

# PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 62 - MAY 2009

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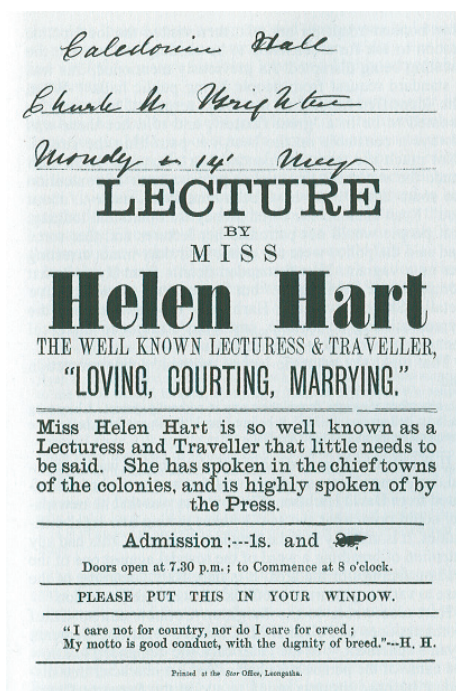
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[www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au) Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 9.30am-1.00pm Membership \$12, \$10 conc., \$30 inst.  
Feedback / suggestions for this newsletter may be directed to writer / compiler Christine Worthington

## Annual Laurie McCalman Lecture

***Prahran Mechanics' Institute & Prahran Historical & Arts Society present:***

# HELEN D. HARRIS

*on her recently published book*



## HELEN HART: 'FOUNDER OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AUSTRALASIA'

*We are delighted Helen D. Harris, OAM will be at the PMI to give an illustrated lecture about Helen Hart - a most determined, controversial and eccentric character who travelled Victoria extensively in the late 1800s, imparting her views on the role of women to frosty and even hostile crowds.*

**7.00PM, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY AT THE PMI LIBRARY**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED <> SEATS ARE LIMITED <> BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL,**  
*[library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) OR 9510 3393*

**\*\* Please find enclosed your NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING \*\***

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 Feb-Mar:

*Patricia Brown  
Kathleen Brown  
Dorothy Brown  
John Brown  
Anne Brown  
John Brown  
Kathleen Brown*

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library during Feb-Mar:

<i>Peter Bergin</i>	<i>Cinema &amp; Theatre Historical Society</i>
<i>Ivan Binns</i>	<i>Verene Lawrence</i>
<i>Richard Broome</i>	<i>Windsor Community Bank</i>

Thank you to the following members who made book donations to the library during Feb-Mar:

<i>Jim Badger and Holmesglen TAFE</i>	<i>Lyn Payne Sale Fire Brigade</i>
<i>Roger Boyce</i>	<i>Stonnington History Centre</i>
<i>Margaret Dunne</i>	<i>Stonnington Library &amp; Information Service</i>
<i>Wilma Farrow</i>	<i>Emeritus Professor John M. Swan</i>
<i>Allan Gardiner</i>	<i>Adrian Turley</i>
<i>Italian Australian Institute</i>	<i>Christine Worthington</i>
<i>La Trobe University</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>
<i>Tim McKenna</i>	
<i>Diane Nicholas</i>	

## GENERAL NEWS

### Annual General Meeting

You will have received with this newsletter your agenda for the **Annual General Meeting** which will be held at the PMI at 6.00pm on Tuesday 26 May. All members are most welcome and as usual the meeting will be followed by refreshments.

To ensure we have enough seating available, please ensure that you RSVP - phone 9510 3393 or email [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

### Staff & Committee

At a meeting of the committee on 22 April **Tim McKenna** was confirmed as Secretary Librarian.

**Christine Worthington** is currently completing a six-week online course in library marketing and promotion. The course is offered by the University of Sheffield and offered in Australia through the Australian Library & Information Association.

At historic Ripponlea on 7 April, PMI Committee member **Chris Michalopoulos** presented a new lavender dahlia which he recently bred and named for Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. Dame Elisabeth was in attendance for the occasion. In addition, Chris received enthusiastic approval on the day from Dame Elisabeth to name a further new pure purple dahlia for her late husband Sir Keith Murdoch. Chris breeds dahlias from heirloom varieties and many can be found growing at Ripponlea.

