



NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

National Family History Month



Seminar:

Family History Basics

Our regular NFHM event returns at the new library with useful information for budding family historians.

Journey Into Your Past : Research skills for family historians

Alison Boundy is a retired teacher-librarian who has been researching her family history for the past twenty years. She has been a Councillor of the Genealogical Society of Victoria since December 2010, and is currently the Honorary Archivist.

Shipping Records and Passengers : Sources of arrivals and hints

Vicki Montgomery is a Chartered Accountant by profession, and has been interested in family history for more than 40 years. She is a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, has been the Honorary Treasurer for the past nine years, and is a member of the GSV's Research Team.

2.00pm, Saturday 22 August

in the Moss Room, PMI, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran

Free entry, all welcome, refreshments provided.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 19 August 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

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ABOUT THE PMI

39 St Edmonds Road
Prahran VIC 3181

ABN 1316 4635 256

Sec. Lib.: Tim McKenna

Pres: Cr John Chandler

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OPEN: M-F 9.30am-4.30pm

Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

excluding public holidays.

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PMI OFFICIAL OPENING

A Real Celebration

The long-anticipated official opening of the new PMI library was held on the afternoon of Saturday 30 May. Further pictures and report inside ...



Above: PMI Committee: Ben Quin, Cr Claude Ullin, Chris Michalopoulos, Peter Wolfenden, Melina Sehr (Stonnington Mayor), Cr John Chadler OAM, Dr Judith Buckrich, Steve Stefanopoulos.

AROUND THE LIBRARY

Official Opening of the new PMI Library at 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran 30 May 2015



Cr John Chandler OAM, Mayor Melina Sehr



Pam Baragwanath (MIV), Ursula Zamecnik



Julia Hamer, Chris Gahan, Judith Buckrich



Jon Hickman (Heritage Vic.), Sam Hibbins MLA



Mary-Louise Phillips, Tim McKenna



Donald Barker (ARHS), Gerry Kennedy (CATHS)



Bruce Turner, Christine Worthington



AROUND THE LIBRARY

MEMBER NEWS

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Apr-Jul:

*Maureen Abbott
Ian Ashman
Christopher Briggs
Catherine Bosley
Wayne Bryant
Christine Buck
Janette Bull
Sonya Cameron
Elizabeth Campbell
Terence Carmichael
John Cervini
Margaret Coghlan
Sarah Comyn
Ellen Credlin
Alana Doyle
Michael Dunlea
Anne Forsyth
Peter Frawley
Susan Gabron
Douglas Galbraith
Wendy Goodwin*

*Darryl Grant
Sam Hibbins MP
Aphroditi Karalis
Linda Keir
Cynthia Lawson
Murray Little
Gregory Michael
Patricia Milne
Luke Mitchell
John Morris
Joseph O'Connell
Shane O'Neil
Nissy Ordonez
Emily Piper
Lesley Preston
Viktoria Rother
Lesley Rosenthal
Glen Sinclair
Laurence Stephenson
Meredith Sherlock
Ulla Svensson
Alison Tate
Neil Taylor
John Waugh*

Financial Donors

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library Apr-Jul:

*Dierdre Farfor
Gabriel German
Mary Greig
Ingrid Kasapyan
Barrie & Margaret Stevens*

Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and groups who donated books to the library Apr-Jul:

*Jim Badger
Donald Barker
Berwick Mechanics' Institute
Helen Blakeley
C.H. (Roger) Brookes
Judith Buckrich
Chelsea Historical Society Inc
City of Stonnington
Donvale Christian College
Juliet Flesch
Bryan Francis
Geelong Cemeteries Trust
Cecil James Hardy
Ian Harris
Harriet Haughton
Healesville & District Historical Society
April Kay Ikinci
Wallace Kirsop
La Salle
Melbourne Books*

*Di Nicholas
Jo Osment
Graham Patterson
Patricia Rogerson
Lesley Preston
Royal Melbourne Hospital archives
Sacred Heart College Kyneton
SDN Children's Services
Steve Stefanopoulos
Stuart Smith
St Francis' Church Blessed Sacrament Congregation
St Monica's College
Stonnington History Centre
Terry Synan
Trinity College
Sue Walker
Wandin & District Historical Society
Xavier College
Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Ursula Zamecnik*

GENERAL NEWS

AGM and Official Opening

Thanks to all who attended the official opening of the new library on 31 May.

