



History News

ISSUE 376 | FEBRUARY 2025



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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.

www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/

CURATOR'S TALK YARRA BIRRARUNG: ARTISTS, WRITERS AND THE RIVER

Date: Tuesday 25 February

Time: 11am – 12noon

Cost: FREE

Event type: in person only

Join curator, Dr Judith Buckrich, as she examines life on the Yarra through the lens of artists and writers in our current exhibition, *Yarra Birrarung: Artists, Writers and the River*. The exhibition explores how life has flourished on the river, including recreation, industry and land use, as well as infrastructure, natural history and social history. Despite much despoiling, our river remains the vital artery of the city and beyond to the Yarra Ranges. Just as it was the fulcrum of Wurundjeri life, it continues to inspire and fulfil our lives. From the Heidelberg School to the MCG, the river has been a centre of Australian arts and culture for decades.

THINK TANK: ORIENTATION / TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE JOINING HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Date: Tuesday 4 February

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Cost: FREE

Event type: ZOOM only

Murchison & District Historical Society wants to develop an orientation/training programme for young people – i.e. 14 – 18 year olds – to become volunteers for their historical society. Isn't that a great idea? The RHSV thinks that this idea is worth putting effort into and seeing if we can jointly develop a template that could be adopted by other historical societies. If you are interested in sharing

ideas and experiences and working out what can be done, please do join Kay and Rosemary on Zoom and bring your ideas and enthusiasm and we'll see what we can nut out together.

What's on is continued
on page 7



YARRA BIRRARUNG *Artists, Writers and the River*



Curated by Dr Judith Buckrich
Designed by Daisy Searls

28 Nov 2024 – Jul 2025
Open Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm
Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A'Beckett St Melbourne 3000

office@historyvictoria.org.au | 9326 9288



History News

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PRESIDENT Richard Broome
EXECUTIVE OFFICER Rosemary Cameron
COLLECTIONS MANAGER & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Jillian Hiscock
COLLECTIONS OFFICER Helen Stitt
MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR tba
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ADMINISTRATION OFFICER Chelsea Pinkard
ARCHIVES MANAGER Cathy Dodson
ARCHIVES OFFICER Bronte Laffin-Vines
VCHA OFFICER Susannah Beardsell
EVENTS ASSISTANT Johnny Yuen

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

Optimism is a key element of the human spirit. It underpins all human endeavour from rising each day to face the new day, to ringing in the New Year with fireworks, joy and resolutions. Optimism also infuses organisations as well as individuals and no less the RHSV and its staff, volunteers and members.

Optimism drives our work into its 116th year and beyond. As our doors open each working day, our staff hope that our collection will grow stronger as our cataloguing advances and diversifies, and researchers attend to discover our treasures. We also anticipate book orders flowing via emails and phone calls as we continue to minister to the needs of our lovers of Victorian and Australian history. Many are ordering our own publications including *Remembering Melbourne* and *The Story of Melbourne Lanes*.

Judy Smart and I, as co-editors of the *Victorian Historical Journal*, always look out for new submissions to the journal. Sharon Betridge and her team anticipate offerings to *History News*. Donations both in kind and of a monetary nature are always welcomed by our Executive Officer too.

Our Council and committee activities, the work of volunteers, are also driven by hope for an ever-stronger RHSV. Optimism drives us in the bright times to move the RHSV forward, and even in more difficult times, maintains our determination to be better.

Our new exhibition curated by Dr Judith Buckrich, 'Yarra Birrarung. Artists, Writers and the River', also exudes optimism. The Yarra River has faced hard and challenging times in its European history. It was environmentally damaged by being de-

snagged and straightened and in the late 19th century, became a drain and conduit for industrial garbage. But observers have always seen beauty in the river, as revealed in the exhibition. It now has a fierce advocate, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, headed by an RHSV member, Janet Bolitho, who also launched the exhibition. I sincerely recommend a visit.

Optimism underpins my own recent momentous decision. In October I informed Council that I would not be standing for President again in May 2025 after six years in the role and twelve years on Council. It has been a wonderful time for me, and I hope the RHSV, and I will say more of that in another *History News*. But I think in fairness, someone else must now have this great opportunity and privilege.

Council immediately initiated a search for my replacement. I am pleased to announce that an excellent candidate has been found and endorsed by Council at its December meeting. The Council of the RHSV will invite members to register their support in the usual democratic way at the next AGM in May for Council and office holders, including a new president. I am certain this endorsed candidate will lead the RHSV into continued good health and new initiatives to build on its current strengths.

Optimism is sorely needed in our world at present, and we must all practise it in our personal lives and the organisations we belong to and support. Only hope can drive us forward, not vain ones, but hopes based on evidence-based research and realistic ideas.

May the New Year be a bright one for all of you, all of us!

Richard Broome AM

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The Federation of Australian Historical Societies: welcome to 2025

Happy New Year 2025 from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS). May the year reward you for your important work in preserving and promoting Australia's history and heritage. Many of you have heard of 'FAHS' or 'the Federation' through your historical society newsletters and other history-related communications or professional learning events: but a new year presents an opportunity too good to miss for promoting the excellent work, advocacy and resources already available across the nation and through the FAHS national peak body. Those of you who have previously read FAHS newsletters or visited other Australian State and Territory peak websites know that individuals and groups, most often as volunteers, in each jurisdiction, not only your own, are preserving and promoting diverse facets of Australia's history and heritage. The stories of each jurisdiction are made all the more unique and fascinating due to their different environments and climates, yet there remain many similarities of human experience. The FAHS vision is avowedly not one of supplanting or competing with any such excellent existing work, rather, the vision is one of knowing about each other's work, learning from it to strengthen our own work then build and advocate on shared positions together. The winner is a stronger and wider Australian history and heritage movement overall.

'About' on the FAHS home page currently offers the following summary:

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies was established in 1977, has eight constituent members, one in each state and territory, and is the national peak body representing the interests of about 1,000 historical societies and about 100,000 members throughout Australia ...

[Historical society] members provide hundreds of thousands of hours of work to collect documents and images, research and publish history, present

public lectures and exhibitions, protect and preserve built and place heritage, collect material objects and exhibit them in museums, and make an invaluable contribution to heritage tourism ...

[The Federation] communicates with government and public officials to inform them about issues affecting historical societies and museums, and to advocate the interests of historical societies and museums. The Federation also provides access to a variety of guides and training materials to assist historical societies.

The eight constituents are:

- Canberra & District Historical Society: <https://www.canberrahistory.org.au/>
- Historical Society of the Northern Territory: <https://www.historicalsocietynnt.org.au/>
- History Trust of South Australia: <https://www.history.sa.gov.au/>
- Royal Australian Historical Society: <https://www.rahs.org.au/>
- Royal Historical Society of Queensland: <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/>
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>
- Royal Western Australian Historical Society: <https://histwest.org.au/>
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association: <https://thra.org.au/>

Although FAHS runs relatively few events annually, it provides at least four emailed newsletters per year with contributions from all states and territories. Newsletters usually include:

- the latest history and heritage news from each jurisdiction, sometimes addressing a theme common to all eight, along with significant national, and international, updates worth knowing Australia-wide

- the reality that challenges to the well-being of Australia's local history and heritage movements are experienced by all states and territories at one time or another. Yet, for all the challenges, there are solutions as well as other valuable stories of success and inspiration
- the requests from, communications with, or updates generally from relevant Federal Government departments or national peak bodies within the galleries, libraries, archives, museums and academic (GLAMA) sectors, the knowledge which informs and strengthens local history and heritage work Australia-wide.

