



History NEWS

Issue No. 269 June/July 2007

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



GIANT BOOK SALE

Please support one of our major fundraisers of the year.

SUNDAY JULY 29 10am – 4.00pm

Donations of books are now most welcome. Books on any subject are gratefully received.

Please 'phone the office on 9326 9288 to arrange for us to collect them, or bring them yourself into the RHSV. Remember there's free parking outside the front door for up to 10 minutes.

The RHSV office hours are weekdays 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m.

Wine Drive

This is becoming a popular RHSV membership offer. Order wonderful winter wines perfect for comfort food or elegant meals through the RHSV. You will be supporting our work whilst receiving delicious wines elegantly labeled with the RHSV logo – a perfect gift or for your own "cellar". The order form is on the reverse of the "What's On" flier.



THANK YOU

We would like to say THANK YOU for your support by enclosing a 2 for 1 movie pass to the wonderful new film *Driving Lessons*, from the writer of "Her Majesty, Mrs Brown", or the French film *My Best Friend*. We hope you enjoy the film!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN....

In this edition of *History News* is your membership renewal form. Forms are also on our website. Renew your subscription by July 20th and go in the draw to win a "Winter Survival Pack" with all the makings for an enjoyable night out on the town and a relaxing night in sitting by the fire! The pack consists of:

A double pass to Melbourne Theatre Company Production of *The Glass Soldier* by Hannie Rayson AND *The Encyclopedia of Melbourne* edited by Andrew Brown May and Shurlee Swain.

There are TWO wonderful Winter Survival Packs to be won.

INTRODUCE A FRIEND AND WIN!

If you introduce a friend to the RHSV and they join by the 20th July

You'll get:

- a second chance at winning a Winter Survival Pack
- a 2 for 1 movie pass to see the very moving and poignant film *Evening* starring Toni Collette and Glenn Close

Your friend will get:

- an entry into the Winter Survival Pack draw
- a 2 for 1 movie pass to see *Evening*
- all the benefits that come with being a RHSV member.

Winners will be drawn at the Booksale on July 29th.

The Encyclopedia of Melbourne

Edited by Andrew Brown-May and Shurlee Swain

This volume has become essential in everybody's book collection. Melbourne is fortunate in its historians; their contributions to this book make it a compelling guide to the city's living history and an affirmation of its civic ethos.



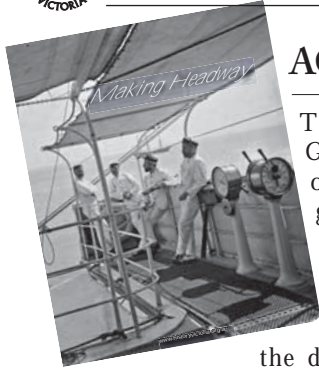
The Glass Soldier

**8th August – 8th September
Melbourne Theatre Company –
The Arts Centre Playhouse**

Written by Victorian playwright Hannie Rayson this play is a true story. When artist Nelson Ferguson went to war he promised sweet heart Maddie that he would not die. But for keeping his promise he paid a terrible price – the loss of his sight that had been his livelihood and his spirit. It is a great story transcending Australian themes of mateship and love and highlights a generation that had endured two world wars and the great depression. Based on original letters and documents it is the stuff of contemporary approaches to history.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE – YOUR COPY OF THE VICTORIAN HISTORICAL JOURNAL

AGM Report



The 97th Annual General Meeting was opened with some general remarks from President Professor Bill Russell. It had been a year when the difficult financial position had been turned around. The year had concluded with a surplus of \$21,800. Great credit must go to the research team who raised \$20,000 in research fees and the staff who ran the organization within a tight budget. A busy speakers program, a conference and exhibitions had brought new audiences to the RHSV. The History Victoria Support Group continued to raise the profile for the RHSV and delivered a program of well supported workshops and seminars throughout Victoria. Challenges lay in building up and sustaining income through membership and finding other sources of income. He concluded by remarking that in view of the diversity and intensity of cultural and even alternative historical offerings in Victoria, it is pleasing that our Society, now in its 97th year of continuous operation, should still be a drawcard; the little ship encircled on the RHSV's logo is still well and truly afloat and making headway.

The 97th Annual Report 2006 "Making Headway" is now available at our website www.historyvictoria.org.au or in hard copy by 'phoning the office 9326 9288.

Award of Merit

David Alexander (Sandy) Christie nominated by the Hastings-Western Port Historical Society and the Dromana & District Historical Society. Sandy has given outstanding, continuous and dedicated service to the history scene of the Mornington Peninsula. He established the Dromana & District Historical Society in 1987 serving as President and a tireless contributor to all aspects of the Society's activities. Sandy has been the inspiration and driving force behind the development of the Pioneer Pathways where plaques have been placed for 32 pioneer families. Sandy has contributed extensively to the Mornington Peninsula Local History Network and his involvement in other community service groups has added to local awareness of the history of the area.

