newest RHSV exhibition, 'Melbourne's Storied Laneways'. Images and research were drawn largely from the RHSV Collection, expertly curated by David Thomson and designed by Daisy Searls. Julian O'Shea, comic storyteller and *aficionado* of Melbourne's buildings and byways, launched the exhibition. Julian was winner in the category 'Best Digital Storytelling' in the 2023 Victorian Community History Awards.

Greatly valued in our Distinguished Lecture Series are the orations to commemorate past RHSV presidents and eminent historians, the late Professors A.G.L. Shaw and

Weston Bate. The Shaw Lecture is held in conjunction with the CJ La Trobe Society, and this year was delivered by Professor Penny Edwards. Her topic was 'Anti-Slavery and Protection in Port Phillip and NSW', and she discussed what she called 'the curious colonial afterlife' of the House of Commons' 1837 Select Committee Report on Aboriginal Tribes in British Settlements. The Weston Bate Oration traditionally follows the RHSV Annual General Meeting, and as usual attracted a full house. Dr Fiona Gatt was 'Historian in Residence' at the RHSV in 2023–24, a position funded by our late benefactor, Gordon Moffatt AM. Fiona's lecture topic was 'The Forgotten Class', analysing shopkeepers in 19th-century Melbourne.

Appropriate to the lifetime work of the late Dr Hugh Anderson, Dr Ross L. Jones was guest speaker for the Hugh Anderson Lecture in August, another in our Distinguished Lecture Series. Ross, along with James Waghorne and Marcia Langton, coedited the first volume, *Truth*, in a projected multi-volume series of books with Melbourne University Press examining the 'long, complex and troubled relationship between the Indigenous people of Australia and the University of Melbourne'.

Barbara Minchinton made a big impression on readers with her 2021 book, *The Women of Little Lon*. She has followed this with her forensic biography, written with Philip Bentley, *Madame Brussels: The Life and Times of Melbourne's Most Notorious Woman*. In her lecture to the RHSV in October, Barbara outlined the avenues of research that led her and Philip to question the myths and correct the errors that have traditionally surrounded the story of Caroline Hodgson, Caroline Pohl, born Caroline Lohmar.

As in recent years, Engineering Heritage Victoria partnered with the RHSV to present a series of fascinating lectures during 2024. Ken McInnis told of the gold-rush era South Yarra Water Works Company. Matthew Churchward from Museums Victoria spoke on the timely topic of the centenary of Yallourn Power Station in the Latrobe Valley. David Beauchamp's subject was Hugh Ralston Crawford, pioneer of reinforced concrete work in Australia—but David put the question, 'Innovator or Imitator?' Another important continuing RHSV partnership is with the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network. Daryl Karp AM, Director of the Australian National Maritime Museum, was the guest lecturer, her topic 'Maritime Heritage Matters for this Vast Island Continent'.

Still the events kept coming. Among the RHSV's biggest parties of the year was the gala launch on 3 October of our own updated and revised edition of Weston Bate's *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*. This important publication and the work in bringing the new edition to fruition will be noted elsewhere in the RHSV *Annual Report 2024*. Architect and urban designer Professor Robert Adams AM launched the book.

A fictional historical footnote to the real world of Madame Brussels and of Melbourne's 19th-century laneways and back alleys came with the publication of literary critic and author Jane Sullivan's novel *Murder in Punch Lane*. In conversation with me at the RHSV, Jane discussed the freedoms and constraints of a novelist in embarking on historical fiction, especially when peopling the story with real persons. To find out whodunnit, you will need to get to the end of this enterprising story.

November saw the inauguration of an addition to the Distinguished Lecture Series, the biennial Gwenda D.M. Jones Memorial Lecture. Most of us knew her simply as Gwen Jones, a long-time member of the RHSV and in the 1980s and 1990s an active committee member of the History Institute of Victoria. Eminent historian Richard Aitken spent three years sorting, listing, and annotating what is now known as the Jones Collection after Gwen's death at age 98 in 2021. The result has been the donation of 200 ordered archive boxes of documents and realia to the RHSV Collection. Richard's lecture focused on 'an adventure with Miss Gwen Jones', featuring Gwen's study tour of England and Europe in 1953–54, as a sample of the riches of this collection.

The big year concluded with yet another full house to preview the RHSV's exhibition for 2024–25 and to launch Dr Judith Buckrich's handsome new book, *Yarra Birrarung: Artists, Writers and the River*. Judith also curated the exhibition, beautifully designed as ever by Daisy Searls. The exhibition will remain in place to delight visitors to the RHSV until July 2025. Janet Bolitho, a former Mayor of the City of Port Phillip and current President of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, eloquently launched the book and exhibition.

Many RHSV events during 2024 were made available by Zoom to those who live remotely or were otherwise unable to attend. But there is nothing like being at an RHSV event, whether a large or a small one, with the opportunity to share a refreshment, relish the exhibitions, and browse the ever-changing offerings at the RHSV Bookshop. You are always welcome.

Andrew Lemon AM, FRHSV
| Convenor

Heritage Committee Annual Report 2024

Membership

The Heritage Committee in 2024 consisted of Charles Sowerwine (Chair), Ian Wight (Co-deputy Chair), Judith Smart (Co-deputy Chair), Elisabeth Jackson, Peter Hiscock, David Lansley, Jeff Atkinson, and Madeleine Moore, the National Trust's Heritage Advocacy Advisor (Samantha Westbrooke, Executive Manager, Conservation & Advocacy, National Trust, attended when Madeleine was unavailable). RHSV Marketing Officer Sean Reynolds attended some meetings.

