

History. Community. Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity



A new exhibition: October 27th – February 6th

An initiative of the RHSV is to widen our understanding of Victorian history. Working with such communities as the Sudanese, Vietnamese, Kurdish and Estonian this exhibition is based on personal stories interwoven into a broader history of finding identity in Victoria.

A publication will accompany the exhibition.

Brian Hill awarded RHSV History prize

Every year the RHSV sponsors a prize to encourage student historians. The award goes to the best third year student in Australian history at La Trobe University. This year, the prize was awarded at an impressive ceremony in the Union Hall on August 4, attended by many parents, donors, students and university teachers. The RHSV was represented by President Prof Bill Russell, who congratulated Brian, who was accompanied by his highly accomplished family members and his academic supervisor, Dr Richard Broome. Brian has already published a history of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fishermen's Bend and has another work on airways history on the way.

What's On

Instead of a flyer announcing the exciting lectures, excursions and exhibitions coming up, we have included a removable "What's On" page. Please put this somewhere where you'll see it, or on your historical society notice board or please photocopy it and distribute it to your members and friends.

Errata Report

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2004.

It has come to our attention that there were several printing errors in our accounts that were published in the Society's 2004 Annual Report.

It is stressed that the total figures on both the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Financial Performance are both correct as audited.

A copy of the Errata Report is available on request from the RHSV office.

"Along the Murray"

the RHSV excursion

November 7-11.

Booking form inside.



Call for Expressions of Interest for the creation of The complete History of Australian Football

The Australian Football League is seeking Expressions of Interest from a suitably qualified historian or historians to compile the complete history of Australian Football.

The object of this EOI is to identify and shortlist a historian or historians with demonstrated expertise and experience in researching, compiling, writing, and verifying the history of a substantial part of the Australian culture.

A completed, annotated, indexed and verified manuscript must be concluded, and ready for publication no later than November 1, 2007. It is envisaged the work will be published on or about August 1, 2008, a date that coincides with the 150th Anniversary of what is considered the Foundation period of Australian Football.

Respondents are invited to submit expressions of interest showing expertise in the following areas:

- **Capacity:** Demonstrated capacity for planning and research, leading to delivery of a manuscript on schedule;
- **Style:** Demonstrated ability to write in a personal and engaging style;
- **Accuracy:** References confirming the applicant's proven ability to provide accurate and highly sourced manuscripts;
- **Costing:** A fully costed business plan, taking into account the depth of the research required, and the time to be allocated to ensure detailed research is done, and verified, and the manuscript concluded as per the schedule.

It is a basis of this commission that the final manuscript will become the property of the Australian Football League, and that copyright in the final manuscript will be vested to the Australian Football League.

A formal Expression of Interest Document is available on application from Ms Yolanda Ferguson, Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, Australian Football League, GPO Box 1449, Melbourne, VIC, 3001, or via email: yolandaf@ afl.com.au

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is:
Friday November 4, 2005 at 5pm

*A short list of applicants will be interviewed from
November/December 2005.*

*A final decision will be made as to the successful applicant
at the completion of this interview process.*

Introducing our new President

Prof Bill Russell has been an RHSV member for many years, as well as a member at various times of three of our affiliated societies. He was our delegate to the Historic Buildings



Council during the 1980s, and presented the Augustus Wolskel Memorial Lecture in 1990. During this period, while serving as Director General of Property and Services, he was instrumental in arranging for the occupancy of RHSV in the former Royal Mint building, which provided the Society with some needed breathing space at the time.

Bill is an archivist by training. After completing his history degree at Melbourne under the direction of past-President Professor Weston Bate, he became the first qualified archivist in Victoria, having obtained a Diploma of Archive Studies from University College London. At the same time he obtained City and Guilds certificates in document repair and craft bookbinding from the London College of Printing. In 1980 he completed his doctorate in history at Monash University under the supervision of Professor AGL Shaw.

Bill has served in many public roles, including a decade as Director of the Graduate School of Government at Monash. He has been a member of the Public Records Advisory Council for some years, and in 2003 wrote 3 books celebrating the centenary of public record keeping in Victoria, including *A Matter of Record* which was reviewed in the last edition of VHJ. The early years of this Society are highlighted in the book.

Bill says it's a great honour and a big role to fill to be President, and he is eager to meet as many volunteers, members of affiliated societies and other honourable persons as he can!

Tributes to Weston Bate on his retirement as RHSV President

On his retirement as RHSV president tributes to Weston Bate flowed at the Council meeting. The Council recorded their appreciation to Janice and Weston to which Weston graciously replied that he and Janice would like to continue to be whatever they could to the society and that they "delight in the heights of history and the grass roots of it all".

Dedicated workers receive Award of Merit

Five dedicated workers receive Awards of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The Society's AGM held on June 14th, unanimously agreed that Murray Houghton, Mary Bradshaw, Dorothy Minkoff, Richard Barnden and Nonie Long should be recipients of the Society's Awards of Merit.

Murray Houghton was put forward by the Warrandyte Historical Society who highlighted his outstanding contribution to the research of Warrandyte's history and generosity of knowledge and time.

Mary Bradshaw was recommended by Joan Hunt and the Skipton and District Historical Society for her outstanding contribution to local history in the area, her dedication to the Historical Society and her vision and work in developing the old Skipton Court House.

Dorothy Minkoff, Richard Barnden, and Noni Long are long serving volunteers at the RHSV.

Dorothy Minkoff began at the RHSV in 1988. She had been a history and geography teacher and answered a call for volunteers at the Society at first assisting researchers with their inquiries in the library. She then identified photographs in the RHSV Images Collection for the extensive process of placing these on database for computer access. More recently she has been part of the important team doing the site searches that financially benefit the RHSV.

Richard Barnden has supported the Society's curators and fellow volunteers in the accession and conservation of the Images Collection. As RHSV Councillor and immediate-past Chair of the Collections and Research Committee his concerns have widened to include all aspects of the Society's holdings – drawing attention to these through the conduct of tours. Richard supports the Society's seminar series and the provision of professional development to its volunteer base and coordinating the development of many of the Society's databases.

