



Prahran Mechanics' Institute

Victorian and Local History Library

Newsletter No. 44 April 2006

140 High Street, Prahran (PO Box 1080, Windsor VIC 3181)

Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30 Sat 9.30-1pm

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Headlines

ACT AMENDMENTS PASSED!

On 7 March 2006 a bill amending the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act (1899) was given royal assent after passing through the Victorian Parliament. The bill came about with the help of Local Government Victoria and the member for Prahran, Mr Tony Lupton. Please see our special article about the amendments and their passage through Parliament on page 5 of this newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 6PM, WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2006

It's that time of the year again ... Along with this newsletter is a brightly coloured notice of PMI's AGM which is to be held at the library at the above time.

This is, as always, an excellent opportunity for our members to show their support for the PMI to meet the Committee, and to see how the Institute and Library have been going over the previous calendar year.

It would be most helpful to us if you could RSVP to the Secretary (9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au) by 4.30pm Tuesday 2 May, so that we can ensure sufficient seating. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

The AGM will also be an excellent opportunity for you to try out our new air conditioning ...

AIR CONDITIONING ARRIVES AT PMI!

Air conditioning has finally arrived at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Library. Regular visitors to the library will understand what a difference this will make in summer time and when we have meetings and events in the library, as our old building tends to naturally retain heat.

The temperature control and circulation of air will also make the library a healthier and more enjoyable place to read and research.

Importantly, the air conditioning will create a safer environment for our library collection, as books can suffer badly at the hands of extremes of temperature, high humidity and changeable conditions.

We are very grateful to David Crossley of Swinburne University for organising the installation of the units and for the subsequent upgrade of lighting in the library.

Inside...

Meet the Committee No.2 - Judy Buckrich ; PMI Press second book launched ; Library news ; MIV news ; Recent additions to the library



Members News

We welcome the following **new members** who joined in February and March:

<i>William Binns</i>	<i>Ross McKenzie</i>
<i>Adrian Brogan</i>	<i>Diana Phoenix</i>
<i>Adli Bylylebjahi</i>	<i>Noel Pullan, MP</i>
<i>Murray John</i>	<i>Helen Riches</i>
<i>Laura Kostarski</i>	<i>Anne Maree Stachera</i>
<i>Camberwell Historical Society</i>	

Thank you to the following people who made **financial donations** to the Library in February and March:

<i>Philippe Batters</i>	<i>Verene Lawrence</i>
<i>Itiel Bereson</i>	<i>Alf Lazer</i>
<i>Tom Bryans</i>	<i>Jazia Lemieszek</i>
<i>Lois Daly</i>	<i>Tony Lupton, MP</i>
<i>Wilma Farrow</i>	<i>Graham Price</i>
<i>Alan Hart</i>	<i>Jenny Maciulis</i>
<i>Margot Holden</i>	<i>Philippa Strang</i>
<i>Leonard Krohn</i>	<i>Don Taggart</i>
	<i>Anne Tyson</i>

City of Prahran - 150 Years

On Monday 27 February the City of Stonnington celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Prahran by holding a commemorative council meeting at the Prahran Town Hall. Many former City of Prahran Councillors attended, along with representatives of Stonnington's historical organisations. Christine attended representing the Prahran Mechanics' Institute.

The commemorative meeting incorporated guest speakers Candy Broad, MLC and Prahran historian Philippe Batters.

Cr Gahan and Cr Chandler, long-serving councillors who had also served under the City of Prahran, also spoke to the meeting.

Cr Gahan spoke about memories of the City of Prahran, and formally acknowledged the Prahran Mechanics' Institute as being the venue for the first meetings of the Prahran Council.

Cr Chandler acknowledged the roles of the Prahran Historical Society and the Prahran Mechanics' Institute as the custodians of Prahran's

history and paid tribute to the prominent authors of Prahran History - J.B. Cooper, Sally Wilde and Betty Malone.

The proceedings were most interesting and enjoyable, and at the conclusion attendees were invited to view a terrific display of Prahran Council memorabilia, including historical images and mayoral regalia.

