

PSYCHIC MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 64 - NOVEMBER 2009



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About the PMI:
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 individual
\$10 student/pensioner
\$30 institutional

Patron:
Keith Dunstan OAM

Feedback/suggestions
for this newsletter
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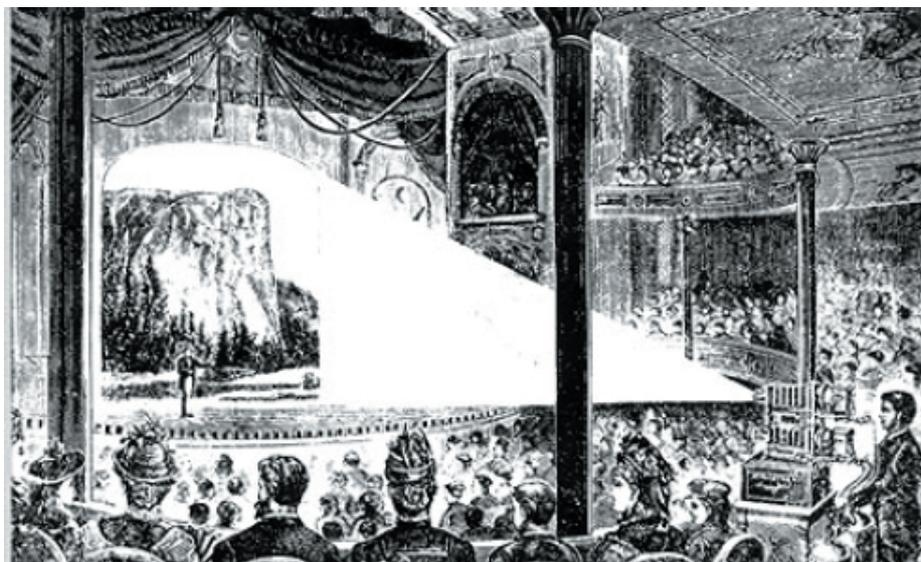
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A Wonderful

PMI & CATHS PRESENTATION:

Magic Lantern Show



This is your opportunity to go back in time and experience a real Magic Lantern Show!

Peter Wolfenden of the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society will show us various items relating to the genesis of visual entertainment through



-  a demonstration of a magic lantern show using original glass slides from the 1870s
-  a documentary showing the progress of early animated pictures in France
-  a documentary showing the the progress of the use of photography in urban planning

6.15pm, Wednesday 18 November

Entry is free, bookings are ESSENTIAL:
9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

As always, the Historic Picture Show is followed by refreshments in the library.

REPORT ON SALE OF 140 HIGH STREET ... SEE PAGE 4

1985-2007 were recently collated and scanned by Christine Worthington who then sent them off to be bound.

With volunteer assistance, the correspondence and ephemera files of the PMI are currently being collated and filed in preparation for scanning. Newspaper articles relating to the PMI are also being scanned and filed.

Library Shelving

We gratefully received some further used shelving made available by the recent refurbishment by Stonnington LIS of the Prahran Library. Thanks very much as always to Anne Rasmussen for making this shelving available to the PMI.

Design of the Newsletter

Regular readers of this newsletters will see that there have been some changes made to its design this issue. This is because the design had been geared toward the printed version of the newsletter. We now distribute the newsletter by email in a pdf format, and this new design will be more suited to both the pdf and hard copy formats.

National Family History Week Seminar

Our annual Family History Week seminar was again very well attended, and we continue to receive very positive feedback on this annual event.

The day was comprised of two information sessions presented by Alison Boundy and Christine Worthington, afternoon tea and a giveaway door prize (the latest edition of Cora Num's *Family History Research Manager*).



Above: Alison Boundy conducts and information session for beginner family historians at our annual Family History Week Seminar Day in August.

PMI PRESS UPDATE

Congratulations to Gwen Truscott, whose submission of a history of Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill settlement has been accepted for publication by PMI Press in 2010. You will be hearing more about this project in the future.

VOLUNTEERS' Q&A

Since the last newsletter we have three new volunteers added to the team.

Volunteer Stats so far in 2009

So far in 2009 our 21 current volunteers have completed: 18 hours of newsletter mail out duties, 169 hours of book care duties, delivery of 300 pamphlets, 7 book indexes (with three more in process) and 29 hours of other duties including work for the website, shelf checking, and indexing specifically for the library catalogue. In addition to covering books, the book care volunteers are also covering many journals and bound historical society newsletters as I gradually carry out an audit of the periodicals section.

Volunteer Indexers Training Opportunity

On 30 October Christine and three of our volunteer indexers will attend a seminar at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria entitled 'Indexing for Historical Societies'. This seminar will benefit the wonderful work carried out by the volunteers who endeavour to make the PMI library more useful for researchers.

International Volunteer Day 2009

Current 2009 volunteers will soon receive their invitations to attend our annual International Volunteer Day luncheon at the PMI in December. At this event certificates of appreciation will be presented to volunteers denoting their specific contributions for 2009. Volunteers unable to attend this event will receive their certificates by post.



**International
Volunteer Day**

FEATURE: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

At a Special General Meeting on 16 September a proposed settlement with Swinburne University was presented to the members for approval. This settlement involved the sale of the buildings at 140 High Street, Prahran to the University.

