



# History NEWS



Great Christmas  
gift ideas,  
page 12

Issue No. 321 December 2015

Royal Historical Society of Victoria



## 2015 – Working together

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# Merry Christmas

from the RHSV team

The RHSV will be closed from Wednesday 23 December and reopen on Wednesday 13 January.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

## From the Editor's Desk

Our front cover reminds us of some of this year's many events and initiatives. I'm chuffed about the VCHA, an outstanding contribution to Victorian history (see p. 4; Shurlee Swain's talk will feature in the 1st February issue). And I'm keen on our Supreme Court History, begun this year and nearing completion. More on that next year.

In this issue, we report on the Planning Minister's cordial visit to the RHSV (see p. 3). As I reported in the last issue, the Minister has shown a refreshing concern for heritage.

Despite promising beginnings, however, heritage crises continue. The long-standing dispute over the Princess Mary Club is nearing its end. The building may well be demolished this year (see p. 7). That makes Michael Buxton's analysis all the more cogent (see p. 6). One of Victoria's most eminent experts on planning and heritage, he points out that deregulation destroys heritage. To protect our patrimony, we need more pro-active planning and regulation, not less.

On a personal note, there's no photo of me. Too many complaints! And I'm now signing more formally; some of you find my nickname too much for a man of my age!

Have a wonderful summer. If you travel, check out the local museums and historical societies, and see how our heritage is faring.

*Charles Sowerwine*

## Front Cover

*Top row: VCHA Winners (see p. 4).*

*2nd row, left to right: Michael Buxton speaking at RHSV Seminar, How to Protect Local Heritage, Drill Hall, 21 March; RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews and Hon. Richard Wynne, MP, Minister for Planning, at his visit to RHSV Headquarters, 19 October (see p. 3); Executive Director Heritage Victoria, Dr Tim Smith, who spoke at the RHSV AGM, May 2015 with RHSV President, Don Garden.*

*3rd row: Authors, RHSV's Supreme Court History Project, Supreme Court Library, 18 February 2015.*

*Bottom row, left to right: Maryanne Noonan and Marg Lanne open Portraits of a Tea Cosy, Drill Hall, 7 July; Joan Hunt and Geoffrey Blainey accepting Federation of Australian Historical Societies awards presented by then Governor and RHSV Patron Alex Chernov, Drill Hall, 19 February; Maddie Lewis and Eden Christian, RHSV volunteers thanks to Capacity Building Grant from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.*

## History

# NEWS



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## Vale

# John David Adams

9 September 1935 – 13 September 2015



John David Adams, long-term RHSV Councillor, died aged 80 on 13 September at Trafalgar in Gippsland. John was born in Melbourne and was for some years raised by his grandmother in Trafalgar before rejoining his mother when she married in 1945. After completing his schooling at Yallourn, he trained as a primary school teacher, then as a teacher librarian, which led him to librarianship. He completed an Arts degree and Diploma in Education, while also working as the inaugural teaching aids librarian at the Secondary Teachers College from 1961 to 1967. In 1971 he was awarded a masters degree in history for a thesis on Victorian village settlements in the 1890s. Part-time lecturing in Librarianship at RMIT 1966–67 led to a full-time position from which he retired 25 years later as a senior lecturer. I taught history in the same faculty and remember John as a kind and gentle man with a great sense of responsibility for his students.

John was also active in Anglican lay work and in his passion, history. He became a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 1958. Entranced by the history of his home region of Gippsland, he completed five books on its various shires and joined the Moe, Bairnsdale and Traralgon Historical Societies, though his main activism in local history centred on Heidelberg. Setting up home with a friend in Macleod, in 1967 he joined in founding the Heidelberg Historical Society and the *Heidelberg Historian*, which he edited continuously until last January, producing 285 issues.

John was elected to the Council of the RHSV in 1966 and was made a Fellow in 1976. In 1967, he began indexing the *Victorian Historical Journal* and continued this work until just before his death. He died in the care of his family in Trafalgar, four days after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. His work for local history and for the RHSV was carried out in a quiet and unassuming way for nearly half a century and was of great value to the organisations he served and community history generally. He will be missed.

*Judith Smart FRHSV*

# Planning Minister visits RHSV

The RHSV struggled for years to engage the attention of the previous government concerning the significance of the RHSV and its Drill Hall home. So you can imagine our pleasure to be informed, by our magnificent Ambassador, Catherine Andrews, that the Hon. Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning, would visit the RHSV.



**RHSV Ambassador, Catherine Andrews, the Hon. Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning and Don Garden, President, RHSV.**

He arrived as scheduled, at exactly 10:30 on Monday 19 October, together with his aide, Ms Jo Bowers. They were received by President Don Garden, RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews, Executive Officer Kate Prinsley and a number of Councillors. Ambassador Andrews gave a vivid account of the building's history as a medical corps training facility.

The Minister toured the whole of the RHSV's part of the building, including our current exhibition, the library, and the manuscript and image collections, pausing to peruse particular items closely. A number of key volunteers were on hand to show the collection and explain operations. The Minister showed particular interest in the use of Sands and McDougall

Directories for the RHSV's site searches location services. He took a long time inspecting visual materials and engaged in thoughtful discussion of two current projects, the history of the Supreme Court and the Lost Melbourne book, both planned for publication in 2016.

Minister Wynne expressed great interest in the building and its history, declaring that such a building must be saved and kept for public use. The President of the RHSV stated his desire for further talks on the building's future and the Society's lease. We look forward to these talks. We thank the Minister and our Ambassador most heartily for this engaging visit.

## RHSV's William Barak Painting travels to Sydney

We reported in the 1<sup>st</sup> August issue of *History News* (p. 4) that the RHSV's splendid painting by the 19<sup>th</sup>-century aboriginal artist William Barak was lent for display at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. Now the RHSV has lent the painting to the Art Gallery of NSW for an exhibition called *MURRUWAYGU: following in the footsteps of our ancestors* (28 November - 21 February).

William Barak (1824-1903) was the last traditional *ngurungaeta* or elder of the Wurundjeri. He settled at Coranderrk in 1863. After the death of Simon Wonga in 1875, he became leader of his people and their negotiator with the colonial authorities.

