

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY



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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 acting compiler Judith Buckrich

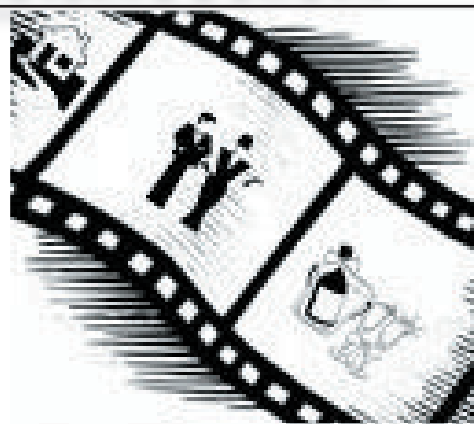
*Prahran Mechanics' Institute and the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society
present our annual*

HISTORIC PICTURE SHOW DOCUMENTED COMMUNICATIONS

This year Peter Wolfenden (Vice-President, CATHS) will show rare films highlighting aspects of communication from rock art painting and the work of Albert Namatjira to quality book production and the making of daily newspapers. These films cannot be seen anywhere else.

*The event is free but bookings are essential.
Refreshments will be served afterwards.*

6.45PM WEDNESDAY
12 NOVEMBER 2008



In the Library Windows

You may not have noticed but our windows are now tinted to prevent the sun affecting our books. This was an important step in the management of our collection.

Storage

Our fantastic newspaper microfilm is now stored in poster drawers donated by the Stonnington History Centre.

This newsletter is sponsored by

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



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AROUND THE LIBRARY



MEMBERS NEWS

Welcome to the following new members who joined during the previous two months:

Colleen Curran, Carmen Carbone, Joanne, Bob, Linda, Gwen, and others.

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library over August and September

Patrick Galvin	Ian Clarke
Isabel Simpson	Kaye Cole
Margaret Horton	Margaret Mc Donald
Stella Barber	Eric Steele
Tony Gilbert	Gwen Orford
J Margaret Hicks	Bernadette Salter
Murray Houghton	

GENERAL NEWS

Volunteers

Sincere thanks to the PMI volunteer troops who, this year up to 30 September have notched up the following very impressive stats:

- ☐ 285.5 hours of book care duties
- ☐ 200 brochures delivered to households
- ☐ 10 publications indexed for the library, with a further 3 indexing projects underway

NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM IN THE LIBRARY

In August this year Prahran Historical and Arts Society (PHAS) was offered a donation of a large collection of newspaper microfilms and a microfilm reader / printer by Holmesglen College of TAFE. PHAS has offered them to the PMI Library on long term loan.

It is a wonderful collection of microfilms and includes a complete run of The Argus newspaper from 2nd June 1846 to 19th January 1957. Also available is The Age from 17th October 1855 to 31st December 1981 and from 1st November 1995 to 31st January 2004; the National Times from 8th February 1971 to 13th March 1988; Port Phillip Patriot January 1st 1838 to December 22nd 1842; Men's Weekly Age July 7th 1865 to July 24th 1868; Humbug 1869-1870 and John Dunmore Lang pamphlets.

The microfilm collection is available for viewing and printing to members of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute and members of Prahran Historical and Arts Society.

Thank you very much to PMI committee member Peter Wolfenden for his expert help and for training the staff in how to use the microfilm reader / printer, without Peter's help it really would have been hit and miss in our attempts to operate this older type of equipment but now we will be able to confidently help members to view and print the newspaper microfilms.

Tim McKenna



UPGRADING OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM

Over the past few months we have been involved in the process of upgrading the library automation system. This service is being provided through Stonnington Libraries and the City of Stonnington and we are very grateful to them for supporting us in this way.

Members accessing our online catalogue will notice its new look and upgraded features, it now looks very similar to Stonnington Libraries catalogue and other public libraries that are using the Spydus library system created by the computer software company Civica.