Here is a copy of the memorandum from the committee, distributed to members on the evening of the meeting:

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute (PMI), a small, non-profit community organisation, created the Prahran Technical School in 1908 and presented its use in 1915 to the Victorian Education Minister (Sir Alexander Peacock), who described it as the best gift the government had ever received.

The buildings the PMI had erected for the accommodation of the school were leased to the Victorian Education Minister for 33 years at a peppercorn rent.

The lease was renewed in 1947 for a further 99 years when the government desperately needed school buildings immediately after World War II. At the time, the PMI was represented on the school's council and clearly did not foresee the eventual dismantling of the technical school system and the removal and closure of its school.

The PMI's generosity over 90 years has consisted not only of foregone rent from the heritage-registered school buildings, but of a further gift of land adjoining the school which together total an estimated \$26.5 million in today's monetary values.

Meanwhile, these arrangements have placed a financial burden on the PMI, which continues to operate its expanding library service. With the costs of running the library on the verge of exceeding its limited income, the PMI has been forced to take action towards terminating the lease (which, if valid, would have 37 years to run).

Had the PMI sold the land subject to the unexpired lease, its price would have been considerably discounted because no commercial rent could be gleaned from it until 2046. Only by termination of the lease could the PMI either re-let that part of the property it was not using at a commercial rent or sell the property free of the encumbering lease and use the money to make a fresh start elsewhere.

That is why it became necessary for the PMI to commence action against either or both of the responsible Ministers which it did on the basis of advice received from its solicitors and subsequently confirmed by Senior Counsel Mr Gerard Nash QC. Before the expiration of a notice which was served upon both Ministers, representatives of the Minister for Skills and Workplace Safety, Swinburne University of Technology and the PMI entered into a mediation process under the guidance of Mr Stuart Morris QC as a result of which a Settlement Agreement was prepared and signed copies have been exchanged between the relevant parties.

The Settlement Agreement resulted, as you would expect, from all parties making concessions. It is subject to a number of conditions precedent including that the PMI must obtain its members support of its actions. If you are willing to give that support the Settlement Agreement will continue but if you are unwilling to give that support the Settlement Agreement will collapse leaving PMI in the same weak position I have just outlined.

The committee, on legal advice, does not propose to prejudice the successful outcome of the other conditions precedent by prematurely releasing the Settlement Agreement. Instead, it has prepared a statement of the essential terms, copies of which will be distributed to you. I will also read to you the advice of Mr Gerard

FEATURE: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Nash QC who was the leading member of PMI's legal team at the mediation and who has subsequently reviewed the Settlement Agreement before it was signed and exchanged on behalf of PMI.

Your Committee is of the firm belief that the settlement of this dispute as agreed at the mediation on the terms to be circulated to you tonight is in PMI's best interests and represents a settlement on the best terms available to PMI. That being the case, your Committee recommends that you support the settlement by voting to give it your approval.

Details of mediated agreement between the Victorian Government / Swinburne University and the PMI - subject to formal ratification by the PMI membership and the government.

- a) Swinburne university to buy land and buildings for \$5.9 million.
- b) PMI be allowed to stay in the building for up to five years at a peppercorn rent in order to have time to build or buy another building.
- c) PMI to have use of the two shops next door and also other Swinburne rooms on an occasional basis for meetings, lectures etc.
- d) Swinburne to pay electricity and water bills of PMI library up to \$5000 per annum.
- e) The \$5.9 million to be put in a trust fund earning interest at the Commonwealth Bank, until an Act of Parliament allows PMI to sell the land and buildings whereupon control of that money will pass to the PMI.

Other committee members present at the mediation, Cr John Chandler and Chris Michalopoulos, also addressed the meeting. Mr Tony Lupton MP, Member for Prahran (and a PMI member) addressed the meeting with regard to the fact that in order to sell the buildings, the PMI will need an amending act of the Victorian Parliament. Mr Lupton spoke in favour of the settlement and stated that as Secretary of the Cabinet he would be able to expedite this legislation. Mr Michalopoulos proposed a motion to the meeting that the proposed settlement be accepted by the members.

Members wishing to speak for and against the motion were invited to do so and there was a discussion about the particulars of the settlement and an amendment was put that the meeting be adjourned for fourteen days while the members had time to consider the proposal. This amendment was defeated on a show of hands.

The President then put the original motion to accept the proposed settlement and a secret ballot took place under the supervision of PMI member Julie Lord, library staff members and the Secretary. The result was 39 in favour of the sale and 25 against.

Copies of the minutes of the meeting, the settlement agreement and the statement of opinion from Gerard Nash QC are available at the loans desk for members to read.

All members are invited to contribute to the planning of the way forward for the PMI. Contributions can be as a formal submission or informally by mail or email.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive copies of PMI committee meeting minutes, please contact the Secretary on 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au.



In this instalment of Writing History we hear from an author who has written very varied types of historical publications

JUDITH BUCKRICH

Judy Buckrich began her career writing for a theatrical audience, but her interest in St Kilda Road steered her along a very different path ...

