



History **NEWS**

Issue No. 323
April/May 2016
Royal Historical Society
of Victoria



**New book to showcase
the RHSV Collection...p5**

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From the Editor's Desk

Greetings to all from a new editor on a very steep learning curve. I am not a complete novice in the ways of the RHSV and its many societies, but I am amazed at the volume and complexity of the activities gathered in these pages. History in all its many aspects is certainly alive and well in Victoria.

I will not be making many changes to the kinds of content that Charles Sowerwine has developed over the last couple of years; it seems to me to serve the Society and the societies very well. There is one innovation in this issue – the first of an occasional series of reviews of interesting websites devoted to the history of Victoria (see the back page of this issue). Please contact me at mquarty66@gmail.com with suggestions of other websites worthy of review.

And readers will welcome the return of the single sheet insert carrying news about upcoming events – that goes straight on the fridge!

Marian Quarty

mquarty66@gmail.com

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Holsworth Local Heritage Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for the publication of any specific or general local history or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. The Grant is intended for small organisations with an interest in publishing works of historical value, even where the organisation has little or no experience of self publishing. Joint projects encompassing several groups or annual/special edited journals incorporating submitted historical articles from a wide community are encouraged.

Applicants are required to submit a proposal including details of the intended date of publication. It is expected that considerable research will already have been undertaken before applying.

Applications open on 1 March and close on 31 July each year.

Application forms can be downloaded from the ANZ website via the RHSV website. (See under "Programs".) Hard copy application forms can also be requested by phoning: 9326 9288

History NEWS



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History News: Mission Statement

History News is the newsletter of the RHSV, published approximately bi-monthly and distributed among individual members and affiliated societies and their members.

Its aims are as follows:

- To foster interest in Victorian history, local history and heritage.
- To publicise and record the activities of the RHSV.
- To support, publicise and record the activities of and opportunities for affiliated societies.
- To provide a range of articles about historical skills, Victorian history, heritage, conservation, heritage museums and matters relevant to the RHSV, its individual members and affiliated societies.
- To promote the discipline of history, its public profile and its teaching.

Praiseworthy Long Service to Publications Committee

There has been a changing of the guard on this committee which produces the *Victorian Historical Journal* (now in its 106th year), *History News* and other publications such as *Judge Willis Casebooks* website.

Without their magnificent volunteer work these vital publications would not exist.

John D Adams RHSV Councillor (1966-2001) and *VHJ* indexer (1954- 2015) passed away in September 2015.

Dr Richard Morton has stepped down after twenty years as a committee member and editor of the *VHJ* (1999-2005) and production editor *VHJ* (2006-2010), during which time he put the journal on a more professional footing.

Professor John Rickard has stepped down as review editor/co-editor (1999-2015), but will remain on the committee.

Dr Peter Yule has also stepped down as co-review editor (2011-2015) to write *Medical Legacies of South East Asian Conflicts – Vietnam War*, an official history for the Australian War Memorial.

Marilyn Bowler has also stepped down as editor of the *VHJ* due to pressures of completing her PhD, but will remain on the committee. These periods of service are remarkable and worthy of celebration.

The new editor of the *VHJ* is **Dr David Harris**, historian, history teacher, and recent PhD from La Trobe University.

The new review editor is **Professor Judith Smart**, a former editor of the *VHJ*.

Professor Charles (Chips) Sowerwine has taken leave from editing *HN* for the remainder of 2016 to complete two writing projects. We thank Judy and Chips for their efforts and look forward to Chips' return. In the interim, **Professor Marian Quarty** will stand in for part or all of 2016.

Richard Broome, Chair Publications Committee

Notice of 2016 Annual General Meeting

All members are advised that the **106th** Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 17 May 2015

Time: 5.00pm

Place: 239 A'Beckett St., Melbourne

See What's On for more details.

Dr John Hirst died in February 2016. Here are tributes from RHSV Councillor Carole Woods and former RHSV long-term volunteer Diana Phoenix.

JOHN HIRST AND THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARDS



From left: John Lahey, Carole Woods and John Hirst at the Victorian Community History Awards ceremony, Queen's Hall, Parliament House, 4 May 2002.

Information Victoria launched the Victorian Community History Awards (VCHA) at Toongabbie on Australia Day 1998. With the exception of the year 2010, the RHSV has appointed the judging panel since the competition's inception. Dr John Hirst, eminent historian at La Trobe University, served as a judge for all but two years between 2000 and 2009, a total of eight years. His fellow judges throughout this period were John Lahey, a former senior journalist at the *Age* and Carole Woods, an independent historian; they formed a highly collegial group.

The foundation years of the VCHA were followed by a vibrant formative period in which John Hirst was a strong participant. From 2000 to 2009 the Awards were held at Queen's Hall, Parliament House, and the approach up a grand flight of steps signalled the ascent of a hitherto sidelined and sometimes shamefully neglected aspect of history: in the year 2000 the history of the people found a place in the house of the people.

VCHA prize-giving ceremonies in Queen's Hall were known for a celebratory atmosphere, the elegant display of nearly all entries, and a range of prizes and commendations conveying a sense of inclusiveness. John Hirst and his fellow judges gave awards to entries of astonishing diversity from across the state.

John Hirst is remembered primarily as a distinguished academic historian and public intellectual. Yet he had an affinity with the kind of community history fostered by the VCHA. His individuality and challenge to orthodoxies accorded with the quirky, unpredictable nature of the Awards, the restless divergence and striking originality of many entries.

At short notice, John gave an impressive address at the 2009 VCHA ceremony, based on his inaugural address to the Balwyn Historical Society. In fact, it was a valedictory speech marking the end of his involvement and the onset of a turbulent period when the VCHA was threatened with extinction. The RHSV campaigned to restore government funding and the competition entered a new constructive phase under a partnership forged between the RHSV and Public Record Office Victoria.

John Hirst, his fellow judges and a dedicated team at Information Victoria substantially raised the profile of community history during the early years of a competition that is unique in Australia.

Carole Woods

JOHN HIRST, EDITOR OF THE ARGUS INDEX PROJECT



From left: Dr John Hirst, Professor Bill Russell and Professor John Poynter at the Melbourne Day lecture, RHSV, 2012, presented by John Hirst on the *Argus* Index Project.

The remarkable media coverage of John Hirst's achievements following his death is testimony to his status as a giant of Australian history.

Apart from his work as a professional historian, John ran the *Argus* Index Project from its inception in 1983 until his death. The goal of the project was to index 50 years of the *Argus* from 1860 to 1909, filling the gap between two existing indexes to the paper and creating the only index to a complete run of a major national Australian daily, producing an indispensable research tool. Under his leadership the years 1860 to 1889 were published in hard copy, with the 1890's well under way.

