



# History NEWS

Issue No. 291 Feb/March 2011

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## Victorian Floods

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria thanks the staff at the Public Record Office of Victoria, State Library of Victoria, Museums Australia (Victoria) and Blue Shield Australia for all the support they have provided to historical societies during the recent floods in Victoria.

For those Societies that have insurance through the RHSV in respect of damage that has occurred to various member societies' assets as a result of flood, our broker, Geoff Ellis has advised that claims should be made directly to him and he will then forward the claim to the insurance company for their perusal. PH: 9872 4233 email: gellis@iaa.net.au

An Emergency Funding Protocol of up to \$5,000 exists between Arts Victoria, Museums Australia, the RHSV and the Public Galleries Association of Victoria. Those Societies wishing to draw on this fund please contact Kate Prinsley 9326 9288.

The Community Collection teams at PROV are organising practical support. Further information from Lauren Bourke 9348 5735.

Excellent information on Care of Collections and water damage can be found on Mc2, the PROV and Museums Australia websites. Both Lenore Frost and Vicki Court are regularly posting information as it becomes available.

Finally our thoughts are very much with the flood affected societies. We hope that your homes and collections sustain as little damage as possible and we thank you for all the enormous efforts you are making to save Victoria's heritage.

## From the President

Around Victoria, untold thousands of us are passionate about History. We are members of historical societies, local history museums, family history and genealogical organisations, national trust and heritage groups. Most of us express that passion as volunteers, as an interest or a hobby, as tourists, maybe just as readers and enquirers, but a host of Victorians also make their living, or part of it, from history. Apart from self-proclaimed historians (we know who we are!) there are history teachers in schools and universities, heritage advisors, museum curators, archivists and librarians looking after historical collections. Yet perhaps because our interests are often particular and absorbing to us, our collective voice is never entirely unified and is not heard as clearly as it could be against the necessary clamour for novelty, renewal, progress and development. We may be more or less wise, individually, but collectively we have much to offer our community in wisdom and comprehension.

When floods, like bushfires and storms, wreak havoc on our towns and countryside, history is always the loser. Maybe it is collections or private papers that are lost or damaged, maybe ancient trees, gardens or buildings from pioneer days or more recent times that were markers of the past. Ironically history can also be an agent for recovery too. Pictures from the previous Last Great Flood (or Drought, or Fire) can now be joined with pictures and maps of this one, and may help us in our preparation for the next one, even imagining and vainly hoping it will not be more than a 'once in two hundred year event'. As Federation of Australian Historical Societies' president Dr Don Garden recently said in approaching the federal government for specific assistance for flood-damaged collections, our local historical societies and museums are vital organisations in maintaining morale and identity when communities suffer misfortune.

The picture is not all bleak. Reports from Queensland suggest most historical societies there have emerged relatively unscathed. Queensland archivist Ruth Kerr has written:

'My theory on why not many historical societies have been affected in the floods is that they have been allocated old state and local government buildings or reserves which were used by them from initial settlement of the towns. They are on higher ground as the first government surveyors and public officers selected them early and away from the commercial which was/is usually located near the creek or river.' It is timely that popular historian and broadcaster Michael Cathcart has agreed to be our Annual General Meeting guest speaker in May when he will tell us about his recent book on the history of water in Australia from the new perspective of our current floods: the *Water Dreamers After the Deluge*. Mark the date, 10 May.

This year might be the time to start talking to each other more. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is delighted to welcome to our A'Beckett Street headquarters – to what we are starting to think of as 'History House' – the office of the History Council of Victoria, a representative council of many historical interest

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Yarra Flood 1891 Toorak Road looking down Punt Road towards the Yarra

**RHSV FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS of  
MERIT see page 3**

**OBITUARIES**

**Farewell to Veteran Fellows, Brothers-in-Law Dr MURRAY LINTON VERSO and Major Dr E.W.O. (WARREN) PERRY.**



*Dr Murray Linton Verso*

Two of our oldest and long-standing members and Fellows of the RHSV passed away in the last months of the year 2010. The eminent physician, haematologist and esteemed medical historian Dr Murray Linton Verso, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria from 1974 to 1978, died in Melbourne on 14 September 2010, two weeks short of his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Eight weeks later on 7 November his brother-in-law Dr Warren Perry, known to many as Major E.W.O. Perry, died at the RSL nursing home Vasey House at the age of 101. Warren had served in the AIF throughout World War II, worked after the war as an archivist and researcher at the Australian War Memorial and then worked with joint intelligence and then with ASIO until retiring in 1969. Both men spent part of their early lives in Wagga Wagga in New South Wales. Murray Verso married Warren Perry's sister Alma in 1942. He had graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne, and served in the AIF as a medical officer with the rank of Captain in Australia and New Guinea.

