



BACK ON



FAMILY HISTORY SOCIAL GROUP

Come along and share your knowledge and skills in a friendly and supportive environment, while making use of the resources at the *PMI Victorian History Library*. Last Tuesday of each month 1-3pm. Booking <https://www.trybooking.com/CBBZX>

WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2022 and my first one as Chief Librarian. It has been a great pleasure to start meeting library members and I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months. Thank you for your warm welcome.

So many of you have expressed your love for the library and have said what a special place it is. As I enter the beautiful double doors each morning, I too feel a sense of belonging and welcome.

As we move into the second half of 2022, we said a sad farewell to Riannon Berkeley who ably managed our events and grants. Riannon accepted a full-time position and we would like to thank her for her hard work over the years and wish her luck in her new role. In June we welcomed Evangelia Praresti to our staff. Eva is an administration assistant and is making a valuable contribution to library operations. I would also like to thank the casual staff members, Wendy Eldridge, Amanda Witt and Aaron Edwards for their dedication and hard work. In the middle of August, they stopped working regular shifts and reverted to filling in when staff are absent. Aaron will still work on Fridays.

As Covid restrictions have ended we have started to run events once again. A big thank you to Wendy and the Friends team for the very successful book sale. On August the 9th we welcomed Ross Campbell who gave the excellent Bruce Turner Presentation to an avid audience. At the end of the month, we started our Family History social group which received a great response. I welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have for future events.

Finally, I would like to thank Judith Ellis our Board President, Denys Correll our Board Secretary, all the Board Members, the staff, casuals and volunteers. Thank you all for your assistance and patience as I familiarise myself with the diverse and fascinating library collection, the somewhat quirky library management system and all the processes which keep the library running like clockwork.

Look forward to seeing you in the library and enjoy the newsletter.

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BOARD AND STAFF UPDATES

Since the last Newsletter in March 2022 the Board has met three times with a full agenda plus the Annual General Meeting in May.

In that time, Michelle Negus Cleary decided to step down as President in April, and Judith Ellis was elected President on 28 April. The Board acknowledges Michelle's magnificent leadership of the Committee, new Board and the Library over the 18 months of her Presidency. In particular her management of the complicated arrangements for renovations and tenancy of the PMI Chapel Street properties involved an enormous amount of effort and skill. Michelle continues to lead the Board's Property Committee along with Isabella Webster.

Following the election to three vacant positions in May, we are very pleased to welcome new member Michael Tonta to the Board, and the return of Michelle Negus Cleary and Ben Quin. We acknowledge and thank outgoing Board member Chris Michalopoulos for his 20-year commitment and service to the former Committee and to the Library and its community.

In past years the City of Stonnington has nominated a representative to the Library Committee/ Board. Councillor Mike Scott submitted his resignation effective from 30 June 2022. The Board thanks Mike for his significant contribution, commitment and leadership as Vice President across a wide range of matters and tasks dealt with by the former Committee and current Board. Subsequent to Mike's departure, Council declined the opportunity to nominate another representative, so under the Library's Constitution the Board is currently pursuing the opportunity to seek nominations from other government agencies including, but not limited to other local government councils. In the meantime Isabella Webster has been elected to the position of Vice President.

The refreshed role of Chief Librarian has been ably filled by Lauren Joffe since May, and Eva Praresti commenced in a new position of Administration Assistant on 16 June. The Board welcomes our new staff.

The Library is very sorry to lose Riannon Berkeley, our Library Officer (Grants & Events) who is moving at the end of August to a new job at Monash University. In her time with the Library, Riannon has been pivotal in raising funds via grant applications and managing our in-person and online events, especially over the challenging times of the past 2+ years. We wish her well in her future career.

Again the Board thanks Lauren, Ellen and Riannon for their contribution over the past months, and also the casual staff for their flexibility and assistance in supporting the Library over period of staff absences. The Board also recognises and thanks all staff, volunteers and Friends for their effort and attendance at the successful June book sale.

UPDATE

PMI INCORPORATION STATUS

The transition from our 1899 Act to the Library's incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 is almost complete:

Consumer Affairs Victoria registered PMI Victorian History Library Inc. on 23 February 2022

The 'Committee' became the 'Board' under a new Constitution, Board Charter and Conflict-of-Interest Declaration

A new ABN was issued on 30 March 2022. The ABN register notes our registration date as the original date of 13 March 2000.

