



## 2016 VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL



### *Prahran Mechanics' Institute* **OPEN DAY** *in conjunction with the Victorian Seniors Festival* **10am-4pm, Saturday 29 October 2016**

The library will be open from 10am-4pm for members to do research, borrow items and access the library services. In addition, we will also be hosting the following events:



### **Cinema and Theatre Historical Society Lecture, 2pm** *The Sense of Occasion: How things have changed at the movies*

Take a trip back in time with the *Cinema and Theatre Historical Society* to explore the cinema outings of the 1950s - before the coming of television started to have an impact on the cinema industry.

Come along to this fascinating lecture and hear more about how the cinema experience of yesteryear differs exponentially to that of today.

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



### **Friends of PMI Book Sale, 10am-3:45pm**

The *Friends of the PMI* are holding their second book sale at the Open Day. Get your own piece of history and help support the PMI. A booklist will be sent out to members prior to the Open Day.



**For full details please visit our website at <http://www.pmi.net.au/events/#SFOD>**

## COMING UP



### **Shining a Light, Part 2** *How art helps us discover our unknowable selves* **6:30pm, Thursday 17 November 2016** *in the William Moss Room*

Dr. Judith Buckrich will be giving the second of her *Shining a Light* talks at the PMI Victorian History Library.

Using books in the PMI collection on Australian art, she will discuss how looking at art helps us understand our history and to discover our otherwise unknowable selves.

**This event is free, but seats are limited so bookings are essential.**

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**For full details please visit our website at <http://www.pmi.net.au/events/#SAL2>**

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### OPEN:

**Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri**  
9:30am - 4:30pm

### Thu

9:30am - 7:00pm  
excluding public holidays and  
the Christmas/New Year period.

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# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## DONATIONS

The PMI Library would like to thank **Carisbrook Historical Society** for their donation of periodicals to the PMI Library collection.

## GENERAL NEWS



### Family History Seminar 2016

Our annual Family History Seminar was held on Saturday 27 August 2016 in conjunction with National Family History Month.

Alison Boundy discussed tracing her local roots back to Prahran in 1851 as an example of how beginner family historians can explore their family history. Taahni from *Proquest* gave a talk on some basic tips when using the library edition of Ancestry.com.

We hope that those who attended found the day helpful. You can find more information about the differences between Ancestry.com Library and Home editions, on our website at [www.pmi.net.au/research/research-guide-ancestry-library-edition/](http://www.pmi.net.au/research/research-guide-ancestry-library-edition/)

### Do You Have Information About the Ballrooms of Melbourne Mansions?

A great many private mansions were built in Melbourne during the boom years 1860-70 and again from around 1880-90. Many of these mansions had ballrooms, either within the house or attached to the side. Occasionally part of a large garden would be covered for dancing. Dances took place privately at such grand homes as *Ordsall*, *Flemington House*, *Bracknell*, *Ravenswood*, *Dentonville*, *Cliveden*, *Findon* and *Mosspennock*.

Kate Cleeland is associated with London's *Early Dance Circle* and the *Historical Dance Society* and is currently researching the ballrooms of the mansions of 'Marvellous Melbourne' for a book.

If any readers have information about these early houses or others with ballrooms, Kate would be most grateful to hear from you at [kccleeland@gmail.com](mailto:kccleeland@gmail.com).

## EXHIBITION



### The Visionary Life of Tilly Aston

Born in the Victoria goldfields town of Carisbrook, Tilly Aston moved to Melbourne at the age of nine to attend the *Victorian Asylum and School for the Blind* on St Kilda Road (later the RVIB) after becoming blind at the age of seven. She moved to Windsor in 1913, and remained in the area for the rest of her life, until her death in 1947.

This exhibition from *Vision Australia's* Heritage Team will follow the life of Tilly Aston by exploring her determination to receive an education and the outlet of her creative passion in writing, music and handcrafts. Through her many years of advocacy for the rights of Blind and vision-impaired people she left an indelible legacy in the area now known as Stonnington.

The PMI Library is excited to be hosting this exhibition from **Thursday 3 - Wednesday 30 November 2016** and it will be on display in the *William Moss Room* during library opening hours.

## 2016 CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

The PMI Library would like to invite all members and volunteers to our

### Christmas Afternoon Tea

2:30pm, Saturday 3 December (in the William Moss Room)

RSVP: Friday 18 November | T: 9510 3393 | E: [ursula@pmi.net.au](mailto:ursula@pmi.net.au)



# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## SPOTLIGHT ON



## Family History

The spotlight for this edition is the PMI Library's family history resources.

You will find we have included links to examples or further information which are accessible from the online version of this Newsletter. If you receive the printed version of our Newsletter, you can access the online version from the *Newsletter Archive* on our website at <http://www.pmi.net.au/newsletter/newsletter-archive/>.



The PMI is a goldmine for family history researchers. There are five key areas that our resources fall into.

### 1. Local History Resources

You'll find information on virtually every town in Victoria as well as many interstate and the collection is growing every day. An example of a general history of a town is [the history of Somers which you can find here](#). The collection covers specific institutions within the Victorian towns, such as [churches](#) and [schools](#). The PMI is the only institution that is *actively* collecting these resources to ensure that the history of Victoria and interstate towns are preserved.

### 2. Historical Society Journals

We don't just collect these journals we also index them, which is something that no one else is doing. This means that every relevant historical article in these journals is fully searchable on our catalogue, [you can see an example here](#). These journals cover an astounding array of minutia from their communities' histories and are an invaluable resource for family historians as many different people are discussed in their pages. This is the small scale of history that is not covered in books and in more general resources.

