



History NEWS

Issue No. 282 JULY/AUG 2009

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Make History Again!

HISTORY WEEK OCTOBER 25 – 1 NOVEMBER 2009

Last year's initial History Week was a memorable success. Societies embraced the opportunity to share their interest and enthusiasm with the general public in ways that showed history as a living experience. Some looked for female ancestors in the Women's Suffrage Movement. Others talked to schools about local events and identities, encouraging students to explore their own family stories. History was on the move, not a dead thing out of the past.

So let's make connections again – in all sorts of imaginative ways – according to our judgment of what is important, what is interesting, what is alive, and what works. Build on last year's successful ideas and activities. Flourish the banners your societies won, and shout hurra for history.

There is nothing as important as understanding that who we are as a community depends on what others before us have done. Find inspiring and informative stories and tell them well.

History News in September will advertise details of events like yours. Let us know what you are doing about helping people to discover Victoria's eventful past.

If you already have your event planned please contact Sam Smith on 0418 576129 or sam@pinnaclecommunications.com.au for inclusion in the program.

Weston Bate

Memberships

Thank you to all who have already sent in their subscriptions. Renewals can be made by direct debit, by credit card over the phone and by cheque. In your last edition of *History News* you would have received your blue renewal form. Additional forms can be downloaded from the website www.historyvictoria.org.au or by phoning 9326 9288.

Thank you to all the Societies who have paid their insurance. If your Society has paid its insurance then you have also paid your membership – so please ignore the blue renewal form that was included with *History News*.

RHSV wins award in Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards 2008

The RHSV was the winner in the Community Archives category, 'Projects or programs that provide greater understanding of and accessibility to the community archive's archival collection'.

With the assistance of a Potter Foundation grant, the RHSV has commenced digitising its collection. The significant Macpherson Robertson collection was an early candidate for digitising and images from it have been used in the online exhibition 'Mac Robertson's Round Australia Expedition 1928'. As well as providing improved access to the collection, volunteer involvement and the use of tools such as blogs have led to affiliated societies having access to teaching aids to inform similar projects they might undertake.

The award was accepted by Vicki Court, Kate Prinsley and Andrew Lemon on behalf of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

See report on our project on page 3.



At the presentation of the Award: (l-r) Justine Heazlewood (Director & Keeper of Public Records, PROV), Vicki Court, Kate Prinsley and Andrew Lemon (RHSV) and Peter Harmsworth (President, Public Records Advisory Council) (Photographer: Eddy Khayat)

Thank You

Thank you to everybody who donated books, bought books or volunteered at our annual book sale. With everybody's help we made about \$4,500 on the day – a wonderful and fun way to raise funds and maintain the programs at the RHSV.

Nonie and Harcourt Long retire from the RHSV

After almost 30 years Nonie and Harcourt Long retired from their voluntary activities at the RHSV to take up new adventures in Avoca.



Nonie made an important contribution to the management of the manuscript collection. She implemented professional procedures in the documentation of the collection and its preservation. Along with Michael Moore she compiled the second volume to *Sources in Victorian History*, a companion piece to the volume prepared by Marie Bau in 1988.

Her leadership was most notable as a member of the Collections Committee and as a Council Member.

Nonie led training sessions in managing manuscripts and was generous in supporting other volunteers in manuscript and library skills.

Harcourt undertook meticulous work: transcribing documents, in particular the Judge Willis criminal case notes; indexing; and compiling passenger lists from shipping records.

Both Harcourt and Nonie brought considerable expertise and passion for the RHSV collection.

We wish them many happy new adventures in Avoca and miss them very much.

RHSV Foundation starts on a solid footing

One of the most important initiatives of the Society's centenary year has been the establishment of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation.

Launched at the Society's Centenary Conference in May, the Foundation has already received many generous donations, most notably a gift of \$50,000 from Mr Gordon Moffatt AM.

Under the Foundation Founders Program, the first 100 donations of \$500 or more or bequests of \$5000 or more will be recognised on a commemorative plaque to be unveiled at a special ceremony at the end of our centenary year.

All donations to the Foundation are fully tax deductible and will be devoted to building up the Foundation's capital fund. The capital of the Foundation will be guarded and nurtured so that the income can be used to:

- create a permanent home for history in Victoria;
- further develop and preserve the Society's unique collection of material on the history of Melbourne and Victoria;
- give the Society financial security; and
- promote the history of Victoria to all Victorians.

The success of the RHSV Foundation is crucial to the Society's financial security and we urge you to help by making a tax-deductible donation or making provisions for a bequest in your will.

For information on how to support our Foundation please refer to the website or call the office on 9326 9288.