Retiring Councillors

Assoc. Prof. Don Garden and Nonie Long retired at the AGM. Don Garden had served as a Vice President and Councillor on various committees. His contributions were greatly felt as a member of the Constitution Review Committee, Speakers Program and conferences. He represented the RHSV on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and is a Fellow of the RHSV and FAHS.

Nonie Long has made an outstanding contribution to the manuscript collection. She has served on the Collections Committee and has been invaluable in making the collection accessible. Although she retired from Council she will remain as a volunteer at the RHSV.

Two new Councillors were elected, who we introduce below.

LENORE FROST

Lenore has had a long-time interest in family history, but in more recent times has moved more towards work in local history, and has published books on the history of Essendon and Flemington, as well as books on family history topics.

Her most recent publication is *Essendon and the Boer war, with letters from the Veldt, 1899-1902*.

She is currently the President of the Essendon Historical Society, also of the West Bourke Heritage Association, formed to promote historical societies in the western suburbs of Melbourne. She also serves on the History Victoria Support Group of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, which aims to support and promote the activities of member societies all over the State.

JUDITH SMART

Judith is a principal fellow at the University of Melbourne and an adjunct professor at RMIT University. She has published on Australian women's organisations in the first half of the 20th Century, as well as on women and political protest, women and religion, venereal diseases, labour youth organisation, the impact of war, the Miss Australia beauty contest and the Billy Graham crusade in Australia in 1959. Current projects include a study of Melbourne during World War I, stressing its role as the national capital, and (with Professor Marian Quartly) a history of the National Council of Women of Australia. She is also involved in an ARC Linkage project with Dr Suellen Murray (Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University), together with Domestic Violence Victoria, to supervise a history of the women's refuge movement in this state. She is a past editor of *Australian Historical Studies* and present editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Publications committee announces exciting plans for future

You will have received the latest packed *Journal* with this *News*. Next issue due out in November is a special one produced with the Monash music department comprising articles on the theme, 'Migration, Multiculturalism and Music'. Our editors are collaborating with Kay Dreyfus and Joel Crotty in this exciting venture.

Next year is the Victorian centenary of women's suffrage and we are hoping to mark this important event with another special issue. Meanwhile, prospective articles continue to arrive for what will be another general issue focusing on aspects of Victorian history due out in June 2008.

And of course, we are planning for a large special issue to mark the centenary of the RHSV in 2009. As noted previously, we are interested in any ideas that members and readers of this *News* might have for this issue. Formal invitations to contribute will be made early next year. The RHSV has rich largely untapped archival holdings waiting for researchers. It also may be that members and others are holding material about the RHSV collected within families over the past 100 years. We would love to hear from you.

As noted in the Annual Report: 'Sponsorships for the *Journal* are vital for the work of the RHSV and its publications committee'. If you have ideas about sponsors for our work, please let Kate Prinsley know.

A NEW RHSV SERVICE

At its last meeting, Council agreed to establish a reading service that charges appropriate fees for advice on the preparation of articles, biographies and local history manuscripts that relate to Victorian history that have a maximum length of c.20 000 words.

The society contains enormous talent and experience in editing, critical reading and commenting on manuscripts. People willing to be readers are invited to volunteer through the executive officer.

The RHSV will adopt the scale of fees charged by the Professional Historians' Association. Normally, this fee is totally payable to the RHSV with the possibility that an amount never exceeding 50% of the fee received might be paid to readers.

Once the service is established, individuals or groups seeking to use it should apply to the executive officer who will be advised by a group of three Council nominees, including at least one drawn from the current publications committee. Watch this space for further details!

LECTURES



Premiers on the March

THE FELLOWS LECTURE

Date: Tuesday 12 June

Time: Coffee/tea 5.15pm
Lecture 5.45pm

Speakers: Weston Bate, Brian Costa, John Lack

The publication of the *Victorian Premiers 1856 – 2006* by the Federation Press in 2006 filled a gap in our knowledge of Victoria's political history. Victoria is different, according to Brian Costa who masterminded the volume in partnership with Paul Strangio. Brian, now Professor of Victorian State Parliamentary Democracy at the Swinburne Institute of Technology, is an important commentator on contemporary politics. At this meeting he will be joined by two RHSV Fellows – Weston Bate and John Lack – who were contributors to the volume which has won critical acclaim.

The forty four premiers came from many back grounds across the state. They brought their sometimes quirky personalities as well as their policies to the position, within governments of various hue. They faced all sorts of challenges as the state emerged from its colonial beginnings, shackled by a constitution that entrenched the upper house. For many years the factions rather than parties sought to control parliament. Later there was instability because no party could govern on its own. All through, the management of the house has tested premiers and revealed their strengths and weaknesses.

Who were these leaders? What did their activities reveal about society. How did circumstances affect their careers? These are some of the questions that the topic will open up. Light will be shed on somewhat shadowy figures from the past, at the same time as members of the audience will prick up their ears about the assessment of characters well known to them, like Bolte, Hamer, Cain and Kennett. Bring your own perspective to enliven question time.

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Date: Tuesday 10 July

Time: 5.15 Tea/Coffee . Lecture 5.45
A group discussion - Please bring along your memories and opinions on the role of tobacco in our history.

