



History NEWS

Issue No. 333
November - 2017
Royal Historical Society
of Victoria

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Women on the Land



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: CHANGING FACES

Members will be aware that Ged Horgan and Kate Prinsley resigned from the RHSV a few weeks ago. A tribute to them will be found elsewhere in this *History News*, but I wish to add my personal thanks for their work and contribution over many years, and to wish them well.

The Council has moved quickly and smoothly to make new appointments. First, we were very fortunate that Farzana Ahmed, who was already working part-time at the front desk, applied for the position of Administration Officer and accepted our offer to take on the full-time role. Farzana is not only a welcoming face at reception where most people will meet her, she is very well qualified to take on the diverse financial and administrative roles that make up the position. She has a Bachelor of Commerce from Griffith University with a major in Accounting, and has worked in a number of roles in Melbourne, Brisbane and the UK, mainly involving finance and administration.



Farzana Ahmed RHSV Administration Officer

The RHSV has appointed Rosemary Cameron as Executive Officer. Rosemary was lately the Administrator for the Professional Tour Guide Association of Australia, and earlier in her career she was the CEO & Director of the Melbourne Writers Festival and of the Brisbane Writers Festival, Principal of her own Arts consultancy business, and Events Manager for the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. Her qualifications include a B.A from the University of Queensland and a partial Bachelor of Commerce.



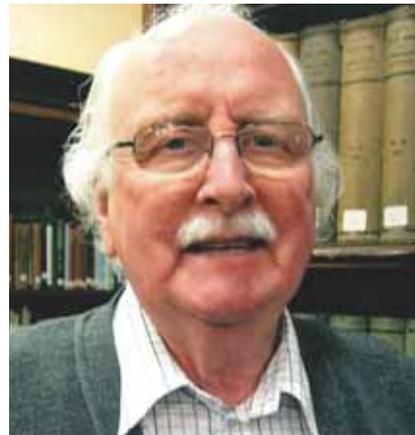
Rosemary Cameron RHSV Executive Officer

On behalf of the RHSV I warmly welcome our two new faces and look forward to working with them as the RHSV continues to grow and achieve.

There has also been a change of faces in the RHSV delegates to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies' Council. Emeritus Professor Richard Broome has stood down because of pressures on his time, and RHSV Vice President Elisabeth Jackson has taken his place. I express my gratitude to both – to Richard for what he has done and to Elisabeth for the contribution she will make. Margaret Anderson is the other RHSV delegate.

On other matters, the Victorian Community History Awards were held on 16 October, including the inaugural Victorian Premier's History Award for the top prizewinner. I thank all those involved at the RHSV and the Public Record Office Victoria, but especially RHSV Secretary Carole Woods who for many years has been the principal promoter, organizer and judge. We all owe Carole a great debt.

Don Garden



John Mercer a genial man and a much-valued volunteer passed away in early October. John regularly captioned the picture of the month on our webpage, made boxes for our archive collection and assisted in other ways.

History NEWS



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Members of the Rankin family at 'Hillcrest' Farm, Kurnwill, Victoria, c.1930.

Note the modern bobbed haircuts of the mother and eldest daughter.

Photo courtesy of Museums Victoria,

<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/772850>

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Vale Weston Arthur Bate

OAM FRHSV (1924-2017)

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and the community History movement in Victoria is saddened by the passing of one its greatest sons, Professor Weston Bate on 31 October.

Weston Bate was born in Surrey Hills Melbourne, son of Mary Olive Akers, a Californian, and Ernest Bate an English-born electrical engineer. He attended Surrey Hills primary for three years before moving to Scotch College where he excelled in cricket and football. He worked out of school hours for a grocer in Hamilton Street Mont Albert, observing the community's characters. In January 1943 aged eighteen, he entered the Empire Air Training Scheme, went to England for two years, but was spared much combat by a surfeit of pilots and then the end of the war in Europe.

After the War, Weston enrolled at the University of Melbourne in a BA under a serviceman's tertiary scholarship and was soon captivated by History under the tutelage of Max Crawford, John O'Brien and Kathleen Fitzpatrick. Weston began teaching at Brighton Grammar in 1949, under the headship of Philip Wilson his future father-in-law taking teacher training classes each afternoon.

He began a part time MA in 1950 on the history of Brighton, while teaching part time. His use of maps and ratebooks gave him a marvellous grounding in the people and places of Brighton. His marriage to life-long partner Janice Wilson in 1955, and four of their six children being born before 1962, delayed publication of the ground breaking *A History of Brighton* (1962, 1983). It subsequently inspired many other local histories with its expansive research, deep sense of place and its passionate writing. Its 50th anniversary was celebrated in November 2012 by a grand dinner at the Savage Club, and a conference, papers from which appeared in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, issue 279, June 2013.

After fifteen years of teaching at Brighton Grammar and Melbourne Grammar, Weston was appointed to the History Department at the University of Melbourne in 1965, where he became a passionate and inspiring lecturer. He taught Australian History and was most fervent about the gold rush period in Victorian history, which he considered foundational in Victoria's history. He became Professor of Australian Studies at Deakin University in 1978 before retiring in 1989.

If his *History of Brighton* set new standards in local history, *Lucky City* (1978) and his second volume of Ballarat's history, *Life After Gold* (1993) set new heights in goldfields community history. His research and writing assisted the creation of Sovereign Hill, which honours him with the Weston Bate annual lecture. In retirement Weston wrote histories of Geelong and Melbourne Grammar, histories of the Metropolitan and Barwon Heads golf clubs (for he was a skilled player into his nineties), a wonderful book on Melbourne laneways and other publications. Recently he contributed three chapters to *Remembering Melbourne* (2016). Weston also published a chat book of love poems to the Mornington Peninsula, *Haphazard Quilt* (2006).

Weston's lifelong brilliance as a lecturer was still evident only last year when he gave a lecture at the RHSV with just a few notes in hand, delivered with the usual Bate vigour. His theme was the grassroots of Victoria's social and political colonial culture. In a talk of sweeping majesty, he explained how the gold generation in Victoria had a

different experience to the diggers of New South Wales. This led to a radical liberalism in Victoria that was different to the class politics north of the border, later expressed as Deakinite liberalism and in the Harvester Judgement of H.B. Higgins for a living wage.

Weston served on the Museum Advisory Board in the 1980s. He was a long-time member of the RHSV and awarded a Fellowship in 1991. Weston, a benefactor of the RHSV, served on the Council for fifteen years from 1990 and was President 1991-97 and 2002-05. While president for eleven years, he spoke to a historical society most weeks, and led many excursions to local societies in regional Victoria. His greatest gift was to energise all those he met and to inspire historical societies across the state to pursue history with more skill, passion and tenacity.

Weston's energy was immense, his speaking style dynamic, and his engaging personality marked by a sense of fun and a beaming face. He attended the latest annual Weston Bate lecture at Sovereign Hill less than two weeks before his death from cancer. He rose to make perceptive concluding comments on the lecture. Weston always felt things deeply; radiated Victorian radical liberalism; and expressed outrage about the loss of heritage in Melbourne and his beloved Brighton. He participated in a heritage fight for Dendy Street Beach in his last weeks.

He is survived by his wife Janice Bate, their children James, Lyndon, Nicholas, Christopher, Tristan and Rosemary, and, their partners and their families. His last days were spent peacefully at Cabrini Prahran with close friends and his much loved and loving family by his side. His was a passionate life force finally quelled.

Richard Broome



Stylish and vivacious as always; Janice and Weston Bate at the Weston Bate Lecture Sovereign Hill, October 2015. Courtesy Sovereign Hill.

Do We Belong Here?