This event was the culmination of a great deal of work by the committee and staff over the past years and it was great to hear so much positive feedback from members and visitors about our wonderful new facility.

A lovely string quartet from Stonnington Symphony played in the upstairs foyer prior to the opening. PMI President, Cr John Chandler OAM, gave an overview of the new building and what the new facility means for the PMI in the context of its history, role in the community, and recent growth.

The Mayor of Stonnington, Cr Melina Sehr, spoke and she and Cr Chandler unveiled a plaque which is now installed just outside the entrance to the library.

Jon Hickman, of the Heritage Council of Victoria spoke on an additional plaque made by Heritage Victoria to be installed at the 140 High Street building as further recognition of its heritage registration. Glenn Blair, representing Melbourne Polytechnic, was in attendance and was pleased to ensure the Heritage Victoria plaque would be installed at 140 High Street. We will include a photo of this when installation is complete.

We were so pleased that so many representatives of historical and local organisations and societies as well as so many of our members could join us on such a historic occasion in the PMI's history. ■

Annual General Meeting & Committee

The AGM was held in the Moss Room on the day after the opening - thanks to all who were able to attend this meeting. There being no other nominations, Ben Quin continues to serve on the committee. If you weren't able to get to the AGM, copies of the annual report are available at the library.

At the first committee meeting after the AGM, Office Bearers were elected. Cr John Chandler OAM was re-elected President, Steve Stefanopoulos was elected Vice-President and Ben Quin was re-elected as Treasurer. ■

Visiting Groups

We were delighted to host a visit by the Narre Warren Family History Group on 16 July. The group was given a brief talk on the history of the PMI and the library collection, a tour of the new library, including a visit to the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society's room (thanks to CATHS President, Gerry Kennedy) and a chance to explore the collection for their own research.

We also recently hosted a terrific meeting of the InMagic Users Group, (attended by historical group representatives from far and wide), and a public information evening presented by Sam Hibbins MLA and featuring political science student Emily Jane Perkins on her research report on 'Keeping Prahran liveable: the contribution of public open space and transport'.

We are looking forward to a visit by Port Melbourne Historical & Preservation Society in September.

If your history or family history group would like to visit the PMI, contact Christine 9510 3393. ■

AROUND THE LIBRARY

GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations

Our congratulations to PMI member Elaine Brogan for receiving an OAM in the Queen's Birthday honours list for service to historical preservation organisations in Victoria. Over many years Elaine has given service to many groups including Essendon Historical Society, the Friends of Sandy and the Australian Light Horses, the Friends of Will Will Rook Cemetery and the Tatong Heritage Group. ■

Thank you

We are grateful to Joanne Osment, for the donation of two special items from the collection of her grandfather, Sydney Osment: *Victoria and its metropolis: past and present / by Alexander Sutherland ; R. L. J. Ellery ...[et.al.]* and *The chronicles of early Melbourne, 1835 to 1852: historical, anecdotal and personal / by "Garryowen*. Both books were published in 1888 and had been well cared for.

We have seen the amazing difference members and supporters have made to the historical collection over the years by their book and financial donations, and we continue to be happily surprised and appreciative of people's generosity. ■

Newsletter

Thank you very much to those members who have converted the way they receive the newsletter from posted hard copy to email. If you currently receive the newsletter in hard copy, but have an email address and would be happy to receive the digital version, we'd very much appreciate it. Let us know: christine@pmi.net.au ■

VOLUNTEER / STUDENT NEWS

2015 Volunteer Stats

So far this year our volunteers have completed 330 hours of work in the library and 4 indexes with several more indexes in process. Volunteers working in the library have been a big help to us during our transition process and have been most willing to assist with a range of tasks as required. Our book care volunteers have been patient as our regular acquisitions are not yet in full swing, but have been available when work in this area is needed. Some volunteers have helped with burgeoning projects to digitise our vertical file and historical society newsletters, in order to expand our digital resources and free up shelf space in the library. More about these projects as they progress.

