

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER NO 60 - DECEMBER 2008

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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 acting compiler Judith Buckrich

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Message from PMI President Alf Lazer.

Members of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute together with staff are a special mix of scholars and enthusiasts for Victorian history. The management committee think of the members as family and in our deliberations during the year we try to act appropriately to reflect this attitude. From the committee I offer all best wishes for the coming festive season.

International Volunteers' Day Luncheon at PMI

On Friday December 5, eight PMI volunteers, PMI president, Alf Lazer, and all three staff members attended the International Day of the Volunteer lunch at the library. We were delighted to see so many of the friends who cover books, prepare newsletters for postage, put flyers in mail boxes and index books for us in attendance. The lunch provided us with an opportunity to thank and spend time with the volunteers.

Photographs on page 6



CHRISTMAS CLOSURE



We wish all our members a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and advise that the library will close for Christmas at

4.30pm, Friday 19 December

and will reopen at

9.30am, Monday 5 January

The return book chute will be closed over this period so don't forget to organise your holiday reading and book renewals beforehand.

This newsletter is sponsored by

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



QNSIDE

PMI News (p.2)

Volunteers News (p. 2)

Recent Acquisitions (7-9)

AROUND THE LIBRARY



MEMBERS NEWS

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

Stephen Lee
Pat Palmer
Don Linforth
Michael Williams
Clare Sandell

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library in October and November:

Anne Tyson	Pat Palmer
Jennifer Chapman	Bruce Joy
Elizabeth Ridge	Maya Lazarus
Don Linforth	Roland McCausland
Peter Wolfenden	Richard Snedden
Geoff Durham	

GENERAL NEWS

NOTABLE NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Congratulations to member **Stella Barber** on the release of her new book *Your store Myer: the story of Australia's leading department store*. The book describes the history of Myer not just in the city but also the suburbs and is full of pictures and advertisements of Myer in the early days. The book is available for loan in the PMI library.

Bendigo's lost miners 1852-2001 **John Kelly**. 30 cm, 381 pages, illustrated. A collection of 828 biographies with copies of some inquest reports, mine manager's reports, application for graves and other documents with regard to the deaths of men, boys and one woman who were killed in Bendigo's mines from 1852 to 2006.

Our sincere thanks to member **Jim Badger** who it turns out was the person who put together the collection of newspaper microfilms at Holmesglen College of TAFE and recommended that they be donated to us. These microfilms are a great asset to the library so we thank Jim for his efforts on our behalf.

Thank you very much to member **Trevor Knaggs** for his restoration of the book *Our antipodes: residence and rambles in the Australian colonies vol 2 1854*. This book in three volumes was donated to us by Mary-Louise Phillips and vols 1 and 3 were in good condition but vol. 2 was dilapidated and had the covers missing, Trevor used his book-binding skills honed over many years to restore it to good condition, well done Trevor.

VOLUNTEERS NEWS

We thank all our wonderful volunteers for their contribution in 2008. It was especially important to have your input during a year of staff changes. We wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2009.

Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria (MIV) Volunteers needed: to assist at Prahran Mechanics' Institute Library with setting up the Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre (MIRC). Computer skills would be useful. Contact MIRC Coordinator Don Barker tel. 9762 4149

2008 has been full of activity and change at the PMI.

by Judith Buckrich

The most notable events for the year have been the donation of 2,500 books from the estate of Arriness Watson and the staff changes at the library.

After 15 years at the PMI Cathy Milward-Bason left in August this year. Cathy was Secretary Librarian during a period of growth and modernisation and the consolidation of the library's collection. The PMI is now unrivalled as a Victorian history library except by the State Library itself.

Having just refined our archive, I am very aware of how Cathy increased the status of the PMI and other Mechanics' institutes during her secretaryship. Her work with Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria included the organisation of regional, national and international conferences in a period when these institutes have been rediscovered and revalued for their historic and continued role in education and cultural exchange.

Also absent through some of this year (but just temporarily) has been Promotions Librarian, Christine Worthington, who took maternity leave from May. Christine's daughter Julia was born on June 24. From February 2009 Christine and partner Dave will share parenting duties and Christine will return to work part-time. We look forward to having her back.

New staff member Ursula Zamecnik has settled in and become familiar to members and especially to the volunteers with whom she works covering books every Thursday. We are very pleased to have such a dedicated and capable new member of staff.

After Cathy's departure, Tim McKenna was appointed acting Secretary Librarian. Tim and Ursula have spent many hours recataloguing our books for the new borrowing system as well as processing the two and half thousand books contributed by the Arriness Watson estate. This work has been on top of Tim's usual librarian and secretarial duties.

Since May I have acted as part-time acting Promotions Librarian and had the pleasure of organising our many wonderful lectures, the winter book club and the annual CATHS picture show.



2008 CATHS Historic Picture Show

Each year we look forward to this event with great anticipation, and there is never any disappointment.

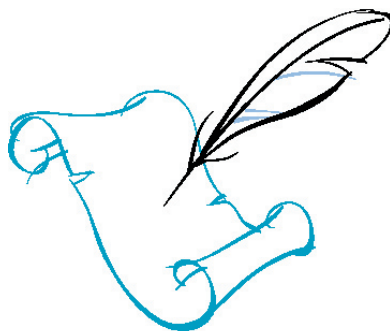
On this occasion Peter Wolfenden presented a group of films under the general title 'documented communications'. The title belied the extraordinary scope and beauty of the films which ranged from the 1947 documentary, *Namatjira the Painter*, to the classic 1936 *Night Mail*, about a daily train from London to Glasgow which carried no passengers, only the postal staff who collected, depatched and sorted mail en route.

The Namatjira film showed the painter's landscape and tribal life as well as his path to becoming one of the world's great painters. Scenes from the mission station where Namatjira lived were also shown and were in stark contrast to the tribal life.

Preceding the Namatjira film was *Wirritt Wirritt*, a short film made in 1957 about Aboriginal rock paintings and their part in story-telling.

A surprise inclusion was an early Fred Schepsi film, the 1964 documentary *People Make Papers*, showing production of *The Age* newspaper from collecting the stories to the delivery of the finished product.

Two other Australian films made up the rest of the programme, the 1956/7 *Return to Sender*, about the Dead Letter Office showing the great effort that was made 50 years ago to find addresses for post that had been incorrectly labelled. And the biographical *Stan King* (1978). King had been a book-binder at the Government Printing Works for 44 years. He discussed and demonstrated the art of fine book binding.

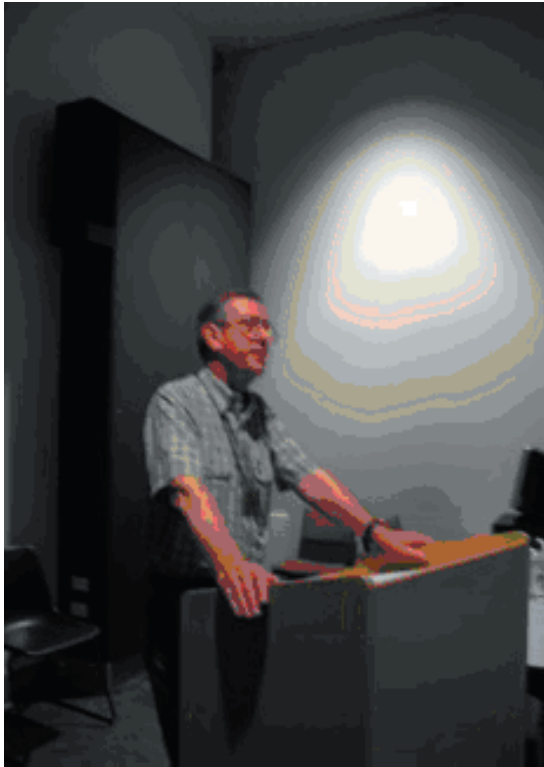




Mr Arriness E. Watson, benefactor of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Library
(see biography in August 2008 newsletter)

Picture show 2008

Peter Wolfenden presenting the picture show



Supper after the show



Volunteers lunch



RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY – OCTOBER 2008

VICTORIA

Box Hill Scenes from childhood: a pre-war memoir / Patricia Downey 2007

Drouin Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union of Victoria: Drouin Branch centenary history 1908-2008 / compiled by Janet T. Cowden

Eaglehawk A tour of our town Eaglehawk / compiled by Aylene Kirkwood 2008

East Gippsland East Gippsland primary schools index (microfiche) / East Gippsland Family History Group

Echuca Chinese in Echuca - Moama : a chronicle 1850's to 1930 / Carol Holsworth 2008 [donated by Echuca Historical Society Inc.]