Website Upgrade

The website upgrade project is nearly complete, and we hope to launch the new site at the library during national Library & Information Week (at the end of May). We are very grateful to Prahran's Working Edge Team who not only create websites free for not-for-profit organisations, but provide training in web design skills for unemployed people in the area. We are certain that our members will be very impressed with our new site ... so keep an eye out for a launch invitation coming soon to your mailbox!

MIV News

Recently Pam Baragwanath, of the Mechnaics' Institutes of Victoria, donated to the library a collection of material originally gathered by the late Alf Wesson, who completed research into mechanics' institutes for the Council of Adult Education in the 1970s. Wesson wrote an article published in the RHSV Journal in 1971 based on his research. The MIV hopes that, space permitting, further MIV archives can be held at the PMI.

The MIV have engaged the services of a consultant who will assist the MIV Committee to develop a business plan for its future activities.

Seats for the MIV Goldfields Bus Tour are filling fast so if you haven't yet made your booking, now is the time to do so. The bus will depart Prahran MI at 8.30 on Saturday April 30 and will visit over a dozen MIs in the goldfields region including those at Ballarat, Newstead, Maldon, Castlemaine, Fryerstown, Newham, Lancefield and Romsey.

The cost of the tour is \$55 and this includes morning and afternoon tea, a light lunch and tour notes. The bus will arrive back in Prahran at around 5 pm. Bookings can be made by calling Jim Lowden on 9873 7202.

Easter Closure

We wish all our members a very happy and safe Easter and advise that the library will close on Fri 14 Apr and will reopen on Tue 18 Apr.

The library will also be closed on Anzac Day Tuesday 25 Apr.

Meet the Committee ... No. 2. **Judy Buckrich**

Judy Buckrich began using the Prahran Mechanics' Institute library while she was writing her history of the Montefiore Homes in 1997. She was delighted to be nominated for the PMI Committee and has continued to use the library for all her projects. Judy is a member of the PMI Press and Promotions sub-committees.

More formally known as Dr Judith Buckrich, she was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1950 and emigrated to Australia with her parents in 1958. She has returned to Hungary several times and was working for the English language Daily News during the 1989 velvet revolution. She is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Melbourne University's Cultural Heritage Unit and a Consulting Fellow of the World Innovation Foundation.

Judith is the author of *Melbourne's Grand Boulevard: the Story of St Kilda Road*, *The Montefiore Homes: 150 Years of Care*, *George Turner: a Life*, *The Long and Perilous Journey: a History of the Port of Melbourne*, *Lighthouse on the Boulevard: a History of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind* and *Collins: Australia's Premier Street*. She has several entries in the *Encyclopedia of Melbourne* including those on Collins Street and St Kilda Road and was one of the projects two picture researchers. In 2005 she curated an exhibition 'History: Community: Identity: Showcasing Melbourne's Diversity' for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. In her other writing she has written her own one woman shows, short stories, feature articles.



She is working on a history of the Prahran Technical School and a memoir.

Judith is chair of the International PEN Women Writers' Committee and Vice-President of the Melbourne Centre of PEN. PEN International is a worldwide association of writers with 141 centres in 99 countries, which exists to promote friendship and intellectual cooperation among writers everywhere, to fight for freedom of expression and represent the conscience of world literature. Judy has found that her 15-year association with PEN has tremendously broadened her understanding of the world, and enabled her to communicate with and assist writers who live in sometimes perilous circumstances.

Travelling Exhibition



NOTHING ON A PLATE:

Celebrating Women's Journey Towards Equity in Victoria.

This exhibition was curated by Morag Loh for the National Union of Women in 2001. It commemorated the Centenary of Federation by highlighting the contribution of women to the nation from the time of federation and is arranged in five themes:

Women as Citizens / Women as Workers
Women & Living Standards / Women & Children
Women, War & Peace

Nothing on a Plate will be on show at PMI throughout

APRIL

Group Visit

On the evening of March the members of the Camberwell Historical Society came to the library for a group visit. Christine gave the group a talk about the PMI history, library and collection. Subsequently the group joined the library as an institutional member.

We are always pleased to have the opportunity to form closer links with historical groups.

Thank you to Wendy Baden-Powell for organising the visit, and to the members of the Camberwell Historical Society for their interest.

