



# History NEWS

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Issue No. 332  
September - 2017  
Royal Historical Society  
of Victoria

## HISTORY WEEK 15-22 OCTOBER



The Vera Moore Foundation Generously Supports History Week!

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: GOING DIGITAL

Digitization is a hot topic as it is the way of the future for society in general and historical societies too. It encompasses placing catalogues and collection materials into a computerised or digital format and making these accessible online and ideally harvestable by Trove. Digitization demands a well-designed website and the right software which is inexpensive, easy to use, accessible via a website and ideally harvestable by Trove. Some existing systems are outdated and unable to deal satisfactorily with the diverse range of material collected by societies, or expensive or difficult to adapt to modern needs.

To find an alternative a good deal of research and testing has been undertaken by RHSV Collections Manager (Christine Worthington) and FAHS Outreach Officer (Bernadette Flynn). Their research led them to eHive. It is a relatively inexpensive, user friendly software, which stores data in the cloud and, very importantly, is harvestable by Trove.

To test it, and putting our money where our mouth is, RHSV acquired an eHive licence. Christine Worthington is currently gathering our diverse catalogues and putting them in order, prior to loading into eHive. She and RHSV volunteers are entering new collection items directly into eHive. So far about 33,000 records have been loaded and we are working on our 50,000 images. So far so good. Most importantly, after some trials much of the RHSV collection has now been harvested and is accessible via Trove. RHSV will be acquiring a new website and Customer Relations Management software as part of digitizing and rebuilding our administration.

Bernadette Flynn report on the digitisation needs of societies will be uploaded to the FAHS website in September. FAHS is commissioning another report on data that is born digital – that is, created in a digital rather than hard copy format. This is essentially of two types for societies – their own records such as minutes and emails, and primary source data about local history and heritage. This guide should be on the FAHS website early next year.

Finally, do you know about GLAM? This acronym describes the arts bodies associated with galleries, libraries, archives and museums. Two years ago a representative body was established, GLAM Peak, which holds regular meetings of the peak bodies in the sector. FAHS was asked to be one of the founding members, in recognition that across Australia historical societies operate more than 500 museums and about 800 collections.

The focus of GLAM Peak has been the digitization of Australia's cultural collections, especially assisting small bodies including community historical societies and museums. Two grants were obtained to forward this work. An initial report and a 'toolkit' guide to digitization are on the GLAM website <http://www.digitalcollections.org.au> A second stage is about to commence to design a seminar to train people in digitization at ten seminars across Australia. One of the first is likely to be in Ballarat later this year. There is a great deal happening to support and promote our work. Keep it up!

*Don Garden*

## RHSV NOW OPENS THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

From 10.00am-4.00pm our exhibition space, bookshop and all collections (except for the images room) are open on the **LAST SATURDAY** of the Month except December. We will be presenting workshops on the use of our collection at these monthly openings. See details our website.

## HISTORY WEEK: 15 – 22 OCTOBER

History Week is shaping up to be another stunning success this year, with events flooding in from around Victoria to be listed on the official calendar. To celebrate the week, Victorians can:

- Hear Graeme Davison on 'The Cars that Made Monash'
- Become a Friend of the History Council of Victoria
- Visit the Benalla Migrant Camp Exhibition open day

And much, much more.

### Make sure your event is on the calendar!

If you are holding a history event during the 15 – 22 October, submit your event via the History Week website – [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au)

Once approved, we will include your event in the official History Week calendar, email you the History Week logo to use in promotional material, and send you a handful of History Week postcards to promote the event. For more information visit [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au) or email [info@historyweek.org.au](mailto:info@historyweek.org.au)

**The Vera Moore Foundation generously supports History Week!**



## History NEWS



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**Cover:**

Victorian Railways' staff member with platform refreshment trolley, 1920c, RHSV Neg- 1798



# Sports' Great War



Bruce Sloss, courtesy Sloss family

**Bruce Sloss was on the verge of becoming an outstanding Australian Rules footballer. Tall, versatile and skilful, Sloss had been selected from a strong team at South Melbourne to represent Victoria at the Australasian football carnival to be held in Sydney in August 1914.**

But the carnival hoopla – and the organisers' overweening optimism that the carnival would spark a fire of enthusiasm for football in NSW – were extinguished on the opening day when war was declared. For Sloss, and many of those other men who had gathered in Sydney for their sport, the world was about to change, for the worse.

What has rarely been explored is how critical this nexus between sport – football, in particular – and the war, became. Also, how politicians, especially Prime Minister Billy Hughes, used sport for negative leverage in the bitter conscription debates that were held in 1916 and 1917.

Sloss came from a large family that endured tough times – his father had died from injuries sustained in a gas explosion in the family's Balaclava home when Bruce was a child – and he was determined to find his way in the world. He was a devout man, a self-taught engineer and engaged to be married to Gladys, a woman he met at church. Once war was declared, Bruce's older brother James enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps. He soon went missing and became a Turkish POW. Bruce, in all conscience felt he could not go on playing

football in 1915 and enlisted.

But by then, the public debate about sport – and its impact on recruiting – was increasingly vocal and divisive. The newspapers of the day often carried stories about the role sport played in preventing young men from signing up. The debate was particularly loud around professional sport, where the lure of money was seen by some critics – such as that bastion of amateurism, Wesley College headmaster Dicky Adamson – as being a form of treachery. Not only did paying to play stop men donning khaki, the very spectacle of sport where fans paid to watch sportsmen was an inappropriate activity at a time of the Empire's peril.

This attitude was at its most explicit in a poster that was released by the Victorian Parliamentary Recruiting Committee just days after Sloss enlisted.

The 2m x 2m poster carried a banner headline 'Will They Never Come?' above a wounded Australian soldier standing next to a fallen comrade. In the corner of the poster was an image of a crowded MCG. It was topped off with the plaintive line: 'An appeal from the Dardanelles'. Copies went to every Victorian town and shire council, railway stations and a further 400 were put aside for hoardings in Melbourne. One newspaper encapsulated its message: '[T]his is intended as a reproof of the "slackers" who were wasting time over sports, when their help is needed to save the Empire from disaster'.

It was just one example of the pressures placed on sportsmen in the name of 'doing the right thing'. There might have been some logic in translating the fraternal bonds of the footy club into a battalion of fit soldiers, fighting alongside their mates, but the idea became consumed by hyperbole in the hands of British war correspondent Ellis Ashmead Bartlett. His early reports from Gallipoli about the Australian soldiers called the Anzacs a 'race of athletes', a description that conjured up

a certain pride in the fitness and hardiness of the Diggers, as misguided and extravagant as it was. Yet it took root. In one of many examples, a West Australian newspaper speculated in the midst of the war that the reason more of the state's footballers had not been invalided home was because of 'their hardiness in withstanding the rigors of the Gallipoli campaign'.

Many sporting competitions, hockey, tennis and cricket closed, lacking the players or the desire to keep going. The Victorian Football League competition in 1916 comprised only four clubs Collingwood, Carlton, Richmond and Fitzroy, the latter, farcically, became the only club to ever win the premiership from the bottom of the ladder.

Bruce Sloss and other footballers who enlisted, had one final chance to reveal their skills on 28 October 1916 at the Queens Club in London. Under Sir John Monash's benevolent gaze, two teams of Diggers played what the game's survivors would refer to as the 'best match they ever played'. Ironically it took place on the same day Australians voted in the first conscription referenda.

Nick Richardson (author of *The Game of Their Lives*, PanMacmillan, which was commended in the 2016 Victorian Community History Awards)



Will they never come - AWM ARTV07583 - released July, 1915

## BOOSTING RHSV'S CAPACITY



**Daryl Hawkey**

Daryl Hawkey joined the RHSV Council in 2017, adding measurably to its financial and governance competency. He has been a member of the RHSV Foundation since 2015. Daryl is Melbourne-born and attended Blackburn High School in the same class as our President Don Garden. He began work with the NAB and undertook part time study in business studies and financial services, which led to almost four decades in the banking and fund management industries.

