



History NEWS

Issue No. 260 November/December 2005

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



Hill Stand and Lawns at Flemington Race Course on a Cup Day, c. 1890 from Picturesque Victoria, Sands and McDougall, c. 1905, collection RHSV.

Historic Day at the Races

Friday 17 February at 1pm

How well do you know historic Flemington Racecourse?

Join renowned racing historian Andrew Lemon (FRHSV) and Australian Racing Museum chief researcher Kevin Gates for an exclusive tour of its historic aspects while enjoying the scheduled twilight race meeting.

The excursion includes lunch, afternoon tea and a race book.

Andrew Lemon is a renowned historian and biographer. A lifelong interest in horse racing gained him the commission for a 2-volume beautifully produced history of horse racing. He has now been commissioned by the VRC to write the third.

Full details on *What's On Insert*

Can't think what to get that certain person for Christmas?

Why not give an RHSV membership!

An RHSV membership keeps those interested in Victorian history up to date with issues, contemporary writing, lectures and the Victorian History Journal. It also gives members unlimited access to the magnificent collection held at the RHSV.

Simply contact Gerardine in the office (no later than December 16th) with the details and payment \$60.00 individual membership, \$75.00 family membership and we'll forward your gift in a nice greeting card.

Wine Drive

A fun way to support the RHSV is to buy your "Festive Season" wines, or stock up your 2006 cellar through us. Simply fill in the form enclosed in this newsletter. The wines are not only delicious but come elegantly labelled with the RHSV logo.

A wonderful way to support the RHSV and taste beautiful wine at the same time.

See insert.

Closing times for the holidays

The office at the Royal Historical Society will be closed from December 21 to January 10. Collections will close on December 16. If you want to come in to do research between January 10 and 30 please call the office first to make sure there is someone at A'Beckett Street who can help you.

Quickly mark it down in your diary!!!



School of Historical Research

Sources on Women's History

Nov 21 - 23

An opportunity to visit major and lesser known collections of women's archives and meet experts in their field.

Bookings can be made sessionally or make time to do the whole school for \$100.

See reverse of enclosed *What's On* insert.

Dot and Marieta, St Kilda, November 1925 from Roy R. Ross Album (donor Miss S. Ross), collection of the RHSV.

President's Report

As 2005 rapidly draws to a close the pace of activities at RHSV is still hectic. At the October meeting, Alan Gregory spoke about his studies of the history of Melbourne High School, an institution that has produced more than its fair share of leaders and innovators.



Towards the end of October, a new Exhibition on "History, Community and Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity" was opened at the Society's rooms by George Lekakis, Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission. When the RHSV was first mooted in 1909, one of its aims was to gather the recollections of the earlier pioneers before they passed on. Now, nearly 100 years later, we need to think about gathering the same kinds of pioneering reminiscences and artifacts from the many additional communities that have become part of the fabric of Victorian life in the last 60 years of intense immigration from many parts of the world. Many of these communities already have relations with the Society and it is to be hoped that many new historical societies will be formed to document their respective histories and that they will affiliate with us and take their place as part of the larger history movement that we try to nurture and support.

Early in November a coach load of intrepid explorers will head off under Susan Priestley's guidance in the RHSV's excursion to the Murray River region, and we are looking forward to hearing the stories from that adventure. Such excursions are great fun and serve to draw many interesting people, discussions and stories from the woodwork. Later in the month there will be another of the hugely popular Saturday seminars offered by the History Victoria Support Group under Vice-President Joan Hunt's guidance. This time it will be at Colac, and not to be missed. Another huge project that will be under way shortly is a painstaking stocktake of the library's collection, involving removing, checking and replacing every book on our shelves. This is a mammoth undertaking but truly critical to our custodial function – of seeing that this unique collection is actively managed and looked after.

Meanwhile, your Council has been looking at everything possible to improve our activities for 2006. We have looked at a number of risks and issues around the building as one of our chief jobs is to physically protect our collections and our people. Some projects are shortly to go ahead that will result in much of the roof being replaced – to overcome some of the water leakage problems of the past – as well as to provide greater user safety in some other parts of the building. The Programs Committee has been developing a very exciting program for next year (which is the year in which our Conference takes place) – so we are looking

forward to announcing some of the new ideas we have in that arena.

Keeping our wide range of activities afloat financially has been a challenging task this year – so if you can help by becoming a volunteer, introducing new members to our activities, buying a Christmas present from our book sales, or perhaps even by including a small bequest to the Society in your will – we'd love you to do so...

Hoping to see you at one of our activities soon,

Bill Russell.

Melbourne High Revisited

On 11 October, Dr Alan Gregory spoke about the history of Melbourne High School which celebrates its centenary this year. He highlighted the importance of the school's establishment in State secondary education for both boys and girls. Beginning in the old Model School building in Spring Street in 1905, the boys were separated from the girls in 1927 when they moved to the new buildings in South Yarra. (Eventually, the girls also moved into new buildings in 1934 with the opening of MacRobertson Girls' High School at Albert Park, benefiting from the generosity of the philanthropist Sir McPherson Robertson.)

Drawing on his recently published *Strong Like Its Pillars*, he told us that Melbourne High was the training ground for many of those who played important roles in the development of State secondary education as principals in the developing high school system, inspectors and even directors. He also discussed the school's distinctive qualities especially in its encouragement of music.

