



History NEWS

Issue No. 299 April-May 2012
Royal Historical Society of Victoria



**Exhibition
closes
20 April.**

Spirit of the Time

This beautiful exhibition brings from our stores some of the most treasured examples of the early collections of the RHSV.

Victorian Community History Awards

It's here again! Entry forms for the Victorian Community History Awards will be available from 1 May through Public Record Office Victoria (www.prov.vic.gov.au) and Royal Historical Society of Victoria (www.historyvictoria.org.au) websites. All members and affiliated societies will receive an entry form with the June edition of History News. A copy can be mailed on request from 1 May. Entries close in August, so start your engines for the biggest event in Victorian Community History yet!

Help Build the Foundation – Preserve Victoria's Past for the Future

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has worked for 100 years to preserve Victoria's history, during good times and bad, war and peace, periods of support for history and periods when we had to struggle to collect and preserve the stories, documents and images of our past.

Your contribution to this mighty project is always appreciated. But here are two more ways to help.

1. Support Victoria's History at TAX TIME!!!

Donations to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation are fully tax deductible. If you make a donation before you do your tax return, it will help preserve Victoria's history and give you the best value possible for your donation.

2. Support Victoria's History WHEN YOU REVISE YOUR WILL!!

When we revise our wills, we want to show our love and support for our children and grandchildren, and we also want to support the causes and organisations we believe in.

Please consider including in your Will, when you next revise it, a bequest to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation. It is through such bequests that a firm foundation can be built for preserving Victoria's history into the future. We are building this bedrock through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation, and we need your help!

*Prof Bill Russell,
Chair, Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation.*

Notice of 2012 AGM

All members are advised that the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 15 May 2012
Time: 5.00pm
Place: 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 3000

BUSINESS:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2011.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2011.
4. To appoint the Hon. Auditor for 2012.
5. To adopt revisions to the Constitution by Special Resolution.
6. To elect Office-bearers and Members of Council.
7. To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group.
8. To elect any member or members who have been nominated for election as Fellows.
9. To announce Awards of Merit recipients.
10. To transact any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules of the Society.

It is proposed under pt.5 to adopt a revision to the Constitution – details can be found on page 2

The AGM will be followed by a lecture presented by Dr Peter Yule
The Controversial and Mysterious Life of WL Baillieu

CALL for NOMINATIONS

Six positions are available for election at the AGM. Nominations for Members of the Council and office-bearers of the Association will close on Tuesday 8 May 2012.

Nomination forms are available from the Executive Officer.

CALL for EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

Affiliated societies are encouraged to provide expressions of interest for membership on the RHSV's History Victoria Support Group. These should be forwarded to Executive Officer by Tuesday 8 May 2012.

Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer – 26 March, 2012

RHSV GRANT

The RHSV was delighted to receive a grant from Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities which will support the employment of our Local History Officer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hugh's Do

One of the happiest events to take place in the RHSV's headquarters in A'Beckett Street was a birthday celebration for prolific Australian historian Hugh Anderson in mid February. A crowd of some seventy family, friends and admirers of all ages packed into the exhibition gallery to hear songs, ballads, recitations and some speechifying in honour of Hugh's recent 85th birthday. Officially billed as 'The Hugh Anderson Event', it was immediately and suitably dubbed 'Hugh's Do', in good Australian tradition.

Hugh's extraordinary career as historian, folklore expert, publisher and schoolteacher was briefly summarized in the previous issue of *History News*. It was a fitting tribute that four folklore legends in their own right asked to be part of the Do, and it was a historic moment to have them performing at A'Beckett Street together. The singers were Danny Spooner, Dave de Hugard, and David and Lynne Lumsden, and the audience joined in.

Appropriately, the Do featured excerpts from brilliantly remastered recordings made by Hugh back in the 1960s, keeping alive the bush stories and songs sung by old Creswick identity Simon McDonald. Hugh's Do became the opportunity too to launch Hugh's new edition of the McDonald story, complete with CD, as *Two Axe Mac*.

Historian, Professor Kate Darian Smith from the University of Melbourne gave a sketch of the contribution made by Hugh Anderson in ensuring Australian folklore and literature was appreciated as a proper field for academic study. Finally Hugh delivered some well chosen words on the need to foster the publication of local history. His comments are published elsewhere in *History News*. We are hoping that, if permissions are obtained, we will be able to sell a special CD with highlights of the day: The Best of Hugh's Do.

Finally, as they used to say, justice was delivered to sandwiches and beer.

Barbara Nixon OAM FRHSV

The written text from the Order of Service and the beautiful eulogies delivered at the *Thanksgiving Service - and Celebration of the Life of Barbara Nixon* - held at St. John's Church, Camberwell in Melbourne on Friday the 24th February 2012, can be found at www.jamesnixon.com

Walking Tour of Flagstaff Gardens

Although it was one of the hottest days of summer, a select group of RHSV members spent two hours of the last Sunday afternoon in February traversing the shady groves of the Flagstaff Gardens to explore at first hand the history of this most historic part of Melbourne. We strayed a little beyond the boundaries, too, to look at old structures still surviving in La Trobe, King and Dudley Streets, and in particular one of Melbourne's too often neglected treasures, St James' Old Cathedral. The site of the original Flagstaff, the oldest European burial places, pioneer memorials and the observatories were visited too, and our understanding of the history was enriched by the research work compiled by RHSV volunteers: thanks particularly to Brian Ward. Tea and coffee at the Radisson was a good way to finish the afternoon. With the Flagstaff Gardens literally across the road from the RHSV, we will run further walking tours in the spring.

