

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
102nd
ANNUAL REPORT 2011





The images illustrating this year's Annual Report are taken from the four exhibitions held at the RHSV during 2011.

- *Dancing the Skies*: aviation in the RHSV collections
- *All At Sea*: the maritime paintings of the late Jack Koskie
- *Everard Studley Miller*: member, historian, benefactor
- *Pioneers of Bushwalking*



ANNUAL REPORT

2011

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Royal Historical Society of Victoria Incorporated

Founded in Melbourne on 21 May 1909

With which is incorporated

The Victorian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society
of Australasia

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The RHSV is a community organisation committed to collecting, researching and sharing an understanding of the history of Victoria.

Membership of the RHSV is open to all. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join, including libraries, schools, universities, corporations and local municipalities.



Templestowe Melbourne Walking Club Excursion 1898

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I am overseas at the time of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Annual General Meeting, my President's Report for the calendar year of 2011 is necessarily brief. The year itself was full of events and achievements, covered in the report of our Executive Officer, Kate Prinsley.

I hope to return shortly, full of inspiration to allow this wonderful organisation to move robustly into its second century. Wherever I have travelled in the USA in the past few weeks I have seen for myself in another context that strong local historical societies enrich the culture of their communities. Some I have seen are wonderfully well-funded, others less so. All, like ours, depend on the knowledge and enthusiasm of volunteers and a handful of enthusiastic staff who work far beyond the call of duty.

Consequently for me, the highlight of 2011 has been the chance to thank and acknowledge volunteers. The RHSV has been able to do this formally through electing new Fellows of the RHSV (in 2011 Richard Barnden and Allan Willingham) and bestowing Merit Awards on several of our own volunteers and a number of outstanding workers in our affiliated societies. It was a great honour for me to visit several impressive local historical societies during the year, particularly

Stratford, Tatura and the Eltham and District Historical Society in my own back yard.

The RHSV also depends so much on the work of our honorary members of the Council and our sub-committees. These include the hard-working History Victoria Support Group. Four impressive temporary exhibitions were staged during 2011 in the RHSV headquarters at A'Beckett Street, some with professional help but all with tireless contribution of our team of volunteers. These exhibitions have been innovative and have attracted increasingly large audiences. We have been working hard to try to make the experience of visitors to our library and our lecture series more enjoyable for all, and have been rewarded by some outstanding lecturers and visits.

Similarly it was a huge satisfaction for the RHSV to deliver successfully, along with the Public Record Office Victoria, the Victorian Community History Awards. I can say that without the intervention of the RHSV last year, these vitally important awards would have been allowed to lapse. Our volunteer judges deserve huge thanks for their work, and I would risk singling out our honorary secretary Carole Woods (one of the judges) for special thanks in ensuring these awards not only stayed alive but grew in status and significance.

I would also like to thank Don Garden, councillor and president of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies for his advocacy for historical societies at a federal level.

Having recently lost one of our greatest friends and supporters, Professor Alan Shaw, who died just a few weeks ago, we all at the RHSV can reflect with great satisfaction on the wonderful birthday party and tribute that we held for him last November. Alan set an example to us not only as a great historian and volunteer but also as a financial benefactor. Our RHSV Foundation remains an important initiative if we are to ensure the future of this important organisation.

It is with great sadness that I also record the death of Barbara Nixon OAM FRHSV. Barbara Nixon was made a Fellow of the Society in 1982. Barbara undertook the role of Honorary Librarian for the Society and established the high standards of collections care and research services. She was also a great advocate for the RHSV volunteers.

I would like to record my thanks to our staff members in 2011. We farewelled Vicki Court after a long innings of service to the local history movement and are grateful to her for all her work in helping to bring historical societies into the computer age. Her role was filled in part, with enthusiasm and energy, by Laura Frost. Christine Cooze worked strenuously in her role as co-ordinator of volunteers and collections. Gerardine Horgan's multi-tasking work as office manager is exceptional, and Kate Prinsley as our Executive Officer somehow keeps juggling the endless challenges we throw at her.

Finally I want to acknowledge all the members of the RHSV, and make particular mention of many who support us not for personal benefit but simply because we agree that history is important.

Andrew Lemon

President



Whaler Emerald – The maritime paintings of Jack L. Koskie. Maritime Museum of Victoria



Narbethong, Melbourne Walking Club excursion Crossing the Acheron, Melbourne

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2011 was a successful year – with an increase in membership numbers, an increase in programs, an increase in the use of our collections and an increase in partnerships.

We were delighted to introduce the management of the *Victorian Community History Awards* into our annual program, building on our advocacy for the importance of local history writing and publishing in this state. We continued our support for historical societies through a number of programs, most notably the *History Victoria Support Group*, insurance, and the Local History Officer; and more widely through *History Week* which has become a significant promotional 'brand' for local history. A grass roots organization ourselves, employing only two full time and two part time staff – we continually demonstrate the commitment and professionalism of volunteers in local history - bringing to historical societies wisdom, experience, common sense and passion.

An aim of Council is to develop *History House* – a hub for history groups, and in particular, the greater sharing of interests with the Genealogy Society of Victoria (GSV). Throughout 2011 discussions were undertaken with Arts Victoria, and a working party with the GSV was established to get shared programming underway. We would like to thank Trevor Arthur, President GSV,

and his committee for our combined activities towards this aim.