The PMI has another historic connection with Ripponlea, as it was built by politician Frederick Thomas Sargood, son of one of the PMI's original trustees, Frederick James Sargood.

### Newsletter Sponsorship

We are very grateful to the Board of Directors of the Windsor Community Bank, who have kindly sponsored our newsletter again this year. Special thanks to the Board's Community Chair, Jon Caneva.

We ask our members to keep the Community Banks in mind when choosing banking services because they do so much good work in the community.

### March Lecture

Thanks so much to **Jenny Lee** who presented our first lecture for 2009 on the subject of her book *Making Modern Melbourne*. Jenny's illustrated lecture was of great interest and very much enjoyed by all in attendance.



Author Jenny Lee



## VOLUNTEERS NEWS

### ATTENTION VOLUNTEER INDEXERS

You are invited to an

## INDEXERS' MORNING TEA

to be held at the PMI at  
10.30am on  
Saturday 13 June.

This is your opportunity  
to meet your fellow  
indexers and to discuss  
items of mutual interest.

Brain food provided!

Please RSVP by phone  
9510 3393 or email  
library@pmi.net.au.



### 2008 Volunteer Effort

The tireless work carried out by volunteers during 2008 has made a big difference to the PMI as you will gather from the following statistics:

- 287.5 hours of book care duties
- 39 hours of newsletter mail out duties
- 14 book indexes added to the library
- 500 PMI brochures delivered

Special thanks also to **Jim Badger**, who for several years has helped Tim by creating indexes for 7 books for uploading to the library catalogue. Also thanks to **Brian Hunt** who also helps out from time to time when there is some lifting and moving to be done.

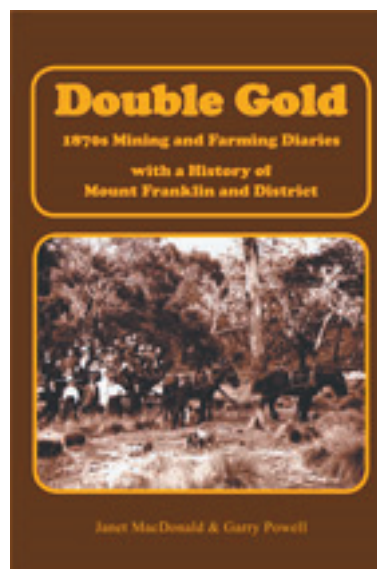
Additionally, volunteers for the Mechanics' Institutes Resources Centre (MIRC) at the PMI completed 142 hours of work in 2008.

Thank you to all who contributed their time and energy to the PMI in 2008.

## PMI PRESS NEWS

The most recent PMI Press publication, *Double Gold: 1870s Mining and Farming Diaries with a History of Mount Franklin and District* was published soon after I took maternity leave in mid-2008 and launched in August.

Because of the timing of it I was not able to include any information about it in the PMI newsletter and I would like to take the opportunity now because we consider it a very worthwhile publication and we are



proud of PMI Press' association with it.

The authors, cousins **Garry Powell** and **Janet MacDonald** have put a huge amount of work into *Double Gold*. It took eleven years to write and many more to research. The centrepiece of the book is the diaries kept by their great-grandfather, Henry Pritchard Parry, who settled at Mount Franklin and farmed with his cousin, William Parry.

The diaries, covering 1874-1876, were handed down through the family over the years and have been translated from the original Welsh. They allow the reader to become immersed as the harsh realities and prosperous successes come to life along with many characters of the local community.

Janet and Garry have provided much supporting material about the lives of Parry and Roberts and their families, as well as the history, geology, geography and people of the district.

Janet and Garry must be congratulated on this fine result to their many years' work. There is a copy of *Double Gold* in the PMI collection. If you are interested in purchasing a copy there is an order form available from the PMI Press website [http://www.pmi.net.au/press\\_pubs.htm](http://www.pmi.net.au/press_pubs.htm) or call 9510 3393 and we will post an order form to you.

*Christine Worthington*

***The next submission round for PMI Press will be 30 September 2009 for items to be published in 2010. Details and submission forms are given on the website or call 9510 3393 for further information.***

## MIV NEWS

Linda Aspinall, formerly of the Footscray Mechanics' Institute, has taken up the position of Coordinator of the Mechanics' Institutes Resources Centre (MIRC) at the PMI.