Greetings from Middleburg, Virginia

It seems to be a rare treat these days for a researcher to find time for research. So here I am until mid May, based at the National Sporting Library and Museum to study the origins of steeplechasing in America and to compare it with the fortunes of the sport in our country. Middleburg is horse country to the tips of its equine ears, set in beautiful rolling countryside, distant from Washington DC as Woodend is to Melbourne. The NSLM has a superb art gallery and library and no doubt a much greater endowment than the RHSV (its patrons included the late Paul Mellon, one of the greatest collectors of sporting art and a great philanthropist) but we have some things in common. A small, dedicated staff keep the place operating along with a devoted band of volunteers and a wonderful collection of books, newspapers and images. The highway through here is dotted with markers and memorials to battles in the Civil War, less than 150 years ago. Virginia was one of the Confederate States of the south so the action became willing. There are plenty of local historical societies and museums for me to visit. Meanwhile it was great to find myself arriving in DC at cherry blossom time and an unusually warm spring. I'll be back when Melbourne's autumn turns to winter.

Andrew Lemon

Constitutional Changes

It is proposed in compliance with Clause 24 ALTERATION OF RULES of the RHSV Constitution to amend the Constitution by Special Resolution as follows.

Section 13 OFFICE BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- to amend Section 13.1.4. To delete the Executive Officer from the list of Office Bearers of the Association

Section 14 COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

- to amend from Section 14.1 To delete the sentence that states "The remaining member [of the Council] shall be the Executive Officer of the Association. (As amended at 2007 AGM.)"
- to add the word "at least" to section 14.1 which to read "The Council shall consist of thirteen (13) members of whom at least 6 (6) shall be elected for a two year term at each general meeting".

GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

2012 Exhibition Grants

MA (Vic)'s Exhibition Services encourages Victorian collecting organisations to apply for grants relating to exhibition development, touring or infrastructure. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available. Applications are welcomed from all Victorian museums.

See Museums Australia Victoria web site for examples of past grant recipients and projects.

Further information: Museums Australia (Victoria)

2012 Community Heritage Grants

The NLA's Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible.

The 2012 grant round is now open and applications close on 4 May.

Further information: **National Library of Australia -**

www.nla.gov.au/chg or

02 62621147

Spirit of the Time

Exhibition closes 20 April.

This beautiful exhibition brings from our stores some of the most treasured examples of the early collections of the RHSV.

Whereas the Museum of Victoria and State Library had already begun collecting when the RHSV was established – our founders collected the memories of the lesser known.

Spirit of the Time is an exhibition with an enduring message. It shows how the founding members of the society donated letters, images, books and maps that they felt told the story of their settlement of Victoria. For many it is the only place where they will find themselves recorded in history.



'The Punt, Echuca'; showing Edward Hopwood's punt carrying horse drawn wagon with wool bales.

[Part of Edwin Carton Booth, *'Australia Illustrated'*, London, Virtue, 1873-1876; drawn and engraved by J.C. Armytage, hand coloured] (RHSV Collection – ART-0437)

Loads of Riverina wool being punted across the Murray river en route to Melbourne by train some years before the iron rail bridge linked to the Deniliquin-Moama line was opened in December 1878. In the shallows are sections of Henry Hopwood's floating pontoon bridge, launched in July 1857 to allow faster crossing of stock and light traffic. Hopwood kept his convict background hidden in his spectacular rise to be the acknowledged 'King' of Echuca before his death in 1869.

Melbourne Theatres in Transition

The Impact of Screen on Stage

This new exhibition explores the rich and colourful history of Melbourne's theatres. Opens 15 May.

There has been theatrical entertainment in Melbourne since its early days. From 1842 there was a rickety venue attached to the Eagle Tavern on the south side of Bourke Street known as the Theatre Royal. A more substantial theatre was the Queen's in Queens Street opened in 1845.

Then from the time of the Victorian gold rush Melbourne was rich in theatre. Within three years of the influx of gold seekers the city could boast two significant buildings: the Olympic in Lonsdale Street and the Theatre Royal in Bourke Street, both opened in 1855.

By the 1860s the old Princess's in Spring Street (adapted from Astley's Amphitheatre, a circus building) and the Haymarket Theatre next to the Eastern Market in Bourke Street had been added. The Prince of Wales Opera House opened opposite the new Theatre Royal in 1872. It was at this theatre in August 1896 that the cinematograph was first projected. It was part of a vaudeville show and at first went almost unnoticed.

By this time the Olympic had closed and the Haymarket and the Theatre Royal were destroyed by fire: Theatre Royal being rebuilt within six months. In 1876 the Academy of Music later renamed the Bijou opened though this theatre also was burned and rebuilt in 1889.