After studying drama and media at the National Theatre Drama School and Victoria College, Rusden, Judith wrote a series of one and two person shows which she and a friend performed over years at theatres such as La Mama and the Pram Factory. While at Rusden Judith also contributed to the student magazine. Later she dabbled in science fiction writing and writing short stories which were published in anthologies of women's writing. A trip overseas during which she visited many theatres in Europe, led to her involvement with the International Theatre Institute. Judy then contributed articles about theatres for its magazine.

On a subsequent visit to Europe Judy lived in Budapest where she worked

as a translator and occasional writer for the *Hungarian Daily News*, an English language newspaper. This was in the time of the Communist regime and enormous cultural change in Hungary, and Judy sent articles back home to Australia which were published in journals such as the *Age Monthly* and *Quadrant*. During that time she also worked as a radio journalist and contributed to ABC radio's *The Europeans* which used every tape she sent home. 'I was in the right place at the right time - a very interesting, very intense time. ... The events that led to the Berlin Wall coming down had actually begun in Hungary and it was great to be at the coalface of where those things happened.'

On her return to Melbourne Judy commenced work on what became a PhD at Melbourne University, a biographical work on the life of science fiction writer George Turner. The PhD was not in History but English and her foray into writing history came from a long love and interest in St Kilda Road and a (perhaps at the time rhetorical) comment to a friend that 'Someone really should write a book about this street'.

At the time the St Kilda Road precinct group had just been set up and she had the fortunate help of photographer Antoinette Birkenbeil. With the help of St Kilda Council's CEO they were set up in a St Kilda Road office rent-free. The State Library had begun digitising its images by that stage and having such easy access to historical images of St Kilda Road was at that time something of a revelation. Their work-in-progress led to an exhibition hosted by the City of St Kilda. After a talk given by Geoffrey Serle, Judy invited him to the exhibition and asked him for feedback on what they had been doing. He did attend and also revealed that he was on the State Library's publishing committee and would set up an interview for her.

The interview must have gone better than she initially thought it had, because she was invited then to a second meeting. It was a lunch meeting - a good sign. Judy was asked if she could have the manuscript ready in three months. Skirting around

the fact that she hadn't yet written a word of the manuscript, nor had she ever written anything book-length in her life, she indicated calmly that she could have it ready in four months. She commenced writing immediately and worked solidly for the entire four months. 'I just got in the zone. Thank God I found that I could get in the zone, I didn't even know whether I could get in the zone so it was like a miracle when I got in the zone! *Melbourne's Grand Boulevard* was completed on time. Although it needed a lot of editing the text essentially remained intact for publication. The book was hugely successful - full of beautiful contemporary and archival images and was the culmination of much help throughout our research. It was very well reviewed.'

The project that followed, a 150 year history of the Montefiore Homes on St Kilda Road, arose before publication of *Melbourne's Grand Boulevard*, but on the strength of that completed manuscript. Judy was somewhat astonished to find that she was now actually going to be paid to write a history. 'Since then, around 1994, I've been most fortunate and had a commission to work on most years, and where I haven't I've been able to work at history related places such as the RHSV and the PMI.' Judy has also supplemented commissions with other things such as editing anthologies and translating poetry, and writing heritage reports and conducting research for heritage overlays. She is also working on a fictionalised memoir. 'It's really hard after 20 years of not writing like that but I'm going to do it.'

Commissions come about in various ways. 'Sometimes I approach people, sometimes I am asked and sometimes I reply to an ad and go for an interview.'

Judy's latest work is *Well Rowed University: Melbourne University Boat Club: the First 150 Years*, the result of two years research and writing. 'It was a challenge because I know nothing about sport, I know nothing about rowing. In the interview I sensed that they were a bit worried that I know nothing about rowing. Good-humouredly I asked them whether they wanted someone who knows how to

row or someone who knows how to write a book. To give them credit, I think they were quite brave taking me on.

'It was fabulous - a great two years meeting all these Olympic champions, and mostly men but women too who are completely crazy about rowing. Amazing private collections and superb pictures of the Yarra over 150 years. There are these great photographs of a crew of four or a crew of eight and then behind them are these enormous ships and landscapes and the Port of Melbourne. Many of these people said that the thing that really kept them rowing was the Yarra.'

The Yarra, the Port and the inner south east have become Judy's speciality, though it is her landmark Collins Street history that really put her on the map. 'It was a big struggle to get that book published. I had a lot of difficulty with the people I was working for and with. But eventually it was published and made a huge difference to my profile.' She says the work of photographer Marc Strizic greatly contributed to the appeal of *Collins*. 'He's really the great photographer of Melbourne in the '50s and '60s .. He really captured the beauty of Melbourne at that time. I also had the pleasure of selecting a whole range of other images for the book such as paintings.'

Despite the broad range of types of histories Judy has written (biography, reports, organisational history and local history), she says she uses much the same approach for each project. 'I look at all the material that there is. I start writing quite early because I find that shapes my thoughts much better. I don't necessarily have to have read everything when I start writing, but if I know where everything is and can put my hand on it and can sort it chronologically and thematically I can pretty much start writing. Despite a common approach, projects do develop differently because the content is so different.'

