



History NEWS

Issue No. 286 April – May 2010

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
27-29 AUGUST
BENDIGO

Celebrating 100 years of Flinders Street Station



See information on page 3 about our next exhibition, 'Celebrating 100 years of Flinders Street Station'.

The centre entrance before subway.

President's Note

We predicted a busy start to the year: what an understatement. Good luck and some good disaster prevention planning – the topic of last year's History Victoria Support Group seminar – meant that the Drill Hall gutters worked and the roof and windows gutters stayed stalwart and we and our collections kept dry in the great Melbourne hail storm of Saturday 6 March 2010. We hope all historical collections fared as well.

Otherwise it has been non-stop activity at the RHSV, with co-vice president Dr Simon Smith setting the year's programme with his talk on maverick litigants drawing a full house. We opened our gem of an exhibition – *Minted Melbourne*, the hitherto little-seen Edwardian era prints from the Society's glass slide collection of Brighton-based amateur photographer Robert Law – at a reception on 9 March ahead of Susan Priestley's absorbing lecture on George Higginbotham. Susan demonstrated beautifully how good historical technique and new technology can combine to bring individuals out of the shadows of the past: in this case, Margaret Higginbotham, the famous Victorian judge's hitherto invisible wife.

Judges were again on the menu when his Honour Mr Paul Mullaly showed our collection treasure, the case books of the first resident Port Phillip Judge, to what we called our 'lawyers' lunch' in the RHSV library. We were honoured by the presence of Mr Justice Chris Maxwell QC, his wife Sarah Stephen, and other distinguished guests from the legal world.

Meanwhile co-vice president Lenore Frost and the HVSG team conducted a very well-attended seminar for local historical societies at Old Gipps Town in Moe, and the following Saturday our Walking Tour 'Walkshop' was booked out: popular tour leader Kenneth Park took us on a glorious autumn walk through the historic Flagstaff precinct, while Vicki Court and volunteers David Thomson and John Rose demonstrated their work in progress on a downloadable self-guided tour of our end of town. This was a joint seminar with the Professional Historians Association, with whom we are making stronger links.

continued next page....

Notice of 2010 Annual General Meeting

All members are advised that the 100th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2010

Time: 5.00pm

Place: 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne,

Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2009.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2009.
4. To appoint the Hon. Auditor for 2010.
5. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council.
6. To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group.
7. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.
8. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
9. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

Lecture

The AGM will be followed by a lecture to be given by Professor Weston Bate OAM FRHSV "How I Became a Local Historian".

CALL for NOMINATIONS

Six positions are available for election at the AGM. Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close on Tuesday 4 May 2010.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

CALL for EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

Affiliated societies are encouraged to provide expressions of interest for membership on the RHSV's History Victoria Support Group. These should be forwarded to Executive Officer by Tuesday 4 May 2010.

Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer

26 March, 2010

Robert Law Exhibition Extended by Popular Demand!!!!

Because of the fantastic public response we have had to this exhibition we are extending its closing date to 23 April.

In addition Tony Aplin will give a lunch time talk about Robert Law on Tuesday 20 April. 12.30 coffee/tea; 1.00 – 2.00pm Lecture. See "What's On" for details.

President's Note *continued*

But wait, as they say, there's more: a volunteers' thank you to the wonderful Alan Berends who has decided, in his 90s, to reduce his workload at the RHSV. And our centenary invitation-only reception at Government House will just about have happened when *History News* reaches you.

Our joint lecture with the C.J. La Trobe Society falls earlier this year, on Tuesday 13 April, and is always a classy affair, more than worth the modest entry fee. We are planning ahead for our regional conference in historic Bendigo which will tie in with the Royal Society of Victoria's Burke and Wills commemorations, with an emphasis on the writing and presentation of local history: please put the weekend of 27-29 August in your diary now.

The publications committee is at work on the next *Victorian Historical Journal*. We are saluting the achievements of production editor Dr Richard Morton who has recently been obliged for health reasons to retire from the Council; and we welcome Dr Kate Jones who will now fill this role, along with editor Dr Judith Smart.

All this and more is done from a largely volunteer body, building on a century of volunteer work and with minimal government support. It has been heartening to receive some more contributions to the new RHSV Foundation and we will soon acknowledge all the donors to this fund. Exciting news is that our first dividend from the Foundation has allowed the conservation of one of our important art works in the collection. Much more could be done with a larger membership: please encourage friends interested in history to make this the year that they join, or rejoin, the RHSV.

Andrew Lemon, President, RHSV

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2010-11

The Australian Prime Ministers Centre offers Fellowships and Summer Scholarships to support research projects which investigate the lives, achievements and governments of Australia's prime ministers.