Two important and still existing theatres opened in 1886: the New Princesses and Her Majesty's in Exhibition Street. The Kings Theatre in Russell Street opened in 1907.

By 1901 a new Opera House had been built on the site of the old one which from 1911 was known as the Tivoli.

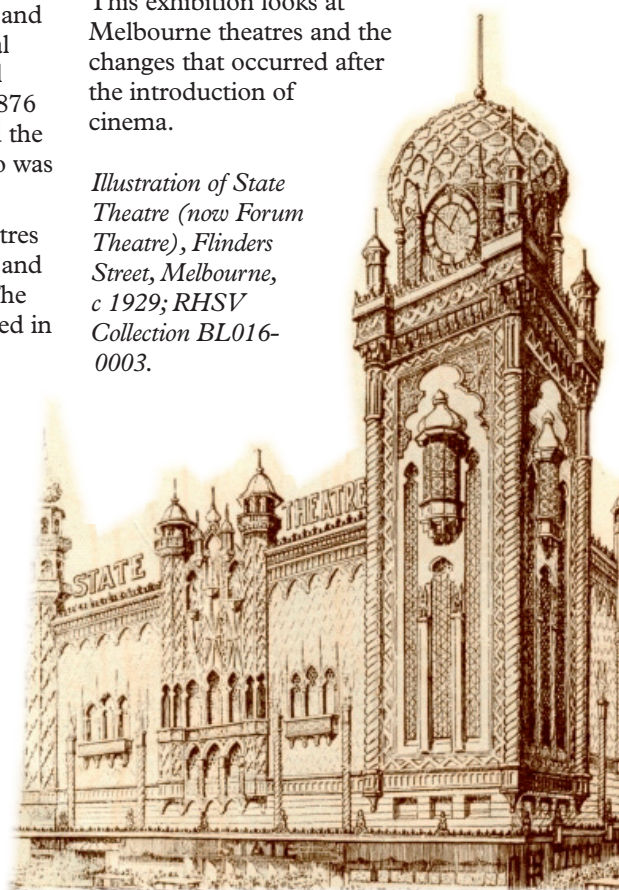
This then was the theatre scene in Melbourne just before the outbreak of WWI. There were 'crowded houses' for the stage shows in Melbourne's 'Theatreland' of Spring and Bourke Streets as well as small venues such as St George's Hall, Athenaeum Hall and the old waxworks hall. Musicals, opera, drama, melodrama, farce, vaudeville and reviews were popular with theatregoers.

But the stage was being challenged by the screen. There was something about the black and white flickering 'moving pictures' that attracted large audiences in the CBD and in the suburbs to existing theatres and local.

Soon there were plans for new purpose built 'picture theatres' and for adapting the old halls exclusively for the cinema. Many of the new theatres were built in a distinctive 'Moderne' style of architecture now known as Art Deco.

This exhibition looks at Melbourne theatres and the changes that occurred after the introduction of cinema.

Illustration of State Theatre (now Forum Theatre), Flinders Street, Melbourne, c 1929; RHSV Collection BL016-0003.



SPECIAL VIEWING – MELBOURNE THEATRES IN TRANSITION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL VIEWING

Members and their guests are invited to a Special Viewing and Floor Talk to be given by Dr. Mimi Colligan, curator of the exhibition, on **THURSDAY 24 MAY**

5pm – Refreshments

5.30pm – Floor Talk

Please RSVP by Monday 21 May

9326 9288

office@historyvictoria.org.au

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 *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Anne Jackson, *William Philpott, Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer*, Malvern Historical Society, PO Box 184, Malvern 3144, 2011, pp. vi + 57 Philpott (1818-1891) arrived in Melbourne in 1844, played cricket for the MCC, and captained Victoria against Tasmania in 1851. He built in Malvern in 1856 and imported two pipe organs both of which still exist in Melbourne. He sold up in 1872 and returned to England with his wife. This is a neat exploration of the scant evidence about him.

Maureen O'Brien et al. (eds), *Upon This Rock...Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, East Brunswick, Celebrating 100 Years, 1911-2011*, 2011, pp. iv + 170, \$20 + \$10 postage A solid compilation of short historical pieces and recollections, supplemented by a rich collection of photos that convey this parish's evolution in the changing 20th century world. The product of many pens, the finished book provides substantial links to the parish's past as well as substance for its future.

Norman Houghton, *'Drink up, Gents', A History of Hotels in Colac and District 1841 to 2011*, Norman Houghton, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2011, pp. iv + 88 Another publication from the prolific local historian of the Otways and Colac district. A comprehensive account of pubs and shanties, well-illustrated, and defining periods of operation, ownership and lessees.

ET (Ray) Raison, *Queenscliffe, The Founding Years*, Queenscliffe Historical Museum, PO Box 135, Queenscliff, 3225, 2011, pp. 152 The publication of this book is testimony to the author's careful research principally on the early years of Queenscliff. His manuscript is published posthumously with selected photos and an added bibliography. The text follows well-worn paths in Queenscliff's local history – Aboriginal occupation, European exploration, town establishment and development of services, bay steamers, fishing, schools, military establishments.