The Committee can have up to eight members with a ninth co-opted member. Also canvassed was the option of up to four 'community observers'—people active in community heritage, normally members of local historical societies. Work commenced during the year to find additional members, and we are pleased to report that Ray Tonkin has agreed to join us in 2025. Ray is a heritage architect who for many years was Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

Heritage Committee Activity

Victoria's heritage continued to face significant challenges during 2024, particularly from the state government's plans for the rapid expansion of dwelling construction. This poses threats to buildings and precincts of major heritage value, and the Heritage Committee has consulted with the National Trust and other heritage advocates, including Charter 29 (https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Charter-29-Planning-System-Reforms-FINAL-241115.pdf), to formulate responses aimed at minimising adverse heritage impacts, particularly from the medium- and high-rise apartment buildings proposed. During 2024, the Committee was also active in campaigns to preserve buildings of heritage significance and continued to advocate for stronger measures of protection in Victoria and nationally.

1. Changes to the Planning Framework in Victoria

On 25 September 2023, without notice or consultation, the government announced major changes to Victoria's planning system. As we noted in the 2023 Report:

> The changes to the framework are massive and will have far-reaching effects. They fast-track development proposals deemed to be of "Significant Economic Development" or "Significant Residential Development with Affordable Housing", as well as proposals conforming to certain standards and located within 800 metres of a railway station or an activity centre. These will be decided by the Minister without reference to the local council and without any avenue of appeal. The protection of heritage in this system was at best unclear.

It has become clear that the proposed changes would see much of Melbourne and many regional centres included in Activity Centre zones. More recently, these zones have been extended by a new 'Walkable Catchment Zone' (now called the 'Housing Choice and Transport Zone' [HCTZ]) in which six-storey development will be actively encouraged, and heritage and neighbourhood character will take a back seat.

In these areas, the HCTZ will replace the existing Neighbourhood Residential Zone, which has strict height controls in line with conservation objectives in the Heritage Overlay and whose stated objectives include preservation of heritage and neighbourhood character. These safeguards have been omitted from the HCTZs, thus encouraging challenges to the objectives of the Heritage Overlay in favour of any project that provides more housing.

In November 2024, Charles Sowerwine and Ian Wight set out the Heritage Committee's objections to the planning changes and the case for heritage to be an essential element of a larger and more densely populated Victoria ('Hong Kong without the View'? Victoria after the Planning Revolution', https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Hong-Kong-without-the-view.pdf). Charles Sowerwine sent a letter based on this article to historical societies and community action groups in late November with a template letter that could be adapted and sent to the Minister for Planning and Suburbs. The announcement of this action resulted in a double-page spread in the *Age* (26 November) and an interview on 3AW. The article also appeared in *History News*, December 2024.

Southern skyline from Dome deck overlooking the CBD and East Melbourne
(Photograph: Figure 33, Hansen Partners, *Review of the World Heritage Strategy Plan*, 2020)

2. Royal Exhibition Building/World Heritage Environs Area

The protection of the World Heritage Environs buffer zone around the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) and Carlton Gardens continued to be of major concern to the Heritage Committee in 2024.

2.1 1–23 Rathdowne Street

The former Cancer Council building at 1–23 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, is an extremely important site because of its location within the boundaries of the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA), the buffer zone protecting the world heritage status of the Royal Exhibition Building/Carlton Gardens (REB/CG). In 2013, the site was acquired by a developer whose most recent proposal—an 8-storey apartment block and other buildings—was rejected by the City of Melbourne in September 2023 and again by VCAT two months later. Ian Wight represented the RHSV at the hearing. Despite a 2017 order by the City of Melbourne to clean it up, nothing has been done and the graffiti-covered building continued to deteriorate in 2024.

2.2 1–9 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy

The challenge to the WHEA from the development of 1–9 Gertrude Street continued in 2024. Despite his success in a lengthy approval process (in which RHSV Heritage Committee made a substantial submission opposing the proposal for its adverse impact on the REB/CG buffer zone, including blocking views of the REB), developer Daniel Besen sold the site. The new owner applied to VCAT to change the permit from a mix of shops, an art gallery, and an apartment to 14 apartments.

2.3 Royal Exhibition Building/Carlton Gardens World Heritage Environs Area

The Heritage Committee has been involved with the Strategy Plan for the World Heritage Environs Area since 2019, when we were invited to comment as key stakeholders. The plan was finalised in June 2023 and has since remained with the Minister's office. We are assured that the delay is solely attributable to the burden of drafting new planning regulations, but we are concerned. Professor Sowerwine has written to the Minister asking for rapid conclusion and promulgation of this crucial framework for Melbourne's only World Heritage site.

3. Planned Revision of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act

The Heritage Committee continued to monitor plans by the federal Environment Minister, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, to revise the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act), which has serious implications for built and cultural, as well as natural, heritage. Charles Sowerwine wrote to the Minister on 16 May supporting 'co-designing with First Nations' the Act's coverage of cultural heritage but pointed out the Act's failure to protect post-contact heritage buildings and gardens. He urged consultation with stakeholders such as the National Trust and state historical societies. Further, he stressed the importance of a Commonwealth safety net for World Heritage sites for which the Commonwealth carries responsibility and pointed to the EPBC Act's failure to date to protect the REB/CG. No reply was received from the Minister. Charles Sowerwine also met with Monique Ryan, MHR Kooyong, on 6 June to discuss revisions to the EPBC Act. She informed him that built heritage had never been raised.

Gurrowa Place Proposal: Architects' Render
(Architecture, 'Queen Victoria Market towers approved' March 2024)

Sunshine Technical College (Photograph: Sunshine Historical Society)

4. Queen Victoria Market

The heritage and community importance of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) continued to come under threat during the year. The massive Gurrowa Place development at the southern end of the QVM is a major challenge to the visual identity and consumer appeal of the Market.