Applications for the 2010-11 Fellowship program close on 30 June 2010.

Summer Scholarship applications close on 1 October 2010.

For application forms and further information about the program see apmc.oph.gov.au/research_scholarship.html or contact Linda Macfarlane, Manager, Australian Prime Ministers Centre

linda.macfarlane@moaoph.gov.au

(02) 6270 8134

2010 VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS.

TOTAL PRIZE POOL OF \$40,000 ON OFFER

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to community history, Information Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, is calling for applications for the 2010 Victorian Community History Awards.

Established in 1997, the Awards recognise the achievements and contributions made in the area of community history in Victoria.

This year's Awards will coincide with Melbourne's 175th Anniversary celebrations, showcasing Australia's cultural capital. A total prize pool of up to \$40,000 is available in the following categories: Best Collaborative/Community Work, Best Print/Publication, Best Audio-Visual/ Multimedia, Best Exhibit/Display, Best Walk/Tour, Best Community Research, Registers and Records.

Entries are now open for the 2010 awards, with the closing date 5pm Wednesday, 30 June 2010.

For further information, including entry forms and selection criteria visit: www.vic.gov.au/historyawards

For any other enquiries regarding the Victorian Community History Awards contact:

e: infovic.marketing@diird.vic.gov.au

t: 1300 366 356

t: (03) 9603 8806

Female Footballers in 1943

C.E. Leach

Research on women's participation in Australian Rules football has established that at least two matches took place in Victoria in 1943. One game occurred in Mortlake on 19 June (between 'Married' and 'Single' women), and one in Ascot Vale on 19 September (involving female workers from the Melbourne Aircraft Annexe and Newport Foundry). Both matches were played to raise money for charity and to provide aid for the war effort rather than marking the resurgence of a formal women's football competition.

Any person with information about the above matches, or with knowledge of other games between female footballers in 1943, is asked to contact me at caroline.leach@live.vu.edu.au

Caroline Leach is undertaking her Honours project in the School of Sport and Exercise Science at Victoria University.



NATIONAL TRUST

Nominations open to Our Heritage at Risk 2010

Nominations will be accepted until World Heritage Day on April 18th. Nominations of heritage that can be shown to be at real risk should be submitted to State and Territory National Trusts. How to nominate may vary between states and this is explained on the Our Heritage at Risk website www.heritageatrisk.org.au

State and Territory Our Heritage at Risk lists will be released in July, and the National Top Ten Our Heritage at Risk list will be announced on 23rd October 2010.

For further information contact: Maree Treadwell, Project Officer on mtreadwell@nationaltrust.org.au or 6247 6766

2010 VOLUNTEERS' DAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 10.30am – 2.30pm

The Society will be holding the annual Volunteers' Open Day on Wednesday April 28th from 10.30 am until 2.30 pm. Held in the library at the RHSV all current volunteers and individuals thinking about volunteering are welcome. The agenda this year will include a discussion of the successes of the past twelve months, plans for this year including new projects, and information about Museum Accreditation.

Please bring your own lunch

Please phone the Chris Cooze, Volunteer Co-ordinator for further information.

9326 9288

Celebrating 100 Years of Flinders Street Station...

2010 marks the centenary year of Flinders Street Station. Although the building was essentially completed by October 1909, the station was considered 'finished' when the indicator clocks were installed in March 1910. The Victorian Railways Institute moved into their extensive facilities on the third floor in October 1909 and celebrated their official opening at an event in the lecture hall, now known as the ballroom, on 22 January 1910.

Curiously, the station does not have a foundation stone. This can partly be explained by the fact that the railway operations were never interrupted during the period of construction and therefore the original station was never actually considered 'closed'. However, the recent discovery of a 'Presentation trowel presented to FK Esling upon the occasion of his laying the last brick of tower Flinders Street Station building' (National Museum) has shed some new light on the construction history of the station.

This exhibition is based primarily on the research by Jenny Davies for her book, *Beyond the Façade: Flinders Street, more than just a railway station*. Most of the photographs come from the railway collection held at the PROV though several are from the RHSV collection of early Melbourne.

An exhibition of this kind enables the incorporation of a variety of items associated with Flinders Street as well as those generally associated with the Victorian Railways. The RHSV is extremely grateful to the individuals who have loaned items, many of which belong to family history collections dating back to employees and contractors associated with the construction phase of the station.