Linton and District Historical Society, *A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton*, Linton and District Historical Society, 2011, pp. 40 A very useful product from a local historical society concerned to preserve knowledge of its built heritage mostly resulting from its

19th century development as a gold town and centre of local government in the Shire of Grenville.

Robert D La Nauze, *Engineer to Marvellous Melbourne, The Life and Times of William Thwaites*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2011, pp. xvi + 217, \$39-95 Thwaites (1853-1907) and his work on the Melbourne water and sewerage schemes in the late 19th century, while known, have not received the public acknowledgement and acclaim they deserved. La Nauze has not only provided emphatic evidence of Thwaites's important contributions to engineering but also an account of his life and times as a Melbourne-born child of goldfields immigrant parents: education at the Model School and the University of Melbourne under the considerable influence of William Kernot, later engineering professor, and wider involvement in the development of Victoria's infrastructure. This book provides many insights to the urban development of Melbourne and to the development of a local professionalism in engineering.

Hugh Anderson with Dawn Anderson, *Two Axe Mac, The Story of Simon McDonald of Creswick*, Red Rooster Press, 38 Canning Street, North Melbourne, 2011, revised and enlarged edition, first published, 1974, pp. xvi + 160, \$35 + \$5 postage Hugh Anderson first recorded Simon McDonald's memories in 1967 along with the folk songs he sang. McDonald (1907-1968) came from a family that remained in the goldfields area as gold declined, always struggling, working itinerantly in the bush and his own life reflected this. This is a welcome republication of an interesting collection, complete with CD, and further testimony to Hugh Anderson's lifetime work in collecting, publishing and researching Australian folklore.

Rosalind Smallwood, *Hard to Go Bung, World War 2 Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1945-1962*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2011, first published 1992, pp. xvii + 258, \$39.95 The heartbreaks and misery often associated with soldier settlement in the period after World War 1 were not repeated in the post-1945 schemes. This new edition is a reminder of the important work done by the Soldier Settlement Commission and later the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission, especially by enterprising public servants like Les Simpson. The largely successful experiences of the settlers are also effectively conveyed.

Margaret E Fleming, *Gum Trees, Lagoons and Flat Plains, A History of Yarroweyah, Koonoomoo and Yarroweyah North 1878 to 1962*, 2011, pp. 280 A very substantial, well-researched and clearly presented account of the settlement of this area in Yorta Yorta country in northern Victoria. Waves of farming settlement from the selections of the 1870s through to soldier settlement and some irrigation after World War 2 and the associated developments of infrastructure form part of the book. In addition, there are family histories compiled with the assistance of many community members and with a comprehensive index that will not only serve those with local connections but many genealogists as well. Obviously a labour of love, but also a valuable addition to our knowledge of small Victorian communities.

Ken James and Noel Davis, *A History of the Metcalfe Group of Fire Brigades*, Noel Davis, Malto Park, Elphinstone, 3448, 2011, pp. 374. The Metcalfe group comprises nine brigades in the area north and east of Castlemaine. For each brigade there is an account of its formation, practices and personnel. In addition, there is a valuable compilation of accounts of rural fires from 1851 to the present taken from the newspapers. The authors show the extent of their research, something that they have also done for other institutions in their area. The importance of fire brigades in their local communities is attested by this book.

Carol Holsworth, *James McCulloch Henley, Anglo-Chinese Linguist and Advocate in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland*, Carol Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Cres., Bendigo, 3550, 2011, pp. 108 The author has pursued Henley's trail from Victoria in the 1850s to Queensland in the 1870s. Of Scottish origin and well-versed in Cantonese, Henley was well-equipped to provide interpreting and advice to and about Chinese communities. This was always a difficult task and Henley and others have often been unfavourably portrayed as a consequence of their roles in mediating between Chinese groups as well as between European and Chinese communities. This is an intriguing study based on considerable research and expertise and part of the author's continuing commitment to the study of the Chinese in Australia.

Hugh's Do

On Tuesday 14 February, the RHSV held a function celebrating the 85th birthday of Hugh Anderson.

Hugh is a former Council member and Vice President of the RHSV and has been a Fellow of the RHSV since 1974. He is recognised as the outstanding scholar of Australian folklore including poetry and colonial ballads, and has produced an extraordinary body of published works since 1953.

Following is Hugh's address to attendees.

When Andrew Lemon mentioned a birthday celebration, I wondered why anyone would come to such an event, but I was pleased when fine musicians Lynne and David Lumsden, Danny Spooner and Dave De Hugard said not only would they attend but sing and play for you.

I thank them for their generosity. Thanks go to those who have spoken very kind words about me, and also to the RHSV for arranging this "Hugh's do", as Andrew Lemon calls it.

There is a fiction that writers are as interesting as their creations. Those I have known though are pretty stodgy, perhaps second only to tax accountants. You have only to look at their stated recreations – Tom Kenneally says swimming, Alan Marshall I remember said caravanning, Geoff Blainey said chopping wood, but more recently chopping firewood. Anderson says writing!

