

The Good News about Insurance

RHSV Insurance Terms for the Year 1.4.2006 to 1.4.2007

All of us have been painfully aware of the cost increases that have been imposed on us in the years since the so-called insurance public liability crisis. This was notwithstanding the efforts made by the insurance broker for RHSV to re-market the public liability and personal accident schemes each year.

This year we are pleased to announce that the re-marketing undertaken by several insurance brokers has at last borne fruit in an insurance market that is a little more accepting of risks than it has been for the last few years.

Premium Reduction

This year the premium required for each financial member of RHSV affiliated organisations is \$3.50.

This is a reduction from the \$9.00 per active member paid in 2005/6.

The premium this year must be paid on all financial members rather than it has been in recent years on an estimate of active members. This seems to be fairer all round as the numbers can be more accurately assessed. The numbers declared should be your membership numbers as at 31 March 2006. For this purpose a family membership counts as one member.

Increase in Age Limit for Personal Accident Insurance to 90

The new policy has an age limit of 90 as opposed to 80 under the old policy. No additional premium or declaration is required for those

over the age of 80. They are automatically included up to the age of 90.

Excess on the Public Liability Policy

Members will be aware that the RHSV public liability policies have been subject to an excess of \$1,000. That is, if a claim is made against your society the insurance company pays only the amount that exceeds \$1,000.

Recognising that this could be a substantial burden to small societies, RHSV has agreed to bear the excess should a claim arise.

You should be aware that by joining the RHSV group insurance scheme your Public Liability insurance is without an excess.

PLEASE NOTE

Affiliated Societies have recently received a letter 'The Good News About Insurance'. On the reverse of the letter was a list of the usual activities of historical societies. These activities are covered by our insurance.

If any of your activities are not on the list **your Society will not be covered by the Policy.**

You must advise the RHSV Office if you require cover for activities not on the list.

NOTICE OF 2006 Annual General Meeting

All members are advised that the 96th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 9 May 2006

Time: 5.00pm

Place: 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 3000

Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2005.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005.
4. To appoint the Hon. Auditor for 2006.
5. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council.
6. To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group.
7. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.
8. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
9. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

The AGM will be followed by a lecture by Dr Peter Yule about his upcoming biography on Sir Ian Potter.

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS

Four positions are available for election at the AGM. Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close on Tuesday 2 May 2006.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

Kate Prinsley
Executive Officer
8 March, 2006

Discovering Stereographs



Mount Baw Baw, Prof. Kernot's horse taking a rest, c. 1910

Rose's Australasian Views, Victorian Series, 1023; RHSV collection: STG-0111

See the article on stereographs on page 6.

A call for volunteers

Opportunities abound for those interested in research, handling materials from our collection, cataloguing and working with the public.

Volunteering at the RHSV gives great insights into the breadth of the history of Victoria; the people, photographs, manuscripts, maps and books that create a bank of primary source material.

In particular we need volunteers to help with "Site Searches". These are self contained mini research projects that involve using Sands & McDougalls, maps and developing local history skills. It's interesting work, with a commitment of either a few hours or a day required.

If this prompts some interest, ring the RHSV office to find out more:
9326 9288

RHSV races into 2006

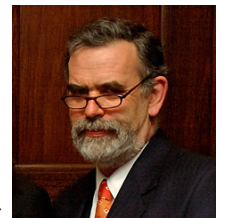
The society raced into 2006 with two delightful events focusing on the history of racing.

Our former editor, prolific local historian and raconteur Andrew Lemon entertained the February speakers' meeting with his account of the development of racing in Victoria, including a fascinating account of the link between the work of the former State Artist Harold Freedman in developing the famous history of racing mural at Flemington with the three volume illustrated history that Andrew himself has been working on over the years.

The racing theme was carried into practice with a delightful excursion to a "twilight" race meeting at Flemington. Again, Andrew Lemon was our principal guide wearing a straw hat as he conveyed us through the birdcage, rose gardens, grandstands and backstage areas at the famous venue. Flemington looked a picture with thousands of roses in bloom, and we were treated to a panoramic view of the action from the Members Dining Room where a sumptuous buffet from Peter Rowland catering was enjoyed by all. Members showed themselves to be modest punters, but there were one or two successful flutters during the afternoon.

Looking ahead, we have a fascinating program in 2006, with one innovation being some lectures to celebrate the geographical strand in our history. Back in the early part of last century, RHSV amalgamated with the Royal Geographical Society of Victoria, and we will celebrate this aspect of our past with some very special lectures during winter, including one about Melbourne, on Melbourne day in August, by the celebrated Melbourne expert and geographer, Professor Kevin O Connor. This year is also the year of our biennial conference, another highlight for your diary toward the end of the year.

In the meantime, all the wonderful things that make up the society's activities will continue, with speakers' nights, library research, excursions, the work of History Victoria Support Group around the state and of course great issues of the Journal. See you next meeting!



Bill Russell

Are you researching Victorian history? *Start with the RHSV Website*

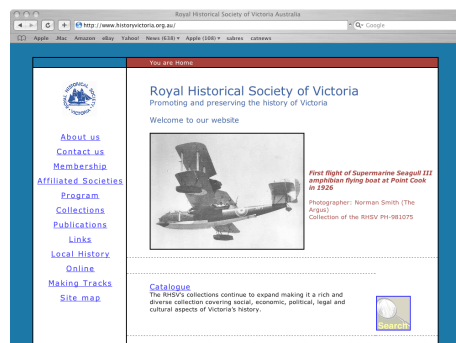
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Catalogue has been online for a number of years now and can be accessed from the RHSV website at www.historyvictoria.org.au. The RHSV Catalogue contains information about items held in our library as well as in the manuscripts and images collections.

