

**ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
110th RHSV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

5pm Tuesday 26 May 2020

Moderated by Rosemary Cameron, using Zoom from 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

MINUTES

1 Attendance and apologies

The RHSV President, Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM welcomed RHSV members and visitors. He gave the Acknowledgement of Country and reminded attendees that it was National Sorry Day.

Richard stated that the conducting of the meeting by Zoom enabled members to participate from across the state.

Apologies were received from Richard Barnden, Janet Roberts Billett, Janet Bolitho, Heather Cooper, John Drury and Dianne Reilly, Bronwyn Hickman, Dr Anthea Hyslop, Sue and John Lack, David Langdon, Wendy Lea, Dr Andrew Lemon, Prof. Stuart Macintyre, Alan Mulraney, Erika Mohoric, Ann Neild, Jane Nigro, Dr Jenny Redman, Dr Liz Rushen, Gladys Seaton, Prof. Simon Smith, Glen Turnbull, Judith Voce, Gwenda Wallace, Janette Watt, Annette Webb, Pera Wells, and Peter Williams. Dr Andrew Lemon and Peter Williams both appointed proxies.

Richard welcomed about 70 members and several visitors to the meeting; 20 members were required for a quorum. The RHSV Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, was the moderator of the meeting held via Zoom.

Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Weston Bate Oration planned to follow the meeting had been cancelled.

2 To confirm the minutes of the 109th Annual General Meeting held on 21 May 2019

Richard stated that the minutes of the 109th AGM and associated papers had been circulated by email, mailed out if necessary and uploaded to the RHSV website.

Moved Richard Broome, seconded Elisabeth Jackson: *That the minutes of the 109th AGM are a true and accurate record.* Carried.

2a To confirm the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 21 May 2019 to adopt amendments to the RHSV Constitution.

Moved Richard, seconded Daniel Clements: *That the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 21 May 2019 are a true and accurate record.* Carried.

3 To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

In presenting the Annual Report, which is on the RHSV website, Richard Broome reported that he had been elected President at the 109th AGM. He had succeeded Associate Professor

Don Garden who had led the society constructively for six years. In particular Don had managed a difficult staff transition and advocated strongly with government for the RHSV to secure extended tenure of the Drill Hall.

Richard honoured the RHSV patron-in-chief, the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau, AC, and the civic patron, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp. He also thanked the Minister for Creative Industries, Martin Foley, for great support from his department.

Richard then thanked the many other people who had supported the RHSV, including the important 330 affiliated local history societies, and the more than 100 volunteers who worked on a regular basis at History House and were the life blood of the society. Professor Bill Russell, a former leading public servant and academic, was now the ambassador for the RHSV.

Richard thanked the RHSV Council and its eight sub-committees. In particular he mentioned Elisabeth Jackson, the Vice President and chair of the Collections Committee, who had assisted in many ways; Carole Woods, the Hon. Secretary who had been an advocate for and a judge of the Victorian Community History Awards for twenty years; Daniel Clements, the excellent Treasurer; Cathy Butcher, Assistant Secretary, who was expert on constitutional and workplace matters; Dr Judith Smart, who had continued her wonderful work as co-editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal*; Dr Andrew Lemon, the outstanding manager of Events; Professor Chips Sowerwine, chair of the Heritage Committee, for his tireless efforts to protect Victoria's heritage; Richard Barnden for continued valuable work in the Images Collection; Dr David Thompson, for his major contribution to exhibitions; Lenore Frost for management of the expanding Bookshop; Liz Bath for sustained work on membership; John Rose, always ready to put his shoulder to the wheel; and Alison Cameron for her Isaac Selby Exhibition, which was opened by Prof. Geoffrey Blainey.

In addition, Richard thanked the many donors to the RHSV, led by Gordon Moffatt.

Richard especially thanked the RHSV paid staff. Rosemary Cameron, Executive Officer, had provided wonderful leadership and, together with the Treasurer, had delivered much improved financial management; Jillian Hiscock, Collections Manager, had done splendid work in moving parts of the collection on to Trove and raising the profile of the society. Jessica Scott, Marketing Coordinator, was effectively publicizing the society's activities.

The Annual Report was an excellent production and Richard thanked Sonia Barras at Centreforce for her design. He urged members to read the Executive Officer's report which discussed the RHSV's wide-ranging activities.

RHSV staff had responded early and effectively to the COVID-19 danger. Rosemary and Jillian had closed the Drill Hall to the public but had continued to work in the spacious building.

