

Victorian PRAHRAN History MECHANICS' Library INSTITUTE

# NEWSLETTI 88 - November 201

#### VICTORIAN HISTORY WEEK



PMI and the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society (CATHS) present:

## **Cinemas & Theatres in Prahran & Surrounds**

An illustrated lecture by Brian Hunt from the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society.

Find out about the architecture and social history of the cinemas and theatres past and present, in Prahran and surrounding suburbs.

# 2.00pm, Saturday 24 October in the Moss Room, PMI, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran

Free entry, all welcome, refreshments provided. Please RSVP by Monday 19 October 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au



### **History Week 2015** liscover the wonders of Victoria's past

### VICTORIAN HISTORY WEEK

### **Short History Prize**

Thanks to all who submitted entries for our 2015 Short History Prize.

The panel of judges from the Professional Historians Association is now deliberating.

The winner will be announced on our website at 11am on Monday 19 October.

The winner, as well as their associated historical group will each receive \$500.

Details of the 2016 Short History Prize may be found on our website.

#### VICTORIAN HISTORY WEEK

### Grant Success

We recently received a grant from the City of Stonnington which will help us to reward our volunteers and guest speakers, to print and distribute our newsletter, and to replace old and worn periodical boxes in the library. The City of Stonnington has been very supportive of the PMI through the Community Grants program for many years.

We're also very grateful for the continued support of the Sir Wilfred Brookes foundation which has again contributed \$5,000 to the PMI. This is particularly appreciated as our running costs at our new, larger premises are higher than before.



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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

#### CONTACT

**P** 03 9510 3393 E library@pmi.net.au W www.pmi.net.au

#### **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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#### This newsletter is sponsored by:

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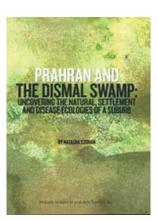
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# AROUND THE LIBRARY

### National Family History Month Seminar - Family History Basics





Prahran Historical & Arts Society invites you to a BOOK LAUNCH ...

# Prahran and the Dismal Swamp :

Uncovering the Natural, Settlement and Disease Ecologies of a Suburb by Natasha Szuhan

### 2.00 pm, Saturday 31 October at the Moss Room, PMI Library

at the Moss Room, PMI Library RSVP by Tue 27 Oct to Gabriel 9529 7442 (leave a message).



All members and volunteers are invited to the PMI's ...

# Christmas Afternoon Tea

2.30pm, Saturday 5 December

RSVP Friday 27 November 9510 3393 or ursula@pmi.net.au

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

### MEMBER NEWS

### New Members

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

### **Financial Donors**

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library Jul-Sep: Ann Carter Clive Brookes Heather Monger Carolyn Woolman

### **Book Donors**

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

Beaconsfield Progress Association Helen Blakeley George Eraclides Ian Harris Chris and Penny Hodges Ken James Prof Wallace Kirsop Mirek Kurcki Barry Matthews Oakleigh Historical Society Shane O'Neil John Payne Roy Picone Ursula Zamecnik

#### **GENERAL NEWS**

### Your Feedback Requested : Opening Hours

The committee is seeking the input of members with regards to opening hours.

Please let us know which option you would prefer:

- 1. No change (Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm and Saturday 9.30am-1.00pm)
- 2. Monday to Friday 9.30am 4.30pm (including Wednesday or Thursday open until 7.00pm)
- 3. Tuesday to Friday 9.30am 4.30pm (including Wednesday or Thursday open until 7.00pm) and Saturday 9.30am – 1.00pm

You can advise us of your preference by phone (9510 3393), by email (library@pmi.net.au) or in person.

### Feeling peckish?

For library users there is now a basket in the kitchen containing small packets of biscuits for only 50c.

### GENERAL NEWS

### **Recent Additions & Newsletter**

From next year, the Recent Additions list will be distributed to members via email only. Hard copies will be available from the library.

Also from next year, the newsletter will be issued bimonthly. It will be printed in black and white and only the emailed version will be in colour.

