



History NEWS

Issue No. 265 September/October 2006

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Descent from the Summit?

A special Report on the 'History Summit'.

Many words have been penned and spoken since John Howard's Australia Day address called for a 'root and branch renewal of the teaching of Australian history in our schools, both in terms of the numbers learning and the way it is taught'. He went on to say that 'too often Australian history is taught without any sense of structured narrative, replaced by a fragmented stew of themes and issues'.

A 'History Summit' in Canberra on 17 August was called by Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop who asked for a 'renaissance in the teaching of Australian history in our schools'. To the Summit she invited 'some leading Australian historians, public figures who promote the study of history, and educational leaders', 23 in all. The 'leading Australian historians' included Geoffrey Blainey, Geoff Bolton, Inga Clendinnen, John Hirst, Tom Stannage, Margo Neale, adjunct professor at the Australian Centre for Indigenous History at the ANU, Jackie Huggins from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, University of Queensland, and 6 others; the 'public figures' included Bob Carr, Paul Kelly of the Australian, and Gerard Henderson, formerly a columnist with the Melbourne Age; and the educational leaders comprised Tony Taylor, the director of the National Centre for History Education established after a previous Federal government report, the president of the national history teachers' association and 2 other classroom teachers, a history inspector, an education bureaucrat, and a former education lecturer.

The Summit was supplied with two position papers: Tony Taylor and Anna Clark, 'An Overview of the Teaching and Learning of Australian History in Schools' and Gregory Melleuish, University of Wollongong history academic, 'The Teaching of Australian History in Australian Schools: A Normative View'.

Details of the Summit including the minister's press releases and these papers can be viewed at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/policy_initiatives_reviews/key_issues/Australian_History_Summit/Default.htm http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/policy_initiatives_reviews/key_issues/Australian_History_Summit/Default.htm



The Summit has now passed and the debates will continue. A working group is to develop a chronology of key events – always a contentious task. They will also develop 'open-ended questions to guide the development of a model curriculum'. Australian history will be placed within a global context – that should combat the tendency towards parochialism in national histories. And the everyday experiences of people living in Australia over the past 40 000 or more years will be emphasized. Serious contention remains about making Australian history compulsory; about the role of the Federal government in what has been a State responsibility; and about whether there would be a national test at Year 10. Hopefully there will be some largesse to resource history teachers and teaching as well as the \$100 000 annual Australian History prize announced by John Howard.

Whatever else, the public discussion has been considerable, especially in the Melbourne Age. When has there been so much about history in the public domain? Our history movement has the opportunity to engage in the debate by being proactive in relation to school history in our local areas. At the very least we should try and counter the argument that primary children learning about their street are not doing Australian history!

BOOK SALE

A big thank you to every body who donated books for the book sale. We had a fantastic day and raised just over \$4,000.00. There are still interesting books here at the RHSV so if you couldn't make it on July 30th, pop in and see what we've got left. The books will be here until November.

1856 Victoria

ON THE MOVE

Sat-Sun 18-19 November 2006

RHSV premises, 239 a'Beckett St
Melbourne 3000

Sixteen speakers and 2 posters will open shafts of light into Victoria during the year 1856, in a Conference which will illuminate Victorian life today.

Professor Weston Bate's keynote address will floodlight the year, with a counter-angled spotlight from Professor John Hirst, a participant in the Prime Minister's recent History Summit. Other topics include Sir William Stawell and the Victorian constitution, the 1856 election in Colac, nature and enterprise in central Victoria, barrister Richard Davies Ireland a contestant in 1856, Victoria as a New World society, Victorians at work, a year in the life of Melbourne, books and the new Public Library, the Victorian press, sporting life, Geelong on the move, life on the Dunmore run, Yan Yean a 'gigantic hydraulic conquest', McCoy's garden and museum, the Chinese in Victoria and a family history with antecedents as new Victorians in 1856.

Saturday's proceeding will conclude with a party to launch the special issue of the Society's *Journal* on the inauguration of responsible government, which has had support from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Note the dates now in your diary. Cost which includes lunch and other refreshments:

Members (RHSV) \$100 (2 days)

\$60 (1 day)

Non-members \$130 (2 days); \$80 (1 day)

Booking info available from October 1

BEHIND the SCENES


VOLUME NINE – ARE YOU OUT THERE ?

Published between 1922 and 1923, Volume 9 of the *Victorian Historical Magazine* (the forerunner of the *Victorian Historical Journal*) contained articles on early inns of Port Phillip, the first electoral roll, squatting days, early Williamstown and HMCSS *Victoria*. Your Society possesses but one copy of this volume – unlike other volumes of the journal. Do you have Issues 33, 34, 35 and 36 (or even just part of the run which constitutes Volume 9 of the *VHM*)? If so: please contact us. Thank you.

POSTER DISPLAY with MYLAR ENVELOPES

The Society's recent exhibition – *Volunteers and Valour* – included a number of World War 1 recruiting and propaganda posters. A number of visitors, particularly from historical societies, asked for a description of the efficient and effective technique employed to display each poster. Essentially an envelope of Mylar polyester film was made to hold both the poster and a piece of similarly-sized backing card. The envelope was made by folding a piece of Mylar around the bottom edge of the backing card. The fold was creased sharply by rubbing with a bone folder or ruler edge. The envelope was trimmed to a size about 50 mm wider and about 60-70 mm taller than the poster. With the card removed, the two side edges of the envelope were welded using our polyester welding machine. The backing card and poster were placed in the envelope and the excess Mylar at the top of the envelope was folded over on to the back of the envelope. This fold was also sharply creased. The envelope was attached to the wall or display panel using self-adhesive Velcro strips.