The RHSV website also has a section – Local History Online – devoted to providing links to databases and websites useful for researching local history in Victoria.

As well as providing a link to the RHSV catalogue, Local History Online has links to the Victorian Local History Database – a regional database currently containing records from nine participating societies. New partners in the project this year are Wangaratta Historical Society, Essendon Historical Society and the Melbourne Living Museum of the West. The Victorian Local History Database is becoming a useful information resource. Contact Vicki at the RHSV to find out how your society can also become a partner in this project.

Links to other regional databases and library catalogues are also available on Local History Online.

The index to the Victorian Historical Journal – a useful tool for locating information in articles on a wide range of Victorian history topics



other online facilities to promote sharing of information; a link to the online exhibition, Why Melbourne? From Dreamtime to the Capital of Victoria; a link to the Victorian Local History Thesaurus plus a link to the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition.

A new addition to Local History Online is an index to the Victorian Public Records System series 19 – Inwards Correspondence 1839-1851. This index to files held at the Public Records Office was prepared by Jack McRae and will provide another valuable aid for researchers.

So when researching Victorian history, bookmark Local History Online – www.historyvictoria.org.au/online – as the first stop for investigating the history of our state on the Internet.

published in the journal since 1911 – is also available on Local History Online.

The RHSV Affiliated Societies Database provides contact details for the 285 societies affiliated with the RHSV. As well as searching for societies by name, there is an index of localities covered by societies.

Other features in Local History Online include information about the RHSV My Connected Community Project providing forums and

LECTURES

Babies, Birth Weights and Destinies:

What happened to all the babies born in the Melbourne Lying-In Hospital in the nineteenth-century?

When: Tuesday 11 April ;

Time: Coffee 5.15; Lecture 5.45

Between 1857 and 1900 around 25,000 charity babies were born alive at the Lying-In Hospital (now the Royal Women's) and we have full hospital records for 16,272 of them. Over the past eight years a team of patient historians and epidemiologists has been trying to discover their fate and we have finally traced 8584 or 53% to a death certificate. The results shocked us. The infant mortality rate was one of the worst to be found anywhere in the world and the fate of those who survived to reach adulthood casts a disturbing shadow on the Australian story of white success. For some this was never a lucky country.

Janet McCalman has published two social histories of Melbourne private life, *Struggletown* (1984) and *Journeyings* (1993) and in 1998 published a social history of women's health as seen through the history of the Royal Women's Hospital, *Sex and Suffering*. Today she teaches and researches history of health and medicine in the Department of History & Philosophy of Science and in the Centre for Health & Society in the Medical faculty at the University of Melbourne. This new direction in her work has emerged from the voluminous patient records that have been preserved at the Royal Women's Hospital.

Excursion

A Day at Essendon

Thursday 20 April 2006, 10am-3pm

Essendon Historical Society members, with delightful Lenore Frost in the lead, will meet us at Essendon railway station, and walk us around to view the past in the present of this early suburb. About midday we will enjoy a Helen Broad lunch at the Society's rooms in the old Court House on Mt Alexander Road, and back up the morning's impressions with their current display. Afterwards our guides will walk us to the Moonee Ponds station in time for the 3.08 train back to Flinders Street. Have appropriate weather protection for walking. Only cyclones or blizzards will deter us.

Meet: 10am at bus station (Russell St) outside Essendon station, which is also a short walk from the Mt Alexander Road tram. Broadmeadows train scheduled to leave Flinders Street at 9.32am will get you there in time. Long term parking is at some distance from the station.

Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members

Book: with Gerardine 9326 9288

Essendon, Junction of Mount Alexander Road, Fletcher Street and Napier Street
c. 1915 Semco Series RHSV collection PC-0493



WORKSHOPS

All workshops held at the RHSV

Conservation Box Making

When: Thursday 13 April

Time: 10am – 12.00pm

Cost: \$15.00 members \$20.00 non-members

Maximum Number 8 people

A practical workshop suitable for custodians of collections and anybody with precious memorabilia to store. David Thompson will lead you through making cost effective boxes for books, works on paper and 3D items. Issues considered are budget, conservation and access. This is a repeat of a highly successful workshop held last year.

Q&A with the Copyright Council:

issues for historical societies

When: Saturday 13 May

Time: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Cost: \$15.00 members \$25.00 non-members

Maximum number 20 people

Booking essential 9326 9288

Ian McDonald, Senior Legal Officer, Australian Copyright Council will lead a discussion on copyright issues facing historical societies.

Starting points for topics will include:

- Copyright and photographs and in particular the digitization of material
- Copyright regarding manuscript, letters and archive
- Copyright of electronic exhibitions
- Copyright of family history documents and family histories
- Permissions to copy manuscripts and documents
- Assigning copyright when accessioning material
- Paperwork required for copyright

Come and contribute to this opportunity to discuss copyright issues.

In his Australia Day address John Howard called for a “root and branch renewal” of history teaching in schools. He called for fundamental change in the teaching of history and claimed victory in the culture wars, including the end of the “divisive, phoney debate about national identity”.