Thanks to all those who have recently changed from receiving the newsletter by post to email. In the interests of environmental sustainability, the committee would like to encourage members to receive the newsletter electronically. If you currently receive the newsletter by post, but have an email address and would be happy to change, please let us know - christine@pmi.net.au

### Friends of the PMI

The committee requests expressions of interest in forming a PMI Friends Group to carry out such tasks as helping at PMI functions, raising money etc. If you are interested in taking part please contact the library.



### **Xmas Closure**

We wish all our members a very happy and safe Christmas holiday break, and advise that the

PMI will close at:

1.00pm on Saturday 19 December

and reopen at

9.30am on Monday 4 January 2016.

Please be sure to arrange your holiday reading in advance.

Please also note that the library will be closed on the afternoon of Thursday 10 December.

### **VOLUNTEER NEWS**

#### Volunteer News

Some great progress is being made in our archives by committed volunteers. Our earliest minute books are being indexed, most material in the archives has been inspected, sorted, and recorded. Additionally the PMI records (1854-1899) are now being entered into a new database. More about this exciting project in a future newsletter.

Our indexing volunteers have been working hard and we will soon see several new book indexes added to the collection.

The annual volunteer function will this year be combined with a general Christmas function for members and volunteers (see page 2 for details).

If you are interested in volunteering at the PMI, please contact Ursula on 9510 3393 or ursula@pmi.net.au

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

#### PMI PRESS UPDATE

### PMI Press to Resume in 2016!

After a hiatus since 2013 for the relocation of the library, PMI Press will resume operation next year. Our first manuscript submission deadline will be:

### 29 Feb 2016

We are delighted to announce that PMI Press will partner with BookPOD for production and printing. BookPOD has generously offered PMI Press authors a 50% discount on interior layout (typeset) and cover design, as well as publisher print rates.

PMI Press will also offer our authors a \$500 subsidy on publishing costs.



We know how difficult and costly publishing local historical works can sometimes be - this could be the perfect opportunity to see your work professionally published by PMI Press for minimal cost.

Download a copy of the submission guidelines and form from our website at <u>www.pmi.net.au/press</u> and contact christine@pmi.net.au if you have any questions about PMI Press.

### SHORT HISTORY PRIZE 2015

The PMI invites you to participate in the

# 2016 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 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/current-events/#shp



### Tasmania - Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899

In the first half of the 19th century, more than 70,000 convicts were transported to the island of Tasmania, established as Van Diemens Land in 1825. (The name was changed to Tasmania in 1856.) This collection includes a variety of records relating to transported convicts from 30 record series held at the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office in Hobart.

Records in this collection include pardons, tickets of leave, convict registers, employment records of convicts, applications to marry, deaths, and asylum patients' records, among other things. Details included will vary by record type and time frame, but all can offer unique insights into the convicts in your family tree.

### Tasmania - Baptisms of Children of Convicted Women, 1833-1854

This collection includes baptism records for children born to female convicts in "female factories", namely the Hobart Town House of Correction.

Details on the record may vary from year to year but can include date of birth, date of baptism, child's name, parents' names, transportation ship, and by whom the child was baptized. The father's name is rarely in the record; searches will produce more results if a father's name is not included in the search.

### Victoria - Lunatic Estates and Register, 1867-1906

This collection contains an inventory book of estates belonging to mental health patients as well as a register of patients in mental health facilities in Victoria, Australia. Information includes names, asylum (K=Kew, YB=Yarra Bend, A=Ararat, etc.), and admission, discharge, and death dates. Some entries can include probate details. The case notes for individual patients can be found in the asylum records listed by location and admission date at Public Record Office Victoria, Melbourne.

You can access Ancestry Library Edition on any of the new public computers at the library, or bring your own laptop and we'll show you how to log in to the network.

On our library computers a desktop folder called 'Electronic Resources'. Inside you will find: books, book indexes,government gazettes, police gazettes, post office directories and much more. Have a look around inside this folder next time you visit and see what you can find.

# WRITING HISTORY

# Australian Literature at the PMI

Swinburne University 3rd Year Literature student Kayla-Marie Murphy completed the following article as a part of her recent placement at the PMI.

Over the months of August and September, I've spent six weeks volunteering at the PMI going through the library's generous Australian literature section. As the library's main focus is on its historical collection, the literature section can tend to be pushed aside. Because of this, many old catalogue entries relating to the literature collection were in need of tidying up and enhancement. It's been my aim to rectify this by generating and adapting summary information from blurbs, reviews, dust covers and promotional material, both electronically and in hard-copy, which is then updated on the system.