Some mention has been made of the number of titles to my name. I sometimes have the impression people thought if I had done less, I may have done better, but I have simply done the best I could at the time. I have always said the field is open to anyone to do better.

I regard myself as a journeyman writer. An amateur in the real sense of the word. All the same I kept my day job for 39 years as a teacher and school principal, and writing was either done late at night or during weekends and holidays.

In some ways I have been lucky because my most productive years were when publishers welcomed what was called Australiana: a Literature Board that sometimes gave grants for publishing or often guarantees against loss. There was even once a reduced book post! However, what I call "cottage publishers" like Red Rooster Press, are unable to survive in the present climate. The last straw – or is it nail in the coffin – is when the Tax Office says we are mere hobbyists, and refuses any deductions

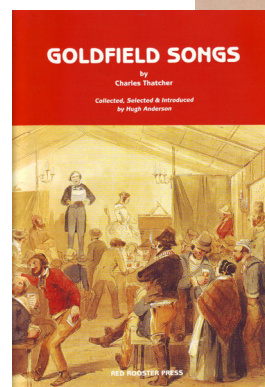
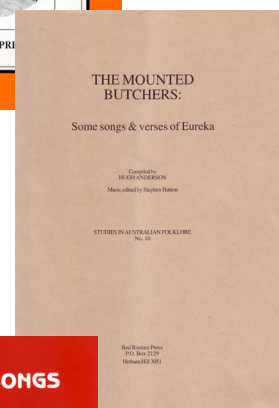
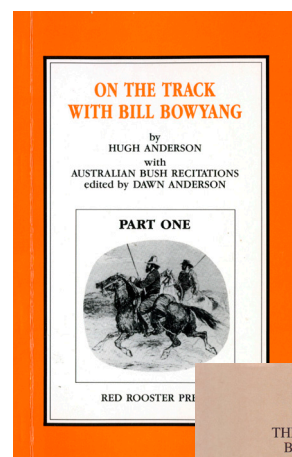
because of our small turnover and no profits.

I have also welcomed the financial support from Public Lending Right, to recompense authors for the use of their work in libraries. Once I could boast I was second only to Ion Idriess. I hope some here recall his great popularity.

Maybe writers go through several states. From the eager beginner who readily responds to questions, like, "On page whatever of your book you state such and such. Tell me where you got that information". Today I find it hard to remember a particular book let alone the detailed contents. Then you begin to know less and less about more and more, marking the emergence of the 'smart alec' who tells you "If you only knew what I know, you could have written a better book". The middle period is when one cringes under cross-examination and remarks such as "What have you written? I'm sorry, I have never heard of you" ring in your ears. Time moves on and you reach old age, when mention of your name is greeted with "Anderson, I thought he died years ago."

When I was sorting an accumulation of papers, I noticed many pages of notes and transcriptions in the fine youthful handwriting of our daughter Marcia and of our son Warwick, in his pre-med days. It was in the time before computers, and before they obtained freedom and left home. I offer belated thanks for their assistance.

More than anything else, I have been particularly lucky to have had the care and support of Dawn for almost 60 years. In addition to this she has an abundance of all the talents I lack: she is an excellent grammarian and an accurate speller, plus a good manuscript reader and a painstaking editor. She is without fault as a research assistant. I am deeply grateful.



Hugh Anderson is recognised as the outstanding scholar of Australian folklore

INSURANCE ISSUES

All Historical Societies should have received the form to renew their membership and insurance by now. Please return the declaration form and payment by the end of April to ensure continuity of cover.

There are changes to some of the rates but the insurance available has not changed.

To keep you up to date here are some explanations about the insurance.

Why do you need to consider Association Liability Insurance ?

Committee members of the society carry *personal responsibility* for their actions and, in certain circumstances, where they fail to act even when the Society is incorporated.

Committees can incur legal liability through the services that they provide to their members or to the members of the public.

Association Liability Insurance provides protection to the society against legal liability which may incur through the conduct of its activities or the provision of services.

Association Liability Insurance provides cover for compensation and/or damages awarded against the society. In addition, it provides cover for legal costs and other expenses associated with defending legal actions.

As well as protecting the society against the threat of litigation, Association Liability Insurance also protects the directors, officers and committee members of the society against legal liability that they may incur *personally* through the performance of their duties to the society.

The risks faced by society's have increased significantly in recent years through increased government regulation and a greater awareness of legal rights amongst members of the public. It is not just the society that faces these risks. Under certain circumstances the individuals on the board of management or management committee carry personal responsibility for their actions or for their failure to act.

In addition, the new Associations Incorporation Act, 2009 has increased the legal requirements for organisations and provides tougher penalties for board members for a range of offences including:

Conflict of interest, misuse of knowledge gained on Board, misuse of position on Board, trading while insolvent, complicit involvement.

In order to reduce the risks of something going wrong it is therefore essential that the members of the management committee understand their role and know and respect the laws that describe their duties and responsibilities.

What can go wrong?