John believed in the value of the project and contributed an enormous amount of time and energy to it. He wrote the intricate reader guidelines, established the project structure, organised funding from a range of sources over the years, most notably the Australian Research Council grants. He liaised with the State Library of Victoria and the five Universities which supported the project from its beginning, and worked with the volunteer readers and the indexer. And so much more. He was very proud of having read every single word of each index, contributing suggestions. He arranged for publication of all years in hard copy to ensure that the intellectual work was preserved in perpetuity. The full set of the indexes from 1880 to 1889 can be viewed in the State Library of Victoria.

I first met John when I joined the *Argus* Project in 1984. After some years I took on the role of manager of the volunteers and came to know him well. He always had time for any query and took a personal interest in the individuals in the group. John knew us all by name, loved to chat with us and spend time for an occasional morning tea. The work of the volunteers was really valued by him as he saw them as the backbone of the project.

The National Library suddenly decommissioned the *Argus* Index Project website in 2010. John argued strongly against this but hopefully it will find a permanent home at La Trobe University in the future. The podcast of his lecture at the RHSV on Melbourne Day, 30 August 2012 covers the project generally and also his arguments against the decommissioning. It is available at www.historyvictoria.org.au/whats-on/lectures/podcasts. It captures John's essence – his knowledge, humour and easy delivery. It is well worth a listen.

It is with great sadness that we note his passing.

Diana Phoenix

Twenty-six years of partnership – with no regrets

In the 1980's the Malvern Historical Society, like other historical societies, was struggling to attract new members, and active volunteers were starting to age. One of our Presidents announced 'Well I can't be President and as there is nobody else to take over, I think we should fold!' We weren't to know that Australia's Bicentenary would result in an amazing increase in interest in family and local history.

Our committee began to re-assess the future direction of the society and to think about how to make the collection safe for future generations. There were indications at this time that the State Government was planning the amalgamation of councils. Malvern Council staff were nervous about the future and began handing over historical items to members of the historical society. For a while we were just happy accepting everything. But when the items came to include large framed works, an early mayoral hat, mayoral albums, rare photographic blocks, early Council minute books and the significant building plan collection, dating from 1916, we knew it was time to formalise the arrangement.

The Malvern History Committee was created as an advisory committee to Council in July 1990 'to ensure that information pertaining to the Malvern area was collected, preserved, organised, made accessible and promoted to the community'. The committee was comprised of Councillor representatives, appropriate Council staff and members of the Malvern Historical Society. It was planned that all historical material pertaining to Malvern would be collected by one body and stored in one location, that all material would become readily accessible, and relevant Council officers would be involved in a forum meeting several times per year.

With the amalgamation of the City of Malvern and the City of Prahran in June 1994, the new City of Stonnington responded immediately to ensure the preservation of the City's historical assets. The Stonnington History



Committee was formed, chaired by a City of Stonnington Councillor. Membership of the Committee consists of representatives from the Malvern Historical Society, the Prahran Historical and Arts Society, Stonnington Library & Information Service, Council officers, Prahran Mechanics Institute, two community representatives and the Stonnington History Centre Team Leader.

The benefits can be clearly seen. The Council has demonstrated to the Community its long-term commitment to the Stonnington Local History Collection through the provision of secure premises, permanent staff and ongoing funding. The Stonnington Local History Collection has become a valuable and important Council asset and is now the property and responsibility of the City of Stonnington. All historical assets of the City are under the management of the Stonnington History Centre, which is a branch of the Stonnington Library and Information Services.

Having the Collection professionally managed by the History Centre enables the promotion of local history information, the provision of a local history service and the ability for co-operative work on local history-based programs for both Council and the Society. By working in partnership with the Historical Societies, the opportunity exists for preservation grants and funding of special projects.

Under the custodianship of the History Centre all items in the Collection are indexed, many in full text on the searchable online Catalogue. This enables ready access to the photos, documents, plans, family and local histories in the Collection. A far broader range of services and expertise is provided by the History Centre service than those traditionally provided by libraries. Archival storage areas and work rooms have been provided and an acquisition and preservation program is well established. See <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History>

The Malvern Historical Society remains an active community group within the City of Stonnington. As a result of our 'free by email' campaign, our bi-monthly newsletter Local History News - Keeping Stonnington's History Alive is seen by over 1000 interested people. The Malvern Historical Society continues to actively collect material relating to the area now known as the City of Stonnington, especially the former the City of Malvern. <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/enter.html>

Walks and talks are organised, and all research, photos and articles for the newsletter and displays are sourced from the Stonnington Local History Collection. Through the acquisition of grants the Society is able to contribute funding for specific projects including the purchase of historic items, digitising of audio tapes, photographing of loaned items and the Trove scanning project.

Looking back over the last 26 years, we have no regrets.

Jane Nigro
Vice President Malvern Historical Society
malvernhistorical@yahoo.com

Ellen Porter
Stonnington History Centre Team Leader
history@stonnington.vic.gov.au



Showcasing the RHSV Collection

Over more than a century the RHSV has accumulated an impressive collection of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, ephemera, maps, images and a few objects. The particular strengths of the collection are published Victorian local histories, newsletters of local historical societies, the manuscript collection and the images collection. Special treasures include a painting by William Barak, Judge Willis' Casebooks, a collection of over 3,000 postcards, 4,000 lantern or glass slides and the remarkable Pioneers Register, which includes records of families who arrived in Victoria before 1900.

The majority of the material has been donated over the years and has survived the Society's many changes of premises. Notable donations in recent years have included the library of the Victorian Branch of the National Trust and the collections of A.G.L. Shaw and John Adams. Funds to improve the collection were donated by the family of long-time volunteer the late Barbara Nixon. Some of this has been used to fill gaps in the collection and some on measures to improve access and preservation.

The holdings of the RHSV Images Collection, accessed via a database of over 55,000 records, will be showcased in the book *Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960*, to be published by Queensland Book Depot later this year. This large book will include about 600 images of Melbourne. Most are photographs but there are a number of drawings and engravings for the earliest period. Historical societies from the inner suburbs were asked to contribute and have done so enthusiastically. They have supplied about half the required images from their own and other local collections. The RHSV is providing the other 300 images, nearly all from its own collection. Richard Barnden, Elisabeth Jackson and Don Gibb are heading team of volunteers to select the best images of central Melbourne, check identifying information and write short captions. Richard Broome and Judith Smart are co-editing this vast publication. A number of experts have kindly agreed to write contextual introductions for the suburbs and the inner city precincts as well as contribute on special subjects such as the history of the camera in early Victoria. RHSV is receiving payment for this work, so *Remembering Melbourne*, as well as providing publicity for the RHSV and its

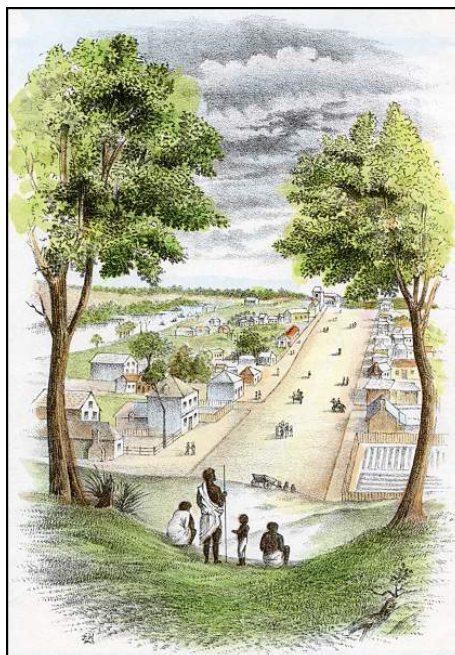
collection, will bring a tangible benefit of about \$15,000 to be spent on collection improvements.