Reflections on Family, Locality and Community Address to the Victorian Community History Awards 16 October 2017

‘Do we belong here?’ The questioner was the famous historian, the late Manning Clark. Not the bearded prophet of his mature years, but a clean-shaven young apprentice-historian recently returned from Oxford. When he posed his question in 1943 he was newly married with a young child, had been found unfit for military service, and was marking time, rather unhappily, as a history teacher at Geelong Grammar. In an essay, entitled ‘A Letter to Tom Collins’ published in the new literary magazine *Meanjin*, he voiced the frustrations of his personal situation as well as his anxieties about Australia’s future. ‘Civilisation with us is artificial’, he wrote. ‘We must ask the dreadful question: Do we belong here?’

Clark was not the first Australian to ask this question and, in a way, it still haunts us. Depending on where you place the accent, it may be heard in different ways. Do we belong *here*? That is, do we belong in Australia and not in some other land? Do we *belong* here? Or are we just sojourners, passing through? Do *we* belong here? Or are we trespassers in someone else’s land?

For a long while, we Australians were exiles, second-hand Europeans living on an alien shore. Even in my own childhood older members of my family still called England ‘Home’. Clark knew that he did not belong *there*, in the England he had so recently left. Nor did he feel at home at Geelong Grammar, an Australian replica of an English public school. His family links with Australia went back to the earliest years of British settlement through his famous ancestor, the parson Samuel Marsden, but his question was not just a personal one. Like many of his generation, he felt suspended between two worlds. Australian history, to the extent that it was studied at all, was a footnote to the history of Empire.

When Clark called Australian civilization ‘artificial’, however, he was comparing it, not just with the ancient civilisations of Europe, but with the culture of the people the European settlers had dispossessed. He was asking ‘Do *we* – we European Australians – belong here?’ In his published essay he denied any suggestion that Australia still belonged to the Aborigines, but in his diary he confessed that the history of their dispossession still haunted him.

In 1943 nobody knew quite how deep was the Aboriginal past. Only twenty years later did one of Clark’s students, the archaeologist John Mulvaney, complete a dig at Fromm’s Landing on the Murray that demonstrated,

for the first time, that it stretched far back before the last Ice Age, about 15,000 years. Now, when we ask the question ‘Do we belong here?’ we inevitably think of the people whose history goes back 50,000 years and whose spiritual connections to their country challenge us to a radical rethinking of our own.

As I grew up, and even after I first began to write about the history of Melbourne, I was almost blind to the Aboriginal past. As a boy, I played in Lincoln Park, an untidy five-acre triangle of land bounded by pines and eucalypts close to my home in Essendon. Just recently I discovered, thanks to an article by Fred Cahir in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, that Lincoln Park was once a ceremonial meeting place for the Wauthurong and Dja-Dja-Wurrung people. There they gathered yams and built bonfires in preparation for their dancing. We children had no idea, as we romped in the darkness around our Empire Day bonfires, that we were dancing in the footsteps of a people who had gathered there, probably, from time immemorial. When I last looked, there was no plaque or memorial to remind a passer-by of that forgotten phase of Essendon’s past. Surely there should be one.

The politics of plaques and monuments are once again in the news. There have been appeals on behalf of Indigenous Australians to correct or delete the historically inaccurate or offensive inscriptions on some monuments, like the statue of Captain Cook in Sydney, and those of other dead white males. Some even suggest that we should remove the monuments altogether. Perhaps the cairns erected by the founders of the [Royal] Historical Society of Victoria to mark the routes of explorers across the Victorian countryside will be slated for demolition. Once the underground rail loop is finished, Burke and Wills, some propose, should be banished from their place of honour opposite the Town Hall to some out-of-the-way location. I’m all in favour of new memorials, and of supplementing old ones, where necessary, with more accurate or complete inscriptions; but I would be sorry to see the destruction or removal of the old ones, even when they embody a discredited view of the past. They are signposts in our evolving understanding of the past, appropriate sites for instruction, self-examination and reflection. Remove them and we risk losing our bearings.

Sometimes, on a sunny day, I cycle along the lovely river Yarra trail through Heidelberg. I often pause to take in the view across a billabong towards Banyule, the Gothic

homestead erected by the overlander Joseph Hawden in 1842, just a few years after he had seized the land from the Wurundjeri. In conjuring up the romantic image an English squire, Hawden sought to legitimate that recent history of dispossession. Near where I stop, the council has now erected a sign reminding us that the ‘high hill’ on which the homestead stands, and from which the name ‘Banyule’ derives, is part of the ‘Heartland of the Wurundjeri willam, or white tree dwellers’ and the billabong was one of their favourite fishing places. I know few other places around Melbourne where the clash between settler and Indigenous is so dramatically visible in the landscape. It is a beautiful, but also an uncomfortable, place. Do we belong there? I don’t know; but in pondering its lessons we are surely brought a step closer.

We are here, today, to honour some of our fellow Victorians who have given their own fresh, insightful answers to Clark’s dreadful question. We live in a restless, mobile suburban society, and our lives are divided between the scattered places where we work, live and play. In a globalised world, the ties that connect us to family, place and community may become so frayed that we wonder whether we belong, or are just birds of passage. That’s why history is so important: it reinforces the ties that bind us to the land and to each other.

Two years ago, I was thrilled to receive a Victorian Community History Award for my book *Lost Relations: Fortunes of my Family in Australia’s Golden Age*. Although I am a professional historian, I had long avoided family history until, stimulated by a visit from my sister who has lived in England for many years, I led a little expedition of partners, cousins and children to our ancestral home on Wesley Hill, near Castlemaine. There we inspected the odd little house built by my great-great grandfather, the carpenter Robert Hewett in 1857 and visited the graves of Robert and his wife Elizabeth, an impoverished London needlewoman, in the Campbell’s Creek cemetery.

Family history is the most popular gateway to Australian history. When Australians are asked when they feel most connected to the past, they are likely to speak, first of all, about their family past: about looking at family photograph albums, at the name of an ancestor on a local war memorial, or at the epitaph in a country churchyard. The digital revolution has transformed genealogy, bringing the world’s archives and libraries to our desktops. Yet, as I note in my book, the

excitement of connecting with kin, living and dead, in cyberspace, cannot replace the experience of knowing and seeing the places they inhabited or of finding their traces in the ink, paper and stone of past eras. 'When we pause by the grave of a forebear, or recover a fragment of their everyday lives', I suggested, 'we are engaged in something akin to what Aboriginal people do when they go 'Back to Country'.

Family history and local history are inextricably connected. Only when we place the family story in its local or community setting do we truly understand it. Only when we walk in the paths of our ancestors, do we begin to feel that we belong. So, sorry Ancestry.com, it's not just your fingers but also your feet; not just your software but your boots and rainwear that you need when you do family history.

When we ask the question 'Do I belong here?' we join a long conversation in Western societies. Is our sense of belonging to our community or nation based on an age-old ancestral connection to the land, as the German Romantics believed? Or is it based on our living connections with each other as neighbours, friends, and fellow citizens, as the French and American Republicans believed? Some years ago the historian

Patrick O'Farrell suggested substituting the term 'community history' for the older term 'local history'. He recognised that, in a fast-changing urban society, community is not necessarily just local - and that was before social media drew us into a myriad of communities, virtual as well as geographical.

Some people now question whether community - in the sense of an intimate, bounded, face-to face community - exists any more. Often, it seems to me, community is a bit like a sleeping dog, apparently dead to the world until something comes along to stir it into action - perhaps an unwelcome freeway development, the demolition of a familiar landmark, an attack on a precious piece of parkland or the threat to a loved community institution. Community, the American historian Thomas Bender writes, is more like a happening than a place. In writing, re-enacting, commemorating and defending our history, community comes alive in the present. The books and projects we honour today attest to the strength of this vital link between past and present. They are vivid, heart-warming, thought-provoking, affirmative answers to Manning Clark's 'dreadful question'. Yes, they say, we do belong here.