Tax file registration was finalised with the Australian Tax Office in March 2022, as well as GST and PAYG registration, and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) charity tax concession

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission approved our registration as a slightly changed name of the PMI Victorian History Library Inc in April

Property transfers to the new entity are underway

Communication has commenced with the State Government to progress the legislation needed to repeal the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act 1899.

CHAPEL STREET PROPERTIES

Renovation of the Chapel Street properties is complete. These had been untenanted for more than two years, while building occupancy generally on Chapel Street hit an all-time low. Over 2021-22, the properties were made safe, compliant with current building standards and attractive. These properties are now tenanted.

GENERAL NEWS

A NOTE FROM RIANNON

After four years with the *PMI Victorian History Library*, I have decided to pursue my next challenge and have accepted a position with the Monash University Libraries. I will be taking my bow at the end of August, but this is not goodbye, only 'until we meet again.' I look forward to coming back and attending events with the community



that I have so enjoyed being a part of! I want to take this opportunity to thank Staff, Volunteers, Associated Groups and the PMI Board for your support, encouragement, and the opportunities that I have had at the PMI to grow and extend myself into grants and create some great events for our community to enjoy.

FAREWELL MARIE PERNAT

In August we've said goodbye to volunteer Marie Pernat. Marie has been a volunteer at the PMI since 2017. Over that time, she has worked on reorganising the Dewey and subjects for: Churches in Melbourne, large private schools, the fiction collection, the art collection, the Indigenous Australians collections, rivers and creeks, street directories and our AFL collection.

She has also brought her knowledge of sport to helping re-write our cataloguing policy for our AFL books. Marie's contribution has meant that these areas of our collection are more accessible and discoverable both on the shelves and on the catalogue. Thanks for all your hard work over the last five years Marie and we wish you well in all your new endeavours.



CASUALS CORNER

by Aaron Edwards.

For this Casuals Corner, I thought I would highlight a donated book that I had the pleasure of cataloguing, *The Children of Pan: Arcadians in Australia* by Anastasios Myrodis Tamis. It is a book about Greek immigrants to Australia, specifically Greek immigrants from the Arcadia region in the Central Peloponnese. The oil painting on the dustjacket is the piece *Et in Arcadia ego* (which roughly translates from Latin to And in Arcadia I am), which is also known as *Les bergers d'Arcadie* or the *Arcadian Shepherds*, by Nicolas Poussin. The piece is currently held in the Louvre. Also, there are some interesting tidbits from the section of the book on Arcadians in Victoria:

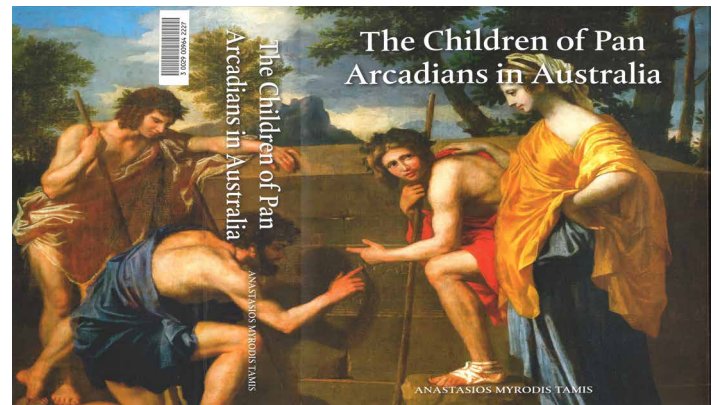
By approximately 1975, Melbourne was home to about 230,000 – 300,000 Greeks

“A total of eight parliamentarians of Greek descent were sitting in the Commonwealth and Victorian parliaments; more than thirty-five were elected to serve as councillors in local government councils.”

“By 2018 almost 60% of all football teams competing in the Victorian Premier League were under Greek Administration...”

“During the period 1953 to 1983, almost two-hundred and twenty Arcadian villages and chief-towns ... sent approximately 16,000 young Arcadians to Melbourne and Victoria, of which at least 7,000 were recorded as members in various Arcadian community organisations in Melbourne Alone. Most ... were single, male ... unskilled farm workers and shepherds.”

Source of information for painting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Et_in_Arcadia_ego



VOLUNTEER VOLUMES

We have had two big volunteer events to celebrate in the last couple of months.

