



History NEWS

Issue No. 294 Sept/Oct 2011

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION

A.G.L. Shaw Birthday Event

Earlier this year Emeritus Professor Alan Shaw celebrated his 95th birthday. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria plans to have its own belated celebration and tribute to Professor Shaw at a special daytime event in our library at 239 A'Beckett Street on Tuesday 15 November 2011 commencing at 11.30 am. A panel of eminent speakers in a series of short addresses will discuss aspects of Alan Shaw's magnificent contribution to Australian history.

These include: Professor Weston Bate, Dr Peter Yule, Susan Priestley, Dr Dianne Reilly and Professor Graeme Davison.

Best known to many generations of students as the author of *The Story of Australia* (first published in London in 1955), A.G.L. Shaw has been a master of historical research and writing through such great works as *Modern World History: social, political and economic development 1780 – 1950* (1961); *Convicts and the Colonies* (1966); his comprehensive biography of colonial governor Sir George Arthur (1980); and as recently as 1996 his *History of the Port Phillip District: Victoria before Separation* which he produced after editing the *Gipps – La Trobe Correspondence 1839 – 1846* (1989). His expertise, judgement and finely crafted writing have been brought to bear on many aspects of Australian history.

Professor Shaw was a towering figure as Professor of History at Monash University from 1964, just three years after the university opened, until he retired in 1981, and he has been involved in the promotion of history in innumerable capacities. Here we mention only his involvement on the Library Council of Victoria (1976-85), his work in creating the Friends of the La Trobe Library (now the State Library Foundation) and his presidency of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (1987-1991) and of the C.J. La Trobe Society from 2002 to 2004. He has been a most generous benefactor to our Society, to the State Library of Victoria and to many other causes. He has been recognised by the SLV's 'Alan Shaw Summer Research Fellowships' that help honour or postgraduate university students pursue research projects over the summer vacation period. The RHSV and the La Trobe Society conduct our joint annual A.G.L. Shaw lecture in his honour. He has been a Fellow of the RHSV since 1974, and in 1998 was elected a Fellow of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

As part of all this, and more, he has been a wise counsellor, mentor and friend of historians, and the history movement in Victoria owes so much to him.

The A.G.L. Shaw belated 95th birthday tribute will be a largely informal event concluding with a light sandwich lunch and birthday cake. Because of the capacity of the library, numbers are strictly limited and bookings will be accepted in order of application.

The cost is \$35 to RHSV members, \$45 to non-member guests.

Bookings: 9326 9288 or by email office@historyvictoria.org.au

This event will be held downstairs.

Make sure you're in this year's History Week calendar!

Did you know that this History Week, 23-30 October you can...

- Take a fascinating walking tour around Melbourne's forgotten past, revealing its hidden histories of health and hygiene, right through to crime and punishment.
- Watch an exquisite feature length documentary that recounts memories of Melbourne's fashionable Collins Street through the perspective of its long gone couture houses and boutiques;
- Take up the rare opportunity to visit the unique Bear's Castle and discover why the building has kept historians mystified for years.
- Celebrate the Royal Australian Navy's 100th birthday with a discussion on the important, and often overlooked, role of the Navy during the First World War.
- Enjoy a guided tour of Mandeville Hall, unveiling the lavish interiors, history and architecture of one of Melbourne's most significant nineteenth century mansions.
- Chat with a military vehicle restorer and a member of the B-24 Liberator Restoration Project, learning all about the challenges of restoring large military objects.

Why not add your event to the History Week calendar and promote your group to Victorians.

The 2011 History Week website is now live and lists all of the details of this year's exciting events. And this year you can add your events online by visiting www.historyweek.org.au

Every year more and more historical societies and heritage groups are getting involved in History Week. Every year we receive wonderful feedback of increased visitor numbers, greater involvement in community events, or increased research inquiries.

Join with us in making 2011's History Week another fantastic success and promoting Victoria's wide and wonderful past.

We are very grateful to the Vera Moore Foundation for supporting *History Week 2011*

BOOKSALE - 11 SEPTEMBER 10AM - 4PM

Bargains galore

Come along to the Book Sale.

Fantastic bargains from the libraries of the well read.

Books on every topic

Chief Minister's Department 70th Anniversary Bombing of Darwin project

Dixi Joy Bankier is undertaking a project for the Chief Minister's Department, Northern Territory, and is compiling a mailing list for event invitations surrounding 70th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin which will be in February next year.

She is trying to track down people (now over 70-years-old) who were evacuated and returned to the NT or lived in the NT during the wartime or served in the forces or worked in the war effort.

She would like to include the next generation of the family to remember their wartime heritage and to invite them to the events happening at this time.