The Society employs a Collection Manager but this part-time role also includes coordination of volunteers and maintaining IT systems, so the bulk of the day to day collection maintenance rests with volunteers – some of whom have been working with the society for many years.

The collection is used by researchers and other visitors to the Society and by volunteers conducting site searches. Items from the collection are also regularly drawn upon for exhibitions in the RHSV Gallery and some have been lent, under the strictest conditions, to other exhibitors.

The advent of digitisation and online services has been beneficial for heritage collections in easing the conflict between access and preservation. Last year the Judge Willis casebooks were digitised and made available online, and work continues to upload images and other documents. After various technical issues have been resolved it is intended that many of the images will be made available online. Another priority is to facilitate the uploading of collection records to the National Library's Trove website – providing funding for this remarkable resource is maintained.

Elisabeth Jackson and Richard Barnden



A group of Aboriginal people standing probably around Russell Street and looking west along Collins Street towards Market Street, c. 1840; after Elisha Noyce, lithographer [RHSV Collection: NP-0270]



Saloon Bar, Scott's Hotel, Collins Street, Melbourne, between 5 pm and 6 pm ('6 o'clock swill'), c. 1960 [RHSV Collection: A-594.021]



Swanston Street, Melbourne, looking north from its intersection with Flinders Street, showing Princes Bridge Hotel [Young and Jackson], Champions Hotel (under construction), Cathedral Hotel and St Paul's Cathedral, c. 1905 [RHSV Collection: S-467.001]



Myer Emporium and Buckley and Nunn, Bourke Street, Melbourne, c. 1930 [RHSV Collection: PHN-001023]

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing, the RHSV is on the brink of three big events associated with the completion of the Supreme Court history, *Judging for the People: A Social History of the Supreme Court in Victoria 1841-2016*. These are the opening by the Governor of an exhibition at the RHSV, a one-day conference and then the actual launch of the book by the Chief Justice. On behalf of the RHSV I express our gratitude to Dr Simon Smith who initiated and managed the project and edited the book.



Also at the time of writing we believe that we are on the brink of achieving long-term security at the Drill Hall. We are currently negotiating the terms under which this may occur. We thank the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, and RHSV Ambassador Catherine Andrews, who have helped us get to this point. We hope to announce some good news by the middle of the year.

Before the next *History News* is published the Annual General meeting will have been held (17 May). Nominations are being called for Awards of Merit to be announced on that night, and I urge all societies to consider nominating their long-standing members who have given exceptional service. (See our website for details.)

Finally, I wish to thank Professor Chips Sowerwine who has been the editor of *History News* for the last two years and in that time has introduced many new elements and developed it as a lively record of events, successes and issues in the community history and heritage movement, as well as fulfilling its traditional role as a forum for information. Chips is taking leave as editor for the year to concentrate on his writing, although he will continue to help gather material. I welcome Professor Marian Quartly, former Dean of Arts at Monash University, who has generously undertaken the editor's role in his absence.

Don Garden

The End of History as We Know it?

This provocative title prefaced a lively History of Victoria Support Group meeting at the RHSV on Saturday 19 March organised by the Convenor and RHSV Councillor George Fernando. Almost seventy people from city and regional areas attended this first HVSG meeting for 2016. The title introduced the theme: 'what future for historical societies in a digital world?'

Dr Darren Peacock, CEO National Trust of South Australia flew from Adelaide to address the conference on how large cultural organisations in Australia are managing the digital revolution. He reported progress but that surveys have revealed that most bodies fall short of world's best practice. For all organisations large or small, well-resourced or not, Darren Peacock recommended strategies of benching marking progress, sharing infrastructure and ideas with others, seeking out free resources where possible, outsourcing for skills, and having a market orientation about the resources being digitised.

Seven other speakers demonstrated and shared ideas about digital apps; digital technologies and cataloguing; how to share digital resources across a region; and ways of doing digital history. It was one of the most forward looking HVSG meetings for some time.

Richard Broome

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *The Land Boomers*

Almost 100 people, including ex-Premier John Cain, former Speaker of the VICLA Judy Maddigan, and Keeper of the Public Records at PROV Justine Heazlewood, gathered in the Drill Hall at noon on 17 March to pay a fine tribute to the long oeuvre of the historian Michael Cannon, best known as the author of *The Land Boomers*.

The children and grandchildren of Michael Cannon and other family members also graced this occasion. The event, hosted by RHSV and the Friends of the State Library of Victoria and compered by the inimitable Andrew Lemon, provided a vehicle to recognise the more than twenty books, authored or edited by Michael Cannon, including his co-editing of the multi-volume *Historical Records of Victoria*.

The opening passages of *The Land Boomers* were beautifully read by Dr Felix Nobus from the Centre for Theatre and Performance at Monash University. Dr Nobus also performed one of his own pieces, 'I Get The Age Delivered'. Michael Cannon responded with grace to the tributes.

Associate Professor John Arnold, editor of the *La Trobe Journal*, launched the latest edition of the journal, which includes an extract from Michael Cannon's unpublished memoirs.

All then adjourned to a luncheon in the RHSV's exhibition area to conclude a memorable celebration.

Richard Broome



The Cannon family, from left: James Cannon, Sarah Cannon, Michael Cannon, Paul Cannon, Patrick Cannon in the RHSV Library.

RHSV ANNUAL BOOK SALE



Books are now being received for our 23rd Annual Book sale to be held on

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

This year we are **ONLY** taking History Books. History books on any topic are welcome.

We will come and collect your books within a reasonable distance from CBD, alternatively you can drop them off at the RHSV – there is a 10 minute parking bay at the front of the 239 A'Beckett Street.

To arrange a pick up: Please phone 9326 9288

SAVE THE DATE

Following the wonderful success of our Members Only Book Sale Previews we will be repeating this event.

This year the Members Only Book Sale Preview will be held on **THURSDAY 16 JUNE**.