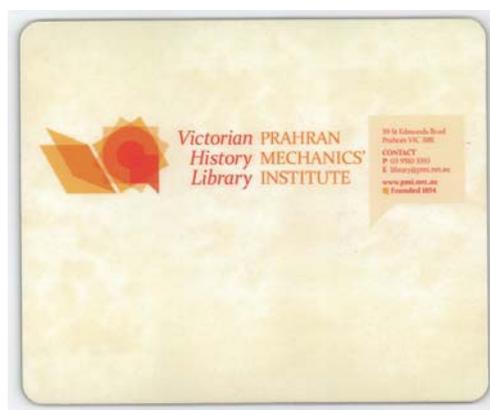
Student Engagement

In May-June we were joined by Erica Cooper, a student from the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University. During her placement Erica's excellent cataloguing skills came in very handy for the sorting and renumbering of the military history and maintenance to catalogue subject headings. Soon we will be joined by Kayla Murphy, a BA (Literature) student of Swinburne University. Kayla will be working on assessing our Australian Literature collection and improving catalogue descriptions. ■

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today!

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SHORT HISTORY PRIZE 2015

The PMI invites you to participate in the
2015 Short History Prize.

Prize: \$1,000 – \$500 for the author(s) and \$500 for the associated historical group.

Topic: A historical essay, article or work of a place or an aspect of a place in Victoria, Australia, or a person associated with a place in Victoria, written by a member or members of a Victorian historical society or similar organisation.

Closing Date: Friday 28 August 2015

A panel from the Professional Historians Association judges the prize.

Further information and a copy of the entry form can be found at <http://www.pmi.net.au/events/current-events/>



**Short
History
Prize
2015**

Two Squatters : The Lives of George Playne and Daniel Jennings

is the title of a new book by PMI member Martin Playne. In this article, he explains how it came about.

The book details the lives of two early pioneers who lived in the Port Phillip District.

These two men took up occupancy of the large Campaspe Plains Station in central Victoria. One was a rich, but eccentric land agent, Daniel Jennings; the other, a poor surgeon from Gloucestershire, Dr George Playne. Jennings remained a squatter and land investor until 1851, when he returned to England. Playne moved to Melbourne to practice medicine in 1844. He played important roles in efforts to improve tenure for squatters, to form a new colony separate from NSW, and to establish a medical association and a hospital. He was a magistrate from 1843 until 1854. He returned to England in 1854. Their lives in England and Australia from birth to death and that of their families have been explored in depth. The book illustrates the historical value of examining, in detail, lives of relatively unknown individuals during those boisterous years of early settlement and the gold rush, between 1839 and 1854.

I had always been curious about the naming of Playne Street in Frankston. During researching my family's history, I discovered that I was distantly related to George Playne, and that George had held a squatting licence in present-day, Mt Eliza. So George was an early pioneer of the Frankston - Mornington district. Then I met John Randell who was writing histories of the pastoral industry in central Victoria in 1978. Randell had already found that Jennings and Playne had held occupancy rights to Campaspe Plains Station for a number of years, and was trying to find out more about the two men. By this time, I was really 'hooked' into finding out the contribution these two men had made to Victoria. Soon I decided that there was no point in researching one's family history unless one recorded it, but I certainly did not want to write a boring family history containing lots of names, birth, deaths and marriages. So I focused on writing the story of this distant relative and his unusual business partner.

