



History NEWS

Issue No. 275 June/July 2008
Royal Historical Society of Victoria

ANNOUNCING
WINNERS OF 10TH
COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS
See insert

Art Deco Festival launched

The heritage listed 1940 Olympic Swimming Complex in Maryborough was a fitting backdrop for the launch of the Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival



Janice Haynes writes about the Art Deco Festival on page 4.

This enclosed edition of the 'Victorian Historical Journal' has been kindly supported by Mr Robin Hunt in memory of Suzanne R. Hunt BA(Hons)(Melb) Grad. Dip. Museum Studies Garden Historian. 1946 - 2008.

\$100 for 100 Years

Please become a Centennial Donor and help us to deliver our centenary address book. Further information see back of What's On

GIANT BOOK SALE

SUNDAY 27 JULY 10.00 - 4.00
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 in yourself into the RHSV. Remember there's free parking outside the front door for up to 10 minutes. The RHSV office hours are weekdays 9.00 - 5.00

Visiting the local Art Deco gem, Arts Minister Lynne Kosky announced over \$100,000 funding for the state-wide regional festival to showcase, celebrate and promote Art Deco treasures across regional Victoria.

Ms Kosky said the month long winter event planned for September 2008 is designed to coincide with this year's Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Art Deco 1910 - 1939 at the National Gallery of Victoria.

"Regional communities will have the opportunity to put the spotlight on their own art deco treasures and draw attention to Victoria's wider Art Deco heritage"

Ms Kosky said the initiative was part of the Brumby Government's commitment to

strengthening and revitalizing the community museum sector.

"Community museums play an important role in Victoria's cultural life. There are more than 700 community museums across the State. These organisations are volunteer run and care for an estimated 1.5 million cultural items", she said.

The Art Deco Festival is a joint project between the RHSV and Museums Australia (Victoria).

Proposal forms are available from Janice Haynes Coordinator 2008 Regional Festival at the RHSV.

2008-2009 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Included with this edition of *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal* you will find a green subscription renewal form for the coming year 2008-09, or for passing on to a friend to join the RHSV.

Again this year there is **no increase** in our fees.

You can now pay your subscription by direct debit so please ring Ged on 9326 9288 if you wish to take advantage of this facility.

Historical Societies. Most Historical Societies have already paid their annual subscription when they paid their insurance; please check your payment details to avoid paying twice.

Historical Societies and Insurance

Thank you to all the societies which have paid their subscription & insurance. The certificates of currency are in the process of being sent out. Those who took out asset insurance will receive a separate certificate of currency soon.

If your society hasn't paid it is never too late: the insurance rates that the RHSV can obtain for Public Liability, Personal Accident for Volunteers and also building & asset insurance through our broker are very competitive.

If you have any queries please contact Ged at the office - 9326 9288.

Report from the 97th Annual General Meeting

Some 40 members attended the Annual General Meeting which began with some general remarks from the President Professor Bill Russell:

He said 2007 had been a busy year framed by planning for our centenary. Towards this a motion was passed to establish an endowment fund at this AGM; and he reported on the work of the Panel of Eminent People comprising of Professor John Phillips, the Hon. John Cain, Stephen Shelmerdine, Diana Gribble and Gordon Moffatt who throughout 2007 had developed ideas for our Centenary; all of which had been adopted by Council.

It had also been a year when the History Victoria Support Group had been the “sum of its parts”; a truly co-operative effort between the group, the Society and its member societies to provide practical support and sharing amongst societies to for the development of local history skills and ideas. He said that with the demise of local Councils in the mid 1990s, historical societies were where the local community identity now lay.

2007 saw the retirement of three Councillors; Rod Benjamin, Don Gibb and Lenore Frost.

Rod Benjamin was thanked for his meticulous handling of our accounts which in seven years had brought us from a \$37,000 debt to two recent years of surplus budgets. He was also thanked for his tireless work in managing the insurance policy for the Society.

Don Gibb was thanked for his outstanding work as chair of the Publications Committee and for his work in advocacy representing the Society on the Federation of Historical Societies and the History Council of Victoria.

Lenore Frost was thanked for her practical insights into the activities of the Society and it was gratefully acknowledged that she would continue her involvement with the HVSG

Professor Russell thanked the volunteers for their magnificent work, his fellow Councillors and the Committees.

Staff members were warmly thanked and above all the “rank and file” of the Society – the members were thanked for their ongoing support



The Society elected three Fellows this year:

JOAN HUNT

Joan needs no introduction. She is our Vice President and the convenor of the History Victoria Support Group.

She is an accomplished local historian in her own right – last year producing the book *Comeback to Scarsdale: Scarsdale old boys reunion centenary* and has written many others and has worked tirelessly with Ballarat Genealogists, Cemetery Trusts and currently at the Ballarat Public Record Office – but it is for her work with Historical Societies that she must receive this high acclaim. In the 1980s she received a Churchill Fellowship to study Historical Societies in England. Joan’s knowledge of historical societies in Victoria, her energy, practical advice and museum expertise make her an exceptional figure in the local history world.