The Friends held their first book sale for the year on the 18th of June. Thanks go to the whole Friends team, but especially to Wendy Eldridge. Wendy's able leadership saw us have a wonderful day and raise close to \$4000! We were especially delighted to see the range of people who came to the sale, from new members, to old members to lots of locals which was great. And don't forget that if you missed the sale, the Friends open the pop-up book shop every Tuesday from 11-3 so come down and have a look for your next treasure. You can never have too many books!

You can watch Wendy's intro to the book sale on our



Friends of the PMI after book sale

We also welcomed a new Friend in May. I'll let Raymond introduce himself.

Raymond comes to us as a unique package starting with a warm but humble upbringing in the wilds of Melbourne's Western suburbs, namely Altona North. His parents were loveable nuts and Raymond hasn't disappointed by embracing their code of conduct and ethics, pursuing a life filled with love for family, professional diversity and gamely adventures. At home and abroad, Raymond, never fearful of challenge still managed a fierce determination to contribute responsibly on a personal, family and professional level. So, here he now lands at PMI with a tamed and warm disposition, ready to contribute to our team with a friendly smile and no mean ability to manage an online sales channel to success. Raymond will take up active duty alongside Wendy and the crew in our pop up book store and helping with eBay and trusts he will be a welcome addition to our little clan.

Also, in May we had National Volunteer Week. We celebrated with badges for all the volunteers and a video campaign across the week looking at the volunteers' favourite things about the PMI. You can see some of the comments in the photos as well as the volunteers with their badges. You can view the video on our YouTube Channel here <https://youtu.be/fm1hsX-zsew>. As always, the volunteers have put in an incredible amount of work on everything from shelving, to book care, to indexing (books, periodicals and the ephemera), to heritage study sourcing, to book sales, to weeding, to shelf reading, to moving books, to sorting donations and much more. They are the heart of the PMI and we couldn't do it without them.



Our new Volunteer Raymond

Elena

My favourite things about the PMI are the variety of work and the organisation. I like how everything works, and it is punctual and in order. I like how people can come in and research, and everything is where it is supposed to be.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 16-22 MAY 2022 Better Together WECH

Siti

I love volunteering at PMI. The staff are all great. They trust my work and I feel a sense of freedom. I truly feel like I am a part of the team. When I started raising Paula, a guide dog puppy, PMI accepted her with open arms. She comes with me every week. Paula has learned to be calm, and she enjoys the peaceful library. PMI has a wide variety of literature and texts. There are many books in their collection. I'm looking forward to volunteer with PMI for many more years to come.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 16-22 MAY 2022 Better Together WECH

Gale

I particularly appreciate the camaraderie of other book-lovers - those working in the library, the many library members I get to meet and the wide range of bibliophiles out in the community who find their way to the shop, stop to chat and are enthused by the thought of finding and reading a new book!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 16-22 MAY 2022 Better Together WECH



GRANTS AND EVENTS: FAMILY HISTORY, MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL AND MORE

by Riannon, Grants and Events Officer.

We have been lucky that so far (fingers crossed) all our planned events this year have been able to take place in-person! The silver lining of the last two years has been that the PMI has pivoted to delivering both in person and online events and we have noticed the appetite remains for both options. So, we are working toward being able to present hybrid events, (events that take place in person but are simultaneously filmed and live streamed on our YouTube channel, so that they can also be watched from home, or online later.) There is one thing that we need your help with to enable this exciting new opportunity to occur...Could you please subscribe to the PMI Victorian History library's YouTube? You can do so by clicking this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxevqKN0BqfiCbGebgiqYA> and clicking the

big red subscribe button. We need a minimum number of subscribers to be able to live stream/broadcast. I have applied for a grant from the City of Stonnington Annual Community Grant 2022 - 2023 for the project: 'Digital renewal and community connection.' If successful we could be awarded \$13,796 to assist with digitizing microfilm and microfiche, purchasing new PC screens, a PC and purchasing event recording and broadcasting equipment.

I have also applied for a Community Heritage Grant in the training stream. If successful, we will be able to provide Disaster Management/collection conservation training to staff, and purchase materials to compile a Disaster Management Kit. Re-assessing and upgrading the First Aid Kit and now Disaster Management Plan and Kit have become passion projects of mine over recent years, and it would be fantastic to have the opportunity to properly train and equip us to handle the unexpected. To further this, we are also applying for a 'ventilation rebate and grant' to facilitate the upgrade of three reverse cycle systems in the PMI to assist with comfort and wellbeing.