Please contact her directly if you can assist

Dixi Joy Bankier

08 89811495, 0403995751

dixi.joy@bigpond.com

Victorian Community History Awards

Entries have now closed for the Victorian Community History Awards. Winners will be announced on Thursday 20 October.

We look forward to bringing you a full report on the awards in the next edition of *History News*.

Victorian Govt. Bookshop

The Victorian Government Bookshop has moved to Level 20, 80 Collins Street. The shop at 505 Little Collins Street is now closed. The new shop has opened as at Monday 8th August. The operating hours of the new shop are Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm. 80 Collins Street is at Nauru House at the top end of Collins Street, near Exhibition Street.

Obituary

Long time members of the Society will be saddened to learn of the death of Win Mills, who for many years before her retirement in 2000 was an active member of the library volunteer team.

Working with the late Mrs Savill, Win attended to the manifold requests for information and assistance which came by way of the library.

Generally respected for her library skills and pleasant personality she set a standard for others to follow. We extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Nancye Perry. A full notice will appear in the next edition of *History News*.

Merit Awards:

At the RHSV AGM – The Following Merit awards were announced:

Diana Phoenix

Diana Phoenix began volunteering with the RHSV in 1997. Her original assignment was with the conversion of the library's catalogue to electronic format. Diana's keen eye, attention to detail and patience ensured that she very quickly became a key member of the team. In the intervening years she has worked with the Society's images collection indexing and cataloguing many thousands of items. Diana has a comprehensive knowledge of Melbourne and its history and as a local historian has been able and willing to assist with a wide range of inquiries. For the past twelve months Diana has taken charge of the Society's archives. The archives present a number of challenges and Diana has been meticulous in her record keeping, diligent and thorough in her investigations of missing records and all the time maintains an enthusiasm for the task and a willingness to liaise with her colleagues. Diana is a team player who generously shares her skills and knowledge to the benefit of the Society.

David Oldfield

David Oldfield began volunteering in 2002. Originally his role was to help the Society with photographic sales – identifying images and organizing their reproduction. With the purchase of the Ian Potter digitization equipment his role moved to managing the digitization of the Society's collections – a project he diligently organized with

We were wrong:

The RHSV apologizes for mistakenly writing Andrew McKenzie would be presenting the talk *Sand drifts and dust storms – farming on the margins* on 12 July. We meant Andrew McCormick and thank him for his good humor over our mistake!!

Welcome to Laura Frost

Laura Frost has been appointed to the position of Local History Officer RHSV. Laura brings to the RHSV experience at working with voluntary groups, hands on experience at volunteering in a volunteer run and managed historical society, IT skills and great passion for local history. She is an advocate for historical societies building local links and engaging the local community with its history.

Laura will be working on Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted on: laura.frost@historyvictoria.org.au

National Cultural Policy – A call for submissions

Researchers, volunteers, historical societies and those passionate about history are urged to make a submission to the National Cultural Policy.

A discussion paper can be found at www.culture.arts.gov.au or email culturalpolicy@pmc.gov.au

The Distributed National Collection spans collections of documents, images etc, that are held by historical and heritage and family history societies. It is important to represent the breadth of collecting – community and private collections as well as government institutional collections.

This is a big chance for greater recognition of the work of historical societies, historians and the importance of collections as important components of and contributors to national cultural heritage.

Submissions close: Friday 21 October

From the Federation of Australian Historical Societies

A matter of great concern

The recent practice of discarding undigitised historical materials from some State Libraries and from various university libraries in Australia has been well publicised in the Australian press. Whilst the public may accept discard of out-of-date computer and management books, it is a matter of concern to the Federation when this includes 19th and 20th century Australian history and cultural heritage materials without reference to historians and other professionals and collecting agencies. The Federation has expressed its reaction to these developments in writing to the Libraries concerned.

2010 Fellowship Award presentation

In early September, the President, Don Garden, will attend the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's State History Conference of Affiliated Societies in York (WA) to present a Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) Fellowship Award to Professor Reginald Appleyard.

Lotterywest has provided a grant to assist representatives of regional affiliated societies to attend the Conference. The grant covers accommodation and travel expenses.

NEW RHSV EXHIBITION: 12 OCTOBER – 9 DECEMBER 2011

Melbourne Walking Club Pioneers of Bushwalking

The first bushwalking club in Australia was founded in 1894 as the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club, later to become known as the Melbourne Walking Club.

In 2004, the Melbourne Walking Club donated their archive of photographs, lantern slides, albums, maps and ephemera to the RHSV. This collection now forms the basis of an extraordinarily beautiful exhibition of landscapes, hand drawn maps and beautiful annotated photographic albums of walks.

