



# History NEWS

History Week  
Grants Flyer  
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February–March 2017  
Royal Historical Society  
of Victoria



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The opinions expressed here are personal and not those of the RHSV.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The RHSV is set for a very good year in 2017, building on an excellent 2016. On a number of occasions late last year I described 2016 as 'the most successful year ever for the Society', and so far no-one has challenged that view. On numerous occasions the Drill Hall was buzzing with crowds of people for exhibitions, launches, book sales and special events.

Two major projects that came to fruition during the year were the publication of Judging for the People in April and of Remembering Melbourne in November. Together they demonstrated the high level of historical skill and expertise among our members, volunteers and supporters. They drew on the support of up to 150 of the 'RHSV family' and in doing so illustrated the high level of community support and involvement that we enjoy. These two projects have also made a wonderful contribution to our finances.

The RHSV's enhanced income was further stimulated by a significant bequest and a number of generous donations in 2016. Our more fortunate financial position is enabling the RHSV to put aside a substantial sum to support the publication of the Victorian Historical Journal in coming years, and to inject money into the preservation and development of our invaluable collection. We are also looking to undertake further major IT developments, including a much more sophisticated and labour-saving software management system for Ged Horgen's accounting and event booking tasks, and to help Lenore Frost operate the bookshop.

Our staffing position is also becoming stronger. Kate Prinsley and Ged Horgen are full time, and Christine Worthington is almost full time as well. Assisting them are two young women graduates who share a position – Maddy Lewis and Claudia Kurrle – while studying curatorial and teaching postgraduate degrees.

The RHSV Foundation has been building a comfortable emergency fund, but as we become more secure we are considering how the Foundation Fund might be best used to ensure the vitality and development of the RHSV in the next decade.

The biggest challenge still facing us is security of tenure in the Drill Hall. The government has promised security, but the terms and conditions have not been finalised.

Meanwhile, our normal programme continues into 2017 with exhibitions, lectures and History Victoria Support Group seminar days. We hope to see you there.

The RHSV wishes all its members, supporters and volunteers a very successful 2017.

Don Garden

## Remembering Melbourne a Smash Hit

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, in collaboration with QBD books, has produced *Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960*, a 368 paged book of images with captions and introductions. This follows the successful *Lost Brisbane* produced by RHSQ in 2014.

The Melbourne book was produced by an RHSV committee led by Richard Broome, and comprised of Richard Barnden, Don Garden, Don Gibb, Elisabeth Jackson and Judith Smart. It showcases over 400 images from the RHSV collection and 300 from 22 historical societies, contained in forty chapters, each written by an expert. In all, over a hundred people contributed to the book.

*Remembering Melbourne* was launched by the Hon. Richard Wynne Minister for Planning in Victoria on 15 November 2016, who pronounced it a 'beautiful book', and one that 'you cannot put down'. Over one hundred people attended the launch, which was one of the best ever events at the RHSV in the minds of many people. Richard Broome spoke for the book committee and Nick Croydon, the joint CEO of QBD spoke of the book's inspiration, *Lost London*, which he published some years ago under another imprint. That book was a huge success selling 100,000 copies.

The launch was followed by a lecture in the officer's mess upstairs by the Hon. Richard Wynne, who spoke on current planning issues, particularly the new Fishermen's Bend development and the ongoing Docklands site.

Sales of the book were brisk at the launch, some people leaving with two or four copies. Thanks to the RHSV publicist, Dr Samantha Smith, Richard Broome appeared on the Red Symons ABC radio program the next morning. Subsequently, the RHSV sold 500 copies of the book in the 24 hours following the launch! Publicity on page 2-3 of the Melbourne *Age* the following day, and in the *Herald Sun* five days later led to a further flood of orders. Richard Broome also appeared on Philip Brady's 'Remember When' Sunday night program on 3AW. By Christmas closure the RHSV had sold over 2,300 books.

The book is available while stocks last from the RHSV for \$35, plus \$20 postage anywhere in Australia if not picked up, and from QBD books in major suburban shopping centres.



The Launch of Remembering Melbourne. From left, Nick Croydon CEO QBD Books, Don Garden President RHSV, The Hon Richard Wynne MLA, Richard Broome Vice President RHSV. Courtesy George Fernando

Cover:

*Cast of The Sullivans about a Melbourne family in WW2. Hector Crawford (front and centre), and Paul Cronin (on his left), who played Dave Sullivan. Lorraine Bayly who played his wife Grace is not pictured. Here the Melbourne cast gathered in the early 1980s to celebrate the fictional end of the war in an episode. The series (1976-1983) was aired in 70 countries, and still attracts tourists to its film locations. Courtesy Crawford's Australia*

## History NEWS



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

email: [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

ABN 36 520 675 471

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ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

President Don Garden

Executive Officer Kate Prinsley

Administrative Officer Gerardine Horgan

Collections & Volunteer Co-ordinator: Christine Worthington

Editor: Richard Broome

[rbroome@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:rbroome@latrobe.edu.au)

Design & Artwork: John Gillespie  
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor

email: [mquartly66@gmail.com](mailto:mquartly66@gmail.com)

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# The Many Faces of Hector Crawford



Hector Crawford, with daughter Joanne on his knee, sister Dorothy (left) and wife Glenda (right), c. 1963 watching a recording session. Courtesy Laurie Richards, Arts Centre Melbourne, Performing Arts Collection

Hector Crawford Productions, founded in the 1930's in Melbourne, was one of the beneficiaries of the boom in radio before and after the war, producing programs for live performances at *Music for the People* and for commercial radio. When Dorothy, Hector's sister, left the ABC to join the company, radio drama became a major part of their output and together they became hugely successful, exporting their programs around the world.

Television came late to Australia. In 1936 the first public TV broadcast took place in the US. In the same year the Coronation of King George VI was broadcast in the UK with an early prototype, its expansion halted only when transmission shut down due to World War 2.