PMI Press Update

Work is proceeding on *Frontier French Island*, which will soon be ready to go to a professional indexer.

Judy Buckrich has almost completed the research stage of the Prahran Technical School History, and is finding that quite a number of prominent people in the worlds of art, photography and cinematography attended the school including Howard Arkly, Paul Cox and Carol Jerrams.

No Shops in Acland Street: the Autobiography of an Entertaining Lady was launched by Frank Van Straten, OAM at the Grattan Gardens Community Centre Hall on Sunday 12 February. There was a wonderful turnout of Helene (author) and Cecily's (editor) family and friends and there was a consistently long queue of people to have their books signed by Helene.

Judy Buckrich, Cathy Milward-Bason and Cr Chris Gahan represented the PMI Committee and Christine Worthington spoke on behalf of the PMI and the PMI Press.

We are indebted to the committee of the Grattan Gardens Community Centre for giving us the use of such an ideal venue for the occasion.



*Standing: Cecily Parris, Christine Worthington ;
Seated:
Helene Swieca,
Frank Van Straten*

(from p.1) The passage of amendments

PRAHRAN

How wonderful it is that we have Hansard online these days. A draft version of the Hansard becomes available online on the same evening as the words were spoken in Parliament, or early the morning after, and we were able to follow the progress of the Bill day by day.

The Bill was first discussed in the Legislative Assembly in October last year, and was passed on 8 February. It entered the Legislative Council on 8 February and was passed on 28 February. The Amendment Bill then became an Act on 7 March, when it was given Royal Assent.

We are very grateful to the Member for Prahran, Tony Lupton, to the Minister for Local Government, Candy Broad, and Graham Dudley and Cathy Dineen of Local Government Victoria for helping the PMI committee to bring about these important amendments, which were supported by the PMI members at the last Annual General Meeting. They consisted of changes to the constitution of the PMI committee (to bring the PMI Act in line with current circumstances since the amalgamation of the Cities of Prahran and Malvern to form the City of Stonnington) and a further amendment increased the quorum for PMI committee meetings from three to four members of the committee.

The Bill was supported unanimously in both houses of the Parliament, and the Hansard reveals that the PMI Act of 1899 is regarded as historically significant as the only Act of its kind in Victorian legislation (a few mechanics' institutes, such as Geelong and Brunswick MIs, had their own Acts of incorporation, but PMI's is the only one to have survived to the present day).

*The Hansard also reveals that many members in both houses have an awareness of the institutes generally - their origins, objectives, and their varying roles in Victorian communities today. Several references were made to reference sources such as Pam Baragwanath's *If the Walls Could Speak*, and to particular institutes in various electorates.*

Some members of Parliament used discussion of the Bill as an opportunity to criticise cutbacks to funding of public libraries. If only they had known that the MIs do not receive regular funding at all!

Tribute was paid to the PMI and the library service, as well as to the publishing service initiative.

I include on the following two pages, some quotes from the parliament. Full copies are available to read at the loans desk.

to the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE ACT

through the Parliament of Victoria.

Speech by the Member for Prahran, Tony Lupton (8 Feb)

I am extremely pleased to be able to speak in support of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute (Amendment) Bill, not only as the member for Prahran but as a member of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute (PMI). I indicate to the house that the purpose of this bill is to alter the composition of the governing committee of the institute and to ensure the validity of certain decisions the committee may have made in recent years.

The background is important to the house understanding why this legislation is being brought forward. Mechanics institutes were originally educational institutes for working people -- mechanics in the sense of artisans. The institutes remaining today operate as libraries but with an important community and historical focus, and are run by their members. The Prahran Mechanics' Institute, or, to give it its full title, the Prahran Mechanics' Institution and Circulating Library, was established in 1854, and celebrated its 150th anniversary two years ago.

In 1899 the institute was constituted pursuant to an act of Parliament -- the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act 1899 -- which we are amending with this bill. That act provided for the mayor of Prahran, four Prahran councillors and four members of the institute elected by the members to constitute the governing committee.