Graeme Davison

This talk draws on several previous publications: *The Use and Abuse of Australian History* (2000), chapter 11 Community; 'Rethinking the Australian Legend', *Australian Historical Studies*, 43/3, 2012; *Lost Relations: The Fortunes of My Family in Australia's Golden Age* (2015) and *The City Dreamers: The Urban Imagination in Australia* (2016), Afterword City Dreaming. Fred Cahir's article is in *Victorian Historical Journal*, 14/85, 2014 and Thomas Bender's idea of community in his *Community and Social Change in America* (1978).



Emeritus Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor Graeme Davison delivers the VCHA address. Courtesy PROV.

Friends of the History Council of Victoria

The History Council of Victoria (HCV), the peak body for history in Victoria, has a Friends program to support its advocacy of history and its value for Victorians.

Inaugurated by the Minister for Education in 2001, and incorporated in 2003, the HCV now has fifteen-member organisations, including professional associations, collecting organisations and universities, each of which appoints a representative to the Board. The RHSV's current representative is Adjunct Professor, Judith Smart.

The HCV seeks to enhance and support the programs of its member organisations. The HCV Chair, Dr Liz Rushen, says, 'We see our role as complementary to each of our members, because we advocate for history and heritage of all kinds. Our vision is to connect Victorians with history and to inspire engagement with the past, their identity and the world today'.

The HCV brings together the different education and cultural sectors that shape our historical imagination—teachers, academics, students, policy-makers, professional researchers and writers, local and community historians, heritage activists, curators, archivists, librarians and media specialists, and the many organisations that support their work. Its activities include the 'Making Public Histories' seminar series (organised in collaboration with Monash University and the Old Treasury Building), an Annual Lecture, and the History Roadshow for VCE History students in rural and regional Victoria (funded by the Department of Education & Training).

To extend the HCV's potential and to offer current and future supporters a way to engage, the HCV has initiated a Friends program at an annual subscription fee of \$30. Visit www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends for further information.



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Farewell to Two Stalwarts

The period around the end of September proved a momentous time in the recent history of the RHSV with the loss of our Executive Officer Kate Prinsley and the administration officer Gerardine Horgan. Both decided to move to new challenges after over a decade at the RHSV.

Ged arrived in 2003 and was regarded with respect and affection by RHSV volunteers and members, and members of fellow historical societies. In addition to being financial officer, Ged was formidable at multi-tasking. She was important in organising and increasing revenue from our insurance scheme with a sixteen per cent increase in the insurance membership of local historical societies. She also helped increase the income from site searches undertaken by volunteers by over 400 per cent from 2004. As past president Andrew Lemon opined at Ged's farewell lunch, and in keeping with Grand Final season, Ged was the RHSV's most valuable utility player. John Rose followed with an original poem, extolling Ged. She would have won many best and fairest awards had they been instituted at the RHSV.

Kate Prinsley arrived in 2005 and made her mark on the RHSV. In twelve years she has brought in over \$2 million in grant money to the society, encouraged some wonderful donations, and helped to run some of our significant programs such as History Week, Book Week, and the Victorian Community History Awards to name a few. The RHSV became a much more complex and higher profiled organisation under Kate's time as Executive Officer. Kate also helped drive the turnaround in our finances, which has seen us in the black each year from 2005 after several years of sizeable deficits. The personalities of Kate and Ged made the RHSV a hospitable and friendly place. RHSV President Don Garden and Secretary Carole Woods praised Kate's work at her farewell morning tea on 4 October, amidst much packing up. John Rose on behalf of many volunteers honoured Kate with an original poem.

The RHSV 'Club' has lost two key members of its leadership group but, following a focused off-season, will front 2018 with renewed vigour.

Richard Broome



Ged Horgen (left) and Kate Prinsley by Christine Worthington

History Victoria Support Group in 2018

The HVSG is a key way the RHSV supports its member societies particularly through enhanced training and networking.

RHSV Councillor Alleyne Hockley is the HVSG Convenor for 2018. Alleyne is planning three sessions in 2018, the first being on 28 April 2018 (9.30am to 3.30pm) at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, Lilydale. The program will be available in the February issue of History News.

Alleyne from Castlemaine is seeking a city-based volunteer willing to assist with administering the HVSG by organising and advertising the session among historical societies in the relevant region.

If you are that person contact Alleyne through the RHSV volunteer channels, collections@historyvictoria.org.au



Alleyne Hockley



RHSV Councillor Richard Broome helped Amalia Di Iorio present the RHSV Prize in Australian History for 2016 to La Trobe University student Amy Hodgson, at the prize giving at La Trobe in July.

Halls of Fame

‘One of the Best’: The Moyarra School

Blink and you could miss it. Perched on ‘a high grassy knoll’ within one of South Gippsland’s green valleys, is a small white building, behind a line of elms and a border of cypress. ‘Is it a hall, a school, a church?’, people wonder as they flash past on their winding way to Victoria’s Bass Coast. In its lifetime of 110 years, the building has been all three. And in each of its incarnations it has been the centre of life for the small South Gippsland community of Moyarra, just 14 kilometres from Korumburra and 120 kilometres from Melbourne.

The ‘Moyarra School’ as it is known today was built in 1907 by local people. Before that, children had a 3 to 4 kilometre walk to school in nearby Outtrim or Jumbunna. ‘Too far’ said some, but the Department of Education disagreed. ‘I urge the necessity for establishing a school’, wrote William Elms to his local member of parliament. ‘We have decided to find the building so the Department will only have to find us a teacher’. True to their pioneering tradition of ‘doing it yourselves’, the locals built their school in a matter of weeks, on an acre of land donated by William Rainbow.

In early May 1907 Mr H. J. Robertson from the neighbouring Outtrim State School visited the works and reported progress to the District Inspector who had first opposed the project: ‘The residents are erecting one of the best country school buildings I have seen’, he wrote. The school opened soon afterwards with seventeen children. The Department paid the teacher, and 5 rent per annum. Although it became Leased State School No.3556, its origins would later preserve its place within the community.

A deed of trust entitled ‘In the Matter of the Moyarra School’ set out the principles by which the building was to be used. Three trustees were appointed to oversee its management. It was soon agreed that on Sundays the school could be used for church services and Sunday School classes by the Presbyterian Church. For many children the building was part of their lives six days a week.

In early 1916 the school’s teacher, Raymond Aubrey Gardiner, or ‘Rags’ to his pupils, enlisted for the Great War. So too did many of the former pupils. His own students had farewelled their brothers and uncles. By 1917, 28 young men associated with the Moyarra School and its Sunday School had enlisted for overseas service. To honour their commitment the district, people commissioned and erected a

decorative board in local blackwood with gold lettering recording their names. It was unveiled in November 1917. By 1918, eight men had been killed in action, including teacher, ‘Rags’ Gardiner.

The Honour Board remained a quiet memorial. Douglas Gow recalled: ‘As a young boy in Grade 4, I was seated almost in front of the Honour Roll and recall that I had almost memorised their names during those dull moments in class’. The Moyarra School in its own unique way became a hall of remembrance.

In 1972, enrolments at Moyarra Leased State School had declined to seven students who were subsequently transferred elsewhere. ‘We loved that school. We didn’t want it to close’, declared Donald Van Rooye, one of the last pupils. Fortunately, due to its origin as a ‘leased’ school, the building remained. Bruce Paterson, the last president and trustee of the school committee pronounced: ‘The school will be kept operating as a community centre’ and this transpired.