The painting is a reminder of how rich a cultural resource the RHSV provides. This marks the first time Barak's work has been exhibited in Sydney and we think the first time our painting has gone interstate.



[artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is good to end 2015 on a positive note. Not only have we had a very successful and busy year at the RHSV, we are very pleased at the signals we are getting from the state government on heritage matters. Notably, Planning Minister Richard Wynne is exhibiting a level of sensitivity about and support for heritage that has not been seen in Victoria for some years.

Reinforcing these positive messages, the Victorian Environment and Assessment Council recently released its Draft Proposals Paper on Historic Places Investigation. It examines the need and means to identify, protect and manage historic sites on Victorian public land – essentially state government properties on Crown Land, not local government.

The RHSV is very pleased with the nature of the report and recommends that all historical societies read it and respond to it by the due date, 22 December. It may be found at <http://veac.vic.gov.au>

Among other matters, the report contains a very useful outline of the development of heritage regimes at the state and national levels. Encouragingly for us, it notes the significance of the RHSV: 'An early indication of an emerging interest was the formation of the Royal Historical Society in 1909 to promote the research and sharing of the history of Victoria.' It is equally encouraging that the report also points to the crucial role of the National Trust, which appears to be on the road to strengthening its traditional heritage activities, and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), whose Australian branch has worked actively for preservation since its formation in 1976. The report provides a context for understanding how so many former government buildings such as courthouses and historical societies and how so many mechanics institutes have failed to gain public protection.

Looking to the future, the report addresses such crucial issues as the need for a single database for historic sites, the shortage of resources, a funding scheme to assist preservation and the creation of appropriate management systems.

The report does not provide immediate support for the RHSV's wish to obtain long-term management of the Drill Hall, as the building is 'owned' by the Planning Minister rather than being on Crown Land. However, in its recognition of the necessity for government to protect the historic sites that it possesses and the need for stronger Management Committees and management systems, the report fosters an encouraging atmosphere and a partial blueprint for long-term RHSV management of our site.

*Don Garden*  
President



Award winners on stage; on left, Don Garden, President RHSV; fifth from right, Justine Heazlewood, Keeper of Public Records. Photo courtesy PROV.

# And the winners are.....

RHSV Councillor Rosalie Triolo hosted this year's Victorian Community History Awards ceremony, which was held at The Arts Centre Pavilion on the afternoon of 19 October. The State of Victoria funds these awards, which are jointly administered by the RHSV and the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV). After Don Garden's welcome, the Honorable Gavin Jennings, Special Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, opened the ceremony, speaking enthusiastically about the history movement.

Professor Shurlee Swain gave the talk. Drawing on her research on 'hidden groups' in Melbourne, she reflected on the mental maps that historians construct and the sense of place that underpins community history. The text of her talk will appear in the next issue of *History News*. All speakers emphasized the significance of community history, the involvement of individuals and groups in the making of the entries, and the importance of support from the Victorian government as well as the RHSV and PROV.

Justine Heazlewood, Keeper of Public Records, announced the commendations and winners from over 200 entries. The major award went to Meredith Fletcher for her superb biography of the much-loved garden and nature writer, Jean Galbraith, *Writer in a Valley* (like many of the entries, it is available through the RHSV online bookshop).

This year a special category for writings on World War I drew many entries, including two winners published under the auspices of Boroondara and Stonnington Councils, as well as *Strewoth!*, a massive and meticulously edited compilation by Gillian and John Francis for the Horsham Historical Society. The judges commented on the overall quality of the entries, reflected in the award of more commendations in many of the categories.

Graeme Davison received the Judges' Special Prize for his pathbreaking family

history, *Lost Relations, Fortunes of My Family in Australia's Golden Age*. We were pleased that the presentation of was made by RHSV Ambassador, Catherine Andrews. In a lovely touch, Ms Andrews noted that Graeme had been her lecturer. She, and many other winners, attested to Graeme's contribution to community history.

This happy gathering of contributors to the Victorian history movement underlined the importance of the awards program, so carefully nurtured by RHSV Coucillor Carole Woods over many years. It not only showcased the variety of community projects in the state but also the key role played by the RHSV and PROV in the management of the state government grant that funded the program this year and is guaranteed for another three years. This made possible the employment of project officer Janice Haynes in 2015.

Don Gibb

Note: A full gallery of photos can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/public-record-office-victoria/albums>.

**VCHA Community History Awards booklet included with this *History News*.**

**In front row of an audience of 340, from left: Justine Heazlewood, Keeper of Public Records RHSV Fellow and former Councillor Lenore Frost, RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews, RHSV Councillor Carole Woods, RHSV Fellow and former Councillor Don Gibb, RHSV Executive Director Kate Prinsley.** Photo courtesy PROV.



RHSV Councillor Rosalie Triolo was MC. Photo courtesy PROV.



The Hon. Gavin Jennings, MLC, Special Minister of State, opening the 2015 Awards. Photo courtesy PROV.



RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews presents the Judges' Special Prize to Graeme Davison for *Lost Relations*. Photo courtesy PROV.



# Nepean celebrates 50 years

Nepean Historical Society – Sorrento Museum celebrates 50 years of commitment to local heritage.

1965 was a year of significant events in Australia: the first drawing of marbles for military conscription, the announcement of the Gordon River Scheme, Prime Minister Menzies sending Australian forces to South Vietnam... and sixteen locals formed the Nepean Historical Society.

On Saturday 5 September, over 100 people gathered at the Sorrento Museum to celebrate the Society's 50th Anniversary. Our many volunteers still work energetically to preserve local heritage in all its forms: buildings, precincts, stories, artefacts and photographs. In the audience, descendants of the first president, Major Welch, and the first Archivist, Mrs. Eileen McCraw, heard four previous NHS presidents describe past events and campaigns, such as those to save Point Nepean and Collins Settlement.



Weston Bate proposes a toast to the Nepean Historical Society

Weston Bate OAM proposed a toast and read one of his beautiful poems. Professor Bate, author of thirteen books, has been involved with the society since 1965, when he addressed the first Committee of the functions and aims of an historical society.

