



ANNUAL REPORT

2015



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COVER:

- Top row: Victorian Community History Award Winners, 19 October 2015
- 2nd row: Left to right: Michael Buxton speaking at RHSV Seminar, How to Protect Local Heritage, Drill Hall, 21 March; RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews and Hon. Richard Wynne, MP, Minister for Planning, at his visit to RHSV Headquarters, 19 October; Catherine Andrews, David Robertson & Dr Toni Meath speak at the Opening of 'Nail Can to Knighthood the life of MacRobertson Macpherson' July 14. Executive Director Heritage Victoria, Dr Tim Smith, who spoke at the RHSV AGM, May 2015 with RHSV President, Don Garden.
- 3rd row: Authors, RHSV's Supreme Court History Project, Supreme Court Library, 18 February 2015;.
- Bottom row: Left to right: Maryanne Noonan and Marg Lanne open Portraits of a Tea Cosy, Drill Hall, 7 July; Joan Hunt and Geoffrey Blainey accepting Federation of Australian Historical Societies awards presented by then Governor and RHSV Patron Alex Chernov, Drill Hall, 19 February; Maddie Lewis and Eden Christian, RHSV volunteers thanks to Capacity Building Grant from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.





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President's Report

One of RHSV's most successful years ever

The RHSV had one of its most successful years in 2015, thanks to an enormous effort by our staff (Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer, Ged Horgan, Office Manager, and Dr Jodie Boyd, Collection and Volunteer Coordinator) and our volunteers at all levels.



Countertop-top or window display advertising for Cherry Ripe. RHSV Collection

First, if not foremost, through our many activities and skilled financial management we made a comfortable surplus that is being invested in equipment, staff and better services. The RHSV thanks Creative Victoria for its operational funding. In 2015 this amounted to 15% of our income.

One of the most significant contributions to our growth has been the two books that the RHSV was commissioned to produce. As reported last year, Dr Simon Smith, former Vice President, devised and managed a project for the writing of a 175th anniversary history of the Victorian Supreme Court. The writing and editing had been completed by December 2015 and the book is planned for publication in April 2016, together with a conference and exhibition.

The other book, *Remembering Melbourne*, is largely a collection of historic images of Melbourne that was commissioned by QBD Books, a Queensland-based bookshop and publisher. The RHSV is providing about half of the images and most of the text, but also invited about twenty inner metropolitan historical societies to provide images of their suburb for inclusion. Work progressed well through 2015 and is due for publication in the second half of 2016, well ahead of Christmas sales.

These two books have made a substantial contribution to the RHSV Foundation and to the work of preserving and caring for the RHSV collection. Profits from book sales will be devoted to publishing the RHSV *Journal*. Altogether, well over 100 volunteers have been involved in these projects, which is a magnificent community effort and one we are very proud of at the RHSV.

An annual comment in these reports has been the lack of security of tenure in the Drill Hall.

No solution was finalised in 2015, but all indications were that the RHSV was receiving a favourable hearing in the Planning Minister's office and that a resolution would be achieved in 2016. That will open the way to a much more confident future and enable us to devote ourselves to our principal purposes.

The RHSV is most fortunate to have a wonderful body of volunteers. Many serve as day volunteers in the Drill Hall. I give great thanks to Richard Barnden for his work in the collection and specifically for his immense contribution to *Remembering Melbourne*, and David Thompson for curating the excellent and very popular MacRobertson exhibition.

Others volunteer to serve on the Council and on its sub-committees. I have been very well supported by all Councillors: Professor Richard Broome, Vice President and Chair of the Publications Committee; Carole Woods, Honorary Secretary; Dr Robert Barnes, Treasurer and Chair of the RHSV Foundation; Elisabeth Jackson, Council Minutes Secretary and Chair of the Collections Committee; George Fernando, the Convenor of the History Victoria Support Group; Professor Chips Sowerwine, *History News* editor; Professor Judy Smart, FAHS delegate; and Dr Jane Carolan, Dr Rosalie Triolo and Dr Cheryl Griffin who are members of the Membership, Events and Outreach Committee. In the second half of 2015 Lucy Bracey resigned from Council, but we were fortunate to recruit Dr Cheryl Griffin, a long-term volunteer, and Margaret Anderson who has come from South Australia to manage the Old Treasury Building. I specially thank Dr Andrew Lemon, who is no longer a Councillor but chaired the Membership, Events and Outreach Committee and organises most lectures and many RHSV events.

I wish to give particular tribute to Catherine Andrews, our RHSV Ambassador. She has represented the RHSV in public on a number of occasions, while also ensuring that RHSV concerns have been given consideration in the corridors of power.

One of the RHSV's most important functions is to serve our affiliated societies, particularly those that are remote and have limited resources. The RHSV has been focussing on its outreach work we have sought to increase involvement with our affiliated societies through the History Victoria Support Group, the Victorian Community History Awards, History Week, a series of seminars on writing history that was excellently presented by Dr Rosalie Triolo, and our insurance services. To enhance the connection with country societies, Council agreed in December to seek a change in the Constitution to establish two Council positions specifically for non-metropolitan members.

The RHSV needs to lead by example and therefore has invested considerable expenditure and work to rebuild the Society's IT capacity by rebuilding our computer network, furthering the digitisation of the collection and by better use of social media and other contemporary technologies. Dr Jodie Boyd played a major role in this.

I thank everyone for the hard work that has given the RHSV such a vibrant and successful year.

Don Garden

President

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

RHSV increases advocacy in community discussions

The RHSV is a community based organisation committed to collecting, researching and sharing an understanding of the history and heritage of Victoria – making it accessible to all Victorians. We are an historical society in our own right – providing programs and making our nationally significant collection accessible. In addition we support historical societies by providing services, training, networking and advocacy. The RHSV is the peak body for local history in the state, and although a membership organisation – our programs are open to all.



Counter-top or window display advertising for Freddo Frogs

RHSV Collection

Throughout 2015, the RHSV energetically represented its members and local history community in the following Victorian government consultative opportunities: the review of the Heritage Act, 1995; the Victorian government's Creative Industries strategy; and VEAC (Victorian Environment and Assessment Council) draft report on historic places. The RHSV was active in responding to all these reports, raising the profile of local history in the state.

At critical times we urged our members to engage in our campaigns – most particularly the Victorian government's Local History Grants and the Victorian Community History Awards – the funding for both being under threat. These programs were subsequently continued and the RHSV thanks its members for their support.

During the year the RHSV increased its advocacy for the built environment. Council raised its moral authority by highlighting heritage protection in *History News*; supporting historical societies at a local level in heritage matters; and by including training in heritage advocacy in our seminar programs. A working committee of Council has been formed to report to Council on heritage matters and to ensure that heritage protection becomes a core value of the RHSV.

In 2015, the Drill Hall seemed to buzz with people - demonstrating the vibrancy of history in Victoria. Our speakers meetings on Tuesday evenings drew large attendances; exhibitions attracted individuals and group visits; our new signs caught the eye of passers-by; and the History Victoria book shop has become a 'destination' for the purchase of local histories.

A substantial undertaking, launched at the start of 2015, was the writing of *Judging for the People: A Social History of the Supreme Court in Victoria 1841-2016*. Commissioned by the Supreme Court – the 17 authors, RHSV Councillors and Fellows were warmly welcomed to the Supreme Court Library by The Chief Justice, The Honourable Marilyn Warren AC QC, to launch the project. Dr Simon Smith who was the initiator and editor of the book, the authors and Tracy O' Shaughnessy from Allen & Unwin are congratulated and thanked for producing such a lively and interesting history of the Supreme Court. The book has been published in April 2016.

Highlights of the year included the visit of RHSV patron, His Excellency The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, to an

afternoon tea to present Federation of Australian Historical Society awards to Professor Geoffrey Blainey and to Dr Joan Hunt; and at the same time to thank the Nixon family for their generous donation to the society in memory of their mother Barbara Nixon.

Afternoon teas were very much a theme as we welcomed members to an elegant afternoon of quality teas, fine china and beautiful cakes - one of the public programs that accompanied the exhibition 'Portraits of a Tea Cosy' – the tea cosy being a catalyst for capturing family histories. Lenore Frost and Lorraine James are thanked for this hospitable and enjoyable occasion.