In Australia, these advances seemed to be passing us by. Radio continued to flourish in Australia and reigned supreme particularly during the post war years when political warring between Prime Minister Ben Chifley and opposition leader Robert Menzies was paramount.

Despite the growing number of voices urging the government to allow television transmission, Menzies after being re-elected as prime minister in 1949 still declared his apprehension, saying: 'I hope this thing [television] will not come in my term of office'.

Hector Crawford had no such apprehension. Believing that audio, visual and communication technology was the way to enrich our culture, he said television could 'make a vital contribution to the development of a specifically Australian consciousness and sense of national identity'.

As part of Crawford Productions planned transition to television, Hector and Dorothy, established a TV school to train actors, writers, and technicians, and even developed their own camera systems to capture the programs. But when the first TV licences granted by the government were issued to media companies that already owned newspapers and radio stations, it became clear that there were new rules in play.

Independent program producers like Crawford who had taken big profits from radio were shut out as the new TV owners determined to control every facet of production. Rejection of all his proposals for music, variety and drama programs, came as a shock to Hector; suddenly his company's existence was threatened. Other established radio producers, seeing no pathway into TV production, and with radio income drying up, hit the wall.

Crawford did everything he could to keep his company going, producing radio and live music events, using every means at his disposal. He never gave up. His persistence paid off. One week before HSV 7 in Melbourne started transmission in 1956 a call came. Crawford Productions became the first independent company on air in the first week of TV in Australia. It was neither music nor drama, but a reality show called *Wedding Day*. It was a far cry from what they had imagined or what they had prepared for. But it was a start.

A further long six years would pass before Hector and Dorothy achieved a breakthrough into drama, converting their hugely popular radio program *Consider Your Verdict*, to a low budget, high production value, television



*Consider Your Verdict* was filmed at the Fitzroy tele theatre. Technically this was the first drama Crawford Productions produced for television and the first time Australians heard their own voices dramatized on TV. The show ran between 1960 and 1964. Courtesy Crawfords Australia

program. Cast with a few actors, well-known lawyers, and members of the public, who were given a scenario to deliver the story, *Consider* found an immediate audience despite the lack of a formal script.

The company was sustained through these tough years by Hector and Dorothy reinvesting their years of radio profits. Also significant was Hector's first move towards lobbying the Menzies government to apply Australian content requirements to the new licences. With *Consider* on air, he self-published *Commercial Television Programs in Australia*, known as the 'Yellow Booklet'. This set out reasons for government intervention, which he mailed directly to the prime minister, government and opposition ministers, and all state and federal politicians.

*Consider Your Verdict* ran for four years, until in 1964, eight years after TV began in Australia. Channel 7 finally commissioned *Homicide* – the first fully scripted drama to draw huge ratings for Australian-made TV.

Over the next 25 years, Crawford Productions with Hector at the helm, went on to produce a huge list of highly successful shows. These included: *Matlock Police*, *Division 4*, *The Box*, *All the Rivers Run*, *Carson's Law*, *Cop Shop*, *Young Ramsay*, *Fortress*, *Acropolis Now*, and *The Flying Doctors*, and perhaps the most remembered, *The Sullivans*. In the process, Crawford Productions made some Australian actors into household names, and launched the careers of generations of film and television writers, directors, editors, producers and technicians.

*Rozzi Bazzani*

Rozzi Bazzani, free-lance journalist, won the History Publication section of the 2016 Victorian Community History Awards for her book *Hector: the Story of Hector Crawford and Crawford Productions*, Melbourne, Arcadia, 2015. Here she reflects on aspects of Hector's career and his dedication to Australian-produced television drama.

# Helen Coulson OAM Honoured

Mrs Helen Coulson arrived in Echuca in 1960, and was intrigued by a decaying wooden structure on the riverbank, which proved to be the historic wharf. She became a founding member of the Echuca Historical Society in 1960, served as secretary for many years, and remains a strong member.

Helen was a passionate supporter of the Society's efforts to urge the Echuca City Council to apply for government funds to make the port a historic precinct. Helen also led the effort to bring a paddlesteamer back to Echuca. The *P.S. Adelaide*, built in 1866, had previously towed barges laden with Barmah Forest timber to Echuca. It was purchased in 1960, but remained in dry dock until recommissioned in 1985. The Port itself was opened in 1974 and Helen

became Port manager until 1990. During that time the restored *P.S. Pevensey*, star of the film 'All the Rivers Run', operated from the wharf area.

Helen Coulson has published four histories of paddlesteamers and the Port since 1979, the latest being *PS Pevensey* in 2016.

Helen Coulson was honoured with an OAM in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours List for 56 years of service to history and heritage in Echuca and district. The award was presented on 19 October at Government House by the Victorian Governor, Her Excellency Linda Dessau, who is also patron of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

*Echuca Historical Society*



Helen Coulson receives her Order of Australia from the governor and RHSV patron, Her Excellency Linda Dessau, at Government House 19 October 2016. Courtesy *Riverine Herald*.



# Crowded Volunteers Lunch

The GDP of Australia is boosted by the efforts of hundreds of thousands of volunteers. Most volunteers give their time because they believe they can make a difference to society - and they clearly do! Volunteering is the life blood of our own organisation bringing together a diverse group of people with one aim - to advance the RHSV. Of course we all gain enormous satisfaction from assisting in many and varied ways, but essentially people volunteer as a selfless act, which takes not only time, but money. Fifty people attended a fine lunch on 13 December to receive thanks from the

RHSV for their efforts during the year. These efforts include, working on the image, book and manuscript collections, mounting exhibitions, providing catering for our events, editing *History News* and the *Victorian Historical Journal*, running our lecture series, providing administrative support on membership and other such tasks, and staffing the various committees that make our Society operate effectively.