In 2006, with the school’s centenary approaching, the building was spruced up and the honour roll restored. The book, ‘Still Going Strong’ was launched to commemorate the district’s Great War soldiers. A ‘Back To’ in 2007 saw many locals return to celebrate a century of community life. A small booklet: ‘One of the Best’ was published, recording that history.

In 2017 the Moyarra School is still our community hall. It hosts casserole teas, community barbeques and a Christmas party. A Ladies Group meets monthly to raise funds for cancer research. The large meeting room with its adjacent kitchen, modern toilet and outside shelter, provide a venue for Landcare meetings, birthday parties, family reunions and the occasional wedding. The School is under the management of an incorporated committee. There is a roster for mowing and regular working bees. Apart from a small annual grant from the local shire, the school is self-supporting. The tradition of getting things done and doing it yourself continues. Moyarra’s ‘hall of fame’ remains a testament to the vision of its founders 110 years ago and the community spirit by which it endures.

Jillian Durance



Moyarra School 1920c Courtesy Miss Mabel Rainbow collection



Moyarra Hall 2006 Courtesy Jillian Durance

Our Newest Councillor is a Lifelong Learner

Dr Noel Turner was elected to Council at the May 2017 AGM. Noel is a Gippslander, being born at Warragul and raised in Drouin, where he attended primary and high school. He left school in Year Eleven to take a position with the English, Scottish and Australasia Bank, now the ANZ Bank. He completed Year Twelve while working for the ANZ. In 1976 he began a four-year Bachelor of Education degree and then became a teacher for nine years. He taught Australian History, English and English as a Second Language. Despite his busy life as a high school teacher he completed a Master of Educational Studies part time at Monash University.

Noel left teaching in 1993 for the freedom of self-employment, entering retail, then running a child care centre and finally he became a book importer and distributor. Noel was Treasurer of the Lottery Agents' Association of Victoria for four years. His interest in books enticed him to further study and he completed a Master of Arts in

Publishing at Monash University.

Noel then began a PhD at Monash University. His thesis was completed this year after years of painstaking academic research. Noel's research examined murders within Victoria and how they could be used as lenses into different historical periods in order that social change and the evolution of the Australian Dream could be investigated. His thesis led to an involvement with the Australian & New Zealand Society of Criminology, for which he acted as Treasurer for four years. His research on murders throughout Victoria from the 1830s to the present continues. He is now focussing on the exact locations around Victoria where murders occurred.

Noel is still employed part-time with the Melbourne Cricket Club, where he has been for forty-nine years a match-day supervisor at the MCG. Noel's other interest is aviation. He is one of relatively few people, who are not commercial pilots, who have landed a plane at Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine.

Noel has a long interest in Australian History. Joining the RHSV's Council is a logical progression of this interest, and builds on his skills in running businesses and engaging in lifelong learning. The RHSV is fortunate to have Noel's involvement on Council.

Richard Broome



Noel Turner RHSV Councillor



Benjamin has been volunteering with the RHSV since March this year, and as part of his time here, he has applied his efforts to researching select pieces from the manuscripts collection. Originally joining the Society as part of a community engagement class at the Australian Catholic University, Benjamin stayed on – enjoying his time with the RHSV, and eager to learn the ins-and-outs of working in a historical society. Composing articles on manuscripts, Ben's last piece for the Society was 'The Last Cable Tram of Melbourne', which illuminated the history of the original Northcote cable

tramway and the Clifton Hill to Northcote and Preston Tramway Company. Currently, he is working on a larger piece, revolving around the early formation of Caulfield, William Murray Ross and his namesake - Rosstown. Following his work on Murray Ross is a planned article on Isaac Selby, both his attempted preservation of the Old Melbourne Cemetery, and his text - The Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne. Ben is in his last semester of study, as part of his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in both History and Literature, wherein his time is

also occupied by the ACU Scholars Program. His personal interests in history range from early Melbourne industrialists to Arctic exploration, and he hopes to either secure a position as a graduate intern for the public service, or a place in postgraduate studies in urban heritage and conservation. His ultimate aim however is to continue working hands on with the preservation and research of Melbourne's history.

Ben Petkov

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Belonging: the Victorian Community History Awards 2017

Associate Professor Don Garden, president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, welcomed about 260 guests to the Victorian Community History Awards prize-giving ceremony on Monday 16 October. The venue was the gracious Pavilion room in the Arts Centre. Don reminded guests that the RHSV had administered the History Awards in partnership with the Public Record Office Victoria since 2011. He thanked the three main judges, Carole Woods, Dr Joan Hunt and Dr Gary Presland, and the judges of the History Article category, Professor Joy Damousi, Professor Alistair Thomson and Professor Warwick Anderson. Special thanks went to Tara Oldfield and her team at PROV, and to the project officer Janice Haynes.

Don introduced the speakers and the MC Judy Maddigan, former MP and currently president of the Public Records Advisory Council. Catherine Andrews, historian and archivist, standing in for Special Minister of State, the Hon Gavin Jennings, assured the 148 entrants that their individual stories would become interwoven with the general narrative of Victoria.



John Burch winner of Victorian Premier's prize with Don Garden and Catherine Andrews. Courtesy of PROV

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison based his address on a question posed by Manning Clark as a young historian in 1943, 'Do We Belong Here?' The question was one that preoccupied many Australians of European descent who felt a sense of exile. At that time the study of Australian history, which might have provided something of an anchor, was in its infancy. When surveying contemporary trends, Graeme found a similar sense of dislocation in a restless, mobile, globalised society with little attachment to place and community, and a focus on information from cyberspace.

As suggested by the name of the competition, the VCHA displayed a counter trend: a profound sense of place, strong community ties and recognition of the ways in which manuscripts can connect the reader to the subject across centuries. Identification with place was powerfully exemplified in John Burch's *Returning the Kulkynne*. The Fletcher Jones entry, which won the Collaborative Community Award, was inseparable from Warrnambool; the study of *The Red Brick Legacy of H.D. McBean*, which claimed the Small Publication Award, enhanced the attraction of Castlemaine. Ros Stirling's *Joseph Reed and the Making of Marvellous Melbourne*, winner of the Multimedia Award, explored Reed's remarkable architectural achievements culminating in the Exhibition Building, which put Melbourne on the international heritage map of place

Community bonding, a constant theme in the competition, was best expressed in *Discover Historic Kyneton*. Members of a local group spurred one another on for twenty years to perfect their tribute to Kyneton and take out the Historical Interpretation Award. A dedicated city group continues to extend their project on *Notable People of Collingwood*, winner of the Local History prize.

The handwritten garden diaries of Michael Morrison inspired the prose of Lisa Clausen and her evocation of seasonal change at Cruden Farm; this beautiful book was awarded the Judges' Special Prize

In 2017 the Victorian Premier, the Hon Daniel Andrews, bestowed the title Victorian Premier's History Award on the highest

VCHA prize, thus further increasing the prestige of the popular competition first held at Toongabbie on Australia Day 1998. Catherine Andrews presented this inaugural award to John Burch for *Returning the Kulkynne*. In accepting this honour, John spoke movingly, distilling the experiences of numerous contestants. He recalled the solitary yet communal nature of the project, the support of local historical societies, families who lent letters and photographs, and friends who carried him through. Finally, he thanked the RHSV and PROV, the staff and volunteers who organised this celebration of community history and, he might have added, this affirmation of belonging.

Carole Woods, chair of the VCHA Judges' Panel 2017

A copy of the VCHA booklet listing winners, commendations and all entrants is included with this edition of *History News*.