'Writing heritage reports is a little bit different because you are often looking at little microcosms and you are looking over a number of years what happened in this or

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(FROM P.7)

that particular little spot. And you have to write it up like that - in little bits for each area. You can present visual material with it but the text needs to be very succinct.'

I asked Judy how a narrative comes to appear through the often apparently dry facts. 'Fortunately that is something that I am often complimented for - that what might appear to be a dry history to some can actually be a page-turner. When you are immersed in the project something happens to you. You come to know the exciting bits, the important bits, the serious bits, you know to build a structure like that. You either have or can develop an instinct for this. And if the writer has a passion for what they are doing it will be evident through the writing. I do feel genuinely excited by my work. My poor daughter who has lived through so many books with me doesn't understand why I find it so exciting.

'In every work I think you can find something that you can engage with - even with the boats, because I finally went and had a row. I got it. I got what that incredible feeling is of being in a boat with four or so other people and being in this fabulous harmony. It's like a sort of zen feeling, where your mind is turned off, but where your body and a certain part of your mind is completely turned on.

'So while it is important that you be a good scholar and do your research well, instinct and empathy are also very important qualities.'

The most challenging of the historical projects Judy has undertaken was *Lighthouse on the Boulevard: a History of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind*. 'Not because of the research and writing, but because I really wanted to do the right thing by the blind people who were on the committee. Some of them were quite elderly and their lives had been such a struggle and they had maintained a difficult loyalty to the RVIB during periods when they were treated quite badly. I really wanted to present their story in the best possible way without making it too much a story of suffering and woe. To show that there was also fun and hope and good things.

'I think they knew that RVIB was coming to an end and this was a way to preserve the memory of it and the iconic St Kilda Road building. They were hugely important - the RVIB was at the forefront of revolutionary practices for all kinds of things, such as getting blind people to integrate into wider society and be accepted.'

To inexperienced writers of history Judy says, 'I always think that people should be very brave and not be too frightened about what they're doing. I think they should read as much as they possibly can and not just about their area. Sometimes people are too micro-focused but they need to understand the whole picture of what they are writing about. They should also make very good use of old newspapers and archival images to increase their visual understanding of the time period they are looking at. You get a feeling for things in pictures and moving images that you don't get through print.

'And then just do it - don't procrastinate or worry "is this right?", so long as you've done your research and you are presenting your source notes.

'You can get qualifications and method and other things like that, but you can't get courage except by doing it. You can't do it except by doing it.

'If you've got a good idea, don't worry about whether you've got someone to set it out for you or whether you've got a publisher, just go with it and have a go at writing it and then when it's done see if you can find a means of publishing it on the web or anywhere else. There are so many more possibilities for publishing these days - it has really opened up in the last ten years. There's stuff on my website that hasn't been published yet.'

Apart from her current heritage work for Lend Lease, Judy and her daughter Laura, now 20, are planning to work together researching and writing about extraordinary, but little known today, Melbourne women 1880-1930.

Check the PMI catalogue for Judy Buckrich's published historical works including her latest *Well Rowed University: Melbourne University Boat Club: The First*

FICTION

NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

Warrandyte: the community with a heart of gold / Murray Houghton

PMI member Murray Houghton launched his new book on the history of Warrandyte at the Warrandyte Museum on Sunday 19th July.

The book is set from the 1890s through to the early 1920s. Murray has chosen to review a thirty year span of Warrandyte's history where the community's collective persistence in the face of adversity eventually obtained success. This well researched and richly illustrated publication contains 13 parts, each separate in theme, but together they tell the story of the time when Warrandyte was transformed from a sleepy hollow into a boom town during the district's peak in gold-mining activity. Whilst the period covered is a relatively short one, it is a centenary tribute commemorating the opening of the State Battery in 1909. The presence of the State Battery is now recorded by a plaque set on the river bank some 100 metres upstream of the present bridge.

Murray has kindly donated a copy to the library. We also have copies for sale at \$40 to the public or \$36 for members (members are reminded that they receive a 10% discount on all new books for sale).

Well rowed university: Melbourne University Boat Club, the first 150 years / Judith Buckrich

Written by PMI member Dr Judith Buckrich, *Well rowed university* is not simply the story of one of Australia's oldest sporting clubs and one of its most successful rowing clubs. It is also a story of Melbourne and its society; of the University of Melbourne; and of the Yarra River, which flows through the centre of Melbourne. It encompasses the period from the club's formation in 1859, when the colony of Victoria was still in its infancy, through to the modern day. The effect of two world wars on the lives of Victorians and their sportsmen and women is relived in the pages of the book, as is the spirit of resurgent optimism as these tragedies receded into the past. There is much here to fascinate a general reader as well as a sporting history buff.

Beautifully designed and illustrated in both colour and black and white throughout, *Well rowed university* contains over 400 images, including early scenes of Melbourne and the Yarra River rarely seen before. Also included with the book is a disc containing a searchable database of photographs, images and lists of historical interest.

