

PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

VICTORIAN & LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 49 - FEBRUARY 2007



140 High Street, Prahran (PO Box 1080 Windsor VIC 3181) Ph/Fax (03) 9510 3393 library@pmi.net.au
www.pmi.net.au Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 9.30am-1.00pm Membership \$12, \$10 conc., \$30 inst.
Feedback / suggestions for this newsletter may be directed to writer / compiler Christine Worthington

MELBOURNE MILES

The Story of Melbourne's Roads

Dr Max Lay is an international authority on roads, who has been highly commended for his research and publications relating to Australian and international road history and development.

Dr Lay has had a long and distinguished career in engineering, was the independent reviewer for the Citylink project, and is a director of the RACV and of ConnectEast.

Dr Lay's 2003 publication *Melbourne Miles* has broad appeal. His illustrated lecture will show us the early history of Melbourne, and of our particular part of Melbourne, through the story of the development of the main thoroughfares.

7.00pm Wednesday 14 March at the PMI Library

Free entry - Refreshments provided - Bookings ESSENTIAL - ph 95103393 or email library@pmi.net.au



Winter Book Club

Details inside including 2007 meeting dates and book list.

SEE PAGE 4 ->



✿ Membership Drive ✿

It is always important for a not-for-profit organisation to keep membership numbers up.

Find out how you can help and be in the running to win a \$50 book voucher! Details on page 4 →

This newsletter is sponsored by

Windsor Community Bank
111 Chapel Street, Windsor, Vic 3181
Ph 9510 9311



Find out more about this sponsorship in 'Around the library' on p.2

INSIDE

Around the Library (p. 2)

Winter Book Club (p. 4)

PMI Press update (p. 7)

Wattle Park book launch (p. 3)

Feature Liftout No. 1: General Collection (*Start your collection today!!*) (p. 5-6)

Recent Aquisitions (p. 8-9)

AROUND THE LIBRARY



MEMBERS NEWS

Welcome to the following new members who joined during December and January:

(Faint, illegible text, possibly names of new members)

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library during December and January:

Denis Boundy	Bonnie Joy	Roland McCausland
Tom Bryans	Leonard Krohn	Cecile Rees
Clive Brookes	Hinton Lambert	Heather Ronald
Ron Cameron	Lynda Laphorne	Mary Russell
Ruth Cameron	Reuben Lazarus	Barrie Stevens
Mary Ann Cohn	Alf Lazer	Margaret Stevens
Philippe de Gail	Jadzia Lemieszek	George Swinburne
John Don	Michael Macgeorge	Maureen Swinburne
Jim Elwood	Ian Matthews	Ron Thomas
Wilma Farrow	Jennifer Matthews	Joy Tuckett
Pat Grainger	Elsie Percy	Anne Tyson
Doug Gunn	Les Percy	Frank Van Straten
Peter Isaacson	Jacqueline Quirk	Win Vears

GENERAL NEWS

We were very fortunate to be contacted recently by the **Windsor Community Bank** and offered the opportunity to have one of our activities sponsored by the Bank - and we have chosen our newsletter. Long-standing members will have noticed how the newsletter has grown in recent years, in both volume and frequency. Our mailout list is also bigger than ever these days, as every two months we mail out nearly four hundred copies to members and community organisations (such as historical societies). Our thanks to the board members of the Bank for assisting us with the production and distribution cost of our most important communication tool.

Now that most of the noisy work is complete, the next stage of the **library renovations** is soon to take place. These will include carpeting for the now vacant window display areas, new window signage and mild window tinting. The General Collection has been moved to the west window closest to the main entrance along with the tea and coffee facility. Soon that area will be furnished to create a relaxing area for reading.

Late last year Cinema and Theatre Historical Society (CATHS) members installed solid metal shelving in the PMI storeroom to better accommodate their archives, and are now busy preparing their small area at the front window furthest west of the main entrance. At present this area consists of a filing cabinet and a table for sorting material, but later the area will feature window displays and a workstation which will for the first time give public access to the catalogue of the CATHS collection. There will be a feature article on the CATHS archives in the October 2007 issue of this newsletter.

On 7 March at 7.00pm Christine will speak at the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne. In the main meeting room, Christine will address the members of the **VicGUM** group (Victorian Genealogists Using Microcomputers) about the PMI Press. PMI members are welcome to attend and you can find out more about VicGUM while you are there.