Nonie Long was a librarian in the central library and then the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Melbourne. She was later Acting Chief Librarian of the Northern Territory Public Library Services and on her return to Melbourne she worked in various secondary school libraries until her retirement. At the RHSV she has worked in its library since the 1980s and is now manuscripts librarian. She has been a member of the RHSV Council since 1999. She is an influential and dedicated worker in the library and a member of the Collections Committee.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria expresses its appreciation to all for their commitment, hard work and dedication to the interpretation of Victoria's history.

“Making Tracks” UPDATE

The exhibition is currently stationed at Traralgon where it has had an exceptional response. One of the most delightful outcomes has been the spontaneous “bringing together” of community memorabilia in a room adjacent to the exhibition.

Next Stop.....Seymour. The exhibition will be displayed in the former Seymour Station refreshment rooms....the first time the exhibition will be presented in a railway station and well worth the trip.

Call For Articles – RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Special Issue of Victorian Historical Journal

2006 marks the sesquicentenary of the establishment of responsible government in Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria is planning a special issue of the Victorian Historical Journal to mark the occasion. Expressions of interest are called for from authors wishing to contribute to this publication.

Topics can be on any subject relating to the establishment of responsible government in 1856 or its subsequent impact on Victoria's

social and political history. Intending contributors should send a brief proposal of not more than 300 words by 31st October to: The Editor,

Victorian Historical Journal,
Royal Historical Society of Victoria,

239 A'Beckett Street,
MELBOURNE 3000

Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

Brighton on a wet morning

A brief report on the Bountiful Brighton Excursion held on August 4, 2005

On a cold, wet morning in August, the 'Brighton Town' participants gathered at Brighton Beach Station and boarded a small bus to explore Henry Dendy's 'special survey' grant of land, under the guidance of Weston Bate.

Driving off in his direction the rain ceased, and we were able to see when we stopped at Green Point the vision Dendy had for his coastline, which is still open space today.

Travelling through the tree-lined streets we saw that stately homes still abound in the area.

Stopping at St Andrew's Anglican Church we walked in the well cared for historic cemetery. In Hawthorn Road, where Dendy had planned for a workers' village only the original very small stone church remains, additional buildings have recently been demolished.

Finally a look at Brighton's crescents before alighting for lunch at the former Town Hall, now the home of community societies, including Brighton Historical Society.

Here we were delivered an excellent Helen Broad lunch, with tea and coffee served from a silver service in bone china cups by members of the Historical Society.

In the afternoon we were free to view the society's collections and archives. An interesting end to a very interesting day.

Many thanks to Weston for sharing his knowledge of this area.

JL & B Knight

Victorian Historical Journal

The next edition of the *Victorian Historical Journal* will be coming out with the November issue of *History News*.

The Federation of Historical Societies

The Federation of Historical Societies, the peak body that lobbies at a national level on historical societies behalf will be holding its annual conference in Hobart 29 – 30th Oct.

Poland's Way to Freedom

The Australian Polish Historical Society will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity Movement with an exhibition at Queen's Hall, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne from September 6 – 9. The exhibition can be seen after that on Sundays from September 11 to October 2 at Holy Mary Sanctuary Essendon 8 Aberfeldie Street Essendon. Entry is free.

Student Historians star at August Speakers' Night

All those who attended the RHSV Tuesday Speaker's Night on August 9 were treated to highly creative presentations from student historians Sianan Healy and Wendy Dick.

Both are doctoral students at the University of Melbourne and one aim of the night was to provide them with the opportunity to present their research in progress to a wider audience. The audience however had a treat in store with two highly original presentations.

Sianan Healy's presentation looked at the nature of Aboriginal-related tourism in Victoria in the inter war years, and her presentation ably linked broad questions and themes in Australian and post-colonial history with many specific details concerning Coranderrk, Lake Tyers and the functioning of important Victorian institutions such as the Board for the Protection of Aborigines and the Australian Natives Association. Her broader themes included an exploration of the tension between the official policy of assimilating the aborigines and isolating them at Lake Tyers (after a decision in 1924 to close Coranderrk and Framlingham Reserves), as well as the extent to which these policies meant removing communities from land to which they had spiritual attachment. A fascinating part of the presentation was the exploration of the appropriation of Aboriginal ideas, whether in the art of Margaret Preston or that of attachment to land, while a more chilling note was sounded in the description of mutual voyeurism, as tourists viewed Aborigines who in turn viewed them. As usual, an interesting discussion followed, one question being whether it was the case that the "squat start" in running had originated at Lake Tyers! (not answered – further research needed!)

Wendy Dick followed with a detective story better than any Friday night mystery series.

She began with an image that had taken her interest – a photograph of a turn of the century female activist, Miss E Mulcahy, one of the first three women to stand for Parliament for the Political Labour Council. But who was this Miss E Mulcahy? This was the starting point for a journey that Wendy shared with us as we traversed more than 20 research paths, starting with well-worn genealogical paths such as Births Deaths and Marriages, headstones and the shipping lists, and leading to fascinating discoveries such as a manuscript diary in the RHSVs collection that had been kept by another passenger on the sailing ship on which Miss Mulcahy and her parents had come to Victoria in 1864. As Miss Mulcahy's identity rounded out, we learned progressively of her as a member of an independent catholic family growing up in country Victoria, having a career in the last decades of the 19th century as one of the pioneer teachers in the State system after the passing of the 1872 Education Act, and then reinventing herself in her fifties as a trade union organizer, labour candidate and worker for war comforts during World War I. Among many jewels in the presentation was a description of an encounter between Ellen Mulcahy and her Head Teacher in one of the inner suburban schools in which she taught. The District Inspector recorded "a collision between an exacting, ungenial and unsympathetic Head Teacher, and a vigorous minded, positive and independent associate". By the end of the talk the mysterious Miss E Mulcahy had emerged from the shadows as a talented, independent and creative personality not deserving her previous obscurity.

Bill Russell

Volunteer needed for a special task

Do you have sharp eyes? Can you remember when formal letters used expressions such as "the 9th inst." and "the 15th ult."?

In our archives we have books of carbon copies of letters written in 1911 by the then Honorary Secretary of our Society. Much historical information on early Victoria is contained in these letters. Looking ahead to our centenary in 2009, we wish to preserve this valuable resource by transcribing letters, either in longhand or on computer.