Note: A full gallery of photos can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/public-record-office-victoria/albums/72157687978700984>



Julie Eagles, Susan Jones section winners for their study of Fletcher Jones with Judy Maddigan (right). Courtesy of PROV

Website Review: The Invisible Farmer Project

<https://invisiblefarmer.net.au/>

This is the first of an occasional series of reviews of websites with interesting historical content. There is an enormous amount of material online which is potentially useful to local and family historians, but it is not always easy to find. We hope to draw the attention of readers to sites with useful content and interesting modes of presentation.

The 'Invisible Farmer' website is the online face of a three-year project (2017-2020) with large aims and some powerful partners. It is funded by the Australian Research Council and its supporters include Museums Victoria, Monash and Melbourne Universities, and perhaps most importantly in terms of visual and oral presentation, ABC Rural.

The central concern of the project is to make visible the invisible farmer – the woman on the land. To this end the website is rich with the images, still and moving, and the voices of farming women. Most are Victorian women; the project has a national reach but the involvement of Museums Victoria gives the current content a strong local bias – a plus for members of the RHSV!

The site is fairly easy to navigate. Starting from the home page, the 'About' tag takes you to pages giving more information on: partners and supporters, academic and industry-based; academic and community outcomes; the significance of the project; and its guiding principles. Of these the most interesting historically is probably 'significance', which describes the importance of women to farming, their historical relegation to 'just a farmer's wife', their under-representation politically, and attempts by women to change all this.

The 'Blog' tag takes you to the richest content, though not the easiest to work with. Like all blogs, it is effectively an accumulation of 'posts', or short online articles, in the order of their posting, which the reader scrolls through until they come to something of interest. Posts include, in the order of their posting: an article on the history of the Australian Women's Land Army (1942-1945), with wonderful illustrations mostly from the *Argus Newspaper Collection of Articles* held by the State Library of Victoria; an article on Australia's first woman organic farmer (and first organic farm), Ileen Macpherson, in the 1930s;

an autobiographical photo essay by Emma Moss illustrating her experiences of being an 18-year-old Jillaroo in the Pilbara; a short film 'Celebrating the Stories of Australian Farm Women' – oral history pieces in their own words; and more.

The words are interesting, but I found the images even more so. The site carries a selection of historical photos from the Museums Victoria collection. Some of these are displayed, rather annoyingly, on a moving band across the top of the home page. To see the photos more clearly and to investigate their provenance, go to the last item at the bottom of the home page – 'To read the source and copyright information for the images used on this homepage, [click here.](#)' You will find that the photos used are freely available for down-loading and further use, potentially by local history societies. The selection here is limited, but this is a useful reminder that the online photo collection of Museums Victoria is available for download on <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au>, and more or less searchable. The site under review is also searchable, though the outcomes are not entirely reliable; thus a search for 'Swan Hill' turns up recent entrepreneurial activity in the area, but not the fine image of Eloise Vinen hand milking at Channel Farm, Nyah West, near Swan Hill, in 1924.

The 'Invisible Farmer' website is also notable for its innovative presentation of online material. Much of this is possible only through the technological resources and skills of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, but there may be tips here for local history societies. Short filmed oral history-style interviews with local identities would make an interesting addition to society websites, and it would be possible to follow the method used here of accessing the interviews from clips uploaded to You-tube. Or if all this looks much too difficult, perhaps the site might provide inspiration for the next round of funding applications.

Marian Quarty Monash University



Women of the Australian Women's Land Army at Work (c. 1941-1943), Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs, State Library of Victoria. <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>



Eloise Vinen hand-milking cows at Channel Farm, Nyah West, near Swan Hill, 1925. Mrs Vinen used the milk to make butter. Creator: P. Vinen. Courtesy Museums Victoria, <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/773890>

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

We welcome Societies to submit an article/event of around 50 words, or email your Newsletter to us and we will write up around 50 words for you around twice per year. For the February 2018 issue, please send details to office@historyvictoria.org.au by 10 January 2018. Prepared by Volunteer Glenda Beckley on behalf of the History Victoria Support Group.

ANGLESEA: Meetings & Activities: Meetings are held at History House, 5a McMillan Street, Anglesea. Entrance 4 of the McMillan Street Community Precinct.

The Historical Society meetings are usually on the first Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October & December). Meetings start at 2.00pm followed by a speaker and afternoon tea. Our December Christmas Meeting is 2.00pm Sunday 3rd December, 'Christmas at Anglesea through the years' followed by a special Christmas Afternoon Tea.

ANGLICAN: 15 November Sydney Smith Lecture: Speaker - Revd Professor Mark Lindsay. Subject- A Luther-Lite Reformation: Evaluating the historical significance of Martin Luther.

APOLLO BAY: The Society holds a valuable collection of photographs that illustrate our history. We welcome photographs old and new that you may be able to provide for us to copy, or donate the originals. Unfortunately we are often given photographs that have no identification of the 'who, where and when' relating to the pictures. We can sometimes take a guess, but please if you can write in pencil on the back of the photo all the information that you have we can keep this recorded. Come along to the Apollo Bay Museum for more information and we are happy to help if you are researching your own family history.

BALLAN: The Ballan Racecourse - A site for a Racecourse of 203 acres was set aside on 7th May 1860. The Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve was gazetted on Friday 13th June 1873. Trustees appointed were Messrs John Ord Inglis, Charles Hugh Lyons and Walter Duncan. The original track was drained, ploughed and laid out by Mr. J. Wheelahan. On completion the Chairman, Mr. Inglis, reported that in his opinion the course was one of the prettiest and most attractive outside of the Metropolitan area. It remained unfenced for many years.

BALWYN: Thursday 9 November 8 pm 2017 - Speaker - Chris Long. Topic: Films from the Salvation Army's Limelight Department - Part 2. Chris Long will present the second part of his talk on early Australian films and the role played by the Salvation

Army's Limelight Department which made around 200 films in the early 1900s. All Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn.

BENALLA: The Costume and Kelly Museum is moving through a transitional period with developments on several fronts. We have been chosen as a participating museum in the State's Green Museum Project to invest in temperature control. We have also received a grant from PROV and will be used by our research room to finance ongoing digitisation.

BOX HILL: Thursday 16 November our Guest Speaker is Jim Claven. The topic is 'Lemnos: The other side of Gallipoli'. This presentation is based on his extensive research on ANZAC connections with Greece over both World Wars.

COBURG: Wednesday 15 November: Anne Sgro, 'The story of post World War 2 immigrant Giovanni Sgro and his life in Coburg'. 8 December: Rupert Mann will talk about "Pentridge Voices from the other side" at a meeting organised by the Moreland Libraries Read More team and supported by Coburg Historical Society. It's at 7 pm in the Coburg Library meeting room.

DONCASTER/TEMPLESTOWE: On the desk in the study of Schramm's Cottage we have on display a rare original Odhner Mechanical Calculator that was manufactured between 1935 and 1945 in Sweden. We are seeking help to identify where this particular calculator was used in our district, the date and the name of the person or organisation who donated it to the Society.

EAST MELBOURNE: We invite contributions to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1500 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome. We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions or anything else you might like us to organise on your behalf. Email at info@emhs.org.au

ECHUCA: We have just received notice of a grant from Public Record Office Victoria to allow us to digitise approximately 18 months of Riverine Herald from Jan 1998 to April 1999. We will be working with National Library Australia/Trove & State Library NSW to complete this project.

FITZROY: Research focused on North Fitzroy. As announced in the June Newsletter, FHS members are compiling aspects of the history of North Fitzroy. This work will culminate in the publication of a booklet and a public presentation. The date for the presentation has now been set for Sunday 3 December 2017 at the new North Fitzroy Library (Bargoonga Nganjin) at the corner of St Georges Road and Best Street.