A society incurs debts with no means of being able to pay outstanding amounts to creditors. The debts were incurred by one of the committee members without the knowledge of the other committee members. One of the creditors, sued each of the committee members for failure to conduct routine audits. The judgement made against them individually because an annual financial statement stating that the society was solvent when in fact it was not.

An employee is sacked by the committee and files suit alleging discrimination on the basis of age.

A potential volunteer files suit alleging that his request was denied because of false rumours that he had been convicted of child molestation.

Another organisation files suit for libel after an article criticising the way organisation.

A member of the committee is sued for allegedly using the society as a business conduit to benefit him or her.

An employee files suit alleging the security guard sexually imposed on her and that the board members were negligent in the selection of the guard.

Bulk purchasing

The RHSV offers bulk insurance through an insurance broker. The purpose of arranging insurances on a bulk purchasing basis is to make it affordable for all societies that participate. As a result of this we do not include flood cover. If we were to include this peril it would benefit a few but increase the premium for all. Similarly, the age limits have been limited to 90 years of age for those volunteers covered under voluntary workers personal accident.

Are you responsible for insuring the building you occupy against loss or damage?

Many societies have been provided with use of premises from local council or other local authorities and may be responsible for insuring the building against loss or damage. If your society falls into this category it should be confirmed who is responsible to arrange insurance.

Other societies may own their own premises and arrange the building insurance separately.

The Asset Protection insurance arranged through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria can offer insurance for Building insurance including Glass insurance.

When arranging insurance for property insurance for building insurance the sum insured must represent the replacement cost. To obtain an indication of how much your building may cost to reinstate visit the following link <http://www.bmtqs.com.au/ConstructionCostCalculator.aspx> and select what type of building you have.

In order to reduce the risks of something going wrong it is therefore essential that the members of the management committee understand their role and know and respect the laws that describe their duties and responsibilities.

How to register your Heritage Week event

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has advised that a new Australian Heritage Week website and registration system for events to be held over Australian Heritage Week 2012, Saturday 14 April until Sunday 22 April 2012, is now available.

If you have difficulty in listing your event through the registration system please email the Australian Heritage Week staff for assistance. .

www.heritage-week.govspace.gov.au/

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 June 2012 issue please send details of forthcoming events by 10 May to lenore10@hotmail.com.

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN: To commemorate the centenary of the death of Australian landscape designer William Guilfoyle, a series of walks, talks and debates will take place on 5 and 6 May. See the Australian Garden History Society website for details: <http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au>

ALTONA/LAVERTON: Housed in one of Victoria's earliest homesteads, only 15 minutes from Melbourne, the Altona Laverton Historical Society enjoys a tranquil setting that nevertheless has long had a reputation for being haunted. The heartaches of the Langhorne family with whom this building is associated pay mute testimony to these stories. Enquiries: www.alhs.com.au/cms12

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: A tour of Brighton Cemetery titled 'Adam Lindsay Gordon: His Life and Beyond' will be conducted on Sunday 15th April at 10.30am. Meet at the main North Road gates near the corner of Hawthorn Road; cost \$10. Refreshments will be provided. Bookings are essential: 5261 2899.

ARARAT: The new lace exhibit set up in November 2011 has attracted a great deal of interest especially from female visitors. This is the first stage of the planned themed exhibits, to change every few months. Eleven trophies awarded to the Ararat Ladies Pipe Band from 1953 to 1965 are also on display. Enquiries: langimorgala@vic.chariot.net.au.

BACCHUS MARSH: On 21 February Lauren Bourke of PROV presented the society with a document certifying it as a Place of Deposit. Lauren also provided information about workshops and grants, and gave it a much appreciated flat screen monitor. The newsletter also features an article on 'The Doctor, the Bank Manager and the Vicar's Wife'.

BALNARRING: The February 2012 newsletter contains the story and image of a signature quilt made by the Balnarring Red Cross in 1918. Names of donors to the cause had their names embroidered in red on a white cotton square. It is currently kept at the Victorian Red Cross HQ.

BELLARINE: A long list of local and family history publications for sale is available from the society. To peruse and order: see <http://zades.com.au/gandd/index.php/bellpen/bellhs/bellpub>. See also the Geelong & District website database, which now contains over 1 million names: www.zades.com.au/geelong/gdha.htm. Greg Wane will speak on *Aground in the RIP* on Wednesday 11 April, 7.30 pm.

BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS: On Saturday 21 April at 2 pm an 'ANZAC Day Walk' will be conducted visiting the graves of young Australians who took part in the bloody battles in the 1914-1918 War. Cost of tours: non-members \$10, members \$8. Meet inside the North Road main gate.

Enquiries: info@brightoncemetorians.org

BUNGAREE: A book titled *Bungaree Primary School No. 1960 – celebrating 125 years of education: 1877 – 2002*, written by the society's secretary, Heather Trigg, is available through the society. The volume traces the school through various names including 'Junction', 'Warrenheip Junction' and 'Bungaree Junction'. Enquiries: Heather Trigg trigg11@bigpond.com.

CRESWICK: An exhibition featuring the works of Victor Litherland will be held late in 2012. A Russian born carpenter, Litherland produced portraits and landscapes in the naive style. He was awarded the Bendigo Prize in 1957, and his work is represented in the National Gallery of Victoria and in Victorian regional galleries. See: <http://www.creswickmuseum.org.au/index.php>.