Use of Zoom facilitated many activities, including Council and committee meetings, Cheryl Griffin's writing group and Rosemary's book club. *History News* has continued and the June issue of the *Victorian History Journal* will be published soon. Rosemary has given good advice to local historical societies about gradual re-opening. Volunteers are preparing to return to the RHSV, and the society hopes to hold the Hugh Anderson Melbourne Day lecture in August. Hugh Anderson wrote more than 30 books and was a leading scholar of Australian folklore history. The memorial lecture, financially supported by the Anderson family, will take the RHSV into literary history. The RHSV will hold History Month (previously History Week) in October and hopes to hold the annual book sale in November.

The Annual Report had been circulated to RHSV members digitally and is therefore considered tabled.

Moved Jim Dixon, seconded Robert Burrows: *That the Annual Report be received.* Carried.

4 To receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019

The Treasurer, Daniel Clements, stated that he had found several anomalies in the financial reports and would therefore not move that they be accepted. The overall financial position was correct but he was dissatisfied with anomalies in the presentation of some figures in the Annual Report; there were errors in the Profit & Loss on pages 31 and 32 and the statement of changes in equity on p.34. The statements need to be amended, validated by the auditor and approved at another AGM meeting.

Daniel reported that the RHSV had continued to perform strongly in 2019 with a net surplus of \$31,740 after providing for future committed funding; the total operating surplus was \$109,622.

Daniel commented on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the current year. The RHSV had strong financial reserves and had been approved for the federal government stimulus packages of JobKeeper and Cash Flow Boost. There would be challenges after these packages expired at the end of September but the RHSV executive and Council would closely monitor the RHSV's position.

Daniel thanked Rosemary Cameron for her sustained, meticulous work on the financial figures.

Noel Jackling, supported by Don Garden, foreshadowed the motion: That when all business has been attended to, the meeting should be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

5 To appoint the Auditor for 2021

Daniel Clements commented that there have been concerns in relation to the auditor's performance and that, as the meeting would be adjourned to a date to be fixed,

recommended that the auditor not be re-appointed until there has been further consideration of the re-appointment, and by the reconvened AGM.

6 To elect members of Council and office-holders

Richard Broome thanked Councillors who had retired during 2019 or had chosen not to continue after the AGM in 2020. He thanked Darryl Hawkey, who retired in March 2019, for his financial expertise, and Charles Parkinson who served for a short time, for legal expertise. George Fernando, who was retiring after six and a half years, had been a wonderful chair of the History Victoria Support Group for three years. He would continue on the HVSG committee. Lucy Bracey, a co-opted regional member, had completed a second term on Council and the RHSV hoped she would return in 2021. Jim Dixon, former chair of the RHSV Foundation, had given valuable investment advice. He retired in December 2019 together with Alleyne Hockley, former chair of HVSG. Alleyne had made a major contribution to the RHSV and the Castlemaine Historical Society over many years.

Cathy Butcher had been co-opted to Council in February 2019 as Assistant Secretary, and Pauline Hitchins had been recently co-opted to Council as convenor of HVSG.

Richard stated that there were 4 nominations for 6 ordinary positions on Council, so no election was deemed necessary, and these nominations were declared elected.

Margaret Anderson

Judith Smart

Charles Sowerwine

Elizabeth Triarico

Richard welcomed Dr Judith Smart, who is returning to Council after an absence of several years and Elizabeth Triarico, manager of the CO-AS-IT Italian Historical Society and Italian Museum. Elizabeth has had an impressive career and will be a wonderful asset to the RHSV.

Richard declared that 2 office-holder positions were open for election, that of Vice President (currently Elisabeth Jackson) and Treasurer (currently Daniel Clements). The nominations are:

Elisabeth Jackson Vice President

Daniel Clements Treasurer

No election was deemed necessary, and these nominations were declared elected.

Richard warmly congratulated Elisabeth and Daniel.

7 To receive expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group

Pauline Hitchins said she was delighted to attend her first AGM as HVSG Convenor and she thanked Alleyne Hockley for her constructive work prior to her resignation owing to ill health.

The expressions of interest for History Victoria Support Group were:

- Bernald Bolch of the Walhalla Heritage & Development League
- George Fernando of the Camberwell Historical Society
- Don Garden of the Sandringham & District Historical Society
- Pauline Hitchins of the Maffra & District Historical Society & Sale Historical Society
- Jane Nigro of the Malvern Historical Society
- Larina Strauch of the Kyneton Historical Society
- Judy Richards of the Stratford & District Historical Society

Richard thanked Pauline and mentioned plans for stronger connections with local historical societies including a phone tree and increased articles from local societies in *History News*.