FOOTSCRAY: The AGM is on Wednesday 15 November at 6:30pm. It is at Ercildoune - 66 Napier Street, Footscray. Entry is via the Hyde Street door. Ercildoune was built for the National Bank of Australasia in Napier Street, Footscray in 1876. From 1919 the building was used as a residence and later it was divided into flats. The building was purchased by the Footscray Historical Society in 1970.

GISBORNE/MOUNT MACEDON: Annual General Meeting - Sunday November 12th 2pm at Gisborne Court House. Followed by guest speaker Sue Walter who will speak on quarries and bluestone in the Macedon Ranges. Afternoon tea will follow this interesting talk.

GLEN EIRA: World War 1 Walking/Driving Tour features sites of significance to WW1 in the City of Glen Eira, prepared by the Society. To listen to a narrated audio of the walk click on the audio play links below. A transcript of the walk including a map is at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gehs/pdf/WW1%20walking%20tour.pdf>

The audio was produced at Golden Days Radio 95.7 FM with assistance from the office of David Southwick Member for Caulfield and funded under the ANZAC Centenary Community Grants Program. We particularly acknowledge Tim Symons of Golden Days Radio for his professionalism and enthusiasm for this project.

HASTINGS/WESTERNPORT: Can you help? If you can help with any of the following, please contact a committee member. Family Histories - These are being organised by Kaye Matthews and Lois Peterson. If you have any photos/family papers of interest that we could borrow to scan and file, we would love to hear from you.

Volunteers - We thank our member volunteers who give their time/expertise to help the Society with various jobs, including cataloguing, maintenance, gardening, museum roster duty etc. We are always looking for more volunteers! Old Pounds, Shillings and Pence - Donations of old currency still required for a permanent display.

HEALESVILLE: Sunday 26 November - Christmas break-up at The Big Bouquet, 27 Barak Lane, Healesville, at 12:00 noon. A package deal of lunch, and a guided tour which covers the alpaca herd and the growing of gerberas (including seeing the glass house in operation). Bookings close 13 November.

KNOX: To celebrate the opening of our new exhibition 'Child's Play' on Sunday 21st January 2018, the Knox Historical Society is holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Ambleside Park Homestead & Museum, 3 Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully. The museum will be open to visitors, and in the gardens will be story time, maypole

dancing, arts and craft activities, olden day games, a fairy glade, a bear hunt and more. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy an afternoon of fun at Ambleside. Children are encouraged to come in dress up and to bring their teddy bears. Entry: \$5. Children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) free. Event 11.00am to 3.00pm.

KORUMBURRA: (From “Maffra Spectator”, 16th. April 1903). On Sunday morning the premises of Stout Bros., tailors, were completely gutted, and the buildings and contents of A.P. Lloyd, ironmonger, and Wm. Perris, butcher were considerably damaged. The fire started in Stout Bros. premises, and had a fair hold before the alarm was given. The firemen were quickly on the scene, but owing to a defective fire plug some little time elapsed before water was obtained. A splendid pressure was available, and the main fire was confined to Stout’s, although the flames burnt through the roof of Lloyd’s building and Perris, on the other, Stout Bros. Stout Bros. stock was partly covered by insurance of £125 but their loss is considerably over that amount. Lloyd’s stock is insured but the amount is not known. These two buildings were owned by Mr. Lloyd and insured. The damage caused by the fire amounts to £500 or £600.

LAKES ENTRANCE: Toorloo Arm Primary School opened as Lake Tyers Road School in 1918 and the community, including many former students, is planning a range of activities to celebrate this anniversary in 2018. The School Council has commissioned a book to tell the story of the school. Any students, their relatives or friends from the old days to current time, are asked to make a contribution. Stories, whether just a few paragraphs up to 300 words are being sought, along with photos and documents relating to the school story.

MALDON: Historic Walking Tours: The Association’s Maldon Rediscovered tours ‘app’ presents historic walks around Maldon. The app is internet-based and intended for use on mobile devices but is viewable on any computer.

Each walking tour presents stories of Maldon’s historic buildings and their occupants using historic and current images plus snippets of local history from our archives – visit Walking Tours at <http://tours.maldonmuseum.com.au/> to start.

MALVERN: This Thread is Strong - Opening an old inherited trunk reveals an unused Trousseau. Why, eighty years on, does Maggie’s collection remain intact? An exploration of duty, expectations, loss, strength and custodianship. Devised and performed by Clare Larman and Maureen Hartley. A Violet & Rose Production. Friday 17 November 2017 at 7:30pm. Performances will be also be held on Saturday 18 November,

7.30pm and Sunday 19 November, 2pm. Book through Trybooking or call 8290 1360.

MARYSVILLE: From the Healesville Guardian May 17 1924: Healesville Petty Sessions Kate Keppel licensee, Australian Hotel, Marysville was charged by Constable De Larue with having a slide opening into the bar open during prohibited hours. Inspector McCormack prosecuted. Defendant did not appear. Constable De Larue gave evidence to the effect that at 9.30 on April 3 he looked through the window at the hotel and saw the licensee’s brother serving liquor through a side leading from the bar. He informed the licensee and warned her to have it discontinued. About five minutes later he heard voices in the parlour and entered the premises. The licensee was serving boarders with drinks, through the slide. The inspector said there were no previous convictions and the hotel was well conducted. The P.M. said there was no option but to impose a fine as the charge had been proved. Fined £5, with £2/9/0/- costs.

MONT DE LANCEY: On November 25 and 26 bring family and friends to the Mont De Lancey Homestead to the 6th Annual Draught Horse and Yesteryear Festival. Experience the ways of YesterYear & Lost Trades. A fun day with working displays including: Draught Horses ploughing the fields, Vintage Machinery running up a huge head of steam, Blacksmiths firing up the forges to make horse shoes, Woodturners making a range of beautiful timber objects, Working dogs rounding up sheep, creative chainsaw carving, PLUS much more. 71 Wellington Rd, Wandin North – in the Yarra Valley 10am – 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Admission \$10, Children free. Purchase tickets online at <https://www.montdelancey.org.au/>

MOORABBIN: Members with a special interest in the history & heritage of Ormond, McKinnon and Bentleigh suburbs (formerly East Brighton then North Moorabbin) are working on an A-Z file listing the origins of the more obscure local street and park names of our region. If you know WHO or WHAT your street was named after (or when), would you kindly email the information to moorabbinhs@gmail.com; mail to PO Box 4028, McKinnon 3204, or pop in to the museum on an Open Day.

NEWSTEAD: The Society ‘Remembers’ WW1, our schools and their students. Exhibition to be held at the Newstead Railway Arts Hub on the weekends of 11 & 12, and 18 & 19 November 2017. From 10:00 – 4:00. Official opening at 5:00pm Saturday 11 November by Ms Yvonne Horsfield, historian, author and educator,

PAYNESVILLE MARITIME: Coming Events November 12 - Open day at the PMM Display Facility in Gilsenan Reserve. 9.00 to

12.30. November 18-PMM Annual General Meeting in the Paynesville Community Centre meeting room at 1.30.

PLENTY: ‘Faces and Places of Plenty’ Sunday 19 November, 2:00pm at Plenty Hall. As an end of year finale, the Society invites residents and friends of the Plenty Community to contribute old photos, new photos, art work, or other pieces for the exhibition. As well as a trip down memory lane, the society is also hoping for contemporary and current images depicting the changes in the Plenty Community.

PORT FAIRY: From the Port Fairy Gazette, 30 August 1917. Excursion train to Melbourne: 15 persons arrived in Port Fairy by the special train on Monday evening last, and 30 local and district residents returned by the train to Melbourne. These excursion trains rob country towns of a heap of money. Much cash is spent in Melbourne and the local business people have to carry on the spenders on the rotten credit system for 1, 2 or more years.