Community concern about the development triggered a process of public input but, unusually, responsibility for organising it was given to the developer, Lendlease. In December the Heritage Committee made a detailed submission highlighting a range of concerns. The submission argued that it did not enhance in any way the QVM's essential function as a metropolitan fresh produce market; it seriously reduced QVM's heritage values through the mass and height of the proposed towers and their position looming above the Franklin Street Stores, an integral part of the market; it created a physical barrier to views of the city beyond; the demolition of the existing carpark would significantly reduce market accessibility for the many shoppers who drive there; and it would irreparably damage the QVM's importance for research into the Old Melbourne Cemetery, an early colonial, multi-denominational, and Aboriginal burial ground.

5. Sunshine Technical College

The Heritage Committee contested the proposed demolition of the former Sunshine Technical College, two lovely art deco buildings. In January 2024, Heritage Victoria concluded that the two structures lacked state-level cultural heritage significance and should not be listed in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). However, the RHSV, the National Trust, Brimbank Council, and the Sunshine Historical Society all opposed this decision. Both the RHSV Heritage Committee and Brimbank Council made submissions to the Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV), underscoring the buildings' significant historical and architectural value and advocating their preservation. The RHSV, along with Sunshine & District Historical Society, supported Brimbank City Council's appearance at the subsequent hearing.

6. Bryant & May Complex

The final outcome regarding the future of the former Bryant & May industrial complex was deeply disappointing. During 2023, Heritage Victoria received a permit application for the construction of two towers—of thirteen and twelve levels respectively—on the northern half of the heritage-listed Bryant & May site between Church and Walnut streets, Cremorne. The Heritage Register states that the complex 'is a superb, largely intact Edwardian factory complex' and 'is of historical significance as evidence of the development of industry in Melbourne from the early 20th century'. Judith Smart wrote a substantial submission opposing the proposal.

On 29 November 2023 Heritage Victoria rejected the application. The Heritage Council then rejected the developers' appeal because the proposal did not 'protect and conserve the place's cultural heritage' owing to its

Bryant & May Complex (Photograph: *Wikipedia*)

Robur Tea House in 2023 (Photograph Commercial Real Estate)

impact on the site's range of structures, the 'crowding and visual domination of landmark elements', and inadequate protection of 'the significant and iconic heritage fabric'. However, the applicant requested the Minister for Planning to review the Heritage Council's decision. The Minister directed Heritage Victoria to allow construction of the towers and demolition of some non-heritage buildings, thus permanently changing the character of the site.

7. Robur Tea House

The fate of the landmark 135-year-old Robur Tea House appears decided. The Tea House has the subject of various development proposals, all of which have troubled the RHSV. The most recent proposals called for construction of seven integrated towers and buildings between three and 27 storeys surrounding the Tea House on three sides. As with the earlier proposals, the RHSV objected, emphasising the building's seminal historical importance as 'one of the few remaining traces of the industrial and warehousing establishments that until the 1970s and 1980s dominated the south bank of the Yarra'. Heritage Victoria was also unimpressed and rejected the proposal. But the developer persevered, and in June 2024 Heritage Victoria approved 'Construction of seven integrated towers and buildings ranging in height from 30 levels to 3 levels surrounding the Robur Tea Building on the north, south and west elevations, and part demolition, adaptation and conservation of the Robur Tea Building'. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

8. Buninyong Wine Barrels

A resolution of the 'sky barrel' tourist apartments appears closer. After rejection of an application to build six giant wine barrel–shaped accommodation units on Mount Buninyong, the owner of the site continued to seek approval for various types of tourist accommodation. The latest attempt sought approval for four tourist cabins (converted shipping containers) to be placed on the site on the south side of Mt Buninyong, adjacent to the one half-finished barrel. The RHSV, the Buninyong and District Historical Society, and the City of Ballarat opposed the proposal, and the owner again went to VCAT.

At a compulsory conference held on 13 October 2023, the developer submitted revised plans in an attempt to gain approval from the City of Ballarat. The Buninyong and District Historical Society opposed the new plans, which only marginally improved the original proposal. The upshot was that the applicant was requested to submit an updated Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The matter went to VCAT on 18–21 November 2024.

9. Ballarat Six-Storey Office Block on the Edge of the Lydiard Street Heritage Area

Ian Wight assisted Stuart Kelly, President of Ballarat Heritage Watch, in opposing the proposed development before VCAT and securing an expert witness, urban designer Jim Holdsworth. Stewart and Ian agreed that this was a significant threshold case that warranted Heritage Watch funding an appeal against the Council's

Proposed building at 222 Mair Street Ballarat

permit as well as an expert witness. The building's design was not the key issue—its height and incompatibility with surrounding buildings rendered an otherwise clever design inappropriate for this site. The result was disappointing, the tribunal requiring a reduction of height by just one storey over the front half of the building.

10. Other Work

10.1 Portable Buildings Task Force

Elisabeth Jackson has represented the Heritage Committee advising the Portable Buildings Task Force, which is putting together a nomination for World Heritage listing for Australia's collection of portable buildings.

10.2 Caulfield Racecourse

Charles Sowerwine worked with Anne Kilpatrick of Glen Eira Historical Society to achieve heritage protection of the public lands, but stables and other buildings on private land have been demolished.

10.3 Ballarat Railway Gates

In August, Ian Wight made a submission arguing for the restoration of the historic railway gates at the Lydiard Street crossing near Ballarat Railway Station, which had been in operation until May 2020 when they were damaged by a train. In November 2021, Heritage Victoria granted a heritage permit for mechanical, half-boom barriers connected to the older manual signalling system while a long-term solution could be explored. V/Line opted to keep the new boom gates rather than install replica heritage gates.

