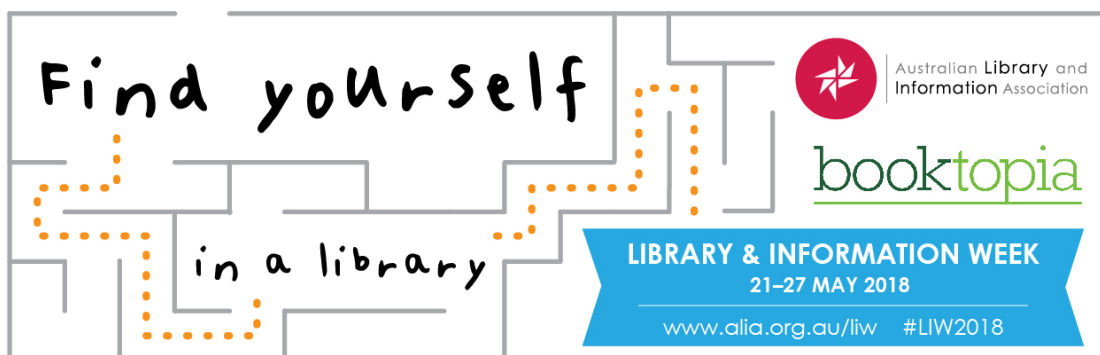




COMING UP



Library and Information Week 2018

Library and Information Week aims to raise the profile of libraries and information service professionals in Australia. It gives libraries and information services the opportunity to showcase their resources, facilities, events, contacts and services through different programs and events to the community.

We are running a number of events to celebration Library and Information Week. You can find details of the events on page 3.

FROM THE SECRETARY LIBRARIAN



Library Carpet

As you may have ascertained, it has been a very busy few months for us as we finalised the repairs to the carpet in the library, workrooms and William Moss Room.

The carpet was cut and restretched across the entire floor using a combination of steam applied at pressure, special tape and glue which was applied using heat - this required the deactivation of our smoke detectors and opening all the windows.

Prior to this, the entire first floor (with the exception of CATHS) had to be packed up. Our offices were dismantled and we temporarily moved downstairs to the James Mason

Room. The entire library collection was then packed into special plastic stackable crates. These crates (see image below right) are waterproof and dustproof.

Crates that contained items from the collection were numbered consecutively following our shelving arrangement. They were then stacked in exact number order in the garage for storage. The principle of 'first in, first out' applied to ensure that our Dewey decimal classification sequence was as it was pre-move.

Overall there were 625 plastic crates used for our collection. This may seem considerable, however the removalists from *John Ryan Removals* noted that they were



INSIDE

General News	2
Annual General Meeting 2	
Aust. Heritage Festival ...	3
Library and Information Week 2018:	3
Laurie McCalman Pres. ...	3
Histrivia	4
New Books	6

ABOUT THE PMI

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Sec. Lib.: Steven Haby
Pres: Cr. Steve Stefanopoulos

CONTACT

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W www.pmi.net.au

OPEN:

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

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

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 **Bendigo Bank**

111 Chapel Street, Windsor 3181
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AROUND THE LIBRARY

involved in the packup of the Box Hill branch library of Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library prior to renovations which required 1,400 crates.

After the collection was packed up, the shelving was dismantled carefully and moved into the William Moss Room, at which stage the carpet in the room had been repaired.

Overall it took six and half days to pack up and reinstate the library and offices with the carpet repair taking about three and half days. During this time we worked downstairs, making good use of Facebook and email to keep members and stakeholders informed of progress during our closure period.

We are now reinstated more or less as we were and back to normal. Moving a library for whatever reason requires considerable coordination and communication between all parties. On that note *John Ryan Removals*, a company with considerable library relocation experience, are to be commended.

Committee Update

On a sad note I wish to note the resignation from the PMI Committee of Peter Wolfenden due to health reasons. Peter has been a stalwart of the PMI Committee for many years and his engineering expertise has been invaluable in regards to successfully addressing numerous building maintenance issues since we relocated to St Edmonds Road.