She is always generous with her time; never ceasing to think of new ways to support the sector.

Joan superbly manages the History Victoria Support Group which has become one of the Societies greatest assets.

At a Council meeting Weston Bate once dubbed Joan St. Joan and she constantly lives up to this accolade.

CAROLE WOODS

Carole Woods is a distinguished local historian.

Her publications include: *Local History in Victoria: An annotated Bibliography* (1980), *Beechworth, A Titan’s Field* (1985), *Fitzroy: A Descriptive Bibliography* 1989, *Vision Fugitive: The Story of David Allen* (1998), *The Fitzroy Public Library 1877 – 1997* (2000).

She has had many entries in the Australian Dictionary of Biography and has written

regularly in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

She contributes generously to the history movement in Victoria and has been very resourceful and diligent member of the Publications Committee since 1989.

In particular Carole has been one of the judges for the past 8 years of the Community History Awards – a role she undertakes with great care and sensitivity to the diversity of entries and the measure of encouragement these award bring to local history publishing in Victoria.

DR GARY PRESLAND

Gary has made a major contribution to Victorian history – particularly his study of Melbourne’s natural and local history, Aboriginal history and the history of Victoria Police.

Throughout his professional and voluntary roles Gary has shown a dedication to history. In the 1980s he was an employee of the Victorian Archaeological Survey. In April 1988 he was appointed the first Manager of the Victorian Police Historical Unit, and established the Victoria Police Museum. At the same time he joined the Police Historical Society and has served on the executive ever since.

In June 1995 Gary left Victoria Police to take up a position with the Museum of Victoria which he retired from in 2000.

Gary has written extensively on Victorian history – publishing books, articles and giving talks and lectures. Later this year the Museum of Victoria will publish his book *The nature of Melbourne* based on his PHD thesis looking at the natural history of Port Phillip as it was at European Settlement.

MERIT AWARD Recipients:

Peter Alsop for his outstanding contribution to the Geelong Historical Society and in particular his major role in establishing the Geelong Historical Records Centre. He has given many talks and written papers especially on engineering matters of historical interest and he also wrote the superb bibliography of FL Brown’s library that is in our collection.

Rhonda Duffey continues to make an enormous contribution to local history in the Wangarrata region. She has brought to that region enormous capabilities in exhibitions; interpretation of local history and creating networks such as the Women on Farms Heritage Group.

Kate Prinsley

MEET FOUR NEW
COUNCILLORS ON
PAGE 4

Explaining Alan Moorehead

THE FELLOWS LECTURE

Speaker: Dr John Lack
Where: RHSV
When: Tuesday 10 June
Time: 5.15 (tea and coffee)
 Lecture 5.45
Cost: Members Free,
 Non Members \$5.50

Alan Moorehead was arguably the first Australian writer to command a truly international audience. From the early 1940s until his death in 1983, his series of best-selling histories of the war in North Africa, his biographies of General Montgomery and of the atomic spies, and his books on Gallipoli, the Russian Revolution, and the European penetration of Africa (notably *The White Nile*) and of the Pacific (*The Fatal Impact*) won him an immense readership. Many readers will recall also his books *Cooper's Creek* and *Darwin and the Beagle*.

How was it that a run-of-the-mill Melbourne journalist became the doyen of British war correspondents 1941-1945?

How did a self-confessed failed novelist reinvent himself as a writer of popular history? And how did Moorehead himself account for these transformations?

Introducing a discussion of Alan Moorehead's career and writings, John Lack will attempt an explanation of Moorehead's phenomenal success, and assess his overall significance to Australian cultural development.

John Lack, who is a Senior Fellow in the School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne, is Victorian Section Editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, to which he has contributed the entry on Alan Moorehead.

The secret RAAF radar station at Wilsons Promontory during WWII

Speaker: Ian McKellar
Where: RHSV
When: Tuesday 8 July
Time: 5.15 (tea and coffee)
 Lecture 5.45

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War the Australian Government believed that Australia was not open to the threat of invasion but that we did need to prepare for sporadic raids. In November 1940 the latter became a reality with German vessels laying minefields at strategic points around the Australian coast. Our first line of defence, at the time, was a number of small signal stations capable of challenging ships for their identity. Meanwhile Britain was reaping the benefit of its timely deployment of the new and secret apparatus later to become known as radar.

When German mines claimed their first victims and Japan brought the conflict into our hemisphere Australian thinking changed radically. Plans for a chain of coastal radar stations were speedily authorized. The Wilsons promontory station was one of the first of 130 or so to be put into operation around the Australian coast.

Ian McKellar has researched and published its story in a book, much of it told by men who actually served there. He goes on to describe the equipment that they used and the method of handling the intelligence that radar stations provided. Appendices list the names of men posted there as well as many, both RAAF and WAAAF, who processed the data at the Preston Defence HQ.