If you have been considering volunteering, and the idea of having a specific task to work at your own pace at the Society's rooms appeals to you please contact the office on 93269288.

We Need Your Help

From November 28th until Friday December 9th we intend to close the library to do a thorough shelf check. We desperately need helpers so that we can achieve this within the time. It's a wonderful opportunity to see what's in the library and enjoy the company of other volunteers. Even if you can only give us a small amount of time – it would be greatly appreciated. Please 'phone Kate if you are able to help.

The latest HIT at Richmond and Burnley Historical Society

History supported by Information Technology is changing the way we manage and organise our information and collections.

After years of collecting, sorting, pasting, conserving and indexing – our collection is becoming rather historic and showing signs of age, wear and tear and is in danger of fading away. The unique records, wonderful images, advertisements and memorabilia continue to bring delight to those who discover much more than they ever anticipated. Researcher enquiries increase the ‘value-add’ of our collection by linking, associating and drawing connections between many strands of stored information. The question remains – how effective and efficient are we at being able to maximise the accessibility and maintainability of our collection? Even our experienced volunteers will tell you that every week they are always discovering something new, that they didn’t realise we had this, or I thought we had that and I can’t find it now. With a collection of 3,000 photographs, more than 50,000 pages of information and an array of memorabilia – our card indexing system has not been able to keep up with the variety of information stored in our rooms. The success of finding information is accredited to about 40% of successful indexing and 60% luck and knowledge of the volunteer on the day.

We are on the brink of a most fantastic change which will increase the level of confidence and satisfaction of our volunteers, delight researchers and preserve our fading collection. We are embarking on the process of digitising every piece of information and memorabilia in our collection and using indexing software to manage and organise the information and digitised images. This is no small project and will take up to about two years to complete.

In addition to this we have also been using video editing software to develop vignettes

depicting Richmond’s changing streetscape. Current images and those from the 1870s, 1900s are brought together as a sequence to create an effect of time lapse photography – with commentary and background music. These provide an excellent medium to quickly convey the transformations in Richmond’s development.

Another amazing project is the digitisation and full text search capability of a decade of Victorian Government Gazettes and other historic books. We were approached by Alan Phillips (Archive CD Books in South Australia) to work as a partner in preserving and reproducing old books on CD. Our books are unbound, scanned into digital images, run through an optical character recognition reader, cleaned up, indexed and burnt to a CD. We received copies of the CD’s recently and were delighted with how easy it was to locate the occurrences of any words in the books and by a click of a button have that page on screen. The information can be organised and printed into many flexible output formats. What would have taken weeks of painstaking searching is completed in a matter of seconds. The original gazettes which are well worn are now preserved as digital images and are accessible by all who purchase a copy of the CDs. Archive CD is building up a large collection of Australian references and books at very reasonable prices, makes searching so much more rewarding.

We are excited and thrilled with the transformations made by technology, the initiatives and the major improvements and efficiencies seen in all areas of our society.

David Langdon

Alas – a picture of doom for future researchers

The concern about how modern historic data will survive in the age of multiple and fast superseded digital formats has become so intense that even *The Age Green Guide’s* Livewire section (August 11, 2005) has dedicated two pages to this topic.

Problems for our future archivists are the lack of hard copy data, the crashing and losing of data, and fast changing software and digital technology.

For sound and film archives the biggest threat is the obsolescence of equipment used to play and view material on.

Best practice for long term preservation, according to the article, is to keep a copy in an analog format such as paper or film that can be redigitised when a “technology wall is encountered”.

Storing on microfilm is seen as a viable long term storage option (although there is debate to its stability) but at least it can be read “with a torch and a magnifying glass”.

The article was printed on fast degrading, unstable newsprint. read it while you can

The Encyclopedia of Melbourne



The launch of the Encyclopedia of Melbourne in October 2005 will be a historic moment for the city and all those with an interest in its history. It’s Chief Editor, Dr Andrew Brown-May has directed production of the book and a version that is accessible on the web.

Maxus Collections

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The Australian Children's Folklore collection

The Australian Children's Folklore Collection (ACFC) is a truly remarkable archive of children's folklore.

It began in the 1970s when students of its founder, June Factor, collected children's playground lore and language as a class exercise, and has grown to become one of the largest and most significant collections of its kind in the world. It contains over 10,000 card files of children's rhymes, riddles, jokes and sayings, as well as photographs, audiocassettes, videotapes and research projects documenting contemporary children's folklore. There are also over 300 objects, representing the playthings of children from many parts of the world – spinning tops, folded paper toys, slingshots, home-made dolls and toys, sheep's knucklebones, sticks, shells and seeds used in children's play. The ACFC is unique in Australia, and there are very few similar collections elsewhere in the world.

Like many contemporary collections, the ACFC has its roots in the past. Its contents reach back as far as the 1870s with material gathered by the eminent American folklorist, Dr. Dorothy Howard, who visited Australia in 1954-55 to conduct her pioneering research into the play traditions of Australian children. The

Dorothy Howard Collection is one of its most important sub-collections, representing the most comprehensive research ever undertaken into children's play and folklore in Australia. Dorothy Howard's original research material contains letters from children and adults, describing their games, rhymes, riddles and jokes, which give a glimpse of the playgrounds of the past, particularly from the 1950s when games such as 'The Redex Trials', 'Charlie Over the Water', 'Big Ring', 'Queenie' and 'Fly' were popular, and children collected autographs from each other:

When you get married

And your husband gets cross

Just pick up the rolling pin

And say, "I'm boss"!

The ACFC was stored for a time in the University of Melbourne Archives, and in May 1999 June Factor donated the Collection to Museum Victoria. At the time of the hand-over, the then Director of the Museum, Dr. George MacDonald, described the Collection as 'a treasure trove', and said it was valuable to

the Museum.....because of the diversity of its content and the quality and depth of research that has gone into it...For Museum Victoria, the greatest significance is that it brings to our existing collection something which has been largely missing in the past, and that is a direct and personal voice of children.

The ACFC has been built up through thirty years of research and collecting by many adult and child contributors. It is a truly remarkable collection of contemporary children's folklore, described by Museum Victoria as 'unique', and having 'particularly high intellectual value'. The Collection is also high in social and cultural values, reflecting Australia's history and diverse population through the 'sub-culture' of childhood.