While undertaking this task, I was pleasantly surprised by what the collection holds: Australian classics such as Joan Lindsay's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and Ruth Park's *A Harp in the South*, modern Australian best-sellers such as Christos Tsiolkas's *The Slap* and Peter Carey's *Amnesia*, classic Australian poetry by poets such as Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson, as well as biographies and auto-biographies of many Australian writers. The shelves even contain the odd photography book, art book or picture book, *The Gumnut Babies* series by May Gibbs, for example.

The shelves hold books by Miles Franklin, Tim Winton, Thea Astley, David Malouf, George Johnston, Patrick White, Henry Handel Richardson, Thomas Keneally; the worthy list of great Australian fiction is not short, nor does it end there. From *The Man from Snowy River* to *The Kelly Gang*, the Australian Literature collection is not short on variety.

As a literature student, the opportunity to explore and go through this collection was incredible, and not one I would have found anywhere else. I came across old favourites that I hadn't read since my grandmother read them to me as a girl. I discovered new books to add to my reading list – books I probably wouldn't have found, nor been interested in, without this project. The amount of great fiction throughout the world is great, so great that many forget that we also have great fiction right here from home. It's a wonderful new reading experience to read a book that is culturally, historically and locally familiar.

The opportunity to explore the older and rarer books in the library has been another invaluable experience. Their beautifully brittle covers and pages aside, the books smell like history. The locked stacks that house these historical editions hold books such as A.C. Grant's *Bush Life in Queensland, or John West's Colonial Experiences,* a book that was originally handwritten, as well as B. Cozens's *The Princess of the Mallee: a Typical Story of Australian Life in Mallee.* Being 22-years-old and having limited knowledge and access to particular works, I've relied on my literature degree for most of my exploration; however, as it is with most Australian literature courses, my degree is mainly focussed on media-based literature as well as philosophy, only delving into particular types of literature, the Australian literature focus being quite light.

I wish to give tremendous thanks to Christine, Ursula and Tim for being so accommodating over the past six weeks and for sharing with me their passion for Australian history. I have learned so much. Working here at the PMI has opened a new door into this world for me, one I intend to keep open. Thank you for this experience.

Kayla-Marie Murphy

### Navigating the shelves for Aust Literature

Most classic and recent Australian literature can be found on the library shelves at 820 followed by the first three letters of the author's surname, the author's first initial and (sometimes) also the first three letters of the title: e.g. *Merciless gods* by Christos Tsiolkas can be found at 820 TSO.C MER

and *The eye of the sheep* by Sofie Laguna can be found at 820 LAG.S EYE

Australian **mystery stories** can by found on the shelves at 828, and items are again sorted by author: e.g. *Raisins and Almonds : a Phryne Fisher mystery /* Kerry Greenwood can be found at

828 GRE.K RAI

Thanks to Kayla's work, our catalogue records for works published up to 1985 now contain more summary information to help readers make their selections. Let us know if you have any questions about Australian Literature at the PMI.

#### XMAS IDEAS

PMI members receive a 10% discount on unused books for sale in the library - check out the full list on our website http://www.pmi.net.au/for-sale/

**u** Warrandyte: the Community with a Heart of Gold / Murray Houghton \$40

**D** The pride of Prahran: a history of the Prahran Library 1860-2010 / Stella M. Barber \$25

**D** Two squatters : the lives of George Playne and Daniel Jennings / Martin J Playne \$35

Exceptional Australian garden makers / Anne Vale \$40

Give the gift of reading with a

PMI Membership voucher

\$15 one year or \$50 (5 years)



PMI Mouse Mats - \$4

Coming soon: the return of the *PMI magnifying-ruler-bookmarks*!

