



History NEWS

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Royal Historical Society
of Victoria



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President's Report

In April the RHSV appointed a new Collections Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, Ms Christine Worthington, formerly the Librarian at the Prahran Mechanics Institute. Christine will be familiar to many members from her time at PMI, and comes to us highly praised for her management of that local history collection and her work with volunteers. I welcome her to the RHSV.

One of Christine's tasks will be to undertake a heightened level of outreach to our 340 affiliated member societies, especially those outside Melbourne. Indeed, I envisage this as a year in which a good deal of focus will be on better serving societies across the State. We will continue our usual contributions including the History Victoria Support Group seminars, the Victorian Community History Awards, Merit Awards to recognise our wonderful volunteers, History Week and online and other assistance and advice. To promote our capacity to serve non-metropolitan members, the RHSV Constitution has been altered to create two new positions on Council for country members. One of these Council co-opted, Alleyne Hockley from Castlemaine, has had many years of experience running that society and serving on the History Victoria Support Group. Welcome Alleyne. We will appoint a second country councillor in coming months.

Otherwise, the Council remains stable after a couple of years of significant injection of new blood. There were no changes of personnel at the recent AGM and so the talented team that has been built up and is working so well together will continue for the immediate future.

In other ways as well, the last couple of months have been very busy and full of achievements. As reported elsewhere, the events surrounding the celebration of the Supreme Court's 175th anniversary went very well, and the RHSV has expressed its gratitude to the Chief Justice, Hon Marilyn Warren, and to Dr Simon Smith for initiating the project and carrying the book through to such a successful conclusion.

Creative State: Victoria's first creative industries strategy 2016-2020 was released in late April. Sadly it ignores the attempts in written submissions and workshops made by the RHSV and community history and heritage groups to have our various types of work recognised as 'creative', or even to gain any mention. It is disappointing to see the considerable effort and expenditure that have gone into the document produce such a superficial and limited result. I cannot help comparing it very unfavourably with the much more focussed and specific *Australian Heritage Strategy* that was released by the Commonwealth last year.

For those keen to know, negotiations continue with the government towards a secure future at the Drill Hall

Don Garden



Introducing Christine Worthington

I asked our new Collections & Volunteer Co-ordinator to introduce herself to the readers of *History News*. Here is her story. *Marian Quartly*

In 2000 I completed the library technician course at Swinburne, Prahran and two years later I completed the Graduate Diploma of Information Management at RMIT. As a library tech I worked at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind Talking Book Library, and then at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian History Library for over 15 years, doing a whole range of duties related to the promotion, administration and development of the collection.

From 2005 I established and ran a small publishing arm of the library, Prahran Mechanics Institute Press, which has published 15 books. From 2008 I established and coordinated the PMI's volunteer program.

When not at work I am studying for my Masters Degree by distance education, keeping up with my busy seven year old, and cuddling our family's three cats. I also love to do family history research, but rarely have spare moments for it.

This new role is a terrific opportunity for me, and I look forward to meeting everyone and becoming acquainted with the RHSV's amazing collection.

Christine Worthington

History NEWS



The RHSV acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria

239 A'BECKETT STREET MELBOURNE 3000

Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

Library Hours: Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

website: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au>

email: office@historyvictoria.org.au

ABN 36 520 675 471

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President	Don Garden
Executive Officer	Kate Prinsley
Administrative Officer	Gerardine Horgan
Collections & Volunteer Co-ordinator:	Christine Worthington
Editor:	Marian Quartly mquartly66@gmail.com
Design & Artwork:	John Gillespie 0419 135 332

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email: mquartly66@gmail.com

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PROV records on Trove

Public Record Office Victoria's collection is now searchable through the National Library of Australia's Trove website. In Trove's *Diaries, Letters, Archives* zone you can now find 15,313 of our records by searching for nuc:VPRO. Further information is available on the PROV website.

This ready access will not be available for other local records in the future. The 2016-17 budget papers confirmed the extent of job losses at national cultural institutions: 28 jobs are to go at the National Library of Australia. The cuts at the National Library are particularly significant as Trove will cease to add to its collection after failing to secure dedicated funding. Read the *Sydney Morning Herald* report. For more reports and commentary see FundTrove on Facebook.

Judging for the People: the Verdict

It was a big birthday week. The RHSV teamed up with Victoria University and the Supreme Court of Victoria to mark the 175th anniversary of the first sitting in the Port Phillip District.

To accompany the magnificent collaborative book and two exhibitions (one at the RHSV, the other at the Supreme Court Library) was the RHSV Biennial Conference at Victoria University's Queen Street campus. Mastermind of anniversary events and former RHSV vice president, Dr Simon Smith, assembled an array of speakers for the one-day conference on Saturday 9 April. Special guest, Chief Justice of Victoria, the Hon. Marilyn Warren AC, QC, delivered the RHSV's biennial Augustus Wolskel Lecture. It was a comprehensive overview of the court's progress from its origins to the present day, with an emphasis on social change. Three excellent panel sessions took us through the day, topics being Judge-made

Law and Judicial Independence; Unexpected Impacts of the Law; and finally the Fourth Estate and Justice. We were introduced to remarkable men and women from the court's history. It is unfair to name highlights, though the audience uniformly enjoyed Justice Victoria Bennett on the Molesworth divorce case (1861-64) as actor Kevin Summers brought judges, barristers and newspaper men to life. It was emotional for many to join retired Supreme Court judge Bernard Teague as we replayed the historic first live broadcast of his sentencing hearing after a controversial murder trial in 1995. The RHSV intends to publish all the delivered papers next year in a special edition of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

Two serving members of the RHSV Council recognised in the Australia Day honours for 2014



Don Garden, OAM and Jane Carolan, OAM

It is a nice coincidence that two serving members of the RHSV Council have been recognised in the Australia Day honours for 2014. They were presented with their Medal of the Order of Australia on the same day by our RHSV Patron, Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AM.