See June edition of *History News* for further details.

Weston Bate Wows Them Again!



A large audience of over 70 gathered at the Mess Room auditorium at the Drill Hall to hear former RHSV President and current patriotic supporter, Professor Weston Bate, speak at the March monthly meeting. His theme was the grassroots of Victoria's social and political colonial culture.

In a talk of sweeping majesty he explained how the gold generation in Victoria had a different experience to the diggers of New South Wales and out of that formed a unique colonial ideology.

This generation of self-improvers in the 1850s and beyond forged an alliance between capital and labour, as in the eight hour movement.

This was especially the case at Ballarat because the capital-labour alliance needed to work for up to a year to penetrate the golden layer under the basalt fifty metres down.

This led to a radical liberalism different to the class politics that developed in late nineteenth century New South Wales. This was expressed in Deakinite liberalism and the Harvester Judgement of H.B. Higgins, which protected local industry if it gave a living wage.

All this expansive material was delivered with the usual Bate vigour from just a few notes.

Richard Broome

Call for Contributors: History of the Medical Legacies of the Vietnam War

Work has commenced on an independent history that will document and analyse the medical legacies of the Vietnam War. The volume has been commissioned by the Australian War Memorial Council and will be written by Dr Peter Yule, a research fellow at the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. The final manuscript is expected to be completed and ready for publication by the end of 2019.

This history will examine the development of various medical issues experienced by Australian veterans, with a particular focus on the health effects of exposure to herbicides, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A team of researchers will undertake interviews with a wide cross-section of veterans of the Vietnam War.

The focus of the history will be on the health concerns of veterans. Dr Yule believes the best way to find out about these concerns is to talk with the veterans themselves. He emphasises that the voice of the veterans must be heard. The Victorian and Tasmanian interviewer is historian Dr Fay Woodhouse. She is keen to hear from Vietnam veterans who would like to contribute to this important study.

If you would like to be interviewed, or know someone who would, please contact Dr Woodhouse on 0427 042 753.

Kemp on Menzies

Speaking less as a retired Federal cabinet minister and more as a former Professor of Politics at Monash University, the Hon. Dr David Kemp delivered a lively opening lecture to the RHSV for 2016 on Tuesday 16 February.

The lecture recognised the fiftieth anniversary of the retirement in January 1966 of Sir Robert Menzies as Prime Minister, after holding office continuously since 1949. Dr Kemp concentrated on Menzies's upbringing in Victoria, his mentors, the evolution of his political ideas and craft, and the leading part Menzies played in creating the modern Liberal Party after his first, less successful stint as PM 1939-41. The ideals were exemplified in Menzies's 1942 manifesto *The Forgotten People*.

Dr Kemp readily held the attention of a good audience as he suggested diverse inspirations, sometimes surprising, for Menzies's particular form of liberalism. Dr Kemp sought to contest many of the negative stereotypes perpetuated by Menzies's detractors. The emphasis of the lecture was on the ideas and ideals ahead of the record-breaking term in office. It is available on podcast via the RHSV website.

Andrew Lemon



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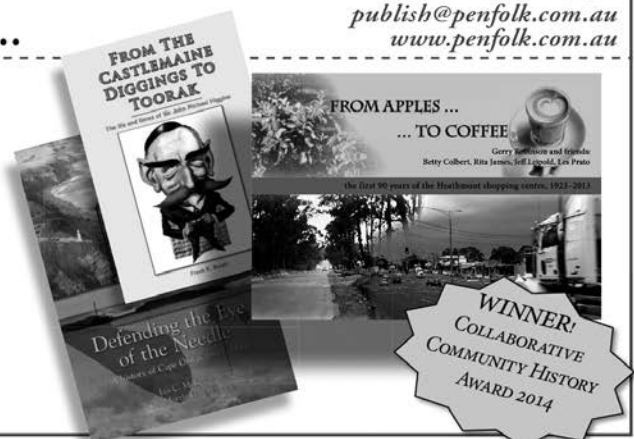
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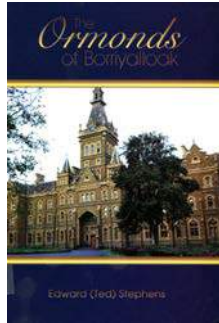


Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in *Books Received*.

Compiled by Don Gibb.

The Ormonds of Borriyalloak

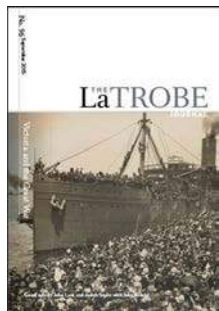
Edward (Ted) Stephens, EJ & D Stephens Pty Ltd, 81 Clarence Street, Geelong West, 3218, 2014, pp. 226. ISBN 9780646928043.



Francis Ormond, father and son, were substantial and successful pastoralists in the 2nd half of the 19th century. Scottish, Presbyterian and philanthropic, they were part of a band of Western District settlers who have left considerable marks of their presence. Francis senior was a retired sea captain who laid many of the economic foundations for his better-known son whose benevolence is clearly visible especially in education with the massive Presbyterian presence at the University of Melbourne, the Workingmen's College and the founding of what is now RMIT University, and the Ormond Chair of Music. The author deals with properties held by the Ormonds, their interactions with many other pastoral families, and their service in local communities like Skipton, Shelford and Geelong. Mostly a chronicle with some notes but no index, but a valuable recognition of one of the less-noted 19th century philanthropists.

Victoria and the Great War

John Lack and Judith Smart with John Arnold (eds), *The La Trobe Journal* no. 96, September 2015, pp. 224, State Library of Victoria. ISSN 14413760. ISBN 9780987117748.



Commemoration of the Great War has produced a plethora of material in books, articles and exhibitions. This splendid journal issue contains significant contributions from both established writers like Lack, Smart, Ziino, Damousi, Triolo and Newton and emerging historians, often with special interests like Kate Laing, Catherine Tiernan, Jillian Durrance and Bronwyn Hughes. Readers will find much of interest about Australian responses, division on the home front especially in Melbourne, emotions engendered by the war, attitudes to Germany in Education Department literature, the role of John Springthorpe in the war as an individual intellectual, and the activities and role of women's organisations. A substantial and enterprising work within the floods of Great War publications.

Ravenswood

JF O'Donnell, the author, PO Box 132, Moonee Ponds, 3039, 2015, pp. 175. ISBN 9780992532819.



A comprehensive account of the building, life, vicissitudes and restoration of 'Ravenswood', a late Victorian mansion that once fronted Lower Heidelberg Road in Heidelberg. Sumptuously illustrated with historic photos as well as precise detailing of the many features of its modern restoration. Meticulously researched and documented for its owners, its occupiers, its builders, its decorators and its landscapers. Robert Kennedy, described as a 'self-made grocery baron who became a successful financier, investor and land speculator', was in some ways typical of many mansion builders of the 1880s but the house was not built until the early 1890s. This book contributes much to our understandings of surviving mansions from the late Victorian era.