Loans from both the private collection and items for sale from *Memorabilia on Smith* have greatly enhanced the exhibition. Several rail heritage groups including *Seymour Railways Heritage Centre* and *Steamrail Victoria*, have also generously provided both larger and small items. Valuable archival material has come from the *Bendigo VRI* and trophies from the *Melbourne VRI*. In the current absence of a railways ephemera museum, this exhibition provides a unique opportunity to view many familiar and unfamiliar items that forms part of the Victorian Railways rich history.



"Women's Physical Culture in the Ballroom - early 1930s"

The RHSV is indebted to artist, Jason Roberts, for the inclusion of his watercolour painting of the main entrance to the station. This work and others, including many of the photographs, will be available for sale.

Exhibition Dates: Thursday 6 May to Friday 6 August, 10am to 4pm, Mon-Fri

The exhibition will also be open on the weekend of 24 & 25 July as part of the Melbourne Open House program. Author & curator, Jenny Davies will be in attendance. For group visits to the Exhibition, please contact Jenny on 5426-2142 or jenny.davies7@bigpond.com if you wish to have a guided tour.

The RHSV Foundation off to solid start

Established in May 2009 the aims of the Foundation are to:

Create a permanent home for history in Victoria; further develop and preserve the most extensive single information source on the history of Melbourne and Victoria; and promote the many wonders of Victoria's past to all Victorians.

To celebrate the RHSV's centenary year, the *Foundation Founders* program was created to record and recognise the first 100 significant donors/bequestors to the Foundation.

To become a Foundation Founder you can:

- pledge a donation of \$500 or more; and/or
- leave a bequest for \$5000 or more

Each Foundation Founder will be recognised on a commemorative plaque which will be unveiled at a special ceremony once we welcome 100 supporters on board.

To make a donation you can:

Telephone: (03) 9326 9288

Direct Debit: ING Direct BSB: 923 100

Account No: 602 51556

Please include name with deposit and send an email confirming contact details to office@historyvictoria.org.au

Cheque: Payable to RHSV

Post cheque to RHSV

Credit Card: Post details to:

RHSV
239 A'Beckett Street
Melbourne 3000

or email to

office@historyvictoria.org.au

For more information on the aims of the Foundation or how you can support it please 'phone the RHSV on 9326 9288

We are delighted to acknowledge the following early supporters of the Foundation:

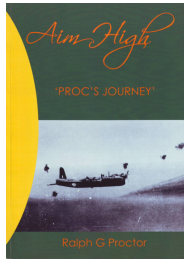
Richard Broome
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M Read
Sandy & Richard Sutcliffe
Michael Tonta
J H Wall
Ethel White
Anne Yule

BOOKS RECEIVED:

We note below a selection of relevant items recently received by the Society. Interested groups or authors are invited to contribute to this valuable service to members in *History News* and through possible deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Journal*.

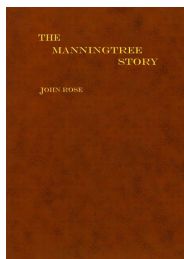
Aim High, 'Proc's Journey', Life Stories and Events

Ralph G Proctor. Clare-Pear Publishing, PO Box 538, Mount Evelyn, 3796, 2005, pp. 127, \$35 + \$10 for postage. The author recalls a life that began in Hay in 1915, took him to work on sheep stations in Queensland before the war when he enlisted in the RAAF and eventually trained as a pilot in Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme. After surviving an air collision and a U boat attack in the Atlantic on the way to Liverpool, his fighting war involved dangerous missions taking troops and supplies on to the Continent before and after D day. He returned to Australia and developed a highly regarded berry farm at Mount Evelyn where he became very active in his community. Don Charwood, noted author and another RAAF veteran, has written a most approving commentary deposited with the RHSV.



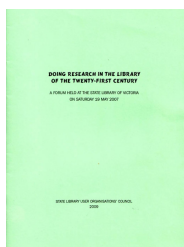
The Manningtree Story

John Rose, 2008, pp. 44. This book meticulously describes 'Manningtree', a house on the southern corner of Manningtree Road and Power Street, Hawthorn from its beginnings in the 1860s until its conversion to use by the Vasey Housing Auxiliary from the 1960s. It reconstructs plans of the house and its furnishings in the first part of the 20th century. It also outlines the connections with Stratherne Girls' School which came to occupy 'Boonoke', the 1890s mansion next door, from the 1920s. The school closed in 1968 and that site is now occupied by Rossbourne House.



Doing Research in the Library of the Twenty-first Century . . .

State Library User Organisations Council, 2009, pp. 44. The short papers deal with both the enormous benefits in terms of access that new technologies have brought to researchers



as well as the deficits in terms of costs to libraries, research preferences for analysis of the kinds of materials now made readily available, and possible over-reliance on what is available online.