The MIV is jointly presenting the 9th Australian Library History Conference on 25-27 June at Swinburne University, Prahran Campus. For information about the conference contact Don Barker [Donald.Barker@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Donald.Barker@arts.monash.edu.au)

The MIV will be represented at the next international conference of mechanics' institutes to be held in September at the Bath Royal Scientific & Literary Institution, U.K.

## CATHS NEWS

Most PMI members are aware of CATHS, particularly those who have been to the library in recent times. For a number of years, the only obvious presence was a desk and a few filing cabinets. If you visited the library on the 'right' Saturday, a number of busy people indexing and filing documents pertinent to cinema and theatre history would be observed. Now the desk has a cataloguing computer and a recently installed window display helps passers-by to understand a little more about the activities of CATHS and the presence of a specialised historical society within the library.

CATHS would be pleased to help any PMI members with information from our archive. Contact the Library staff for access details.

CATHS also welcomes interested visitors to our meetings at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville commencing at 9.30am on the last Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and November.

**Peter Wolfenden**, Vice President

## WRITING HISTORY



*This is a new regular section of the newsletter in which we will hear about PMI members with experience as writers of history.*

## STELLA BARBER

**Stella Barber is the author of five published histories. Her second book, the lavishly styled *Crescendo: Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 Years* recently received a commendation in the Victorian History Awards.**

Stella M. Barber has an honours degree in history from Melbourne University. Stella also has a masters on the use of archives to write history and another post graduate degree in archives and records management. She says, "...it was always my dream to write history."

After university Stella worked part-time as an archivist for the Australian Archives (now the National Archives) and, at the same time, as a Resource Coordinator for the Living Museum of the West. At the age of 23 she applied for a job as archivist for Coles Myer Ltd. As the first archivist for the company, Stella established the archives and managed a massive national collection including the archives of all the Coles Myer companies all over Australia.

With the 1980s recession Coles Myer retrenched many staff positions that were not retail, including the position of archivist. Stella describes this as a "horrendous" time of her life. Soon after, she was invited by the Myer family to catalogue and manage their private library. Later, the family were celebrating 100 years since Sidney Myer's arrival in Australia and what started as a research project documenting Myer's life became *Sidney Myer: a Life, a Legacy*. By this time Stella was able to freelance while still working for the Myer family. Recently,



Stella wrote *Your Store Myer*, for the new Myer TPG group. Says Stella, "I've spent a long time with Myer history and I think I know more about Myer history than my own!"

Stella's latest publication *Something Quite Noble: Goulburn Valley Grammar School, the First 25 Years* is a massive school history. I asked Stella how long it took, what particular challenges are associated with writing a school history and how one makes a school history stand out from the rest.

"I was conscious of that when I was commissioned to write book and I didn't want it to just be a compilation of names, school captains and school councillors that would just sit on a shelf and not be read. What I wanted to do was really tell the human story and that is the key thing that I am interested in, in all my work. Not just the story of the great men, the directors and the managers but the people ... in this case the students and the teachers." The book took three years, part-time, to write - which Stella says "sounds crazy because

the book covers such a short time frame, but in a way it was more difficult. When you write a 100-year history there's only a certain number of archives you can deal with because so much has been destroyed, but when you've got a 25 year history you've got masses and masses of material - every board minute, every school magazine, correspondence - piles and piles of boxes. And of course everyone was alive, which was marvellous, so I was able to interview all the principals of the school, a lot of teachers and students and even foundation students who were later teachers." This was one of the best aspects of researching a 25-year school history. "I really admire the school that it chose to have a history written of that short time because it's managed to capture the people while they're still living - because how sad if they did a 50-year history and the writer never got to speak to the first principal."

She says that laboriously reading all the dry documents such as minutes and annual reports of an organisation is the best way to get the facts and using the other material such as school magazines and oral history to fill in the colour. "I tend to write and research at the same time, redrafting my work and checking facts as I go." Stella stresses the importance of a balance of sources - original sources as well as oral history "and trying to get a cross-section - speaking to a range of people".