When the Prahran council was amalgamated with Malvern council by the previous government in 1994 to form the Stonnington City Council the structure of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute committee remained unchanged. As a consequence the institute was concerned that its committee was not properly constituted. At an annual general meeting (AGM) of the institute I suggested that representations be made to the government to rectify the situation. The institute welcomed this suggestion on the evening of the AGM and those discussions led to the bill we are now debating.

The bill provides for a committee of seven members with one being appointed by Stonnington council and six members being elected by members of the institute for four-year periods. There is provision for the filling of a casual vacancy for the remainder of the term of a member being replaced.

The second part of the bill has been included in order to remove any doubt about the decisions made and actions taken by the committee since 1994. A new section will deem anything that would have been validly done had the committee been validly constituted at the time to be valid. This limited type of validation will ensure that no issue can be raised solely due to the technical validity question of the committee. This legislation will ensure the important work of the institute can continue on a sound footing. I note the legislation the government is bringing forward is supported wholeheartedly by the institute and the Stonnington City Council.

It is useful in this context to consider some of the work that the institute does, because this bill will enable that work to continue into the future. The mechanics institute has an historically significant book collection and is an integral part of the public library lending network. It also provides research and reference advice, in particular in relation to local history and genealogical matters. More recently it has expanded into assisting people with writing, editing and publishing.

The 150th anniversary of the institute in 2004 was celebrated with the establishment of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press, a publishing resource for writers and researchers on local and family histories, through a grant of \$10 000 from the Bracks government's community partnerships initiative. I was delighted to announce the grant at a ceremony at the institute in May 2004, when I also launched the 150th anniversary gallery, which is a collection of images and documents on the history of the institute. I said then that the grant would assist the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press to publish books about places, people and organisations in Victoria. These will record local and family histories. This is a popular and important undertaking which helps sustain the fabric of our communities. The way the government is reconstituting the committee of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute and putting it on a sound footing for the future will enable that to continue.

The grant I mentioned was intended to recognise and support the mechanics institute in this innovative publishing venture by providing writing and publishing resources, including advice on copyright and related areas, printing and distribution of publications and referrals to professional editors, indexers and designers. The Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press has since published its first book. Interestingly it was titled *Buildings, Books and Beyond -- Mechanics' Institutes Worldwide Conference 2004*. It is a collection

SPECIAL ARTICLE (cont.)

of papers presented at the mechanics institutes world conference held here in Melbourne that year. We launched that at another event at the institute in May 2005, which I attended along with the Minister for Local Government in another place.

On that occasion we announced the transfer of ministerial responsibility for the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act from the Minister for Education and Training to the Minister for Local Government, who is also responsible for other libraries in Victoria.

This change was made at the request of the institute and its members, and I was very pleased that the Premier agreed to my request to transfer the responsibility for this principal act to the minister who is responsible for other libraries in Victoria.

During its more than 150-year history the Prahran Mechanics' Institute has established very close working relationships with what is now the Swinburne University of Technology and the former Prahran and now Stonnington library and information service. In recognition of its educational origins the institute also makes annual awards to students in local state schools. I know our schools greatly appreciate and value that contribution.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute for their dedication to this wonderful local institution.

I want to pay special tribute to the staff of the institute: the promotions and publications librarian and administrator of PMI Press, Christine Worthington; the secretary-librarian, Catherine Milward-Bason; and the reference and circulation librarian, Tim McKenna. They do a great job on behalf of the local community.

I also give my thanks and that of the local community to the members of the current Prahran Mechanics' Institute committee: the president, Alf Lazer, a retired businessman who puts in great amount of effort on behalf of the institute; the treasurer, Ben Quin, who is a certified practising accountant; Crs Chris Gahan and John Chandler from the City of Stonnington; Mrs Alison Boundy, who is a retired librarian and member of the Genealogical Society of Victoria; Dr Judith Buckrich, a practising historian and writer who is currently working on a history of the Prahran technical school for the Prahran Mechanics' Institute; and Mr Peter Wolfendon, who is also a vice-president of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society. All of those committee members put in a great amount of time and service on behalf of their local community. I know the members of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute all appreciate that work.

I again commend the government for bringing forward this legislation, which will make sure the Prahran Mechanics' Institute is able to prosper, flourish and continue to serve the local community in Prahran for many years to come.