In July the RHSV was packed to the rafters at the opening of the exhibition 'Nail Can to Knighthood; the life of Sir Macpherson Robertson KBE'. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support from The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School; firstly in lending material for this exhibition, but secondly for the entertaining music the student orchestra performed from the mezzanine during the opening, and to Dr Toni Meath, Principal, for speaking at the opening of the exhibition. We were also thrilled RHSV ambassador Catherine Andrews and David Robertson, grandson of Macpherson Robertson, spoke at the opening.

The exhibition opening was also an opportunity to launch our online exhibition and student resources on the Culture Victoria website. This was done in partnership with the History Teachers Association of Victoria and Jo Clyne is thanked for her work.

The RHSV has become renowned for its custodianship of its MacRobertson collection. David Thompson is particularly thanked for the professionalism with which he manages the collection and deals so graciously with the wide community interest.

A flagship program of the RHSV is History Week – a state-wide promotion of Victoria's history. The RHSV is grateful to the museums, historical societies, library services and other history-based associations that produce events for the week in October – collectively the week showcases the variety and diversity of communities and their activities in the presentation of local history. In 2015 there were 403 events during the week – an increase from 354 events in the previous year. Again this year, the RHSV was able to deliver its banner grants program. The RHSV is extremely grateful to the Vera Moore Foundation for its support of History Week.

Since 2006 the RHSV has managed the Holsworth Fund – a generous fund which supports the publication of ‘manuscript ready’ projects in non-metropolitan Victoria. In 2015 eight groups were recipients of Holsworth Local Heritage Grants: Inverleigh Historical Society, Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society, Peshurst and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society, Yarrowonga and Border CWA, Raywood Progress Association, Wonthaggi And District Historical Society, Wandong History Group, and Pyramid Hill Historical Association.

Following a successful grant from the JT Reid Charitable Trusts, the RHSV was able to present a new program called ‘Writing Local History’. It was delivered in Hamilton, Benalla, Sale and the City, the all-day workshop challenged perspectives on the presentation and interpretation of local history. Feedback from the workshops included such as comments as:

Thank you for a most entertaining, educational and enlightening workshop.

I am just realising how much inclusiveness is neglected, not only in our writing but more so in our daily lives; at home at work and in our social environment.

I am now seeing things through a different perspective, even questioning our ingrained regard and entrenched belief in our written Australian history; viz, the role our indigenous Australians played vis a vis the arrival of the first white settlers.

Councillor Dr Rosalie Triolo presented the workshops which will be completed in 2016 with the publication of a manual on Writing Local History.

The RHSV encourages and recognises outstanding service to Victoria’s history by the presentation of awards at its AGM. In 2015 Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Alleyne Hockley of Castlemaine Historical Society and David Langdon of Richmond and Burnley Historical Society. Mary Kehoe of Hotham History Group, Lyndal and Jeremy Pascoe of RHSV, and George Fernando, Camberwell Historical Society, received Awards of Merit.

During 2015, the RHSV hosted work experience students from Kew High School and mentored students from Deakin University. Clare Fisher was awarded the RHSV history prize from La Trobe University.

We took part in Open House, Rare Book Week, Melbourne Day and shared programs with the Royal Society of Victoria and the La Trobe Society. All of these events help to build our profile and increase awareness. Our guided walks to Flagstaff Gardens have grown in popularity and are enjoyed by tourists, groups and members. Our guide Chris Manchee is thanked.

After years of lobbying, it was with great excitement that in October RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews invited the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP to visit the RHSV. Minister Wynne was clearly impressed with the Drill Hall, the collection and the activities undertaken almost entirely by volunteers. We are very grateful to Catherine Andrews for organising the visit and hopeful of a good outcome for the RHSV.

The year was marked by the passing of some of our most respected members of the RHSV. Dorothy Minkoff, who began volunteering in 1988 and who became an expert site searcher, Lois Grote, Ken Sheahan and Doug Gunn whose interest in the RHSV we greatly valued, and John Adams, Councillor, FRHSV, and long-standing indexer of the *Victorian Historical Journal* – a gentle scholar whose legacy is enormous.

I would like to thank everybody who so generously gives of their time and themselves to make the RHSV a vibrant and busy organisation. In particular I would like to thank Gerardine Horgan and Richard Barnden who work so productively to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Kate Prinsley

Executive Officer

History Victoria Support Group's Report

Local history is a vast community effort delivered by volunteers for volunteers
The HVSG does a magnificent job in making this happen.



Covers of price lists for the American Candy Company RHSV Collection

The History Victoria Support Group (HVSG) is a committee of the RHSV with the objective of providing training and support to the 340 affiliated historical societies representing 15,000 volunteers (with an additional 5,000 unaffiliated volunteers) throughout the state.

In 2015 the committee comprised David Langdon from Richmond & Burnley Historical Society, Jane Nigro from Malvern Historical Society, Bernard Bolch from Walhalla Historical Society, Alleyne Hockley from Castlemaine Historical Society, Larina Strauch from Kyneton Historical Society, Craig Proctor from Mortlake & District Historical Society and Judy Richards from Stratford and District Historical Society. Cheryl Griffin from Coburg Historical Society and the RHSV joined the committee in June.

In delivering the 2015 seminar programme the HVSG identified the theme of heritage protection – developing skills to become advocates for heritage protection at a local level and the management of indigenous collections held in historical societies.

Seminars were held at the Drill Hall, Yackandandah, Yarram and Stawell. All the seminars were well attended, particularly the city based seminar with 80 people attending. The seminars were extremely productive with links created between local historical societies and regional heritage planners; and between local historical societies and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

It was heartening to receive feedback from Sandringham Historical Society that as a consequence of the seminar programme they had developed the skills and networks to nominate the Sandringham Masonic Hall for State heritage

protection; the hall has since been recommended to the Victorian Heritage Council.

The activities of the HVSG are supported by the staff at the RHSV and during the year both Kate Prinsley and Jodie Boyd provided advice on the management of historical societies – Jodie providing specific advice on website development and cataloguing.

An important service provided by the RHSV is the bulk insurance available for affiliated historical societies. The RHSV is able to supply Public Liability, Voluntary Workers, Personal Accident, Asset Protection and Association Liability insurance at an affordable price for historical societies. Gerardine Horgan expertly manages this scheme and she is thanked for her skill in delivering an excellent, cost effective and valued service for historical societies.

Providing historical societies with opportunities to promote programmes is an important aim of the RHSV. Throughout the year Helen Boak prepared the 'Around the Societies' pages for *History News* – a snapshot of the activities of at least 40 historical societies throughout the state. Chips Sowerwine, as editor of *History News*, regularly featured an historical society – showcasing their work to a wider audience.

Lenore Frost continued to promote our local history forums, which experienced a 17% increase in subscribers from 2014. Interestingly, only 20% of subscribers are members of the RHSV, thus demonstrating a general community interest in local history. Lenore also introduced the 'Drill Hall Despatch', a regular e-news for forum subscribers. Similarly, the RHSV events calendar on the RHSV website, managed by Jodie Boyd, has grown in popularity and has become a significant resource for local history activity. Both Lenore and Jodie are thanked for their work in promoting local history to the wider community.

The Victorian Local History Database is an online database, hosted by the RHSV, of records from historical societies around the state. There are now 44,000 records held in this data base and for many societies it is the only internet access to their society's catalogue.

Other programmes to support the activities of local historical societies such as the Victorian Community History Awards, Holsworth Trust and History Week are described elsewhere in this report.

Reflecting on 2015, I conclude that we view local history as a vast community effort delivered by

volunteers for volunteers. The HVSG does a magnificent job in making this happen.

I extend my thanks to all the committee, seminar presenters, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and seminar hosts.