As discussed in the Publications Report, 2011 marked the centenary of publishing at the RHSV. A centenary edition of the *Victorian Historical Journal* was produced, as well as the new web site launched. The website has made the management of bookings, promotion and subscriptions easier; but it has also generated many more research inquiries – the volume has at times become overwhelming. The third part of our centenary of publishing was the publication of the Society's Address Book. Beautifully designed and showcasing the collection – the address book is being purchased by members and is retailed through bookshops in Melbourne.

The RHSV was the natural partner with the Public Record Office Victoria to deliver the *Victorian Community History Awards*. With over 120 entries these awards promote and recognize the diverse ways in which local history is told throughout Victoria. As in previous years the judges were esteemed local historians and members of the RHSV. The awards resenatation was made at Parliament House in October. We would like to thank Graeme Hairsine, Assistant Director, Access Services, PROV for brokering such an effective partnership.

History Week, supported by the Vera Moore Foundation, has become a flagship program of the RHSV. In only its fourth year, the week has become a tour de force of local history throughout the state. The week generated enormous media, including radio; and we were particularly pleased that it found its place in a lot of education pages throughout the press. The RHSV was again able to undertake its banner grants for local historical societies.

An innovation this year was taking part in *Education Week* held in the third week in May. Janice Haynes from *Cape Otway Light Station* brought to life historically accurate characters who had lived at Cape Otway light station. Pitched at primary school children the program covered such themes as navigation, early settlement and technology. The week was almost fully booked. With the proposed implementation of the National Schools Curriculum in 2013, the RHSV has plans to develop a range of options to assist volunteer managed and run societies to deliver relevant schools programs

Throughout the year our Speakers Nights had mostly “full houses”. Our shared lectures with the La Trobe Society, Professional Historians Association of Victoria and The Royal Society of Victoria were highly successful. An improvement for the year was to tie in exhibition openings with Speakers Nights making the evenings even more sociable and fun. Similarly, the introduction of more lunch-time events and floor talks presented by volunteers who had worked on exhibitions encouraged more members.

We were very proud that the Her Honour The Chief Justice Marilyn Warren chose the RHSV to present her talk commemorating *170 Years of the Supreme Court* in Victoria. It was with particular delight that we were able to show her legal items from our collections, specifically our Judge Willis notebooks – the first resident judge in the District of Port Phillip.

Andrew Lemon has reported what a highlight it was to “throw” a 95th birthday party for Emeritus Professor AGL Shaw. It was wonderful that so many members attended the event and that the tributes from Professor Weston Bate, Diane Reilly, Susan Prestley, Professor Graeme Davison and Dr. Peter Yule were so perfect.

During the year the RHSV collections were the inspiration for some magnificent exhibitions, researched and produced by the expert volunteers. Firstly *Dancing the Skies* showcased our little known aeronautical material. The exhibition on *Everard Studley Miller* looked at one of our major donors of photographs to the collection. The *Pioneers of Bushwalking* exhibited many of

hand drawn maps, and annotated albums which were part of the donation from the Melbourne Walking Club in 2004. John Rose, David Thompson, Peter Hogan, Wes Callender, Richard Barnden, David Oldfield, Tony Aplin, Brian Ward and Daisy Searls are all thanked for their work on these exhibitions. Robin Butler from The Melbourne Walking Club is also thanked. It was wonderful that we were able to host the Maritime Museum of Victoria’s exhibition *The Maritime Paintings of Jack L. Koskie*, and later in the year their conference.

We are grateful to *Arts Victoria* for their continued Operational Funding. In 2010 *Arts Victoria* invited the RHSV to attend governance workshops. The full benefit of these was felt in 2011 with improved reporting and renegotiating of staff contracts.

Every day at the RHSV is busy. Members, researchers, visitors either phone, email or drop in. No day would be complete without Ged Horgan, our administrator filtering our activities. Ged manages the administration, with amazing skill and is greatly supported by volunteers Norma Mullins, Brian Watson, Liz Bath, Val Rohde, Denise Young and Margaret Connor. They are all greatly thanked.

This year The Royal Historical Society of Victoria prize for the highest mark in Australian history at La Trobe university went to Karen Parker.

It was a fantastic year – most rewarding was to see our membership increase – this could not have been achieved without the vision of our President Dr. Andrew Lemon, the RHSV committees, the volunteers and ultimately a belief that the RHSV continues to deliver valued work.

Kate Prinsley

Executive Officer



Pilot, T. W. White or White, at controls of an early bi-plane

LOCAL HISTORY OFFICER'S REPORT

In April, Vicki Court retired from the RHSV. Appointed as the first Local History Officer, Vicki developed the role to provide leadership in cataloguing and collections management, innovation in IT, and worked closely with the History Victoria Support Group in delivering practical workshops to historical societies.

Vicki was active in visiting historical societies, creating networks and was a great advocate for information sharing. She made an enormous contribution to local history in Victoria.

In August, the RHSV was delighted to appoint Laura Frost to the position. Laura brought outstanding IT skills. We are grateful to the trustees of the *Telematics Trust* that we were able to convert some of our funding towards developing a new web site. Launched to coincide with the anniversary of 100 years of publishing at the RHSV, it is clear that the website has become a useful resource for historical societies.

Laura was dynamic in introducing the RHSV to social media and its capacity to engage local historians in debates and online forums. The opportunities for social media, 'apps', and even the introduction the 'ipad' are exciting tools for local history and the RHSV looks forward to exploring their potential.

Throughout the year the RHSV answered inquiries and provided support for volunteers in historical societies. One of our main services to societies is to provide insurance and it was wonderful to be able to advocate for those societies affected by the floods at

the beginning of the year. We are also thankful for the wide-ranging practical support provided by the Public Records Office Victoria, Blue Shield and Museums Australia (Victoria) in helping historical societies over that period.