Peter was on the PMI Building Sub-Committee which was responsible for the overall building and fittings. Peter's knowledge, expertise and good humour will be missed by all and we all wish him well and hope to see him visit PMI on a regular basis.

Peter's replacement on the Committee is Dr Michelle Cleary an archaeologist and architect who has been working on the Cato Street project which involved an extensive archaeological survey of this historic site in late 2017. Michelle gave a presentation at PMI on the initial results of her research and also contributed to [Plotting History](#) on our blog last month.



We warmly welcome Michelle to the PMI Committee.



Ancestry Library Edition: What's New!

New Birth, Marriage & Death:

- Casino, New South Wales, Australia, Hospital Admissions and Burial Records, 1913-1997: 8,873

Updated Births, Marriage and Deaths

- Australia and New Zealand, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current: 4,478,304
- Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index, 2004-2017: 365,740
- Australia, Newspaper Vital Notices, 1841-2001: 1,359,857

New Schools, Directories & Church Histories

- Victoria, Australia, Asylum Records, 1853-1940: 49,404

GENERAL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the PMI will be held on Saturday 12 May 2018 at 1:00pm.

There are 2 Committee positions up for re-election this year.

You can find the Agenda on our website along with a Nomination Form for Committee: www.pmi.net.au/news/notice-of-2018-annual-general-meeting/

RSVP Attendance: 9510 3393 by Friday 11 May

Website Update: New Events Page



We've updated the Events Page on our website which now has added features including:

- ▶ the ability to display events by List, Month or Day
- ▶ searching events by date or keyword
- ▶ adding an event directly into your mobile or online calendars

We hope you like the new features and are happy to receive any feedback on this change.

Australian Heritage Festival



We are halfway through our program and have received a great turn out to events so far. Still to come:

Slide Night: Old Melbourne

Thursday 3 May, 7:30PM

Take a journey back to Melbourne and Victoria of yesterday drawing on slide collections from various sources.

Supper in-keeping with the era will be provided.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/SYOV

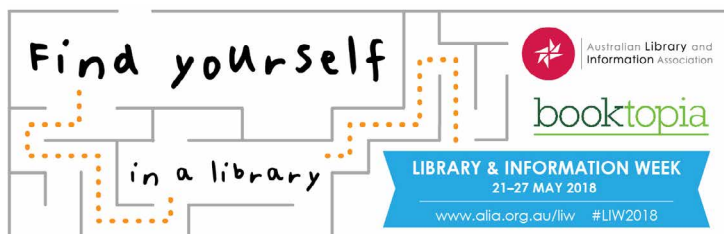
Acland Street: The Grand Lady of St. Kilda

Saturday 12 May, 2:00pm

Join award winning historian Dr Judith Buckrich as she talks about her latest book, 'Acland Street: the Grand Lady of St Kilda'. The book covers 175 years of history (1842-2017) since its naming and through all the ups and downs of its extraordinary social, cultural, architectural and economic history.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/SYMN

Library and Information Week 2018: Find Yourself in a Library



Family Tree Workshop: How you can use your DNA results when creating a family tree

Monday 21 May | 10:15 am - 3:00 pm

This session will educate you in creating a family tree using Ancestry.com as an example of how you can use your DNA results to gain greater knowledge about your ancestry. This is a hands-on day, where can start creating your family tree with the assistance of experience tutors.

More information:

www.pmi.net.au/event/familytreeworkshop/

Ancestry.com Basics

Monday 28 May | 10:15 am - 3:00 pm

Come along to this hands on workshop where experienced tutors will assist you in how to best use Ancestry.com in your family history research.

More information:

www.pmi.net.au/event/ancestry-com-basics/

Short Story Competition: Flash Fiction



Do you love to write? Want the chance to win \$500?

Write a story of 500 words or under, themed around finding something in a library. It can be yourself, a book, an object, a story, whatever you like. Be creative! The winning entry will be published in our newsletter.

We are fortunate to have Australian author Eliza Henry Jones as a judge for this competition.