Our President since 2013, Associate Professor Donald Stuart Garden is not only a Fellow of the RHSV but also of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. Don has served as President of the FAHS from 1996 to 2000, from 2008 to 2012 and again since 2014. He is widely known as a prolific author, beginning with his local history *Heidelberg: the land and its people* (1972). His *Victoria: a History* (1984) was the first single-author history of this state since H.G. Turner's two volumes of 1904. Don lectured in history at Melbourne State College and then at the University of Melbourne. He has particular expertise in environmental history and in 2009 published *Droughts, Floods and Cyclones: El Niños that shaped our colonial past*. As an active member of several local historical societies, Don understands well the issues that confront our volunteer bodies. He has been a strong advocate for history and heritage. Don's OAM citation is 'For service to community history and heritage preservation organisations.'

Dr Jane Mayo Carolan's award is 'For service to the community as an historian, archivist and author.' As an archivist she is known for her innovative work at Trinity Grammar School, Melbourne. She has shared her knowledge widely as convener of the school archives special interest group of the Australian Society of Archivists. She had undertaken archival work for Loreto Mandeville Hall, Brighton Grammar and St Leonard's College, has been a long term member of St Mary's College Council (University of Melbourne), Brighton Historical Society and the Brighton Cemeterians, the Professional Historians' Association, and of the editorial board of *Eureka Street*. Earlier in Jane's career she worked closely with Weston Bate for his history of Geelong Grammar School, *Light Blue Down Under*. More recently Jane has published several substantial works including school histories and her two volume history of Catholic Church Insurances. Jane Carolan, like Don Garden, is a tireless contributor to all the many causes she serves. The RHSV congratulates our OAMs.

Andrew Lemon

RHSV Councillor Dr Rosalie Triolo Wins FAHS Award

At the launch of our latest exhibition by the Governor the Honourable Linda Dessau, Dr Rosalie Triolo received an Award of Merit from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.



The RHSV Ambassador Catherine Williams and Dr Rosalie Triolo.

The award was presented by our Ambassador, Ms Catherine Andrews, who made a passionate speech in praise of Rosalie's work in teacher education and curriculum development. Rosalie made a warm reply. The citation, which Catherine Andrews précised in her speech, in part reads: 'Dr Triolo has lectured on methods of history teaching at Monash University for over twenty years, gaining a number of awards for teaching during that time from university and state professional teaching bodies. She has been on the Board of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) for fifteen years, including three years as HTAV President. Dr Rosalie Triolo has made a highly significant contribution to history advocacy, history curriculum and teacher training at the national level.'

Richard Broome



New RHSV Councillor

Late in 2015 Margaret Anderson joined the RHSV Council, having moved earlier in the year from Adelaide to become Manager of the Old Treasury Building. She has brought to us a wealth of experience in the history, heritage and museum worlds that will prove invaluable to the RHSV.

After taking out an honours degree and Masters in History and a Diploma of Education at the University of Western Australia, Margaret began work as Curator of History at the WA Museum where she pioneered its history exhibitions.

After twelve years there she moved to Adelaide where from 1982-86 she was Foundation Director of the SA Migration Museum, the first specific migration museum in the world. It was housed in a former destitute asylum which first had to be restored, an early example of adaptive reuse, and a collection was drawn together from SA community groups.

Margaret then had a period in Melbourne teaching Museum Studies at Deakin University, followed by five years at Monash lecturing in History, Asian Studies, Womens' Studies and Material Culture.

She was then drawn back to Perth as Director of Social and Cultural History at the WA Museum for five years before another brief period in Melbourne as a consultant. In 2000 Margaret was appointed CEO of History SA where she undertook a wide range of responsibilities including the operation of three museums, public history programmes, the development of the SA History Festival and provision of support services for historical societies.

Along the way, Margaret published a long list of scholarly articles and served on numerous committees, including a period as a member of the Council of Australian Museum Directors and from 2007-11 as its Chair. She was also the SA delegate to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

I am delighted to welcome Margaret Anderson to Melbourne's history and heritage circles, and particularly to the RHSV Council.

Don Garden



Richard Broome, Jane Carolan and Don Garden.

The Meeks now Reside at State Library of Victoria

As Dr Simon Smith researched the early lawyers of Port Phillip for the book *Judging for the People*, he followed the tracks of Victoria's first lawyer, William Meek, who was featured on the cover of a recent issue of *History News*. In that process he found descendants who held portraits of William and Mary Meek, and the shipboard diary of William Meek during his voyage to Port Phillip, 1837 to 1838. Through Simon Smith's good offices, the Meek's great-great granddaughter Margaret Curran donated the portraits and diary to the State Library of Victoria (SLV) and all Victorians. The SLV held a small ceremony in the Red Rotundra at the Library on the morning of Friday 8 April, to thank the family. While William Meek was looking splendid, Mary Meek's portrait by an unknown British artist still awaits restoration. However, careful attention from the Library's restoration team will make Mary's complexion and red ball gown luminous again.

Richard Broome

HISTORY WEEK 2016 16 - 23 OCTOBER

Get ready to dive into Victoria's history this *History Week*

The 9th annual *History Week* will be held this year from the 16-23rd October and is shaping up to be a fascinating week of exploration.

Last year saw over 400 things to do on around the state to celebrate the Week, and we encourage historical societies, museums and libraries to host a history event that showcases your activities.

Collectively *History Week* demonstrates the vibrancy of local history around the state. It highlights the enormous amount of work undertaken by volunteers and paid staff to make Victoria's history accessible. Every year the range of activities and number of participants grows and we thank you – and encourage you to get planning for this year.

The marketing campaign for *History Week* this year features this stunning image of the Brighton Beach Baths, reproduced with permission from the Bayside Library Service.

The image was snapped by photographer Edward Hayes c 1954 and features John Marshall, Wendy Byrne, Alan Trickey and Kerry Lemon. John Marshall was a champion swimmer who later married Wendy Byrne. Alan Trickey was the son of Councillor Trickey one time Mayor of Brighton. The photographer Edward Hayes appears to have been commissioned by Brighton Council in 1954 to take a series of photos.