11. RHSV Heritage Committee in the Media

Heritage Committee members appeared in print and electronic media throughout 2024. Examples included:

- Charles Sowerwine was pictured in an article in *CBD News* (24 January 2024) about Heritage Victoria's approval of the Gurrowa Place development at the southern end of the QVM.
- The RHSV was mentioned in a profile of Mary-Lou Howie in *CBD News* (24 January 2024).
- Charles Sowerwine drew attention to threats to the buffer zone protecting the Royal Exhibition Building and surrounds in the *Age* (27 February 2024).
- Charles Sowerwine was quoted in the *Age* (6 May 2024) on the decision to turn the site of the Kilkenny Inn into a temporary park after the heritage building was gutted by fire in 2022. A 20-storey office tower behind the Kilkenny Inn façade had been approved for the site but no action had occurred since the fire: '[The development proposal] seems to overpower what is left of the façade. In some ways … when they completely overpower, you wonder if it's worth saving a façade or getting a clean modern design'.
- Charles Sowerwine was quoted in the *Age* (17 May 2024) in an article on the heritage value of the sail canopies over the service stations at the foot of the West Gate Bridge.
- Charles Sowerwine was quoted in an article in the *Age* (7 June 2024) about the fight to protect the Sunshine Technical School.
- Charles Sowerwine was quoted in *Docklands News* regarding the heritage value of Marvel Stadium (31 July 2024).
- Charles Sowerwine was pictured and quoted in an article in the *Age* on the impact of the Victorian government's plan to increase building density in designated 'suburban activity centres'. The result would be 'Hong Kong without the view', Charles said (26 November 2024).

David Lansley | Acting Chair Heritage Committee

This report was prepared by David Lansley, who in my absences undertook extensive managerial tasks, and revised by Judy Smart. I thank David for his work in this and other matters. I thank Judy Smart for this and for frequent backup. I also thank Ian Wight for representing us in a number of cases as reported above. I have read the report and made occasional changes.

Charles Sowerwine | Chair

Victorian Community History Awards Annual Report 2024

The annual awards ceremony for the Victorian Community History Awards, held on 24 March 2025 and hosted by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Record Office Victoria, was once again an eagerly awaited event in the RHSV calendar. The event brings together historians of communities, organisations, and localities from across Victoria to celebrate finished projects and to appreciate the commitment and passion of our history community. The awards ceremony marks the culmination of many weeks of judging and short-listing by expert judging teams. This year, the venue for the event was the Langham, Melbourne, and those in attendance enjoyed some dramatic views of the city.

The annual Victorian Community History Awards draw attention to the many important projects that have been completed over the year, which contribute so richly to our collective understanding of the history of Victoria and its communities. The entries ranged enormously in terms of both subject and format, the latter including podcasts, exhibitions, and other projects, as well as books. The resulting products illuminate little-known histories or revisit well-known stories and places afresh.

The judges dedicated time to the consideration of the entries before them across a range of categories. Although we are now several years beyond the pandemic, there has been no strong move to return to face-to-face judging meetings as in times of old, and meetings continued to be run efficiently online. Entries were evaluated, short lists were drawn up, and winners finally emerged. Project officer Susannah Beardsell provided logistics and cheerful support to the judging panels. As always there was some tight competition. Entries appealed for many different reasons — as a combination of sheer research grit with eloquent prose, or a captivating marriage of word and image, or courageous and intriguing stories told for the first time.

Dr Helen Doyle chaired the main judges' panel, ably supported by Dr Amanda Lourie and Professor Keir Reeves. The main panel judged the History Publication Award, the Small History Publication Award, and the Community Diversity Award. The Oral History Panel, which decided the Oral History Award (presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria), was chaired by Professor Alistair Thomson, supported by Alicia Cerreto and Jessica Ferrari. The Digital Storytelling Panel was led by Dr Jill Barnard, who was helped by Matt Millikan and Megan Sheehy. The History Article Panel was chaired by Dr Carolyn Rasmussen, with Professor David Goodman and Dr Charles Fahey assisting. The Historical Interpretation and Others Panel, chaired by Dr Jo Clyne with the support of Valerie Polley OAM and Dr Janice Newton, made determinations on four awards: the Community Diversity Award, the Collaborative Community History Award, the Small Organisation History Project Award, and the History Interpretation Award.

The highest award offered, the Victorian Premier's History Award, went to Rodney James for his book *Letters to a Critic: Alan McCulloch's World of Art*. The other prize winners are listed below:

History Publication Award — *Victoria's Earliest Porcelain Works: Art Pottery, Crockery and Insulators*, by Gregory Hill;

Small History Publication Award — *River to Bay: Victoria's Maritime History*, by Carole Wilkinson and Prue Pittock;

Oral History Award — *Women, Conscription, War*, by Alexandra Pierce;

Digital Storytelling Award—*Faces of Peace, Video Storytelling Project: Central Victoria's Peacekeepers, Peacemakers and Peacebuilders*, by Bendigo Military Museum;

History Article Award — 'A Community in Crisis: Dr Deery and the Healesville Hospital Dispute, 1961–62', by Phillip Deery for the *Victorian Historical Journal*, vol. 94, no. 2, December 2023;

Community Diversity Award — *The Pioneering Jews of the Ballaarat Goldfields*, by Keira Quinn Lockyer;

Local History Project Award — *Albert Park, Bridport St and Beyond*, by the Middle Park and Albert Park History Group;

Collaborative Community History Award — *Wallace Avenue Community Park Inverloch: A Short History*, by J.M. Anderson;

Small Organisation History Project Award — *Knowledge Is Power: A History of Yallourn Technical School 1928–1993*, by Graham Goulding;

History Interpretation Award — '"Back to School": A History of Local Schools in Heidelberg 1851–2000', by Heidelberg Historical Society.