A huge thanks once again to the Community Bank Windsor who have awarded us a \$2750 grant to cover the costs of some Book processing materials, PC screens and a PC book label printer to reconnect our volunteers with resources after the re-opening of the PMI post lockdown. With our long-awaited website launching before the end of 2022, we will be seeing some very appreciated and improved resources to work with. We have every finger and toe crossed because we have also applied for a significant \$20,000 grant from the Suburban Local living fund DJPV (Department of Jobs Precincts Victoria) to fund the migration of PMI data to a



new Library Management System. If successful there, I think we can call it a hat-trick!

On Tuesday 9th August from 7-8pm we presented in partnership with CATHS the first annual Bruce Turner lecture since 2019 and it was a roaring success! Ross Campbell presented about his lifetime association with the Cinemas of Southeast Melbourne with an accompanying photo display. Mike Trickett, CATHS president, and Tony Tibballs assisted with all aspects of the organisation of this presentation and marketing, and Zina Sofer provided another physical photo display for our events space. Pamela (wife of the late Bruce Turner) and Mark their son attended in Bruce's honour and were most pleased by the event.

Our Family History Social group is re-launching the last Tuesday of each Month between August 30th and November 29th. The Friends led by Wendy are excited to be starting these sessions again. We already have bookings, but have room for more, so come to one or all by clicking this link and booking your spot <https://www.trybooking.com/CBBZX>

Midsumma Festival for February 2023 is already in the works with Dr Graham Willet returning as our speaker... watch this space...Graham will also be remounting his presentation from the 2022 Midsumma Festival in October of this year. These presentations will occur in person and if we get enough of an online following, live broadcast.

Image Above: From the Annual Bruce Turner Lecture, 9th August.

COLLECTION CORNER

by Ellen Coates, Collections Librarian.

It's been a busy time here at the PMI. We've had two new compactuses installed in stacks to house our growing collections. I don't think I've ever been so excited about shelving. The Friends have finished moving all the books along in stacks, so we finally have enough space again!

We've also had two large generous donations. Firstly, from Greg Eccleston who has donated a significant portion of his collection to the PMI. The highlights are natural history and exploration. We'd like to thank Greg for his donation, we have kept 249 books. The State Library of Victoria have also kindly donated part of the Keith Kings Collection to the PMI. Keith was an avid transport collector so a small selection of his books and ephemera have found their perfect home here.

So, keep an eye out for them in coming months as we begin to catalogue both collections and they become available for loan.

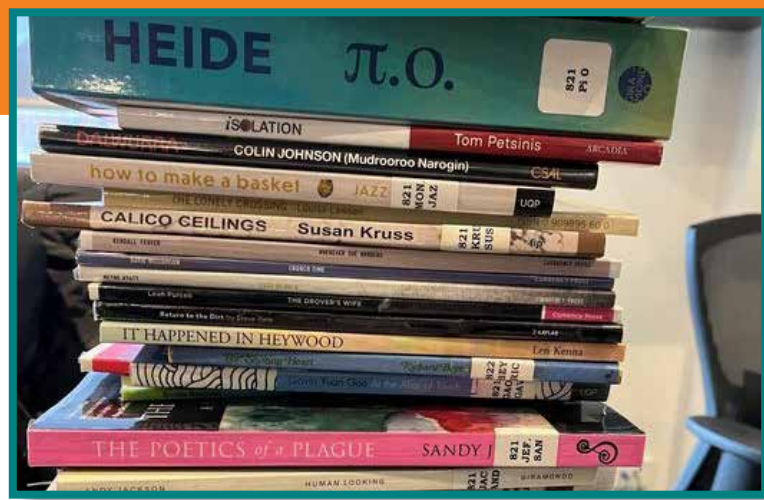
In July we launched an exciting new campaign to restore some of our rare books. We're dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Victoria. In light of this, some of our 19th century and early 20th century collection of Victorian and Australian history is in need of preservation. We have fourteen books that need restoring. We were really excited to reach our funding goal in August and the books are going to the conservator to be restored. We'll have an update for you once they're back. Thanks so much to everyone who donated, it is so appreciated.

Clementine the Highland Cow continues to be a source of both amusement and a great way of highlighting different areas of the collection. Some of her antics include: building a mountain stage out of cycling books for the Tour de France, celebrating International Fairy Day, educating herself for education week and taking up knitting.