WESTON BATE RESPONDS:

Howard you be without history?

Those of us who believe in the value of history as an exploration of the past, providing understanding of the present, were naturally disconcerted by John Howard’s effort to cast doubt on themes and problems in our study.

He seems fearful of what he calls the “black armband” school of history, and wants an antiseptic approach. Let’s just work with a skeleton of dates and achievements, he says. Flesh can be disconcerting. Fitting in with economic rationalism, history’s role, according to Howard, is to be useful in a limited vocational way. He does not seem to grasp the fact that the “fair go” principle he accepts as a benchmark of the Australian ethos was built on an historical desire to do away with the old world “laissez-faire” society which was an earlier version of his economic rationalism. Unless we look deeply and examine ourselves honestly, wearing both the black armband and the white, we are in danger of distorting the past for our own ends and to our detriment.

To engage with the complexity of human experience is to take the path of wisdom. To grapple with different accounts of a complex event is to enter the lives of others, assess

their motives and and establish the context in which their actions took place. Although only observers, that engagement makes us participants and activates our consciences. For that reason, Aboriginal history is vital for White Australians. Reconciliation begins with acceptance that a tragedy occurred in the contact of cultures on our frontier. A natural outcome is sympathy for the victims. The attempt to discredit historians who have pointed to massacres of Aborigines may have exposed shortcomings in their use of evidence, but, like Holocaust denial, it has not wiped away a stain that must be accepted. Modern day white Australians should not feel personal guilt, but if we are justified in celebrating our part in the tragedy at Gallipoli why not bemoan our share, and learn from it, in the destruction of Aboriginal culture.

There is no doubt in my mind, having taught it at every level from primary to PhD, that the chief intellectual value of history is learning

to move from detail to generalisation and vice-versa. But the method is different at different levels. Primary students delight in people and their activities, the individual and the group. They learn through stories. Lower secondary pupils like to examine motivation and change. They can begin, what is best in Howard’s proposal, to see the influence of time and to follow a national narrative, in which individuals, more than social structures, stand out. After that, leading on to university, the engagement is complete, and words like cause, motivation, political, social and economic become the tools of thought. The past is then a laboratory of human experience, the student able to test ideas about what brings about change whether revolution, reformation, renaissance, imperialism, socialism, communism and so on.

And what makes John Howard think as he does? That’s a good question for real history.

RHSV NEWS

‘The Year 1856 in Victoria’ - RHSV Conference - Second Call for Papers:

Dates (probable): Fri. evening 17th – Sunday 19th November 2006

The widest significance of the year 1856 for Victoria lies in attaining its first fully elected government. Rolls compiled for the 37 Electoral Districts in the Legislative Assembly, each comprising between two and nine Divisions, and the six Legislative Council Provinces, contain the names, addresses, occupations and the nature of qualification of all those eligible to vote. The rolls provide a microcosm of Victorians of the period.

Other beginnings include the Eight Hour Day movement and openings of the Melbourne Public Library (State Library of Victoria) and the Lying-In Hospital (Royal Women’s Hospital). An example of local perspective is that J. B. Humffray thought the opening of the telegraph line to Ballarat in 1856 would have greater impact than the Eureka uprising two years earlier.

Municipalities inaugurated in 1856 were the towns of Beechworth, Belfast, Kilmore and Williamstown, and the Road Districts (later Shires) of Belfast, Connemara, Eltham, Gardiner, Lauriston and Elphinstone, Portland, Templestowe, Upper Yarra, Warrnambool, and Willowmavin.

There were births, deaths, marriages and immigrant arrivals aplenty, which had personal and local significance.

Societies and individuals are encouraged to prepare material focused around any aspect of the year 1856 for presentation at the conference. It may take the form of a long paper (c30-40 min), a short paper (10-15 min) or a poster to be displayed for the duration of the conference. Publication of material received will be investigated. Proposals may be sent to the Executive Officer: kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au.

Go to it. Start thinking and researching now. Help build the picture of Victoria in 1856.

Victorian Historical Journal

The Journal is the Society’s flagship publication, appearing in May and November each year, and normally of 128 pages. It’s edited by Judy Smart and Richard Morton with support from the Publications Committee.

The next issue is a general issue with submitted articles on a range of topics and it will be distributed in early June. Among the topics of the articles are popular concerts, Australia’s first air wreck, the brief life of a ‘floating palace’ in late 19th century Melbourne, and flower farming. The authors include Guy Featherstone, Peggy Lais, Janice Newton and Darren Watson. And there is a number of substantial reviews of works with strong Victorian connections.

The second issue, due out in November, is well-advanced and addresses aspects of responsible government in Victoria. It will mark the 150th anniversary and is supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Passing on knowlege

In 2005 Mariesa O'Donnell travelled to Israel to gain extra skills in teaching Holocaust history and themes to students in Australia; a very practical and dedicated approach to teaching history.

Last year, good fortune shone on me brilliantly. I was one of four Victorian teachers to receive a Raoul Wallenberg Fellowship, granted by the Courage To Care Organisation. This generous scholarship allowed me to study at YadVashem, Israel. The experience surpassed expectations. It was a journey that fed my head and fed my heart.