# BOOKS ETCETERA (Notes from publishers' blurbs)

### AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

Tourmaline / Randolph Stow ; introduced by Gabrielle Carey (1963, 2015)

Visitants / Randolph Stow (1979, 2015)

The suburbs of hell / Randolph Stow (1984, 2015)

The waiting room / Leah Kaminsky (2015)

Last day in the dynamite factory / Annah Faulkner (2015)

Surveillance / Bernard Keane (2015)

#### **NON-FICTION**

### Snowy : the making of modern Australia / Brad Collis (1990, 2015)

The Snowy Mountains Scheme changed Australia forever. A country founded on stolid British stock almost overnight became one of the world great pancultures. Tens of thousands of workers from more than 30 lands poured into what was the undisturbed pastoral realm of the high country stockman, the southern Outback. As they drilled and tunnelled into the mountains their energy and skills gave the country a mighty push into the vanguard of the twentieth century. The vibrant interaction of their many diverse cultures and the scale of the project in terms of technology made the Scheme an engineering wonder. In this edition, two new chapters have been added to cover this fascinating period.

# Pentridge : behind the bluestone walls / Don Osborne (2015)

When Don Osborne went to Pentridge in 1970, he found a nineteenth-century penal establishment in full working order. It held about 1200 inmates, most of them cooped up in tiny stone cells that sweltered in summer and froze in winter. Some has no sewerage or electric light. Assigned to teach in the high-security section of the prison, Don worked in the chapel, which doubled as a classroom during the week. There, he saw the terrible effects of the violence that permeated H Division, the prison's punishment section. He found himself acting as

### **NON-FICTION**

confidant and counsellor to some of the best-known criminals of this era, and to others who'd become notorious later, after H Division had worked it's magic on them.

# Catch and kill : the politics of power / Joel Deane 2015

Power is the only measure of a politician that matters. How they win power. How they wield power. How they lose power. Catch and Kill is an inside account of the beguiling and nomadic nature of the unholy trinity of politics the winning, the wielding, the losing. Taking us into the inner sanctum of state and national politics, Joel Dean investigates how four friends - Steve Bracks, John Brumby, John Thwaites and Rob Hulls - beat the factions, won office in Victoria, achieved progressive reforms, then tried to hijack Canberra. 'We were,' Bracks says, 'a government that could catch and kill its own.'

# David Syme : man of The Age / by Elizabeth Morrison 2014

The Melbourne *Age* newspaper dominated the newspaper stage in Australia from the 1870s to the end of the colonial period. In the 1880s its circulation was far in excess of any other daily throughout all British colonial possessions and its proprietor, the driven, talented Scotsman David Syme, was acknowledged as the leader of the Australian press. For the influence that he and his newspapers exercised, he became a legend in his lifetime and for several generations after his death in 1908.

Drawing on family and business records as well as newly digitised nineteenth-century newspaper archives, this biography of a powerful man of many parts seeks to go behind the legend and round out the story of the life – primarily as press 'baron' but also as author and philosopher, financier, farmer, property developer and, not least, family man.

#### The Europeans in Australia : a history / Alan Atkinson (Vol 3: Nation) (2014)

This is the third and final volume of the landmark, award-winning series The Europeans in Australia that gives an account of settlement by Britain. It tells of the various ways in which that experience shaped imagination and belief among the settler people from the eighteenth century to the end of World War I.Volume Three, Nation, tells the story of Australian Federation and the war with a focus, as ever on ordinary habits of thought and feeling. In this period, for the first time the settler people began to grasp the vastness of the continent, and to think of it as their own. There was a massive funding of education, and the intellectual reach of men and women was suddenly expanded, to an extent that seemed dazzling to many at the time. Women began to shape public imagination as they had not done before. At the same time, the worship of mere ideas had its victims, most obviously the Aboriginal people, and the war itself proved what vast tragedies it could unleash.

### The angry ant / Kelvin Glare 2015

The life story of Kel Glare. His long career began in 1957 and served as a uniformed officer, fingerprint expert, and detective before serving as Chief Commissioner for Victoria Police from 1987 to 1992. He was also admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor. In 1995 Kel became the Executive Chairman of a leading security company and held this position until 2002. Kel investigated the theft of diamonds from Argyle Diamonds and formed part of a four person team who reviewed and then restructured an aid program sponsored by AusAid for the Royal Papua New Guinea Police.

### **Brighton Cemetery**

# 10am-4pm, Sun 18 Oct - Open day - 160 Years of History

Celebrating 160 years since the first burial at the Brighton General Cemetery with displays, tours, a horse-drawn hearse, plaque unveilings and more.

For further information contact Lois 9558 4248 or

info@brightoncemetorians.org or visit www.brightoncemetorians. org

### **City of Port Phillip Heritage**

### 6pm-8pm, Sat 17 Oct - Guided Walk - Murder, mayhem and mysteries on Fitzroy Street

Walk the famous Fitzroy boulevard and hear stories of past misdeeds, unsolved crimes and unexplained mysteries. *\$10/\$7 conc. 64 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. The walk will finish at a local cafe (coffee/cold drink included in ticket price). Bookings via Eventbrite* 

## Friends of Kew (Boroondara) Cemetery

10am, Sun 8 Nov - Tour - Ned Kelly : Hero or Villain?

From Ned's school days through to his hanging, many people touched the life of this now iconic figure in Australia's history - some of them are buried in Kew Cemetery.

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

### **Knox Historical Society**

### 12.30pm-4pm, Sun 22 Nov - Teddy Bears Picnic

Dress up if you want and bring your Teddy along to enjoy the activities. Storytelling and activities.

For more information pease ring the museum 97586722.

### **Malvern Historical Society**

### 7.30pm, Wed 18 Nov - Guest speaker - Guest speaker Ken Bethell on Malvern Town Hall architecture

(at Malvern Town Hall Upstairs Foyer)

For further information contact 0438 515 631 or malvernhistorical@ yahoo.com

### **Old Treasury Building**

### 10am-4pm Sun-Fri, Opens Mon 9 Nov - Exhibition -'Soldier On: WW1 Soldier Settler Stories'.

Features records straight from our archives, revealing previously untold stories of the Victorian soldier settler experience. Spring Street (top end of Collins Street), Melbourne.

For further information contact 9651 2233, info@oldtreasurybuilding.org.au or visit http://www. oldtreasurybuilding.org.au

The Treasury building also contains a number of permanent exhibitions: School Days: Education in Victoria ; The Melbourne Panorama ; Victorian Archival Treasures ; Growing up in Old Treasury ; JJ Clark ; The Governor.

### **Public Record Office**

10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, Opens Mon 9 Nov - Exhibition - 'Transporting Art'.

Commissioned artworks on Melbourne's W Class trams 1978-1993.

Victorian Archives Centre Foyer, North Melbourne, 99 Shiel Street.

### **Royal Historical Society of Victoria**

# 9.30-3.15, Sat 14 Nov - Workshop - Writing Local History

An all-day workshop presented by Dr Rosalie Triolo for those interested in writing local history. Participants will gain new perspectives on local history, learn how to use new types of primary material and build new audiences. *Free for members of the RHSV and affiliated groups, \$20 for non-members. Further information and bookings visit www. historyvictoria.org.au, email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone 9326 9288.* 

### **Royal Historical Society of Victoria**

### 18-25 Oct - Victorian History Week

To celebrate, why not spend the week discovering Victoria's wide and wonderful past. From fascinating walking tours and engaging discussions, to exhibitions and 'history in the making' events - there's something in store for everyone to enjoy. Make sure you jump online and check out www. historyweek.org.au The website lists details on all the exciting events being held around Melbourne and Victoria during the week, and is constantly updated. Or for more information call the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on 9326 9288.



#### History Week 2015 18-25 October discover the wonders of Victoria's past

### 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* 

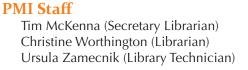
#### YOU'RE WELCOME

□ If your historical group has any events coming up send the details to christine@pmi.net.au 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

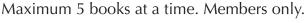
□ If your historical group would like to visit the PMI for a short talk, tour, morning/afternoon tea and assisted research, contact christine@pmi.net.au



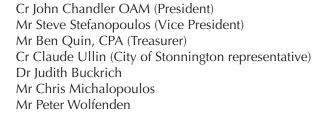
### **Book Covering Service**

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### **PMI Committee**



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Victorian History Week presentation by CATHS 'sbruorius' bne nerdere in Prahran and Surrounds'

Details of Christmas function and Christmas closure inside

IM9 Ariting History Feature: 'Australian Literature at the PMI