'a land specially dedicated to the unforeseen'

The El Niño Droughts of 1864-69 in the Australian colonies

A JOINT EVENT TO BE HELD WITH THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Speaker: Assoc Prof. Don Garden
When: Thursday 7 August
Where: RHSV
Time: Delicious savoury refreshments
 6pm
 Lecture 6.30pm
Cost: \$15.00 for members of RHSV and
 RSV, non members \$20.00

Bookings essential

In most Australian literature about droughts the term El Niño seldom appears. This is strange as most severe droughts have been the result of El Niño events. Nearly as strange is that the profound droughts of 1864-69 are often ignored or insufficiently recognised for their historical significance, even though they were some of the most severe and damaging in our colonial history.

This paper draws on a study being undertaken on the effects of three nineteenth century El Niño periods in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific – 1864-69, 1876-78 and 1895-1903. This lecture will focus on the 1864-69 El Niños and their effects in the eastern colonies, with particular emphasis on the pastoral industry.

Associate Professor Don Garden is an environmental historian. He is a Senior Fellow with the Australian Centre for the Study of Science, Innovation and Society at The University of Melbourne, and a Principal Fellow in the School of Historical Studies, at The University of Melbourne. He is a former Vice President of the RHSV.

His last book was *Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific: an environmental history*, ABC-CLIO, 2005

"All the world over": the transnational world of Australian radical and labour cartoonists, 1880s to 1920

New Historians Lecture

Speaker: Dr Nick Dyrenfurth
Where: RHSV
When: Tuesday 12 August
Time: 5.15 (tea and coffee)
 Lecture 5.45
Cost: Members Free
 Non Members \$5.50

This talk considers the transnational world of early Australian radical and labour cartoonists, focussing upon the work of well-known artists Phil May, Livingstone Hopkins, Montague Scott, Claude Marquet, Jim Case and, most prominently, the Victorian Will Dyson. Political cartooning constituted a vitally important element of the cultural politics of the early Australian labour movement. However, most historians have assumed that the visual evidence of this period was merely confirmation of an existing or latent working-class consciousness, rather than understanding the role of iconic representation in the making and re-making of class. This talk will first show how Australian cartoonists drew on their Anglo-American backgrounds and the parallel overseas activities of the day. Secondly, in this context, it will explore the nature and purpose of their collective project, which created a populist narrative of 'heroes and villains' for political Labor: villainous capitalistic 'Fat Men' battled it out against heroic male 'workers' and a more collective vision of 'the People'. **Nick Dyrenfurth** is a political historian who lectures in the School of Historical Studies at Monash University. He wrote his PhD was on the cultural politics of the early Australian labour movement. this year. He is also currently converting his thesis into a book provisionally titled 'Heroes and Villains: the Culture of Australian Labour, 1878-1918'.

The evening will be shared with Peter Burke who will speak on Workplace based Football.

Four new Councillors welcomed onto Council

Simon Smith is a lawyer and historian with a particular interest in insurance, and the history of insurance.

John Hulskamp has been elected as treasurer and brings expertise in accounting. He has been the treasurer of St. Kilda Historical Society.

Glen Turnbull is an archivist and has had extensive experience as President of Knox Historical Society and currently president of the Eastern Region of Historical Societies

Richard Morton returns to Council. He continues to make an enormous contribution to the Society through his joint editorship of the *VHJ*. He was made a Fellow in 2005.

THE FULL COUNCIL FOR 2008 – 9

President: Prof. Bill Russell

Vice Presidents: Peter Yule

Joan Hunt

Treasurer: John Hulskamp

Ordinary Richard Barnden

Members: Judith Bilszta

Susan Priestley

Weston Bate

Judith Smart

Simon Smith

Glen Turnbull

Richard Morton



Guided HERITAGE TOURS of VICTORIA BARRACKS MELBOURNE

for pre-booked groups
from recognised organisations & associations

TOURS on WEDNESDAYS
9.30 am & 1.30 pm
also SUNDAYS 1.30 pm

\$5 per person

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Phone VBM Tours
(03) 9282 5999

Victoria poised for a return to the Art Deco Era



Throughout September 2008 regional Victoria is invited to celebrate the Art Deco 1914 – 1945 era.

In a sector development partnership Museums Australia (Victoria) and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria have received State Government funding to deliver the Art Deco Regional Festival across Victoria, timed to coincide with the National Gallery of Victoria's Winter Masterpieces Exhibition *Art Deco 1910 – 1939* from London's Victoria and Albert Museum from 28 June to 5 October 2008.

So don't be surprised to see the Charleston in full swing, dance bands, vintage cars, films, bakelite, walking tours and colourful Art deco fashions and stories being told about the 20's and 30's just about everywhere.