* * * SNIPPETS FROM DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT BILL IN BOTH HOUSES * * *

These selected snippets are only recorded to reflect some of the range of the discussion in parliament and indicate some of the experience and knowledge of the institutes our members of Parliament have, and their thoughts on the PMI generally. It is obviously not meant to be comprehensive and members are encouraged to view a copy of the Hansard relating to the amendments at the library.

Hon K. SMITH (Bass) (8 Feb) - Nearly every town in Victoria had a mechanics institute, but with the passage of time and the creation of enlarged educational, welfare, recreational and library facilities, mechanics institutes gradually lost their pre-eminence, particularly after World War II. Today over 500 are still operating in Victoria as halls and homes for local organisations. A growing number of these are members of the Mechanics Institutes of Victoria, which was established in 1998. Six mechanics institutes in Victoria continue to principally offer a lending library service. It is interesting to look back at how mechanics institutes started and how we have finished up today -- there is only one in Victoria that is governed by an act of Parliament.

Mrs J. POWELL (Shepparton) (8 Feb) - ... There is a mechanics institute in Shepparton, which was built in 1888. It was built in the main street, Wyndham Street -- just across the road from my office, actually, so I have witnessed its development over the years. It has changed its use over the years, but all in all it has always been for education, information and community use. It was the original library in Shepparton, but it has changed quite often over the years. It has had services for photography, wood-turning, philately and arts. I have watched it grow and grow as more people from the community use it.

Mr B. STENSHOLT (Burwood) (8 Feb) - Mechanics institutes have played a role in my electorate, and I am sure there are mechanics institute halls in almost every electorate. Burwood had a mechanics hall, then it became the RSL hall, and now the plaque there shows that this is where the mechanics hall was. I do not remember this because it goes back 140 years, but when Glen Iris was first established public land was put aside for a church, for a school and for a mechanics institute, so they are very much part of the infrastructure and the way of life here in Victoria and throughout Australia and the English-speaking world.

SPECIAL ARTICLE (cont.)

Mr KOTSIRAS (Bulleen) (8 Feb) - Mechanics institutes were the very foundation of our public libraries and our education in Australia. The mechanics institute concept began in Glasgow in 1799 when a series of free lectures were organised. The institute represents a landmark in Prahran's educational history. Can I say it is good legislation. I support it and I wish it a speedy passage.

Hon Dr D. NAPTHINE (South Coast) (8 Feb) - In my own electorate there are mechanics institutes in Port Fairy, Allansford and Narrawong, and in many areas in country Victoria the mechanics institute became the local hall and therefore the centre of community activity. The issue I raise in relation to the Prahran Mechanics' Institute is that it also operates a small lending library. One of the things the mechanics institutes have done over the years in Victoria is operate significant lending library facilities. It highlights how important ongoing education and cultural development is for all Victorians.

Ms J. ALLAN (Minister for Education Services) (8 Feb) - ... I wish the continuing governing committee of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute all the best in its work, noting that it fulfils a very valuable role in providing access to learning materials and resources that may not otherwise be available. The halls themselves are used for a wide variety of activities, ranging from matters close to the heart of the Deputy Speaker at election times through to being used as venues for schools, auction rooms, art galleries, theatres and other facilities.

Hon P. HONEYWOOD (Warrandyte) (8 Feb) - It is important that the Victorian community respects and celebrates key contributors to our development as a civil and civic-minded society. This is particularly the case with those institutions which support and reflect our desire to advance our knowledge in the areas of culture, history and the betterment of social interaction as a whole. ... All but a few towns in Victoria had a mechanics institute and overwhelmingly the committee members of each institute were motivated by the desire to improve the cultural education and social life of the inhabitants of their local communities. As time went on, however, large, government-funded educational, welfare, recreation and library facilities have developed, and as a result mechanics institutes have adapted to other important education and community responsibilities. Today over 500 still operate proudly in Victoria as halls and centres for local organisations.

Hon J. VOGELS (Western) (28 Feb) - ... The mechanics institute movement began about 200 years ago in England, when the term 'mechanic' meant an artisan or a tradesman -- a worker who had skills. I think it probably also had something to do with the industrial revolution taking place at the time and the fact that more and more machinery was coming out and doing jobs which had been done by hand. The mechanics institutes were educational facilities for working people to learn their trades, to learn how to work with machinery, to learn how to fix machinery et cetera. They played a very important role. The institutes that remain today are basically known as libraries. To this end responsibility for the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act was transferred from the Minister for Education and Training to the Minister for Local Government, Ms Broad, who is responsible for all other libraries in Victoria. I am not convinced that this was a smart move by the board when you look at the way the Bracks government is funding libraries.

Hon B. BISHOP (North Western) (28 Feb) - One of the most interesting things it can do that I have read about is assist people to publish books about places, people and organisations in Victoria. That is a great asset, because a number of times people have come to me and said they had written a manuscript or a booklet of notes about things they had observed over the years -- it might be a history of their family, a history of their local town, a history of Victoria, a history of Australia or a view they have -- but that it was jolly difficult to get it published. Certainly that assistance would be a tremendous asset and a great help to people. More and more people in our community do that, and to be able to put them together would be a great asset.

Hon A. COOTE (Monash) (28 Feb) - At the beginning of [Pam Baragwanath's] book there is an excellent chapter by the renowned conservation architect Peter Lovell, who talks about the architectural side of the mechanics institutes ... It is the very people who built these buildings, the artisans and others involved, for whom these institutions were established. They were places for people to go to read, to have musical entertainment and to learn languages such as French. They truly were centres of culture in a time when it was difficult in Victoria to get access to such facilities. ... I spoke to the Stonnington City Council, which indicated that it is pleased about the bill, because over the past 18 months it has lobbied the government to have the act changed. During this time it has tried to get four different government departments to take responsibility for the bill, and finally the Department of Victorian Communities picked up the issue, the consequence of which is the bill we have in front of us today.

Mr J. SCHEFFER (Monash) (28 Feb) - The Prahran Mechanics Institute is very well known in the city of Stonnington, and the history of Prahran is closely tied to the history of the mechanics institute, the institute having been established a couple of years prior to the establishment of the Prahran City Council and it having been used as a Saturday afternoon meeting place of the council in its early years. ... While the idea of the mechanics institutes was exported from the UK, a particular Australian type of institute emerged. The Prahran institute provided a local space for reading and adult education that enabled ordinary people of modest means to pool their resources so they could improve their understanding of society, the arts, politics, and civics and recreation in a formal setting. ... So the Prahran Mechanics Institute is part of a long and interesting history. Today the institute plays an important role in the local community, mainly through its excellent library. It is the only mechanics institute that is governed by an act of Parliament. The act was passed in 1899 as part of an effort to resurrect the institute, which had fallen on bad times. The act created an incorporated body and ensured that all the assets and liabilities of the institute would be transferred to the new body.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS (February-March)

Encyclopaedia for sale ...

PMI member Tom Martin recently donated to the library a full set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* from 1962.

There are 24 volumes including atlas and index, in very good condition. Price \$100 ONO.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward the purchase of books for the historical collection.

Please contact the library or visit if you would like to inspect.

School Histories

You will see from our list below that we are making an effort to acquire Victorian school histories. If you have any old and unwanted school histories lying about the house, donations would be most welcome.

General Collection

My sister's keeper / Jodi Picoult

Of a boy / Sonya Hartnett

The Berlin cross / Greg Flynn

Summer at Mount Hope / Rosalie Ham

Zorro: the novel / Isabel Allende

Setting the people free: the story of democracy / John Dunn

The inner circle / T.C. Boyle [donated by Judith Buckrich]

The way of all flesh / Samuel Butler [donated by Wilma Farrow]

The expedition of Humphry Clinker / Tobias Smollett

[donated by Tim McKenna]

Persian fire: the first world empire and the battle for the west / Tom Holland

On beauty / Zadie Smith

Wolves eat dogs / Martin Cruz Smith

Gentlemen and players / Joanne Harris

Grave tattoo / Val McDermid

Slow man / J.M. Coetzee

Back to Bologna: an Aurelio Zen mystery / Michael Dibdin

Tom Jones / Henry Fielding [donated by Tim McKenna]

The Forsyte saga / John Galsworthy [donated by Wilma Farrow]