Murray Adams, the Shire's Digitisation Officer, compiled a marvellous DVD of photos of past NHS events, which screened for the rest of the afternoon provoking memories and discussion.

## Thank you for contributing to History Week

The RHSV thanks historical societies, museums, libraries and organisations for contributing to History Week 2015. Thanks to your efforts the week resulted in a diverse programme reflecting the activities of large and small organisations throughout Victoria.

We estimate that there were almost 400 things to do that week – a magnificent showcase of the energy and involvement of Victorians with their local history.



Redcliff Historical Society shows off its History Week Banner.



## Enter an event in the 2016 Heritage Festival

The 2016 Heritage Festival will run from 16th April to 29th May and will have the theme 'Discovery & Rediscoveries'. Event registrations are now open and will close for the printed program on 24th December 2015.

The contact details for the Festival are 03 9656 9823 or [festival@natrtrust.com.au](mailto:festival@natrtrust.com.au).

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

## New legal deposit laws

In February 2016, new legal deposit laws come into effect. If you or your society publish any works, on line, in print, or in any other form, you need to deposit it. Instructions can be found at [nla.gov.au/legal-deposit](http://nla.gov.au/legal-deposit)

## Holsworth Local Heritage Trust Grants 2015

Congratulations to the following organisations who have received Holsworth Local Heritage Trust grants 2015.

- Inverleigh Historical Society
- Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society
- Penshurst & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society
- Yarrowonga & Border CWA
- Raywood Progress Association
- Wonthaggi & District Historical Society
- Wandong History Group
- Pyramid Hill Historical Society

This grant supports the publication of any specific or general history or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available. Applications open 1 March and close 31 July each year.

Further information: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/holsworth-local-heritage-trust>

## New Grant Announced

### Catalyst Grants

The Commonwealth has announced a new grant program, open from 27 November: Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund.

This is the rebadging of George Brandis' controversial National Program for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA), created by stripping the Australia Council of \$104.7 million (see *The Age*, 20 November). Catalyst will offer \$12 million a year to 'innovative projects and initiatives from arts and cultural organisations'. It 'may also support some gallery, library, archive, museum' projects.

Organisations that wish to take their chances should visit

<http://arts.gov.au/catalyst> for information

## Wanted: Melways

The RHSV is missing the following editions of the MELWAYS: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1968); 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1969); 5<sup>th</sup> edition (1972); 8<sup>th</sup> edition (1975); 31<sup>st</sup> edition (2004); 42<sup>nd</sup> edition (2015).

Can you help us out?

Ph: 9326 9288 or

[collections@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:collections@historyvictoria.org.au)

# Now or Never – more needed to face increasing threats to heritage

Michael Buxton, Professor Environment and Planning, RMIT University.

The contribution of heritage protection to personal identity is well understood by the inhabitants of thousands of old cities, towns, villages and landscapes across the world. A legacy of buildings and landscapes provides a sense of continuity with past generations that helps define who we are, and contributes to a sense of well-being and good health. Its loss often causes grief and extensive alienation from surroundings.

Melbourne's nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings, street patterns, parks and boulevards are defining features of the city's character and identity. The destruction of this legacy is now so widespread that it threatens the city's much vaunted liveability.

The State government's recently announced reviews of the Heritage Act and of the new Residential Zones should provide the opportunity for fundamental review of the regulatory system for heritage protection. But it is already clear that they will only tinker with solutions. The continual loss of significant heritage buildings and places is testament to comprehensive failure. Only a complete recasting of the system to introduce inflexible regulation will protect what remains of heritage value

## Weaknesses of the Act

The Heritage Act, its administration, the Heritage Council and the Victorian Heritage Register are all seriously deficient.

Current administration of the Act minimises the importance of historical importance as a criterion and unduly emphasises rarity or uniqueness and the representative nature of a place or object. The purpose of Heritage Victoria is to identify, protect and interpret 'Victoria's most significant cultural heritage resources'. The administration of the Act has concentrated on the listing of individual buildings of high heritage value, not on a body of buildings or other structures of historical significance. This narrowing results in heritage becoming an elite value and condemns the bulk of our built heritage to demolition or alteration over time.

The review Discussion Paper proposes to introduce the notion of a 'heritage area'. This could broaden the Act's application to heritage precincts. However, the use of precincts in heritage studies has been compromised through the rigid insistence on unaltered precincts. The Discussion Paper proposes only protection for areas of 'state-level significance', a drastic narrowing of protection to a subjective notion notoriously difficult to define.

Another key deficiency of the Heritage Act is that it admits economic viability,

allowing consideration of "the extent to which the application, if refused, would affect the reasonable or economic use of the registered place or registered object, or cause undue financial hardship". This criterion is being predictably misused, is notoriously impossible to define and is irrelevant in an assessment of heritage value.

The Discussion Paper proposes the retention of a similar clause by requiring that the Executive Director consider the extent to which a permit refusal would affect the reasonable or economic use of a heritage place. This would allow the continued consideration of relevant financial hardship.

## Weaknesses of Heritage Overlays

A heritage overlay provision is used in planning schemes to protect local heritage but contains significant weaknesses. This overlay requires a planning permit for a range of actions including subdividing land, demolishing or removing part or all of a building or externally altering it. However, it is a weak discretionary statutory measure. Its wording is vague, general and subject to interpretation by a local council or by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Its capacity to protect heritage value is often undermined by determined applicants. Councils often misapply or fail to use it leading to its uneven application. Its use must be justified by expensive heritage studies. The cost of studies often deters their use. These studies vary between councils, leading to the inconsistent identification of buildings of heritage value. A council's use of the overlay must be justified before a panel containing members sometimes unsympathetic to heritage values. These factors often conspire to exclude many areas of high heritage value from the protection of the overlay.

