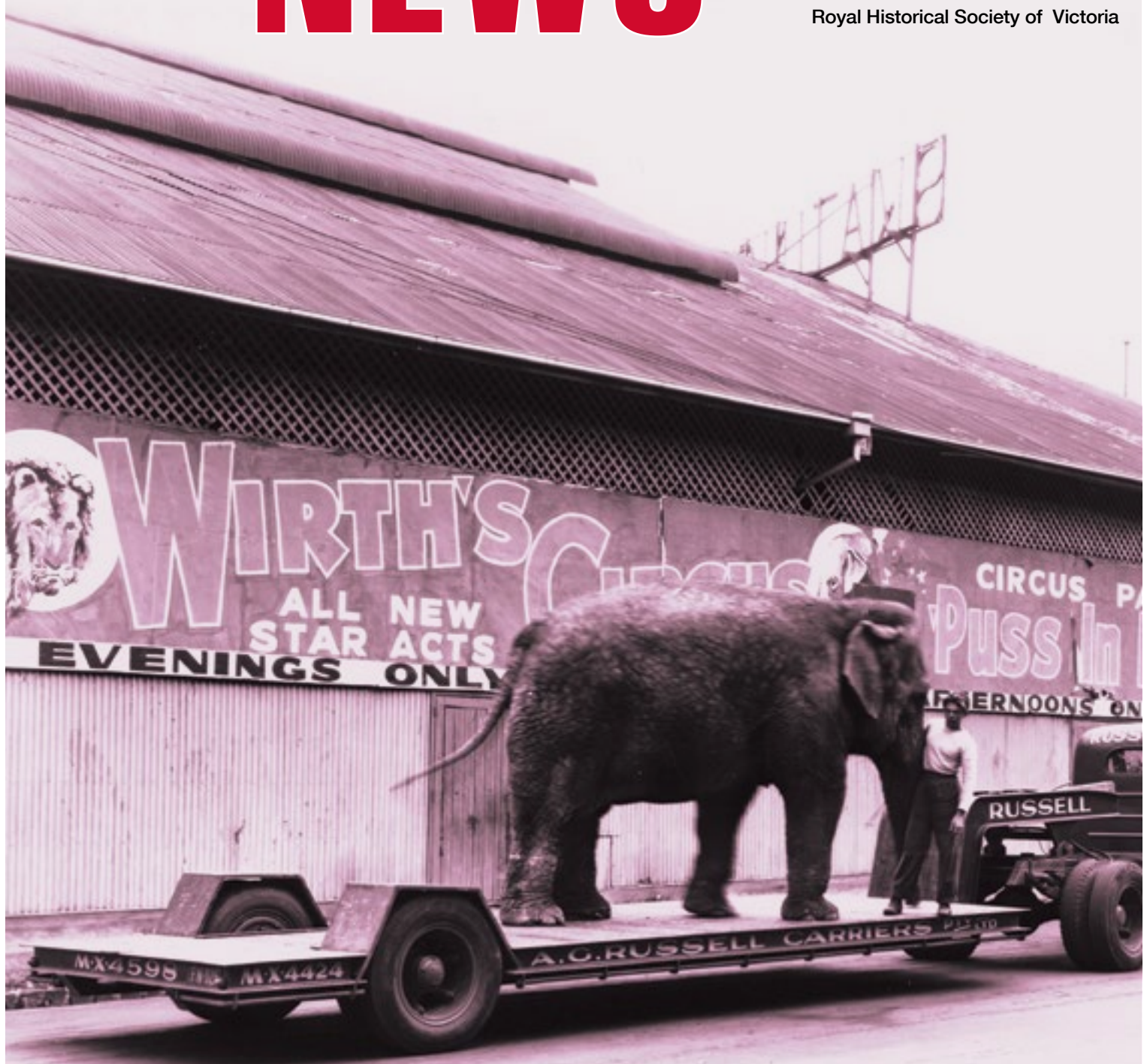




History NEWS

Issue No. 320 Oct – Nov 2015

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



History Week 2015 see pages 2 & 3

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Notes from the Editor's Desk

I'm back from a long overseas trip: India, Basque Country in Spain and France, Toulouse and Paris. All the European cities we visited have made great strides in transport, pedestrianisation and valorisation of heritage. France began heritage conservation in the early nineteenth century. Paris has been a model of planning from the mid-nineteenth century and since the 1960s has done pro-active planning, pushing development onto new, greenfield sites where excellent transport has been provided in advance, to reduce pressure on heritage areas like central Paris.

It was a shock to return and see how much damage our higgledy-piggledy 1960s tower-style urbanism has done to marvellous Melbourne. On our first trip to the Queen Vic Market we were overwhelmed by the looming towers sprouting above that area of the city. (See my article, *History News*, 1st February 2015, p. 8).

Fortunately, before I got over my shock, came the welcome news that Richard Wynne, the incoming Minister for Planning, had named new members to the Victorian Heritage Council. Recent planning ministers had favoured unlimited development over heritage. Failure to replace departing members of the Heritage Council had left it weakened. The Minister's action has restored the Council to full strength.

But the problem goes much deeper. The 1995 revisions to the Heritage Act seriously weakened it. So news that the Minister had initiated a review of the Heritage Act 1995 was even more welcome.

These actions augur well for heritage in Victoria and we congratulate the Minister on his initiatives. In a spirit of cooperation, the RHSV Council went in to action, preparing a major submission to the review. In this issue (p. 7), I tell the story of our submission. If you're keen, you will find the whole submission at www.historyvictoria.org.au/recent-submissions-by-. We hope to continue regaining lost ground on heritage.

George Fernando's article on the recent wanton demolition of the beautiful heritage-listed house Arden (p. 6) reminds us of the urgency for better heritage protection at local as well as at state level.

In this issue, you will also find Ian Clark's discussion of sources for aboriginal history, an account of our seminars on writing local history (two more to go: get in while there are places), and an interesting follow-up on our current exhibition, 'Nail Can to Knighthood'. Don't miss that.

And don't miss History Week. On the next page, Richard Barnden presents a most interesting historical discussion of our cover photo, which has been used to promote History Week this year.

I hope to see you at these wonderful events.

Chips Sowerwine



History Week 2015

Victoria's wide and wonderful past looks set to come alive thanks to the many events in store, from fascinating walking tours and engaging discussions to exhibitions and 'history in the making' events. History Week (18th - 25th October), Victorians will be able to:

- stroll through WWI Port Melbourne and hear the war stories of the streets and piers
- discover Melbourne Central's hidden nooks, rarely-seen vantage points and secret rooftops, hearing intriguing tales of days gone by in this busy corner of Melbourne's CBD
- roll out the picnic rug and enjoy an afternoon of historical displays, local art, produce and entertainment at Pantom Hill's On the Hill Festival
- enjoy a Friday night G&T at the historic Old Melbourne Gaol's pop-up gin bar
- travel back in time to classrooms from the late 1800s onwards in the School Days: Education in Victoria Exhibition
- explore unique and wonderful tea pots and accoutrements at the Pop-Up Tea Pot exhibition
- learn some of the many stories behind the headstones at the Brighton General Cemetery and help commemorate 160 years since the first burial

and much more.

Visit the History Week website: www.historyweek.org.au to find details of how you can travel back in time this History Week — there is something in store for everyone to enjoy.