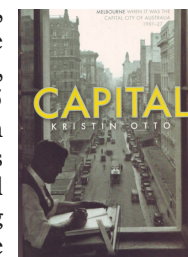
An Unlikely Leader, The Life and Times of Captain John Hunter

Robert Barnes, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 2009, pp. xii + 329, \$34-95. The author will be well-known to many readers as a former RHSV councillor and as president of the Nepean Historical Society. This biography helps to establish much more substance for John Hunter, second governor of New South Wales, who is remembered mostly for his 'failures': the loss of the 'Sirius' in 1790 and his failure to curb the influence of the New South Wales Corps after his appointment as governor in 1795 leading to his recall in 1800. In Barnes's view, Hunter did have well-documented failings but his reputation deserved its rehabilitation as the Colonial Office came to appreciate the problems experienced by governors in New South Wales after him. Fills a gap in our understandings of the major players in early New South Wales.



Capital: Melbourne When It Was the Capital City of Australia, 1901-1927

Kristin Otto, Text, Melbourne with State Library of Victoria, 2009, pp. 388, \$39-95. It is often forgotten that Melbourne was Australia's capital city until the opening of Parliament House in Canberra in 1927. Historians have largely neglected this fact and all its attendant consequences, for example, the presence of Commonwealth departments, public servants, the governor-general, foreign diplomats. They have also somewhat neglected the continuing importance of Melbourne and Victoria in the Australian economy, perhaps heightened by its capital status. Otto had a vast field to survey and in this remarkable book she has brought together a fascinating narrative of the capital years through the lives of its people. She has a very keen eye for connection between people and events and makes memorable use of Melbourne people like Mac Robertson, Nellie Melba, Janet Clarke, Helena Rubinstein, WL Baillieu, EW Cole, the Coles family, Alfred Felton, Tom Roberts, Charles Nuttall, Sidney Myer, HV McKay. An



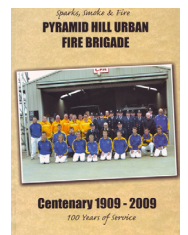
important and interesting contribution to Melbourne's history.

Bandages, Bedpans, Pills and Stethoscopes, A History of all things medical in Pyramid Hill and District

Helen Stevens (comp and ed), pp. 175. A substantial compilation of medical and related services that provides extensive material about doctors, nurses and chemists; local hospitals and hostels; accidents and other items reported in the local paper. A very good index of value to genealogists and certainly a worthwhile local project that other societies might emulate.

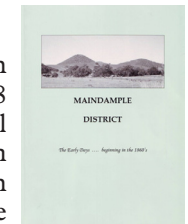
Smoke, Sparks and Fire, Pyramid Hill Fire Brigade, 100 Years of Service

Jeanette Carroll (comp), 2009, pp. 146. Another worthy compilation, full of photographs and a reminder of the importance of institutions like the fire brigade in the life of a town and its district.



Maindample District, The Early Days...beginning in the 1860's

Sheila Hutchinson (comp), 2008. Funded under the Local History Grants Program but lacking an index, an ISBN and many of the other characteristics one should expect in any local history. The book presents a collection of items, loosely sorted and often derived from early Mansfield newspapers, mostly dealing with the late 19th and early 20th century. The collection might well be the start of something more substantial about this hamlet on the Maroondah highway between Mansfield and Bonnie Doon.



Charles James Tyers, Schoolmaster RN, 1828-1839

Donald Gunn, 2009, pp. 23. Print-on-demand, available from www.lulu.com ID 175379 at \$US 16-50 + postage. As the author explains, the main purpose of this booklet is to correct an item in the ADB entry stating that Tyers reached the rank of captain in the Royal Navy. In fact, as Gunn, a great-grandson of Tyers shows, his aunt who wrote the entry was wrong, because their forebear had the position of Schoolmaster in his naval appointments. Tyers' importance in surveying especially of the 141st meridian and in administration in Gippsland remains undiminished. Tyers' proficiency as a watercolourist is shown in a number of plates.

History Curriculum Deserves More Ticks

Don Gibb provides an incisive analysis of the recently released Federal Government's draft history curriculum.

History News and the RHSV have tried to keep abreast of proposals to make the teaching of history compulsory for the first eleven years of schooling. We all recall the disputes on the issue when it was first raised federally by the Howard government. While there was some initial hostility to the group set up by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), their recent release of the draft curriculum, which can be viewed at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home>, has drawn little opposition, apart from what appear to have been hasty and falsely based comments from Christopher Pyne who apparently ran a word search on the whole of the new curricula (not just history) and came to the crashing conclusion that Indigenous people were mentioned 118 times and the Magna Carta not at all!

