

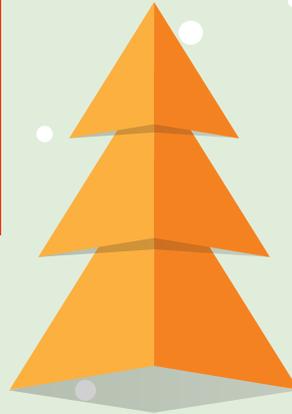


COMING UP

The PMI Library will be closed during the Christmas/New Year holiday period

CLOSED: 4:30pm, Friday 23 December 2016
REOPEN: 9:30am, Monday 9 January 2017

The PMI staff and committee would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



The PMI Library will be closing for the Christmas/New Year holiday period on Friday 23 December and will reopen on Monday 9 January 2017.

Due dates for any library items on loan will not fall during the closure period, however library chutes will be open for members who wish to return items during this time.

LIBRARY NEWS

Staff Updates

Goodbye from Tim

"Dear Members,

After sixteen years at the PMI, eight of them as Secretary Librarian, I have decided to retire at the end of this year.

I have really enjoyed my time at PMI. It has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know our dedicated committee and staff and you, our members.

My chief focus as a librarian has always been our local history collection and it has been with a great sense of satisfaction that I have watched it develop into something really significant.

I leave confident that the PMI, with the support of you, our members, will continue on its successful path.

Regards,
Tim McKenna"



The PMI Staff and Committee would like to thank Tim for his leadership, support and contribution to the PMI Library during his time as Secretary Librarian. Tim's contribution to relocating the library, maintaining the excellent quality of the collection and understanding every aspect of what is needed to run the library has been unwavering. Without him the PMI Library and its collection would not be to the standard it is today.

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ABOUT THE PMI

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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

Hello from the PMI's new Secretary Librarian



We would like to welcome our new Secretary Librarian, Steven Haby to the PMI Library.

Steven comes to us with an extensive background in public and special libraries undertaking a number of roles including management, technical and IT services and reference and information services. Steven has worked in Melbourne and regional Victoria and his most recent role was Bass Coast Principal Librarian at the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation.

Steven has a Bachelor of Social Science in Library and Information Services from RMIT and has also lectured at Monash University, Chisholm and Swinburne TAFEs in library cataloguing and classification.

"I've been a member of the PMI Victorian History Library for many years and its collection of resources on Victorian local history and latterly expanding into Australian local history is a core strength and the fact that this material can be borrowed is a key value proposition to our members and the community. As a very keen railway enthusiast and member of the Australian Railway Historical Society it is pleasing that the ARHS library collection is also based within the PMI Victorian History Library along with the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society. I am very keen to use my skills to support our team to expand our reach into the community and to provide more opportunities to access our incredible collection and services through various means. I am very keen to get the younger generation interested in local history. It is an honour to carry on the great work that Tim McKenna has done over the past decades."

You can read Steven's full introduction at: <http://www.pmi.net.au/news-pmi-staff-update/>

Steven will be working Monday to Friday

GENERAL NEWS

Christmas Afternoon Tea

We had a wonderful turn out to our annual Volunteer and Members' Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 3 December, 2:30pm. Volunteers were presented with a Certificate and small gift of appreciation. Festive spirits were high and everyone in attendances appeared to have a great time. The PMI is very grateful for the work of our valuable volunteers and the continued support of our members.

2016 Short History Prize

This year's Short History Prize was announced on our website on 18 October, during Victorian History Week.



Neville Lee from the *Camberwell Historical Society* was this year's recipient with his entry *The Story of Ashburton Through the Ages*.

The submission was a well-researched and detailed description of the development of this little known area of greater Melbourne. Interestingly told with detail of the wider history as well as what happened locally, it is also well illustrated with maps and photographs.

The author receives \$500 and the Camberwell Historical Society also receives \$500.

An Honourable mention goes to Joan Grace for her entry *Baxter Hall 1923 – Through the eyes of a child*. This was a charmingly presented story of a family and life in early Baxter.

We would like to sincerely thank all the entrants in the Short History Prize and we are very grateful once again to the judging panel from the *Professional Historians Association* - Dr Judith Buckrich, Jill Barnard and Emma Russell.

An excerpt from the winning entry will be included in next year's newsletter.

PMI Open Day



The PMI Library held an Open Day on 29 November in conjunction with the 2016 Victorian Seniors Festival.

The Cinema and Theatre Historical Society presented their annual lecture. This year's lecture by Richard Twentyman *The Sense of Occasion: How things have changed at the movies* was well received, highlighting the differences in the cinema experience from the 1950s to today. Richard presented some fascinating images and had some great examples of cinema advertising of yesteryear.

The *Friends of PMI Library* held their second book sale and received an overwhelmingly positive response. The PMI would like to thank everyone who purchased items on the day. The funds raised will greatly support the PMI in its future endeavours.

AROUND THE LIBRARY

Volunteering at PMI

Friends of the PMI Library

If you are interested in joining *The Friends of the PMI Library* to assist with Book Sales and other activities, please send an expression of interest to: PMIFriends@gmail.com.

Library Volunteers

We are always grateful when people are able to spare some time to assist. We have many tasks that volunteers can assist with including our newsletter mailout and book covering. Those who have technological, library or administrative experience can assist with other duties such as scanning of the PMI archives, data entry, bibliographic searching and periodical audit duties and maintaining our holdings on the Libraries Australia database.

If you are interested in any of these tasks, or if you have any particular skills that you would like to use or develop, please complete the short expression of interest form at <http://www.pmi.net.au/support/volunteer/> and the Volunteer Coordinator will be in contact with you.

2016 Victorian Community History Awards

Congratulations are in order for Pam Baragwanath, Ken James and our Vice President, Dr Judith Buckrich who were all recipients of Victorian Community History Awards in 2016.

Pam Baragwanath and Ken James were the overall prize winners for *These Walls Speak Volumes* and Dr Judith Buckrich was the recipient of the Local History – Small Publication Award for *The Village of Ripponlea*.

Both of these titles are available for loan and/or purchase from the library.

Shining a Light, Part 2

Thanks to everyone who came to the second *Shining a Light* talk on 17 November. Dr. Judith Buckrich was delighted to be able to discuss the work of Augustus Earle, Georgiana McCrae, Louis Buvelot, S T Gill, Agnes Goodsir, Doritt Black, Stella Bowen, Karl Duldig, Noel Counihan and John Wolseley, analyse their contribution to Australian culture and history as well as the effect their works have had on her personally and her development as a historian.

The PMI Library has over 400 books about Australian art in its collection. You can browse some of these titles via [this link to our catalogue](#).

OTHER NEWS

2017 Prahran Tech Reunion

contributed by Bob Flanagan

When students from the 1940s and 1950s meet each year for their annual Prahran Tech get together, there is much reminiscing about the 'good old days'. In recent times up to 70 ex-students attend the reunion. The annual reunion had its beginnings in 2008 when just 6 couples would meet for lunch and the most asked question was 'I wonder what happened to ...?'

Many stories were shared as a number of attendees had not seen each other since finishing school 60 years ago.

In those days, although the school catered for boys and girls, it was a far cry from being co-ed as we know it today. The girls were housed in the High Street building and the boys in the St John Street building, distinctly separated by the cobble stone laneway, known as the 'dunny lane' where the boys assembled to go into class.

The girls assembled on the tennis court on the corner of St John & Thomas Streets and marched to the High Street entrance to class. This area was used as the girls playground while the boys playground was a vacant block of land off Green Street behind the Eyelet factory.

Despite the antiquated conditions by today's standards, the school managed to produce some well known personalities, mostly in the sporting areas.

The next Prahran Tech Reunion will be held from 12 noon, Thursday 5 January 2017 at the Malvern Vale Hotel, Malvern Road, Malvern.

Contact: Bob Flanagan, 9822 2064.

FOR SALE

PMI Library merchandise is available for purchase. All profits will go towards to the running of the PMI Library.



**Library Bag (fold-able) | Magnifying Bookmark | Mousemat
All items are \$4 each. Ask for yours at the library desk.**

New Books

Reckoning: A memoir / Magda Szubanski

Heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory, *Reckoning* is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved performers, tells her story. In this extraordinary memoir, Magda describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood, haunted by the demons of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family.

The Story of Australia's People: The rise and rise of a new Australia / Geoffrey Blainey

In this book, Geoffrey Blainey continues his account of the history of this country from the early Gold Rush to the present day, completing the story of our nation and its people. When Europeans crossed the world to plant a new society in an unknown land, traditional life for Australia's first inhabitants changed forever. For the new arrivals, Australia was a land that rewarded, tricked, tantalised and often defeated. From the Gold Rush to Land Rights and the Digital Age, Blainey brings to life the key events of more recent times that have shaped us into the nation and people we are today.

Thea Astley: Inventing her own weather / Karen Lamb

This is the first biography of one of Australia's most beloved novelists, Thea Astley (1925-2004). Over a 50-year writing career, Astley published more than a dozen novels and short story collections, including "The Acolyte," "Drylands," and "The Slow Natives," and was the first person to win multiple Miles Franklin Awards. With many of her works published internationally, Astley was a trailblazer for women writers. In her personal life, she was renowned

for her dry wit, eccentricity, and compassion.

ANZAC Cove to Hollywood: The story of Tom Skeyhill master of deception / Jeff Brownrigg

Tom Skeyhill wasn't what he appeared to be. Landing at Anzac Cove on the morning of 25 April 1915, Tom feigned blindness to escape. Wearing smoked-glass goggles he returned to Australia as the 'blind soldier-poet'... Spinning exaggerated and often erroneous tales, Tom's public lectures proved to be excellent theatre but truthfulness was a casualty of Tom's restless ambition; an ambition which eventually brought him down.

Caroline's diary: A woman's world in colonial Australia / Anne Philip

An astute observer, throughout her life Caroline Thomas kept detailed diaries recording the joys and sorrows of family life in London and the Australian bush. Her diaries provide an insight into the busy social life of a girl in comfortable family circumstances at the time of London's Great Exhibition in 1851 and following her father's disgrace and flight to Australia, her forced migration to Sydney. Caroline's Diary reflects the fragility of life and her ability to adapt, whether it was the dangers of pregnancy and birth, the deaths of several of her eleven children, the chronic illnesses of her husband and the death of her sister in the Siege of Lucknow

Coming Soon

Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960 / Richard Broome

Melbourne has been reshaped since the 1950s, the completion of ICI House in 1958 being symbolic of the glass tower revolution that changed the face of this magnificent 19th-century city. This book *Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960*, captures what has been lost and forgotten, concealed and overlaid, demolished and reborn, in the transformation of a city's buildings and streetscapes.

It is a unique book, for it reveals in over 700 photographs the face of fourteen of Melbourne's finest streets, and also its lanes and little streets, its parks and gardens, and of course the Yarra. Besides this, it presents key buildings and streetscapes of twenty of Melbourne's iconic suburbs.

Something for the pain: A memoir of the turf / by Gerald Murnane

As a boy, Gerald Murnane became obsessed with horse racing. He had never ridden a horse, nor seen a race. Yet he was fascinated by photos of horse races in the Sporting Globe, and by the incantation of horses' names in radio broadcasts of races. Murnane discovered in these races more than he could find in religion or philosophy: they were the gateway to a world of imagination.

Guy Gaunt: The boy from Ballarat who led America into the Great War / Anthony Delano

Guy Gaunt's infiltration of America's leadership changed the course of history. When the Great War began he was the British naval attaché in Washington, beached for recklessness at sea. Taking over a network of disaffected immigrants he thwarted all efforts by the powerful German-American establishment in the United States to stop America from supporting the Allies. The exposure of a sinister German underground showed President Woodrow Wilson that America could not remain neutral. The Foreign Office never forgave him for outclassing its fledgling Secret Service. Toughened by early life in the turbulent Australian goldfields, Guy built a career by playing outside the rules. He dodged his way up the ranks of the Royal Navy, married for money, snatched up a country estate, won a seat in Parliament and faked his disappearance to run off with the wife of the King's doctor.