The audience was treated to a very interesting and eloquent exploration given by a committed alumnus.

Don Gibb

RHSV Library stocktake

Thanks for the marvellous response from volunteers to assist with the stocktake. There will be a volunteers' workshop conducted at 10 am on Monday the 21st of November which will be repeated on Wednesday the 23rd of November at 1.30pm. If you have been kind enough to offer assistance we feel that it is essential for you to come to one of these orientation sessions so that the work can be as efficient as possible. Stocktake will begin on Monday the 28th of November and will continue until Friday the 9th of December.

Visiting Scholars at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria



From left: Kate Prinsley pictured with Professor Robin A Butlin of York University, and Dr Lindsay Proudfoot of Queens College, Belfast.

During the course of the year, the RHSV was pleased to be able to assist two international scholars doing research into colonial history and geography, Professor Robin A Butlin of York University, and Dr Lindsay Proudfoot of Queens College, Belfast. Prof. Butlin spent many weeks using the RHSV archive to research the history of colonial geographic societies in Victoria (Professor Butlin also looked into similar societies in South Africa and Queensland). Dr Proudfoot, a specialist in historical geography, spent three months looking at archives relevant to Scots and Irish Settlement in the Colony of Victoria.

Professor Butlin and Dr Proudfoot were ably assisted by our excellent library volunteers throughout their stay.

RHSV to participate in MAP planning day

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, as a key stakeholder in the museum sector, has been invited to take part in the Museums Australia (Victoria) MAP (Museum Accreditation Program) planning day.

RHSV has been invited to the event because of its unique dual perspective as both the representative of Victorian historical societies and as a Registered museum with MAP.

MAP was launched in 1993 to provide a framework to help Victorian museums build sustainability and innovation in management, governance and operations, and to foster and promote professional museum standards across the sector.

At the core of MAP are the 85 standards covering all aspects of museum operations.

The program continues to develop and grow reflecting the changing needs and practices of the cultural heritage collections sector.

What's in a Garden?

Come and see on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November

Janice and Weston Bate will be waiting to show you what they have done to add colour, texture and shape to the maturing scene at "Imaretta". Facing Western Port, their sweeping design lies between a copse of eucalypts and wattles and a grazing paddock sloping to a wetland with views of the bay.

Helen Broad will provide delicious tea and coffee on the patio. In the carport you will find books and plants. At 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Weston will read more of his poems in McCubbin Corner.

You can make it a splendid Peninsula outing, so bring a picnic lunch or book in at friendly Bittern Cottage for dinner on Saturday or lunch on Sunday. (Ph 59839506)

This is a great fundraising opportunity for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, so bring your friends, tell your acquaintances.

**Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
26 and 27 November**

Where 6 One Chain Road, Merricks North (enter via Tubberubba Road, Melway 162 A8)

**Cost \$5 (includes coffee or tea).
Children free.**

Has your house a story to tell?

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www.thehousehistorian.com.au

The House Historian researches the history and architecture of houses and their residents, with particular expertise in early Melbourne, Victorian mansions, inter-War Californian Bungalows and post-War brick veneers.

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Dr Fay Woodhouse

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Telephone: 0427 042753

Email: flw@unimelb.edu.au

Launch of the Collections Council of Australia

The Collections Council of Australia Ltd was officially launched in Melbourne on 26 September 2005 by the Chair of the Cultural Ministers Council, Senator Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport.

In attendance were Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer of the RHSV, Professor Weston Bate (past President of the RHSV) and Mrs Bate.

The Collections Council is a new participant in the cultural heritage field. Its focus is on the movable cultural collections of Australia, which are typically preserved by institutions such as historical societies and archives, galleries and museums, libraries and knowledge centres, indigenous cultural resource centres and keeping places, heritage places, botanic gardens, herbaria, aquaria and zoos. Initiated and supported by the Cultural Ministers Council, the Collections Council has been given a serious responsibility:

to help the collections sector speak with one voice on matters of shared interest to do with collections.

The Collections Council faces a new challenge: to acknowledge professional diversity in the management of collections, while recognising common needs of collections and the shared interests of many people working with collections. The common needs were identified in A Study into the Key Needs of Collecting Institutions in the Heritage Sector, undertaken by Deakin University in 2001 with contributions from a wide range of collecting organisations.

The Collections Council is a not-for-profit organisation that was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee one year ago. The Board of Directors first met in late November 2004, and the Chair is Ms Sue Nattrass, formerly the General Manager and CEO of the Arts centre, and currently also Chair of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Cultural Working Group and of the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals. The CEO is Margaret Birtley, a member of the RHSV, who moved to Adelaide to commence duties in February 2005. Two staff members were appointed in August.

The Collections Council's core roles are to:

- Develop capacity and efficiencies within the collections sector
- Develop links between the collections sector and the wider community
- Advocate collections as a means of achieving progress towards sustainability

The Collections Council has been established to ensure the stability and sustainability of an integrated and cohesive collections sector in Australia. At the launch event, Ms Nattrass said: 'It is a time to raise public awareness of the social, cultural, educational and economic value of our Collections. They are central to the Australian sense of identity and are at the core of community life. From the long history of Indigenous Peoples and the history of migration to this country, to the emergence of networked global communities, collections represent the essence of the past, the present and future memory of the country: they shape our psyche, record our development, provide insight into our national spirit, and inspire us for the future.'