YadVashem is the International School For Holocaust Studies. The lectures were conducted by leading scholars from Hebrew University. Another role of Yad Vashem is to commemorate the Righteous Among The Nations. That is, those brave humanitarians who risked their lives to save Jews during the Shoah. Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who created false identification papers stating that Jews were Swedish citizens and journeying back there. Under the Nazi regime anyone who helped a Jew faced the death penalty. As I studied, I was mindful of this principled man, despite little being known of Wallenberg's fate post WW2.

Prior to leaving, many Melbourne survivors approached me and said that the journey would touch, move and even change me. These three thoughts played on my mind because the survivors spoke with a certain sense of knowing. To be honest, I didn't know what they were talking about, but very soon after landing the first of my "light bulb" moments occurred.

I joined a ten day tour of Israel with Pilgrim Tours. My guide was a Messianic Jew. She was academic, thoughtful and a gentle soul. She was very interested in my upcoming studies. Her comment was "Ahh... so you've come here to change!" I said, "What do you know, that I don't?" Her assurance was "Wait and see!"

Hannah, my guide, took us sailing on the Sea of Galilee. I started to cry, mindful of my father and the faith he'd tried to impart. We traveled to the stunning ruins at Bet She'an. In the conversation Hannah said "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." This was significant to me because when I was invited to apply for this scholarship, I didn't believe that I had what it took. So one lesson about self doubt was another phrase that came up which was "listen and do."

At the home of St. Peter's mother-in-law, the guide reminded us of a gospel quote

"To those who have been given much, much is expected." I know that I have received much by going to Israel. I also know what's expected and will pass on the knowledge and resources I gained to young Victorian learners and teachers.

After this tour, the course was ready to begin. It involved one hundred and forty hours of study over two and a half weeks!! Twenty four participants represented eleven countries and included: teachers, lecturers, a psychologist, lawyer, criminologist, museum curator, librarian and a student studying comparative genocide. Lectures included; the history of the Jews, Judaism and anti-Judaism, the database and education available on the YadVashem website, Jewish Literature, Nazi Racial Ideology, Resistance, Holocaust Art, The Struggle With Jewish Faith During The Shoah and much more. Eight survivors shared their stories, including two of Oskar Schindler's Jews. I read the picture story book called "Tomi." It was a father's gift to his three year old son incarcerated at Terezin. I saw David Oler's holocaust art work for the first time, read Ida Fink for the first time and viewed the Auschwitz Album for the first time. We watched an eight minute short film called "The Ambulance." No preparation or introduction was given by the course leaders. None of us could speak about the harrowing footage afterwards.

One of my lecturers Rabbi Dr Pesach Schindler claimed that despite the pain and sins of the past Jews have a duty to repair, reconcile, rebuild and return to Israel. He followed this by saying that when you plant a seed something beautiful results. I believe that the Jewish society that sent me overseas achieved the 4'r's mentioned above. And also a seed has been sown in each of the course participants, as we pass on education about victims, perpetrators and bystanders and empower young learners to be compassionate and act on injustice and intolerance towards others.

(Raoul Wallenberg Unit of B'nai Brith Victoria is a Jewish community service organization. The scholarship is advertised annually in the HTAV newsletter.)

*Mariesa O'Donnell
(Teacher of English and SOSE)*

Your unwanted books wanted for Booksale

The RHSV Booksale – Sunday 25 June

Donations will be received at the Society, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne from now until Friday 16 June. If you have any difficulties with delivery, phone the office to discuss alternative arrangements.

Helpers are needed for sorting and pricing during the week prior to the sale, and as sales assistants on the day itself.

Volunteers in either capacity get a sneak preview of what's on offer!!!

Hindsight

Consulting Q Historians



Researching, analyzing and documenting the history of people, houses, institutions, localities and Shires for individuals, businesses and Government.

Dr Fay Woodhouse, MPHA

T: 03 9894 7325

M: 0427 042 753

E: fwoodhou@bigpond.net.au

Maxus Collections

The software for museums, galleries and historical societies

Powerful and easy to use

Find any item in your collection in seconds.
Display images of colour or black & white photographs, paintings or original documents.
Data entry sheets match standard cataloguing worksheets.

Features

- Clear screen layouts and menu
- Data entry forms tailored for objects, images, books and papers
- Records can be sorted, displayed and printed in a range of reports

Contact Maxus for free demonstration software or further information.



PO Box 727 South Melbourne
Victoria 3205 Australia
maxus@maxus.net.au
www.maxus.net.au
(03) 9646 1988

All Aboard – Goldfields Coach Tour

30 April 2006 – Book Early

Following the success of previous tours, the Mechanics Institute of Victoria is leading a tour to the Mechanics Institutes of the Goldfields. The tour includes visits to the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, Maldon, Castlemaine to see the new community library and adjoining theatre and on to Kyneton where the locals have rallied to protect their Institute. Afternoon tea will be at Newham returning to Melbourne via Lancefield, Romsey and Bolinda Vale. Institutes will be open along the way with a rare chance to see inside these buildings.

The tour leaves from Prahran Mechanics Institute 8.30am and returns 5pm.

Tour includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and tour notes.

Cost: \$55.00

For full tour details and to book call Cathy 9510 3393 or Jim 9873 7202

Or bookings can be sent directly to

MIV Secretariat,

Box 1080,

MITCHAM NORTH, Vic 3132

Stereographs and the George Rose Master Index

In the late 19th and early 20th century ‘stereoviews’, stereo cards, stereo pairs or stereographs were popularly sold.