Visiting the above peak body websites, starting perhaps with any you have never visited, and perhaps in locations you would like to visit, will immediately help develop your national picture.

Visit also the FAHS website to gain a flavour of its work: <https://www.history.org.au/> : especially the e-newsletters of recent years. However, the FAHS website is due for updating across 2025, and the e-newsletters are set to take on a new title and 'look'. You can follow all developments through updates such as this or when the release of each quarterly newsletter is promoted by a link through your jurisdiction's peak body. Better still, you can receive all information directly in your inbox 'free of charge' if you sign up for e-news: <https://www.history.org.au/enews/>. The e-news will be of interest and is information which you are free to share widely.

FAHS looks forward to strengthening all facets of Australia's local history and heritage movements by learning from and sharing nationally the best of what is being achieved. The people responsible are your jurisdiction's peak body as well as the local societies to which you belong... and you.

Rosalie Triolo
President: FAHS



■ **Top:** Children in the snow at Fall's Creek, Victoria. Photograph by Keith Byron, 1965. NAA: A1200, L52260 [Item ID 11659773]



■ **Bottom:** Collins Street T&G building at Christmas. Photograph by Neil Murray, 1959. NAA: A1200, L29636 [Item ID 11751792]

National Archives of Australia:

Focus: government photographers

Focus: Australian government photographers is the latest National Archives of Australia touring exhibition currently at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne.

Bringing Australia's government photographers out of the darkroom and into the spotlight, *Focus* delves deep into the lives and work of some of the talented individuals who helped to preserve Australia's rich visual heritage.

This exhibition draws extensively on photographs in the National Archives collection, including from the Department of Information, the Australian News and Information Bureau and the Australian Information Service. These pictures include intimate nature photography, striking architectural shots and images which capture everyday memories from Australia's past.

Why did the government take photographs? Today when you want to find out about a country you can look it up online but in the 1940s people would write to the Department of Information. Although all the photographs in the exhibition were created with a specific purpose in mind, and on behalf of the government, this doesn't negate the artistry involved. Even with a specific assignment, each photographer had a unique style, compellingly reflected in the images they produced.

Focus is on display at the Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne until 25 April. Open Monday to Friday and the second and last Saturdays of the month, 10am-4:30pm.

Emily Hobson

Acting State Manager, Public Engagement Victoria
National Archives of Australia

HSSC changes

Dr Rosalie Triolo is handing the chairpersonship of the Historical Societies Support Committee to Craige Proctor.

Rosalie is remaining on the HSSC committee but now has the responsibilities of President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. Rosalie must be thanked heartily by the Community History Movement for the energy and ideas she has brought to HSSC in delivering fabulous events and support of many kinds to our member societies over the last few years.

Craige Proctor is an excellent replacement being deeply involved in two historical societies, Mortlake and Jeparit, and bringing all the skills of decades in teaching and as a leader of social media in historical society work.

Thank you, Rosalie, and we welcome Craige. Craige's first HSSC article will appear in the April *History News*.

Richard Broome
President



Visit to Kinglake Historical Society

- **Top:** Welcoming committee - KHS Treasurer Jim Brown with Paul.
- Left:** Deidre Hawkins and Lyn Coon, Award of Merit co-nominator with Pam Lawless (absent)
- Right:** Deidre Hawkins KHS and Paul Fearon RHSV

RHSV Vice-President Paul Fearon and his wife Amanda Francis had the pleasure of visiting the Kinglake Historical Society (KHS) last year and presenting their President, Deidre Hawkins, with the RHSV Award of Merit. Her nomination says it all, see: bit.ly/4OrWowd.

In attendance at the AGM was the Mayor of Murrindindi Shire, Councillor Damian Gallagher, who helped celebrate the 40-year anniversary of the KHS's establishment in 1984.

Since the establishment of the KHS, Deidre has guided the Society through some challenging times, not the least

being the Black Saturday fires of February 2009, when some 47 locals lost their lives. Her love of history and writing has consistently shone through, as well as her efforts leading a marvellous group of volunteers to build their Heritage Centre, curate an impressive collection and exhibition of their local history, produce publications and maintain an informative website. The KHS is actively involved in the local community, and together with her committed team, in 2024 the Deidre managed the process of incorporating the society.

KHS is expanding its exhibition space and working with Lions to renovate the old Kinglake Post Office building, possibly the smallest PO in the state. It is now

situated behind the Heritage Centre. The most important part of the KHS program is the annual visits by city secondary school groups, 10 groups in 2024. These 200 Year 11 students were completing the VCE 'Disaster and Recovery' Geography Area of Study.

KHS is a wonderful success story demonstrating how a team of committed volunteers under great leadership can help build community and foster a love of history. KHS is open every Sunday. Visit them! Details can be found on the website. <https://www.kinglakehistoricalsociety.com/>

Paul Fearon
RHSV Vice-President

What's on at RHSV

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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.

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2025 BILLIBELLARY INDIGENOUS HISTORY LECTURE: PROFESSOR BARRY JUDD

Date: Thursday 20 February

Time: 5:30 – 7pm

Cost: \$10 / \$20

Event type: Hybrid

We are delighted to invite our members and friends to join us for the 4th annual Billibellary Indigenous History Lecture.

Professor Barry Judd is a distinguished academic and accomplished leader, currently holding the positions of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Professor of Indigenous Studies in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. As the DVC (Indigenous), he plays a crucial role in shaping institutional policy, strategy and guidance on all aspects of Indigenous higher education.

In addition to these duties, Professor Judd provides academic leadership to the Indigenous Studies Program through undergraduate teaching, Higher Degree Research supervisions, and research activity, all of which support the development of this emerging field of studies. He is a member of the esteemed Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and was a foundation Chief Investigator of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN).

With over 30 years of experience in supporting Indigenous activity in Australian higher education, Professor Judd is widely published and holds several current Australian Research Council research grants. His invaluable contributions to the field of Indigenous Studies are a testament to his exceptional work, inspiring and leading the way for future Indigenous leaders.

GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

Date: Every Monday

(excluding public holidays) and at

other times by arrangement

Time: 11am – 12:15pm

Cost: \$10

Event type: in person only

Guide: Chris Manchee

Bookings: essential on +3 9326 9288

| office@historyvictoria.org.au

Join expert tour guide, Chris Manchee, on a guided history walking tour through the beautiful Flagstaff Gardens: the historic heart of the city. Visitors will climb Flagstaff Hill to consider its place in Melbourne's topography and pre-European history as well as its early role as a burial ground, flagstaff signalling station and magnetic and meteorological observatory. An absolute 'must do' walk for understanding the history and character of Melbourne.