Murray Verso and Warren Perry served not only their country and their own professions with distinction but also long and faithfully served the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Warren edited the *Victorian Historical Journal* with precision and the highest of standards for nearly twenty years till 1977, a period in which he was also a prolific contributor to other publications including the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and the journal of the Military Historical Society of Australia. He was president of that society from 1964 to 1968. In the annals of the *Victorian Historical Society* over the past century Warren Perry has surely been the largest contributor.

Best known for his expertise in the area of military history, Warren Perry also wrote commissioned published histories of the Science Museum of Victoria (1972), the Naval and Military Club (1981) and the Ballarat School of Mines (1984). Warren Perry was a long serving Council member of the RHSV (Vice President in 1976-78) until 1979, having been elected a Fellow in 1967. Although he had left school early to help support his mother and younger siblings, he



*Major Dr E.W.O. (Warren) Perry*

went on to earn numerous academic degrees beginning with Bachelor of Economics, then Bachelor of Arts and a first class Master of Arts degree in Germanic Languages, all from the University of Melbourne. His published work as a historian was recognised by the same university with the award of his Doctor of Letters (LittD) degree in 2002 when he was 93. His Australian and imperial awards included the ED (Efficiency Decoration) for his war service, the MBE in 1978 and a Centenary Medal in 2001.

Murray L. Verso's interest in history expressed itself in his long involvement with the medical history section of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) which became the freestanding Medical History Society of Victoria. He was president of that Society and became a life member. His earliest contributions to the *Victorian Historical Journal* appeared in 1969 when he wrote on 'Doctors and Daguerreotypes', concerning the contributions of medical men to the history of photography. He became a frequent contributor, and reviewed books for the journal too, chiefly but not only on medical topics in a broad context. His final paper 'Fifty years of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Victoria' (vol. 51, 1980) drew on his thirty year personal experience as assistant and then deputy director of the Red Cross Blood Bank. Dr Verso's period of presidency of the RHSV was a strong period in the history of this Society.

Dr Verso published works on the history of haematology and was a life member of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine, the British Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Late in his retirement he produced a lively family history and memoir titled *Legends and Larrikins* which included material on related families including the Perrys.

The RHSV conveys its condolences to the family and friends of both these fine men, in particular to Murray, Gregory and Christine, children of Dr Murray L. Verso, and to Warren Perry's widow Nancye Perry who has been a long-time friend of this Society. The RHSV was represented at the funerals of both men by the president Dr Andrew Lemon and by several of our members.



*Nicholas Garlick\**

Just before Christmas 2010, the RHSV was advised by Solicitors that the Society was a beneficiary of a \$5000 bequest from the Estate of the late Nicholas Garlick. This generous gesture from a member came as a total surprise and is warmly appreciated. It has been applied to the RHSV Foundation.

Nicholas Garlick was born in England in the 1920s— in what was then a remote part of rural Lancashire. Both of his parents were farm workers and he too joined them. During World War 2 farm-work was an essential service and it was not until the 1950s that Garlick was able to seek new opportunities by migrating to Australia under the £10 scheme. He came first to Brisbane and had the idea of going into the mining industry in Queensland but soon abandoned that for a life as a ship's dining room steward. Indeed, for the rest of his working life he stayed with the sea, mostly on ships doing the interstate runs between Australian ports.

Garlick lived in retirement in his own apartment on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of a Flinders Street building. He was a city person and a regular attender and volunteer at St Pauls for the best part of 30 years. He brought to the Cathedral a concern for keeping things tidy that he had no doubt developed through shipboard and earlier farming life. He would habitually clean up public areas—the street, the grass embankments and the steps of the Cathedral. He would come to the Cathedral and dust the pews with the kneelers, reporting any that were in need of repair. And when he did these things he would record them in a little notebook. Garlick was a quiet supporter of the RHSV and also gave talks to various groups who were interested in his observations on local history and his maritime experiences. He also belonged to Toastmasters. He remembered a number of these groups in his will.

Garlick is not known to have married. He was survived by a sister in England (since deceased). Vale Nicholas Garlick.

*\*Extracted from the Eulogy preached by the Revd Canon James Brady at the Funeral of Nicholas Garlick at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009.*

**EXHIBITION: Dancing the Skies 28 FEBRUARY - 15 APRIL**

## DANCING THE SKIES:

Aviation in the RHSV Collections

This Exhibition aims to show the wealth of aviation-related images and other items contained within the Collections of the RHSV. Although the RHSV might not be considered a prime source of aeronautical history, the Society's Collections are large and comprehensive and can provide coverage of a range of specialist topics. Historical Societies in general can contain hidden gems of specialist interest within their Collections – they just have to be unearthed.

This Exhibition covers many aspects of aeronautical history, almost all Australian, from the earliest days of ballooning up to the early 1960s.



### *From the President – cont from page 1*

groups. We already run annual events with the C.J. La Trobe Society, the Professional Historians Association and the Royal Society of Victoria. We are full of hopes that we might make stronger links with other history groups this year and are planning for a modest conference to this end. The time has come to make history count for more in the development of our State, to make the voice heard.