The photo will appear in *Remembering Melbourne* – the publication currently being produced by the RHSV and featuring collections of 20 suburban historical societies – to be launched in November.

If you are planning a history related event during 16-23 October 2016 and would like it included on the official History Week calendar, you can register your event online at www.historyweek.org.au



History Week is generously supported by the Vera Moore Foundation.

Grand Exhibition Launch: *Judging for the People*

The Drill Hall was ablaze with colour as over 80 people gathered to witness our patron the Governor, the Honourable Linda Dessau, launch our latest Exhibition on the Supreme Court of Victoria to celebrate the court's 175th birthday.



The Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Marilyn Warren.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honourable Marilyn Warren, and the RHSV Ambassador Ms Catherine Andrews were in attendance to witness the event. Our President, Associate Professor Don Garden, warmly welcomed our distinguished guests. The curator of the Exhibition, Ms Daisy Searls, escorted the official guests around the various exhibits. These included images from the book *Judging for the People* edited by Dr Simon Smith for the RHSV; judges' wigs and robes; ink wells, telephones and other equipment from the courts; press clippings and other documents about the first woman lawyer, barrister and judge, the first lawyer to be made judge; Judge Walpole Willis' casebooks; and other aspects of the court's history.

The Governor, a former family court judge (and AFL Commissioner), gave a sparkling address before declaring the exhibition open. Wine and temperance drinks flowed, canapés were devoured and copies of the book were purchased. Some continued the conviviality and conversation across the road at the Radisson.

Richard Broome



Daisy Searls, the curator of the Supreme Court Exhibition, with Hugo Hancock and Gabby Jung.



Carole Woods, from the RHSV Council, and Alissa Duke, a Librarian at the Supreme Court Library and watercolour pencil artist.*

*Alissa Duke sketched participants and audience members at the RHSV Supreme Court History Conference – see her blog at: www.alissaduke.com/2016/04/sketching-at-a-conference.html#comment-1979

Supreme Court History is Launched!

On Tuesday 8 April a group of over eighty luminaries of the Supreme Court gathered in the magnificent Supreme Court Library to celebrate the launch of the excellent and beautiful book, *Judging for the People*, edited by Adjunct Professor Simon Smith.

The Chief Justice, the Honourable Marilyn Warren, spoke of the important history of the Court, which would now be more accessible to all Victorians because of the efforts of Simon Smith and the team writers and Supreme Court Library staff who gave their time *pro bono* to produce this history. The Chief Justice also praised the RHSV for working with Simon Smith to produce the book, so beautifully crafted by Allen & Unwin.

The RHSV President Don Garden responded warmly. The Chief Justice then beckoned all outside to view the illuminations that lit up the Supreme Court Building in luminous red and gold tones to mark the Court's 175th anniversary.

The handsome volume can be purchased by RHSV members for the special price of \$50.

Richard Broome



Editor of the Supreme Court History, Adjunct Professor Simon Smith, with the Chief Justice Marilyn Warren and the President of the RHSV Don Garden

Port Melbourne and The Great War Remembered

The Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society embarked last year on an ambitious project initiated by volunteer David Thompson and funded by a federal ANZAC Centenary Local Grant: the Port Melbourne First World War Centenary website.

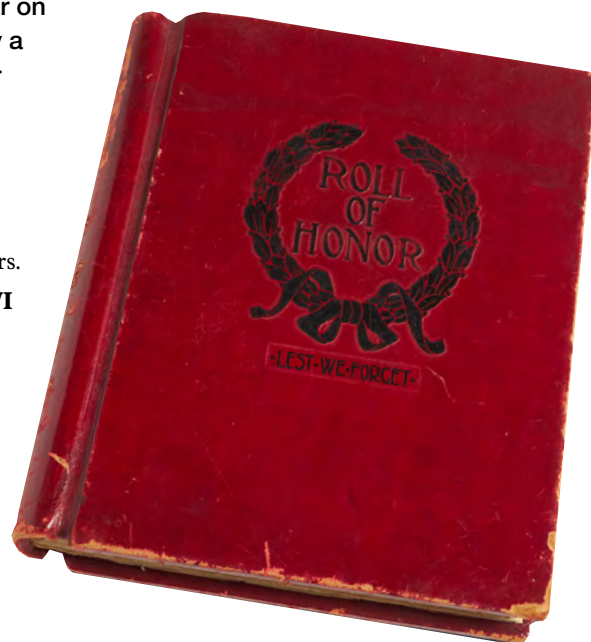
Of the many thousands who departed for the Great War from Port Melbourne piers, over two thousand that served were from Port or had some connection thereto. The aim of the project is to identify those men and women and list their details on a website open to public contribution. An innovative aspect of the project is that each enlistment is then recognised – one hundred years to the day – on the project’s dedicated Facebook page.

So far, the Centenary project has been an outstanding success, highlighted by the

Melbourne continued into the 1920s. We look forward to ongoing success of our Port Melbourne First World War Centenary Project over the next few years.

Interrelated was **another PMHPS WWI project, ‘An Unfinished Tribute’**. Funded in part by a City of Port Phillip Cultural Development Grant, this was launched during our WWI Walk for History Week 2015. In April it was the subject of a 2016 Heritage Festival event.

When Port Melbourne’s Nott Street



Roll of Honor Book title page

www.portmelbfirstworldwar100.org.au

already lists over 1,800 people.

awarding of a Commendation in the special Centenary of World War One category at the Victorian Community History Awards in 2015.

The project website, www.portmelbfirstworldwar100.org.au already lists over 1,800 people. Expanded stories of nine men and four tales of the home front back in Port so far have been added to the website, with members researching further contributions.

In addition to 100-year enlistments, local newspaper reports of the time are posted on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/portmelbfirstworldwar100.

During the 2015 National Trust Heritage Festival, David Thompson held two free, related talks. We also used the project material to present a display and information during 2015 Centenary of ANZAC commemorations at Port Melbourne. The project provided material for guided **WWI in Port Melbourne** walks as well; one for History Week and five not directly associated with PMH&PS but research-assisted or guided by our members.