The Collections Council aims to undertake research and structure programs that will help organisations enhance their collections and diminish the current unevenness in standards, infrastructure and access to trained personnel. The Council wants every collecting organisation to have access to the resources that will assist them in achieving their potential. The Council will fulfil a national leadership and advocacy role and will undertake a variety of projects and activities to support, improve, expand and add value to the roles currently fulfilled by collecting organisations and professional associations. The Collections Council will also promote accessibility and the value of the sector to governments at all levels and to the wider community.'

The Collections Council's website is the company's main communication vehicle; please bookmark www.collectionscouncil.com.au

Margaret Birtley CEO, Collections Council of Australia



History Community Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity

The exhibition, 'History Community Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity', is now on display at the RHSV. Using material supplied by eight multicultural communities it takes a brief look at the history of each community in Victoria and at how the communities use traditions and their identity to share their heritage.

'History Community Identity' has proved to be a valuable project on many fronts; it brought together disparate multi-cultural community groups with a shared interest in heritage. Common themes have been the challenges of involving second and subsequent generations and the means by which later generations can engage in their heritage.

Development of the exhibition revealed "unofficial" histories of the various communities; photos stuck between sticky plastic in 1970s albums, programmes from participation in Victoria's sesquicentenary celebrations, heavily creased embroidery seldom unfolded and the skill and narrative of the stitching about to be lost.

In many ways for the RHSV this project is just at its beginning. It has become clear that communities have developed collections that need storing, conserving and above all exhibiting. The potential for the RHSV to



*Mr & Mrs Choinski (DPs)
at Williamstown Beach,*

support developing multicultural collections is enormous. Through our outreach programmes we can encourage documentation and "good housekeeping" and through Local History Online these collections can become accessible. The potential for mc2, and the sharing of collections information is an exciting possibility.

'History Community Identity' was opened by the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, George Lekakis, and was a tremendous celebration of the collecting of material from

Victoria's first communities and the prospect for the future.

The exhibition is open until February 26th and is displayed within the context of the origins of the RHSV. Rare maps, books, ships tickets and diaries are all on display.

Temporary Inconvenience

The State Library of Victoria's offsite collection is unavailable from September 2005 until Easter 2006.

Many researchers have been inconvenienced indeed by the State Library of Victoria's move to house its offsite collection to a new purpose-built storage facility in Ballarat. While the collection is being prepared, there will be no access to the offsite collection from 3 September until Easter 2006.

The Library's offsite collection consists of:

- hard-copy newspapers
- bound serials and magazines, mostly pre-1976
- interstate and international government publications
- some patents and trademarks
- part of the Australian Manuscripts collection.

The Library says that it does not have enough space to store its entire collection onsite, and parts of the collection are currently stored at four locations around Melbourne. The new, purpose-built storage facility currently being constructed in Ballarat will meet industry standards for storage and security. Moving the offsite collection is a major project for the Library, and the largest move of collection items in its history.

While the offsite collection is unavailable, staff will help Library users find alternative sources of information where possible, including finding a copy of an item held at another library or finding information in another format.

During this time, Library users who require assistance finding information should go to the main desk in the Information Centre at the Library, or telephone 03 8664 7002.

Library staff in the Newspaper Reading Room can help users identify other libraries that may hold newspapers which are unavailable at the State Library. Please contact the Newspaper Reading Room on 03 8664 7011 during business hours.

'Find a Library' web page at www.nla.gov.au/apps/libraries.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian and Local History Library

140 High Street, Prahran (Melway 2L H12)
Ph: 9510 3393. Email: library@pmi.net.au

Open 9.30-4.30 Mon to Fri, 9.30-1.00 Sat. All welcome.

Catalogue: www.pmi.net.au
Inter-library loans available.



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Making Tracks

A successful exhibition reveals undiscovered collections

The RHSV has managed well the “Making Tracks” photographic exhibition funded by the Minister for Transport to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Victorian Railways. The exhibition has been touring Victoria for 12 months and recently concluding its last regional visit at Seymour.

The exhibition visited 2 metropolitan sites – Station Pier and Queens Hall, Parliament and 7 country centres – Geelong, Ararat, Bendigo, Wangaratta, Mildura, Traralgon and Seymour. The exhibition material has been placed into storage with a proposed showing on the opening of the new Southern Cross Railway Station at Spencer Street.

At each location enthusiastic local historical society members and railway enthusiasts have staffed the exhibition and contributed railway material for display. They have provided photographs and words to exhibition panels that reflect the importance of the railways in the development of their towns and importantly in the building of the social and commercial fabric of the regional communities.

Visiting the various exhibition locations, talking to the locals and seeing the collections of material that comes out of the woodwork on these occasions indicates that although the railways is still an important community asset today it had a significantly greater involvement in peoples memories of the past. This has been evidenced by the stories told by contributors to the “Memory Album” where those visiting the exhibition were invited to write their own real life railway stories.

An interesting factor that I have encountered in my normal working capacity as the Department of Infrastructure Heritage Coordinator and through my visits to the touring exhibition is the volume of historic railway material collected over time by a myriad of people and the eagerness to show the material when the opportunity arises.

The collections tend to be in the possession of more senior members of the community, this may not be surprising given the number of people still with us who were employed by the railway in the mid to later decades of the 20th century, many of whom had a full working life with the railways. The railways seems to have instil in its workers a life long romance like few other types of employment.