To smoke or not to smoke? That is a question we have all faced. The pressure to conform to a dangerous social habit, little understood until quite recently, has destroyed the health of many people. Movie stars have been used incessantly to glamourise and sensualise the act of smoking.

Tobacco companies have targeted the impressionable young. They have ignored research (often their own) that exposed their products, and have connived to hide their culpability, or used their immense wealth to defeat approaches in the courts.

What has been the place and power of tobacco in our lives? That is the question for this forum. You are asked to think about your personal experience, whether of those pungent "Smoking" carriages on trains, nicotine stained fingers, chain-smoking addicts or other effects. And, on the other hand, the nature of advertising that hooked so many. Who remembers cigarette cards? "Smoke up Dad, so that I can complete my set". Or the implausible association of the American actor Richard Crookes with the up-market Craven A cigarette? And the fag hanging from the bottom lip of an off beat Humphrey Bogart.

Let's see where our memories and opinions take us in a session introduced and chaired by Weston Bate.

AGL SHAW LECTURE – PRESENTED WITH THE
LA TROBE SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE

The Moravian Charles Joseph La Trobe

Date: Tuesday 26 June

Time: 6pm for refreshments
Lecture 6.30pm

Venue: Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A' Beckett Street

Cost: \$5.00 members. \$10.00 non-members.

Booking essential: 9326 9288

This lecture will be delivered by Dr. Robert Kenny. He is a fellow of the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne, where he was recipient of the 2006 Peter Blazey Fellowship for his new book *The Lamb Enters the Dreaming Nathaniel Pepper & the Ruptured World* when it was in manuscript form. He has published several volumes of poetry and fiction, and articles on literature, religious history, and the history of science. He has a PhD in history from La Trobe University where he is also an Associate.

EXCURSION

Koorie Heritage Trust

Date: Thursday 14 June

Time: 10am – 12.00pm

Address: 295 King St. Melbourne 3000

Cost: \$15

An opportunity to be guided through this award winning museum and its collections. The Koorie Heritage Trust provides a powerful, informative and fascinating insight into this ancient but contemporary culture. The tour will include a "behind the scenes" visits to the collections and library.

Please meet outside the Koorie Heritage Trust at 9.50 am Bookings Essential 9326 9288

FOR YOUR DIARY

Mountain Water Tour

TUESDAY 13 – FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2007

Based at Sanctuary House Resort Motel, Badger Creek Rd., Healesville.

Cost about \$620 (all inclusive)

Maximum 38 places. Advise office of your interest early.

Froth and Bubble 2007

...commemorating the life of Australia's
National Poet.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

A range of activities and speeches commemorating the life of poet, horseman, larrikin and champion steeplechase jockey A. Lindsay Gordon.

12:00—4:00pm Sunday 24 June 2007

Ceremony from 12:00pm at Gordon Square, Spring Street, Melbourne

Followed by a commemorative function and appeal launch from 2:00pm at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.
Cost \$5.00 entry incl. afternoon tea.

Visit www.adamlindsaygordon.org

Or ring 03 5261 2899

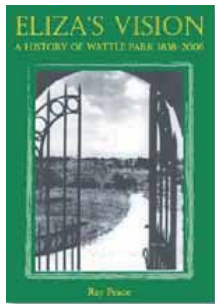
Bring along your Gordon relics!



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 *History News* and through deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

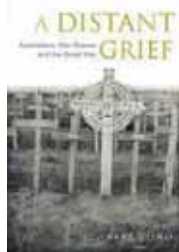
Ray Peace, *Eliza's Vision, A History of Wattle Park 1838-2006*, Prahran Mechanics Institute Press, 2006, pp. viii + 207. ISBN 0 9756000 6 1. Distributed by Ray Peace, PO Box 8061, Ferntree Gully, 3156. The



author chronicles the land and the people of this 'urban oasis' in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne from its prehistory to the present. Eliza Welch was a key member of the families that controlled Ball & Welch, the large Melbourne store. She became the owner of Wattle Park in 1904 and after her death in 1915, her wish that it be used by the general public and remain public open space was carried through by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board whose successors controlled the park until 1991 when it was taken over by Melbourne Water. It is now run by Parks Victoria and its future is reasonably assured. There is much of interest in the history of the park and its links to tramway extension and recreation by public transport users; the development of its chalet, golf course and sporting facilities; and its persistent battles to remain an 'urban oasis'.

Allan Meiers, *Fisher Folk of Fishermans Bend*, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, PO Box 552, Port Melbourne, 3207, 2006, pp. iv + 73. ISBN 0 975728 3 9. This is a very well-presented and documented account of fishing and other families including the author's in the area of Port Melbourne towards the mouth of the Yarra and running back along the shore of Hobson's Bay. Always somewhat isolated, it was the site of shacks, the last of which were demolished with the building of Webb Dock. There are excellent maps and photographs and much that is engaging in this well-told story of 'other' lives in the metropolis of Melbourne.