Stella says that at the moment she is working on some historical markers for the Victoria Market which will be up around June or July and will point to key sites around the market. She is also editing a couple of books including a memoir for a client in Sydney and managing two private archives. From time to time she also prepares collection significance assessments. "I've also applied for a Creative Fellowship at the State Library ... I'm doing some oral history on a Victorian artist, for his family."

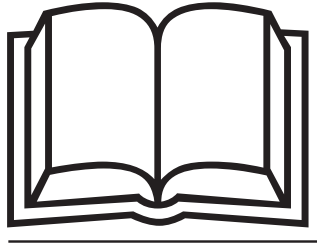
Stella says that as a commissioned writer the copyright belongs to the commissioning body, and it can be frustrating when your work, for a range of reasons, might not end up in publication. Such works have included a history of Coles Stores and an "amazing" and very rich 100-year history of the sugar industry for CSR.

History writers know the feeling when new information comes to light after a book has been published. "*Crescendo* was a good example," says Stella. "We obviously had a deadline for the book, and it was only after it had gone to be printed that I became aware of a fantastic collection of letters at Grainger Museum (at Melbourne University) written by the founder of the orchestra. ... And often out of a published book people come forward because it stimulates interest. Since *Crescendo* was published I've come across several collections of records that could have really helped ... As much of a perfectionist

(CONT P.8)



# BOOKS ETCETERA



## General Collection Now on Computer Catalogue

Thanks to the agreement of Stonnington Library and Information Service we have now put the general collection of fiction and mysteries on the computerised catalogue and loans system. This means that all the libraries resources are now under the one system and can be looked up on the online catalogue for their availability and can also be reserved online.

## New 'Recent Additions' supplement

As of this issue the full list of recent additions will be available as a supplement to the PMI newsletter. Those receiving the email version of the newsletter will automatically receive the supplement. If you receive the paper version of the newsletter in the post, you will need to let us know ([library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

or 9510 3393) if you wish to also have the Recent Additions supplement mailed to you. This issue's supplement contains a full list of items added to the library in February and March, and also contains a list of the historical periodicals that have been received by the library. These periodicals include popular journals and historical society newsletters.

## Notable new non-fiction in library

### ***The history of Australian thoroughbred racing volumes 1,2 and 3 / Andrew Lemon 2008***

In these beautifully presented books the history of horse racing in all states of Australia is thoroughly explored with many superb illustrations.

"The artist chosen to capture this history was Harold Freedman – an artist of some repute based in Melbourne. He has taught many of Australia's best known painters and has served a considerable period as Victoria's State artist.

Three things make these books unique. The first is that they tell the story of the development of horse racing, in detail, in each of the Australian states. The differences between the stories turns out to be remarkable. The second is that they have been researched from contemporary books, and they explain the social and political background to events. At last the confused jumble of Australian racing history has been clearly explained. The third is that they are structured around Harold Freedman's History of Racing mural at Flemington – a sequence of seven enormous paintings based on the research which is the foundation of these books."

[Text in quotation marks from the website [www.historyofracing.com.au/](http://www.historyofracing.com.au/)] (TM)

### ***The place for a village: how nature has shaped the city of Melbourne by Gary Presland 2008*** ill., index, hbk 265 p.

This book looks at the history of Melbourne from the point of view of nature and considers the ways that urban development has been influenced by the nature of local environments. It begins with the reconstruction of what the Melbourne area was like when first seen by Europeans. The book draws on both historical and scientific sources to create a detailed and fascinating picture of diverse landscapes, supporting an enormous range of flora and fauna. (TM)

### ***The feisty phoenix : the real story of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, 1928-2008 (80th anniversary history) / Brenda Stevens-Chambers 2008***

The Country Women's Association has a long and proud history in Australia. This book ably documents that fascinating history and in doing so makes it a 'must have' for those who have an interest in our voluntary organisations [*Tonia Todman, designer, author and broadcaster.*]

### ***Terrorism and intelligence in Australia: a history of ASIO and national surveillance / Frank Cain 2008***

Cain explores the contentious notion that Australia's surveillance agencies have today become adoptive allies of the Liberal Party. (TM)