"Victoria has such a diverse and intriguing history, so we are delighted to once again be able to pull together a whole host of reasons to get out there and enjoy it", said Kate Prinsley from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

History Week is generously supported by the Vera Moore Foundation.

Cover photo: Detail, Elephant at Wirth's Park, c. 1946-1947. Commercial Photographic Co., photographer; RHSV Collection: PH-970399, John Mercer and Richard Barnden. See p. 3

Death of Long-serving RHSV Councillor John Adams

As we go to press, we are deeply saddened to learn of the death of John Adams at the age of 80 on 13 September. John was a long-serving RHSV Councillor, indexer of the VHJ, renowned librarian and tremendous supporter of the RHSV. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of *History News*.

History NEWS



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History Week and the Wirth Circus

The cover photo—Elephant with attendant on low-loader outside Wirth's Park (Sloss and Sturt Streets, South Melbourne, c. 1946-1947, from the RHSV Collection—has been used to publicise History Week 2015. Here, John Mercer and Richard Barnden give us another fascinating insight into Victoria history through images.

PUBLICITY and HERITAGE WEEK

This 'publicity photograph' – eye-catching, telling a story, visually appealing and of good technical quality – was intended to attract and maintain an audience. Subtly it says that the circus is 'on the road' again, to hint that Melburnians will have to wait for another season, but that another community will have a chance to enjoy circus performances. There are references to some of the attractions of Wirth's Park – skating, circus acts and pantomimes – and it is direct promotion for the A. G. Russell cartage company. In 2015, this publicity photograph is being 'repurposed' to publicise *HistoryWeek*, 18 - 25 Oct 2015. See 'HistoryWeek', p. ??

WIRTH'S PARK

Wirth's Park, of some 4.5 hectares, was on the site now occupied by the Melbourne Arts Centre.

In 1887 Cooper and Bailey's Great American International Circus pitched their 'big-top' nearby. (As early as 1852 an American international circus had arrived in Port Phillip.) In 1906/1907 Wirth Brother's Circus acquired the entire site from FitzGerald Brothers' Circus. At the beginning of the 20th Century, FitzGerald's was Australia's biggest circus. They had built a permanent circus home here in 1901. In 1904 the area not occupied by FitzGerald Brothers was developed as a fashionable meeting place called Prince's Court featuring a Japanese Tea House, open-air theatre, miniature train and a water chute. Many of these attractions were maintained for a time into Wirth's occupancy.

A 1930s Mahlstedt fire insurance plan, which includes Wirth's Park, shows three substantial buildings. The Trocadero Danse Palais (previously called the Green Mill) was at the point of the triangular site. Wirth's Olympia, a large hippodrome amphitheatre, ran along Sturt Street. This was the main arena, a cavernous structure of timber and galvanised iron, elegantly appointed, with a foyer, padded seats and cloak rooms. Wirth's roller skating rink was alongside Sloss Street (and the site of the photograph). Between these, though not shown on the plan, would have been various temporary structures, perhaps animal cages, sales outlets and sideshows. Beyond the circus, Wirth's Olympia was



used for film screenings, garden shows, Exhibitions, fairs, jazz concerts and YMCA gymnastic displays.

In December 1953 a catastrophic fire left Wirth's Park in ruins and brought the era to an abrupt end. Sloss Street was later subsumed by the building of the Arts Centre.

A mosaic linking the arts, cultural and entertainment history of the site and marking the 150th anniversary of Circus in Australia was unveiled on 7 June 1988 at the Victorian Arts Centre. This was a joint project between the Circus Fans of Australasia Inc. and the Performing Arts Museum, Victorian Arts Centre.

CIRCUS LIFE

Following the USA pattern, circuses in Australia used the blossoming railway system (as well as coastal shipping) to travel from town to town. Victorian Railways leased out a whole train to not only to carry props, people and animals, but to become the company's sleeping quarters at night. Personal accounts describe how hectic and demanding life was to pack the train with equipment and animals after the evening show, to sleep on the moving train, then only to unpack and set-up again in the next town in the morning.

It is possible that the pictured A. G. Russell Carriers' low-loader was being used to transport circus equipment and resources to Spencer Street railway station (Southern Cross Station). According to the Business Register, the company was established in February 1947 and deregistered in June 1972. The insignia on the vehicle reads gives its address as Wirth Park, Melbourne.

The elephant in the photograph remains unidentified, though, one of Wirth's elephants, named Alice, was known nationwide. Alice died in 1956 at a disputed 110 years old.

PUSS IN BOOTS

Puss in Boots, a fable or fairy tale, tells of a cat who uses trickery and deceit to gain power, wealth, and the hand of a princess in marriage for his penniless and low-born master.

Melbourne newspapers of the immediate post-World War 2 period describe this Wirth's production of *Puss in Boots* by Miss May Downs as 'the only circus pantomime in the world showing twice daily'. *The Argus*, Friday 21 December 1945, p16 says:

A number of spectacular scenes have been introduced into the circus version of the pantomime Puss in Boots, which opens for a season of matinees at Wirth's Olympia tomorrow. These include Donald Duck's Farmyard, Rainbowland, Apple Blossom Time, and Gummuts. Lorraine Clarke will play Puss, and Victor and Roy Reid will fill the skin of Daisy the Cow. Production is by May Downs. Wirth's Circus opened its 62nd Christmas season on Wednesday night with a well-balanced, varied programme of animal acts, acrobatics, and comedy numbers. Equestrienne number by Misses Doris and Eileen Wirth, and Eric Hill's cleverly trained horses, are features of an entertaining bill.

REFERENCES and FURTHER RESOURCES

The WIRTH FAMILY :-

Philip Peter Jacob Wirth (1864-1937) and George Wirth (1867-1941) : <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wirth-george-9291>

May Emmeline Wirth (1894-1978) : <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wirth-may-emmeline-9158>

On the road : the wandering Wirth family - <http://blogs.sqld.gov.au/jol/2013/05/30/on-the-road-the-wandering-wirth-family/>

WIRTH'S PARK :

Mahlstedt fire insurance plan which includes Wirth's Park, c. 1930 - <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/132564>

Interior of the Olympia in 1936 showing the 'Flying Nelsons' : http://www.circopedia.org/Flying_Nelsons_Video_%281936%29

The end of Wirth's Park, December 1953, *The Argus*, 28 Dec 1953 pp 1 and 2 - <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23317966>

CIRCUS IN AUSTRALIA :-

Geoff Greaves : *The circus comes to town : nostalgia of Australian big tops* (Terrey Hills, NSW, Reed, 1980)

Mark St. Leon : *Spangles & sawdust : the circus in Australia* (Richmond, Vic., Greenhouse Publications, 1983)

James Grant and Geoffrey Serle : *The Melbourne Scene, 1803-1956* (Neutral Bay, NSW, Hale & Iremonger, 1978)

Circus in Australia - A way of life for 70 years, 1847-1917 - <http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/early-circus>

New circus in Australia - <http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/new-circus>

Researching the History of Coranderrk

In writing local history, we are frequently faced with the thorny problem of how to interpret our sources, a problem all the more intractable when, as all too often happens, we find these sources only through other sources or otherwise mediated. Ian Clark has confronted this problem in his history of the Coranderrk Aboriginal station. His insights will be of interest to all of us involved in local history. Professor Clark's PhD sought to document Aboriginal land tenure in western Victoria and to understand the processes of dispossession in the region. He has written extensively on Victorian Aboriginal history including editing the journals and papers of George Augustus Robinson. Ian Clark is Professor at the Faculty of Business, Federation University, Ballarat.