The Melbourne walking Club pioneered walking in the Victorian Alps. With no maps walkers meticulously drew their own. They photographed the scenery of now vanished places such as McVeigh's Hotel on Walsh's Creek, Wannagatta Station, Talbotville in the Dargo High Plains, Templestowe, and Rocky Valley in the Bogun High Plains.

Although not a comprehensive history of bushwalking the exhibition looks at the personalities and members of the Melbourne Walking Club; the clubs impact on conservation, equipment, community involvement such as search and rescue, volunteer fire brigades, mapping and notable trips, and the use of pack horses and the mountain cattleman.

The exhibition covers the period 1894 – 1960s and is a mixture of nostalgia, adventure and amazement at the hardiness of our pioneer bushwalkers.



Maritime Museum of Victoria History Conference

Past. Present. Future.

When: Saturday 29 October 2011

Where: Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A'Beckett Street Melb

Cost: \$30.00 morning/afternoon tea and lunch Booking essential.

For Brochure and Bookings Ph: 9457 1559 before 10am daily or 26 Alandale Rd. Eaglemont 3084

A program of fascinating topics – Lighthouses, Wooden boats, Gippsland Lakes craft, Colonial Navy, Preserved ships, Naval Ships 1900 – 50 in Victorian waters, museums of the future and much more.

Presented by the Maritime Museum of Victoria – group of independent museums.

New National History Curriculum – proposed workshops

FAHS delegates Esther Davies and Julia Ryan (both from the Canberra and District Historical Society) recently met with a Curriculum Officer of the ACT Department of Education and discussed workshops on the history curriculum and necessary funding for them. The Federation believes there is a great opportunity for historical societies across Australia to support the delivery of the new curriculum through being a resource for teaching and teacher development.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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 & Peninsular 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

Or www.anz.com/aus/fin/Trustees/

Applications close 1 October 2011.

You are invited

All members are invited to a special
Members Viewing on:

October 11

5pm

to be followed by a lecture by
Assoc Prof. Don Garden "*Becoming
Comfortable in Our Land: environmental
history and bushwalking*"

Please RSVP attendance: 9326 9288

History is in trouble at Melbourne University

All those with an interest in History should be concerned about developments at The University of Melbourne, once the national leader in Historical Studies.

A recent review of Historical Studies illustrates just how far the discipline has tumbled. As well as providing a sombre diagnosis and prognosis for History, it has recommended the substantial winding down of Australian Studies.

From a teaching staff of about thirty lecturers in History a decade ago, History now has about a dozen. Retirement packages, redundancies offered, unfilled positions and a desire by some staff to leave a School that is in steep decline, have all taken their toll. As a direct consequence, there are fewer subjects offered and fewer potential supervisors for postgraduates.

There is ongoing debate about the reasons for the situation, but conflicting explanations include:

- budgetary shortfalls, compounded by falling enrolments – but some claim that changes in funding models have specifically harmed History;
- the new course structure known as Melbourne Model – some blame the imposition of what they deride as Mickey Mouse breadth subjects, others the missed opportunity to offer subjects that are interesting across the University undergraduate community;
- the incapacity of the declining number of overworked lecturers, or their inflexibility, in adapting to changing circumstances in the University;
- declining interest among undergraduates in History and Australian Studies.

The review panel essentially endorsed the negative interpretations of the above matters.

Certainly History at Melbourne has been caught in a self-perpetuating spiral of fewer staff, fewer subjects, fewer students and plummeting morale.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is not in a position to say who is right or wrong in these discussions. The Society can say there we have seen too little demonstrated concern from higher authorities and administrators that History, once one of the great successes for the Arts Faculty and the University, has been allowed to fall, or has been driven, to such a low ebb where the review panel can criticise it in this way.

The situation as diagnosed does not enhance the reputation of the University, the Arts Faculty or the Melbourne Model. Nor does any proposed solution that would see fewer historians or a diminished place for the study of history at the University. History is our society's memory and if it is not taught robustly and enthusiastically at such a key institution, we will all be the losers.

Veterans Heritage Workshop

Regional Workshop - Sale, Gippsland

The Veterans Unit, DPCD will be offering a Veterans Heritage Workshop on **Tuesday 27 September** in Sale, Gippsland. This workshop is a free one-day event for RSL memorabilia officers and volunteers from community organisations which care for veterans heritage collections. It is designed to increase the skills and knowledge of volunteers and help them preserve this important cultural material for future generations. Museum professionals will address common questions such as:

- What is the right way to store objects and documents?
- How can fragile objects be protected?
- What is the safest way to display material without damaging it?
- How should we catalogue our collection?