WOMEN'S HISTORY LECTURE. FEMINISTS TO FELONS: EXHIBITING WOMEN'S HISTORY

Date: Tuesday 18 March

Time: 5:30–7pm

Cost: \$10 / \$20

Event type: Hybrid

We invite all our members and friends to celebrate Women's History Month 2025 with Margie Anderson in this lecture, part of our Distinguished Lecture series.

Museums in the 1970s were largely masculine preserves, staffed almost exclusively by men in white coats. Women were thin on the ground. Their stories were equally rare. Those few women who were represented in museum exhibitions were mostly royal women, or in the Australian context, governors' wives. But as feminist historians recast the discipline, museums followed in their wake. From feminists to felons, matriarchs to monsters, women's stories began to be presented in exhibitions. This lecture explores some of the challenges encountered in exhibiting women's history, especially where the stories themselves might be described as 'difficult history'. Are there 'no-go' areas in history exhibitions, and what happens if we challenge them?

Margaret Anderson is a public historian and museum administrator who is director of

the Old Treasury Building. In a long career Margaret has held senior museum posts in Western Australia and South Australia and in the 1980s was foundation director of the Migration Museum in Adelaide. In between she taught history and material culture studies at Monash University.

Margaret is a feminist historian with research interests in women's history, the history of the family and material history. She is especially interested in debates about conflicted views of the past and the capacity of museums to present inclusive content, including 'difficult histories'.



AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA HONOURS REG HUNT. AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID ZEUNERT

Date: Saturday 22 February

Time: 12:30 – 2:30pm

Cost: \$25 (includes a light lunch)

Event type: Hybrid

Reg Hunt, motor dealer, racing driver, collector and property investor was one of Melbourne's best known and successful automobilists during his working life. Maserati historian, enthusiast and long-time friend, David Zeunert, will discuss with Mark Bissett Reg's life exploits following a light lunch at the RHSV.

Reg Hunt built one of Australia's largest motor dealer operations and was known for his "Golden Mile" along the Nepean Highway, Elsternwick which included a 12-acre used car lot that held up to 2,000 vehicles and later Holden's top-selling dealership, Reg Hunt Rhodes. Lesser known is Reg Hunt's success in motor racing, particularly in his Maserati 250F Formula 1 car in which he competed against Stirling Moss, Jack Brabham, Stan Jones and others, earning the Australian Driver's Championship in 1956. He is also remembered for his collection of Rolls Royce and WO Bentleys.

David Zeunert is a Melbourne based enthusiast and historian, a strong generalist with a particular passion for Maserati. It was via his ownership of Maseratis that David met Reg Hunt 40 years ago. Zeunert has a significant archive of Australian motor racing photographs, magazines and memorabilia.

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 October 2024 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 24 February 2025.

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: 'A Day of Scottish History Research' presented by the Society and GSV's Scottish Discussion Group on Saturday 8 February 2025 9am-5pm at Ballarat North Community Centre, 702 Walker Street, North Ballarat. Cost: \$35, morning and afternoon tea provided. Payment may be made by bank transfer. Inquiries: secretary@ballaratgenealogy.org.au or 0467 241 352

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP: We're still busy working on a range of projects: updating 'It Happened in Brunswick'; 'Upfield Line collaborative project' with local writer Kevin Brophy; 'Women publicans of Brunswick'; 'Members of the 7th Battalion, WWI'; organising our collection; digitising our images. There are many ways in which you can help. We need stories, memories, artwork, photographs as well as people to prepare inventories, catalogue and digitise. Website: brunswickhistory.org.au or email: bchg1983@gmail.com



CARLTON: The Group (CCHG) was established by a committed group of people interested in the history of Carlton, North Carlton and Princes Hill. We invite you to explore our website, find out more about us, like us on Facebook, share your recollections and participate in our activities. The latest edition of *Carlton Chronicles* is now available. Read about public facilities in Carlton, thieves who got away with 2,800 pounds of sugar, the Handweavers and Spinners Guild of Victoria's history in Carlton, Jewish butcher Jacob Polonsky, Scottish builder William Lennox, and equal-pay campaigner Zeldia D'Aprano. cchg.asn.au

FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY: The next Cemetery Tour will be held on Sunday 23 February 2025 at 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start. Please meet at the Dandenong Road Pavilion. The tour theme is 'Lithographers, Artists and Painters'. RSVP by email to foskcoreg@gmail.com Future tours include

30 March: 'Cemetery scandals'; 27 April: 'Unearthing artists'. See our website for more information: foskcoreg.org

KILMORE: Evening meetings are usually held at 7:30pm in the Old Post Office. Our next evening meeting with a guest speaker will be on Tuesday 4 February, when we will hear from a company called Southern Cross Gold, who are reopening some historical diggings in the Wandong, Reedy Creek and Clonbinane areas. The talk will be followed by supper. Our website now has a notice board where you can keep up to date with the latest news. kilmorehistory.wordpress.com

KYNETON: Our new website is now up and running and receiving positive comments. Congratulations to the volunteers who initiated this and to the expertise of a member who was instrumental in its design and layout. It will receive some tweaks over the next few weeks. We have already had a sale of a book from the website:

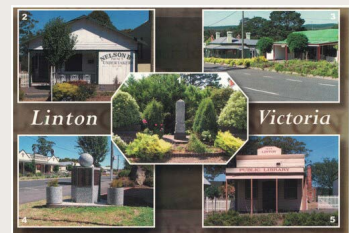
www.kyneton-khs.org.au



LINTON AND DISTRICT: A great leap forward in our online management of the Society's catalogue of documents, artifacts and photographs has been made with the completion of the Victorian Collections migration. The Victoria Collections program is a partnership between the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria and Museums Victoria. We have been working on migrating the records for a few months. There is still a bit of checking and sorting to do, but we have more than 1300 records online so far. How to find us on Victorian Collections - Go to <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations> and key 'Linton' into the 'Search Organisations' bar and then choose 'Linton and District Historical Society'. Browse the items displayed or use keywords to search the collection

for particular items or names. Next click on an image to see information from the catalogue record. Or just browse around the website to see some amazing collections!

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/#search>



MARYSVILLE AND DISTRICTS: It's been over 10 years since the History Centre opened in Darwin Street. Much has happened in this time with modern displays telling the stories of the Triangle District and larger objects on view in Lou's Shed, all set in our wonderful garden. The extensive archive of photographs and facts that grows monthly is steadily being digitised. Miraculously all this is occurring today with a core group of five volunteers and an additional three hosts. We desperately need more people involved. Could you help? As little time as 3 hours a month can introduce you to the most amazing people and information. Perhaps you fancy finding out about the history of a well-known establishment. You don't have to have historical knowledge, there is information in the History Centre and we will provide guidance for you to become a history sleuth. Your involvement would make the world of difference.