Throughout regional Victoria community museums, historical societies, and art galleries hold wonderful examples of Art Deco in their collections, together with wonderful examples of art deco styling in streetscapes and local buildings such as the Warracknabeal Town Hall, Wimmera Livestock Bazaar, (Horsham), Theatre Royal (Castlemaine), Municipal Olympic Swimming Pool (Maryborough), Wycheproof Shire Hall and the Rex Theatre (Charlton).

The aim of the Festival will be to build partnerships between groups with Art Deco collections and interests, and to create shared opportunities for marketing and the development of skills in cultural tourism.

Janice Haynes (formerly Director of Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat) has been appointed as the 2008 Art Deco Regional Festival coordinator to provide management, facilitation and network advice to the project, devolve the funding and travel to the regional areas to assist groups with their planning and delivery of Festival events.



So if you are a regional historical society and would like to participate contact Janice on Mobile: 0437 837 019, Email: j.haynesartdeco@hotmail.com.

The Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival logo was designed by Peter Lambert Design Works, Ballarat. The font is a variant on Huxley Vertical designed in 1936. The bars of the A, E and F are low and project to the left; the R is curled and all the characters are elongated.

The 'flying V' represents the shape of the state of Victoria. The wings are evocative of Victoria's abundant bird life – broilgas, egrets and ibis with inspiration drawn from Sydney Long's 1919 painting *Spirit of the Plains*, and are also redolent of a 1930's car grill. The green colour is as close as possible a pantone match to the Art Deco shade 'Eau de Nil'.

The Art Deco 2008 Regional Festival web site <http://www.alphaville.com.au/artdeco> is being created by Alphaville Publishing Services so browse to that address for program details.

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

This year at the RHSV is using a variety of Internet tools to improve communication with RHSV members and make part of the collections available to a wider community.

Podcasting comes to the RHSV

From the beginning of June the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will include podcasts on its website.

One of the issues from the RHSV survey of members in 2006 was the need to make the lectures held at the RHSV, especially at evening meetings, available to those unable to attend. During 2008 many of the lectures held at the RHSV will be recorded and made available on the Podcast Page of the RHSV website. Those interested in listening to a recording of the lectures can download the audio files to listen to on a computer or to transfer to a portable digital player (such as an iPod). The initial lectures to go online cover an interesting range of topics – thoroughbred horse racing, teachers who became soldiers during World War One, George Langley and onion growing in Gippsland. Other audio files will be added during the year.

In 2007 the RHSV received a grant from the *Telematics Trust* to set up the facilities for recording lectures and making them and other aural resources available online as podcasts and also to make information on how to do this available to societies. A workshop, *Introduction to Podcasting*, will be held at the RHSV on Saturday 19 July from 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm. Topics to be covered during the workshop include general information about audio files and podcasts, an overview of equipment and programs for editing audio files, recording audio files, editing audio files, putting audio files online (including the use of RSS) and accessing audio files online.

Blogs

Two blogs (web logs) have recently been added to the Affiliated Societies section of the RHSV website under the heading - *Resources for historical societies*. The *Information technology for local history collections* blog provides information relating to IT projects that historical societies may be undertaking. The initial posts are based on two projects currently being undertaken at the RHSV – podcasting and online exhibitions. Information about each section of the project is added to the blog as the project progresses. It therefore provides information on how a project may be undertaken but is not a definitive guide. Initial posts in the *Cataloguing guide for historical societies* blog provide general information on computer cataloguing including choosing a program. Other posts will be based largely on Frequently Asked Questions and should provide a useful resource for those using computers to catalogue collections.

The *RHSV News* blog can be accessed from the front page of the RHSV website and provides the latest information about RHSV events and news items that are announced between the issues of *History News*.

My Connected Community

My Connected Community (mc²) groups are still the major tool used by the RHSV to encourage communication, sharing of ideas and networking between members of groups and to keep group members up to date with information about events, grants, workshops and new publications. Check the RHSV website for information on joining mc² and the range of history related mc² groups.

Online exhibitions

Online exhibitions are a great way to extend the information relating to an exhibition held at a society. They can also form an exhibition in their own right to be viewed online rather than in an exhibition space in a building.

The RHSV website currently includes an online exhibition – MacRobertson's Round Australia Expedition 1928. Eighty years ago MacPherson Robertson sponsored a five month expedition using two trucks and an oldsmobile to travel around Australia, primarily through outback areas. For this project the expedition has been divided into eight stages with information about each stage, including photographs taken by members of the expedition party, released following the time frame of the original trip which left Melbourne on 12th April, 1928. The RHSV holds a collection of albums, scrapbooks, a manuscript of the trip and a few artefacts relating to MacPherson Robertson and his company, MacRobertson's. Digitised records from this collection were used for this online exhibition which can be viewed on the RHSV website – www.historyvictoria.org.au.