Chris Cooze shares her experiences

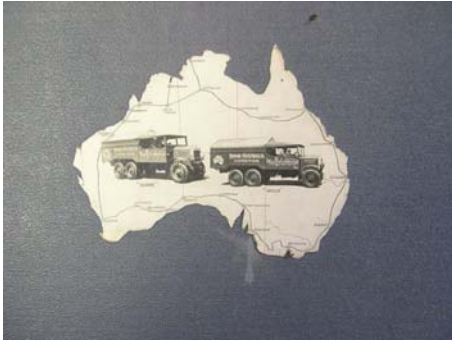
As a new member of staff I am delighted to tell you a little about my first few months here in A'Beckett Street.



The Society has a truly splendid collection of printed materials and images. I started work at a most auspicious time, for curator Elizabeth Willis had just started selecting items for the centenary exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall. The treasures of the Society on show at the exhibition are, as many of you will know, merely the tip of the iceberg. I have so enjoyed talking with the Society's volunteers whose knowledge of our collections is comprehensive and who can translate that knowledge into tales that are illuminating and enthralling. There is something special about Judith Bilszta reading the words of a colonial surveyor who had taken a leave of absence from his work to attend a race meeting without prior permission from his boss, none other than Robert Hoddle! I guess the wheels of the bureaucracy worked just as slowly in the 1840s as they do today.

The enthusiasm emanating from the exhibition has reinforced our view that we must further publicise the collections and ensure that researchers are aware of just what we have available in the reading room. The first port of call for most researchers working with Australian materials is the union catalogue maintained by the National Library of Australia. Called Libraries Australia, www.librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au, this catalogue lists in one spot the collections of all major Australian libraries and many smaller institutions as well. For those of you who have delighted in accessing the collection of the State Library online through their website www.slv.vic.gov.au, Libraries Australia can tell you whether an item you are interested in can be found at other libraries both here in Victoria and throughout the country. We have written to the National Library and are proposing to add the Society's manuscript and printed materials catalogues into this nation-wide catalogue. Indeed many of the Society's manuscripts are already a part of the catalogue, as our volunteers have loaded several hundreds of records into the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts RAAM www.nla.gov.au/raam.

I am indebted to those of you who have welcomed me to the RHSV and I extend a very warm invitation to all our members to make the trip to the city and re-visit our past as so wonderfully captured in the Society's collections of local histories, photos, postcards, manuscripts, books and pamphlets.



Expedition leaving Parliament House, Melbourne, on April 12th, 1928.

Online exhibition wins award

On Thursday 28 May 2009, Kate Prinsley, Andrew Lemon and Vicki Court represented the Royal Historical Society of Victoria at the presentation of the 2008 Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards at Queen's Hall, Parliament House.

The awards – an initiative of the Public Records Advisory Council, sponsored by the Records Management Association of Australasia, the Australian Society of Archivists Inc., Archival Survival Pty Ltd and Albox Australia Pty Ltd and supported by the Records Management Network – recognise excellence and innovation in records management in the Victorian public sector and activities in community archives that are PROV appointed places of deposit.

Three categories of awards are designated specifically for community archives.

The RHSV won the award for the online exhibition, *MacRobertson's Round Australia Expedition 1928* in Category 3: Projects or programs that provide greater understanding and accessibility to the Community Archives' archival collection. The Bellarine Historical Society received a Commendation in this section of the awards. The award in Category 2: Providing records access in the local community was won by the Castlemaine Historical Society.

The *MacRobertson's Round Australia Expedition 1928* online exhibition highlights a five month journey around Australia in two Karrier trucks and an Oldsmobile. The Macpherson Robertson sponsored expedition had multiple aims including encouraging the use of motor transport, testing the suitability of motor transport, especially trucks, in the outback, testing communication equipment, recording outback life on film and entertaining populations in rural communities with moving pictures and recorded music. The expedition also provided the opportunity for Robertson to promote his MacRobertson's brand confectionery products throughout Australia not only via the expedition trucks emblazoned with the company name, but also in reports of the expedition widely circulated in newspapers throughout the country.

The RHSV holds an archive of photographs, papers and memorabilia relating to the business and other interests of Macpherson Robertson including albums of photographs taken

during the 1928 expedition and typed notes and newspaper articles providing information about journey. Using the information from these resources the story of the expedition, the challenges faced by the expedition party and their view of life in the remote parts of Australia visited is portrayed in this online exhibition. The online exhibition was added to the RHSV website last year to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the expedition and can be located in the Exhibitions section of the RHSV website – <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/exhibitions.htm>.

To assist historical societies and other groups interested in producing their own online exhibitions the blog, Information Technology and Local History, was used to record information on the preparation of the online exhibition – <http://itlochist.blogspot.com>.

Maxus Collections

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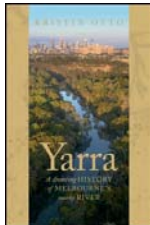
PO Box 727 South Melbourne
Victoria 3205 Australia
maxus@maxus.net.au
www.maxus.net.au
(03) 9646 1988

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 RHSV's library. Some items may later be reviewed in the Society's *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Yarra, A Diverting History

Kristin Otto, Text, Melbourne, 2009, 1st published 2005, pp. ix + 245
The paperback edition of this engaging account of the Yarra and its impact on human activity and consequent impact on the river.