Given the public contestation about history in recent times in the so-called 'history wars', the positive reception to the new curriculum is very welcome. It says a great deal for the abilities of Stuart Macintyre and his collaborators that they have produced something which is so publicly acceptable. The curriculum elaborates what was proposed in October 2008 and reported in *History News* in Nov/Dec 2008. It provides the results of the process and work described by Stuart Macintyre in his October 2009 lecture to the Society (and podcast on RHSV website: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/podcastlecture7.htm>). It takes a world history approach in order 'to equip students for the world in which they will live'. This, it argues, 'will enhance students' appreciation of Australian history' and 'enable them to appreciate

In the consultation period that runs until 23 May 2010, individuals and groups can comment on and rate the published curriculum. <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home>

Australia's distinctive path of social, economic and political development, its position in the Asia-Pacific region, and global interrelationships that are essential to an informed and active participation in Australia's diverse society.' It also acknowledges the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and societies in Australia's history. It not only sets out areas of historical knowledge, but also the skills and understandings that should be inherent in doing history.

The content descriptions state for each of the eleven years of compulsory schooling what should be studied in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills. The courses outlined may prove to be too ambitious in terms of their coverage, but they are set out in plain terms that students themselves can understand, a rarity for curriculum designers! They look to be highly appropriate for each year level. Repetition is avoided. This should help remove some of the student criticisms that history, notably Australian history, is 'boring'. The opportunities for local historical societies to be involved at all levels are boundless, especially in Years 2 and 3 and in any of those years when there is focus on Australia.

Having a worthwhile document is a great starting point and there appears to be much

goodwill and a level of excitement about the prospects for the new curriculum. But there are still considerable hurdles – not new ones, but ones that have been mentioned from the outset.

Successful implementation of any new curriculum ultimately depends on teachers. Goodwill is not enough. There will need to be widespread teacher in-service, especially given the fact that there are many teachers of students in the compulsory years who have very limited professional training both in the discipline and its teaching methods. In-service of a massive kind requires resources that must come from all governments – federal and state and territory. Proper trialling and sharing of experiences can help deliver the new curriculum in the manner it deserves. Scepticism abounds and remains as to whether our political masters will find this properly and bring about a re-charged position for history in schools.

In the consultation period that runs until 23 May 2010, individuals and groups can comment on and rate the published curriculum. This can all be done online.

Why not participate and show that we care about our discipline and how, in the words of the draft, it:

- develops students' curiosity and imagination
- develops understanding of cultural, social and political events, processes and issues that have shaped humanity from earliest times
- enriches our appreciation of how the world and its people have changed, and the significant continuities that exist into the present
- enables students to contribute more effectively to creating the future

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**HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP – RHSV
SEMINAR DAY SATURDAY 29 MAY 2010**

To be held at Rutherglen Historical Society,
Common School Museum, Murray St, Rutherglen

“Tourism and history”

- 10.00 **Registration** and cup of tea for those who have travelled from far afield
- 10.30 **Welcome by the Rutherglen Historical Society**
Introduction, reports, general information:
Convenor, History Victoria Support Group - Lenore Frost
Executive Officer, RHSV -Kate Prinsley
- 10.50 **Panel: “Tourism and History - how do we link into tourism to gain the rewards?”**
A panel discussion involving Rutherglen Historical Society, guest speakers and those in attendance on their experiences in working with tourism.
- 11.45 **Bernard Bolch** of the Walhalla Heritage and Development League will speak on “Heritage Signage”.
- 12.30 LUNCH
- 1.15 **Presenter: Neva Dunstan** of Ballarat will speak on how to put together a factual and interesting walk, using her experience on creating walks at the Ballarat Cemetery.
- 2.00 **Vicki Court**, RHSV Local History Officer.
Vicki will discuss the current RHSV project of developing ‘virtual walking tours’ – downloadable to iPods and similar devices – for self-guided tours of the precinct.
- 2.45 **Visit to the Rutherglen Gold Battery**, one of the last remaining original batteries left intact, a short drive away in Main Street.
- 3.30 **Afternoon tea back at the museum** - Closure of Seminar Day, and departure.

(Costs: \$15 per head includes a light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged by email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone 9326 9288.

Bookings will close Wednesday 26 May 2010. Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.

2010 Community Heritage Grants

The National Library of Australia is calling for applications for the 2010 Community Heritage Grants program. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to community groups around the country to help preserve and manage locally held, nationally significant cultural heritage collections for future generations.

Community organisations such as historical societies, museums, public libraries, archives, Indigenous and migrant community groups which provide access to their cultural heritage collections are eligible to apply.