The food was magnificent and all concerned enjoyed the luncheon. President Don Garden congratulated the volunteers on

their efforts declaring 2016 the best in the RHSV's recent history. He referred to the success of *Judging for the People* and the related conference and again thanked Simon Smith for his great efforts. Vice President Richard Broome congratulated all concerned on the production of *Remembering Melbourne*, particularly the book committee and designer John Gillespie, and for the huge logistic efforts on sales: Ged Horgan, Lenore Frost and Claudia Kurrle.

*Richard Broome*



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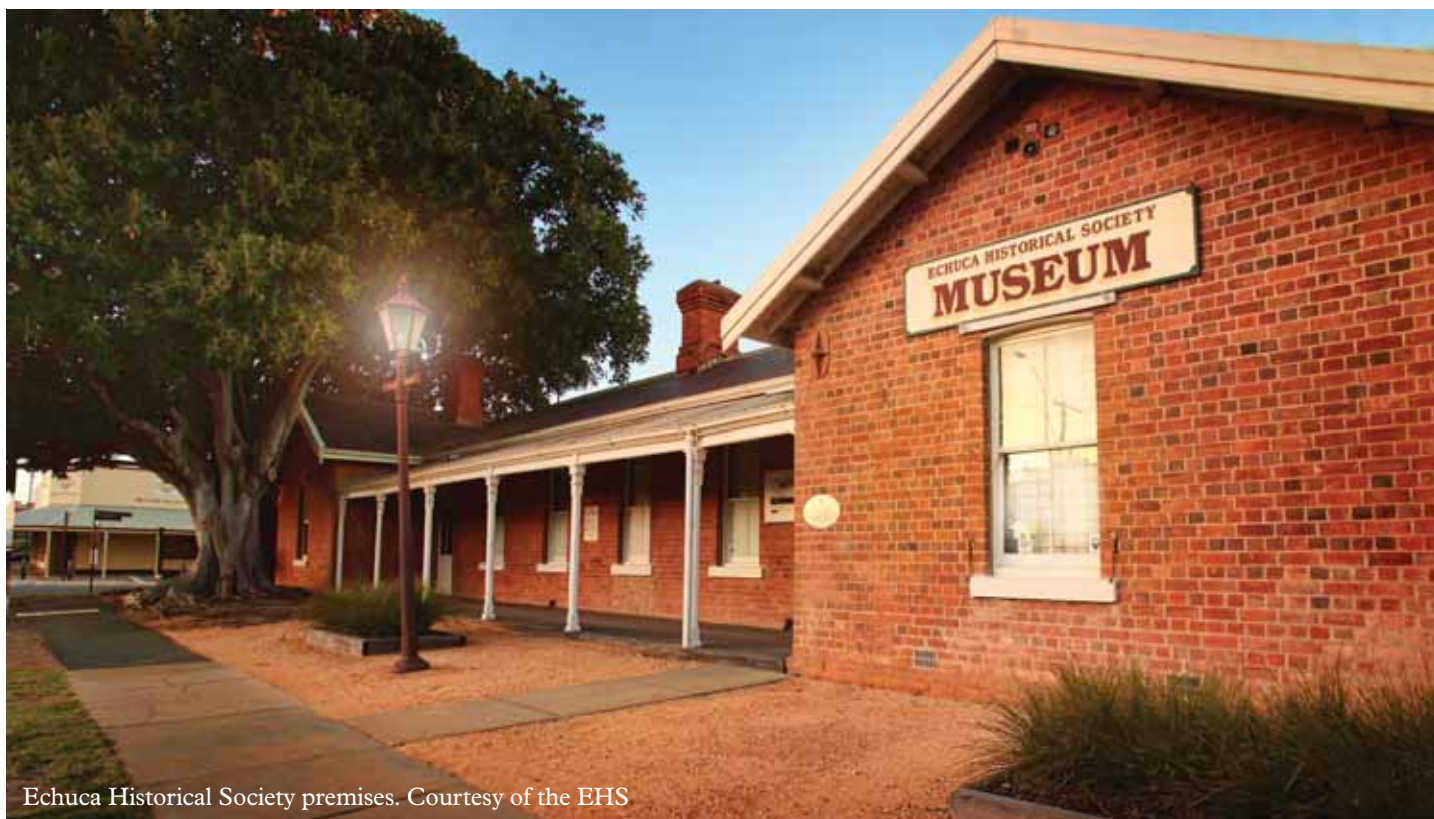
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# Echuca Historical Society Excels



Echuca Historical Society premises. Courtesy of the EHS

The Echuca Historical Society at 1 Dickson Street Echuca (on the corner beneath the old Moreton Bay Fig trees) was formed in 1960 to save the Echuca wharf from demolition and bring several riverboats back to Echuca for restoration.

In 2012 the Society became a Committee of Management under the Crown Land Act, and was able to gain funding to build a modern archive and administration centre. In 2013 the society obtained funding for restoration of the 3 Cells Complex within the old police premises, this area houses a storage area, which is part of the POD program of PROV and one cell is available for visitors to enjoy – the kids love it. In June 2014 the Society became a Museums Accredited Museum.

The Society's collection, housed in the National Trust listed former Police Station & Cell complex (1867-1969), is historically significant and much of it is unique to the district and to the era 1850 – 1960, as it includes material from many of the prominent local families of the era.

It records early settlement along the Murray River, which is integral to understanding the significant of Echuca to the development of grazing and commerce in the region. The collection provides comprehensive material relating to people, places, social events and commerce, most items having a reliable

provenance for research purposes. The Echuca rate books are digitised from 1865 to 1930's. The local newspaper (*Riverine Herald*) is on film 1863 - 1997, digitised from 2005, and the Society now receives a direct web feed of the current issues. Some 6,000 museum items are catalogued together with 130,000+ indexed items in the document files.