We have also begun expanding a couple of areas of the collection. Poetry and plays have always been an important part of the PMI's collection, but with the new emphasis on own voices they have become even more crucial. As well as collecting more, we have integrated them with the broader collection so that they can be discovered with their subject matter. The other area we're excited to see expansion in is the DVD and movie collection. Australian movies and documentaries are a fundamentally important part of our history, so we look forward to making them available to members in hard copy, but also digitally in the library. Thanks also to everyone who donated political ephemera to our collection.

That's all from me. I wanted to finish Collections Corner off with an interesting fact gleaned from the collection.

Did you know that The Australian Painted Lady Butterfly that is found throughout Victoria plays dead? When it is attacked by aerial predators it plummets to the ground apparently lifeless. You can find out more on page 210 of *The Butterflies of Australia* by Robert Orr and Roger Kitching which was donated by Greg Eccleston. <https://library.pmi.net.au/fullRecord.jsp?recno=33177>



Poetry and plays have always been an important part of the PMI's collection, but with the new emphasis on own voices they have become even more crucial.



New Books

Another Australia / Winnie Dunn

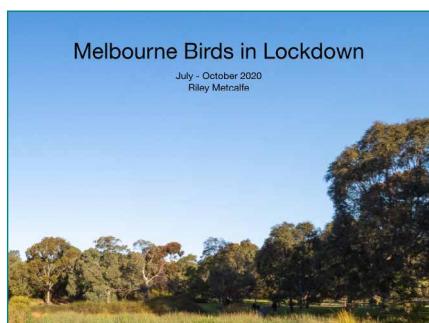
Melbourne Twelve diverse writers reveal another Australia hidden behind, beneath and beside the country we think we know.

A suburban psychic's ominous warning. A conversation in Yuwaalaraay. A glimpse of a shameful, hidden history. A love that moves a mountain. In this unwavering follow-up to *After Australia*, twelve more boundary-pushing Indigenous writers and writers of colour show us all that is and could exist in our versions of Australia.



Featuring Shankari Chandran, Osman Faruqi, Declan Fry, Amani Haydar, Shirley Le, L-FRESH the LION, Mohammed Massoud Morsi, Omar Musa, Sisonke Msimang, Sara Saleh, Nardi Simpson and Anne Marie Te Whiu.

Melbourne Lockdown Birds: July-October 2020/ Riley Metcalfe



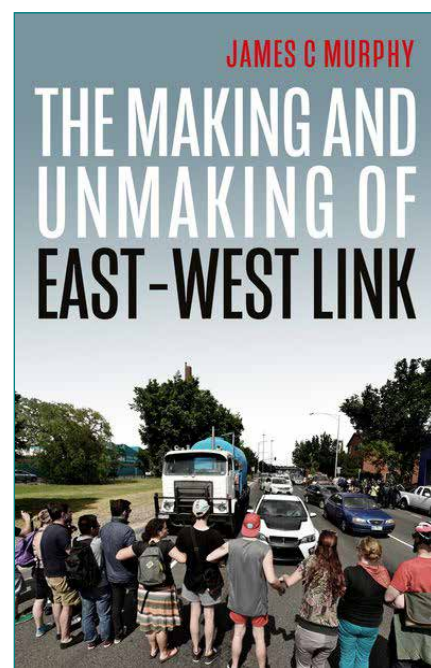
Birds that Riley saw in Royal Park and Brunswick during the Melbourne lockdown in 2020.

The Making and Unmaking of the East-West Link / James C Murphy

The definitive account of a hotly debated political project in Melbourne.

Melbourne's aborted East-West Link - the massive, multi-billion-dollar inner-city toll road project that promised to knit Melbourne closer together-was divisive from the start. Intense picketing and protests, multiple court challenges, breathless media coverage and bitter politicking consumed the Victorian parliament for years. The link brought the downfall of the single-term Baillieu-Napthine Liberal government; its cancellation cost the state half a billion dollars, and it lives on in infamy - a byword for

