



History NEWS

Issue No. 273 February/March 2008

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Welcome to 2008....

The RHSV year has got off to a cracking start!

Towards the end of 2007 we received the wonderful news that the RHSV has secured triennial funding from Arts Victoria. This gives us certainty in our planning both in terms of programming and budgets and confidence that we are delivering valued services to our members and the wider Victorian community.

2008 is planned to be another busy year with a full and varied program of lectures, excursions, exhibitions, workshops and publications. Our collections are increasingly accessible, both online and at the RHSV. Innovations in IT already include a blog, and will include podcasting and the continual addition of image resources to our website via Local History Online. For Historical Societies we will be publishing a revised *Guide to Managing Historical Societies* with an updated contemporary approach to today's issues and opportunities for societies. The History



Image from glass negative donated by Miss F. Souter, believed to have been taken in about 1860 by her grandfather or great uncle Frederick or Henry Frith. Taken from Parliament House looking down Bourke Street.

Victoria Support Group will continue to deliver outstanding seminar days and networking opportunities

2008 is also a busy year as we plan for our Centenary in 2009. Projects are well underway to mark this milestone. Pre-publication offers for our Centenary Address Book are found on the back of *What's On* in this edition of *History News*. This is a wonderful year to consider giving some voluntary time to the Society as we work towards next year's celebrations. Please consider coming to our Volunteer's Information Morning on Wednesday 5 March, 10am – 1pm.

History in Victoria is booming: Online tools,

digital publishing and podcasting are creating unprecedented interest and access to resources. In addition, as we plan for our Centenary we realise the heightened importance of traditional access through exhibitions, collections research, lectures, guided tours and volunteering at historical societies; these programs are the warmth, the heart and soul, the creation of community as people are brought together to engage in history.

I look forward to welcoming you to the RHSV programs throughout the year

Kate Prinsley
Executive Officer

Join us for the Volunteer's Information Morning

Wednesday 5 March, 10am – 1pm.

This is a wonderful day for prospective and current volunteers to come and have a look at the RHSV, be taken behind the scenes, explore the collections and gain an overview of the breadth of projects undertaken. It's an opportunity to meet current volunteers, Councillors and get a sense of whether you would find it fulfilling to contribute some time.

Apart from learning about ongoing activities we are at a particularly exciting time as we commence special projects to be completed in our centenary year 2009.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Volunteers' Information Morning.

Please RSVP on 9326 9288

Kate Prinsley
Executive Officer

RHSV Fellowships and Awards of Merit

Nominations for 2008 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

- Closing Date for Fellows Nomination Friday March 7
- Closing Date for Awards of MeritFriday April 11
- Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley
- Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV

Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM on Tuesday 13 May.

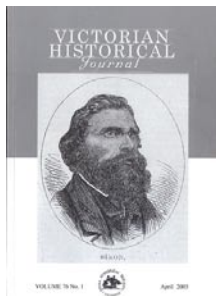
VALE

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of **Stuart Bradley** of Waverley Historical Society and **Norm Carlton**, former president of Sunshine Historical Society.

Both men made enormous contributions to local history and will be dearly missed

Index to *VHJ* extended

The index to Volume 76 of the RHSV's *Victorian Historical Journal* (2005) is now available on our website: www.historyvictoria.org.au.



The two issues of that volume provided members and other interested readers with articles on such diverse subjects as Simon Wonga (the Aboriginal leader), the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate domestic European constabulary, Soldier Settlement at Dreite, the development of community banking, the wreck of the *Elm Grove*, and the evolution of local government human services, together with seven articles on place names in Victoria (in a special issue). Added to this were 14 book reviews relevant to Victorian history.

The index offers just under 1000 pointers to the information contained in Vol 76 ranging from Richard Abbott (chairman, Sandhurst Mutual Permanent Investment and Building Society) to the yacht *Zuleika*. References to the illustrative content of the Journal are also provided. Altogether the number of index entries to articles in the *VHJ* since its first publication in 1911 has now reached 40,000.

Our thanks particularly to John Adams – his indexing skills making this resource even more valuable to us – and to Richard Barneden and Vicki Court for making it available in an electronic form.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS)

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies recently held its AGM in Melbourne – for information on current FAHS activities visit its website at www.history.org.au

New resources on the RHSV website

VICKI COURT REPORTS.

The RHSV website – www.historyvictoria.org.au – provides a number of opportunities to promote the collections held by the society. New resources are continually being made available on the website so check from time to time to see what is new.

Recent additions include a new section *Treasures of the RHSV* – which includes links to digitised images that are available to the public online. *The Woodbury Panorama* shows images of Melbourne taken by Walter Woodbury in 1855 along with information about some of the buildings appearing in the photographs. A number of images scanned from glass lantern slides depicting scenes, possibly in the 1850s are also available online. Not much is known about these images so we are asking that anyone who recognises the location or knows anything images might like to contact us about them. A project to scan the postcard collection was begun several years ago and the first stage of the Postcard catalogue is also available online via the *Treasures of the RHSV* page. A database showing a selection of images of hotels in Melbourne and suburbs in the 1890s is now also online.