SHINKFIELD AWARDS

The 21st annual Alan Shinkfield awards were presented in December at six primary schools in the Stonnington area by members of the PMI committee.

The awards are presented to students who have done their best, and made a positive contribution to the life of the school and their classmates. Each recipient receives \$100 cash, free membership to the PMI Library for one year, and a copy of the PMI history *Pioneer and Hardy Survivor*.

Ruby Vadiveloo - Armadale Primary School
(presented by Dr Judith Buckrich)
Emily Phillips & Cameron MacFarlane - Malvern PS
(presented by Alf Lazer)
Zoe Lorenzin - South Yarra Primary School
(presented by Cr Chris Gahan)
Helen Whitehead - Stonnington Primary School
(presented by Dr Judith Buckrich)
Tram Tran - Toorak Primary School
(presented by Christine Worthington)
Ebony Sanford - Victorian College for the Deaf
(presented by Christine Worthington)

Congratulations to all the above students and our best wishes for your secondary schooling.

MIV NEWS

by Cathy Milward-Bason

The upgraded Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria website is almost completed and will be launched sometime after February.

A meeting with the Minister for Local Government is planned before March. Our application for funding from the Department for Victorian Communities to undertake a scoping study of mechanics' institutes in Victoria is currently being considered.

A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A LAUNCH

On Sunday 17 December Wattle Park and the Melbourne Metropolitan Tramways Band provided the perfect setting for the launch of the latest PMI Press publication ***Eliza's Vision: a History of Wattle Park 1838-2006***.

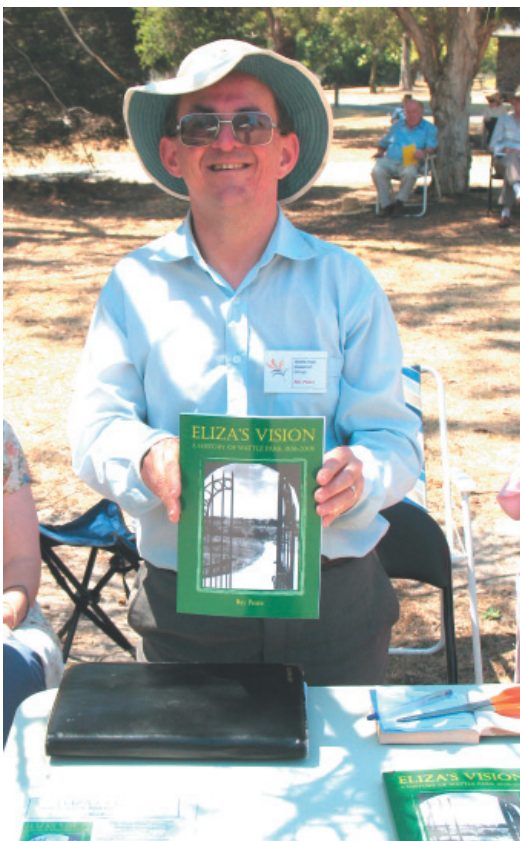
The MMTB pre-Christmas performances are an institution at Wattle Park (the first was in 1940) and many from the local community and beyond, senior and junior, turned out with their folding chairs and picnic blankets for a pleasurable and relaxing afternoon of Christmas carols.

Eliza's Vision was launched by long-time local resident and Member for Burwood, Mr Bob Stensholt, who thanked author Ray Peace for documenting the history of the Park. Though writing history can be difficult because it can be seen from so many points of view, Stensholt congratulated Peace for his "deft hand" in his documentation of the Park's history. The Member for Burwood spoke of the importance of the book as a statement of Wattle Park's value to the local people, and the importance of its preservation which has not always been guaranteed - as *Eliza's Vision* illustrates.

PMI Press Administrator Christine Worthington congratulated the author on the culmination of his three-year project and spoke briefly about PMI Press as a partner for authors who have written such works with often a very localised appeal and audience. The author then took the opportunity to thank several people who had assisted him in various ways as he had worked on the project. A report on the launch appears in the Feb 2007 issue of *Fifty Plus* magazine.

Ray sold out of his first print run on the day of the launch, but a new consignment has since been delivered, so if you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book we advise you do so quickly. *Eliza's Vision* is available at the PMI library at a 10% discount for PMI members.