Even though I wrote my book as a social history rather than a family history, such books are not commercially attractive. So I took on the

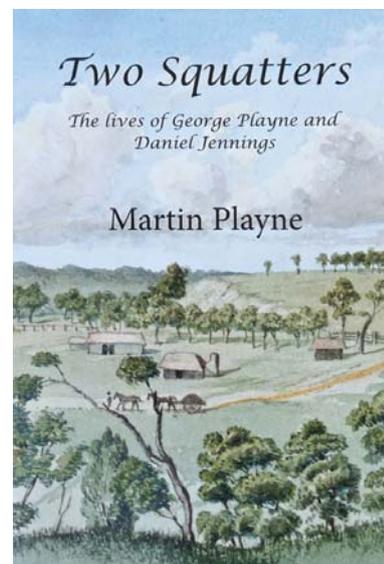
rather daunting task of self-publishing. I aimed at producing a professional- looking product. I was determined to find an attractive cover, and enlisted the aid of Sylvie Blair from BookPOD in setting up the cover (this is difficult or impossible to do on one's own computer). She also arranged for printing of the book and gave much valuable advice. I was also keen to have a comprehensive index, as all buyers look there to see if their family is mentioned. I asked an editor and an historian to read the manuscript and make comments, which was very useful, but in retrospect I should have made a more critical and detailed appraisal a priority. Nevertheless, I am pleased with the overall result and readers seem to enjoy it and appreciate the detailed research. I was very happy to win Second Place in the Don Grant Award 2014 for the best Australian historical biography with a family history focus. Overall, I have enjoyed the challenges of self-publishing and marketing.

[432 pages, 16 chapters, 12 appendices, 85 illustrations with 10 in colour, extensive end notes and referencing, glossary and bibliography, fully indexed, paperback, A5. Weight of book is approx 670g packed.]

For more information on this book and how to purchase it go to: www.martinplayne.com.au

The book is also available online at: www.bookstore.bookpod.com.au/ and at <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/publications/>

You can also purchase from the Prahran Mechanics Institute Library, and selected bayside bookshops. ■



BOOKS ETCETERA (Notes from publishers' blurbs)

AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

The library now has the following from the Miles Franklin Award long list 2015:

The eye of the sheep / Sofie Laguna (winner)

When the night comes / Favel Parrett

Golden boys / Sonya Hartnett

The golden age / Joan London

After darkness / Christine Piper

Tree palace / Craig Sherborne

In certain circles / Elizabeth Harrower

The lost child / Suzanne McCourt

Nest / Inga Simpson

Other novels added this month:

Rooms in the city : a novel / by Nicholas Hasluck 2014

Forever young / Steven Carroll 2015

Relativity / Antonia Hayes 2015

In the quiet / Eliza Henry-Jones 2015

The strays / Emily Bitto 2014

The girl with the dogs / Anna Funder 2015

The odd angry shot / William Nagle (1975) ; introduced by Paul Ham 2013

The only case : a novel (mystery) / by Ian Callinan 2014

NON-FICTION

Australia's boldest experiment : war and reconstruction in the 1940s / Stuart Macintyre 2015

A major new account of the 1940s in Australia. In this landmark book, Stuart Macintyre explains how a country traumatised by World War I, hammered by the Depression and overstretched by World War II became a prosperous, successful and growing society by the 1950s. An extraordinary group of individuals, notably John Curtin, Ben Chifley, Nugget Coombs, John Dedman and Robert Menzies, re-made the country, planning its reconstruction against a background of wartime sacrifice and austerity. The other part of this triumphant story shows Australia on the world stage, seeking to fashion a new world order that would bring peace and prosperity. This book shows the 1940s to be a pivotal decade in Australia. At the

NON-FICTION

height of his powers, Macintyre reminds us that key components of the society we take for granted work, welfare, health, education, immigration, housing are not the result of military endeavour but policy, planning, politics and popular resolve....

Kidnapped by time : a history of the Parish of Faraday / by The Faraday Community Association 2014

If you venture along the Calder Freeway from Melbourne looking for the famous township of Faraday then you will probably not find it. Faraday has been hidden quite effectively; it is a secret place known to a few select residents and their fortunate friends. Set in a lush green valley at the foot of Mount Alexander, Faraday has been bypassed by the modern road system just as effectively as it was bypassed by the railway network one and a half centuries ago. The stories in this book are the result of the combined efforts of a group of amateur historians who wanted to rediscover and preserve some of the history of where they live.