One of our flagship programs during the year is *History Week* – a showcase of local history throughout the state. This year we had almost 300 events including special lectures, walks, exhibitions and open days. Many societies report an increase in visitor attendance during that week, whilst others benefit later just from the interest raised in Victoria's local history. Once again we were able to fulfill our grants program by providing banners to local historical societies for promotion. The RHSV is extremely grateful to the *Vera Moore Foundation* for supporting *History Week*.

As mentioned in the History Victoria Support Group report the RHSV promoted the *Holsworth Trust* – a grant to support the production of local histories. Similarly, the greater involvement of the RHSV with the management of the *Victorian Community History Awards* meant a better interface between societies and the competition and an increase in the number of entries from historical societies.

The Local History Officer position is supported by a grant under the GVEHSO scheme from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The RHSV thanks them for their support.



Walking Club excursion, 1914 On the 'Crosscut Saw', a narrow ridge north

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP'S REPORT

The role of the History Victoria Support group is to support the activities of our nearly 300 affiliated societies in practical ways, by whatever means we have available.

The planning committee, consisting of local history practitioners, meets annually to plan the events for the coming year, and to discuss projects that are undertaken from time to time.

“Around the Societies”: The newsletters of our affiliated societies are perused by Jenny Coates and myself for items of interest for ‘Around the Societies’, and we also receive notice by email. This is a popular service, and demand far outstrips our capacity to provide column inches. The “My Connected Community” network operated by the Vicnet has provided another means of advertising affiliated society activities, though this will be shutting down in June 2012.

Awards of Merit are available to recognise outstanding service to societies by members of affiliated societies, and also our own RHSV volunteers. Throughout 2011 we made an effort at our seminars to promote the availability of these awards.

Banner Grants: As part of History Week, part of the funding provided by the Vera Moore Foundation was used to provide grants for banners for our affiliated societies. In the 2011 round of grants we received 58

applications, as well as further enquiries after the cut-off date, so again, this was a very popular service to our societies, though again the applications considerably outstripped the number we were able to grant by around 80%.

My Connected Community(mc2): The mc2network was used to contact affiliated societies to advise them of support available in the event of floods; to promote the FAHS newsletter; to promote the Awards of Merit; to advertise surplus display cabinets; to promote History Week; to promote the Holsworth Trust Grants; and to discuss matters of interest as they arose.

Outreach: Jane Nigro attended the SEHA regional meeting; Joan Hunt visited historical societies in her region, including Linton, Snake Valley, Buninyong and Meredith to assist them with their cataloguing; the Unlock the Past family history expo at Geelong which extended over two days was attended by myself, Jenny Coates, Vicki Court, Lorraine James, Alleyne and Ian Hockley and EO Kate Prinsley (who also made a presentation) represent the RHSV, and network with affiliated societies who also attended. Jenny Coates and myself received a visit from the Society of Australian Genealogists and showed them items from our collection. Jenny Coates represents the RHSV on the City of Greater Dandenong Cultural and Heritage Collections committee.

Seminars: The quarterly seminars run by the HVSG not only provide nuts and bolts information about managing historical societies and their collections, but also provide networking opportunities for our affiliated societies. In 2011 seminars included “Historical Societies and Ethnic Communities” at Tatura, and “Feeding the Bookworm” at Castlemaine.

Improvements to the book sales display area were made to increase book sales – this provides an outlet for affiliated societies.

Letters of Support: Both Vicki Court and myself provided letters of support for affiliated societies applying for grants.

We **farewelled Vicki Court**, our Local History Officer, after nine years supporting the activities of the RHSV. Vicki brought us from card indexing to computer cataloguing, which was a very significant undertaking for the RHSV as an organisation. Her contribution in this and other areas was considerable, and we are forever grateful to her. Vicki was thanked with an Award of Merit to recognise the additional work she did for us as a Volunteer. We subsequently advertised and interviewed for that position, and appointed Laura Frost, who commenced in August 2011.

The Holsworth Trust. The HVSG helps to administer the Trust which provides grants for publishing local history. During 2011 meetings were held with the ANZ Trustees to try and improve the application process. In 2011 five grants were awarded, to Bellarine Historical Society; Casey/ Cardinia Branch of the National Trust; Queenscliffe Historical Museum; Smythesdale Fire Brigade; and Yackandandah and District Historical Society.

Historical societies have many and varied questions that arise, and in some cases we were able to refer them to our manual which is now online. On other occasions these were referred to either the Local History Officer, or myself in the absence of an LHO.

After a new **website structure** was created by a consultant, Laura’s work was comprised transferring the content of the old website to the new one and ensuring material was easier to find, particularly our online *Guide to Managing Historical Societies*, a past project of the HVSG. The website is not only an important link to the wider community, but is used extensively by our affiliated societies seeking information. The HVSG regarded this as a priority in the period of redevelopment of the website. We are very grateful

to Laura for undertaking this process which required painstaking work to get it looking so professional. At the same time Laura started us down the path of social networking. Council determined last year that social networking was important to keep us relevant and in touch with the oncoming generation. Laura’s skill in this area has been very valuable.

The HVSG also takes responsibility for ensuring that the **Affiliated Societies Database** is kept up to date – something with which we had some difficulty while the databases were down in 2011. During the period it was available, assistance was given by HVSG member Alleyne Hockley, RHSV volunteers Cleo Lising and Liz Bath, and myself.