Hindsight
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Haphazard Quilt

Poems of the Mornington Peninsula

By Weston Bate

Haphazard Quilt is a beautifully produced book of poems including a CD of Weston Bate reading his poems, complemented by original music from cellist Richard Vandrey

Haphazard Quilt is a helpful metaphor for a rolling landscape, rebellious to the chains and grids of surveyors, as full of delights and surprises as the English Lake District was to William Wordsworth. The contrasting environments of sea and land are the signature of the Peninsula. It offers powerfully both rural and coastal experiences.

The poems reflect sixty years of holidays on the Mornington Peninsula, brought into focus by a decade living there part-time, and the experience of building their Tuscan-Australian farmhouse and establishing its magnificent garden in 1993.

The idea for producing a recording of the poems has come from the wonderful response of visitors during Royal Historical Society of Victoria garden open days.

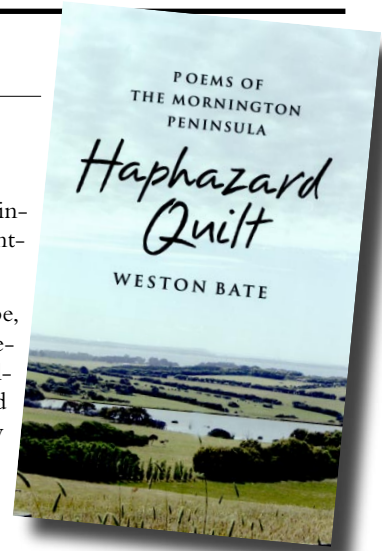
Weston Bate has made an outstanding contribution to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and is a leader in local history writing. He began to write poetry in his late teens. After flying Lancasters during World War 2, he began an honours English and History degree. Although after first year he chose to concentrate on history, he had been captured by modern poets like Hopkins, Eliot, Auden, Slessor and Wright.

As landscape photographer and picture-conscious historian, he likes his poems to evoke a feeling for place. The vivid imagery, descriptive and narrative poetry capture the natural beauty of the Peninsula; its landscape and landmarks written into a rich tapestry.

The book is illustrated by James Bate, Weston and Janice's son who shares their delight in the Mornington Peninsula.

Haphazard Quilt is available from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, select bookshops, and Mornington Peninsula historical societies.

Price \$25.00 Proceeds from sales will go to the RHSV, Peninsula Historical Societies and the National Trust.



Another successful seminar day

On 22 July your Society hosted a seminar day for the History Victoria Support Group (HVSG) with the theme: *Membership – growing and supporting your society*. Fifty persons from affiliated societies across the State attended.

In the morning speakers, drawn from member societies, spoke on a variety of topics. These included: surveys, statistics and their use for membership growth and promotion; strategies for raising and maintaining a historical society's public profile; and the impact on membership of society management (activities, 'phone attendance, links with local government, fee structures, print and internet publications etc.).

The seminar's key-note speaker was Sharron Dickman, Executive Officer, The Melbourne Athenæum, Inc. Ms Dickman spoke on *Developing Memberships and Volunteers*. She challenged societies to consider three key issues:

1. effect on membership possibilities of contemporary and future leisure time;
2. value of membership to an organisation and the types of incentives that can be offered to potential members; and
3. reasons people volunteer and the manner in which to recruit, keep and reward them.

The HVSG and the RHSV thank all contributors for their input to the seminar, the outcome of which will be the production of a brochure to be sent to all affiliated member societies on ways to cultivate and raise membership and volunteers.

LECTURES



The Origins of Football

When: Tuesday 12 September

Time: Coffee 5.15 Lecture 5.45

Australian Rules Football is the oldest football code in the world. The rules were first set out on 17 May, 1859 in the Parade Hotel in Wellington Parade. How this came about and the men who formulated them and ensured that they were widely accepted is the subject of Gillian Hibbin's talk on the origins of Australian Rules Football.

Gillian has been interested in this topic since she co-edited and published the autobiography of Colden Harrison, so-called "Father of Australian Rules Football" as *Running With The Ball in 1987*, and discovered that he was not one of those who put the rules together. Gillian has written a *History of Early Colonial Sport in Victoria*, about to be published.

EXCURSION

Exploring Malvern History!

When: Wednesday 25 October 2pm- 4.30pm

Where: Meet under the portico of the Malvern Town Hall, Glenferrie Road Malvern (corner of High Street)

Cost: \$10.00

Booking essential: 9326 9288

Explore the fascinating history of Malvern with the Malvern Historical Society. Beautiful gardens, tree lined streets set in undulating topography and a wide range of architectural styles are some of the features of this walk.

During the 1850s a village atmosphere had been created close to barrister Charles B.G. Skinner's new hotel, the Malvern Hill Hotel. Over the following years the farmland developed into a desirable suburb and Malvern became the focus for the houses of Melbourne's established families. In the 1920s and 1930s a distinctive character was created when imposing homes by notable architects were built in the streets surrounding the mansion Stonington, at one time the Vice Regal residence for seven Governors of Victoria.

The walk will include a visit to St George Anglican Church (1869), the Malvern Gardens (1888) and the gardens of Stonington (1890).