8 To elect two RHSV members who have been nominated for election as Fellows (see below for citations).

Richard explained that owing to restrictions designed to combat COVID-19, celebrations for RHSV award recipients would be postponed until late in the year; at this proposed function citations would be read out, awards presented and recipients given the chance to speak. In the meantime citations had been uploaded to the RHSV website.

Council had approved nominations for two new Fellows, who needed to be elected by the AGM.

Richard read his nomination for Dr Rosalie Triolo.

Moved Richard Broome, seconded Don Garden: *That Dr Rosalie Triolo be elected a Fellow of the RHSV*. Elected by acclamation.

Carole read her nomination for Elisabeth Jackson.

Moved Carole Woods, seconded Judith Smart: *That Elisabeth Jackson be elected a Fellow of the RHSV*. Elected by acclamation.

9 To announce recipients of Distinguished Service Awards, Awards of Merit and Barbara Nixon Awards (see below for citations for the Distinguished Service Award and the RHSV website for citations for Awards of Merit and the Barbara Nixon Award).

Richard congratulated the following award recipients:

Distinguished Service Awards

- Margaret Fleming, nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV
- Dr Chery Griffin, nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV

Awards of Merit

- Liz Bath, nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV
- Sylvia Black, nominated by Jill Fenwick, East Melbourne Historical Society
- Christopher Boddy, nominated by Graham Hansen, Knox Historical Society
- Les Hutchinson, nominated by Geoff Arnott, Croydon Historical Society
- David Langdon, of Richmond & Burnley Historical Society, nominated by Jacki Fristacky, Councillor City of Yarra, and Dr Judith Biddington, Carlton Community History Group.
- Kay MacGregor, nominated by Barbara Poustie, Bendigo Historical Society

- Chris Manchee, nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV.
- Merle Pole, nominated by Sue Willox, Ouyen Historical Society
- Val Rohde, nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV.
- Dr Susan Walter, nominated by Christine Barker, Malmsbury Historical Society.

Barbara Nixon Awards

Alison Cameron and Zoe Henderson both nominated by Rosemary Cameron and Jillian Hiscock, RHSV

10 To transact any business of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules of the Society.

None received.

11 Adjournment of meeting

Moved Noel Jackling, seconded Don Garden: *That the meeting be adjourned and re-convened to a date to be fixed to approve the corrected financial statements and re-appointment of the auditor or appointment of a new auditor.* Carried.

In adjourning the meeting at 6.10 pm Richard thanked Rosemary Cameron for moderating through Zoom and stressed the opportunities opened by video link to connect with RHSV members far and wide.

RHSV Fellowship Nomination of Dr Rosalie Triolo

2 March 2020

Dr Rosalie Triolo is a well-known history educator, with an extensive record of publications and of active engagement with history teachers in both Victoria and nationally. She has been a methods lecturer in Australian History at Monash University for over 20 years, during which time she has made over 100 conference and professional development presentations at state, national and international gatherings.

Dr Triolo has been an active member of the History Teachers Association of Victoria for well over 20 years, on its Council for over fifteen and is currently President of the Association, which is her second three-year term as president. In this capacity she is a Victorian delegate to the History Teachers Association of Australia, and to the Australian Historical Association. She also represented the History Teachers Association from 2010-2012 at Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority meetings to determine the National History Curriculum. She has been twice a member of the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority, in 2013-14 and in 2019 which redesigned the Australian History and Twentieth Century History curriculum.

Advocacy for history and history teaching at state and national levels has been a focus of her professional life for over 20 years. She is a regular contributor to national meetings of the History Teachers Association of Australia and has produced many resources for teachers and

students. One recent national project was *Schooling, Service and the Great War* (2014), a 90 page inquiry-based learning resource with primary and secondary sources for Year 9 students. Her book *Our Schools and the War* (2012) is highly regarded.

Dr Triolo has been awarded multiple awards and medals, including the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History in Victoria and nationally (2005); the Mollie Hollman Medal for her PhD thesis (Monash University 2008); an Outstanding Teachers Award from the Faculty of Education at Monash in 2014; an award of Merit from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies in 2015; the Shrine of Remembrance Medal for promoting community understanding of Victorian sacrifice and service in war and peacekeeping (2015) and the History Teachers' Association of Victoria Award for Outstanding and Sustained Service to the National History Challenge (2018).