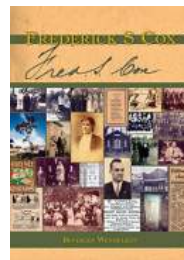
Australians in World War II United Kingdom

Peter Williams, Department of Veteran Affairs, Canberra, 2015, pp.166 . ISBN 9780992583972.

A collection of short texts and images of aspects of the lives of Australians in Britain during the Second World War. The texts cover the Navy, the Air Force, war correspondents, Army and Nursing personnel, involvement in D-day and the German surrender and repatriation of POWs. The bulk of the book contains splendid images mostly drawn from the riches of the Australian War Memorial that illustrate Australians in Britain and evoke selected aspects of the war.

Frederick S Cox

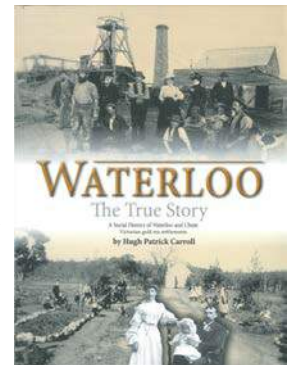
Beverly Wendelken,, Penfolk Publishing, Blackburn, 3130, 2015, pp. vii + 136. ISBN 9781875984970.



A loving memoir of the author's father and his forebears who migrated from England in 1863. They spent time in Melbourne and Maldon and the next generation settled at California Gully where Fred Cox was born. His working life was spent at Cowling's Garage in Bendigo. His family's involvement with the local Methodist churches is extensively examined. The author commendably places her family's 'ordinary' history in its social context.

Waterloo - The True Story, A Social History of Waterloo and Chute, Victorian Gold Era Settlements

Hugh Patrick Carroll, Waterloo Community Group, 2015, pp. x + 291.



Waterloo and Chute are north-east of Beaufort in Victoria's Central Gold-fields and owed their existence to the Fiery Creek rush and subsequent searches in the area in the 1860s. The author presents a chronological account of the ups and downs of life and work in the mining settlements through to the Great War, the loss of sustaining industries by the 1920s and the subsequent virtual disappearance of the towns from public view. The book is comprehensive in assembling a past with many community contributions, photos, some very clear maps, details of those buried in the Waterloo Cemetery, those who served in the Great War, those on the 1903 electoral roll as well as a summary of commercial activity. Well-referenced and indexed and a boon for families with connections to the area.

Benalla Migrant Camp: A Difficult Heritage

Bruce Pennay, Benalla Migrant Camp Inc, Benalla, 2015, pp. viii + 54. ISBN 97806469393131.

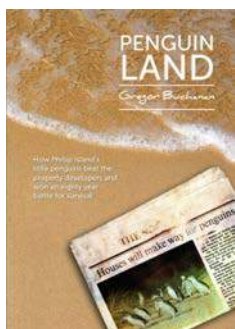


Commissioned to prepare a thematic history of the former migrant accommodation centre at Benalla 1949-1967, the author's booklet provides a vignette on the postwar immigrant experience at a scarcely remembered centre that received an estimated 60000 non-British new arrivals. Chapters focus on the nature of the camp as a short-term holding centre for women and children as well as a place for work in the camp and in and around Benalla; the relationships with Benalla and townspeople; camp life remembered by its residents; and a significant discussion of the ways in which its heritage is and might be preserved. Bruce Pennay has provided another valuable contribution to immigration history, an area to which he has already made substantial contributions.

Penguin Land

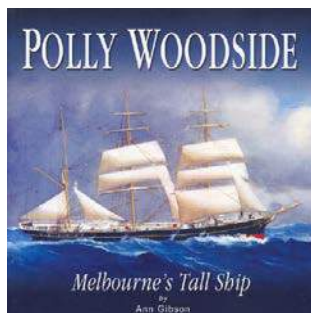
George Buchanan, Mitchell House Publishing, PO Box 236, Mont Albert, 3127, 2015, pp. iii + 154. ISBN 9780646922959.

‘How Phillip Island’s little penguins beat the property developers and won an eighty year battle for survival’ is an apt sub-title describing this book about the battle to regain and protect the burrows of the little penguin colony at the Summerland Beach. It tells much about the attractions of the island for holidays, tourists and developers from the 1920s. It also tells of naturalists’ long interest in the penguin colony at Summerland and it traces the vexed and expensive battle to reclaim Summerland from private hands from the 1960s through to 2010. An interesting story, well-told, well-documented and illustrated.



Polly Woodside, Melbourne's Tall Ship

Ann Gibson, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), East Melbourne, 3002, 2010, first published 2006, pp. 116. ISBN 0909710449.

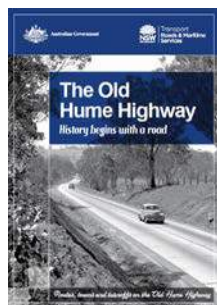


This book traces the construction of the Polly Woodside in Belfast in 1885, its subsequent ownership and voyages in the age when steamers largely replaced sailing ships. Its survival and restoration has made it part of Melbourne’s heritage attractions. An interesting story with documentation and interest.

The Old Hume Highway, History Begins With A Road, Roads, Towns and Turnoffs on the Old Hume Highway

NSW Government, Transport, Roads & Maritime Services, 2nd edition, 2014, pp.122.

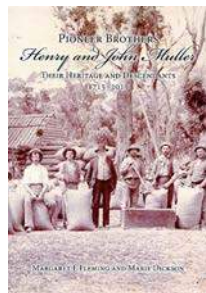
An excellent guide to the history of a road and the places it joined in New South Wales with many illustrations, clear directions for those following the route, information about the places on the way but understandably finishing at Albury. It is a model for histories of Victorian highways including the Hume.



Pioneer Brothers, Henry and John Muller, Their Heritage and Descendants, 1715-2015

Margaret E Fleming and Marie Dickson, 2015, pp. ix + 584. ISBN 9780646942230.

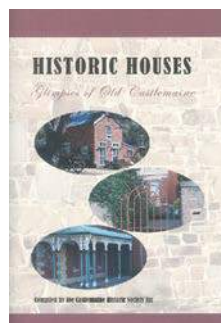
The Muller brothers migrated from Hannover to London and then to South Australia in the first half of the 19th century. In the 1870s they were both farming in rural Victoria at Nagambie and Wharparilla. The book is a mountain of meticulous research and documentation, superbly illustrated by maps and photos of people and places, then and now, as it traces the generations of descendants of the two brothers. Their vital details are carefully linked to their times in a book that goes well beyond most family histories in its quest to understand the interactions of its members with changing a society and economy that underwent enormous change. The authors have been greatly assisted by family members. In turn the family has been well-served by this comprehensive and well-arranged work.