Afternoon tea will be served at Northbrook (1889) home of the Stonington Archives.

Melbourne in the Sixties: a time, a place and an idea

When: Tuesday 10 October

Time: Coffee/Tea 12.30; Lecture 1.00pm

What were the 1960s really like in Melbourne? Was it just great music, brightly coloured clothes and the Pill? Or was something deeper and perhaps more important happening? This talk by La Trobe University's Tanja Luckins and Monash University's Seamus O'Hanlon is based on their new book, *Go!: Melbourne in the Sixties*. Drawing on a range of sources including memory, statistics and imagery the lecture takes a close look at many of the cultural changes of the Sixties and how they affected the city. It also questions some views about the way the times actually did 'a change'. The talk covers defining moments including the visit of the Beatles, the end of six o'clock closing, Jean Shrimpton at Flemington, as well as increases in tertiary study opportunities, dramatic population growth through migration and a baby-boom, changing attitudes to eating and drinking, political activism and changing social attitudes. All are set in the context of a decade that many continue to see as a golden era.

Seamus O'Hanlon is a Senior Lecturer in Contemporary and Public History in the School of Historical Studies at Monash University. He is the author of *Together Apart: boarding house, hostel and flat life in pre-war Melbourne (2002)*.

Tanja Luckins is a Research Associate in the School of Historical and European Studies at La Trobe University. She is the author of *The Gate of Memory: Australian People's experiences and memories of the loss and the Great War (2004)*.

Together they are the editors of *Go!: Melbourne in the Sixties (2005)*.

56 FACES

Memories of Hungary 1956

EXHIBITION

When: 16 October and runs to 10 November

Where: RHSV 123 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

56 Faces is a new photo-textual exhibition capturing the stories of Hungarians who came to Victoria as political refugees following the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

On 23 October 1956 a splendid autumn evening was shattered when the Hungarian secret police fired into a crowd of unarmed demonstrators. Hatred of eleven years of Russian oppression and a brutal secret police exploded and an uprising was born.

After five days of bloodshed, Hungarians danced in the streets as the Russians agreed to withdraw and Hungary declared an independent, neutral government. The euphoria evaporated when at 4 am on 4 November, Budapest awoke to the sound of tanks and heavy artillery and the Russians put down the uprising with a massive show of force and reinstated a communist government.

Fifty years on, twenty-eight Victorians explain why the uprising was a catalyst for coming to Australia, some running for their lives, others running for a better life and freedom.

"Imagine the whole city of Geelong lock stock and barrel, standing up and leaving as they were: pets, friends, families, careers, everything left behind. What a desperate people they must have been." *John Penzes, Actor, Budapest Theatre Company, 32 years*

"I said to the Sofiok secret police 'Leave the guns here... We don't want to harm you, we came here only to stop the killing. There's enough blood flowing in Budapest. Put down the guns and leave in peace.'" *Jeno Kapitany, Freedom Fighter, 29 years*

"My wife Agi was five months pregnant when early one Sunday morning the Hungarian secret police came and took me away. That was really very sad because the next Monday I would have passed the university exam and Friday I would get my law and political science diploma. That devastated my family and myself." *Peter Fekete, political prisoner and freedom fighter, 28 years*

56 Faces opens on 16 October and runs to 10 November at the RHSV 123 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

Photographer Susan Gordon-Brown and writer Sandy Watson have developed 56 Faces in collaboration with Hungarian communities throughout Victoria and with Arts Victoria and Regional Arts Victoria funding.

BOOKS RECEIVED:

We note below relevant items sent to the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in the *News* and through deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Journal*.

Peter Beilharz & Robert Manne (eds), *Reflected Light, La Trobe Essays*, Black Ink, Melbourne, 2006, pp.343, \$29-95, ISBN 1863952462. Two very distinguished editors from La Trobe University have gathered together 26 essays all written by people with a close association with humanities and social science at the university. Some are new; some authors are very well-known—Inga Clendinnen, John Carroll, John Hirst, Dennis Altman, Marilyn Lake, Alan Frost, John Salmond, Judith Brett, Tim Murray, and Brian Stoddart, as well as the editors; others have written most interesting pieces; and the total effect is to suggest that the *Times Higher Education Supplement* may well have been right to place La Trobe among the top 25 humanities faculties in the world. These are essays for all to read, enjoy and ponder. And they are reminders of the contributions historians and others are making to national life despite the nonsense peddled by some commentators and politicians that liberal arts departments have been ‘colonised’ by ‘trivialising, politically correct, postmodern, anti-Western relativists’ (p.3) and therefore should be closed down.

Roger Bourke, *Prisoners of the Japanese, Literary Imagination and the Prisoner of War Experience*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2006, pp. xv + 208, \$45, ISBN 0 7022 3564 4. This interesting book examines the validity of a number of fictionalised accounts of POW experience under the Japanese with a considerable focus on *A Town Like Alice*, *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, *King Rat*, *Empire of the Sun* and the recent television miniseries, *Changi*.

Melanie Oppenheimer, *Oceans of Love, Narrelle—An Australian Nurse in World War I*, ABC Books, Sydney, 2006, pp. 272, \$29-95, ISBN 10: 0 7333 1710 3. Narrelle Hobbs was matron of the Brewarrina hospital when she left Australia in 1915 to enlist in the British nursing service. This moving book examines her nursing experiences in Malta, Sicily, India, and Mesopotamia using her extensive letters home. Sadly she developed liver cancer and died at sea in 1918. Her story adds to the growing body of work about World War I women.