Daryl 'retired' in 2002 after thirteen years as an Executive Director of Rothschild Australia Asset Management Ltd. In 2002 he became a Principal of Cameron Ralph P/L, dedicated to improving the quality and performance of boards, a role he held until the company was sold in 2012.

Since 2002 Daryl has had an active semi-retirement as a director of a number of companies including State Trustees Ltd, UCA Funds Management, Hancock Natural Resources Group Australasia P/L and Intech Fiduciaries Ltd. He has also been a member of audit and compliance committees of BlackRock Funds Management (Australia) Ltd; Spark Infrastructure RE Ltd; Principal Global Investors Australia; and Antares Capital Partners Ltd.

His contributions in both his directorships and compliance committee roles indicates his strong skills in governance and regulatory requirements needed by all organisations. His skills in this area were added to through his involvement from the 1980s in various industry bodies. He was a director of the Investment Funds Association, which in 1998 became the Financial Services Association of Australia (now the Financial Services Council). He was a vice chairman of IFSA and also chaired its Regulatory

Affairs Committee. He was also a director of the Financial Services Complaints Service Limited.

Daryl's community service has been very strong, with a long involvement with the Uniting Church and Rotary. At the macro level he was Chair of UnitingCare, Prahran Mission for five years. Since joining the RHSV he has made judicious contributions to Council discussions. He has also been a key element of the RHSV Foundation's move to enhance the returns from Foundation funds by investing half in cash and half in conservative and ethical investments. This enhancement strategy is being pursued through UCA Funds Management which is used by many church and other such charitable organisations. This was approved by Council after due diligence. Other RHSV savings have also been invested with UCA investments.

Daryl has had a lifelong passion for History and focused on history subjects through to senior school. It has shaped his travel, reading and leisure interests

We welcome Daryl to the RHSV and are grateful for the skills he offers to our voluntary society.

*Richard Broome*

## VALERIE ROHDE: CONSISTENT AND SKILLED PERFORMER

Valerie is one of our valuable long-term volunteers who has helped the RHSV for over eleven years.

Valerie trained as a library technician and started here in 2006 using her skills to assist in administration, cataloguing, shelf checking, organizing the ephemera collection and general work for both Ged Horgen our Office Manager and Christine Worthington the Collections Manager at the RHSV.

Valerie's love of history started when she was at school in the Wimmera and has continued all her life. She has researched her family history for over 20 years and is keenly interested in local history and geography. Her knowledge of our Victorian Pioneers has increased in the last five years as she is responsible for entering the pioneers in our Pioneer Data Base Register.

The Pioneer Register was started by the RHSV in 1917 when a call went out to Victorians to submit the details of their ancestors who had arrived in Victoria from

1834 to 1856. The collection was added to in 1956 when another call went out for the details of ancestors who had arrived or been born in Victoria up to 1900. We still receive Pioneer Register sheets now and then and in all there would be around 2000 family sheets.

Several years ago Valerie started the task of extending and enhancing the database records of people documented in the sheets. Earlier this year the database was transferred to eHive and Valerie is adding details of items submitted with the sheets such as photographs, letters, and certificates. Her work now is harvested to Trove along with the rest of the eHive catalogue. There is considerable record maintenance and enhancement still to do, and thanks to some funds from the Barbara Nixon bequest the sheets will soon be scanned, so Valerie will continue her valuable job for many years to come. The RHSV is indeed fortunate to have Valerie's contributions.

*Margaret Fleming*



**Valerie Rohde**



# Halls of Fame

This issue of *History News* begins a new occasional series presented by Publications Committee member **Rozzi Bazzani**, author of *Hector. The Story of Hector Crawford and Crawford Productions* (Acadia, 2015), winner History Publication section of the 2016 Victorian Community History Awards. If you know of a hall of fame please contact **Rozzi Bazzani** via [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

## The Public Stepped In: the Victoria Hall, Colac

Colac in 1888 was a town of 3000 set in a rapidly growing shire with a further 2000 rural residents. The lack of a large public hall was a sore deficiency. In mid 1888 a group of men met declared: 'It is useless for us to wait until the Council will supply this want ... Threatened on every side with costly lawsuits, and the disinclination on the part of the outside members to expend more money than they can help in the town, nothing remains for the public but to step in and supply their own requirements'. Within four weeks over 2000 shares were subscribed by the public, and the architect, Alexander Hamilton, prepared plans for a building to seat comfortably over 700 people!

The hall was built on the main street and as a commercial venture, had a shop each side of an entrance hallway, while upstairs were meeting rooms and offices for hire. Construction began in September 1888. On 18 October 1889 the doors of the Victoria Hall were 'thrown open to the public for the first time' when the IOOF lodge held a grand ball

The Hall had many uses, entertainment being a major feature. Film shows evolved from magic lantern slides, through hand cranked *cinematographe* (scenes including steam boats, street traffic and shoeing horses); bioscope features from 1900 to 1907; to electric moving pictures (with no

flickering as electric light was used). Regular picture shows continued, mirroring each development to 1929 when Hoyts' sound truck brought talkies to the Victoria Hall. This development was short lived, as no films were shown there between 1934 and the late 1940s. The owners of the nearby Regent Theatre purchased the hall's lease to stymie unwanted competition. In 1947 the Victoria Hall Company sold the hall to Melbourne businessman, Frank Carden, whose efforts to bring the hall to acceptable safety standards for showing films, were ultimately unsuccessful.

The Victoria Hall remained the major hall of Colac until the municipal council finally built a civic hall in 1960. Over seventy years it hosted varied functions. It was a venue for travelling and local drama groups, school functions, boxing exhibitions, church services, and farewells to prominent citizens. It was also a popular Saturday night venue for mixed modern and old-time dances in the 1950s, and square dancing, cabaret and discos in later years.

The Victoria Hall witnessed significant moments. Marjorie Lawrence made an early appearance on stage as an unsophisticated nineteen-year old during the Colac Competitions in 1926. In the 1950s Joan Carden, whose father owned the hall, sang there. Notable speakers in the 1930s included Rev. John Flynn OBE, who founded the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and the charismatic and controversial German, Count Von Luckner, who filled the hall to

capacity as part of his Australian tour in 1938.

Remarkable political moments occurred there as politicians in the pre-television era toured the countryside speaking to local voters. On 31 July 1914 the leader of the federal opposition Andrew Fisher, packed the Victoria Hall, and voters heard him pledge that Australia would back the war effort to 'the last man and the last shilling'. Within a week war was declared on Germany. Fisher became Prime Minister on 5 September 1914, and the phrase came to symbolise the Australian response to the conflict. Then, on 1 September 1939, Prime Minister Robert Menzies addressed an electoral meeting at Victoria Hall, declaring: 'I have just learned that Hitler has invaded Poland ... I must return to my office at once...' Within 36 hours he announced that Australia was at war again.

After Frank Carden's death in 1967 the Victoria Hall was used for dances and discos. In the 1970s a local businessman tried unsuccessfully to breathe life into it, before selling in mid-1979 to a grocery group. On 6 July 1979 the hall closed forever, after a 'Farewell to the Vic Hall Old Time Ball'. Its second storey was demolished, and today the shell houses a branch of the chain 'Treasure Hunters'. Only the plaque in the park opposite, commemorating Fisher's 'last man and last shilling' speech, is a reminder of its former glory.