Publishing primary documents such as diaries and correspondence is a fraught endeavour. Editors are often confronted by the need to condense and abridge content and remove material they deem less relevant. Researchers confront the same issues when they find quoted material containing ellipses. But relevance is such a loaded term – how do we determine what is relevant and how do we account for the fact that relevance is never fixed or absolute?

This problem was front of mind recently when I began researching the history of tourism at Coranderrk Aboriginal station. I found Aldo Massola's 1975 history (*Coranderrk: a history of the Aboriginal station* [Kilmore, Vic. : Lowden Publishing, 1975]) very useful – but became immediately concerned with his abridgement of the personal diary of Natalie Robarts. The last matron of Coranderrk, she served from 1909 until closure of the station in early 1924. The diary was comprised of four parts. Massola condensed the first three parts; Natalie's son, Maurice, provided him with a condensation of the fourth part. Why the fourth part was not loaned to Massola is unknown.

Massola explained that he had intended to publish the diary in its entirety, but 'there were a number of repetitions', so he 'extracted from the diary what I believe are enough entries to illustrate what went on at the station ...' (Massola p. ix). Given the problems associated with condensations, I decided to consult the diaries myself and examine Massola's and Maurice Robarts' redactions. Depending on what was omitted, I would consider publishing the diary in full. What became of the first three parts is not known. It is possible that they were never returned to the Robarts family, owing to the death of Aldo Massola in July 1975. In an obituary in *The Herald* (11/11/1975) Andrew McKay revealed that Massola's widow, 'Mary Massola had the diaries with the last spidery entries [Aldo] made in his hospital bed; they all refer to the book'. I have made contact with the Massola family but they do not know anything of the whereabouts of the diaries – presumably they have been lost.

My search for the diaries led me nowhere, so I set out to find descendants of the diarist hoping that they may hold the diaries or know their whereabouts. Through the now-closed genealogical website www.mundia.com I found Natalie Robarts's great granddaughter, and I



Charles and Natalie Robarts and family with members of the Coranderrk Aboriginal community. Photo by Samuel Leuba, reprinted with permission of the Leuba family.

learned that she had in her possession some old photographs, some typed manuscripts of stories by Robarts, and part four of Robarts's diary. Her brother, who now lives in the United States, also had a number of manuscripts in his possession, including handwritten reminiscences from his grandfather. With the exception of three photographs that were reproduced in Massola's publication, the other photographs published by Massola, and the first three parts of Robarts's diary were missing.

So what are the lessons from this little sortie? The first is the problem with condensed versions – they reflect the biases and interests of the redactor; what is excised from the original manuscript may have been tailored for another purpose. The second is the value of thinking laterally – if you can't recover a primary source that has been redacted try and make contact with families who have a connection to the material. The third is the value of the Internet for micro-historical researches – it has enabled connections to be made in ways that were never as accessible before the computer age.

Ian D. Clark

Nail Can to Knighthood: the life of Sir Macpherson Robertson

Since our exhibition about the life of Sir Macpherson Robertson opened in July, we have enjoyed meeting many former employees who have visited and shared their memories. We have heard stories of staff romances, children's Christmas parties, and chocolate packer's anecdotes.

We have enjoyed meeting visitors who remember the poems on the back of the Willow Prints Box and the story of the boy who stole the cherries on the back of the Cherry Ripe package.

One volunteer here at the RHSV remembers in the 1940s, a regular Sunday morning outing was to catch the bus along Johnston Street to Smith Street, where, in exchange for a bottle of beer, the Night Watchman traded broken chocolates.

The exhibition has also attracted collectors and we have been

delighted to see examples of Macpherson Robertson letter head and other ephemera.

The exhibition at the RHSV continues until 18 December.

Further information about Sir Macpherson Robertson can be found on the Culture Victoria website:

www.culturevictoria.com/stories/built-environment/macrobersons-confectionary-factory/

MacRoberston Historical Walk

Fitzroy Historical Society will be leading a walk of MacRoberston factories in Fitzroy on Sunday 19 October.

Further details: www.historyweek.org.au or 9326 9288

'Writing Local History' Seminars

The RHSV is continuing a series of seminars on 'Writing Local History.' The seminars are led by Dr Rosalie Triolo, RHSV Councillor, Past President of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria and the Method of History lecturer at Monash University. Seminars have been held in Benalla and Hamilton; sessions in Sale and Melbourne follow soon.

The workshops are collegial and interactive. Participants sharing details of past publications (placed on a display table for discussion during the breaks) as well as plans for future work. Sessions across each day include 'appetisers': brief readings, audio-visual prompts, a variety of questions and engaging tasks for completion by participants individually, in pairs or in small groups. What can't be covered in the time available is supplied as larger readings and sets of activities that participants may take away for consideration at their convenience.

The workshops also draw participants' attention to the excellent publication written by Helen Doyle and Katya Johansen for the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, *Publishing History: A Guide for Historical Societies*, 2006, available free for download from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies website at <http://www.history.org.au/Publishing.html>

If you haven't attended, don't miss the next sessions: Sale (Saturday 17 October, address available on booking) or Melbourne, RHSV Headquarters at the Drill Hall, (Saturday 14 November).



Local historians at work at the recent Hamilton seminar.

For the full program, visit <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/seminars-and-workshops>.

Free to members of RHSV and members of affiliated historical societies. Non-members most welcome: \$20.

To book, please telephone 9326 9288 or email office@historyvictoria.org.au

These seminars are made possible from a grant from John T. Reid Charitable Trusts.

Charles Sowerwine

Feedback on the seminars

The reception of seminars to date has been magnificent, and has included such comments as:

It was a brilliant day. I found the scope of topics covered, and the most helpful suggestions for defining a possible methodology for my own research of twenty years were extremely worthwhile. Rosalie's presentation was very well ordered and easy to follow, and she allowed all participants to tease out new ideas and to widen their approaches to writing local history.

and

Just wanted to let you know the workshop on Writing Local History was excellent, learnt heaps! Presenter Rosalie Triolo was very knowledgeable and had an easy style to get her message across and in keeping with what attendees were looking for. Particularly good handouts to take home for future reference - I'm sure the standard of local history writing is now on the up and up after this session!

RHSV President wins history award

At the 2015 History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) Annual Conference held on 23 July at Flemington racecourse, Don Garden received the award for 'Excellent and Sustained Contribution to History Education and to the History Teachers' Association of Victoria'.

Don has contributed for over 40 years to the life of HTAV, particularly to senior secondary Australian History. He commenced his career as a teacher of History in the early 1970s and soon joined the committee of the Victorian Historical Association (VHA), which was HTAV's forerunner.

He was editor of the early *Agora*, contributing articles as well as modernising its design. He was also active in VHA's then HTAV's 'safaris', which saw historians and History teachers travel to remote destinations to deliver HSC lectures to teachers and students who could not easily access such expertise.