## Saving Local Heritage

Again, the Heritage Act Review Discussion Paper ignores the failures of planning schemes to protect heritage. It states that the Act does not manage heritage places of local significance protected by Heritage Overlays. Thus it artificially excludes itself from any responsibility to protect most places of heritage value by defining them as 'local', and ignoring the inherent failures of the planning system to protect such places. For example, Melbourne's legacy of nineteenth century strip shopping centres is being gradually demolished. Incremental demolition of pre-1945 buildings in the CBD continues at a rapid rate. Why should distinctive streetscapes of such collective value be defined as unimportant by the

Heritage Council? Landscape significance, similarly, is largely ignored.

The Residential Zones review will do nothing to address the failure of a discretionary and permissive planning system to protect heritage value. The new Neighbourhood Residential Zone will tend to prevent demolition of existing heritage housing for multiple lots and in this sense provides de-facto heritage protection. However, it does not prevent house-for-house replacement and thousands of existing houses are being demolished annually for new larger dwellings particularly in inner and middle ring suburbs where heritage value is highest. The zone also has been inconsistently applied across Melbourne and many areas of high heritage value remain unprotected by its use.

Other new zones will lead to the demolition of thousands of significant buildings. No height controls are included in the new Commercial zones. Structure plans affecting some commercial areas usually contain no mandatory height provisions. These zones will intensify the large scale replacement of historic shopping strips with medium-rise, mixed-use development for a broad range of retail, office, residential and other commercial uses with few restrictions.

## Saving Melbourne's CBD

For decades, developers, with the connivance of local and State governments, have plundered the CBD heritage of what was one of the great Victorian cities. But around 2004, a new threat – high rise residential development – arose, which is transforming the CBD. Over 362 high and medium-rise developments containing 58,000 apartments were approved in the municipality of Melbourne between 2012 and 2014 or proposed for the following five year period, following the 22,605 apartments completed between 2010-12. This scale takes Melbourne into the big league of international high-rise approvals.

The lack of planning controls for the CBD, Southbank and other areas such as Fishermans Bend through the use of the highly permissive Capital City Zone has resulted in world's worse high rise construction. Melbourne's tallest towers are in a race to the bottom. Inadequate construction is a national problem, exposing large numbers of apartment owners to unacceptable risks and high remedial costs. Small poorly designed apartments detrimentally affect health. Only 16% of recent apartment developments were rated as good by respondents, and none in the high rise category. A quarter of new apartments contain windowless bedrooms

with no access to natural light. The density of some developments is 5,000 dwellings per hectare, up to four times the density allowed in Hong Kong and New York, and 10 times the density allowed in London.

**Interim controls – a first step**

The interim planning controls on high rise recently introduced by the State government will partly address these problems. Height restrictions introduced in mid 1985 led to significant economic benefits until dismantled. Interim mandatory height and plot ratio controls are a welcome step and will reduce land speculation, which has doubled land prices per square metre in parts of the city in two years, resulting in even taller and lower standard buildings as developers seek to recoup costs.

Unfortunately, however, the interim controls significantly reduce the level of control proposed by Melbourne City Council for the central spine and laneways several years ago. Height controls apply only to about one third of the CBD and many are too generous. Plot ratios and setbacks will not necessarily reduce building height. The government should refuse to renew all applications which do not conform to new standards and substantially extend and lower height controls.

**Towers not the solution**

Mandatory design and other standards can improve the quality of apartments but do not overcome the fundamental problems that high rise residential towers pose. Towers are not needed to gain significant increases in density; some of the world's densest and highest amenity cities prosper as low and medium rise settlements.

Towers lead to significant off-site impacts, such as windy streets and sunlight exclusion. They separate residents from street life and each other in secure enclaves which feature their own services and comforts. The controlled environments of forests of glass and concrete are anti-city, the ultimate privatisation of space, obliterating the complex interactions between inhabitants that have always defined the successful traditional city.

The obsession with deregulation is inconsistent with heritage protection. Development facilitation is intended to wreck effective heritage and land use planning systems. The challenge for the new government and everyone interested in heritage protection is to gain a new system which will protect over the long term whatever of value is left.

**Some major heritage losses**

Here are some of the editor's picks for significant losses which could have been prevented under better heritage protection. The RHSV's projected publication of a book on such losses will contain many more examples.



**Menzies Hotel, south-east corner of Bourke and William Streets, Melbourne, c. 1875**  
(RHSV Collection : AL001-0059)



**Federal Coffee Palace, south-west corner of Collins and King Streets, Melbourne, c. 1890** (RHSV Collection : A-149)



**Equitable Building, north-west corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, 1907**  
(RHSV Collection - PC-0326)

**City of Melbourne Bank, south-east corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne [Royal Bank]** (RHSV Collection : BK005-0061)



**Imminent demolition of the Princess Mary Club**

Heritage Victoria has issued a permit for the demolition of the Princess Mary Club and the construction of a large tower right next to the Wesley Church.

The new tower will sit virtually on top of the bluestone manse. While the permit requires some more room around the manse and church compared to the plan originally submitted, it still isn't particularly sympathetic.

The Church's consultants claim it would cost \$13.5 million to restore the Princess Mary Club, which has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Its demolition would be a significant blow to Melbourne's inter-war heritage, and to the streetscape of Lonsdale Street. Despite a significant development along Lonsdale, the area around the Wesley Church and the PMC retain a sense of the city in an earlier period.

The Princess Mary Club was built in 1926 and is a rare surviving example of a 1920s hostel created for young women coming to work and study in the city, enabling a greater inclusion of women in Victoria's workforce. Regrettably, as RHSV Councillor Judith Smart points out, 'we will lose a significant portion of the history of women in the city.' Preservation decisions, she adds, should take gender into consideration. RHSV Councillor Charles Sowerwine says this sad loss points to the need for public investment in heritage and its importance to cultural tourism. More at <http://melbourneheritage.org.au/current-campaigns/princess-mary-club/>.



**How to help the RHSV**

Please remember the RHSV in your Will or bequest to support the Society's Foundation. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please contact our Executive Officer on 9326 9288 for further 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.

**Sailing with Cook: inside the Private Journal of James Burney RN**

Suzanne Rickard, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 2015, pp. viii + 256, \$49-99. ISBN 9780642277770.