On a number of occasions in my travels the future of particular railway collections was raised with the uncertainty as to the importance of the material in the scheme of things, the unknown extent of material held by enthusiasts, and whether there is an interest by future generations to hold onto the material.

It may well be a good time following the tour to consider a more formal approach to understanding what material is out there, its historic value and for collection holders to understand what options are available at the local community and State level for the future of their material. RHSV might give guidance on a way forward in this matter

*Mike Ryan, Heritage Coordinator
Public Transport Division, Department of Infrastructure*

First Mechanics’ Institute Archival Collection Project

Finding undiscovered collections

Sadly at present there is no central register for the materials of the Mechanics’ Institutes of Victoria which would provide an overview of their unique and inspiring contribution to the history of Victoria. We can be justly proud of the fact that they provided essential early infrastructure on a - for the community, by the community - basis.

The Institutes were always an individual community voluntary enterprise.

Tragically many total library collections have found their way to the local tip or have been given away along with their book catalogues, accession registers, borrowing registers, rules and the all important Minute Books, Cash Books and Letter books. The original Institute Library books are fascinating and often include rules, subscription rates, library stamp, borrowing details, accession numbering system and sometimes a grading of the book for the benefit of future readers, such as very good, good, fair and poor!

An urgent request is being made to all R.H.S.V. members and Historical Societies in Victoria to check their records for any remaining archival materials pertaining to the Mechanics’ Institutes in their area.

Fascinating objects that might remain are the remnants of Institute art collections, museum collections, mineral collections, adult education materials, furniture, painted stage curtains or backdrops, special trowels made for the laying of the foundation stone, important ephemera such as programs, posters and invitations for lecture programs and social and fundraising activities, newspaper cuttings and hopefully, a history of the Hall.

The brainchild of Lorraine Huddle, Conservation Architect, was to set up a database of every Mechanics’ Institute in Victoria including photographs, plans, architectural description, heritage listing etc. This archival information is being added to the Big Mech Database and will provide the most extensive research tool that has ever been available. Work is being done voluntarily over a period of two years.

For a complete list of past and present Institutes please consult “If The Walls Could Speak; a Social History of the Mechanics’ Institutes in Victoria” by Pam Baragwanath which should be available through your local library.

To enable your Institute to be represented, please send your eagerly awaited and much appreciated information in the form of lists to Pam Baragwanath, 4 O’Neill Way, Warranwood, 3134, phone 03 9876 5165 or Email at pgbarag@alphalink.com.au.



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10AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10AM-5PM SATURDAY

11AM-5PM SUNDAY

OPEN 7 DAYS

HVSG SEMINAR DAY

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2005

Hosted by Colac & District Historical Society Inc.

At the History Centre, COPAAC, Gellibrand St,
(opposite the Railway Station)

Theme:

RESEARCHING, STORING AND EXHIBITING YOUR LOCAL HISTORY

- 09.30 Registration and morning tea
10.00 Welcome, introduction, reports, general information:
10.00 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - welcome
10.05 President, Colac & District Historical Society, Keith Chambers
10.15 Executive Officer, RHSV Kate Prinsley - events report

10.30 DISCUSSION:

Topic: Storage and Exhibition of your Society's Collection:

Discussion contributed to by

- (1) David Endacott, Daylesford Historical Society, who is Victorian supplier for Allbox and another group which supplies acid-free plastic sleeves of all sizes;
- (2) Alleyne Hockley, Castlemaine Historical Society, who is archivist and member of Public Records Advisory Committee, experienced in mounting exhibitions.

All members present are encouraged to contribute, debate, discuss and add to the discussion.

11.30 SEMINAR PAPER:

Topic: Researching Local History:

Speaker Dr Peter Mansfield will present the seminar paper on writing local history using archives and historical sources, and using case studies about his work on Graham Berry and colonial libraries.

12.30 LUNCH - will be catered at a cost of \$12 to be paid upon registration

1.30 COLAC & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

"Magic Lantern Show", showing slides of the Otways 1916-1922 which were shown by the Shire Valuer who travelled around to townships when the Otways were opening up for selection during World War One, provided by Colac Historical Society.

4.00 Afternoon tea and finish.

Joan E. Hunt,

*Convenor, History Victoria Support Group, RHSV
Vice-President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.*

Tel: 5333 1535 (AH) 0418 428 782 (Mobile)

Email: joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

Local History Online First stop for Victorian history research

The internet has created new opportunities for researchers. Searching the catalogues of libraries and other repositories to locate the range of material available on topics, plus the locations of those organisations, opening hours and conditions of use, can be done from home or in a library.

During the past ten years volunteers from many societies throughout Victoria have used computers to catalogue collections and index resources. Increasingly these resources are available online and can be located through using Local History Online – a section of the RHSV website providing links to electronic resources for investigating the history of our state.

RHSV electronic resources include the RHSV catalogue (HistoryVictoria Database) containing records about items held in the Society's images and manuscript collections as well as books, pamphlets and ephemera from the library. The index to the Victorian Historical Journal from 1911 is another useful online resource.

The Victorian Local History Database is a regional database containing records from collections of societies affiliated with the RHSV. Links are provided to other regional local history databases and to major collections for researching Victoria's history. The RHSV Affiliated Societies Database provides researchers with contact details of groups.