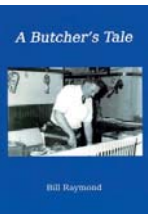
The Summer Exercises

Ross Gibson, University of Western Australia Press, Perth and Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, 2008, pp. 270, \$24-95
A fictional work but based on crime scene photographs of post-war Sydney taken from the collection of the Justice and Police Museum in Sydney.



A Butcher's Tale

Bill Raymond, Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press, PO Box 1080, Windsor, 3181, 2008, pp. vii + 110
Bill Raymond started work in a butcher's shop at the Prahran Market, aged 14, in 1942. His recollections of butchering, market identities and events, growing up during World War II, and fellow workers and customers are vividly conveyed in this vignette of suburban Melbourne in the 1940s.



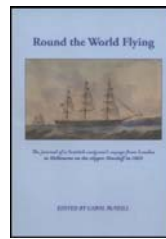
My Time at Engine Works

Glen Stuart, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, pp. 48
The author worked at the Commonwealth Engine Works at Williamstown from 1951 until its closure in 1979. The works started during World War II and produced ships' engines. Full of technical details and ships for which engines were constructed, and a personal account of work in an important local industry.



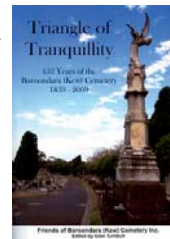
Round The World Flying

Carol McNeill (ed.), Fife Publicity, Scotland. Available through Immigration Museum, Melbourne or www.carolmcneill.co.uk 2008, pp. 67, \$30
The published journal of Alick Macneill of his voyage on the Macduff from London to Melbourne in 1869. Macneill came from the island of Gigha off the west coast of Scotland via Glasgow where he worked as a clerk, and then by clipper ship from London to Melbourne in 1869. He died from tuberculosis in 1871, aged 23. Well-illustrated with contextual editorial notes, and an informative diary account of his 75 days at sea.



Triangle of Tranquillity, 150 Years of the Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery 1859-2009

Glen Turnbull (ed.), Friends of Boroondara Cemetery Inc., 2008, pp. 88
A very attractive guide to the history of the Kew cemetery seen through its monuments, graves and a number of those interred there. Very well-illustrated, solidly referenced and with an excellent index.



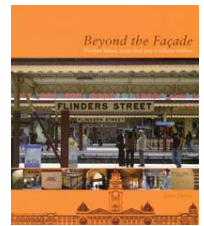
Body at the Melbourne Club, Bertram Armytage, Antarctica's Forgotten Man

David Burke, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2009, pp. xv + 170
Bertram Armytage, born in 1869, came from a wealthy Victorian Western District squatting family with strong connections in Geelong and Melbourne ('Como'). An active militia man, he enlisted in the British cavalry in the Boer War, spent much time in physical and sporting pursuits, and was recruited for the Shackleton expedition to Antarctica in 1907 along with fellow Australians, Edgeworth David and Douglas Mawson. He led the western party and returned to great acclaim in Australia and Britain, where Blanch, his wife, and Mary, his young daughter, were living. Back in Melbourne in 1909 and clearly unsettled, he shot himself in a room at the Melbourne Club in March 1910, hence the somewhat melodramatic title to this engaging book and life. Forgotten indeed, but this book brings some redress.



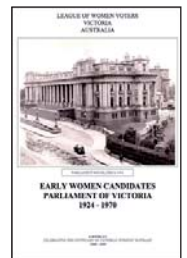
Beyond the Façade, Flinders Street, More than Just a Railway Station

Jenny Davies, PO Box 807, Gisborne, 3437, 2008, pp. xii + 336, \$68 (includes postage)
Superbly illustrated, this book sketches the background and building of the present station (it opened in 1910) and deals with many of its features: the clocks; the formation, facilities and activities of the Victorian Railways Institute; the commercial use of parts of the building by Dorothy Gladstone's dance academy; the occupancy of the shops and offices in the main building available for rental, most notably City Hatters and Hearn's Hobbies; and the commercial activities of the concourse often run like the sale of refreshments by the Victorian Railways. In all, a rich collection of visual, written and oral history with some sense of change, adaptation, and context in the Melbourne of its century.



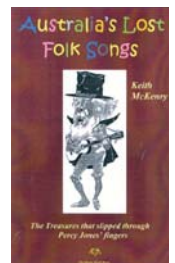
Early Women Candidates, Parliament of Victoria, 1924-1970

League of Women Voters, Victoria, Australia, 2008, pp. 10
Produced as part of the celebrations of the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria, a careful listing of all women candidates and accompanying chronological discussion of the incremental changes in women's participation over the period.