**Helen Hart / 'Founder of Women's Suffrage in Australasia' / Helen D. Harris**

Helen Hart was famous in Victoria. After her death in South Yarra in 1908 at least 35 obituaries appeared in the newspapers. Hart arrived in Melbourne in 1880 (from England via New Zealand) and over the next 20+ years extensively toured metropolitan and regional Victoria conducting lectures, mainly on the subject of women's rights. Helen D. Harris has put together so much wonderful detail of the adventures and exploits of Hart's life in a beautiful way. The reader travels with Hart as she courageously goes about her business of conducting her lectures to audiences that were at times downright hostile toward women having a public presence at all. We are witness to her run-ins with the law, privy to her letters and advertisements and the often critical newspaper content about her. And the reader comes away with an unforgettable impression of the extraordinary character of this woman. Don't forget that Helen D. Harris will conduct an illustrated lecture about this book at the PMI on 20 May. (CW)

**Mitiamo reflections / compiled by Helen Stevens 2008**

In 2007 Helen Stevens published *The soul of Terricks : a history of (Old) Mitiamo by the Piccaninny Creek and the Terrick South district formerly Terrick Terrick East*. She has now compiled a much more comprehensive general history of Mitiamo which will be useful for those with a family connection to this agricultural town in north-west Victoria. The book covers all aspects of local history in its 160 pages and includes a bibliography and index. (TM)

**Recently published non-fiction**

Amongst the old folks : Rye Cemetery / Phil Cain ; co-author, Mick Woiwod 2007  
 Digging into history: goldmining in Warrandyte / Diane Baird 2007  
 Building community : fifty years of the Pastorelle Sisters in Australia / Annamaria Davine 2008  
 [donated by the Italian Australian Institute, La Trobe University]  
 Body at the Melbourne Club : Bertram Armytage, Antarctica's forgotten man / David Burke 2009  
 A good save : story of the Sale Fire Brigade / Peter Synan 2008 [donated by Sale Fire Brigade]  
 Myer : celebrating 100 years of fashion / Stella M. Barber 2008  
 The butcher, the baker, the ... a history of the butchers, bakers, milkmen and blacksmiths on the Mornington Peninsula in the early days / Bruce Bennett 2008  
 Helen Hart : founder of women's suffrage in Australasia / Helen D. Harris 2009  
 Moe & Newborough : the way we were / Moe and District Historical Society 2008  
 St Joseph's Church, Yambuk, 1932-2007 : a compiled history of a South West Victorian parish community / compiled by Craig Gubby 2007  
 Victoria government gazette 1862 CD-ROM reference  
 Victoria government gazette 1877 CD-ROM reference  
 Victoria police gazette compendium 1911-1915 CD-ROM reference  
 Something to crow about : a history of the Geelong West Football Club / Marc Fiddian 2008  
 Buninyong heritage walks : and other interesting nearby walks, cycle rides and scenic drives / Neil McCracken 2008  
 Dearly beloved [CD-ROM] : burials in the Keilor Cemetery 1856 - 1900 / Christine Laskowski 2008  
 Memories of Riverside / compiled and published by the Horsham Historical Society 2008

**Recently published general fiction**

Eclipse / Richard North Patterson  
 The other half lives / Sophie Hannah  
 Lethal legacy / Linda Fairstein  
 The vagrants / Yiyun Li  
 Gone tomorrow: the new 'Jack Reacher' thriller / Lee Child  
 8th confession: Women's Murder Club series / James Patterson with Maxine Paetro

**The Arriness E. Watson donations**

Mr Watson's donations have finally all been processed, catalogued and added to the shelves: a massive job. Thank you to our book covering volunteers, especially **Margaret Dunne, Adam Redman, Irene Robinson, Adrian Turley** and **Catherine Tully** for all their help - it could not have been done so swiftly without them.

***If you would like to write a short review of an item recently added to our collection for the newsletter, please contact us on 9510 3393 or email library@pmi.net.au***

(FROM P.5) as I am, you have to tell yourself that nothing is ever going to be perfect and you have to stop researching and get the manuscript written."