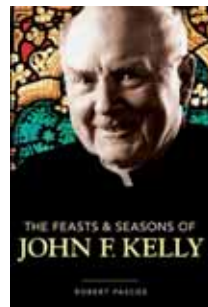
Bart Ziino, *A Distant Grief, Australians, War Graves and the Great War*. University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 2007, pp. xi + 243, \$39-95. ISBN 978 1 920694 89 0. There is an increasing literature on Australian



memories of war, especially the Great War. The author systematically explores how the families of the 60 000 Australian dead, whose bodies were not brought home, tried to come to terms with their loss. It draws on the archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and private papers in a masterly discussion of responses to death and commemoration. The responses are drawn from across Australian society, many from Victoria including Henry Bournes Higgins on the loss of his son, Mervyn; Maude O'Loughlin on the deaths of her sons, George and Harry; and Isabel Simpson whose son Dick was killed at Villers-Bretonneux in 1918.

Joy E. Rainey, *Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags. An Australian Farming Tell Their Stories of Yesteryear*, Kurradjong Press, PO Box 535, Berwick, 3806, 2006, pp. xiii + 579, \$38-50. ISBN 0 646 46336 5. The Bruton family farmed at Cheltenham, Taradale and Little Hampton and had 12 children. In this book, one of the grand-daughters of Olive and Harry Bruton, collects and comments on the told stories of six of them – Rosa, Minnie, Bob, Stan, Bessie and Percy. The result is a substantial account of hard lives on or close to the land, mostly in various parts of Victoria, over the first half of the 20th century. It is a monumental achievement in family history with much to interest social historians of the period especially those with connections to the specific local areas mentioned. It also adds to the body of material about Australian life during World War II and the Depression. There is a reliable index but no pictorial material.

Robert Pascoe with assistance from Stephen Pascoe, *The Feasts & Seasons of John F. Kelly*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2006, pp. xx + 300. ISBN 1 74175 057 1. Monsignor John F. Kelly, 'The Mons', son of a publican, was brought up in regional Victoria. His first parish was at Kyneton and he later was based in West Melbourne, Footscray and Deepdene. He became involved in Catholic schools becoming an inspector and later director of the Catholic Education Office. A scholar of substance, he was in the forefront of progressive Catholic discussion of social justice, education, the place of women, both before and after Vatican II. This rich, interesting, well-researched and wide-ranging biography tells much about the man and the Australian Catholic church. He died in 1993.



Peter Kelly, *Buddha in Bookshop, Harold Stewart and the Traditionalists*, Ulysses Press, 132 Rae Street, North Fitzroy, 3068, 2007, pp. viii + 176. ISBN 978 0 646 46977 5. Harold Stewart left Melbourne in 1966

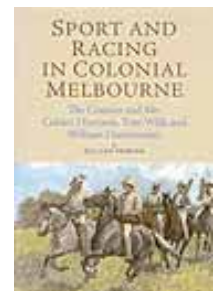
and settled in Kyoto where he died in 1995. Kelly, as a friend, skilfully charts Stewart's life as a poet and scholar deeply influenced by Traditionalist writers who believed that Westerners could restore their own spiritual traditions through study of Asian spiritual traditions. The early chapters recall many aspects of Melbourne's cultural life in the period after 1945 and place Stewart's study group at Norman Robb's bookshop within that social context. The later chapters deal more with Stewart's life and work in Japan. They examine his poetry, known little in Australia where Stewart's collaboration with James McAuley in the Ern Malley affair has usually been his sole recognition.

Frank Gardiner, *Gardiner, A Family History in Australia*, Frank Gardiner, 10 Hotham St, Preston, 3072, pp. 20. A little book that assembles data about John Gardiner, a 19th century immigrant ship's captain, schoolteacher, and librarian, and his descendants, many of whom lived in the Western District.

Geraldine Sanderson, *Kangaroo Ground Horse and Pony Club, The First 40 Years*, PO Box 75, Kangaroo Ground, 3097, pp. 20. A collection of photographs with a short accompanying text.

John G. Jennings and Jim Zentveld, *Seymour Golf Club, 1906-2006*, Jim Zentveld, Seymour, 2006, pp. 50. A slim history to celebrate the club's centenary, the booklet charts its foundation, locations, personnel, performance, and administration. It informs those with links to the club and the area about a notable institution. Well illustrated and indexed.

Gillian Hibbins, *Sport and Racing in Colonial Melbourne, The Cousins and Me: Colden Harrison, Tom Wills and William Hammersley*, Lynedoch Publications, Melbourne, 2007, pp. x + 485. The book covers Victorian sporting



life 1856-1883 and is based on prodigious and productive reading of the sporting journals and columns. It is written in the persona of Hammersley, a prolific if not always truthful sports writer. This writing artifice seems to work well in what is a significant addition to Victorian sports history and social history. Meticulously researched and documented, the author also contributes a very informative prologue and epilogue, as well as two most instructive appendices, one on the origin of Australian Rules Football that surely must be the essential reference point for anyone commenting on this phenomenon, and the other on Hammersley's writing career. Handsomely produced and illustrated, with an excellent index.