The cards had a pair of photographs, usually taken with a special camera that took the pair of images from slightly separated views simultaneously. Cards were printed with these views (often with explanatory text) and when the cards are viewed through the double-lensed viewer, called a stereoscope or a stereopticon (a common misnomer), a three-dimensional image is seen.

The RHSV Images Collection holds about 300 stereographs – over 80 attributed to George Rose (1861-1942), perhaps better known for his various postcard series. We also possess a stereoscope (‘the hardware’) to view this media as intended and we continue to receive occasional donations of stereographs to further enrich our collection.

Rose formed the Rose Stereograph Company in Windsor in 1880. His earliest stereographs were of picnickers, to whom he would sell his photos. Many views were of idyllic bush scenes in the Dandenongs, Fern Tree Gully, Fernshaw and the Grampians – where Rose’s Gap and Rose’s Creek are named after him. The Buffalo Ranges, Walhalla and Lorne were

also recorded and show his expert eye for detail and composition.

Rose photographed the major events of his era. These included: the various Contingents going to the Boer War in 1900; Federation; the US Fleet visit to Australia (100 views); the Australian Expeditionary Force training for WWI (26 views); and the Great War (28 views). On his ventures overseas he took stereographs in 34 countries through Asia, North Africa, Europe, the British Isles, North America and the Pacific.

Altogether over 9000 stereographs were taken by George Rose and his assistant in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Robert Carmichael and Ron Blum are compiling a Master Index of George Rose Stereographs. In particular they would like to hear from anyone who has Rose Stereographs that are unnumbered or numbered below 6000. If you are able to provide such information to assist this project, please contact: Robert Carmichael, PO Box 1349, Ballarat Mail Centre, Ballarat, 3354.

Bushfire: How safe was our collection?

Bushfires in Australia are an annual occurrence, unpredictable in their movement and ferocious in their attack. Yet for custodians of our nation’s heritage: how many historical societies have made provision for the protection of their collections against such a calamity?

The recent bushfires in the Grampians have made me realise that our society certainly needs to review the security of our collection which comprises mostly photographs and documents. Driving back to Halls Gap from Sydney during that week, my concerns were not only for the safety of my husband, my home and my friends as the fire burned around them.

What about all those wonderful photographs, maps, letters, etc. in our society’s History Room? Yes, many of the photographs had been scanned to ensure that we had copies and, no, the CDs of those copies were not stored in the History Room along with the original photographs. Those CDs were held for safe keeping in my home. But now that building along with every other building in Halls Gap was in the path of the advancing wildfire.

As I drove southward I began to plan how we could best ensure the safety of our collection once the fire crisis was over. (I would not contemplate the worst of outcomes.) While ‘originals’ are the most valuable record of our history, a copy of the record is also important

and needs to be kept far removed from its source. Maybe our society should look to our neighbouring historical society to hold copies of our collection on CD for safe keeping.

Should we invest in fireproof storage or should all such originals be passed over to ‘safe houses’ such as the RHSV or SLV?

And what about the safety of our original photographs and documents? Should we invest in fireproof storage (if there is such a thing) or should all such originals be passed over to ‘safe houses’ such as the RHSV or SLV? Certainly there is much we need to consider now the danger is past and life is gradually getting back to normal.

While bushfires can take away much we value in life – people, homes, livestock, property – we can often be surprised by what we gain from such a force of nature. After a month of being closed to the public, the Mount Victory road,

which links Halls Gap over the mountains to Zumsteins, was re-opened last week. As I drove up it, taking in the stark landscape of blackened tree trunks and ash bare ground, I became aware that an important aspect of Grampians history had been revealed. There, tracing its way around the contours of Stony Creek Gorge and over into the Wartook basin, was the early bridle track

What a wonderful sight. I marvelled at the construction of such a gently graded track cut into the steep sides of the gorge and at the rock walling, behind which fords were built across the smaller gullies. With the construction and opening of a road in 1930 this hand hewn access route, along which 19th century timbermen and travellers had been given safe passage, had fallen into disuse. Gradually the track had been smothered by thick undergrowth but now, through that force of nature, a piece of our county’s heritage had been given back to us. As custodians of our history we must ensure that it is not lost again.

*Janet Witham
President*

Halls Gap and Grampians Historical Society Inc.

RHSV

SEMINAR DAY

SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2006

Hosted by Warracknabeal Historical Society Inc.

Theme: CATALOGUING AND
MANAGEMENT OF YOUR HISTORIC
COLLECTION

- 9.30** Registration and morning tea
- 10.00** Welcome, introduction, reports, general information:
- 10.00** Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - welcome
- 10.05** President, Warracknabeal Historical Society
- 10.15** Exec. Director, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley
- 10.30 Discussion:**

Topic: Collection Management:

Discussion led by Joan Hunt:

- (1) Collection policies and related subjects;
- (2) Manual cataloguing of your collection.

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

11.30 Seminar Paper:**Topic: Computer Cataloguing including DB Textworks (InMagic):**

Speaker Vicki Court, IT Manager for RHSV will present the seminar paper on how computers can be used for cataloguing an historical collection including photographs, documents, newspapers and objects.

12.30 LUNCH - will be catered by members of Warracknabeal Historical Society.

1.30 Warracknabeal Historical Society:

The afternoon activity will include discussion and tours of the Warracknabeal Agricultural Machinery Museum, the Historical Centre, and the Wheatlands Warehouse, hosted by members of the Warracknabeal Historical Society.

4.00 Afternoon tea and finish.

BOOKINGS can be made by calling Gerardine: 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au.

Joan E. Hunt,

Convenor, History Victoria Support Group,
RHSVVice-President, Royal Historical Society of
Victoria Inc.

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

Email: joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

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 May to joanhunt@netconnect.com.au

AVOCA: On Sunday 16 April (Easter Sunday) Tony O'Shea will lead a walking tour of the Avoca Cemetery, followed by afternoon tea at the Avoca Court House. Mother's Day, 15 May, will see the opening of the 'Travelling Exhibition - Sport & Recreation in Talbot & District 1860-2000' assembled by the Talbot Arts & Historical Museum, which includes a number of photographs supplied from Avoca Historical Society's collection. See website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMmain.htm>.

ALEXANDRA: Copies of 'Alexandra & District History 1839-2005', by Dr Brian Lloyd, are now available at \$60 per copy from the Murrindindi Historic Register, 7 Vickery Street, Alexandra 3714. This new book incorporates 'The Red Gate' history of Alexandra which was written by the late Gerald W. Noble in 1969.

ANGLICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Meetings this year will focus on aspects of the creation by Royal Assent of a representative Anglican Church Assembly and the Sesqui-centenary of its first meeting, which coincided with the meeting of Victoria's first fully elected parliament in November 1856. Evening meetings of the society are held in St. Paul's Cathedral Buildings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Enquiries from Mr. Bruce Macintosh on 98184565.

BALLARAT: The Society meets in the Gold Museum, Bradshaw St. Ballarat (opposite Sovereign Hill) and on Tuesday April 11 at 7.30pm, David Beames will speak on the history of the Ballarat cemetery. Our May meeting will be a talk and tour of the Ballarat Observatory, cnr Magpie & Cobden Sts, Mt Pleasant. Meet there at 7.30pm. Sky permitting we hope to be able to do some viewing through the telescopes. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to Elizabeth Trudgeon 03 5341 2405

BALLARAT GENIES: An excursion meeting to the Gold Museum will be held on Tuesday 25 April, when Roger Trudgeon, President of Ballarat Historical Society and CEO of the Gold Museum, will talk about the Society's collection and lead a tour of the exhibition. Meet at the Gold Museum at 7.30pm. On Tuesday 23 May at 7.30pm at Ballarat Library, Susan McLean, Vice-President of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, will speak about Scottish family history research. Visitors welcome. See: www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au.

BOX HILL: The Society's meetings are held at the Strabane Chapel Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North, starting at 8:00 pm; admission free. On Thursday, April 20 Dr. Noel Ramsey OAM and Ms. Elaine Hardstaff (a former nurse at the hospital) will speak on "Box Hill Hospital", as the hospital celebrates its 50th anniversary. On Thursday, May 18 Ian Broadhead, guest speaker, will speak on "The Broadheads of Box Hill and the family hardware business." Enquiries on (03) 9897 4167.

BRUNSWICK: The Community History Group meets on the first Saturday of each month in the Mayor's Room, former Brunswick Council Chambers in Sydney Road on the corner of Dawson Street. "Almost Pretty: a history of Sydney Road" is available from the Group at PO Box 8, Brunswick 3056 for \$35 & \$2 postage. Contact Francesca on 9387 1194.

CAMPERDOWN: The annual dinner will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 4 April at the Commercial Hotel, Camperdown, when guest speaker Dr Peter Mansfield, CEO of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, will speak on his research into the life and times of Graham Berry, a fiery Premier and community leader of the 19th century. Cost \$22 (pay at door). Enquiries to Mary on 5594 7263 or Bob on 5593 2213.

CORNISH: Trevithick Day will be celebrated at 2pm on Saturday 22 April with "A View of Camborne Town" by Bill Phillips, at the Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Kangaroo Rd & Skipton St, Hughesdale. Library will be open for research from 10am to 1.30pm. On Saturday 20 May the 20th birthday celebrations of the Cornish Association of Victoria will take place. See website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>.

EAST MELBOURNE: At 8pm on Wednesday 12 April at Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, Berres Hoddle Colville will speak about Robert Hoddle and his significance to the early history and development of East Melbourne. Berres has published an extensive biography on Robert Hoddle: Pioneer Surveyor 1794-1881, based on his own diary and other writings. Enq to Secretary Sylvia on 9417 2037.

ELTHAM: On Saturday 6 May at 2.00pm a Heritage Walk will be held. At 7.00pm on Wednesday 10 May Liz Pidgeon, Local History Librarian, will be guest speaker at the Senior Citizens' Centre, Eltham, to which visitors are most welcome. Enquiries to Harry on 9439 1175 or Russell on 9439 9717.

GISBORNE & MOUNT MACEDON: The last weekend of April anyone interested can join with the Historical Society and Cemetery Trust at Gisborne Cemetery to document all burials, transcribe all headstones and photograph graves. A BBQ lunch and refreshments will be provided, and writing materials. Those with digital cameras will enable images to be recorded on CD. BYO chair and shady hat. Enquiries: 5428 1459 or see www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au.

HALL'S GAP & GRAMPPIANS: The Society's first major publication is *Victoria's Wonderland: a Grampians history*, which will be launched on Sunday, 23 April at 2pm in the Halls Gap Centenary Hall and the function is open to all history buffs. The 180 page A5 size book with lots of interesting photographs will cost \$20 plus \$5 p&p. Anyone interested in attending the launch or wishing to purchase the book can contact president Janet Witham on 5356 4300 or write to PO Box 37, Halls Gap, 3381. Visitors to Halls Gap (the green oasis in a bushfire ravaged area) can visit our History Room at the Centenary Hall which is open 9am to 5pm seven days a week, where there is a large collection of photographs.

HASTINGS: On Monday 3 April at 7.30pm Stewart Watt will address the meeting held at the Museum, Cnr Marine Pde & Skinner St, Hastings. A Morning Coffee at the Museum at 10.30am on Tuesday 6 June will be called "Be entertained with Marion", at a cost of \$5.

See www.vicnet.net.au/~dromana/hastings.htm.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Our exhibition on "The Games and Our Sporting Heritage" was officially opened on 19 March by sportsman, Hec Sutherland. The exhibition is continuing in the Museum and part of it will be on show at the Hastings Library. The Wednesday Workers have re-commenced their tasks for 2006, including selection of photos for "Hastings People & Places Volume II". Shirley Davies, President, participated in the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Australia Day celebrations. She was chosen as the Citizen of the Year for 2006 for Mornington Peninsula Shire. Shirley's book about the history of Menzies (Minton) Homes for Children was published in November 2004 and launched by John Landy, Governor of Victoria in the presence of 200 people at historic Sages Cottage, Baxter.

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.



HEIDELBERG: At 8pm on Tuesday 11 April John Hook will speak on 'Little known history of the Pacific War', at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). Enquiries 9455 2310 or see web site: <http://heidelsberg.50webs.com>.

HOTHAM: The History Project group plans a walk by Lorraine Siska based on her research for the book she produced with Alan Ashley in 2004. The walk will take you past some of the historic buildings that illustrate the changes, both good and bad, to the historic building fabric of North and West Melbourne. On Tuesday 2 May at 7.30pm at North Melbourne Library, Lenore Frost of the Essendon Historical Society will present an entertaining and informative talk on 'Dating Family Photographs' and her book will be available to purchase. Enquiries: 9297 3280 or website: hothamhistory.org.au.

INTERNATIONAL SETTLERS: This service group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria will meet on Saturday 20 May at 1.00pm in the GSV meeting room, with Ann Burrows speaking on 'Some records for European genealogy in the Helen Macpherson Smith Genealogy Centre at the State Library Victoria', to which visitors are welcome. See website: www.gsv.org.au/Groups/isg.htm.

INVERLOCH: Meetings are held at the RSL Hall Bolding Place Inverloch on the 4th Wednesday each month at 2.30pm. An historical touring display of pictures prepared by Inverloch Historical Society, entitled "I Remember When..." has been displayed at Cowes in February, Inverloch and Wonthaggi in March, and on 7-9 April can be viewed at the Bass Hall. Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~invhs.

KEW: At 8pm on Wednesday 12 April Trish Williams from VicRoads will speak on 'Senior Drivers', and on 10 May 'Anzac Cove' will be the theme of a talk by Claire Chisholm from Strathcona. Meetings are in the Phyllis Hore Room. Contact Secretary Thea on 9817 3657 or email: theasartori@yahoo.com.au

KILMORE: On Tuesday 4 April at 8pm, archaeologist Geoff Hewitt will speak about the Herrnhut Commune near Penshurst, and its relationship with William Rutledge from 1853. Herrnhut was established by a charismatic East German by the name of Krumnow. Another popular show and tell session will take place at 8pm on Tuesday 2 May, so bring along your special items such as photos, silverware, books, inquests, mysteries and stories, to show off and talk about. Meetings are held in The Kilmore Courthouse, 4 Powlett Street. Contact Secretary Liz on 5782 1243 or email kilmorehistory@nl.com.au.

KYNETON: On 7, 8 and 9 April Kyneton Primary School will celebrate its 150th anniversary, and the Kyneton Secondary College will celebrate its centenary. The Society will hold a heritage dinner on at 7pm on Wednesday 12 April at the Royal George Hotel, when Ken James, local history author, will speak. Enquiries on: 0418 545 648 or see the new website: www.kynetonhistoricalsociety.org.

MALMSBURY: An exhibition will open on Saturday 6 May at 10.30am, at an Open Weekend, Sat-Sun 6-7 May 10.30am-4.00pm, on "Malmsbury's Historic Infrastructure", showing buildings, bridges, railway, reservoir, etc. Also, early records will be available for private research. Contact Secretary Ian on 5423 9188 or 0417 036 194.

MIDLANDS-MARYBOROUGH: The annual dinner will be held at the Goldfields Restaurant on Wednesday 19 April, when Lorna and Bill Hannan of the Hotham History Project will be guest speakers. Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs.

NAGAMBIE: Our Commonwealth Games exhibition "Beyond the Limit" includes photos and memorabilia from Stawell Gift winners, past Olympians and the Celebration of the Nagambie Ladies Bowls 50th Year. This is on display until the end of May and is open on the first Saturday of the month, Wednesday mornings and other times by appointment. Phone Kay Crawford on 5794179.

PORT FAIRY: The Society will host the Western Victoria Association of Historical Societies AGM weekend on 1 and 2 April, which will include a bus tour of the town followed by dinner and guest speaker on the Saturday, and a visit to the museum followed by a guided walk to the Lifeboat museum on the Sunday. Meet at the RSL rooms, Bank Street at 10am for morning tea. Contact Judith on 5568 2791 for details.

QUEENSCLIFFE MARITIME MUSEUM: Lighthouse tours are held every Sunday from 9.30am-1.00pm, for \$6 adults; \$5 concessions; and \$4 children over 5 years. Climb to the top for an incredible view of the Rip and surrounding area, and take part in one of the half-hour tours by Society volunteers. Phone the Museum 9-5 weekdays on 5258 3440

RINGWOOD: A tree planting and historical tour will take place on Saturday 29 April, followed the following day by an historical display and launch of 'Heathmont Recollections' booklet. On Monday 1 May a Railway Station birthday party will be celebrated. For details contact Richard on 9876 4124 or Sandra on 9870 4351, or see website: www.rhs.org.au.

SNAKE VALLEY: On Tuesday 11 April at 7.30 those present are asked to bring along their family history, complete or incomplete, to share. The guest speaker at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 May will be Gail Taylor from the Woody Yaloak Historical Society at Smythesdale, speaking about how to organise and present your family history. All meetings are held at the Society's rooms in the ex-RSL rooms, Smythesdale Road. Phone Helen on 5344 9440.

ST KILDA: At 3.00pm on Sunday 9 April, local author Kristin Otto will talk about her landmark book, 'Yarra', in the library community room, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, calling her talk "The Upside Down River". Contact Meyer on 9690 9584 or see website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk.

ST KILDA CEMETERY (FRIENDS OF): A tour entitled 'Parliament, Premiers & Politicians' will start at 2.00pm on Sunday 2 April; and at 2pm on Sunday 21 May there will be the 'Barristers, Bobbies & Beaks' tour. Significant people connected with both groups are buried at St Kilda Cemetery. Details on 9527 2387 or website: info@foskc.org.

SUNSHINE: The Sunshine Society has arranged with the Castlemaine Historical Society for an excursion to historic Castlemaine and district on Saturday, 22 April 2006. We plan to undertake the Gold Commissioner's Camp Walk, to look at central Castlemaine, and to visit Pennyweight Flat Cemetery, the Garfield Water Wheel, Vaughan Springs and much more. Enquiries for both events to Tom Rigg (03) 9366-6168, or Olwen Ford (03) 9312-2284.

SURREY HILLS: On Monday 10 April, Rosemary Richards, musician, composer, teacher and performer will speak about her book on the favourite music and songs collected in the 1830s by Georgiana McCrae who brought them with her to Australia. Rosemary will delight the meeting with singing and playing of some items from her 'McCrae Homestead Music Book'. Ellen Mitchell, past president of Westgarthtown German farmhouses and cemetery at Thomastown dating from the 1850s, will speak on this unique cluster of bluestone farmhouses still existing today, at 8pm on Monday 15 May. Meetings are held in the Chandler Room of the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to Robin on 0407 548 116.

UNITING CHURCH: Compiled by Dr Peter Munster, a "Biographical Index of Congregational Ministers in Victoria 1838-1977" has recently been launched. It includes some photographic portraits. For details contact the Uniting Church Historical Society, Hon. Sec., PO Box 698, Elsternwick, 3185 or phone 9523 1056.

WARRACKNABEAL: The 39th Annual Vintage Machinery Rally Wheatlands Warracknabeal Museum takes place on 15-17 April (Easter), featuring two-cylinder tractors and open crank stationary engines. The Rally begins with many vintage tractors, cars and a coach joining in the street parade on Saturday, followed by the Vintage Tractor Pull. On Sunday and Monday tractors and other machinery will be in operation, along with many exhibits, demonstrations and stalls. Anyone is welcome to exhibit their machinery. Registrations with Jean on 5398 1901. The event is fully catered. The Society will host the History Victoria Support Group Seminar Day on Saturday 29 April.

WAVERLEY: On Sunday 9 April from 9am till 5pm a bus tour to Marysville will be held at \$20 each; byo lunch and refreshments. Meet at Mt Waverley library by 9am. A speaker from Waverley RSL will talk on "Korea: The Forgotten War" for a special ANZAC meeting at 8pm on Thursday 27 April at Wadham House, behind Mt Waverley Library, Wadham Pde, Mt Waverley. Enquiries to Marjo on 9544 8792 or see website: www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic

WOADY YALOAK: The annual walking trail from Piggoreet to Grand Trunk will start at 10am on Easter Sunday 16 April, including a picnic lunch and refreshments. Bookings to Margaret on 5342 8418. At 12 noon on Sunday 21 May, byo eats for a luncheon at Smythesdale Court House prior to the 'Show and Tell' meeting.

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
ESTABLISHED 1909

President	Prof Bill Russell
Executive Officer	Kate Prinsley
Development Officer	Brendan Watkins
Administrative Officer	Gerardine Horgan
IT Manager	Vicki Court

Design and Artwork: Kiplings Business Communications 0419 135 332

Printed by: Mail Communications 9558 1511

The RHSV acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

**ARTS
VICTORIA**

Victoria
The Place To Be

Items for publication should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV
email: office@historyvictoria.org.au
Copy closes 10th of the month
Price \$1.50
PRINT POST APPROVED PP336663/00011
ISSN 1326-2696