George Fernando

Convenor, History Victoria Support Group

Publications Committee's Report

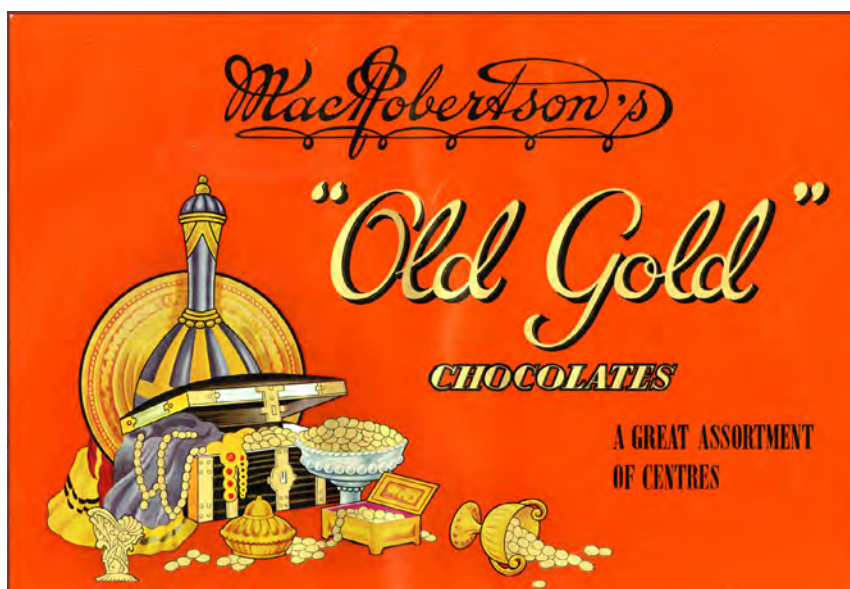
Rationale

The Committee, comprising academic and public historians, met five times in 2015 to oversee the publication of the *Victorian Historical Journal* [twice yearly] and *History News* [six times]. The *VHJ* maintains a mix between academic and member contributions and, where possible, makes use of the RHSV collections, while striving for the highest quality and scholarly standards. *History News* informs our members of upcoming events, promotes local societies and their publications, and informs members of key issues in the practice of history in Victoria.

Personnel

Our Committee has suffered significant losses and turnover in 2015. Most significant has been the loss of Dr Kate Jones, who died in her middle years, of motor neurone disease, on 13 March 2015. Dr Jones worked as layout designer for the *VHJ* until November 2014. John D. Adams who provided long and dedicated service as an RHSV Councillor (1966–2001) and *VHJ* indexer (1954–2015) passed away in September 2015.

Dr Richard Morton has retired after twenty years as a committee member and editor of the *VHJ* (1999–2005) and production editor *VHJ* (2006–2010), during which time he put the journal on a more professional and cost-effective footing by employing desk-top publishing. Professor John Rickard has ended his long term as review editor/co-editor (1999–2015), but will remain on the committee. Dr Peter Yule has also stepped down as co-review editor (2011–2015) to write *Medical Legacies of South East Asian Conflicts—Vietnam War*, an official history for the Australian War Memorial. Marilyn Bowler has also retired as editor of the *VHJ* to complete her PhD, but will remain on the committee. These periods of service are remarkable and worthy of celebration. Of special note is the writing of succinct book notes by Associate Professor Don Gibb for each issue of *History News*, amounting to over eighty books assessed each year.



Box lid for Old Gold Chocolates RHSV Collection

Major Activities

The Committee implemented the new design of the *VHJ* in 2015 with the assistance of John Gillespie. It gave the journal a smarter look. The special bumper June 2015 issue on the First World War, funded through a grant from ANZAC Centenary Community Grants, Dept. Veteran Affairs, edited by Richard Broome, Jane Carolan and Judith Smart, was well received and the December issue maintained these high standards. The Committee is following some fundraising ideas to make the journal more sustainable and less reliant on the unpredictability of grant income. The Publications and Collections Committees combined their talents during the latter part of 2015 to produce the photographic volume *Remembering Melbourne*, which will be complete by mid-2016 and published by Queensland Book Depot. The Chair of the Publications Committee also assisted Dr Simon Smith with the production of *Judging for the People: A History of the Supreme Court in Victoria* (2016).

The Committee's thanks go to the RHSV volunteers, Kate Prinsley and Ged Horgan, and John Gillespie our dedicated designer from Kiplings Business Communications, who all assist our work.

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome

Chair, Publications Committee

The Collections Committee's Report

The RHSV collection consists of more than 76,800 catalogued items which have been acquired, mainly by donations since the foundation of the Society in 1909.

The collection focusses on the history of Victoria and includes books, journals, pamphlets, ephemera, scrapbooks, manuscripts, maps and images. It is used by researchers and by Society volunteers conducting heritage reports.

The collection is managed by the Collections Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, Dr. Jodie Boyd with advice from the Collections Committee. This consists of Elisabeth Jackson, Richard Barnden, Guy Featherstone, Jillian Nicholls, Margaret Birtley and Elizabeth Willis, with Don Garden, Jodie Boyd and Kate Prinsley as ex-officio members.

During the year a number of network changes and an upgrade of the server were carried out. This improves access to the collection and provides a base for digitisation projects and enables the database to be uploaded to Trove.

Following a successful grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation a skills-based volunteering program was implemented to re-invigorate and better manage our exceptional volunteer work force. The impact of this has been improved procedures, clearly defined job descriptions and a more shared approach to our work. It also encouraged younger volunteers.

A Significance Assessment of the manuscript collection was undertaken by Emma Russell following a successful Victorian Community Heritage Grant



Box design for 'The Peacock Box' of Old Gold Chocolate (RHSV collection)

from the National Library of Australia. In 2015 we were fortunate to receive a grant for a preservation survey from the same organisation.

The recommendations included an extension of the digitisation program, promotion of the collection for research and nomination of key items for the Victorian Heritage Register. These will be acted on in 2016. Volunteer Lyndall Pascoe continued her work checking and documenting the manuscript collection.

The Society received bequests of two significant private libraries – that of A.G.L. Shaw in 2014 and John Adams in 2015. During 2015 both collections were catalogued and added to the shelves at the Society. Guy Featherstone is thanked for undertaking this enormous task. We also received a substantial donation of maps from Monash University.

Society member Ken McInnes drew our attention to a contemporary copy of Hamilton Hume's map of his 1824-5 expedition with William Hovell. The original map is lost and this is one of only three contemporary copies known to exist. The map was digitised with a copy presented to the National Library and in November Ken McInnes spoke to the Society about the expedition and the map.



Hume & Hovell Map. One of only three copies that remain.

Several items from the collection were loaned to other institutions during the year. Two Meek drawings of the goldfields went to the Art Gallery of Ballarat and the William Barak painting to the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and later to the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Projects were commenced in making our Pioneers or Early Colonists Register more accessible. This large resource for family historians was actively collected from 1917. Valerie Rohde prepared a data base of this material which is now accessible online. Valerie is greatly thanked for

her meticulous work.

Three exhibitions were held during the year. 'Postcards from the Mornington Peninsula' showed historical images of the Mornington Peninsula and was curated by six local historical societies. 'Portraits of a Tea Cosy' was a travelling exhibition and consisted of colourful knitted tea cosies by Loani Prior, photographs by Mark Crocker and family stories based around tea cosies.

The major exhibition 'Nailcan to Knighthood' was curated by David Thompson and covered the private and business life of MacPherson Robertson. It drew on the large RHSV collection as well as items borrowed from family members, Museum Victoria, the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School and the Fitzroy Library. Designed by Daisy Searls the exhibition set a new benchmark for attracting visitors to the RHSV.

All our exhibitions are the result of a team effort and Richard Barnden, John Rose, Allan Hall, Suzanne Evans and Marisa Mucic are thanked for their support.

Throughout the year Margaret Fleming managed the team of heritage research volunteers – colloquially referred to as 'site searchers'. This group industriously prepares heritage reports for sites around Victoria which might be developed and for which the RHSV is paid. Carefully researched and archived, this work records buildings and streetscapes throughout Victoria. Margaret, Jeremy Pascoe, Sandra and John Torpey and Alison Cameron, with support from Brian Ward, are greatly thanked for their hard work throughout the year.

her meticulous work.