The Echuca Historical Society has experienced volunteer researchers, who provide advice via all media genres, to authors, students, businesses and local government requiring historical facts and figures. Those wishing to conduct research, should make an appointment to ensure a staff member is available to assist, as our records are not suitable for self searching. The collection is open seven days a week from 11am till 3pm. Email enquiries welcome.

The Society has a publishing and exhibition program. In July 2016 it published *PS Pevensey* by Helen Coulson OAM, to celebrate the paddle steamer's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, and as fundraiser for the Society, In March/May 2016 the Society held an exhibition 'Chinese Footprints' which told the story of Echuca's Chinese Heritage. Our current Exhibition 'UPHOLDING THE RIGHT': 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Old Police Station', celebrates the

sesquicentenary of our premises and policing since 1867 on the one location at 1-11 Dickson Street Echuca. The exhibit opened on 20 January and runs until end March 2017.

The Society actively partners with Port of Echuca Discovery Centre, Murray River Paddlesteamer and Echuca Paddlesteamers, and supports other tourism attractions in Echuca and the district.

Museum visitors can take a guided tour on Fridays at 11.30am conducted by our volunteer retired riverboat captain. A Treasure Hunt for children, gives parents a chance to interact with them in a fun way, while they all learn about our history. One hour walking tours of the Heritage Precinct are available for groups of four or more adults or students. Bookings essential.

The Society provides guides for tourist coaches and guest speakers for clubs and organisations. For students and teachers we offer a School Resources program, including visitations and website [www.echucahistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.echucahistoricalsociety.org.au) and a Junior History Group Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EchucaJuniorHistoryGroup/>

Echuca Historical Society Museum & Archive can be contacted on 0354801325 between 11am and 3pm daily or by email at [eh.soc@bigpond.com](mailto:eh.soc@bigpond.com)

*Echuca Historical Society*

## AROUND THE SOCIETIES

We welcome societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. For the 1 April 2017 issue, please send details to [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) by 1 March 2017. Prepared by Greg Buchanan on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

**AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS:** The Australian Railway Historical Society is planning an interesting diary of events for 2017 including a visit to the Goulburn Valley Model Railway Club on 25 February and other meetings with guest speakers being arranged. Enquiries to Barry Matthews on 0448 817 775.

**BALLAN:** The Ballan Shire Historical Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22 February at 8pm. The venue is the Old Ballan Court House at 45-47 Steiglitz Street, Ballan. The guest speaker will be Les Hotchin and the topic, the Ambulance Service in Ballan. New members welcome. Enquiries to the Secretary Rick Biden on 5368 2544.

**BOX HILL:** The Box Hill Historical Society Inc. welcomes visitors to its meeting on Thursday 16 March when Carolyn Landon, an oral historian, will speak about Celia Rosser – the banksia artist. This acclaimed botanical illustrator painted every species of banksia over a period of twenty-five years. The meeting commences at 8pm at the Heritage Centre, Suite 7, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill (Any enquiries phone 9285 4808). At the meeting on Thursday 20 April the guest speaker will be Grace Swiney on 'Life in England during WW2' and on Thursday 18 May, Alan Ritter on 'Mont Albert Primary School – 100 years'.

**BRIGHTON:** The Brighton General Cemetery has a number of walks planned including Sunday 12 February at 2pm on 'Market Gardeners of the District' and Sunday 19 March at 2pm 'Mother & Daughter, Father & Son: an activist, a painter & a convict and a premier of Victoria'. The walks cost \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Further details on the Facebook page: Brighton-Cemeterians.

**CAMBERWELL:** The Camberwell Historical Society Inc. welcomes all to a talk on Tuesday 28 February at 8pm by Dr Anne Vale on 'Australia's Influential Garden People' - from Edna Walling to Luis Barragan to Contemporary Landscapers'. The talk will be held in the meeting room of the Camberwell Library at 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. Enquiries to George Fernando on 9885 9927 or [enquiries@chs.org.au](mailto:enquiries@chs.org.au)

**DONCASTER:** The Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society Inc. is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1967-

2017) during 2017 with a dinner at the Yarra Valley Country Club on Saturday 22 April. Other activities for the year are being planned. See the website: [www.vicnet.net.au/dthsoc/](http://www.vicnet.net.au/dthsoc/)

**ECHUCA:** Echuca Historical Society's current Exhibition at 1 Dickson Street is: "'UPHOLDING THE RIGHT": 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Old Police Station'. It celebrates 150 years since the premises (the Old Cop Shop) was built for Victoria Police and of Policing from the one location at 1-11 Dickson Street, Echuca. The exhibition opened on 20 January and closes at the end of March 2017. It is daily 11am till 3pm. Phone 03 54801325 for further information

**HASTINGS:** The Hastings-Western Port Historical Society Inc. is meeting on Thursday 9 February for morning coffee and a talk by Lance Hodgins on the 'History of Hodgins Road and the James Hodgins Story'. For further details call 0490132 011. The Society is also participating in the Western Port Festival to be held on Saturday 25 February & Sunday 26 February. The Museum will be open on both days.

**LOCKINGTON:** The Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc. is holding their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Tractor & Machinery Rally on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 April. The Complex is located at 2-10 Market Street, Lockington. A special feature will be a static display of 'Cropping in the Twenties'. The hours are Saturday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 9am – 4pm. Camping, showering and toilet facilities will be available. Enquiries on (03) 5486 2515.

**MELBOURNE:** The Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club Inc. welcomes visitors to the Club's 2017 Scoresby Steamfest to be held on Saturday 11 March, Sunday 12 March & Monday 13 March 2017 at the National Steam Centre at 1200 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby. The event is on between 10am – 4pm. Further details can be obtained on the Club's website at [www.melbournesteam.com.au](http://www.melbournesteam.com.au)

**MORNINGTON:** The Mornington & District Historical Society Inc is holding a coffee morning on Aboriginal Art. This will be held on Tuesday 14 February at 10.30pm at the Mornington Fire Brigade Rooms. Robert Austin will share his indigenous knowledge. Visitors are warmly welcomed. Cost \$5.00. A bus trip to visit historic places on the Southern Peninsula is also planned for Monday 6 March (Details to come – Any enquiries phone the Museum (03) 5976 3203).