Don continued with VHA into his tertiary career but never lost interest in school History. He delivered HSC student lectures, helped re-design the HSC Australian History course in the 1980s, and helped review the HSC course in the early 1990s. In the mid-1990s, when associated with

the History Council of Victoria, he worked with HTAV in the organisation of lectures for the general public but tailored also to teachers' needs. Don was also a member of the HSC Australian History Writing Panel in the mid-late 1980s.

Following a short break, he has been continuously associated with senior secondary school Australian History from HSC in the early 1990s to VCE in the present. He remains keen for membership, resource and other collaborations between HTAV and the RHSV as well as the FAHS that strengthen each as well as the teaching of Australian History in Schools.

Don pursued these activities alongside his successful academic career, teaching at the University of Melbourne and writing 17 books, in which he established himself as a pioneering historian of the environment. His most recent books include *Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific: an environmental history* (2005) and *Droughts, floods and cyclones: El Niños that shaped our colonial past* (2009)..



A/P Don Garden, President, RHSV, receiving HTAV Award, with Dr Rosalie Triolo, RHSV Councillor and Past President, HTAV.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have recently been reading through the entries in the Victorian Community History Awards and I am immensely impressed with the work that is being undertaken in Victorian history and heritage. There has been a noticeable and steady rise in the quality of research, writing and publication (in conventional and multi-media formats) in recent years as more experience and the wonders of Trove and other new technologies revolutionise our craft. A particular emphasis of the work in the last year has been on marking the centenary of Gallipoli and WWI and there has been some amazing industry and productivity in compiling and recording the impact of those events on local communities. I congratulate all involved. The winners of the VCHA will be announced on 19 October.



The RHSV is currently assisting societies to lift standards even higher by offering members a series of four day-long seminars on 'Writing Local History'. These are taking place in Benalla, Hamilton, Sale and at the RHSV – the last two will be held after the publication of this edition of *History News*, so you are not too late. They are being conducted by Dr Rosalie Triolo, RHSV Councillor, Past President of the History Teachers Association of Victoria and the Method of History lecturer at Monash University. Congratulation and thanks to Rosalie.

It is important to express our gratitude for the support of the seminar sponsors, the John T. Reid Charitable Trusts. Without their support the RHSV would not be able to offer this wonderful service to our members.

There has been a steady stream of visitors through the door of the Drill hall, both for the usual research, bookshop and general business, and to see the highly successful MacRobertsons exhibition. Make sure you pay a visit if you have not yet seen it.

We are currently examining options to assist people with mobility problems to be able to reach our lecture room on the first floor. It is a challenging project, but one we are determined to tackle once the government has arranged long-term security in the building. On that matter, however, we are more optimistic as Planning Minister Richard Wynne has arranged to visit us at the Drill Hall in October to see our operations and to discuss future arrangements.

A particular concern for us at the RHSV is to see the continued erosion and loss of Victoria's built heritage. There have been many losses and some victories, and it is appreciated that local societies are increasingly taking up heritage battles. Nepean, for example, has a long history of reviewing planning applications and resisting inappropriate development. As Chips Sowerwine explains in this issue, the incoming Minister of Planning has undertaken a review of the Heritage Act 1995 and the RHSV has made a submission to the review. Let's hope that we will see substantial improvements and that they will translate into greater certainty for the maintenance of our heritage.

RHSV members have a crucial role to play in keeping an eye out for threats to heritage, in helping to raise the alarm when necessary, and in organising local opposition to loss of valued heritage. Keep up the good work!

Don Garden

President



Heritage house faces bulldozer

Arden: The bulldozer has arrived at 1045 Burke Road

On 21 August this year, wreckers began demolition of 'Arden', a beautiful Edwardian house built in 1906, at 1045 Burke Road, on the border of Camberwell and East Hawthorn. Coral Ross, Mayor of Boroondara, points out that 'Arden' was 'notable for its unusual splayed corner on a Queen Anne design, which took full advantage of its corner site'. 'Arden' was also significant for its garden, designed in 1928 by Edna Walling (1895-1973), one of Australia's most influential landscape designers. And, while Walling was designing the garden, St Mark's Anglican Church opened across Burke Road from 'Arden'. The two complemented each other until last month. Now house and garden are gone.

What made Arden's demolition notable was that it was 'protected' by a Heritage Overlay. This didn't stop developer 1045 Burke Road Pty Ltd from asking Boroondara Council for a planning permit to demolish Arden and build a four-storey complex with 33 apartments. Council refused because of the Heritage Overlay, but the developer went to VCAT. VCAT admitted 'that the building has a level of significance such that demolition is not justified in terms of purely heritage considerations', but went on to overturn Council's refusal because 'the loss of a representative example of a type of building [Arden] is *balanced* [my emphasis] against other objectives sought by the planning scheme'.

Council had argued that 'balancing' other issues against heritage was not appropriate and that VCAT should have considered heritage alone. Council took the case to the Supreme Court, but, in March 2014, it too ruled in favour of demolition. The case went to the Appeals Court, which again upheld VCAT's decision. We might think that heritage protection makes a building safe from demolition for development, but these rulings mean that heritage will be balanced against other planning benefits.

All too often, this is the case. Is heritage just another consideration or should it be regarded as special and a priority? RMIT Professor Michael Buxton, speaking earlier this year on 'protecting heritage' at a History Victoria Support Group seminar held at the RHSV, said that heritage is the poor relation and is considered last after all other competing priorities are considered. He implied that heritage should be on top of the list. Unless such priorities are drafted into the law, heritage will continue to take second place to other considerations.

St Mark's Church, Camberwell, will soon have a new neighbour, which it may find strangely out of place and which will certainly diminish Camberwell's old-world charm.

George Fernando

(President, Camberwell Historical Society)

RHSV takes conservation stand

The RHSV is greatly pleased that Richard Wynne, the incoming Minister for Planning, has named new members to the Heritage Council, filling vacancies left by the previous government. As a result, the Council is now at full strength (ten members and ten alternates), which will greatly strengthen the Council and thus improve heritage protection.

The new Chair is Professor Stuart Macintyre, AO, one of Australia's leading historians, responsible, with Alison Bashford, for *The Cambridge History of Australia*. Also appointed is another fine historian, Dr Andrew May, known for the *Encyclopedia of Melbourne* (<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/about.html>). In addition, the Council includes representatives from archaeology, architecture, building, property management, the general community and the National Trust.

The RHSV is also very pleased that Minister Wynne is currently reviewing the Heritage Act. The Kennett Liberal government's Heritage Act 1995 weakened the original 1973 heritage law, a far-sighted initiative of the Hamer Liberal government. A position paper was issued and submissions were due by 30 August (see <http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/heritage/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-act-review-2015>).

The position paper suggested some useful improvements to the Act. The RHSV is hopeful that these will be implemented. We congratulate Minister Wynne on acting.

Arden in Camberwell was recently demolished, as my colleague George Fernando writes (see p. 6 of this issue), even though it was subject to a Heritage Overlay. Such a planning 'overlay' is the only tool available to local councils to protect heritage buildings and precincts. But VCAT, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals all affirmed that, under current planning laws, heritage must be 'balanced' against other planning objectives, such as more housing. All too often 'balancing' means over-riding heritage. Again, should not local heritage listing, once confirmed by appropriate authority, ensure protection from development?