Historical Collection

General, Local Histories

Allansford Allan's Ford: Allansford 1855-1981

Almurta On the banks of the Bass [Almurta] / compiled by Nancy Tuck

Back Creek A historical sketch of Back Creek and Talbot 24 January 1862 / edited by Marie Kau

The Governor's visit to Back Creek / Talbot 17 October 1861 / edited and compiled by Marie Kau

From Back Creek to Talbot: what's in a name? / Marie Kau

Baw Baw Buln Buln to Baw Baw: a history of the Shire of Buln Buln from 1978 to 1994 and its transition into the Baw Baw Shire / Keith A. Pretty

Beech Forest Beech Forest: a century on the ridge / N. Houghton

Belmont The first twenty-five years 1955-1979: a very short history of the Belmont High School / Allan Morris [donated by Chris Williams, Belmont High School]

Summit 1955-2005: fifty years CD-ROM [magazine of Belmont High School] [donated by Chris Williams, Belmont High School]

Briagolong Who cut up teacher's strap: memories of school at Briagolong / Dorothy B. Watt

Bringalbert South The history of Bringalbert South and recollections of an old pioneer / E.J. Kealy

Brunswick Almost pretty: a history of Sydney Road / Laura Donati

Buffalo River Valley Pioneers of yester-year: history of the Buffalo River Valley / Sydney S. Bell

Buln Buln (see Baw Baw)

Castlemaine Bringing home the bacon: a history of the Harris family's Castlemaine Bacon Company 1905-2005 / Leigh Edmonds

Cheltenham Fifty years on: a memoir of Cheltenham 1952-2002 / Arthur W. John

Dederang Early Dederang 1854-1956: from the notebook of Michael James Goonan / transcribed and lightly edited by Malcolm Ronan 2004

Diggora Memories of Diggora: its schools and its people / compiled by Patricia Coughlin

History of Diggora West State School 2304 and surrounding area: by past pupils and local residents from settlement to 1994

Drouin Drouin...because they worked at it: a history of the Drouin township area / John C. Wells [donated by Rob Collins]

Dunkeld Dunkeld and district items of history 1881 to 1896: taken from the 'Western Agriculturist' / compiled by E.V. Risk

Eaglehawk Eaglehawk and district pioneer register volume 5 R and S / Annette O'Donohue and Bev Hanson

Falls Creek Falls Creek: how it came to be / as seen by Julian Newton Brown

Frankston Optima Semper: a history of Frankston High School 1924-1994 / Mary A. Evans, Heather Murray and Jenny Evans [donated by Chris Confoy, Frankston High School]

Fumina South see *Hill End*

Goorambat Goorambat: yesterday and today / Judy Bassett and Joyce Latch

Hamilton That sound foundation: an anecdotal history of Hamilton College, compiled to mark the school's 125th anniversary in 1996 / edited by Neil MacLean

Hepburn History of Hepburn / Clare Gervasoni

Hill End The changing years: a history of the Hill End, Willow Grove and Fumina South districts

RECENT ACQUISITIONS (February-March) (cont.)

- Mallee Mallee tracks: a wanderer's guide to the South Australian and Victorian Mallee / Jill Nickolls and Ann Angel [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
- Malvern The history of Malvern: a supplement 1988-1994 / Alleyn Best [donated by Di Foster, Malvern Archives]
- Maroona Maroona Primary School no.1943 1877-2002: celebrating 125 years of education [donated by Maroona Primary School]
- Melbourne Evolution of a zoo: a history of the Melbourne Zoological Gardens 1857-1900 / Catherine de Courcy
- Melbourne: John Batman's village / Agnes Paton Bell [donated by Leony Graham, Bayside Libraries]
- Merbein Top of the state: Merbein West Primary School 75th anniversary 1920-1995 / Jan Cupper
- Modella Modella: a brief history / compiled by Graham Utber
- Mudgegonga Mudgegonga's hall of fame / Bernie and Mary (Pini) Gibney
- Pomonal Pomonal: a picturesque place / compiled by Isabel Armer
- Port Melbourne Railway rockeries: tales of the Melbourne and Hobsons Bay Railway Reserves, Port Melbourne / Pat Grainger [donated by Jane Nigro]
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