Frankston Echoes from the front: Frankston's Avenue of Honour, memorial to those who served in World War 1 / written and compiled by Val Latimer 2008

Hawthorn A woman's place: a history of the Homecraft Hostel / Lyndsay Gardiner 1993 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]

Kew Raheen: a house and its people / Bev Roberts 2007 [donated by the Pratt Foundation]

Kilmore 50 years on ...: a district remembers: a Free Press tribute to the men and women of the Kilmore, Wallan, Broadford, Pyalong and Wandong-Heathcote Junction districts who played a role in World War II / compiled by Bronwyn Wheatley 1997

Korumburra Korumburra Secondary College 1954-2008: a chronicle / Richard Collyer

Kyneton Joseph Hall (1804-1871): Kyneton pioneer including Park Hall, Windmill Farm and Sunbury Lodge / John Lynch 2008

Melbourne Melbourne: a city of stories / Deborah Tout-Smith 2008

Melbourne Making modern Melbourne / Jenny Lee 2008

Monbulk The first decade of Probus in Monbulk (1996 - 2006) / edited by Dr Jim Barber

Mornington Peninsula Between the bays: Mornington Peninsula / Leslie M. Moorhead, illustrated by Joan Bognuda 1989 [donated by John Payne]

Murrumbena A year in my garden / by Mrs Arthur Tuckett ; to which is appended The story of the 'lost garden of Murrumbena' and its owners / by V. Wehner 2008

Oakleigh Rotary Club of Oakleigh 1958-2008: 50 years of community service / Helen Gobbi [donated by Helen Gobbi]

Pascoe Vale Memories of Pascoe Vale Girls College 1956-2006 / compiled by Julie Atkinson, Cynthia Eunson and Cheryl Griffin 2006

Phillip Island An island worth conserving: a history of the Phillip Island Conservation Society 1968-2008 / Christine Grayden

St Kilda Naming St Kilda / Fran Bader 2007

Strath Creek Whispers in the valley: a view of Strath Creek from 1838 / Noreen Foster 1985

Wangaratta Through women's eyes at pioneering days: some women of Wangaratta and district / compiled by Brenda Leitch 1985 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

NEW SOUTH WALES

Hill End Hillendiana: comprising vast numbers of facts and a considerable amount of fiction concerning the goldfields of Hill End / Donald Friend 1966 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

Sydney Historic roads round Sydney / by John Fairfax 1951 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide The Adelaide and suburban street guide 1st ed. 1922 [donated by Box Hill Historical Society Inc.]

Adelaide Gregory's street directory of Adelaide and suburbs 9th ed. [donated by Box Hill Historical Society Inc.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

cont.

Moonta Australia's little Cornwall / Oswald Pryor 1969 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Robinson's road map of South Australia c1928 [donated by Box Hill Historical Society Inc.]

BIOGRAPHY

The Malco Polia trilogy book 1: Carlino Polia Esq.: an Australian gentleman era 1855-1913 / Gilbert Buchanan 1993 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
The Malco Polia trilogy book 2: Malco Polia: a da Vinci man / Gilbert Buchanan 1998 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
The romantic lives of Louise Mack / Nancy Phelan 1991 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Triumph and disaster: the real story of John Bromwich / John Leckey and Norman Marshall 2007
Only yesterday: Don Bradman at the Melbourne Cricket Ground / Alf Batchelder
Ever, Manning: selected letters of Manning Clark 1938-1991 / edited by Roslyn Russell 2008
Tabloid man: the life and times of Ezra Norton / Sandra Hall 2008
Dame Joan Hammond: love and music / Sara Hardy 2008
The Costello memoirs: the age of prosperity / Peter Costello with Peter Coleman 2008
Bloodlust: the unsavoury tale of Alexander Pearce, the convict cannibal / Nick Bleszynski 2008
Andrew Fisher: Prime Minister of Australia / David Day 2008
Walter Lindrum : billiards phenomenom / Andrew Ricketts 1982 [donated by Alf Lazer]
Exiles at home : Australian women writers, 1925-1945 / Drusilla Modjeska 1981 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Theodore; his life and times / Irwin Edward Young 1971 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Australian foreign minister : the diaries of R.G. Casey, 1951-60 / edited by T.B. Millar 1972 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

FICTION

Dissection / Jacinta Halloran 2008
The lieutenant / Kate Grenville 2008
The birthday present / Ruth Rendell writing as Barbara Vine 2008
Climb the mountain: poetry and prose from the Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc. / edited by Meryl Brown Tobin and Asther Bascuna Creo 2006 [donated by Dr Lola Hill]
Life in seven mistakes / Susan Johnson 2008
A most wanted man / John Le Carre 2008
Far horizon / Tony Park [donated by Alf Lazer]
The right attitude to rain: an Isabel Dalhousie novel / Alexander McCall Smith [donated by Alf Lazer]
Say no to death / Dymphna Cusack [donated by Margaret Dunne]