Stella is mum to two young boys and it is not easy to balance the ebb and flow of her work with family life and her other interests, which include writing poetry, triathlon and a deep passion for the Collingwood Football Club. "I think many working mothers feel the same in all walks of life ... you ask yourself *Am I being a good enough mother? Am I being a good enough writer? Am I being good enough to my clients? Am I doing the best job I can?* It's a continual juggle. I am lucky in that I work from a home office, so I'm always there for the children....I can go to the school plays and the school sports so I feel that I'm very much around. But I do work really hard, so sometimes it feels that I'm not as available as much as I'd like to be. When they were little I'd take them with me to libraries." The CSR job would take her interstate once a fortnight, and the Shepparton job required one or more overnight stays every month. "But you have to balance your family time with the need to earn an income," Stella says. "And when you are a freelancer, you have to be on-call in case a client or a potential client rings."

"I am a million miles from work when I am at the MCG with my sons hoping Collingwood might just win that one special game. We are Legends members and sit in the front row at home games and not far from the front at away games. We travel interstate when we can and have a great time together win or lose. James (14) doesn't come with me any more, so its now something I share with just Kieren (11). But for about the last 6 years football has been a special time for us. Kieren is in his third year playing for the Prahran Junior football club and he is in the under 11s. As a family we are very involved in the club."

Triathlon training provides Stella with a number of benefits - it is a non-intellectual release, and keeping physically fit also contributes to mental strength. Running, says Stella, has a meditative effect and allows you to think clearly.

Stella has been writing poetry since she was very young, "You write poetry in moments of great despair or great happiness," and it is her preferred way to write. "I enjoy the economy of words - I love words and I love language. Often in history you don't get to be as creative as you would like to be." She has had several poems published.

I asked Stella what advice she might have for new writers who are trying their hand at writing a history or family history. "First of all you've got to love writing. Writing is torture, but it's beautiful torture because at the end of it you can create something quite lovely in your words. But you have to be disciplined. When it comes to corporate or commissioned histories I would advise historians to be wary when a client says 'we want a warts and all history'. They think they do, but often the warts you, the historian discover, become a problem. She says, "I think as a historian you are trying to see various points of view and trying to report on what you think is the truth. ... Every historian will write a different history of the same subject, that's why it is *a history*, not *the history*. You might think you are reporting facts, but there's so many ways of looking at facts. So be careful about 'warts and all', and be careful about overstating your confident opinion about something - balance it with opinions of others."

The other major piece of advice Stella has for budding historians is that not everything you read is true. "I think that's just true in life. Just because it's in the newspaper, or in the board minutes, doesn't mean it's true. ... It's really important to cross-check sources and use a multiplicity of sources. As much as I think oral history is a great medium and I use it myself, I don't agree on creating a purely oral history on any one subject because it can become too subjective. I use oral history to balance the more dry archival sources. It is an important discipline to use as many sources as you can. It makes the history more rich.

Stella has been a member of the PMI for 8 years. "The Prahran Mechanics' Institute has been so helpful for me. I actually feel valued when I go there. I know that I forever have overdue books and everyone is so tolerant of me. The collection is so rich and there are so many ways of finding things in it. I use this collection so much, and I'm really grateful that I am a member and grateful that it exists. I think other historians should be aware of how good the staff are and that they actually take an interest in people's work."



# MOCWFY

## (Making the Online Catalogue Work For You)

### **I am already a member, but I don't have a new plastic card - how do I get one?**

*Any staff member can issue a card to you next time you visit the library - let us know if you would like one. You can also choose a PIN which may consist of 4 letters and/or numbers.*

### **I have a card, but I am not sure whether I have a PIN - how do I find out? Do I need a PIN?**

*Let staff know and we will advise you whether or not you have chosen a PIN, and activate your PIN if you wish to have one. You need to have a PIN if you wish to reserve items or renew your loans online. Login access is also handy for those who wish to check their personal loan record - to quickly see what items they have on reserve, or on loan, and to see a list of items they have previously borrowed. You can also save catalogue records for future reference, for downloading or for email which is another handy feature. For those who have to travel some distance to visit the library, items can be reserved prior to visiting, so the items will be waiting at the loans desk for you.*

### **How do I log in?**

*Click the 'Catalogue' tab on the homepage to reach the online catalogue. On the left side of the catalogue search page, click 'Login' under the 'My Library' heading. There is a 'Quick Links' box on the right hand side that will also take you to the login page. Your 'Borrower ID' is the last seven digits of the barcode on your card, and your PIN is the four characters mentioned above.*