PORT MELBOURNE: Re-naming the Gatehouse – After many decades of local efforts, to have stevedore Alan Whittaker memorialised at Princes Pier, with thanks to Martin Foley MLA we are about to see it finally happen. On the 89th anniversary of Alan’s fatal police shooting during the severe 1928 lockout, the Princes Pier gatehouse – currently part of Albert Park College – is to be named the Alan Whittaker Centre. Be at Princes Pier at 11 a.m. November 2nd for this historic occasion, during which APC local history students from the Port Melbourne campus will join in the presentation.

RICHMOND/BURNLEY: Sunday November 26th at 2.30pm at the Richmond Library - Guest Speaker: Peter Fitton. Book Launch ‘Richmond Son’ by Peter Fitton Peter has a vivid memory of growing up in Richmond in the 1950s. He lived at his grandmother’s home at 144 Burnley Street. His recollection and attention to detail provides an amazing recount of Richmond and other events that shaped growing up in the 1950s.

RINGWOOD: We have been successful in obtaining a grant from Maroondah Council for a “Historical Trees of Heathmont” display in September at REALM, Ringwood Library, but Council folk have changed this to an app. We provided photos and caption paragraphs of about 26 “Significant Trees of Heathmont.” We hope to use some of the grant to produce a Heathmont Trees booklet, possibly in 2018. We have invited Maroondah Photographic Society to be involved with us in this project.

RYE: The Old Schoolhouse – A new display - Three new glass cabinets were recently set up in a free standing group and show a display of the replica fish stored

in our collection. These originated from the Mitchell property "Seaview", and are accompanied by explanatory information sheets. On the subject of displays, the committee has agreed to support any members researching the history of the Boonwurrung-Bunurong peoples (and their ultimate fate) in the area surrounding Rye, thereby adding to our library plus creating an appropriate information panel to go on display.

SNAKE VALLEY: Some of our more unusual Court cases from 1862. Mr. Joseph Ogle, owner of the United States Hotel, Preston Hill, was fined 20/- for allowing cards to be played on a Sunday. Constables Carson and Callaghan were the policemen that checked the hotels in the area. Mr. Dalveen, of the Criterion Hotel, Preston Hill, was asked "Why were cards being played at his hotel on a Sunday?" he replied "It was not a regular game. Just a couple of the boarders playing to fill in time." The case against him was dismissed.

Mr. Porteous was fined £5/-/- for allowing his bull to trespass on Mr. Smith's property.

Mr. J. Ogle was fined because his pigs had wandered onto Mr. McErvale's land.

In March, Joseph Hughes obtained a pair of boots under false pretences from Mr. Franklin, storekeeper, Carngham. He was fined 23/-. By the time he appeared in Court he had gotten rid of the boots.

SUNSHINE: On Sunday 19 November from 1:00 – 4:00pm there will be a Pioneer's Lunch held at the Sunshine RSL, 99 Dickson St, Sunshine. This is an opportunity for all members of the Society to get together to dine, and reflect on the year and the area's rich history. A two-course meal will be provided at a cost of \$25pp. email hewsonkerry@gmail.com or mayodianne@hotmail.com

TERANG: The Lions Club of Terang have recently had 12 new plaques placed around the lake area marking sites of historic significance. They replace some of the old

wooden signs that had deteriorated over the years. The Lions are to be congratulated on the result as they are a distinct asset to our town. "This project had its origins when a group of local students from Terang College attended a leadership school in Dinner Plains in 2002 and returned with a Community Learning Project to research the history of the lake area and establish signs along the walk track"

YARRA GLEN: 2018 Calendar now available. Featuring 12 historic photographs of the Yarra River at Yarra Glen Members price \$10.00 Retail price \$12:50 (Plus postage if needed: for 1 calendar it is \$4.00 or for 2 it is \$6.00) Available now - Contact Jill via email: yarraglenhistorical@live.com.au or at History Room on Wednesdays 1.30 -4.00pm (except between 14 Dec-6 Feb). Also available at Yarra Valley Gifts & the Yarra Glen Newsagent at \$12:50.

Change at the Supreme Court of Victoria

After fourteen years as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Marilyn Warren has relinquished the top legal position in the state. At the time Chief Justice Warren was the longest serving of the current chief justices across the country.

In the biennial RHSV Augustus Wolskel lecture in 2016 the Chief Justice reflected on 175 years of the Supreme Court in Victoria. These reflections and seven other articles on the history of the Supreme Court are collated in the June 2017 special issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

These articles include: William Meek Victoria's first lawyer; Flos Greig Victoria's first woman lawyer; Judge Willis' stunning and evolutionary address on Aboriginal rights in 1841; the spectacular Molesworth divorce case; the Menhennit abortion reform ruling; reflections on Sir Leo Cussen; and comments on the McGarvie letter that led to the reformed the Court's administration.

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL JOURNAL



VOLUME 88, NUMBER 1, JUNE 2017
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

This special issue, which is sure to whet legal appetites, is available for \$15 at the RHSV and \$20 posted. It will make an ideal gift for legal friends.

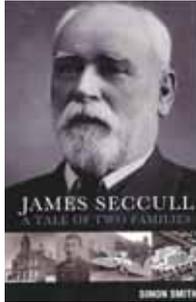
Contact the RHSV bookshop at www.historyvictoria.org.au

Books Received by Don Gibb:

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

James Seccull, A Tale of Two Families

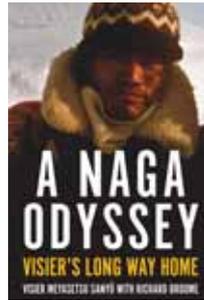
Simon Smith, Maverick Publications, Elwood, 2017, pp. xiv + 165. \$20 ISBN 978064697308.



Writing family histories can involve unearthing secrets, re-uniting long lost family connection, tales of resilience in the face of adversity as well as tales of substantial achievement. This impeccably researched and documented account of James Seccull's life and descendants written by one of his many great grandchildren does all these things. Its copious illustrations complement and extend the text. At the same time, it provides context for the assembled lives and incidental commentary on the nature of family history, including the idea that each generation needs a keeper of family history, a mantle that the author has taken over from his mother. The history is based on limited private papers but the author blends the family's oral histories with considerable and diverse material from the public record. James Seccull, a carpenter, left his village of Aynho in Northamptonshire in 1861, migrated to the Cape Colony before arriving in Melbourne in 1866 with his first wife and two young sons. Settled in Collingwood, James became a leading Melbourne builder during the 1880s boom but tragedy struck his family with the death of his first wife in 1883 and previously, three infant children. Marrying again in 1886, James had nine more children but became estranged from his first-born son and his growing family who struggled with destitution. Work in the building industry continued to be what the Seccull second family did. James until his death in 1925 and especially his sons John and Ernest until the 1970s presided over a firm that built countless flats especially in Elwood, became specialists in building hospitals, and developed housing estates like the Brunnings estate in Ripponlea. This is a fine family history of interest to those other than James' descendants.

A Naga Odyssey, Visier's Long Way Home

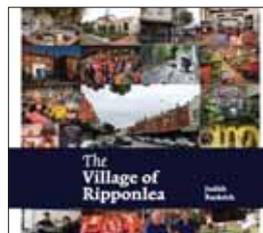
Visier Meyasetsu Sanyu with Richard Broome, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, 2017, pp. xii + 317, \$29-95. ISBN 9781925495829.