The internet also provides the opportunity to create electronic communities. Local History Online includes information about the RHSV *My Connected Community* project – a collection of communication tools for members of the local history community to share information and promote their activities as well as discuss items of interest to researchers. The Computers and Cataloguing mc², History Victoria Support Group mc² and Royal Historical Society of Victoria mc² are three electronic communities where members share information and promote activities.

Societies wishing to participate in any of these projects should contact Vicki Court at the RHSV.

Children of the Dragon

A historic theatre production marking 30 years of Vietnamese–Australian settlement.

2005 marks the 30th anniversary of Vietnamese arrival in Victoria and Australia. ‘Children of the Dragon’ will explore the tensions of Vietnamese– Australian identity, the conflicts between the generations, alienation and its consequences and the Vietnamese–Australian contribution to the wider community. The arrival and settlement of the Vietnamese people in Victoria in 1975 is a profound, historic and defining moment in Victorian history.

Performances of ‘Children of the Dragon’ will take place at the New Ballroom of the Victorian Trades Hall, 54 Victoria Street, Carlton South at 8pm over two weeks: Wednesday–Saturday 16–19 November and Wednesday–Saturday 23–26 November 2005. Bookings: 96898515.

Announcing Issue Number Four of ‘Provenance: The Journal of the Public Record Office’

Issue 4 of the Public Record Office Victoria’s annual journal online is now available at <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/provenance/>.

The issue includes three peer-reviewed articles drawing primarily on the records of the diverse PROV holdings: Louise Blake writes about the campaign to save the Regent Theatre that culminated in the 1970s with the passage of the Historic Buildings Act in 1974 during Sir Rupert Hamer’s term as Premier of Victoria.

Provenance is now calling for submissions for 2006 issue. The editor is seeking to publish case studies and popular histories in Provenance in addition to peer-reviewed articles. Please contact Sebastian Gurciullo on 9348 5626 or at sebastian.gurciullo@dvc.vic.gov.au if you are interested in submitting or would like further details.

Museums Australia (Victoria) Workshops

Marketing Planning



Date: Monday
21 November
2005

Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: Benalla Art Gallery

Cost: \$55 (MA (Vic) members)
and \$110
(non-members)

Marketing is the core activity that can sustain your organisation for generations. Attend this practical workshop and you will finish the day with a marketing program tailored for your organisation that will help you achieve your objectives whether they be to increase visitors, obtain corporate support or simply create awareness of the treasures your organisation houses.

CHSI History Awards 2006

The Castlemaine Historical Society Inc. is making a number of awards for local and family history:

- To promote the study of history, especially local and family history
- To raise the standard of local and family history research and presentation
- To encourage the use of Castlemaine Historical Society Inc resources
- To increase awareness of Castlemaine Historical Society Inc and its role in the community
- To increase the resources of Castlemaine Historical Society Inc

The awards are:-

Malcolm Blume Award for entries related to family history

Ray Bradfield Award for entries related to the history of Castlemaine and district

Marj Rilen Award for entries from primary and secondary students

Expressions of Interest

If you would like to submit an entry or ask a question please call Dick Mack on 54721159, Marjorie Theobald on 54723082 or Alleyne Hockley on 5472 1425

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 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 January to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

(Please note that I do my best to promote the activities of societies, but sometimes newsletters do not even have a contact phone number let alone times of opening or an address for their collection/museum).

ANGLICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Diocese of Melbourne):

The 2005 Sydney Smith Lecture will be “The Church of England and the Royal Navy” by the Reverend Russell Joyce R.A.N.R. at 8pm, Wednesday 16 November 2005 in the Penman Room, Cathedral Buildings. Contact the Secretary Mr Bruce Macintosh on 98184565.

BACCHUS MARSH: The Society’s display on the theme of radio and telephone communication is exhibited in the Bacchus Marsh library until 10 November. The current ‘Bacchus Times’ includes an excellent area map, land applications from the BM Express for 30 November 1867, and a number of extracts of interest from newspapers of various dates. Contact PO Box 223, Bacchus Marsh.

BALLARAT: A tour behind the scenes at the Gold Museum will reveal the Society’s collection at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 November, and a tour of the Old Colonists’ Club in Lydiard Street on Tuesday 13 December will complete 2005. Phone 5341 2405 or see www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com

COBURG: On Wednesday 16 November at 8pm John Waghorn, who has worked for Australia Post for almost 40 years and researched local history since 1960, will speak on researching post offices in Victoria, at the Coburg Library meeting room. Phone Secretary Robert on 9384 1025 or see members.optushome.com.au/leburh

COLAC AND DISTRICT: Will host the RHSV Support Group meeting at the History Centre on Saturday 26 November 2005 9.30am to 4pm. The topics will be Researching, Storing and Presenting Your Local History and Resarching the Barwon Region and Western Plains. Contact the President Mr K Chambers 5231 4572 or the Secretary Mrs G Hester 5231 4831

DONCASTER–TEMPLESTOWE: The Society was pleased to receive previously thought lost historic material from the now closed East Doncaster Primary School. It will hold its Annual Christmas Party on December 7. Phone Secretary Val Tucker 9439 7577 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/

CORNISH: The Ballarat Branch is holding a “Tour of Ararat District” departing from Ballarat at 9.30am on Saturday 5 November at a cost of \$20. Bendigo Branch has released “White Hills Cemetery” CD with 8000 people named, produced by Tom & Libby Luke (email: tomluke@toptsunet.com.au).