The members of the Committee appointed after the May 2011 AGM were myself as Convenor (Essendon), Alleyne Hockley (Castlemaine), Larina Strauch (Kyneton), Jeff Starkey (Echuca), Bernard Bolch (Walhalla), and Jane Nigro (Malvern). Vicki Court and Laura Frost occupied the position of Local History Officer, Jenny Coates as the RHSV Council representative; and Kate Prinsley attended meetings in an *ex officio* capacity.

It is my great pleasure to thank, on behalf of the RHSV Council, the people mentioned in this report for their work with the HVSG, and through that committee, the wider network of the local history movement in Victoria.

Lenore Frost

Convenor, History Victoria Support Group



Early morning bushwalker's camp

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Publications Committee is responsible to Council for the management of the Society's publications in 2011–12. Its members bring considerable expertise and experience about Victorian history and work hard to ensure the quality and attractiveness of RHSV publications.

The Publications Committee's major activity continues to be the preparation and printing of the *Victorian Historical Journal*. Marie Clark was the contents editor for the two journals produced in 2011 and she was ably assisted by Judith Smart, the former editor. Kate Jones continued in her desktop production role. Editing is a most onerous task and the Society is very fortunate to have such talented, selfless and dedicated members.

John Rickard has continued as review editor and is now rejoined by Peter Yule. Carolyn Rasmussen maintains a further contribution to reviews. Membership of the Committee has been relatively unchanged for years and the need to provide for renewal recognized. Emma Russell has recently joined the Committee.

The *Victorian Historical Journal* is published twice a year in June and November and, as a fully peer reviewed journal, it continues to attract a wide range of articles of interest to students and readers of Victorian history. In 2011, it celebrated its centenary with some special items in Volume 82 No.2.

The June 2011 issue, Volume 82 No. 1, covered a diverse range of topics: an examination of assessments of George Higinbotham's 'character' that rejects the claim that he was duplicitous in his public and private life; a study of Macedonian migration to the inner western suburbs in the post-war period; a meticulous discussion of evidence about the Mahogany Ship that concludes that it was probably two wrecks that were sighted, neither of which was the Portuguese ship so crucial to McIntyre's 1970s argument for Portuguese discovery in the 16th century; an intriguing study of the campaign in the 1920s to lower the pitch of the Melbourne Town Hall organ and the part played by Nellie Melba; and an essay that extracts much about a local Church of Christ through a study of its published cookbooks.

The November 2011 issue, Volume 82 No. 2 was not only the centenary issue of the journal with appropriate pieces from Andrew Lemon and John Lack, both previous editors, as well as a most interesting article about Alfred Deakin, one of the Society's founders, that recalled and examined an address given by Deakin in 1910 about his boyhood in Fitzroy and South Yarra. One of the additional articles establishes not only the importance of William Thwaites in the design of Melbourne's sewerage system but also how much his part has been neglected in public memory. The other

development of a new section of the journal entitled ‘Historical Notes’. It contains a study of Father Anselm/Curtis; a tribute to the late Bill Kent; and reproduction of material from the Melbourne Walking Club collection in the Society’s archives entitled ‘The Trail to Wonnangatta’ in 1936 with an introduction from the curator of the Melbourne Walking Club exhibition at the RHSV in October 2011. The committee tries to use the Society’s collection whenever possible and it is planned to print material related to future exhibitions that are drawn from the Society’s collections.

Another publication that highlights the collection is the long-awaited souvenir Address Book that was published in November 2011. Put together by members of the Publications Committee in association with the wonderful volunteers that work on the Society’s images collection, the content helps convey the story of the Society. Associated with the launch of the Address Book has been the recent exhibition, ‘“The Spirit of Time”, The early collections of the RHSV’, mounted with the active support of the Publications Committee.

As noted in previous reports, the Society also plans to publish the transcripts of Judge Willis’s court notebooks. Judge John Walpole Willis was resident judge for the judicial district of Port Phillip from 1841 to 1843 and a

combative and controversial figure in early Melbourne society. Dedicated volunteers, Harcourt Long and Michael Moore, have transcribed this priceless source, and legal historian and former judge, Paul Mullaly, has provided expert notes. As the transcripts and notes are extensive and of both general and specialist interest, it has been decided to publish them in electronic database format. This project has not yet been brought to fruition but we are hopeful for progress in 2012.

The digitization of all the copies of the *VHJ* and its earlier counterpart, the *Victorian Historical Magazine* has been completed by the State Library. The committee is involved in the massive task of gaining contributors’ copyright clearances from the mid-1950s.

Don Gibb
Acting Convenor
Publications Committee



Everard Studley Miller exhibition
c. 1950 Glynn, Kooyong Road, Toorak, residence of Studley Miller



Everard Studley Miller (1886 - 1956), c. 1920 Everard Studley

THE COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The RHSV collections are an inspiration. Divided into three collection areas – library, images and manuscript – access to these collections is continually enhanced by the knowledge of experts who volunteer their time to catalogue, index, research and develop exhibitions.

The RHSV was founded in 1909: A scheme offering free membership to those who settled in Victoria before 21 November 1856, and a 'corresponding membership' to those who would donate material or write down memoirs led to the development of the collection. The RHSV continues to collect and today it is the most significant collection of Victorian history held in non-government hands.

Of the many donations that came to the Society this year the most notable include slides of the *Antarctica Expedition* (1929-1931) funded by Sir Macpherson Robertson and an early chocolate label press – adding to our significant Macpherson Robertson collection; and the personal collection of M.A. Stratton. Within this collection are candid photographs of the Victorian Amateur Athletics Group training before and after the 1956 Olympics under the direction of Percy Cerutti. Particular thanks must go to Val Rohde for working through this latter collection.