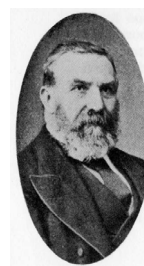


Eliza is the author of [In The Quiet](#) (shortlisted for the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction, NSW Premier's Literary Awards and was longlisted in the Indie Awards and ABIA Awards) and [Ache](#).

Entries open 21 May 2018. Full details:

www.pmi.net.au/event/liwshortstory2018

Laurie McCalman Presentation: The Surveying Career of William Swan Urquhart



Join Ken James, author of [The career of surveyor William Swan Urquhart 1843-1864](#) as he discusses the life and career of Victorian surveyor William Swan Urquhart.

Settlements laid out by Urquhart over his career include Ballarat, Carisbrook, Castlemaine, Elphinstone, Lockwood, Malmsbury, Queenscliff, Sunbury and Taradale. You will find an Urquhart Street in most of these towns.

More information:

www.pmi.net.au/event/williamswanurquhart/

THE MELBOURNE GENERAL POST OFFICE

Ellen Coates, Collections Librarian



Image: Melbourne - G.P.O. [ca. 1880-ca. 1900]. Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

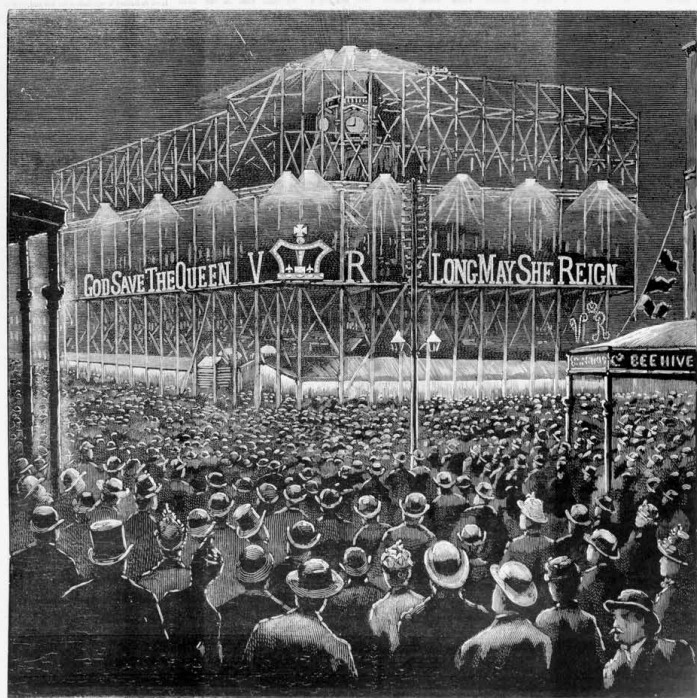
All distances from Melbourne are still measured from the GPO.

The building you see today is a department store, the majority of which is occupied by H&M, but this is only the tip of its story.

Before there was any sort of post office the site was the central point for firewood distribution in the city. Robert Watchorn, a mid-1850s immigrant to Melbourne, described it in his diary as:

"The firewood cart stand was where now stands the telegraph office and most of the main buildings of the post office fronting Elizabeth Street between Great and Little Bourke Street. There were Bullock teams of 4 or 6 yoked to large drays loaded with large or small logs of timber, parts of trees cut down to be still divided into convenient lengths for cottage hearths and bakers' ovens."

The site was set aside as a post office reserve and Melbourne's principle post office sat on the site from 1841, but it was not the grand building that we see today. The GPO was opened in 1867. It was the first modern General Post Office in Australia. The GPO was described in 1879 by the Victorian Gazetteer as "by far the handsomest and most magnificent structure in Australia." When it was opened 30 000 people came to inspect it. The GPO took 10 years to complete and was built out of Tasmanian sandstone, bluestone from Brunswick and with a Gabo Island granite base. The present day clock tower stands at 56 m. The original tower was shorter and used to display flag signals whenever a new consignment of mail had arrived. The clock tower was added between 1887 and 1890 when new plans were drawn up in the light of a period of rapid economic development in Victoria. The new plans were never entirely completed. The chimes of the clock tower were broadcast everyday over radio all over Australia. The GPO also played a key role in crucial social events in Victoria from Armistice, to New Year's Eve and was the centrepiece of Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations in 1887, when it was illuminated magnificently (see next page).