EAST MELBOURNE: The Society’s catalogue is available on-line through the RHSV web-site, by following the link to the Victorian Local History Database. Also, on the Yarra Melbourne Regional Libraries website: www.ymlr.org.au via the local history pages you will find the Society’s newsletter, with a subscription application available to print out. Phone Sylvia on 9417 2037 or email sylvia.black@bigpond.com

ELTHAM: The Historical Walks program will commence at 2pm at the Eltham Local History Centre on Saturday 5 November – bookings to 9439 9717. A special general meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 November to consider possible incorporation of the combined historical societies and heritage groups in the Shire of Nillumbik. Contact Secretary Russell on 9439 9717.

FRANKSTON: Ballam Park homestead’s 150th birthday will be celebrated with festivities at the homestead, Cranbourne Road, Frankston at 1pm on Saturday 5 November. Phone Glenda on 9789 3116 or see www.rootsweb.com/vicfhs/ballampark.html

GEELONG: On Wednesday 2 November at 7.30pm Al McLean will speak on the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, upstairs at the Geelong Library, Little Malop Street. “Investigator”, the Society’s quarterly journal publishes biographies and researched articles relating to Geelong, including “Celts in Geelong” in the current issue. Contact Mrs F Craddock: 5278 3530

HAMILTON: A general meeting will be held at Hamilton Croquet Club, cnr Kennedy & Martin Streets, at 8pm on Tuesday 8 November. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hambist/> or phone Ian on 5572 4933. The Hamilton History Centre at the Mechanics Institute, 43 Gray Street, Hamilton is open daily 2–5pm except Saturday.

HASTINGS–WESTERN PORT: Our Society has had a lovely c1890 cottage donated for our use and arrangements are being made to re-stump, and renovate it. Our Society participated in a recent visit by Tidy Towns to Hastings, including the Hastings Museum. We entered under the “Spirit of Australia” section. We continue to attract new members and our membership is now the highest we have ever had. Enthusiasm is high and the Wednesday Workers are involved in oral history, cataloguing, and selecting photos and information for our new book. Museums Australia (Vic) held a successful workshop at the Museum in October “Cataloguing from A–Z”, and 107 Year 8 students plus teachers from Flinders Christian College visited in three groups on 4th October. We hosted the last quarterly meeting of the Local

History Network – next meeting at HMAS Cerberus Museum in November. Author and historian, Richard Cotter is the guest speaker for our general meeting on Mon 7th November at 7.30 pm at the Hastings Museum, cnr Marine Pde & Skinner Street – subject is “The First Settlement of 1803-1804. All welcome. Enjoy a “Christmas with Susan” (Susan Rowe) at 10.30am on Thursday 8 December. Phone Shirley on 9781 1141 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~dromana/hastings.htm

HAWTHORN: Jill Barnard and Sonia Jennings will speak about Station Pier at the AGM at 2.30pm on Sunday 27 November, in the Hawthorn Library Meeting Room, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.

HEALESVILLE: A Christmas break-up will be held at 12 noon at the Sanctuary House Motel, Badger Creed Rd, Badger Creek on Sunday 27 November, costing \$25 per head for a 3 course Christmas meal. Bookings essential. Phone 5962 1655 or see www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au

HEIDELBERG: At 8pm on Tuesday 13 December, Andrew McKenzie will speak on “Prominent women artists of Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Darebin and Eaglemont”, at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). Ring 9458 3185 or www.member.telpacific.com.au

KANGAROO GROUND: The current newsletter of the Andrew Ross Museum at the School House contains an article on John and Joseph Furphy who attended the school when it opened in April 1851 but later lived in Shepparton where the Furphy company still operates. Both John and Joe became well known as writers, with Joe publishing “Such is Life” under the pen name of Tom Collins. Email: andrewrossmuseum@yahoo.com.au

KILMORE: Marguerite Fagg will conduct a tour of the old bluestone Kilmore hospital building on Sunday 6 November at 2pm, at a cost of \$5 per adult. Books are essential to Marguerite on 5782 1079, and the Christmas breakup will be held at “Merlin Park”, O’Shea’s Road, Kilmore East. Phone Liz on 5782 1243 or see www.kilmorehistory.info.

KNOX: On Monday 7 November at 8pm Edda Comelli will speak on the Rowville Prisoner of War Camp, at Ambleside Park Homestead, 3 Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully. Centenary of Rowville celebrations are current and coincide with the Society’s 40th anniversary. The Resource Centre at Ambleside Park is open Sundays 1-4pm and second Saturdays monthly 11am-5pm. Contact 9758 6722 or www.vicnet.net.au/~khsinc.

LA TROBE SOCIETY: A one-day bus trip to the Mornington Peninsula will take place on Saturday 3 December, when some of the exhibitions and artefacts of La Trobe’s period as Lieutenant-Governor will be on display. See www.latrobesociety.org.au for details of the La Trobe Society, formed in 2000 to promote recognition and understanding of the achievements of Charles Joseph La Trobe.

LEARMONTH: The final general meeting for 2005 will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 15 November at the Historic Centre in the old Shire Offices, in the form of a Show and Tell segment.

MANSFIELD: On Saturday 19 November the Goulburn-Murray Association of Family History Societies’ Family History Expo will be held at the Mulwala & District Services Club, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mansh> or phone 5779 1094 for details.