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065128114992



An extra note of interest: Ballarat and District Genealogical Society

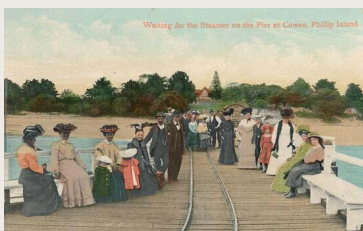
NARRE WARREN AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: February General Meeting, Wednesday, 19 February at 7.30pm. 'Finding Family: Getting started with DNA Matches' with Maureen Abbott. Once you have found out your ethnicity and traits from your DNA test, what next? An autosomal DNA test on a site like Ancestry or MyHeritage, used in conjunction with traditional family history research using records and other sources, provides a powerful approach to identifying unknown family or to break down a brick wall.

facebook.com/NarreWarrenDistrictFamilyHistoryGroup

NILLUMBIK: Our home is Historic Ellis Cottage which sits on the Ellis Cottage Reserve at 10 Nillumbik Square in Diamond Creek. Open Day dates for the first half of 2025 are 2 February, 2 March, 6 April, 4 May and 1 June. We are open from 2-4pm. www.nillumbikhistory.org.au

PHILLIP ISLAND: In April, we'll join the National Trust Heritage Festival with this year's theme, 'Unearthed'. The Society will host an exhibition showcasing fascinating items from our collection that were unearthed in years gone by: stay tuned for more information as plans take shape. We're also thrilled to announce that we have a new exhibition in the works, dedicated to the history of the original Warley Hospital. This will coincide with the anticipated opening of the new Community Hospital, expected in the first half of 2025.

facebook.com/pidhs



ST KILDA: 10 February History Talk: 'Pre-European Indigenous culture in the St Kilda area' 6-7:30pm at the St Kilda Army and Navy Club, 88 Acland Street, St Kilda: upstairs with lift access. The St Kilda area is part of the traditional lands of the Yalukit

willam clan. As part of the Kulin nation, the Yalukit willam were connected to clans as far away as the Murray River. Dr Gary Presland will detail the nature of these connections and elaborate on how the Yalukit willam made a living, at the same time honouring and caring for their country. Visit our Facebook page:

facebook.com/stkildahistory

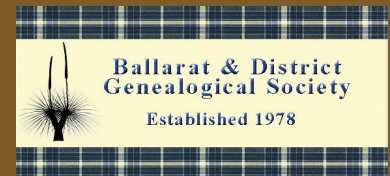


TERANG: Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month from February to November at 7.30 pm at Terang Senior Citizens Hall, The Promenade. The museum is open 3rd Sunday of the month from 1-4pm The Museum Complex is in the former Terang College Primary Campus, School Road, Terang. We welcome new members and visitors to our museum.

facebook.com/teranghistoricalsociety/

WESTERN VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: We have a membership of approximately 50 groups from Swan Hill, in the north of the State, to Warrnambool on the southern coast. The member groups have a wide range of interests: all with a historical emphasis. These include: collecting artefacts to house in museums, collecting paper records and collecting photographs. Some are combined historical and genealogical groups. Most of the groups are willing to allow the public to carry out research or will do so for them at a fee. WVAHS enables interchange of ideas and information between groups, relating to such things as: fund raising; storage methods; attracting members; insurance issues; grants availability; charges made; guest speakers; burglary prevention. A quarterly newsletter, *The Western Historian*, is also available.

facebook.com/WVAHS/



Note the Ballarat logo with its tartan which was designed for the exhibition *For Auld Lang Syne: Images of Scottish Australia, from First Fleet to Federation* in the Art Gallery, Ballarat, April-July 2014.

The colours are: grey for the basalt plain Ballarat is built on, blue and white for the Eureka flag, which represents Australian nationalism and democracy, and yellow for the gold discovered and mined in Ballarat in the mid nineteenth century. The tartan has been endorsed by the Mayor of Ballarat.

WODONGA AND DISTRICT: On 4 December 2024 we celebrated the centenary of the Wodonga's Water Tower with the Wodonga Brass Band playing happy birthday, the cutting of a huge cake made by Henri's bakery, speeches and a new plaque to celebrate this wonderful achievement of our beautiful old lady. We are delighted to report that the Sculpture of the water tower is now installed in the Wodonga Cemetery, near the Catholic section and front office. It looks very impressive and the information plaque alongside tells the story.

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063484423124



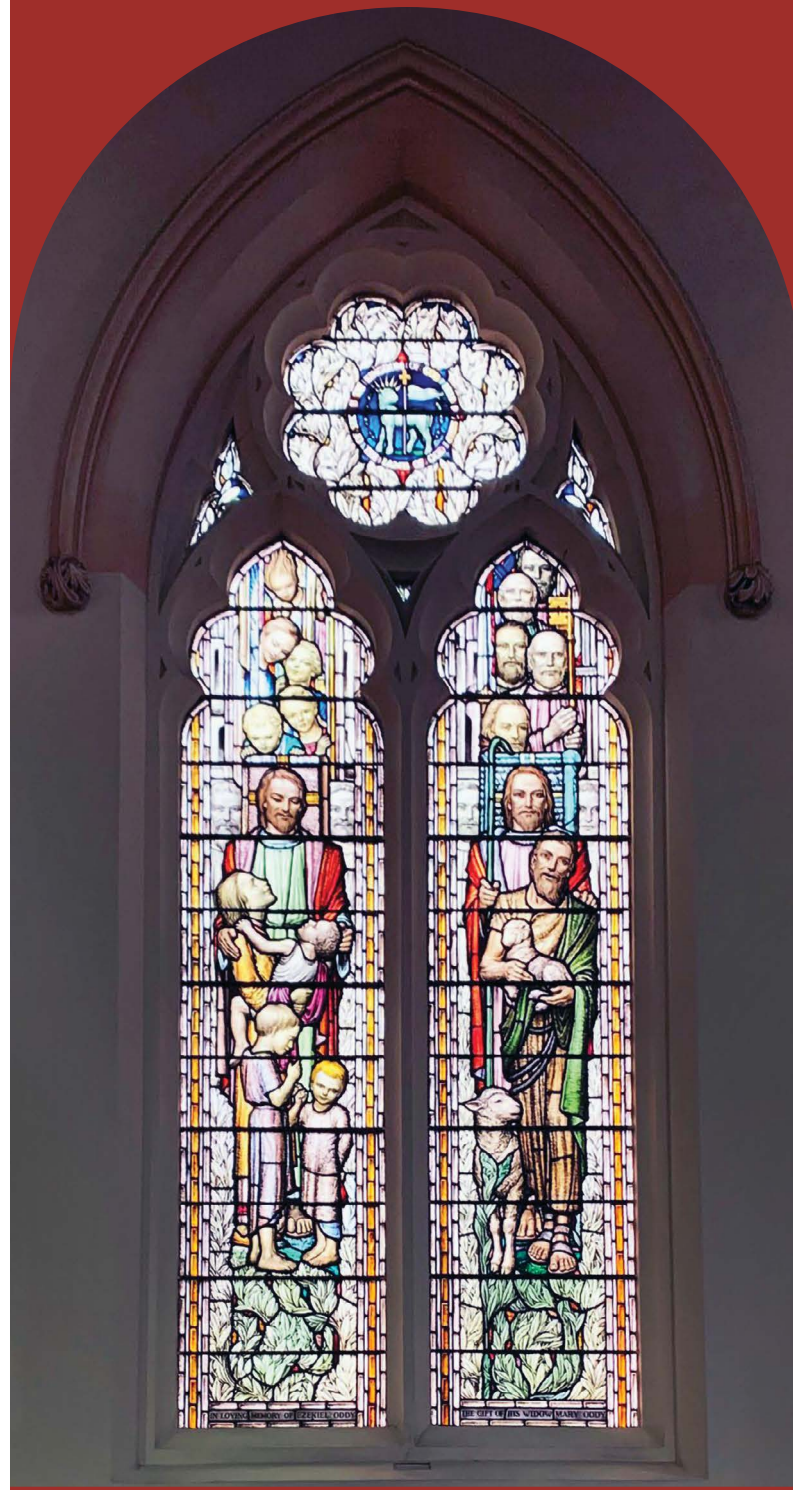
Windows on history:

A stunning (and curious) memorial window

In 1857, only a few years after the discovery of gold in Victoria, an intrepid 18-year-old, Ezekiel Oddy (1839-1924), left his home in Epping, Essex, to take the long sea journey to Australia. The youngest child in the family of Mary and Timothy Oddy, Ezekiel travelled unaccompanied and registered no trade or calling on the passenger list. He was one of many modest third-class passengers aboard the *Countess of Elgin*: mostly single miners, bakers, carpenters, shoemakers and other tradesmen. Ezekiel did not head for the goldfields but instead joined his cousin Charles Dyer in Melbourne and was soon employed as a salesman in Dyer's boot and shoe business. The two men married sisters, Mary Ann and Julia Quinn in 1859; Julia Oddy died from cancer in 1894. It was a humble beginning for a man who would become a landholder and businessman in Melbourne, taking over Dyer's business when he moved to Adelaide, Drouin and St Kilda. On his death, aged 87 in 1924, Ezekiel Oddy left an estate worth more than £22,000 to his widow, Mary née Henderson, whom he had married in 1898. 25 years later she would erect a memorial stained glass window to him in the Presbyterian church not far from their home 'Theydon', 29 Alma Road St Kilda, although it is doubtful that he had any allegiance to it at all.

When St Kilda's new Decorated Gothic Presbyterian Church opened for worship in 1886, it was considered 'one of the finest church edifices in the colony', a fitting replacement for its smaller incommensurable predecessor. Sited prominently on the corner of Alma Road and Barkly Street, its white tower was visible for miles in every direction, and, at 142 feet (43 metres), it quickly became a St Kilda landmark and guide for sailors on Port Philip Bay. Architects, Wilson and Beswicke, designed the exterior of the church in bluestone, with 'Victoria hydraulic freestone' dressings, a patented early form of concrete, while inside the kauri and cedar timber fittings and pews could accommodate approximately 800 worshippers.

At the opening of the new church, three lights in the chancel were filled with stained glass, *Faith, Hope and Charity*, designed and manufactured by Australia's first stained glass firm,



■ Suffer Little Children and Good Shepherd
MNW Photo Ray J Brown

“

When St Kilda's new Decorated Gothic Presbyterian Church opened for worship in 1886, it was considered 'one of the finest church edifices in the colony'

”



■ **Left:** Good Shepherd cartoon Heritage Victoria
Middle: St Kilda Presbyterian Suffer Little Children detail
Right: Suffer Little Children cartoon Heritage Victoria

Ferguson & Urie of North Melbourne. The five-light window facing Alma Road and the nave windows were plain diamond quarries with coloured margins, staples from the Ferguson & Urie workshop. It was 1892 before another stained glass window was erected as a memorial to George Wilson and his niece, Margaret Watt, formerly of 'Summerland House', Fitzroy Street. Ernest Richard Suffling (1855-1911) of E.R. Suffling of Edgeware Road London, was the designer and maker and it is one of few that the firm shipped to Australia. The collapse of 'Marvellous Melbourne' was underway, and it would take almost a decade before the economy showed signs of recovery.

Decades later, as the 1930s Great Depression gripped the world, St Kilda's Presbyterian church installed *He is Risen* (1935), a memorial to the Reverend David Ross, who had been minister from 1899 until 1933. The *Agony in the Garden* followed in 1949, installed above the church's large honour board as a tribute to the suffering and sacrifice of women in two world wars. Both windows pictured scenes from the life of Christ and were made locally by Melbourne firms, Mathieson & Gibson and Brooks, Robinson & Co respectively.

It was 1949-50 when Mary Oddy commissioned the last of the stained glass windows, *Suffer the Little Children* and *The Good Shepherd*, from Melbourne artist, Mervyn Napier Waller (1893-1972). It was possibly the Reverend Esmond New who suggested Waller as the window's designer. New was an artist himself, an ex-serviceman in the British Navy during the First World War, a chaplain with the RAAF in the Second, and was about to leave for Korea on a confidential mission. New may well have known of Waller's World War I service and recognised his significant artistic achievements since losing his right arm in the battle of Bullecourt in 1917. Waller was engaged on the windows for the Australian War Memorial for which he would become well-

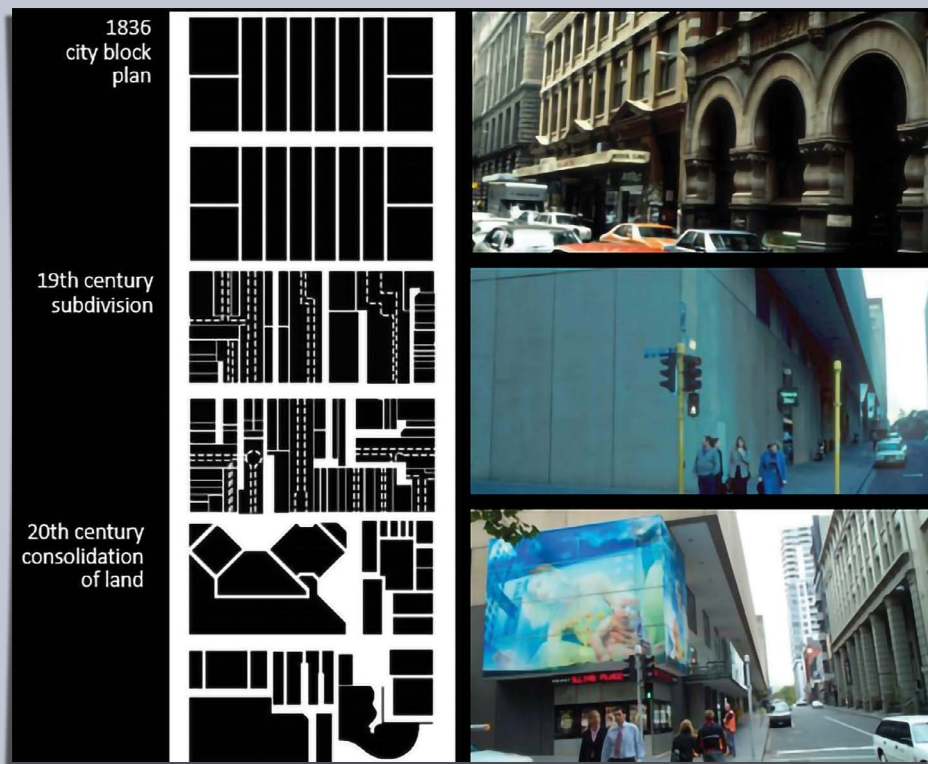
known, but in the late 1940s only a few of his windows were installed in Melbourne churches.