*Dawn Peel, Colac & District Historical Society*



**The Victoria Hall, Colac 1889-1979. Artwork by Richard Francis reconstructed from several partial surviving photographs.**



**The shell of the Victoria Hall transformed today into 'Treasure Hunters'. Courtesy Richard Francis**

# Murtoa Railway Station Renaissance

*Murtoa & District Historical Society proudly announces that tenders have been called for the full refurbishment of the Murtoa Railway Station thanks to VICTRACK.*

Murtoa & District Historical Society proudly announces that tenders have been called for the full refurbishment of the Murtoa Railway Station thanks to VICTRACK.

Murtoa has a proud railway history with the biggest grain storage in the state, which has direct rail access to the ports of Portland and Geelong. However, since the withdrawal of passenger rail services over 20 years ago the station building has deteriorated. The station still operates for freight as the branch line to Hopetoun starts in Murtoa. The electrical signal control panel is currently being relocated before restoration starts.

The Murtoa and District Historical Society inspected other Victorian stations that had been restored, such as those in Wycheproof and Donald. Negotiations began with VICTRACK, assisted by our local Yarriambiack Shire Council with the guidance of railway enthusiasts who had been through the process elsewhere. After two years tenders have been invited. The Society has an agreement to lease the building upon completion of the restoration works.

We hope to use the old waiting rooms as exhibition /office space and for community purposes.

The refurbished station will be a great addition to our community precinct opposite the Railway Hotel, which consists of the Railway Watertower Museum (1886); Concordia College 1890 (Australia's first Lutheran school); and the restored Concordia bell tower. Our once important Thomas Flour Mill (1925) now makes straw insulation & broom-brush panels. The depression era Freezing Works is now locally owned by cabinet makers.

A local committee has been formed to allow greater access to the Stick Shed, which is currently restricted to once a year on Murtoa's Big Weekend, the first weekend in October. This shed is a unique structure built in 1941 of 560 Mountain Ash poles to store wheat, and which now has an Australian National Heritage listing.

Come & see our Railway Watertower Museum!

*Stephen Rabl*


*Vice president, MDHS*



Murtoa Railway Station circa 1910



Murtoa Railway Station Renaissance



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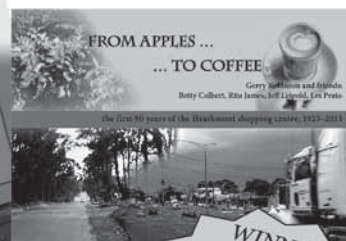
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# Heritage

## Tragic Losses and a Partial Victory



**Approved Development of Great Western Hotel: Architect's Rendering (MCC Planning Files)**

The Heritage Committee continues to work with the National Trust and Melbourne Heritage Action to protect our built environment from rampant vandalism. We are beginning to make a small difference. President Don Garden and I had a useful meeting with Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle AC and Emma Appleton, Manager Urban Strategy, City Strategy and Place, on Thursday 29 June 2017. The Lord Mayor showed genuine interest in preservation and in a strategy to prevent demolition of the City's many unprotected historic buildings during the next three years, while the City carries out a major study (called the Hoddle Grid Study) to identify and protect its remaining heritage.

We raised with the Lord Mayor the threat to the Great Western Hotel. He assured us that the developer would maintain the facade. But that very afternoon, the plans were published and they show that, while the shell of the hotel will remain below a 26-storey apartment tower, the it will be completely disfigured. To create an impressive entrance to the building, the developer will cover the ground floor facade with five large glass porches. The first-floor windows and their detailing will be blocked and painted out because. Every single feature which made the Great Western a typical early Melbourne hotel will be destroyed.

This isn't even facadism, it is vandalism. Cr Rohan Leppert, who chairs the Melbourne City Council Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio, has had the good sense to keep quiet about this tragic loss of heritage. Cr Nicholas Reece, who chairs the Planning

portfolio, crowed that Council had ensured 'the preservation of the Great Western Hotel at the ground level' (Clay Lucas, 'Apartments to replace another Gold Rush era Melbourne pub but facade set to stay', *The Age*, 29 June 2017).

That is poppycock. Council's failure to do heritage work left the hotel unprotected and the mentality that developers' interests come before public interest, shared by nearly all Councillors, meant that having done nothing to protect the hotel before it was sold to a developer, Councillors took refuge in 'the developer's rights' over public rights.

This act of vandalism may not, however, be in vain. Melbourne City Council has finally begun the Hoddle Grid Study, which over the next two years will evaluate all the older unprotected buildings in and near the CBD and make recommendations for protection by Heritage Overlay. With luck and good will, protection will be enacted and approved in the following year. The difficult part will be to ensure that buildings are not demolished during the three years before formal protections will be put in place. The Lord Mayor assured us that Council was seeking support from the Planning Minister to place interim protection on 29 important unprotected buildings. These 29 buildings, the Lord Mayor assured us, are the first stage; more will follow. We are still waiting for notification about the 29 buildings.

We have had a small, partial victory. The RHSV and the National Trust supported Fitzroy resident, historian Louise Elliot in the struggle to protect the Dodgshun House and Eastern Hill Hotel, threatened

by St Vincent's Hospital's plans for massive development, which would overpower these significant buildings. Ian Wight and Judith Smart of our Heritage Committee represented the RHSV at Yarra Council hearings on the matter and the Council voted major restrictions on the project. It will now go to Heritage Victoria and probably thence to VCAT and/or the Minister.

Otherwise the bad news continues. Planning Minister Richard Wynne has approved a 69-storey double tower joined at the top to replace the 47-storey Telstra Exchange at Exhibition and Lonsdale Streets. This new building will overshadow the world heritage Royal Exhibition Buildings.

We also fear for the Robur Tea House (28 Clarendon Street, Southbank), where development threatens the integrity of this last remnant of Southbank's industrial past. This will be decided by the Minister and we have not had any reassurance.

Similarly, in our discussions with the Lord Mayor, he continued his push for major works at the Queen Victoria Market, works which we strongly believe would seriously compromise the market's traditional function.

Still, the politicians appear more sensitive to heritage now than in recent years, a result of public revulsion against the destruction of the fabric of the City of Melbourne as the many towers approved by Planning Minister Matthew Guy rear up their ugly heads. Let's keep pushing.

*Charles Sowerwine,  
Chair,  
RHSV Heritage Committee.*

# HVSG



**Bairnsdale HVSG July Seminar Courtesy George Fernando**



**Ballarat HVSG August Seminar Courtesy Adele Fernando-Swart**

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## Roving Curator Opportunity

The Roving Curator Program assists volunteers or staff to develop an exhibition project, working with small museums, galleries, libraries and community collections.

Applications for the 2018 round of the Roving Curator Program open on 17 August 2017, and close on 18 October 2017.

For guidelines: <http://mavic.asn.au/assets/uploads/2017-05/2018-Roving-Curator-Guidelines.pdf>

The Roving Curator Program is run by Museums Australia (Victoria) and funded by Creative Victoria.

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# Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre inc. a Big Project for a Little Town



A significant development in Nhill's Aviation History occurred in 2008 when Nhill a small rural community in North Western Victoria with a population of approx. 2500 residents, appointed a committee to establish a memorial to commemorate the existence of the RAAF Base and WWII Air School at the Nhill Aerodrome. Soon after Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc. (NAHC) was formed and the hard work commenced.

**The Vision of the NAHC:** To have a world class, community owned tourist attraction and learning centre that celebrates Nhill's aviation heritage.

**The Mission of the NAHC:** To highlight the significant role of aviation in the history and ongoing development of Nhill. To research and record the history of the RAAF Air School in Nhill from 1941 to 1946 within the broader context of Nhill's aviation and Aerodrome history. To Collect Air School artefacts for display in secure premises. To acquire and restore an Avro Anson aeroplane, leaving it as a legacy to this and future generations.