Meanwhile we will be doing a lot of what we are calling 'Serious Reminiscing' this year, beginning with Brenda Niall's lecture to open the year on Tuesday 8 February.

Above all we need your continuing support as members of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 2011. We need your renewals when the time comes, and your encouragement of others to become full members, not just for the benefits and rewards of membership but also because you become part of our combined endeavours to promote history in Victoria. We need your corporate sponsorship if you are involved in business or industry. Collectively we value your donations to our RHSV Foundation, or to our work as volunteers. We value your presence at our lectures and exhibitions, or just as readers of *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal* which proudly celebrates its centenary of publication this year. We encourage you to come in to A'Beckett Street and discover of our remarkable collections. To each other, and to the world at large, let's talk History.

*Andrew Lemon*

## Want to be a volunteer?

### VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MORNING

**WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 10.00 am – 1.00pm**

We need your help!!!!

There are lots of opportunities to become involved with the work of the RHSV.

Activities include research, working with photographs and maps, exhibitions, digitizing and administration. We also need volunteers with library experience.

Volunteers will receive inductions, training and are nurtured by our volunteer co-ordinator Chris Cooze. Time commitments can be flexible.

Volunteering with the RHSV is an opportunity to meet like minded people, and become involved in the stimulating and fun programmes at the RHSV.

A light lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out ways in which you can contribute please RSVP to Christine Cooze on 9326 9288 by Monday 21 March.

### RHSV FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS of MERIT

Nominations for 2011 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

Closing Date for Fellows Nomination .....Friday 11 March

Closing Date for Awards of Merit.....Friday 8 April

Guidelines are available by contacting Kate Prinsley

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer,

RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

**Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM on Tuesday 10 May.**

#### FOR YOUR DIARY:

**The speaker following our AGM will be Michael Cathcart on "The Water Dreamers - After the Deluge" more information will follow in the April newsletter.**

### The RHSV Foundation continues to build

We are delighted to announce the support of our most recent donor:

**Dame Elisabeth Murdoch**

*Thank you*

Thank you to everybody who supported the RHSV wine fund raiser. Money raised has been added to the RHSV Foundation – a fund established in our centenary year to support the on going work of the RHSV.

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 possible deposit in the library. Some items may later be reviewed in the *Journal*.

Greg de Moore, *Tom Wills, His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2008, pp. xvi + 336, \$32-95 A comprehensive biography based on exhaustive research and new discoveries that firmly establishes Wills as a cricketering superstar to say nothing about his role in the development of Australian football. His attributes and his flaws are captured in a most interesting account of his life – born in 1835 on the Molonglo plains, raised to be a gentleman and sent to Rugby school, he dominated Victorian cricket after his return in 1856. His life off the field was never ordinary and in de Moore's account, always contained the seeds of his tragic fall and suicide in Heidelberg in 1880, a destitute, and largely forgotten alcoholic. Of immense importance in Australian sporting history, there is also much of interest in his contacts with Indigenous Australians, not only as the son who was away getting supplies when his father and 18 others were massacred at Cullin-la-Ringo, in Queensland in 1861 but also as the coach of Indigenous cricketers after his return to Victoria. His family, from whom he was mostly estranged, lived near Geelong, one of Tom's bases as he sought to indulge his sporting talents well into the 1870s.

Michael Pearson and Jane Lennon, *Pastoral Australia, Fortunes, Failures and HardYakka, A Historical Overview 1788-1967*, CSIRO Publishing with Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and the Australian Heritage Council, 2010, pp. x + 210, \$69-95 This book began its life as a 2006 report to the Department of Heritage and Environment on the 'historical context for the selection and assessment of places of heritage value ... relating to the theme of "pastoralism"'. In a series of chronological chapters, the authors deal with the geographic spread of sheep and cattle beyond the coastal areas, reviving what was once a key component of general Australian histories, at the same time noting that in the last 40 years, there has been some emphasis in pastoral history on the role of workers, the role of women, Aboriginal-settler relations, and environmental impacts. The book's scope is vast and it successfully provides an overview of an important component of national history that necessarily relates to international markets and new technologies.

Joe Rich, *Refugee, A kind of Jewish childhood*, Ginninderra press, Adelaide, 2010, pp. 218 Joe Rich was born in Berlin in 1935, left there in February 1939, arriving with his Jewish parents in Sydney in April. This elegantly written autobiography of childhood and adolescence is firmly set within the contexts of the threats of Nazism in Europe; the distrust of foreigners especially Germans in World War II Australian society; and the post-war anti-Semitism in Australia partly associated with the violence that accompanied the establishment of the state of Israel. At the same time, there is an extremely frank discussion of the unique dysfunctional family circumstances that made for a troubled childhood and adolescence first in Sydney and later, in Portland. A remarkable memoir showing considerable introspection, precisely amazing recall, as well as the impressive skills of the writer-historian seeking to display the truth.