Waller's original cartoon for the Oddy memorial featured children in both lights: the left hand, *Suffer the Little Children*, and a female figure, (a modern Virgin Mary?) in the other. This design was changed to *The Good Shepherd*, a depiction of Jesus surrounded by His disciples, preparing to undertake care of his flock on earth, exemplified by Waller's masterly rendering of the sheep. In the centre of the octofoil above, the *Lamb of God* replaced the original design of children's heads. *The Good Shepherd* was the most popular subject across all denominations after World War II and was in keeping with the earlier window subjects here.

Instead of the stylised seas or landscapes depicted in these previous windows, Waller adapted an Australian native plant, wattle or hakea, to create a background pattern, which his wife Christian had designed for the 1940s aisle windows at Geelong Grammar School Chapel. Christian almost certainly assisted with some of the figures seen in the St Kilda window, and the two artists continued to collaborate on commissions until Christian's death in 1954.

Mary Oddy continued to live in the Alma Road home until her death in February 1957, aged 87. Ezekiel was buried with his first wife, Julia, in the Baptist section of St Kilda Cemetery; Mary was cremated and her ashes scattered at Springvale Botanical Cemetery. St Kilda Presbyterian Church, no longer the centre of life as it had been in the 1880s and with a dwindling congregation, was sold in 2024 and will almost certainly no longer remain a place of worship. Nevertheless, its new life will include one of Napier Waller's exceptional stained glass masterpieces among a diverse series of windows installed over more than 160 years.

Bronwyn Hughes OAM



The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned: launch

Plans showing how the central grid developed and how by the 1970's international architectural solutions were slowly eroding the quality of the streets, for example Collins Place.

I was delighted to have been asked by Richard Broome to launch a book that captures the very essence of our city. 'Essential but Unplanned', what a brilliant description of Melbourne's laneways.

- Essential because they have given our city a distinctive pedestrian system that doubles as a service network for many of our central city buildings.
- Unplanned because they are the product of a Plan, sent by the Governor of New South Wales, with an exceptionally large grid. Speculation in the 19th century subdivided the grid's large blocks to create multiple buildings, and in the process created laneways for access and service to new buildings with a small footprint.

The product of this process has become our city icon. No Opera House or Eiffel Tower but rather a local identity and characteristic infiltrating our urban landscape.

My first encounter with Melbourne's laneways happened in 1983 when I was invited to join a small City of Melbourne team writing a strategy for the next 30 years. The city in the 1980s was in a slump and without a large budget, so the strategy had

to be realistic and capable of incremental implementation, blissfully free of the mega projects which had dominated many of the previous strategy plans.

Fortunately, at this time, Melbourne was blessed with Councillors and Ministers who recognised the essential character of the city and particularly the value of the lanes. They not only valued them but wanted to put a stop to their erosion and loss. In fact, it is fair to say that the reason many of the new politicians had come into office was so they could actively develop a strategy that preserved the character of Melbourne while creating a vibrant downtown. Their stated aim was to transition from a Central Business District (CBD) to a 24/7 Central Activities District (CAD).

The 1985 Strategy Plan that evolved was built on the principle of looking at ourselves and not over our shoulder at others for inspiration. Not a plan of mega project but rather subtle reinforcements of what we already had, valued and could be further improved incrementally over time: a very Melbourne response.

The vision was:

'A twenty-four-hour City that looked and felt like Melbourne'

So naturally the laneways were one of the key characteristics of central Melbourne and had, thankfully, avoided destruction through consolidation of sites, because many of them fell in areas where the remnants of the 40-metre height limit which originally covered the central city still remained.

So why are they so special? We will all have our individual opinions on this but in essence they are:

- Our replacement public space: a replacement for the squares that were never part included in the early plans for the city. Space grows increasingly important since 1992 when the residential population of central Melbourne was 658 residential dwellings and today is over 63,000. With this new population and the laneways transformation to people places hospitality venues increased from 604 in 1985 to close to 2000 today. This brought renewed vitality and employment to the central city.
- Our refuge from the larger streets and their domination by vehicles.
- Our meeting places and where we feed ourselves both physically and emotionally: places to linger, watch and meet people.

- Our Creative places: places for street art or temporary installations, such as the City of Melbourne Lane way commissions.

The transformation of the laneways has been a key component of the conversion of central Melbourne from a CBD to a CAD. They are our exceptional pedestrian system, combined with the 30m and 10m streets which make our central city so walkable.

It is often not recognised that streets and laneways make up 80 per cent of the public realm of our city, and over 90 per cent in central Melbourne. As such: 'If you design a good street, you design a good city'.

In Australia today, as we face the challenges of rapid urbanisation, property affordability and climate change, and in meeting this challenge the lanes offer us lessons in sustainability. They remind us of the importance of adaptation, community spaces, pedestrian-friendly environments, mixed use and walkability.

Our lanes, and their evolution, encourage us to think about how we can design cities which prioritise people over cars, fostering a sense of belonging and connection.

So, as we read this updated version of the book, we realise how important it was that Weston Bate, with the help of the State Library and The City of Melbourne, decided to record their importance in 1994.

Equally important is the fact that Richard Broome, Nicole Davis, Andrew J May and Helen Stitt had the foresight and energy to add a second part to Weston's first edition and tell the story since 1994. Their well documented expanded addition skilfully illustrates the transformation of the laneways as the central city itself has transformed.

I think you will all agree that they have lifted this important book and its stories to a new level, that tells how the transformation of these laneways since 1994 has added to 'The story of Melbourne's Lanes – Essential but unplanned' for all who live

in or visit our special City. They also add weight to the proposition, in this age of waste, demolition and rebuilding, that preserving the characteristics of a city's evolution is an essential part of remaining unique and refreshingly different from other cities. The pride and stewardship of those things we value in our city ensure that others will respect this stewardship and make Melbourne a place where communities wish to reside, investors feel safe to invest and visitors receive a truly Melbourne experience.

I was delighted to officially launch this magnificent book and unreservedly recommend it to you as an important record of how respect for local character, incremental action and stewardship in the transformation of cities benefits us all.

Rob Adams AM

Former General Manager of City Design and Projects at the City of Melbourne.

The Story of Melbourne's Lanes: Essential but Unplanned

Everyone needs a copy of this gorgeous lavishly-illustrated hardback publication from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (in partnership with the SLV). This book reimagines a popular but now well out-of-print book by historian Weston Bate, *Essential but Unplanned. The Story of Melbourne's Lanes* (1994). The new book (280pp) more than doubles the size of the old with extra chapters to bring the story of Melbourne's lanes up-to-date. There is a multitude of new photos – both new and old, both colour and black-and-white - and more comprehensive indices.