A purpose built hangar has since been built to house the collection of artefacts and memorabilia.

The Nhill RAAF training base was first established 1941 as No 2ANS, Air Navigation

School, following on to No 1 Operations Training Unit and No 97 Reserve Squadron and then to AAGS, Air Armament and gas school, which included gunnery, bombing and chemical warfare and finally CMU Nhill, Care and maintenance unit before it's closure in 1946.

One of the main aims of the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre (NAHC) is to procure the four basic training units that were stationed at Nhill during this time. There were about 30 Avro Ansons, 10 Wirraway trainers, several Tiger Moths and the LINK trainers.

The rebuilding/restoration of Avro Anson W2364 is progressing to a stage where the fabrication of the wings will be the last major section to be built. The fuselage is complete with everything from the Bomb Site to Rudder in working order. More than 10,000 hours of labour has been volunteered to reach this stage. Possibly as much as \$100,000 in cash and donated parts is calculated in the value of this project. Mike Kingwill is project manager and has done the majority of the work on the fuselage and cockpit, which has included a full fit out. Len Creek built the rudder and tail plane and Whimpey Reichelt rebuilt the landing gear and the two engines.

Edwin Link had developed a passion for flying in his boyhood years, but was not able to afford the high cost of flying lessons. So, upon leaving school in 1927, he started developing a simulator, an exercise which

took him 18 months. His first pilot trainer, which debuted in 1929, resembled an overgrown toy airplane from the outside, with short wooden wings and fuselage mounted on a universal joint. Organ bellows from the Link organ factory, the business his family owned and operated in Binghamton, New York, driven by an electric pump, made the trainer pitch and roll as the pilot worked the controls.

The Air Corps was given a stark demonstration of the potential of instrument training when, in 1934, Link flew in to a meeting in conditions of fog that the Air Corps evaluation team regarded as unflyable. As a result, the Air Corps ordered the first six pilot trainers at \$3,500 each.

The Link trainer, known to tens of thousands of fledgling pilots as the "Blue Box" (although it was painted in colors other than blue in other countries), was standard equipment at every air training school in the USA and Allied nations.

Nhill has two of these Link trainers, one of which when fully restored will remain the property of the NAHC and will remain on display in the Ahrens Hangar. Neil Thomas has rebuilt the unit pictured, which is in working order, and is currently working on the second unit. Link trainers were used to train pilots in the use of instruments for night flying. Every pilot spent about 30 hours in one of these unusual little aircraft,



WWII RAAF Training base with Nhill township in distance



Photo: Jennifer Goldsworthy

Avro Anson W2364 is taking shape

totally enclosed with only a light, a set of instruments and communication with the instructor who sat at the table directing the trainee. Pilots who trained in the Link trainer said they were great as it meant they walked away from any crashes they had.

The Wirraway is the third unit in the plan to educate visitors on the working of a No 1 Operational Training Base. The Wirraway is a very important aircraft not sufficiently recognised for the contribution it made during WWII and its place in Australia's Aviation History. The Wirraway was the first Australian built mass-produced aircraft. It was built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation for the defence of Australia. There were 755 produced at Port Melbourne. Unfortunately it was soon found to be no match for the Japanese aircraft and many were lost in battle, but the Wirraway continued to be an important support aircraft and was used extensively for training pilots. Many of these aircraft were decommissioned after the war and were used for parts and the wings which were made of aluminium were reduced to ingots.

Tiger Moth, biplanes made of mainly wood and fabric were also used extensively as a training aircraft during WWII and were valuable in getting the pilots battle ready. Several were stationed at Nhill during WWII and after the end of the war they were flown by local pilots and the Nhill Aero Club was born.

If Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre is able to obtain these four units it will be the only place in the world where these four basic aircraft can be seen in working order on the original site of a former RAAF Base and air school.

We have the Avro Anson - Currently being restored/rebuilt to taxiing standard.

We have the LINK trainers - Currently being restored/rebuilt to fully operational standard.

We have the opportunity to purchase this Wirraway! Because of its rarity (less than

15 in the world) it was never envisaged that a Wirraway could become part of the NAHC collection. However, Borg Sorenson has offered the Nhill Community the opportunity to purchase Wirraway A20-722 which he rebuilt over a period of 18 years. Many parts for this aircraft were located within 100 kilometres of Nhill and it was lovingly and meticulously rebuilt to be only one of four airworthy Wirraway in Australia. It is regarded as the best presented example of an Australian-built Wirraway in the world. This aircraft is of the type that was used at the RAAF training base at Nhill during WWII. Upon arrival at Nhill this aircraft will be decommissioned and never fly again, but will be maintained to taxiing standard. Borg Sorenson has stipulated this as a condition of the sale so that this aircraft remains a working example of Australian war time engineering for generations to come. This will match the Avro Anson perfectly.

The opportunity to purchase this outstanding aircraft will not happen again. It is a case of now or never. The NAHC has committed to purchasing this Wirraway on behalf of the Nhill Community, and has already raised over \$200,000 from community donations and fundraising efforts. They just need some help to get over the finish line.



**A Link trainer with instructor console is functional**



Photo: Jennifer Goldsworthy

**The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre is open on weekends and public holidays from 10am - 4pm or by appointment.**

Community groups are welcome. For more information call 0490 657 770

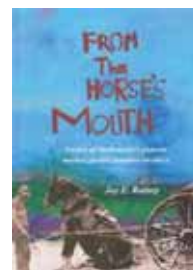
# Books Received by Don Gibb:

**AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE BOOKS TO THE RHSV FOR THE LIBRARY AND FOR CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN BOOKS RECEIVED.**

## From the Horse's Mouth, Twelve of Melbourne's pioneer market garden families recollect

Joy E Rainey,  
Kurrajong Press,  
Melbourne, 2015,  
pp. xii + 792. ISBN  
9780987464804.

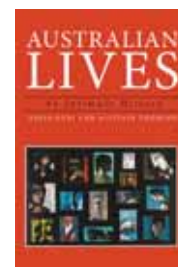
Very little has been written about the history of market gardening. This huge book collects masses of material about twelve significant market gardening families in southeast Melbourne who trundled their produce to city markets from the 1850s. The author has collected stories and accompanying photos and artefacts from descendants of pioneering families in areas like Moorabbin, Cheltenham and Bentleigh. Through their stories, there is much detail about the strenuous work done in houses, market gardens and markets by men and women; their social interactions and connections; and their contributions to local community endeavours. The author has lovingly extracted the stories from her own Bruton family and eleven others including a Chinese family that serves as a reminder of the importance of the Chinese in market gardening. The whole book recalls life on a rural fringe that has now largely disappeared in suburban housing.



## Australian Lives, An Intimate History

Anisa Puri and  
Alistair Thomson,  
Monash University  
Publishing, Clayton,  
2017, pp. xv +  
425, \$39-95. ISBN  
9781922235787.

The book's material is drawn from carefully selected excerpts taken from

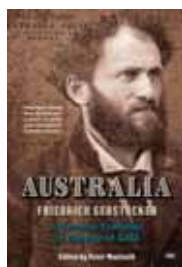




the massive Australian Generations Oral History Project that recorded 1221 hours of interview with 300 volunteers that are now deposited in the National Library. Responses from 50 interviewees have been used for the book that is arranged in chapters: ancestry, childhood, youth, middle and later life. In each there are sub-themes that convey change over the period from the 1930s to the 1980s. In addition, there are interspersed chapters on faith, migrants and activism and another that gathers the reflections of interviewees on telling their stories. This book is a remarkable distillation that shows why oral history is important in the recovery of lived experiences, especially of childhood. A very informative essay precedes each set of excerpts and the whole is a model of professionalism.