### 3. Gazettes, Directories, Indexes, Registries

Largely, but not always, our electronic resources are available either on disk to be borrowed, on microfiche, on the library computers in the electronic documents folder or a mixture of all three. These are primary sources and are invaluable to family history researchers. They range from directories like [the Sands and McDougall's directories](#), to [hospital indexes](#) and [burial registries](#) to [police gazettes](#). These are just examples of some of these sorts of resources and they can be vital as they can give you firsthand primary listing of your ancestors.

### 4. How To Do Family History

We collect guides on how to conduct family history research, covering the wide range of resources that are generally available to family history researchers. These range from how to search [sewerage records](#) and [how to use Ancestry.com](#) to how to search [asylum records](#) and many others. These can be found at the Call No. 929.1 or by searching family history in the subject box on our catalogue.

### 5. Existing Family Histories

If you're looking for inspiration we also hold a fairly extensive collection of existing family histories. These can be found at Call No. 929.2 or by searching the subject 'family histories' on our catalogue. [You can find some examples here](#). [These family histories](#) are also a valuable resource in and of themselves because if you can find a branch of your family that has already been researched it can save you a significant amount of time. They are all catalogued on the system under the surname of the family or families they are about.

We have also recently revamped the family history research section of our website ([Research Guide: Family History](#)), as well as information on how to use the library edition of Ancestry.com. If you would like to find more information on how the PMI Library can help you with your family history research, please visit our [Research Guide: Family History](#) or contact the library to speak to one of our friendly staff.

## New Books

### **Fifteen Young Men: Australia's untold football tragedy / Paul Kennedy**

It was a maritime tragedy that unfolded one sad, dark hour at a time. A cold, cruelly blustery night revealing, with agonising slowness, that fifteen young men of the Mornington Football Club would never make it home. As dawn broke and families began to mourn, a nation was to learn the full extent of one of the world's worst sporting disasters. The sinking of the *Process* in catastrophically rough seas off Victoria's Mornington Peninsula in 1892, with the loss of all on board -- including three popular brothers, Hugh, Willie and Jim Caldwell, sons of the Presbyterian minister -- horrified Australia. Journalist Paul Kennedy reveals the stories behind the tragedy. In his compelling evocation of a spirited Australian town on the cusp of a new century, he captures the trauma of families and friends suffering almost unbearable loss, but also the irrepressible optimism of the times, and the mateship, love and resilience that would come to define a budding nation.

### **The Turnbull Gamble / Wayne Errington ; Peter van Onselen**

The Liberal Party took a risk replacing Tony Abbott with Malcolm Turnbull. They had seen how voters could turn when the ALP tore down a first-term prime minister. But MPs were desperate, having witnessed the collapse in polling during Abbott's prime ministership. By the time Turnbull called the election it was still unclear what he wanted to achieve. He seemed strangely underprepared for a job that he had fought so long to win.

Turnbull leads a party whose culture he doesn't share. While the narrow

election victory may have justified the gamble to place him in office, does Turnbull have the leadership qualities needed to break the cycle of division and instability of the last decade?

## Coming Soon:

### **A Peculiar Gentleman: George Rusden - a life / John O'Leary**

One hundred and thirty years ago an important libel case was heard in the High Court of Justice in London. George Rusden, a former Melbourne civil servant and polemical historian, was being sued by John Bryce, a former Minister of Native Affairs in New Zealand. Rusden had claimed in his *History of New Zealand* that Bryce had taken part in a massacre of Maori women and children in Taranaki some years earlier. Feelings ran high on both sides, but this was more than just a personal quarrel. Rather, it was the culmination of a bitter, 50-year-long battle between those who deplored what colonization had done to indigenous peoples and those who considered that it had been a blessing to settlers and natives alike. Who was Rusden? What was his social and intellectual background? And how had he got himself involved in such a dangerous law-suit?

### **Unnecessary Wars / Henry Reynolds**

'Australian governments find it easy to go to war. Their leaders seem to be able to withdraw with a calm conscience, answerable neither to God nor humanity.' Australia lost 600 men in the Boer War, a three year conflict fought in the heart of Africa that had, ostensibly, nothing to do with Australia. Coinciding with Federation, the war kickstarted Australia's commitment to fighting in Britain's wars overseas, and

forged a national identity around it. By 1902, when the Boer War ended, a mythology about our colonial soldiers had already been crafted, and a dangerous precedent established. This is Henry Reynolds at his searing best, as he shows how the Boer War left a dark and dangerous legacy, demonstrating how those beliefs have propelled us into too many unnecessary wars - without ever counting the cost.

### **City Dreamers: The urban imagination in Australia / Graeme Davison**

*City Dreamers* restores Australian cities, and those who created them, to their rightful place in the national imagination. Building on a lifetime's work, Graeme Davison views Australian history, from 1788 to the present day, through the eyes of city dreamers - such as Henry Lawson, Charles Bean and Hugh Stretton - and others who have helped make the cities we inhabit. This extraordinary book excavates the cultural history of the Australian city by focusing on 'dreamers', those who battle to make and re-make our cities. It reminds us that for most of us the city is home, and it is there that we find belonging.

### **Working Class Boy / Jimmy Barnes**

*Working Class Boy* is a powerful reflection on a traumatic and violent childhood, which fuelled the excess and recklessness that would define, but almost destroy, the rock'n'roll legend. This is the story of how James Swan became Jimmy Barnes. It is a memoir burning with the frustration and frenetic energy of teenage sex, drugs, violence and ambition for more than what you have. Raw, gritty, compassionate, surprising and darkly funny - Jimmy Barnes's childhood memoir is at once the story of migrant dreams fulfilled and dashed.