Download an [information and application flyer](#) (PDF 276Kb or Word 140Kb). Applications close **6 September**. Priority will be given to volunteers in community heritage organisations, RSLs, local historical societies and community museums who care directly for veterans (war-related) heritage. For more information [contact the Veterans Unit, DPCD](#).

GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

Public Record Office Victoria's Local History Grants

are due to open this month. Not-for-profit community groups are eligible to apply for funding for local history projects such as newspaper microfilming and digitising, multimedia projects and online exhibitions, exhibitions in community halls and other public facilities, murals and interpretive signage, book publishing, and cataloguing and indexing projects. Visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/community-programs/grants-awards> for details.

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) is running a small grants program for small rural Australian communities. The program will offer approximately \$400,000 a year in grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities.

Currently, preference will be given to projects that support:

- Activities that support education and youth
- Culture, arts, tourism and community heritage
- Communities from areas that are Natural Disaster Declared
- Community infrastructure such as historic community halls

Not-for-profit Organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Grants will be made in amounts up to \$5,000. Applications close 30 September.

Further information: [Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal](#)

<http://www.frrr.org.au/programsDetail.asp?ProgramID=4>

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 *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Nick Dyrenfurth, *Heroes & Villains: The Rise and Fall of the Early Australian Labor Party*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2011, pp. ix + 281, \$44. The early history of the ALP in Australia has long been a topic of interest to historians. Indeed, it could be argued that there are few topics that have had so much attention in published histories. But the author here charts a new and engaging path arguing the importance and popular success of the early years of a social democratic party that were undone by the schisms of World War 1 that resulted in an 'electorally unattractive' party, especially at the federal level, for many of the succeeding years. This book deserves to be widely read by anyone interested in Australian history and its revisionist position will challenge long-held views and foster debate.

George Dreyfus, *Brush Off! Saving 'The Gilt-Edged Kid' from Oblivion*, Three Feet Publishing, Melbourne, 2011, pp. 53 + disc of documents. The well-known Melbourne composer takes his readers through the story of his opera, *The Gilt-Edged Kid* with libretto by Lynne Strahan, commissioned by Opera Australia in 1969 but never performed. Described in the blurb as 'this calamitous story of Australian cultural bastardry', readers will not be surprised that the journey with Dreyfus is characteristically and endearingly both Quixotic and engaging.

Allan Maudsley, *In Ages Past...100 Years of St John Volunteer First Aid in Victoria*, St John Ambulance Australia, Melbourne, 2010, pp. x + 245. This book traces the origins of the modern organization in late 19th century industrial England with the development of ambulance services, first aid centres and public first aid instruction; the eventual transfer of the idea to Australia, resulting in its successful establishment in Victoria in the early 20th century. It largely traces St John's history and changes through its succession of commissioners, including the author and many well-known Victorian medical figures.

Norman Houghton, *Games at the 'Ditch', Centenary History of Beech Forest's Ditchley Park Sports Ground*, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, pp. 31. This booklet clearly shows the importance of sport and sports grounds in small communities. The use of the 'Ditch' reflects

the levels of social and economic vitality in the township. Athletics, football and woodchopping may have passed but cricket continues on this picturesque ground.

Eileen Chanin, *Book Life, The Life and Times of David Scott Mitchell*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, pp. xviii + 477, \$59-95. ISBN 9781021509872. The Mitchell Library has played a vital role in research in Australian history for more than a century. David Scott Mitchell's extraordinary gift to the nation is widely known but little has been written about his life and interests in the amassing of the collection that he bequeathed. This substantial biography is a systematic discussion based on what he collected, his voracious reading and his correspondence – an extensive tribute to the man behind the great Sydney library.

Mary Anne Gourley, *The Travelling Scotsman, The Life and Times of Paterson Saunders, Senior* with P. Saunders, *Two Years in Victoria From 1853 to 1855* [originally published, Calcutta, 1863], the author, Melbourne, 2010, pp. viii + 91, facsimile pp. 144 + index, \$47-95. Paterson Saunders (1810-1875) was the author's great great grandfather who spent 1853-5 in Victoria before returning to India and writing a series of newspaper articles that were later collected and published as *Two Years in Victoria* (Calcutta, 1863) and here republished for the first time in facsimile of the only known copy in the Dixon Library. His doleful account of economic prospects in the colony in 1854 is matched by his descriptions of filth, business chicanery and low living, all calculated to warn Anglo-Indians from migration and trade. Saunders, the 'travelling Scotsman', began life in Dundee, went to South America as a young man, and eventually to India in the early 1840s where his family had an indigo business. His Australian adventure was next, before his return to India and subsequent death in an unknown place. Both the republication of his travels and the scattered pieces of his life make this a valuable addition to our understandings of life and living in goldrush Victoria.