Historic Houses, Glimpses of Old Castlemaine

Castlemaine Historical Society, PO Box 655, Castlemaine, 2015, pp. 32. ISBN 9780949398284.

A guide to historic houses in Castlemaine that provides photos, maps, text and documentation for all who are interested in heritage in general and Castlemaine’s in particular. An excellent model for any project of this kind.



The Squatters Directory 1849 – Revisited; The Squatters Directory 1859 – Revisited; The Squatters Directory 1874 - Revisited

Ian Itter (transcriber), Ian Itter, Swan Hill, 2014, pp. 74; pp. 106; pp. 138. ISBN 9780987570949; ISBN 9780994151018; ISBN 9780987570956.

The 1849 directory was originally compiled from the *Government Gazette*; the 1859 directory was originally from Ham’s Squatting Map; and the 1874 directory from a microfilm file by Miles Macphail in SLV, The transcriber sees his work as providing help to researchers in the pastoral

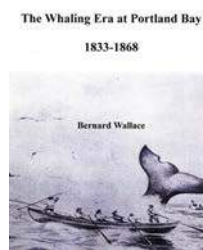


industry. Each directory is presented with alphabetical listing of squatters, districts in which land was located and names of properties. It may well be material that could be placed on searchable files on the web. As Itter notes, the directories reflect many changes in land occupation. Using these directories to trace particular properties and people is not easy partly because names have altered or been misspelt at some stage in their recording, something that requires further research.

The Whaling Era at Portland Bay 1833-1868

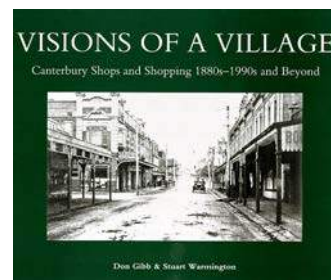
Bernard Wallace, Janotek, 125A Percy Street, Portland, 3305, 2015, pp.34. ISBN 9780980758511.

A booklet sub-titled ‘An outline of the nature and significance of the whaling industry at Portland Bay, Victoria, Australia’ – an accurate summary of its content provides a neat account of the people involved, the methods used, the ups and downs of the industry at this early settlement.



Visions of a Village, Canterbury Shops and Shopping 1880s-1990s and Beyond

Don Gibb & Stuart Warmington, Canterbury History Group, 142 Canterbury Road Canterbury, 3126, 3rd edition 2016, first published 1995, pp. vi + 74, \$21. ISBN9780994507402.



A revised edition of this book that has sold almost 3000 copies with additions and amendments to the text by Don Gibb and beautifully illustrated by Stuart Warmington’s black and white drawings.

St Brigid’s School Ballan, A Short History

Yvonne Horfield, St Brigid’s School Ballan, 2011, pp. 63. The school had its origins as a Catholic school in c.1860. This booklet traces the school’s development noting changes to lay administration, continuing attachment to the local church and survival in hard times and a destructive fire in 1963. There are some reminiscences from former pupils, a tribute to Miss O’Kane who taught there for nearly 50 years, and a selection of photos including classes and staff at the time of publication.

INSURANCE AND MEMBERSHIP FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

All historical societies should have received the insurance and membership form and information about insurance in the mail by now.
The information is also available on the RHSV website www.historyvictoria.org.au under Societies.

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

We welcome Societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words or send your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. For the 1 June 2016 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 16 May 2016. Volunteer Helen Boak on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON: For an interesting journey go to <http://alordon.travellerspoint.com/> and travel across the globe from The Azores where Adam Lindsay Gordon was born, then follow his path to England and later to Australia. Even if you can only take an armchair ride there is a wealth of very interesting information on this site.

ANGLICAN: Reverend Jenny Nelson, an artist in her own right, was a recent speaker at our meeting. She spoke on the 'The Meszaros Family of Sculptors'. Andrew Meszaros and his family, have established a studio specialising in sculpture and medallions. Jenny is working on a complete catalogue of their works and would appreciate any leads. Contact: roger.meyer@bigpond.com.

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN: We organise both walking and driving tours to various destinations around Melbourne. Last year one such trip was to the Domain where we learnt of its history and the trees, many of which are large or rare. Another was to Sunbury for a tour of seven gardens and attractions in the area. Enquiries: 0418 590 891.

BALWYN: We are continually adding to our collection of donated archival material about the Balwyn area, much in the form of photographs, local newspaper reports and pamphlets. This material is being used to answer the increasing number of enquiries on Balwyn history. We welcome donations to this collection. Contact: balwynhistory@gmail.com.

BRIGHTON CEMETORIANS: Plants and trees are an integral part of cemeteries as a dearth of vegetation can cause surface soil to erode and undermine grave structures. Cemeteries today don't have diversity of plants and self-seeded flowers or the old fashioned rose cultivars but fortunately any Remnant Native vegetation has been given protection by Victorian Cemeteries' rules since 1989.

BROADFORD: *When Broadford was Young, so was I* is a new book that was produced to share knowledge with young, older readers and generations of the future. It is a comprehensive memory of Broadford written with humour and anecdotes that will recall early days in most country towns. Available for \$45 plus postage. Contact: 0437 811 930.

BUNGAREE: Our guest speaker on April 18 at 8 pm will be Major Peter Kennedy. His subject is the Ballarat born ANZAC veteran and leader of Australian forces at Tobruk in World War 2: General Leslie Morshead. For more details please contact 5334 0246 or 5334 0226. Venue Bungaree Historical Society.

CAMPERDOWN: An exhibition: 'Our Inspiring Women - Out of the Shadows'. Covering eight inspiring women born between 1829 and 1880. The women's accomplishments cover Aboriginal languages, botany, bullock driving, nursing, early pioneer life, community leadership and inn keeping. Open until end of June on Tuesdays and first Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm, or by appointment. www.camperdownhistory.org.au.

CARISBROOK: A recent visit to the Public Records Office in North Melbourne highlighted the range of information that is available. Before going we wisely spent time online accessing the extensive PROV Guide booklets. On arrival we were assisted by PROV staff and a group of volunteer researchers.

CASTLEMAINE PIONEERS AND OLD RESIDENTS: A speech by Colonel James G Roche on the occasion of the rededication of our Montage highlighted the increasing importance of these ceremonies. As time passes they provide a valuable link with our past, and are practical examples of the nation's promise not to forget those who sacrificed so much.

CIVIL AVIATION: Our recent open day themed 'The England-Australia Centenary Air Race 1934' was very successful. There were three well attended talks - 'Three Days to Australia', 'The Air Race Sub-Committee' and 'The Airline Winner- the significance of the DC-2 'Ulver''. We also had a photo display comprising a series of adjoining panels showing the complete air race route.

