



Alissa Duke



Annual Report

2023 | historyvictoria.org.au

Images

The drawings featured in this Annual Report were commissioned by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria to capture an average working day in the Drill Hall. The wonderful artist is Alissa Duke who many of you will have seen doing lightning sketches of events in Rare Book Week.

Alissa is a watercolour pencil artist and urban sketcher (and librarian). (<https://alissaduke.com/>)

I asked Alissa to create vignettes from around the building and she spent many lunch-hours poking about in cupboards and capturing the volunteers at work and play (actually lunch in the Gallery).

There are 10 images and they now reside in the RHSV Archive though I am hoping to create some merchandise from some of the sketches (teatowels?).

My favourite is the poignant stack of suitcases. The RHSV is given many donations of material that come to us in old Globite suitcases, the usual repository for people's treasures. We decant the material and do not keep the suitcases though I have great trouble throwing out those suitcases because they are so heavily freighted with stories.

The front cover is a glimpse through the library stacks of researchers at work. Those beautiful wooden shelves belong to the Supreme Court and were originally part of their building in William Street.

There are sketches of magazine files full of information on the Geological Survey of Victoria but we also have countless magazine files full of newsletters from historical societies across Victoria.

There are a few sketches from the Images Room including Ilford slide boxes and Kodachrome slides, an identity tag, a box of rolled up maps, and sample tubes of hard lollies of which we have a vast number in our very large MacRobertson Collection. Finally there is a sketch of Jillian in her office where she is almost hidden by stacks of books.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer



Royal Historical Society of Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Historical Society of Victoria currently stands, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders past and present, and those young people destined to become their elders.

CREATIVE VICTORIA

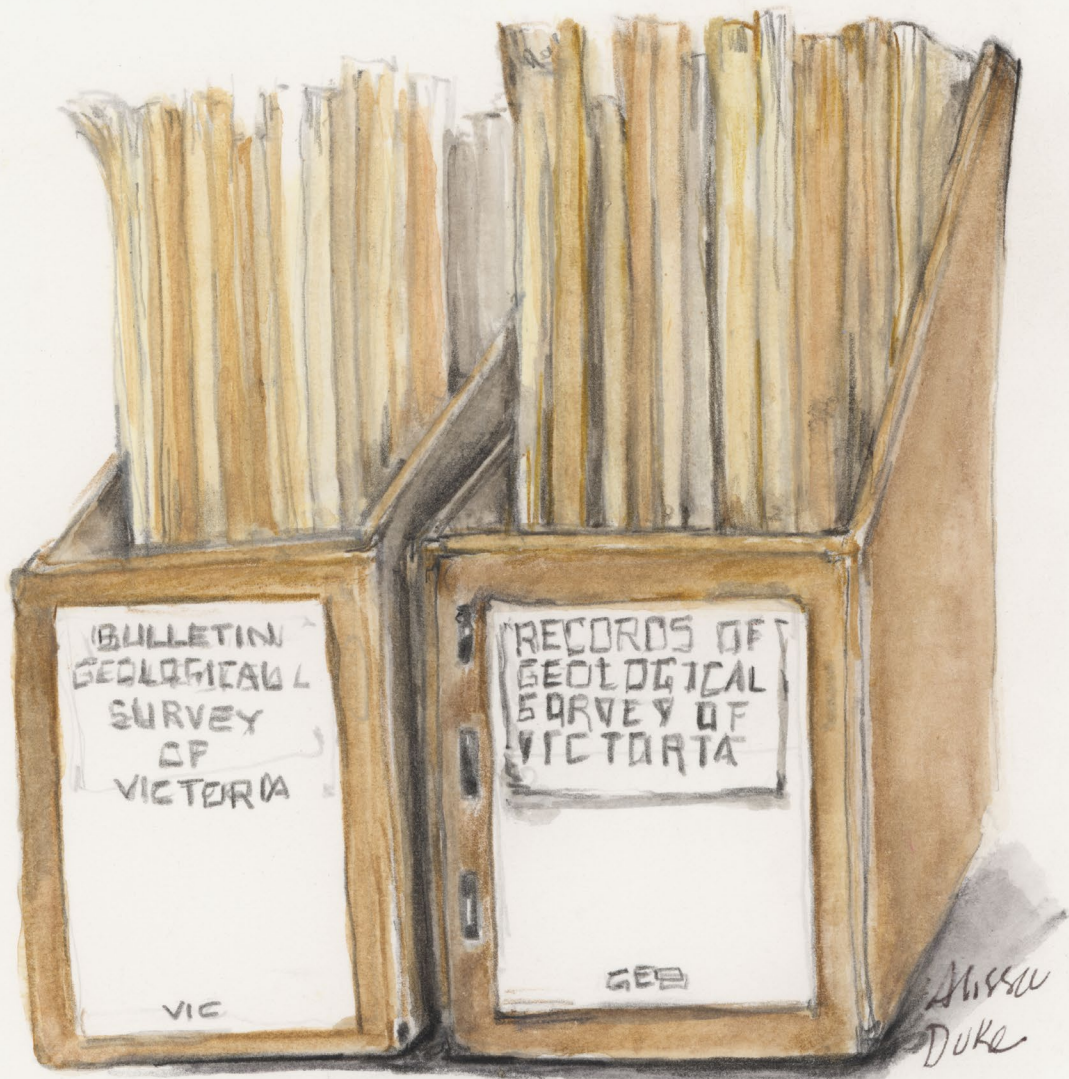


Department
of Transport
and Planning



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President's Annual Report 2023

2023 was a strong year for the RHSV. Our supporters increased in number and commitment; our finances held steady in difficult times; and our impact in the community history sector remained significant. As a charitable, not-for-profit community organisation to advance culture, we punch above our weight. Our mutual connections with almost 350 affiliated societies throughout Victoria continued to keep the community history movement vibrant. By the end of 2023 the RHSV was clearly stronger than a year earlier, owing to our committed supporters and donors, our 4.4 EFT paid staff, and scores of volunteers who work on our committees and collections.

This year we added a new distinguished lecture to our suite of special lectures, the Paul Mullaly Lecture in Law & History, supported by the Mullaly family. The Hon. Christopher Maxwell AC, former president of the Victorian Court of Appeal, gave the inaugural lecture. This lecture, which will alternate with the Jones Lecture in Social History, joins the Billibellary Lecture in Indigenous History, the Women's History Month Lecture, the Weston Bate Oration, the A.G.L. Shaw Lecture, the Wolskel Lecture, and the Hugh Anderson Lecture to make 8 RHSV Distinguished Lectures, most developed in the last five years. Normally they are published in our *Victorian Historical Journal*.

There was one great sadness for the RHSV during the past year with the passing of Gordon Moffatt AM, Vice President of the RHSV in the 1980s and a long-term supporter and friend of the RHSV. In 2009 Gordon Moffatt, along with Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, began the RHSV Foundation. Gordon Moffatt remained a generous donor to the RHSV and was also an avid reader and patron of the journal. In 2022–23 he sponsored our first and second Historians-in-Residence, Dr Bart Ziino and Dr Fiona Gatt.

The RHSV is supported by our Vice-Regal patron. The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AO, stepped down on 30 June 2023 after serving an extension to her distinguished governorship. We are delighted that the new Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, has agreed to become patron of the RHSV.

Many others provide continued support for the RHSV, for which we are both pleased and thankful. The Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Sally Capp is our Civic Patron, and former RHSV President Bill Russell, our Ambassador. During the year the Honourable Colin Brooks MP, succeeded the Honourable Steve Dimopoulos as Minister for Creative Industries, and we thank them for the final year of our transitional grant funding. Rob Heath, our honorary legal adviser, continued to provide excellent *pro bono* advice. Our financial advisers, Angela Martyn and Shane Griffin of Yarra Lanes Group, managed our investments listed in the Investment Committee report. Our members, donors, journal patrons and friends, continued to provide generous and sustained financial support for our collection and our Foundation, both of which hold deductible gift recipient status with the ATO.

We are delighted that the new Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, has agreed to become patron of the RHSV.

Our staff was led by our hard-working and imaginative Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, who liaised successfully with government, RHSV members and affiliated societies, and the community to advance our Society. Rosemary also oversaw many wonderful events, exhibitions and meetings at the Drill Hall. The May–June end of financial year appeal was most successful in bringing new equipment to the RHSV. Please read Rosemary Cameron's informative report in this publication.



Our part-time Collections Manager, Jillian Hiscock, enhanced our collection, second only to that of the State Library of Victoria, by adding value to our catalogue through a strong focus on the diversity hitherto missing from the minds of former cataloguers. Jillian initiated discussion meetings between small collection managers within the Melbourne CBD to broaden our reach and increase the quality of what we do. The part-time Images Officer, Helen Stitt, enhanced our images collection and provided invaluable support to the creation of a second edition of *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes* (1994), out in 2024. Both Jillian Hiscock and Helen Stitt expertly directed volunteers to add value to the RHSV collection.

Emily Maiolo, our Administrative Officer, provided excellent administrative support to our Executive Officer and fulfilled many front-of-house administrative functions, including overseeing the bookshop. Our bookkeeper Kristin Adnams, a qualified accountant, continued to refine our financial reporting. Christina Browning our part-time Marketing Officer moved to other opportunities in late 2023, after boosting our profile on social media during her eighteen months of service. Cathy Dodson joined the team in May 2023 as an archivist to catalogue the newly arrived Jones collection.

Almost forty volunteers staff our key committees. These are led by Richard Broome (Council and Executive & Finance), Elisabeth Jackson (Collections), Richard

Broome (Publications), Charles Sowerwine (Heritage), Rosalie Triolo (History Societies Support Committee), Carole Woods (Fellowship and Awards), Andrew Lemon (Events and Outreach), and Richard Broome (Investment Committee). The RHSV is indebted to all these volunteer committees and to the Councillors who continually strive to push the RHSV to be better than it was yesterday. I urge you to read their interesting reports on the following pages.

The RHSV is also assisted by a wonderful team of forty-plus volunteers who donate many hours and hard work each week to refine and enhance our digital and paper collections. They prepare exhibitions, sort and catalogue archives and images, do site searches and other research, assist the bookshop, research and write articles, and process mail-outs. David Thompson (exhibitions); Margaret Fleming and Greg Buchanan (site searches), Joel Becker and Vicki McNamara (bookshop), Ashley Smith and Cheryl Griffin (research & articles), Alison Cameron and Helen Boak (research), and many other volunteers provided service to enhance our collection.

After public campaigning led by the RHSV and supported by our affiliates and many Victorians, the Victorian government agreed to fund PROV's small community grants scheme and the Victorian Community History Awards (VCHA) for 2023. We thank the then Minister of Government Services, the Honourable Danny Pearson, for this decision. The VCHA was co-hosted with Public Record



Our donors large and small continued to assist the work of the RHSV, and a full list appears in this annual report.

Office Victoria, led by its Director, Justine Heazlewood. Special thanks to Tara Oldfield and Natasha Cantwell of PROV and Susannah Beardsell of the RHSV for project managing the VCHA. The Oral History Association again co-sponsored the Oral History Award.

At the VCHA ceremony, delayed until 2 February 2024, Judy Maddigan, Chair of the Public Records Advisory Council, presented the awards in her inimitable swash-buckling style. There were 168 entrants for 2023, the second highest number since the awards began in 1998, despite disruptions and running four months late. The Victorian Premier's Prize was awarded to Carmel McKenzie for *St Kilda 1841–1900: Movers and Shakers and Money-Makers* (Manneton Publishing), and we congratulate her on her magnificent book. Most published entries are available through the RHSV bookshop.

The RHSV is extremely grateful to the VCHA's volunteer judges. Helen Doyle, a practising public historian and heritage adviser, chaired the main panel, assisted by Gary Presland and Amanda Lourie. They chose winners in three categories as well as the Victorian Premier's History Prize and the Judges' Special Prize winners, and oversaw four other panels of judges including Alistair Thomson, Alicia Cerreto, Jessica Ferrari, Keir Reeves, Lucie Paterson, Ruth Hazleton, Seamus O'Hanlon, Carolyn Rasmussen, Jill Barnard, Celestina Sagazio, and Jo Clyne.

Our donors large and small continued to assist the work of the RHSV, and a full list appears in this annual report. To every donor I gave my heartfelt thanks, which I expressed personally to each of them in a handwritten letter.

Financially, the RHSV posted a small surplus in 2023. Please refer to our Treasurer's and Investment Committee reports. Our operational results were solid after transfers to reserves and our assets are strong. Our overall financial position is satisfactory, but our last Creative Victoria grant is now in the bank. We have lost 10–15 percent of our operating income with the end of this grant, revenues that must be replaced. Declining site search income is fortunately partially covered by larger bookshop profits, and our investment income was strong as 2023 closed, revealing the wisdom of a Council decision seven years ago to boost our investment management. Our building lease continues to remain in limbo. However, in late 2023, we opened discussions with the Ministry of Planning for a long lease at low rental, aimed at securing greater certainty for our collection. A long lease will allow us to seek philanthropic funding for the upgrade of the Drill Hall. Council is bent on meeting all these challenges in 2024.

Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS
| **RHSV President**



Alissa Duke

Executive Officer's Annual Report 2023

2023 was another year of growth and achievement for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. We accepted more large donations of material to be added to our collection and also a number of large and small financial donations which enabled us to install storage facilities and engage sufficient staff to deal with these incoming collections. It has been an exhilarating year.

None of our achievements happen in isolation and I would like to thank the entire RHSV team, led by our President Richard Broome and the RHSV Council, which includes committee members, volunteers and our wonderful professional staff for all that they have achieved in 2023.

Support

We thank The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny, Minister for Planning, for housing the RHSV in our Drill Hall. We are extremely grateful for our heritage-listed home which we have occupied since 1999. At the **Department of Transport and Planning** we are well-looked after by Sarah Keating and Anna Giannacos. The Drill hall is maintained by the Department of Planning through Jones Lang LeSalle (JLL) and we thank Janene Hansford and Goran Licinar for all their ongoing care and assistance.

We thank **Creative Victoria** for their support of our operational costs during 2023 through their Creative Enterprises Program. Unfortunately our State Government funding ended on 31 December 2023. We are yet to read the report from the consultants engaged by Creative Victoria which looked into the flaws in the new grant program which saw several history/heritage organisations lose their funding, not just the RHSV.

The **Vera Moore Foundation** has generously supported History Month for many years and they have our deepest gratitude for their never-wavering belief in the worth of the RHSV and the work we do. In 2023 the Foundation increased their donation to allow the RHSV to build a new website for History Month. History Month is the highlight of our year with a large program of events across Victoria. History Month (October) and its sister commemoration, Women's History Month (March), have ready support in the community and are celebrated widely. David

Richardson AO OBE, Secretary of the Vera Moore Foundation, has our sincere thanks for his support.

Once again we thank Carol Holsworth who, through Equity Trustees, funds the **Holsworth Local Heritage Trust** and its small grants program which encourages and supports rural and regional histories. The grants in 2023 were made to Ballan Historical Society, Horsham Historical Society, Poowong Historical Group, Snake Valley & District Historical Society, Tallygaroopna & District Historical Society, Trentham & District Historical Society, Wangaratta Historical Society, Warrnambool & District Historical Society and Wycheproof Historical Society. The grants can be used towards publication of history or digitisation.

Our congratulations go to Ms Madeleine Gome who was awarded the 2023 **Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History** for the highest marks in Australian History at La Trobe University. This award was established and funded by Don's family in his memory in 2018.

In 2023 I joined the committee of **City Precinct** which is one of Melbourne CBD's business networks. It is a community of businesses, with regular member events and opportunities to do business with each other and it has proved to be invaluable in making connections for the RHSV in our city neighbourhood.

Staff

2023 continued to see our staff expand with the addition of Jones Archivist, Cathy Dodson. Cathy was engaged to work on cataloguing the large Jones Collection which we had been receiving in tranches over the previous year. It is a gloriously rich collection covering about 100 years of a family's life in Coburg and we thank the late Gwen Jones, Gwen's god-daughter and executor Kristen Binns Smith and family friend and historian Richard Aitken for ensuring that this material was secured and donated to the RHSV in wonderful condition. Richard had worked on the Jones Collection throughout the 2 years of COVID lockdowns and gave the collection a phenomenal level of care and research which will make it all the richer for future historians.

Our Marketing Officer, Christina Browning left at the end of 2023 and was replaced by Sean Reynolds in early 2024.



Thank you to everyone
who took part in successfully
advocating for the restoration of
funding in 2023.

We thank Christina for all her contributions, especially working closely with the Heritage Committee.

Emily Maiolo has continued very competently as our Administrator whilst she studies, part-time to gain her librarian's qualification (she has already qualified as an archaeologist). Emily does many things here but historical societies will know her well from her expert management of our large group insurance scheme which covers some 311 historical societies). She also manages the bookshop which is going from strength to strength with our sales doubling since 2017 and continuing to grow strongly.


Kristen Adnams continues as our sane and level-headed book-keeper who can always see the best and simplest solution. Our audits have become much less fraught since Kristen joined our staff. Our finances have become more complicated over the last two years as we spread our investments to mitigate risk and Kristen has dealt with this magnificently.

Susannah Beardsell was our hard-working Project Officer looking after both History Month and the Victorian Community History Awards which turned out to be a long drawn out process which didn't end until February 2024. When the Public Record Office Victoria lost its funding for both the Victorian Community History Awards and Local History Grants Program in 2023 the RHSV

galvanised our history community into a very effective advocacy machine. Thank you to everyone who took part in successfully advocating for the restoration of funding in 2023. Unfortunately it was only for one year and, as I write this report, we are waiting for the outcome of our advocacy for funding in 2024. VCHA entries usually close in July of each year but, in 2023, it was pushed back later in the year so that the awards ceremony was held in February 2024.

If you'd attended any of our RHSV events you will have met our wonderful event assistants, Max Richardson (with his piratical pearl earring) and Ishana Girish. Having both of them on board made our events enjoyable rather than stressful!

Helen Stitt continued as our Collections Officer (Images) managing effective teams of volunteers working on the technical work of digitising images, colour-balancing, making low-res watermarked thumbnail images for the catalogue records. Towards the end of 2023 Helen was working hard on the RHSV's latest publication, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned*. Also in 2023 Helen was successful in gaining us a Community Heritage grant from the National Library of Australia to engage a consultant to conduct an images storage assessment. This is stage 2 of a three year process which we had already



successfully completed for our manuscripts collection a few years ago.

Jillian Hiscock, our Collections Manager, has overseen a period of tremendous growth in the Collection and the professional staff we engage to work on the collection. We are one of the few collecting institutions still accepting large donations although space is becoming an issue for us too. And we have been fortunate to increase our collections staff over the last few years, firstly engaging Helen Stitt to work on images followed by Cathy Dodson working on archival cataloguing of large collections with one more new staff to join us in 2024. Jillian also oversees a huge team of enthusiastic and generous volunteers.

Carole Woods stood down as Hon Secretary in October 2023 and I'd like to thank Carole for being my gentle mentor. She has been a rock! Carole is passionate and determined and her knowledge of the RHSV is second to none. She has shown me nothing but kindness and I wish her well in her continuing roles of Councillor and Chair of the Fellowship and Awards Committee.

Summary

We attempt, each year, through this Annual Report to describe our many achievements and our, hopefully, few shortcomings to give you a rounded picture of the

organisation and its priorities. The intangibles, of course, are the hardest aspects of our work to quantify and right at the top of the tree is the community we create. The RHSV is an unusual organisation in that it brings together academic historians, amateur historians, professional historians and people like myself who just love Australia's history. It is a splendid thing to watch the generous sharing of information that happens over a glass of wine before each of our events as our members and friends make new connections and strengthen the old.

We have a collegiate relationship with the many other history organisations in Victoria and interstate, not the least being the many historical societies which are valued members of the RHSV. There is enormous pleasure in seeing these community-led organisations prosper and go from strength to strength.

As always our dreams and ambitions outstrip our resources but give us time and we get there! We have great plans for 2024 and the following 4 years and we invite all our members to engage fully with the RHSV whether it is through events, the bookshop, volunteering, donating or reading our publications. We look forward to revealing our plans to you over the coming months.

Rosemary Cameron | Executive Officer



RHSV Council Annual Report 2023

The role of the Council is to provide leadership for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. In doing so it will guide and monitor the Society's business and affairs, ensure the Society is properly governed, and increase the Society's value to members and the Victorian community in accordance with its Purposes and Mission. The Council may, by resolution, establish committees to consider and advise on any specified matter or matters in achieving its purposes.

The composition of Council from January 2023 to the June AGM was Richard Broome (President), Rosalie Triolo (Vice President), Carole Woods (Secretary), Cathy Butcher (Assistant Secretary), Daniel Clements (Treasurer) Rosemary Cameron (Executive Officer), Margaret Anderson, Paul Fearon (co-opted), Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Charles (Chips) Sowerwine, Elizabeth Triarico, Nikita Vanderbyl, and Peter Yule (regional councillor).

The Council has been energetic in 2023, working to enhance its performance and the strength and relevance of the RHSV.

At the 114th AGM on 27 June 2023 all members standing for re-election were re-elected. Council agreed that our valued member Peter Yule would continue as a co-opted regional member under section 54.5 of the Constitution, and Paul Fearon was made a full Council member to enable him to assist in our continued transition to best practice.

The 2023 AGM was a very successful meeting, which included a joyous awards presentation and a fascinating Weston Bate Oration delivered by Bart Ziino on behalf of himself and his fellow researcher Brad Underhill. Their title was 'Protected Industries, Protected Men: The Dilemmas of Wartime Service 1939–1946'. The project was funded by the late Gordon Moffatt, who fortunately saw an advance copy of the lecture and the accompanying report he sponsored to raise the profile of those who served their country as protected workers. It appeared in the December 2023 issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

At the Council meeting of 3 October 2023, Carole Woods OAM stood down as Honorary Secretary of the RHSV after an amazing fourteen years in the position, during which time she had been an energetic, conscientious and passionate driver of Council business. She was thanked most heartily by Council for her meticulous recording keeping and minute taking at Executive & Finance and Council meetings for many years. She also served on the Victorian Community History Awards judging panels for many years and will continue to run the Fellowship and Awards Committee and to serve on Council. The Assistant Secretary Cathy Butcher has taken over the role of Honorary Secretary and will continue to pursue her passion for reviewing and revising all governance procedures.

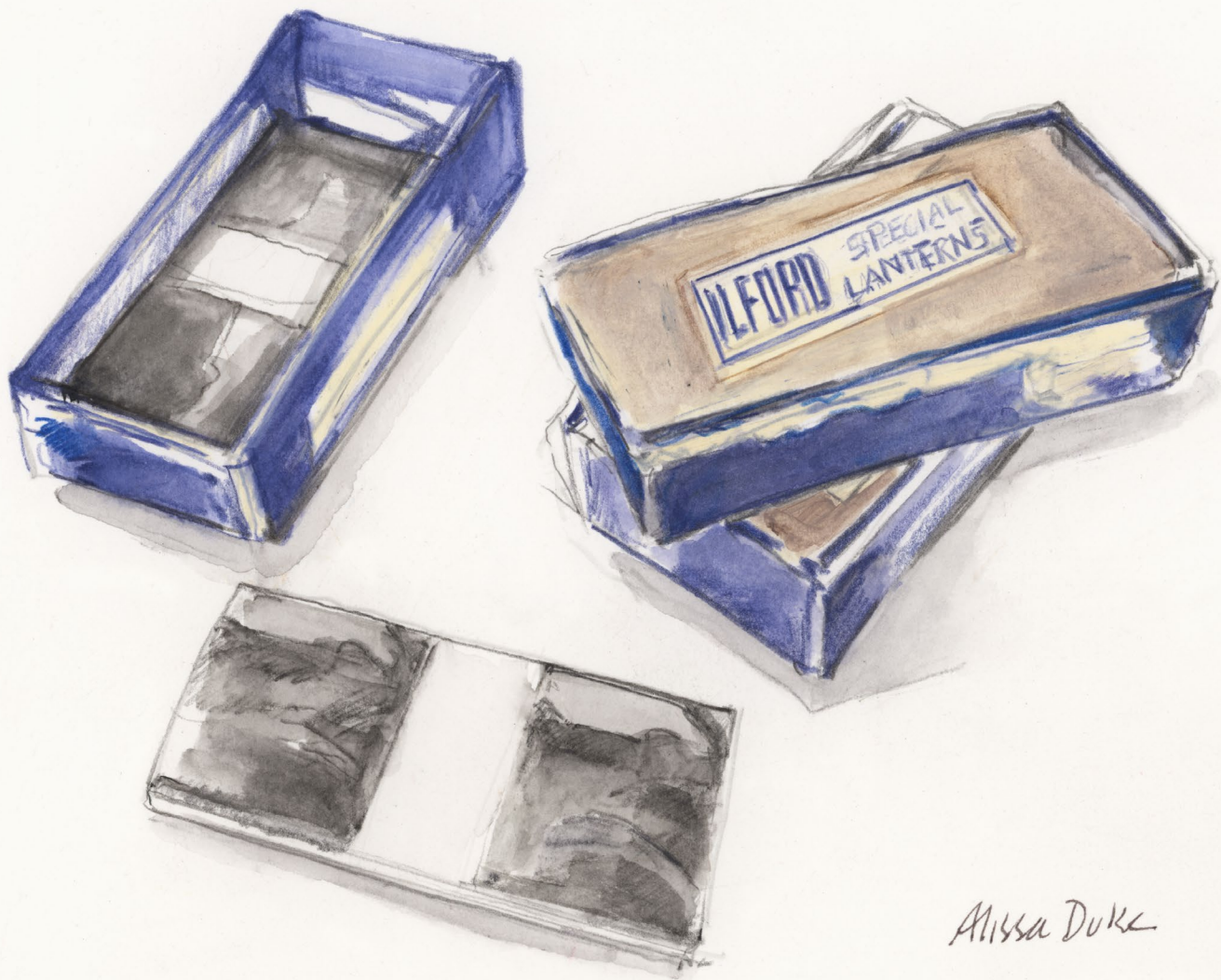
The Council has been energetic in 2023, working to enhance its performance and the strength and relevance of the RHSV. Following the report by Councillor Peter Yule 'Review of the Committee Structure and Council of the RHSV' in June 2022, Council decided to create a Board Charter to guide and monitor its work, review all committee terms of reference, and add to Council meetings a new agenda item 'strategy/governance/risk'.