Michelle Hetherington, *James Northfield and the Art of Selling Australia*, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 2006, pp.viii + 96, \$29-95 (ISBN 0 642 27619 6). Copiously illustrated with Northfield’s commercial and other art comprising posters, promotions and advertising as well as landscapes some of which appeared on calendars, this book contains an excellent essay which places commercial art in its international context and argues its importance in selling Australia, as well as Northfield’s part. Many of the posters are familiar promoting tourism, eg. for the Victorian Railways, advertising products like Pelaco shirts and Kiwi boot polish and providing propaganda for the war effort. His work covers the period from the Great War until the 1960s.

Friends of SS Great Britain invite new members

The Australian Friends of the ss Great Britain, a member society of the RHSV, exists to further knowledge of the ship and the passengers who sailed in her. She made thirty-two voyages to Australia between 1852 and 1875 carrying over 15,000 migrants, chiefly to Melbourne. It is estimated there are around 300,000 descendants of those people in Australia today.

The *Great Britain* is famous not only for the major role she played in the growth and development of Victoria, but also for the technical innovations she incorporated. She was designed by the celebrated British engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and was justly known as the world’s first ocean liner.

The Friends was established in 2002 with the chief aim of highlighting the personal stories of those who sailed in the *Great Britain*, by acquiring original documents and artefacts and by encouraging descendants to set down accounts of their ancestors’ journeys and subsequent activities in Australia. In this way we hope to complement the Great Britain Project in Bristol, England, where the ship itself is magnificently displayed after an incredible feat of recovery, restoration and conservation.

Other projects in the pipeline include the compilation of a full and detailed list of all passengers and crew (all published lists presently available are incomplete), development of a register of objects and artefacts held by members, and promotion of the establishment of a permanent exhibition on the great ship in conjunction with the Maritime Museum of Victoria.

We are always on the lookout for new members and welcome anyone with an interest in the *SS Great Britain*, either as a relative of a passenger, as an observer of Victoria’s nineteenth century history, or as a student of marine engineering. Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 17 October at the RHSV and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to attend.

Victoria Heritage Grants: Strengthening our Communities

Rob Hulls, Minister for Planning recently launched Victoria Heritage’s ‘Strengthening our Communities’, a new strategy for the State’s heritage. The strategy will receive funding of more than \$20 million over four years from the 2006 State Budget.

The strategy is built around six key directions to deliver outcomes for the State’s heritage:

1. Recognising a rich and diverse heritage
2. Using our heritage for a sustainable future
3. Managing for growth
4. Telling Victoria’s story
5. Building strong and inclusive networks and partnerships
6. Resourcing the community

The new heritage strategy will provide additional support to historical societies and others managing community collections.

Historical Societies will receive packs containing details, assessment criteria and application forms in September.

Alternatively Societies can contact Heritage Victoria on 9 637 9475 or email heritage.grants@dse.vic.gov.au

HISTORY SUMMIT: What Do We Want To See?

The facts about the Summit are on p.1. In this short article, Don Gibb, a curriculum developer for Year 12 Australian History for many years, and a history teacher in schools and universities for well over 40 years, takes up some of the questions raised by the calling of the Summit. Like Weston Bate's article, 'Howard you be without history?' in the April/May issue of History News, this is a commentary and does not necessarily represent the views of the RHSV.

What would you like to be the outcome of the Summit? If you wrote a letter to Minister Bishop what would you say?

Here's mine:

Dear Julie

Congratulations on your acknowledgement of the importance of Australian history in classrooms. Apart from recent strong government support in New South Wales, history teaching in government schools has been suffering partly because it has lost the institutional support it once had. I'd like to see a Summit calling for vigorous Federal government support for the whole history movement and taking practical steps to bring about change.

All changes in schools depend on teachers to bring them about. Thus, one outcome of your Summit should be practical help for teachers in their important task of educating children in ways that help them to be the active and informed citizens that everybody wants. Good teaching always aims to do this by choosing appropriate methods and materials at all levels from Prep to Year 12. It was always so and despite what you and some of your colleagues and supporters have been saying, teachers continue to do this, often with difficulty. They neither teach courses that are a 'fragmented stew of themes and issues' nor were they students of tertiary history courses like that. I must admit to wondering where some of you and your informants have found these dreadful things! An outcome (this seems to have become a pejorative word!) of any good history education would be to question this claim: who said these dreadful things? why?

How can teachers be best supported?

Certainly not by blaming them for the fact that many citizens, products of our school system, don't know that Barton was the first Australian prime minister. Like all of us they probably know how to find this out by using the internet and they will do it if they need to. Listing essential facts that a citizen should know is an interesting exercise, but a very political one. Would you want students to know that there is a good argument that the 'fair go' in Australian society was shaped

by struggles against established governments and unregulated businesses? Would you want them to know about the tragedy of frontier conflict in the settlement of Australia by Europeans? Would you want them to know about the racial policies adopted by our forebears? Would you want them to know that our founding fathers were politicians like you and your colleagues, committed to principles but pragmatic in approaching the issues of their day like Federation? I would expect that the facts that you and your fellow Summiteers think are important will differ simply because facts only have value in context. The facts we need are those that enable us to understand the stories that are central in all good teaching. These may be a range of stories used to engage a primary class or to involve later secondary students in constructing their arguments.