A far cry : town crying in the antipodes / Anne Doggett 2015

For a century and a half town criers walked the streets of Australian capital cities, regional centres, and country towns, ringing their bells and conveying their messages. Australia's first town crier was a convict who arrived with the First Fleet, and there have been town criers ever since, throughout the country. Town criers once played an important role in communities without radio and in which literacy was far from universal. Even today town criers continue to amuse and delight the Australian public. This fascinating account is the first to tell their full story.

City of Prahran Rate Books 1856-1994 (8 Discs) / produced by Stonnington History Centre

We thank the Stonnington History Centre for the donation of a set of DVDs of the City of Prahran rate books. The set is available for loan from the PMI Library and they are also accessible on the library computers. Rate records for the City of Prahran were prepared annually from 1856-1994, showing both owner and occupier ('head of household') and their respective occupations. In 1882, the first day of the municipal (i.e. rating) year was moved from April 1

to October 1. In 1953, a ten-year card system was introduced that recorded a decade's entries for any given address on a single card, replacing the compilation of annual ledgers. In 1963, new rate ledgers were set up that continued until 1994 when Prahran and Malvern Councils were amalgamated to form the City of Stonnington.

AV Jennings : home builders to the nation / Roy Edwards & Vic Jennings with Don Garden 2013

Leading the way in housing design and marketing, and setting the pattern of Australian detached housing. AV Jennings built over 66,000 homes between 1962 and 1982. How this was done with such initiative, flair and success is a remarkable Australian story.

 **ancestry library edition**

New records include:

■ **Australia : Newspaper Vital Notices, 1851-1997**

This database contains birth, marriage, and death notices from three Australian Newspapers for the years 1851-1997: The Age, The Sydney Mail, and The Sydney Morning Herald. These notices have not been indexed yet, but you can browse them by newspaper title and date range.

■ **Vic. : Index to Naturalisation Certificates, 1851-1928**

This collection includes images of a card index to naturalisation certificates issued to non-British subjects in Vic.

■ **Vic. : Selected Trial Brief and Correspondence Registers and Other Images, 1837-1993**

This database contains a miscellany of PROV records from various places : court, police, lands, building, council minutes (including for Prahran), shipping, port, surveyor, company index (current & defunct), fisheries, water, licensing, pastoral run correspondence, and more.

■ **Vic. : Deserter, Discharged, and Prisoner Crew Lists, 1852-1925**

Lists of crew members who deserted or otherwise left employment on a particular ship. While the two types of records overlap in the years covered, the imprisoned crew records are primarily from the 1850s and the desertion or discharge records primarily from the 1880s.

You can access Ancestry Library Edition on any of the new public computers at the library, or bring your own laptop.

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Friends of Kew (Boroondara) Cemetery

10am, Sat 12 Sep - Tour- They Made Melbourne Marvellous

During the gold rush Melbourne was a boomtown. In 1851 Victoria had 17% of the total Australian population; within a decade it was 47%. Hear about the movers and shakers who came to and helped make Melbourne Marvellous.

2pm, Sun 11 Oct - Art and About

Sunday, 11th October - Art and About

Kew is fortunate to be the final resting place of many wonderful artists and supporters of the Arts. We trace the early development of Melbourne's bohemian character through the lives of these artists.

\$15/\$10 (seniors)/\$8 members. Further information and bookings contact Pauline info@fobkc.org or call 9817 1829 and leave a message.

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

2pm, Sun 23 Aug - Tour - Gone but not Forgotten

Join Elizabeth Hore on this discovery of rarely visited graves in the cemetery. From judges, art collectors, photographers, advertising giants, architects and civil and penal administrators, together with glimpses of some of Melbourne's favourite houses, this tour is bright and engaging and holds many surprises.