The Australian Children's Folklore Collection is now housed in Melbourne Museum in Carlton Gardens.

Judy McKinty

FOLKLIFE PROGRAM

Call for funding applications

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has established a public fund to financially support folklife projects and activities, which reflect the cultural diversity of the people of Victoria. Applications can be made by individuals, community groups, not-for-profit organizations, and cultural and educational institutions. Applications close 17th October 2005.

For further information contact:

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

239 A'Beckett St., Melbourne, Vic 3000

Tel: 03 9326 9288 Fax: 03 9326 9477

Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

Web: www.historyvictoria.org.au



Finally Collins Street

Judith Buckrich's long awaited book 'Collins: The Story of Australia's Premier Street' will be published by Australian Scholarly Publishing in late September 2005. The book contains over 200 historical and contemporary photographs, many never before published.

Collins Street has been home to culture and commerce, bars and business, finance and fashion as well as Melbourne's most famous private clubs and the medical profession.

Keith Dunstan has added an afterword and Rohan Storey of the National Trust, David Dunstan of Monash University and the photographer Mark Strizic have all contributed.

Judith Buckrich, is the author of several books on Melbourne including the acclaimed 'Melbourne's Grand Boulevard: the Story of St Kilda Road'

The book is cased and dust-jacketed, 250 x 250 in format and 320 pages in extent. (RHSV members can pre-order at a discount price of \$69.95 from Australian Scholarly publishing, its usual retail price will be \$89.95.) Please call 9654 0250 to order and say that you read the article in *History News*.

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HVSG Report

On Saturday 23 July the RHSV was the venue for the latest History Victoria Support Group Seminar Day, which was a rip-roaring success, with 63 people present, representing 31 historical societies, 13 from the bush, 13 from metropolitan Melbourne, and others from libraries and similar groups.

The speakers were inspirational, firstly with Leeanne Beeson-Canty and Maria Edmondston from Snake Valley Historical Society who shared their oral history video interviews experience, which developed into a beautiful publication called "I Remember That". Keith White from Nepean Historical Society and Diane White from Mornington Historical Society (who run Lavender Hill Multimedia at Red Hill South) gave an wonderful presentation on using multimedia for local history productions. They showed how they created a 30-minute CD-ROM documentary, now converted to DVD; how they archived to disk and catalogued to a database a fragile unique collection of the local newspaper 'The Peninsula Post' 1913-1960s; how they used a loan collection of cigarette card photographs to create a 12 minute documentary on CD-ROM about the First World War's effect on the local community; how they scanned a set of glass plate negatives to bring them to print quality in Photoshop; and many other amazing, professional presentations from the collections of their local historical societies.

After a beautiful lunch prepared and catered by Helen Broad from Mornington Historical Society, excellent presentations were given by three speakers who continued the theme of Local History Into the Future – Multimedia and Information Technology. Daniel Wilksch who is Manager of On-Line Projects for the Public Record Office Victoria showed PROV's new website and how to access its digital archives; Irene Fullarton who is President of the Genealogists Using Microcomputers highlighted useful local and family history sites on the internet; and our own Vicki Court who is Information Technology Manager at RHSV demonstrated the various RHSV local history databases and mc2 and introduced links into other important databases.

That Seminar Day was information-packed, highly entertaining, and of great interest and value to those present. We were able to take the opportunity to thank sincerely Professor Weston Bate, retiring RHSV President, for his generosity and support to local historical societies across the State over many years, travelling widely to encourage their endeavours at book launches, openings of buildings and annexes, presentations, general and annual meetings and other events, and generally being a staunch and dedicated friend to the volunteers who make up the local history network. At the same time we were pleased to introduce and welcome our new President, Professor Bill Russell, and Executive Director, Kate Prinsley.

Members of History Victoria Support Group continue to work with historical societies throughout Victoria, responding to requests for assistance in many ways, mainly in providing seminars and workshops on topics such as collections cataloguing and management, ways to encourage and increase membership, and supporting the Places of Deposit program of the Public Record Office Victoria. Just contact RHSV if a group of societies in your district would like to participate in a seminar or workshop.

The next HVSG Seminar Day will be held on Saturday 26 November, hosted by Colac & District Historical Society, who will provide an afternoon session showing glass plate slides of the district in a Magic Lantern Show, after discussion and presentations in the morning. More details will be published in the next History News and on mc2.

Joan Hunt, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group

Local History Grants Program

Recipients of the most recent Local History Grants were announced by John Thwaites MP, the Minister for Victorian Communities, on 2 August 2005.

The organisations that received funding in August are:

Ararat Railway Heritage Association
 Beechworth Prison Bemm River
 Progress and Improvement Association
 Inc Bendigo Chinese Association
 Museum Inc Box Hill North Primary
 School Council Casterton District
 Historical Society Inc. Chiltern
 Athenaeum Trust Coonara Community
 House Inc. Dean's Marsh Memorial Hall
 Diggers Rest Residents Assoc Inc
 Doveton Neighbourhood Learning
 Centre Echuca Historical Society Inc.
 Eltham District Historical Society Inc
 Euroa Little Theatre Inc Gannawarra
 Shire Council Gembrook Town
 Committee Hamilton History Centre
 Inc Jeparit River Environment
 Committee Inc. Kilmore Historical
 Society Inc Local History Resource
 Centre Inc. Mildura Arts Centre
 Minyip and District Historical Society
 Inc Moyne Shire Council Myrtleford
 and District Historical Society Inc
 Nhill College Oakleigh and District
 Historical Society Inc Plenty Historical
 Society Inc. Rural City of Wangaratta
 and Glenrowan Improvers Smythesdale
 General Cemetery Trust Somerville,
 Tyabb and District Heritage Society Inc.
 Sunshine and District Historical Society
 Incorporated Talbot Arts & Historical
 Museum Inc The Pyramid Hill and
 District Historical Society Inc Wangaratta
 Family History Society Inc. Williamstown
 Sailing Club Inc. Woods Point Progress
 Association Inc. Yackandandah and
 District Historical Society Inc. Yarram
 and District Historical Society Inc.