See Page 7 for further details and information on our other PMI Press publications.



Above: Ray sold many copies of *Eliza's Vision* to the local community on the day of the launch at Wattle Park.



Above right: The Melbourne Metropolitan Tramways Band.



Right: the Member for Buwood, Mr Bob Stensholt, launching *Eliza's Vision*.

✿ Win a \$50 Book Voucher ✿

As a not-for-profit organisation it is important for us to keep our membership numbers up. Every grant application requires us to state how many members we serve - it shows the level of community support for the library service.

In 2007 we are undertaking a number of strategies including letter box drops in the local area, and reviewing the library service by surveying members who have lapsed in recent years, to find out how we can improve the usefulness of the library to current and potential members.

✿ You can help ✿ by supporting our inaugural ✿ membership drive ✿

1. Write your name on the back of the enclosed coloured bookmark.
2. Pass it on to a friend or relative who is interested in history and may be interested in joining the PMI Library.
3. Make sure he/she presents the bookmark upon joining the library.

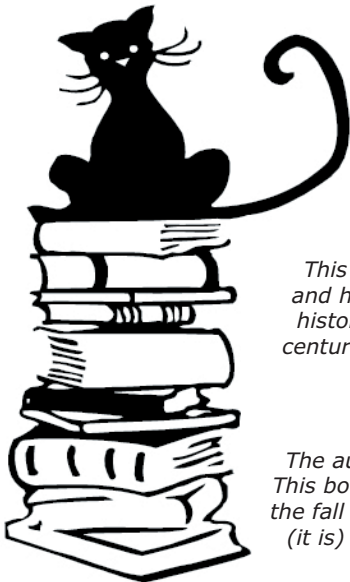
All completed bookmarks will go into a hat and one will be drawn out at our 2007 AGM. (Date to be announced - but usually held in late April or early May).

If your bookmark is drawn, then both you and the new member will receive a \$50 voucher from Borders Books. You do not have to be present at the AGM to claim your prize.

✿ we look forward to your support ✿



Above: The warm, fuzzy feeling you get when you help non-profit community organisations.



Winter Book Club

In 2007 our Book Club will meet at the library from 10am to 12pm on the first Saturdays of the Winter months.

Sat 2 June - *The Secret River* / Kate Grenville (2005)

This book is based on an award winning Australian author's indepth family history research and has led to great discussion amongst historians and writers about the value and impact of historical novels? It traces the lives of William and Sal Thornhill transported from turn of the century London to colonial N.S.W. It vividly describes the trials faced by the Thornhill family as settlers in Aboriginal territory on the Hawkesbury River.

Sat 7 July - *The Kite Runner* / Kahled Hosseini (2003)

The author was born in Afganistan and his family received political asylum in the USA in 1980. This book tells the story of 12 year old Amir set "... against Afganistan's destructive history, from the fall of the monarchy to the oppression of the Northern Alliance and the advent of the Taliban, (it is) the heart breaking story of fathers and sons, friendship and betrayal, casualties of fate, and the possibilty of redemption."

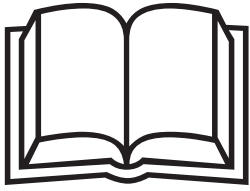
Sat 4 August - *The Book Thief* / Marcus Zusak (2005)

This book is favourite amongst our members and is by another award winning Australian author. It "is a story about the power of words to make worlds. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity... Makus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time."

Start reading now! If you would like to reserve any of the above books, please do so by calling 9510 3393 or email library@pmi.net.au.

Participation in the Winter Book Club is FREE, and it is a fun and relaxing Winter activity for our members who love to read and talk about fiction. Morning tea provided. ALL WELCOME.

In 2007 our special articles series will feature the various aspects of the PMI library collection. The articles will take the form of brief collection descriptions and handy 'how-to' guides (collect all six!) for making the best use of the collection. If you have any questions about any aspect of the library that you would like to see covered in these articles, please inform library staff.



PMI Library Collection Guide

No 1. The General Collection

History of the General Collection

Visitors to the library in 2007 might be surprised to learn that for 130 years the collection consisted entirely of books of a general nature.