### **Australia, A German Traveller in the Age of Gold by Friedrich Gerstaecker**

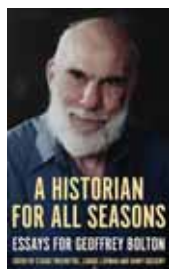
Peter Monteath (editor), Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2016, pp. xiii + 303, \$34-95. ISBN 9781743054192.



Gerstaecker was a prolific German writer of both fiction and non-fiction books based on his travels and research of other traveller's accounts. He visited Australia in 1851 and in this translated edition of *Australien*, he recounts his travels and acute observations of Sydney, a coach to Albury, an extended and difficult canoe and walking trip down the Murray, the Adelaide district and Tanunda, and Aboriginal peoples. He made special contact with German settlers in South Australia. There are excellent annotations and a valuable essay as an afterword that puts both Gerstaecker and this particular work into context. He was just too early to take in the central goldfields and he did not journey to Melbourne. A worthwhile publication that makes Gerstaecker's observations much more accessible.

### **A Historian For All Seasons, Essays for Geoffrey Bolton**

Stuart Macintyre, Lenore Layman, Jenny Gregory (eds), Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2017, pp. xx + 345, \$39-95. ISBN 9781925495607.

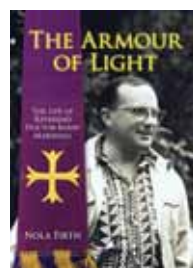


Geoffrey Bolton was one of the giants of the history profession. He died in 2015. His extraordinarily productive life is analysed in a series of essays written by people who worked with him or who worked on areas in which he was interested. The

outcome is a very positive tribute to the man and his work on a very wide range of topics: regional history in his studies of north Queensland and his native Western Australia; biographies of Alexander Forrest, Dick Boyer, Paul Hasluck and masses of entries for the *ADB*; general history as in the *Oxford History of Australia* volume 5, a series for which he was the general editor; local histories as in *Daphne Street* and the co-written *Claremont: A History*; areas of British and Imperial history; and much much more. (The list of his works covers 14 pages.) There is also ample discussion of his roles as public historian, teacher, mentor and administrator in a life that spanned student years at the University of Western Australia and Oxford, teaching posts at the ANU, Monash, UWA, Murdoch, the Australian Studies Centre in London, the University of Queensland and Edith Cowan University. His first chair was at UWA in 1966 and his retirement position was as Chancellor of Murdoch University. A remarkable book about a remarkable man.

### **The Armour of Light, The Life of Reverend Doctor Barry Marshall**

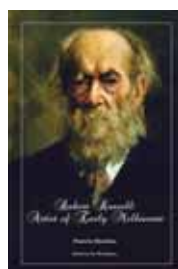
Nola Firth, Lothian Publishing, 2017, pp. 124, ISBN 9781921737220.



Marshall was an inspirational Anglican priest who spent 10 years as chaplain at Trinity College after a farm childhood in New South Wales, war service in the RAAF, theological and other studies in Sydney, Melbourne and Oxford, and a period in the Bush Brotherhood at Bourke. He tragically died, aged 47, as he was taking up the post of Principal of Pusey House at Oxford. This book charts his life drawing on an extensive personal archive and written and oral recollections of an influential, sometimes contentious figure in post-war Anglicanism.

### **Robert Russell: Artist of Early Melbourne**

Patricia Hawkins, Hindsight Consulting, 98 Chauncey Street, Lancefield, 3435, [fay.woodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:fay.woodhouse@gmail.com), 2017, pp. 66, \$25 + \$3 postage. ISBN 97806496572.



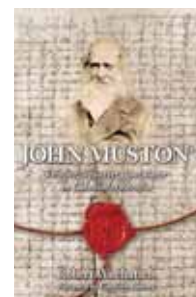
Robert Russell's work as early surveyor in Melbourne and many of his drawings and paintings have been used as illustrations, but he has not received a biography until now. The author died in 2007 and Fay Woodhouse has skilfully brought her work to publication. The result is an attractive, scholarly text on Russell's life and work with special emphasis on his

art that is mostly located in the pictures collection of the State Library. This short biography of a long life (he died aged 92 in 1900) adds materially to our knowledge and understanding of colonial Melbourne where he spent most of his adult life.

### **John Muston, Draper, Squatter, Speculator in Colonial Australia**

Robert Wuchatsch, Stony Rises Run, [www.stonyriserun.com.au](http://www.stonyriserun.com.au) 2017, pp. 219. ISBN 9780958915328.

John Muston, son of an unsuccessful London draper, migrated to Hobart in 1834 after an unsuccessful stint as a grocer in Derby. He set up a drapery business in Hobart but was soon in difficulties, selling up and coming to Port Phillip with sheep in 1837. He briefly took a run on the Barwon at Gnarwarre but by 1839 had moved further west to what became known as Muston's Creek. Saddled by debt incurred from loans in England and the colonies and unsuccessful in both pastoralism and land speculation in Melbourne, he was declared bankrupt in 1842 moving to Sydney in 1846 and dying there in 1876. The principal source for Muston's personal, business and financial struggles in the colonies are his letters sent to his relatives in England that are reproduced as an appendix. The life story is well-written, well-researched, illustrated and placed in solid context – a considerable achievement by the author and his late wife, a great-great-great granddaughter of John Muston.



### **Winter-Irving**

Warwick Finlay, Murchison & District Historical Society, PO Box 98, Murchison 3610, <http://murchisonhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com> 2016 (1<sup>st</sup> published 2008), pp. 14, \$18 + \$7 postage. ISBN 9780992476809.

Jock Winter married Janet Irving in Scotland and migrated with their family to the Port Phillip District in 1841, taking up a pastoral lease between Ballarat and Buninyong. His wealth was made by astute dealings with miners and supplying meat during the 1850s. This enabled the family to add to their mining interests and expand their pastoral interests to vast acres in the Goulburn valley as well as in Queensland and New South Wales. His sons built large mansions on their properties, e.g. Dhurringile and Noorilim near Murchison. A well-illustrated and researched booklet.



### Boundary Gully Road

C.C. Culvenor, Jim Crow Press, PO Box 276, Daylesford, 3460, 2017, pp. viii + 67. ISBN 9780975022450.

Hidden in forested bush, a winding track wanders through tall eucalypts and crosses gullies and creeks, giving little hint of its long and important history. The track ran between the site of the Franklinford Aboriginal Station and the Glengower Station site. Where it carries traffic, it is now called Boundary Gully Road. The book deals with historical events along the road: glaciation in geological time; Aboriginal massacre by a vengeful Sottish pastoralist; and the officials, graziers, gold-seekers and other settlers who used the track. The text is documented, indexed, accompanied by a clear map and excellent photos. The author brings a lifelong local perspective to the task.



### The Enigmatic Mr Deakin

Judith Brett, Text, Melbourne, 2017, pp. ix + 490, \$49-99. ISBN 9781925498660.

Writing biographies is no easy matter, especially when the subject is the very complex Alfred Deakin. Previous biographers like John La Nauze and Walter Murdoch have focused on Deakin's political life. Others like John Rickard and Al Gabay have broached both family life and his 'mystic life' in a substantial way. This new book both catches the difficulty of the subject in its use of 'enigmatic' in the title but it also largely succeeds in exploring the whole life of 'Mr Deakin'. The chronological chapters not only chart the public and political Deakin from Victorian parliament, the Federation movement and Federal parliament, but also the 'inner' man within his ever-supporting family. It may well be timely for a book that emphasizes democratic values embodied in a politician and it may be that this book is 'destined to become a classic' as its blurb claims. It certainly is a significant contribution to biography and political history that is beautifully written and full of interest. The wonderful selection of the cover image showing Deakin on the Point Lonsdale front beach deserves special mention.