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Books received by the RHSV

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL BOOKS RECEIVED BECOME PART OF THE RHSV LIBRARY – IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT A BOOK, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AND FIND OUT IF IT HAS BEEN CATALOGUED TO OUR COLLECTION.

Yarra: A Diverting History of Melbourne's Murky River by Kristin Otto. Text Publishing, Melbourne Australia, 2005. Yarra celebrates a river that has sustained and inspired generations: from the earliest attempts to bridge the river to the collapse of the Westgate Bridge; from the surveyor Robert Hoddle's expedition to find the source in 1837, to the dolphins that enter the river from Port Phillip Bay; from the Wurundjeri people and their relationship with the Yarra, to the bodies washed up near Flinders Street in the present day.

Babes in the Bush: The Making of an Australian Image by Kim Torney. Curtin University Books. Fremantle Arts Centre Press in partnership with Curtin University of Technology, 2005. The image of a child lost in the Bush became a central theme in the Australian Colonial experience. By using actual incidents of lost children and, where possible, the voices of those involved, the author provides intriguing insights to the domestic lives of Australia's colonial settlers and our changing attitude towards children and childhood....

Cobbers: Stories of Gallipoli 1915 by Jim Haynes. ABC Books, 2005. A unique anthology of fiction, verse and real-life stories from the Gallipoli campaign.

Making a City in the Country The Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre Project 1973-2003 by Bruce Pennay. UNSW Press 2005. Australian Governments are continuously trying to formulate policies that address issues related to population distribution, as well as immigration and fertility. The Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre project began as one of the Whitlam Government's boldest ventures.. This book explains what was involved in that venture – what went right and what went wrong.

Father and Daughter by Muriel Mathers. Spectrum Publications, Melbourne, 2004. For fifty years a manuscript written by the late Dr C N Button lay in a trunk belonging to his daughter. Eventually Muriel Mathers was enticed to read her father's autobiography and find out more about the man who died when she was girl.

Robert Hoddle: Pioneer Surveyor 1794-1881 by Berres Hoddle Colville. Published by Research Publications, Vermont Victoria 2004. The biography of Melbourne's great early surveyor who marked out Melbourne's streets and ensured their breadth, giving us the modern city we enjoy today.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2005 AROUND THE SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Joan Hunt on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by Societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For next issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 October for the November-December edition to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

ANGLICAN: On Saturday 17 September members will visit the distinctive Italianate renaissance Christ Church, Brunswick, which has an attractive campanile tower. Bishop James Grant's address to the Society on Wednesday 28 September, on St James', St John's and St Matthew's Church Lands, carries a most intriguing title. On 19 October Canon John Stewart will speak on the fascinating topic of "Bendigo's Two Cathedrals". Phone 9818 4950 for more details.

ARTHURS CREEK: At 11am on Sunday 11 September the Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute at 906 Arthurs Creek Road (Melways p.9) will open with over 200 historical photos and artifacts on display, and school students will conduct oral history interviews. At 2pm a commemorative plaque will be unveiled. Refreshments available. Phone Collette on 9714 8487

BENDIGO: John Clancy will speak on "Catherine Hayes: European diva-opera singer, and her connection with Bendigo" at 2pm on Friday 2 September in the Campbell Theatre, Bendigo. Singer Jennifer Schatzle will perform during the talk about Catherine Hayes, who performed in Bendigo 150 years ago. Visitors welcome. See website: www.bendigohistory.com

CAMPERDOWN: Historic films projected onto a large screen, by special arrangement with the *National Film and Sound Archive* will be shown at 8.00pm on Tuesday 6 September in the McCabe Room, 241 Manifold Street. On 4 October at 8.00pm in the McCabe Room Les and Elizabeth O'Callaghan from Warrnambool Historical Society will speak on the local history of that district. Phone 5594 7263.

CASTLEMAINE: The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 5 September, with popular local author Robin Annear as guest speaker, followed by a supper to commemorate the Society's 40th year of operation. On Saturday 8 October a Trash and Treasure fundraiser will be held at the Former Courthouse. See website: www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

CRANBOURNE: Members are completing the renovation of the 80-year old state school building which was donated to the Fishermans Cottage Museum property, Foreshore Tooradin, last year. The Mayor of the City of Casey will open the school, on Saturday 22 October at 10am. The two former school communities, Monomeith No. 4034 (1924-33) and Tooradin North No. 4353 (1933-73) will be invited to a 'Back-To' over the weekend. A Saturday night dance will be held at the Tooradin Public Hall and all past students and visitors are welcome. Phone 5998 3643 anytime for details.

EAST MELBOURNE: On Wednesday 19 October at 8.00pm, following our AGM, well known conservation architect, Meredith Gould, will demonstrate how to research the history of houses. This will be a very thorough and informative evening for anyone interested in this line of enquiry. Light refreshments will follow. At Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. Enquiries: phone Sylvia on 9417 2037.

ESSENDON: Ivor Neville from the Strathmore Theatrical Arts Groups will speak at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 September at the Courthouse Museum, cnr Mt Alexander Road and Kellaway Avenue. Recent donations to the collection include cash books from the early 19th century of the Essendon Gun Club and the Devon Dairy. Contact Alwyne on 9379 2679.

FOOTSCRAY: A new book "Footscray and Yarraville – A Pictorial Record" has been launched, after a great deal of work by Society members, especially Russell Cocks and Catherine Reichert. Available for \$99 plus \$7.50 postage from the Society at PO Box 6371, Footscray West, 3012. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~footsh or phone 9689 3820.

HOTHAM: The Hotham History Project is housed at the North Melbourne Library, and Bunclay Day (the AGM) is to be held on Saturday 10 September, named for John Bunclay who by 1853 had set up a foundry and engineering works near present Bunclay's Place, North Melbourne. See website: www.hothamhistory.org.au or phone 9297 3280.