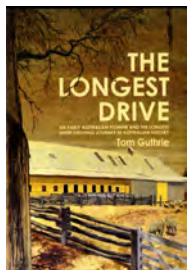
Another beautifully presented publication of one of the National Library's treasures. Burney's private journal. Burney was a young naval officer on Cook's second voyage in 1772-3 taking in the icy southern seas with landfalls in Tasmania, New Zealand and several South Pacific islands. Acquired by the library in 1970, this journal was written for Burney's family and friends and is distinct from his log book written for the Admiralty. The contents of the journal are skilfully interpreted and analysed in this excellent addition to Cook studies.



**The Longest Drive**

Tom Guthrie, Tom Guthrie and Grampians Estate Wine Company, www.grampiansestate.com.au, 2014, pp. xiii + 636, \$75. ISBN 9780958120272.

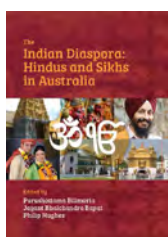
A family history with strong pastoral links from the 1850s when the author's great grandfather migrated to Victoria. Taking up 'Rich Avon' near Donald in 1864 and involvement in other Victorian sheep properties preceded the venture that gives the book its title, a drive of more than 10000 sheep from 'Rich Avon' to 'Avon Downs' west of Camooweal in the Northern Territory some 3266 kilometres in the early 1880s. The focus is very much on the first Thomas Guthrie but there are many observations about pastoral practices and investment over the period to the present.



**The Indian Diaspora, Hindus and Sikhs in Australia**

Purushottama Bilimoria, Jayant Bhalchandra Bapat and Philip Hughes (eds), D.K. Printworld, New Delhi, 2015, pp. xxx + 466. ISBN 9788124608128.

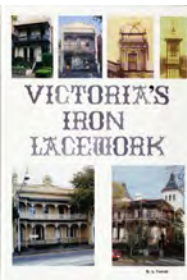
A series of essays by different authors covering aspects of the history of Hindu and Sikh migration to Australia, religious and cultural practices in Australian settings and changing attitudes and experiences. The whole makes a substantial contribution to immigration history and in many places, shows the impact of South Asian migration from colonial times, often forgotten in Australian history.



**Victoria's Iron Lacework, The Founders Part B**

Robin A Vowels, 93 Park Drive, Parkville, 3052, Limited edition, 2014, pp. 409. ISBN 9780987336521.

This is the second volume of a very large work that meticulously documents information about the designers and producers of iron lacework in Victorian buildings especially in Melbourne. This volume continues the alphabetic guide to iron foundries from the Phoenix foundry in various Melbourne locations through to Peter Young. This volume also describes current foundries and their practices; provides supplementary material about foundries dealt with in Part A; reprints foundries' catalogues; supplies a very extensive bibliography; and incorporates the index for the whole work. Each entry is impeccably referenced providing details of products and personnel usually accompanied by excellent images. We now have a completed *magnum opus* that fully explores an area of considerable and distinctive interest perhaps first broached in the classic works of Graeme Robertson in the 1960s.



**"We are Not All Gentlemen Here", The Hamilton Club 1875 to 2011**

Gordon Forth with Ken Fitzgerald, kafitzgerald@anson.com.au, Halstead Press for Hamilton Club, 2014, pp.207. ISBN 9781925043082.

The survival of men's clubs from their foundation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present demands explanation. The Hamilton Club founded by Western District pastoralists who by 1875 had acquired huge estates and flocks of sheep, formed a distinctive social elite, and amassed considerable wealth that permitted a lifestyle away from the day to day management of their estates. Part of that lifestyle was membership of an exclusive club like Hamilton's. This book traces the way the club has adapted to change in the local economy, world events, booms and depression especially those affecting wool, change in liquor and gambling laws, and social movements for equality for women. The admission of women to full membership in 1995 was a significant step both socially and economically. More than just the history of the club, this book provides a solid account of the milieu in which it has operated.

**Lost Relations, Fortunes of my family in Australia's Golden Age**

Graeme Davison, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2015, pp. xiv + 274, \$32-99. ISBN 9781743319468.

An outstanding work by a premier historian. This book has interest on so many levels not just to Davison relatives but also to the way that family history can be tackled in a masterly way – full of contextual reference and discussion of methodology when an 'academic'

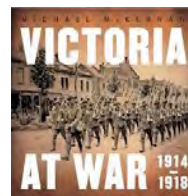
historian tries to write in a genre so much dominated by collecting genealogists. It is most accessible writing. It is concerned with community contexts and it draws on the writer's superb connection with so many elements of the history of his family. The narrative tells us much about the history of many families in Australia: the leaving of the known world and migration by ship to Australia; the drift towards the Australian city from rural areas; the changes in culture and class; the changes in family size, opportunities for education and formal religious observance, and material wealth.



**Victoria At War 1914-1918**

Michael McKernan, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, and New South, Sydney, 2014, pp. x + 230, \$59-99. ISBN 9781742233802.

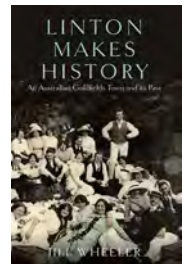
An interesting narrative drawing on many of the SLV resources including photos. Very well presented. Written for a popular audience but drawing on much new material. Places some emphasis on the pivotal role of Melbourne during the war as the national capital, often forgotten in discussions of this period.



**Linton Makes History, An Australian Goldfields Town and its Past**

Jill Wheeler, Melbourne University Press, 2015, pp. xv + 254, \$30. ISBN 978052286319.

An innovative local history based on a PhD with much to commend it. The author writes in her preface that she hopes 'that this micro-history...will ... make an important contribution to the telling of our wider national history'. In successive chapters, she examines pastoralism and the construction of Australian identity; frontier conflict; the gold rush; stories of closer settlement; and 20<sup>th</sup> century rural history. There is also an excellent concluding chapter on the 'construction' of Linton' history. This is a book that should be read by anyone tackling local histories, especially Victorian.