Susan Clarke & Ian Argyle, *The Argyle Heritage*, the authors, Perth, 2011, pp. 452. An elegantly produced family history based on extensive research and collection, and very well illustrated. Edward Argyle (1817-1875), a bounty immigrant, arrived from England in the Port Phillip Settlement in 1840. In partnership, he started out with a butchery, but soon also took up a squatting run, 'Duck Swamp', near Boort. Married in 1852, he was, by then, a successful and enterprising farmer with 'St Agnes' at Kyneton being developed as a mixed farm with associated business in flour milling, as well as 'Duck Swamp'. His later years were marred by alcohol problems and violence

in his marriage. Stanley (1867-1940), one of his sons became a pioneering radiologist, later politician and United Australia Party premier of Victoria 1932-1935. The book provides details of other Argyles and associates that came to Australia or were born here.

Winty Calder, *Spotlight on a Travelling Engineer, FS Wright*, Jimaringle Publications, Mount Martha, 2011, pp. iv + 136. Frank Wright (1897-1987), the author's father, kept meticulous diaries of his engineering and travel, wrote many memoirs about aspects of his life, took many photos and preserved files of his business and community service. These provide the bases for this appreciative account of his life as a consultant mechanical engineer in Australia responsible for installation of many industrial plants mostly in Australia, for which his daughter admits she had previously given 'a certain degree of indifference'. Wright volunteered for the Australian Flying Corps in 1918 but did not reach France and his skills were used in army service in 1939-45 in development of gas producers for cars, reconditioning of guns, and 'tropic proofing' of army stores. The book substantially charts his busy life as an engineer who needed to travel to places remote from Melbourne, as a motoring enthusiast always interested in improving the performance of his cars, and as a long-standing board-member of the Austin Hospital and the Cancer Institute, as well as a devoted family man with strong links to land in the Riverina as well as Mount Martha where the family had a holiday house.

Michael Collins, *Our Boys at the Front, The Mornington Peninsula at War 1914-18 from the pages of the Peninsula Post*, Mornington & District Historical Society, PO Box 71, Mornington, 3931, 2011, pp. viii + 414 with DVD. The publication of this book involved considerable community effort from individuals, historical societies, and funding sources, mostly local. The weekly *Peninsula Post* was first published in 1913. Throughout the war it provided the vehicle for war news but with an emphasis on local news: letters from the front, diary extracts and news of local 'boys'. The book provides a chronological account of the war through local eyes entirely based on the *Post*. It is exhaustive in its coverage and suitably illustrated with images drawn from local collections. It is a very good example of a local history that illustrates the interconnectedness of its community with dominating world events. It has useful appendices listing the 'boys' and their districts and military rank and unit, as well as a timeline for the war. It has a substantial index.

Wild rabbits around waterhole during drought, Wardang Island, SA 1934, RHSV
Collection: PH-010075



In October 2000 Brian Coman spoke at the Society's lunchtime meeting on the subject: 'The European rabbit in Australian Social History'. Dr Coman had been a research scientist with the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment and during this time he was the author of numerous scientific publications, amongst which *Tooth and Nail: the story of the European Rabbit in Australian Social History*. Following his visit he donated to the Society a copy of this book and a large collection of visual material relating to noxious vermin, the rabbit in particular. The collection comprises approximately 100 photographs, 1,000 negatives and several copies of Dr Coman's index relating to them. When added to images already in the collection we can trace stages of and changing attitudes to the rabbit in the various periods of Victoria's and Australia's European history.

Brought to Portland from Tasmania by the Henty family, and known to be in the village of Melbourne in 1836, the rabbit becomes evident in our photographs during the later years of the century when efforts to eliminate it began in earnest. A few dead bodies hanging on the side of a horse-drawn cart give way to hundreds strung out along fences, or equal numbers of live creatures congregated around a dam. Vehicles transporting carcasses to towns become larger. Various types of supposedly rabbit-proof fences can be accessed, such as the section in the Birchip area of the 1885 dingo and rabbit prevention fence, demonstrating the enormous amount of work involved in the early eradication procedures. The Eureka Patent Rabbit Extractor, designed to pull rabbits from their warrens, is replaced by other methods of trapping, shooting, fumigating using calcium cyanide dust (and later carbon bisulphide), bulldozing and rabbit drives. The determination of various Shires throughout Victoria can be understood by the number of Field Days recorded, including their locations.