The Uncle Stewart Murray OAM Library @ the Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre

The Koorie Heritage Trust aims to protect, preserve and promote the living culture of the Indigenous people of south-eastern Australia. The Uncle Stewart Murray OAM Library is a unique library located on the ground floor of the Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre, 295 King Street, Melbourne.

This Library contains the most comprehensive collection of written materials on the Indigenous people of South-eastern Australia, holding over 6,000 books, papers, videos, government documents and serials from the 1840's to the present day. The earliest item in the collection was printed in 1840 but many items are considered rare as they are no longer in print. It complements the purpose of the Trust which focuses on preserving, protecting and promoting Koorie, culture and heritage in order to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of Koorie culture and heritage in south-eastern Australia.

As a non-borrowing research Library open to Moogji members (friends) of the Trust and the general public (who pay a day rate for use). The Library services a wide range of users from writers, researchers, artists, film producers, universities, schools, the Koorie Community and general public.

The collection is organised under a colour-coded system in subject areas under author. The collection includes a facsimile copy of the first book printed and published in Melbourne *Latest information with Regard to Australian Felix*, 1840. It also includes letters from the Reverend J. Bulmer who was the Manager of the Lake Tyers Mission from 1861- 1907 to the General Inspector of the Board for Protection of Aborigines. Some of our rare book items such as a first edition life of William Buckley by Morgan a special two volume edition of Brough Smyth *The Aborigines of Victoria*. We also have several cabinets housing historical reports and papers which are listed on our Users' Catalogue. Many of our holdings

have been donated by members of the Trust and long time supporters of the Trust. With a band of dedicated volunteers we are at present exploring rare, early primary sources of information which are held by a variety of institutions and private collections and copying relevant sections for our collection.

The Library is of particular value to the many programs, projects and activities run by the Trust. In particular the Library has been the primary resource for projects such as the Trust's joint project with the ABC to create a website on Victoria's Missions and Reserves www.abc.net.au/missionvoices. The Library provided valuable historical information on Victorian Missions in the 1800's and 1900's. The journals of George Augustus Robinson, Chief Protector, Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate from the 1840's provided valuable primary accounts of early cultural practices supporting the Trust's Research and Interpretation Project. The various reports and government documents held in the Library support the valuable research work undertaken by the Trust's Family History Unit in updating its genealogy database. The project "Finding a Different Melbourne" being developed by the Trust's Public Programs Unit focuses on Indigenous, colonial and contemporary events around Melbourne, to provide the background material from which educational walks and tours can be developed. The broad range of contemporary and historical written resources provide valuable resources to the Trust's exhibitions and public programs in the preparation of exhibitions and displays and interpreting items displayed from the Trust's Collection.

Since our move to the King Street Cultural Centre the Koorie Heritage Trust, is continuing to receive increasing visitors and requests from the Koorie community and members of the public. The Library is a welcoming environment, with a knowledgeable, friendly part time Librarian to support access to this significant collection. People interested in accessing the Library should

contact Judy Williams, Librarian on a Monday, Tuesday or a Thursday between 9:00am – 5:00pm or email judy@koorieheritagetrust.com.

The Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre is open to the public 7 days a week between the hours of 10:00 – 4:00pm.

www.koorieheritagetrust.com
Tel: 8622 2600



HMAS Castlemaine – Museum Ship

On Sunday 17 June, the Marine Trust will celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the commissioning of the historic vessel in 1942 with special displays including a line up of WWII military vehicles alongside on Gem Pier, Williamstown, all day.

Also during the afternoon a splendid new model of the colonial warship HMVS Cereberus (1870) will be officially presented to the museum, and will be on view with many historic pictures and documents not seen before including the ships original log book for the delivery voyage to Melbourne during 1870 – 71.

The Historical Re-enactment Group will be present during the day in period costume and fire cannon to mark the event. All Welcome.

Further details www.hmascastlemaine.com
The Museum is open every weekend 11am – 4pm

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

Children's Literature Collection

State Library of Victoria

By Juliet O'Connor

The State Library of Victoria's Children's Literature Collection consists of over 100,000 children's books published between the 16th and 21st centuries.

To meet the research needs of our users, the Children's Literature Collection specializes in Australian children's literature to a level more comprehensive than any public institution in the world. We also hold an extraordinary collection of overseas children's books, both antiquarian and contemporary, to locate Australia's literature within a broader context.

Our children's books are held in three named collections:

- The Children's Literature Research Collection is the fastest growing collection, increasing by approximately 3,000 volumes each year. Established in 1976 by Margaret Ingham, it contains 19th, 20th and 21st century Australian and overseas children's books ranging through fiction, picture books, poetry, folktales, myths, legends and non fiction.
- The Ken Pound Collection was acquired from a private collector in 1994, consists primarily of early to mid 20th century Australian and New Zealand children's books and ephemera.
- The third collection is the Rare Children's Book Collection containing publications from the 16th century onwards. Material in this collection places Australia's literary history within a broader international context.



State Library
of Victoria

in early works took a new trajectory in the mid 19th century with the flight into fantasy that Lewis Carroll's Alice books became. The Library's selection of pivotal books across five centuries of children's book publishing provides a foundation for viewing changing concepts of the child, childhood, and class distinctions between the literate and the illiterate.