The PMI Library began in 1854 as Prahran's first library, and it catered to the general public. The original items in the collection were donated by members until the library had been built and a librarian employed to acquire further items. We have a printed catalogue from 1858 which shows several hundred items in broad categories such as fiction, biography, geography and history.

Many, many decades after the establishment of the free municipal library (which also catered to the general public with a general collection), it became evident that the PMI library would not survive unless it began to specialise, which it started to do in the early 1980s. At that time the library was extended into the area east of the main entrance to accommodate the burgeoning historical collection.

As the historical collection began to grow, the general collection has been gradually weeded down (sold off at library book sales with the remainders donated to Prahran Mission) and today it is in fact very small.

Location

The general collection is located on a set of A-frame bookshelves, on your right as you walk in the main entrance to the library. General collection new and recently returned items can be found on the top shelf of the wooden trolley opposite the general collection.

What is the general collection?

The general collection is divided into four categories (according to genre):

- ☐ **Literary Merit** - general fiction by authors that are not Australian - call number 'L.M.' followed by first three letters of the author's surname
- ☐ **Mystery** - crime fiction, mysteries and thrillers by authors that are not Australian - call number 'M.' followed by the first three letters of the author's surname
- ☐ **Biography** - biographies of people that are not Victorian - call number 'B.' followed by the first three letters of the subject's surname
- ☐ **Non-Fiction** - general non-fiction works mostly relating to Australian and international history - call number 'N.F.' followed by the first three letters of the author's surname

How are books selected for the general collection?

Some general collection items have been selected from books donated by members. Others have been purchased after selection from popular book lists and reviews. But overwhelmingly, the general collection is made up of items purchased after

suggestion by members. Many are requested by members who attend local book clubs. Requesting popular new fiction at the PMI Library can save you having to queue up for such items at the public libraries. As there is so little space for the general collection, we would like to keep it stocked with recent publications, so please bear this in mind when requesting items. Members can suggest items for the general collection by informing any member of staff by phone, email or in person.