The success of the VCHA is a testament to the passion for history across Victoria and the determination of both individuals and groups to steer their work to completion. We congratulate all those who won category awards and those who won commendations, and we further acknowledge the time and the effort given to these projects by the entrants in this year's Awards.

Helen Doyle FRHSV | Chair Victorian Community History Awards Judges' Panels

Investment Committee 4th Annual Report 2024

The Council of the RHSV created an Investment Committee in 2021 to advise on the appointment of a Financial Planner and to review their work and performance. The RHSV appointed as its financial planner the Yarra Lane Group.

The Investment Committee members for 2024 were: Daryl Hawkey, a former RHSV Councillor and investment banker; Keith Kendall, a member of the former RHSV Foundation Committee and Chair of the Accountancy Standards Board; and three members of the RHSV, the President (Chair of the Committee), Treasurer, and Executive Officer.

This Committee follows four principles advocated by the RHSV Council.

Financial Stewardship: In 2008 the Council created the RHSV Foundation to create a second RHSV fund with DGR status to sit alongside the previously created Collections Fund. Both are concerned with the sustainability of the organisation and its Collection.

Financial Prudence: In 2017 the Council invested available funds 50/50 in equities and cash respectively, mindful of the earlier RHSV holdings in Uethical.

Financial Literacy: In 2021 Marisa Broome, then Chair of the Financial Planners Association of Australia, provided Council with a Financial Philosophy and Policy document that was adapted by Council to its specific needs.

Financial Responsibility: In 2021 Council established both a Working Capital Fund (WCF) with Foundation funds and Long-Term Investment Fund (LTIF) with Collections funds.

In 2024 the Investment Committee held two meetings, on 24 April and 29 November, to consider the investment performance of our equity holdings and also of the Yarra Lane Group. The Committee expressed its satisfaction, noting in its November meeting minutes, 'the Benchmarking document supplied by Yarra Lane containing its investment performance and that of Uethical revealed that in almost all cases the investments chosen had outperformed the benchmarking indexes as listed'.

The investment returns for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 are shown below. Interest, distributions and dividends increased from $22,617 and $31,046 to $55,125 from 2022 to 2024.

Valuation of the investments improved from $-54,324 to $48,922 to $103,401 in the past three financial years, representing an overall improvement in valuation of these investments of $157,725.

The prudence of the RHSV Council's investment polices is revealed by the following figures over the years 2022–24.

Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS,
| President RHSV

	2024	2023	2022
Investments	**$**	**$**	**$**
Yarra Lane			
Investments	802,950	727,319	189,197
Cash management account	344,042	18,411	11,140
Term deposit	-	180,000	-
	1,146,992	925,730	200,337
United Ethical			
Growth fund	322,539	276,814	512,065
Cash fund			398,674
	322,539	276,814	910,738
Other			
Foundation ING	562	558	555
ANZ Online Saver	1,945	89,976	88,404
Other Minor Investments	10	-	-
	2,507	90,534	88,959
Total Investments	1,472,038	1,293,078	1,200,034
Investment Income			
Interest	12,551	4,509	567
Distributions & Dividends	55,125	31,046	22,617
Realised & Unrealised Gains /(Losses)	103,401	48,922	(54,324)
Total Investment Income	171,077	84,477	(31,140)

2024 RHSV Donors

Every year we are thrilled and heartened by the support from our members and friends. It is this glorious constancy and generosity which keeps the RHSV's heart pumping. Our growth and expansion can be sheeted home to these generous individuals, societies, foundations and companies.
Thank you.

Major Donors

Warwick Anderson
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Richard Broome
Alison Cameron
Rosemary Cameron
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Philip Young
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Chris Zissis

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RHSV Treasurer's Annual Report 2024

In the 2023 Annual Report, I expressed how 'incredibly pleasing' it was to have an increase of revenue of $200,000 since 2018 with a modest surplus of $11,644, despite various factors contributing to economic uncertainty over the previous two years. Accordingly, I probably need to step up my pleasure to 'ecstatic' as I report an increase in revenue of nearly $290,000 (with total revenue exceeding $1 million for the first time in our history) and a net surplus for the 2024 year of $173,926. This was an exceptional year of which the RHSV finance team and Council can be proud.

It can be said that some of the good fortune has come from luck, but you have to create your own luck. We were significantly buoyed by extremely generous donations and grants as well as strong performance in the financial markets. We cannot expect to see these results every year, but the time and effort spent in building relationships and establishing effective investments enables success when opportunity arises. Again, this is a consequence of the hard work and dedication of the RHSV finance team and the Council.

We cannot, however, rest on our laurels, and there are still challenges to be overcome as we continue to build on this success and further enhance the relevance and importance of the RHSV.

2024 Financial Year

As noted above, the 2024 financial year provided us with a net surplus of $173,926 (2023 surplus of $11,644). The increase in our revenue of approximately $290,000 was largely attributable to improved trading performance, generous donations, and grants received as well as the strong performance of the financial markets.

This increase in revenue was accompanied by an increase in expenditure of approximately 16 per cent above the prior year, but this was significantly less than the increase in revenue, as demonstrated by the improved financial performance for the year.

The financial position of the organisation continues to improve with the net asset position increasing to more than $3 million. This includes a rise in total investments of just over $120,000 with improvements on the cash at bank of approximately $255,000. Accordingly, our cash flow and liquidity continue to strengthen.

Foundation—Reserve

As in prior years, we continue to see growth in our Foundation Reserve, with significant improvements over the past two years in particular.