### Made to Order, George Thwaites and sons, colonial cabinet makers

Robert La Nauze, New South in association with State Library Victoria, 2017, pp. xii + 316. ISBN 9781742235516.

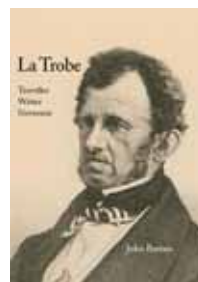
George Thwaites, a struggling but talented cabinet maker arrived in Melbourne in 1842. His firm probably became the most prestigious furniture maker in later colonial Victoria. This elegant book not only focuses on the beautiful furniture produced but also on the craft of cabinet making in Britain and the colonies, on the tools used, and on the demand for fine furniture that accompanied post-Gold rush Melbourne. The Thwaites firm was frequently commissioned to supply furniture for governors, wealthy squatters like Niel Black, leading civic figures like Redmond Barry, grand city buildings like banks and churches, as well as the university. The meticulously researched text is accompanied by splendid photos of Thwaites furniture, excellent notes and select bibliography, appendices dealing with family workshops and dwellings, private owners of Thwaites furniture, lists of furniture for government houses and Niel Black, biographies of family members, and lists of employees. The book tells us much about building interiors and the social history of late colonial Victoria.



### La Trobe, Traveller, Writer, Governor

John Barnes, Halstead Press in association with Stare Library of Victoria and La Trobe University, 2017, pp. 384. ISBN 9781925043334.

In recent years, La Trobe has attracted interest that has extended beyond the political/administrative accounts of his time in the Port Phillip Settlement/Victoria. This comprehensive biography does this as it seeks, in the words of its author, 'to place his colonial experience in the context of his life, and show what the experience meant to him' (p.18). There is substantial analysis of La Trobe's life before his appointment to Port Phillip: his Christian upbringing; his Moravian experience; his times in Switzerland walking and writing; his visit to and writing about North and Central America; his appointment to the Colonial Office and assignment to report on 'Negro Education' in the West



Indies. The rest of the book deals mostly with his personal and political life in the fourteen years of his appointment to Port Phillip/Victoria including a brief term as Administrator of Van Diemen's Land. His life in England after the colonies with no further government appointments, marriage to his wife's sister after Sophie La Trobe's death in 1853, visits to Switzerland and Europe, continuing interest in natural history and art, and final years and death in 1875 form the last chapters, along with an assessment of how La Trobe has been and might be remembered. In Barnes' view, later generations may not warm to him but they may come to respect his 'uncommon moral strength' and 'selfless commitment to the public good' (p. 361). A considerable scholarly contribution to our understandings of the man and his times copiously illustrated with many works by La Trobe himself.

### Discover Historic Kyneton, A guide to discovering Kyneton's historic places and people

Mal Closter, Wendy Turvey, Paul Reid, Fran Wigley and Don McClure (compilers), Discover Historic Kyneton, [friendsofkynetonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkynetonmuseum@gmail.com) 2017, pp. 96. ISBN 9780646965949.

A very attractive booklet with excellent photos, map, reproduction of historical material, a short contextual history of the town. It provides clear guidelines for possible walks. The compilation grew from the installation of plaques on buildings. This outcome is testimony to the dedication of the compilers who, in their words, 'worked on the project over many years and coffees'.

### Open House Melbourne 2017

openhousemelbourne.org 2017, pp.300. ISBN 9780648105404.

The Guide produced for the July openings this year marks ten years since this popular scheme started. Sites are arranged by area. Each contains photos and accompanying information. There are excellent maps showing the 'open houses' and sites of indigenous significance.

### Returning the Kulkyn

John Burch, [returningthekulkyn@iprimus.com.au](http://returningthekulkyn@iprimus.com.au), 2017, pp. xxiii + 304. ISBN 9780646967523.

The Kulkyn is an area south of Mildura abutting the Murray and is now part of the Hattah-Kulkyn National Park. It comprises semi-permanent lakes and woodlands formed by river overflows.

Once a densely settled Aboriginal area, colonisation brought squatters in 1847 and eventually massive holdings owned by





the Millers running up to 100 000 sheep. Drought and rabbits led the Millers to withdraw and subsequent graziers struggled. There were hopes for new exploitation with the coming of the railway, possibilities for irrigation and timber cutting for firewood and sleepers. Declared a state forest in 1924, it was home to timber cutters, fishermen, rabbiters with new farming settlements to its south. Sustained efforts to 'return the Kulkynne' to something like its state at the

time of European colonisation date from the 1930s. This remarkable book presents a history, impeccably researched and documented, clearly written and illustrated with contemporary images, supported by very informative maps. It deserves to be read for its substantial contribution to Aboriginal history, environmental history and the history of colonial and post-colonial Victoria.

# Around the Societies

## 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 November 2017 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 10 October 2017. Prepared by Volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.**

**AVOCA:** The Society has been given access to a room in the recently refurbished Avoca Railway Station building to display some of the society's collection of photos and other memorabilia. During April there was a display of photos of local soldiers who fought in WW1. During July, the display features soldiers from the Homebush district, with special reference to George Hugh Templeton.

**BALLARAT:** 2017 Annual General Meeting Tuesday 12 September, at 7:30 pm Gold Museum, Bradshaw Street. Guest and presenter Cr Samantha McIntosh – Renovating old Ballarat Homes.

**BRIGHT:** A number of fourth and fifth generation descendants of Henry Carlisle (Carlile) recently visited Bright for a family reunion. Henry, a convict, was the first of the Carlile family to settle in Australia, arriving in the then Morses Creek in 1860, and was involved in the gold mining industry. Henry died in 1870 and was buried in the Bright cemetery together with his wife and two sons.

**BRIGHTON:** The Society is always pleased to receive documents, books, clothing, memorabilia, photographs etc relating to the history of Brighton. The Society is a registered place of deposit for archival material. You can be assured anything accepted by us will be held safely for future researchers.

**CAMBERWELL:** On 24 October at 8:00pm Dr. Joely Talor, author of *Backtracks: Recollections of Remarkable Australians – Oral Histories* will be speaker at the Camberwell Library Meeting Room.

**CAMPERDOWN:** Grand Opening of New Dairy Exhibition Gardiner Foundation Grant. Last year, some researchers who were doing work for the Gardiner Foundation

visited Camperdown looking for history about the Dairy Industry in this district. The Society was able to offer considerable help with our records, photographs and newspaper references, which was much appreciated by the researchers.

Following this visit, the Executive Committee of the CDHS found the Gardiner Foundation mentioned on a website listing available grants to volunteer societies. We applied for a grant to establish a semi-permanent exhibition celebrating the importance of the dairy industry to Camperdown and the surrounding district. Costs such as special printing, production of signs and banners, as well as new display boards and tables have been covered by the grant and we are now ready to officially invite the public. An opening ceremony is planned for Tuesday, 8th August at 2pm and invitations will soon be going out to representatives of the various interested bodies.

**CANTERBURY:** At our meeting on 25 September, the committee is planning to make the meeting one where members present short biographies of "Notable" Cantabrians. These may well be people who were not celebrities, but who left their mark in some way. Please let Libby Wilson know if you have or know a 'notable'.

Also, please note that Judith Smart will be our Guest Speaker at the History Week Dinner in October.

**CARISBROOK:** Following years of research and diligent transcription and data entry by our volunteer members, a wide range of searchable data bases are now accessible at the Society's Research Centre at 19 Bucknall St. The data includes local municipal rates, local primary school registers, local births deaths and marriages, and a swag of other information.