Developments in printing techniques can be charted from 17th century Chapbooks, through boldly coloured Toy Books, Edwardian Gift Books and today's graphic novels. Chapbooks were sold by traveling salesmen or Chapmen during the 17th and 18th centuries.

They were cheaply produced books of rhymes, fairytales and fables illustrated most often with wood block prints. Coloured illustrations in children's books were boldly embraced by late 19th century printers who employed well known artists to illustrate familiar fairytales, reproducing them in bright primary colours, framed by borders to assist placement of the page during successive applications of colour through wood block printing presses. In Europe the master printer best known for refining the printing technique involved in Toy Book production, was Edmund Evans. He combined a familiar text with the artwork of popular artists such as Walter Crane, Randolph Caldecott and Kate Greenaway. The brothers William and Samuel Calvert brought these same techniques to Australia in their Australian Toy Book series and collection items display the Calvert's sensitivity to the differences between the colours of European and Australian settings, especially so in their Toy Book *This is the House that Jack Built in Australia* (1871). In complete contrast to Toy Books came the high quality productions of the Edwardian period, called Gift Books. Designed to showcase the work of artists such as Edmund Dulac, Arthur Rackham or Kay Nielsen attention focused on high quality book production techniques.

Today children are challenged visually, intellectually and socially in books and our collecting continues to record comprehensively Australia's publishing output for a child readership, counterpointing it with representative works published overseas. The Library's Children's Literature Collection encourages research across disciplines and has many applications to both reflect social changes and challenge reader response.

The Australian component of the Children's Literature Collection functions as a literary heritage collection. As such it reflects what was written for children about Australia since the late 18th century; what was published within Australia from the beginnings of the children's book publishing scene in the 1840s; and the changing pattern of Australian children's reading over time. These are examples of broadly sweeping applications for research afforded by this collection, but the Australian component can form the basis of research into the minutiae of literary analysis and reader response, to name but two.

The overseas component of the Children's Literature Collection places Australian children's literature within an international setting. Again research is possible in broad sweeps of the global stage, making tangible changing notions of childhood through textual content. Insight into societal aspirations through language and thematic emphasis on good moral behaviour

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP

- RHSV SEMINAR DAY

SATURDAY 7 JULY 2007

Hosted by:

Royal Historical Society Victoria Inc.

Theme:

BUILDING BRIDGES -

Networking in the Community

- 09.30 **Registration** and morning tea
- 10.00 **Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information:
- 10.00 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - welcome
- 10.05 President, RHSV Prof. Bill Russell
- 10.10 Exec. Director, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley
- 10.20 Local History Officer, Vicki Court
- 10.30 **SEMINAR PAPER NO. 1:**
Working with Councils and Your Community: Chair: Prof Bill Russell

A panel of speakers will discuss their experiences on this topic.

Followed by group discussion

12.30 **LUNCH** - catered

1.30 **SEMINAR PAPER NO. 2:**
(a) Proposal for the Establishment of Regional Hubs

(b) Collections Conservation Support Project: South West Region Pilot

Speaker: Pam Enting, Outreach Officer, Heritage Victoria.

Followed by discussion

4.00pm Afternoon tea and finish.

(\$12 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch).

Bookings (03) 9326 9288

Jungle, Desert, Ice

As noted in last *History News*, Sue Blackwood recently completed her thesis about the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia Victorian Branch that amalgamated with the Historical Society of Victoria in 1920. She has generously donated a copy of this important study and it is now available in the library. Thanks Sue!

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 June to joanhunt@ncable.net.au

ANGLICAN: On Wednesday 20 June, Mrs Mary Harris will speak on 'The Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1807' at the Canon's Vestry, the Diocesan Offices. Contact Secretary Bruce on 9818 4565 for details.

BALLARAT: Marion Blythman will speak on the history of Ballarat Special School at the Gold Museum, Bradshaw Street, at 7.30 on Tuesday 12 June. The YMCA Camera Club has agreed to take portraits of local Ballarat people, famous, infamous and anonymous, which will become part of the BHS collection. An exhibition entitled Got the Picture? Ballarat Photography 1945-2005 is currently being shown at the Gold Museum. See www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com

BALLARAT GENEALOGICAL: At 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26 June in the meeting room at Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton Street north, Joy Menhennet will speak on the history of the Cornish in Ballarat and her experiences as a Cornish Bard. Members are indexing petitions 1860-1866 submitted to Ballarat Council, to be published on a searchable database on CD in early August. See www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

BELLARINE: A display on Schools of the Bellarine will be exhibited during June, at the Old Courthouse Museum, High Street, Drysdale, open the first Sunday each month 1.30 to 4.30pm. The death of foundation and life member Tom Connor is noted. Phone: 5253 1715 or email willey@netspace.net.au

BOX HILL: On Thursday 21 June Dr Celestina Sagazio will give an illustrated presentation exploring the history of the fascinating and unique Queen Victoria Market, entitled "Grave Stories of the Queen Victoria Market". There are no other markets of this scale, occupying the original buildings, anywhere in Australia. The market is the site of Melbourne's first official cemetery, and many burials remain on the site.