**NAVAL:** The Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc. is helping to arrange the Creswell Oration on Wednesday 1 March 2017 as a celebration of Australian Navy Foundation Day. The luncheon will be held at the William Angliss Institute restaurant at 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne at 12 midday for 12.30pm. Enquiries to Mr Frank Cronin on 9874 2134.

**NEWSTEAD:** The Newstead & District Historical Society Inc. is taking an excursion to Maryborough on 8 February to visit the Museum of Australian History & Art Gallery. A further excursion, with lunch, is to be taken to the Geelong Maritime Museum and to Queenscliff on 15 February. For further details contact Wilson Bunton on 5472 3185.

**PORT FAIRY:** The Port Fairy Historical Society Inc. is holding their annual general meeting on Tuesday 14 February at 7.30pm at the History centre in Gipps Street, Port Fairy. Enquiries phone (03) 5568 2263 or [www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com](http://www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com)

**PORT MELBOURNE:** The Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society Inc. is meeting on Monday 27 February at 7.30pm when the guest speaker will be Perce White, the former Port Melbourne Councillor and Mayor and Foundation President of the Society. The Society meets upstairs in the Port Melbourne Town Hall and new members and visitors are welcome. Further details from Jill Dawson on 9005 9709.

**PRAHRAN:** The winner of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute's 2016 Short History Prize is Neville Lee of the Camberwell History Group for his entry 'The Story of Ashburton Through the Ages'. The annual Short History Prize is judged by panel from the Professional Historians Association (Vic.). Details of next year's prize may be found at <http://www.pmi.net.au/pmi-short-history-prize/>

**QUEENSLAND:** The Royal Historical Society of Queensland is offering a guided bus tour of Warwick (\$80.00 cost including lunch) on Saturday 18 February. The tour will visit Glengallan Homestead and the historic buildings of Warwick. Further details on (07) 3221 4198 or email: [info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

**ST KILDA:** The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery are holding a 'Writers, Booksellers and Literati' tour of the Cemetery on Sunday 26 February at 2pm. This tour will hear about the lives of some truly fascinating residents of the cemetery who led a literary life. Further tours are planned for Sunday 26 March at 2pm when sports persons will be featured and on 23 April 2017 at 2pm to coincide with Anzac Day. This latter tour will include the graves of Albert Jacka VC, Matron Mary Finlay and many others and will be engaging and have something of interest for everyone. The Cemetery is on Dandenong Road, St Kilda East (Melways 58-F9). Tour cost is \$10.00 and enquiries can be directed to the website: [foskc.org](http://foskc.org) or by telephone on 9531 6832.

**WOADY YALLOCK:** The Woody Yallock Historical Society manage the Smythesdale Market that is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 9am to 1pm at the Historic Police Precinct. Everyone is welcome.

## Victorian Historical Journal Future Fund

The *Victorian Historical Journal*, now 106 years old, is among the oldest, continuous historical journals in Australia. It is one of the RHSV's most distinctive contributions to Victorian culture.

Proceeds in 2016 from the publications, *Judging for the People* and *Remembering Melbourne*; the Law and History conference on the Supreme Court; and the new patrons of the *VHJ* program; have together created an important fighting fund to secure the future of the *VHJ* for the coming years. Already the future fund will ensure print publication of the *VHJ* for the next five years. This will relieve the RHSV's budget of this burden, providing funds for other projects.

Those wishing to become patrons of the journal are invited to contact the RHSV on 93269288 or [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) or contact the Chair of the Publications Committee at [r.broome@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.broome@latrobe.edu.au)



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## RHSV Councillor Profile: Alleyne Dawn Hockley

Alleyne Hockley is a resident of Castlemaine and passionate member of the Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., where she has served in the roles of President, Executive Officer, Archivist and Liaison Officer. She also served as Co-ordinator for the restoration works and the development of the heritage-listed 1852 former Court House at Castlemaine.



Alleyne has completed a three-year Diploma of Applied and Local History at the University of New England (1996) and has written and self-published two books two family history books, *Gold, Cobblestones and Sand* (1986) and *8 Brown Threads* (1992).

She has served on the Public Record Office of Victoria Advisory Council (2000-2009); the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre Advisory and Operations Committee (2010 – 2016); and for the Mount Alexander Shire has been a member of the Heritage Advisory Board, the Shire's Honorary Archival Record Agent, and was the organiser of Shire's annual Heritage Festivals (1996 – 2010).

Alleyne has been a member of the History Victoria Support Group (2004 – 2016). In 2016 she was appointed as a member of the RHSV Council to provide a voice for country and regional historical societies on Council.

Alleyne's work for history and heritage in Castlemaine and state-wide, was acknowledged by a RHSV Award of Merit in 2006 and an RHSV Distinguished Service Award in 2015.

Alleyne's interest in history is driven by the depth and diversity of primary source material now available for new interpretations of local history. She has found that once a 'fact or an event' has been published, it becomes lore. It is often used and re-used perpetuating that error. However, a logical survey of this accepted 'local history' reveals that it cannot be correct. The time consuming research of original material to correct it, is extremely satisfactory when an elusive 'fact' can be pinpointed and proved either right or wrong.

Her special interest is the administration of the Mount Alexander gold fields in the formative period 1851-1856. By examining, photographing and transcribing correspondence from government departments and establishments operating on these gold fields, with officials in Melbourne, Alleyne hopes to create a daily diary of events at Mount Alexander. This will establish the context and practices of law and order on this premier gold region in the roaring fifties.

Richard Broome



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**Vale Peter Holloway**  
**23/8/1943 – 19/10/16**

The RHSV was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Peter Holloway, a leading figure in the community history and heritage movement on the Mornington Peninsula.