Sadly, Wes Callender retired at the end of 2015. Wes began volunteering with the RHSV in 1997. His work is most notable in the images collection where he has prepared photographs for catalogue entries. In doing this work Wes has become an expert in the images collection and an expert in dating photographs and identifying photographs of Melbourne. Roughly 54,000 images are in the RHSV data base – much of this work and certainly the detail of the catalogue entry is a direct result of Wes' work. He has been such a valued member of our team and we wish him well in his retirement.

Collections volunteers made a substantial contribution to the RHSV's book *Remembering Melbourne* which will be published by Queensland Book Depot in 2016. The book will consist of about 800 images of Melbourne and inner suburbs from 1850-1960. Suburban historical societies have contributed almost half of these with most of the remainder selected from the RHSV Collection. Richard Barnden has undertaken the massive task of finding and checking the images from which a committee makes the selection and Elisabeth Jackson has been coordinating the writing of captions. The book will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Society's large collection of Melbourne images.

Elisabeth Jackson

Chair, Collections Committee

Membership, Events & Outreach Committee's Report

The strategy of the Membership, Events and Outreach committee during 2015 was to ensure that RHSV Members, the core of the Society, receive value for membership. That is essential before we turn to the next priority, building our membership.



'Portraits of a Tea Cosy' Gone Feral by Loani Prior Image Mark Crocker

RHSV Members take satisfaction in knowing that with their annual subscriptions they are helping keep afloat a strong voluntary movement throughout Victoria dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and celebration of our history. But it is also good to know that RHSV Members enjoy benefits from their membership.

This year saw upgrades to the quality of our communications with improvements to our website, the flagship *Victorian Historical Journal*, our periodical *History News* and social media. Members now receive email reminders of events, and our events in 2015 were uniformly well attended. For their annual membership, Members are entitled to attend all evening and lunchtime lectures and exhibition openings. They enjoy discounts for special events where charges apply. Members enjoy free use of our Library at 239 A'Beckett Street during office hours. A successful innovation has been our exclusive Members Only preview ahead of the annual Book

Sale, now concentrated on our strength – History. Committee members Lenore Frost and Jane Carolan masterminded the 2015 Book Sale and a very successful return to the Melbourne Open House scheme in winter. Hundreds of visitors came through the building.

Driven by the enthusiasm of Maree Coote, the committee has taken the first steps to a long-held ambition to improve external signage on our building in sympathy with its heritage status. Our aim is to make the RHSV headquarters an inviting, attractive destination for visitors and Members.

Andrew Lemon

Chair, Membership Events & Outreach Committee

Our speakers' and events programme for the year was wonderfully diverse. It featured:

FEBRUARY:

Journalist Iola Matthews on the writing of family history, and on her own history of the pioneer Hack family.

An afternoon tea reception on 24 February for patron the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Alex Chernov, to present Fellowship of Australian Historical Association awards to Joan Hunt and Prof. Geoffrey Blainey; and to thank the Nixon family for their very generous donation in honour of their late mother Barbara Nixon OAM FRHSV. The RHSV hon. secretary Carole Woods paid tribute to Barbara, hon. RHSV librarian for more than forty years.

MARCH:

Susanna de Vries, professional author from Queensland, on Anzac Nurses in the First World War, as we approached the centenary of the Gallipoli landings.

APRIL:

Art director of the *Miss Fisher Murders*, Mr Robbie Perkins on research and authenticity in historical films and television series.

MAY:

Age Journalist Tim Colebatch, a lunchtime talk on his biography of former Victorian Premier, Dick (Sir Rupert) Hamer.

Tim Smith, head of Heritage Victoria, at the AGM, on his personal search for the sunken Australian AE2 submarine in the Dardanelles.

JUNE:

Dr Madonna Grehan on the registration of births, deaths and marriages in La Trobe's Port Phillip. This was the A.G.L. Shaw Lecture, jointly presented with the C.J. La Trobe Society.

JULY:

Our annual 'emerging historians' series, with the Professional Historians Association. Minna Muhlen-Schulte on the complexities of German-Australian relations in and after the Second World War; and Dr David Harris on representations of the Gippsland Lakes.

For Melbourne Rare Books Week, Dr Emma Russell on the manuscript treasures of the RHSV.

AUGUST:

Annual combined lecture with the Royal Society of Victoria: distinguished geneticist Prof. Jenny Graves on her role in the rapidly evolving history of genetics.

Our annual Melbourne Day lecture: Dr Rod Giblett on an international perspective to the history of Melbourne's wetlands.

SEPTEMBER:

A symposium 'Evening with Sir Macpherson Robertson' marking the RHSV Exhibition, 'Nail Can to Knighthood'. Speakers included the committee's David Thompson, Dr John Lack, Margaret Atkins (vice principal, MacRobertson Girls' High School) and Jacqui Donegan from ANU.

OCTOBER:

Dr Shurlee Swain, guest speaker at the annual Victorian Community History Awards.

At the October monthly lecture: Vicki Shuttleworth of the National Trust, Victoria, on her innovative social history of the heritage property Labassa.

NOVEMBER:

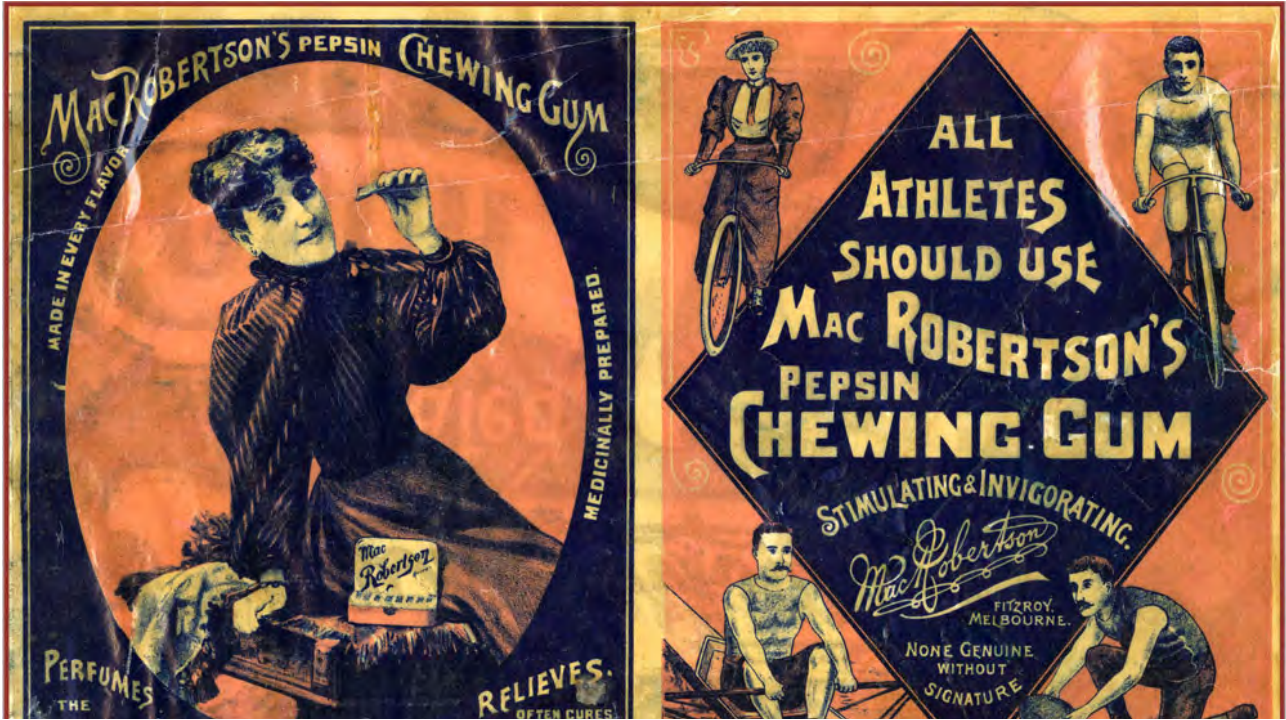
Dr Alan Gregory on Australian cricket legend and Melbourne High School principal, Bill Woodfull.

Instigated by Rosalie Triolo and Lucy Bracey, the committee organised the RHSV's first ever Trivia Night in March, with Andrew Lemon as master of ceremonies, taking seventy participants through their paces on things Victorian and Victoriana.