BRIGHT: The 150th anniversary of the infamous Buckland Riot will be marked on the weekend of 30 June to 1 July, with attractions including a parade of Chinese dragons and lion dancers, drummers and a Chinese dance troupe, plus much more. Contact Joy on joynev@westnet.com.au or write to the Bright & District Historical Society, PO Box 265.

BRUNSWICK: Ken Missen will speak on "Refractories and their use in industry" at 1.30pm on June 2, at Brunswick Town Hall, and on 7 July Robin Vowels will speak on 'The Brunswick Foundry'. Ring Francesca on 9387 1194 for details.

CAMPERDOWN: On Tuesday June 5 at 8.00pm Cheryl Miller from Scott's Creek will tell her fascinating story of being a pioneer female horse racing jockey in the early 1970s, in the McCabe Room, Camperdown. Contact the Society at PO Box 243, Camperdown, 3260.

CARISBROOK: A grant of \$27,000 will upgrade the Town Hall home of the historical society. A general meeting will be held at 7.30 in the Town Hall on Tuesday 19 June. See www.c.gold.com.au

CASTLEMAINE: "Fish and Chips in Castlemaine" will be Peter Padreny's talk at 7.30pm on Monday 4 June at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine, and on 2 July an historical film night will be held. See www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

COLAC: On Saturday 23 June at 1.30pm Dr Adrian Haas will talk about his new book dealing with the history of the Mechanic's Institute and its place in colonial society, at the COPACC History Centre Colac. Contact Secretary on 5231 4831

DANDENONG: On Saturday 16 June the annual luncheon will be held at the Dandenong Club, cnr Heatherton and Stud Roads, with guest speaker Darren Mayne talking about the Rotary Club Shelter Box Project, "Housing 8,000 people in seven days", at \$27 per head for a two-course meal. Phone Carmen on 9794 2456 for details and bookings.

EAST GIPPSLAND: A general meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 9th June at 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale. The museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays 1-4pm. Phone: 5152 6363 or see http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/eghs/web

FITZROY: At 6.30pm on Tuesday 19 June at the 1890s Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church, cnr Michael & McKean Streets, North Fitzroy, Tim Gatehouse will explain much of the history of the area. Phone Tim on 9489 2357. On Sunday 1 July at 10.30am Terry Nott will lead a walk of the Inner Circle Railway, opened in 1888 and now a linear park. Meet at the Carlton North Railway Station Neighbourhood House, 20 Solly Avenue, North Carlton. Contact Chris on 9489 2834.

FRIENDS OF BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY are holding a tour of the Cemetery focusing on the famous memorials in the Cemetery on July 29 at 2pm. Cost \$15.00. at 432 High St. Kew. Details 9817 4896 or info@fobkc.org.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: A seminar on "Volunteers" was held recently at the Hastings Museum, organized by the Local History Officer, Sally Robins and was very well attended, with numerous experiences and ideas shared. Representatives of many neighbouring groups participated in this. An exhibition on "We Remember" was held at the Hastings library and this was in partnership with the Hastings RSL. Morning Coffees continue to attract new people and on Wed 29 August at 10.15am Wendy Morrison of the Tyabb Packing House will speak on Antiques and Collectables. Bookings to 03 9781 1141.

HEALESVILLE: Tom Osburg will speak on postcards of Healesville and surrounding districts at 2pm on Sunday 24 June at the Society's Rooms in the Healesville Memorial Hall. Phone Secretary Alma on 5962 3601 or see healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au

HEIDELBERG: At 8pm on Tuesday 12 June, Janine Rizzetti will speak on 'The Sacking of Judge Willis', at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Sneddon St, Ivanhoe. Phone 9455 2130 or see http://heidelberg.50webs.com

HORSHAM: At 8m on Wednesday 6 June members will bring an item of memorabilia to talk about, and on Wednesday 4 July the AGM will be held, at 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham. 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the Society. Contact Secretary Lorna on 5382 1608 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~hhs

HOTHAM: At 8pm on Tuesday 26 June there will be a presentation on North Melbourne in the 1850's, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Mattingley's school in Errol Street, the forerunner of the Errol Street Primary School. Our favourite Thespian, Jim Brady, (who appeared as "The Vagabond" at the Beat the Bounds of the Benevolent Asylum 150th celebration, November 2000, and as "John Buncl", Buncl Day, Hotham History Project AGM, September 2005) will present excerpts from Albert Mattingley's address to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 1915 on the early history of North Melbourne. Phone Secretary Mary on 9329 5814 or see www.hothamhistory.org.au

MALMSBURY: At 1.00pm on Tuesday 19 June a meeting will be held at the Mechanics' Institute, Mollison Street, Malmsbury. Contact Secretary Susan on 5423 9383 or email j_swalter@bigpond.com

MARYBOROUGH-MIDLANDS: On Wednesday 20 June an excursion will leave Worsley Cottage at 1.30pm, by car convoy, for the Mill Antique Market, Daylesford. For details phone Secretary Betty on 5461 2800 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs.