The Keith Turnbull Research Institute was established as a Victorian Government research institution to carry out studies in conservation and natural resources. Built on Ballarto Road, Frankston, it was largely concerned with management strategies for pests, plants, animals and insects in agricultural and natural ecosystems. Today it is part of the Department of Primary Industries. The Institute was opened in 1967 by Sir Henry Bolte. Many photographs were taken during construction and on the day of the opening. Names of participants are documented in the index. One wing of the Institute is named in honour of Dame Jean MacNamara, a medical virologist who championed the cause of the myxoma virus used in the spreading of myxomatosis with devastating effect in the 1950s after rabbit populations had reached plague proportions. She died the following year and is buried in the Beechworth Cemetery.

We are grateful to Dr Coman for this comprehensive resource.

Diana Phoenix

History Victoria Support Group –

RHSV

Seminar Sunday

23rd October 2011

10am to 3pm

1852 Former Court House,
Castlemaine

**7 Goldsmith Crescent,
Castlemaine**

*Hosted by the Castlemaine
Historical Society Inc*

“Feeding the Book Worm”

Workshop on writing,
publishing and printing
local and family histories

SPEAKERS

Dr Charles Fahey, Latrobe
University, Bendigo.

Speaking on how to write a good
history, the reasons for writing,
research and content.

Vicki Court, Public Librarian with 20
years experience in the history field.

Speaking on publishing a good history,
how to detail references, citations, data
and why to index a publication.

Larry O'Toole, Director Graffiti
Publications, Castlemaine.

Experienced in publishing books and
magazines for the Australian and
International markets for 40 years.
Larry will share his experiences on
how to print a good history book and
how to get best value from the text,
illustrations, paper and book binding.

Cost:

\$15.00 Includes Lunch

Bookings:

Please book through RHSV:
office@historyvictoria.org.au or
93269288

When booking please advise of any
dietary requirements,

Bookings close Wednesday
19th October 2011.

AROUND the SOCIETIES

This column is compiled by Lenore Frost and Jenny Coates on behalf of History Victoria Support Group using information provided by societies either directly or contained in their newsletters. For the November issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 October to lenore10@hotmail.com.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: Our AGM will be held on Saturday 17 September at 2 pm at the Casterton Historical Society, Glenelg Highway, with a showing of "Life's Romance of Adam Lindsay Gordon" (1916). Our next tour at Brighton Cemetery will be on Sunday 9 October at 10.30 am. Bookings: 5261 2899.

AVOCA: A 16 page booklet *Heritage Walk of Moonambel*, which includes a map of the township, has now been reprinted and is available from the Avoca & District Historical Society at Avoca Court House for \$5, or by mail for \$5.60. Enquiries: PO Box 24, Avoca 3467 or email tonyoshea@inet.net.au.

BACCHUS MARSH: A history of the Bacchus Marsh Fire Brigade, *Ringing the Bell*, was published in May to celebrate the centenary of the brigade. Fully indexed, it contains many old local names and events. It is available for \$20 plus \$5 postage and handling from Vicki Tudball on 5367 1954 or tudball@bigpond.net.au.

BALLAN: Mint Inc has agreed to include the Court House in its portfolio of properties for restoration and preservation. They will stabilise and repair the building, and add an extension to the rear. The society will vacate during the period of the restoration. Enquiries: 5368 2544.

BALNARRING: The fifth volume of *Balnarring Byways and Memories*, recently published, contains a range of well-illustrated stories, including the "Lyons' Letter Rediscovered", "Cycling at Balnarring", "The Hicklin Band", "Subdivision at Merricks", "WAAAF 'Rookie' Training at Somers", and lots more. Available for \$20 plus \$4 p&p, PO Box 183, Balnarring 3926.

BELLARINE: On Wednesday 14 September the movie *Cable Trams of Melbourne* will be shown at the Old Court House Museum, High Street Drysdale (entry from the rear door), at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: willey@netspace.net.au or phone (03) 5253 1715.

BRIGHT: During the Autumn Festival, the society's Murder and Mystery tours were augmented by the ghostly presence of members of the Alpine Actors Group, who appeared as apparitions from bygone years as the tour progressed around the main streets of Bright. The May-June *Newsletter* carries an account. Enquiries: (03) 5755 1009.

BRIGHTON: *Kimberley Akimbo*, is a play presented by the Brighton Theatre Company at Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre, 7.30 pm Wednesday 9 November. A hilarious and heart-rending play, it deals with Kimberley who has a rare disease, a hypochondriac mother, alcoholic father and scam artist aunt. Bookings essential: 9553 8650.

BUNGAREE: James Reynolds will talk about his time in Antarctica on the meeting of Monday 19 September, at the Bluestone School, Bungaree. Enquiries: 5334 0226 or trigg11@bigpond.com.