**CASTLEMAINE:** To celebrate History week in October this year, the Society will have an exhibition with the theme 'Some of

Castlemaine's icons – Animal, Vegetable and Mineral'. It will highlight the area's famous people, agriculture, buildings/industry, since 1835. It will be held in the Faulder Watson Hall, in Barker St, Castlemaine. It will be open 10:00 – 4:00 each day during history week. Entry will be a gold coin donation.

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS:** The Society has been unable to attract anyone to act as Editor of future newsletters. As the position remains unfilled, there will be no future newsletters from CHHA in the foreseeable future. We do have a facebook page – Central Highlands Historical Association Inc.; and email communication for meetings, and CHHA events will continue.

**EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP:** Did you (or your kids) go to Bairnsdale High? Neil has taken on the mammoth task of trying to put names to the collection of Bairnsdale High School class and sports group photographs at the museum. If you see him, or are in our rooms, please ask.

**ELTHAM:** Heritage Excursion - Saturday 2nd September - An Eltham South Ramble! (This walk was scheduled for May but for several reasons including inclement weather it had to be postponed. We hope for better luck this time.) Although the walk has been repeated several times with some variations it is considered appropriate in this our 50th year to again take a ramble visiting historic sites in Eltham South. On the way we will pass artist Percy Leason's house, "Landscape" where we will read from Margot Tasca's recent book on Leason's life about the construction of the house and studio. Other places along the way include White Cloud Cottage, the old buildings of Eltham Primary School and teacher David Clark's cottage "Shoestring". We will walk through the historic Eltham Cemetery and Wingrove Park, a site of Aboriginal significance.

**FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF GULF STATION:** Open Day Thursday 19 October (Unless a Total Fire Ban – Central District) 1029 Melba Highway Yarra Glen - As part of both Yarra Ranges Seniors festival, and Victoria's History

Week. Volunteers will continue with normal activities, but there will be tours, and tea and coffee.

**FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY:**

On Sunday 24 September, at 2:00pm is the 'Residents and their Magnificent Mansions' tour. All tours leave from the main entrance to the cemetery in Dandenong Road. Please wear suitable clothes and footwear as we go in all weather, rain hail or shine.

**GEELONG:** Lecture Syllabus – Lectures are held at Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace Geelong, at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month. They are followed by a supper. We welcome our members and members of the community to attend. The upcoming lectures are: October 4 **Mr Ken Mould:** *Advancements in Geelong Technology and* November 1: **Mr Ron Medson** *International Harvester Co. P/L.*

**GOLDFIELDS:** We all know the story of the town of Dunolly moving, the current site being the fifth one! What is not well known is that it was not a case of just moving the town to the new location each time. The rushes were not continuous, but rather there were gaps between where all (or nearly all) the population left. Each new rush was bigger than the previous, and located further down Burnt Creek. In fact, the fifth Dunolly was so far down Burnt Creek, it was not even on Dunolly Station. It was over the boundary on Janevale Station – even so, they still called it Dunolly.

**HAWTHORN:** Saturday 16th September - at 2pm our guest speaker will be Curator Marjorie Dalvean who will talk about how to care for your family memorabilia.

Saturday 21st October – at 2 pm is our Annual General Meeting with Guest Speaker Jan O'Connell. Perhaps you know who invented the lamington. You might remember the ice man topping up the ice box. Maybe you have a Fowlers Vacola bottling outfit. To celebrate History Week, following our Annual General Meeting, food historian Jan O'Connell will talk about the changes in Australian eating habits. Her new book "From Mutton to Masterchef" explores this theme. All events are held at the Hawthorn Community Precinct, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.

**HEALESVILLE:** Due to difficulties planning the anticipated June celebration of the completion of the Maroondah Dam, it's been decided to hold the event in the Healesville Library during the whole of October. Melbourne Water will have displays, and the Society has numerous photos. If anyone has any memorabilia or stories about the construction of the dam, we would be pleased to hear from you.

**HORSHAM:** Venue: Mechanics Institute Building, 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham: Guest Speakers: September 13th - 6.00 pm - John Priestly - The Horsham Golf Club; October 11th - 8.00 pm - Pauline Barber - Engineering and Employment. Open Day as part of History week - Saturday 21 October (10:00 am onwards). Members' help is required on the day. For more information contact Rod Jenkinson.

**KOROIT:** Work continues each week at the Old School, with Monday morning and Thursday morning groups each pursuing their particular projects but there is always room for more helping hands. The Society's rooms and museum at the Common School are open on the 2nd Sunday each month from 1pm—4pm; August 13, September 10, October 8. Our AGM is scheduled for October 9 (Venue TBA)

**KOO-WEE-RUP:** Scots on the Swamp 2018 – at Harewood, will be held on March 18 in 2018. And there will be an historic theme reflecting the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lyall family arriving at Harewood, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War.

**KYNETON:** The daffodil festival will run from 31 August to 10 September and the Society will have extended opening hours on both Saturdays, along with a book sale and assorted items to help boost our coffers (and pay the electricity bill). Please contact us if you can volunteer.

**LAKE BOLAC AND DISTRICT:** The Lake Bolac community is celebrating the 150th year of formal education in the township this year. To mark the event the Society is holding education displays at the Information Centre throughout 2017 while the VCAL students at the P-12 College have also arranged displays of historical photographs and documents at the school. Education in Lake Bolac covers four main eras, which are soon to be outlined on history boards to be installed at the P-12 College.

**LANDSBOROUGH:** An excerpt from 'Bailliere's Victorian Gazette and Road Guide of 1870...' "Landsborough (Wimmera District) is a pastoral town in the parish of Landsborough and electoral district of Crowlands. It is under the control of the Avoca road board, and is situated on Heifer creek, eight miles SE of the Wimmera River; Wattle creek runs six miles N., and the Blue mountains tend NE., distant 2 miles. There is 1 quartz crushing mill, and 1 brewery in the district, which is a pastoral one, with a number of alluvial diggings.....The geographical formation is lower Silurian, and the population numbers above 800 persons".

**MALMSBURY:** We have decided to produce a new edition of the History of Malmsbury (little green booklet). We expect this to be an ongoing project over the next few years. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please get in touch with the Society. Sunday 17 September 2.00 pm, at the general meeting at the mechanics' institute our guest speaker on his favourite topic the Coliban Water System, this time, the 'Coliban Main Channel'.

**MOE:** Situated in the old Moe Court House, we are an indoor museum with in-house research facilities. The collection consists of items of local interest including an extensive photo collection, articles and small objects collection, all of which can be searched for on our catalogue. On display are items of historic interest including domestic items, gold and coal mining items and early electricity generating instruments. Items displayed cover development of the surrounding district, social development as well as the industry and agricultural undertakings in the region - gold mining, timber milling, dairy farming, transport - both rail and road, coal mining and electricity generation. The collections also cover the wider areas of Yallourn and Walhalla.

**MORNINGTON:** Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 September, 10:30am in the Mornington Fire Brigade Meeting Room. On Thursday 21 September, there is a bus trip to the Southern end of the Mornington Peninsula, taking in Point Nepean, and the military buildings.

**MT EVELYN:** Upcoming events include 'The Heidelberg Artists in the Dandenongs', Saturday 16 September. Mt Evelyn Street Party, stall and display, Sunday 29 October. Talk by the authors of *Aborigines of the Yarra Valley & Northern Dandenongs*, Chelodina Festival, Japara Living and Learning Centre, opposite Elizabeth Bridge Reserve Kilsyth, Sunday 12 November.

**MURCHISON:** Members were delighted to win a bi-annual City of Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Award for extension and development of Murchison Heritage Centre. Plans are underway to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Murchison Meteorite in September 2019 in style. Website: [murchisonhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com](http://murchisonhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com)

**NAVAL:** The Shrine of Remembrance is presenting a special exhibition entitled 'Nerves and Steel: The Royal Australian Navy in the Pacific, December 1941-September 1945' which opened on July 22, and continues until July 2018.