DAYLESFORD: 'The Pensom Murder' is featured in the March 2012 issue of the *Newsletter*. This is about the murder of a young wood cutter whose body was found in the shaft of the Fountain Head Gold Mine in 1872. The police didn't have to look far for the murderer.

ECHUCA: 'Indigenous Australians at war: from the Boer War to the present', a touring exhibition of the Shrine of Remembrance, is now at the Echuca Moama Uniting Church Hall, Hare Street, Echuca. It is open daily at 11 am to 3 pm until Friday 27 April; late opening Wednesdays 5pm to 7pm. Enquiries: eh.soc@bigpond.

ELTHAM: The guest speaker on Wednesday 9 May will be Kevin Patterson on 'Hurstbridge Railway Centenary'. Meetings are held at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place, Eltham, at 8 pm. Enquiries: edhs1@bigpond.com

FITZROY: On Sunday 20 May, from 2 to 4 pm, a walk 'Brunswick Street: Lost and Found' will be led by Miles Lewis through the southern section of Brunswick St. Meet at St Vincent's Plaza tram stop. A presentation will follow at 5-7 pm at the former Kendall's Veterinary Hospital. Gold coin donation for each event. Enquiries: Fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.

FOOTSCRAY: A tour of Jack's Magazine in Maribyrnong will take place during the Heritage Festival on Sunday 20 May, details yet to be advised. Enquiries: foothist@bigpond.com or see www.vicnet.net.au/~foothist.

GISBORNE: On Sunday 22 April at 2 pm, Shirley Van Keulen's book on the Watsons of 'Gisborne Mains' will take place at the Gisborne Court House. Following the launch Shirley will be available for signing; refreshments will be served. Enquiries: 5428 1450.

HORSHAM: The *Horsham Historian* of Feb-Apr 2012 contains an article about 'Joseph Hunter – Hotel Proprietor and Aerated Water Manufacturer'. Hunter held licenses at a number of different hotels and around 1906 began manufacturing aerated cordials, and brewing soft drinks. The article includes an image of one of his ginger beer bottles. Enquiries: lwbsmith@netconnect.com.au.

KEW: 'Land Title Records of NSW and Victoria, 1837 – 1851' will be the subject of a talk by Ken Smith on Wednesday 9 May. Meetings are held in the Phyllis Hore Room, rear of Kew Library, Civic Drive, Kew. Enquiries: info@kewhistory.com.au.

KOO-WEE-RUP: Owing to a declining number of volunteers, the Museum will open only on the second and fourth Sundays of each month for a trial period of six months. Visitors can still come by appointment. New members are welcome. Enquiries: 5997 1357.

LANDSBOROUGH: Landsborough will be holding 150th birthday celebrations on the weekend of the 15 and 16 September 2012. Further information: dwestern3@gmail.com or 5356 9288.

LILYDALE: On Saturday 5 May Rob Simpson will outline the hunt for the Mahogany Ship. The meeting commences at 1 pm, with the speaker at 2 pm; entry: \$2 for non-members; venue: the Old Lilydale Courthouse, 61 Castella St, Lilydale. Enquiries: aross35@bigpond.com or 9761 9192.

LINTON: A booklet of tours through Linton has recently been launched. Containing one short and one long walk, and a driving tour, the booklet is for sale for \$7 including postage. Contact: P.O. Box 41, Linton, Vic 3360.

MALMSBURY: Hence *Hope Beams on Us – 150 years of service*, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Municipality of Malmsbury has been launched. Including biographies of all 105 councillors and photos of many of them, it is available for \$20 plus \$10 p&p. Contents and index can be perused at: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malmhist/borough.pdf>.

MARYBOROUGH/MIDLANDS: At Worsley Cottage a new cabinet has arrived and is being used to put together all the items relating to the life of Tilly Aston. Two new computers have been bought with a volunteers grant and they are now part of a network enabling access to information at all the terminals.

MIRBOO NORTH: The Society has recently published the *History of the Mirboo North Swimming Pool*, with sales supporting the local swimming pool. It is available for \$15 from the Society's rooms and local outlets; enquiries: 5668 1540. A recent newsletter includes an article on local butter factories.

MORNINGTON: Dr Nick Lomb, formerly head of the Sydney Observatory and author of *Transit of Venus 1631 to the present*, will speak on how the phenomenon led to the discovery of Australia and Mornington's connection with

the 1874 Transit of Venus; Tuesday 8 May, 10.30 am, St Marks Friendship Room, Barkly St. Enquiries: 5976 3203.

MORWELL:The newsletter of February 2012 has two items about local memorials:the Maryvale Mill Memorial Gates, opened in 1953 to commemorate servicemen from the Mill who were killed in the 2nd World War; and memorial headstones and gate posts at the Hazelwood Cemetery commemorating deaths in the 1944 Bushfires.