There have also been new resources added to the *Local History Online* section of the website. An index to *Parliamentary Papers* in the RHSV collection is a recent addition and in October the *Memorials Database* – a listing of memorials including cairns, statues, plaques, tablets and engraved stones in different locations in Victoria. The RHSV recently received albums of images of memorials and eventually scanned images will be linked to the database records.

The *RHSV Affiliated Societies Database* now includes images of the society (where these

have been provided) and there is also a field for indicating if the society is participating in a regional database project such as *Victorian Local History Database* and / or *PictureVictoria*.

Thirteen societies are now participating in the *Victorian Local History Database* containing almost 18,000 records. This is becoming a valuable resource for researchers of Victorian local history. Societies wishing to participate in this project should contact Vicki at the RHSV.

Recent RHSV news can be found in the *RHSV News blog* located on the first page of the website. The *RHSV mc²* continues to provide information about RHSV events and events of other groups in the forum and events pages – these pages are available for any member of the mc² group to use to share information on history related topics and / or promote history related events and activities.

The RHSV website, as well as providing information about the society and its activities, is a gateway for local history resources generated by the RHSV and other organisations. RHSV members and researchers should regularly check the RHSV website to keep up to date with new resources available.

Parking at RHSV

RHSV has arranged parking for Tuesday night lectures.

Now there is no need to worry where you are going to park, or feeding the meters when attending Tuesday Night Lectures.

The RHSV has organised with SECURE PARKING at The Mint, 383 La Trobe Street, a stones throw from the RHSV, discount parking.

Simply let us know you will be attending the lecture and we will arrange a voucher for you to be collected at the lecture.

The cost is \$7.00 for the evening 5.00pm – 7.30pm.



LECTURES



for innovation and achievement over the last 100 years.

The History of Thoroughbred Racing in our Time

Speaker: Andrew Lemon

Where: RHSV

When: Tuesday 12 February 2008

Time: 5.15 coffee/tea

Lecture: 5.45

Cost: Members free

\$5.50 non members

Andrew Lemon has spoken to the RHSV previously about the history of Australian horse racing but the horse world keeps changing, and he has some new perspectives as he puts the finishing touches to his forthcoming book *The History of Australian Thoroughbred Racing In Our Time*. Publication by Hardie Grant is scheduled for the spring of 2008. The book covers the social and political history of racing throughout Australia in the period 1939 to 2007, from war to equine influenza, totes and TABCorps, champion horses, jockeys and trainers, scandals and glories, outback scrubbers to Bernborough, Tulloch and Makybe Diva and a cast of thousands! His talk will concentrate on the turbulent recent history of the sport, or industry, of horse racing in an attempt to demystify the jargon of privatisation, rationalisation and internationalisation.

It will stand as volume 3 of a trilogy. Volumes 1 (*The Beginnings*) and 2 (*The Golden Age 1861 to 1939*), originally published in 1987 and 1990 respectively, will be re-released in revised editions. The project is being co-ordinated and sponsored by the Victoria Racing Club in conjunction with a number of other Australian racing organizations. An associated exhibition is planned for Champions (the Australian Racing Museum) later in 2008.

Dr Lemon is also noted as the author of award-winning local and institutional histories, most recently his history of Wesley College which was short-listed in the 2005 NSW Premier's History Awards. He is a Fellow of the RHSV and edited the *Victorian Historical Journal* throughout the 1990s.

Crescendo, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 years

Speaker: Stella Barber

Where: RHSV

When: Tuesday 11 March

Time: 5.15 tea/coffee

Lecture 5.45

Cost: Members Free

\$5.50 Non - Members

For 100 years, people with a passion for music and excellence have shaped the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) to become the great orchestra that it is today. Yet it has not been an easy journey. The MSO has survived wars, depression, financial near-ruin, restructures and re-launches, name changes and a cavalcade of the world's greatest conductors to become Australia's oldest and we believe, greatest symphonic ensemble.

Alberto Zelman, a musical genius and child prodigy, who could play every instrument in the orchestra, founded the MSO in 1906. Stella will talk about this Melbourne born man's life and work and about those who followed him. She will also talk about Dame Nellie Melba and her role as President of the orchestra and will reveal why the MSO has received the range of accolades its has

Blackboard to Battlefield: The Victorian Education Department's Teacher-Soldiers, Great War, 1914-18

Speaker: Rosalie Triolo

Where: RHSV

When: Tuesday 8 April

Time: 5.15pm Lecture 5.45

Compared with Australian national averages, Victoria's State school-teachers enlisted earlier and in greater numbers, were more rapidly promoted, more highly decorated—and more likely to die. Based on recent doctoral research, this presentation explains the teachers' responses and experiences. It includes stories from the battlefield and homefront that convey the tragedy of the Great War but that have not since been told.

Rosalie Triolo is History Education lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Monash University and Vice-President of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.



EXCURSION

Tour and lunch with an Artist in Wood

Tour leader: Marjorie Morgan

When: Thursday 21 February

Time: Tour commences 10.30, Lunch 12.30 (approx)

Where: Canterbury area

Cost: \$20 members \$25 non members –

Booking essential 9326 9288 by Monday 18 February.

Marjorie Morgan OAM, historian and biographer will lead this fascinating tour looking at the life and exquisite wood carvings of John Kendrick Blogg some of whose carvings are now found in the churches to be visited on this tour and in the National Gallery of Victoria. In 2007 the Mornington Peninsular Gallery held an exhibition of John Blogg's woodcarvings which attracted over 5,000 people.