THE ILLUMINATIONS OF MELBOURNE—THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE

Image: *The Illuminations of Melbourne - The General Post Office, June 25, 1887.* Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

In 1992 Australia Post decided that it no longer needed a GPO. The interior was destroyed by fire in 2001 but it was restored, it became an arcade of shops and ultimately H&M came to occupy the majority. Apart from its use the GPO has changed little since its construction in 1867. You can see some of its evolution in the pictures below; including a very un-Melbourne like snowstorm from 1880.

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Morris, Sheridan. *Classic Melbourne*. Stepney. Axiom Publishing. 2011.

Fischer, Peter and Marsden, Susan. *Vintage Melbourne: Beautiful buildings from Melbourne city centre*. Bowden: East Street Publications. 2007.

Breckon, Robert. *Australian Postal History*. Marrickville: Topmill Pty Ltd. 1993.

The Watchorn Family. *Recollections of Early Melbourne*.

www.slv.vic.gov.au

Australian Post Office Central Post Office Centenary Melbourne. 1967.

1862



NEW POST-OFFICE, MELBOURNE.—SEE PAGE 5.

Image: *New Post-Office, Melbourne / Thomas James Crouch, August 23, 1862* Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

1882



SNOWSTORM IN MELBOURNE

Image: *Snowstorm in Melbourne / S, Bennett, Samuel Calvert, August 5, 1882* Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

1915



Image: *Bourke Street and General Post Office, Melbourne / Valentine & Sons' Publishing Co., [ca. 1915]* Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

c1920



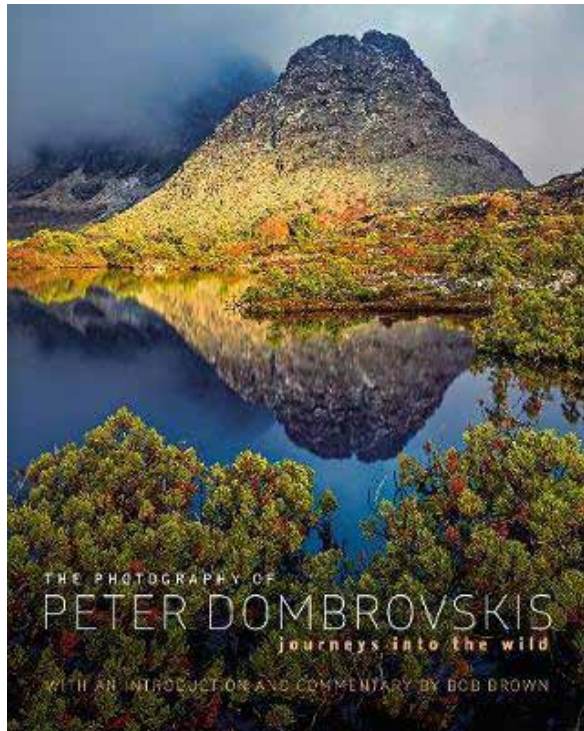
THE ROSE SERIES P. 3358

POST OFFICE & BOURKE STREET, MELBOURNE.

Image: *Post Office & Bourke Street, Melbourne / Rose Stereograph Co, [c1920-1954]* Courtesy: www.slv.vic.gov.au

New Books

Journeys Into the Wild: The Photography of Peter Dombrovskis



Journeys into the Wild is a poetic escape to a fragile and breathtaking wilderness, with celebrated photographer Peter Dombrovskis as our guide.