Norman C Hutchinson, *Grandie, Sydney Grandison Watson and his sons – from the Upper Murray to the Gulf and Cape York*, Norman C. Hutchinson, Linden St., Box Hill South, 3128, 2010, pp. 250 A substantial account of the Watson family's pioneering pastoral ventures in the upper Murray and the tropical north from the 1830s over two generations. Their stories adds much to the history of these regions. One of Grandie's many sons was the colourful Archibald Watson, long-time professor of anatomy at the University of Adelaide. Well-illustrated and documented.

DJ Ross Memorial Trustees (ed.), *Memories of Doncaster MCEGGS, 1942-1944*, [2010] A booklet of recollections of senior students involved in the enforced wartime transfer of their school from South Yarra to the Eastern Golf Club at Doncaster. The well-illustrated booklet highlights the dislocation and new experiences of the move when the RAAF took over Merton Hall. The rest of the school evacuated to Marysville.

Robyn Alexander and Jo-Anne Bromhead (eds.), *We Remember – Recollections of the Cressy and District 1944 and 1977 Fires*, Cressy & District History Group, 305 Reddies Rd, Weering, 3251, 2010, pp. 108, \$25 + \$10 This book is a memorial to those involved in two major Western District bushfires when at least 19 people died, a 1000 buildings and 10,000 square kms of grassland, stock and fencing were destroyed, and lives in the small farming townships devastated. The contributors to the book have bravely (because it must have brought back many very painful memories) told us of their own experiences before, during and after those

awful days. A professionally presented book of written memories and oral histories, supplemented by background research, newspaper items and many photographs.

Jerry Bell, *Lighting Up Australia, The Story of the Australian Match Manufacturing Industry 1843-2003*, Jerry Bell, 555 Dandenong Rd., Armadale, 3143, 2008, pp. viii + 182, \$25 + \$4 A well-researched account of the making of matches and the Australian and New Zealand companies and factories that made them before the last closed in 2003. Well-illustrated and a mine of information about the lesser known as well as the iconic Bryant & May in Richmond, amongst others located in Melbourne.

John Lack (ed.), *Surviving Captivity, The Campaign and POW Diary of Bob Christie*, Australian Scholarly Publishing with the 2/29 Battalion AIF Association, Melbourne, 2010, pp. xvii + 196, \$39-95 Skilfully edited with supplementary text and illustrations, and a rare example of a POW diary written by a non-officer, Bob Christie, a young man from Malvern who was imprisoned with other 8<sup>th</sup> Division men at the fall of Singapore in 1942. Deserves to be widely read not only for its testimony to the will to live despite considerable adversities, but also as an expression of the values of many in Bob Christie's generation and circle.

Gwen McWilliam, *A Balwyn Survey*, pp. 202; *Balwyn Background Streets*, pp. xii + 131; *Balwyn Background, Pioneers, Neighbours, Milestones*, pp. 47; McWilliam Enterprises, 38 Elgin Street, Hawthorn, 3122, 2010 These three volumes represent the extraordinary achievement of well-known local historian and RHSV volunteer, Gwen McWilliam. For many years, she has collected material about Elgar's Special Survey that covers the area bounded by Burke Road, Canterbury Road, Elgar Road and Koonung Koonung Creek, comprising the current suburban districts of Balwyn, parts of Canterbury and Surrey Hills. Her assiduous work on the newspapers, rate books, directories, real estate records, maps and photographs has contributed to an analytical history of the occupation of the district in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; supplemented by lists of owners and occupiers for the same period, a district timeline, and an alphabetical listing of street names with accompanying material on origins and development. The whole project contains many contemporary and modern photographs, maps and other images. This is a monumental work that will be of enormous value to anyone researching this area. It is impeccably documented and indexed.

*Continued in What's On insert*

## Commemorative naming project to honour ANZACs

A pilot project to name or rename places across Victoria has recently been established to commemorate the centenary on 25 April 2015 of the first ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

A Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee, which includes Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, is currently discussing details of the pilot with five municipal councils (Hindmarsh, Geelong, Ballarat, Melton and Gippsland). The pilot's outcomes will be used in the long-term plan for the ANZAC commemorative naming project, which will be rolled out across Victoria in mid- to late-2012.

The project is being jointly managed by the Office of Geographic Names (Department of Sustainability and Environment), VicRoads and the Veterans Unit (Department of Planning and Community Development).

It is anticipated that local historical societies and researchers will be able to participate in the project by conducting research into the history of ANZACs in their local area.

The long-term naming project is intended to be a process where ANZAC commemorative naming proposals will be developed by municipal councils with the assistance of local interest groups and schools. Final proposals will be considered for registration by the Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee and Registrar of Geographic Names.

## Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture - FREE two-day workshops

Want to learn more about your family or Aboriginal community history? Want to learn how to care for and preserve important historical materials? In this free two-day program for Aboriginal Victorians and community groups The Koorie Record Unit will show you how to access information, resources and support for exploring family and community histories, and look at how to care for precious historical materials. Both days will be interactive with plenty of opportunities to ask questions and share ideas.