From lists that appeared in wartime newspapers and Honour Boards that remain within the community, we’ll continue to identify Port Melbourne enlistments, and we expect that the final number of people will exceed 2,000. Members are researching their stories, and families of several men have already provided material to assist this aspect of the project. We will work on home front stories to reflect on how the war affected people back in Port.

Enlistments from Port Melbourne continued until November 1918, so this active phase of the project will continue at least until 2018, although troopships returning to Port

State School No. 1427 closed in 1993, its WWI honour board was moved from the school to the foyer of Port Melbourne Town Hall, where it remains today. During the move, books and loose papers were found in a hidden compartment and salvaged by Cr. Perce White. These included the names of Nott Street Old Boys – former students and teachers – written on scraps of paper by friends or relatives so that they could be added to a Roll of Honor book. That book – mysteriously never completed – and the fragile messages were subsequently donated to PMHPS.

As historical societies around the nation turned attention to the Great War, we determined to have these items conserved and archivally housed in a form that would make them accessible to public scrutiny.

‘*An Unfinished Tribute*’ involved conservation and the design of archival housing for these scraps of paper. Tattered items included some on the backs of tickets, envelopes or flyers, indicative of the serious shortage of paper at the time.

These messages are now mounted to display each side, indexed and safely housed in three custom-made boxes together with accompanying original books and notebooks. A research report on WWI School Honour Books, compiled by PMHPS volunteer Emma Teasdale, is included.

The Nott Street Old Boys boxes will be at Port Phillip’s Emerald Hill Library & Heritage Centre or at PMHPS itself over future months.

Pat Grainger



LILYDALE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Bridging the Technology Divide

For societies such as Lilydale & District Historical Society which have archives rather than display spaces, the challenge is to promote what we have.

Our society started in 1971 to help celebrate the 1972 centenary of the Shire of Lilydale, and by 1976 we had established the Lilydale & District Historical Society Museum in the old Lillydale Shire Offices. The collection included a valuable collection of Melba items donated by Melba's grand-daughter and society Patron, Lady Vestey, and the society worried about its preservation. After negotiations, in 1989 the collection was given to the local council – the Shire of Lilydale – and the society supported the newly appointed curator who at the time, was Victoria's first municipal curator.

Amalgamations and new developments meant the society suddenly found itself without a home base. The Eastern Regional Library Service allowed us to store some of our archives at the Lilydale Branch, and the Athenaeum Theatre Company kindly allowed us free use of their Melba Room for our meetings. The society lobbied very hard for the Old Lilydale Court House which we now share with the U3A.

It was a shock to many of our members to find that we had to pay rent for the first time in our society's 40-year history – just over \$100.00 a week. We had to look for ways of generating income and promoting ourselves to the community.

It was against this backdrop that the society decided to expand its internet presence and explore how we could use the digital age to enhance our activities which we were determined to expand.

From the mid 1990s the society had a website, but we relied on a technician to update the information. We just listed our extensive publications and provide basic contact details. It was a passive not active site. In 2005 Paula Favolic of Paradigm4 helped us to relaunch the site using Simple Website Editor which we could manage ourselves <www.lilydalehistorical.com.au>. Two years later, the Dame Nellie Melba Museum website, also developed by Paula, was launched and together they have created a presence around the world <www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au>. The sites have served the society well, generating on average two inquiries and/or sales a week – local as well as international, from America, United Kingdom to Sweden and South Africa.

Our first multi-media project was our Places, Faces and Events for which we received a \$1500 grant from the Shire of Yarra Ranges in 2012. We selected a range of photos for each of our collection areas and activities, watermarked each and uploaded them to Flickr. These galleries highlight some of our 4000+ image collection and importantly generate photo sales www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gallery_images_lilydale_historical_images.htm.

In 2013 we received Federal Government funding for our Gun Alley project which was developed with the help of Megan Sheehy, the shire's then Heritage Officer. Gun Alley tells the stories of the working class families in a back street of Lilydale from the 1860s to today through text, images, video and audio. This received the ultimate recognition when it won the RHSV and PROV Victorian Community History Awards in the multi-media category. It also received a commendation in the Museums Australia Awards – the only historical society in that category.

The prize money from the RHSV was matched by the society so we could re-vamp our website to reflect the latest internet technology; provide simple site navigation; showcase our services and just as importantly, provide a simple and effective way of telling family stories.

Our new website design received a Commendation in the 2015 RHSV and PROV Victorian Community History Multi-Media Awards.

The society also received a Commendation in the Local History Project Award for our *Stories Behind the Headstones*. This site records those people buried at Lilydale Cemetery from its inception in the 1860s to 1931 who have headstones. Burial details; headstone transcription and importantly the story of each person has been researched and is on the site. This has generated a lot of interest with descendants contacting us with additional information, corrections etc. www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/headstones_at_lilydale_cemetery_introduction.htm.



www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gunalley

Our current work in progress is *They Answered the Call*, our contribution to the Centenary of ANZAC. This is being progressively put on line and will be completed by the end of the year.

Lilydale & District Historical Society believes history should be shared so that the community can appreciate the people and events of the past which have shaped the lifestyle we enjoy today. And with the current demand for instant information, digitally is the way to go!

POSTSCRIPT: Earlier this year, the shire council proposed to increase the society's rent from \$1300 to over \$3000 a year. After a determined fight by the society and great support from heritage groups and local organisations an agreement has been reached where the society will pay 50% of the running costs while the shire will do a range of capital works to reduced those running costs – a win-win for all concerned!

Sue Thompson





Port Melbourne 1976. PROV VPRS 08363/P1.

Calling for entries for The Victorian Community History Awards 2016

Entries are now being received for the Victorian Community History Awards.

The Victorian Community History Awards are proudly presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The Awards celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling Victoria's history helping us to better understand our past.