Australia's Lost Folk Songs, The Treasures That Slipped through Percy Jones' Fingers

Keith McKenry, Rams Skull Press, 12 Fairyland Rd., Kuranda, 4881, pp. viii + 80
In 1940-1, Waight, a columnist in *Sun-News Pictorial* asked readers to send in 'old songs' that could be preserved by Percy Jones, choir master and director of music for the Catholic church. McKenry has collected and researched 71 songs collected by Waight and mentioned in his column, including some of those passed to Jones. The result is some significant information about songs known and sung by colonial Australians.



Great Sources of Public Information

RHSV members and visitors have access to a wealth of information contained in our large collection of early Parliamentary Papers printed for the Victorian Colonial Government from 1853 onwards.

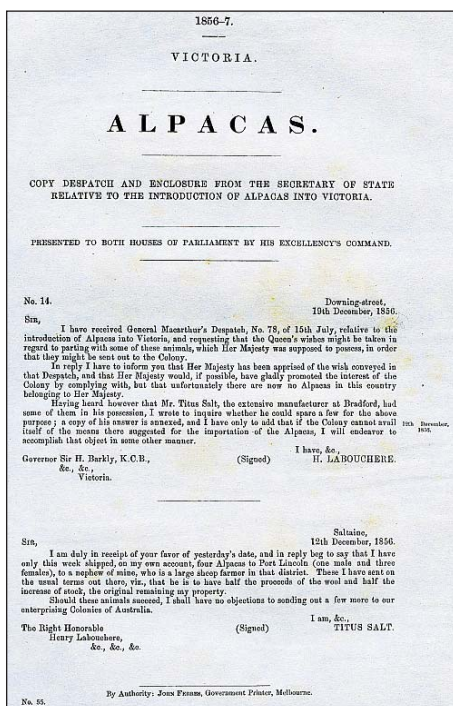
Nearly 3000 of these papers are now available for inspection and research in our A'Beckett Street library. They can be easily located by using a sub-set of the in-house RHSV Catalogue, having been sorted into the following categories:

Agriculture and Livestock, Banks and Friendly Societies, Botanical and Zoological, Census and Statistics, Crime, Penal, Courts, Police, Defence, Education, External Affairs, Finance and Revenue, Gold Fields & Mining, Government, Health & Welfare, Immigration & Emigration, Land, Mint, Municipal & Electoral, Observatory, Petitions & Personal Inquiries, Ports & Marine, Posts & Telegraph, Printing Committee, Public Houses & Victuallers, Public Library, Public Servants, Railways, Religion, Roads & Public Utilities, Surveys & Geological, Water Supply & Irrigation Trusts.

There is evidence that when Victoria separated from New South Wales, the new Government believed in 'open government', as the papers tabled in parliament were full of information on every facet of life in Victoria.

Much of the credit for the establishment of the excellent records available to us is due to William Henry Archer who served as Registrar-General, 1859 to 1863. Deputy Registrars around Victoria gathered the information and statistics which were assembled under the Registrar-General's supervision. We have a set of documents titled *Civil Establishment of the Colony of Victoria* covering the years from 1863 to 1866. These appear dull and uninteresting until opened. They contain an index listing the names of nearly 2,000 Government officials ranging from the Governor, Judges, Magistrates to Post Office and Railways Clerks and Lighthouse Keepers. The index refers to the page which gives the official position, salary and date of appointment of all public officers for each year.

A number of instances follow which show the degree of information available from these papers. Charles Ferguson, Chief Harbour Master in 1864 was paid £700 and was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen in 1851. The only salary not listed is that of the Governor, Sir Charles Darling. The appropriate column states that he was paid under Act No. CLXXXIX. (He received £10,000 per annum – apparently twice that received by his NSW counterpart, which was regarded by many as excessive.) Chief Justice, Sir William Stawell received £3000 p.a.. The annual salary of the professors at the University was £1000. The Postmaster



for Geelong, W. Thacker, appointed by the Colonial Secretary in 1848, was the sole postmaster whose salary of £485 p.a. included quarters, fuel, light and water.

Other great sources of information are those papers dealing with census and statistics and extending from 1853 through to 1916. These contain data on population, crime, education, finance, social conditions, imports, wages, births, hospitals, pensions, public debt, friendly societies, governors, ministers, consuls, etc. The papers titled *Religious, Moral and Intellectual Progress* detail information on churches, schools, libraries, mechanics institutes, orphanages, asylums, hospitals and reformatories. Others cover shipping arrivals, quarantine information, prisons and hulks, asylums and orphanages, diseases, national schools, road and bridge construction, lighthouses and harbours.

Significant sets are the *Annual Reports* to the Government by Ferdinand von Mueller (Director of the Botanic Gardens and Government Botanist) and Sir Redmond Barry (Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and Chairman of Trustees for the State Library).