INVERLOCH: Recent acquisitions include four framed aerial photographs of Inverloch township donated by Inverloch National Australia Bank. A visit to Koo-Wee-Rup and district is arranged for Wednesday 28 September, departing by bus at 8.45am and returning at 4.30pm, at a cost of \$10 which includes morning tea and museum entry fee. BYO lunch, and book with Ruth on 5674 3319. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~invhs

KNOX: The AGM will be held at 8pm on Monday 5 September at Ambleside Park Homestead, 3 Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully, when Bryan Power will introduce the Centenary of Rowville program and give a brief talk on the history of Rowville. See website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~khsinc>

KYNETON: Guest speaker Huntly Barton will speak on building techniques of the 19th century, at Cobaw, 47 High Street, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 September. Storage materials to rehouse photographs were purchased from the Community Funding Scheme Grant. See website: www.kyneton.org/hs/khs.htm

LINTON: The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 19 September at the former Grenville Shire Offices opposite the Heritage Centre Rooms, with Luke Flanagan from the Gold Museum in Ballarat speaking on the goldfields artist S.T. Gill. Phone Letty on 5344 7430.

MALMSBURY: An Open Weekend will be held on 17-18 September at the Mechanics' Institute, Mollison Street with a display of photos, maps and historic records, and private research can be done. Angus Watson, historian and author of "Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Victoria" will speak at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 September at the Merchants of Malmsbury Café (old Post Office), cnr Mollison and Barker Streets, Malmsbury. Email: ianthomas@myoffice.net.au or phone Ian on 5423 9188 or 0417 036 194.

MARYBOROUGH (Midlands): Lindsey Stewart will speak on some historical aspects of photography at 8pm on Wednesday 17 September, and President Bruce Osborne will speak about the Boer War at the candlelight supper to be held in the squatters' hut, to celebrate the 40th year of the Society at 8pm on Wednesday 19 October. See website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs/>

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES: Records, memorabilia and artefacts relating to Victoria's over 1100 Mechanics' Institutes are being sought, to centralise all information and/or its whereabouts on a centralised database. These items include books, honour boards, meeting gavels, painted stage backdrops, library stamps, clocks, and so on. Please respond to Pam Baragwanath's questionnaire when you receive it. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mivc

MOUNT WAVERLEY: Forward notice is given that the Mount Waverley Primary School will be celebrating its centenary in April 2006, and the committee would like to hear from ex-students, parents or staff members willing to provide written recollections or donate or lend photographs or other memorabilia. Phone: 9807 1480.

NEPEAN: A new book, "A Cloud of Hapless Foreboding – Assistant Protector William Thomas and the Port Phillip Aborigines 1839-1840" by Richard Cotter will be launched at 4pm on Thursday 29 September at the Museum and Heritage Gallery in Sorrento. The AGM will be held Friday 7 October with special guest speaker Greg Hunt MP. See website: www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au or phone Don on 5984 0255.

NHILL: Issue 1 of the Society's newsletter has now been published – congratulations to all concerned. The historical centre at Lowan Shire Hall is open Tuesday and Thursday each week 1.30-5.00pm or by appointment. Heritage Victoria has granted \$16,500 to repair and refurbish the building, to be known as the "Nhill Area

History Resource Centre". Although it has a small membership, Nhill is a high achiever, for instance, gaining \$2,000 Local History Grant to place Lowan Shire rate books 1875-1940 on CD.

NILLUMBIK: The Diamond Creek Town Fair and Society stall will take place on Saturday 10 September, and a Show or Tell night will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 5 October at the Senior Citizens Hall. A 3 day bus trip to South Gippsland, including a visit to historic Port Albert, a train trip from Nyora to Leongatha, and a visit to Agnes Falls, is planned for the end of October. Contact Frank on 9438 1463 for details.

PHILLIP ISLAND: The AGM will be held on Wednesday 7 September at the Heritage Centre, 89 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. At the Society's Christmas Dinner on Saturday 26 November, Lois Airs, a fourth generation French Islander, will speak at the Senior Citizens' Hall, Cowes. Phone Maureen on 5678 5768 for details.

PORT FAIRY: George Dyson will talk about bullock teams, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 September, at the Courthouse, which should be a fascinating glimpse into the past when so much of Port Fairy's shipping relied on these teams bringing wool to the wharves. Phone Benia on 5568 2492.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: On Saturday 10 September Allan Willingham will speak on "Early Melbourne Architecture", at St Andrew's Uniting Church Parish Hall, 253A Burke Road, Glen Iris (Melways 59 H7). See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~pioneers> or phone Marilla on 9822 1776.

PRAHRAN: Join the Society on a Walk in North-West Armadale at 2.30pm on Sunday 4 September. Meet at the cnr of Kooyong Road & High Street outside the carpet shop. "Discovering Prahran, Area Eight" – the last book in the series has been published and is for sale at \$9. Phone Jennifer on 9509 9978 or see website: www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

QUEENSLIFF: The Maritime Museum now has a new archival repository, which will house all the original charts, maps, diaries and notebooks from the Hydrographic Survey Office, collected since Victoria was first settled, as well as photos, negatives and glass slides at present stored at the Museum. The Museum at Weeroona Parade is open weekdays 10.30am-4.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm weekends, and lighthouse tours are every Sunday 9.30am-1.00pm. Phone: 5258 3440.

QUEENSTOWN: The Cemetery Trust will conduct guided walks on 8 and 9 October, with actors' re-enactment to be included. Bookings: ph: 9710 1707.

RICHMOND & BURNLEY: On Saturday 10 September a visit to Sandringham Historical Society will include a tour of rooms, HMVS Cerberus, Gipsy Village and Black Rock House. Ring Daryl on 9428 7686 for details.

SANDRINGHAM: John Payne will speak on early theatre sites in Melbourne at 7.30pm on Thursday 1 September, and Evelyn Jones's topic will be "Rationing in England in WW2" on Thursday 6 October, at 6 Waltham Street, Sandringham, next door to the library. Email: sandyhist04@yahoo.com

ST KILDA: The fall of Fort Sebastopol 150 years ago on 9 September 1855 marked the end of Crimean War hostilities. Relive the Crimean war in the part-two walk at 10am on Sunday 11 September by exploring streets such as Sebastopol, Jervois, Cardigan, Raglan, Malakoff, Alma, Inkerman and others. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsok

STAWELL: The Society currently has a person working 15 hours a week on the 'Work for the Dole' scheme sponsored by BRACE, typing and checking records in the Society's cataloguing department, updating the photography records. A review is being carried out on the entire collection of books, maps, costumes and realia, and amending and updating records where required. The AGM will be held on Thursday 8 September at the Court House. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/shsinc