One of the features of the upgraded system will be that for the first time we will have a computerised circulation system (see article by Christine Worthington below). Each library member will have their own plastic card similar to those used at public libraries. This should speed up the lending and returning of books. When the system is functioning fully members will also be able to check the online catalogue through the Internet to see if items are available or on loan and will be able to reserve items that are on loan and renew their books.

VALE BROWNE SYSTEM

By Christine Worthington

With the march of progress and the advent of a computerised loans system, the PMI says goodbye to the quaint Browne card lending system. You know – the card system you might have seen in action in your primary school library and which has been the lending system at the PMI for decades.

This system of book charging is attributed to Miss Nina Eliza Browne, an American librarian, who described it in 1895. Born in 1858, Nina Browne graduated from Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts in 1882 and was one of America's first professionally educated librarians. She was archivist of the Smith College Archives from 1921 until her retirement in 1937.

In fact the loans system at the PMI is the 'Reverse Browne' system which was described by Jacob Schwartz two years later. In the Browne System the library borrower has a limited number of pockets, each of which is available for one book only at a time. The borrower hands pockets over when books are borrowed and they are handed back when the books are returned. A ticket is allocated to each book in the library, which is removed from the book and placed in a borrower pocket to complete the loan record. 'Reverse Browne' uses a book pocket and a borrower ticket. (At the PMI we have always kept the member card tickets behind the counter to save members the trouble of remembering to bring them to the library). In both the Browne and Reverse Browne the tickets and pockets representing single loans are filed in due date order in a wooden tray.

Since World War II the Browne Systems have been replaced by other methods of recording loans, especially automated systems since the invention of the bar code scanner.

While many of our members and staff will lament this end of an era marked by the demise of the Browne system, a computerised loans system will present considerable advantages for the PMI and its members:

- 1) While the Browne system is manageable for a small library with a small collection, it can be cumbersome for larger libraries because it can be very difficult to track items. If an item requested by a borrower is not on the library shelves, staff members need to search the loans file card tray to find out if the book is on loan and the due date of the item so that a reserve can be placed. This search can be very time-consuming. The loans file is also very vulnerable to human error and problems can be time-consuming to rectify.
- 2) Under the Browne system, considerable time and resources are taken to prepare new items for the library collection, as each must have book pockets, book pocket labelling and date due slips prepared and inserted. The Browne system stationery becomes more expensive every year.

- 3) The Browne system leaves little information behind about a reader's or an item's habits or history, so borrowers have little indication, for example, of whether they might have previously borrowed an item.
- 4) Though I cannot recall it having happened during my time at the PMI, if the loans file tray were to ever be accidentally knocked onto the floor, the results could be catastrophic.
- 5) A computerised loans system can enable those members with the internet at home to easily check online what items they have on loan, and to renew their loans and place reserves on other items in the collection. (For those without internet access, reserves and renewals can be carried out as always via a staff member in person or over the phone).
- 6) For staff, the ability to generate automatic loan statistics reports will save time and make reports more accurate and meaningful.

The introduction of a computerised lending system is an important milestone for the PMI which will enable us to provide even better service to our members. We are very grateful to the City of Stonnington for this upgrade and for its continued support of the PMI by inclusion of the PMI catalogue on its web server.



(Above: Nina E. Browne)

Bibliography:

'Browne Issue System', Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browne_Issue_System

Roper, Tom. 'Brown(e) Issue', Tom Roper's Weblog: http://tomroper.typepad.com/tr/2006/11/browne_issue.html

University Library: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/>

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

A REQUEST TO OUR MEMBERS

You will have noticed that postage has increased to 55 cents for an ordinary letter. With this in mind and the amount of paper that goes into our newsletter, we are again asking you to contact us if you can receive the newsletter by email. A number of members have already decided to receive their newsletters in this way and we urge any member who is able to do so to follow suit.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2008

Victoria

- Bears Lagoon** A short history of the Serpentine Creek Station, Bears Lagoon, Victoria / compiled by Ian Itter 2006
- Bendigo** Celebrating 20 years: what a journey, Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst [CD-ROM] [donated by Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst Inc.]
- Bendigo** Bendigo's lost miners 1852-2001: a collection of over 850 biographies and accident reports / John Kelly 2008
- Bendigo** Annals of Bendigo volume 1 1851-1867 CD-ROM
- Bendigo** Annals of Bendigo volume 3 1892-1909 CD-ROM
- Bendigo** Bendigonian annual 1908 and 1911 CD-ROM
- Burwood** All in a day's work: a celebration of Arnott's Burwood [donated by Stonnington History Centre]
- Camberwell** A history of the Camberwell Hockey Club 1932 - 1982 / Mike Craig [donated by Alf Lazer]
- Elphinstone** A history of Elphinstone / Ken James and Noel Davis
- Fitzroy** Gertrude Street Fitzroy / Fitzroy History Society [donated by Yarra Libraries]
- Inglewood** St Mary's Inglewood marriage register 1865-1946 / compiled by Carisbrook Historical Society
- Inglewood** St Mary's Inglewood baptismal register 1865-1941 / compiled by Carisbrook Historical Society
- Marong** St Patrick's Marong baptismal register 1902-1948 marriage register 1902-1946 / compiled by Carisbrook Historical Society
- Melbourne** Melbourne directory 1860-1865 CD-ROM
- Melbourne** Melbourne directory 1866-1870 CD-ROM
- Melbourne** Playtime: amusing Melbourne through the ages [exhibition at City Museum, Old Treasury building] / Simon Gregg
- Northcote** Rotary Club of Northcote: how we started and our growth / George H. Thomas [donated by John Wischer]
- Prahran** The history of Prahran volume II 1925-1990 / Sally Wilde. Signed limited edition. [donated by Chris Gahan]
- Weatherboard** A history of Weatherboard / Ken James 2008
- Woodburn** Woodburn revisited / compiled by Margaret Cooper 2007

New South Wales

- The National Trust in New South Wales / Bill Richards 1982 [donated by John Payne]
- Sydney: the story of a city / Geoffrey Moorhouse 1999 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
- Historic sandstone Sydney / Douglass Baglin and Yvonne Austin 1976 [donated by John Payne]
- They came to Thunderbolt country [Uralla] / Jeane Upjohn 1988 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

South Australia

- Steam tugs in South Australia / Ronald Parsons 2nd ed. 1979 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

Tasmania

- The National Trust in Tasmania / J.N.D. Harrison 1977 [donated by John Payne]

Miscellaneous

- A moment in time: celebrating 150 years of the Anglican Diocese of Perth [DVD] [donated by Anonymous]
- A Nation apart : essays in honour of Andrew Fabinyi : personal views of Australia in the eighties / edited by John McLaren 1983 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
- A national game : the history of Australian rules football / Rob Hess ... [et al.] 2008
- American journeys / Don Watson 2008
- Aphrodite and others / Gillian Bouras [donated by Margaret Dunne]
- At work and play: our past in pictures / Alan Davies 1989 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
- Australian ambassador: international relations at first hand / W.R. Crocker 1971 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
- Board of review of the role, structure and administration of local government in Victoria: final report November 1979 [donated by Joan Word]
- Bradstow: a study of status, class and power in a small Australian town / R.A. Wild 1974 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
- Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc.: formal commemorative dinner 1998-2008 (2 copies) [donated by Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria]
- Central Victorian goldfields index to catholic marriages 1855-1902 / compiled by Carisbrook Historical Society
- Cobbers: a personal record of a journey from Essex in England to Australia, Tasmania and some the reefs and islands in the Coral

RECENT ACQUISITIONS *August-September*

Sea, made in the years 1930, 1931 and 1932 / Thomas Wood [donated by Margaret Dunne]
Empty cradles / Margaret Humphreys 1995 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Government gazette Victoria 1856 CD-ROM
Historical aspects of the last sea-level rise / John J. Alderson
Index to serials in Australian periodicals and newspapers : nineteenth century / by Toni Johnson-Woods 2001
Index to The Argus 1846-1854 / Library Council of Victoria 1976 (reference) [long term loan PHAS]
Index to The Argus 1855-1949 [microfiche] (reference) [long term loan PHAS]
Index to The Argus 1860 / Council of the State Library of Victoria 1990 (reference) [long term loan PHAS]
Indigenous art : Art Gallery of Western Australia / edited by Brenda L. Croft 2001 [donated by Anonymous]
Labor essays 1980 / edited by Gareth Evans and John Reeves [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
Last boat to Astrakhan : a Russian memoir 1990-1996 / Robert Haupt 1998 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
Let us now begin!: towards a national party with a national purpose: text of speeches to three state conferences of the Australian Labor Party / E.G. [Gough] Whitlam 1967 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
Melway greater Melbourne street directory ed. 32 2005 (reference) [donated by Tim McKenna]
Police gazette: Victoria compendium 1901-1905 CD-ROM
Private lives: Australians at home since Federation / Peter Timms 2008
Recent discovery of gold in Australia 1852 CD-ROM
Snakecharmers in Texas / Clive James 1980 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
'Stand fast together' : a history of the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Victoria / Brian Stevenson 1996 [donated by John Payne]
The Age [newspaper] 1855-2002 (some gaps) [microfilm] (reference) [long term loan PHAS]
The Argus [newspaper] 1846-1957 [microfilm] (reference) [long term loan PHAS]
The best Australian essays 1998 / editor Peter Craven 1998 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
The Bulletin Australian almanac and book of facts 1994: a databank on Australia and the world [donated by David Hayter]
The directions of Australian fiction 1920-1974 / D.R. Burns [donated by Margaret Dunne]
The genealogist's Internet: the bestselling guide 3rd ed. / Peter Christian 2007
The Greeks in Australia / Anastasios Myrodis Tamis 2005 [donated by April-Kaye Ikin]
The horse in Australia / Fiona Carruthers 2008
The legend of the nineties / Vance Palmer 1954 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
The Strength of tradition : stories of the immigrant presence in Australia, 1970-81 / edited by R.F. Holt 1983 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
The Teachers' journal: the journal of the Victorian Teachers' Union 1961-1969 (9 volumes) [donated by Joan Word]
The world from Italy: football, food and politics / George Negus 2001 [donated by Sandra Lanteri]
Victoria education gazette and teachers aid 1967-1969 (3 volumes) [donated by Joan Word]
Victorian primitive / Miles Lewis 1977
Vision and realisation: a centenary history of state education in Victoria volume 1 / edited by L.J. Blake 1973 [donated by Joan Word]
West Anglican way : the growth of the Anglican Church in Western Australia from its early beginnings / by A.E. Williams 1989 [donated by Anonymous]

Biography

A.W. Howitt 1830-1908 (reprint from 'The Gap' magazine, 1966) [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Annabella Boswell's other journal 1848-1851 called "Further recollections of my early days in Australia" / by Annabella Alexandrina Campbell Boswell 1992
Autobiography of my mother / Meg Stewart 1985 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Biography Pioneer writer : the life of Louisa Atkinson, novelist, journalist, naturalist / Patricia Clarke 1990
Blood and tinsel: a memoir / Jim Sharman 2008
Finding my voice: the Peter Brocklehurst story / Peter Brocklehurst with Debbie Bennett 2004 [donated by John Payne]
Recollections and reflections of a country minister / Fraser Sutherland 1975 [donated by Margaret Dunne]
Red plush and black velvet: the story of Dame Nellie Melba and her times / Joseph Wechsberg 1962 [donated by John Payne]
Scribbling in the dark / Barry Oakley [donated by Margaret Dunne]
The almost late Gordon Chater / Gordon Chater 1996 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
The changemakers: ten significant Australian women / Suzane Fabian and Morag Loh 1983 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
The war within / Don Tate
Walter Murdoch : a biographical memoir / John la Nauze 1977
Who's who in Australia 1935 / edited by Errol G. Knox

Fiction

A salute to the great McCarthy / Barry Oakley [donated by Margaret Dunne]

RECENT ACQUISITIONS *August-September*

Addition / Toni Jordan 2008
Ash and bone / John Harvey
Botany Bay, or, True tales of early Australia / by John Lang 1994
Brida / Paulo Coelho [donated by Vicki Gilchrist]
Brilliant lies / David Williamson 1993 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
Come in spinner / Dymphna Cusack and Florence James [donated by Margaret Dunne]
Cowanda, the veteran's grant / by Louisa Atkinson ; edited by Elizabeth Lawson 1995
Debatable ground, or, The Carlillawarra claimants / Louisa Atkinson 1992
Devil bones: the new Tempe Brennan novel / Kathy Reichs
Fifty years ago : an Australian tale / by Charles de Boos ; introduction by Laurie Clancy 1999
For her natural life : a tale of the 1830s / by Eliza Winstanley 1992
Force and fraud : a tale of the bush / by Ellen Davitt 1993
Further tales from Botany Bay / by John Lang 2006
His native wife / by Louis Becke ; edited and introduced by Dirk H.R. Spennemann 2005
In the days when the world was wide: the poetical works of Henry Lawson [donated by Margaret Dunne]
James McAuley: poetry, essays and personal commentary / edited by Leonie Kramer 1988 [donated by Sandra Lanteri]
John Forbes: new and selected poems 1992 [donated by Sandra Lanteri]
John Webb's end, or, Strong as death / by Francis Adams 1994
Land of the rainbow gold: poetry for young Australians / edited by Mildred M. Fowler 1967 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
Legends of Australia : Frederick Charles Howard [John Lang] 1989
Lucy Cooper: an Australian tale / John Lang 1992
Mary Summers : a romance of the Australian bush / by Robert Whitworth 1994
Me and my horse : showing how I got him, how I kept him, and all about him : being sketches of life on the Peel River Diggings / by Charles De Boos 2004
Moscow rules: a Gabriel Allon thriller / Daniel Silva 2008
Poet of the 21st century: Harry Hooton, collected poems / introduced and selected by Sasha Soldatow 1990 [donated by Sandra Lanteri]
Raymond / by John Lang 2004
Second strike / Mark Abernethy
Tales for the bush / by Mary Vidal 1995
The anthology of colonial Australian crime fiction / edited by Ken Gelder and Rachael Weaver 2008
The best Australian stories 1999 / edited by Peter Craven [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
The best of Henry Lawson / introduction by Margaret Olds 2004 [donated by John Merry]
The blues in poetry / written and illustrated by Marygrace Levakis 1986 [donated by Marygrace Levakis]
The bond of wedlock / Rosa Praed ; introduction by Elizabeth Webby 1993
The morality of gentlemen / Amanda Lohrey [donated by Margaret Dunne]
The obsession of Oscar Oswald / Frank Hardy 1983 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
The rainbow bird / Vance Palmer (short stories) [donated by Margaret Dunne]
Tressa's resolve / by Louisa Atkinson 2004
When will there be good news?: the new Jackson Brodie novel / Kate Atkinson

2 books for sale [donated by Alf Lazer]

2 books for sale [donated by Roland McCausland]

1 book for sale [donated by John Payne]

1 box of books for sale [donated by Joan Word]

Book covering available to members again.
We are again offering a book covering service to members at \$1.50-\$2.50 depending on the book. Covering will be done by volunteers.

Rquest to members regarding the way you receive the newsletter.

In an effort to save on paper and postage we are requesting that any members who are willing to receive the newsletter via email please let us know. There are advantages, beside the obvious environmental ones, for one, you receive the newsletter in colour.

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