The library collections continued to grow. Most notable accessions were the books from Victorian Community

History Awards and the library of the late Helen Broad – a great supporter of historical societies in Victoria. Guy Featherstone has been our principal cataloguer and he noted, whilst cataloguing what seemed an unremarkable edition of John Forrest's *Explorations in Australia* (1875) an inscription on the fly-leaf of a previous owner - "*Harry H. Morant, Ducabrook Station*".

The major work undertaken this year in the manuscript collection was to begin to

catalogue *The Transvaal War Album* – a scrapbook covering the Australian involvement, particularly the Victorian contingent, in the Boer War. The manuscript team of Lyndal Pascoe, Michael Moore, Margaret Ford, and Pam Herrington work assiduously to make our manuscripts accessible.

This year the collections inspired three exhibitions:

Dancing the Skies: aviation in the RHSV collections. Although the RHSV might not be considered a prime source of aeronautical history, this exhibition showed the hidden gems within our collections. The exhibition covered many aspects of aeronautical history from the earliest days of ballooning to the 1960s.

Everard Studley Miller: member historian benefactor showcased the significant collection of photographs bequeathed by Everard Studley Miller (1886 – 1956) to the RHSV.

The exhibition touched on his family background and lifestyle, explored his approach to photography, and revealed his public generosity – to the RHSV, the Classical Association of Victoria and the National Gallery of Victoria. While the exhibition drew mainly on the resources held by the RHSV, material was kindly lent by the National Gallery of Victoria, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Archaeology.

Pioneers of Bushwalking exhibited the fascinating history of the Melbourne Walking Club (formed in 1894 as the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club) and some of the remarkable achievements of its members. In 2004, the Club donated its archive of photographs, glass slides, albums, maps and ephemera to the RHSV. This collection formed the basis of an exhibition of landscapes, hand drawn maps, club magazines and beautiful annotated photographic albums of walks and horse trails. Although not a comprehensive history of bushwalking it showed the development of bushwalking in Victoria. Additional material was borrowed from the State Library of Victoria and Melbourne Walking Club members.

David Thompson, Richard Barnden, Wes Callander, Peter Hogan, John Rose, David Oldfield, Christine Cooze, Diana Phoenix, Brian Ward and Daisy Searls are all thanked for their outstanding work in developing these exhibitions.

The RHSV hosted the exhibition developed by the Maritime Museum of Victoria - *All at Sea: The maritime paintings of Jack L. Koskie*

The RHSV research services team maintained their high standards. We were frequently consulted by

researchers for the SBS program *Who Do You Think You Are?*, supported the work of academics both here and overseas, prepared loans to other museums, and answered inquiries. Site Searches – preparing site histories for companies - became increasingly expert. Chris Cooze, Jeremy Pascoe, Keith Latham, Margaret Fleming, Rochelle Bloom, Frances Arden, Ruth Permezel, Myriam Amiet Knottenbelt, Alida Sijmons, John and Sandra Torpey, Sandy Sutcliffe, Dorothy Minkoff and Brian Ward are all deeply thanked. It was wonderful that towards the end of 2011, Judith Bilszta was able to commit more time to helping us with research.

This year we began looking at our own archives. Diana Phoenix and Liz Coady began to prepare documentation on our early meeting books, many of which include the names of distinguished Victorians, and archive our exhibition records.

During the year RHSV collections team had the pleasure of being mentors to research students from the Australian history course at Deakin University, trainee library students, as well as year 10 work experience students passionate about careers in history.

I am constantly astonished by how much is achieved by such a diverse group of people who have come to the RHSV from all walks of life and are united by a passion for Victorian history. Chris Cooze is greatly thanked for the co-ordination of their work and her care of our extraordinary volunteers – without their help – our collections would never fulfill their potential.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA,
421 COLLINS STREET,
MELBOURNE.

Please enrol me as an ORDINARY MEMBER of the above Society.

I enclose the sum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence (10/6) in payment of first year's Subscription.

Name *Everard S Miller*

Address *Glynn. Boundary Rd
Toorak*

Application for Membership, Historical Society of Victoria, c. 1914



Supermarine Seagull III amphibian aircraft, the first of nine Seagulls operated by the RAAF on behalf of the RAN during the years 1926-1936, photographed in 1926 on its inaugural flight

RHSV FOUNDATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The RHSV Foundation has had another steady year. Established in 2009 to mark the RHSV Centenary, a principle purpose of the Foundation is to build financial sustainability and independence for the Society. The Foundation received a considerable initial boost when it received very generous contributions from Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Mr Gordon Moffatt AM. Since then the Foundation has received steady support from members and friends through donations and bequests. The Foundation has also conducted modest fund raising activity in the form of a wine fundraiser. As is reported elsewhere in this Annual Report, the Foundation corpus is now in excess of \$213,921.

During the year, the Foundation hosted a reception for RHSV members and supporters when it 'Welcomed Home' the restored AV Gregory painting of the Victorian Fleet (1888). This is an important item in the RHSV Collection. Restoration was made possible through application of proceeds from the first dividend from the Foundation.

The Foundation committee has adopted a policy of declaring a dividend each year from income earned. Half is reinvested to ensure the corpus continues to

grow. The other half is applied to a project or activity that supports the Collection and thus the Society. The second dividend was applied to an important upgrade to the cataloguing software attached to the collection.