"Melbourne's laneways have always been dynamic and always great survivors. Robin Boyd wrote in Victorian Modern in 1947 that, 'The little lanes were the honest streets of Melbourne'. This book proves that still to be the case." Philip Goad



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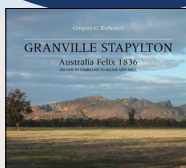
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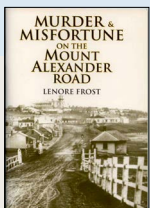
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**Granville Stapylton:
Australia Felix 1836, Second
in Command to Major
Mitchell.**

Gregory C. Eccleston, 2018
~~\$145.00~~ \$109.95

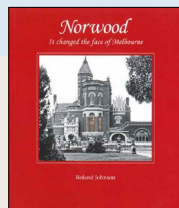
Assistant Surveyor Granville Stapylton's intimate journal, written while serving as Second-in-Command in Major Mitchell's expedition in 'Australia Felix', in 1836, is here published as a faithful transcription from the original field books for the first time. This is a simply gorgeous large format book with the highest production standards. It is copiously illustrated with colour photographs and maps. It was the winner of the 2018 History Publication Award in the Victorian Community History Awards.



**Murder and Misfortune on
the Mount Alexander Road:
Essendon, Moonee Ponds,
Ascot Vale and Flemington,
1840-1866.**

Lenore Frost, 1995
~~\$15.00~~ \$10.00

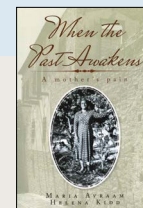
This book is based on selected Coronial inquests between 1840 and 1866. The evidence presented at the inquests were eye-witness accounts of events and conditions in the early days of settlement. Causes of death included riding into trees, visitations of God, strychnine poisoning, drownings, and of course, the occasional murder.



**Norwood: It Changed the
Face of Melbourne.**

Roland Johnson, 2013
~~\$25.00~~ \$15.00

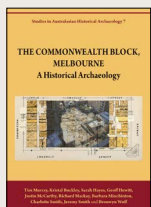
'Norwood', the boom time mansion on the Brighton Esplanade was the best-known home in Melbourne. This work, aimed at the non-history reader seeks to help them appreciate Victorian history by integrating the story of the house and its occupants with events of the 19th and early 20th centuries.



**When the Past Awakens:
a Mother's Pain.**

Helena Kidd, 2019
Paperback ~~\$25.00~~ \$19.50,
hardcover \$35.00
Commendation - Victorian
Community History Awards
2020

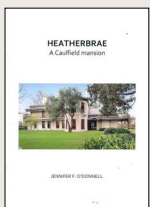
'When The Past Awakens' is Maria Avraam's real and brutally honest account of her life and thoughts, straight from the heart, with emotional intensity. Arriving in Australia from her village in Cyprus presented even more challenges especially when Maria found herself alone, a deserted wife, with three small children to raise. Maria triumphs through the odds and proves to be a survivor.



**The Commonwealth Block,
Melbourne: a Historical
Archaeology.**

Tim Murray et al, 2019
~~\$45.00~~

For much of the 19th and 20th centuries, Melbourne's Little Lonsdale Street, locally known as "Little Lon", was notorious as a foul slum and brothel district, occupied by the itinerant and the criminal. *The Commonwealth Block, Melbourne* tells a different story. This groundbreaking book reports on almost three decades of excavations conducted on the Commonwealth Block: the area bordered by Little Lonsdale, Lonsdale, Exhibition and Spring streets.



**Heatherbrae: a Caulfield
Mansion.**

Jennifer F. O'Donnell, 2023
\$35.00

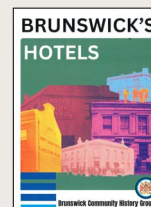
A study of the architecture and past residents of one of Caulfield's earliest surviving houses, Heatherbrae, which dates from the 1860s. Who the original six room villa was built for remains a mystery but from 1875 local John Charles Holland set about turning Heatherbrae into a building worthy of his status.



**Cold War in a Hot Kitchen:
a Memoir of Mid-century
Melbourne.**

Margaret Ann Spence, 2024
~~\$34.95~~

The 1950s. Boring? Hardly. An influx of European refugees, stirrings of feminism, and the threat of a Third World War were remaking Australia. As the Cold War chilled, inside a Melbourne house a young girl was caught in the crossfire of domestic conflict amid the clashing political and social values of her autocratic grand-mother, her self-denying mother, and her glamorous aunt: three women who presented very different models of womanhood.



Brunswick's Hotels.

Brunswick Community
History Group, 2024
\$20.00

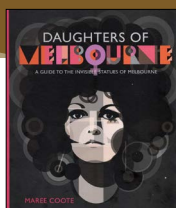
The first edition of this booklet coincided with the National Trust Heritage Week in 1991 which has as its theme Water and Wetlands. Brunswick has no wetlands but its hotels or "watering holes" have been an important part of its development. Many local political, social and sporting clubs have used hotels as their home base. The history of Brunswick is thus inextricably linked to its hotels.

Books received

John Schauble

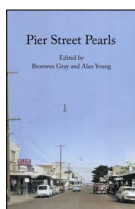
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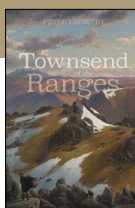
Daughters of Melbourne: a Guide to the Invisible Statues of Melbourne. Maree Coote, Melbournestyle Books, South Melbourne, 2022, pp. 1-160, ISBN 9780648568469.

Framing a history of Melbourne women through the prism of whether or not they have been honoured, or not, through the form of public statuary seems odd. The point, of course, is that exceptional Melbourne women have historically not been accorded the same recognition as many quite mediocre men. The book sets out to examine the lives 50 women and their contributions to the Victoria's history. Such lists are, of course, subjective. More than 30 per cent here are or were entertainers. Missing are some of our more brilliant thinkers and activists.



Pier Street Pearls. Bronwen Gray and Alan Young (eds), New World Arts, Altona, 2023, pp. 1-222, ISBN 0731653580.

This is not a conventional history but a collection of stories reflecting upon the main shopping strip in Altona: Pier Street. Each of the contributors has lived or worked in the street, dating as far back to the early 1930s with some having even earlier family connections. Altona is one of those oft overlooked enclaves of Melbourne's western suburbs: too industrial for some, despite a fine beach. These individual stories detail the lives of ordinary people, including several post-war immigrants, who came from all over Europe looking for a new life or simply a new adventure. Collectively it provides a quite different perspective to the more structured accounting of many local histories.



Townsend of the Ranges. Peter Crowley, National Library of Australia Publishing, Canberra, 2024, pp. 1-352, ISBN 9781922507693.

This biography of a surveyor, Thomas Scott Townsend, is an important new addition to the understanding of the earliest years of white settlement in Victoria. While now largely forgotten, Mt Townsend (Targangil) in NSW, Australia's second highest peak, is named for him. Townsend spent his working life in the NSW Surveyor-General's Department. He undertook several surveys around the Port Phillip District, including at Portland and into Gippsland. Townsend produced what was effectively the first map of Gippsland in the early 1840s, paving the way for squatters. Crowley notes the harsh European conflict with the region's indigenous inhabitants that coincided with Townsend's story.



