



## NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

# National Family History Month

## Seminar - Family History Basics for Budding Family Historians

2pm, Saturday 27 August 2016  
in the *William Moss Room*

### Tracking Your Ancestors:

Research skills for beginner family historians  
(presented by Alison Boundy)

we're part of



### Ancestry Library Edition:

Search basics and tips  
(presented by Taani from ProQuest)

All Welcome | Refreshments Provided | Bookings Essential

**Bookings** - T: 9510 3393 or E: [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

## 2016 SHORT HISTORY PRIZE

The PMI invites you to participate in the 2016 Short History Prize

### LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR ENTRIES IN

**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 26 August 2016

A panel from the Professional Historians Association judges the prize.

To download a copy of the guidelines and entry form, visit:

<http://www.pmi.net.au/events/#shp>



**Short  
History  
Prize  
2016**

## COMING UP

**September:** The PMI Victorian History Library will be closed on Friday 30 September 2016 for the AFL Grand Final Public Holiday.

**October:** Friends of PMI Library Book Sale (date to be announced soon)

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### ABOUT THE PMI

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W [www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au)

### OPEN:

**Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri**  
9:30am - 4:30pm  
**Thu**  
9:30am - 4:30pm  
excluding public holidays and  
the Christmas/New Year period.

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# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## DONATIONS

### Grants

We have recently received a grant of \$3000 from the *Prahran Historical and Arts Society* towards the cataloguing of our books onto *Libraries Australia* (Trove). We very much appreciate this grant and it will be put to good use making our collection more accessible to the general public. Thank you PHAS.

We have also received another grant from the *Sir Wilfred Brookes Charitable Foundation* for \$4,000 for general purposes. We thank the foundation very much and the money will be used to maintain our building and add to our information resources.

We have also received a Community Grant from the *City of Stonnington* for \$5000, this will be used for newsletter production and distribution, supporting our volunteers, buying equipment for our archives and also for our project to catalogue our books onto *Libraries Australia* (Trove). We really appreciate the support we have received from *Stonnington Council* over the years.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Book Sale

A very successful book sale was held on 23 June with over \$1,100 worth of books sold. The PMI greatly appreciates the efforts of Wendy Eldridge, coordinator of the *Friends of PMI Library*, and her team Angelene and David Hayter and Jenny Campbell. They did a lot of work assessing the books and pricing them appropriately and also promoting the sale to our members and outside groups. The next book sale will be in October. Members will be advised of the exact date closer to the event.



### Friends of PMI Library

The *Friends of the PMI Library* invite members to join them.

They are looking for members who can donate their time and skills on a flexible basis to help promote and bring awareness of the facilities and services unique to the PMI.

Their first activity was the recent book sale that was highly successful and an example of the way in which the *Friends of PMI Library* can support the library and its staff. Preparation for our next sale in October is underway and we would love you to join us in this and other projects.

Please contact Wendy at [weldridge5@bigpond.com](mailto:weldridge5@bigpond.com).

## GENERAL NEWS

### New Staff

We would like to welcome two new staff members to PMI.

#### **Ellen Coates: Collections Librarian**

Ellen has been volunteering at the PMI since 2013, working on the archives, so if she looks familiar it's because you've probably seen her carting boxes of documents around on a Thursday.



Ellen has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Politics, an Honours Degree in Medieval History and a Masters in Information Studies. She is truly passionate about history, runs a small historical blog called *Historical Ragbag* and writes historical fiction, when she has time.

Ellen says she has learnt a lot about the history of the PMI during her time as a volunteer and is absolutely delighted to be given the opportunity to work at the PMI professionally.

*'I see the PMI and its collection as being of fundamental importance and playing a crucial role in preserving the history of Victoria and Australia. As an historian and a librarian by training, I am very excited to have the opportunity to grow such a crucial collection and to make it accessible to members. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone who uses such a wonderful resource.'*

You will see Ellen around the library Wednesday-Friday.

#### **Chris Moysey: Marketing and Communications Officer**

Chris has come to us from *Mornington Peninsula Library Service* where she worked as the Library Marketing Coordinator.

Chris has worked across many different roles in public libraries, starting as a junior shelver in high school. In the years following, Chris worked as a Library Officer, Collections Unit Technician and Information Services Librarian before moving to library marketing.



Chris has an Associate Degree in Information Studies and has completed many marketing and design short courses. When she isn't running after her 18 month old (Abby), Chris designs artwork and cards for friends and has recently begun working on developing her photography skills.

Chris is excited about her new role at PMI.