Lygon St: stories and recipes from Melbourne's melting pot / Michael Harden

'From the time it was laid out across bushland to the north of the Melbourne city grid, Lygon Street has been a melting pot. Even in its earliest days, the days before the distinct waves of Jewish and Italian immigrants washed over Carlton, the people who lived, worked and owned businesses on the street came from many different ethnic backgrounds and economic circumstances'

So starts the unique and remarkable tale of Lygon Street in the heart of inner-city Melbourne. This is the street that brought authentic home-style cooking to Australia; the street that introduced the first espresso machine, the first pizza house and the first grocers in the country to stock extra virgin olive oil and fresh mozzarella cheese. This absorbing and entertaining history features a collection of recipes from iconic Lygon Street restaurants and celebrates the rich diversity of cafes, shops and businesses that have existed on this colourful shopping strip over the past 150 years.

We are Geelong: the story of the Geelong Football Club / John Murray

The city of Geelong and football have been entwined ever since the Geelong Advertiser announced a meeting in July 1859 to plan for the formation of a football club. *We are Geelong* takes a trip through the rich history of the Geelong Football Club, celebrating the club's culture, personalities and success, and saluting Reg Hickey, Graham 'Polly' Farmer, Gary Ablett snr and all the champions who have pulled on the blue-and-white hoops, and made the Cats the force they are today. Many magnificent memories from a great history, all captured in a series of essays and photographs.

Penfolds: the rewards of patience 6th edition / Andrew Caillard

In 2001, the National Trust of South Australia made the remarkable gesture of listing Penfolds Grange as a Heritage Icon. In the world of wine, Penfolds is synonymous with excellence, innovation and even a little magic. The tale behind the winery's foundation, its innovative methods of operation, and the characters who were determined to break with tradition and produce something unique is a truly inspiring one.

But much more than just a history, *Penfolds: the rewards of patience* is the ultimate guide to Australia's most highly regarded winemaker and includes a comprehensive overview and tasting notes of almost every wine Penfolds has ever produced, including Grange, St Henri, Bin 389 and Yattarna. Through painstaking research, oral histories and the authoritative tasting notes of an expert panel, the Rewards of patience is an entertaining, comprehensive and down-to-earth review of the Penfolds wine experience.

The colony: a history of early Sydney / Grace Karskens

The colony is the story of the marvellously contrary, endlessly energetic early years of Sydney. It is an intimate account of the transformation of a campsite in a beautiful cove to the town that later became Australia's largest and best-known city.

From the sparkling beaches to the foothills of the Blue Mountains, Grace Karskens skilfully reveals how landscape shaped the lives of the original aboriginal inhabitants and newcomers alike. She traces the ways in which relationships between the colonial authorities and ordinary men and women broke with old patterns, and the ways that settler and aboriginal histories became entwined. She uncovers the ties between the burgeoning township and its rural hinterland expanding along the river systems of the Cumberland Plain. This is a landmark account of the birthplace of modern Australia and a fascinating and richly textured narrative of people and place.

Between the rivers: a history of settlement along part of Major Mitchell's Line featuring the rivers Murray, Loddon and Avoca / Grant Angus with Colin Heggen and John Jobson

This history of 206 A4 pages has chapters on Major Mitchell, the Burke and Wills Expedition, the Murray River, the Loddon River, the Avoca River, the towns of Kerang, Lake Charm, Benjeroop, Mystic Park, Tresco, Lake Boga and Swan Hill. Each town is given a thorough overview of its history. The book has many good quality maps, portraits and illustrations, some in colour. There is also a bibliography and a surname index.

From Tuscany to Victoria: the life and work of Pietro Baracchi, Carlo Catani, Ettore Checchi / Daniela Volpe

In the spring of 1876 Pietro Baracchi, Carlo Catani and Ettore Checchi, three young Italian engineers, came to the colony of Victoria from Tuscany, via New Zealand. Two of them were destined to achieve fame and public recognition, and indeed all three contributed greatly to the development of Victoria. This book chronicles their achievements.

Neither here nor there: Italians and Swiss Italians on the Walhalla goldfield 1865-1915 / Annamaria Davine

In the decades following the discovery of gold in Walhalla, Victoria, in 1863, among the thousands who flocked to the district hoping to make their fortune were hundreds of Italians and Swiss-Italians. Many were sojourners, temporary residents, who later moved to other areas of Australia or returned home permanently. Some settled on the goldfield with their families. Drawing from a wide range of sources, this book offers a reconstructed history of goldfield life from the viewpoint of a group of Italian speakers who were present from the beginning. It examines the finer texture of a small place and seeks to push the boundaries of understanding what nineteenth century Italian-speaking men and women may have made of their lives in a foreign land. Migration patterns, work practices and the evolution of community within settler society are also evaluated. The book also emphasizes the relevance of micro-studies of this nature and their place within the wider national and international study of migration.

The politics of suffering: indigenous Australia and the end of the liberal consensus / Peter Sutton

Peter Sutton is a fearless and authoritative voice in aboriginal politics. In this groundbreaking book, he asks why, after three decades of liberal thinking, has the suffering and grief in so many aboriginal communities become worse? The picture Sutton presents is tragic. He marshals shocking evidence against the failures of the past, and argues provocatively that three decades of liberal consensus on aboriginal issues has collapsed. Sutton is a leading Australian anthropologist who has lived and worked closely with aboriginal communities. He combines clear-eyed, original observation with deep emotional engagement. The politics of suffering cuts through the cant and offers fresh insight and hope for a new era in indigenous policies.