History teachers need to be involved in the development of curricula that relate to their particular students. This will help to ensure that there is a progressive approach to skills as well as some appreciation of what might be appropriate content. I doubt whether they need any more printed material that has often been the product of government interventions in schools. Systematic communication through email and national websites has much more to offer.

Professional development, funded properly, would make an enormous difference. Teachers need to be able to meet regularly with their history colleagues in other schools but teacher release is usually very difficult because of lack of funds. Mentoring where experienced and inexperienced teachers are paired and funded for interschool visits would help too. There could also be much more involvement of professional associations and many of the cash-strapped voluntary historical societies like those to which I belong if there was more government funding. You would get a big return on any investment in these groups. They already exist; they have considerable

potential resources; but they need financial help to enlarge their contacts with teachers and students. Activities in each state and territory could be greatly enhanced through the funding of project officers who can be effective in bringing good teaching and ideas to wider audiences.

Teachers of history throughout the school system need to have done tertiary history and preferably history teaching methods. I hope that your Summit can promote the continued need for tertiary institutions to provide courses that qualify history teachers. You could also do much to support history teachers in updating and extending their tertiary qualifications.

David Kemp, one of your predecessors as minister, instituted the National Inquiry into School History that reported in 2000. Many of its recommendations including the National Centre for History Education do not need revision but they need continued enhancement. It is not necessary to reinvent many of the spokes of this wheel.

Hopefully, the Summit will draw much more on the experience of the many dedicated and effective teachers of history in schools and universities than has been so far apparent in your invitations to join the Summit. I was discouraged to note how few were practising history teachers and how few actually had recent experience in schools.

This is a longer letter than a busy person wants to read but I'm concerned that history teachers and their school system have been vilified for things they haven't done. Instead of teaching a single narrative of 'achievement', they have involved their students in the rich and multiple narratives of Australia's history. The latter seems an admirable way to help produce critical thinking citizens. I'm sure you will agree.

United in the same cause, I hope!

Don Gibb

Cressy Historical Centre open for business

The Cressy and District History Group originated in 1987 from the community's desire to celebrate 150 years of settlement and to produce a book depicting the history of our region. "Gateway to the Plains"-The History of Cressy and District 1838-1988 was launched at the celebrations in November 1988. Historical information was initially collected for the book then continued when the group organized various special events. In 1984 a Reunion was held for RAAF Personnel who trained at the Cressy Air Base during WWII. The group assisted the local Action Group to further commemorate veterans with a Dedication Day for a new Honour Board, Avenue of Honour and Commemorative Plaque in 2002.



Dr Peter Yule and Colac Otway Shire Mayor Warren Riches. Dr Yule conducted the official opening.

As we collected more memorabilia it became more apparent that we urgently needed to secure a venue to safely house the information. The old historic bluestone Presbyterian Church circa 1862 seemed to be a natural choice. Its close proximity to the Uniting Church and The Cressy Public Hall creates an ideal precinct for arranging functions in the town. If this was to become the centre for our group, there were many challenges ahead as the building was in great need of repair.

After many years of negotiations the History Group entered a lease agreement with The Uniting Church and proceeded to restore the building. Through grants, fundraising, volunteer work and skilled tradesman the building has been transformed to its former glory. Following years of assistance from other local historical groups and attending seminars, 2005 saw our group become a member of the RHSV. We are now reaping the rich benefits of what the RHSV has to offer.

The Cressy and District History Group Inc is indebted to the assistance of Joan Hunt in her role of Convenor of History Victoria Support Group. Joan has given generously of her time and expertise, encouraging us as we set up the new centre. Vicki Court has also been invaluable with her IT knowledge, helping us structure our cataloguing system.

Being granted POD certification in May has given us the credibility of collecting and storing information safely. We aim to increase our collection to preserve the history of our area for future generations. Years of planning culminated on 9th April when Dr Peter Yule, Vice President of the RHSV, officially opened The Cressy Historical Centre. This milestone was witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd of locals and visitors.

Now the centre is a reality, the challenge ahead is to encourage people to share their knowledge and records to extend the collection. The centre is open each first Sunday of the month from 1pm - 4pm, or by appointment. Due to Father's Day, the September opening is the 2nd week.

Enquiries to Jan 03 5238 8245 0407 688626



HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

RHSV Seminar Day

SATURDAY: 23 SEPTEMBER 2006

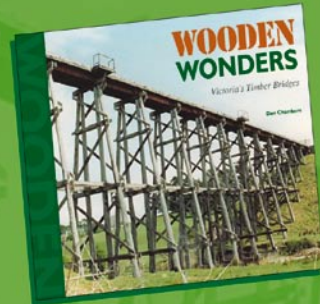
Hosted by Yallourn North Coal Mine Museum

Theme: LOCAL HISTORY INTO THE FUTURE

(Multimedia and Information Technology)

- 9.30 **Registration** and morning tea
 - 10.00 **Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information: Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Lenore Frost
 - 10.05 President, RHSV Prof. Bill Russell - introduction
 - 10.15 **Discussion:**
Update on the Internet: Vicki Court will lead a discussion on the Internet; the latest innovations for research and as a promotional tool.
 - 11.00 **Seminar Paper:**
Topic: Multimedia Presentations of Local History: Keith and Diane White of Nepean Historical Society, who own Lavender Hill Multimedia, will demonstrate their work of producing local and family history documentaries on CD-ROM, archiving of records, converting video and film into digital format, scanning and restoring photographs, slides, negatives, documents and drawings, including how they produced the DVD display systems for the museum at Sorrento.
 - 12.15 **LUNCH** - will be catered at a cost of \$12, to be paid upon registration
- Afternoon:**
- Time to explore the interesting collections at the Old Brown Coal Mine Museum and a tour of Yallourn Coal Mine
 - 4.00 Afternoon tea and finish.