This year we have added an additional category: Cultural Diversity Award – for projects and publications which highlight the cultural diversity of Victoria

Entries open 1 June 2016 and close 2pm Friday 29 July 2016. The Awards Ceremony will be held on 17 October at the Arts Centre.

Your entry form is included with this edition of *History News*

For further information and to download additional entry forms go to www.historyvictoria.org.au and follow the links.

Insurance & Membership for Historical Societies

All historical societies should have received their insurance and membership form in April.

If you have taken out insurance with the RHSV then the enclosed membership form is not relevant to you.

If you have any queries please phone Ged on 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au



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**SEMINAR: HISTORY VICTORIA SUPPORT GROUP
SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2016 AT SORRENTO**
Sorrento Museum, 827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento

Get up to speed on latest...

- copyright issues
- digital initiatives
- aboriginal culture heritage
- & how they impact your society**



Please book through RHSV by notifying Ged:
email office@historyvictoria.org.au or 9326 9288

The next History Victoria Support Group Meeting will be held in Echuca on SATURDAY 20 AUGUST

HOLSWORTH LOCAL HERITAGE TRUST

Applications now Open

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 work. 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 has already been undertaken before applying.

Applications open 1 March and close 31 July.

Application forms at:

www.historyvictoria.org.au/holsworth-local-heritage-trust

Further information from RHSV website or phone 9326 9288:

Annual Subscriptions

It's that time of year when we invite you to renew your subscription to the RHSV.

We thank you for your support during 2015 and hope we have provided services, access to the collections, a variety of programs and interesting publications that have brought benefits to our members and the wider public.

We value your membership. By subscribing to the RHSV you continue to support our work, custodianship of our significant collection and the support we provide to 340 historical societies throughout Victoria.

A renewal form is included with this newsletter for the period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017.

Please encourage your friends to join – additional Membership Forms can be downloaded from our website or we can post them.

Membership renewals can also be made directly online or by phoning the office 93269288

Click on the link for renewal forms and online renewals.

<http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/support-us/become-a-member>

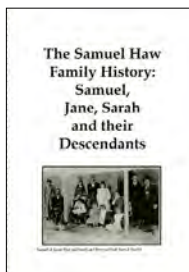
Books received: Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in *Books Received*.

Compiled by Don Gibb.

The Samuel Haw Family History: Samuel, Jane, Sarah and their Descendants

Helen Stevens, 388 Sylveterre Road, Pyramid Hill, 3575, 2015, pp.77.

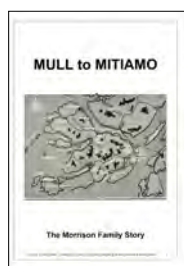
A compilation of Haw family material. They mostly lived in and around Bendigo over several generations.



Mull to Mitiamo, The Morrison Family History

Robert Morrison & Helen Stevens (compilers), 2015, pp.72.

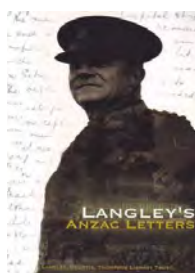
This compilation traces the Morrison family from Mull to land selection at Mitiamo and supplies vital information about later generations. Well illustrated and indexed.



Langley's Anzac Letters

Alan Gregory (ed.), Langley, Courtis, Thompson Library Trust, Melbourne High School, Forrest Hill, South Yarra, 3141, 2015, pp. 80. ISBN 9780646932781.

Langley was principal of Melbourne High School when he retired in 1956. Copies of his letters home from Gallipoli form the bulk of this book. It has been edited by his biographer, historian of the school and a student in Langley's time. Langley's career as a part-time civilian soldier stretched into World War 2, a career marked by distinction in leadership and gallantry, stories that are told elsewhere. This small book is Melbourne High's commemoration of Anzac and it adds brief notes of alumni who were also at Anzac with Langley. Attractively presented with informative notes but surely with an error in the caption to the photograph on p.4, where a team photo containing 14 persons including a man with a (starting?) pistol is described as a football team!



Chewton's Halls & Lodges

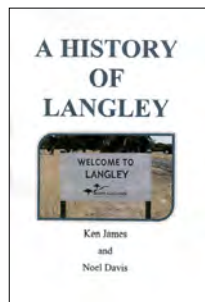
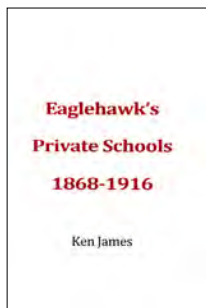
Ken James, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell 3124, 2016, pp. 208. ISBN 978099230992308797.

Eaglehawk's Private Schools 1868-1916

Ken James, *knjames47@gmail.com* , pp. 48.

A History of Langley

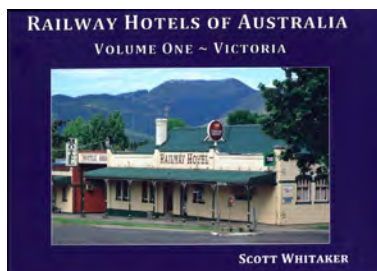
Ken James and Noel Davis, *knjames47@gmail.com* and *noeldavis60@hotmail.com* 2014, pp. 404. ISBN 9780992308759.



Readers of this column will be familiar with the volume of publications received from these authors mostly dealing with communities and institutions in areas of the central goldfields. These three books follow the patterns of presentation of their other works, viz. massive compilation of material mainly from newspaper and government records. The output of the authors is extraordinary and they provide masses of raw material for family historians and others seeking to construct the past of little-known places.

Railway Hotels of Australia - Volume 1 - Victoria

Scott Whitaker, SRW Publishing, Wandong, 2015, pp. xiv + 260. ISBN 9780994423412.

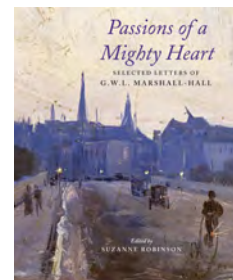


The first volume in a projected four that identify hotels that have had the word 'railway' in their names. The Victorian tally of 185 is dealt with in alphabetical order, usually with photos as well as text and ephemera relating to their existence. Of the 185, 58 remain, 28 of which are still trading under the 'Railway' name. A handsome volume whose quirky topic adds not only to our knowledge of hotels but also the strong links between railways and hotels. It is worth noting that many 'railway' hotels did not take the name but came into existence and survived/failed like those that were thus named.