The *Posts & Telegraph* papers contain correspondence and progress reports on the submarine cable links with Europe and the telegraphic linking of Darwin and Adelaide. The network of telegraph stations throughout Victoria established around 1856 was the subject of annual reports by the Director, Samuel McGowan. He

reported on the location, costs and receipts of each station.

Reminders of the past are the Customs Offices which provided revenue for the Colony. These were not only at the ports, but along the border at places such as Belvoir (Wodonga), Wahgunyah, Echuca, Swan Hill, Narung (near Boundary Bend) and Cowana (near Merbein).

Another category which reflects the views of people are the many petitions sent by Councils, church groups, public meetings and others to the Government. Each was tabled with the number of signatories displayed together with the case presented for consideration. Arguments for and against proposed legislation on issues such as public and secular education, liquor licensing, Chinese miners, etc. were offered. A significant number of petitions sought pensions for retiring public servants and widows of officers injured or killed while on duty. Another group covers aggrieved candidates alleging that the returned candidate did not fulfil requirements. A Select Committee investigated each case and submitted its recommendation to Parliament.



On a related matter: members are advised of the availability of the online archive of historic government gazettes providing access to over 160 years of official information published in and about Victoria. It contains images of every relevant page in the *Victoria Government Gazette* produced since 1836, as well as searchable indexes for each publication. Here can be found information about land transactions, court notices, government appointments, bankruptcies, proclamation of acts, deregistration of medical practitioners, statistics, tenders, unclaimed letters and monies, reward notices, etc.

The archive is at:

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>.

The RHSV holds a full run of government gazettes from 1847 to 1912 for those who wish to research using the original printed resource.

Recent additions to the Images Collection

The RHSV's Images Collection is pleased to receive offers of donations from its members and the general public. Recent additions to the collection have included images of the Carreras Cigarette Factory, Prahran, the Nangiloc Solder Settlement and surrounding district, Melbourne in the late 1920s and the activities of the 'Billikens' (a Preston men's social group).

Because of its size, the detailed cataloguing of a very large donation of images of mainly Victorian memorials and monuments has just begun. Offers of assistance for this task would be appreciated.



Cohuna Hospital Sunday Picnic, c. 1912



Carreras Cigarette Factory, Prahran, c. 1930



'Billikens' outing at Healesville, 1919



Plaque commemorating contribution to crèche, Richmond (photographed late 1990s)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Victoria's Heritage Grants Program

Applications are now open for Victoria's Heritage Grants Program. This grants program supports the State heritage strategy Victoria's Heritage: Strengthening our communities.

Grants are available in four categories:

1. Repair and conservation of heritage places and objects
2. Interpretation of heritage places and objects
3. Local government heritage studies and advice
4. Community collections management

All applications are assessed against published eligibility and selection criteria.

Applications close Thursday 6 August 2009.

Further information: Heritage Victoria website or call Jenny Dickens on 8644 8908 for collections enquiries, or Cindy Ross - 8644 8909 for all general grant enquiries; website address:

<http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Funding/Heritage-Grants.aspx>

Information Victoria

Victorian Community Foundation - Holsworth Local Heritage Trust

Historical Societies in Regional Victoria are encouraged to apply to the Holsworth Fund to support the production of publications.

Funding of up to \$2,000 is available for the **publication** of works on any specific or general local history in Regional Victoria.

The grant is not intended to benefit individual authors or large organizations. Small organizations with little or no experience of self publishing work will be encouraged. Joint projects encompassing several groups or annual/self edited journals incorporating submitted historical articles from a wide community are encouraged.

Previous recipients include:

Maryborough Field Naturalists Club, Linton & District Historical Society, Tatura & District Historical Society, Mornington & Peninsula National Trust, Friends of Bendigo Cemeteries Inc.

For more information, application guidelines and forms go to ANZ Executors and Trustees on 03 9273 6799 or free call 1800 808 910, www.anz.com/aus/fin/Trustees/

Applications close 1 October 2009.

2010 Victorian Community History Awards

NOW OPEN

The winners of the Victorian Community History Awards 2009 were announced at Parliament House on Saturday, 16 May, 2009. This year 102 entries were received, with the Overall Winner being a book by Ken Oldis titled, *The Chimawoman*. You can view all the winners and commendations at www.vic.gov.au/historyawards

The Victorian Community History Awards 2010 are now open.

The Awards aim to develop awareness of community history throughout Victoria. The Awards promote excellence in historical research and acknowledge that history can be presented in a variety of formats.

The Awards comprise a \$5,000 first prize and six \$1,000 prizes for the category finalists which include:

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

For further information ring Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 (local call cost), TTY (03) 9603 8806,

email infovic.marketing@diird.vic.gov.au or download an entry form from our website www.vic.gov.au/historyawards

Heritage Victoria's Calendar of Training and Events

Heritage Victoria has launched a calendar on its website which provides details of heritage related training and heritage events for volunteers and professionals.