John Blogg was born in Canada in 1851 and migrated to Melbourne in 1884 where seven years later he established a chemical manufacturing business. He lived in Surry Hills for many years and when he was 50 took up woodcarving as a refuge from society due to increasing deafness. Until his death in 1936 he made over 300 carvings, the last one of roses when he was 83.

His carvings included billiard tables, furniture and panels made especially for his family of 11 children and 26 grandchildren. He donated many carvings for use as trophies to sporting bodies to which he belonged, also memorial plaques and commissions for churches.

On our tour we will see John's carvings at Canterbury Presbyterian Church and then go to Surrey Hills to visit the Primary School, the Uniting Church and finally St Stephen's Presbyterian Church where we will have lunch.

Meet: Canterbury Presbyterian Church 146 Canterbury Road, Canterbury at 10.30

Parking available on the tennis court beside the church. Melway Map 46 B10 opposite Hopetoun Street

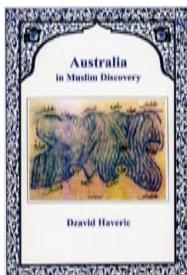
Finish at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church corner of Canterbury and Warrigal Roads

Melway Map 46 J11

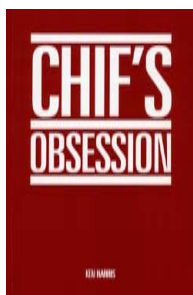
BOOKS RECEIVED:

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*.

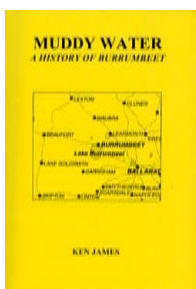
Dzavid Haveric, *Australia in Muslim discovery, historical rediscovering of Australia by non-Muslims and Muslims*, Deakin University, Geelong, 2006, pp. xi + 248. ISBN 0 9580103 2 3. A path-breaking book that identifies Islamic explorations of Australia that add another dimension to our stories of Australia's past. It draws on a wide range of sources including little-known Arabic maps and obscure references and presents a case for our times that acknowledges both plurality in Australian society and the need to accept it.



Ken Harris, *Chif's obsession*, Ken Harris, PO Box 484, Edgecliff, NSW 2027, 2007, pp. xiii + 217. ISBN 978 1 920892 58 6. An historical novel that uses the backdrop of Ben Chifley's proposals to nationalise Australian banking in the post-World War II period.



Ken James, *Muddy water, a history of Burrumbeet*, Ken James, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell, 3124, 2007, pp. 218. A compilation of material about local institutions like the schools, the Presbyterian church, the railway station, the post office, sporting clubs and those who used them. There is also material about involvement in the wars and community organizations like the Red Cross, fire brigade, Young Farmers and other land-related groups. Contains many illustrations and a useful index of surnames.

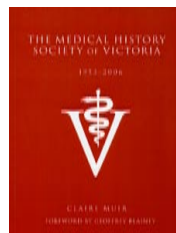


Ivo D. Vellar, *Thomas Peel Dunhill, pioneer thyroid surgeon at St. Vincent's Melbourne*, Ivo Vellar, 84 Almond Street, North Balwyn, 3104, 2007, pp. xxi + 105. ISBN 9781920892708. A biography of the Victorian-born, Melbourne-trained, path-breaking thyroid surgeon, Thomas Dunhill (1876-1957). Dunhill made

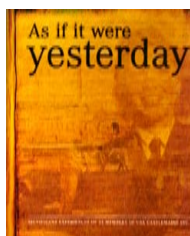
his mark at St Vincent's before World War I. His considerable surgical skills were noted during his service in France and in 1920, he was recruited to St Bartholomew's Hospital in London where his reputation was considerably enhanced. He spent the rest of his life in Britain where he was appointed to a number of honorary positions to the royal family. Well-documented and precise assessment of Dunhill's medical career.



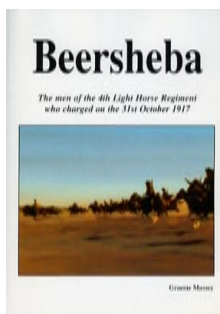
Claire Muir, *The Medical History Society of Victoria, 1953-2006*, Medical History Society of Victoria Inc., Melbourne, 2007, pp. xv + 116. ISBN 978 0 646 47721 3. A concise history of this specialist society that has been active in the development of medical history and museum collections in Victoria. It contains lists of papers delivered, photographs of most of its office bearers, and a meticulously researched narrative of the society and its antecedents. A number of its founders like Murray Verso and Colin Macdonald were also stalwarts of the RHSV.



Narelle Stocks (ed.), *As if it were yesterday, significant experiences of 33 members of U3A Castlemaine Inc.*, University of the Third Age Castlemaine Inc., PO Box 792, Castlemaine, 2007, pp.224. ISBN 978 1 920892 64 7. An interesting series of recollections of youth written by present residents of Castlemaine. The result is a smorgasbord of great variety drawn from people with differing backgrounds and experiences. The whole suggests the diversity of Castlemaine's senior population as well as the richness of its personal resources.