Charsfield, a superb 1889 mansion at 478 St Kilda Road (see photo), is registered on the Victorian Heritage Database: 'architecturally significant as a finely detailed and well composed Italianate mansion designed by the prominent firm of Charles Webb and Sons. It is also significant for its strong stylistic connection to the Windsor Hotel, one of Webb's major works'. Webb was one of the leading architects of marvellous Melbourne, responsible for Royal Arcade, Tasma Terrace, Melbourne Grammar and Wesley College.

In June, Beijing-based Ever Bright Group paid \$28 million for Charsfield, currently a boutique hotel. Ever Bright announced plans to build 'New Charsfield', a 130 apartment, 15-level tower, just four meters behind Charsfield, dwarfing the original building.

The most important reason for Charsfield's listing is its scale: 'one of the few remaining buildings indicative of the residential scale which once dominated St Kilda Road and established it as a fashionable boulevard and prestigious residential area (Criterion A.4)'. That scale will be lost (see photo).

While Charsfield won't be demolished, its 'guest house wing' will go, even though it too is registered 'for its association with the second phase of St Kilda's development when many of the large mansions were converted into guest houses and flats in the 1920s and 30s (Criterion A.4)'.

The heritage planning for Charsfield is not yet clear, but \$28 million says the development will go ahead. State heritage listing does not, apparently, guarantee survival of the whole or survival of the characteristics which make it notable.

Seeking to address these and other weaknesses in our heritage protection, the RHSV made a submission to the review (which can be read in full at <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/recent-submissions-by->). The aim of our submission is to ensure that heritage protection is permanent and overrides regular planning law except in the most exceptional circumstances.

We addressed four issues

The first is the power given to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria:

The Act gives sweeping and unchecked power to the Executive Director in relation not only 'to recommend to the Heritage Council the registration of any place or object or the removal of places and objects from the Heritage Register or the amendment of the Heritage Register' (s. 15 b) but also 'to determine applications for permits and consents under this Act' (s. 15 c). In effect, this makes a politically appointed bureaucrat the ultimate authority determining which applications come before Council and, most importantly, the determining authority for permits to alter or even demolish buildings or objects on the Register. And, while the Act specifies the qualifications of members of Council (s. 7 2 a), it specifies nothing about the Executive Director's qualifications.



Charsfield, 478 St Kilda Road, in 2014



New Charsfield – artist's impression.

The second issue is the weighting given to economic issues. The owner of a listed building can apply for its demolition if she or he can show that maintaining it will cause 'undue financial hardship.' We welcomed a proposal in the position paper to remove this provision, but pointed out:

The RHSV notes, however, that 'the provision for consideration of 'reasonable or economic use' will be retained' (Review Paper, p. 8). While the RHSV accepts giving consideration to 'reasonable or economic use' (s. 73, 1 a), we submit that proposals for use or estimates of economic viability formulated at one particular time should not outweigh 'the extent to which the application, if approved, would affect the cultural heritage significance of the registered place or registered object' (s. 73, 1 a & b) over the long-term. A current economic use may change; an analysis at one time for one owner and for one use of

continued over page



a building may prove inadequate. Yet on the basis of one such often limited analysis, a building may be significantly altered or demolished and then is gone forever.

The third issue we addressed is the Minister's Power to Call in Applications or Refer Applications to VCAT 'if in the Minister's opinion the determination of the appeal may have a significant effect on the achievement or development of planning and heritage objectives.'

The Minister's power to call in a decision under ss. 43 and 78 is without any checks or balances. The whole point of the Heritage Act is to ensure that our cultural heritage is preserved for the future precisely in the case that current fashions or economic pressures may lead to alteration or demolition.

VCAT does not have and is unlikely ever to have the expertise required to deal with planning issues. This power [to refer cases to VCAT] is simply a means of circumventing Council and transforming heritage issues into planning issues, with considerable potential for loss of heritage.

The fourth issue is the role of local councils. At present, the state washes its hands of local heritage issues. If a council refuses a permit because of a building on its own local heritage register, a developer can go to VCAT, where the heritage protection is often overruled.

Local heritage protection through overlays of buildings or precincts is too important to be left to local Councils. Local Councils are under-resourced to deal with such matters. Few Councils have officers with heritage expertise; those that do generally only employ them on a limited part-time basis.

More importantly, local heritage overlays tend to be considered alongside planning issues and Council planning officers are often focussed on these planning issues to the detriment of heritage considerations. Moreover, even when Councils do refuse permits on grounds which include heritage, they are often challenged by developers and taken to VCAT, where heritage issues get short shrift.

consist of a member or members with an in-depth and up-to-date knowledge of heritage legislation and practice'—Review Paper, p. 9), VCAT does not have the expertise and is unlikely to gain it to the extent required to deal appropriately with heritage issues. These issues are often raised in the context of a planning dispute in which the heritage aspect is often submerged in planning considerations.

The RHSV therefore submits that:

- Local Heritage Overlays should be subject to state overview and responsibility.
When considering planning issues involving Local Heritage Overlays, local Councils and, a fortiori, VCAT, be required to seek advice from the Heritage Council and take into consideration the long-term cultural impact of the proposal.

George Fernando asks whether economic

development must always take priority over heritage.

Heritage is not at odds with development, but it is sometimes at odds with development according to the developers' script. Development needs to build on heritage rather than destroy it, for it is heritage that makes areas attractive to developers.

We need to change the planning system so that other factors don't override heritage protection, before too many more neighbourhoods lose their character and before the terrible planning of recent years destroys Melbourne's character.

Charles Sowerwine

Advertisement for 'THESE WALLS SPEAK VOLUMES: A HISTORY OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA' by Pam Baragwanath and Ken James. Includes book cover image, pre-order form, and payment details.



BOOKS RECEIVED

Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RSHV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in Books Received.

Leaving Their Mark, A tribute to those who left their mark and reside in the Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Est. 1858

Pauline Turville et al. (eds), Friends of Boroondara Kew Cemetery Inc., 2014, pp. 128. ISBN 9780987480019.

Established in 1859, Kew is a substantial cemetery with outstanding heritage values. Its Friends have produced an excellent guide to some of its graves divided into themes – pastoralists and pioneers including the Hentys; artists including Georgiana McCrae; business including John Wren; Kew notables; law including Owen Dixon; medicine including Constance Stone; household names including EW Cole; military including Evelyn Conyers; music including Alberto Zelman; politics including Bob Santamaria; professionals including John Beswicke; religion including JG Paton; sport including HCA Harrison; entertainers and entrepreneurs including Nellie Stewart; untimely ends including HS Wills; and Kelly connections. Each entry has a short biography. Many have a photo. Well-indexed with acknowledgement of sources.

'Great Courage and Initiative' The Heroic Life of George Ingram VC, MM

AJ McAleer, Wandin & District Historical Museum Society Inc. and Mont de Lancey Historic Homestead & Museum, 71 Wellington Rd, Wandin North, 3139, 2015, pp. 187. ISBN 9780992399122.