	2024 $	2023 $
Balance the start of the year	873,885	830,694
Balance at end of the year	991,334	873,885
Increase/(decrease)	117,449	43,191

Summary

As noted last year, our responsibility as a not-for-profit organisation and charity is to fulfil our purposes rather than generate surpluses. However, the surpluses are essential to ensure our future sustainability. For this reason, it is always pleasing to be able to report a surplus and thus feel confident regarding the future of the organisation.

As this is my final Annual Report/Treasurer's Report for the RHSV, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the finance team and Council, and in particular Richard Broome (President) and Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer), for their support and encouragement in the fulfilment of my role.

I wish the RHSV all the very best in its future endeavours and look forward to reading about its achievements,

Daniel Clements | Treasurer

RHSV Financial Statements 2024

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Committee's Report

The committee members submit the financial accounts of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc ("the association") for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Committee Members

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

President	Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV
Vice President	Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM FRHSV (until May 2024)
	Paul Fearon (from May 2024)
Secretary	Cathy Butcher
Treasurer	Daniel Clements
Member	Margaret Anderson
Member	Paul Fearon (until May 2024)
Member	Elisabeth Jackson OAM FRHSV (until May 2024)
Member	Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV
Member	Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine FRHSV (until May 2024)
Member	Michael Tonta (from May 2024)
Member	Elisabeth Triarico
Member	Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM FRHSV (from May 2024)
Member	Dr Nikita Vanderbyl
Member	Carole Woods OAM FRHSV
Member	Dr Peter Yule FRHSV
Ex-officio Member	Rosemary Cameron

Principal Activities

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

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The Net Income for the year ended 31 December 2024 amounted to a surplus of $173,926.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on 9 May 2025

…….

Richard Broome
President

Dated:: 9th May 2025

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement by Members of the Committee

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

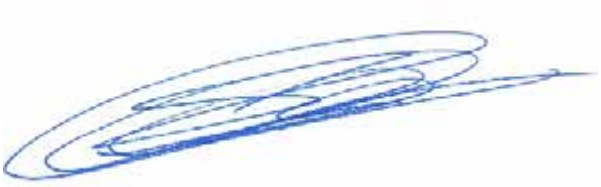
The committee of the association declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 - 12, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and;
    a. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
    b. comply with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Regulation 2022.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

.....

Richard Broome
President



.....

Daniel Clements
Treasurer (during 2024)

Dated: 9 May 2025

dfk bkm audit services

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

To the Committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2024 there have been no contraventions of:

i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and

ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

DFKBKM Audit Services

DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria

Director: Kevin P. Adams

9 May 2025

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Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue		
Research fees	15,820	20,182
Project Fees	-	15,000
Sales publications	116,594	73,682
Donations and other grants	373,133	192,285
State government grants – Creative Victoria – OIP	10,000	86,590
Annual subscriptions	95,660	90,032
Insurance – member societies	144,707	134,139
Investment income	169,653	86,005
Interest income	1,424	1,455
Other income	146,274	84,366
Total Revenue	**1,073,265**	**783,736**
Expenses		
Advertising and marketing	3,136	6,288
Accounting and auditor's review fees	28,237	27,102
Bank charges	4,637	4,631
Books	39,165	47,429
Computer and internet	18,771	16,393
Consultancy costs	15,310	10,532
Depreciation	18,387	16,419
Grants – Holsworth Fund	24,200	-
Insurance	143,770	140,073
Member support services	47,099	16,456
Occupancy costs	38,089	33,237
Postage	25,342	26,579
Printing and stationeries	15,339	9,110
Publications	24,650	21,534
Staff costs	432,355	378,459
Telephone	4,044	4,033
Other expenses	16,808	13,817
Total Expenses	**899,339**	**772,092**
Surplus for the Year	**173,926**	**11,644**
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	**173,926**	**11,644**

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	479,430	224,412
Trade and other receivables	3	23,285	33,126
Financial assets		-	180,000
Other assets	4	36,288	43,824
Total Current Assets		539,003	481,362
Non-Current Assets			
Other financial assets	5	1,125,499	1,004,133
Collections, plant and equipment	6	1,922,025	1,881,760
Total Non-Current Assets		3,047,524	2,885,893
Total Assets		**3,586,527**	**3,367,255**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	194,345	199,951
Income received in advance	8	259,383	213,260
Provisions	9	57,139	32,817
Total Current Liabilities		510,867	446,028
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	-	19,493
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	19,493
Total Liabilities		**510,867**	**465,521**
Net Assets		**3,075,660**	**2,901,734**
Equity			
Reserves	10	2,948,966	2,832,566
Retained surplus		126,694	69,168
Total Equity		**3,075,660**	**2,901,734**

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Reserves $	Retained Surplus $	Total $
Balance at 1 January 2023	**2,770,587**	**119,503**	**2,890,090**
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	11,644	11,644
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	61,979	(61,979)	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	**2,832,566**	**69,168**	**2,901,734**
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	173,926	173,926
Transfer from retained surplus to reserves	116,400	(116,400)	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	**2,948,966**	**126,694**	**3,075,660**

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		1,010,828	657,954
Government grants received		15,000	54,090
Payments to suppliers and employees		(874,193)	(793,943)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	11	151,635	(81,899)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of collections, plant and equipment		(58,652)	(17,961)
Sale / (Purchase) of financial assets		162,035	(1,808)
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		103,383	(16,153)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		**255,018**	**(98,052)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		224,412	322,464
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	2	**479,430**	**224,412**

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

Basis of Preparation

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the material accounting policy information disclosed below, which the committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise. The financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

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

The association has adopted the amendments to AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements which require only the disclosure of material accounting policy information rather than significant accounting policies.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

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

(b) Revenue

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

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

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

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

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

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

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

(c) Collections, Plan and equipment

Collections are measured on the valuation basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Depreciation