Dr Cheryl Griffin joined the committee during the year to replace Lucy Bracey. We owe particular thanks to the practical and technical assistance of Dr Jodie Boyd (Collections and Volunteers Co-ordinator at the RHSV), who ensured that talks were recorded for podcast on our website. Volunteer Lorraine James was invaluable throughout the year presiding over impeccable hospitality at all our in-house events.

History Victoria Bookshop & Annual Book Fair Report

The bookshop enables us to provide a service to our members and affiliated societies in assisting them to publicise and sell their books.



Advertisement for Pepsin Chewing gum featuring female cyclists (RHSV Collection)

The History Victoria Bookshop commenced operations in October 2014. Since that time we have found that most book sales are over-the-counter, but about 25% of sales are via PayPal. Purchases via PayPal are much less labour intensive. Over-the-counter sales require a paper order to be completed with the details of the sale, then the order raised on the bookshop so that stock on hand is adjusted and patrons can see if a particular book is on the shelf. Because of the high cost of postage it is common for the internet purchasers to select the option of coming in and picking up the book for which they have paid.

The bookshop enables us to provide a service to our members and affiliated societies in assisting them to publicise and sell their books. We send out an invitation each year to participants in the Victorian Community History Awards to send us copies of their books to sell in the History Victoria Bookshop. We run a specialist service in Victorian History, and sales are growing steadily.

In anticipation of an influx of books in October from the 2015 Community History Awards, the bookshop

display area was expanded with an additional set of bookshelves.

To continue the celebrations from the Victorian Community History Awards we have held two bookshop events in History Week. On the book event days we make all the VCHA entries available to be examined. The aim of the bookshop event is to promote our bookshop and our authors as part of our History Week celebrations. In 2014 the event was the launch of the History Victoria Bookshop on the Friday following the VCHA; and in 2015 we held a first birthday event for the bookshop. For each event we invited a winner of the VCHA to make a short address, and had another short address from a member of RHSV Council. In 2015 the guest speaker was Anne Vale, whom we invited to talk about her experiences after winning the award, and what she had learnt about selling her own book. We also invited Lucy Sussex who had not been present on the day of the awards presentation to receive her award. Lucy also made some useful remarks about her experiences publishing through publishing companies. Both days were very interesting, informative and good fun.



Top Ten Sellers, 2015

Crime in the Port Phillip District, 1835-51

By Paul R Mullaly

Barristers Solicitors Pettifoggers: Profiles in Australian Colonial Legal history

By Simon Smith

Poor Souls, They Perished – The Cataraqui, Australia’s Worst Shipwreck

By Andrew Lemon & Marjorie Morgan

A Way With the Fairies: The Lost Story of Sculptor Ola Cohn

By Barbara Lemon

Powelltown Tramway Centenary 1913-2013

By Mike McCarthy & Frank Stamford

Settlers and Sawmillers: a History of West Gippsland tramways and the industries they served

By Mike McCarthy

My Railway Days: a Photographic Journey with John Dare

Blockbuster! Fergus Hume and the Mystery of a Hansom Cab

By Lucy Sussex

Norwood: It Changed the Face of Melbourne

By Roland Johnson

The Golden Harvest: a History of Wedderburn

By Geoff Arnott and Keith Ring

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

In the years 2011 to 2013 the Annual book sale was held on a Sunday. The plummet in the profits in 2013 reflected a general downturn in book sales in the wider community. New and second-hand bookshops had closed in large numbers. The dealers who used to attend the sale did not come in 2013.

In 2014 several changes were made. We moved the main book sale to a Saturday; introduced a Members’ Preview night on the previous Thursday evening; and made it a ‘history books only’ sale. This latter was because the books on general subjects did not sell at all, leaving us with a significant problem in disposing of unsold books.

Another factor in the dramatic improvement to sales in 2014 was the very generous donation by his beneficiaries of the library of the late Professor AGL Shaw; and likewise the good sales in 2015 were ensured by a further generous donation by John Adams, FRHSV, plus the residue of the Shaw donation. It had been agreed with the donors of these collections that duplicates of volumes already held in the RHSV library could be sold to support the RHSV.

The members’ nights have been well attended and the sales on those nights do not fall very short of the sales on the Saturday. The 2015 takings on the Members’ Preview night were \$3602, on the Saturday public day \$4563, and for the week following the sale when the books were left in the exhibition area, \$535 for a total turnover of \$8700, less expenses.

Donations of history books have been well supported by our members, and large numbers of our volunteers were dragooned into getting ready for the two sales – too many of them to mention here, but they were all thanked personally at the time. The help is greatly appreciated and the profits contribute a good solid sum of untied money enabling us to inject substantial money into such things as IT upgrades. It is hard work, but there are appreciable benefits for the society.

Lenore Frost

Manager, History Victoria Bookshop

The Victorian Community History Awards Judges' Report

The record number of entries in 2015, 202, was more than double that of the first year of the VCHA. As usual, entries were overwhelmingly self-published and the overall standard was high.



Lady with MacRoberston hat (RHSV Collection)

Themes apparent in the early years of the Victorian Community History Awards (VCHA) recurred in 2015. Information Victoria, a former state government agency, founded the competition in 1997 and administered it until 2010. The RHSV in conjunction with the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) assumed responsibility the following year; 2015 marked the fifth year of this constructive partnership. The competition has revealed a vast reservoir of interest in community history throughout Victoria, manifest in a constant flow and astonishing diversity of entries.

The RHSV was involved with the VCHA from the outset by the appointment of the judging panel. Associate Professor Don Garden, Associate Professor Don Gibb and Carole Woods were the judges in 2015: all three are Fellows of the RHSV and have made a major contribution to community history. As the long-term president of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and member of the Australian Heritage Council, Don Garden is the national leader in this field. Since its foundation in 1909, the RHSV has been the flagship of community history. Accordingly, the Society has promoted the VCHA and campaigned on several occasions to save it from extinction.

Every year the VCHA organising committee has fine-tuned the competition to meet changing circumstances. The committee introduced two new categories in 2015: the first was for a peer-reviewed history article and PROV appointed the judges, namely Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison, Professor Shurlee Swain and Dale Campisi. Alistair Thomson from Monash University won the inaugural prize for 'Anzac Memories Revisited: Trauma, Memory and Oral History'.

The second new category, Centenary of World War One, attracted 63 entries, reflecting widespread community participation in centennial commemorations. Helen Doyle gained first prize for her perceptive *Suburbs at War: the Cities of Malvern and Prahran during the Great War*. World War One projects were also entered in other categories and won the Local History Project and Small Publication Awards.

The record number of entries, 202, was more than double that of the first year of the VCHA. As usual, entries were overwhelmingly self-published and the overall standard was high. The 10 prizes, many commendations and outline of all entries on the RHSV website perpetuated the sense of inclusiveness. Monetary prizes again were modest but community historians tend to regard recognition as being of paramount importance. In 2015 the Melbourne daily papers again failed to cover the VCHA.

As always, the Publications category was crowded with impressive books but the introduction a few years ago of the Small Publications category has alleviated the pressure. The winning entry in Multimedia, a striking portrayal of Port Melbourne on DVD, deftly blended images, narrative and the voices of local residents. As in the past, however, there was a tendency among most other entrants to shun creativity by simply putting static history projects on a USB or website.

The famed quirkiness of the VCHA, exemplified in 2009 when Ken Oldis won with *The Chinawoman*, history in the form of a murder thriller, surfaced in 2015 with Lucy Sussex's *Blockbuster! Fergus Hume & the Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, which won the Publications category. The amazing popularity of Fergus Hume's crime story prompted Lucy Sussex to employ her own sleuthing skills to ask not 'whodunit?' but how Hume did it.

From 2000 to 2009 and again in 2011 the VCHA ceremony was held in Queen's Hall, Parliament House, and the grand venue elevated the



Catherine Andrews presents the Judges' Special Prize to Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison, VCHA ceremony, 19 October 2015. Courtesy of Public Record Office Victoria

competition. In 2015 the ceremony was staged on 19 October at the Victorian Arts Centre where the spire symbolised the aspirations of entrants. An address by Gavin Jennings, Special Minister of State, conferred prestige on the occasion, which was attended by a record 340 guests. The main speaker, Professor Shurlee Swain, explored mental images of environs evoked by her historical research.