The membership of the Foundation committee (a sub committee of Council) has remained constant. Professor Bill Russell, former RHSV President, is Chair. Members are Dr Rod Benjamin OAM, a former RHSV Treasurer and Mr John Hulskamp (current RHSV Treasurer) and Dr Simon Smith. Members and friends of the RHSV are encouraged to support the Foundation through gifts and bequests. Both are tax deductible.

Professor Bill Russell

Chair, Foundation Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2011

It gives me great pleasure to present the Treasurers report for the last financial year. We had an operational deficit of \$2,720 for the year, whilst not desirable, only represents 0.67% of last year's turnover.

Our financial operation are enhanced by making good use of internet banking, and we expect to have completed changes to our new web site that will incorporate online means of making payments for membership, purchases and donations. This will greatly increase our operational efficiency, and assist in attaining our projected budget surplus.

You will observe from the attached financial statements that as at 31 December 2011, Cash at Bank stood at \$203,870 a decrease of \$36,571 from the previous year. An examination of the Statement of Financial Performance, shows that the Total Expenses have increased by 27.90% for the twelve months, due largely to increased staffing costs, and expenses associated with the Community History Awards and History Week. However, this was matched by an increase of Total Income of 27.23% during the twelve months. Our income was derived from a Victorian State Government grant of \$81,736, an welcome increase of membership fees to \$59,160, from \$50,112 the year before, as well as income from research fees, room hiring and publication sales. We earned income from the Community History awards, and History week that more than covered the expenses associated with these two particular activities.

The RHSV Foundation, which was set up in 2008, as a separate Fund to ensure the future of the RHSV in years to come. The current equity of the Foundation as at 31 December 2011 sits at \$213,921. The Foundation has a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Tax Office: any donations or bequests made to the Foundation are tax deductible.

I want to thank all the staff in the office, particularly Kate Prinsley, Ged Horgan and Laura Frost, as well as Christine Cooze and the dedicated team of volunteers who all contributed to the financial result for 2011. I also thank my fellow Councilors who also contributed generously to the work of the RHSV.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to our honorary auditor, Mervyn Mallett, for his timely preparation of our financial and audit reports with his usual unfailing humour and generosity.

I feel that the RHSV is in a good financial position, despite the small operational deficits over the last two years. Our retained earnings stand at a total of \$144,851, a fall from the previous year by the operational deficit of \$2,720. Yet we have had a number of large surpluses in the years before. I can report that with careful budgeting, we aim to achieve a surplus of \$4200 this financial year. We have in place reporting processes that alert the RHSV Council of any major variances against the planned budget. However, we cannot afford to be complacent, as there are many cost pressures which will impact on our future plans and strategies.

This is my last Report, as I am standing down from Council, after four years as Treasurer. I wish the RHSV all good fortune, and may your strategies and plans come to fruition.

John Hulskamp

Treasurer

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
Statement of Financial Position
At 31st December 2011

	Note	2011	2010
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	1	203,870	240,441
Receivables	2	30,280	30,789
		234,150	271,230
 NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Furniture & Fittings	3	6,838	6,851
TOTAL ASSETS		240,988	278,081
 CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Sundry Creditors		14,795	26,157
Taxation Liabilities		(2,443)	4,946
Income in Advance	5	83,785	99,338
TOTAL LIABILITIES		96,137	130,441
 NET ASSETS		 144,851	 147,640
 EQUITY			
General Reserve		96,403	99,192
AGL Shaw Endowment		10,000	10,000
Ian Woodroffe Fund		2,000	2,000
Armstrong Bequest		36,448	36,448
TOTAL EQUITY		144,851	147,640



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
Statement of Financial Performance
for the Year Ended 31st December 2011

	2011	2010
INCOME		
Annual Subscriptions	59,160	50,112
Donations	8,028	6,657
Grants	140,653	100,646
Insurance Member Societies	51,401	42,873
Research Fees	36,533	38,399
Sales Publications	17,181	16,301
Interest Received	9,901	10,800
GVEHO Grant	5,000	-
Centenary Income	-	-
Sundry Other Income	65,152	53,743
	<hr/> 393,009	<hr/> 319,531
EXPENSES		
Advertising & Public Relations	19,074	11,082
Computer & Internet	9,331	2,239
Conferences & Seminars	-	9,866
Depreciation	6,153	4,689
Insurance Member Societies	28,217	29,983
Occupancy Costs	44,017	38,371
Postage	9,585	7,687
Printing Stationery	3,454	3,106
Staff Costs	170,656	163,038
Telephone	3,579	3,527
Sundry Other Expenses	47,918	46,396
Publications	11,283	-
History Week & Awards	42,462	-
	<hr/> 395,729	<hr/> 319,984
TOTAL EXPENSES		
	<hr/> (2,720)	<hr/> (453)
NET SURPLUS/(LOSS)		

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Notes to Statement of Financial Position At 31st December 2011

Note 1: Cash	2011	2010
Cash on Hand	33	55
Cash at Bank	203,837	240,386
	203,870	240,441
Note 2: Receivables		
Sundry Debtors	13,422	21,495
Prepayments	16,858	9,294
	30,280	30,789
Note 3: Non Current Assets		
Fixtures & Fittings	41,676	35,536
Accumulated Depreciation	(34,838)	(28,685)
	6,838	6,851
Note 4: Taxation Liabilities		
GST Payable	(4,428)	3,056
Payroll	1,985	1,890
	(2,443)	4,946
Note 5: Income in Advance		
Subscriptions	29,513	28,531
Insurance	20,075	15,295
Grants	34,197	55,512
GVEHO Grant	-	-
	83,785	99,338



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
Statement of Financial Performance
for the Year Ended 31st December 2011