Graeme Massey, *Beersheba, the men of the 4th Light Horse Regiment who charged on the 31st October 1917*, Warracknabeal Secondary College History Department, Warracknabeal, 2007, pp. 128. ISBN 978 0 9750268 3 0. A splendid demonstration of what can be done by



middle school students in history using the resources of the internet, stimulated by excellent teaching as well as fictional film representation, and motivated to produce a very careful report that others can use. The study has a few specific links to Warracknabeal and the school where local history has long been used to illuminate and explore wider national and international issues. It outlines the campaign that culminated in Beersheba posing problems of interpretation and then lists alphabetically all the participants providing short biographies. A series of maps identifies their distribution at enlistment by district and there is also a list of those who missed the charge. Those charged with developing new curriculum for Australian history in schools would do well to heed the work from this Victorian country high school.

Other titles recently added to the RHSV Library Collection –courtesy of Publishing Solutions, professional book publishing and production services:

David and Jocelyn Bradley, *Within the Plains of Paradise, a brief social history of Rhyll, Phillip Island*, Rhyll History Project, Committee, 1997, pp. vi + 97. ISBN 0 64633 951 6.

Michael Davies, *Our Great Department, history of the Department of Anaesthesia, St. Vincent's Hospital*, Melbourne, 2005, pp. viii+ 312. ISBN 1 920892 850.

John Ried, John Chisholm, Max Harris, *Ballarat golden city, a pictorial history*, Joal, Box 618 Bacchus Marsh, 1989, reprinted 2002, pp. 160. ISBN 0 9588112 1 0.

Judith Sackville-O'Donnell, *The first Fagin, the true story of Ikey Solomon*, Acland Press, Melbourne, 2002, pp. xvi + 176. ISBN 0 9585576 2 4.

Penelope Little, *A studio in Montparnasse, Bessie Davidson: an Australian artist in Paris*, Craftsman House, Melbourne, 2002, pp. 223. ISBN 1 877004 286.

Peter Clarke, *Hell and paradise, the Norfolk Bounty Pitcairn saga*, Shearwater Press, Norfolk Island, 1st published 1986, 2007, pp. 189. ISBN 0 646 24508 2.

Peter Griffiths, *A community of care, 50 Years of health care in Apollo Bay and the Otways*, Otway Health and Community Services, Apollo Bay, 2002, pp. x + 133. ISBN 1 1 87667711 2.

David and Kathleen E Sharpe, *Pharmacy families, Henry Francis in Australia 1849-1999*, B D Cossar, Melbourne, 1999, pp. xii + 195. ISBN 1 876677 18 X.

Laura Donati, *Almost pretty, a history of Sydney Road*, Laura Donati, West Brunswick, 2005, pp. vi + 218. ISBN 1 920892 38 9.

John I. Richardson, *A History of Australian Travel and Tourism*, Hospitality Press, Melbourne, 1999, pp. xviii + 366. ISBN 1 86250 496 2.

How do you convey to kids just what the past was like?

History books? Too many facts for easy digestion and, all too often, history for kids is scaled-down 'adult history.' A sample recipe for a school history book might be: take two medium weight adult history books, dice some facts into bite sizes, discard remaining facts, add snappier pictures, and serve.

You end up with something which is neither good history, nor terribly fascinating for kids.

And humans like stories more than facts. Which do you remember most vividly- the history lesson about Troy, or Brad Pitt's muscles?

Ideally, then, you need books of facts and books of stories, each complementing the other. But there are dangers in giving kids the wrong sort of historical fiction too.

Historical fiction can, and often does, change history to make a better story. That doesn't just apply to books for kids, either. Anyone seen *The Dish*? Excellent drama, but historical claptrap.

Even if the dates and names are right, historical novels can serve up clichés. Kids end up not only believing Elizabeth I looked like Cate Blanchett, but that the past was pretty much like today, with a few added bonnets and lepers.

So does it matter if we get it wrong?

Yes. History matters. If history didn't matter then John Howard would have had no problem saying 'sorry', and the Japanese Prime Minister wouldn't need to deny that prisoners of war were forced to work in Japanese brothels. History explains why our world is like it is.

Truth matters too. We live in a world of increasing spin doctoring, where the truth can be skewed to win an election or convince you to buy more whoozles. When you write for kids, or teach kids, you have a duty to show kids that truth is something you can strive for.

Historical fiction can mislay the truth for many reasons. Sometimes it's deliberate. Most often it's laziness, when an author or filmmaker can't be bothered to do more than scrape the surface of their subject. How many historical books or movies make the world of the past seem pretty much like today, except for a few bonnets or swordfights?

The past WASN'T like today. People thought in different ways, acted for different reasons. It's important that kids realise this, too. I don't believe the cliché that if we don't know our past we're doomed to repeat it. Hitler knew all about British Concentration camps.

They just inspired him to make bigger ones. The most important thing history can teach kids are that THINGS CHANGE.

200 years ago kids pulled trucks in Welsh mines because children were cheaper than ponies. 50 years ago aboriginal people in Australia couldn't vote in Federal elections. Once kids realise that things HAVE changed they can start imagining how things CAN change. It's a heady feeling that can lead to, well, anything from a vision of what Australia might be like in 20 years time when they become Prime Minister to a new theory of the universe.