A wide range of projects may qualify for grants, including: significance assessments; preservation needs assessments; conservation and preservation activities and collection management training.

Applications close 14 May.

Further information:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/chg/>

Volunteer Grants 2010 Now Open

Volunteer Grants 2010 recognises the valuable work of Australia’s volunteers and is part of the Government’s ongoing commitment to supporting volunteers, assisting disadvantaged communities and encouraging social inclusion to assist vulnerable people within our society. Funding of \$21 million is available to eligible non-profit community organisations to assist their volunteers and encourage volunteering.

Volunteer Grants 2010 provides funding of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to help non-profit organisations to:

contribute towards the costs of training courses for volunteers and/or undertaking background screening checks for volunteers; and/or purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help volunteers; and/or contribute towards fuel reimbursement for their volunteers, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria. Applications close 2pm Friday 16 April 2010.

Further information: http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx

IT and Societies survey

Affiliated organisations will receive, with their membership renewal forms, a copy of a questionnaire on the use of information technology by their groups. We ask all groups, whether using computers or not, to complete the questionnaire and return it to the RHSV. The survey results will be compared with the results of a similar survey undertaken in 2003 and will assist the RHSV when planning programs for societies. Please email any enquiries about the survey to office@historyvictoria.org.au.

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

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 the next issue please send details of forthcoming events by 12 May to lenore10@hotmail.com.

ANGLICAN: On Wednesday 21 April The Rev Ray Hartley will speak on 'Epping and Thomastown', and on Wednesday 19 May Dr Pam Oliver will speak on 'The Melbourne College of Divinity, 1910-2010'. Enquiries: 9818 4565.

BALLARAT: Phil Roberts, author of a history of the Ballarat High School, will tell some history of the school on Tuesday 9 March, 7.30 pm, in the Clark Gallery at the Gold Museum, Bradshaw St, Ballarat. Enquiries: 5341 2405 or see the website www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com.

BALNARRING: The February edition of Snippets from our collection carries an article on 'Erosion control at Balnarring Beach', outlining the loss of beach in the area known as the 'Back Beach'. Severe storms in 1946 or '47 washed away a wide stretch of beach and foreshore, including an early track parallel to the beach.

BALWYN: Professor Peter Harris's topic on Thursday 11 March is 'The Alma Doepel - Our Last Tall Ship'. Dr Ross McMullin, will speak on 'Pompey Elliott - Melbourne War Hero' on Thursday 8 April. Meetings are at the The Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn, 8.00 pm. Visitors welcome. Enquiries: 9836 6589.

BOX HILL: On Thursday 15 April Cliff and Craig Hoath will speak on their respective cycle and sports, and print businesses in Box Hill. On Thursday 20 May Keith and Betty Rooney will speak about their years of community work. Meet at Strabane Chapel, 29 Strabane Ave, Mont Albert North, 8 pm.

CASTLEMAINE: Carol Holsworth will address a meeting on Monday 3 May, 7.30 pm on the topic 'Henly: Chinese Interpreter'. The venue is the Former Courthouse, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine. Enquiries: 5470 6072.

DIAMOND CREEK: Ellis Cottage, built in 1860, has had a 'picture wall' established to enable the Nillumbik society to display their large inventory of mounted photos. The cottage is open on the first Sunday of the month, 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Enquiries: 9438 5619 or email ronvgordon@gmail.com.

DROMANA: The AGM, to be held on Tuesday 20 April, 7.30 pm in the Old Shire Office, Nepean Highway, Dromana, will be followed by the launch of a new book, Signs of old Dromana. Enquiries: 5989 9119.

DUNOLLY: The Goldfields Historical & Arts Society celebrates its 50th anniversary on Sunday 23 May, 1.00 pm at the Dunolly Museum with the sealing of a time capsule. Bus tours of the 'Lesser Known Places of Dunolly', cost \$5, and tours of Dunolly Cemetery leave 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. Enquiries: John Tully 5464 1212.

EAST MELBOURNE: Melbourne Cricket Club historian and author Alf Batchelder will present an illustrated talk about the US Military Forces at the MCG during the Second World War. Wednesday 21 April, 8pm, at Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon St, East Melbourne.

FRANKSTON: The Ballam Park water project starts soon with new guttering and downpipes to maximise rainfall capture. Before the water tank can be installed, 6 apple trees will be moved in autumn. South East Water has agreed to pump recycled water into the tank if it runs dry. Enquiries: 9789 5529.