**Male Family History From Somerset, England to Port Phillip, Australia**

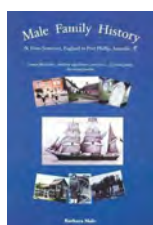
Barbara Male, 53 Robert Street, Somerville, 3912, 2009, reprinted 2010, pp. 162. ISBN 9780646523569;

**Hills Family History From Plumstead, Kent, Chelmsford, Essex, to Dover, Kent,** Barbara Male,, 53 Robert Street, Somerville, 3912, 2011, pp. 160. ISBN 978064653085.

Extensive collections of material about the Males who first settled in Victoria in the early



1840s with many references to residence and farming in Brighton, Dandenong, and Moorooduc and about the Hills family who came to Australia at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The books are amply illustrated with substantial indexes. Both deal with the author's family connections.



**From Lincolnshire With Love, The life and times of Henry Anderson and Ann Randell**

Jennifer Jane Acopian, self published, Geelong, 2015, pp. xii + 480. ISBN 978098706709.

The author has already produced a very informative account of her father's family in *Amy Stella Dolphin, Her Life and Heritage* published in 2012. In this new book she traces the history of her mother's family whose origins were in and around the Lincolnshire village of Long Sutton. Henry Anderson and Ann Randell married in 1862 and migrated to Victoria and lived and worked in and near Geelong where they eventually established the Newtown bakery, the residence and focus of successive generations of Andersons. In tracing the lives of the extended Anderson and Randell families this book tells much about the process of migration and resettlement, the keeping in touch with Lincolnshire roots, and the fortunes of their successors including the author. Family members have been well-served by the careful and wide-ranging research exploring contexts as well as vital details about individuals. Overall, it also provides a case study of family migration, a perspective on aspects of Geelong history focusing on the Newtown Bakehouse, as well as Brighton horticulture where the Kelly nursery, connected to the Randells, was established and produced the famed 'Nelly Kelly' passionfruit.

**We Are the Rebels, The Women and Men Who Made Eureka**

Clare Wright, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2015, pp. xiii + 256, \$19-99. ISBN 9781922182784.



A version of the author's much acclaimed *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* written for secondary students. Some

of the doubts expressed about the parent work remain in this version but the presence of men in the title and the removal of 'forgotten' may repair some of the misperceptions. It is still not clear how the people of Ballarat's Eureka were rebels and assiduous readers will continue to dispute/quibble with some of the claims and research.

**A Different Earth, Cornish Pioneer Miners to Australia**

Max C S Beck, Palmer Higgs, 2014, pp. xvi + 377, \$36-95. ISBN 9780992549459.

The fictional reconstruction of the story of Jane Dunstan and her family who took a bullock wagon from Burra to Forest Creek in 1851-2. The story takes Jane from her native Cornwall to South Australia and then the Victorian goldfields with the author filling in the blanks with 'imaginative reconstruction' that is claimed 'to help the narrative come alive'.

**The Long Farewell, The Perilous Voyages of Settlers Under Sail in the Great Migrations to Australia**

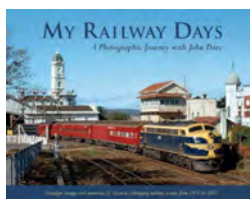
Don Charlwood, Burgewood Books, PO Box 326, Warrandyte, 2015, pp. x + 310, \$29-95. ISBN 9781876425722.



A 5<sup>th</sup> edition republication of this classic text reproduced in similar format to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition published 1981.

**My Railway Days A Photographic Journey with John Dare, Nostalgic Images and Memories of Victoria's Changing Railway System from 1970 to 2007**

John Dare, Along the Line Publishing, 2015, pp.160. ISBN 0780646931357.

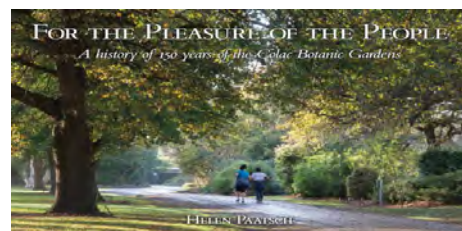


The sub-title says much about this book. What it does not say is that the photographs, maps and captions are expertly put together by a railway enthusiast with a very keen eye for detail and accuracy and an ability to

provide text that is interesting and informative for a non-railway person. It should be favourably received by railway buffs but also by a wider readership.

**For The Pleasure of the People, A History of 150 Years of the Colac Botanic Gardens**

Helen Paatsch, Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, 2015, pp. 149. ISBN 9780646938103.



Like many towns and Melbourne suburbs, Colac's garden had its beginnings in the Victorian era. Like most of them, there was always some tension between recreational and botanical demands for use of the allocated area. The author emphasizes the people who have worked there, taken pleasure and relaxed there and established in her view a community appreciation of the gardens as 'a treasured part of [Colac's] heritage'. Beautifully illustrated, it adds to the expanding collection of substantial histories of Victorian public gardens.

**The Story and Burial Listing of the Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery**

Friends of the Will Will Rook Cemetery (compilers), PO Box 1230, Lalor, 3075, pp. 49.

The Will Will Rook Cemetery in Camp Road, Broadmeadows was established in the 1850s and played its role on the rural fringes of Melbourne. It is closed and remains a pioneer park still with some intact headstones. This useful booklet brings together details of burials using diverse sources, highlights significant local families, outlines the history of the site and provides a listing of those buried with known information.



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## 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 February 2016 issue please send forthcoming 2016 events and your newsletters to: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 16 January 2016.

**AUTRALIAN RAILWAYS:** The Newport Rail Museum continues to average 75 visitors each Saturday. We are also welcoming a considerable number of mid-week School groups. The vintage O-scale model railway is running and proving popular with visitors. Visit us in person and visit our Museum Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/NewportRailwayMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/NewportRailwayMuseum).

**BALLAN:** In the early years of settlement of the Beremboke area, the first farmers who colonised the district campaigned for allocation of a large, shared grazing ground called the Beremboke common. Part of the Common survives as the Water Catchment for Stoney Creek and is preserved as a reserve for native bush.

**BENALLA:** After two and a half years in a travelling exhibition with Canberra Museum 3 outfits have been returned to us. To add to our Costume Collection we have received donations of several christening gowns, a toddler's dress, a French label 1912 evening dress and many needle samplers, two dolls and a woollen lace dressing gown.