CORNISH: New in the Library: A classic account of a visit to the Victorian goldfields, which first appeared in 1855, was published in a paperback edition by Cambridge University Press in 2011. The two volumes were recently donated: *Land, Labour and Gold: Two Years in Victoria: with visits to Sydney and Van Diemen's Land*, by William Howitt, 2011.

DONCASTER-TEMPLESTOWE: From the series on historic home and buildings in Doncaster, Templestowe and Bulleen we feature 'Friedensruh' the property built for Johann Gottlieb Thiele, which dates from 1853. It is still owned and occupied by his descendants today. The property is one of the last remaining with links to the origins of fruit growing in this district.

GISBORNE & MOUNT MACEDON: We have recently updated our website www.gisbornemountmacedon.org.au so do have a look at what we have to offer. Our members provide the History Page and the 100 years ago column in the monthly GREAT Gisborne Gazettes. This is a great initiative that promotes history to a wider audience.

GLEN EIRA: Our collection has a significant breadth and depth and we encourage a visit to the society's rooms for your research. There are many records including from local groups - a Film Society, Archery Club and Scout Group. Opening hours Tuesday to Friday 9am to 12 or by appointment. Email: gehs@optusnet.com.au.

INVERLOCH: A visit to the local cemetery and other investigations reveals pioneer families and interesting stories. Recently we inspected graves at Tarwin Lower, including the resting place of Captain Osterman, survivor of the ill-fated 'Magnat'. Having survived the sinking of his vessel, Captain Osterman succumbed some time later due to severe stress caused by this event.

KEILOR: One small man's victory - for common sense. Tom Rigg from St Albans was a stationmaster for more than 30 years. In December 2000 he was advised 'Station Masters would become Team Leaders'. Finally after 15 years of protest and many letters the term 'Station Master' has been reinstated for suburban trains, and Station Manager for country trains.

KILMORE: Upcoming guest speakers for 5 April are Cathy Koning who has been researching Dorothy Rudder, a twentieth century actress and performer; and on 3 May Scott Whitaker talking on his book *Railway Hotels of Australia*. Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in the Old Kilmore Court House. Enquiries: kilmorehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

LAKES ENTRANCE: It is rare to find early photographs of people smiling. When photography was in its infancy exposure times were up to fifteen minutes. To reduce movement, people would hold their expressions without smiling. Very hard to hold a fixed grin for that length of time!

MAFFRA: We now have our own Facebook page where we regularly update research enquiries - www.facebook.com/MaffraHistSoc/. Do you know of any images or details of businesses that were located between Thomson and Foster Streets North side? If so please contact us through our Facebook page or via email kapana@netspace.net.au.

MALDON: In response to food shortages in the UK post WW2, residents of Maldon sent crates of apples to the school children of Maldon, Essex. In return they created a book featuring photographs, drawings, samples of school work and lettering, the book is an intriguing reminder of those times.

MARYSVILLE: 60 years ago on 8 December 1955 electric power was turned on in Marysville. The ceremony was preceded by a carnival of floats, after the lights were turned on the children took rides at the carnival set up next to the Public Hall while a dance was held in the hall for the adults.

MOORABBIN: Box Cottage Museum, Joyce Park, Jasper Rd Ormond. A compact display 'Sand belt Anzacs' featuring local WW1 volunteers. All welcome, 2 to 4 pm Sunday 24 April, 8 & 29 May. Entry by donation. Email: moorabbins@gmail.com.

MURCHISON: On Australia Day the Society was awarded 'Organisation of the Year' in recognition of the extension and improvements to the Heritage Centre. The upgraded building works well and affords a better experience for visitors. Do come and visit. Information: balljk4@bigpond.com. Group bookings: 5826 2363.

NORTH AND WEST MELBOURNE: Saturday 7 May 2016, National Trust Heritage Festival Walk starting at 2.00 pm. 'Raze or recycle: repurposing heritage buildings'. North Melbourne has a vast array of heritage buildings. Join the North Melbourne Library and Hotham History Project for an easy walk to discover these buildings with a highlight being the magnificent Melbourne Meat Market.

OAKLEIGH: A great way to connect with the local community and interest a different audience in our history was the presentation of 'The Purple & Golds: 65 years in the VFA: an exhibition of Oakleigh Football Club'. The exhibition saw visitors, participation and donation to the archive as our best to date.

PORT FAIRY: We held an open day during the school holidays which attracted several items in the local newspapers *Gazette* and *Standard* this encouraged further visitors and recorded the day with several photographs. Visitors were impressed by our exhibitions, and were surprised that our curators regularly develop new, temporary exhibitions as well as refreshing permanent displays.

PORT MELBOURNE: Mapping Port Melbourne is a project of our landscape's changing history. Maps chosen show major changes such as the filling of the Lagoon, cutting of Coode Canal, modification of the River entrance and construction of Westgate Bridge. Next we will collate the stories and present the maps in digital and hard copy.

ROSEDALE: Our bootmaker Mr. Geo Ross designed a protective shield for the soldier on active service, intended to buckle on the soldiers' body. The only drawback is that the Defence people believe the wearing of a shield would diminish the soldier's courage, also, the wearing of a life protector is not encouraged in civilized warfare!

SHEPPARTON: Our region once had a thriving Jewish community, commencing in 1913 when eight families settled as orchardists. A synagogue was built in 1924, and to mark the site a plaque was unveiled in November 2015. The Heritage Centre Museum is preparing a permanent display based on items donated from former Shepparton Jewish community members. Contact: 5821 7717.

SUNSHINE: Customers and shopkeepers used to spend time in relaxed conversation. They would be well known to each other serving on the same committees and supporting the local sports. The Cinderella Gardens were constructed in Sunshine in 1931 for shoppers to enjoy until progress came along in the form of a rail overpass and they were demolished.

TERANG: Can you help? We are looking for a couple of items: A copy of the 1932 Ecklin Premiership Cricket team when they beat Dixie in the Heytesbury Cricket Association final. Also, A photograph of the Garvoc Racecourse. If you can help with a scan, or a copy, or the original, please contact: historysociety04@hotmail.com.

TRAFALGAR: In conjunction with Warragul Library we are putting on an historical display of photos, newspapers and artefacts "'Trafalgar remembers...'" in Trafalgar's Community Centre on 13 May. Please put that date in your diary for a very interesting day. Visitors always welcome, contact: 5633 1960 for further information.

UPPERYARRA VALLEY: It is 100 years since the 1888 Lilydale Station was transported to Yarra Junction. 50 years since the official creation of the Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society which made the station central to its mission of preserving and sharing Upper Yarra history and 50 years since the last train graced the Lilydale to Warby line.