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

(d) Financial Instruments

Financial assets

Classification

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

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

Amortised cost

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

Fair value through profit or loss

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

Financial liabilities

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

(e) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	282	450
Cash at bank	479,148	223,962
	479,430	224,412
NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade receivables	14,932	2,105
Accrued income	8,353	31,021
	23,285	33,126
NOTE 4: OTHER ASSETS		
Current		
Prepayments	36,288	37,636
Inventories – at cost	-	6,188
	36,288	43,824
NOTE 5: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Non-Current		
U Ethical Growth Portfolio – at fair value	322,539	276,814
Yarra Lane Wealth - Investments - at fair value	802,950	727,319
Other Investments	10	-
	1,125,499	1,004,133
NOTE 6: COLLECTIONS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Collections – at valuation	1,841,804	1,841,804
Furniture & Fixtures – at cost	89,963	48,528
Accumulated depreciation	(25,866)	(15,440)
	64,097	33,088
Plant and equipment – at cost	42,217	31,402
Accumulated depreciation	(26,093)	(24,534)
	16,124	6,868
	1,922,025	1,881,760

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
NOTE 7: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Trade creditors	9,256	9,827
GST payables / (receivables)	(440)	(1,447)
Other payables	23,529	16,165
Funds in advance	162,000	175,406
	194,345	199,951
NOTE 8: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		
Current		
Subscriptions in advance	69,799	73,545
Insurance in advance	35,694	33,935
Grants in advance (a)	153,890	105,780
	259,383	213,260

(a) During the year a grant of $155,000 was received of which $77,500 has been allocated to specific projects in 2024 and $77,500 carried forward for specific projects in 2025.

NOTE 9: PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	33,719	32,817
Provision for Long Service Leave	23,420	-
	57,139	32,817
Non-Current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	19,493
NOTE 10: RESERVES		
Foundation	991,334	873,885
Don Gibb Reserve	10,000	11,049
Vic Historical Journal Reserve	105,828	105,828
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,841,804	1,841,804
	2,948,966	2,832,566

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.
ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
NOTE 11: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus for the Year		
Surplus for the year	173,926	11,644
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	18,387	16,419
- Unrealised gain on financial assets	(103,401)	(86,005)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	9,841	(16,064)
- decrease in other assets	7,536	8,051
- decrease in trade and other payables	(5,606)	(58,640)
- increase in income received in advance	46,123	30,377
- increase in provisions	4,829	12,319
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	151,635	(81,899)

dfk bkm audit services

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

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of material accounting policy information and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

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

DFK INTERNATIONAL
A member firm of DFK International a worldwide association of independent accounting firms and business advisers
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Directors
Cheree F Woolcock
Tim M Kelleher
Kevin P Adams

Principal
Jamin Ong

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS 1960 - 2020

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PO Box 1163, Camberwell VIC 3124

BKM Audit Services Pty Ltd
ACN 116 958 948
ABN 77 116 958 948

Conclusion

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

(a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and

(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis of Accounting

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

Other Information

The committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc's. annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's review report thereon.

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

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

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

Independence

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

DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria

Director: Kevin P. Adams

9 May 2025

Become a Member of the RHSV

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

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

To become a member complete a web-form on our website: https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/

To become a volunteer complete an expression of interest on our website: www.historyvictoria.org.au/support/become-a-volunteer

Or phone the office on +613 9326 9288.

RHSV Councillors and Staff

PATRON
Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

CIVIC PATRON
The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp AO (until 2 July 2024)

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Nicholas Reece (from 2 July 2024)

PRESIDENT
Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV

VICE PRESIDENT
Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM, FRHSV (until 28 May 2024)

Paul Fearon (from 28 May 2024)

TREASURER
Daniel Clements

SECRETARY
Cathy Butcher

COUNCILLORS
Margaret Anderson FFAHS
Paul Fearon (until 28 May 2024)
Elisabeth Jackson OAM, FRHSV (to June 2024)
Dr Judith Smart AM, FRHSV

Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS, FASSA (to June 2024)

Michael Tonta (from May 2024)
Elisabeth Triarico

Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM, FRHSV (from 28 May 2024)

Dr Nikita Vanderbyl
Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV
Dr Peter Yule FRHSV

Ex-officio
Rosemary Cameron

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Executive & Finance Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Cathy Butcher, Daniel Clements, Paul Fearon, Michael Tonta (from June 2024), Rosalie Triolo (until May 2024), *Ex-officio*: Rosemary Cameron.
Responsible for governance, financial management, strategic planning.

Collections Committee

Elisabeth Jackson (chair), Rosemary Cameron, Shelley Jamieson, Jillian Hiscock, Jock Murphy, Helen Stitt, Elizabeth Willis, *Ex-officio* Richard Broome.
Responsible for library, images, manuscripts, exhibitions and research projects.

Events and Outreach Committee

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

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

Fellows Committee

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

To meet as required under the RHSV Constitution.

Heritage Committee

Charles Sowerwine (chair), Ian Wight (co-deputy chair), Judith Smart (co-deputy chair), Jeff Atkinson, Don Garden, Peter Hiscock, Elisabeth Jackson, David Lansley, Madeleine Moore. *Ex-officio* Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron
Works to protect built and cultural heritage in Melbourne and, with local historical societies, across Victoria.

Historical Societies Support Committee

Rosalie Triolo (chair), Glenda Beckley, George Fernando, Don Garden, Graham Goulding, Pauline Hitchins, Jacque Hocking, Helen Laffin, Craige Proctor, Peter Yule. *Ex-officio* Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron

Responsible for historical societies, networking, and professional development.