Melbourne program 9.00am – 4.30pm, Thurs 17 & Friday 18 Feb 2011 Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel St North Melbourne RSVP by Sunday 13 February 2011

Also run in Shepparton, Bairnsdale, Warrnambool and Mildura during March and April 2011. For more information and bookings visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/about/kru/workshops.asp> or phone the Koorie Records Unit on 1800 657 452.

Koorie Records Unit 03 9348 5600 | Freecall 1800 657 452 [koorie.records@prov.vic.gov.au](mailto:koorie.records@prov.vic.gov.au) <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/about/kru>

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) Victorian Archives Centre | 99 Shiel St | North Melbourne VIC 3051 <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au>

# History Fairs at the Chicago Metro History Education Centre

Last July, as part of my Churchill Fellowship to the USA and UK, I visited the Chicago Metro History Education Centre (CMHEC) based in the beautiful Newbury Library in Chicago. My purpose for visiting was to find out more about its signature program – *History Fair* – which successfully links local history resources such as museums, libraries, archives and local and community historians with teachers, students and academic historians.

American state-based History Fairs leading to a National History Day began in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Their aim is to bring history alive by encouraging students to ask their own questions of the past through historical research. It was a break from the 'chapter and verse' of text books, to students learning how to investigate sources and forming their own conclusions. It was held that by learning to understand their own history, students would be better prepared for the responsibility of citizenship. From the small beginnings of state history fairs, National History Day has evolved into an America wide competition.

The CMHEC History Fair partners with the larger state-wide Illinois History Expo and the National History Day competition. What sets this competition apart is that the use of local history resources is mandatory – that local history is seen as a lens for national history.

The competition attracts almost 20,000 Chicago based students and is managed by a full time staff of three. As with so many programs I visited in the US: it is a 'not for profit' organization funded, in this case, through registration fees, grants and sponsorships. Sustaining the program depends on staff securing funding, an added workload. The extraordinary take-up of the competition owes great credit to the CMHEC, but it must be added that Chicago is no ordinary city – potent with its own history, and that at some stage across the American curriculum, students must study their own state's history.

The CMHEC builds strong links with local teachers, university historians, and community based and professional historians to ensure that the competition is embedded in the annual cycle of history-based events. The CMHEC runs professional development classes, visits class rooms, and provides on-line tools and curricula material for teachers.

Judges, advisors and planning committees come from both the community and professional 'history sector'. The competition also involves hundreds of volunteers as mentors – assisting students to navigate their way through libraries and museums, interviewing subjects, coaching students and of course in organizing the actual History Fair. Students can also receive coaching sessions from the very dedicated staff at the CMHEC.

I was most impressed with the local history resource guide to collections, archives and museums (accessible on the web site), and the information about conducting oral history interviews and contacting an expert – all essential tools in local history research. Historical Societies and libraries have often prepared workshops and 'finding tools' to assist History Fair students. I was shown a documentary made by a local high school using oral history interviews and local history collections of newspapers and photographs illustrating what happened in a community when the local factory, the economic and social hub of the area, was closed down.

As with the National History Day competition, central to the mission of the CMHEC is the focus on skills. Emphasis is placed on 'asking the question' – establishing the thesis based on evidence, and analysing the sources is seen as more important than 'covering the content'. The objective is to encourage historical inquiry rather than to produce a report. Students can present their entry as a research paper, display, documentary or performance. At the time of my visit, planning was underway for website presentations.

Of course the highlight for the students is the actual History Fair. Students present their work to the judges and peers in a three day fair at a local university campus.

The History Teachers Association of Victoria runs a Victorian history competition which works in partnership with Australia's National History Challenge competition. The RHSV plans to build stronger links with this stimulating, inquiry-based program which places great value on local collections.

*Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer*

*Kate will talk about her Churchill Fellowship on 8 March – see What's On.*



Your heritage... pass it on!

Dear Historical Society Members,

As you may have seen, the federal Minister responsible for Heritage, Tony Burke, has announced the introduction of a new annual Australian Heritage Week, the first of which will be held from 14 to 20 April this year. He has invited members of the community, including historical societies, to participate in celebrating our heritage in that week. He has also invited societies who are mounting events to register them with the Department for advertising on its website. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2010/mr20101210.html>

I am aware that this is short notice, and that some societies at both the state and local level are already deeply committed to existing heritage and history week events in your region.

However, on behalf of the FAHS I invite all societies who wish to do so, to make some contribution to the Week, to be part of the national celebration.

This may be a special event or nominating an existing event that is already programmed for that time.

I would also like to invite you to inform the FAHS of any events that you are putting on so that these can be listed on our

website [www.history.org.au](http://www.history.org.au)

Please provide web addresses where appropriate so that they can be attached to the list.

On behalf of the FAHS I wish a very successful history/heritage year in 2011.