**BENDIGO:** Records from the Health Officer in the late 1800's contain details of causes of death. One particular disease 'Phthisis' killed anywhere from 13 to 27 local men every three months in the years 1880-1896. Phthisis is a disease usually acquired by someone working closely to a quartz rock face inhaling the fine quartz dust.

**CAMBERWELL:** Following "Our Lady of Victories" June article we were advised Camberwell Council used the services of either Monsignor Martin or Canon Russell Manning Clark from St John's Anglican Church for religious addition to functions - Empire Day, Anzac Day, Mayoral Ball, Naturalisation, etc. In those days the heads of the respective churches would not fraternise with the others.

**CANTERBURY:** On October 10 the book *History of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canterbury Scouts* by James Nicolas was launched. To expand on this theme we plan to have a talk on Canterbury Scouting in 2016. To obtain a copy of this interesting book detailing important scouting history please email: [nigel\\_pirie@hotmail.com](mailto:nigel_pirie@hotmail.com) Cost \$20 plus postage \$8.00

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS:** Issue 102 has a very interesting article on medical problems suffered by soldiers in WW1 particularly venereal disease. The men had to wear a white armband and armed guards patrolled

the perimeter of the camp. The soldiers were treated as criminals and their pay stopped. For further information contact: <https://www.facebook.com/historychha>.

**CHELTENHAM PIONEER CEMETERY:** *Where History Rests* is the fifth book published by our Friends group. Over 800 names of persons from the local community are included in the index. It is a limited print run of just 100 copies, each individually numbered. For more information, visit our on-line shop at [www.focrc.org/shop.htm](http://www.focrc.org/shop.htm).

**DANDENONG:** The Society was formed in 1963 to gather and preserve information about Dandenong's history for the benefit of future citizens. We ask people who have lived in Dandenong to donate documents, photographs, items of ephemera etc. to the society. The items may be family, business, or community group based. Email: [dandhist@internode.on.net](mailto:dandhist@internode.on.net).

**DAYLESFORD:** Extract from a 1938 diary: "In the afternoon we went a walk to the Gardens, climbed the Lookout Tower which has just been completed there, & obtained a good view of all the surrounding country... The Governor, Lord Huntingfield, declared the Lookout Tower, dedicated to the Pioneers of the district officially open."

**EAST MELBOURNE:** In 1868 the Fitzroy gardens were planted transforming a waste blank space into a delightful retreat. The ground was tastefully laid out, stocked with all sorts of ornamental trees, reticulated with running water and is intersected with well-kept avenues. In 2015 improvements are a new café with vertical garden walls and a little stream nearby.

**FRANKSTON:** In 1910 the Council advised the Foreshore Committee that all swimmers were to be clad in neck-to-knee bathing suits while on the beach. Bathing costumes were not to be worn in the streets and men were to be kept away from the women's bathing boxes. And in 1960 bikinis were not to be worn in the streets!

**GEELONG:** We have a new website [www.geelonghistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.geelonghistoricalsociety.org.au) where you can find details of upcoming lectures and guest speakers, books available for purchase and details of our Society's tours. Be sure to check it out if you are visiting the Geelong area. Contact: [admin@geelonghistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:admin@geelonghistoricalsociety.org.au).

**GOLDFIELDS/DUNOLLY:** In 1862 when patients with no means were convalescent they were expected to help around the hospital. It was noted in the hospital board minutes that one particular inpatient Eliza Blacker worked as hard as any staff member. She stayed for 11 years as unpaid help until at 27 she married the cook and left!

**GOLF:** At the recent Golf Club Historians Forum two Museum committee members gave an interesting insight into the history and development of Barwon Heads Golf Club and its course. Founded in 1907, like a lot of golf clubs founded then fire destroyed useful historical material. Diligent research has reclaimed most of that history.

**HAMILTON:** A great community interaction project. Volunteers at our History Centre have been helping Baimbridge College students and their Standing Tall mentors with a project about the history of Hamilton. It has been a good opportunity to show some young people what the Centre can offer, as well as their mentors!

**HASTINGS:** The wearing of the Red Poppy originated when an American lady in England read Lt Col. John McCrae's poem and was inspired to hand out artificial poppies in 1918. The idea gathered force and the use of the Red Poppy expanded becoming a symbol of the British Legion in 1919 to honour the dead.

**HEALESVILLE:** The Victoria State Emergency Service began in 1950 as the Victoria Civil Defence Organisation, to act as a volunteer based civil defence agency which could quickly be activated in the event of war. Today it has become an agency of volunteers for disaster response including search and rescue and disaster and hazard management across the State.

**KEW:** A grant from the Public Records Office to digitise, print and exhibit thirty-five of our Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works maps of Kew has been received. The MMBW was formed in 1891 to map the water and sewerage requirements of Melbourne. Each of the maps is hand-coloured and are a great asset to researchers.

**KNOX:** Our Knox School Photo Collection is a unique collection of the class photos of all the schools in Knox area. Originally Upwey High School was the only secondary school in the area the alternative being travel to Box Hill or Lilydale. We have over 20,000 photographs from nearly sixty schools.

**KOROIT:** A trophy donated from the District 45s Association in 1934 prompted some research into the Forty-Fives? It is a card game that derives from an earlier Irish game called Spoil Five and similar to Maw that originated in Scotland. The object of the game is to be the first individual or team to reach 20 points.

**KORUMBURRA:** From a letter of 1898 held in our collection is a description of a fire that took everything except the families lives. The mother was expecting a baby when her just completed home was devastated by fire. The baby was born 5 days after the fire while they were living in a tent.

**LIGHT RAILWAYS:** We have a large range of railway related books on offer, from *Ghost Trains – Forgotten Railways*, *Victorian Tramway Maps*, to histories on many local railways. For a full listing contact sales@lrrsa.org.au or look up the website: <http://www.lrrsa.org.au>. We also have railway related outings to interest railway enthusiasts.