Investment Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Daniel Clements, Daryl Hawkey, Keith Kendall and *ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron
Responsible for overseeing the RHSV's investments

Publications Committee

John Schauble (chair), Richard Broome, Jill Barnard, Sharon Betridge, Marilyn Bowler, Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig, Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard (until 24 July 2024), Judith Smart, Michael Sturmfels (from 14 August 2024), Carole Woods. *Ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron.
Honorary indexer: Terri Mackenzie.
Responsible for Victorian Historical Journal and *other RHSV publications.*

THE RHSV is represented on the following committees

City Precinct
Federation of Australian Historical Societies
History Council of Victoria
Joint Consultative Forum - Victorian Archives NAA
State Library User Organisations Council.

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Rosemary Cameron Full-time.

Administration Officer

Emily Maiolo Full-time (until August 2024)

Chelsea Pinkard Full-time (from September 2024)

Collections Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Jillian Hiscock
0.7 FTE

Collections Officer (Images)

Helen Stitt 0.6 FTE

Archives Manager

Cathy Dodson 0.6 FTE

Archives Officer

Bronte Laffin-Vines 0.4 FTE (from October 2024)

Marketing Co-ordinator

Sean Reynolds 0.4 FTE (until November 2024)

Bookkeeper

Kristen Adnams 0.24 FTE

Project Officers

Susannah Beardsell
Nick Speed

Johnny Yuen

Auditor

Keith P. Adams
DFK BKM Audit Services L4,
689 Burke Road, Camberwell VIC 3124

Hon. Legal Officer

Robert Heath KC Barrister
Chancery Chambers Level 25,
200 Queen St. Melbourne VIC 3000.

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living at December 2024 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below.

1967	Emeritus Prof. Geoffrey Blainey
1995	Assoc. Prof. John F. Lack
	Dr Andrew G. Lemon
1999	Assoc. Prof. Don Garden
2001	Susan Priestley
2004	Judith Bilszta
	Valda Cole
2006	Dr Mimi Colligan
2008	Dr Gary Presland
	Carole Woods
2010	Dr Peter Yule
2011	Richard Barnden
	Allan Willingham
2012	Adjunct Prof. Judith Smart
2013	Prof. Bill Russell
2014	Dr Robert Barnes
	Lenore Frost
2016	Emeritus Prof. Richard Broome
2017	Dr Dianne Reilly
2019	Dr Simon Smith
	Dr David Thompson
2020	Elisabeth Jackson
	Dr Rosalie Triolo
2021	Emeritus Prof. Charles Sowerwine
2022	Dr Cheryl Griffin
	Peter Hiscock
	Emeritus Prof. Graeme Davison
2024	Dr Helen Doyle
	John Schauble

Associate Fellows 2024

Linda Barraclough

Frank van Straten (d.19 April 2024)

Distinguished Service Award 2024

Sharon Betridge

Awards of Merit 2024

Geoff Arnott, Croydon Historical Society

Helen Boak, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Robert (Bob) Chalmers, Essendon Historical Society

Helen Curkpatrick, Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies

Graham Goulding, Leongatha Historical Society

Deidre Hawkins, Kinglake Historical Society

Anne Kilpatrick, Glen Eira Historical Society

Elaine McCallum, Birchip Historical Society.

Michael Menzies, Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies

Dr John Pardy, Sunshine Historical Society

Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award 2024

Ashley Smith

Benefactors

Professor Weston Bate OAM, FRHSV

The Estate of Doug Gunn

Gordon Moffatt AM

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE

Prof. A.G.L. Shaw AO, FAHA, FASSA, FRAHS, FRHSV

Allan Willingham FRHSV

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History 2024

Ruby Louise Oosthuizen, La Trobe University

SUPPORT

The RHSV wishes to thank the following organisations for support in 2024:

Heritage Council of Victoria

Public Record Office Victoria

Gidleigh Foundation

The Vera Moore Foundation

VOLUNTEERS

Liz Bath

Susannah Beardsell

Joel Becker OAM

Elizabeth Bernard

Julie Bevan

Helen Boak

Stephen Bollard

Madeleine Brennan

Greg Buchanan

Sharon Byers

Alison Cameron

Julia Catania

Grace Mary Colbasso

Rachel Croucher

Robin Curwen-Walker

Lynette D'Ath

Sofie Dennis

Lynne Douglas

Alison Dredge

Simon Elliston

Teresa Ellul

Susan Fitzgerald

Margaret Fleming

Nicci Foster

Sophie Fox

Michelle Fraser

Alastair Gillespie

Fiona Graham

Cheryl Griffin FRHSV

Jennifer Halat

Isabella Hanger

Ian Hazewinkel

Zoe Henderson

Leigh Henningham

Pam Herrington

Charlotte Hooper

Joanne Horsley

Kim House

Kristen Kosowski

Cindy Le

Zoe Lyons

Vicki McNamara

Chris Manchee

Matthew Michieletto

Sheeneez Mutheeu

Fiona O'Donnell

Verity Paddon

Tony Payne

Matthew Petrentsis

Katherine Pigott

Kerryn Ann Pilkington

Hazel Popp

Alan Ritter

Michael Robinson

Josie Roker

Karl Sagrabb

Ashley Smith

Adrian Stavovy

Natalie Steadson

Portia Stewart

Michael Sturmfels

David Thompson FRHSV

Carli van Eck

Hong Wagg

Tingting Wu

Max Yang

Jennifer Young

The Jessie Webb Society

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

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

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

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

Dr Gary Presland FRHSV

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

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

▶ **+613 9326 9288**
executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au
https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/support/bequests/

Donations

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

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

▶ **https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising**
https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program

CAUSEWAY
KIOSK
SMOKES
Jadeland
LOUNGE
GIFTS

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY • VICTORIA •