GENERAL

James Northfield and the art of selling Australia / Michelle Hetherington 2006
Every day in the year: the Shrine of Remembrance / Richard Reid 2003 [donated by John Payne]
Short notes from the long history of happiness / Michael Leunig 1996 [donated by John Payne]
Mr Brooks and the Australian trade: imperial business in the nineteenth century / Frank Broeze 1993 [donated by John Payne]
Frogwatch: field guide to Victorian frogs / Jean-Marc Hero, Murray Littlejohn and Gerry Marantelli 1991 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Fungi of south-eastern Australia: a field guide / Ross Macdonald and John Westerman 1979 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
Australia through Italian eyes: a study of settlers returning from Australia to Italy / Stephanie Lindsay Thompson 1980 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
In our own image: the story of Australian art 1788-1986 / Donald Williams [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
What wildflower is that? / Alec M. Blombery 1973 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]

Black and gold: the history of the 29th Battalion, 1915-18 / Ron Austin 1997
 Leadership and the Liberal revival: Bolte, Askin and the post-war ascendancy / Norman Abjorensen 2007
 Fighters by trade: highlights of Australian boxing / Robert Drane 2008
 Outside the law 2: Australian true crime stories / edited by Lindy Cameron 2008
 The Australian book of true crime / Larry Writer 2008
 Country Victoria's own: 150 years of 8/7 RVR and its predecessors / Neil Leckie 2008
 Discovering Melbourne's bike paths: the guide to shared paths for walking, jogging and cycling / Sue Hewitt 1993 [donated by Dr Lola Hill]
 From the prophets deserts come: the struggle to reshape Australian political culture / Boris Frankel 1992 [donated by Dr Lola Hill]
 Moving generations: celebrating 30 years of VCA dance 2008 [donated by Victorian College of the Arts]
 Franked!: the official mail of Victoria 1864-1902 / Colonel C.L. Steig and M.B. Watson 2008
 The Oxford book of Australian sporting anecdotes / edited by Richard Cashman, David Headon and Graeme Kinross-Smith 1993 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
 The last bastion: Labor women working towards equality in the parliaments of Australia / Margaret Reynolds 1995 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
 Your store Myer: the story of Australia's leading department store / Stella M. Barber 2008
 27 volumes of Commonwealth of Australia year books volumes 1,2,3,4,7,18,19,20,21,22,24,28,30,34,35,36,37,39,40,41,42,43,45,48,51,54 and 58 [donated by Box Hill Historical Society Inc.]
 Melbourne to Menindie: a tourist approach to the diary of Ludwig Becker / B.J. Blanchen 1978 [donated by Box Hill Historical Society Inc.]
 Australian drawings and watercolours: a souvenir book from the Australian National Gallery 1988 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Nature of Australia: a portrait of the island continent / John Vandenbeld 1988 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Australian cottages / Robert Moore, Sheridan Burke and Ray Joyce 1989 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Distant voices / John Pilger 1992 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
 Owls, frogmouths and nightjars of Australia / text and photographs David Hollands 2008
 A Day in the life of Australia : photographed by 100 of the world's leading photojournalists 1981 [donated by Robin Grow]
 Australia, a timeless grandeur / photography by Reg Morrison ; text by Helen Grasswill 1981 [donated by Robin Grow]
 Historic homesteads of Australia / Australian Council of National Trusts. Volume 2. 1976 [donated by Robin Grow]
 A valley in France : World War I letters to his parents and sister while on active service from Egypt, France and Great Britain, 1915-1918 / [Thomas Clair Whiteside], edited and compiled by Elizabeth Whiteside 1999
 Jerusalem to Geelong : the vitality of a commandery / Mary Lewis, Barry Abley, John Nelson 2008
 The physiography of Victoria : an introduction to geomorphology / by E. Sherbon Hills 1940 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Cole's funny picture book : the funniest picture book in the world / restorative editors for this 75th traditional edition, Cole Turnley and Merron Cullum 1991 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Entertainment arts in Australia. / Editorial: John Allen; Photographs: Robert Walker 1968 [donated by John Payne]
 The road to Fitzgerald and beyond / Phil Dickie 1989 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 How Australian literature grew / Enid Moodie Heddle, Iris Millington 1962 [donated by Mary-Louise Phillips]
 Movie magic : Melbourne movie-going revisited / Roger and Barbara Seccombe 2007
 Ruling class, ruling culture : studies of conflict, power, and hegemony in Australian life / R.W. Connell 1977 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]
 Our republic / Tom Keneally 1993 [donated by Ursula Zamecnik]

Other donations

2 books for sale [donated by John Payne] 1 box of books for sale [donated by Dr Lola Hill]
 2 books for sale [donated by Alf Lazer]

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International Volunteers' Day Lunch

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Picture Show & Volunteers' Lunch

Page 7-9: Recent additions to the library

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VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

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