Chinese lepers in Victoria: a case of charity and cultural clashes / Carol Holsworth (donated by Friends of the Bendigo Cemeteries)

Leprosy is an almost forgotten disease these days. This book contains information about 19th century attitudes to lepers and also sufferers of other infectious diseases. For the Chinese afflicted with this disease the suffering was made even worse by discrimination against them and neglect. This thoroughly researched book documents an obscure part of Victorian history.

Bagshot Public Hall: a history – dedicated to the people of Bagshot who have given a century of service / compiled by Barry Clay

The Bagshot Hall is situated almost twenty kilometres north of Bendigo in the centre of the Bagshot village and originally was on the main thoroughfare from Bendigo to Echuca. However, due to the constant flooding from the nearby Bendigo Creek, a new highway was constructed and opened in 1928 about two kilometres to the south of the present site. The hall is still in its original position and the road which still passes the hall is now known as the Old Murray Road.

Another view of Kangaroo Ground: its land and its people / Mick Woiwod first published 2002, revised edition 2009.

This clearly set out and easy to read book contains the following topics relating to Kangaroo Ground: geology (silurian, devonian, mountain building, miocene, continental drift), flora, aborigines (the Wurundjeri, Moor-rul, Wurundjeri-willam, eaglehawk and crow moieties, clan territory, messengers, language, lifestyle, shelters, hunting weaponry, women gathering food, fire-making, games, Gawa Aboriginal Resource Trail, markers along the way, the Wit Wit), the coming of Europeans (rumours of things to come, smallpox, squatters move into the Yarra Valley, European settlement, the future?). The book is well illustrated and has a short list of local plants used by Wurundjeri people and a select bibliography.

Australia's remarkable trees / Richard Allen and Kim Baker

Elephantine boabs dot the Kimberley region of Western Australia; cattle rub against giant bottle trees and ironbarks in Queensland, and strangler figs with 40 metre girths thrive in our northern rainforests. Snow gums and shining gums eke out their lives on our icy mountain tops and prehistoric looking bunya pines, which once looked down on the dinosaurs, grow in a few isolated places in Australia's north-east.

Australia's remarkable trees explores the extraordinary lives of fifty of Australia's oldest, largest and most unusual trees. Richly illustrated with more than 500 photographs, writer Richard Allen and photographer Kimbal Baker went to the far reaches of Australia – travelling more than 60,000 kilometres – to photograph them and tell their stories. This is not just a celebration of Australia's great trees. It also prompts us to look to the future to see

what lies in store for them. It is a call to arms to preserve and protect our oldest and most magnificent living things, and the forests and wilderness in which they live.

The water dreamers: the remarkable story of our dry continent / Michael Cathcart

The water dreamers is a story for all Australians. For thousands of years, water has shaped where we live, how we struggle with each other and how we imagine our country. The first settlers' dreams of mighty inland rivers evaporated in the silent deserts of Australia. But the water dreamers refused to accept this disappointment. They saw a country that could be transformed by irrigation and hydro-engineering. Today, thanks to their vision, many of our rivers are in crisis and, more than ever, Australians realise that our destiny will be shaped by water. *The water dreamers* is an enthralling new account of Australian history and of who we are today.

Australians: origins to Eureka volume 1 / Thomas Keneally

In this first volume of a unique new history of Australia people are always centre stage, as bestselling author Thomas Keneally brings to life the vast range of characters who have formed our national story. Convicts and aborigines, settlers and soldiers, patriots and reformers, bushrangers and gold seekers, it is from their lives and their stories that he has woven a vibrant history to do full justice to the rich and colourful nature of our unique national character.

The story begins by looking at European occupation through Aboriginal eyes as we move between the city slums and rural hovels of eighteenth-century Britain and the shores of Port Jackson. We spend time on the low-roofed decks of convict transports, and we see the bewilderment of the Eora people as they encounter the first ships of turaga, or 'ghost people'. We follow the daily round of Bennelong and his wife Barangaroo, and the tribulations of warrior Windradyne. Convicts like Solomon Wiseman and John Wilson find their feet and even fortune, while Henry Parkes' arrival as a penniless immigrant gives few clues to the national statesman he was to become. We follow the treks of the Chinese diggers – the Celestials – to the goldfields, and revolutionaries such as Italian Raffaello Carboni and black American John Joseph bring us the drama of the Eureka uprising.

This is truly a new history of Australia, by an author of outstanding literary skill and experience, whose own humanity permeates every page.

The big fella: the rise and rise of BHP Billiton / Peter Thompson and Robert Macklin

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, or BHP, is part of Australia's DNA, yet it remains an enigma. Here for the first time is the full, compelling story of how BHP rose from the humblest beginnings in the Australian outback to become, in conjunction with its partner Billiton, the biggest miner in the world today. Based on a treasure trove of exclusive interviews The big fella strips away the gloss to expose the political and industrial forces that really drive big business in the twenty-first century. In an investigative tour de force, authors Peter Thompson and Robert Macklin reveal the visions, the schemes, the scandals and the corporate life-and-death struggles that have characterised BHP's evolution from the first lucky strike by the mysterious Charles Rasp at Broken Hill in 1883, to its 2001 merger with Billiton, to its daring \$150 billion bid for Rio Tinto six years later. The result is a gripping story of foresight and blunder, of nation-building and rampant ego, of greed and of grace, written by two master storytellers with unprecedented access to the key players themselves.