MARYSVILLE: It is great to see more historical societies starting to publish newsletters and this one advises that for \$10 you can join by writing to Secretary Mary Kenealy at 55 Falls Road, Marysville, 3779. A very nice touch is that children under 18 are free. Everyone is welcome to access the Society’s library and archives. Phone Mary on 5963 3552.

MILDURA: Formed in 1955, the Mildura & District

Historical Society is housed in the Old Library Building, Carnegie Centre, 74 Deakin Avenue, Mildura which it shares with the Mildura & District Genealogical Society. Meetings are held the first Wednesday monthly, featuring subjects of historical interest. The Carnegie Centre is open for research and exhibition from 11am to 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Phone Barbara on 5021 3090 or email: historical@ncable.com.au

MURTOA: The society has two buildings, a heritage listed water tower housing the famous James Hill taxidermy collection, and the last remaining building of Concordia College Murtoa 1890-1905. The collection includes photographs, books, cemetery records, newspapers, maps, car sales register, memorabilia and books available for research. Among the society’s religious memorabilia are several magnificent organs on display. Local history stories on video are displayed in both buildings. Open Sundays 2-5pm, or larger bookings by arrangement. Phone 5385 2582 or 5382 2287.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: Robyn Annear will speak on “Bearbrass – Imagining Early Melbourne” at 2.00pm on Saturday 12 November, 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.

RYE: On Monday 12 December the Society will visit Beleura Homestead at Mornington, travelling by bus from Mornington Regional Gallery, Dunns Road by 9.30am. Cost of \$33 includes morning tea, description and tour of gardens and houses, light lunch with cello performance. Limited places so bookings are essential to Pat on 5985 8229.

SNAKE VALLEY: An excursion to the recently restored Manse will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 November. The current quarterly newsletter “District Diggings” proves the value of publishing unidentified photographs in newsletters, as an old man photographed with a rocking horse has now been identified by a reader as WJ. Camp who died at Snake Valley in 1935, a coach builder and excellent carpenter, who had made the horse. Phone Helen on 5344 9440 or Pat on 5342 8594 or email helen1940@hotmail.net.au

ST KILDA: On Sunday 13 November at 2.30pm in the St Kilda library community room, internationally acclaimed Elwood writer Roland Perry will speak on “John Monash – the Outsider Who Won a War”, his award-winning book. Also, bring your tram fare at 10am on Sunday 20 November, to explore the history of Melbourne’s greatest boulevard along which early Melbourne travelled south from the city to St Kilda and beyond braving potholes, cattle and bushrangers. See website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hssok

ST KILDA CEMETERY: The Friends will hold an Equestrian Tour of the cemetery at 2.00pm on Sunday 6 November, supporting the Melbourne Spring racing time theme. The tour will visit graves linked to stories of steeplechases, stallions and steeds as well as the tragic accounts of a number of 19th century jockeys. Ring 9527 2387 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~fosk.

SURREY HILLS: On Monday 21 November at 8pm Bill Chandler, architect and town planner will speak about the history of the unique village of Surrey Hills from rural days and later growth periods, and the centennial book. Meet in the Chandler room of the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union Road.

TRAFALGAR: On Friday 11 November the Society will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a dinner. Contact Laurie Huffer

TRARALGON: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 November Mrs Marj O’Brien, former superintendent of the Traralgon branch of the Red Cross, will speak on that organisation, and on 13 December Roger Vanstan will tell the history of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club, when musical entertainment will also help to celebrate the end of year’s activities. Contact Dawn on 5174 4540 or www.traralgonhistory.asn.au.

www.traralgonhistory.asn.au.

WALHALLA: A reunion of the Trembath family will be held in Walhalla on Sunday 27 November at the Walhalla Mechanics’ Institute. Contact Brian on 5622 1442 or email bjbrewer@dcsi.net.au. Special event “Jazz on Track”, with the Walhalla Goldfields Railway, is arranged for Saturday 19 November. Book with Shirley on 5634 2243.

WARRACKNABEAL: Biographies of ex-Warracknabeal High School students who have made a worthwhile contribution to the community where they have lived are currently being sought, for display at the Secondary College. Research has revealed that “a very severe gale, one of the most violent ever experienced in the colony” occurred on Tuesday 23 November 1897, resulting in many churches being blown down and hotels severely damaged, and great destruction throughout the Wimmera.

WARRANTDYTE: ‘Tales of Old Nillumbik’, a ten session program coordinated by the Eltham Living & Learning Centre will offer a visit per week to different local history groups. Learn what they know best and add your story. The program goes to Nillumbik on 8 November, Plenty on 15 November, Yarrambat on 22 November, Warrantdyte on 29 November, Hurstbridge & District on 6 December and St Andrews on 12 December. Each session costs \$5. Course reference number E053168v. Call 94301313 (Mon-Fri 9-5) Warrantdyte Historical Society can be contacted through the President, Jo Laurence on 98443694 or the Secretary, Louise Joy 98443600.

History

NEWS



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.
239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

website: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au>

email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

ABN 36 520 675 471

Registration No. A2529

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

Library Hours: Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm

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What's On at RHSV

November 2005 – February 2006

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

EXHIBITION

History Community Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity

An initiative of the RHSV to widen our understanding of Victorian history. Working with the Sudanese, Vietnamese, Polish, Hungarian, Maltese, Kurdish, Estonian, Italian and Arabic communities, the exhibition is based on personal stories and the broader history of finding identity in Victoria. The communities provided the RHSV with the exciting images and stories about living in Melbourne and Victoria.