*'Along with its rich history, the PMI Library contains so many valuable resources that can be of benefit to many different people whether they be historians, students, those interested in Victorian history or finding out more about their own family background. I look forward to putting my skills and experience into promoting the PMI Library and forming some beneficial networks.'*

You will see Chris around the library on Monday-Tuesday.

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## Melbourne Rare Book Week 2016

This year we held our inaugural Melbourne Rare Book Week Lecture on Thursday 21 July 2016. Professor Wallace Kirsop presented a lecture on *The People From Prahran and District Important to the Melbourne Book Scene*. As many may know Professor Kirsop is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University and taught book history for the Rare Book Summer Schools. This was a very interesting lecture which sketched the history of the printing, publishing, selling, lending and collecting of books in Prahran and district from 1850 to the present. Professor Kirsop then spoke about the roles of some outstanding personalities in the field, with special reference to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Those who attended were very happy with the lecture, some comments included:

*'FIRST CLASS - this was an important topic and Prof. Kirsop's talk from his notes should be put into print - for the benefit of present and future generations.'*

*'Enjoyable hearing such an expert speak on a topic I knew little about.'*

## Open House Melbourne 2016

The PMI was involved in this year's *Open House Melbourne Weekend*. The *Open House Melbourne Weekend* has been operating since 2008 and has quickly grown to become one of Melbourne's most widely attended cultural events. The Weekend puts a spotlight on the unique spaces and places that form the foundation of Melbourne, providing an opportunity for people to consider what makes Melbourne unique. The Weekend showcases buildings of significance in a free and accessible format so everyone can experience the value of good design and architecture, and consider what makes a liveable city.

The PMI Library, together with the *Mechanics' Institute Victoria*, the *Cinema and Theatre Historical Society* and *Australian Railway Society* opened their doors on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 July. We saw many new faces visit over the weekend and have welcomed some new members as a result. Several visitors mentioned that they had been meaning to visit the PMI Library for some time and so made sure they included PMI in their Open House Itinerary for 2016.

## Shining a Light - Looking at the PMI collection of books about Australian art

On April 28 Judith Buckrich gave the first of her talks showcasing the wonderful collection of Australian art books held at the PMI library. Judith's aim was twofold: to evoke ways that using images can deepen our understanding of history – nothing is as vividly powerful or as revealing as an image. The other, to deepen our understanding of ourselves.

Judith used images of the work of twelve painters and photographers: Tommy McRae, Eugene Von Guerard, Harriet Jane Neville-Rolfe, Hilda Rix Nicholas, Clarice Beckett, Albert Namatjira, William Dobell, Yosl Bergner, Joy Hester,

Bea Maddock, Carol Jerems and Rennie Ellis to highlight what she felt were new perceptions of the time and place represented in the artists' work, and how the works affected her personal understanding of my own life and times.

The talk was very well received and the books displayed as part of the event were much pored over with lots of discussion among the attendees.

Judith will be doing another presentation highlighting another group of artists and their work on November 17 – we hope to see many PMI members there.

In the meantime please have a look at the more than 400 books about Australian art in the PMI collection, some concentrating on just one artist, some covering certain important exhibitions, others covering a wide scope of art from particular galleries, and a number of encyclopaedia and compendia. You can find some of the Australian art in the PMI collection via [this link to our catalogue](#).

## OTHER NEWS

### Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria AGM

*Please note, this is not the Prahran Mechanics' Institute AGM but the AGM of the umbrella body for mechanics' institutes.*

Held at Prahran Mechanics' Institute Saturday 24 September, 10am - PMI members welcome to attend.

Agenda:

10:00am: Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria - AGM

11:00am: Wesson Lecture 'In Search of the Mechanics' - Gideon Haigh, author, journalist and commentator.

12:15pm: Book Launch - *Ubiquitous and Necessary: Australia's Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts, etc.: A Research Guide*

12:45pm: Tea and Coffee

1:15pm: Close

For bookings, please email: [mivenquiry@live.com.au](mailto:mivenquiry@live.com.au)

### Sandringham & District Historical Society Exhibition

*SEMCO: The Wonderful World of Art Needlework*

An Exhibition of factory and staff photographs, needlework, pattern books and embroidery threads that were produced at the factories at Cheltenham Road, Black Rock and George Street, Sandringham.