TALBOT: Visit the Talbot Arts and Historical Museum and Dunach school, in Camp Street, open each Sunday 1-4pm or by appointment. Bea Brewster has written "Amherst District Hospital 1859-1933" (\$25 posted), and detailed maps of Talbot Goldfields by John Tully are on sale (\$15). See website: <http://communitiesites.impulse.net.au/Talbot%20museum/>

WANGARATTA: The 18-grave old East Wangaratta Cemetery site (last burial 1905) has been resurrected with bronze plaques and a noticeboard with names and history. The 2005 Pioneer Memorial Oration will be presented by Ian Stapleton on "The Role of Women in High Country Pioneering", at 8.00pm on Friday 14 October at the Auditorium, Wangaratta TAFE College. Ian is well known for his work with Outward Bound and "Timbertop", and for his books on pioneers of the Victorian High Country. Contact D. McCabe on 03 5726 9331 for information and bookings, or email: wanghistsoc@optusnet.com.au

WARRACKNABEAL: The Society has received a commendation from the RHSV for 8 videos that depict machinery development and innovation on the farm. The videos are on display in the Machinery Museum. The annual reunion of ex-Warracknabeal residents and friends will be held on 18 September at Brown Hill Hall, Humfray Street north, Ballarat.

WAVERLEY: Lindsay Chaptman from the Cornwall Society will speak on "Cornwall – Its Character and Its Charm" at 8pm on Thursday 22 September at the Society's rooms above Mt Waverley branch library, 41 Miller Crescent. The October Gathering will be held at 2pm on Sunday 2 October at St Stephen's church. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/whsvic or phone Marjo on 9544 8792.

WHITEHORSE: The AGM will be held on 13 August, and on 8 October John McKernan will speak on the history of Point Nepean. The City of Whitehorse Heritage week 2005 will take place from 1-8 October, with the Society's Heritage Day on Sunday 2 October at Schwerkolt Cottage (Melway Ref. 49 D7). See website: www.vicnet.net.au/dhsinc/ or phone Peter on 9877 0141.

WOODEND: Congratulations to Janet Hawkins, who was awarded the Order of Australia medal in the Queens Birthday Honours List. In 1986 Janet established the Local and Family History Resource Centre, under the auspices of the Woodend and District Heritage Society, and over the years has initiated various local history projects. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~wdhs

YACKANDANDAH: Recent acquisitions included a brass trombone and music used in the Yackandandah band, the completed CD of the Yackandandah Cemetery, and contemporary photographs of the ten year re-photograph of the town, and an Inmagic (DB Textworks) upgrade has made the database records safer. Yackandandah has accreditation under the Museums Accreditation Program. Email: ykbankmuseum@yahoo.com.au or visit the Bank of Victoria Museum at 21 High Street.

YALLOURN NORTH: Coalies Week takes place from 12 to 20 November, when the Old Brown Coal Mine Museum will be open daily from 10am till 4pm, with displays of photographs of the early days in the old open cut, models of the Yalourn W Power Station, and sales of books, videos and souvenirs. On Coalies Day, Sunday 13 November a pioneers' monument, carved from a local oak tree, will be unveiled. The S.E.C. workers reunion day will be on 17 November, and Morwell Bridge reunion day will be Saturday 19 November.

History

NEWS



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
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Registration No. A2529

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9am to 5pm

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10am to 4pm

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What's On at RHSV

September, October and November 2005

Unless stated otherwise all events will take place (or at least begin) at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria,
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

Contact: Administrative Officer, 93269288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au

Office opening hours Monday-Friday, 9am – 5pm

SEPTEMBER

Lecture and Excursion

Weston Bate - Melbourne's Lanes

Tuesday, 6 September, 1pm.

(Duration, approximately two and half hours)

Cost: Members - \$10 Non-members \$15

Professor Weston Bate, author of 'Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes' will discuss the fascinating story of Melbourne's lanes.

The lanes were quite unplanned but proved to be a versatile area for residents, business, invention and all kinds of industry. Many of Melbourne's major enterprises began in the lanes and later moved to industrial suburbs.

Following the lecture at the RHSV, Weston will lead a discovery tour through the city's lanes.

Lecture

Richard Broome - Aboriginal Victoria

Tuesday, 13 September, 5.45 pm.

Coffee and tea served from 5.15 pm

Cost: Members - free; Non-members \$5.50

Richard Broome, Associate Professor of History at La Trobe University and one of Australia's most respected scholars of Aboriginal history, will discuss his book 'Aboriginal Victorians: A History Since 1800' in which he 'tells the story of the impact of European ideas, guns, killer microbes and a pastoral economy on the networks of kinship, trade and cultures that various Aboriginal peoples of Victoria had developed over millennia.' He will also discuss how families have coped with the ongoing disruption and displacement caused by European settlement.

Workshop

Archival Box Making Workshop with David Thompson

Tuesday, 27 September, 11am – 12 noon.

Cost: \$20 for non-members; \$15 for members includes materials

This will be a hands-on workshop suitable for everyone who has precious books or archives and would like to learn how to make archival boxes in which to keep their items.

Materials will be provided.

PLEASE BOOK.

OCTOBER

Excursion

'Melbourne's Domain' – Weston Bate

Saturday 8 October, 10 am.

Based on the 2004 book 'Walking Melbourne's Domain Parklands' by L. 'Oscar' Slater

Duration 2 hours including coffee at the Observatory (not included in excursion price)

Cost: \$15 members; \$20 non-members

Meet at and return to the Queen Victoria Gardens, corner of Alexandra Avenue and St Kilda Road. The walk will take in all the monuments of the Domain and its Botanic Gardens context.

PLEASE BOOK.

Lecture

Alan Gregory – Melbourne High School History

Tuesday, 11 October, 5.45 pm.

Coffee and tea served from 5.15 pm

Cost: Members - free Non-members \$5.50

Alan will discuss his recently published book 'Strong Like Its Pillars: Melbourne High School 1905-2005 Victoria's first secondary school.

The school opened in 1905 at the instigation of the inspirational Director of Education, Frank Tate. Its arrival was strongly opposed by private schools who claimed secondary education as their preserve. The new school's impact was immediately evident in the public examination statistics and lists of university places, many of its students coming from less well-to-do families.