MT DANDENONG: Find the society on Facebook where you can keep up to date with current events or anniversaries, or check out what people are talking about and add your own comments or questions. The wonderful photos are a treat in themselves. <http://tiny.cc/Out8aw>

NAVAL:*The Three Headed Dog*, the newsletter of the Naval Historical Society of Australia, Victorian Chapter, mentions the appointment of the RAN's first female Admiral, Robyn Walker. Admiral Walker is the first woman in the Navy to attain the rank of Rear Admiral, and to take on the job of Surgeon-General for the Australian Defence Force.

NEPEAN:The society is looking for people interested in being interviewed about Sorrento's past, so if you, or anyone you know, has something to contribute and wouldn't mind being interviewed, please contact the archives team at archive1.nepeanh@vic.chariot.net.au or drop into the museum. Phone:5984 0255.

NEWSTEAD:Our 15 year lease for the courthouse expired and negotiations have proceeded with the Mount Alexander Shire which manages it on behalf of DSE. We are pleased to report that our occupancy will continue with an increase in rent, but with the Shire being responsible for major maintenance.

NHILL:In December the Nhill Free Press printed a photograph of a wedding dress held in the collection. The society has now received details of that dress, and the son is going to bring in a photo and details of the wedding. A wedding dress and going away outfit from February 1951, has lately been donated.

PLENTY: Plans are underway for celebrations to mark the centenary of land being opened up for subdivision in Plenty in 2013. By 1925 the area had a school, church and social club. One resident dubbed it the 'Toorak of the Northern suburbs'. The society is taking a leading role in organising the celebrations:www.plentyhistoricalsociety.org.au or email: kerlan@inet.net.au

PORT MELBOURNE: The society plans to celebrate both National Heritage Week and the National Trust heritage festival with an open day and display in the historic Port Melbourne Football Club clubrooms on Sunday 22 April. We will focus on innovations introduced by the Borough over its almost 140 years.

RYE:The society is pleased to have received a grant to purchase items, including a recorder that will enable it to proceed with the Oral History Program they have had on their agenda for quite a while. In November an historical tapestry marking the 150th anniversary of Rye was unveiled at the Old Schoolhouse; see <http://ryehistoricalsociety.weebly.com/index.html>.

SKIPTON: A web site detailing publications, newsletters and events is now available. For family researchers the site is a goldmine with information on Mt Bute soldier settlers, and men featured on the WWI Avenue of Honour and the WWII Memorial Pinoaks. Photos of headstones in Skipton cemetery are also available for download:<http://skipton-historicalsociety-australia.freehosting.net/index.html>.

ST KILDA:Maureen Walker will present a pre-Anzac talk on 'The 14th Battalion: Jacka's Mob less Jacka', on Sunday 15 April in the Community Room, St Kilda Library, at 3 pm; entry \$5 for non-members. Enquiries:info@skhs.org.au or 0405 510 799.

VICTORIA POLICE:Issue 1 2012 of the *Journal of Police History* contains articles about forensic science in the Victoria Police. One of the earliest known crime scene photographs of the 'Rokewood Murder', which occurred in 1867, is included in the article. Enquiries:www.vicpolhistory.org.au.

WALHALLA:Saturday 26 May will see a 'Gay May Day' held in Stringers Park with goldfields dress-ups, a tug of war, a Rude Food Dinner, with Stan Munro, star and comper of Les Girls in St Kilda, with his show 'Vintage Drag in Mint Condition'. For details, go to www.walhallaaccommodation.com.au/gay-may-day.

WARRACKNABEAL:The machinery restorers have been busy with several tractors. An International W6 is now going; the John Deere Model D 1923 has had mudguards fitted; the Benz OE is close to being in working condition; and the John Deere Model G Row Crop tractor will be sandblasted and painted with the aid of a Council grant.

WAVERLEY: Lambis Englezos, discoverer of the mass grave of soldiers at Fromelles, will speak on *Fromelles and its place in Australian History*, Thursday 26 April at 8 pm, Mt Waverley Public Library, Miller St (opp. railway station); access by stairs or lift; enquiries:whs@kepl.com.au or 9802 9332.

WHITEHORSE:Lambos Englazos will speak on 'Fromelles' on Saturday 14 April at 1.30 pm. Meetings are held in the Local History Room, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum, Deep Creek Rd, Mitcham.

WILLIAMSTOWN:History Walks and Talks will leave from the Williamstown Community Education Centre, Joan Kirner House, corner of Cecil and Thompson Streets on Thursdays 2 to 4 pm, commencing in May. Cost: \$6 per walk, or \$40 for the term. For more information and bookings call 9379 6168.

YACKANDANDAH:The new display 'Yackandandah Identities – now and then' has attracted a lot of visitors, especially locals who haven't visited before, but came to see the 'identities'. Some have commented on the quality of the display and the fact that the Museum doesn't adhere to the 'crowded display syndrome'; see <http://yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com>.

YARRA GLEN:Frank Orenshaw will be the guest speaker on Sunday 20 May – his subject: 'The Local Timber Industry'. Meetings commence at 1.30 pm at the History Room, Yarra Glen Memorial Hall. Enquiries:yarraglenhistorical@live.com.au.

History

NEWS



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