Peter trained as an English teacher at Monash University, completing his BA, Dip. Ed. and MA. After a stint in the classroom became a lecturer in English Language and Literature at the Melbourne College of Advanced Education. He collected and edited critical writing on the Australian theatre in his book *Contemporary Australian Drama* published by Currency Press in 1981.

He then ran an interior decorating business in Hawthorn before moving to Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula. Peter joined the local branch of the National Trust in 2000 and served on the committee until the time of his death. He was Secretary from 2001 - 2003, President 2004 - 2006 and re-elected to the chair in October 2015.

Peter also joined the Dromana & District Historical Society, became a Committee member in 2006 and then Vice President in 2009, President 2010-14 and Vice President in 2015. He wrote and published four books for the Society: *Art Deco on the Mornington Peninsula*; *Heritage Signs of Dromana*;

*Dromana @ 150: A Community History 1861-2011*; and *Lest We Forget – Dromana and WWI*.

Peter was involved in numerous history and heritage projects in Dromana and on the Peninsula. He was a staunch advocate for heritage, especially where planning issues were involved. He participated in the Mornington Peninsula Shire's 'Thematic History Study', 'Heritage Reviews I & II', several structural plans, and countless submissions to panel inquiries. He was well regarded by the Shire's planners.

Peter was well known in the Shire's Local History Network and a great supporter of that organisation. His amazing ability to connect with people opened many doors across the Peninsula. He was a great inspiration and example to the committees to which he belonged.

His other interests included art, architecture and classical music, and he was extensively involved with the arts on the Peninsula, including the Regional Gallery. He was a founding committee member of the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (Mornington Peninsula Branch) and served on the committee of both the Peninsula Music Society and the Mornington Peninsula Summer Music Festival.

Other involvements included the Dromana Foreshore Committee and the Point Nepean Community Reference Group.



Peter Holloway's contribution to heritage and to community life on the Peninsula was very significant and he will be long remembered. He is sadly missed. He is survived by his partner, Ken Falconer, and his children and grandchildren.

Compiled by Don Garden from information provided by Judy Walsh, Jean Rotherham and Ken Falconer

**'Getting it Right' HVSG Seminar**

Saturday 25 March 2017

**Topics include:**

Citizen advocacy, copyright, working with volunteers, building/property issues, securing your financial future, and digitizing.

**Full details to follow**

**History of Medicine Conference**

The Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine 15th Biennial Conference will be held on 11-15

July 2017 at the Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy

Campus. The theme is 'Health, Medicine and Society:

Challenge and Change'. Call for papers closes on 20

February, registration opens 3 April.

For further information visit

[www.dcconferences.com.au/hom2017](http://www.dcconferences.com.au/hom2017)

**International Women's Day PROV Seminar**

**'Women and Welfare in Colonial Victoria'**

**PROV Conference Room**

99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne

1.00-2.30pm on 8 March 2017

**Speakers:** Nell Musgrove (ACU)

'Women creating kinship care';

Charlie Farrugia:

(Senior Collections Advisor, PROV);

Nikki Henningham: (CEO, AWAP)

**Inquiries:** Rosemary Francis: [rfran@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rfran@unimelb.edu.au)



# Moorabbin Historical Society's WW1 Memorials Project

Victorian WW1 memorials often include an inscription naming the architect or sculptor who designed the memorial, sometimes the manufacturer, but hardly ever the stone carver who interpreted the design and created the sculpture.

The Moorabbin Historical Society (MHS) calls on fellow community historians to help remedy such omissions. The Society is on a quest to record more information about public memorials erected across Victoria after WW1. Its members are particularly interested in Digger figures or statues designed and manufactured from white marble by monumental sculptors and stonemasons H.B. Corben & Sons (Corbens), 624-630 Smith St, Clifton Hill. Many, if not all their figures were carved by August Rietman (1877–1951), a stone artisan of German-Swiss heritage.

Corbens employed August Rietman in late 1915, despite xenophobic attitudes in the community. Corbens may even have sponsored his immigration to Australia. Rietman certainly had the skills and artistry required to carve statues from blocks of local marble or marble imported from Carrara in Italy. At the very least, he would have added the finishing touches or details to most, if not all, the marble Diggers manufactured by Corbens. August Rietman is remembered by family members as a pacifist. In 1930 he left Corbens to work on the Malvern Memorial (in the foyer of Stonnington Town Hall) with another pacifist, renowned sculptor Paul Raphael Montford.

August and his wife Frieda leased the Box family property in Ormond in 1917 and purchased it in 1935. It contained an early settler's cottage, a Victorian 'Big House' (since demolished) and outhouses on an acre of land in Jasper Road. The Box Cottage is now a museum run by the MHS. To mark the centenary of the couple's arrival in Ormond, MHS is working on a project to highlight August Rietman's mostly unrecorded contributions to Victoria's WW1 ANZAC heritage — with advice and assistance from the Museums Australia (Victoria) Roving Curator.

## Digger monuments

In the aftermath of WW1, H.B. Corben & Sons branched out from manufacturing headstones for Victorian cemeteries to tendering successfully for an unrecorded number of WW1 memorials. These ranged from Digger figures standing on stepped



August Rietman working at H.B. Corben & Sons, c1919-22. Courtesy of Moorabbin Historical Society

pedestals or plinths, to sombre, non-figurative cenotaphs, obelisks, granite pillars and columns. Some of the latter are extant at: Wyndham (1920), Moe (1921), Williamstown (1924/5), St Kilda (1925) and North Melbourne (1926). We can identify three Digger figures attributed to Corben & Sons. All were designed and made between 1919 and 1921. They stand at Coleraine, Bonnie Doon and Boort. At MHS's last count there are roughly thirty Digger statues across Victoria. Although some would have been manufactured by rival monumental masons such as Vaughan & Lodge and Morgan Jaguers or imported readymade from Italy, MHS members expect that August Rietman had a hand in carving some of the unattributed monuments.