Passions of a Mighty Heart, Selected Letters of G.W.L. Marshall-Hall

Suzanne Robinson (ed.), Lyrebird Press, University of Melbourne, 2015, pp. xiv + 226,. ISBN 9780734037800.

Marshall-Hall attracted public attention in late 19th/early 20th century Melbourne where he was professor of music, a very good composer and excellent conductor. His battles within the university have been well-documented in numbers of publications, as have his interactions with staid elements of Melbourne society, and his substantial contribution to music and musicians. This elegant book draws together many letters that reveal not only his considerable scholarship and lucidity but the range of friends with whom he kept quite close contact.



Modern Love, The Lives of John & Sunday Reed

Lesley Harding & Kendrah Morgan. Melbourne University Publishing, 2015, pp. xiv + 401, \$45-00. ISBN 9780522862812.

The flow of publications continues about the remarkable Heide artistic community and especially about John and Sunday Reed. This carefully crafted book charts the extraordinary lives of the Reeds, their relationship with each other as well as with those they supported and sustained at Heide and elsewhere. The authors draw on rich archives in seeking new insights in a text that is partly sustained by many images, snaps as well as artistic output.



Mary MacKillop's Portland Years 1862-1866

Bernard Wallace, BA Wallace, PO Box 325, Portland, 3305, 2016, 1st edition 2010, pp. ii + 67. ISBN 9780980758528.

Mary MacKillop's connections with places where she lived and worked provide opportunities to research and publish and to feed public interest in the life of a saint. This neat booklet does the job well for Portland.



Societies are welcome to submit an article/event of about 50 words, or send your newsletter to us and we will write up 50 words or so for you around twice per year. For the September 2016 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 16 August 2016.

Compiled by volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

ALBURY AND DISTRICT: West of Yarrawonga is the Byramine Homestead – said to be the oldest rural house in Victoria. Hamilton Hume established Byramine station for his sister-in-law Elizabeth in March 1842, bringing cattle from Barnewartha and applying for, and getting, the licence for it. It was the first licence granted for the left bank of the Murray River below the Ovens River junction.

AVOCA AND DISTRICT – PYRENEES: Margaret Oulten delivered a presentation about the history of Burnbank, at the AGM. Part 1 has been published in the March newsletter, with part 2 being published in the Society's next newsletter. It covers 'the establishment of a village' through 'early church services', 'establishment of a Post Office' through to 'Burnbank becoming Lexton in 1852'.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY: The railway Museum is on Facebook! Visit the Museum at [facebook.com/NewportRailwayMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NewportRailwayMuseum). Over the Queen's Birthday weekend, the Society will be attending two exhibitions: Waverley Model Railway Club at Brandon Park Community Centre - Saturday to Monday from 10:00am; and Steam Rally Echuca at Rotary Park, Echuca on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am.

BACCHUS MARSH AND DISTRICT: Come by and have a look at 'The Discovery and Rediscovery' display at the Lerderderg Library passage Wall. The Historical Society members have used the resources in the Society's collection to put together a display of historical businesses. Also please note the Society's June, July and August meetings will be held on a Saturday afternoon.

BALLARAT: '200 miles to Ballarat' Chinese immigrants forced to walk from Robe, South Australia - the fourth in a series by Ballarat historian Lloyd Jenkins about Ballarat's colourful past. At one stage, one of every four citizens in Ballarat was Chinese. They were far and away the most numerous of any ethnic group.

BALNARRING: A new Heritage sign has been erected at Tubba Rubba Road corner with Balnarring Road. It outlines the history of the Tubba Rubba Goldfields drawing attention to the fact that the hunt for gold also occurred on the Mornington Peninsula. Alluvial gold was found in the 1850's and prospecting continued well into the 20th Century.

BOX HILL: Forthcoming Society events - 16 June: Guest Speaker Robyn Calder: Women's cricket in Victoria. The AGM is on 18 August. The City of Whitehorse 2016 Heritage Week is 8 – 15 September. The theme this year is 'Celebrating the Arts'. The Society will conduct a Box Hill Cemetery Tour and a walk along the Artists' trail in Box Hill South.

BRIGHT AND DISTRICT: 100 years ago, from the *Alpine Observer*, August 1916. "By the night train on Friday, Mr Angrove brought in another large party of metropolitan tourists to participate in winter pastimes. To move these visitors to the chalet, 12 four horse carriages, and two 3 horse coaches were required. At present time, the scenery on the Buffalo plateau is magnificent. The large tracts of timbered country, interwoven with undergrowth upon which snow is resting, combined with huge piles of rock thickly covered with snow form a most impressive scene".

BRIGHTON: Brighton's hidden gem – Landcox Park. This four hectare park is tucked away in the north-east corner of Brighton and has been in public ownership for over a century. The park occupies part of the Brighton Estate purchased in 1841 by Henry Dendy. The original Landcox Estate was acquired by J.B. Were who named the estate after the home of his father in Wellington, Somersetshire, England.

CANTERBURY: Upcoming events – 27 June: Don Gibb, Canterbury, and 'Remembering Melbourne'. 26 September: Claire Levi on the 'History of Fintona'; 17 October: History Week dinner - Rosalie Triolo, 'Schools and Schooling in the Great War'.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: CHAA members recently gathered in the historic railway station at Creswick to see the restoration work done by the Creswick Railway Workshops association. The building has been made user friendly and is available to the community. Lunch was held at the historic American Hotel, giving members the opportunity to catch up on and share each other's Society and other news.

COBURG: Bluestone Cottage Museum, 82 Bell Street, Coburg 3058 is open first Sunday of the month 2.00-4.30 p.m and Fridays between midday and 2pm, except for Good Friday. On 20 July 2016, Dr Heather Sheard will present 'The history of Victoria's baby health / infant welfare / maternal & child health centres with mention of Dr Vera Scantlebury Brown'.