### **What if I am not on speaking terms with computers at all?**

*No problem - you do not need to have a card in order to borrow, and you can still reserve and renew your books in person or over the phone as usual. Or if you would like a staff member to show you how you can make the online catalogue work for you, we are more than happy to help.*

**We are very grateful to the City of Stonnington for this major improvement to our services. The new system is working well now, and we are gradually customising the catalogue website to our needs and reflecting our information, so stay tuned for further updates. If you have any further questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to approach any library staff members for assistance.**

## BOOK COVERING SERVICE



Would you like to protect your books from wear and tear by having them professionally covered? This service is also ideal for those special volumes you intend as gifts.

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

This service is strictly for MEMBERS ONLY.

Maximum of 5 books at a time please.

# HISTORY HAPPENINGS



*Events are taken from information provided by historical organisations and historical newsletters that are available in the library.*

Brighton Cemetery Sun 17 May - Cemetery walk: 'Upholding the law'. Walks visit different gravesites each time and we tell an entertaining story of those who lie beneath. Refreshments served. Bookings essential. *Brighton Cemeterians* - Lois 9558 4248.

Computing in Melbourne: A Historical Tour: Sat 16 May & Sun 31 May - Tour. Bookings essential. *Monash University Caulfield School of Information Technology* Graham.Farr@infotech.monash.edu.au

9th Australian Library History Conference 25-27 June at Swinburne University, Prahran Campus. The theme of the conference will be 'Collections, Characters and Communities'. The conference is a joint

presentation of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria and the Centre for the Book. *Further information/bookings: Donald.Barker@arts.monash.edu.au*

Nillumbik Historical Society Sun 3 May - Step back in time to 1870 at Ellis Cottage (10 Nillumbik Square, Diamond Creek, Melway 12 F5) conducted tours at 1,2 and 3 pm followed by afternoon tea. Tour and afternoon tea \$7.50, family ticket \$18. 1865 farmhouse and numerous photos. *Bookings Lynn Loft 9431 4918 or Marg Gordon 9438 3441.*

St Kilda Cemetery Sun 17 May 2.00pm - Tour: 'The Trials of Ned Kelly'. Bookings essential as numbers are limited. *Friends of St Kilda Cemetery 9531 6832*

St Kilda Cemetery Sun 21 Jun 2.00pm - Tour: 'Notable Women'. Bookings essential as numbers are limited. *Friends of St Kilda Cemetery 9531 6832*

St Kilda Historical Society Sun 17 May 2.30 pm - 'Phryne's St Kilda': local writer Kerry Greenwood is an acclaimed author of detective novels. Many set in St Kilda include a score of books featuring Phryne Fisher, a fabulous jazz era heroine. Kerry talks about her books and their researched St Kilda settings. Community room, St Kilda Library.

State Library of Victoria Mon 25 May 1.00pm-5.30pm - Seminar: Newspapers as medium and message: a key to Australian Historical Research. Free entry. *Centre for the Book 9905 2154 or Centre.forthe.Book@monash.edu.au*

Tullaree Homestead Sat 2 May 10.00am-4.00pm - Open Day. Tullaree Homestead was once the home of Margaret Clements, now known as 'The Lady of the Swamp'. Tullaree has been lovingly restored by a young family, breathing new life into this once neglected and run down grand mansion. A one day only event not to be missed. Attractions include: stalls, Vintage Car Clubs, Author of 'Lady of the Swamp' Richard Shears, historical displays, light lunch, BYO picnic and activities for children. Fee : \$12/\$10 conc. All proceeds to go to South Coast Christian College, Leongatha. 90 McRae Road, Tarwin Lower. *Contact: Janet 0407 409 827*

***If your society would like a history-related event to be mentioned in 'History Happenings' in future, please send an email to [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) with the subject line 'History Happenings'***



## LOOKING FOR THE RECENT ADDITIONS SECTION?

*The Recent Additions Section is now contained in a separate supplement to the PMI newsletter. If you receive the newsletter*

*by email you will already have received the Recent Additions supplement. If you receive the newsletter by post and would like to have the Recent Additions supplement sent to you please let us know by phone 9510 3393 or by email [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) and we will send you a copy with your newsletter.*