MHS hopes that community historians will help its members identify those unrecorded Digger memorials manufactured by H.B. Corben & Sons which, by extension, were carved or detailed by August Rietman. Further information and images will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Please contact MHS by email: [moorabbinhs@gmail.com](mailto:moorabbinhs@gmail.com) or write to PO Box 4028, McKinnon 3204.

Frances Bader, Moorabbin Historical Society

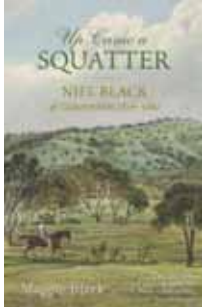


August Rietman 'rough carving' the Stonnington (Malvern) Town Hall sculpture at his studio workshop in the original Box Cottage, c1930-31. Courtesy of Moorabbin Historical Society

**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**.

**Up Came a Squatter, Niel Black of Glenormiston 1839-1880**

Maggie Black, New South Publishing, Sydney, 2016, pp. x + 318, \$49-99. ISBN 9781742235066.



Niel Black was the central figure in Margaret Kiddle's wonderful *Men of Yesterday* published in 1963. An extraordinary man, he bestrode Western District settlement for more than 40 years and left a rich legacy of letters that attest to the extraordinary. In this book, a great grand-daughter eloquently and precisely charts Black's remarkable life using those letters and many more. She presents the many sides of Black's complex personality – his vigorous defence of what he considered his rights, his attitudes to Aborigines, his ideals of civilisation, his conception of morality and sometimes his own corruption of it, his loyalty to family even when it was not reciprocated, his relationship with his Scottish partners, his striving for excellence in stock management, his sense of *noblesse oblige* despite his 'common' origins, and much more. In all, this is an excellent study of an exceptional man and the times that made him a 'man of yesterday'.

**Ubiquitous and Necessary: Australia's mechanics' institutes and schools of arts etc: A Research Guide**

Pam Baragwanath and Ken James, the authors, 2016, pp. 696. ISBN 9780994470164.



The authors' *These Walls Speak Volumes* has already been noted. This volume publishes a compilation of the primary sources used in research for that volume and extends the coverage to interstate records. They have certainly unearthed mountains of material on these early adult educational bodies.

**Victoria's Mutual Improvement Societies**

Ken James, [knjames47@gmail.com](mailto:knjames47@gmail.com), 2016, pp. 169. ISBN 9780994470157.

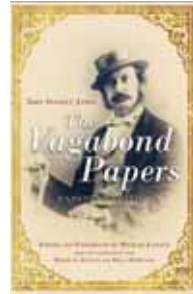


The societies of this study tended to focus on debating and literary pursuits all in the name of self-improvement. The author has discovered a great many

such societies and presents his findings by location. He partly draws on previous work for some areas, but a comprehensive index provides leads for many often transient societies. A starting point for more studies of the self-improvement movement in late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century communities.

**The Vagabond Papers**

John Stanley James, Michael Cannon (ed.), Monash University and State Library of Victoria, expanded edition 2016 (1<sup>st</sup> published in 5 vols 1877-78, abridged edition 1969), pp. liv + 278. ISBN 9781922235985.



Michael Cannon's edited 1969 edition is reprinted including his searching scholarly introduction along with new contributed material from Robert Flippen on James in Virginia and Willa McDonald on James in New Caledonia. James's work constantly reminds us of worlds that his contemporary journalists rarely visited. His writings deserve to be reprinted. He remains a distinguished 19<sup>th</sup> century scallywag about whom mysteries remain.

**Picturing and Re-picturing Bonegilla**

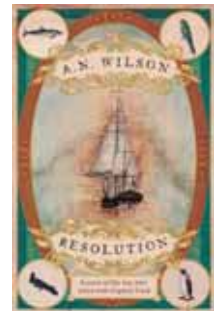
Bruce Pennay, Wodonga City Council, 2016, pp. 98. ISBN 9780959988529.



Bonegilla has been a continuing interest for the author and has been the focus of a substantial range of publications. In this latest item, Pennay arranges picture collages (40 in all) and invites 'readers to see and consider how the place [Australia's largest and longest-lasting post-war migrant accommodation centre] was perceived and represented by government, by the contemporary press, and by resident staff, migrants and refugees'. His approach is linked to those of museums that seek to create exhibitions that encourage visitors in critical engagement with the material as opposed to teaching them. His photos come from official, contemporary media and residents. These are associated with written memories, published or importantly taken from museum visitor books and comment cards. In all, an interesting and thoroughly researched study with relevance to museology, local and family history writing and much else.

**Resolution**

AN Wilson, Atlantic, London, 2016, pp. 278, \$29-99. ISBN 9781782398288.



An engaging novel focused on Cook's voyage on the *Resolution* seen through the eyes of George Forster, son of Johann Reinhold Forster whose published journal sparked the author's interest.

**Moments in Time, A Book of Australian Postcards**

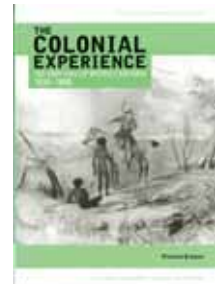
Jim Davidson, NLA Publishing, Canberra, 2016, pp. 207. ISBN 9780642278777



A beautifully presented book that provides an expert guide to the history of the postcard in Australia and highlights the breadth of cards in the National Library collection. The author discusses the 'rise, fall and persistence of the postcard' in an introductory essay. Postcard themes (over 40 of them) follow, arranged in alphabetical order from 'Aboriginal People' to 'Women in the World'. The whole is visually attractive as well as notable for its substantial research and skilful writing.

**The Colonial Experience, The Port Phillip District /Victoria 1834-1860**

Richard Broome, La Trobe Studies in History, La Trobe University History Program, www.latrobe.edu.au/archaeology-and-history, 4th. Edition, 2016, pp. xii + 170. ISBN 9781875585106.