*Don Garden*

*Assoc. Prof. Don Garden, FFAHS, FRHSV, Environmental Historian.*

*President, Federation of Australian Historical Societies.*

[www.history.org.au](http://www.history.org.au)

### COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS

Funding for the 2011 Community History Awards is currently under negotiation – we will keep people advised of its progress.

The 2010 Community History Awards are now available in the RHSV library

## History Victoria Support Group – RHSV Seminar Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate

# “Who Owns History?” and “Making a Website Work for You”

- 10 am Registration and cup of tea for those who have travelled from afar.
- 10.30 Welcome from Lenore Frost, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group
- 10.45 Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer: Report to societies
- 11.00 Panel on “Who owns history?” A discussion on experiences within their own societies, and changes within their collection.
- 11.30 Panel to be followed by a discussion, with comments or questions invited from the floor.
- 12.00 **Vicki Court**, RHSV Local History Officer, “Working with Collections held in Libraries”.
- 12.45 LUNCH
- 1.45 **Susie Zada**, Bellarine Peninsula HS, “Making a website work for you”.
- 2.45 **Lenore Frost**, Convenor, History Victoria Support Group, “Tweaking your newsletter”
- 3.00 Close of seminar, and a cup of tea before everyone hits the road.

*(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](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) or phone 9326 9288. Bookings will close Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Please advise on booking of any dietary requirements.*

### HOLSWORTH TRUST

Congratulations to the following groups who were successful in gaining funding from the Holsworth Trust.

The Holsworth Trust supports the publication of local histories.

Information on the grants can be found at: ANZ – Named Charitable Trusts – Victorian Community Foundation – Holsworth Local Heritage Trust:

- Bellarine Historical Society Inc – *A History of Drysdale on the Bellarine Peninsula*
- Casey/Cardinia Branch of National Trust – *A brief history of people, places and public life in the Casey Cardinia area*
- Queenscliffe Historical Museum Inc – *A Town at Shortland’s Bluff – Queenscliff’s Founding Years*
- Smythesdale Fire Brigade – *The 150 year history of the Smythesdale Fire Brigade*
- Yackandandah and District Historical Society Inc. *People, Places, Celebrations and Organisations in Yackandandah – 10 years of monographs*

**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 April issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 March to [lenore10@hotmail.com](mailto:lenore10@hotmail.com).

**BALLARAT:** In the November/December issue of *Ballaarat Remembers*, Elizabeth Trudgeon announced her retirement as editor after 12 years in the chair. The same issue also has a lively and well-illustrated article on "Edinburgh via Liverpool to Melbourne" about David Wilson, Master Baker, who bought the Golden Point Bakery in 1855. Enquiries: [www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com).

**BENALLA:** The new exhibition at the Costume and Pioneer Museum at 14 Mair St, Benalla is "Bridal Beauty", a collection of 20 bridal gowns. For further information see the web site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~benmus> or phone 5762 1749.

**BENDIGO:** The December issue of the newsletter contains an edited version of Carol Holsworth's November talk for the Bendigo Historical Society, "Bendigo's Loss – Chinese Secret Society's gain?" Carol also gave this talk to the RHSV Conference at Bendigo in August 2010. Enquiries: [admin@bendigohistory.com](mailto:admin@bendigohistory.com) or 5442 1005.

**BRIGHT:** The September-October issue of the newsletter outlines the development of free libraries in Bright, beginning with a Book Club in 1871, which developed into an Athenaeum by 1874. Contact the Bright & District Historical Society at PO Box 265, Bright 3741; 5755 1009.

**CAMPERDOWN:** The Camperdown Heritage Centre at 241 Manifold Street is open on Tuesdays and the first Sunday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm, or by appointment – 5593 3388.

**CHELSEA:** A bus tour to Cerberus will take place on Thursday 17 March. Lunch, bus and tour will cost \$25. For further details call Neale or Kim on 9772 1380.

**CHELTHENHAM CEMETERY:** A new book entitled *The Murder Victims*, featuring 29 murder victims buried at Cheltenham Cemetery, is expected to be released in March. A pre-release order will attract a 10% discount. Visit the website and complete the on-line form: <http://www.focr.org/shop.htm>

**COLAC:** Norman Houghton reported on the history of "The Dorothy Pleasure Steamer" which used to ply the waters of Lake Colac in the October issue of the newsletter. Enquiries: [colachistoricalsociety@googlemail.com](mailto:colachistoricalsociety@googlemail.com).

**DAYLESFORD:** The December issue of the society newsletter carries an article by Les Pitt examining the history of the town's WW1 Avenue of Honour and the men it commemorates. The article will be continued in the first issue for 2011. Enquiries: [history@daylesford.vic.gov.au](http://history@daylesford.vic.gov.au) or 5348 1453.

**DIAMOND CREEK:** The Nillumbik Historical Society is wondering if anyone knows what became of the WW1 German Maxim machine gun which was last seen in the ceiling of the Diamond Creek State School some time ago. If you can help email [elliscottage@gmail.com](mailto:elliscottage@gmail.com), or call 0408 079 579.

**ELTHAM:** At the September meeting member Harry Gilham was presented with the RHSV's Award of Merit by RHSV President Dr Andrew Lemon. As a member of the society, Andrew was able to speak from personal knowledge about Harry's achievements as Society President from 1993 to 2009.

**ESSENDON:** Professor Miles Lewis launched a new book by society members, entitled *The Fine Homes of Essendon and Flemington, 1847-1880*, available for \$25 from the Courthouse Museum, 768 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds on Sundays 2 – 5 pm, or phone 9370 4607.

**FLINDERS:** The Spring-Summer issue of *Local history news* has a number of articles featuring the local bakers; memories of Liz Brown, nee Draper; and an edited talk by guest speaker Lieutenant Commander Peter Arnold. Enquiries: 5989 0539.

**FOOTSCRAY:** A recent acquisition, donated by the Morwell Historical Society, was a postcard which shows the Gibbons Football Club, 1912 Premiers. This was associated with the Gibbons Agricultural Implements Factory in Cowper Street. Enquiries: [foothist@bigpond.com](mailto:foothist@bigpond.com).

**GISBORNE & MT MACEDON:** The society has been able to purchase a new computer, scanner, 32 inch screen and another portable hard drive with the assistance of grants from the Bendigo Bank, Macedon Ranges Shire Community Funding and a South Ward councillor. Digitisation of the photograph collection has now commenced.

**HEALESVILLE:** The Society has moved to new rooms in Fran Bailey's old office at the Swinburne Complex. The first meeting will be held in the Community Meeting Room, Swinburne Complex on Sunday 27 February at 2 pm. Enquiries: PO Box 1381 Healesville 3777 or phone 5962 1655.

**KANGAROO GROUND:** It is anticipated that Mick Woiwod will be a tutor with University of the Third Age, Hurstbridge Campus, in 2011, teaching "Pre-history of Nillumbik Country". Classes will be held in the 1878 Old Classroom at the Kangaroo Ground Primary School, on a Monday or Friday afternoon. Enquiries: [woiwodgongfler@bigpond.com](mailto:woiwodgongfler@bigpond.com) or phone 9439 5679.

**KEILOR:** On Saturday 26 March from 12 noon there will be an open day at Harrick's Cottage, Harricks Rd, Keilor Park. It will feature an exhibition, "Keilor Village Cenotaph: the story behind this memorial". Afternoon tea will be served, entry by donation. Enquiries: [Susan\\_jennison@bigpond.com](mailto:Susan_jennison@bigpond.com) or 9331 6052.

**KOO-WEE-RUP:** A Town Walk prepared by the society was published as a four page wrap-around in the December issue of *Blackfish*, the township community newsletter. There is a special full colour eight page version available to download from [www.kooweeybypass.com.au](http://www.kooweeybypass.com.au). (Well worth a look.)

**LANDSBOROUGH:** The summer exhibition is "William Landsborough and the Burke and Wills Expedition". Landsborough, a Scot, led one of the parties sent to look for the missing expedition. Scottish miners in the Pyrenees decided to name the township which grew up during the rush after their countryman. Enquiries: 5356 9288.

**MALDON:** The November issue of *Maldon Muse* has a page of volunteer vacancies, including: cleaning and painting donated machinery; dusting; research for exhibitions; project leaders; newspaper indexers; drain research (someone has to do it); district hotels research; and information storage. Enquiries: [maldon.maai@gmail.com](mailto:maldon.maai@gmail.com) or 0488 190 464.

**MALMSBURY:** The society room at the front of the Mechanics' Institute is generally open for research enquiries between 9 am and 2 pm on Tuesdays (except during school holidays), but to be sure, especially if you are travelling any distance, check with Sue Walter before dropping in, as volunteer work commitments have made opening every week a little bit harder. Enquiries: 5423 9383.

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**MARYBOROUGH:** The Midlands Historical Society received a Victoria 175 History Grant to produce a podcast on Tilly Aston, the Carisbrook girl who founded the Association for the Advancement of the Blind, now part of Vision Australia.

**MORDIALLOC:** Members were thanked and congratulated for the successful Open Day held during History Week. From the moment the museum door was opened there was a continuous flow of interested and interesting visitors to the museum. Volunteers were kept busy answering queries and listening to stories. A great day for history!

**NHILL:** The society has had a successful year in regard to grant submissions. The newspaper appeal had a boost with two grants which will allow more *Nhill Free Press*, from 1931 to 1970, to be put onto disks.

**OAKLEIGH:** Meetings of the society are held on the first Sunday of every *second* month. Membership is \$15 for singles and \$20 for families. Membership forms and publications are available at the Monash Federation Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to 5 pm. Enquiries: [oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au](mailto:oakhist@monlib.vic.gov.au) or 9563 2823.

**OUYEN:** Two members of the society attended a conservation workshop at the Alfred Deakin Centre organised by the Mildura Library. Following the workshop the society has ordered conservation materials to help preserve original photos.