This book tells the remarkable story of a refugee from war in Nagaland who came to Australia and became a powerful advocate for his people. Nagaland is currently an Indian state territorially separated by Bangladesh and bordered on the east by Myanmar. Visier's journey is an odyssey that takes him from his village of Khonoma via the jungles of Nagaland and back to a dangerous world of Indian discrimination towards Naga people and violent tribal hostilities among Nagas. Nevertheless, he completed secondary and tertiary studies including a PhD that enabled his appointment as head of the Department of History and Archaeology at Nagaland University. Continuing turbulence and the perceived danger in which he and his growing family were living led to him seeking a sabbatical year in Melbourne that became twenty years, during which he studied theology and became an Australian citizen. But as he explains, Nagaland was always home and its people need to be free. Written with Richard Broome, his wonderful story is a powerful message about injustice to a people about whom few Australians know. It is also a personal record of privation, insecurity and resourcefulness, and in the end reconciliation.

The Village of Ripponlea

Judith Buckrich, Lauranton books, Gardenvale, 2015, pp. vii + 76. ISBN 9780994250711.



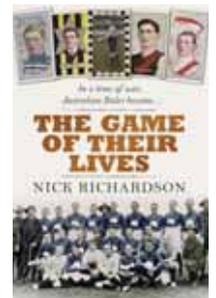
A fine study of a small Melbourne suburb very well-illustrated with archival and contemporary

images and plans. Very much a community-generated project in that it was initiated by Bill Maglis, joint owner of Victoria Fruit Palace, and brought to fruition by a good public historian. An exemplary short history that traces the major features of its physical presence from BoonWurrung lands, early European occupation, development of its shopping strip after the opening of Ripponlea station in 1915, the significance of 'Ripponlea' and other mansions, Brunnings Nursery, sundry schools and the mix of art deco houses and flats. Its distinct demography, including Jewish and other immigrant families, is discussed along with some key figures like Frederick Sargood and the Nathans, the Currell family medical practice and Cam Johnson, pioneering pharmacist.

All of this and more is packed into a short, interesting community history set within the contexts of change in Melbourne and the impact of international events. A winner in the Victorian Community History Awards of 2016.

The Game of Their Lives

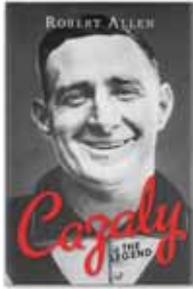
Nick Richardson, Macmillan, Sydney, 2016, pp. 344, \$34-99. ISBN 9781743536667.



In the plethora of books written in the recent years of the centenary of the Great War there is much that is similar, sometimes a focus on military aspects or a focus on an individual's diary and experience or on the home front in a particular location or often on the lives beyond the names of those on war memorials. This book differs in that it gives a searching account of AIF participants in a game of Australian Rules in London in 1916. It adds not only to the history of the war but also to the rich history of Australian Rules football and sports history generally. It is solidly researched and documented. It has an extensive bibliography but no index.

Cazaly: the Legend

Robert Allen, Slattery Media Group, 2017, pp. 401. ISBN9780992363181.

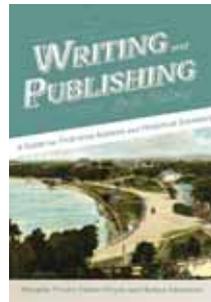


Roy Cazaly was immortalised in Australian football lore long before Mike Brady wrote and sang 'Up there Cazaly' at the 1979 Grand Final. The phrase was first used in 1921 when Cazaly was playing for South Melbourne. The 1924 photo of Cazaly's 'one-handed mark' that was most likely a ruck tap helped make the legend. The author traces Cazaly's life story that further contributed to the legend. Born in South Melbourne in 1893, he had an amazing career in football as player and coach from 1912 through to 1951 with stints at St Kilda, South Melbourne, South Warrnambool, Minyip, City in Launceston, Camberwell, Preston, North Hobart, New Town in Hobart and Hawthorn plus extensive participation in teams in mid-week leagues and representative football for both Victoria and Tasmania. While paid for most of these commitments, he always needed other employment to support a growing family. His sporting prowess was not confined to football. He was a promising oarsman instructed by his father and apparently a very handy cricketer.

This assiduously researched book draws on much oral material as well as newspaper reports that attest that Cazaly was always an innovator as well as a fierce competitor in his approach. His training methods and match preparation always made him attractive to the clubs who employed him. He also learnt much about sports injuries becoming a registered masseur/physiotherapist in Hobart where he spent his later years while also making his mark as greyhound breeder and trainer of pacers. A *tour de force* that tracks not only a remarkable sporting life but also much about one family's history set within contexts of change and challenge

Writing and Publishing Local History, A Guide for First-time Authors and Historical Societies

Rosalie Triolo, Helen Doyle and Katya Johanson, Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Melbourne, 2017, pp. 83, \$30. ISBN 9781875173037.



The FAHS published a very solid guide to publishing history in 2006. This has been wholly revised by Rosalie Triolo with much new material

including an extensive guide and discussion of digital publication. The finished result is an attractive, practical and searching set of directions for authors and publishers. Its widespread use is strongly recommended even for non-first-time authors. As the notes on books received in *History News* and the annual Victorian Community History Awards attest, there have been hundreds of publications since the earlier guide. Most represent extensive research and considerable industry but very limited numbers have achieved the potential worth that would come from following these guidelines. All historical societies should possess and use this invaluable book to guide their publishing efforts. It is not only instructive for 'novices' but full of salutary reminders to any author tackling local history or any history for that matter. Congratulations to the RHSV and Rosalie Triolo for initiating this publication and for the workshop program that underpins much of the new material. The book also showcases a diverse range of images from the RHSV collection and provides a very substantial listing of exemplars of local history publication, local history websites and digital publications, guides to research and publishing, and useful organizations.



EXHIBITION. STANDING ON THE CORNER

LAST
WEEKS!

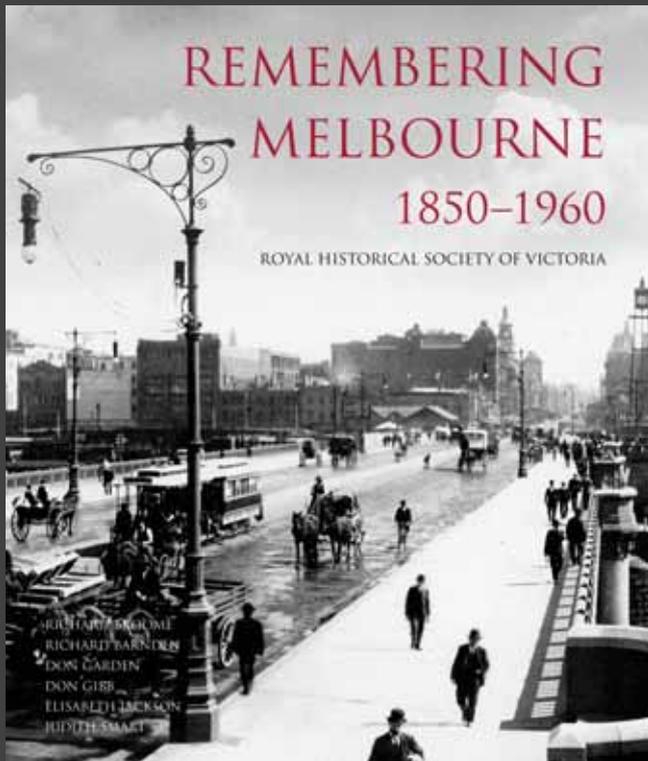
Standing on the Corner, the RHSV's latest exhibition in our Gallery, runs until 20 December 2017.

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

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

REMEMBERING MELBOURNE

Returns - and for \$35!



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

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

Buy early for Christmas and avoid disappointment.

GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF GARDENS

GUIDED WALKS EVERY MONDAY

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

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