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2011	2010
Receipts from Trading	368,064	356,876
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(408,327)	(371,332)
Interest Received	9,901	10,800
NET CASH PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(30,362)	(3,656)
Payment for fixed Assets	6,209	-
Net Decrease in Cash Held	(36,571)	(3,656)
Cash at Beginning of Year	240,441	244,097
CASH AT END OF YEAR	203,870	240,441

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

**Reconciliation of Cash Flows from
Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities**

Loss/Profit from Ordinary Activities	(2,720)	(453)
Depreciation of Non Current Assets	6,153	4,689
Changes in Assets & Liabilities		
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors	8,073	27,510
(Increase) Decrease in Prepayments	(7,564)	(2,077)
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities	(34,304)	(33,325)
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>(30,362)</u>	(3,656)

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
To the Members of
THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

Scope

I have audited the financial report of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc for the year ended 31st December 2011 comprising of the President and Treasurer's Declaration, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements. The Society's officers are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia, the financial position of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc as at 31st December 2011 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the financial year then ended.


MERVYN JOHN MALLET (FCA)

Dated this 25th day of March 2012.



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Certificate by President and Treasurer

To the best of our knowledge and belief, the statement of Financial Performance of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria for the twelve months ended 31st December 2011 and the Statement of Financial Position at 31st December 2011 give a true and fair view of the results of operations for the twelve months ended on that date and the state of affairs at 31st December 2011.

A.G.F. LEMON

President

J. HULSKAMP

Treasurer



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA FOUNDATION

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31st December 2011

INCOME	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Donations Received	6,000	6,903
Interest Received	14,044	10,741
Sundry Income	1,488	
Total Income	21,532	17,644
Sundry Expenses	5,581	
Net Income for the year	15,951	17,644
 Statement of Financial Position at 31st December 2011		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	43,921	33,767
Term Deposit Bendigo Bank	170,000	170,000
Total Assets	213,921	203,767
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors		5,797
Total Liabilities		5,797
Net Assets	213,921	197,970
 Equity		
Retained Income	213,921	197,970
Total Equity	213,921	197,970

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**To the members of****THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA FOUNDATION****Scope**

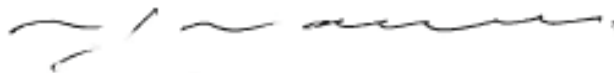
I have audited the financial report of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2011 comprising the President and Treasurers' Declaration, Income Statement, and Statement of Financial Position. The Society's officers are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the society's financial position, and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial report of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation presents fairly in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia, the financial position of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation as at 31st December 2011 and the results of its operations for the financial year then ended.

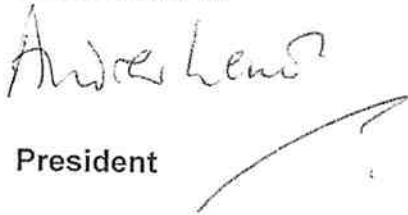
MERVYN JOHN MALLET (FCA)A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mervyn John Mallett'.**Dated this 25th day of March 2012**

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA FOUNDATION

Certificate by President and Treasurer

To the best of our knowledge and belief, the statement of Financial Performance of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation for the twelve months ended 31st December 2011 give a true and fair performance of the results of operations for the twelve months ended on that date and the state of affairs at 31st December 2011

A.G.F. LEMON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A.G.F. Lemon".

President

J. HULSKAMP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Hulskamp".

Treasurer

RHSV COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

PRESIDENT

Dr. Andrew Lemon FRHSV

VICE PRESIDENTS

Lenore Frost – Convenor History
Victoria Support Group

TREASURER

John Hulskamp

SECRETARY

Carole Woods FRHSV

COUNCILLORS

Jenny Coates

Jane Carolan

Kay Craddock

Assoc. Prof Don Garden FRHSV

Adjunct. Prof. Judith Smart

Dr. Simon Smith

Glen Turnbull

Kate Prinsley

NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS ON RHSV COMMITTEES

John Adams FRHSV
Collections and Research

Richard Barnden FRHSV
Collections and Research

Dr. Rod Benjamin OAM
Foundation Committee

Dr. Mimi Colligan FRHSV
Publications Committee

Associate Professor Don Gibb
FRHSV
Publications Committee

Kate Jones
Publications Committee

Dorothy Minkoff
Collections and Research

Dr. Richard Morton FRHSV
Publications Committee

Barbara Nixon FRHSV
Collections and Research

Carolyn Rasmussen
Publications Committee

Professor John Rickard FRHSV
Publications Committee

Professor Bill Russell
Publications Committee

Emma Russell
Publications Committee

Dr. Peter Yule FRHSV
Foundation Committee

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

Bernard Bolch

Jenny Coates (RHSV delegate)

Vicki Court (RHSV delegate –
resigned April 2011)

Lenore Frost (Convenor)

Alleyne Hockley

Jane Nigro

Geoff Starkey

Larina Strauch

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE Executive and Finance Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Carole
Woods, John Hulskamp, Lenore
Frost, Kate Prinsley and Gerardine
Horgan (non-voting): provision to
co-opt.

*Responsible for governance, financial
management, strategic planning*

Publications

Don Gibb (acting chair), Carole
Woods, Judith Smart, Kate Prinsley,
Mimi Colligan, Richard Morton,
John Rickard, Andrew Lemon; Marie
Clark (VHJ Editor), Kate Jones
(Production Editor).