This book records the life of George Mawby awarded the VC for his actions at Montbrehain in October 1918. His family had orchards at Bagot and later at Seville. George joined the militia, became a carpenter, and volunteered for overseas service when war broke out and was sent to Rabaul where he contracted malaria and was invalided back to Australia. He re-enlisted eventually arrived in France in January 1917 as a reinforcement for 24 Battalion. Soon afterwards he won the Military Medal for his actions at Bapaume. In the ensuing time he was promoted to lieutenant, suffered crippling injuries but was back with his battalion for the last weeks of the war and his VC at Montbrehain. Injury and ill-health dogged his life after the war when he was variously a soldier settler, Shrine Guard, AIF training officer in World War 2 and foreman in the building industry.

Making Herstory, Voices of the Thwaites and Fitzpatrick Women Across Time and Place

Helen Downey with Lorraine Secen, Melbourne Books, 2014, pp. 227, \$29-95. ISBN 9781922129604.

The author uses the diaries and letters of mother and daughter, Ethel and Theodora Fitzpatrick to reconstruct their experiences from the late 19th century to the 1940s from a feminist perspective. The result is a thought-provoking search for context and explanation. In the process, there is much about life in Queenscliff and about Theo's intrepid walking in the Tasmanian wilderness.

A History of Green Hill

Ken James and Noel Davis, the authors, 2014, pp. 332. ISBN 9780992308742.

Another book about districts in the Kyneton area from these prolific authors. This volume collects material about its schools, teachers, services like the railway and post office, hotels, community activities and events and much more. It carries illustrations, useful appendices and a comprehensive index of surnames that must be valuable for genealogists.

Eaglehawk's Welsh Churches

Ken James, the author, 2015, pp. 47. ISBN 9780992398766.

A comprehensive account of the Welsh Congregational and the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Churches, Welsh interments in Eaglehawk Cemetery and lists of Welsh pioneers. It also has a surname index.

Anthology Stories of Respect, Dignity and Hope

Anthony Antoniadis, Jeremy Kong and others, Servants Community Housing Inc., 36 Barton Street, Hawthorn, 3122, 2011, pp. 80. ISBN 9780646553764.

Narrative

Zoe Bradley (ed.), Servants Community Housing Inc., 36 Barton Street, Hawthorn, 3122, 2014, pp. 124.

These two books are the result of collaboration between Servants Community Housing, a not-for-profit organization with houses for single people in Hawthorn, Kew and Canterbury and students from local secondary schools who wrote the residents' stories. Each book contains excellent photography by Esther Ling. The whole project is an engaging one with apparently mutual benefits for the residents whose oral stories are collected and told and for the educational experience of the students involved.

Yours Faithfully, Henry Tewsley from his personal letterbook of the colonial years 1854-78

Ally McBride (ed.), Ally McBride, dawson-tewsley@gmail.com, 2015, pp. 227. ISBN 9780473320348.

Henry Tewsley migrated from England to Victoria in 1852. After a short time at the diggings, he established himself in a drapery business in Brunswick Street in 1854. Subsequently he lived and worked in Geelong until he moved to Dunedin in 1864 as finance manager for Sargood, King and Sargood, the large drapery firm operating in London as

well as Melbourne and Dunedin. Tewsley's letter book has survived and his extensive letters provide the vehicle by which the editor, a descendant, constructs an account of Tewsley's life. There are many reflections on Victorian society in the period of the Gold Rush and its aftermath, as well as detail about early Dunedin. Tewsley died in 1879. This book suggests that there are rich pickings for social historians in Henry's letters.

He Volunteered For Service, The Men of Rye and District who enlisted during WW1

Linda Berndt, Daniells Burns, Pauline Powell, Rye Historical Society, PO Box 65, Rye, 3941, 2015, pp. 159. ISBN 9780994267306.

An attractively produced account of the 25 Rye enlisted men from the Great War. Three were killed in action. Carefully and exhaustively researched and well illustrated, this book also provides useful information about war medals, internet sites, the local honour board, a war timeline, all providing a solid context for the stories of the Rye men.

Inglewood Tidings From The Front WW1, Transcripts from the Inglewood Advertiser Tidings of WW1, Section One, 1914-1915; Section Two 1916; Section Three 1917; Section Four 1918

Inglewood and District Historical Society, historicalsociety@inglewood.vic.au, 2015, pp. 170: pp. 160: pp. 106: pp.172., \$25 + \$15 postage. ISBN 9780994245403.

Inglewood & Districts Soldiders' Memorials WW1. 1915-1918.

Inglewood and District Historical Society, historicalsociety@inglewood.vic.au, 2015,

pp. 649, \$25 + \$15 postage. ISBN 9780994245410.

These are massive compilations representing considerable efforts by the Inglewood society. The volumes emphasize the importance of the local newspaper as a means of communication in the period of the war. Each contains photos and comprehensive name indexes that will help genealogists.

Name, Rank and Number, Remembering the men and women from Newham and Woodend Shire who served in WW2

Sylvia Boxshall, Woodend & District Historical Society, PO Box 124, Woodend, 3442, 2014, pp. 358, \$39-70 + postage. ISBN 978097501492.

The author adds to earlier work on local enlistments for the Boer War and World War 1 with this latest well-researched, well-illustrated book detailing enlistments from Newham and Woodend for WW2. The focus is on what was happening away from Woodend but as the author noted in her foreword, the volunteers left social and economic gaps in their community, as well as suffering and concern for their families and friends. Perhaps that should be the focus of another book.

**AROUND THE SOCIETIES**

The column is compiled by volunteers Helen Boak and Lenore Frost on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group. For the 1 December 2015 issue please send forthcoming events and your newsletters to: office@historyvictoria.org.au by 10 November 2015.

BELLARINE: Many of our football clubs history date to the 1870s. In 1886 Birregurra team left on the 6.00 am train to Drysdale were driven to Portarlington, returning to Geelong on the *SS Alert* in time to catch the last train to Birregurra. If anyone has photos of early football teams of the district please send a copy with subject detail to PO Box 53, Drysdale 3222.

BOROONDARA (KEW) CEMETERY: *"Leaving Their Mark" the Story of the Borooandara cemetery and those buried here.* Our new book is a tribute to some of those people whose lives and actions impacted on Kew, Melbourne and Victoria. To obtain your copy email info@fobkc.org or call 9817 1829. Cost \$25 (+\$10 p&h).

BRIGHT: From the *Alpine Observer* in 1914. "In Victoria our Liquor costs us 5,309,273 pound. We know that the Vast Industry associated with ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR is for the most part, ONLY A PARASITE on All Other Industries. For Every Man the Liquor Trade keeps in employment it makes another man A Public Charge. Vote ... NO LICENSE".

BRIGHTON: 'Ghost signs' are the faded traces of hand-painted signs advertising former brands and businesses, and can be found throughout Melbourne, either slowly fading on walls and hoardings or temporarily uncovered through building alterations. For more information try the blog *Glimpses of Old Melbourne* and Facebook page *Melbourne Ghost Signs*.

CAMPERDOWN: On Sunday 11 October join us for a tour of the Stony Rises old Rabbit Factory and also see two amazing dry stone causeways constructed to provide access to orchards established to provide fruit for canning. Afternoon tea is at the historic Stony Rises Homestead. Bookings: 0424 220 809.

CHELSEA: A great way to record our history with contributions in the section: *Do you remember when* One of the memories was getting dressed up and going to Melbourne by train for shopping at the major stores who delivered your parcels (no charge) to your door within a few days.