DAYLESFORD: The Society has almost cleared the Mining Room (which involved the demolition of the unsafe mining tunnel) to access and repair the floor and windows. The Society hosted the very successful Cornish Association of Victoria's 30th anniversary celebrations.

ECHUCA: Moama RSL's military collection cataloguing/indexing project group has made 1700 plus items of assorted documents and lots of uniform pieces accessible. Further information 5482 6677

ESSENDON: Heritage Street Signs – Twelve streets in the City of Moonee Valley have been identified as being named after World War 1 and World War 2 heroes. Commemorative street signs have been specially designed to record information about the person after whom they were named. Most are in Ascot Vale, and were unveiled in April.

FOOTSCRAY: Artists-in-Residence Word War 1 Call Out. Do you own something precious that links your family to WW1? On Sunday 3 July between 10:00 and 2:00 come in to Ercildoune, cnr Napier and Hyde Streets with

your letters, medals, diaries and memorabilia, to be photographed and recorded for posterity. With your permission, these may be used by our artists-in-residence for their project: an interpretation of what WW1 meant to the local people.

HEIDELBERG: 100 years ago – March 1916: Over 200 people attended the Ivanhoe Swimming Carnival at 'The Sandbank', where they watched races, and displays of life saving methods. Tea was served on the bank, and the festivities continued in to the night with a splendid impromptu moonlight concert.

HOTHAM:
Tuesday 26 July 2016 at 7.30pm at the North Melbourne Library -

Private to Public – a tale of depots, horses and unions. A talk by Ian Jenkins.

Ian is a member of the Australian Railway Association and his talk will highlight the history of the coming of rail to North and West Melbourne. Saturday 27 August 2016.

Annual General Meeting. 2.00pm Venue to be advised. Guest speaker will be Dr Val Noone, OAM who will be drawing from an unpublished autobiographical and family history manuscript by Gaelic scholar Nicholas O'Donnell (1862-1920).

KOO-WEE-RUP: We are on facebook with some great articles, photos and memories. Like us at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=koo-wee-rup%20historical. Island Road School, No. 3952 was the original Koo-Wee-Rup State School, built on the corner of Bethunes Road and Bayles Road in 1884; it was shifted into the town in 1910 then shifted out to Island Road where it opened in June 1919 and closed in 1974. In 1984 it was shifted back into Koo-Wee-Rup where it is today on the Primary School Grounds.

KYNETON: The Society is looking for photos of Kyneton, including school photos. They are also still collecting information on the Kyneton Under 18s football team (for their likely reunion next year). If you have anything that can be scanned, we can be contacted by email at kynetonhs@hotmail.com

LINTON AND DISTRICT: Open Days are held at the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre, and are open to the public. Members attend on a roster basis to answer queries relating to family or Linton history. Next open days at the Resource Centre are 12 June and 11 September from 2:00 until 5:00. (closed in July and August). The next History Night will be Monday 20 June with Graeme Ellis talking on 'Memories of Mannibadar'.

MALVERN: On Wednesday 22 June 2016, 10am – 11am at the Stonnington History Centre, take part in 'The hidden history of Prahran Market' presented by Lesley Sharon Rosenthal, writer, researcher and author of *Prahran Market: Celebrating 150 Years 1864-2014*. Book online or phone: 8290 1360

On Wednesday 29 June at 10:00, join members of the Society for a visit to the Salvation Army Heritage Centre - RSVP to 98859082 before 23 June.

MIDDLE PARK: Visit us online at www.middleparkhistory.org/. Upcoming events (at Middle Park Bowling Club): Monday 6 June at 7.30pm - Melbourne Dreaming: Melbourne's Aboriginal History, presented by Meyer Eidelson.

Monday 1 August at 7.30pm - *Digging in the swamp*, presented by Gary Poore. Monday 3 October at 7.30pm - 'Never forget Uncle Les: one man's journey through history 1914-1918', presented by Maree Wilson.

MIDLANDS - MARYBOROUGH: The Society houses an unusual collection of over 20,000 wedding photographs at its Worsley Cottage complex. Local identity Wal Richards photographed weddings over a 50 year period from the mid 1940s to the mid 1990s. Wal would hop on his locally made Colman bicycle and pedal to the church, as far away as Avoca and Dunolly. Also, our monthly heritage car tours are scheduled for June 27 and July 25, from the cottage, at 1:30.

MORNINGTON: Meetings are held in the Mornington Fire Brigade meeting room, at 10:30. 14 June: Bring along a treasure and share its story. 12 July: Joy Cullen and Murray Adams will bring the history of The Grand Hotel, to life. 9 August: Keith White will present the story of the 1803 Sullivan Bay Settlement at Sorrento. Other upcoming events can be found on the website at <http://morningtondistricthistory.org.au/>

MORWELL: The Society is located at 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, and opens its doors on the first and third Wednesday, and first Sunday, of each month, from 11:00 until 2:00. Entry is free.

THE NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY mid-year luncheon will be held on 1 July at the Rye Hotel. The guest speaker will be Adam Magennis, the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Office and Cultural Archaeologist. He is a Boonwurrung man and a talented artist. He will speak on "Cultural Heritage Management and Archeology on the Mornington Peninsula". Cost \$45. Check the website for further information at www.ryehistoricalsociety.weebly.com/

NHILL AND DISTRICT: The Museum at the Lowan Shire Hall in MacPherson Street, contains a John Shaw Nielson (poet) display, glass display cases with several old wedding dresses, other clothing items, household linen, household goods

of china, glass and metal ware, meeting room display, old Lowan Shire photos and honour boards. The resource area has computer research and all *Messenger Press* editions (weekly local newspaper). Open Tues & Thurs 1.30 - 5pm, Fri 10am - 3pm.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS: Meetings are held at Wesley Hall, St Andrew's Church, Cnr Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner. Doors open at 1:30, and meetings commence at 2:00. Guest speakers from 2:30. Cost \$2. Upcoming Meetings - 9 July: Chris Manchee will speak on The Flagstaff Gardens. 10 September Dr Madonna Grehan will speak on Charles La Trobe and the Regulations of everyday life - Implementation of the Victorian Birth Deaths and Marriage Act 1853.