**NEPEAN:** The AGM will be held on 6 October at 8:00pm in the Sorrento Museum, Mechanics Institute on the corner of Melbourne and Ocean Beach Roads, Sorrento. On Sunday 22 October, from 10:00 – 3:00 we are planning our History Week Programme – “Meeting Mrs. Watts”.

**ROMSEY/LANCEFIELD:** Barton (Seymour Cottage) are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the Cottage on the last Sunday of each month throughout 2017.

There is always a friendly welcome, a cuppa and slice or a mug of soup. We were very happy with a couple of interesting donations recently and we'll enjoy researching the dates of them - an early Vegemite jar, an old sieve and an old (1930's) wedding dress. Looking for plants to refresh your garden? We now sell various plants and seeds at the cottage from \$2 - \$5. And, our website is now live at [romseylancefieldhistorical.com.au](http://romseylancefieldhistorical.com.au)

**SALATION ARMY:** ‘Crossing Boundaries Bus Adventure: October 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Discover the Salvation Army’s rich history of ministry with Aboriginal People, Contact Major Marion Weymouth on 0487 922 789 for more information.

**SANDRINGHAM:** The committee are currently working on the forthcoming October Exhibition – “Sandringham 1917 –1994” that will feature the mayors and councillors, photos and relevant council items. The exhibition will be officially opened by Cr. Laurie Evans on Sunday 8th October at 2pm. It will be open to the public from Wednesday 11th October each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2-5pm and Sunday 2-4pm until 5th November.

**ST. JOHN AMBULANCE:** Meetings of the Society are open to the public. There is no charge for attendance. Presentations begin at 10:30am at the St John Museum, The Esplanade, Williamstown Beach, which is open, free of charge on Thursdays and Sundays. The next meeting is 28 September, and Jeffrey Priest MStJ will talk about the Air Rescue Unit.

**WALHALLA:** The really big news to mention is that work has commenced on the long awaited extensions to our buildings in Walhalla. These works have been anticipated for nearly 20 years. There was a need for increased fireproof storage for artefacts and photographs and also better facilities for people doing research. It was only with the successful acquisition of funding through the Latrobe Valley Authority earlier this year that this project could finally commence. Thanks to all of those members over the last 20 years who also assisted in making this project happen whether by running events or making donations.

**WARRAGUL:** The Society’s museum is located in the Old Shire Hall at 72 Queen Street, Warragul. Run by a group of dedicated volunteers, the museum has a large collection of objects, photographs, records and a library. Entry is by a \$2 donation. The museum opens to the public on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (February to November) from 2pm to 4pm, every Thursday from 10am to 2pm and also by appointment. Closed during December and January. Phone 0438 232 105 to arrange a suitable time. Research is welcome. There is a fee of \$5 for non-members and quotes can be given for more involved research.

**WARRANTDYTE:** What a great afternoon! A quorum of members duly turned up for the AGM. Once the formalities were over many more visitors arrived in time to hear about 40 years of Warrantdyte festivals. They were captivated by the film compiled by Jeremy Loftus-Hills. The visuals, the music (everyone sang along with ‘Home Amongst the Gum Trees’) and the interviews—it was a triumph and much lauded. Claire Bloom entertained with her funny and touching anecdotes of multifarious animals and plastic ducks. Cherie Moselen talked about the trials and tribulations of writing a forty year history in a very short time frame. Stephen Reynolds finished by describing the many processes to bring the book to its final glorious conclusion. Thank you all who made it such a success.

**WAVERLEY:** Sunday 10 September, 1:00 – 4:00 visit to the historic house, Ambleside. The homestead and museum is home to the Knox Historical Society. Visitors will capture the lifestyle and endeavours of past generations from early settlement to recent times. Numbers will be limited to 20, and there is an entry fee of \$5 payable on the day.

**WHITEHORSE:** Heritage Family Day Sunday 17 September 11:00 – 4:00 at Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Attractions include Guided Tours of the cottage, Vauxhall Car Club, Brumbies Bush Band, Meccano Club, lacemaking, woodturning, old fashioned picnic races. If you are available to help on the day, please contact the society email: [whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com)



## EXHIBITION. STANDING ON THE CORNER



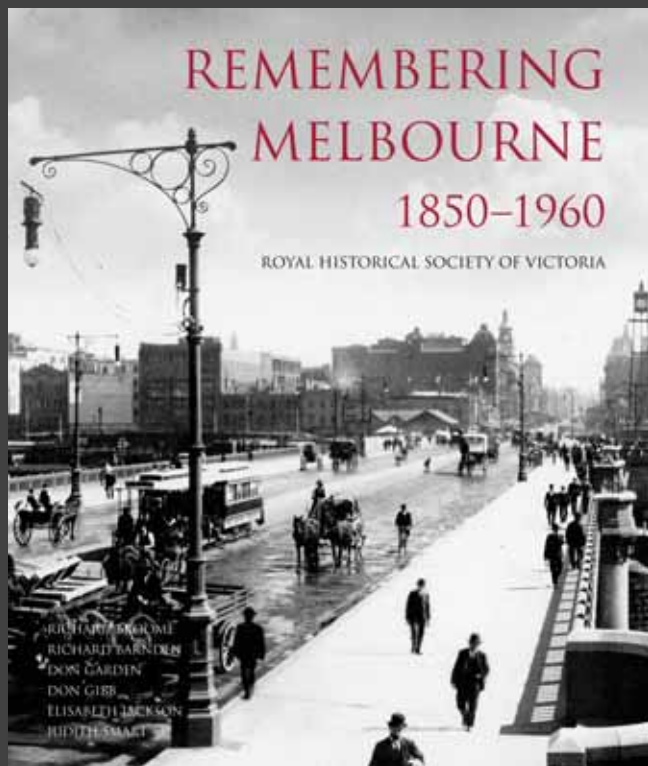
*Standing on the Corner*, the RHSV's latest exhibition in our Gallery, runs until 20 December 2017.

*Standing on the Corner* illustrates how Melbourne's corners have been used across 110 years. These are corners of Melbourne as they once stood – as so many of them now lost to us. To provide context for the images in the exhibition, we are displaying a variety of maps of Melbourne for the period 1850-1960.

**Prell's Building, south-east corner of Queen Street and Flinders Lane, c. 1890 RHSV A-470.002**

# REMEMBERING MELBOURNE

Returns - and for \$35!



On Melbourne Day, 30 August, the updated version of Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960 was launched at the RHSV and is now on sale. This stunning book, which sold out at the RHSV in just four weeks, is currently available to enhance your book shelves and delight those who receive it as a gift. The price is again a sensational \$35 (pick up from the RHSV), or plus postage and handling for mail orders <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>

All proceeds from sales will boost our growing Victorian Historian Journal Future Fund, aimed to secure our century-old journal, currently the second oldest, continuously published, history journal in Australia.

By early for Christmas and avoid disappointment.

## GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

### GUIDED WALKS EVERY MONDAY

<b>Time</b>	11am
<b>Where</b>	Meet here at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A' Beckett St
<b>Cost</b>	\$10 Children under 16 free
<b>Duration</b>	75 minutes
<b>Booking preferred email</b>	At reception, or 9326 9288 <a href="mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au">office@historyvictoria.org.au</a>

Flagstaff Gardens, which are just to your right, are Melbourne's oldest gardens. They take their name from a flagstaff erected in 1840 at the settlement's highest point, in order to communicate between the harbour and town. This became known as "Flagstaff Hill". Before this, the area was used as a cemetery and was known as Burial Hill. (There is a memorial in the gardens that marks the graves of the first European settlers.)