In 2005 a group of volunteers from the RHSV and the GSV transcribed the names of the women who signed *The Monster Petition* in 1891 for women in Victoria to have the right to vote. Members from a number of organisations collected the signatures for the petition in 1891 but the main organiser of the petition was the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Information about collecting the signatures for the petition has been researched and collected for an online exhibition, *The Woman's Petition and the WCTU* which will be able to be viewed on the RHSV website in June.

Memorials Database

The *Memorials Database* was added to the *Treasures of the RHSV* section of the website last year. If anyone has images of any of the sites included in the database and is prepared to allow the images to appear online, low resolution jpg files of the image with reference to the memorial can be sent to the RHSV to be attached to the record of the memorial in the database.

The RHSV will continue to utilise some of the growing range of Internet resources to provide information services for our members and promote local history in Victoria.

INTRODUCTION TO PODCASTING

A workshop providing an introduction to creating audio files for the Internet for downloading for people to listen to on their computers or for transfer to portable digital players will be held at the RHSV.

Topics to be covered during the workshop include:

- general information about audio files and podcasts,
- an overview of equipment and programs for editing audio files,
- recording audio files,
- editing audio files,
- putting audio files online (including the use of RSS) and
- accessing audio files online

Where: RHVV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

When: Saturday 19 July from 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Bookings essential

Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au or Phone: 9326 9288

Numbers limited

The 98th Annual Report

The 98th Annual Report is now available at our website www.historyvictoria.org.au And in hard copy by 'phoning the office 9326 9288.

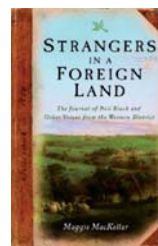
BOOKS RECEIVED:

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

Colin Cleary, *Ballarat Labor from miner hesitancy to golden age*, Colin Cleary, 24 Goynes Rd., Epsom, 3551, 2007, pp. xvi + 321. There are few studies of the labour movement at the local level over a considerable time. The author has followed up his book on the Bendigo labour movement with this substantial piece on Ballarat. There is a detailed examination of the trade union movement, of federal and state elections, and of the people involved. Not surprisingly, there is an overall argument that Ballarat has a distinctive and important labour history. Cleary provides clear advocacy for continuing labour activism in rural and regional Victoria.



Maggie MacKellar, *Strangers in a foreign land : the journal of Niel Black and other voices from the Western District*, Miegunyah Press and State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 2008, pp. xii + 307, \$26-95. ISBN 9780522855128. The bulk of this attractive book comprises the full text of Niel Black's journal, much used by Margaret Kiddle in her *Men of Yesterday*. This makes a welcome addition to published material on Western District squatters and squatting. In addition, the author draws on material held by the State Library to convey the experiences of other Western District settlers. Her debt to Kiddle is fully acknowledged in a lively introduction and concluding chapters.



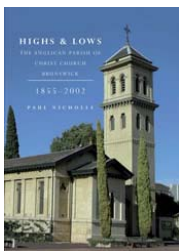
Alastair Gunn (ed.), *Henry Gyles Turner, Alexander Sutherland M.A.*, 2007 This is a republished text of a 1907 Address to the Australian Literature Society given by Turner. As the publisher and editor points out, Sutherland and Turner were late 19th century Melbourne polymaths, and this is amply displayed in Turner's praise for Sutherland, his deceased friend.



John Murphy, *One bag in six : onion growing in Gippsland 1900-2007*, Leongatha and District Historical Society Inc., 2007, pp. 97. ISBN 978-0-9593231-5-3. A very informative account of the development of onion growing in the area around Leongatha written by someone not only with first-hand experience but also a keen eye for significance and context, and with a direct and purposeful style. John Murphy, a fellow of the society, has served local history well in Gippsland and this latest publication reinforces what has been appreciated for a long time.



Paul Nicholls, *Highs and lows : the Anglican Parish of Christ Church Brunswick, 1855-2002*, Christ Church Press, Brunswick, 2007, pp. xiii + 337. ISBN 978-0-9804329-0-9. This splendid book by a recently retired history academic carefully details the life and work of a parish church in interesting detail; it relates the history of the parish to change not only within the Anglican church but also in the wider society; it contributes immensely to our understanding of the suburb of Brunswick; and while it may be 'the story of Melbourne Anglicanism in microcosm' as the present Anglican



archbishop suggests (p. ix), it is also a model for what institutional histories can be and often are not.

HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP - RHSV

**SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY
14 JUNE 2008**

Hosted by the Walhalla Heritage and Development League at the Star Hotel, Walhalla

See: <http://www.walhalla.org.au/> for information and accommodation details

HISTORY AND TOURISM

09.30 **Registration**

10:00 **Welcome**, introduction

10.30 **Part One:** by Michael Leaney

Michael is the proprietor of the Star Hotel, and a major participant in the signmarking and promotion of the wonders that Walhalla has to offer, and will share his extensive knowledge and experience with us.