RICHMOND AND BURNLEY: Dates for your diary - On Sunday 19 June at 2:30, at the Hawthorn Rowing Club (Hawthorn side of Hawthorn Bridge) Ken McInnes will speak on the history of the 155 year old bridge. On 17 July, in the Society's rooms, Associate Professor Don Garden OAM (President of the RHSV) will speak on the History of the Burnley Horticultural Gardens.

RYE: The Society meets at 8pm on the 4th Monday of the month in the library of the Rye Primary School.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE: Meetings of the St John Ambulance Historical Society (Victorian Branch) are open to the public. The presentations begin at 10:30 at the St John Museum, The Esplanade, Williamstown Beach, which is open, free of charge, on Thursdays and Sundays. Drop in to see an Ashford Litter, the first 'ambulance' in Victoria; or an 1886 First Aid certificate - one of the first issued in Melbourne.

STRATFORD AND DISTRICTS: The Stratford Museum is an extensively restored 1873 Methodist Church building and grounds, that contain several exhibition spaces, including farming equipment. It is located on Hobson Street, and is maintained by the Society. The museum is open to the public on Tuesdays from 10:00 until 3:00 and on the fourth Sunday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00 (From September through May).

WALHALLA: Taking pride of place on the corner at the top of the Main Street hill stands the Corner Store, Post Office and Museum, operated by the Walhalla Heritage and Development League. We stock an extensive range of souvenirs, memorabilia, maps, books and other publications on Walhalla and the surrounding area, and provide your entry to our adjacent Gold Museum.

WARRACKNABEAL AND DISTRICT: The State Savings Bank opened in 1907. The second storey was added in 1921 and used as a Manager's residence. The Bank closed in 1970. The Society has maintained the original Banking Chamber and the residence is now used to display local historical items, information and records.

2017 will be Warracknabeal's sesqui-centenary. The Society welcomes any thoughts or ideas for activities.

WHITTLESEA: This year, meetings will be held at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre in Laurel Street, at 7:30 on the second Wednesday of the month. The Yan Yean Reservoir is the oldest water supply for the city of Melbourne. Work began in 1853 at the height of the gold rush, and it took four years to construct at a cost of £750,000. At the time of its completion in 1857 it was the largest artificial reservoir in the world.

AUSTRALIAN LAMPLIGHTERS

GUILD meets on a quarterly basis in Ashburton and other venues to display and share information about oil and kerosene lamps from around the world, with a particular focus on lamps used in Australia. Always interested in sharing about lamps by visiting other Societies or having members of other Societies join us at our meetings. For more information, contact Anne at: info@lamplighters.org.au

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Theatre history – from rubbish skip to digital display

In June 2015 Theatre Heritage Australia Inc. (THA) was awarded a PROV Local History Grant to digitise an important collection of scene books containing about 6,000 theatrical photographs and other documents produced by JC Williamson Ltd. from 1898 to about 1930. THA (see www.theatreheritage.org.au) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1995 to foster knowledge and research into the history of Australian theatre.

JC Williamson Ltd. (aka The Firm) operated from 1899 to 1974. It was the most successful local theatrical company during this period, mounting a great number of productions and touring them throughout Australasia. When the 'Firm' wound-up in the mid-1970s some records were thrown into rubbish skips for removal. Among the 'rubbish' were many volumes of old JCW share registers containing pasted-in photos of JCW stage sets dating from the 1890s to the 1930s. Former JCW scenic artists Paul Kathner and Ross Turner rescued several scene books from the water-sodden skips. Lady (Viola) Tait, widow of Sir Frank Tait (a director of JCW 1920-1950), together with theatre historian Frank Van Straten, rescued further books, now in the Performing Arts Collection. Having been well-used by Williamsons' scenic artists for reference and records of their work, the scene books were in an extremely fragile condition with torn pages and, in the case of one volume, damaged by mould.

THA has now completed the scanning process and is currently adding descriptive text and metadata to the files. Shortly this material will be available to browse and download (at full resolution) for free. Until now this collection has been virtually inaccessible and unknown to most theatre researchers and scenic designers.

The content of the volumes covers sets constructed in the firm's Melbourne workshops for productions from 1890s to 1930s, plus back and front-cloths, illuminated curtains, props and lighting rigs, along with identifying notes of the

artists: among the names are those of George and John Gordon, Phil Goatcher, George Upward, and WR Coleman.

Play titles include the now forgotten Napoleonic spectacles, *A Royal Divorce* (starring Julius Knight and George and John Gordon's scenery) from 1897, and Rostand's *L'Aiglon* from 1904 (starring Roy Redgrave, American actress Tittle Brune and John Gordon's scenery). Predictably, popular theatre during WWI included escapist romantic dramas like the exotic *The Bird of Paradise*, as well as war-themed dramas such as *The Man Who Came Back*.

Elaborate musicals of the 1900s and 1920s such as *The Merry Widow* and *The Desert Song* are well represented. Also of great interest are two rare books of full-page photographs of actor-manager George Alexander's 1890s productions at St James's Theatre, London including *As You Like It* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. All are invaluable records of the set designer's art over this period.



Finally, another intriguing volume is a sketchbook by 19th century scenic artist George Gordon who arrived from Bristol in 1879. It appears to be from Gordon's work at the New Theatre Royal Bristol 1869 production Dion Boucicault's melodrama *After Dark*. It even has Boucicault's signature rubber stamp (of approval) on many pages. www.flickr.com/photos/theatrehistory/23124589392/in/photostream/

Why all this work over torn pages and faded photographs – is it worth doing? Yes! The project uses state of the art technology to evoke a significant aspect of our cultural history.

Mimi Colligan (Fellow RHSV)