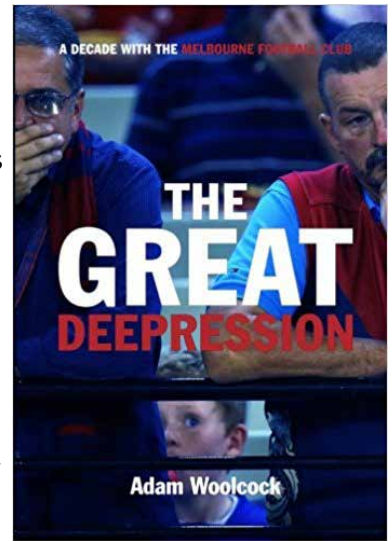
A silhouette of a damaged twisted Pencil Pine, wearing a fine dusting of fresh snow and precariously positioned above the Pool of Siloam in the Walls of Jerusalem National Park, is like a portrait of a lively old friend. A fresh ice sheet, uniquely patterned, is coloured by the alpenglow, as the day's first sunlight reflects on a Cradle Mountain tarn. A flowering white *Olearia pinifolia* at the base of a massive boulder on Mount Wellington is a study in permanency and transience. Here, too, are photographs of the Snowy Mountains and the tropical rainforests of Queensland's Daintree and Hinchinbrook Island, Fiji and Borneo.

Bob Brown and Peter Dombrovskis forged their friendship in the battle to save the Gordon and Franklin rivers. As a founder of the Wilderness Society, Bob organised the blockade of dam works on the Franklin, recruiting Peter and his iconic photography to make the case for conservation over profit. During the campaign, Bob accompanied Peter on one of his kayak trips down the Franklin and observed his process as a photographer. Peter would go on to take one of the most famous photographs in Australian history, Morning Mist, Rock Island Bend, Franklin River, an image that featured in calendars and diaries across Australia and that was integral to the success of the campaign. The two remained friends until Peter's death in 1996.

The Great Depression: A decade with the Melbourne Football Club / Adam Woolcock

The Melbourne Football Club entered 2007 as Australian Football League premiership contenders and spent the next 10 years lurching from one disaster to another.

This is the 261 game story of the decade that good taste and good football forgot. Fines totalling over \$500,000, 192 losses, a 31 goal defeat, seven coaches, two wooden spoons, and not one final.

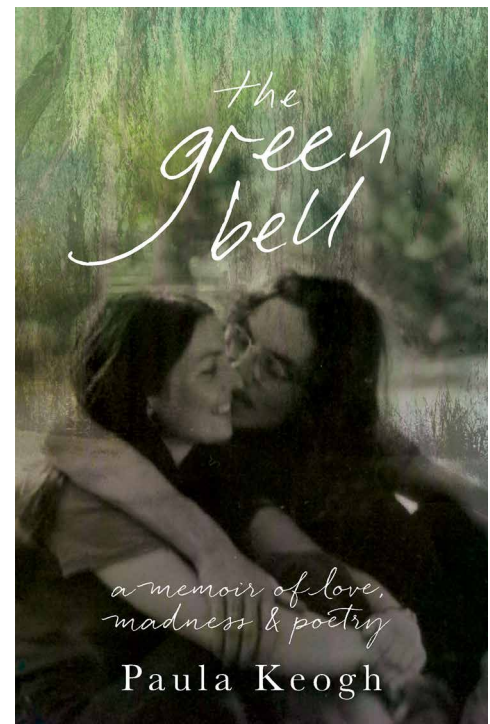


The Green Bell / Paula Keogh

Stella Prize longlist

It's 1972 in Canberra. Michael Dransfield is being treated for a drug addiction; Paula Keogh is delusional and grief-stricken. They meet in a psychiatric unit of the Canberra Hospital and instantly fall in love.

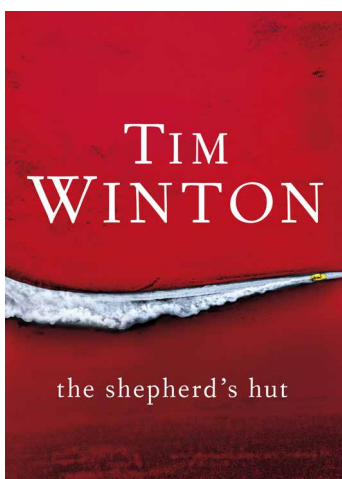
Paula recovers a self that she thought was lost; Michael, a radical poet, is caught up in a rush of creative energy and writes poems that become *The Second Month of Spring*. Together, they plan for 'a wedding, marriage, kids – the whole trip'. But outside the hospital walls, madness, grief and drugs challenge their luminous dream. Can their love survive?