Bookings Essential: Call 9326 9288



**WOODEN WONDERS:
VICTORIA'S TIMBER BRIDGES**

A narrative of the history of timber bridges, *Wooden Wonders* is based on the National Trust's acclaimed Timber Bridge Study.

This highly anticipated book by noted historian Dr Don Chambers explores the pioneering of Victoria's different regions by road and rail and showcases both the ingenuity of Australian design, and the durability of our native hardwoods.

The 235 page book is lavishly illustrated with previously unpublished contemporary and historical photographs in colour and dramatic black and white.

It will be available in early November (in time for Christmas).

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER
OFFER CLOSING 31 OCTOBER 2006

Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges
Special Offer \$39.95 per copy including postage (normal RRP \$49.95)
Telephone (03) 9656 9800 or
email: info@natrtrust.com.au

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

QUANTITY: _____
@ \$39.95 including postage (normal price \$49.95)

CHEQUE/CREDIT CARD FOR \$ _____

Bankcard Mastercard
 Visa Amex Diners

_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|

NAME ON CARD: _____

EXP DATE: _____

RETURN TO:
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
4 Parliament Place, East Melbourne, Vic, 3002

SEPTEMBER 2006 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 the November issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 October to office@historyvictoria.net.au

AVOCA: On Sunday 17 September a working bee will be held to spring clean and paint various parts of the Court Room and fencing. Jill Hunter will conduct a tour of historic sites in Moonambel on Sunday 15 October at 1.30pm. For further details contact Tony on tonyoshea@inet.net.au or phone 5465 3744.

BALLARAT: A major project entitled 'Capture the Vision', with two distinct facets – "Got the Picture" which aims to copy images of Ballarat's history of the past 50 years which have previously been uncollected, and "Today for Tomorrow" which will capture Ballarat's day-to-day life using digital technology as well as conventional photography, is now under way. At the Ballarat Heritage Weekend on 28 and 29 October the Society plans to offer behind the scenes tours of its collections at the Gold Museum. See www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com

BALLARAT GENIES: James McKinnon from PROV will speak at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 September on using the PROV and Geelong Heritage Centre collections for researching family history, and on Tuesday 24 October Michael Taffe will speak on the Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Archives. Meetings are held at Ballarat Library and all are welcome. The Society will hold a Family History Open Weekend on Saturday 28 October 9.30am-1.00pm and Sunday 29 October 11am-4.00pm at the Australiana Room of Ballarat Library for both beginner and advanced family researchers. Free entry; all welcome. See www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

BENDIGO: The City of Greater Bendigo and the Public Record Office Victoria have agreed on a plan to provide an archivist and another full time person to staff an Archives Centre to be situated on the first floor of the Bendigo Library, using \$1 million from the State Government. The Society will continue to have space in the Centre, which will cater for the storage and accessing of documents. The Society received a donation of \$3000 from 'The Advertiser'. Contact Jim on 0437 199 432.

BERWICK: The 'Florence Thomas Memorial Luncheon' will be held at Clover Cottage, Manuka Road, Berwick at noon on Thursday 14 September, with guest speakers Mr Ian Thomas and Mrs Dorothy Thomas. Cost \$35 per head. Enquiries to secretary tonydod@bigpond.com or phone 5943 2271.

BOX HILL: The Box Hill Toastmasters celebrated 25 years this year, and Andrew Breendon will speak of the Club's history and about learning the skills of public speaking, at 8.00pm on Thursday 21st September at the Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North. On Thursday 19th October Colin McGary will

talk about the 50 year history of the East Box Hill Cricket Club, which began as the Box Hill Adelphian Cricket Club in 1956. Visitors are welcome to all meetings. Enquiries 9897 4167.

BRUNSWICK: On Saturday 2 September 2006 at 1.30pm Dr Ken Eckersall will speak on 'Brunswick Identities in the 1850s and 1860s', in the Mayor's Room, former Brunswick Council Chambers, corner of Sydney Road and Dawson Street, Brunswick. Entrance is via the Coulihan Gallery on Sydney Road. Allan Willingham will speak at the same venue on Saturday 7 October at 1.30pm on 'A Brick Collector's Notes: Brick Making in Australia 1788-1956'. Details: Francesca on 9387 1194.

CAMPERDOWN: The history of Princetown will be the subject of guest speaker Mr Glynn Gracie at 8.00pm on Tuesday 3 October in the McCabe Room. Glynn's parents were at one time the proprietors of the well-known Princetown guesthouse "Rivernook". Write to PO Box 243, Camperdown, 3260.

CARISBROOK: Starting at 5.00pm a farm tour will be conducted by Ian Robertson on Tuesday 19 September, and at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 17 October Bruce Osborn will speak on 'The Local Area and the Boer War'. For more details see <http://www.cgold.com.au/carisbrook%20Historical%20S/home.htm>.