**MALMSBURY:** Our railway station is the heart of our small town, it was built in 1862 of basalt and is historically significant as one of the earliest stations built in Victoria. The buildings are in a state of disrepair and we have written to the Minister for Public Transport including a petition of over 650 signatures requesting urgent action.

**MIDDLE PARK:** The Flora of Middle Park is an ongoing series of recording the plants used in public places, mostly along our street and examines their origin and history. This is an important project that will assist in the preservation and recording of our green spaces in times to come.

**MILITARY:** During WW11 Ireland was neutral and interned both British and German military personnel at the Curragh internment camp in County Kildare. Their guards had no ammunition in their weapons and the inmates were allowed to leave the camp for trips and drinks in different local pubs and attend social events!

**MORDIALLOC:** The Mentone Public Library celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary earlier this year. Dr Graeme Whitehead recounted the history of the first attempts to start a library followed by years of frustration until finally in 1925 the dedicated members achieved their goal. Without the persistence of these forefathers we would not have this valuable facility.

**NARRE WARREN:** Participation in activities by our members has resulted in extraordinary publicity enhancing our reputation. We have been actively sought to participate with other sections of our community. We have built a relationship with Council, local and family history groups, and the Berwick & Harkaway Cemeteries Trust, the Berwick RSL and more.

**NEWSTEAD:** We have become eligible to host job seekers undertaking voluntary work as an approved activity. We are hoping to attract volunteers who will assist us in our many and various jobs and activities required to run the Society. The volunteers will benefit by gaining an insight into Newstead's local history and hopefully become members.

**NILLUMBIK:** The first wood pavement was laid in London and was highly regarded because of its economy and durability, its traction and extreme cleanliness. In Australia wood blocks were laid in Melbourne at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Street. When properly laid and maintained hard wood blocks lasted 20 years.

**PAYNESVILLE:** In October we participated in history week for the first time with “Boat builders” and “Paynesville and the Great War”. Both events were well attended and we will participate again next year. Join us on December 13 at our Open day at the Display Facility in Gilsean Reserve from 8.30 to 12.30 to see our collection.

**PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS:** From Garryowen's *The Chronicles of Early Melbourne*: “Several hundred persons were present on the course, and order was preserved by half-a-dozen expirée convicts appointed as special constables for the purpose. Settlers rode in several mile to be “all there”. The run was semi-circular with a scanty scrap of bunting fluttering as a winning post”.

**PRAHRAN:** A recent book launch *Prahran and the Dismal Swamp Uncovering the Natural, Settlement and Disease Ecologies of a Suburb* reminds us of the humble beginnings of Prahran. It shows how typhoid fever came to be a major health threat from 1865 to 1895 in this suburb. Typhoid was named the worst filth disease to reach the continent.

**SANDRINGHAM:** Beaumaris Ridge Estate is being subdivided into 20 lots. We have recorded the history of this property that has been a private residence, holiday home, a Legacy home for orphaned children and then the RSL for the last 60 years. We have submitted relevant names from its history to “Vicnames” for street names in the subdivision.

**SNAKE VALLEY:** In 1904 the directors of Electric Hydraulic Company came out to see their new electric powerhouse for goldmining put into service. When the plant was turned on and water forced through the pump the nozzle swished in all directions and the directors got a ducking some of them being knocked over by the water pressure!

**ST JOHN AMBULANCE:** A new international history journal “One St John” was recently launched by the Grand Prior. The journal is the brainchild of our own Priory Historical Advisor and Priory Librarian. The journal will not be issued in print format but is downloadable free of charge from: <http://www.orderofstjohn.org> then click on News.

**UNITING CHURCH:** We have a new Synod Archives Centre at 54 Serrell St, East Malvern. It is in the rear of the

hall of the Serrell Street church. Parking is available locally, the nearest tram in on Darling and Waverley Roads with the closest train being East Malvern Station. Contact: 9532 0393.

**WARRANTYTE:** A Manningham Council grant will allow refurbishment of our Blacksmith's Hut that has been stacked in pieces at the rear of the museum. Heritage carpenter Matt Jeffery will reassemble it and then refurbish the interior. The hut is on Council's Heritage List and they have been generous in ensuring its survival.

**WOADYYALOK:** Thanks go to everyone who generously donates information and material for our Society's archival and photographic collections. We have received everything from an 1874 birth certificate, cut outs of old newspaper articles, postcards, sepia photographs, and local organisations activity programs.

**YACKANDANDAH:** Our Facebook page is up and running ready for your viewing—an exciting venture for the YDHS. We also have 2 books reduced in price *Evolution of a Family* (Kelly and Murray families) by Helen Neville (\$10 plus postage) and *Yackandandah Cricket Club, 150 years 1959–2009* by Colin Barnard. (\$5 plus postage). Email: [museum@yackandandah.com](mailto:museum@yackandandah.com).

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## FOR YOUR DIARY In 2016

### LECTURES every third Tuesday in the month.

Topics in 2016 to include:

- Reflections on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Menzies retirement
- A history of the National Council of Women
- The Annual La Trobe/AGL Shaw Lecture on the assistant Protector William Thomas and the Kulin people 1839 - 1867

**A TRIBUTE LUNCH** in honour of Michael Cannon to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Land Boomers*

**A CONFERENCE:** Saturday 9 April to investigating the impact of 175 Years of the Supreme Court.

### EXHIBITIONS AND WORKSHOPS

### HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP SEMINARS:

Throughout the year the HVSG will bring you practical seminars: Dates and places for 2016 are:

19 March 2016	RHSV
21 May 2016	Birchip
25 June 2016	Mornington Peninsula
20 August 2016	Rochester

All events are promoted on our website and in *History News*.



### Extended by popular demand

#### Nail Can to Knighthood: The life of Sir Macpherson Robertson

The exhibition has been extended until **FRIDAY 4 MARCH**.

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

[www.culturevictoria.com/stories/built-environment/macphersons-confectionary-factory](http://www.culturevictoria.com/stories/built-environment/macphersons-confectionary-factory)

# Great Christmas gift ideas



What better gift than a great summer read. Check out the Victorian Community History Award winner *Writer in a Valley*, and many of the other category winners.

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