WANDONG: *Wandong: From Lightwood Flat to the Forest, A History of Our Schools* covers the establishment of the school at Lightwood Flat, its subsequent removal and reconstruction at Wandong, to the present day. Included is the school in the forests of Mt Disappointment at the Comet Mill. Cost \$20 plus \$10 P&H to order phone: 5787 1314.

WAVERLEY: A great initiative combining modern architecture with history. A new automatic toilet facility in Hamilton Place Shopping Centre features images of old Mt Waverley on its sides. On the north side is a view of Mt Waverley State School about 1924 and the south side shows Tait's store in Stephenson's Road in the 1930s.

WESTERN VICTORIA: Glenthompson: In 2015 three members attended the RHSV workshop in Stawell and learnt skills to create our own Facebook page. So our Group is now bringing our collection and information to a whole new audience. We are also working with Aboriginal elders to register our artefacts correctly. <https://www.facebook.com/glenthompsonhistory>.

WILLIAMSTOWN: A new book *Williamstown – A Great Metropolitan Racing Club* traces the earliest history of racing in Williamstown to its demise in 1948. Included are details on some of the personalities and great horses which brought it fame. Available from our Museum for \$40. Contact: secretarywillyhistsoc@gmail.com.

WOODEND: In June 1918 the question of our 'Avenue of Honour' was debated at a community meeting. Suggestions were: waiting until the result of the War or not thinking that we would be planting trees for the Germans for our soldiers were going to fight on and win this War! It was agreed the Avenue would be planted.

Best Sellers from the RHSV Bookshop, 2015

1. *Crime in the Port Phillip District, 1835-51.* By Paul R Mullaly
2. *Barristers Solicitors Pettifoggers: profiles in Australian colonial legal history.* By Simon Smith
3. *Poor Souls, They Perished – The Catarina, Australia's Worst Shipwreck.* By Andrew Lemon & Marjorie Morgan
4. *A Way with the Fairies: The lost story of sculptor Ola Cohn.* By Barbara Lemon
5. *Powelltown Tramway Centenary 1913-2013.* By Mike McCarthy & Frank Stamford
6. *Settlers and Sawmillers: a history of West Gippsland tramways and the industries they served.* By Mike McCarthy
7. *My Railway Days: a photographic journey with John Dare.*
8. *Blockbuster!: Fergus Hume and the Mystery of a Hansom Cab.* By Lucy Sussex
9. *Norwood: it changed the face of Melbourne.* By Roland Johnson
10. *The Golden Harvest, a history of Wedderburn.* By Geoff Arnott and Keith Ring
11. *Bellbrakes, Bullocks and Bushmen: a sawmillers & tramway history of Gembrook 1885-1985.* By Mike McCarthy
12. *Two Squatters: the lives of George Playne and Daniel Jennings.* By Martin Playne

www.historyvictoria.org.au/shop

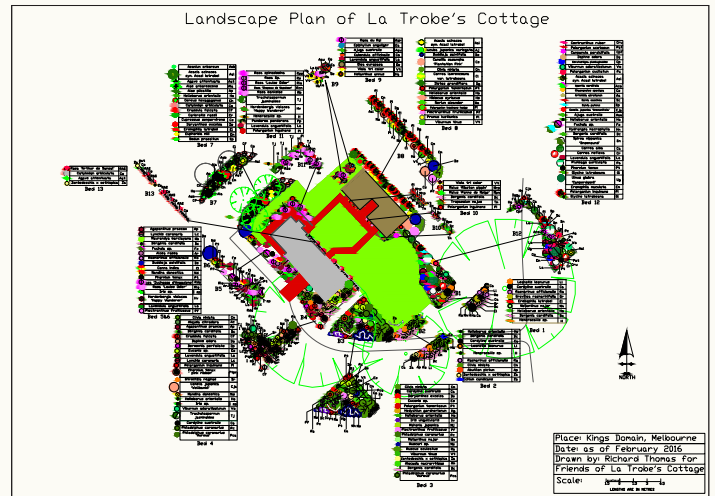
La Trobe's Cottage Garden Re-created

In 2014, The Friends of La Trobe's Cottage*(FOLTC), were thrilled to win the Victorian Community History Awards (Historical Interpretation category) for the garden at La Trobe's Cottage.

The group was formed in 2009 to help work with the National Trust, to reinvigorate the cottage and gardens as over the years they had fallen into a state of limbo.

The cottage is not on its original site of 12.5 acres at Jolimont which was just behind the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The present site in Kings Domain is about the size of an average ¼ acre block. It was decided to only use species that were available to La Trobe during his time in Melbourne (1839-1854). Through meticulous research and physical work of the volunteers the garden has evolved into a wild garden similar to that created by La Trobe and captured in the sketches of Edward La Trobe Bateman c. 1853.

The application proposed that some of the prize money should go towards developing a digital landscape plan as it was realised that it is not wise to have just one person with all this information in their head. Landscape plans are like structural plans, telling you where everything is and therefore are very important documents. They record plant species and numbers, location, what structures such as benches are present and shape of the garden beds etc. And when it comes to restoring gardens, this is the information that is often missing. They are also a social document of a snap point in time, showing what plants were popular in a particular period.



The digital landscape plan represents the final chapter in our interpretive re-creation of an early colonial pre-gold rush garden. It can be viewed on the FOLTC website at <http://www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au/garden-plan.html>

Sandi Pullman

*FOLTC is under the auspices of the C. J. La Trobe Society

'Yallambie': An Interesting Historical Website

The wealth of sources available on the internet to the casual inquirer into the history of Victorian people and places is probably beyond anyone's grasp. Local historical societies and interested individuals have posted many thousands of documents, and continue to post more. The bulk of these are probably photographs, but there are also many manuscript sources that have been painstakingly transcribed and made available to researchers.

'Yallambie: Telling tales of life in the suburb, its history, homes and hyperbole' <https://yallambie.wordpress.com/> is a fine example of an individual website deserving to be more widely known.

New posts go up every month, on topics ranging recently from bushrangers on the Plenty River in 1842; to cemeteries, public and private, in and around early Melbourne; to suggestions for re-identifying images of early gardens held in the National Gallery of Victoria and the National Library of Australia. A common link running through these postings is a long-standing concern with the Howitt family and a close knowledge of manuscript sources relating especially to Dr Godfrey Howitt, sources that are generously reproduced on the website. Anyone interested in the history of early Melbourne will enjoy a visit to 'Yallambie' – but beware, you may find that a couple of hours have passed unnoticed and it is well past the time to begin cooking dinner.

Marian Quartly



The Station Plenty, (Yallambie) view VI by Edward La Trobe Bateman 1853-1856.

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/22814/>

This brief review is intended as the first of an occasional series on websites of historical interest like 'Yallambie'. If you know of a suitable site for review, please contact the editor of *History News*, email mquartly66@gmail.com