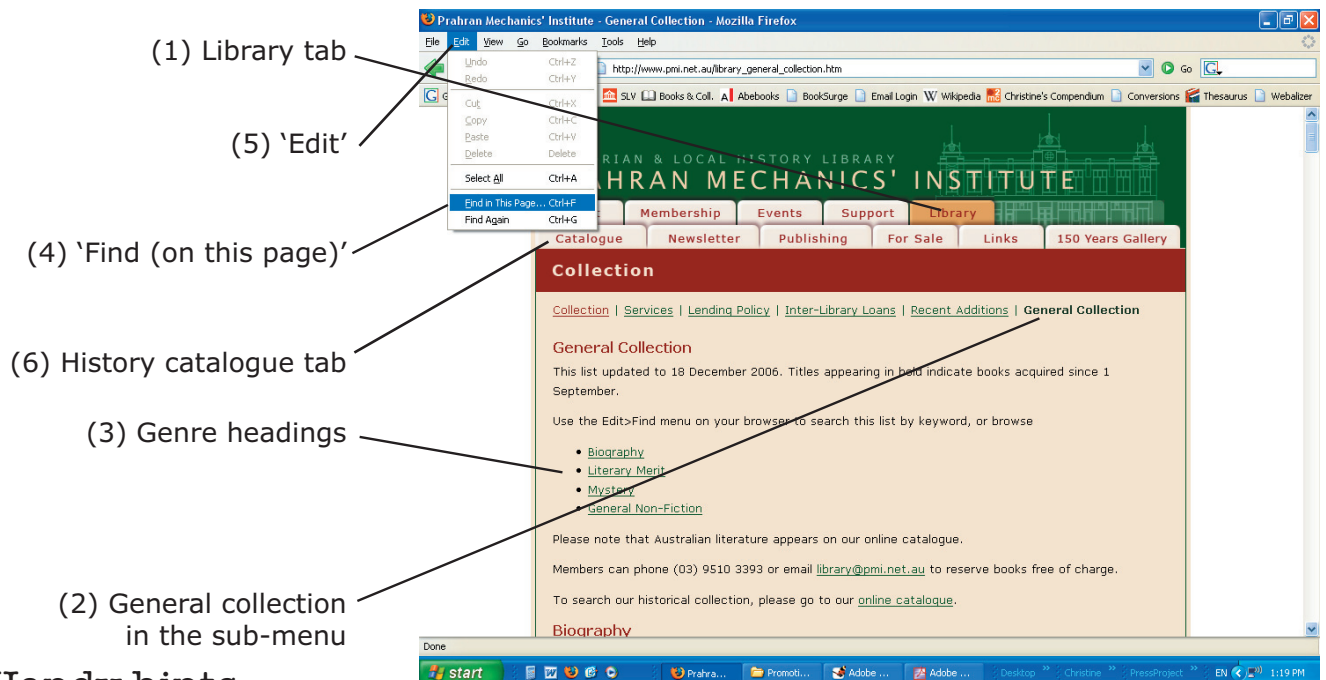
Searching the general collection

You can either browse the shelves and trolley for items, arranged by genre. Alternatively, you can have a look at the list of general collection items on the website (www.pmi.net.au).

☞ Click on the library tab in the top section of the website (1), then click on General Collection in the sub-menu (2).

☞ To **browse** the list, click on any of the genre headings (3) and scroll.

☞ To **search** the list, select 'Find (on this page)', (4) from the 'Edit' (5) menu and type a keyword in the 'Find' window. Your keyword might be an author surname or a distinctive word from the title of the book you are after. Click on the 'Find next' button until you have found the book.



Handy hints

- ☐ Fiction works by Australian authors are in the historical collection (at call number 820, followed by the first three letters of the author's surname) and these can be found in the history catalogue (click on the 'Catalogue' tab (6) in the top section of the website)
- ☐ Book titles that have been added to the general collection in the previous three months appear in the list in BOLD.
- ☐ If you would like to make a request for a book to be included in the general collection, please advise library staff.
- ☐ If you have any problems searching the general collection, please ask PMI library staff who will be very happy to show you on a computer at the library.

Any questions?

If you have any specific questions about the general collection that has not been answered by this guide, please inform library staff, and we will include this information in the next newsletter.

PMI PRESS BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PMI LIBRARY!

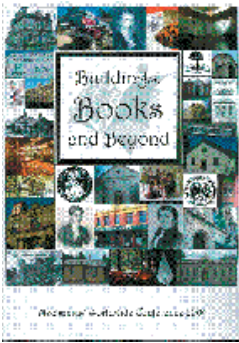
2006 was a very busy year for PMI Press, but most rewarding as our small publisher has become established and produced some very pleasing results.

Below is a list of the publications we have notched up so far, and some details of where they can be purchased. You will see that all of the books may now be purchased at the PMI library at a 10% discount for PMI members (cash or cheque only).

Thank you to the Jim Lowden (Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria), Cecily Parris, Ruth Gooch, Meyer Eidelson and Ray Peace for their enthusiasm and patience as their work has provided such a wonderful springboard for the Press. I am pleased with the variety of material we have been associated with so far and look forward to many more interesting projects to come.

Coming up in 2007 ... Work is progressing well on the history of the Malvern Special Needs Playgroup (sponsored by the East Malvern Community Bank) which will hopefully be completed in February. The history of the Prahran Technical School is complete and is currently being edited. We aim to have this publication ready by late May or early June. A collection of information and stories about Melbourne Jazz musicians from a past era is on the cards for the second half of the year, and submissions are under consideration for a project to follow that.

Christine Worthington, Administrator



Buildings Books & Beyond: Mechanics' Institutes Worldwide Conference 2005

Extent: 430 A4 pages

Price: \$60.00

Available from: PMI Press, PO Box 1080, Windsor VIC 3181
PMI Library (10% discount for PMI members)

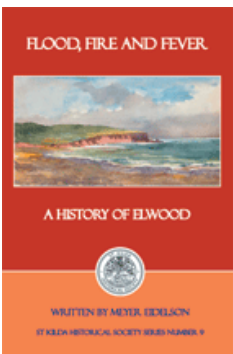
No Shops in Acland Street: the Autobiography of an Entertaining Lady by Helene Jacoby Sweica

Extent: 240 A5 pages

Price: \$29.95

Available from:

Chronicles Bookshop, 91 Fitzroy St, St Kilda
Victorian Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road, Melb
PMI Library (10% discount for PMI members)