Beersheba: a journey through Australia's forgotten war / Paul Daley

In October 1917 members of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade took part in what is now known as the 'last great cavalry charge'. Waving bayonets overhead, they charged across six kilometres of open ground, cheating bombs, shells and bullets before capturing, in a desperate hand-to-hand battle, the Turkish trenches that held the key to the strategic stronghold of Beersheba. The charge was the last daring act of a day-long fight by combined British forces to capture Beersheba, and also a turning point in Britain's war against the Ottoman Empire, sending the Turks fleeing north to ultimate defeat. Yet the story has slipped through the cracks of history.

Journalist Paul Daley's journey in search of Beersheba takes him from Australia to Israel, from past to present, and from the battlefields to the archives, where he discovers a dark episode in Australian history that sits starkly at odds with the Anzac myth and legend.

Charles 'Bud' Tingwell's war stories: the heroes, the battles, the tragedies and the triumphs of World War II / Kim Lockwood

Charles 'Bud' Tingwell was one of Australia's favourite actors, having appeared in more than 100 films and TV series, including *The desert rats*, *The Shiralee*, *Breaker Morant*, *The Castle*, *The Dish* and *Changi*.

What many fans don't know is that he was also a RAAF pilot in World War II, flying 75 sorties in Spitfires and Mosquitoes in the Middle East and eastern Mediterranean. He came close to death more than once. In *War stories* Bud recalls his war – the early training, the long sea hauls across the Pacific and round Cape Horn to get to the Middle East, life in camp and the dangers of flying through German flak on his photo reconnaissance missions. *War stories* also pays tribute to Australia's World War II heroes. All twenty Victoria Cross winners are here, their extraordinary stories told in detail. So are fifty other brave men and women, always remembered for their courage both at home and overseas.

Journey to Tobruk: John Murray – bushman, soldier, survivor / Louise Austin

Journey to Tobruk tells the remarkable life story of John Murray, a genuine Australian hero, on and off the battlefield. This engaging blend of military history and biography follows the transformation of a raw young bushman into a courageous soldier and inspiring leader. Woven through the narrative are excerpts from the lifelong correspondence between John and his mother. Murray's letters, written in his laconic, definitively Australian style, give us a special insight into the unfaltering humanity, humour and irrepressible spirit of this 'Rat of Tobruk'.

BOOKS ETCETERA

D-Day: the battle for Normandy / Antony Beevor

Even Stalin was awed by D-Day. 'In the whole history of war,' he wrote to Churchill, 'there has never been such an undertaking.' Those who took part in the great cross-Channel invasion, whether soldier, sailor or airman, would never forget the sight. Nor, of course, would the German defenders alerted at the last moment on the Normandy coasts. It was by far the largest invasion fleet ever known. The very scale of the undertaking and its meticulous planning were unprecedented, but although the beachheads were established as planned, it soon became clear that the next stage of the battle would be far more difficult than anyone had imagined. Making use of overlooked and new material from over thirty archives in half a dozen countries, *D-Day* is the most vivid and well-researched account yet of the Battle of Normandy. As with Stalingrad and Berlin – the downfall, Antony Beevor's gripping narrative conveys the true experience of war.

Under the influence: a history of alcohol in Australia / Ross Fitzgerald and Trevor L. Jordan

From individuals to communities to federal and state governments, Australians are taking stock of their drinking habits. Binge drinking, alcohol-fuelled violence and the boorish behaviour of some of our leading sports stars are constantly featured in the media. Alcopops, 24-hour liquor licences, alcohol advertising and under-age drinking have all been identified as culprits. But haven't we been down this road before? Accessible and thoroughly researched, *Under the influence* is the first general history of the role of alcohol in Australia. On this journey from the past to the present, Ross Fitzgerald and Trevor Jordan uncover and analyse the crucial role that booze, and reactions to it, has played in our culture, past, present and future. Along the way there are questions answered and myths challenged.

The march of patriots: the struggle for modern Australia / Paul Kelly

The march of patriots is the inside story of how Paul Keating and John Howard changed Australia. It sees Keating and Howard as conviction politicians, tribal warriors and national interest patriots. Divided by belief, temperament and party, they were united by generation, city and challenge to make Australia into a successful nation for the globalised age. This book is about the making of policy and the uses of power. It captures the authentic nature of Australian politics as distinct from the polemics advanced by both sides. Its focus is how Keating and Howard as Prime Ministers altered the nation's direction, redefined their parties and struggled over Australia's new economic, social, cultural and foreign policy agendas.

Australian tragic: gripping tales from the dark side of our history / Jack Marx

Here are stories from Australia's dark heart: of catastrophe and misfortune, intrigue and passion, betrayal and tragedy. Some you may think you know – others, you have never heard of – but all will capture your imagination. Heartbreaking and shocking, gothic and weird, these fascinating stories are all true, and told to remind us of the Australia we don't know, the one that simmers with love and hate, of hopes raised and futures dashed, unheralded and unnoticed ... until now.