GEELONG: The guest speaker on Wednesday 7 April will be Graeme Jebb on 'An Introduction to Heraldry'. On Wednesday 5 May the speaker will be Peter Mansfield on 'Centenary of Geelong proclaimed a City'. Meetings are at the Morrow Theatre, 51 Lt Malop Street, Geelong, 8.00 pm. Enquiries: phone 5278 3530 or 5227 0970.

GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA: The society is seeking information about the location of golf courses in Victoria, particularly those which no longer exist. Can you assist with golf courses in your area? The form for submitting information, and the data already collected, is available at: <http://www.golfsocietyaust.com/clublocations.shtml> or phone: 9527 6371.

GULF STATION: Although the historic farm Gulf Station is currently closed for restoration, it will be open on Sunday 18 April to mark World Heritage Day as this year's theme is Agriculture. Hours 11am to 4pm. Attractions include children's activities. Enquiries: 9656 9800 (National Trust).

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT: The society was successful in obtaining a National Library of Australia grant for a Significance Assessment workshop to take place at the Mornington Library on Monday 3 May. Places in this workshop will be offered to neighbouring historical societies of the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

HEIDELBERG: David Weatherill will discuss 'Victorian Local Cemeteries' at the Uniting Church Community Centre, Ivanhoe on Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 8 pm. Visitors welcome. Our Court House Museum, Jika St, Heidelberg opens Sundays 2-5 pm. Enquiries: 9455

2130 (message service). Website: <http://heidelberg.50webs.com>

HORSHAM: Gary Aitken will address the next meeting on 'Aitken family and farming in Mallee/Wimmera'. This will be held at 33 Pynsent St, Horsham on Wednesday 14 April, at 8 pm. Enquiries: 5382 2058 or email lbwsmith@netconnect.com.au.

KEW: At the meeting on Wednesday 14 April Ian Penrose, a Yarra River Keeper, will be the guest speaker at the Kew Library commencing at 8 pm. On Wednesday 12 May Norman Jackson will give an update on Courthouse restoration work, 8 pm at the Phyllis Hore Room. Enquiries: jvimpani@ozemail.com.au or phone 9429 6693.

KOO-WEE-RUP: The Society Annual Dinner will be held at the Community Centre on Saturday 20 May. The guest speaker will be Russell Broadbent, Federal Minister for McMillan, and Koo-Wee-Rup 'old boy'. Enquiries: 5997 7544.

LANG LANG: The society has reproduced the Lang Lang guardian from February 1902 to December 1918 onto DVD. Copies can be purchased for \$30 from PO Box 8, Lang Lang 3984. Enquiries: phone 5997 5081 or email waralyn@gmail.com.

LEARMONTH: The society is looking for any photos pertaining to the people or places in Learmonth and district which can be added to an Historic Walk book, to be published before June 2010. Enquiries: email davidandlois@ncable.net.au or phone 5338 4361.

LILYDALE: The February newsletter describes how in partnership with a local funeral business and the cemetery trust, the society created a heritage trail at the Lilydale Cemetery. The society provided the research and photos, and the partners provided funding for 26 heritage markers. Enquiries: aross35@bigpond.com or phone 9735 1661.

MERRIGUM: The AGM will be held on Sunday 11 April from 11 am to 3 pm at the Merrigum Museum, 111-113 Waverley Avenue, Merrigum. There will be demonstrations of pioneering skills such as blacksmithing, woodturning, vintage engines, sleeper cutting and much more. Admission - Adults \$6, children \$1. Free BBQ lunch. Enquiries: 5855 2330.

MILITARY: Members are engaged in a number of jeep restoration projects. One couple who lost their collection in the fires at Kinglake have decided to re-collect Land Rovers, and have acquired two replacement vehicles. A picnic will be held at the Pakenham Racecourse on 18 April. Enquiries: 9359 4687.

MORNINGTON: On Tuesday 11 May the subject is 'Early days of the wire industry in 19th century Australia' featuring the successful business run by the Greer family after arriving in Victoria in 1849. St Mark's Friendship Room, Barkly St, Mornington, 10.30 am, cost \$5. Enquiries: 5976 3203.

NARRE WARREN: Lindsay Cox of the Salvation Army will talk about the history of his organisation on Wednesday 14 April at 8 pm. Meetings are held at the Narre Warren Library Meeting Room, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate. Enquiries: 5995 5957.

NEPEAN: Tim Phillips will speak on 'The history of the cuta boats' at the Nepean Historical Society Museum, 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento, 8 pm. Enquiries: 5984 0255. Join the members for a meal beforehand – ring Buckley's Chance on 5984 2888 to make a booking at 6.15 for 6.30 pm.