The announcement of the VCHA winner has always been suspenseful. In 2015 Meredith Fletcher zigzagged across the platform in her excitement at winning the prize for her empathetic biography of the loved nature and garden writer Jean Galbraith. Almost every prize-giving has had a moving episode. This occurred in 2015 when Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison received the Judges' Special Prize for his outstanding book *Lost Relations*, which bridged the gap between academic and family history. The prize was presented by one of Graeme's former students, Catherine Andrews, wife of the state premier and RHSV Ambassador.

Themes from the past played out in the 2015 History Awards but there was a new feature in the form of a book event at the RHSV a few days after the prize-giving. Introduced in 2014, this function gave participants the chance to network and sell books either directly or through the RHSV bookshop, which is the major community history bookshop in the state.

The first VCHA prize-giving was held on Australia Day in 1998. The 2015 competition continued the tradition of raising the standard of community history and placing it centre stage at a celebratory ceremony. The competition is treasured in Victoria and unique in Australia.

Carole Woods

Chair of VCHA Judging Panel, 2015

RHSV Foundation Committee's Report

The RHSV Foundation was established in 2009, our Centenary year, to safeguard our future; to enhance our financial stability and to support our collection.

The RHSV thanks all those members and friends who have made a donation in 2015.

We particularly would like to thank Dr Simon Smith who initiated the writing of the 175th anniversary of the Supreme Court publication *Judging for the people: A Social History of the Supreme Court in Victoria 1841 – 2016* (published April 2016). Central to the project was the generous pro-bono contribution of the 17 authors who cheerfully gave of their time and expertise. Their kindness and Simon's perspicacity has meant that the commissioning fee of \$100,000 has benefitted the Foundation. The RHSV expresses its gratitude to the Supreme Court of Victoria.

We would also like to thank Gordon Moffatt AM KSJ whose interest in our activities is greatly appreciated.

The Foundation Committee met four times this year. Its membership comprises Dr Robert Barnes, Jim Dixon, Professor John Fitzgerald, Daryl Hawkey and

Dr Keith Kendall. Assoc. Prof Don Garden RHSV President and Kate Prinsley Executive Officer are in attendance.

The Foundation Committee is committed to re-investing half of the interest earned during the year, while the other half is directed to an activity or project that supports the RHSV collection.

This year the Committee looked at new ways to attract donations taking into account tighter tax regulations.

The total funds held by the Foundation now stand at \$434,186 with the interest earning \$7,551 in 2015.

Members are warmly encouraged to support the Foundation, as both gifts and bequests to the Foundation are tax deductible.

I thank the Committee and RHSV President Don Garden for their invaluable help in developing the RHSV Foundation.

Dr Robert Barnes

Chair, Foundation Committee

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2015

It is very pleasing to present the RHSV Financial Report for the year 2015. Our total income for the year was \$531,130 (up from \$452,308 the previous year). Expenses were \$509,443 (as against \$449,377 in the previous year)

This resulted in a comfortable surplus of \$21,687, compared to a surplus of \$2,931 in 2014.

The surplus was achieved as a result of two thoughtful donations, research fees, book sales and room hire. Expenses were monitored and contained.

Particular thanks needs to go to Gerardine Horgan and Kate Prinsley for their input and support, and to all Council members and volunteers for their efforts in keeping the RHSV operating within budgetary limitations.

Dr Robert Barnes

Treasurer

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

and

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation

Financial Statements

For Year ended 31 December 2015



Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Income Statement For the Year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue		531,130	452,308
Depreciation and Amortisation		(1,034)	4,407
Other Expenses		510,477	444,970
Net Income	2	<u>21,687</u>	<u>2,931</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		368,958	322,108
Trade and Other Receivables	5	74,500	19,248
Other Current Assets		18,339	19,115
Total Current Assets		<u>461,797</u>	<u>360,471</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	1,845,593	2,755
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>1,845,593</u>	<u>2,755</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,307,390</u>	<u>363,226</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	7	60,179	25,738
Short-Term Financial Liabilities	8	206,079	159,846
Total Current Liabilities		<u>266,258</u>	<u>185,584</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>266,258</u>	<u>185,584</u>
Net Assets		<u>2,041,132</u>	<u>177,642</u>
Equity			
Reserves	9	2,019,445	174,711
Retained Earnings		21,687	2,931
Total Equity		<u>2,041,132</u>	<u>177,642</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc
Detailed Income Statement
For the Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Income		
Research Fees	45,753	40,898
Sales Publications	24,450	21,105
Donations	17,832	7,964
Interest Received	6,997	7,168
Grants	89,719	91,811
Creative Victoria Operating Grant	80,300	80,300
GVEHO Grant	-	1,500
Annual Subscriptions	57,919	57,177
Supreme Court History Project	70,000	-
Insurance member Societies	71,135	67,893
Sundry Other Income	67,025	76,492
	531,130	452,308
Expenditure		
Advertising & Public relations	27,517	17,312
Depreciation	(1,034)	4,407
Estate Edward Wilson Expense	-	20,675
Holsworth Fund Expense	7,800	3,500
Insurance	49,421	49,081
Postage	5,107	4,221
Printing & Stationery	2,757	2,239
Computer & Internet	6,911	5,706
History Week & Awards	35,817	30,938
Supreme Court History Project	70,000	-
Grants	21,299	-
Publications	11,586	4,006
Insurance Assets H Societies	24,236	26,482
Staff Cost	162,979	168,161
Occupancy Cost	43,285	51,279
Sundry Other Expenses	38,034	57,235
Telephone	3,728	4,135
	509,443	449,377
Net Income	21,687	2,931

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31 December 2015

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

(a) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

(b) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Collections

A Valuation of the collections of Royal historical Society of Victoria was conducted by an independent valuer and the collection was valued as at 1 March 2015 at Fair Value. This is the first year that a value for the collection has been disclosed in the Financial Statements.

(c) **Trade and Other Receivables**

Trade receivables are recognised initially at the transaction price (i.e. cost) and are subsequently measured at cost less provision for impairment. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

At the end of each reporting period, the carrying amount of trade and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. If so, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in income and expenditure statement.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compliance Report

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31 December 2015

(e) **Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

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

Revenue from the provision of membership subscriptions is recognised over the financial year.

Grant income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

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

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(f) **Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association that remain unpaid.

Trade payables are recognised at their transaction price. Trade payables are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms.

(g) **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compliance Report

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
2. Net Income		
Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	(1,034)	4,407
Advertising & Public relations	27,517	17,312
Insurance	49,421	49,081
Postage	5,107	4,221
Printing & Stationery	2,757	2,239
Publications	11,586	4,006
Telephone	3,728	4,135
Other Expenses	410,361	363,976
	<u>509,443</u>	<u>449,377</u>
3. Net Income for the Year		
Net Income from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:		
Charging as Expense		
Movements in Provisions		
Depreciation		
- Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	(1,034)	4,407
Net Expenses Resulting from Movement in Provisions	<u>(1,034)</u>	<u>4,407</u>
4. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on Hand	1,032	1,522
Cash at Bank	367,926	320,586
	<u>368,958</u>	<u>322,108</u>
Clearing Account-Foundation	(50,050)	-
5. Trade and Other Receivables		
Current		
Sundry Debtors	72,494	19,248
Provision for GST	2,006	-
	<u>74,500</u>	<u>19,248</u>
Total Trade and Other Receivables	<u>74,500</u>	<u>19,248</u>

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compliance Report

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015 \$	2014 \$
6. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment		
Furniture & Fittings	28,413	47,055
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	24,624	44,300
	3,789	2,755
 Collections	 1,841,804	 -
	1,841,804	-
 Total Plant and Equipment	 1,845,593	 2,755
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	1,845,593	2,755
 7. Trade and Other Payables		
Current		
Sundry Creditors	14,979	21,883
Supreme Court History Project	45,200	-
Provision for GST	-	3,855
	60,179	25,738
 Total Trade and Other Payables	 60,179	 25,738
 8. Financial Liabilities		
Current		
Clearing Account-Foundation	50,050	-
Subscriptions	27,497	27,142
Insurance	27,137	25,815
Grants	98,734	104,367
PAYG Tax withheld	2,661	2,522
	206,079	159,846
 Total Financial Liabilities	 206,079	 159,846
 9. Reserves		
AGL Shaw Endowment	10,000	10,000
Armstrong Bequest	36,448	36,448
Ian Woodroffe Fund	2,000	2,000
General Reserve	129,193	126,263
Revaluation Reserve	1,841,804	-
	2,019,445	174,711

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compliance Report



Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc for the financial year ended 31 December 2015.