I'd like to say I've dutifully tried to cover all the significant areas of history in my books for kids, but I haven't. The range of my books reflects my own obsessions- Vikings and the urge to explore (*They Came in Viking Ships*); a sense of belonging (*Daughter of the Regiment*) how the lure of gold transformed a valley (*Valley of Gold*), how humans shape their environment but how the land also shapes its people too. (*Walking the Boundaries*) or how a dream can create a better world- even in the depression. (*Somewhere Around the Corner*) and power and prejudice in *Hitler's Daughter and Soldier on the Hill*.

The Animal Stars series, on the other hand, takes a real animal from the past and weaves a story around it... *The Goat Who Sailed the World* is the story of the goat who really did sail with Cook on his voyage that led to Australia's colonisation. *The Dog Who Loved a Queen* is the story of Mary Queen of Scots dog, who was with her when she died (and no, it wasn't a Skye terrier!) *The Camel who Crossed Australia* (August '08) is the tale of a camel on the Burke and Wills expedition.

Sometimes, too, it is almost as though I hear a whisper calling 'remember me.' This was the case with *They Came on Viking Ships*, based on the stories of Freydis Eriksdaughter in the Icelandic sagas. Why do we remember her brother, Leif Eriksson, when Freydis is forgotten? With *Macbeth and Son* it was the story of the historical- not literary- Macbeth. Why do contemporary sources describe him as one of the great good kings, but later English historians- and Shakespeare- turn him into a weak minded villain?

The whispers were even louder with my

latest book, *A Rose for the Anzac Boys*. Most of what we know about World War I comes from official records. But as I read the many diaries and letter collections now being published, often privately, by the descendants of the people that were there, other stories emerge, including those of the women volunteers- not the official nurses and VADs, but the unofficial ones. At first I thought there were dozens, then hundreds. Now I think there were probably thousands, or even more- a forgotten army of women... but that would take far more space than I have here to explain.

Perhaps that's what my books really are - a whisper that becomes an obsession; years of research that suddenly crystallise into a story, and then the labour of turning the past into fiction, woven with facts.

But my writing also comes from a real feeling of urgency. Our history is our heritage - and it's one that our kids are often denied.

Jackie French

Jackie French is probably Australia's most awarded writer for young people, winning both literary and children's choice awards in Australia and overseas. Her writing career spans 21 years, 68 wombats, 132 books, 23 languages, 3,721 bush rats, over 60 awards and short listings in Australia and overseas, and assorted Burke's Backyard segments, radio shows, newspaper and magazine columns about writing, food, history pest and weed ecology, and wombats. She is the owner of 27 shredded back doormats.

Her next book, published by HarperCollins, is *A Rose for the Anzac Boys*.

Jackie is also the author of the ongoing 'Dinkum History' series of Australian history, published by Scholastic Books and illustrated by Peter Sheehan- *Shipwrecks, Sailors and 60,000 years, Grim Crims and convicts, and Rotters and Squatters, Gold Graves and Glory, with A Nation of Diggers and Swaggies* coming out in February 2008. Two more titles are in the pipeline. See jackiefrench.com where you can also subscribe to the free monthly newsletter.

Victorian Community History Awards 2008

Entries now being called


The Victorian Community History Awards recognize excellence in historical method. The various categories acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

These Awards encompass a \$5,000 first prize and six \$1,000 prizes for the finalists of each category. Categories are:

- Best Collaborative / Community Work
- Best Print/ Publication
- Best Audio-Visual / Multimedia
- Best Exhibit/ Display
- Best Walk / Tour
- Best Community Research, Registers and Records.

Entries close COB, Friday 28 March 2008.

Entry forms are available from the RHSV, Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 or visit www.information.vic.gov.au or infovic.marketing@dpcd.vic.gov.au



Locating History
Australian Historical Association Biennial Conference
Melbourne 7 - 10 July 2008

for further info, contact
Robert McArthur at:
aha-info@unimail.edu.au

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV

SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2008

Hosted by the Beaufort Historical Society
at the Court House, 9 Livingstone Street, Beaufort
(next to the Police Station, left past the band rotunda)

Exhibition Techniques for Local Historical Societies

- 09.45 **Registration**
- 10:00 **Welcome**, introduction, reports, general information:
- 10.00 Convenor, History Victoria Support Group Joan Hunt - introduction
- 10.10 Exec. Officer, Royal Historical Society Victoria, Kate Prinsley
- 10.15 Professor Bill Russell, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria
- 10.30 **Seminar Presenter:** Daisy Searls: Daisy was curator of the "Town of North Melbourne" exhibition for PROV in 2006, an exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art in 2007, and has worked as the curator for the RHSV. Last year she conducted a series of workshops on exhibition techniques for RHSV affiliated historical societies.
- Seminar Presentation Part One:**
- Using her current work at the Essendon Historical Society Daisy will explain many aspects involved in mounting exhibitions by historical societies, using the items from within their own collections. She will make suggestions about planning, arranging and layout, hanging and displaying of photographs and other images. She will apply these ideas to both changing displays as well as permanent exhibitions to be mounted within a limited budget.
- 11.30 Morning tea
- 11.45 **Questions and discussion:** Joan Hunt will co-ordinate a discussion session based on issues arising from the presentation. Everyone will be encouraged to participate with anecdotes, experiences, ideas, and solutions, with input from Daisy Searls.
- 12.30 **LUNCH**
- 1.00 **Seminar Presentation Part Two:**
- Daisy will demonstrate the preparation of descriptive display labels and text panels to accompany an exhibition your Society might present. The use of a catalogue or display brochure may also assist in the better interpretation of the display, and ideas will be suggested. Some great ideas using computer technology will be presented.
- This Program is an outcome of a Community Heritage Grant managed by the National Library of Australia.
- 2.15 Afternoon tea
- 2.30 **Presenter:** Vicki Court, Local History Officer, RHSV, will explain aspects of collections management techniques associated with today's theme, particularly in relation to computer technology.
- 3.00 Closure of Seminar Day, and departure.
- (Costs: \$12 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch – Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged on 9326 9288).*