11.30 Morning tea

11.45 **Questions and discussion:** Joan Hunt will coordinate 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 Michael Leaney and Harvey Hutchison, President of the Walhalla Heritage and Development League.

12.30 **LUNCH**

1.30 **Part Two:**

"Walhalla's Heritage Walk Signage Project" by Bernard Bolch

Bernard will give a review of a project that extended over a number of years, and which was intended to revive interest in some of the less obvious heritage aspects of the town while re-engaging supporters and resisting the trend to "drive-through" theme-park tourism.

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 **Town Trail:** A tour of the town with Bernard Bolch will follow the formal closure of the Seminar Day for those who wish to enjoy the walk with an experienced guide.

3.30 **Afternoon Tea:** Refreshments will be provided at the Star Hotel at the end of the walk.

4.00 Departure from Walhalla, or overnight stay to enjoy what the town has to offer on Sunday.

(Costs: \$15 per head includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch – Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged on

**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.



JUNE 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.

DOES YOUR SOCIETY WANT AN ENTRY IN THIS COLUMN?

Do you wonder why information about your Society does not appear in the Around the Societies column? About 150 societies send their newsletters to RHSV, all of which are read by Joan Hunt and used to compile this column, which publishes about 40 items, limited by space. Often the event information received is unable to be used as it is out of date by the time of publication of *History News*. Please note that *History News* appears the first week of the month of issue and the deadline is always the tenth day of the previous month. **So please send details of forthcoming events for the July issue by 10 June, to joanhunt@ncable.net.au.**

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC: Our Adam Lindsay Gordon Froth and Bubble Festival will be held on Saturday June 14th commencing at 11am with a gathering at the Paul Montford Statue Gordon Square Spring Street. Then on to The Atrium, Federation Square for lunch. As part of World Poetry from 2pm to 4pm Emeritus Professor Michael Wilding from Sydney and Lorraine Day from Adelaide will talk on Gordon. Susan Pender and Allan Childs will make presentations to the winners of our poetry competition. Poetry readings will be given in association with World Poetry and the Fellowship of Australian Writers. All are invited. For all of our events please see www.adamlindsaygordon.org

BALLARAT: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 June Dr Anne Doggett will speak about Charles Thatcher, goldfields entertainer, at the Gold Museum in Bradshaw Street – visitors welcome. The Society is planning its 75th anniversary with a dinner and speaker on Saturday 30 August at the Ballarat Club – bookings to Marion on 5333 5163 or Elizabeth on 5341 2405. See www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com

BALWYN: The new Balwyn Historical Society will be meet at 8pm on Thursday 12 June, when historian Gwen McWilliam will speak on “Balwyn Research 1832-1890” at The Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn. All very welcome. No entry charge. Phone Robin on 9836 6589 for information.

BEAUFORT: A Photo Open Day will be held from 10am to 5pm on Sunday 6 July at Beaufort Court House – come and see if you can identify a photo, or bring along your own – and see the beautifully restored 1864 brick building. The Court House and research centre is open the first and third Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Contact secretary Pam on 5349 3055 or email pam_weller@hotmail.com

BENDIGO: A Victorian Government Local History grant of \$9,100 has been awarded to the Society to further its ‘Mosaic’ cataloguing

project being conducted at the former Bendigo Gaol building now occupied by the Society. Following the Collection Management and Assessment Report conducted by Laretta Zilles in 2007, a Conservation Study on the Society’s collection by Duncan and Tina Rolley is being funded by the Victorian Government. See www.bendigohistory.com

BOX HILL: At 8pm on Thursday 19 June Julie Morrison will speak on her work as an oral historian assisting people wishing to record their personal “Life Stories”, at Strabane Chapel Hall, Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North. Also, on Thursday 26 June the 45th anniversary of Box Hill Historical Society will be held in the Whitehorse Art Space, Box Hill Town Hall, with a guided tour of special interest, and speaker Jacqui Nicholls-Reeves, commencing at 10.15am. Visitors welcome. Enquiries 9285 4808.

BRUNSWICK: On Saturday 7 June Betty Hayes will speak about “Baby Farming in Brunswick”, at 1.30pm in the Mayor’s Room, 1st floor (lift available), Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, and on 5 July the topic will be “Arthur Gullidge – a Brunswick Identity”. Phone Francesca on 9387 1194.

CAMPERDOWN: At 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 June in the McCabe Room, behind Camperdown Library in Manifold Street Ann Wilkinson from Timboon will talk about the life of Jessie Scott McGillivray, a pioneer of the Peterborough district who settled there with husband Charles in 1873. Jessie’s life story is the subject of a book “My Grandmother’s Story” by Jean MacKenzie. On 1 July the meeting will take the form of a ‘Show and Tell’. See cdhs@tca-online.net.au

CASTLEMAINE: Cliff Sheehan will speak about the Sheehan Family Store at 7.30pm on Monday 2 June at the former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine. The Society is to be congratulated on winning a section of the Rupert Hamer Awards conducted by the Public Record Office Victoria in relation to the care, storage and accessibility of their records. See www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

COLAC: The first afternoon meeting for 2008 will take place on Saturday 28 June, entitled “Kitchen Gadgets”, when unusual kitchen items or tools brought by members will be shown at the meeting. Open hours are 2pm to 4pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at the COPACC History Centre. Contact the secretary on 5231 4831.