OAKLEIGH: The society has been successful in their application for a grant for a Significance Assessment Grant from Heritage Victoria. Members have also been working hard on a project with the Australian Military History Society, and also on a Pioneer Memorial Park Cemetery 150th Celebrations.

PAYNESVILLE MARITIME: The new museum made its first public appearance on 26 January 2020 on the foreshore of Lake Victoria. If you would like to be involved in the ongoing development of the museum, or for a project, you will be most welcome. Enquiries: enquire@pmm.org.au or phone 5156 0852.

PRAHRAN: The Prahran Mechanics Institute is hosting an exhibition of 'WW2 art deco aeroplane ashtrays' from the collection of Jim Badger, from Monday 19 April to Saturday 1 May, at 140 High St, Prahran, 9.30 – 4.30 pm Mon – Fri; and 9.30 – 1.00 pm Sat. Enquiries: 9510 3393.

RINGWOOD: Hugh Vaughan will present his memoirs of growing up in Strabane, Northern Ireland on Tuesday 27 April, and Sue Thompson will give a history of Dame Nellie Melba on Tuesday 25 May. Meetings commence at 8 pm at 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. Enquiries: mmck1880@vic.chariot.net.au or phone 9729 4359.

SEYMOUR: On the weekend of 16-17 January the centenary of Lord Kitchener's visit in 1910 was celebrated. A plaque was unveiled at Progress Park, and a parade took place along Station and Tallarook Streets to King's Park, among other events. The Historical Society News Vol 16 No 1 Feb 2010 carries a full account.

ST KILDA: Maureen Walker will present a talk complementing her pre-Anzac Day display in the St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle St, Balaclava, on 'The Home Front – WW1 St Kilda', Thursday 22 April, 6.30 pm. Members free, non-members, \$5 donation. Enquiries: 9537 1967 or email info@skhs.org.au.

ST KILDA CEMETERY: Tours are 'The Boer War' on Sunday 11 April, 2.00 pm led by Glen Turnbull; 'Coroners, Constabulary and Crime', Sunday 23 May, 2 pm led by Elizabeth Hore. Meet at Dandenong Road entrance; Melways Ref 58 F9. Cost: \$10.00 including refreshments (FOSK members free). Bookings essential, contact 9531 6832.

TRARALGON: The guest speaker at the meeting on Tuesday 11 May at 7 pm, at the Kath Teychenne Centre, 11 Breed St, Traralgon, will be Heather Linke on 'Wedding dresses during the decades'. Enquiries: traralgonhistory@yahoo.com.au.

WARRACKNABEAL: Conservation Volunteers are cataloguing the Banking Chamber at the Historical Centre. Preparations are underway for Easter's Machinery Rally. This year we are featuring Hart-Parr, Olive, Twin City and White tractors, and American engines. Enquiries: 5398 1901 or email jara@netconnect.com.au.

WARRANTYTE: Diane Baird, in her article 'A turn of events – a day in the life of a volunteer', answers that age-old conundrum of what do you do if the doorknob falls off when you are locking up the museum? See their Newsletter No 157, March-June 2010. Enquiries: 9844 4176.

WAVERLEY: Ray Price will tell the remarkable story of 'My father's legacy' on Tuesday April 27 at 8 pm, 41 Miller Cres, above the Mt Waverley Library. On Sunday 23 May the subject will be the history of the local railway line. Enquiries: whs@kepl.com.au or phone 9802 9332.

WHITEHORSE: Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum have received MAP re-accreditation until 2014. The Society has also been the recipient of a 'Building Better Museums' small grant from Museums Australia (Victoria). The grant was requested for the conservation of carts, and acquisitions of display equipment. See www.vicnet.net.au/~ndhsinc for opening hours.

WOADYALOOK: Piggoreet to Grand Trunk Walking Trail. On Sunday 11 April there will be a conducted walk with interesting tales and entertaining company. Meet at the Courthouse, Smythesdale, at 9.30 am. BYO food and drinks (can be transported for you). \$10 per head, bookings essential on 5342 8418.

WOODEND: The recently published Shirley's story : Ashbourne & Woodend 1947–2009 (Shirley Wakefield) is now available from the Local & Family History Resource Centre on Wednesdays or from the Macedon Ranges Dry Cleaners on other days. The book is \$12 or \$15 posted. Write to PO Box 124, Woodend 3442. Enquiries: wdhs@vicnet.net.au or phone 5427 3361.

YARRA GLEN: The Society has committed to making an annual Ahern Natural History Award to the most interested and talented graduating student of Yarra Glen Primary School. The award honours Leigh and Charmian Ahern who died in the Steels Creek bushfire on 7 February 2009. Corey Dumergue was the inaugural winner.

History

NEWS



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