The Exhibition will be open from 2 October – 30 October, 2016:

- 2pm – 5pm, Wednesday-Friday
- 2pm – 4pm, Sunday

**Where:** 6 Waltham Street, Sandringham (next door to the Library)

Further information: Ph: 9597 0985

# BOOKS ETCETERA (Notes from publishers' blurbs)

## Interstate Directories

The PMI has recently acquired a large number of historical directories from other states, these complement our extensive collection of Victorian directories and include general directories, post office directories, telephone directories, almanacs, gazetteers etc. The directories are in electronic format, they are 'not for loan' but can be accessed within the library on the public computer terminals in the desktop folder 'Directories – Other States'. For a detailed list of what was acquired see the 'Recent additions' list for June 2016.

## New Books

### [Those summers of cricket: Richie Benaud, 1930-2015](#)

Richard "Richie" Benaud, OBE, (1930-2015) was a Test cricket all-rounder, blending thoughtful leg spin bowling with lower-order batting aggression. In 1958 he became Australia's Test captain until his retirement in 1964. He became the first player to reach 200 wickets and 2,000 runs in Test cricket. After his retirement from international cricket in 1964, he became a highly regarded and utterly beloved commentator on the game both in the UK and Australia. "Summer of Cricket" was his call sign that summer was here and cricket was the star. This book gathers together the many accolades accorded Richie Benaud over the decades. Tales from colleagues, players, friends and those who listened to his broadcasts every summer. This book also features some of the finest cricket commentators and writers who have explored the legend that is Richie Benaud. A book to treasure, dip into and enjoy that includes many of the great names from cricket.

### [Life as I know it / Michelle Payne with John Harms](#)

The extraordinary story of the first female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup. Michelle and her 100-to-1 local horse Prince of Penzance took the international racing world by surprise but hers was no overnight success story. Michelle was first put on a horse aged four. At five years old her dream was

to ride in the Melbourne Cup and win it. By seven she was doing track work. All of the ten Payne children learned to ride racehorses but Michelle has stayed the distance. She has ridden the miles, done the dawn training, fallen badly and each time got back on the horse. So when she declared that anyone who said women couldn't compete in the industry could 'get stuffed', the nation stood up and cheered. Michelle has the audacity to believe she can succeed against all the odds. Her story is about hope triumphing over adversity, and how resilience and character made a winner.

## Coming Soon:

### *Goldfields and the gothic* / edited by David Waldron

Generations of Australians have grown up with the legend of Eureka and the familiar images of the gold rush in central Victoria. However, underneath these commonly known stories lies a stranger and darker past. As well as colonists, pioneers, soldiers and rebel miners, the colonial goldfields were home to spiritualists, secret societies, ghost-hoaxers, bunyip legends and murderers. There are also the stories of those often forgotten in the goldfield histories, including Indigenous peoples, the mentally ill, homosexuals and immigrant communities. *Goldfields and the Gothic* is an anthology by local historians of the long buried legends, histories and folklore of the Victorian goldfields and their legacy today. Every historian has a collection of strange, buried pieces of history; this work begins the task of bringing them into the light.

### *Our Man Elsewhere: In Search of Alan Moorehead* / Thornton McCamish

A world-famous Australian writer, an inspiration to Robert Hughes and Clive James, a legendary war correspondent who also wrote bestselling histories of exploration and conservation . . . and yet forgotten? In this dazzling book, Thornton McCamish delves into the past to reclaim a remarkable figure, Alan Moorehead. As a reporter, Moorehead witnessed many of the great historical events of the mid-20th century: the Spanish Civil War and both world wars,

Cold War espionage, and decolonisation in Africa. He debated strategy with Churchill and Gandhi, fished with Hemingway, and drank with Graham Greene, Ava Gardner and Truman Capote. As well as being a regular contributor to the *New Yorker*, in 1956 Moorehead wrote the first significant book about the Gallipoli campaign. With its countless adventures, its touch of jet-set glamour and its tragic arc, Moorehead's story is a beguiling one. Thornton McCamish tells it as a quest – intimate, perceptive and superbly entertaining. His funny, ardent book reveals an extraordinary Australian and takes its place in a fresh tradition of contemporary biography.

### *Planning Melbourne : lessons for a sustainable city* / Michael Buxton, Robin Goodman and Susie Moloney

*Planning Melbourne* reflects on planning since the post-war era, but focuses in particular on the past two decades and the ways that key government policies and influential individuals and groups have shaped the city during this time. The book examines past debates and policies, the choices planners have faced and the mistakes and sound decisions that have been made. Current issues are also addressed, including housing affordability, transport choices, protection of green areas and heritage and urban consolidation. If Melbourne's identity is to be shaped as a prospering, socially integrated and environmentally sustainable city, a new approach to governance and spatial planning is needed and this book provides a call to action.