CORNISH: A demonstration of Ballarat 1903 historical photographs by Lindsay Chapman from his family collection will be shown after the annual general meeting held at 2.00pm on Saturday 21 June at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr Kangaroo Rd & Skipton St., Hughesdale (Melways Map 69D7). See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm>

GEELONG: Historical films will be shown at 8pm on Wednesday 2 July at the Geelong Classic Cinema. Contact the secretary by mail at 6 Balmoral Crescent, Rippleside, 3215.

GULF STATION: The National Trust property Gulf Station has been granted \$78,000 to restore the original 1860 school house from Yarra Glen, and a number of other buildings. \$150,000 will fund the relocation of an 1870s school master’s house that was threatened with demolition, from North Croydon to Gulf Station, to further develop visitor and education facilities. The reopening of Gulf Station will be in Spring. Contact Carmel on 8663 7250.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: On Sunday, 1st June at 2 pm at the Hastings Museum Dr Marie Fels, author of “Good Men & True, the Aboriginal Police of Port Phillip District” is the guest speaker. The Society has had a good influx of new volunteer workers doing various tasks, including cataloguing. To accommodate the new volunteers some re-arrangement of the Museum has been necessary. The Society celebrates its 35th anniversary on Sunday 13 July at the Hastings Club – bookings by 20 June. Contact president Shirley on 9781 1141 or email sadavies@alphalink.com.au

HEIDELBERG: At 8pm on Tuesday 10 June Joy Williams will speak on ‘Mobile Kindergartens and Early Childhood Education History’ at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe (enter from car park at rear). See <http://heidelberg.50webs.com> or phone 9455 2130.

KEW: Friends of Boroondara Cemetery will conduct a tour entitled “Entrepreneurs and Business People”; hear about Ball & Welsh, Marsh Buckley, Richard Goldsborough, Edward Cole and many more who made Melbourne marvellous on this fascinating tour, at 2pm on Saturday 21 June, starting at the gatehouse, cnr Parkhill Rd and High St, Kew (Melways ref: 45F5). Cost \$15; seniors \$10; members \$8 incl. light refreshments. Book with Elizabeth on 9817 4896 or 0422 379 053. Proceeds to cemetery improvements. See www.fobkc.org/

MANSFIELD: Cemetery records for Mansfield, Bonnie Doon, Merton, Gobur, Jamieson, Matlock, Cathkin, Woods Point and Yarck are just one segment of the extensive records held in the Society’s collection at the Mansfield Railway Station, 173 High Street, Mansfield. The centre is open from 11am to 3pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Phone secretary Seena on 5775 1659 or see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~manshs>

MARYBOROUGH – MIDLANDS: A car convoy will visit Creswick Museum, departing from Worsley Cottage, 3 Palmerston St, Maryborough at 1.30pm on Wednesday 18 June. Working plans for extensions to the resource building are being prepared, and a State Government grant of \$110,000 and Federal Government grant of \$85,000 will complete the building works. See www.vicnet.net.au/~mbhs

MORNINGTON: . At 10.30am on Tuesday 10 June at St Mark’s Uniting Church Friendship Hall, Barkly St, Mornington, Mary Schooneveldt will explain how she uses digital media to craft, record, share and value the stories of individuals and communities. Forward notice is given of

the Local History Network Forum to be held on Saturday 23 August at the Peninsula Theatre at the old Mornington High School: "Looking Back, Looking Forward", with speakers and group workshops about the challenges ahead for local historical societies. See www.vicnet.net.au/~mornhsoc

NEPEAN: The Nepean Historical Society is holding a General Meeting on Friday 6 June at the Sorrento Museum in the Mechanics' Institute 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento. The Guest Speaker will be Ms Eileen Murray, the President of the Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad. Meeting starts at 8 pm, and all are welcome. Visitors to the Museum may now also take an audio-tour which highlights the many different exhibits.

PHILLIP ISLAND: The Heritage Centre at 89 Thompson Avenue, Cowes is open every Saturday from 10am till noon and Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm, with a gold coin admission to the Museum. Publications include 'Within the Plains of Paradise', a brief social history of Rhyll, Phillip Island, for \$18. Contact PO Box 816, Cowes, 3922.