Flood, Fire and Fever: A History of Elwood by Meyer Eidelson

Extent: 215 A5 pages

Price: \$20

Available from: St Kilda Library, Carlisle Street, St Kilda
St Kilda Historical Society, PO Box 177, Balaclava VIC 3183
PMI Library (10% discount for PMI members)

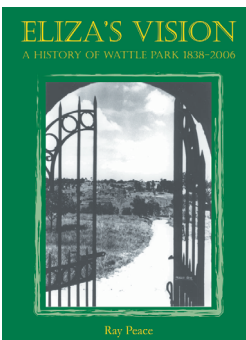
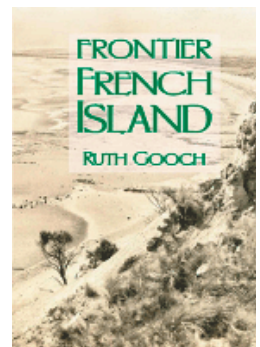
Frontier French Island by Ruth Gooch

Extent: 320 B5 pages.

Price: \$50

Available from:

Information Victoria, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne
Ruth Gooch, PO Box 54, Hastings VIC 3915
PMI Library (10% discount for PMI members)
plus additional stockists in the Westernport Region



Eliza's Vision: a History of Wattle Park 1838-2006 by Ray Peace

Extent: 207 B5 pages

Price: \$29.95

Available from: Ray Peace, PO Box 8061, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156
PMI Library (10% discount for PMI members)

Order forms are available from the PMI Press website
www.pmi.net.au/press.htm or purchase these books in person at the PMI
library to receive your **10% PMI MEMBER DISCOUNT**

GENERAL COLLECTION

First lady / Michael Dobbs
 The vanishing act of Esme Lennox / Maggie O'Farrell
 The mission song / John Le Carre
 Thirteen moons / Charles Frazier
 The prisoner of Guantanamo / Dan Fesperman
 Bangkok eight / John Burdett
 Terrorist / John Updike
 In a dry season / Peter Robinson [donated by Marita Hargraves]

HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Victoria-General

Mining shareholders index 1857-1886 CD-ROM / Marion McAdie
 Victoria government gazette 1851 July-December CD-ROM
 Victoria government gazette 1890 CD-ROM
 Victoria police gazette 1873 CD-ROM
 Victoria police gazette 1875 CD-ROM
 Introducing Victorian geology / edited by G.W. Cochrane, G.W. Quick and D. Spencer-Jones
Apollo Bay Early Forrest, Barramunga and Apollo Bay / G.A. Facey 1979
Ararat Ararat Cemetery walk Saturday 21st October 2006
Ballarat Ballarat cemeteries and crematorium: indexed transcripts of memorials in the old and new cemeteries and burial and cremation registers CD-ROM
Balwyn Our tribute to our high school: a history of Balwyn High School 1954-2004 / edited by Peter C. Murray [donated by Balwyn High School]
Barramunga Early Forrest, Barramunga and Apollo Bay / G.A. Facey 1979
Bogong From drovers to daisy-pickers: colourful characters of the Bogongs / Ian Stapleton
Brighton Brighton Union Cricket Club and the acquisition of Hurlingham Park, Nepean Highway, Brighton East, Victoria, Australia / Shirley M. Joy [donated by Shirley Joy]
Carlisle River Souvenir book of 'Back to Carlisle River' 1967
Colac J.G. Johnstone & Co. of Colac: a centenary memento 1983
 Sixty years' historical sketch of S.S. John's Parish, Colac 1870-1930
Dunnstown Forever scholars: a history of 140 years of Catholic education 1862-2002 and the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Dunnstown 1952-2002 / Dianne Cahir 2002
Forrest Forrest: the first 85 years / Norm Houghton
 Early Forrest, Barramunga and Apollo Bay / G.A. Facey 1979
Gippsland Gippsland heritage journal no.30 (2006)
 West Gippsland: pioneers and settlers pre 1900 volume 2 / compiled by the West Gippsland Genealogical Society
 West Gippsland: early settlers 1900-1925 / compiled by the West Gippsland Genealogical Society
Harrietville Harrietville: down the golden years / Edith Ellen Hoy
Inverloch A short history of Inverloch / E.P. Brewster [donated by Lyn Skillern, Leongatha Historical Society]
Irrewillipe Irrewillipe East Primary School no.2357: centenary 7th and 8th March, 1981
Lavers Hill Days gone by: Laver's Hill centenary / M.P. Heffernan 1994
Leongatha En avant: Leongatha High School 1912-1987 / Lynette Skillern [donated by Lyn Skillern, Leongatha Historical Society]
 The story of Mossvale Park / Ellen Lyndon [donated by Lyn Skillern, Leongatha Historical Society]
Lyal A history of gold mining at Lyal and Myrtle Creek, central Victoria / Ken James
Majorca The birth and decline of Majorca / Chris Earl 1979
Maryborough Maryborough High School 1912-1987

Maryborough postal history 1854-1979

Melbourne The making of women: a history of Mac.Robertson Girls' High School / Pauline F. Parker *[donated by Alison Boundy]*

SIN on disc: aspects of life in the southern region of Melbourne 1850-2000 CD-ROM *[donated by Leony Graham, Bayside Libraries]*

Murroon Murroon: state school 940 and district 1868-1964 / compiled by Hugh Morris

Nerrena History of the Nerrena Cricket Club 1935-1936 to 1985-1986 *[donated by Lyn Skillern, Leongatha Historical Society]*

Port Albert Port Albert / edited by Beryl Atkin 1979 (6 pages only)

Seaspray 50 years of history: Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club 1955 to 2005 / Ann Andrew

Smythesdale Connie's memoirs: a collection of autobiographical short stories by Connie Howlett

Stonnington Walk into history: six more great walks in Stonnington / Di Foster and Steve Stefanopoulos *[donated by Jane Nigro, Malvern Historical Society]*

Walk into history 2: six more great walks in Stonnington / Di Foster and Steve Stefanopoulos *[donated by Jane Nigro, Malvern Historical Society]*

Walk into history 3: six more great walks in Stonnington / Steve Stefanopoulos *[donated by Jane Nigro, Malvern Historical Society]*

Walkerville Recollections of Waratah and the Ten Mile 2nd ed. / Mabel Sharrock *[donated by Lyn Skillern, Leongatha Historical Society]*

Wantirna St Luke's Wantirna: celebrating 25 years

Wattle Park Eliza's vision: a history of Wattle Park 1838-2006 / Ray Peace

Wodonga The Border Post (Albury) almanac for 1878 facsimile reprint 1979 *[donated by Jane Nigro, Malvern Historical Society]*

Australian Literature

The unexpected elements of love / Kate Legge

Biography and Autobiography

Mountains of memories: a life in Australia's past / Martin Thomas *[donated by Trish Pooock]*

Defence Service Record of William Robert Bear (M.M.) 23rd Battalion, World War I / compiled by Shirley M. Joy *[donated by Shirley Joy]*

If God prospers me: a portrait of Frederick John Cato / Ann Blainey

Mechanics' Institutes

The Stanley Athenaeum / G.F. Craig

Who was Badger?: aspects of the life and work of Colin R. Badger, Director of Adult Education, Victoria 1947-1971 / Colin Robert Badger

Australian journal of adult education vols X-XII 1970-1972

Taggerty Hall centenary 1898-1998: a history of the hall / Peter W. Kerr

Miscellaneous

Chinese entries in various land and mining records held by the Public Record Office of Victoria / Ken James

Amy Castles: court singer CD *[donated by Ingrid Kasapyan]*

Wooden wonders: Victoria's timber bridges / Don Chambers

Clear across Australia: a history of telecommunications / Ann Moyal *[donated by Trish Pooock]*

Schools of Arts of the St George district, the Sutherland Shire, and the near Illawarra / compiled by Roger Morris

Donated books for sale

St Francis Church, Melbourne (1 book)

Marita Hargraves (2 books)

Trevor Knaggs (11 books)



BOOK COVERING

Would you like to protect your books from wear and tear by having them professionally covered?

Paperbacks - \$1.50 ; hardbacks with dust covers - \$2.50

This service is strictly for Members only.
maximum of 5 books at a time please.

Next Lecture: **Dr Max Lay: The Story of Melbourne's Roads**

PMI PRESS BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY –
10% DISCOUNT FOR PMI MEMBERS

Winter Book Club 2007: details inside

✻ Win a \$50 book voucher in our inaugural Membership Drive ✻

If undeliverable please return to:

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VICTORIAN & LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY
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