*Responsible for Victorian Historical
Journal, and other RHSV publications.*

Membership, Events and Outreach

Andrew Lemon (chair), Simon Smith,
Lenore Frost, Jane Carolan, Kay
Craddock, Kate Prinsley; John Rose
(book sale committee).

*Responsible for specific events such as
conferences, lecture program, the book sale,
open house. Strategic planning for increasing
and fostering membership.*

Collections and Research

Christine Cooze (non-voting chair);
Kate Prinsley, Glen Turnbull, Jane
Carolan; co-opted RHSV members:
Richard Barnden, Barbara Nixon,
John Adams, Dorothy Minkoff.
*Responsible for library, images, manuscripts,
IT and research projects.*

History Victoria Support Group

Lenore Frost (chair), Jenny Coates,
Kate Prinsley; Don Garden as
observer. *Plus HVSG delegates as
nominated at the AGM and endorsed by
RHSV Council.*

*Responsible for historical societies,
networking, professional development.*

RHSV Foundation

Bill Russell (chair), Simon Smith,
John Hulskamp, Kate Prinsley, Rod
Benjamin.

*Responsible for promotion and development
of RHSV Foundation.*

RHSV Fellows Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Carole
Woods, Don Garden.

To meet as required under the RHSV
Constitution.

Victorian Community History Awards organising committee

Simon Smith (chair), Lenore Frost,
Carole Woods, Jenny Coates, Kate
Prinsley

*Responsible for management of Victorian
Community History Awards*

The RHSV is represented on the following committees

Federation of Australian Historical
Societies

History Council of Victoria

Heritage Victoria Intangible &
Moveable Cultural Heritage Advisory
Committee

Public Records Office of Victoria
Stakeholders Group

National Archives Melbourne
Consultative For

State Library Users Group

RHSV COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Victorian Community Heritage
Collections Network

Office of Geographic Names Anzac
Commemorative Naming Pilot
Project

City of Greater Dandenong Cultural
and Heritage Collections committee

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Kate Prinsley (Full-time)

Administrative Assistant

Gerardine Horgan (Full-time)

IT Manager/Local History Officer

Vicki Court 2 days per week (resigned
April 2011)

Laura Frost 2 days per week
(appointed August 2011)

Volunteer co-ordinator/curator

Chris Cooze 3 days per week

HONORARY POSITIONS

Hon. Legal Officer

Ashley Pelman

Hunt & Hunt

360 Collins Street

Melbourne 3000

Hon Auditor

Mervyn Mallett, FCA

Scott Partners

Level 1, 173 Burke Road

Glen Iris 3146

FELLOWS, BENEFACTORS & VOLUNTEERS

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living in December 2011 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below:

- 1967 Prof. G.N. Blainey
- 1973 Prof. A.G.L. Shaw
- 1974 H.M. Anderson
- 1975 Patricia Wilkie
- 1976 J.D. Adams
- 1977 Joyce Nicholson
- 1991 Prof. Weston Bate
- 1995 Dr John F. Lack
Dr Andrew G. Lemon
- 1997 Prof. John Rickard
- 1999 Assoc. Prof. Don Garden
- 2000 John Murphy
- 2001 Susan Priestley
- 2003 Judith Bilszta
Valda Cole
Assoc. Prof. Don Gibb
Dr. Richard Morton
Dr Mimi Colligan
John Lahey
- 2008 Joan Hunt
Dr. Gary Presland
Carole Woods
- 2010 Dr Peter Yule
- 2011 Richard Barnden
Allan Willingham

Awards of Merit 2011

- Wes Callender RHSV
- Vicki Court RHSV
- Di Foster Malvern Historical Society
- Michael Moore RHSV
- David Oldfield RHSV
- Diana Phoenix RHSV
- Wemyss Struss Stratford & District Historical Society

BeneFACTORS

- 1996 Dame Elisabeth Murdoch
Prof. A.G.L. Shaw
- 1997 Prof. Weston Bate
- 2000 Allan Willingham
Gordon Moffatt AM
- 2008 Dame Elisabeth Murdoch

Volunteers

- Lucille Andel
- Miriam Amiet-Knottenbelt
- Frances Ardern
- Tony Aplin
- Richard Barnden
- Liz Bath
- Judith Bilszta
- George Bilszta
- Rochelle Bloom
- Wesley Callender
- Liz Coady
- Jenny Connor
- Margaret Connor
- Jenny Davies
- Jill Evans
- Guy Featherstone
- Margaret Fleming
- Margaret Ford
- Virginia Fowler
- Pam Herrington
- Peter Hogan
- Charles Lewis
- Cleo Lissing

- Keith Latham
- Amanda Lourie
- Dorothy Minkoff
- Michael Moore
- Paul Mullaly
- Norma Mullins
- David Oldfield
- Jeremy Pascoe
- Lyndal Pascoe
- Ruth Permezel
- Diana Phoenix
- Valerie Rohde
- John Rose
- Daisy Searls
- Ken Sheahan
- Alida Sijmons
- Sandra Sutcliffe
- David Thompson
- John Torpey
- Sandra Torpey
- Brian Ward
- Brian Watson
- Denise Young

Thanks go to Timothy Court for his IT support

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

A participant in the Cultural Gifts Program, the RHSV also enjoys a 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 Tax Office as 'a deductible gift recipient'. This method of contributing to the maintenance of our existing marvellous collection of books, manuscripts, pictures and 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, Information Technology and the Arts.

In addition to the gift of an item or items under the Cultural Gifts Program, monetary bequests can be made to the Society as a specific sum or as a proportion of an Estate.

A solicitor should be consulted when a Will is made.



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