PORT MELBOURNE: In keeping with Port Phillip's new 'sister' relationship with Victoria's Hindmarsh Shire, the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society have written to the Dimboola and District Historical Society to establish contact. On Monday 23 June at 7.30pm, in the Town Hall Council Chamber a Montague Night will be held with Joe Collins, Emily Davis, Thelma Edgar, and Sally Williams. Phone secretary Pat on 9645 2324 or see www.vicnet.net.au/~pmhps

QUEENSCLIFFE: The Queenscliffe Historical Museum is a partner in a funded project for the 2008 celebrations of the 100th year of the women's vote in Victoria. The project will centre on the life of Henrietta Dugdale/Johnson who lived in Queenscliff from 1853 until the late 1870s when she moved to Camberwell. In 1884 she was the Chairwoman of the Victorian Women's Suffragette Society. Her published articles and public speeches on the issues relating to suffrage were influential in bringing the legislation to a satisfactory conclusion in 1909. After the death of her second husband Henrietta Johnson returned to live in Point Lonsdale until her death in 1918.

RINGWOOD: The society recently acquired a much-needed projector. At 8pm on Tuesday 24 June Samantha Westbrooke, an architect, will speak about the architecture of Ringwood houses, in Room 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. A Heritage Weekend will take place in November, with a photographic display and launch of the 'Recollections of East Ringwood' book. Phone Russ on 9876-4367 or email rhaines@bigpond.net.au

ROSEDALE: On Wednesday 4 June at 7.30pm Don Macreadie will talk about his trip to the Northern Territory, at King Heritage House, 10 Lyons St, Rosedale. The research facilities are open for the public on Mondays, when

microfiche readers and computers are available. The Society now has Tax Deductible Gift Recipient status, and the great news is that the 1913 former Shire Offices is to be the Society's home. Email rosedalehs@hotmail.com

RYE: At 8pm on Monday 23 June Mark Ryan, President of the Maritime Archaeological Association of Victoria will speak on the shipwreck of SS 'Alert', at Rye Primary School Library (enter from Collingwood Street). Members are cataloguing the collection on File Maker Pro, transferring information from manually completed worksheets. Contact secretary Danny on 5985 1137, or PO Box 65, Rye, 3941.

SANDRINGHAM: On Thursday 5 June at 7.30 Dr Valerie Tarrant will speak on "Justice Higgins and the Harvester Judgment" at the society rooms, 6 Waltham Street, Sandringham. On Saturday 12 July a theatre night will be held at the Mordialloc Theatre to see "The Dinner Game"; tickets \$25 - book with Marg on 9598 1423. An illustrated walk of the early settlement of Gipsy Village is available from the Society A5 \$10 or A4 \$20; phone/fax 9597 0985 or PO Box 8, Sandringham, 3191.

ST KILDA: On Sunday 15 June at 2.30pm in the Library Community Room at 150 Carlisle Street, the 150th Anniversary of Footy will be celebrated, when Robin Grow, an author of 'More Than a Game: An Unauthorised History of Australian Rules Football' will speak. See www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk Note that Friends of St Kilda Cemetery will conduct a Winter Solstice Moonlight Tour for \$15 at 7.30pm on Saturday 21 June (pre-book 9531 6832).

WARRACKNABEAL: A Heritage Victoria grant has funded the \$40,000 project to provide improvements to the research area of the Historical Centre, including re-roofing, repair and painting of interior walls, shelving in all four rooms, and heating and cooling. Members have been busy rearranging and cataloguing the collection, and Work for the Dole workers will paint the exterior of the building. Two new audio-visual screens depict interviews with local identities where they talk about changes in harvesting and equipment used. Visit the Warracknabeal Historical Centre and the Agricultural Machinery Museum Wheatlands when you are next in the area. Contact PO Box 355, Warracknabeal, 3393.

WAVERLEY: An obituary marks the passing of Stewart Bradley (the old Silver Fox), a very well known and loved figure in the local history movement, who died 29 November 2007 aged 80 years. The newsletter states: "He did a great deal of research in the Land Titles office, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, National Archives, and the Public Record Office Victoria in order to ascertain the history of nearly every part of Waverley". Stewart was a notable local historian who will be keenly missed, and there will be many who were "privileged and enriched that he has been our friend". See website www.vicnet.net.au/lwhsvic.

WHITEHORSE: On Saturday 14 June, Councillor and well-known historian Helen Harris O.A.M. will speak on "Helen Hart Pioneer Suffragist", a topic she has been researching for some years, in the Local History of Room of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex at Deep Creek Road, Mitcham - visitors welcome. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc/>

YACKANDANDAH: The Society aims to provide a place where information and objects concerning Yackandandah and district can be collected, cared for, and displayed. Local school registers continue to be data-based. The rebuilding of the Bank of Victoria at 21 High Street, after the fire, is slow but progressing. Email: ykbankmuseum@yahoo.com.au

YARRA GLEN: The Society's rooms are open to the public every Wednesday 1.30 to 4.00pm, at the rear of the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, and meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1.30pm, when visitors are welcome.

If you wish to discuss in more detail the information for Around the Societies please contact Joan on: joanhunt@ncable.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