The calendar can be accessed by following the link:

<http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Volunteer-community/Calendar/Calendar-List.aspx>

Please contact Kirsty Lewis, Heritage Project Manager on 8644-9805 or

email: kirsty.lewis@dpcd.vic.gov.au if you would like to advertise training or events.

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost 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 Aug to lenore10@hotmail.com

NOTE TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Lenore reads all the newsletters that come to the RHSV to glean items for "Around the Societies". If your group is not sending the RHSV a print copy of your newsletter, please consider doing so. When you are putting your newsletters together, could you keep in mind that there is someone in Essendon reading the newsletters who doesn't necessarily know where your meetings are held, what time they start, or to whom enquiries should be directed. It would be very helpful to include these details in every issue. If you can give a few months' advance notice of events, it would help with the deadlines for *History News*.

BALLARAT: On Tuesday 14 July Dr Nigel Starck will give a talk on the 1871 visit to Ballarat by the British novelist Anthony Trollope. On Tuesday 11 August Barry Hore will speak on 'The Work of a Wheelwright'. Meetings are held at the Gold Museum, Bradshaw Street, Ballarat and commence at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

BENALLA: "Riding through time" is an exciting new exhibition of rarely seen original vintage bicycles, generously loaned from the extensive Farren private collection. It was launched on 15 March and will run until 31 August at the Benalla Costume and Pioneer Museum, 14 Mair St, Benalla, 9 am to 5 pm every day, entry charges: Adults \$4.00, Concession \$3.00, Children \$0.50.

BENDIGO: Members of the Bendigo Historical Society conduct tours of Bendigo's iconic Shamrock Hotel on Sundays every fortnight at 11 am and 2.30pm. A charge applies. Enquiries: info@bendigohistory.com or telephone 03 5442 1005 (during business hours).

BELLARINE: On Tuesday 9 July the subject will be "Rabbits, Onions, Beer and Pirates" with Bob Willey at the Old Courthouse Museum, High Street Drysdale, (rear door entry) at 7.30 pm. The Museum is open on the 1st Sunday of each month from 1.30 to 4.30 pm.

CASTERTON: An historic event took place at Merino Hotel's Cinema on Wednesday 20 May, when a dinner and film night was held by the Casterton and District Historical Society with the showing of "Cattle Stories and Bush Yarns - A short history of the livestock industry of the Glenelg Shire", produced by Promoting Heywood & District Committee Inc History Group. Prior to the film being shown, the Casterton Theatre Newsreel 1936 was shown and thrilled the audience and primed them for the feature film. This DVD was the result of a reformatting project to aid the preservation of the original 16mm film which is in the Casterton Community Museum and is part of the ongoing preservation projects being done by the Historical Society.

CASTLEMAINE: Leo Martin will entertain members and visitors with a presentation on "Castlemaine Market - its Golden Years" on Monday 3 August. Meetings are held at the Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: phone 5470 6072 or chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

CHELSEA: The society has a colourful and interesting "Collector Fiesta" display at their museum for several months. The Court House Museum is in The Strand, Chelsea. The next meeting will be on Sunday 12 July. For further information call 9772 0145.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST: In this bicentennial year of the founding document of the Churches of Christ, Declaration and Address, the history of women's lay ministry is celebrated with the publication of an official history of the Christian Women's Fellowship in Victoria and Tasmania. *Privilege to Serve* is available for \$15 + \$4 p & h from CWF Secretary Mrs Marion Rose, 2 Akron St, Ferntree Gully 3156. Cheques should be made payable to the Christian Women's Fellowship.

DESCENDANTS OF CONVICTS: Dr Gary Presland will speak on Saturday 5 September on "Tracking Criminals through 19th Century Victoria Police Records". Meetings are held at 1:30pm on Level B1, 257 Collins Street Melbourne. Enquiries 9599 2978.

DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE: At the general meeting of Wednesday 5 August, we will show members and visitors some of the work being done by our Archives group and items from the valuable archival material owned by our society. At Schramm's Cottage, Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria Street, Doncaster; enquiries: 9439 7577 - www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/

EAST MELBOURNE: Dr Jo Wainer will speak on the struggle to decriminalize abortion in Victoria. In 1967 Wainer and her husband, Dr Bertram Wainer, launched a campaign to reform the law which treated abortion as a crime, resulting in the Menhennit ruling of 1969 and finally the legalising of abortion in October 2008. The meeting will be held at on Wednesday 19 August, Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon St, East Melbourne at 8 pm. Enquiries: info@emhs.org.au or phone 9416 0445.