The Green Bell

is a lyrical and profoundly moving story about love and madness. It explores the ways that extreme experience can change us: expose our terrors and open us to ecstasy for the sake of a truer life, a reconciliation with who we are. Ultimately, the memoir reveals itself to be a hymn to life. A requiem for lost friends. A coming of age story that takes a lifetime.

The Shepherd's Hut / Tim Winton



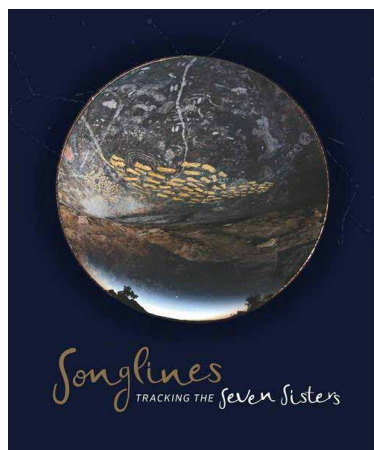
Jaxie dreads going home. His mum's dead. The old man bashes him without mercy, and he wishes he was an orphan. But no one's ever told Jaxie Clackton to be careful what he wishes for.

In one terrible moment his life is stripped to little more than what he can carry and how he can keep himself alive. There's just one person left in the world who understands him and what he still dares to hope

for. But to reach her he'll have to cross the vast saltlands on a trek that only a dreamer or a fugitive would attempt.

The Shepherd's Hut is a searing look at what it takes to keep love and hope alive in a parched and brutal world.

Songlines: Tracking the seven sisters / Margo Neale



This stunning companion to the National Museum of Australia's blockbuster Indigenous-led exhibition, *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*, explores the history and meaning of songlines, the Dreaming or creation tracks that crisscross the Australian continent, of which the Seven Sisters songline is one of the most extensive.

Through stunning artworks (many created especially for the exhibition), story, and in-depth analysis, the book will provide the definitive resource for those interested in finding out more about these complex pathways of spiritual, ecological, economic, cultural, and ontological knowledge — the stories 'written in the land'.

Coming Soon

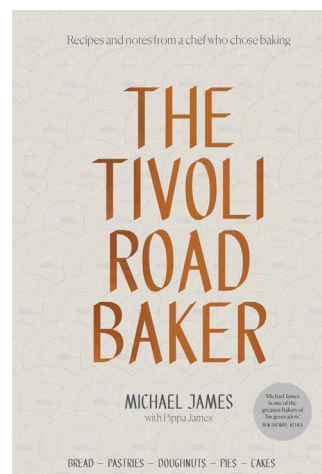
The Tivoli Road Baker / Michael James and Pippa James

In *The Tivoli Road Baker*, British-born pastry chef Michael James and his team share the knowledge that goes into creating standout bread and pastries. The mission is to make these recipes accessible for people who are new to the art while also including tips, ideas and inspiration to challenge more skilled cooks and bakers.

Chapters cover basic to advanced bread making techniques, sweet pastries, savoury favorites as well as a handful of British recipes close to Michael's heart,

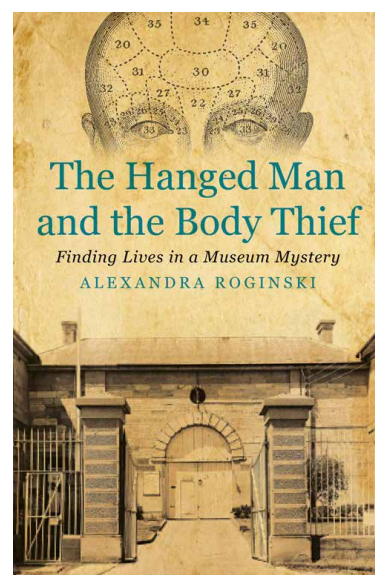
including Cornish pasties. The reader will also learn about the importance of starting with quality produce, offering a small window on the valuable (but mostly unsung role) played by farmers in the growing global appetite for real bread. A beautiful book that shares some of the X-factor that makes its namesake so successful.

Chapters are divided into Bread, Viennoiserie, Savoury, Pastry, Seasonal, British Bakery, Basics and Larder.



The Hanged Man and the Body Thief / Alexandra Roginski

1860. An Aboriginal labourer named Jim Crow is led to the scaffold of the Maitland Gaol in colonial New South Wales. Among the onlookers is the Scotsman AS Hamilton, who will later take bizarre steps in the aftermath of the execution to exhume this young man's skull. Hamilton is a lecturer who travels the Australian colonies teaching phrenology, a popular science that claims character and intellect can be judged from a person's head. For Hamilton, Jim Crow is an important prize.



A century and a half later, researchers at Museum Victoria want to repatriate Jim Crow and other Aboriginal people from Hamilton's collection of human remains to their respective communities. But their only clues are damaged labels and skulls. With each new find, more questions emerge. Who was Jim Crow? Why was he executed? And how did he end up so far south in Melbourne?

In a compelling and original work of history, Alexandra Roginski leads the reader through her extensive research aimed at finding the person within the museum piece. Reconstructing the narrative of a life and a theft, she crafts a case study that elegantly navigates between legal and Aboriginal history, heritage studies and biography.

The Hanged Man and the Body Thief is a nuanced story about phrenology, a biased legal system, the aspirations of a new museum, and the dilemmas of a theatrical third wife. It is most importantly a tale of two very different men, collector and collected, one of whom can now return home.



Governance

The PMI is incorporated under the [Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act No 1617 \(1899\)](#) and operates under the [Rules of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute and Circulating Library](#), gazetted in the Victorian Parliament on 24 July 2007.

Members are provided with copies of the PMI legislation and Library Policy on request, and can [join our mailing list](#) to receive committee meeting minutes.

Committee

The PMI is administered by a committee of seven people. Six Committee members are elected by the members of the PMI at the annual general meeting for a four year term of office and one person appointed by the City of Stonnington. The current PMI Committee Members are:

- ▶ Cr Steve Stefanopoulos (President)
- ▶ Dr Judith Buckrich (Vice President)
- ▶ Mr Ben Quin, CPA (Treasurer)
- ▶ Cr John Chandler OAM
- ▶ Mr Chris Michalopoulos
- ▶ Dr Michelle Cleary
- ▶ Cr Melina Sehr (City of Stonnington representative)

The PMI Library Staff

- ▶ Steven Haby, (BASocSci Librarianship) (Secretary Librarian)
- ▶ Ellen Coates (BA (Hons); MA (Info. Stud.)) (Collections Librarian)
- ▶ Christine Moysey-Barker (AssocDegInfoStud) (Marketing and Communications Officer)
- ▶ Ursula Zamecnik (DipLib&InfSt) (Library Technician)

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute is an institutional member of the [Australian Library & Information Association](#) and is a member society of the [Royal Historical Society of Victoria](#).

Find Us Online

Did you know the PMI Library has a Facebook and Twitter page?

Check us out at:



Visit Us

Parking

Parking is available at the institute on a first-come-first-serve basis.

There are 3 spaces at the front of the building and a further 7 spaces in the garage (accessed from the front of the building on St Edmonds Rd) – please park in the numbered spaces to avoid blocking cars in. If all spaces are taken, there is 1 hour parking in St Edmonds Road and Greville Street. Please note the Cato Street carpark in Izett Street is now closed for redevelopment, visit www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Development/Council-Projects/Cato-Square for more details in relation to parking in the area.

Trains

The Institute is one block from Prahran Station (Sandringham Line), turn right into Greville Street and then right again into St Edmonds Rd.

Trams

There is the #6 tram running along High Street, the #72 tram along Commercial Road and the #78 tram along Chapel Street.

Buses

Buses #216, #219 and #220 run along Commercial Road. You can alight at the Prahran Market stop.