COLAC: Cliff Young, potato farmer from Beech Forest, won the inaugural Westfield Sydney to Melbourne ultra-marathon in 1983. The cup he won has returned to Colac from Queensland where he spent his later life. It is on display at our History Centre. Cluffy inspired people though his sheer determination.

EAST GIPPSLAND: Bairnsdale was privileged to host a recent Heritage Victoria workshop on maintaining memorials. It was suggested that buildings or monuments should be photographed every 12 months to provide evidence and indications of any deterioration. Any repair should be recorded and cleaning of moss and lichens carefully considered as these provide protection.

ELTHAM: As the purchaser of a Grand Estate cemetery plot in the Eltham Cemetery Harold Mitchell AC was required to commission an artist to design and make a contemporary sculpture. The result reflects the unique environment and artistic heritage of Eltham. The Cemetery adjoins Montsalvat and is well worth a visit.

FITZROY: Opposite the Fitzroy Town Hall is the site of St. Helena Cottage and garden established in 1839 by Anthony Beale. His diary records the development of the garden, with lists of plants, plans, sketches and work done by his family, and even the contribution of the family's tutor. It is probably the earliest documented garden in Victoria.

FOOTSCRAY: Two artists have been chosen to record changes in seven of Footscray's urban landscape over five years. Following our research and taking advice from our volunteer historians they will photograph, record, plan, manage, promote and curate two exhibitions per year, producing catalogues of the exhibitions for use as a permanent record.

GULF STATION: As part of Seniors Week on Sunday October 4, 10am-4pm there will be sheepdog trials, shearing, property tours, children's activities, refreshments and music. There will also be activities for Healesville Heritage Festival October 17-18, 9am-5pm and 10am Sunday. For further information or if you can assist contact: 9735 5772.

HEIDELBERG: The Oral History Programme has contributed another layer of information for researchers. We will continue to capture a broad range of personal accounts illuminating the lives of our long term residents. The collection so far can be viewed, listened to, or transcripts read at the historical society on Sunday afternoons Contact: heidelberg.historical.society@gmail.com.

HORSHAM: Vehicles from Yesterday – One of these was the "Night Cart" designed to cart away the sanitary can, known as the dunny. This is why the early subdivisions for housing, before sewerage schemes had a rear lane. The contents of the cans were officially known as "Night Soil" and in Horsham's case buried in sand hills near Haven.

KOO-WEE-RUP SWAMP: An anonymous donor deposited a heap of old *Koo-wee-Rup Suns* on our doorstep giving us an interesting source of reading. Once we get all the *Suns* from 1919 to 1981 onto one disc how much of our time can be taken up with looking back at the past!

KYNETON: WANTED – A Ferguson Spanner, these were issued with every tractor sold. They were issued to measure the width and depth of the furrows when ploughing and are useful for dipping the fuel tank. It was also handy to throw at the dog if he cocked his leg! Contact: 0418 545 648.

LANDSBOROUGH: *News from The Pyrenees* by Pamela Dunn is a compilation of extracts from *The Ballarat Star* between 7 March 1859 and 5 March 1863. It includes gold discoveries, politics, droughts, crimes, stick ups, murders, deprivation and degradation, racism, sport and even theatre reviews! Cost is \$35 plus post and handling. Contact: 9460 2214

LILYDALE: Listen to us on Radio Station 98.1 Radio Eastern FM on the second Tuesday in the month from 9.30am to 10am. We have members willing to give talks on the following topics: Melba, aspects of Lilydale Township and its history, Lilydale Cemetery, the *Lilydale Express* newspaper and Lilydale's military history. Contact: 9735 1104.

LINTON: A reviewer of *Linton Makes History* states this new book is not just a narrative history of the town. It is one of those rare local histories that illuminate the experiences of an entire community not just cataloguing important people and events. Available for \$30 plus \$8.00 postage PO Box 41, Linton 3360

MALVERN: Our newsletter articles are researched from the Stonnington History Centre Collection who have a database with a collection of over 60,000 records and photos. To conduct your own research or view the photographs just go to www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history. There is also a website where you can share information and stories about Australia's heritage: www.communityheritage.net.au.

MIDLANDS/MARYBOROUGH: An article in *Diggings* highlights the costs for all societies in maintaining their premises and activities. Major costs to be covered include insurance, electricity, telephone and internet along with water and repairs. Some beneficial fundraising activities are attracting groups, participating in local festivals and charging for research. Share your innovative ideas with your neighbouring society.

MIRBOO: Our local paper has for many years donated a copy to the society. This ensures that there is a copy available locally for research in the future. We have them bound into annual volumes. Also see our Facebook page Mirboo & District Historical Society. Give us a like and post some comments on the photos.

MOE: From the *Gippsland Times* 1862: The Eagle Hotel – Moe River is now undergoing repairs and will be refurbished immediately. The Wines and Spirits will be of first-class quality, and particular attention will be paid to the stable and where the most moderate charges will be exacted for a good feed. Settler will find this "house to possess comfort, cheapness and cleanliness, and will vie for good fare – against any house on the Melbourne Road, Moe".

MORNINGTON: Join us in October for one of our History week activities. On Sunday October 25 the Mornington Cemetery Walk: \$5.00 with Val Wilson OAM commences at 1.30 pm. On October 29 at 5.00pm the "Leslie Moorhead Lecture" is at St James the Less Church in Mt Eliza for its 150th Anniversary: cost \$10.00. Bookings: 5976 3203.

MOUNT EVELYN: There were attractive and different Winged Lion seats in Mt Evelyn in the 1950's, so a sub-committee was formed to investigate the history of the seat duplicate it and install replicas. If anyone is interested in purchasing or donating one of the seats please contact: pherlihy3@gmail.com or use our new email address mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com.

NEPEAN: Located at 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento our society has free entry to the



Museum for Seniors' on Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. A benefit of having a Heritage and Planning convenor has been the Shire sending us a draft proposal concerning heritage guidelines for the Ocean Beach precinct in Sorrento for our comments.

NORTH MELBOURNE: Join Hotham History on Saturday, October 10 at 2.00pm for a walk discovering prominent builder John Jones. Explore the history of the 20 surviving houses including who lived in the houses and where they worked. The walk will start at the corner of King and Roden Streets at 2.00pm. Contact: 9328 9700.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS: We have seen the amazing difference members and supporters have made to the historical collection over the years by their book and financial donations, and we continue to be happily surprised and appreciative of people's generosity. Recently we received two special books on Melbourne and Victoria published in 1888.

RYE: Victoria's border is the River Murray and what appears to be a straight line from the start of the Murray down to the coast at Cape Howe. This is The Black-Allan line named after surveyors Alexander Black and Alexander Allan, who in 1870, spent two years surveying the line delineating the two colonies.

ST KILDA CEMETERY: As part of Senior's Week, seniors are invited to join an easy walk around the cemetery along main paths to visit the graves of some of the famous notable interments in the cemetery. The walk is on Tuesday 6 October at 10.00 am. Bookings are required: 9531 6832.

SALVATION ARMY: The author of The Melbourne Staff Band story has discovered a treasure trove of off-beat pictures gathered during many tours by Army bands. These pictures will be explained and commented on by some tour participants at the meeting on Saturday 21 November. It should be a fun and inspiring time. Contact: 9841 8105.