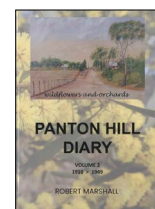
Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues: 30 Years. Adrian Jackson and Andra Jackson, Melbourne Books, Melbourne, 2022, pp. 1-342, ISBN 978192556599.

Running a festival of any kind is problematic these days, so to direct one for 26 years as Adrian Jackson did, and for the festival to still survive, is a major achievement. This account by Jackson and his journalist sister Andra will be of most interest to jazz aficionados. Rich in detail it charts how a rural city with no real link to jazz embraced the concept and its execution, with local leaders alert to the benefits it could bring. The book is also an important record of Australian jazz and musicians over that time. The festival faltered in 2019, was crippled by COVID but revived in 2023 and again last year.



No One Knows Their Destiny: the Eckfeld Records: Inside the Dunera Story. Tonia Eckfeld, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2024, pp. 1-210, ISBN 9781922979780.

The general tale of the 'Dunera' scandal is well known. In September 1940, around 2000 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria were arrested by the British authorities as 'enemy aliens', and shipped to Australia with other POWs. The individual stories of the internees who were held in camps in Victoria, South Australia and NSW are still emerging more than 80 years later. Tonia Eckfeld tells of her father Reinhold and uncle Waldemar Eckfeld who ended up in Melbourne. While many 'Dunera Boys' would go on to make successful lives and contributions to their new country, many others were deeply traumatised by the experience of flight, arrest and internment. This book sheds some light on that experience.



Panton Hill diary. Robert Marshall, the author, Panton Hill, Vol 1, 2020, pp. i-545, ISBN 9780645013610; Vol.2, 2021, pp. i-591, ISBN 97806456013603; Vol.3, 2022, pp. i-ISBN5729780645013627.

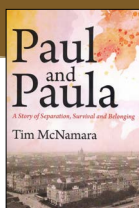
This remarkable undertaking, totalling more than 1500 pages, is the work of Robert Marshall, noted architect, twice shire president of both the Eltham and Nillumbik shires, sometime commissioner of the MMBW, now retired to Spain. It is based upon extensive research, the author's own diaries, an extraordinary collection of images and the recollections of many locals. Volume 1, *Gold*, traces from pre-European settlement to 1909, Volume 2, *Wildflowers and Orchards* from 1910-49 and Volume 3, *Carefree* from 1950-69. As a chronology of a Victorian, once rural community, it is probably without parallel in terms of detail.

Books received

John Schauble

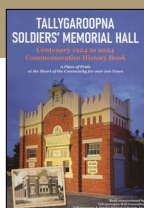
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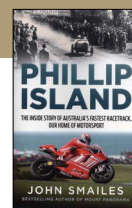
Paul and Paula: a Story of Separation, Survival and Belonging. Tim McNamara, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2023, pp. vii-199, ISBN 9781922979377.

This very moving story captures much of the dislocation of WWII through the story of Paul and Paula Kurz, reconstructed by Tim McNamara who, as a young man, was befriended by Paul despite a half-century age difference. With the guilelessness of youth, the author failed to fully engage with the depth of Paul's life story while he was alive, only to pursue it intensely years after his death. A Viennese Jew, Kurz escaped to London in 1939 without Paula, who stayed to care for ageing parents, only to be swept up as a 'Dunera' internee. He would not see his wife for eight years until she finally joined him in Melbourne.



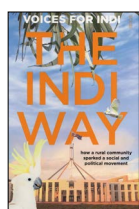
Tallygaroopna Soldiers' Memorial Hall Centenary 1924 to 2024 Commemorative History Book. Beverley Moss, B.J. Guest-Smith Publishing, Tallygaroopna, 2024, pp. 1-136, ISBN 9780645585629.

While many communities across Victoria were content with a stone obelisk or a piece of digger statuary to honour the service of locals at the end of WWI, some sought a more utilitarian form of commemoration. Tallygaroopna, near Shepparton, put its money into a soldiers' memorial hall, still serving the community a century later. Eight of the 43 locals who served in that war, out of a population of 351, never returned. The substantial brick building, topped with a German 'trophy' mortar gun, marks their service. This book commemorates the 'Tally Hall' itself and the central place it has played in community life as a venue for all manner of events and celebrations.



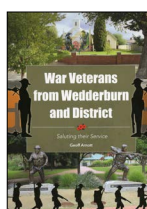
Phillip Island: the Inside Story of Australia's Fastest Race Track, Our Home of Motorsport. John Smailes, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2024, pp. ix-370, ISBN 9781761471216.

Phillip Island is a treasured destination for many Victorians for various reasons and at least for some it is synonymous with motor sports. This is a history of a popular sport that forms part of the island's history. Motorcycle and car racing have been part of the island since 1928, when a 100-mile race which would become the Australian Grand Prix for cars was held on a street circuit. The current track was first opened in 1952 and in the early 1960s it was home to the Armstrong 500, precursor of the Bathurst 1000. This discursive tale will be of most interest to motor racing fans.



The Indi Way: How a Rural Community Sparked a Social and Political Movement. Voices for Indi, Scribe, Panton Hill, 2023, pp. 1-389, ISBN 9781761380341.

Australians often profess disinterest in politics only to take remarkable action when it suits. The election of independent Cathy McGowan to the federal Victorian seat of Indi in 2013 was one such occasion. Of course, there had been independent members elected before, but the Indi outcome presaged a more enduring shift away from the dominant two-party division which had marked Australian politics for decades. The election of a raft of so-called "Teal" independents at the last poll was the latest outcome of a shift in which electors signalled that the arrogance of incumbency does not secure office. This story is told by those on the ground about how they triggered change in Australian political history.



War Veterans from Wedderburn and District. Geoff Arnott, Wedderburn Historical Records Museum, Wedderburn, 2023, pp. i-412, ISBN 9780646938127.

Geoff Arnott has written three volumes commemorating the war service of locals in three different Victorian communities, along with several other local histories. The Wedderburn community has contributed servicemen and women to every conflict since the Boer War and none more famous than Albert Jacka VC MC, the first Australian awarded the Victoria Cross in WWI. Jacka, along with his brothers Bill and Sydney, grew up in the central Victorian gold town and all served in and survived the war. This comprehensive book details the military connections of Wedderburn up to the Iraq war in the early 2000s. Like Arnott's other compendiums it looks at the context of service and life after service for the community.



Kicking Against the Wind: 150 Years at the Portarlington Football Netball Club. Rick Wilkinson with Peter Ashton, Portarlington Football Netball Club, Portarlington, 2024 pp. 1-190, ISBN 9780646896816.

A history marking 150 years of a local football netball club is a remarkable thing, given that the first Australian football team is just 16 years older. The netballers have done a little better; the club a pioneer of the family-oriented joint sport model now common across local clubs throughout Australia. The rise and fall of clubs, amalgamations and ever-shifting leagues is common across Victoria. Stories like that of Portarlington are above all about community, of great interest to those with a personal connection but equally important as social histories of the towns and communities they represent.