Exhibition

'History, Community, Identity'

From October 27

Cost: Free to RHSV members and those associated with the exhibition, \$4 to others.

The communities involved include the Sudanese, Vietnamese, Polish, Hungarian, Maltese, Kurdish, Estonian, Italian and Arabic. They have provided the RHSV with exciting images and stories about living in Melbourne and Victoria.

RHSV on Golden Days Radio

Have a listen – every Thursday at 3pm.

Golden Days Radio with the RHSV showcases the Society's events and programs. RHSV Development Officer, Judy Buckrich interviews the wonderful authors, historians and others giving talks and leading excursions and workshops at the RHSV. Always a terrific program and one not to be missed.

95.7FM

NOVEMBER

Holiday Excursion 7 - 11 November

Along the Murray in November

This year's long excursion, from Monday 7th to Friday 11 November, will focus on the Murray River, taking in Echuca (1st night), a diversion to Deniliquin on the Edwards River and then to Swan Hill (2nd night). The latter half of the tour will be in the Mildura district and include a look at the Darling River at Wentworth. (Please see the enclosed flyer for more information and an application form to join the tour.)

Discussion

Introduction to Genealogy at the RHSV

Wednesday, November 2, from 10am till 11.30am.

Cost: Free of charge

As part of the exhibition, 'History, Community, Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity', the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will hold an 'introduction to genealogy' session at the RHSV. Experts from the Genealogical Society of Victoria will lead a discussion on how to research family records from non Anglo-Celtic backgrounds.

PLEASE BOOK.

Lecture

Andrew Brown-May – Encyclopedia of Melbourne

Tuesday, 8 November, 5.45pm.

Coffee and tea served from 5.15pm

Cost: Members - free; Non-member \$5.50

Andy will discuss the marvellous new Encyclopedia of Melbourne of which he was chief editor to be published by Cambridge University Press in October 2005.

The Encyclopedia is an A to Z reference work covering the city's history from pre-European settlement up to the present day.

School of Historical Research

November 21st to 23rd

This year's school of historical research will focus on archival sources and collections relating to women's history. It will be an insight into some of the state's lesser known collections and an opportunity to make a head start on any research/study projects for next year.

For a brochure and booking details please call Gardine on 9326 9288

Victorian High Country

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

Huts Association Calendar 2006

The Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc was founded in February 2003 as a heartfelt response to the bushfires which swept across Victoria in the summer of 2003. We can thank historian Dianne Carroll and author Fiona Magnussen for the spark that grew, as rapidly as the bushfires, into the Association. About 58 huts were destroyed in the Victorian High Country, but there are at least 250 still existing to be cared for by the new Association. The aim is to organise work parties to maintain these huts and to rebuild ones which were lost as and when possible.

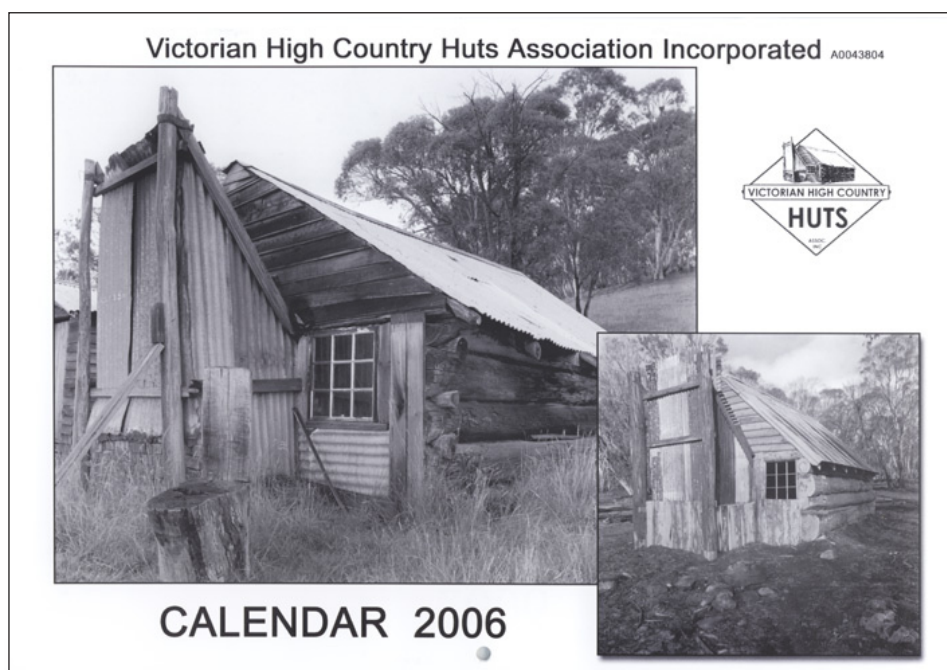
The Association rebuilt Horsehair Hut in April 2003, almost three months to the day after it was destroyed. The following year, over Easter 2004, McNamara's Hut, Buckety Plain, was rebuilt by Association volunteers in the Alpine National Park. The Association provided invaluable design input for replacement of Federation and Michell huts by Parks Victoria, with whom the Association has developed an excellent working relationship.

The Association has just published its first Calendar, for 2006, with all profits from its sale to go to the Association to care for huts in the Victorian High Country.

The black and white photographs in the calendar were taken by David Oldfield, RHSV volunteer and secretary of VHCHA, as part of a project to produce a photographic record of the huts. Readers may remember David's exhibition of his photographs from this project held at the Old Royal Mint in October 1996. He was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain in 1997 for photographs of High Country hut interiors.

The calendar contains interior and exterior photographs, many previously unpublished, of ten huts destroyed in the bushfires – Batty's, Bon Accord, Brigg's Logging Camp, Burnside, DAMM, Honeymoon, Horsehair, McNamara's Buckety Plain, Quintet Mine and Roper's Hut.

It also includes photographs taken during the rebuilding by VHCHA of two huts – Horsehair and McNamara's Buckety Plain Hut.



The calendar, A4 size on glossy paper, is available from the RHSV Office for \$10.00 inc. GST or may be ordered from the Association website www.vhcha.org.au for \$10 posted within Australia or \$15 posted overseas.

GREAT GIFT IDEA

The calendar contains interior and exterior photographs, many previously unpublished.