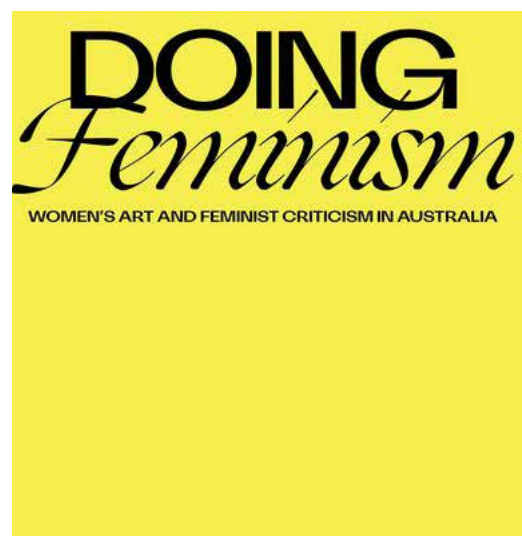
brinkmanship, waste and politicisation of infrastructure. But where did this notorious megaproject come from, and what explains its fate? Was it a project hand-picked by state premiers who miscalculated its electoral value? Was it foisted on the government by cunning roads bureaucrats, unprepared for the public backlash? Or was it simply that opponents of the project succeeded by turning it into an election issue? James C Murphy explores the saga from competing vantage points, detailing the layers of politics that saturate infrastructure policymaking in Australia.



Doing Feminism: Women's art and feminist criticism in Australia / Anne Marsh

A bold and strikingly illustrated record of women's art and feminism in Australia.

Doing Feminism represents over 220 artists and groups with 370 colour illustrations punctuated by extracts from artists' statements, curatorial writing and critique. Tracking networks of art practice, exhibitions, protest and critical thought over several generations, Marsh demonstrates the innovation and power of women's art and the ways in which it has influenced and changed the contemporary art landscape in Australia and internationally. The images and texts are curated by decade and contextualised to provide a broad analysis of art and feminist criticism since the late 1960s. The result of many years of research in the field and the archive, *Doing Feminism* reproduces essays by key protagonists



involved in the critical debates and theoretical positions of the day, including curators writing on exhibitions that signalled major change, especially for Indigenous artists. This extraordinary work presents one of the most comprehensive collections of material ever compiled on women and the arts in...

The Story of The Big Storm / Julia Hall and students of Mount Dandenong Primary School

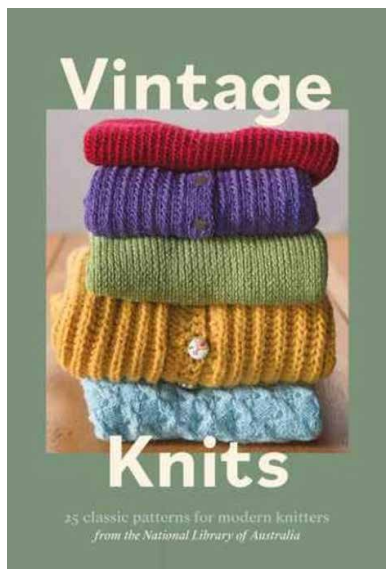
This beautiful book

takes children and parents on a journey of discovery, from the wind and the storm, to all the fun activities that took place following as the community came together to support each other.

The Story of THE BIG STORM was written in the hope that parents and children could share their memories, and start their healing journey after the trauma of the big storm in June 2021 and those following.



Vintage Knits: 25 classic patterns for modern knitters / National Library



People of the past knew the magic of a handmade garment — the uniqueness, the custom fit, the time and care taken by the knitter. In today's world of mass-production, we now crave the individuality and satisfaction that comes with creating a piece of clothing for ourselves or a loved one from scratch.

Knitters in the early decades of the twentieth century had their pick of patterns which were

published regularly in a variety of books, newspapers and magazines. Vintage Knits presents a curated selection of

these patterns from Australian publications of the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, tested and updated to make them practical for today's knitter. The book features vintage material from the original publications with contemporary full-colour photographs of the garments as they have been recreated today. Interwoven throughout the book are sections reflecting on the social and cultural history of knitting in Australia.

Tapping into the trend for everything vintage, as well as the 'handmade revolution' and resurgence of knitting, this book will bring style and joy to any modern knitter!

The Party: The Communist Party of Australia from heyday to reckoning / Stuart Macintyre

The long awaited second volume in Stuart Macintyre's definitive history of the Communist Party of Australia.

Communism was unlike any other political movement Australia has ever seen. At its peak in the 1940s, unions led by communists could call a strike that paralysed the nation, and communists influenced the highest level of government, and commanded the unwavering loyalty of thousands. It showed working men and women they could have a better life, and gave them the tools to achieve it.

Stuart Macintyre reveals how sources of strength in the party's heyday became the undoing of the party over the following two decades. Unconditional support for the Soviet model broke down as the horrors of Stalinism were revealed. Public support for the party eroded during a series of strikes, and hostility from mainstream politics and security services took a toll. But for those who remained, the comradeship and intense political engagement are the strongest memories.