Committee Members

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

President: Prof Don Garden
Vice-President: Richard Broome
Treasurer: Dr Robert Barnes
Secretary: Carole Woods
Ordinary Members: Jim Dixon
Dr Rosalie Triolo
Dr Cheryl Griffin
Elisabeth Jackson
Dr Jane Carolan
George Fernando
Margaret Anderson
Assoc. Prof Judith Smart
Alleyne Hockley
Prof Charles Sowerwine

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

To exhibit collections and conduct researches with the purpose of sharing an understanding of the history of Victoria through lecturing, seminars, excursions and exhibitions for its members and general public.

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 2015 amounted to \$21,687.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Handwritten signature of Richard Broome in blue ink.

Richard Broome

Handwritten signature of Dr Robert Barnes in blue ink.

Dr Robert Barnes

Dated

12th May 2016

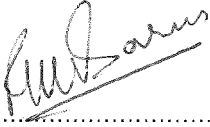
Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Certificate by Members of the Committee

I, Richard Broome, and I, Robert Barnes certify that;

- a) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 17 May 2016.
- b) The annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 were submitted to the members of the association at the annual general meeting.

Handwritten signature of Richard Broome in blue ink.

Richard Broome
Vice President

Handwritten signature of Dr Robert Barnes in blue ink.

Dr Robert Barnes
Treasurer



Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc Statement by Members of the Committee

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 outlined in note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee as set out in the accompanying financial statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Handwritten signature of Richard Broome in blue ink.

.....
Vice President: Richard Broome

Handwritten signature of Dr Robert Barnes in blue ink.

.....
Treasurer: Dr Robert Barnes

Dated 16th May 2016



12 May 2016

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A'Beckett Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

ATTENTION: Kate Prinsley (Executive Officer)

Dear Kate,

**ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT**

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc., which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2015, the Statement of Income, and detailed Income Statement for the period ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Statement by Committee.

Responsible Parties Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible parties of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have 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 needs of the members. The responsible parties responsibility also includes such internal control that the responsible parties determine 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 Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: An Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me 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 registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the period ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that I 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 me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

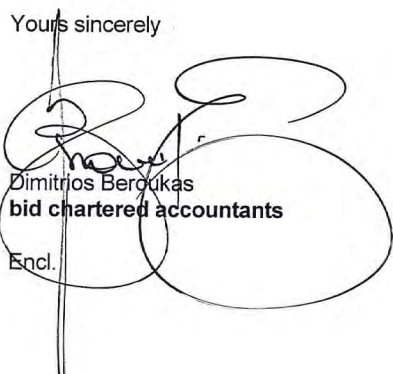
Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the period 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 2013*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my conclusion. I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely



Dimitrios Beroukas
bid chartered accountants

Encl.



Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation Income Statement For the Year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue		117,601	79,750
Other Expenses		36	3,208
Net Income	2	<u><u>117,565</u></u>	<u><u>76,542</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		434,185	319,644
Total Current Assets		<u>434,185</u>	<u>319,644</u>
Total Assets		<u>434,185</u>	<u>319,644</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4	-	3,023
Total Current Liabilities		-	<u>3,023</u>
Total Liabilities		-	<u>3,023</u>
Net Assets		<u>434,185</u>	<u>316,621</u>
Equity			
Reserves	5	316,620	240,079
Retained Earnings		117,565	76,542
Total Equity		<u>434,185</u>	<u>316,621</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



**Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation
Detailed Income Statement
For the Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Income		
Donation Received	110,050	71,570
Interest Received	7,551	8,180
	<u>117,601</u>	<u>79,750</u>
Expenditure		
Employment Expenses	-	185
Sundry Expenses	36	3,023
	<u>36</u>	<u>3,208</u>
Net Income	<u><u>117,565</u></u>	<u><u>76,542</u></u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements
These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached*

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31 December 2015

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

(a) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

(b) **Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

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

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(c) **Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association that remain unpaid.

Trade payables are recognised at their transaction price. Trade payables are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
2. Net Income		
Expenses		
Other Expenses	36	3,208
	<u>36</u>	<u>3,208</u>
3. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	88,135	139,644
Bendigo Bank- Term Deposit	180,000	180,000
ING Term Deposit 1	58,000	-
ING Term Deposit 2	58,000	-
Clearing Account-RHSV Inc	50,050	-
	<u>434,185</u>	<u>319,644</u>
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	434,185	319,644
	<u>434,185</u>	<u>319,644</u>
4. Trade and Other Payables		
Current		
Trade Creditors	-	3,023
Total Trade and Other Payables	<u>-</u>	<u>3,023</u>
5. Reserves		
General Reserve	316,620	240,079
	<u>316,620</u>	<u>240,079</u>

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation for the financial year ended 31 December 2015.

Committee Members

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

Vice President: Richard Broome
Treasurer: Dr Robert Barnes
Ordinary Members: Jim Dixon
Keith Kendall
John Fitzgerald
Daryl Hawkey

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:
Holding of Cash Investments.

Significant Changes

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

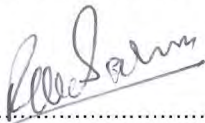
Operating Result

The Net Income for the year ended 31 December 2015 amounted to \$117,565.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Richard Broome



Dr Robert Barnes

Dated 16th May 2016

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation Certificate by Members of the Committee

I, Don Garden and I, Dr Robert Barnes, certify that;

- a) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 17 May 2016.
- b) The annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 were submitted to the members of the association at the annual general meeting.



.....
Richard Broome
Vice President



.....
Dr Robert Barnes
Treasurer



Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation Statement by Members of the Committee

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 outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee as set out in the accompanying financial statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Handwritten signature of Richard Broome in blue ink.

.....
Vice President: Richard Broome

Handwritten signature of Dr Robert Barnes in blue ink.

.....
Treasurer: Dr Robert Barnes

Dated 16th May 2016



12 May 2016

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A'Beckett Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

ATTENTION: Kate Prinsley (Executive Officer)

Dear Kate,

**ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA FOUNDATION ("FOUNDATION")
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT**

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the "Foundation", which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2015, the Statement of Income, and detailed Income Statement for the period ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Statement by Committee.

Responsible Parties Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible parties of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have 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 needs of the members. The responsible parties responsibility also includes such internal control that the responsible parties determine 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.

F:\Clients\Royal Historical Society of Victoria\2015 Review\Foundation\Independent Auditor's Review Report (Foundation) 12.05.16.doc

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: An Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me 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 registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the period ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that I 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 me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of the "Foundation" does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including:

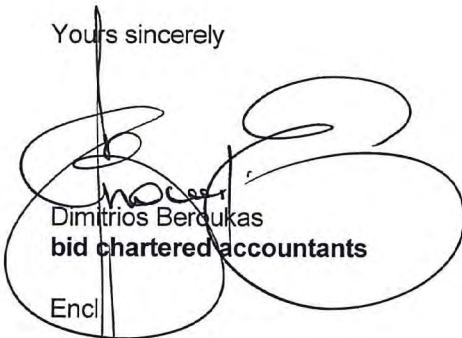
- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for period ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my conclusion, I 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 responsible parties financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely


Dimitrios Beroukas
bid chartered accountants

Encl

Support the RHSV Foundation

To mark the RHSV’s centenary year 2009, Council established the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation.