**PRAHRAN HISTORICAL & ARTS:** The society's first newsletter, October 2010, reports on their table at "Spring into Gardening" in the Victoria Gardens. They sold many historical books, and had lots of enquiries regarding local street names and pubs. Information was also provided to those interested in joining the society.

**PRAHRAN MECHANICS:** The PMI was successful in receiving a Victoria 175 Grant which will enable it to publish *Beginnings* by Frank Hutchinson. This is a chronological account of the first Europeans to visit or explore the state of Victoria, and an account of the first European pastoral settlement of the various districts of the state.

**RICHMOND & BURNLEY:** The society anticipates a busy year ahead and would like assistance with activities such as Dame Nellie Melba 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations, local history walking tours, WW1 servicemen's records, history week event, scanning and identifying photographs, and the usual activities. Enquiries: [richmondhs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:richmondhs@optusnet.com.au) or 9428 6231.

**ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD:** Seymour Cottage, Romsey, has been nominated for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. Submissions on the nominations closed on 30 December, and the society awaits the result with interest.

**ROSEDALE:** A Centenary celebration of the Kilmany Closer Settlement will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 12 and 13 March, 2011. For details of the events, and for a pre-publication order of the book *Kilmany Closer Settlement Centenary*, contact Lyn Glover, PO Box 962 SALE 3850. The book is \$30.

**RYE:** The Rye Community now has its own website, and the historical society will soon have a page of its own. In the meantime, keep an eye on <http://www.rye.vic.au/> for details of the coming Rye celebrations of its 150 year anniversary which will occur in February 2011.

**SANDRINGHAM:** The start of History Week coincided with the 2010 Sandringham Village Fair. Opening at 9.45 am and closing at 4.30 pm, 130 visitors came through the museum to view a photo display, which received many compliments. Visitors also came on normal weekdays, and the following Sunday was again very busy.

**SOMERVILLE/TYABB:** The society received a donation of two silver cups won by J D Grant of Tyabb in 1938, one at the show at Somerville, and the other from the Jubilee London Commemorative Cup for export apples. The society also reports having their new museum banner out for History Week 2010.

**STAWELL:** The *Newsletter* notes the approaching retirement of long-time member and volunteer, Dorothy King, who joined the society in 1987. From the time she commenced at the society she devoted an immeasurable amount of time gathering, typing and indexing information on Stawell and district. The society will miss her company and knowledge.

**TALBOT:** A tea cosy display is being planned for Mothers' Day in May. If you can help Bea with this fun idea, bring a tea-bag and have a cuppa us at the Museum in Camp Street. It is open on Sundays 1 to 4 pm. Enquiries: 5463 2167.

**TRAFALGAR:** The society *Gazette* reports the Trafalgar and Thorpdale sub-Branch of the RSL has been able to return 'home' to the Memorial Hall, cnr Contingent and Kitchener Streets. The *Gazette* also carries an article on the "Returned Sailors and Soldiers Club" by J McDonald. Enquiries: 5633 2243.

**WANDIN:** The Wandin & DHMS operates Mont De Lancey Museum in Wellington Rd, Wandin. Compiling photo albums of the district's primary schools is their latest archival project. Wandin Yallock (est. 1870), Seville (1887), Wandin North (1915), Wandin East (1916-1992) and Silvan South (1926-1992) are in progress. Visit [www.montdelancey.org.au](http://www.montdelancey.org.au).

**WANGARATTA:** The society is progressing with the Museum Accreditation process. A grant was received to redesign the ground floor - specifically a new access door between the museum and the Ossie Smith Room. The compactus unit will be sold, which will give the society more room for an improved display.

**WARRAGUL:** The November *Monthly Bulletin* details a talk by farmer and cattle breeder Kent Teese, describing his family's beginning dealing in beef shorthorn cattle. Meetings are held at the Old Shire Hall, Queen St, Warragul, on the last Monday of the month, at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 5625 3763.

**WARRANTYTE:** A large group of children from the Park Orchard Primary School visited the society, who were shown the use of various pieces of equipment in their "Domestic" room, including

the butter churn. The Society is short of volunteers to help with such group visits, and would welcome some help. Please call Andy on 9812 2357 for further information.

**WILLIAMSTOWN:** A new book by Bruce Tait delves into the history of the many *Pubs of Williamstown*. The cost is \$29.94 or \$25 for members. Enquiries: [inquiries@williamstownhistsoc.org.au](mailto:inquiries@williamstownhistsoc.org.au) or 9397 1534.

**WOODEND:** The November *Heritage News* carries photos of the unveiling of plaques and stories from the Family Heritage Walk of 2010, featuring the Bowen/Bickerdike and Oates/McKenzie families.

**YACKANDANDAH:** The society has been shopping, with the assistance of ongoing generous donations. The list included a flat screen TV with DVD player for use in the public areas; a laptop computer; an external hard drive for more back-up; a 6 litre hot water urn; and archival quality boxes.

## History

# NEWS



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