In 2023 RHSV Council:

- Created and instituted a Board Charter;
- Instituted an inquiry into risk assessment and management;
- Investigated/updated ACNC and ATO requirements for charitable and DGR status;
- Instituted work on all committee terms of reference;
- Created a Fundraising Working Group, which created a successful EOFY campaign in May 2023;
- Set fundraising objectives for 2024, which is the 115th anniversary of the RHSV's establishment in 1909;
- Continued work on the RHSV's commitment to diversity through a Diversity and Inclusion Working Group;
- Commenced lobbying the Ministry of Planning for a long lease of the Drill Hall;
- Successfully applied for the renewal of 'Royal' in our society's name under the new monarch King Charles III;
- Successfully applied for the patronage of the new Victorian Governor;
- Successfully lobbied to restore funding of the Victorian small community grants and the Victorian Community History Awards;
- Called for respectful debate during the Voice campaign.

The Council in 2023 looked forward not backward, ready to face the challenges of 2024.

Richard Broome AM | Chair of RHSV Council



Collections Committee Annual Report 2023

The Collections Committee is responsible for advising and supporting the staff in curating and making accessible the collection of books, journals, manuscripts, images, and ephemera acquired since the foundation of the Society in 1909. It is one of the most significant collections of Victorian historical material in existence.

The Committee is chaired by an RHSV Councillor (Elisabeth Jackson) and consists of the Collections staff (Collections Manager Jillian Hiscock and Images Officer Helen Stitt) and three experts in different relevant aspects. These are Curatorship (Elizabeth Willis), Collections Management (Lorenzo Iozzi) and Conservation (Sarah Edwards). The RHSV Executive Officer and President are ex officio members.

Decolonisation of the collection has continued, and we have discovered hitherto unknown images of First Nations people in our own collection and that of the Royal Geographical Society, which we inherited.

This year we were fortunate to acquire several significant donations. These include:

- The papers of Graeme Butler. Graeme is a well-known heritage consultant who has conducted heritage and conservation studies for a number of local councils among other work;
- The records of Save the Brickworks—a community group advocating for the preservation of the former Hoffman Brickworks in Brunswick;
- A collection of one thousand digital photos of places around Victoria taken over the last fifteen years by Graeme Spears;
- Contemporary photographs of Melbourne laneways taken by members of Boroondara U3A Camera Group. Some of these will be used in the forthcoming book on Melbourne's lanes. This and the Graeme Spears collection will help to fill gaps in our images collection, which has lacked photographs from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries;
- A collection of memorabilia belonging to James Munro, former Premier of Victoria (November 1890 – February 1892);
- The papers of the late Ann Jackson, prominent women's activist.

We have also been offered the collection of Alan Willingham, another well-known heritage consultant, and at the end of the year applied for a grant that will enable us to process it.

These acquisitions are very welcome but are putting pressure on storage space and staff and volunteer capacity to organise and catalogue them.

RHSV held an End of Financial Year fundraising appeal with donors asked to support various collection projects, and this was very successful. The projects funded were:

- \$22,220 for a compactus for the Butler Collection. This donation enabled us to accept the collection;

- \$5,000 for restoration and reframing of an ornate wooden piano front;
- \$5,000 for purchase of camera equipment for digitisation;
- \$2,120 for purchase of a freezer to treat materials with insect and mould infestation;
- \$5,015 and \$2,315 for the reframing of two important paintings in our collection to help ensure their preservation: William Barak's *Ceremony* [figures in corroboree], c. 1903, and *Tuart or John Wetherly*, a nineteenth-century copy of an 1840 painting by Thomas Napier.

In 2022 we acquired the Jones Collection. This comprises the papers of teacher and historian Gwen Jones and family papers covering one hundred years of life in Coburg. This collection was accompanied by funds for storage and for an archivist to organise and catalogue it. Cathy Dodson was employed in this capacity.

Images staff and volunteers spent a lot of time during the year sourcing and editing photos from the original edition of Weston Bate's book *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes* in preparation for the new and revised edition of the book to be published by the RHSV in 2024.

Decolonisation of the collection has continued, and we have discovered hitherto unknown images of First Nations people in our own collection and that of the Royal Geographical Society, which we inherited. Contact has been made with communities in Lake Tyers, Coranderrk, and other First Nations communities in Victoria and interstate in relation to images of their people.

Volunteers continue to work on digitisation and on cataloguing. This year 1903 entries (some covering multiple items) were added to eHive and harvested by Trove. The presence of our collection on Trove has increased knowledge of it, and this year staff answered 372 general inquiries and 114 relating to images.

Two exhibitions were held during the year. The first was on Simmie and Co.—a Melbourne building and engineering company—and was curated by Dr Andrew Kilsby. From July *Garryowen's Melbourne* was staged. This was curated by Elizabeth Rushen with help from RHSV staff and volunteer David Thompson and displayed the people and places as described in *Chronicles of Early Melbourne* by Edmund Finn ('Garryowen').

Thanks are given to the Committee members, the staff, and the volunteers who ensure that our collection is cared for and made accessible.

Elisabeth Jackson | Chair Collections Committee

Publications Committee Annual Report 2023

The Publications Committee meets five times annually to oversee the production and printing of the *Victorian Historical Journal (VHJ)* twice yearly and *History News (HN)* six times a year. It also publishes occasional monographs. These publications create a rich collection of Victorian history dating back to 1909. The Committee also awards the John Adams Prize for the best article in the *VHJ* over two years.

In 2023 the following were members of the Committee: Jill Barnard, Sharon Betridge (*History News* editor), Marilyn Bowler, Richard Broome (chair and *VHJ* co-editor), Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig (*VHJ* book reviews editor), Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard, John Schauble ('Books Received' editor in *History News*), Judith Smart (*VHJ* co-editor), Carole Woods, and, *ex officio*, RHSV Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron. Most members of this hard-working committee have allocated tasks, and those without assist with advice and proof-reading. Terri Mackenzie, our *VHJ* indexer, also attends meetings and annually completes an index of one year of the journal. In 2023 she completed the index for 2018.

The *Victorian Historical Journal* is proud to be published in Melbourne, a UNESCO City of Literature, and to fulfil the RHSV purpose of advancing culture. It contains both double-blind refereed academic articles and, as a society journal, editor-reviewed shorter historical notes and distinguished RHSV lectures. The journal strives for excellence. It is listed/indexed by Scopus (Elsevier BV) and the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), both international citation indexes, and the Australian-based INFORMIT. These agencies insist on the existence of good governance in editorial policy and behaviour, policy on plagiarism, and oversight by an editorial board. Their citation indexing extends the global digital reach of the journal. The *VHJ* is available in digital form (1911 to the present) on State Library Victoria's website, INFORMIT (1994 to the present), and issues since 2013 on our own website. More recent issues can be bought, in both hard-copy and digital format, from our bookshop.

The June 2023 issue was a special one to mark the sesquicentenary of the 1872 Education Act, drawn from papers presented at a two-day conference in October

2022. It was funded by a grant from the Victorian Department of Education. The December issue was a bumper one owing to some distinguished lectures and reviews being held over from June. The John Adams Prize for the best article over two years was awarded in 2023 to Mary Sheehan for 'A Grassroots View of Spanish Influenza in Melbourne'.

We give special thanks to our honorary designer John Gillespie for over a decade of service to the *VHJ*. His meticulous design work and his conscientious approach is essential to the journal's delivery, reputation and cost structure. John Gillespie was honoured with an RHSV Distinguished Service Award in 2016 for wonderful service to the journal. He has since doubled that service to the end of 2023.

The *VHJ* fund was created in 2016 to secure the journal's future. It was created from the first-edition sales of *Remembering Melbourne* and *VHJ* patrons' annual giving. In 2023, twenty patrons gave \$21,100 boosted by one generous gift of \$10,000, which pushed the fund's total to \$105,828 by December 2023. Interest from this fund, together with continued patrons' giving and fees for hardcopy membership paid by a third of RHSV members, means the journal's production and postage costs are fully funded.

The *VHJ* Editorial Board advises and mentors the journal's co-editors, Richard Broome and Judith Smart. In 2023 its members, drawn from universities and community history circles, were: Chair Graeme Davison AO (Monash University); Richard Broome AM (La Trobe University, President RHSV, co-editor *VHJ*); Kat Ellinghaus (La Trobe University); Katie Holmes (La Trobe University); Marian Quartly (Monash University); Andrew May (University of Melbourne); John Rickard (Monash University); Judith Smart AM (co-editor *VHJ*); Bart Ziino (Deakin University); Carole Woods OAM (Councillor RHSV).

Sharon Betridge edits and heads the team on *History News*, which informs our members of upcoming events, promotes local societies' news, and discusses key issues in the practice of history in Victoria. Regular copy is supplied by John Schauble ('Books Received'); Glenda Beckley ('Around the Societies'); Charles Sowerwine

(Heritage Committee); Richard Broome (President's Report); Rosalie Triolo (Historical Societies Support Committee); Bronwyn Hughes ('Windows on History'); and RHSV staff Jillian Hiscock, Helen Stitt, and Rosemary Cameron. *History News* is not yet self-supporting and can benefit from a patrons' program of its own. We thank all of these individuals for their contributions to an exciting and informative publication.

The Publications Committee also produces occasional publications, including *Remembering Melbourne 1850–1960* (2016, 2017), and *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* (2019), with total sales for 2023 of \$4,041 and \$1,042 respectively. In 2023 an updated version of Weston Bate's *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*, was being prepared by a team of four and was nearing completion by December. It is 75 percent funded from a component of the 2023 EOFY campaign, the remainder coming from the estate of the late Doug Gunn, a true local history believer. It will be launched in mid-2024 at double the size of the first edition and retitled as: *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned*. We all look forward to this next RHSV publication exploring Melbourne's history.

Richard Broome AM | Chair Publications Committee



Alisa Duke

Historical Societies Support Committee Annual Report 2023

The Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC) values and enjoys its role in supporting the thousands of members of Victoria's historical societies and networks, almost wholly volunteers, who are powerful collective entities in preserving and promoting Victoria's history and heritage.

To support these collectives, HSSC draws on information from a variety of sources, most importantly the collectives themselves. The committee listens, celebrates successes, and, through a variety of means, seeks to share strategies for success more widely. Similarly, HSSC listens to the challenges commonly faced by societies and networks and suggests strategies to overcome them. The HSSC's principal activities in pursuit of these goals take the following forms.

Written communications and resources

In the year under review, HSSC members responded to many emailed inquiries from individual societies and networks and offered one or more of their own responses, advice on how to locate others prepared to share strategies, or pointed to useful information online or in traditional publications. The two immensely valuable online resources to which inquirers have often been directed are the websites of the RHSV: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>, and the Federation of Australian Historical Societies: <https://www.history.org.au/>

Each bi-monthly *History News* has included a report by the chair of the HSSC with a practical focus on topics known to be occupying members' attention. Furthermore, the content of *History News* generally, including the 'Around the Societies' section, constitutes an extended manual of ideas for societies to draw upon.

Contributions to network and individual society events

HSSC members and RHSV councillors are often invited to speak at their own society's events, but HSSC decided to offer formally and more widely to all historical societies

the expertise to which it has access. In early 2022, two lists were emailed to network leaders. In those, most HSSC members and numerous RHSV Councillors offered one or more topics of 'practical' and/or 'historical content' kinds to support network days. The response to the initiative was positive and manageable. Not only were networks pleased, but speakers enjoyed travelling and collegial interaction throughout Victoria. HSSC is now preparing updated lists that will be offered to all RHSV member societies.

Members of HSSC also enjoyed presenting RHSV awards at society events to local historians and heritage activists who have given exceptional service. The 'flip side' is that HSSC members also meet new people and find members and speakers for their own subcommittee work.

Organising Historical Society Support Committee seminar weekends

After their absence across the COVID years, the HSSC full-day seminars (with optional second- or third-day activities in regions) were reintroduced. In 2023 one hybrid seminar day was held in Melbourne (in person and by Zoom), and two regional weekends were hosted by each of Birchip and Morwell historical societies.

Understandably, resident members of Melbourne's historical societies are more easily able to travel than their country colleagues to events at the RHSV's Drill Hall. Also, RHSV's Zooms from Melbourne into more remote Victorian regions have proven vulnerable to the vagaries of telecommunication connections. Thus, Birchip and Morwell were each approached to discover what they believed their societies and others from the surrounding area would value most from external speakers, and the resulting seminar days became a kind of RHSV road show. Yet, importantly, the travellers learned at least as much from their country colleagues through the sharing of local knowledge, including the contents of special historical and cultural collections.

The Birchip weekend commenced late Friday afternoon at Nullawil Historical Society and Museum, with its



extensive and magnificently cared for collection of historical buildings and contents appropriate to each. This was followed by a hearty 'welcome roast dinner' in the museum's large and rustic timber catering shed. The Saturday seminar day of lectures and workshops was held in Birchip, refreshments including the town's award-winning vanilla slices, after which the society showcased its own museum collection. Donald Historical Society opened its doors on Sunday morning, complete with Devonshire tea, for a tour of its society's exhibition.

The Morwell weekend included another Saturday lecture and workshop program and a dinner locally. Sunday's local history adventures included the options of a guided tour of PowerWorks Energy Education Centre, then a Maltese lunch and guided tour of the Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum. Self-guided activities included visits to the Latrobe Regional Gallery, Kernot Hall, the Gippsland Immigration Park, the Heritage Walk and the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden.

Many people have made the HSSC's activities possible, and plans are already underway for the year ahead. This annual report provides an opportunity to say

'thank you' to the numerous contributors, including RHSV Councillors, staff (especially Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron), and volunteer members of the RHSV community who have supported if not contributed directly to HSSC's activities. The HSSC is also indebted to the activism of the many members of Victoria's historical societies, who serve as proud and passionate custodians of Victoria's history and heritage and devote many hours to sharing their knowledge with others. Finally, the work of HSSC's members must also be acknowledged, including the contributions of some who are new to its current iteration. All are volunteers and committed to helping sustain strong and vibrant local history communities. They are: Glenda Beckley, George Fernando, Don Garden, Graham Goulding, Pauline Hitchins, Jacque Hocking, Helen Laffin, Dalis Law, Craige Proctor, Peter Yule with Richard Broome and Rosemary Cameron being ex-officio members.

We look forward to many more successful activities in the year ahead.

**Rosalie Triolo | Chair Historical Societies
Support Committee**

Events And Outreach Committee Annual Report 2023

An enhanced ‘Distinguished Lectures Series’ became the bedrock of our regular public lectures throughout the year.

These began with Rachel Stanfield and Karen Jones presenting the second Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture, hosted by RHSV President, Professor Richard Broome, on ‘Early Colonial Melbourne: Country Ancestors and the Management of Newcomers’.

The Women’s History Month Lecture in February featured journalist and historian Iola Matthews speaking about her biography of Flos Matilda Grieg, the first woman to study law at the University of Melbourne, the first to be admitted to legal practice, and, in 1905, the first to be admitted to the bar.

In April the RHSV again partnered with the C.J. La Trobe Society to present the annual A.G.L. Shaw Lecture, always a festive gathering that honours the legacy of historian, the late Professor Shaw, a president and benefactor of both organisations. Dr Ashleigh Green, the 2022 La Trobe Society research fellow at State Library Victoria, spoke on ‘Law and Order Under La Trobe: The First Prisons of Port Phillip’.

Retired Supreme Court judge, the Hon. Chris Maxwell AC, delivered the inaugural Paul Mullaly History and Law Lecture in May during Law Week 2023. The late Paul Mullaly QC, who died the previous year at the age of ninety-two, was an esteemed contributor to the work of the RHSV, and a biennial lecture has now been established in his name. Justice Chris Maxwell gave an address that linked arcane past practices to current issues: ‘Lessons from History: Colonial Foundations of Criminal Justice in Victoria’.

The annual Weston Bate Oration, always attached to the RHSV Annual General Meeting, was delivered this year by Dr Bart Ziino (a former Augustus Wolskel Lecturer) on his research, together with Dr Brad Underhill, into ‘Protected Industries, Protected Men: The Dilemmas of Wartime Service, 1939–46’. Mrs Janice Bate and other members

of the Bate family honoured us by their presence, remembering Weston, a remarkable past president, benefactor, and enthusiast for local history.

In August we proudly presented the second Hugh Anderson Lecture where Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick, internationally renowned for her work as a historian of modern Russia, returned to consider the home of her school days in her talk, ‘Haven for Holocaust Survivors: “Wanda Court”: A Melbourne Suburban Ethnography of the 1940s and ‘50s’.

This was our ‘Distinguished Lecture Series’, but we held many more lectures and events during the year. At the start of February, I launched the exhibition *Well Built* at the RHSV Gallery, curated by Dr Andrew Kilsby, and his associated book, *Family Business: The Simmies of Simmie and Co. and Harpsdale*. These works presented a detailed look at the Simmie family, their building company responsible for an astonishing range of public buildings in Melbourne and Canberra from the 1920s to the 1970s, and their association with Harpsdale, an historic farming property just north of Melbourne.

In May, Richard Broome hosted a pictorial tour, ‘An Evening in Melbourne Lanes’, with guests, photographer Peter Grimm and historian Dr Roland Burke: a glimpse into important additions to our collection and a taste of the RHSV’s projected new edition of Weston Bate’s *Essential but Unplanned* on CBD lanes. Later that month, Richard introduced Lachlan Strahan, who spoke about his absorbing new book, *Justice in the Kelly Country*, which uncovers the big picture story of great-grandfather Police Constable Anthony Strahan. The book ranges widely to examine the life and times of a country policeman, discussing historical myth and family misunderstandings through subsequent generations. Lachlan returned later in the year to the RHSV for a public conversation with Professor Janet McCalman, under the auspices of the History Council of Victoria.

For Rare Book Week in July, our ever-resourceful Collections Manager, Jillian Hiscock, spoke on three

Thanks to the networking by our Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, we combined forces with other groups and individuals to present lectures, seminars and book launches during the year.

treasures in our collection from the Royal Geographical Society of Australia. Also in July, at a gala event, Cr Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor, launched our second exhibition for the year, *Garryowen's Melbourne*, curated by historian Dr Liz Rushen, a former RHSV executive officer.

In August we welcomed back one of our past presidents, Susan Priestley, who delivered a sparkling and illuminating account of pioneering Port Phillip's first literary luminary: 'George Arden, Gentleman Drunkard'.

In October, historian Ross McMullin returned to the RHSV to speak on his new book, *Life So Full of Promise*, a sequel to his acclaimed exploration of the microcosm of Australian tragedy in the First World War, *Farewell, Dear People*. In November, Robert Porter lectured on his new book, *Rio Tinto in Australia*.

Thanks to the networking by our Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, we combined forces with other groups and individuals to present lectures, seminars and book launches during the year. These included zoom and hybrid events. In January, Patrick Ferry, Assistant State Manager (Victoria) of the National Archives of Australia, gave an illustrated presentation of the first displaced persons to arrive in Australia after the Second World War. Patrick presented a second zoom lecture in May, 'Heritage and Local History Resources in the National Archives', and a third in July, 'Stories from ASIO's Files'.

In October, the Professional Historians Association (Victoria and Tasmania) again combined with the RHSV for our traditional 'emerging historians' presentations. The theme was 'The Element of Surprise in Historical Research'. Three excellent speakers were Kylie Andrews on women in the ABC, Nicole Davis on nineteenth-century shopping arcades, and Miranda Francis on an innovative creche at Footscray High School.

Engineering Heritage combined forces with the RHSV to present Susan Lawrence, Professor of Archaeology, on 'Sludge: Water Supply and Pollution in the Gold Rush' (June); Ken McInnes on 'George Weickhardt and the

Pioneer Engineers of Victoria' (August); and Professor David Radcliff on 'Making It Here: Stories of Four Enterprising Immigrant Engineers' (October). The La Trobe Society History Month lecturer was John Botham on the Melbourne Public Library Art Treasures Exhibition of 1869.

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network held its annual general meeting at the RHSV in October, with its patron, Dr Kevin Fewster, giving an absorbing address, 'Charting a Course: Reflections on 35 Years at the Helm'. Dr Fewster's career has taken him from Melbourne to his roles as Director of maritime museums, successively, in Adelaide and Sydney, and the Powerhouse Museum, and then of the Royal Museums, Greenwich.

The RHSV hosted several book launches during the year including the collaborative history *Failed Ambitions: Kew Cottages and Changing Ideas of Intellectual Disabilities*, Craig Horne's *Line of Blood: The Truth of Alfred Howitt* (launched by Hilary McPhee AO), and Professor Graeme Davison's *My Grandfather's Clock*.

RHSV Events are characterised by hospitality and conviviality. Each one demands a power of work by our Executive Officer, staff, technical assistants and volunteers. Their contribution makes all the difference and is gratefully acknowledged.

Andrew Lemon AM | Chair Events and Outreach Committee

Heritage Committee Annual Report 2023

This report was prepared by David Lansley, who in my absences undertook extensive managerial tasks, and revised by Judy Smart. I thank David for his work in this and other matters. I thank Judy Smart for this and for frequent backup. I also thank Ian Wight for representing us in a number of cases as reported below. I have read the report and made occasional changes.

Charles Sowerwine

The Heritage Committee in 2023 consisted of Chips Sowerwine (chair), Ian Wight (co-deputy chair), Judith Smart (co-deputy chair) Elisabeth Jackson, Peter Hiscock, David Lansley (acting chair for part of 2023), Jeff Atkinson, Don Garden, and Madeleine Moore, the National Trust's Heritage Advocacy Advisor (Samantha Westbrooke, Executive Manager, Conservation & Advocacy, National Trust, agreed to attend when Madeleine was not available). In addition, Christina Browning, the RHSV's marketing officer, attended part of each committee meeting and provided valuable assistance to Jeff Atkins and David Lansley with managing the heritage information on the society's

website and publicising our activities through social media outlets, until her resignation in November.

Victoria's heritage faced significant challenges during 2023 from a mix of ongoing threats to buildings and precincts of major heritage value and several new issues. The Heritage Committee was able to contribute to the preservation of some buildings and assist in efforts to strengthen the guidelines covering heritage protection in Victoria and nationally.

1. No. 2 Goods Shed

The year began on a positive note when Heritage Victoria refused an application by Walker Corporation to redevelop and partially demolish the No. 2 Goods Shed in Docklands. The shed was built in 1889 and is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register; it is an important and architecturally elaborate nineteenth-century railway goods building. If the proposal had gone ahead, around 40 per cent of the structure would have been lost. Ian Wight wrote our submission.



No. 2 Goods Shed in 2023 (Photograph: Jeff Atkinson)



The Jack Dyer Stand in 2023 (Photograph: RHSV)

2. Jack Dyer Stand

On a disappointing note, efforts to protect the Jack Dyer Stand at Richmond Oval proved unsuccessful. As part of a plan to redevelop the Punt Road Oval, Richmond Football Club proposed to demolish the stand, despite a viable alternative option being available. The RHSV, along with the East Melbourne Group, opposed demolition. Officers from the City of Melbourne initially recommended protecting the stand, but Councillors voted for demolition. A case was then submitted to Heritage Victoria to recommend it for listing on the VHR, but this was refused. Adam Ford (known on social media as ‘The Bloodied Wombat’) appealed to the Heritage Council to reverse the Executive Director’s recommendation. The RHSV supported his efforts by making its own submission, written by Judith Smart, to the Heritage Council in January 2023 but was unsuccessful.

3. Robur Tea House

More positive was Heritage Victoria’s refusal to grant a permit to construct seven interconnected towers and buildings ranging in height from three to twenty-seven levels surrounding the Robur Tea House at 28 Clarendon Street, Southbank. The Heritage Committee through David Lansley made a submission in February 2023 strongly opposing the plan, arguing that the proposed Tea House Hotel would be over 100 metres tall and dwarf the Tea House. On 30 May 2023, Heritage Victoria rejected the development application.

However, zombie-like, the threat to the Robur Tea House re-emerged. An application was lodged with the Heritage Council of Victoria appealing the decision against the proposed development, and in December the permit applicant also lodged an objection to the RHSV participating in the review and called for the committee chair to be recused. (In 2024, the RHSV made



Robur Tea House in 2023 (Photograph Commercial Real Estate)

a submission defending the right of both the RHSV and Mr Simon Molesworth KC, the committee chair, to be involved in the case.)

4. Bryant & May Complex

Heritage Victoria received a permit application for the construction of two towers—of thirteen and twelve levels respectively—on the northern half of the heritage-listed Bryant & May site between Church Street and Walnut Street, Cremorne. The Heritage Register states that the complex ‘is a superb, largely intact Edwardian factory complex’ and ‘is of historical significance as evidence of the development of industry in Melbourne from the early 20th century’. Judith Smart wrote a substantial submission opposing this proposal. On 29 November 2023 Heritage Victoria rejected the application. The developer has lodged an appeal with the Heritage Council.

5. Royal Exhibition Buildings/World Heritage Environs Area

An ongoing issue for the Heritage Committee in 2023 was the development of the site on the corner of Rathdowne and Victoria streets, Carlton, and the related protection of the World Heritage Environs buffer zone around the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) and Carlton Gardens.

5.1 Cancer Council Building

This building lies within the protected buffer zone. An initial application to build a thirteen-storey apartment block and other buildings was rejected by the City of Melbourne in September 2023. The developers submitted a revised proposal, including an eight-storey apartment block, to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). In October 2023, Ian Wight on behalf of the RHSV made a submission to VCAT arguing that the revised development would still harm the cultural significance of the area, and that its overall appearance was out of keeping



Bryant & May Complex (Photograph: Wikipedia)



with the character of the adjacent buildings and the area more generally. Ian represented the Heritage Committee at the VCAT hearings commencing on 9 October. We are delighted to report that on 22 November the Tribunal upheld the Council's decision to refuse the development.

5.2 1-9 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy

A further potential challenge to the World Heritage Environs Area emerged. Despite being successful in a lengthy approval process (in which we made a substantial submission opposing the proposal), developer Daniel Besen put the site at 1-9 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, up for sale in September. Any new owner may continue with construction of the original unsympathetic building, or seek approval for a different project.

5.3 REB/CG World Heritage Environs Area

The Heritage Council held hearings, at which Ian Wight represented the RHSV, to decide on the recommendations of the review to extend the World Heritage Environs Area, an issue on which we have taken a leading role since 2019. These hearings had been interrupted by legal complications but resumed on 18 May. The Council, as we hoped, recommended to the Minister the implementation of the recommendations of the review to significantly extend the WHEA and within it to improve protections of the World Heritage site. (As of this March 2024, the Minister has not signed off, but we understand the delay is due to the time required to prepare the relevant planning amendments, and we are confident this important measure will proceed.)

6. Changes to the Planning Framework in Victoria

On 27 August, Chips Sowerwine wrote to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Sonya Kilkenny, requesting a meeting to discuss heritage protection ahead of expected changes to the state's Planning Framework. On 25 September, without notice or consultation, the government announced major changes to the planning system. At the same time, the Minister implemented these changes by amendments to the planning scheme. Such changes are usually made at the initiative of local councils with the approval of the Minister, but as the Minister has the legal authority to make them, she can and did promulgate them without consultation.

The changes to the framework are massive and will have far-reaching effects. They fast-track development proposals deemed to be of 'Significant Economic Development' or 'Significant Residential Development with Affordable Housing', as well as proposals conforming to certain standards and located within 800 metres of a railway station or an activity centre. These will be decided by the Minister without reference to the local council and without any avenue of appeal. The protection of heritage in this system was at best unclear.

On 26 October, we were invited to a meeting with the Minister in response to my letter. Chips Sowerwine, Ian Wight, and Judith Smart met the Minister and the chief executive of planning. The Minister sought to allay our fears and to assure us of her interest in heritage. Development proposals will still be advertised, councils



Southern skyline from Dome deck overlooking the CBD and East Melbourne
(Photograph: Figure 33, Hansen Partners, *Review of the World Heritage Strategy Plan*, 2020)

and those impacted notified, and submissions accepted. However, no appeals will be permitted. The Minister invited the RHSV to take part in the consultation to precede development of the new planning system. As a result, Ian and Judy attended a three-hour consultation process as representatives of the RHSV.

A number of issues remain of concern. Planning decisions remain in the hands of planners, with no public access. The Local Heritage Unit of Heritage Victoria and grants to regional councils should be restored to enable them to undertake heritage studies. We remain concerned about proposals to develop apartments on top of the historic streetscapes in Ballarat and Bendigo. And World Heritage Listing has not yet been achieved for the Victorian goldfields, although the 2023 state budget included \$3.8 million over three years to progress World Heritage projects, including the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid.

Following the meeting we requested a further meeting to discuss the RHSV's lease of the Drill Hall, which is the responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

Of further concern is the fate of the Legislative Council inquiry into heritage protection within the Victorian Planning Framework. Members of the Heritage Committee met with state parliamentarians to put the case for resumption of the inquiry, which was suspended prior to the November 2022 Victorian state election. During the year, Ian Wight, Judith Smart, and David Lansley met with James Newbury (Liberal Party Shadow

Minister for Planning), David Davis (Liberal Party), and David Ettershank (Legalise Cannabis Party). Chips Sowerwine followed up with David Ettershank, asking for his support. In October, Chips and Judy, together with Richard Broome and Rosemary Cameron, met again with James Newbury, who promised support. Chips subsequently received a friendly but noncommittal reply, saying he needed time to explain the situation to his colleagues. No commitment to reactivate the inquiry has yet been made by the Victorian government or by any MP that we know of.

7. Planned Revision of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act

The Heritage Committee continued to monitor plans by the federal Environment Minister, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, to revise the EPBC Act, which has serious implications for built and cultural, as well as natural, heritage. Chips Sowerwine wrote to the Minister on 16 May supporting 'co-designing with First Nations' the Act's coverage of cultural heritage but pointed out the EPBC Act's failure to protect post-contact heritage buildings and gardens, including World Heritage sites. He urged her to include equal consideration of post-contact heritage in pending revisions of the EPBC Act, and to consult with stakeholders such as the National Trust and the state historical societies. Further, he stressed that a Commonwealth safety net for heritage is necessary for World Heritage sites. The Commonwealth carries responsibility for adhering to international agreements,

and the EPBC Act to date has failed to protect important World Heritage sites such as the REB/Carlton Gardens. No reply was received from the Minister.

In addition, Chips met with Monique Ryan, MHR Kooyong, on 6 June to discuss the revision of the EPBC Act. She informed us that built heritage had never been raised.

8. Buninyong Wine Barrels

Another zombie project, the infamous ‘wine barrel’ tourist apartments, resurfaced during 2023. After the rejection of an application to build six ‘sky barrel’ accommodation units on Mount Buninyong, the owner of the site continued to seek approval for various types of tourist accommodation. His latest request has been for four tourist cabins (converted shipping containers) to be placed on the site on the south side of Mt Buninyong, adjacent to his one half-finished barrel. The RHSV, the Buninyong and District Historical Society, and the City of Ballarat have opposed the proposal, and the developer, David Penman, has again gone to VCAT.

A compulsory conference was held on 13 October. The Buninyong and District Historical Society objected to the new plans, which were only a very marginal improvement on the original proposal. The application has not yet been determined.

9. Queen Victoria Market

The heritage and community importance of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) continued to come under threat during the year. In May, after having initially granted a permit with significant restrictions to allow twenty shipping container pods in Shed A, Heritage Victoria substantially amended its decision, giving significant concessions to the applicant. Both the original approval of the pods and the subsequent changes were opposed by the RHSV and are completely at odds with the open sheds at the heart of the market’s vitality and heritage value.

The \$1.7 billion Gurrova Place development was a different challenge. The development includes a 49-level tower for student accommodation, a 46-level residential apartment block, and a 28-level office building plus pavilions around Market Square and changes to the Franklin Street Stores. The developer applied to Heritage Victoria for a permit. We made a substantial submission opposing the application, but Heritage Victoria approved it. Subsequently, HV took the unusual step of publishing the officer’s report, which made clear that HV viewed the proposal as a serious threat to the heritage values of the QVM but considered itself unable to act given the terms of the legislation.

10. The Heritage Committee in the Media

Members of the Heritage Committee appeared in the print and electronic media throughout 2023.

Examples included:

- Cara Waters of the *Age* interviewed Chips Sowerwine for our reaction to Heritage Victoria’s decision to reject the proposal to demolish the historic No. 2 Goods Shed in Docklands;
- Chips Sowerwine was contacted by ABC Melbourne regarding the development of the QVM site and the question of the cemetery. With Mary-Lou Howie, Chips spent an hour taking an ABC journalist around the market before being interviewed about the cemetery and its development;
- Chips Sowerwine appeared on Channels Two, Nine, and Ten commenting on the extreme neglect of the Flinders Street railway underpass;
- A letter from Chips Sowerwine about Melbourne City Council’s proposal to surround the Queen Victoria Market with twenty-five- to forty-storey towers was published in the *Age* on 28 June. It concluded that: ‘The Market isn’t “tired”, it just needs better support and publicity, fair treatment of traders and encouragement of a new generation of traders, including those from more recent migrations. If there is one thing the Market doesn’t need, it is more mediocre high-rise extending from Elizabeth Street’.
- Chips Sowerwine was interviewed for an article in the *Age* of 27 August on historic Melbourne remaining empty;
- On 20 September Chips Sowerwine was mentioned in an article in the *Age* reporting on dwellings approved for construction but not built.

Charles Sowerwine | Chair Heritage Committee

Victorian Community History Awards Annual Report 2023

The Victorian Community History Awards are presented each year by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and are funded by the Victorian government through the Community Support Fund.

In 2023 judges and entrants alike endured a waiting game for several months as to if and when the 2023 Community History Awards would proceed. Following a long period of uncertainty, much excitement and relief was expressed when it was finally announced in October that the awards would go ahead. After a delayed judging period, the awards ceremony was held on 2 February 2024, and, as in previous years, the venue was the Victorian Arts Centre. In the wake of the uncertainty and deferrals, this event was a particularly enjoyable occasion for community history in Victoria.

The main judging panel included Dr Helen Doyle (historian at GML Heritage), Dr Gary Presland (historian and archaeologist), and Dr Amanda Lourie (Professional Historians Association). Amanda kindly filled in for Dr Adrian Jones OAM, who was overseas in 2023 but plans to return to the main panel in 2024. One benefit of the delay in the judging process was that Gary Presland, who was also overseas for part of the year, could again be part of the main panel.

The main panel awarded prizes in three categories: History Publication, Small History Publication, and Community Diversity, as well as the Premier's History Prize and the Judges' Special Prize. The five awards were as follows:

- **History Publication Award:** Kath Kenny for *Staging a Revolution: When Betty Rocked the Pram*, published by Upswell Publishing, Perth. This tells the story of the radical stage production, *Betty Can Jump*, directed by Kerry Dwyer, produced by the Carlton Women's Liberation Group, and performed at the Pram Factory in 1973. The play was born out of and intertwined with the struggles and issues of the women's liberation movement of the early 1970s.
- **Small History Publication Award:** This was won by Flinders District Historical Society for its publication *Flinders Cargo Shed: Heritage and Environs*. This small but carefully considered and richly detailed volume reveals the importance of this place in terms of its natural history, the early Bunurong-colonist relations, and the role of the site in industry, telecommunications and defence. This informative history situates the history of the Cargo Shed and pier within broader moments of Victoria's history.
- **Community Diversity Award:** This was awarded to the Charlton Community House for *Nyernila*. The Djaara word, 'nyernila', which means to 'listen, hear, understand and know continuously' is used as the title of this project, which reflects the efforts by the Charlton Neighbourhood House community to understand the deeper history of Country on which the Neighbourhood House and its members reside. In this they worked with the Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung community. The project also reveals the generosity of the Dja Dja Wurrung community, in sharing their language for the project's title, as well as their stories, their artworks, and their knowledge of Country, Ancestors and songlines.
- **Premier's History Award:** Carmel McKenzie, *St Kilda 1841-1900: Movers and Shakers and Money-Makers*, published by Mannerton. This is a beautifully presented and profusely illustrated social history of one of Melbourne's best-known bayside suburbs, and much more. It expertly and thoughtfully navigates the complex social world of St Kilda's history, paying attention to the physical changes to the area and the associated social forces at play.
- **Judges' Special Prize** was awarded to John Cary for his biography, *Frontier Magistrate: The Enigmatic Foster Fyans*, published by Australian Scholarly Publishing. This first full-scale biography of Fyans considers the man within the wider context of the moving frontier of invasion and colonisation. Fyans played

a significant role in the earliest years of European settlement in Victoria through his various official capacities, and interacted with many of the early settlers and squatters. In his well-researched and balanced account, Cary does not steer away from the prejudices and attitudes displayed by his subject.

A second judging panel, which comprised Dr Jill Barnard (Professional Historians Association), Dr Adrian Jones OAM, and Dr Jo Clyne (consultant historian), considered four further awards. The winners were:

- **Historical Interpretation:** *The Lost City of Melbourne*, a documentary film by Gus Berger that examines the impact of postwar development on the buildings of Marvellous Melbourne.
- **Local History Project Award:** *Houses of North and West Melbourne* by Elio Sarpi on Instagram.
- **Collaborative Community History Award:** *On Bunurong Country: Art and Design in Frankston*, edited by Jane Eckett with Lisa Byrne, a beautifully presented and carefully considered celebration of Frankston's art and culture.
- **Small Organisation History Project:** *Precious Objects: Shared Memories of our Collective Past* by Willaura Modern Inc. at Historic Railway Station Gallery in association with Willaura Historical Society.

As in previous years, judging partnerships with external organisations continued. Professor Alistair Thomson again led the judging for the **Oral History Victoria Award**, presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria, and assisted by Alicia Cerreto and Jessica Ferrari. The winner of the Oral History Award for 2023 was *Don't Be Too Polite Girls* by Richard Lowenstein and Martie Lowenstein, a documentary about oral history pioneer Wendy Lowenstein.

Judging for **Digital Storytelling** was chaired by Keir Reeves (Director and Professor of Australian History, Federation University), assisted by Lucie Paterson (ACMI), and Ruth Hazleton (Folklorist and oral historian). They gave the Digital Storytelling Award for 2023 to Julian O'Shea for *Unknown Melbourne*, an 'engaging, accessible and surprising' social media take on the history of some unusual locations.

The History Article Award for 2023 was judged by Associate Professor Seamus O'Hanlon (Monash University), Dr Carolyn Rasmussen (historian and biographer), and Professor Keir Reeves (Federation University). The judging panel for this category is entirely independent of the other VCHA judging processes so that RHSV and PROV are able to enter articles from



their journals. The 2023 winner was 'No Mention of the Great Famine: Interpreting a Gap in Dr John Singleton's Autobiographical Narrative' by Sylvia Morrissey, which was published in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, December 2022.

It was gratifying to see the large number of entrants for the 2023 Victorian Community History Awards, and we congratulate all those who won awards and commendations. Many thanks to all those who were involved in the judging process and assisted in organising the awards ceremony. We are also grateful for the support and assistance of Susannah Beardsell, VCHA Project Officer at the RHSV, and Rosemary Cameron, Executive Officer at the RHSV. We look forward to next year's Victorian Community History Awards, which will celebrate a milestone of twenty-five years.

Helen Doyle | Chair Victorian Community History Awards Judges' Panels

Investment Committee Annual Report 2023

This Committee reflects the following four principles pursued by the RHSV Council.

Financial Stewardship: In 2008 the RHSV Council created the RHSV Foundation with deductible gift recipient status to provide funds for a long-term home for the Society, which has grown tenfold to almost \$1million. The RHSV also has deductible gift recipient status for its Collections Fund to encourage financial donations which underpin the growth and management of its collection.

Financial Prudence: In 2017 the Council decided to invest 50 percent of these two funds into equities (50 percent remaining in cash) to enhance income-earning capacity. These funds were boosted by substantial gifts from Gordon Moffatt (2020), Bill Russell (2022 + 2023), and Allan Myers (2022). Gordon Moffatt's gift stimulated further improvements in financial governance.

Financial Literacy: In 2021 Council took the *pro bono* advice of Marisa Broome, then Chair of the Financial Planners Association of Australia, and adopted a modified version of a Financial Philosophy and Policy document Marisa provided.

Financial Responsibility: In July 2021 Council appointed a Financial Advisor and slightly changed our investment ratio to a still very prudent 60% equities and 40% cash.

An Investment Committee was established by Council in 2021 to advise on the appointment of a financial planner and to review their work and performance. The RHSV's financial planner is the Yarra Lanes Group (YLG), formerly Personal Financial Services, which merged with YLG in October 2022. This merger did not affect our fees or services, and the Investment Committee approved of the change.

The current members of the Investment Committee are: Daryl Hawkey, a former councillor and investment banker; Keith Kendall, a member of the former Foundation Committee and Chair of the Accounting Standards Board; and the RHSV President, Treasurer, and Executive Officer.

Investing through YLG began in 2022. Our first priority was to diversify our investments which had been held in just 2 funds. After updated signatories for UEthical

investments and bank holdings were finally resolved in early 2023, the Investment Committee met on 28 April 2023 to review the investment advice of YLG and recommended to Council that it be implemented. The RHSV's existing funds in UEthical were then drawn down by two-thirds to allow for the investment diversification recommended by YLG to proceed.

The investment returns for the two years 2022 and 2023 are shown below. Interest, distributions, and dividends increased from \$23,184 in 2022 to \$35,555 in 2023.

The realised/unrealised gains/losses due to equity movements went from -\$54,324 to +\$48,922, an improvement in valuation of \$103,246.

| | 31-Dec-23 | 31-Dec-22 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Investments | \$ | \$ |
| Yarra Lane | | |
| Investments | 727,319 | 189,197 |
| Cash management account | 18,411 | 11,140 |
| Term deposit | 180,000 | - |
| | 925,730 | 200,337 |
| U Ethical | | |
| Growth fund | 276,814 | 512,065 |
| Cash fund | | 398,674 |
| | 276,814 | 910,738 |
| Other | | |
| Foundation ING | 558 | 555 |
| ANZ Online Saver | 89,976 | 88,472 |
| | 90,534 | 89,027 |
| Total Investments | 1,293,078 | 1,200,102 |
| Investment Income | | |
| Interest | 4,509 | 567 |
| Distributions & Dividends | 31,046 | 22,617 |
| Realised & Unrealised Gains / (Losses) | 48,922 | (54,324) |
| Total Investment Income | 84,477 | (31,140) |

The wisdom of the RHSV Council's investment policy is revealed by the above figures.

Richard Broome AM | President RHSV

RHSV Foundation Report 2023

To mark the RHSV's centenary year 2009, Council established the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Foundation. The aim of the Foundation is to stabilise the RHSV's future.

The Foundation's principal activities include:

- To receive donations to further the work of the RHSV
- To receive donations towards creating a permanent home for the RHSV.

In the early days, the Foundation was fortunate to be supported by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and Gordon Moffatt AM, our largest donor over many years. Plus, each and every year, a multitude of donations, large and small, from our members and friends also buoy the Foundation. At the end of 2023, the Foundation had grown substantially to \$873,885.

The Foundation has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the ATO and is entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts and tax deductible contributions.

The Foundation's DGR status is applicable through two of the eight items listed in the table in section 30-15 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*

- **Item 1** a list of funds, authorities and institutions such as public hospitals, overseas aid funds and public museums (including entities listed by name).
- **Item 4** describes funds, authorities or institutions that may receive donations of property under the Cultural Gifts Program.

Donations to the foundation can be made by:

- **Cheque** made out to RHSV Foundation, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000 or
- **Credit card** through the Donations tab on our website (at the top of our home page) or simply phone 03 9326 9288 or
- **Bank Transfer** Royal Historical Society of Victoria, BSB 013040 A/c 3475 70336

A receipt will be issued for all donations of at least \$2, which may be deductible for tax purposes.

Library art gallery and museum fund

The RHSV operates a second DGR fund, the Library, Art Gallery and Museum Fund and its principal activity is:

- To receive charitable donations to further the work of the RHSV including
- supporting the conservation and preservation of the RHSV's nationally significant collection and
- promoting the RHSV and Victoria's history.

This fund's DGR status is applicable through the same two items as the Foundation Fund and donations can be made in the same way.

Daniel Clements | Treasurer

2023 RHSV Donors

We would like to warmly thank the following generous individuals and foundations who, in 2023, supported our day-to-day work and also ensured that the RHSV has a strong future. Our members and friends are an eclectic group but they all share one characteristic; they love and value our stories, our history.

Major Donors

Warwick Anderson
Janice Bate
Andrew Boak
Richard Broome
David Brown
Robert Buntine
Alison Cameron
John Davies
Jim & Karin Dixon
John Dwyer
David Foster
Robert Green
Holsworth Local Heritage Trust
Christine Johnston
The late Gwen Jones
Kate and Stephen
Shelmerdine Foundation
Ian McKellar
Gerard Mullaly
Myer Foundation
Allan Myers
Jeremy Pascoe
Patricia Peck
Ric Pawsey
Persephone Foundation Pty Ltd
John Rickard
Michael Rucker
Bill Russell
Richard Simmie
Ian Thiele
Michael Tonta
Deborah Towns
Van Straten Turley Foundation
Vera Moore Foundation
Annette Webb
Allan Willingham
Carole Woods
Yellow Window Foundation

Donors

Kevin Adams
Liz Aird
Michael Aitken
Nanda Akshay
Jill Allan
Denise Anderson
John Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Sue Anderson
Anonymous
Cathy Applegate
Helen Armstrong
John Atkins
Kathleen Ball
Ken Barelli
Jill Barnard
Jess Barry
Elizabeth Bath
Emma Beach
Lesley Beasley
Amanda Bede
Roger Beeston
Melissa Bennett
Maxwell Berry
Janet Bolitho
Geoff Bowles
David Brand
Caroline Britton
Andrea Brown
Jim Brown
Kenneth Burgess
Catherine Butcher
Ros Buzza
Sheila Byard
Craig Campbell
Leesa Carty
Allan Casey
Barbary Clark
Daniel Clements
Mark Clifton
Valda Cole
Lorraine Coleman
Francesca Collins
Andrea Cone
Malcolm Cook
Jonathan Craig
Ruth Crooke
Michele Cunningham
Barbara Davies
Georgina Davis
Graeme Davison
Sheila Dawson
Jennifer Decolongon
Karl Degering
Jeremy de Korte
Wendy Dick

Peter Di Sciascio
John Drury & Dianne Reilly
Gregory Eccleston
Max Ellis
Daniel Evans
Alice Ewing
Jill Ewing
Ian Fishman
John Fitzgerald
Susan FitzGerald
John Flood
Rodney Forbes
Olwen Ford
Alison Fraser
Judy Frederickson
Friends & Relations of Gulf Station
Peter Fry
Tim Gatehouse
Connie Gibbons
Lisa Godinho
John Goldsworthy
Jennifer Goolagong
Steve Graham
Christine Grayden
Donna Greig
Cheryl Griffin
Roma Guerin
Jennifer Halat
Alice Hall
David Hall
Karen Hapgood
Cathy Hardcastle
Allister Hardiman
Matthew Harrison
John Harrowfield
Ivan Haustorfer
Stephen Hawke
Bob Hawkins
Deidre Hawkins
Trystan Hawthorne
Ian Head
Noela Henderson
John Henwood
Peter Hiscock
Mary Hoban
Jacque Hocking
Julie Hogan
Peter Hogan
Carol Holsworth
Roderick Home
Philip Hopkins
John Horacek
Lucinda Horrocks
Renate Howe
Cecily Hunter
Garrie Hutchinson
Anthea Hyslop

Patrick Irwin
Elisabeth Jackson
Jane Jacobs
Murray Johns
Shane Johnson
Libby Jones
Penny Jost
Mary Kehoe
Garry Kerr
Kingslake Historical Society
Wallace Kirsop
Ulla Kjellstrand
Ellen Koshland
Louise Kyle
Robert Laird
Christopher Lamb
Brett Lane
Sharon Lane
David Langdon
Kathy Laster
Val Latimer
Harry Leather
Andrew Lemon
Peter Lemon
Ronald Leslie
Barbara Levings
George & Ann Littlewood
Pamela Lloyd
Michaela Lobb
Desiree Lucchese
Anita Macartney
David McDonald
Janet McDonald
Anthony McDonough
Lorraine McGregor
Chrisy McIntosh
Rod Mackenzie
Michael McKeown
Elizabeth McLaurin
Graeme Macmillan
Peter McNab
Judy Maddigan
Brigid Magner
Linda Marikar
Graham Marshall
Andrew May
H W Menadue
Ralph Merson
Bernard Metcalfe
Peter Micic
Barbara Milh
Jane Miller
Tony Milligan
Erika Mohoric
David Moloney
History Monash
Geraldine & Garry Moore

Evrill Morgan
Clare Morrissey
Peter Moylan
Damian Murphy
Graeme Murphy
Elisabeth Newman
Sybil Nolan
Jack Norris
Linda Notley
Jenny O'Donnell
Vincent O'Donoghue
Ewan Ogilvy
David Oldfield
Graham O'Rourke
Dannielle Orr
Roslyn Otzen
Geoffrey Paterson
Emily Payne
Bobby Pearce
Alessandro Pennini
Jennifer Perry
Peter Greer Family Trust
Sera-Jane Peters
Diana Phoenix
Christopher Piper
Margaret Pledger
John Poynter
Gary Presland
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Geoff Pryor
Maria Psathias
Stephen Pullen
Clement Quick
Lola Quin
Carolyn Rasmussen
Mary Reid
Robert Renton
Neil Rickards
S Ricketson
Janine Rizzetti
Melita Rogowsky
Glenyys Romanes
David Rowe
Liz Rushen
Lynette Russell
Anna Maria Sabbione
Andrew Saunders
Luke Savage
Walter Scharley
John Schauble
Gavin Scott
Bruce Shaw
Tiffany Shellam
Lyn Sherwood
Rupert Shuttleworth
Michael Sloman

Judith Smart
Vicki Steggall
Kristen Stegley
Richard Stewart
Lachlan Strahan
Bruce Strong
Michael Sturmfels
Michele Summerton
Catherine Sutcliffe
Peter Sutton
Allan Tanock
Margaret Tarrant
Delia Taylor
Linda Taylor
Susanne Tepe
Warren Thomas
David Thompson
Kathryn Thornton
Andrea Tilley
Simon Topliss
Kim Torney
Rosalie Triolo
Melynda von Wayward
Elizabeth Wade
Christine Walker
Donald Walker
Anne Wallace
Peter Ward
Don Warner
Jan Watt
Janette Watt
John Waugh
Gib Wettenhall
Louise Wheelahan
Craig Wilson
Elizabeth Woodhouse
John A Woolley
Andrew Wrathall
Neville Yeomans
Elizabeth Yewers
Kristin Young
Linda Young
Philip Young
Anne Yule
Peter Yule
Chris Zissis
Martin Zweep

RHSV Treasurer's Annual Report 2023

It is incredibly pleasing to see that since my first Annual Treasurer's Report for the 2018 financial year, we have seen revenue increase by nearly \$200,000 with total revenue for the 2023 financial year being \$783,736. This has been achieved despite a global pandemic, economic uncertainty with high inflation and chronic cost of living pressures, ongoing uncertainty and fluctuations in investment markets, as well as government funding being constrained and at times withdrawn, including the termination of funding from Creative Victoria in the 2023 financial year.

Despite the challenges, as an organisation, we have been able to build on the foundation of strength and sustainability created by those before us at RHSV. With this, and despite the withdrawal of Government funding, in the current financial year we have already received private funding which has more than exceeded that which we have lost. This reinforces our belief in our organisation and our capability to further enhance RHSV's sustainability and strength to ensure that the organisation is able to fulfil its core purposes well into the future.

2023 Financial Year

The 2023 financial year provided us with a modest surplus of \$11,644 (2022 deficit of \$37,439).

With 2023, we saw a significant increase in the total revenue which included some improved trading income, thanks to the hard work of our RHSV Team of staff and volunteers, as well as a strong recovery in investment markets.

Our expenditure for the year expectedly also presented an increase over the 12 month period of about 4% in total with no significant or abnormal items of note.

Foundation – Reserve

As in prior years, we continue to see growth in our Foundation Reserve with significant improvements over the past two years in particular.

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Balance the start of the year | 830,694 | 704,646 |
| Balance at end of the year | 873,885 | 830,694 |
| Increase/(decrease) | 43,191 | 126,048 |

Summary

As a not-for-profit organisation and charity, our responsibility is to fulfil our Purposes rather than generate surpluses. However, it is the surpluses that help ensure our future sustainability. For this, it is always pleasing to be able to report a surplus and feel confident regarding the future of the organisation.

Daniel Clements | Treasurer

RHSV Financial Statements 2023



Alissa Duke

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Committee's Report

The committee members submit the financial accounts of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc ("the association") for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Committee Members

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV |
| Vice President | Rosalie Triolo FRHSV |
| Secretary | Carole Woods OAM FRHSV (until 3 October 2023) Cathy Butcher (from 3 October 2023) |
| Treasurer | Daniel Clements |
| Member | Margaret Anderson |
| Member | Cathy Butcher (until 3 October 2023) |
| Member | Paul Fearon |
| Member | Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV |
| Member | Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV |
| Member | Emeritus Professor Chips Sowerwine FRHSV |
| Member | Elisabeth Triarico |
| Member | Dr Nikita Vanderbyl |
| Member | Carole Woods OAM FRHSV (from 3 October 2023) |
| Member | Dr Peter Yule FRHSV |

Ex-officio Member Rosemary Cameron

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to develop and conserve our collection of Victorian history, to promote all aspects of Victorian history through exhibitions, publications and events for its members and the general public, to recognise outstanding achievement in Victorian history, to support affiliated historical societies and to act as an advocate in the conservation and promotion of Victoria's cultural and built heritage.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The Net Income for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to a surplus of \$11,644.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on 14 May 2024



.....
Richard Broome
President

Dated: 14th May 2024

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement by Members of the Committee

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc., the committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

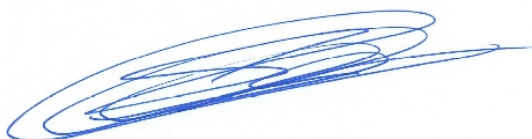
The committee of the association declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 - 11, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and;
 - a. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. comply with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Regulation 2022.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



.....
Richard Broome
President



.....
Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 14 May 2024

Auditor's Independence Declaration
Under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

To the Committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the review; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

DFK BKM Audit Services
DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria



Director: Kevin P. Adams

14 May 2024



A member firm of DFK International a worldwide association of independent accounting firms and business advisers

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Directors

Cheree F Woolcock
Tim M Kelleher
Kevin P Adams

Principal

Jamin Ong



dfkbkm.com.au

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L4/689 Burke Road, Camberwell
VIC 3124

PO Box 1163, Camberwell VIC 3124

BKM Audit Services Pty Ltd

ACN 116 958 948

ABN 77 116 958 948

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | |
| Research fees | 20,182 | 22,177 |
| Project Fees | 15,000 | 15,455 |
| Sales publications | 73,682 | 63,308 |
| Donations | 192,285 | 248,456 |
| State government grants – Creative Victoria – OIP | 86,590 | 42,158 |
| State government grants – Creative Victoria – CEP SI | - | 37,500 |
| Annual subscriptions | 90,032 | 83,779 |
| Insurance – member societies | 134,139 | 144,860 |
| U Ethical investment income / (loss) | 86,005 | (31,566) |
| Interest income | 1,455 | 424 |
| Other income | 84,366 | 78,152 |
| Total Revenue | 783,736 | 704,703 |
| Expenses | | |
| Advertising and marketing | 6,288 | 9,171 |
| Accounting and auditor's review fees | 27,102 | 25,789 |
| Bank charges | 4,631 | 4,223 |
| Books | 47,429 | 30,032 |
| Computer and internet | 16,393 | 19,543 |
| Consultancy costs | 10,532 | 6,000 |
| Depreciation | 16,419 | 13,967 |
| Grants – Holsworth Fund | - | 6,820 |
| Insurance | 140,073 | 157,294 |
| Member support services | 16,456 | 35,695 |
| Occupancy costs | 33,237 | 32,283 |
| Postage | 26,579 | 16,493 |
| Printing and stationeries | 9,110 | 14,141 |
| Publications | 21,534 | 18,487 |
| Staff costs | 378,459 | 338,419 |
| Telephone | 4,033 | 2,644 |
| Other expenses | 13,817 | 11,141 |
| Total Expenses | 772,092 | 742,142 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | 11,644 | (37,439) |
| Total Comprehensive Income for the Year | 11,644 | (37,439) |

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2 | 224,412 | 322,464 |
| Trade and other receivables | 3 | 33,126 | 17,062 |
| Financial assets | | 180,000 | - |
| Other assets | 4 | 43,824 | 51,875 |
| Total Current Assets | | 481,362 | 391,401 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Other financial assets | 5 | 1,004,133 | 1,099,936 |
| Collections, plant and equipment | 6 | 1,881,760 | 1,880,218 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 2,885,893 | 2,980,154 |
| Total Assets | | 3,367,255 | 3,371,555 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 7 | 199,951 | 258,591 |
| Income received in advance | 8 | 213,260 | 182,883 |
| Provisions | 9 | 32,817 | 26,945 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 446,028 | 468,419 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provisions | 9 | 19,493 | 13,046 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | 19,493 | 13,046 |
| Total Liabilities | | 465,521 | 481,465 |
| Net Assets | | 2,901,734 | 2,890,090 |
| Equity | | | |
| Reserves | 10 | 2,832,566 | 2,770,587 |
| Retained surplus | | 69,168 | 119,503 |
| Total Equity | | 2,901,734 | 2,890,090 |

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

| | Reserves \$ | Retained Surplus \$ | Total \$ |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Balance at 1 January 2022 | 2,674,883 | 252,646 | 2,927,529 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | - | (37,439) | (37,439) |
| Transfer from retained surplus to reserves | 95,704 | (95,704) | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2022 | 2,770,587 | 119,503 | 2,890,090 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | - | 11,644 | 11,644 |
| Transfer from retained surplus to reserves | 61,979 | (61,979) | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2023 | 2,832,566 | 69,168 | 2,901,734 |

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Note | \$ | \$ |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | |
| Receipts from customers | 657,954 | 655,560 |
| Government grants received | 54,090 | 112,158 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (793,943) | (668,702) |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities | 11 (81,899) | 99,016 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | |
| Purchase of collections, plant and equipment | (17,961) | (20,305) |
| Purchase of financial assets | (1,808) | (182,815) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (16,153) | (203,120) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash held | (98,052) | (104,104) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year | 322,464 | 426,568 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year | 2 224,412 | 322,464 |

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

Basis of Preparation

The committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the material accounting policy information disclosed below, which the committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise. The financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The association has adopted the amendments to AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements which require only the disclosure of material accounting policy information rather than significant accounting policies and therefore policy information which does not satisfy one of the following requirements has been removed from these financial statements:

- Relates to change in accounting policy
- Policy has been developed in the absence of an explicit accounting standard requirement
- Documents an accounting policy choice
- Relates to an area of significant judgement or estimation
- Relates to a complex transaction and is required to explain the treatment to the user.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement by the association in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

the rate inherent in the instrument.

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(c) Collections, Plan and equipment

Collections are measured on the valuation basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis or a diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(d) Financial Instruments

Financial assets

Classification

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

Amortised cost

The association's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables in the statement of financial position. Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any provision for impairment. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Fair value through profit or loss

The association has a number of strategic investments in managed funds over which they do not have significant influence nor control. The association has made an irrevocable election to classify these investments as fair value through profit or loss. These investments are carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Distributions and other net gains and losses are recognised as income in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities

The association measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(e) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The committee evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | |
| Cash on hand | 450 | 301 |
| Cash at bank | 223,962 | 322,163 |
| | <u>224,412</u> | <u>322,464</u> |
| NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES | | |
| Current | | |
| Trade receivables | 2,105 | 2,680 |
| Accrued income | 31,021 | 14,382 |
| | <u>33,126</u> | <u>17,062</u> |
| NOTE 4: OTHER ASSETS | | |
| Current | | |
| Prepayments | 37,636 | 45,823 |
| Inventories – at cost | 6,188 | 6,052 |
| | <u>43,824</u> | <u>51,875</u> |
| NOTE 5: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS | | |
| Non-Current | | |
| U Ethical Growth Portfolio – at fair value | 276,814 | 512,065 |
| U Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust Wholesale – at fair value | - | 398,674 |
| Yarra Lane Wealth - Investments - at fair value | 727,319 | 189,197 |
| | <u>1,004,133</u> | <u>1,099,936</u> |
| NOTE 6: COLLECTIONS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | | |
| Collections – at valuation | 1,841,804 | 1,841,804 |
| Furniture & Fixtures – at cost | 48,528 | 30,567 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (15,440) | (8,404) |
| | <u>33,088</u> | <u>22,163</u> |
| Plant and equipment – at cost | 31,402 | 31,402 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (24,534) | (15,151) |
| | <u>6,868</u> | <u>16,251</u> |
| | <u>1,881,760</u> | <u>1,880,218</u> |

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| NOTE 7: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES | | |
| Current | | |
| Trade creditors | 9,827 | 49,806 |
| GST payables / (receivables) | (1,447) | 8,156 |
| Other payables | 16,165 | 6,942 |
| Funds in advance | 175,406 | 193,687 |
| | <u>199,951</u> | <u>258,591</u> |
| NOTE 8: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE | | |
| Current | | |
| Subscriptions in advance | 73,545 | 65,879 |
| Insurance in advance | 33,935 | 34,731 |
| Grants in advance | 105,780 | 82,273 |
| | <u>213,260</u> | <u>182,883</u> |
| NOTE 9: PROVISIONS | | |
| Current | | |
| Provision for annual leave | <u>32,817</u> | <u>26,945</u> |
| Non-Current | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | <u>19,493</u> | <u>13,046</u> |
| NOTE 10: RESERVES | | |
| Foundation | 873,885 | 830,694 |
| Don Gibb Reserve | 11,049 | 10,382 |
| Vic Historical Journal Reserve | 105,828 | 87,707 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | <u>1,841,804</u> | <u>1,841,804</u> |
| | <u>2,832,566</u> | <u>2,770,587</u> |
| NOTE 11: CASH FLOW INFORMATION | | |
| Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | 11,644 | (37,439) |
| Non-cash flows in surplus/deficit: | | |
| - depreciation | 16,419 | 13,967 |
| - U Ethical investment income reinvested | (86,005) | 31,566 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| - (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables | (16,064) | 1,264 |
| - (increase) / decrease in other assets | 8,051 | (8,649) |
| - Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables | (58,640) | 38,954 |
| - Increase in income received in advance | 30,377 | 48,575 |
| - increase in provisions | <u>12,319</u> | <u>10,778</u> |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities | <u>(81,899)</u> | <u>99,016</u> |

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Statement by Members of the Committee

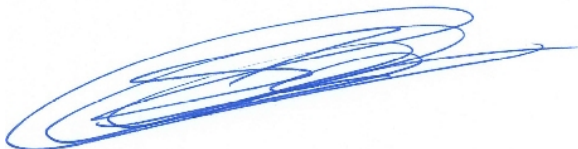
In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc., the committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee of the association declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 to 11, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. comply with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



.....
Richard Broome
President



.....
Daniel Clements
Treasurer

Dated: 14 May 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of material accounting policy information and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control that the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022* (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Directors

Cheree F Woolcock
Tim M Kelleher
Kevin P Adams

Principal

Jamin Ong



dfkbkm.com.au

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L4/689 Burke Road, Camberwell
VIC 3124
PO Box 1163, Camberwell VIC 3124

BKM Audit Services Pty Ltd

ACN 116 958 948
ABN 77 116 958 948

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 36 520 675 471

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's review report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our review of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the review or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the committee of Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc, would be in the same terms if given to the committee as at the time of this auditor's review report.