CASTLEMAINE: Cec Kuhle will speak on the drapery trade in Castlemaine at 7.30pm at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine on Monday 2 October. The Society approached the Stuart Stoneman Foundation for financial assistance during the building of the new storage facility extensions. See www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: CHHA Annual Family and Local History Expo at Aquinas Campus, Ballarat on 28 and 29 October. Thirty stalls and PROV with displays. Theme is 'This Sporting Life'. Keynote speaker at 8pm on Friday 27 October in the Mulkearns Theatre is Professor Weston Bate. Other speakers in the program are Ted Maidment – 'Sporting Tales'; Kate Elliott – 'Rowing on Lake Wendouree'; Ian Tinetti – 'Cricket Willow'; and Rod Charles – 'Geelong Cycling History Project'. Clare Gervasoni is conducting workshops at noon on both days – 'Preserving Grandma's Treasures'. Further details posted at www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/chha/chha.htm

FOOTSCRAY: Leaving Ercildoune at 9.30am and returning at 5.30pm, a bus trip to Bendigo will be held on Saturday 21 October at a cost of \$24, not including lunch. After lunch the Bendigo Historical Society will provide a guide for a tour of the City of Bendigo. Book with Gwen on 9311 1933 or Ron on 9687 4625.

GISBORNE & MOUNT MACEDON: A Soup and Sandwiches meal at 6pm on Sunday 17 September will be followed by the viewing of archival films at the Gisborne Court House, to which all are welcome. All headstones at Gisborne Cemetery have been recorded and photographed, to be merged to a database. See www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au

GREAT BRITAIN: The annual general meeting of the Australian Friends of SS Great Britain, starting at 11.00am on 17 October, will include a talk on the ship by John Cordner. A light lunch will be available for a small charge. The meeting will be held at the RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street. Please advise Secretary Bev Bromham on 9755 1176 if you wish to attend.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Mary Delahunty (Minister for the Arts) visited Hastings Museum on 7 June and announced a grant of \$40,482 for the Mornington Peninsula Local History Network to employ someone to work with the 20 local historical groups and the Mornington Peninsula Library in creating a database and website with key historical resources and increase community involvement in local heritage organisations. The Toogoolawa School visited the Museum in June and the Hastings Primary School in July. The Society had a visit from the Tidy Towns-Keep Australia Beautiful representatives also in July. The Society participates in this as part of local community involvement. Morning Coffee for Tues 7 September at 10.30am will have Wendy Morrison give information/appraisals on antiques and collectables (\$5 admission). The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Museum at 7.30pm on Monday 4 September when Inspector Gordon Charteris will speak on "Policing at Hastings". All welcome. Contact Shirley on 03-9781-1141.

HEALESVILLE: On Sunday 24 September at 2pm in the Healesville Memorial Hall the annual general meeting will be held, when a Life Membership will be presented to Bob Pockett. See www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au, or phone 5962 1655 or email hhsoc@optusnet.com.au

HEIDELBERG: The AGM will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 10 October, and will take the form of a members' night, at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). The Court House Museum, Jika Street, opens Sundays 2-5 until 6 December 2006. Website: <http://Heidelberg.50webs.com> or phone 9455 2130.

HORSHAM: On Wednesday 4 October at 8pm Glen Savage will speak on "Snowy River System" at the Society's rooms, 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham. Second hand map cabinets and 566 parish and township maps have been donated to the Society by State Government departments, and the maps are currently being catalogued. Horsham Rotary Club has donated \$300 to purchase map hangers and acid free storage boxes. See <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hhs>

INVERLOCH: An excursion to Gippsland Heritage Park Moe and Darnum Musical Village will depart at 8.45am from the V-Line bus stop and return about 5.30pm, on Wednesday 27 September. Morning tea, admission to both venues and the bus fare totals \$26. BYO lunch or buy it at Heritage Park. Drinks will be available for sale on the bus. Contact secretary Noelle on 5674 1341.

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KYNETON: Starting at 7.30pm, a night entitled Daffy Time entails bringing along a memory to share with the group, on Wednesday 13 September at the Kyneton Library. The Society celebrates its 55th birthday with guest speaker Peter Cuffley, at Aesop's Attic, 24a High Street, Kyneton, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 October. See www.kynetonhistoricalsociety.org or phone 0418 545 648.

LINTON: A 25th anniversary luncheon is to be held in the Blue Room at the Linton Recreation Reserve on Sunday 24 September commencing at 1pm, for a 3 course meal for \$16, when a history of the Society will be presented with a display of photographs from events, trips and exhibitions. Book with secretary Letty on 5344 7430.

MALMSBURY: An Exhibition and Open Weekend will be held from 10.30am till 4pm on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September, at the Mechanics' Institute. The Society has applied to have the Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute precinct placed on the Victorian Heritage Register, and the first stage has been passed. Contact secretary Ian on 5423 9188 or email ianthomas@myoffice.net.au

MALVERN: The September History Walk will start at 2pm on Sunday 10 September, after meeting at the corner of Serrell Street and Bowler's Way, East Malvern, to view the "East Malvern War Service Homes Estate". Recent donations include a large collection of photographs of Stonnington Council events from the Community Relations Department. See www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern

MARYSVILLE: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September in the Local History Centre. The Marysville Primary School is introducing a history component into their integrated studies program in Grades 5 and 6, and the school has donated the MBE medal awarded to Sister Bolam in 1960 along with the framed citation and certificate.