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 get make a head start on any research/study projects for next year.

See reverse of What's On for booking.

WHAT'S IN A GARDEN?

**SATURDAY 26TH OR
SUNDAY 27TH OF NOVEMBER**
10 am to 5pm

Where: 6 One Chain Road, Merricks
North

(enter via Tubberubba Road,
Melway 162 A8)

Cost: \$5 (includes coffee or tea).

Children free.

Janice and Weston Bate will be waiting to show you what they have done to add colour, texture and shape to the maturing scene at their beautiful Merrick North property, "Imaretta". Helen Broad will provide delicious tea and coffee on the patio. In the carport you will find books and plants.

This is a great fundraising opportunity for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, so bring your friends, tell your acquaintances.

2006, a notable sporting year for Melbourne, will start at the RHSV with two events focusing on another of the city's sporting highlights – horse racing

RACING AND THE CHARACTER OF AUSTRALIA LECTURE

ANDREW LEMON -

Tuesday, 14 February 2006, 5.45 pm

Coffee and tea served from 5.15pm

Cost: Members – free Non-member \$5.50

Andrew Lemon, Litt. D. (Melbourne), FRHSV is a renowned historian and biographer. A lifelong interest in horse racing gained him the commission for a 2-volume lavishly-produced history of the industry in Australia, published in 1987 and 1990. He has now been commissioned by the VRC to write volume 3.

This talk will reveal, even to non-believers, how vital the sport and its associated businesses have been in Australia's development.

WORKSHOP - LOCAL HISTORY INTERNET RESEARCH TOOLS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24,

10AM – 12 NOON.

Cost \$10 members and \$15 non-members.

The workshop looks at e-research tools providing new opportunities for researching the history of Victoria on the internet. Library catalogues, image collections, databases and websites will be discussed. Come and join the discussion as to how these tools can help your research.

HISTORIC DAY AT THE RACES EXCURSION

Friday, 17 February, 2006

Meet: 1pm at the Phar Lap statue near entrance to Members car park

Cost: \$80 RHSV Members, \$100 Non-members.

Bookings must be with Gerardine

ph. 9326 9288, by Friday 3 February 2006.
Numbers strictly limited to 16. Ring before the office closes for Christmas, Friday December 16, to ensure your place.

How well do you know historic Flemington Racecourse?

Racing historian Andrew Lemon and Australian Racing Museum chief researcher Kevin Gates will be your personal escorts for an exclusive tour of its historic aspects while enjoying the scheduled twilight race meeting. Included in the price is

- entry to racecourse and VRC Members' Reserve, and race book
- three-course Peter Rowland lunch in VRC Members' Atrium overlooking the course, with glass of wine and beverages, and full afternoon tea
- guided tour of the course

The visit will require walking and some stair climbing. VRC Summer Dress Code will apply (details will be forwarded). Make your own way to Flemington by train or car (free parking).



Investigating sources
in women's history

Hosted by Judith

Buckrich

Book for individual
sessions or full
program

Further information about the
collections can be found on the RHSV
website at www.historyvictoria.org.au
and by calling Kate on 9326 9288.

Bookings and payment by phone or
email are encouraged and once your
booking is made you will be sent
confirming details including meeting
points, addresses etc.

Phone: 9326 9288

Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

School of Historical Research

It's on again.....

Monday November 21 to Wednesday November 23

This year we are investigating sources in women's history.

The school is designed to introduce researchers to a range of sources including the innovative Australian Women's Archive Project based at the University of Melbourne; holdings at the State Library and Public Record Office of Victoria, to lesser known collections such as the Women's Art Register held at the Richmond Library and the womens' collections at the Museum of Chinese Australian History.

The school will be hosted by Dr. Judith Buckrich and delivered by specialist librarians and historians. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet experts in their field, become informed about important and lesser known collections, gain information on access to these collections, build on your own knowledge and lay the foundations for any future research projects.

The school will comprise of six sessions which can be booked individually at \$25.00 Alternatively bookings can be made for the full program for \$100.

Sessions will start at 10am & 2pm and it is anticipated they will last between 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Monday's program takes place at the RHSV, with subsequent days being held at the various collections. All venues are metropolitan based. This year to minimise costs to participants we will not be providing a bus as all venues are easily accessible by public transport .

Program

MONDAY

Morning

Dr. Judith Buckrich will provide an orientation for the program & introduce the sources of women's history in the significant RHSV archive.

Afternoon

Nikki Henninghan Director of the Australian Women's Archive Project will present a hands on journey through this innovative on-line archive

TUESDAY

Morning

An opportunity to visit the Women's Art Register, at Richmond Library and see this amazing collection of biographies, slides and catalogues of women artists.

Afternoon

Librarians from the State Library of Victoria will introduce researchers to collections held in the library, in particular the Sibella Press Archive

WEDNESDAY

Morning

The Public Record Office of Victoria will provide a guide through its collections and in looking at access to the collections

Afternoon

A visit to the Museum of Chinese Australian History and an insight into a lesser known collection of women's history.

The School of Historical Research will be an enjoyable opportunity to meet others with a shared interest in this topic and to develop approaches to collection and research issues