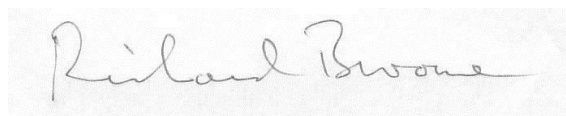
Dr Rosalie Triolo has been a member of the RHSV Council since being co-opted in August 2014 and since 2016 has chaired the Membership Development Committee. She has been an active Councillor who rarely misses a meeting, despite being a full-time lecturer on the Clayton Campus of Monash University, which requires difficult travelling to reach the Drill Hall at 4pm. She is a contributor to all important debates on Council.

She is also an energetic Chair of the Membership Development Committee trying many innovative ways to increase memberships. She has initiated and led a very popular series of visits to sites in Melbourne that cannot be normally visited by the general public. She has recently joined the new permanent exhibition working group to offer her expertise in what students require from exhibitions.

Rosalie Triolo also revamped the important resource *Writing and Publishing Local History* by Helen Doyle and Katya Johanson. After completing this publication, Dr Triolo gave a very popular series of workshops on writing local history, which has been repeated several times.

In all she has done at the RHSV, Rosalie Triolo has been a strong contributor and has brought the RHSV to the attention of not only many affiliated societies, but some of the key older institutions of Melbourne.

I recommend her unreservedly,



Dr Richard Broome AM, FRHSV, FAHA

Emeritus Professor in History, La Trobe University and President RHSV.

RHSV Fellowship Nomination of Elisabeth Jackson

19 March 2020

Elisabeth Jackson, through the library world, local historical societies and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, has made a major contribution to the history of Victoria.

After graduating MA Prelim. from the University of Melbourne and gaining a Diploma of Librarianship from RMIT, Elisabeth worked as a reference librarian for four years in the Australiana collection (then known as the La Trobe Library) of the State Library of Victoria. She later held impressive managerial positions, including Collections Manager at Moonee Valley Regional Library, Executive Officer of the Hume-Moonee Valley Regional Library Corporation, Chief Executive of the Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation and Executive Officer for Public Libraries Victoria Network.

Strongly oriented towards community service, Elisabeth became a Brunswick City Councillor 1979 to 1985 and 1988 to 1994 and served as Mayor from 1990 to 1991. Her major achievements on Council were seeing through the building of a new Brunswick public library and the commissioning of a local history. Elisabeth herself was a contributor to *Brunswick: One History, Many Voices* edited by Helen Penrose and published in 1994. As a member of the Brunswick Community History Group since the 1980s, Elisabeth has contributed further to the history of the district where she lives. About five years ago she also joined the Coburg Historical Society.

Elisabeth was co-opted onto RHSV Council, effective from January 2013 and then successively elected. As convenor of the important Collections Committee since 2013, she has guided policy decisions, acquisitions and digitisation. In 2017 she oversaw absorption of the library of the Genealogical Society of Victoria into the RHSV collection and the expansion of storage into a basement area of the Drill Hall. As assistant secretary 2013 to 2018, Elisabeth took Council minutes; her prompt and meticulous work was of substantial benefit to the society and secretary. Strongly collegial, Elisabeth has fostered good relations at RHSV. Always versatile, she has often helped out on the reception desk, dealing with diverse matters.

Elisabeth joined the new RHSV Heritage Committee in 2016; she uploads reports to the RHSV website, shoulders her share of heritage disputes, and completed the groundwork for partial victory on the Sarah Sands Hotel issue. A keen traveller, Elisabeth has visited some of the great historic sites of the world, experiences which have enriched her knowledge of heritage subjects.

As RHSV vice president since 2017, Elisabeth has assumed additional tasks and a leadership role when the president is absent. As a member of the Council of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Elisabeth's responsibilities have a national scope.

Elisabeth was a key member of the RHSV editorial team for the magnificent book *Remembering Melbourne*, published in 2016. She coordinated the volunteers who wrote the

captions and she herself wrote numerous explanatory captions. Together with Richard Barnden, she selected images and wrote captions for the successful *Melbourne's Twenty Decades*.

A humanitarian, Elisabeth has volunteered for Animals Australia for many years and has been a regular blood donor.

Elisabeth has strengthened the governance and performance of the RHSV, and raised and enhanced the society's profile. I commend Elisabeth Jackson for the award of a Fellowship.

Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV

Hon. Secretary RHSV

RHSV Distinguished Service Award Nomination of Margaret Fleming

7 April 2020

Margaret Fleming first joined the RHSV in 2004 and has been one of stalwart volunteers since 2008.

As I write this citation Margaret is in COVID-19 self-isolation at home however, not one to throw in the towel, she is busy doing RHSV site-searches long-distance to ensure that this important income-earning activity does not die.

The historical site-searches have been a major commercial income stream for the RHSV and Margaret leads the team with great skill. Site-searches are required by local councils for every development and each report requires not just good research skills and an attention to detail but an understanding of the minutiae of Melbourne's built history. The body of work that the site-search team has built up over many years is a formidable collection in its own right and we are looking at ways to link this information to other parts of the Collection (other histories, maps and photographs) to capitalise, yet again, on the thousands of hours of research and documentation of sites and buildings across Melbourne.

Before retiring Margaret was a teacher of English as a Second Language and she used these teaching skills to develop a 15 hour training program for would-be site-searchers and through her training has inducted many people over the years.

Margaret is also a passionate family and local historian with 3 published family histories and a local history under her belt ("*Moray to Moira: the descendants of Margaret Ramsay Kemp, Ramsay - Crawford - McGowan*"; "*Loch Alsh to Laen and Lygon Street: Alexander & Margaret Matheson*"; "*Pioneer brothers: Henry and John Muller; their heritage and descendants 1715-2015*"; and "*Gum trees, lagoons and flat plains: a history of Yarroweyah, Koonoomoo and Yarroweyah North 1878 to 1962*"). She is currently working on another family history about her Fleming forebears. In early 2020 she mounted a wonderful exhibition in the Cabinet of Curiosities to complement a seminar we were conducting in partnership with the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Margaret has spoken and written

about family history and she has also represented the RHSV at external events, especially those related especially to family history.

In 2019 Margaret became a member of the Collections Committee.

Margaret is the first to put up her hand for extra duties and has been invaluable at our large events managing crowds and book-sales with great aplomb. Margaret is pragmatic, generous and well respected. She is much loved by her fellow volunteers and RHSV staff.

We have much pleasure in nominating Margaret Fleming for a Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager

RHSV Distinguished Service Award Nomination of Dr Cheryl Griffin

7 April 2020

Dr Cheryl Griffin has been a member of the RHSV since 2011. In April 2012 she joined a project developed by Diana Phoenix to systematically list the RHSV archives and in December they jointly produced the valuable 'RHSV Archives Description List'. In the same month Cheryl produced a detailed description of RHSV Inward Correspondence for the society's foundation period 1909 to 1910.

Her volunteering has covered many roles. She was an RHSV Councillor from May 2015 to November 2017 and convenor of the History Victoria Support Group from 2016 to 2017; she brought her customary enthusiasm, energy and skills to the HVSG but was forced to resign owing to ill health. She is currently a member of our Collections Committee and also a researcher-at-large.

She has successfully tried many volunteer hats on in the last 8 years but her true metier is as a researcher, teacher and writer. Her great love is bringing to light the unsung women of our history and in 2005 in the Department of Education Policy and Management, University of Melbourne, she was awarded her PhD for her thesis on Dorothy McCrae, a significant educationalist and unionist. In 2017 Cheryl published *The Old Boys of Coburg State School Go to War*.

Cheryl is a natural researcher and a writer of great talent. She currently writes a monthly article for *CBD News* and a quarterly article for *Ancestor*, the GSV Magazine. She also has completed commercial research for Yarra Trams and Hilton Hotels. Also she has instigated an ambitious research project to create biographies for women who have a significant presence in their own right and are represented in the RHSV collection including women (councillors, volunteers, staff and benefactors) who have contributed to the RHSV. Cheryl is concentrating on those women who don't already appear in the Australian Dictionary of Biography or the Australian Women's Register. In 2020 Cheryl willingly became the convenor for the RHSV History Writing Group which she is leading with distinction. Not allowing the group to be vanquished by COVID19 she promptly took it online. Although we only see Cheryl one day each week, her output is prodigious as she is constantly researching and writing from home.

Cheryl has described herself as 'Tiggeresque' after the much-loved supremely-enthusiastic Tigger from *Winnie the Pooh*. And it is true. Cheryl has unbounded enthusiasm and a belief that we can do it all! This, coupled with her great intelligence and ever-enquiring mind, makes for a very attractive colleague and none of us is immune from taking up Cheryl's good ideas. She is much loved and a joy to work with.

We have much pleasure in nominating Cheryl Griffin for a Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager