



History News

ISSUE 372 | JUNE 2024



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What's on at RHSV

Where possible we offer all our events as hybrid: both in our premises at 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne and via Zoom. Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM: MARITIME HERITAGE MATTERS FOR THIS VAST ISLAND CONTINENT

Date: Tuesday 2 July

Time: 5pm for 6pm – 7pm lecture

Cost: FREE

Event type: hybrid in person and on Zoom

Speaker: Daryl Karp, Australian National Maritime Museum's (ANMM) Director and CEO Ms Karp has worked in the broadcast and cultural industries for over 20 years. Prior to her appointment as Director and CEO of ANMM, she was the Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House from 2013 to 2022 establishing a strategic direction that focused on 'the spirit of Australian democracy and the power of your voice within it'; Chair of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors from 2017 to 2021; CEO and Managing Director of Film Australia; Head of Factual Programs (Television) at the ABC; Non-Executive Director for SBS; Board member of Sydney Jewish Museum and the Australian Children's Television Foundation and is a current member of the Yindyamarra Advisory Group with Charles Sturt University.

BOOK LAUNCH: THE STORY OF MELBOURNE'S LANES: ESSENTIAL BUT UNPLANNED

Date: Thursday 3 October

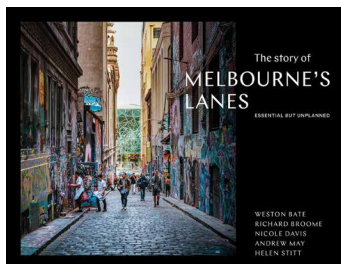
Time: 5:30pm for 6pm speeches

Cost: FREE

Event type: in person only

Launched by: Professor Robert Adams AM, multi award-winning architect and urban designer

Thirty years ago, then RHSV President Historian Weston Bate, launched a book, *Essential but Unplanned: The Story of Melbourne's Lanes* which quickly became a classic. To honour the centenary of Weston's birth, the RHSV and State Library of Victoria is re-publishing this book but with an additional and new second half to bring the story to 2024. Andy May has written two extra chapters, there are updated indexes to lanes and their names by Nicole Davis, 140 gorgeous colour photographs in the new half and a bold contemporary design by Marianna Berek-Lewis. It is a must-have book for those who love Melbourne's history. This enormous project has been overseen, appropriately by our current President, Richard Broome, with assistance from co-editors Andy May, Nicole Davis and Helen Stitt.



IN SEARCH OF THE LAST CONTINENT: MELBOURNE AND EARLY ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION

Date: Tuesday 23 July

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Cost: FREE

Event type: in person only

Speaker: Andrew McConville

For 70 years powerful countries despatched expeditions to explore the

south polar regions. By 1843 they had seen enough to realise that this most remote and impenetrable place offered considerable danger and no strategic or economic benefit. The great nations turned away. In the 1880s Melbourne's men of science formed a committee to revive interest in Antarctic exploration. They canvassed the colonies and the world in attempts to raise an expedition. Ultimately unsuccessful, they did though inspire the first publicly recorded landing on the Antarctic continent by Henrik Bull and the crew of his whaling expedition. This created a sensation and led to the first overwintering on the Antarctic continent by crewman C.E. Borchgrevink's expedition. Andrew McConville's book, *In Search of the Last Continent: Australia and Early Antarctic Exploration*, outlines early Antarctic exploration and concentrates on Melbourne's Antarctic Exploration Committee and the voyages of Bull and Borchgrevink.

Andrew McConville is a reference and research librarian at the State Library of Victoria. Andrew has a particular interest in the history of 19th century Antarctic exploration.

This event is part of the 2024 Rare Book Week program together with the Ephemera Society of Australia's event on **Antarctic ephemera** which is held at the RHSV on the same day at 11am (see page 9).

Morning tea will be served to those attending both events at 12 noon. Audience members are more than welcome to bring lunch and drinks into the gallery whilst attending these events.

What's on is continued
on page 14



History News

History News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the RHSV ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

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our Terms of Reference.

COVER IMAGE: Degraves Street Melbourne showing the Majorca Building at the end in Flinders Lane: 1972 by K.J.Halla courtesy of the SLV and 2003 courtesy of Margaret Donnan. The RHSV looks forward to the launch of its book, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*. For more information see 'What's on' above.
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PRESIDENT Richard Broome
EXECUTIVE OFFICER Rosemary Cameron
COLLECTIONS MANAGER & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Jillian Hiscock

COLLECTIONS OFFICER Helen Stitt
MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR Sean Reynolds
BOOKKEEPER Kristen Adnams
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER Emily Maiolo
JONES ARCHIVIST Cathy Dodson

History House 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne 3000
Office & Library Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
P: 9326 9288 W: www.historyvictoria.org.au
Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au
ABN 36 520 675 471 Registration No. A2529

President's report

As you read this report, our End-of-Financial-Year giving for 2024 will be in full swing.

Last year we focussed on particular collection projects with an emphasis on equipment: a camera, a freezer, a compactus and relocation costs of the Graeme Butler heritage consultancy collection, and the restoration of several key early colonial paintings of and by Aboriginal men. We also raised money for the design and printing of a new book on Melbourne, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes. Essential but Unplanned*. It is a reconstituted and greatly expanded version of Weston Bate's original 1994 book. We look forward to the book launch – see 'What's on' on page 2 for details.

All of these projects have come to fruition to strengthen our collection, and the lanes book, which drew on our collection, is currently being printed and is due back within a few weeks.

This year, our 115th of existence, we are focussing on our collection in a broader way, and you will have by now received information from us about giving to our collection, which enjoys tax deductibility. Key items in our collection were gathered in the Society's first years because our founders had a vision to collect and protect Victoria's history and heritage.

This effort continued thereafter and is sustained still, despite growing storage issues, which face all libraries, and has forced many to refuse large collections. We are not quite to that point, but storage

remains an issue for us too, until we reconfigure the Drill Hall. Indeed, over the coming year, the last large collection, of the notable heritage consultant Allan Willingham, will be transferred to the RHSV. However, we are still accepting smaller collections, where they accord with the RHSV's collections policy.

Digital records are being accepted more readily, because of their easier storage, including over 5,000 images of Melbourne's lanes generated by the creation of our new book, *The Story of Melbourne's Lanes*. However, they need to be taken into our collection, properly stored, catalogued, and loaded into Trove.

Several dozen friends of the RHSV have given generously to create a corpus of donations to encourage our wider base of supporters, by doubling the power of their giving. The aim is that together we will create a fund to strengthen the collection into the future and to allow it to be managed and catalogued to its full potential.

I urge you to give generously to ensure that the RHSV collection, a Victorian collection second only to that of the State Library Victoria, is catalogued, digitised and broadcast to the world as it deserves.

Best wishes

Richard Broome AM

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Heritage report:

Plan Victoria: opportunity or threat?



Lydiard Street and Sturt Street corner, Ballarat.

Last September, the Minister for Planning announced a massive revamp of planning across the state, replacing Plan Melbourne with Plan Victoria. The new plan is to be developed over this year and aims to provide a huge increase in homes, mostly in medium and high-rise buildings around activity centres, mostly focussed on rail stations. The focus of the plan is to place much development under the Minister's control, with streamlined, fast-track decisions.

The RHSV has been involved in consultations regarding the plan. We met with the Minister, the Honourable Sonya Kilkenny, who sought to reassure us that heritage would not be neglected. While we are grateful for her reassurance, we remain unclear how heritage will be protected when councils are bypassed.

The plan, as it is beginning to emerge, emphasises high-rise. *The Age* recently reported that plans for Box Hill foresee 40-storey towers near the station, reducing to 5 storeys up to 800 metres from the station (28 April 2024). Similar plans foresee 25-storey towers near other stations, including regional as well as suburban centres. The areas around stations are precisely where the greatest heritage is located, because each railway station that opened began the process of development. Most stations opened well before 1914 and around each station many of the earliest buildings sprang up. If the aim of the plan is to build high-rise there, a great deal of heritage is at risk.

An eminent group of planners, including our own Ian Wright, Deputy Chair of the RHSV Heritage Committee, has responded

with *Charter 29*; a document providing a constructive analysis of Plan Victoria. This is a profound critique aimed at convincing the Minister and the state's planners to refocus Plan Victoria. This is a highly technical document but its basic points are common sense.

Charter 29 argues that state planning strategy since 1996 has been deregulated, leaving developers free to make the key decisions. 'Market forces have largely determined spatial decision-making about development, notably in housing, retailing and tourism.' Recently, the government has intervened in design for Suburban Rail Loop and major activity centre precincts and for larger development applications. But, pushing particular big projects is not a coherent policy for land use.

Indeed, some of these interventions contradict existing metropolitan strategy. We need policies that integrate land use and transport policy and link metropolitan and regional growth, not to mention actually building transport links.

Charter 29 argues that we need a vision that underpins the choice of the new precincts and infrastructure which supports their development. This is especially important for regional centres, where growth should be logically linked to other regional areas and to Melbourne. And that growth should be supported by improved transport before it is built, to ensure that developers have an interest in actually building and to avoid the high costs of building transport after a centre has been redeveloped. 'At present, the planning system enables urban renewal and consolidation to occur in ways that obliterate local character, heritage and environmental values, and produce poor quality public spaces.'

We need to protect and support high-quality heritage urban centres. A major

issue in recent years has been the fate of historic shopping strips. Recent planning policy has pushed the construction of high-rise on top of shops, completely altering the streetscape and often rendering the shops unviable because construction has closed access from the rear.

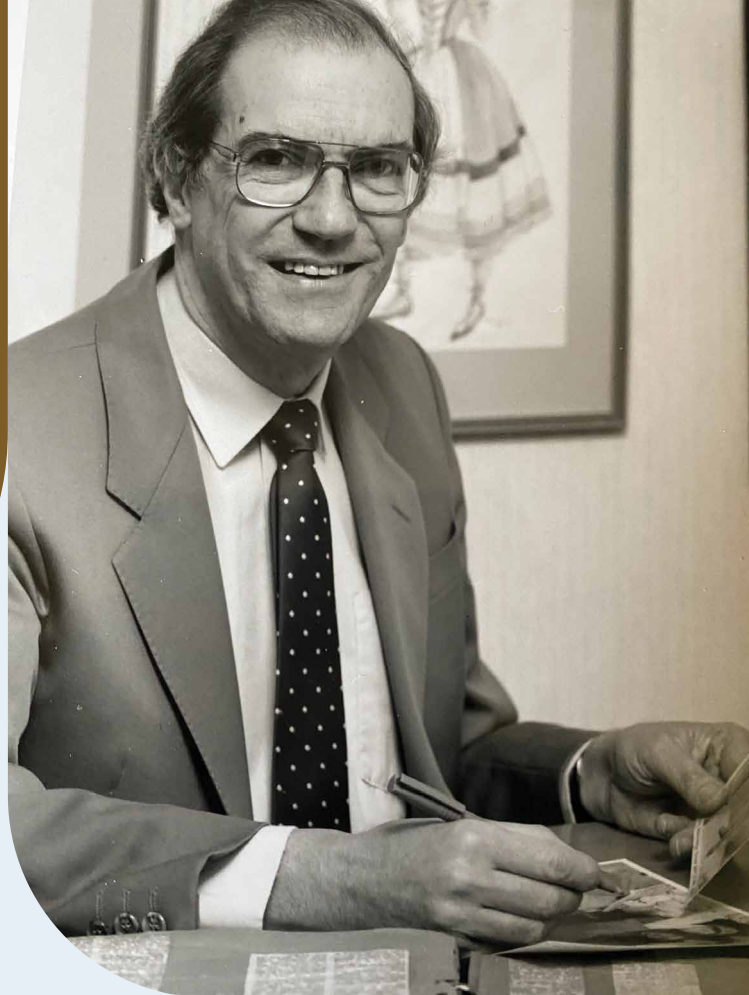
We were part of a coalition that prevented this from happening to Queens Parade, North Fitzroy, but other historic shopping strips in Melbourne have seen new development guidelines which will irrevocably alter their character. Plan Victoria seems, on what we have seen so far, to aim for similar development in regional centres, even in Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine, whose urban centres are of world-class heritage standard. This kind of development would destroy the character of these streets, such as Sturt Street and Lydiard Street, Ballarat, built up over 150 years. That would greatly reduce the economic viability of these areas.

Development of this nature would also threaten plans to seek World Heritage status for the Victorian Goldfields, plans which the state government and fifteen local councils all support. It is crucial that Plan Victoria provide a means to assess the heritage qualities that have made so many Victorian regional towns and ensure that planning for development builds on these strengths.

If the government takes on board the critiques that *Charter 29*, the National Trust and the RHSV have been making, Plan Victoria offers a chance to turn around the unfortunate market-led planning of the past 30 years. Let's hope the government acts positively.

Charles Sowerwine, Chair,
Heritage Committee, RHSV.
5 May 2024

Frank Samuel Van Straten AM, 14/05/1936 – 19/04/2024



With the death of Frank Van Straten on 19 April 2024, at the age of 87, Australia has lost a highly esteemed and much-loved theatre historian.

Frank was a vital part of Melbourne's arts community. He offered support to numerous ventures, from theatre and cinema society magazines to the formation of foundations and scholarships. He also served on many boards and judging panels including the Green Room and Helpmann Awards. Frank's love of the theatre began in his youth when he collected early recordings and established his own record label.

Just one week prior to his death, Frank became the recipient of the inaugural RHSV Associate Fellowship, having been nominated by Theatre Heritage Australia for his enormous contribution to the organisation and as a champion of theatre history in Melbourne and Australia. Frank was a member of the RHSV from 1973.

During the 1970s Frank was appointed archivist of the newly founded Performing Arts Museum at the Victorian Arts Centre (now Arts Centre Melbourne), becoming its director from 1984 to 1993. Exhibitions including Bourke Street on Saturday Night (1983) and Magic! An Exhibition (1984), are remembered as benchmarks in exhibition design.

Today the Australian Performing Arts Collection (APAC) ranks as one of the leading performing arts repositories in the southern hemisphere. In 2020, APAC established the Frank Van Straten Fellowship in his honour. The Fellowship is supported by the Van Straten-Turley Foundation, formed by Frank and his partner of 54 years, Adrian Turley. This same Foundation has given donations to the RHSV and Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, notably a new public gate, which was unveiled in 2023.

From 1986 to 2001, Frank researched and presented the weekly Nostalgia Show, broadcast on ABC Melbourne's radio 774. For twenty years, from 1999-2018, Frank's entertaining and informative production notes graced the programs of Jeanne Pratt's The Production Company. From *Mame* to *Oklahoma!*, he charted the histories of some 60 musicals!

Frank was a founding member of the Victoria Theatre Trust (now Theatre Heritage Australia, THA), and since 1995 had been instrumental in the success of the organisation. From 1999-2012, he co-produced THA's quarterly magazine *On Stage*. As well as commissioning articles, he contributed hundreds of his own, with the magazine receiving a Victorian Community History Award in 2004.

Although he retired from the committee in 2017, Frank continued to support THA as a mentor, researcher and writer: freely sharing his knowledge, expertise and vast archive of theatre programs and photos.

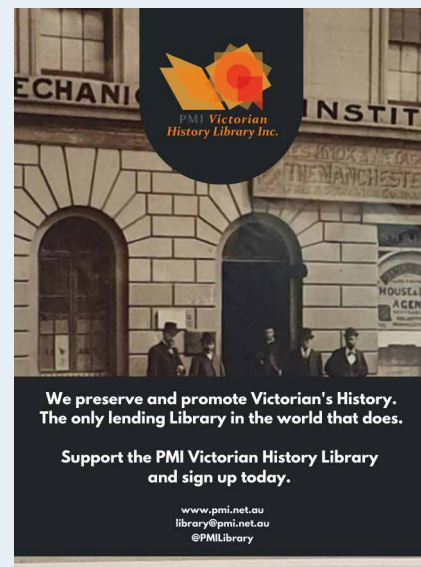
As well as contributing historical articles to theatre programs and journals, Frank has published histories of the Tivoli (2003), Victorian Community History Award (2004), Regent (1996) and Her Majesty's Theatres (2018) in Melbourne, and Her Majesty's in Adelaide (2013), plus biographies of near-forgotten Melbourne-based theatre personalities Gertrude Johnson (1994), Florence Young (2009), Hugh D McIntosh (2004) and Ernest C Rolls (2020). Combining a deep understanding of his subjects with

rigorous scholarship, Frank animated his theatre stories through his distinctive, relaxed writing style. His many books and articles will remain milestones of theatre history, educating and informing generations to come.

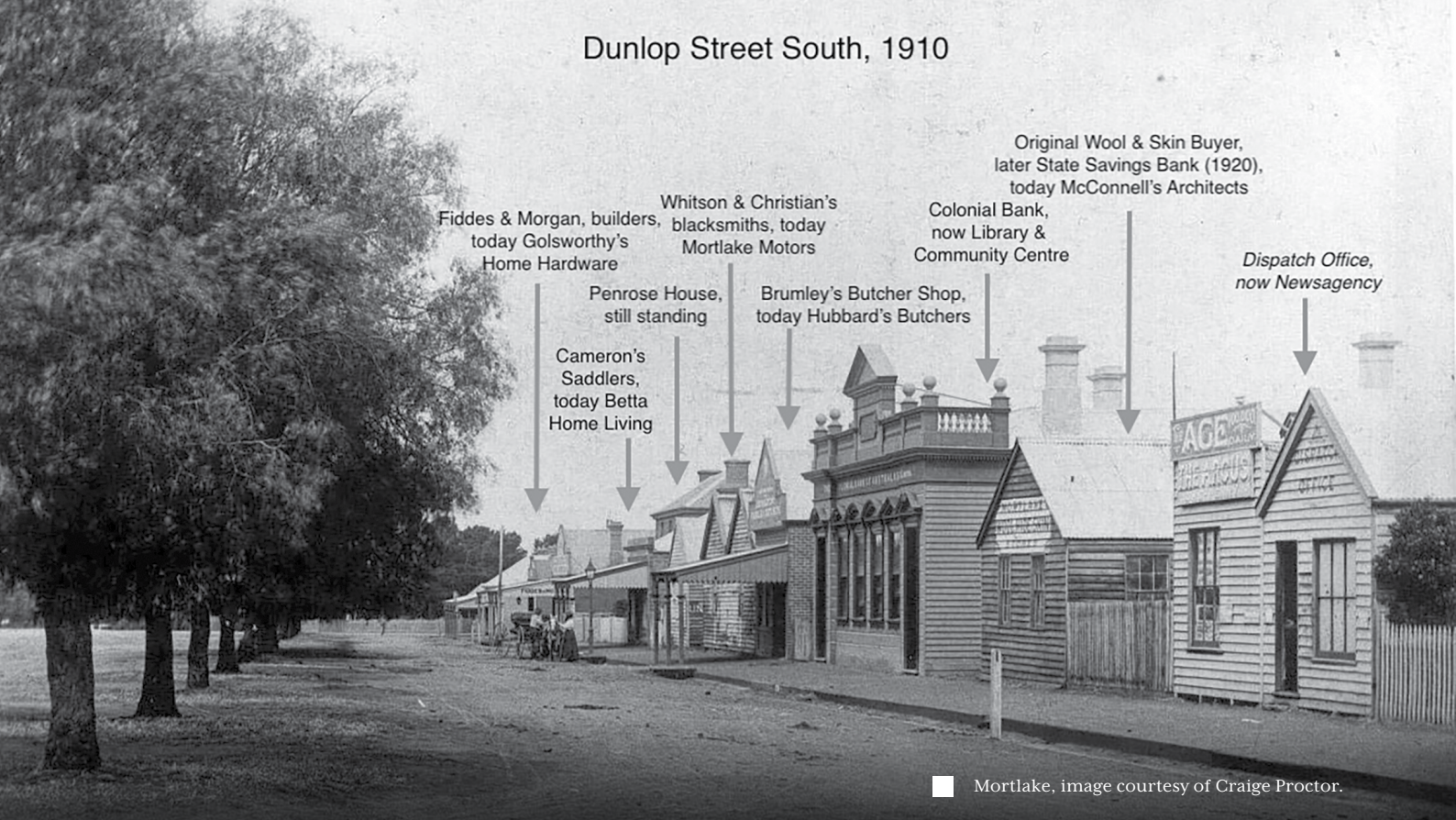
In 1999, he received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his contributions to the performing arts, and in 2017 was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

As a wonderful man of the theatre, he was a friend and mentor to many, and he will be remembered for his unfettered generosity and kindness. Vale Frank.

Elisabeth Kumm
Theatre Heritage Australia



Dunlop Street South, 1910



■ Mortlake, image courtesy of Craig Proctor.

HSSC Report: Succession-planning and being visible in the community

This is the fourth in a series addressing a commonly reported challenge for historical societies within Melbourne and rural Victoria's smaller towns, of not attracting as many visitors, members or volunteers as are needed to continue their work.

While not the case for all of Victoria's societies, what follows draws upon HSSC members' observations of some societies' positive approaches to the challenges. The societies are not named because there are surely others doing the same. While some have attracted new members and volunteers through community visibility in local papers, Facebook or other social media means, others are enjoying success through a different and very public visibility in their communities.

1. Some societies begin by discussing what landmarks make their locale special, even unique. The societies then highlight significant buildings and parks that locals might blithely pass every day. Some have secured council and other grants to place interpretive panels with brief text excerpts and photos of objects and people relevant to the 'then' in alignment with the 'now' which viewers stand and see. As one society explained recently, keeping the panels fresh, clean and unfaded can be a challenge in itself, but

a fresh coat of paint on the frames or some other pops of colour are essential to presenting the community's history as something fresh.

2. Another approach is to appeal to community members who are not necessarily local historians but who possess the skills a society needs. On these occasions, a society might say something about itself in its community by focusing less on the historical, and more on the volunteer or inexpensive support required. Book-keepers, gardeners, odd job people, painters, typists, cleaners, filers, plumbers and caterers are only some of the possibilities. Such community members might not immediately know or deeply value their local history as some of the history stalwarts, but they might come to do so over time. In the meantime, they will also bring different perspectives as well as new company to your society.
3. Some historical societies have established opportunity shops which sell the lesser quality duplicates of local items donated, as well as general bric-a-brac, so as to fund society costs and activities. Clear street signage, posters and membership forms pertaining to the society associated with the shop could be a further opportunity from such street presence.
4. Some communities have significant historic landmarks that already attract locals or tourists and are a source of pride. The Silo Art Trail is one such

impressive set of landmarks which comes to mind: <http://siloarttrail.com/home/> Some societies have taken the initiative, with permission, of providing signage promoting the presence of a relevant historical society nearby.

5. Empty shop fronts are common at the end of suburban shopping strips and in country towns. Shop-fronts can be made far more attractive with displays generally of local history objects, and some societies have provided images of the people and functions associated with the premises over time.

Upcoming HSSC events

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August: HSSC will run a Gippsland event with the Leongatha Historical Society. Details soon, not to be missed!

Mid-October: HSSC will run a 'Strengthening your Historical Society' day at RHSV's central city base of the Drill Hall; also to be zoomed for those unable to attend in person: details to come.

In conclusion, six months ago, HSSC asked you to commit to finding in the next 12 months at least one new member for your society from the people around you. We hope you have been successful.

More in time,

Rosalie Triolo

Chair HSSC

hssc@historyvictoria.org.au

THE AUSTRALIAN PEACE HONOUR ROLL

The Honour Roll of Australian Conscientious Objectors, Draft Resisters and Peacemakers.

The Australian Living Peace Museum (ALPM)

ALPM is an online museum dedicated to telling the stories of Australia's heritage of peace and non-violence, and how they are based in social justice. This is a virtual museum. Rather than holding its own collection, they tell stories of peace and non-violence using collection items held in Australia's public museums, libraries and art galleries, or in private collections.

ALPM's recent projects include *The Honour Roll of Australian Conscientious Objectors, Draft Resisters and Peacemakers* and a geolocative audio walking tour of Melbourne WWI anti-conscription sites.

The tour features six sites: Parliament House, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trades Hall, Old Melbourne Gaol, the former Magistrate's Court, and the site of the Women's Peace Army headquarters. You can listen to the audio on a computer or other device, but it is best experienced on location by downloading the tour through the Soundtrails app on your phone. Narration is triggered via GPS as you walk to each location.

Historian and actor Dr Alice Garner narrates the tour, with additional commentary from Professor Joy Damousi and Dr Carolyn Rasmussen. On the walk from St Patrick's Cathedral to Trades Hall, you are accompanied by the Victorian Trade Union Choir, singing songs from the era. There are also dramatic readings from contemporary newspapers and speeches by Dr Daniel Mannix and Vida Goldstein.

Melbourne journalist Michael Green produced the tour, with scripts by ALPM board member Alexandra Pierce. The ALPM gratefully acknowledges the Local History Grants Program and Public Record Office Victoria, supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund.

ALPM was an idea of Dr Geoff Sandy, former Associate Professor at Victoria University, and an initiative of the Australian Living Peace Museum. It contains hundreds of names and a personal story for each. The existing names are mainly from the military events of World War II, National

Service 1951-1959 and National Service and the Vietnam War 1964-1972. Many more names from these periods and other military events will be added over time. Some will never be added because they have been 'lost' to history. The information comes from the pioneering research of Dr Bobbie Oliver, Associate Professor, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Western Australia and research by Dr Sandy.

Peace History is an important part of our Victorian History as it is for the rest of Australia. We must remember and honour those who, for conscience sake, bravely resisted war and militarism, often at great personal cost. Some were mistreated,

some imprisoned, some lost their jobs and careers and many were ridiculed, and attracted public and family opprobrium.

Dr Sandy welcomes comments, and especially names of prospective candidates for the roll, together with being alerted to any errors of omission or commission.

The website of *The Honour Roll of Australian Conscientious Objectors, Draft Resisters and Peacemakers* can be accessed now: peacehonourroll.com

And the tour is available from: <http://www.livingpeacemuseum.org.au/s/alpm/page/audio-tour>

Contact Email: geoff@sandy.com.au

10 Trade Union Officials take a stand on conscription

As Trade Union Officials we firmly believe that the continued conscription of Australian youth to be sent to Vietnam to kill or be killed is a criminal act. We therefore as a matter of conscience with 30

other like minded Trade Union Officials deliberately handed out leaflets in Flinders Street outside the Department of Labor and National Service which read —

DON'T REGISTER FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

NOTICE TO ALL YOUNG MEN —

"If you turn 20 between 1st July and December 31st this year you are eligible to REFUSE TO REGISTER for National Service during this non-registration period.

"Failure to do so will lead to your involvement in the Indo-China war and the continuation of the conscription system."

For exercising our democratic right to hand out a leaflet in a city street expressing our views on an issue that is in accord with the policy of our trade unions we were arrested by plain clothes Commonwealth Police. We were locked up in a cell in the City Watchhouse and later charged under the Crimes'

Act with violating the National Service Act, this charge carries a maximum penalty of 12 months' jail, \$200 fine or both.

As we face this serious charge we again declare we remain firmly opposed to —

- AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INDO-CHINA WAR.
- THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT AND CONSCRIPTION FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

We again urge Australian young men not to register for National Service

TED BULL, Secretary, Waterside Workers' Federation.
RAY HOGAN, Assistant Secretary, Miscellaneous Workers' Union.
MARCO MASTERSON, Organiser, Builders' Labourers' Federation.

PETER VAN VEEN, Organiser, Food Preservers' Union.
WALLY CURRAN, Assistant Secretary, Australian Meat Employees' Union.
DON SCOTT, Organiser, Painters' Union.

LES SMITH, Organiser, Amalgamated Engineering Union.
ROGER WILSON, Assistant Secretary, Seamen's Union.
TOM McCOOL, Vice President, Waterside Workers' Federation.

JIM O'NEILL, Organiser, Boilermakers' & Blacksmiths' Society.

This leaflet entitled 'Don't Register for National Service', was circulated in Melbourne by trade union leaders in 1971. Ken Mansell private collection <http://livingpeacemuseum.org.au/s/alpm/item/285>

Around the societies

Prepared by volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the Historical Societies Support Committee.

We welcome societies to submit an article or event details of around 50 words or email your newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. If your Society has a logo you would like attached to your information, please send along a high-resolution image. For the August 2024 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 June 2024.

AUSTRALIAN LIVING PEACE MUSEUM:

The online museum dedicated to telling the stories of Australia's heritage of peace and non-violence has recently launched a geolocative audio walking tour of Melbourne WWI anti-conscription sites. The tour features six sites: Parliament House, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trades Hall, Old Melbourne Gaol, the former Magistrate's Court, and the site of the Women's Peace Army headquarters. Historian and actor Dr Alice Garner narrates the tour, with additional commentary from Professor Joy Damousi and Dr Carolyn Rasmussen.

See page 7 for more information, and: livingpeacemuseum.org.au/s/alpm/page/audio-tour



BOX HILL: Some time ago this society received a grant from the Suburban Rail Loop Authority to research and devise three walking tours that would be placed on our website. We are delighted to announce that these walking tours are now finally online. The tours can be enjoyed on a mobile phone, while walking the routes; or on a computer with a narration provided. All three tours focus on different parts of the central Box Hill area and reveal interesting and sometimes surprising detail about the history of this local area. For example, do you know about the wonderful Marvelo ointment? The first radio broadcast of a brass band performance? The suicide in the Shire Hall? And what was the Flying Flea? You can find these stories and more on the tours.walks.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/index.html



EAST MELBOURNE: Wednesday 19 June at 7:30pm - 'Our Yarra River - its past, its future?' Presenter: Ian Penrose. In 2006, Ian became the first Yarra Riverkeeper, leading the community's campaign to improve the well-being and appreciation

of Melbourne's special waterway. In his presentation Ian will share with us what he has learnt of the Yarra's history, and his thoughts about its future. At the East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne. Entry fee: Members free; non-members \$5.00.

emhs.org.au

FRANKSTON: The Society is located at Ballam Park Homestead in Cranbourne Road, Frankston where you can step back in time, back to the days of rustling silk crinolines and the creaking of harness. The collection of farm machinery and implements, the Blacksmiths' Shop, the Museum and Tea Rooms combine to make a tranquil and unique experience. The Tea Rooms are open every Sunday from 12-3pm excluding the 5th Sunday of the month. Guided tours through the house and museum available every Sunday from 12-3pm excluding the 5th Sunday of the month. Adults - \$8.00, pensioners - \$7.00, children under 14 - \$4.00, children under 5 - free, family (2 adults, 2 children) - \$20.00. Admission to the grounds of the homestead is free.

frankstonhs.org.au

GISBORNE AND MOUNT MACEDON: Visitors to Gisborne will find that Gisborne's original 1858 Lockup and the Stable, situated at the rear of Gisborne Court House is still as solid as it has been for over 160 years. If you visit the Lockup today, you will find an automated sound and light diorama featuring stories adapted from Court records. The Stable, a static Heritage Museum, has displays that are changed on a regular basis and feature the life and times of our early settlers. Currently we have a display featuring the theme 'off to the diggings' in the Stables which, along with the jail, are open daily at the rear of the Court House at 4 Hamilton Street. Displays are open daily from 10am-2pm free of charge.

gisbornemountmacedon.org.au



KNOX: Ambleside, in Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully, was once a productive

rural property This historic homestead, is the home of the Knox Historical Society, where we maintain a wonderful collection reflecting the district's history and the history of Ambleside: documents, maps, family histories, artefacts and photographs, including a large collection of local school photographs. Ambleside is open 10am-1pm Thursday and Friday and 1-4pm Sunday. Closed on Public Holidays. vicnet.net.au/~khsinc/index.html



KORUMBURRA: A Research Project: We get many people coming into our room on a Tuesday afternoon, or emailing, asking if we have any information about their house. It would be fantastic to set up a database of photos and other interesting facts about some of the older houses in our area. Do you have any old photos that could be included? Maybe your parents or grandparents had photos of their old house. Reach out to us either in person on a Tuesday afternoon in our room at the Community Hub at 15 Little Commercial Street or visit our website

korumburrahistory.com.au

KYNETON: The next exhibition at the Kyneton Museum, 67 Piper Street is 'Nurses, Medicine & Caring in the Macedon Ranges'. This exhibition includes input from all Macedon Ranges Shire historical societies and will open to the public on Friday May 10, 2024, and run through until February 2025.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/Whats-on-around-the-shire/Nurses-Medicine-and-Caring-in-the-Macedon-Ranges>
museum@mrsc.vic.gov.au

MOE: At a gathering of 70 Society and community members, the Society launched Graham Goulding's *Knowledge is power: a history of Yallourn Technical School 1928-1993, No 7430* with a presentation by Barry Dunstan, a past School Council

president. The book covers the history of the school from its beginning to the year marked by the closure of the last educational institution using the Yallourn name closed in 1993. During that time the Yallourn Technical School was linked to the Tertiary and Further Education (TAFE) college and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education. During all those years, the school was essential in providing a well-educated work force to sustain the power industry in the Latrobe Valley. Many interesting facts came to light in the writing of the book. For example, the school did not have any buildings of its own for the first seven years and had to use local halls and even houses. Copies of the book are available from the RHSV and Moe & District Historical Society.

PORT MELBOURNE: Finally, after over a year's work, a collection of documents that had been lodged with our society have been published in an eBook format: *Memoirs of Port Melbourne*. The highlights of the book are the two journals of James Conder, a remarkable man who had the distinction of serving in five navies, including the almost forgotten Victoria Navy before federation. He was an artist who illustrated his journals with water colour paintings, most of which are included. This eBook is available to members of some public libraries via the Bolinda 'Borrow Box' app or from the PMHPS site:

<https://www.pmhps.org.au/2024/01/memoirs-of-port-melbourne/>

It will also be available as an eBook download via the RHSV later in the year. We think the use of the eBook format could be a way for other societies to give greater access to their collections of documents and are happy to answer any queries about how we did it.

pmhps.org.au



RED CLIFFS: In 1994 the Society was granted permission to use the Court House at 24-28 Jamieson Avenue, Red Cliffs as a permanent base and this now provides a home for a collection of historical items: photographs, newspaper articles, books, maps and memorabilia. Open days are conducted on the first Sunday of each month between 10am-12 noon. Admission is \$2 for adults, children accompanied by an adult are free. Private viewings at other times by prior arrangement only. Special arrangements will be made for schools and group visits.

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL AND PIONEER: The amalgamated society was established in 1986. The original land and the building known as the Common School built in 1874 was gifted to the Historical Society by Mrs. Ross. The building was classified "C" by the National Trust in 1972. Other buildings on the site include the 1926 Salvation Army Hall relocated here in 1987. A large machinery shed built by the Historical Society houses farm machinery and a large collection of tools. Our museum complex of four buildings at 96-98 High Street, Rochester is open to the public Open 9am-12noon Wednesday and Friday or by appointment. rochesterhistoricalsociety.com.au

SANDRINGHAM: Our location is 15 Melrose Street, Sandringham. We are open Fridays and Sundays 2-4pm (except Public Holidays) or by appointment. Our June forum will be held on Sunday June 30 at the Sandringham Library at 2pm. Our Guest speaker will be Dr Vicki Karalis AM who will speak on the significance of Beaumaris Bay natural assets and why it deserves National Heritage Listing.

sandringhamhistorical.org.au

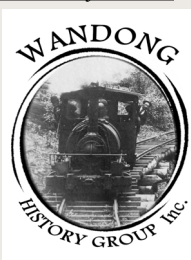


SUNSHINE: We are open for personal research enquires at either: The Cottage, The Hunt Club, 775 Ballarat Road, Deer Park Tuesdays 10am-2pm or Content Creation Room, Brimbank Library, 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine Wednesdays 2-4pm. You can drop in, but it would be better if you could contact the Society first so we can plan for your visit.

facebook.com/SunshineDistrictHistoricalSociety

WANDONG: The Society operates from the recently restored St Michael's Church, 11 Dry Creek Cres, Wandong. We are currently open from 10am- 4pm on Tuesdays. We accept donations of any Wandong, Heathcote Junction and Clonbinane related historical artefacts. All items will be kept and displayed, sharing our past and preserving it for the future generations.

facebook.com/wandongheathcotejunction



WOADY YALOAK: The Society is looking for donations of authentic family, cultural

and historical items, records and collections relating to the Woody Yaloak district: Berringa, Black Hill (Scarsdale), Brownsvale, Bunker's Hill, Canico, Cape Clear, Corindhap, Dereel, Derwent Jacks, Devil's Kitchen, Golden Lake, Grand Trunk, Ross Creek, Haddon, Hillcrest, Illabarook, Italian Gully, Lucky Woman's, Newtown, Monkey Gully, Nintingbool, Piggoreet, Sago Hill, Scarsdale, Smythes Creek, Smythesdale, Springdallah and Staffordshire Reef. New acquisitions are subject to an extensive process of analysis and review to ensure they represent the best possible fit with our existing collections, public programs, and research priorities.

If donating, please email:

info@wyhs.org.au or in person on Wednesdays 9am-3pm at the Society's office, located at the Hub, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale, Victoria.

WHITEHORSE: Located in the Local History Room at Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum complex at 2-10 Deep Creek Road, our local history collection and place of deposit is open from 10am-3pm on Wednesdays. Visitors are most welcome. The Museum complex is open Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays 1-4pm.

facebook.com/whitehorsehistory

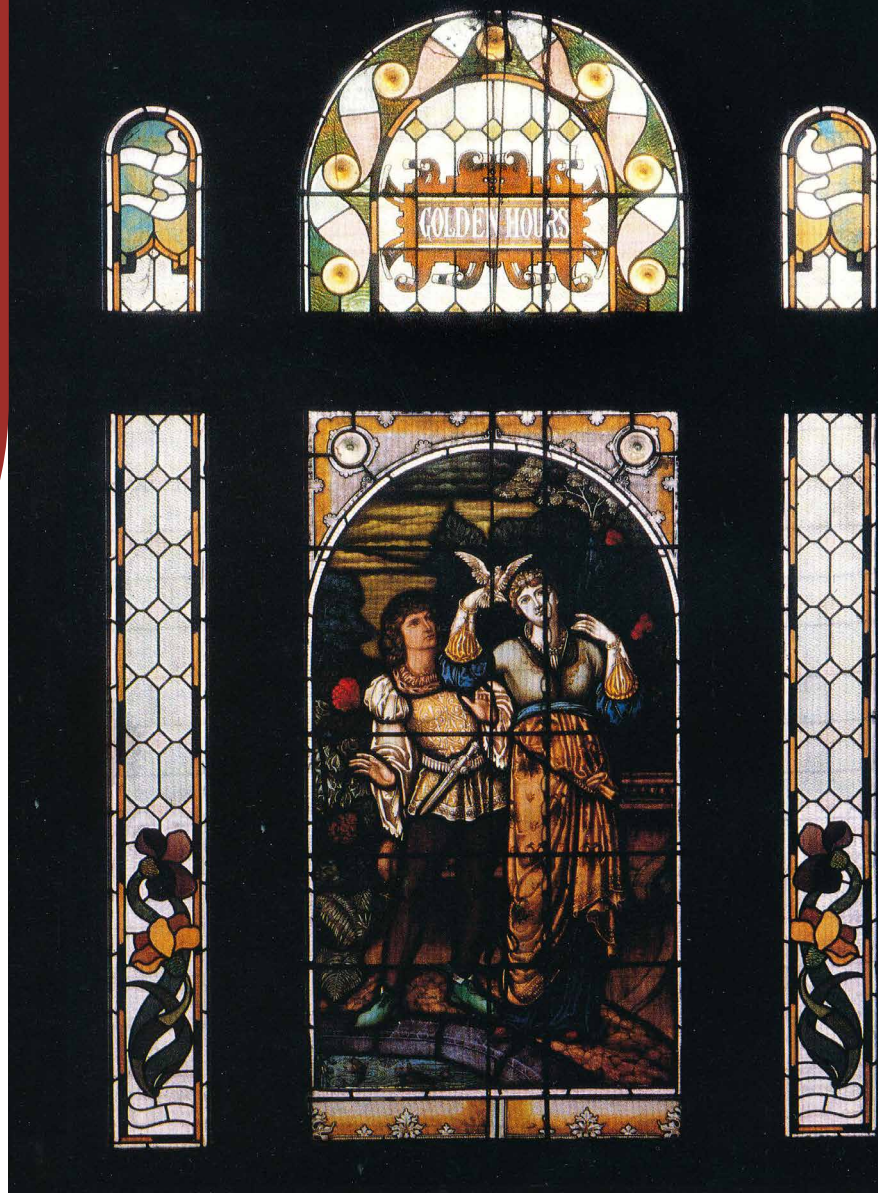


Windows on history: an art collector's window

On 20 April 1939, the *Melbourne Age* advertised a 'huge demolition sale' on the premises of 'Normanhurst', a 30-room mansion on Brighton Road, close to Glenhuntly Road, next door to the Elsternwick Hotel. On offer, along with the mundane and the magnificent, were inlaid rosewood mantelpieces, 'splendid' Oregon timber and flooring, a walnut staircase, Venetian blinds, kitchen ranges, bathroom fittings and tiles, as well as that most ancient of machines, a 'windmill in perfect order' and a most up to date 'electric passenger lift'.

Amongst the fittings advertised were 'Magnificent Stained Glass Windows', one of which took pride of place on the staircase landing and was undoubtedly designed to impress guests as they ascended the stairs. The window depicted a couple in Elizabethan dress which appeared to evoke a literary theme and although no specific reference has been identified, the dove perched on the right hand of the young woman suggests love and devotion. Made by the artists and craftsmen at Brooks, Robinson & Co in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the superbly painted window, made from quality English 'Antique' glass, would have been quite at home surrounded by the finest furnishings and remarkable art collection of Henry Figsby Young (1849-1925), the mansion's original owner.

'Normanhurst' was described as a two-storied Italianate-style house with filigree decoration, surrounded by an ornamental



■ Window, image from Jenny Zimmer's book, *Stained Glass in Australia* (1984)

garden including a fountain, presumably operated by the windmill, a small lake and a summer house. It certainly had some of the features, albeit on a less grand scale, of Sir Frederick Sargood's 'Ripponlea', which was not so far distant along Hotham Street.

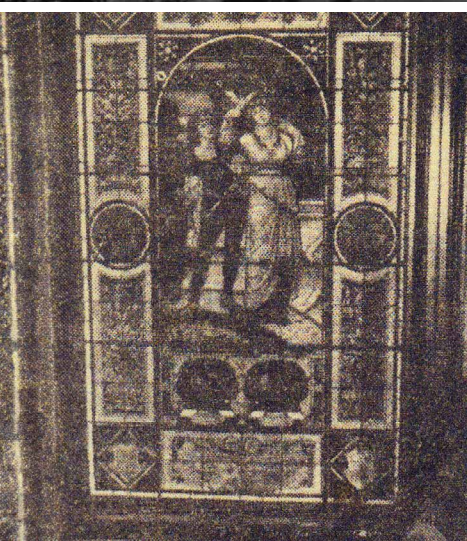
The mansion, erected for Young in the 1890s, was no longer filled with art treasures, antique furniture and fine hand-painted china. These treasures had been sold in a grand auction over two days in 1929, several years after Young's death. The art collection, assembled over many years, had included carved ivories, statuary, miniatures and still life, genre and landscape paintings by luminaries of the day, such as Marcus Stone, Sir David Wilkie, James Waite, Dora Wilson, John Glover and William Longstaff and even a small landscape attributed to J M W Turner.

Henry Figsby Young was born in Dublin and came to Melbourne with his family at the age of five. Only a few years later, in 1859, his father, a law clerk in London, became the proprietor of the Elsternwick

Hotel, which was already becoming a popular watering stop for those travelling the long road between Melbourne and the seaside resorts of Mordialloc, Mount Eliza and Mornington, by horse, coach or dray.

Henry Young the younger, in company with his older cousin, Thomas Joshua Jackson (1834-1901), joined many other young prospectors who sought to make their fortunes on the new gold diggings in New Zealand. The success of this venture is unknown, but the cousins were back in Melbourne and working in the "Wick", by late 1867. Apparently, they learned the hotel trade well and mastered the publican's art of dealing with occasional scuffles, more frequent ousting of drunks, and even the odd instance of a horse being ridden into the bar; the pair entered into business together running Sparrow's Hotel at St Kilda Junction the following year.

However, it was their next venture that was to become synonymous with Melbourne itself. In 1875 they purchased the licence for Princes Bridge Hotel on



Top and Lower Left: Normanhurst, courtesy of the St Kilda Historical Society
 Above: Princes Bridge Hotel, now Young & Jacksons. Image courtesy of the State Library Victoria
 Right: Henry Figsby Young (1849-1925)

the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne, from Joshua Mooney, changing its name later to the eponymous Young and Jackson's. Their timing was exquisite as Melbourne was entering a decade of prosperity not previously witnessed. Renovations and additions soon followed, and the round-headed shop-front windows were adapted into an Italianate façade befitting the grandeur of the building, adding an expectation of permanence to its prominent location opposite Melbourne's railway hub on Flinders Street.

The partners proved to be good businessmen, investing in real estate, brickworks and, unsurprisingly, breweries and, for the most part they avoided the worst of economic crises that would engulf 'Marvellous Melbourne' by the early 1890s. In stark contrast to Henry Young's conservative taste for home, his most significant acquisition was Jules Lefebvre's famous painting, *Chloe*, which he installed in the main bar of Young & Jackson's for all patrons to admire. Winning a Gold

Medal on its debut at the Paris Salon of 1875, the painting was shipped to Australia where it gathered awards at the Sydney International Exhibition in 1879 and the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition. Initially bought for 850 guineas by the eminent Melbourne surgeon, Dr Thomas Fitzgerald (1838-1908) it hung in his home, 'Rostella' in Lonsdale Street, until Young purchased it from the auction of the surgeon's estate in 1909.

Chloe, seen as both famous and notorious at different times, spent years in Y&J's bar before the painting was moved from the smoke-filled atmosphere of the bar to the upper dining room where it was anticipated it would be safe among a more discerning crowd. *Chloe* seems destined to stay wedded to Young & Jackson's in perpetuity, as part of a Heritage Victoria decree in 1988.

But the fate of Mr Young's stained-glass window was less glamorous and unknown for decades. The only known image of the glass *in situ* at 'Normanhurst' was taken the day after the 1939 sale, where

the Melbourne *Herald* reported it had been sold for a mere 15/-, despite costing 'hundreds of pounds' when commissioned for the house in the 1890s. The new custodian was offered ten pounds soon after; the report did not say whether the offer was accepted.

No more was seen of the glass until it re-appeared for 'a mansion in St Kilda' and photographed for Jenny Zimmer's book, *Stained Glass in Australia* (1984). The window was remodelled with an Aesthetic-inspired border and renamed, *Golden Hours*; the stained-glass window lived on, still in a domestic setting, as originally intended.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM

With thanks to St Kilda Historical Society, who would welcome any additional information on the window's current whereabouts, as would the author.



2024 HTAV Award winners with HTAV Patron Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM (left) and HTAV President Ashley Pratt (right)

Stories from the Archives: honouring Victoria's outstanding history teachers

On 19 April 2024, the National Archives of Australia hosted the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the Victorian Archives Centre. Attendees included HTAV Patron, Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, together with HTAV members, directors and staff.

A highlight of the evening was the 2024 HTAV awards ceremony. HTAV awards recognise the excellence and commitment of history teachers who enrich their profession and the wider history community. This year's winners were:

HTAV Award for Excellence in History Teaching by a Graduate (Pre-Service) Teacher

- Alexandar Krcevinac
- Gabriella Krywul
- Shaunna Bilson

HTAV Award for Excellence in History Teaching by an Early-Career Educator

- Lyndon John Pratt

HTAV Award for Excellence in History Teaching by a Secondary Teacher Award

- Athena Kavalieris
- Mathew Steen
- Joel Kent
- Thomas Senior
- Amanda Hann

HTAV Award for Excellence in History Education by a Teaching Team

- Carey Baptist Grammar School History Teaching Team: Allan Kerr, Ben Harrison, Christian Gregory, David Bennett, Geoff Trevaskis, James Rainey, Jerome Kellett, Jo Leech, Olivia Heaton, Sarah Cassidy, Tanya May, and Tim Ringwood.

HTAV Award for Excellent and Sustained Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to the History Teachers' Association of Victoria

- Natalie Shephard
- Luke Cashman

National History Challenge

The National History Challenge for 2024 was also launched, introducing this year's theme, 'Crisis and Response'. History teachers are encouraged to register their schools online to receive a no-obligation welcome kit for the National History Challenge [here](#). The closing date for submissions is 23 August 2024. The National Archives is a proud supporter of the National History Challenge.

The evening concluded with National Archives staff providing a behind-the-scenes tour, where HTAV members were able to view a range of significant and historic primary source material relevant to the history curriculum.

Patrick Ferry & Michelle Passmore

Patrick Ferry is the Assistant State Manager, Public Engagement for the National Archives of Australia in Victoria, based at the Victorian Archives Centre at North Melbourne.

Michelle Passmore is the Finance & Operations Manager for the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.



Don Gibb RHSV Australian History Prize 2024

This annual prize awarded to the La Trobe University student who gained the highest mark in the third-year subject 'Making History' went to Ruby Louise Oosthuizen. Ruby made a podcast: 'The Whitewashing of Australia's Ecological History Seen Through the Tale of a Platypus'. <https://on.soundcloud.com/RfA6jcQv54CkZmtU8> Ruby is completing a double degree in Science and Arts. She earned a cash prize and an RHSV membership, so we hope to see her at the Society. Ruby's prize was presented to her by Don Gibb's widow, Ann Gibb, and Richard Broome.

- Top Left: HTAV members on a guided tour of the Victorian Archives Centre
- Top Right: HTAV members viewing WW2 era records at the Victorian Archives Centre.
- Bottom Left: Launch of the 2024 National History Challenge
- Bottom Right: HTAV members discussing the historical significance of a clothing issue book from Lake Wellington (Ramahyuck) in East Gippsland

Enhance your next book with an Index by Terri Mackenzie

Professional Back of Book Indexer
Member of Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers
Honorary Victorian Historical Journal Indexer
terrianne@bigpond.com



terrianne@bigpond.com

What's on at RHSV

continued from page 2

Where possible we offer all our events as hybrid: both in our premises at 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne and via Zoom. Information on booking tickets to all our events can be found on our website.

EPHEMERA SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA: IT'S COLD AND OLD AND RARER THAN GOLD

Date: Tuesday 23 July

Time: 11am – 12noon

Cost: FREE

Event type: in person only

Speaker: Tony Shields

Bookings: <https://ephemerasociety.org.au/category/whats-on/>

Tony Shields has been a stamp and coin dealer since 1970. Every day he handles wonderful pieces of history and art which he researches and loves. Since childhood, he has been fascinated by the stories of Scott and Mawson in the Antarctic and has sought stamps and other items depicting the experiences of these incredible explorers. Come and share Tony's enthusiasm and knowledge of collectables from the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, 1820-1921.

SEMINAR FOR LEADERS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY NETWORKS ACROSS VICTORIA

Date: Friday 26 July

Time: 9am – 3:15pm

Cost: FREE / \$20

Event type: in person

This networking and learning event is only open to those who are involved in leading the networks of historical societies across Victoria.

We want to gather as many of these leaders as possible together to discuss common issues and solutions and, we hope, that those leaders will share their experience and knowledge on their return

to their home historical societies and networks. The seminar is free for those who are members of the RHSV or one of its affiliated member societies and there are also travel subsidies. More information has been sent directly by email to our historical societies and networks.



HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2024

This year the RHSV is celebrating, with Heritage Victoria, the 50th anniversary of the Victorian Heritage Register. The Victorian Heritage Register lists and provides legal protection for heritage places and objects that are significant to the history and development of Victoria.

Heritage places include buildings, trees, parks and gardens, streetscapes, archaeological sites, cemeteries, precincts, shipwrecks and structures such as bandstands.

Heritage objects include furniture, shipwrecks, relics, archaeological artefacts, equipment, transport vehicles and everyday articles that contribute to an understanding of Victoria's history.

And these places and objects are found across Victoria in every local government area.

For History Month 2024, that is the entire

month of October, we are asking and encouraging all historical societies to create an event around a local place or object which has found protection on the Victorian Heritage Register. We will be emailing all historical societies with a list of those places or objects found locally and we hope that will kickstart some ideas. It might be a walking tour or a talk or an event on social media where you ask people to contribute their stories about the object or place.

The History Month website is up and running and waiting for your events to be uploaded.

CATALOGUING CLINICS

Date: Thursday 27 June

Thursday 25 July

Time: 11am – 12noon

Cost: FREE

Event type: Zoom only

Join Jillian Hiscock, our Collections Manager, presents each month in this informative and easy-going Zoom forum on all aspects of cataloguing collections for historical societies.

Jillian has a different topic each month and is happy to be guided by those who attend as to what they would like covered in upcoming clinics. Bring your questions, no matter the topic: this is an interactive space where questions are encouraged. The RHSV does not endorse any particular cataloguing software, we believe it is horses for courses, and Jillian will talk about issues that impact on cataloguing whether you are using cataloguing cards or software.

Vale Alan Gregory AM

RHSV marks with sadness the passing of Alan Gregory AM who was most active for the RHSV in the 1990s and 2000s, but an active and long-standing member well before and after those years. He never lost interest in the society's work and well-being, and presented at a conference as recently as 12 months ago.

Alan was born in Melbourne, educated at the University of Melbourne (B Com, Dip Ed, M Ed) and Simon Fraser University Canada, (Ph D). He was made a Member of the Order of Australia 1989 for services to education and the community, including his significant philanthropy.

Alan served on the RHSV Council for 10 years, twice as Vice-President. He represented RHSV on other bodies, most notably the Victorian Government Place Names Committee (1998) which became the Geographic Place-Names Committee (1999-2007). He chaired the RHSV Publications Committee, securing funding for publications and related exhibitions, working also on the Victorian Pioneer Index and the RHSV Manuscript Collection. Alan produced a series of attractive historical calendars and Eugene von Guerard prints, chaired the Federation Celebrations Committee which included a book, exhibition and other activities, and was a member at different times of the Executive and Finance, as well as Editorial and Speakers committees. He was a regular speaker.

Alan served on several government boards including the Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal. He published widely in the field of economics, education and history, including: *The Surprise Rival: A History of the Faculty of Education, Monash University, 1964-2014* (2015), *It's Only the Game that Counts: A history of Lord Somers Camp and Power House* (1989), *The Ever Open Door: A history of the Royal Melbourne Hospital 1848-1998* (1998), *Strong Like its Pillars: Melbourne High School 1905-2005* (2005), *The Sentimental Soldier: a Life of George Furner Langley* (2008) and *Woodfull: Gentleman and Scholar: a Life of William Maldon Woodfull* (2011).

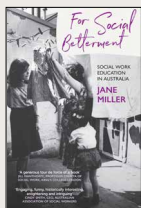
RHSV extends its sympathy to Alan's family.

Rosalie Triolo

Bookshop

See our online bookshop at www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop/

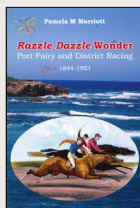
Or pop in to the RHSV to browse our new and secondhand books. You can also order via phone (03 9326 9288). Australia Post delivers books ordered on-line or you can choose Click 'n' Collect. We can also do gift vouchers and gift wrapping.



For Social Betterment: Social Work Education in Australia

Jane Miller
PB 355pp \$39.99

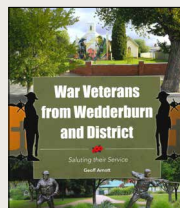
An unprecedented, complex and nuanced history of Australian social work education from 1900-1960. It's the story of a fight for standards and the tenacity of a group of women and some men who were determined to improve conditions for those most vulnerable in our community. This book also reflects on why the rights of women and First Nations peoples were overlooked for so long, and examines the future challenges for social work in Australia.



Razzle Dazzle Wonder: Port Fairy and District Racing 1844-1953

Pamela Marriott
PB 199pp \$25.99

Discover a fascinating horse racing history, showcasing remarkable tales from Tom Browne's cantankerous and wilful mare Tanny, to the award-winning wonder pony Razzle Dazzle. This book delves into Port Fairy (Belfast) and its surrounding communities with an abundance of maps, aerial photos, advertising, letters and other resources. Come and admire the tenacity and determination of the stewards, owners, jockeys, and of course the most enchanting and important performers: the horses.