CAMPERDOWN: The July newsletter features the Camperdown Infectious Diseases Hospital, which operated between 1915 and 1938. The building was burnt down in 1951. The architect Michael McCabe's plans have survived, but the society would be pleased to receive copies of photographs of the hospital. Enquiries: 03 5593 3388 or email cdhs@tca-online.net.au.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: The CHHA History Festival will be held on Sunday 23 and Monday 24 October with the theme "Education". The festival will be held at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, 117 Sturt Street, Ballarat from 10 am until 4 pm. Free entry. See <http://www.chha.asn.au/index.php/home>.

CHELSEA: The society will conduct a bus tour to Arthur's Seat on Thursday 20 October. The cost will be \$25, lunch at own expense. For further information call Neale or Kim Marlow on 9772 1380.

CINEMA & THEATRE: An email from Peter Tilbrook, former member of the group "The Master's Apprentices", commended CATHS for their work, and advised of a song he wrote called *Let's go to the Movies*. He offered CATHS the use of the song, royalty free.

DUNOLLY: The next tour of interest will be in and around Tarnagulla, including a tour of the Gray house which has been recently restored. The excursion will be held on Monday 17 October with a bus and/or private cars leaving the Dunolly Museum at 10 am.

ECHUCA: A new book by Helen Coulson, assisted by Dot Hammond and Heather Rendle, called *PS Pevensey 100 Years On* was launched on 19 July. It is available for sale by the society for \$10. Enquiries info@echucahistoricalsociety.org.au or phone 03 5480 1325.

ELTHAM: Research by Harry Gilham in the Baptism records of St John's, Heidelberg, has produced a list of 80 names of children from the area from 1850 to 1860, whose abode was given as Diamond Creek or Little Eltham. Enquiries: edhs1@bigpond.com.

ESSENDON: *The Tramway Film* will be shown at the Old Moonee Ponds Courthouse, 768 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds on Tuesday 27 September at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 9370 4607.

FITZROY: An Old Colonists Village Walk, Falconer Cres, Fitzroy, will be held on Sunday 9 October from 10 am to 12 noon. The walk will be conducted in groups of no more than 12. Cost: a \$5 donation to the Old Colonists for their hospitality. Enquiries: fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.

FOOTSCRAY: The August *Newsletter* reports on the fate of a well-remembered but long-missing war trophy, an eight-inch German Howitzer, that had been in Footscray Park. A recently discovered news

item from *The Footscray Advertiser* reported that in 1947 the Footscray RSSAILA had requested the Council to remove (for scrap) this grim reminder of fallen comrades.

HEALESVILLE: The Healesville Memorial Hall is being renovated, with the projected finishing date of July 2012. Historical society material is still located in the 'dungeon' area, and will not be able to be accessed until the hall renovation is complete. Enquiries: 5962 1655, or email hhsociety@optusnet.com.au.

KEW: The guest speaker at the meeting of Wednesday 14 September will be Ken Manley of the Baptist Historical Society. Meet at the Phyllis Hore Room, rear of Kew Library at 8 pm. Enquiries: jvimpani@gmail.com.

LAKES ENTRANCE: The society has received funding through PROV Local History Grants to upgrade their DB Textworks software. The grant also provides for training in the new software for six members. The cataloguing is done in two stages: firstly establishing the provenance and writing a description of the item, and secondly entering the data into the electronic system.

LANDSBOROUGH: The town will be turning 150 in September 2012. Many events are planned but volunteers are needed. Email: dwestern3@gmail.com or Tim Western, secretary 5356 9288.

LIGHT RAILWAY: The August journal, No 220, carries a draft 'LRRSA Research Charter', which promotes a collaborative approach in its activities. The Charter covers standards of research, and editing and publishing. It mentions acknowledgement of sources, respect for the work of others, the need for critical review by others, and so on. Enquiries: www.lrrsa.org.au.

LINTON: Gordon Morrison, Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat, will be the guest speaker at the AGM on Monday 19 September, at the Shire Offices, Sussex St, Linton, at 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 5344 7386 or email jillianleawheeler@gmail.com.

MAFFRA: Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. Past editions of the quarterly journal *The Bulletin* are available – see the webpage for details: www.maffra.net.au/heritage. The June *Bulletin* contains an article about the Boisdale Run, asking for information about two houses in Boisdale Street reputed to have been built in the 1840s.

MALMSBURY: The subject of the meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 September at the Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute, Mollison St, Malmsbury, at 7.30 pm has yet to be decided, but may be 'dating old photos'. Bring your photos or other memorabilia along with an interesting tale to tell. Enquiries: malmsburyhistorical@gmail.com.

MALVERN: Join members of the Society for a talk and guided tour of the ground floor of Toorak House, possibly the oldest surviving mansion in Victoria, at 21 St George's Road, Toorak, on Friday 23 September at 2.30 pm. Cost \$10 includes

afternoon tea. Bookings essential on 9885 9082 by 22 September.