The aim of the Foundation is to safeguard the RHSV’s future:

Its principal activities include:

- To receive charitable donations to further the work of the RHSV
- To raise funds to support the work of the RHSV
- To develop a long term investment fund on behalf of the RHSV
- To build capital without undue risk
- To support the conservation and preservation of the RHSV’s nationally significant collection
- To work towards creating a permanent home for the RHSV – a “History House”
- To promote the RHSV and Victoria’s history

Donations to the Foundation can be made by:

cheque made out to RHSV Foundation

credit card

direct debit: ANZ – Royal Historical Society of Victoria – BSB 013 040 A/C 3475 70336

Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

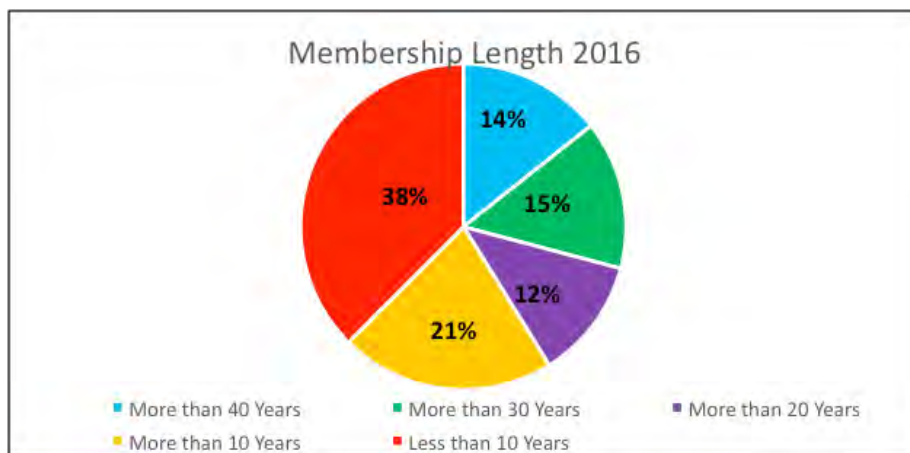
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RHSV

We value your membership. Please support us by becoming a member.

To become a member download information from our website: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/support-us/become-a-member>

Or phone the office 9326 9288.

We thank all our members and hope we can continue to deliver programs, advocacy and value for money – and to continue to raise the profile of Victoria’s history.



Length of membership of the RHSV.

RHSV Councillors and Staff

PATRON

His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC Governor of Victoria (retired June 2015)

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM Governor of Victoria

RHSV Ambassador

Catherine Andrews MPubHist Monash

PRESIDENT

Assoc. Prof Don Garden FRHSV, FFAHS

VICE PRESIDENT

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome

TREASURER

Dr Robert Barnes FRHSV

SECRETARY

Carole Woods FRHSV

COUNCILLORS

Margaret Anderson co-opted November 2015

Dr Jane Carolan

Jim Dixon

Dr Cheryl Griffin

Elisabeth Jackson

Adjunct. Professor Judith Smart FRHSV

Professor Chips Sowerwine

Dr Rosalie Triolo

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

George Fernando - Convenor

Bernard Bolch (Walhalla)

Alleyne Hockley (Castlemaine)

David Langdon (Richmond & Burnley)

Jane Nigro (Malvern)

Craige Proctor (Mortlake)

Judy Richardson (Stratford)

Larina Strauch (Kyneton)

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Executive and Finance Committee

Assoc Prof Don Garden (chair), Carole Woods, Robert Barnes, Elizabeth Jackson, Richard Broome .Kate Prinsley and Gerardine Horgan (ex-officio)

Responsible for governance, financial management, strategic planning.

Publications Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Carole Woods, Judith Smart, Kate Prinsley, Mimi Colligan, , Don Gibb, John Rickard, Peter Yule Marie Clark, Jill Barnard, Marilyn Bowler (VHJ Editor), (Production Editor). Kate Prinsley

Responsible for Victorian Historical Journal, and other RHSV publications.

Membership, Events and Outreach Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Lenore Frost, Jane Carolan, Maree Coote, David Thonpson, Lucy Bracey, Rosalie Triolo, Kate Prinsley, Jodie Boyd

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

Collections Committee

Elizabeth Jackson (chair) Richard Barnden,,) Guy Featherstone, Margaret Birtley, Jillian Nichols, Elizabeth Willis, Kate Prinsley, Jodie Boyd

Responsible for library, images, manuscripts, IT and research projects.

History Victoria Support Group

George Fernando (Convenor)
Delegates as listed above.

Responsible for historical societies, networking, professional development.

RHSV Foundation

Robert Barnes (chair), Jim Dixon, Daryl Hawkey, John Fitzgerald, Keith Kendall, Kate Prinsley,

Responsible for promotion and development of RHSV Foundation.

RHSV Fellows Committee

Don Garden (chair), Carole Woods, Judith Smart, Lenore Frost, Robert Barnes

To meet as required under the RHSV Constitution.

Victorian Community History Awards organising committee

Lenore Frost, Carole Woods, Kate Prinsley

Responsible for management of Victorian Community History Awards

The RHSV is represented on the following committees

Australian Heritage Council

Federation of Australian Historical Societies

History Council of Victoria

Holsworth Heritage Trust

Joint Consultative Forum – Victorian Archives PROV

State Library Users Group

Victorian Community Collections Network

Office of Geographic Place Names

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Kate Prinsley (Full-time)

Administrative Assistant

Gerardine Horgan (Full-time)

Collections & Volunteer Coordinator

Dr Jodie Boyd .6 EFT

Auditor

Dimitrous Beroukas

Business Investment Decisions Pty. Ltd.

Level 3 IBM Centre

60 City Road

Melbourne 3006

Hon. Legal Officer

Robert Heath

Barrister

Chancery Chambers

Level 25, 200 Queen St.

Melbourne. Vic 3000

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living in December 2015 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below.

1967	Prof. Geoffrey Blainey
1974	Hugh Anderson
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
2004	Judith Bilszta Valda Cole
2005	Assoc. Prof. Don Gibb Dr Richard Morton
2006	Dr Mimi Colligan John Lahey
2008	Joan Hunt Dr Gary Presland Carole Woods
2010	Peter Yule
2011	Richard Barnden Allan Willingham
2012	Adjunct Prof. Judith Smart
2013	Prof. Bill Russell
2014	Dr Robert Barnes Lenore Frost

Distinguished Service Award

Alleyn Hockley	Castlemaine Historical Society
David Langdon	Richmond & Burnley Historical Society

Awards of Merit 2015

George Fernando	Camberwell Historical Society
Mary Kehoe	Hotham History Project
Jeremy Pascoe	Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Lyndal Pascoe	Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Benefactors

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch
Prof AGL Shaw
Allan Willingham FRHSV
Gordon Moffatt AM KSJ

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Prize for Australian History

Clare Fisher – La Trobe University

Grants

The RHSV wishes to thank the following organisations for support in 2015

ANZAC Centenary Community Grants, Department of Veteran Affairs
Creative Victoria – Organisations Investment Program
Culture Victoria & History Teachers Association of Victoria
John T. Reid Charitable Trusts
Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
National Library of Australia – Community Heritage Grant
Public Record Office Victoria
The Supreme Court of Victoria
Vera Moore Foundation

And expresses its gratitude to the following individuals

The Hon Paul Mullaly QC
Mr & Mrs N Peck AM

Volunteers

Richard Barnden
Liz Bath
Helen Boak
Wesley Callender
Alison Cameron
Margaret Connor
Simon Elliston
Jill Evans
Guy Featherstone
Margaret Fleming
Miranda Gaze
Fiona Graham
Cheryl Griffin
Alan Hall
Pam Herrington
Peter Hogan
Elise Landry
Madelaine Lewis
Lorraine James
Christopher Manchec
John Mercer
Rowena Morrison
Marisa Mucic
Paul Mullaly
Norma Mullins
Jillian Nicholls
Virginia Parish
Jeremy Pascoe
Lyndal Pascoe
Russell Pearce
Valerie Rohde
John Rose
Daisy Searls
Ken Sheahan
Eric Smith
Margaret Smith
Sandra Sutcliffe
Brad Underhill
David Thompson
John Torpey
Sandra Torpey
Brian Ward
Brian Watson

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.