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

FEBRUARY 2008 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 March to joanhunt@ncable.net.au

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: Last year our committee worked hard researching the life of Adam Lindsay Gordon and have put together material that will make our tours of Brighton General Cemetery this year very interesting. Our first tour will be on Sunday 24th February at 10.30am. Bookings are essential and may be made via <http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org/tours.htm> or by e-mail info@adamlindsaygordon.org or by phone to our Secretary John Adams at 0352612899. A charge of \$10 per person will include our tour brochure and refreshments.

BALLAN: Members have visited several other historical societies to study their storage and work areas, most recently the Dunkeld Historical Society, in preparation for the Society's own plan. The AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 27 February in the Courthouse, Steiglitz St, Ballan, with guest speaker Bob Reid, co-ordinator of the Friends of the Werribee Gorge. All welcome. Contact secretary Rick on 5368 2544.

BOX HILL: On Thursday 21 February Box Hill South identity Ian Kendall will talk on his study of suburban names, discussing their origins and meanings, and their relationship to social history. On 20 March Rosemary Richards will discuss the planning and presentation of 'The Box Hill Gloria', and talk of the social history of music making in the Box Hill area. Meetings are held in Strabane Chapel, 29 Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North. Enquiries: 9285 4808 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~bhhs/

BRUNSWICK: From 1.30-4pm on Saturday 1 March, Karl Hessian's talk: "Tracing House Number Changes" will be presented in the Mayor's Room, first floor, Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick. Bart Ziino will speak on "A Distant Grief: Australians, War Graves and the Great War" on 5 April. Contact Francesca on 9387 1194 or brunswickchg@yahoo.com.au

CARISBROOK: A visit to homesteads at Moolort will be held on Tuesday 18 March. See www.c.gold.com.au and select 'community groups' to find Carisbrook Historical Society's site. Cataloguing and digitising the photograph collection has started and old photos of Carisbrook, Moolort, Craigie, Majorca or Daisy Hill are requested for scanning.

CHELTENHAM: The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc are researching the history of the Cheltenham Memorial Park (New Cheltenham Cemetery) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its opening in March 1933. We would love to hear from anyone associated with the Cemetery - past employees, trust officials and descendants of people interred at the Cemetery with stories to share. Our inaugural newsletter 'Around the Graves' was released in January and can be downloaded free from our website www.focrc.org. For more information, contact Gary on 03 9583 5814 or email info@focrc.org

CORNISH: At 2pm on Saturday 16 February a presentation by Anne Burrows, Genealogy Library at SLV will take place at the Helen MacPherson Smith Genealogy Centre at the State Library of Victoria, Swanston Street. St Pirin's Day celebrations will be held in Ballarat 14-16

March at the Brown Hill Hall. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>

DANDENONG: At 2pm on Sunday 17 February at the Society's rooms, Houllahan Centre, 186 Foster Street east, Mrs Wilma Coleman of Yannathan, the daughter of Ray Jeffers, will speak about her father who was an Australian soldier, a Dandenong Councillor, and twice Mayor of the City. Contact Carmen on 9796 2456 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dandhist/about.htm>

DONCASTER: The Annual Garden Party will be held on the North Lawn at Schramm's Cottage in Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria St, Doncaster at 7.15pm on Saturday 16 February. A spit roast, sweets, coffee, beer and soft drinks are included in the \$25 per head cost; book by 6 February. On Wednesday 5 March at Schramm's Cottage Adele Thompson from the 'First Fleeters' will talk about the era of the early arrivals in Australia. Contact secretary Val on 9439 7577 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/

EDENHOPE: The Edenhope and District Historical Society was reformed on 27 May 2007. The inaugural society was formed in 1983 but only lasted two years. On 8, 9 and 10 February 2008 the township of Edenhope will celebrate its 150th anniversary since its establishment in 1858. The "Henley on Wallace" committee is organizing the celebrations, which will coincide with the annual "Henley" event. All visitors and any former residents of Edenhope are most welcome to attend. Contact: Jan Lampard. 0355851850.