MORNINGTON: At 10.30am on Tuesday 12 June at the Old Post Office Museum, cnr Main Street and the Esplanade, Mornington, Phil Wiseman, a qualified youth worker and one of a team of street artists who paint murals on buildings, will discuss the difference between street art and graffiti.

NEPEAN: Peter McCall, Chairman of COASTCOM Security, will speak about Security Issues on the Peninsula at 8.00pm on Friday 1 June at the Society's rooms at Sorrento. Sally Robins has been appointed at Professional In Residence with the Mornington Peninsula Shire until June 2007 via a grant from ArtsVictoria.

PORT FAIRY: At 7.30pm on the second Tuesday in June at the Court House, 30 Gipps Street, Port Fairy, a Show and Tell night will be held, when attendees are encouraged to bring along to share an item of interest such as a letter, object or picture. Phone Secretary Benia on 5568 2492 or see www.historyvictoria.org.au

PORT MELBOURNE: On Tuesday 25 June commencing at 5pm at the Railway Club Hotel screenings of members' productions will take place, and a request repeat of Glen Stuart's early films of Port Melbourne. See www.vicnet.net.au/~pmhps.

ROSEDALE & DISTRICT: "The history and heritage of fruit growing in Victoria" presented by Mr. Neil Barraclough on Wednesday June 6 at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held at "King Heritage House" 10 Lyons Street, Rosedale. Supper is provided. Gold coin donation.

RYE: At 8pm on Monday 25 June a general meeting will be held with a guest speaker, at the Library of Rye Primary School. The Society's cataloguing system is being re-evaluated, to be entered into a database. Contact Secretary Ern on 5985 3827.

SHIPLOVERS SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: established in 1930 the SSV. Is the oldest maritime enthusiast group in Victoria, and meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm, at the Port of Melbourne, Education Centre, 343 Lorimer St. Port Melbourne next to the Post Control Tower and close to Todd Rd. Forthcoming speakers include: June - John Rogers experiences of a marine engineer; July - Laurie Dilks Yarra River Works, Bolte Bridge ; August - confederate

raider Shenandoah in Melbourne 1865. All welcome. Further details Peter Williams Hon. Sec. 98530823 before 10am.

SUNSHINE: A re-enactment of portion of two Council meetings, one held in 1907 and one in 1957, will take place on Thursday 7th June. Bookings are essential, through Frank on 9312 2284. See www.sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au

SURREY HILLS: Arthur Tonkin, vice-president of the Society, will speak on 'Early Australian Artists and Their Influences', at 8pm on Monday 18 June, at the Neighbourhood Centre, 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills. Contact Robin on 0407 548 116 or email robindenisekelly@hotmail.com

TRENTHAM: On Monday 11 June at 8.00pm Dave Evans will speak on mining accidents, at the Trentham Railway Station historical society rooms. Contact Secretary Gael on 5424 1261 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~trenhist>.

WARRNAMBOOL: Booklet three of the Warrnambool Hotel series, "First-Class Accommodation and Stabling" (the Red Lion/Stork/Germania/Princess Royal Hotel and the Flying Buck/Farmers' Arms/Turf Club Hotel) is now available for \$10. Phone Secretary Jane on 5565 1251 or email local1@hotmail.net.au

WAVERLEY: On Sunday 1st July the annual steam train rides, when a \$10 ticket will give you a return trip starting/ending at Darling, Mt Waverley or Geln Waverley. A display at Glen Waverley station by Waverley Historical Society, and one at Darling station by Malvern Historical Society may be viewed. Phone Secretary Norma on 9802 9332 or email see www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic

WENDISH: The 150th anniversary of the arrival of immigrant pioneers in Melbourne on ships from Hamburg: La Rochelle, Neumuhlen, Cesar Godefroy, Carl, Dorothea, Gottingen, Manila, Hermann and Sverge. The dinner will be held on Saturday 6 October at 6pm at the Richwood Lutheran Church Hall, at \$25 per person. Phone Clay on 9779 3599 or email claykruc@optusnet.com.au

WOADY YALOAK: Mr Colin Wright will speak on his research into district foundries, at 1.30pm on Sunday 17 June at the Court House, 64 Brooke Street, Smythesdale. Phone Secretary Bill on 5342 8594 or see <http://wyhs.ballarat.vic.au>

Exhibitions: a practical guide for small museums and galleries

Exhibitions: a practical guide for small museums and galleries is the first step-by-step guide book on how to initiate, manage and deliver an exhibition. The book will assist small museums and galleries. It includes a comprehensive list of all the documentation templates you will need to deliver exhibitions to museum standards and includes a CD-ROM. The book costs \$20 (including GST) + \$8.50 postage and handling.

For further information contact Debbie on (02) 6273 2437

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
Administrative Officer	Gerardine Horgan
IT Manager	Vicki Court

Design and Artwork: Kiplings Business
Communications 0419 135 332

Printed by: DPM 9558 1511

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

**ARTS
VICTORIA**



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