Written for a section of VCE Australian History and arranged accordingly with well-chosen readings and images and questions designed to encourage student analysis, this book also has much that engages the general reader in a valuable introduction to the early colonial period in what became Victoria. The images used include the RHSV's prized 'William Barak's Corroboree'.

**Dandenong Market, Fresh & Vibrant Since 1866, Celebrating 150 Years (1866-2106)**

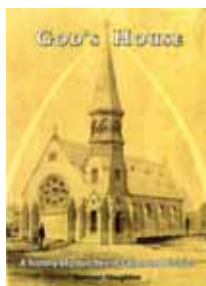
Michael Shmith, Slattery Media Group on behalf of Dandenong Market, 40 Cleeland Street, Dandenong, 3175, 2016, pp. 128. I850. SBN 9780987342.



A well-written and illustrated narrative that celebrates an important part of Dandenong's infrastructure. Originally a stock market on the far outskirts of Melbourne, its growth and changes mirror those of its city that grew from a country town with strong farming links to one with massive industrial works, with a burgeoning multicultural mix. The stock market closed in 1998 but the produce market continues along with general merchandise in refurbished buildings, and opens 4 days each week. A justly celebratory book but much more in that it proclaims a Dandenong story about stall-holders and customers, the market 'experience', and the adaptations and adjustments over its 150 years, that can be related to other market histories and to the growth of the Melbourne metropolis.

**God's House, A History of churches in Colac and District**

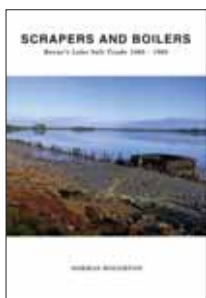
Norman Houghton, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2016,, pp. iv + 156.



The Colac district has been well-served by the author in this latest book. Arranged by denominations and by locations, this is a substantial guide to the building and sustaining of Christian churches and associated institutions. The whole shows that communities were quick to build places of worship, sometimes long-lasting structures but as the many cases of collapse and fire show, not always. Well-illustrated and researched.

**Scrapers and Boilers, Beeac's Lake Salt Trade 1868-1968**

Norman Houghton, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2016, pp. 26.

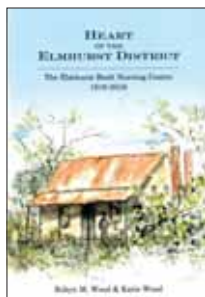


Not only a further contribution to the history of Colac and district but also an instructive investigation of industrial archaeology sites at Beeac where salt was extracted both

by boiling by the Ondit Salt Company owned by Henry Berry and the smaller Victoria Salt Company, both of which closed in the 1890s, and scraping, a practice continued successfully by locals until the 1960s.

**Heart of the Elmhurst District, The Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre 1916-2016**

Robyn M. Wood & Katie Wood, Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre, 2016, pp. 97. ISBN 9780646964201.



Written to commemorate the centenary of the Centre and dedicated to the bush nurses and local committees that have run the centre that serves the Elmhurst district east of Ararat (including Nowhere Creek!). Its history of this institution tells much about its community, perhaps its 'Heart', as well as the challenges of providing medical services in local areas.

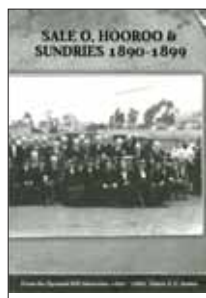
Sale O, Hooroo and Sundries, They Came They Went and What They Did In Between, 1890-1899

Margaret Williamson (compiler), Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society, PO Box 83, Pyramid Hill, 3575, 2016, pp. xxix + 217, \$30 + \$15 postage. ISBN 9780980814446.

Items from the *Pyramid Hill Advertiser* edited by SG Seales assiduously compiled and presented in chronological order covering events and people in the local area. Names of people are indexed and there is also a large series of survey maps of the area. A valuable addition to the public availability of Pyramid Hill's history and a further credit to the hard work of its historical society.

**Gentlemen Only, A History of the Riverine Club, 1881-2016**

Murrumbidgee Gentlemen, History of Narrandera's Murrumbidgee Club, 1903-2003



Norman Houghton, the author, PO Box 1128, Geelong, 3220, 2016, pp. v + 67; pp. 65.

Short histories of two Riverina gentlemen's clubs, one located and still operating in Wagga Wagga and the other at Narrandera that ceased in 2003. The author has previously written about a similar club in Geelong. These are useful additions to local history, as well as the study of exclusive male clubs.



**RHSV  
FELLOWSHIPS  
& AWARDS  
of MERIT**

Nominations for 2016 Fellowships and Awards of Merit are now being invited. The awards are a means of peer recognition within the RHSV for an outstanding contribution made to history in Victoria.

**Closing Date for Fellows  
Nomination  
Friday 17 March**

**Closing Date for Awards  
of Merit  
Friday 14 April**

Guidelines are available from Kate Prinsley: 9326 9288 or [kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:kateprinsley@historyvictoria.org.au) Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000.

**Announcements will be made at the RHSV AGM on Tuesday 16 May and published in our June newsletter.**

*By publicly recognising the outstanding work of volunteers in local history, we hope these awards will inspire others.*



# Remembering Melbourne Launched and Acclaimed

Over a hundred people, most of them contributors to the book, celebrated the launch of *Remembering Melbourne, 1850-1960*, 15 November 2016.



Richard Broome, Vice President of the RHSV, presents John Gillespie of Kiplings Business Communications Pty Ltd with his Award of Merit, for his excellent service in designing *History News*, the *Victorian Historical Journal* and many other visual communications for a decade.



Professor Patricia Grimshaw after receiving her award of a Fellowship from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies for services to women's and other histories. It was presented by Don Garden, President of the FAHS and the RHSV. Courtesy George Fernando