War Veterans from Wedderburn and District: Saluting Their Service

Geoff Arnott
HC 412pp \$40

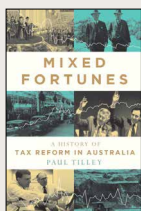
Wedderburn's enlistment rates have surpassed many, from the Boer War to Iraq. Detailed here is the military heritage of Wedderburn, home front life, and over 100 individual stories from those who enlisted. This book enriches war remembrance, adding meaning to 'Lest We Forget'. It honours the gallantry, sacrifice and suffering of those from Wedderburn, and through poignant narratives celebrates veteran's contributions to both local and national communities, exemplifying Wedderburn's enduring spirit.



Memories & Milestones: Tertiary Education in Bendigo 1873-2023

Lauren Mitchell
HC 206pp \$50

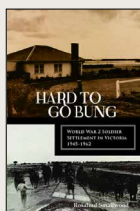
Bendigo celebrates a major anniversary of 150 years for tertiary education encompassing 15 institutions across six locations. Discover the politics behind the big changes, the lasting memories of long-term academics, the career trajectories of alumni and more. World wars, technology, the moon landing, student unionism, LGBTQ+ rights, multiculturalism and a global pandemic all feature within these pages. Photographs from the 19th Century to now help showcase education and the city of Bendigo.



Mixed Fortunes: a History of Tax Reform in Australia

Paul Tilley
PB 512pp \$44.99

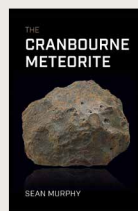
Australia's history is sprinkled with attempts at tax reform. *Mixed Fortunes* examines the roles of foundational reviews and determinative reviews. It assesses both the political economy issues of policy making and the quality of tax reforms that have been achieved. It asks some key questions: What makes a reform work, or not? How do we assess the quality of tax reforms? What lessons can we learn to help shape future tax reform exercises?



Hard to Go Bung: World War 2 Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1945-1962

Rosalind Smallwood
PB 330pp \$44

World War I soldier settlement schemes placed settlers on impracticable holdings resulting in many walking off their blocks. The Victorian RSL set about helping to frame a settlement scheme which would avoid the mistakes of the past. It is a record of an outstanding and successful scheme which reflects credit upon its administrators and the ex-service settlers who made the most of the opportunities presented to them.



The Cranbourne Meteorite

Sean Murphy
PB 164pp \$49.95

After an astonishing astronomical discovery is made near Melbourne, two scientists jostle for possession of the world's largest iron meteorite. At a time of growing cultural awareness in Australia, brash colonials challenge conventional imperial assumptions of ownership. At stake is a glittering prize, and a chance to gain an other-worldly talisman of local identity. Who will prevail?



No Singing in Gum Trees: The Honest Life of Max Martin

Jeremy Hill
HC 223pp \$54.95

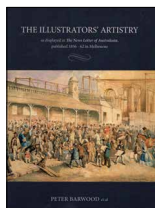
Max Martin was an enigmatic achiever who stood briefly on the mountaintop but died in obscurity. It was over thirty years after his death before a painting of his was acquired by a public collection. What made him turn his back on painting at the height of critical acclaim? How close was he to a career in mainstream ballet and what drove him to march for disarmament?

Books received

John Schauble

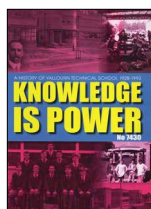
Authors, publishers and Historical Societies are invited to contribute books to the RHSV for the library and for consideration for inclusion in 'Books Received'.

Please note: these books listed are not necessarily offered to the bookshop by authors, please check the shop catalogue.



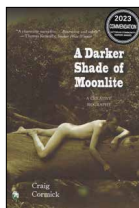
The Illustrators' Artistry: as Displayed in the News Letter of Australasia, published 1856-1862 in Melbourne. Peter Barwood, et al, the author, Melbourne, 2022, pp. v-128, ISBN 9780646859828.

The explosion of imagery in the 19th century started with painting and line illustrations. There followed the invention of photography and advances in printing technology. Illustrated newspapers proliferated, nowhere more so in the Australian colonies than Melbourne. Until the reproduction of photographic images became possible, artists including Nicholas Chevalier, S.T. Gill and Eugene von Guerard, aided by skilled engravers churned out images to grace papers like the prosaically titled *Newsletter of Australasia or Narrative of Events to Send to Friends*, upon which this collection is based. These illustrations form a vital record of early colonial life.



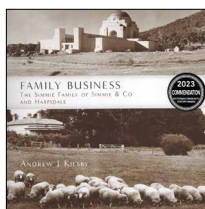
Knowledge is Power: a History of Yallourn Technical School 1928-1993, No 7430. Graham Goulding, Moe & District Historical Society, Moe, 2023, pp.1-93, ISBN 9780958850155.

A concise history of the glory days of technical education in Victoria and the town of Yallourn itself. In the Latrobe Valley, the demand for trades skills to service the state's power industry was obvious and, especially during the 1940s and 1950s, the school boomed in the SEC 'company town'. The decision to demolish Yallourn township to expand open cut coal mining saw the original modernist buildings abandoned after just 30 years and the school shifted to Newborough. Reforms to education in 1985 spelled its end as a distinct entity and it was eventually merged with other secondary schools nearby.



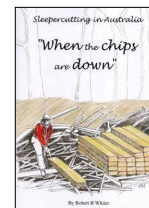
A Darker Shade of Moonlite: a Creative Biography. Craig Cormick, Interventions, Coffs Harbour, 2023, pp. iv-105, ISBN 9780645253481.

This reckoning of the life of Andrew Scott (1842-1880), better known as Captain Moonlite, has been described as "playful". Styled as 'a creative biography' (but certainly not imagined history), it begins with the premise that Moonlite was overlooked in the shadow of his more famous contemporary, Ned Kelly. In fact, Moonlite has been the subject of several studies over the years and is among the better-known figures of Australia's bushranging past. The life and demise of Moonlite and his gang of youthful acolytes is notionally told here through the eyes of the least known of them, Graham Bennett. Commended in the 2023 Victorian Community History Awards.



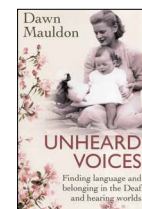
Family Business: The Simmie Family of Simmie & Co and Harpsdale. Andrew J. Kilsby, Echo Books, Woodend, 2023, pp.vii-273, ISBN 9780646861616.

Three Simmie brothers formed Simmie & Co (1924-78) and *Family Business* is part family, part business history. From modest beginnings, the firm went on to build some of Australia's most iconic buildings, many in Canberra. These include the Australian War Memorial, St Andrews Presbyterian Church and the American Embassy. The firm's footprint in Melbourne was no less impressive. The family acquired a property 'Harpsdale' at Yuroke, which became a noted Dorset Horn sheep stud and remained in the family until 2021. Andrew Kilsby infuses his writing with lively inquiry, and *Family Business* is no different. Commended in the 2023 Victorian Community History Awards.



When the Chips are Down: the Story of Sleepercutting in Australia. Robert B. Whiter, the author, Pambula, 2023, pp. 1-109, ISBN 9780646886220.

This brief but quirky history of sleepercutting – the production of railway sleepers – is focused on the south-eastern Australia forests stretching roughly from Bermagui in NSW to Orbost. This was arduous, dangerous work done in all weathers, based in remote forest camps and demanding great skill with rudimentary tools. Aside from the domestic market, millions of sleepers were dispatched from southern NSW ports to destinations including New Zealand, India, China Japan and South Africa. Covered here are the most suitable timbers, the tools of the trade, the felling and sawing process, the regulation of the product and the recollections of some of the resilient bush workers and their families.



Unheard Voices: Finding Language and Belonging in the Deaf and Hearing Worlds. Dawn Mauldon, Fremantle Press, Fremantle, 2023, pp.1-334, ISBN 9781760992347.

How different times were in 1923 when six-year-old Evelyn Lloyd was taken from her farm home in northern Victoria to the Deaf and Dumb Institution, where she became 'Girl 735'. She was a child of difference, who would go on to leave her imprint on different landscapes. Evelyn would in time marry Art, Boy 587, and their hearing daughter Dawn was born into two worlds with two languages and two places of belonging. This is a beautiful memoir of living with deafness before the evolution of Auslan, text subtitles and other aids. The deaf, writes Dawn Mauldon, are now having a language party to which everyone is invited.