GEELONG: Colin Hutchinson will speak on "Geelong Football Club 150 years" on Wednesday 5 August, and the following month, on Wednesday 2 September, the topic will be "Geelong Verandah Study" with guest speaker David Rowe. Meetings are held in the Morrow Theatre, Geelong Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong at 8 pm. Enquiries: (03) 5278 3530 or email caracaradoc@bigpond.com

GOLF CLUB: The next meeting of Golf Club historians will be held at the Huntingdale Golf Club on Monday 13 July. All interested in golf club history are welcome. For further information phone 9589 5551 or see www.golfsocietyaust.com

HASTINGS: A meeting will be held on Sunday 14 June at 2 pm, with "Mystery" as the topic. You can also join the members on Wednesday 12 August, at 10.15 am for an "Antiques and Collectables" coffee morning. Meetings are held at the Hastings Museum cnr Marine Parade and Skinner Streets, Hastings. For further enquiries email shirleydavies101@gmail.com

HEIDELBERG: The society received a grant of \$5,032 from PROV to convert microfilms of the Heidelberg News (1897-1920) and the Evelyn Observer (1882-1901) as well as the Heidelberg Shire rate books on microfiche to a digital format. Barry Fry will speak about "My social reformer ancestor: Elizabeth Fry" on Tuesday 11 August at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St, Ivanhoe, commencing at 8 pm. Visitors welcomed. Enquiries to 03 9455 2130 or email history@heidelberg.50webs.com

INTERNATIONAL SETTLERS: At the AGM on Tuesday 18 August Paul Kriek will speak on "Netherlands research & internet sources". GSV Meeting Room, Level B1, 257 Collins St, Melbourne. Enquiries to yvon@alphalink.com.au, or telephone 9899 8136.

LINTON: Committee members of the Linton Historical Society were guests of the Victorian Chinese Memorial Foundation at the unveiling of the new memorial to the Chinese miners in the Linton Cemetery in May. The Foundation brought 42 students from the Melbourne Chinese School to participate. The Linton Historical Society provided a display of artefacts such as coins and pots, and also photographs, maps and inquests.

MARYSVILLE: The society reports a temporary home in a little cottage in Woods Point Road, right next door to "Crossways". Mail may be directed to 2/11 McClares Rd, Vermont 3133, phone calls to 0417 596 433 (landline coming) and email to regken@bigpond.com.au Welcome back, Marysville.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA: A day tour of the Mechanics' Institutes of the Mornington Peninsula and southeast will be held on Sunday 12 July 2009. The bus will depart the Prahran Mechanics' Institute at 9.00am. Tour Highlights: visits to the Mechanics' Institutes at Frankston, Somerville, Sorrento, and Tooradin. You will also see Mechanics' Institutes (and former MI buildings) at Balnarring, Berwick, Hastings, Mornington, Red Hill, Rosebud, plus a guided tour of the award-winning Nepean Historical Society Museum. Cost: \$50 per person, includes a light lunch. Enquiries and bookings: Judith Dwyer, phone: 9707 4254, email: jad134@hotmail.com, or visit the MIV website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mivc

MIRBOO: Over the Mother's Day weekend of 9 - 10 May, two very successful open days were held in conjunction with the local art show and many other activities that were held for "Arty Gras" in Mirboo North. Our Society put together a display of each allotment in Main Street and the business conducted on each site over the many years since settlement. It was well attended with over 250 people visiting our rooms and members enjoying the weekend. It was also a great opportunity to release the reprint book *On the Ridge the history of the Shire of Mirboo 1894-1994*.

MORNINGTON: "The McCraes of Arthurs Seat - a conversation" - a little conversation piece on the life of Georgiana McCrae and her family, presented by McCrae Homestead staff at the Friendship Room, St. Mark's Uniting Church, Barkly Street, Mornington on Tuesday 14 July at 10.30 am. Enquiries: 03 5976 3203.

MT DANDENONG: The historic and refurbished Farndons Community Hall (formerly CWA Hall), Mt Dandenong is our new meeting place with accommodation to set up our records, enabling us to eventually offer open days for research. On 18 July Vicki Court is to bring us lots of good advice on cataloguing our collection. Published last year in time for the 75th anniversary of the Kyeema air crash on Mt Dandenong, Mac Job's *Disaster in the Dandenongs - the Kyeema tragedy* continues to sell very well. Enquiries 9751 1409 or pjhogan@melbpc.org.au.

NARRE WARREN: At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th July at 2 pm, Dr Margaret Glass will speak on "Tommy Bent: Scoundrel or Man of His Times?" On Saturday 8 August at 2 pm Jane Rivett-Carnac will talk on "InMagic - Get the most out of our Resources by learning the ins and outs of our catalogue!" Meetings are held at The Meeting Room, Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Narre Warren. Enquiries president@nwfhg.org.au

NEPEAN: Colin Smith will speak on "The Boyd Family", at the meeting of Friday 7 August, at 8 pm. Meetings are held at the Museum, 827 Melbourne Rd, Sorrento. Enquiries nepeanhs@satlink.com.au or phone 5984 0255.

NEWSTEAD: The Courthouse Museum is open for research every Monday morning 9.30 to 12.30, or by appointment. Enquiries: 5476 2006 or email adawn@gcom.net.au

NHILL: The May/June 2009 newsletter reports the recent formation of the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre. The group is seeking a permanent building in which to house the remains of an Avro Anson that has been acquired to be restored.