MONTROSE: As part of Heritage Week celebrations in the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the Montrose Historical Society will hold four free walks around 18 historic sites in the township between October 14 and 19. Further details and bookings available from Jean on 9728 4802.

MORNINGTON: At 10.30am on Tuesday 12 September at the Pioneer Hall, St James the Less, Mt Eliza, Eric Unthank will speak of "Reminiscences of a Boyhood on the Mornington Peninsula". On Tuesday 10 October in the Old Post Office Museum, Diane and Keith White will speak on "An Armchair Traveller's Illustrated History of Museums in Italy, England and Dubai". See www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

MYRTLEFORD: A book entitled "Recollections", illustrated with many photographs, has been published after Myrtleford's 150th anniversary celebrations. Twenty-three individuals, couples and families contributed their memories by writing or oral history and the Society edited and published the results. Contact president John Taylor on taylorjcc@netc.net.au or phone 5752 1963 for details, or write to the Society at 29 Elgin St, Myrtleford, 3737

NARRE WARREN: Dr Amanda Third from Monash University will present an entertaining talk entitled 'Does the Rug Match the Carpet?: Race, Gender and the Redheaded Woman', on Wednesday 13 September at 8.00pm. On Saturday 14 October at 2pm Tom and Libby Luke will speak on the popular family history program 'Legacy'. All welcome. Cost \$2. Venue: Narre Warren Library Meeting Room, Overland Drive. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nwfhg>

NEPEAN: Nostalgic Picture Shows will be displayed at 1.30pm on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September in the Museum Heritage Gallery. The annual general meeting will be held at 8.00pm on Friday 6 October, when Professor Chad Hewitt, Chair, National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation will speak on the establishment of the new Centre at Point Nepean. Meetings are held in the Museum's Heritage Gallery, Melbourne Road, Sorrento. See www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au

NHILL: The Zone Meeting of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies will be held at 1.30pm on Sunday 8 October at the Senior Citizens Rooms. Among recent acquisitions are a photo of the Nhill Brass Band, a white celanese nightgown, an album of Ash Wednesday bushfires, and a photo of the 1964 Back to Woorak. Email: ndhs@netconnect.com.au or phone secretary Kay on 5391 3131.

Plenty: Two State Government grants amounting to more than \$8000 will enable the Society to restore the Plenty War Memorial Gates. An Association of historical societies and heritage groups in Nullumbik has had its constitution and rules approved and it is hoped will become incorporated shortly. Email to kerlan@vicnet.net.au or phone 9432 0921.

Queenscliff: A Sea Shanties and Supper with Danny Spooner and friends will be held at 7.30pm on Saturday 30 September in the boatshed of the Queenscliff Maritime Museum for \$15 including finger foods and hot drinks. An exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Marconi Company's radio transmission to Tasmania will be on display at the Maritime Museum until 30 September. Email: wrecks@bigpond.net.au or phone 5258 3440.

ST KILDA: After the AGM on Sunday 10 September, at 3pm Brian De Courcy explores how St Kilda venues and performers played an essential role in the development of popular music in Australia, in the Community Room at St Kilda Library. There will be a joint meeting with Elwood Angling Club on Sunday 8 October at 2.30pm in their new clubhouse next to Elwood Beach car park, when two new books will be launched: Stories from the Elwood Angling Club, and the Catalogue of the Elwood Angling Club Museum. RSVP 9531 3104 for catering purposes. See www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

STRATFORD: The museum of Stratford Historical Society is extending the hours of opening as follows: Every Tuesday 10 till 3, and 2nd and 4th Sundays 2 till 4. The current exhibition runs until October and features 'members personal choices' of items chosen from the museum's vast collection, plus 'Farming in East Gippsland Photos'. Enquiries to Marion on 51456 6485.

SURREY HILLS: On Monday 18 September at 8pm Peter Wolfenden, vice-president of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society will give a PowerPoint presentation on Early Movies of Victoria circa 1894-1910, and the importance of Mechanics' Institutes as venues. He will also show some Melbourne theatre interiors now rarely seen by the public. At 8pm on Monday 16 October Chris Long, a media historian and ABC film specialist, will give a PowerPoint presentation of rare archival newsreels of stars of Vaudeville, musicians and singers of the 1920s and 1930s. All welcome at Surrey Hills Historical Society, Neighbourhood Centre, Chandler Room, 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills. Enquiries to President Robin Kelly on 9836 6589 or 0407 548 116.

WARRACKNABEAL: Wheatlands Warehouse continues to do a roaring trade in secondhand goods, both valuable and invaluable. It is very ably staffed by volunteers, many of whom are members of the Society. Computer cataloguing is now under way, and the Warracknabeal Cemetery records are the first to be put on the system, to be followed by the copying and cataloguing of the photograph collection. A start will also soon be made to catalogue items at the Historical Centre and Museum. A recent visitor to the Museum was taking photographs of the famous Bills water troughs in the district. Contact PO Box 100, Warracknabeal, 3393

WAVERLEY: The annual gathering of past and present residents will be held the first Sunday in October at Wadham House in Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley. Contact secretary MarJo on 9544 8792 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic

WEST BOURKE: The Third Local and Family History Fair organised by the West Bourke Heritage Association Inc. will be held on Sunday 15 October from 10am to 4pm at the Footscray Y.W.C.A. in Essex Street, near the corner of Market Street, with displays and talks by historical societies, genealogical societies, and specialist groups. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wbourke/index.html>

History NEWS



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