GEELONG: At 8pm on Wednesday 6 February in the Morrow Theatre at Geelong Library, 51 Little Malop Street, Ted Stephens will speak about the Geelong Agricultural Society. On 5 March Jim Fidge's topic will be 'Sir Roy Fidge, A Lifetime for Geelong'. The Society works in conjunction with the Geelong Heritage Centre, which it was instrumental in forming and to which its records have been entrusted. See www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Archives/

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: The first Morning Coffee for 2008 will be held at the Hastings Museum on Wednesday 13th February at 10.15am, *A Morning with the Town Crier* (Ian Morrison). Bookings on 03 9781 1141 (\$5 per person). The new hardcover book "Hastings Memories" has been well received and is available for \$30 plus \$10 pp. It features reminiscences of 26 people. We now have three volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia who are working on cataloguing. Sally Robins, the local History Officer is continuing to assist with supervision. The Museum, as usual, was open on Australia Day with displays on Hastings and area. The February meeting (4th) at 7.30pm features maritime historian and author, Arthur Woodley who will tell what writing and publishing a book involves. Our Society has an entry in the Street Parade for Hastings Day on 23rd February.

HAWTHORN: At 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 February, Jeremy Smith, Senior Archaeologist at Heritage Victoria will speak on "Unearthing Early Melbourne", outlining the dig at Casselden Place near the corner of Lonsdale and Spring Streets, at the Hawthorn Library Meeting Room, 584 Glenferrie Rd. Phone secretary Aileen on 9278 4666.

HEALESVILLE: On Sunday 24 February at 2pm in the Society's rooms at the Healesville Memorial Hall, slides of Healesville photos will be shown. On 30 March a visit to the Research Station (formerly the Institute for Horticultural Development), 1015 Myers Creek Rd, Toolangi,

will be held. Arrive after 12noon with your picnic lunch before the tour and explanation. Contact secretary Alma on 5962 3601; see www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au

HEIDELBERG: Lindsay Mann will speak on "Yan Yean Reservoir - serving Melbourne for 150 years" at 8pm on Tuesday 12 February at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). On 8 April Liz Pidgeon will speak on "The History of Library Services in Heidelberg and Banyule". Contact 9455 2130 or see <http://heidelberg.50webs.com>

KILMORE: On Tuesday 5 February tramway museum enthusiast John Walker will give a talk and show a film on trams and tramways, at 8pm in the old Kilmore Court House, followed by a tour of the Bylands Tramway Museum, Union Lane, Bylands, at 1pm on Saturday 16 February. Contact secretary Liz on 5782 1243 or see www.kilmorehistory.info

KYNETON: \$5000 received from Victoria's Heritage grants will finance a 'Disaster Plan & Collection Recovery Workshop' to be conducted by Artifact Conservation early in 2008. Other groups are invited to attend. At 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 February Daniel McKenna will talk about the McKenna family, at Aesop's Attic, High St, Kyneton. On 12 March Norma Proctor will speak about Scouting, in the Year of the Scout 2008.

LANDSBOROUGH: Members are preparing a book titled "Lost Schools of the Pyrenees", about many of the small one-teacher schools no longer in existence. A field trip to the remains of 14 school sites has taken place, and 5 more are listed. This book follows "The Book of 100 Photos - the History of Landsborough", recently published. Contact Diane or Tim on 5356 9288 or dwestern@gobushmail.com.au.

LEONGATHA: The South Gippsland Historical Network together with the Leongatha Historical Society will be running a history conference at Coal Creek Village Korumburra on Saturday February 23rd. The theme of the conference is "No History, No Culture" and the speakers will be telling those present about a number of fascinating topics related to the development of South Gippsland and its special cultural identity. Subjects to be covered include the development of the coal mining industry in Wonthaggi, holiday shacks along the coast, the gold rush at Foster, the early dairy industry, education in the bush, the history in post cards, maritime history, Dinny Justice, pioneer of Phillip Island, pioneer hand tools and researching family history. For further information contact Lyn Skillern on 56686304 or email leongathahistsoc@yahoo.com.au

MALVERN: A Heritage Walk will be held on Sunday 10 February at Glen Iris - 'The Olives and Arama Estates', and on 16 March at East Malvern - 'Gascoigne and Waverley Estates'. For details phone 0438 515 631 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern. 'Greetings from Malvern', a pictorial history of the City of Malvern 1856-1994 is available for \$11, and other publications.

MARYBOROUGH-MIDLANDS: On Wednesday 20 February following the 8pm meeting at Worsley Cottage, 3 Palmerston Street, Maryborough, an excursion will visit the Talbot Astronomical Observatory. The exciting news is that a grant of \$82,500 through the Regional Partnerships Program has enabled progress with the extension to the resource centre in the cottage grounds. This is added to the \$110,000 from the State Government's Small Towns Development Fund and \$11,000 raised by the Society. See www.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs

MORNINGTON: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 February at Morven Manor, 77 Tanti Avenue, Mornington, Annette Molesworth will give a presentation on "Pioneers of a Different Sort" about the seven pioneer nuns who travelled on SS Great Britain in the 1870s from Ireland to set up a school in St Kilda. Contact secretary Dawn on 5977 0027 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

MORWELL: Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday each month at 44 Buckley St, Morwell, with the AGM in March. The Information Centre is open on Wednesdays. Annual subs are \$17 single and \$20 family. Contact secretary Elsie on 5134 1149 or see www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

NAVAL: The Naval Historical Society of Australia (Victoria Chapter) meets at the Melbourne Naval Centre, 146W Toorak Rd, South Yarra at 7.30pm. Keith Oliver, president of the Merchant Navy Sub-Branch of the RSL in Victoria will speak on Monday 25 February, and on 24 March Harold Ristrom and Peter Sherman will tell of their wartime experiences in HMAS Kanibla. Contact president Rex on 9850 8497 or email jennyandrex@hotmail.com.