PORT FAIRY: The meeting on Tuesday 14 July will be a night full of memories "Do you remember when?" Join the members at 30 Gipps St, Port Fairy at 7.30 pm. Enquiries pfhs@port-fairy.com

PORT MELBOURNE: By popular demand, the Monday 27 July meeting will feature more "Treasures from the collection". Meetings are held at the Port Melbourne Town Hall first floor Council Chamber at 7.30 pm. The historical society will also mount a display for the Nott Street School Reunion on 4 October at the Bowling Club. The reunion will be for all students who completed Grade 6 in 1964. Enquiries: pmhps@hotmail.com or phone 9646 7774.

QUEENSCLIFF: "Come Dance With Me", an exhibition of exquisite dance dresses & accessories from the Thirties. The museum in Hesse St, between the Post Office and Library, houses an extensive collection of social history items dating back to 1838. Open every

day from 2-4pm. Adults \$5, children free. Enquiries: 03 5258 2511 or www.queenscliffe-history.org

RINGWOOD: The historical society was recently the fortunate recipient of the donation of the original register of the Nunawading North/Ringwood State School from 1880 to 1909, a gift from the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society. Contact President Russ Haines on 9876 4367 or email president@rhs.org.au for details of access to the Ringwood archives.

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD: Groups are invited to book a day out to Macedon Ranges, one hour north of Melbourne. Historic buildings, cafe or pub lunch, art gallery, Hanging Rock. Contact Jean 5429 6522.

SANDRINGHAM: About 75 people attended the Resource Centre for the launch of Margaret Glass's book *Sandringham - by the work of all* by Weston Bate, OAM. Copies of the book are still available for \$25 each. Contact sandringhamhistorical@gmail.com or phone 9597 0985.

SNAKE VALLEY: The Tuesday 14 July meeting will feature "Chat and Chew", and at the Tuesday 11 August meeting Helen Fox will guide members and visitors on "Researching using Inquests". Meetings are held at the historical society, Smythesdale Rd, Snake Valley, starting at 7.30 pm sharp.

ST KILDA: "Memories of St Moritz 2009 > 1939". Join the St Kilda Historical Society on Monday 20 July from 6 to 8 pm at the St Kilda Library. Have your picture taken with the Skating Girl, hear the story of St Moritz, show your photos, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings etc, as well as any artefacts of skating memorabilia. Vote on a name for the St Moritz Skating Girl. Let us know your favorite piece of skating music. RSVP by phone 9525 5913 or email info@skhs.org.au On Sunday 9 August historian John Batt will tell the story of James Bonwick (1917-1906), an intellectual giant of the nineteenth century who founded and ran two schools in St Kilda, The meeting starts at 2.30 pm in the St Kilda Community Room, Foyer, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle St, St Kilda. Enquiries 9537 1967 or email as above.

TATURA: We are currently researching the Rushworth Migrant Camp which was in operation from 1 June 1949 to 15 June 1953. The camp was in Zegelin Road, Rushworth, and was one of the old War War 2 Internee camps which was converted to a Commonwealth Immigration Camp after the end of the war. We would like to hear from anyone who has any recollections or photographs or who knows anyone who may have lived or worked at the camp. Contact Judy or Val at info@taturamuseum.org.au or Tatura Museum, PO Box 156 Tatura 3616.

TRAFALGAR: The society newsletter has a number of charming local stories, including that of the Tanjil District Rifle Club (Sportsmen to Soldiers) and a colour cover picture of the Trafalgar Football Club Premiers, 1958 (Carn the Bloods!)

TRARALGON: The Society has reprinted a number of books, *Tyers and district, its people* (\$12 plus p&h), *Traralgon's first public building*

- *the Shire Hall (1881)*, and *George Bolton Eagle - Edward and Dr Edmund Hobson, a story from Traralgon in the 1840s*. (The last two titles are \$5 each plus p&h). Ring Thelma on 5174 3696 or 0429 901 948 to arrange purchase.

WARRACKNABEAL: Final plans for the extension to the foyer at Wheatlands Agricultural Museum have been submitted. It is hoped that building will be underway before the end of the year. The Historical Centre has had an increased number of enquiries about family histories. The microfilm of Warracknabeal Heralds and cemetery records have enabled our researchers to help many people. The recession seems to have brought even more people to Wheatlands Warehouse to buy and sell. Don't forget the Warracknabeal Reunion on 27th September at Ballarat.

WHITEHORSE: The Alwyn Till collection of papers, recently donated to the society, included correspondence of William Cook, orchardist of Cook's Rd, Mitcham. Cook travelled to the Western Australian goldfields in the 1890s, and his letters to his wife Jinny (or Jane) make interesting reading. An article about William Cook and his letters is featured in the May/June Whitehorse newsletter.

History

NEWS



ESTABLISHED 1909

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