Hoyts 1909-2009: The Legacy of Arthur Francis Russell / Ross King with David Kilderry and Ian Smith

This publication was produced by the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society to coincide with its own 20th anniversary. Part One deals with Arthur Russell - the man who started it all and Part Two relates how Hoyts Theatres Ltd built on Russell's legacy. The work is fabulously illustrated throughout with photos of stunning theatres and much Hoyts promotional material and memorabilia. There is a copy for loan in the PMI collection, also copies are available for sale at the PMI for \$15.

The family of James Scott and Euphemia Huntley in Australia : from 1839 to late 1940s / Eric H. Steele

Family historians who think about publishing a family history can learn a lot from seeing examples of other people's work and this is another very good example in the PMI collection. This work was compiled by PMI member Eric Steele as the result of a successful family reunion last year. Along with the family information, included are chapters on various aspects of the family, the places they lived and some contextual information as relevant about subjects such as early farming in Australia and settlement schemes.

FICTION

Why not read your way through the 2009 Booker prize long list? All available at the PMI Library:

The Children's Book by A.S. Byatt
Summertime by J.M. Coetzee
The Quickening Maze by Adam Foulds
How to Paint a Dead Man by Sarah Hall
The Wilderness by Samantha Harvey
Me Cheeta by James Lever
Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Mysteries:

The ignorance of blood (a Javier Falcon thriller) / Robert Wilson
Curse of the pogo stick (a Dr Siri Paiboun investigation) / Colin Cotterill
Genesis / Karen Slaughter
The strain / Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan
Or she dies / Gregg Hurwitz
In the blood (Carson Ryder series) / J.A. Kerley
Present danger / Stella Rimington

The Glass Room by Simon Mawer
Not Untrue & Not Unkind by Ed O'Loughlin
Heliopolis by James Scudamore
Brooklyn by Colm Toibin
Love and Summer by William Trevor
The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Brighton Cemeterians 2.00pm 15 November - Remembrance Day walk. Members \$8, non-members \$10. *Further information and bookings 9558 4248 or BrightonCemeterians@crct.net*

Brunswick Community History Group 1.30pm Saturday 7 November - Guest speaker: David Demant from Museum Victoria talking about music and multimedia of the past.
1.30pm Saturday 5 December - Book launch: *Hartnett House Brunswick: its founder, its work, its history* by Banda Dagher.
Meetings are held in the Mayor's Room, 1st floor, Brunswick Town Hall. *Enquiries to Francesca on 9387 1194.*

Castlemaine Historical Society 2 November: Dr Heather Holst on immigrants who returned from Australia. *Further information and bookings 5470 6072 or chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com*

Dandenong and District Historical Society 6 December - Book launch: *When the clock strikes: growing up in the rural market town of Dandenong* by Jack Johnson. *Further information and bookings 03 9794 8967 or dandhist@yahoo.com.au*

Footscray Historical Society 18 November - AGM with guest speaker: Dr John Lack on *From Captain Dove to Michael Clarke - 150 years of Local Government in Footscray-Maribyrnong*. *Further information and bookings foothist@bigpond.com*

Geelong Historical Society 4 November: Ruth Plummer on the Royal Geelong Yacht Club 150 years. 3 February: *Sacred Heart College 150 years / Glen Turnbull*. *Further information and bookings 5278 3530 or caracaradoc@bigpond.com*

Kew Historical Society 11 November - Guest speaker: Julia Adams, lawyer from Shiss and Company, on 'Copyright and historical items'. *Further information and bookings 9853 8758*

Kilmore Historical Society 10 November - Talk: Flora Culpin on History of the formation of laws and the legal impact on the local community.

North Melbourne 2.00pm Saturday 7 November - Hotham History Project Walk: The geography of Hotham's horses (horse and carting businesses). \$15 / \$10 *contact Rae Nicholls 98169720 / 0418 389 949*

Nepean Historical Society 8pm, Friday 6 November - Stuart Hughes (Parks Victoria Manager, Pt Nepean National Park) on the role of Parks Victoria at the Quarantine Station and the latest happenings at Pt Nepean. Sorrento Museum, Mechanics' Institute, Melbourne Road, Sorrento.

WANTED! Descendants of 300 families who migrated from the village of Nieder-Weisel in Hessen, Germany to Victoria during the Gold Rush period. You are invited to join with other descendants in the erection of a memorial plaque in the church-yard at Nieder-Weisel. The memorial will comprise a bronze bas-relief plaque made by Victorian Dr Ross Bastiaan AM. Contact Don Hauser (03) 9654 7610 or dlhauser@bigpond.com.

LOOKING FOR THE RECENT ADDITIONS SECTION?



The Recent Additions section is now contained in a separate monthly issue. 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 sent to you please let us know by phone 9510 3393 or by email library@pmi.net.au and we will add you to the mailing list.



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A Wonderful Magic Lantern Show!!! - Nov 18 - details p.1

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WRITING HISTORY: *Featuring Dr Judith Buckrich*

*Also: Christmas Closure details,
International Volunteer Day*

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VOLUNTEERING AT THE PMI: <http://www.pmi.net.au/volunteer.htm>

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