MERRIGUM: An exhibition on the life and achievements of Lilian Louisa Pitts (1872 – 1947) will be held on Sunday 23 October from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Merrigum Museum, 111-113 Waverley Avenue, Merrigum. The exhibition will be open to groups until 30 November, **by appointment only**. Enquiries: 5855 2330.

MIRBOO NORTH: The Mirboo & DHS Annual Report revealed a busy year with participation in the Mirboo North Community Expo, an Open Day as part of the 2010 History Week, the unveiling of historical markers at Baromi Park and the launch of a new brochure *A Walk on Ridgeway* plus other events. Enquiries: 5668 1598.

MOE: *Coach News* of June 2011 contains part one of an extended article about the Moe Mechanics Institute, which was established in 1884. The society meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from February to November at 7.30 pm. The new postal address is PO Box 3, Moe 3825. Enquiries: moehist@vic.australis.com.au.

MORWELL: The meeting dates for the remainder of 2011 are Wednesday 21 September, 19 October and 16 November, at 44 Buckley Street, Morwell at 2 pm. The research room and library are opened on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. See <http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au>.

NARRE WARREN: An 'Antiques Appraisal Day' will be held at the Narre Warren Library Meeting Room, Overland Drive, Narre Warren, on Saturday 24 September from 11 am to 3 pm. Each item to be appraised will cost \$5. Light refreshments available for purchase. Enquiries: 5991 4499 or email treasurer@nwfhg.org.au.

NAVAL HISTORICAL: Two projects to celebrate the RAN 'Royal' Centenary Year 2011 were the restoration and unveiling of a restored Creswell Memorial at St Kilda and the gifting of a Creswell bronze bust to HMAS Creswell at the Naval Centenary Reception at the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron rooms in early September.

NEWSTEAD: Committee members have met co-operatively with the Shire of Mount Alexander about leasing of the courthouse for the next three years. The annual social night will be held on Saturday 15 October. It will be self-catered, and will incorporate a 'show and tell' session. Enquiries adawn@gmail.net.au or phone 5476 2006.

PLENTY: The society plans to produce a 2012 Calendar on the theme 'Early Settlers of Plenty', and needs help with access to photographs of early settlers, along with anecdotes or stories. If you have anything suitable, contact the society at kerlan@iinet.net.au, or phone 9435 9117. Urgently required to meet their deadline.

SANDRINGHAM: The society is still investigating street names in Beaumaris, Cheltenham, Hampton East, Highett, Sandringham, Hampton and Black Rock for a book project. A list of streets for which they seek information is included in the August *Newsletter*. If you can help call 9597 0985 or email sandringhamhistorical@gmail.com.

SUNSHINE: The society wishes to build their collection of local school magazines, particularly those from the Braybrook High School: 1960-1970s; Sunshine Technical School: before 1944, 1947, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961; Sunshine North Technical School: 1960-1970s; Tottenham Technical School: 1957-1970s. Enquiries: 9312 2214, or PO Box 720, Sunshine 3020.

ST KILDA: Luna Park will be 100 years old in 2012. Meyer Eidelson is planning a commemorative DVD. He will show historic films and images, so bring your stories and memorabilia to the St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda on Thursday 20 October at 6.30 pm. Enquiries: 0405 510799 or info@skhs.org.au.

TRAFALGAR: The 70th issue of the *Gazette*, carries articles on a variety of topics, including a 'History of the Trafalgar Young Farmers' Club', the 'Trafalgar Memorial Stone', and the 'Spring Bank Estate Land Sale, 1920'. The last meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 20 October at the Community Centre, at 7.30 pm.

WALHALLA: The society is planning a Heritage Day train trip from Melbourne to Walhalla Saturday 29 October. Trains leave Melbourne 6.45 am arriving about 10 am Walhalla, or 8.30 from Melbourne arriving Walhalla for lunch. Further details: Pauline 5174 6904, pollyc5@bigpond.com or Lynda 5165 6250, walhallamuseum@ic.australis.com.au.

WANGARATTA: The Dr George Mackay Oration for 2011 will feature Mike Taylor, AO speaking on 'Population Water and Food Security the challenge for the 21st Century'. This will take place at the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE Auditorium on Friday 14 October at 8 pm. Enquiries: wanghistsoc@hotmail.com.

WARRANDYTE: The Jul-Oct *Newsletter*, No 161, includes an article by Murray Houghton called 'Inundation Warrandyte – Part 2. Flooding in the Yarra Valley in 1891 and 1934'. It includes photos loaned by society members. Enquiries: 9844 4176.



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