NEPEAN: A tour to Cape Schanck Lighthouse will be held on Friday 22 February. Dr Marie Fels will speak on 'Aboriginal Families on the Peninsula' at 8pm on Friday 7 March in the 1876 Mechanics' Institute, 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento. Phone secretary Don on 5984 0255 or see www.nepeanhistoricalociety.asn.au

NHILL: At 8pm on Tuesday 12 February the Society will meet at the Historical Centre meeting room in the Old Shire Hall, MacPherson Street. On Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30-5pm and Fridays 10am-3pm the Research Centre and Museum is open, at \$5 per day for non-members. Contact secretary Kay on 5391 3131 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhs

NORTH MELBOURNE-HOTHAM: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 March at North Melbourne Library you can learn about some of the six colourful men who have represented the seat of Melbourne since Federation. Hotham History Project will hold a display on education at Errol Street Primary School as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. More details from Mary on 9329 5814 or see www.hothamhistory.org.au.

PORT FAIRY: The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 February at the Court House, 30 Gipps Street. History conservators, as part of the South West Heritage Conservation pilot project, are currently visiting the Society. Contact secretary Benia on 5568 2492 or see www.historicalociety.port-fairy.com.

PORTLAND: The 75th anniversary of the opening of the Great Ocean Road took place last year. The road, started in August 1919, stretches 400km from Lorn to Allansford. 2400 ex-servicement and 600 civilians worked on it. Most records of the Great Ocean Road Trust were destroyed deliberately during WW2 leaving

historians with absolutely no idea who formed to workforce that built the road. Portland Family History Group is currently attempting to compile as complete a list of those involved. We would appreciate any and all information about your relatives or friends that you may be able to supply, like names, age, where from, service in the armed forces, how long employed on the road, which camp they were allocated to, copies of photos, and so on. Portland Family History Group can be contacted on 03-55222266, or historyhouse@glenelg.vic.gov.au.

RICHMOND-BURNLEY: On 10 February a bus leaving the Richmond library at 12.30pm will tour "Early Asylums of Melbourne". The Society's rooms are in the lower level of Richmond Library, 415 Church Street and are available on Sundays 2.15-4.15 and Tuesdays 1-4pm. Contact 9428 6231 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rbhs/>

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD: The beautiful and historic building which holds the local history archives, Lancefield Court House, is open to the public on the first Sunday each month from 1.30 to 4.30pm. A 312 page history of Romsey is available at half-price (\$25 plus \$10 p&p) from the Society. Contact secretary Jean on 5429 6522.

ST KILDA: At 2.30pm on Sunday 17 February at St Kilda Library Community Room, author Michael Lawriski will talk on his recently published novel, "Hard Jacka", based on the life of Australia's greatest front line soldier and former St Kilda mayor. On 16 March Pat Grainger, author, activist and historian will discuss the attitudes, values and events that have influenced her involvement in the preservation of Port Melbourne's identity. Contact Meyer on 9690 9584 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk.

SUNSHINE: Cataloguing the collection electronically progresses well, with the goal being to upload it to the RHSV website, so anyone in the world with internet access can view the catalogue. From February the Harvester Interpretive Centre at Sunshine Library, Hampshire Road, will be open from 2-5pm each Wednesday. Contact secretary Olwyn on 9312 2284 or email secretary@sunshinehistoricalsociety.org.au

TALBOT: Grants have been attracted to assist in the purchase of collection management software, a significance assessment of the collection, and provision of workers to assist in conservation and cataloguing tasks. One outcome will be an improved knowledge of the collection. A new communications building is to be built in 2008. The Talbot Arts and Historical Museum is in Camp Street, and is open 1-4pm Sundays or by appointment. Phone president Robin on 5461 3340.

TRARALGON: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 February a history of the Brady family will be presented, and on 3 March Rob Youl will talk about 'Traralgon Recollections', at the Kath

Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed St, Traralgon. The Society's archives can be researched online at www.traralgonhistory.asn.au. Contact secretary Thelma on 5174 3696.

WAVERLEY: On Thursday 28 February at 8pm, Ray Peace, author and member of Knox Historical Society, will speak on "Eliza's Vision: The Story of Wattle Park". On 27 March Jeff Turnbull's talk is titled "A Pocketful of coins and penny for your thoughts". Contact secretary Norma on 9802 9332 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~whsvic.

WENDISH: Plan ahead for the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne of about ten ships from Hamburg in 1858. There will be a dinner at the Lutheran Hall Ringwood at 6pm on 4 October 2008 for \$35, BYO. Passenger lists of the ships: Marbs, Magdalena, Bielfield, Alfred, Horatio, Carl, Meumehlen, Susanne and Podesta are well researched, with about seven other ships to Adelaide in 1858. Contact Clay on 9779 3599 or claykrc@optusnet.com.au

WOADY YALOOK: The AGM will be held at the Smythesdale Court House, 64 Brooke St, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19 March when Fred Cahil will talk about Aboriginals on the Smythes Creek goldfields. Phone 5342 8754 or email wyhs@vic.chariot.net.au

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 9552 8000

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

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian and Local History Library

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

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

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