DFK BKM Audit Services
DFK BKM Audit Services
Camberwell, Victoria



Director: Kevin P. Adams

14 May 2024

Become a member of the RHSV

We value our members - they are our lifblood. Members, through their fees, donations and engagement with our events, keep this vital organisation growing in both size and importance.

Members enjoy not only a wide range of benefits but they have a multitude of opportunities to engage with history and the RHSV. Many of our members become volunteers and step up their involvement with the RHSV through its many committees or by working on the collection or in administration and marketing.

To become a member complete a web-form on our website:
<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/membership/become-a-member/>

To become a volunteer complete an expression of interest on our website: www.historyvictoria.org.au/support/become-a-volunteer

Or phone the office on +613 9326 9288.

We thank all our members and hope we continue to deliver programs, advocacy and value for money and, of course, to champion Victoria's history and keep it alive.



RHSV Councillors and Staff

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria (until 30 June 2023)

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria (from 9 August 2023)

CIVIC PATRON

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp

AMBASSADOR

Prof. E.W. (Bill) Russell FRHSV

PRESIDENT

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM FAHA FRHSV

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr Rosalie Triolo FRHSV

TREASURER

Daniel Clements

SECRETARY

Carole Woods OAM FRHSV (until 3 October 2023)

Cathy Butcher (from 3 October 2023)

COUNCILLORS

Margaret Anderson

Cathy Butcher (until 3 October 2023)

Paul Fearon

Elisabeth Jackson FRHSV

Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV

Emeritus Professor Chips

Sowerwine FRHSV

Elisabeth Triarico

Dr Nikita Vanderbyl

Carole Woods OAM FRHSV

(from 3 October 2023)

Dr Peter Yule FRHSV

Ex-officio

Rosemary Cameron

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Executive & Finance Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Cathy Butcher, Daniel Clements, Elisabeth Jackson (until July 2023), Rosalie Triolo, Carole Woods (until 3 October 2023). *Ex-officio*: Rosemary Cameron.

Responsible for governance, financial management, strategic planning.

Collections Committee

Elisabeth Jackson (chair), Rosemary Cameron, Sarah Edwards, Jillian Hiscock, Lorenzo Iozzi, Helen Sitt, Elizabeth Willis, *Ex-officio*: Richard Broome

Responsible for library, images, manuscripts, and research projects.

Events and Outreach Committee

Andrew Lemon (chair), Rosemary Cameron, Nikita Vanderbyl.

Responsible for specific events such as conferences and the lecture program.

Fellows Committee

Carole Woods (chair), Richard Broome, Elisabeth Jackson, Judith Smart, Charles Sowerwine, Rosalie Triolo, Peter Yule. *Ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron.

To meet as required under the RHSV Constitution.

Heritage Committee

Charles Sowerwine (chair), Ian Wight (co-deputy chair), Judith Smart (co-deputy chair), Jeff Atkinson, Don Garden, Peter Hiscock, Elisabeth Jackson, David Lansley, Madeleine Moore.

Ex-officio Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron

Works to protect built and cultural heritage in Melbourne and, with local historical societies, across Victoria.

Historical Societies Support Committee

Rosalie Triolo (chair), Glenda Beckley, George Fernando, Don Garden, Graham Goulding, Pauline Hitchins, Jacque Hocking, Helen Laffin, Dalis Law, Craige Proctor, Peter Yule. *Ex-officio* Richard Broome, Rosemary Cameron

Responsible for historical societies, networking, and professional development.

Investment Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Daniel Clements, Daryl Hawkey, Keith Kendall and *ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron

Responsible for overseeing the RHSV's investments

Publications Committee

Richard Broome (chair), Jill Barnard, Sharon Bettridge, Marilyn Bowler, Marie Clark, Jonathan Craig, Bronwyn Hughes, John Rickard, John Schauble, Judith Smart, Carole Woods. *Ex-officio* Rosemary Cameron. Honorary indexer: Terri Mackenzie.

Responsible for Victorian Historical Journal and other RHSV publications.

THE RHSV is represented on the following committees

City Precinct

Federation of Australian

Historical Societies

History Council of Victoria

Joint Consultative Forum - Victorian

Archives NAA

State Library User Organisations Council.

RHSV STAFF

Executive Officer

Rosemary Cameron

Full-time.

Administration Officer

Emily Maiolo

Full-time.

Collections Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Jillian Hiscock

0.7 FTE

Collections Officer (Images)

Helen Stitt

0.6 FTE

Jones Archivist

Cathy Dodson (from May 2023)

0.4 FTE

Marketing Co-ordinator

Christina Browning

(until November 2023)

0.4 FTE

Book-keeper

Kristen Adnams

0.24 FTE

Project Officers

Susannah Beardsell
Ishana Girish
Max Richardson

Auditor

Keith P. Adams
DFK BKM Audit Services
L3, 689 Burke Road,
Camberwell VIC 3124

Hon. Legal Officer

Robert Heath KC
Barrister
Chancery Chambers
Level 25, 200 Queen St.
Melbourne VIC 3000.

Roll of Fellows

The names of the Fellows of the RHSV living at December 2023 and the year in which they were awarded Fellowships are listed below.

| | |
|------|--|
| 1967 | Emeritus Prof. Geoffrey Blainey |
| 1995 | Assoc. Prof. John F. Lack Dr Andrew G. Lemon |
| 1997 | Prof. John Rickard |
| 1999 | Assoc. Prof. Don Garden |
| 2001 | Susan Priestley |
| 2004 | Judith Bilszta Valda Cole |
| 2006 | Dr Mimi Colligan |
| 2008 | Dr Gary Presland Carole Woods |
| 2010 | Peter Yule |
| 2011 | Richard Barnden Allan Willingham |
| 2012 | Adjunct Prof. Judith Smart |
| 2013 | Prof. Bill Russell |
| 2014 | Dr Robert Barnes Lenore Frost |
| 2016 | Emeritus Prof. Richard Broome |
| 2017 | Dr Dianne Reilly |
| 2019 | Dr Simon Smith Dr David Thompson |
| 2020 | Elisabeth Jackson Dr Rosalie Triolo |
| 2021 | Emeritus Prof. Charles Sowerwine |
| 2022 | Dr Cheryl Griffin Peter Hiscock AM FCPA Emeritus Prof. Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA FFAHS |

Distinguished Service Awards 2023

Gordon Moffatt AM

Awards of Merit 2023

Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp
Historical Society
Lois Comeadow, Brighton Cemeterians
Bergliot Dallas, Nepean Historical Society
Robert Lambell, Camperdown and
District Historical Society
Marilyn Moore, Coburg Historical Society
Jan Morris, Angelsea and District

Historical Society
Lance Pritchard, Werribee Historical
Society and Museum
Graeme Speers, Heidelberg
Historical Society
David Thompson, Port Melbourne
Historical and Preservation Society
Garry & Jan Wallden, Katandra District
History Group Inc
Bernadette Wells, Merbein District
Historical Society,
Noel Withers, Greensborough Historical
Society

Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award 2023

Guy Wilson (posthumous)

Benefactors

Professor Weston Bate OAM FRHSV
The Estate of Doug Gunn
Gordon Moffatt AM
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE
Prof. A.G.L. Shaw AO FAHA FASSA
FRAHS FRHSV
Allan Willingham FRHSV

Don Gibb RHSV Prize in Australian History 2023

Madeleine Gome, La Trobe University

GRANTS

The RHSV wishes to thank the following organisations for support in 2023:

Creative Victoria - Organisations
Strategic Initiative
Department of Education
Public Record Office Victoria

VOLUNTEERS

Sophie Antulov
Marley Baldwin
Liz Bath
Susannah Beardsell
Joel Becker OAM
Glenda Beckley
Elizabeth Bernard
Julie Bevan
Helen Boak
Greg Buchanan
Sharon Byers
Luis Calleja
Alison Cameron
Grace Mary Colbasso
Robin Curwen-Walker
Lynette D'Ath
Matthew Deigan
John Denney
Natalie Dermentzies
Lynne Douglas
Alison Dredge
Simon Elliston
Teresa Ellul
Margaret Fleming
Lenore Frost FRHSV
Fiona Graham

Cheryl Griffin FRHSV
Jennifer Halat
Ian Hazewinkel
Zoe Henderson
Pam Herrington
Liam Holmes
Joanne Horsley
Kim House
Julia Jackson
Siobhán Kelly
Freya Kulasegram
Cindy Le
Marnie Lester-Smith
Monique Lucas
Zoe Lyons
Chris Manchee
Amanda Mulrooney
Sallie Muirden
Sheeneez Mutheeu
Peter Orelli
Danae Papadopoulos
Tony Payne
Madeline Pentland
Katherine Pigott
Hazel Popp
Jacob Richardson
Alan Ritter
Michael Robinson
John Rose
Marion Silver
Ashley Smith
Eleanor Thomas
David Thompson FRHSV
Sandra Torpey
John Torpey
Hong Wag
Guy Wilson
Laura Wilson
Kelly Wong
Jennifer Young
Marina Zovko

The Jessie Webb Society



In 2021 we launched the Jessie Webb Society which both honours those who have already made bequests to the RHSV and encourages others to do so.

Making a bequest is an extraordinary act of generosity. Through a bequest to the RHSV you can support the development and nurturing of current and future historians and ensure our collection continues to grow and to be accessible. As custodians of this important collection, we have a responsibility to maintain its legacy.

We are happy to discuss with you any special areas of interest. Your bequest can be untied or it will be used solely for your nominated purpose. A bequest acknowledges the important role that the RHSV has played in your life and your gift will, in turn, enrich the lives of others. Sometimes a bequest enables you to make a contribution that you may not have been able to do during your lifetime.

“My bequest to the Jessie Webb Society is made in acknowledgement of the enduring value and worth there is in the study of history. I am pleased to provide support for a discipline that gave me not only many years of enjoyable employment, but also enduring friendships, and opportunities to contribute to an understanding of our past. I am proud to think that, through the Jessie Webb Society, my achievements can be of benefit in the future. That, surely, is what ‘history’ is about.”

Dr Gary Presland FRHSV

We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice from your solicitor or financial adviser in arranging a bequest.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, please contact your solicitor or our Executive Officer on **+613 9326 9288** executive.officer@historyvictoria.org.au <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/support/bequests/>

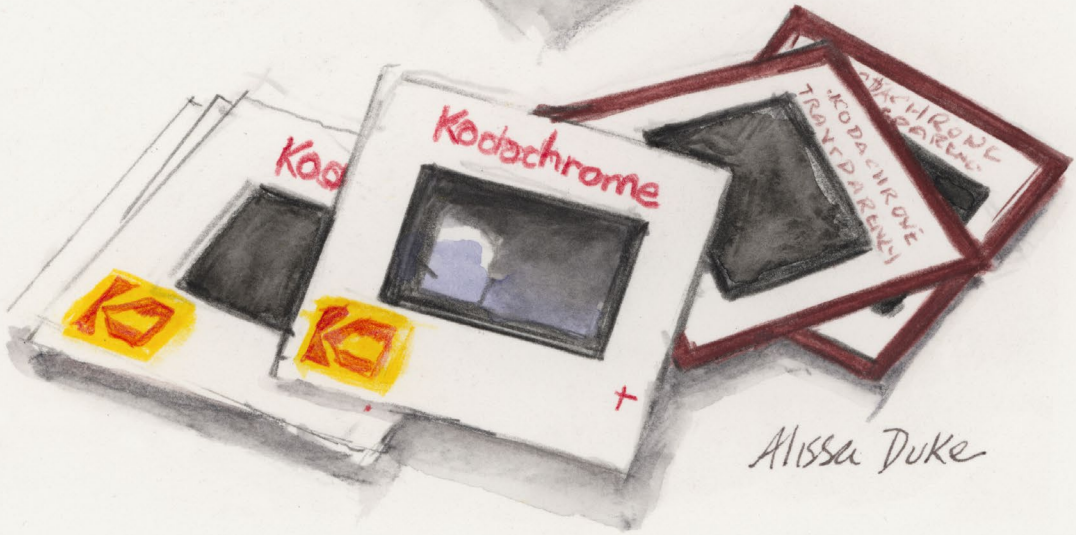
Donations

A participant in the Cultural Gifts Program, the RHSV also enjoys status with the Australian Taxation Office as ‘an income tax exempt charitable entity’. The RHSV Library, Art Gallery and Museum Fund has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a ‘deductible gift recipient’. This method of contributing to the growth, preservation of and access to our splendid collection of books, manuscripts, pictures, artefacts, or enabling the Society to add to its collection, provides a benefit both to our Victorian heritage, and to the donor.

Donations of cultural items through the Cultural Gifts Program offer attractive taxation benefits - donors receive a tax deduction for the market value of the donation, which can be spread over five income years and donations are exempt from capital gains tax. Advice on the Cultural Gifts Program is available from the Australian Taxation Office or from the Department of Communications and the Arts.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising>

<https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program>



Alissa Duke