\$10 non-members, members free. Bookings - 9531 6832 or info@foskc.org

Glen Eira Historical Society

7.30pm, Wed 23 Sep - Talk - Yalukit Willam - The River People of Port Phillip

Meyer Eidelson, author and local historian will talk about his recent book "Yalukit Willam, The River People of Port Phillip"

Visitors welcome - 9077 5395 or gehs@optusnet.com.au

History Council of Victoria

6pm-7.30pm, Tue 29 Sep - Seminar - S. T. Gill as eyewitness: art as historical evidence

Celebrating the first-ever retrospective of one of Australia's forgotten artists, S. T. Gill, this seminar reflects on Gill as an 'eyewitness' to colonial life in nineteenth century Australia. Join us for the inside story on how historians have used Gill's works to make sense of the colonial past.

Chair: Associate Professor Alison Inglis (The University of Melbourne), Speakers:

Emeritus Professor Sasha Grishin, Australian National University (and curator of the exhibition, Australian sketchbook: Colonial life and the art of S. T. Gill)

Dr Jan Croggon, Historian, Sovereign Hill Museums Association

Dr Andrew Lemon, professional historian

Free entry, State Library of Victoria, bookings necessary, 8664 7099 or inquiries@slv.vic.gov.au

National Family History Month

During August events will be conducted across the country that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects including family reunions, seminars, talks, workshops, open days, history walks, book launches, expos to mention just a few activities. Check your state for details of local events and remember to also check the online events which you can do at home.

Information on all registered NFHW events can be found at <http://www.familyhistorymonth.org.au>

St Kilda Historical Society

3.00pm, Sun 18 Oct - Talk - Sea Baths of Victoria
Bruce Bennett, Author of 'Sea Baths of Victoria' will tell the story of sea baths (with a particular emphasis with those associated with St Kilda and Port Phillip) from earliest settlement in 1837 to their development and progress from crude structures and hulks, to magnificent timber buildings.

Community Room, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street.

Members free, non-members \$5.

Further information and bookings:

secretary@stkildahistory.org.au

Stonnington History Centre

10am, Wed 24 Jun - Talk - Selling South Yarra
Local history enthusiast Philippe Batters grew up in South Yarra and has spent his working life selling properties in the area.

Stonnington History Centre, 1257 High Street, Malvern.

Free entry, bookings through <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> or libraryevents@stonnington.vic.gov.au or 8290

1360.

Stonnington Life-writing

10am, Wed 24 Jun - Competition - Who Do We Think We Are?

A life-writing competition for adults and teens who reside or work/learn in the City of Stonnington.

Your life writing could be selected for publication alongside several from award-winning Stonnington authors. Entry to the competition is FREE.

Presented by Plenty of Front writers' group. Further information at <https://plentyoffront.wordpress.com/>

Victorian GUM & AIGS

1.30pm, Sun 13 Sep - Talk - How to Effectively use the Ancestry Databases

Ben Mercer (Content Manager, Australia). Is a joint meeting of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies and VicGUM, and is sure to be popular.

Waverley Masonic Centre, 318 Stephenson's Road, Mount Waverley. \$5 for non-members. Further information and bookings www.vicgum.asn.au, info @ vicgum.asn.au 9639 2005.

YOU'RE WELCOME

■ If your historical group has an event coming up in Sep, Oct or Nov send the details to christine@pmi.net.au by 30 Jul for inclusion in our next newsletter.

■ If you would like to make a short contribution to our newsletter about a project your historical group has been working on, send 150-300 words to christine@pmi.net.au

■ If your historical group would like to use our facilities for a meeting or other activity contact tim@pmi.net.au

■ If your historical group would like to visit the PMI for a short talk, tour, morning/afternoon tea and assisted research, contact christine@pmi.net.au

- Writing History Feature: PMI Member Martin Playn
- Reports on PMI's official opening and Annual General Meeting
- National Family History Week Seminar

Inside:



PMI Committee

Cr John Chandler OAM (President)
Mr Steve Stefanopoulos (Vice President)
Mr Ben Quin, CPA (Treasurer)
Cr Claude Ullin (City of Stonnington representative)
Dr Judith Buckrich
Mr Chris Michalopoulos
Mr Peter Wolfenden

PMI Staff

Tim McKenna (Secretary Librarian)
Christine Worthington (Librarian)
Ursula Zamecnik (Library Technician)

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