SEYMOUR: The first permanent military presence in Seymour was in 1887, when the Seymour Troop of volunteer militia was formed as part of the Victorian Mounted Rifles. The troops trained on the hills and plains around the area. The Victorian Mounted

Rifles saw action against Boer Guerrillas in the South African (Boer) War of 1899-1902.

SOMERVILLE/TYABB: A 1930 plumber Mr Les Brown was the local Mr Fix-it. He was an expert in soldering and plugging a leaking tap, tank or roof gutters. His mode of transport was a push bike and he could be seen carrying a twenty foot length of galvanised pipe and equipment on his way to a job.

STAWELL: Our latest historical addition is an account journal from CW Carter's General Store. The journal, in excellent condition will be a useful tool for research. We appreciate any historical materials or artefacts so please contact us if you have something of interest or relevance to our local area. Email: stawhist@bigpond.com Phone 5358 3789.

STRATFORD: A great day out is on at our Heritage Farm Day "Horses to Horsepower" on Sunday October 11 from 10 am to 4pm at Pine Lodge Reserve Llowalong Road. There will be displays and demonstrations by fourteen different groups. Entry is only \$5.00, children free. Lunch, BBQ and morning and afternoon teas available.


WANGARATTA: Promotion of our society: following Council visits, a number of strategies to promote our society to the community have been undertaken. An article was published in the Council's newsletter and a link to us was placed on Council's website. Information and a link and email were also placed on the website <http://www.visitvictoria.com>.

WARRACKNABEAL: It is planned that the Oryan wheat recently sown near our Machinery Museum will be harvested by the Sunshine strippers and harvesters at the next Rally at Easter 2015. We will be featuring all things "Sunshine" and will provide a great spectacle for our visitors to the town. Contact: warracknabealhistory@gmail.com.

WHITEHORSE: Seven generations of the McAuley family have lived in the Warrandyte area firstly to search for gold. Descendant Bill McAuley recently spoke to the society on his career as a newspaper and magazine photographer in Melbourne and abroad. His passion is now for photographing old and abandoned homesteads around Victoria

YARRA GLEN: In the early 1850s Victoria had seven separate bodies of police operating independently: the City Police, the Geelong Police, the Gold Fields Police, the Water Police, the Rural Bench Constabulary, the Mounted Police and the Escort. The *Police Regulation Act* was passed in 1853 to centralise control under the colonial government rather than with local magistrates.

YARRAWONGA-MULWALA: Lobbying pays off. We have saved the historic Yarrowonga Railway Station from demolition. The 'Save Our Station' sub-committee convinced VicTrack that the building is worthy of conservation and refurbishing for future generations. The renovated station was opened in mid-August, and the rooms are now popular meeting places for various community groups.



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**TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER****Labassa: One Historic Property, 700 Private Lives****Speaker:** Vicki Shuttleworth**Time:** Drinks 5.15 Lecture 5.45**Cost:** Members Free

Non Members \$10.00

The National Trust property Labassa in Caulfield is known for its opulent architecture and lavish nineteenth century interior. Few are aware, however, that around 700 people have lived at Labassa since 1863, the vast majority of them after 1920 when it was converted into flats. Vicki Shuttleworth has documented these residents' stories: war brides, war heroes, socialites, Holocaust survivors, painters, poets and musicians.

With so many voices, competing narratives and layers of meaning is it possible to form a coherent understanding of this property's social history? What are the intellectual and moral responsibilities of a researcher in documenting personal confidences and uncovering family secrets? The talk will focus on how such challenges have been addressed through the use of an unconventional methodology.

The talk includes a presentation of previously unpublished images discovered or donated during the course of the *Labassa Lives* project.

Vicki Shuttleworth has been a history teacher, film researcher, editor and publisher.

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER**History Victoria Bookshop Celebrates its First Birthday!****A 2015 HISTORY WEEK EVENT**

You are invited to celebrate the first year of operation of the History Victoria Bookshop, specialising in Victorian history, to be held on:

Friday 23 October at 11 am.**Light refreshments will be served.****The Bookshop is at the RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.****RSVP office@historyvictoria.org.au or ring 9326 9288 by Thursday 22 October.**

Victorian Community History Awards 2015 entries will be on display, and many will be available for sale.

Special guest **Anne Vale**, Winner VCHA 2014 for *Exceptional Australian Garden Makers*.

The HistoryVictoria Bookshop is Victoria's only specialist supplier of Victorian history books. It operates mainly online, at www.historyvictoria.org.au. A selection of books is available to browse at the bookshop, where you can also collect your purchase.

In addition, members and member societies can arrange for us to sell your current publications on commission.

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER**Woodfull: Gentleman and Scholar****Speaker:** Dr Alan Gregory AM**Lecture:** Drinks 5.15 Lecture 5.45**Cost:** Members Free.

Non-Members \$10.00

William Maldon Woodfull, born in Maldon in 1897, was a teacher in Victorian high schools and a famous cricketer. He played for Australia from 1928, became captain in 1930 and retired in 1934 after twice winning the Ashes in England. He ended his career as Principal of his old school, Melbourne High School, where he had taught for much of his career.

Dr Alan Gregory AM is a Melbourne High School old boy himself. He is Adjunct Professor of Education at Monash University, having served the Education Faculty of Monash University for 25 years. As well as *Woodfull Gentleman and Scholar: A life of William Maldon Woodfull* (Langley, Curtis, Thompson Trust, 2011), he is the author many books, including histories of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Melbourne High School, the life of another Melbourne High, George Langley, and a history of the Education Faculty at Monash University, *The Surprise Rival*.

THE RHSV FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Please remember the RHSV Charitable Foundation in your will or your next tax refund. Donations are tax deductible.

Please contact RHSV on 03 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER**Hume's Sketch Map: Launch of RHSV Digitised Version****Speaker:** Ken McInnes,**Lecture:** 12.30 refreshments 1.00pm**Cost:** Free to Members,

Non Members \$10.00

191 years ago, between October 1824 and January 1825, Hamilton Hume (27), William Hovell (38) and six convict companions travelled overland from Appin near Sydney; to Gunning near Yass in New South Wales; then through unknown country to the Murray River near Albury; then to Port Phillip Bay and return - a journey of over 2000 kilometres.

Their exploration expedition was a success: everyone returned alive; "unknown

country" was discovered; the route was mapped; and settlers followed soon after. However, from the moment of their return, the differences between the two leaders became public, ultimately tarnishing their reputations and diminishing the respect for their great journey.

The key surviving primary evidence of the expedition is Hovell's diary and three known contemporary copies of Hume's Sketch Map. The RHSV has the best copy. Ken McInnes will explain the provenance and significance of the RHSV's copy and compare and contrast it with the three known copies.

It has been a major RHSV project to digitise this map to the highest quality possible and providing the file to the National Library of Australia, enabling researchers to work on this important document without handling the fragile original. The lecture will finish with the launch of this significant RHSV achievement.

Ken McInnes is an Adjunct Teaching Fellow, Swinburne University of Technology, lecturing in Internet and Web Technologies. His background is in civil and environmental engineer, town planning and computer science, working in consulting, government and academia.