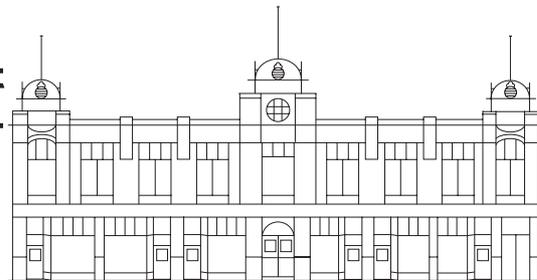


# PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 65 - FEBRUARY 2010



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Open:  
Mon-Fri 9.30am-  
4.30pm  
Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

Membership:  
\$12 individual  
\$10 student/pensioner  
\$30 institutional

Patron:  
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Feedback/suggestions  
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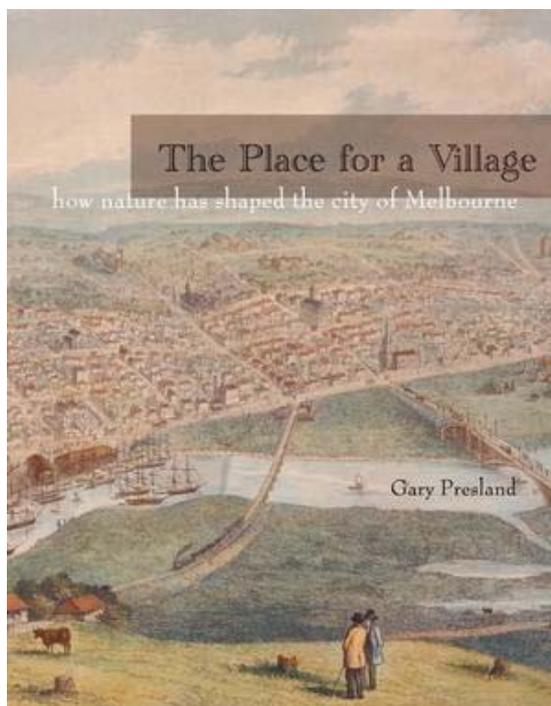
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BRUCE TURNER\* LECTURE:

Gary Presland

## The Place for a Village

How nature has shaped the city of Melbourne



Have you ever wondered why Melbourne is located where it is? Or why it has the shape it does?

*The Place for a Village* 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.

Though many natural features observed by the first settlers are long gone – destroyed or altered beyond recognition – find out how nature continues to exert a powerful influence on the shape and size of Melbourne.

### 7.00pm Wednesday 17 March

All welcome - entry is free - bookings are ESSENTIAL:  
9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

The lecture will be followed by refreshments in the library.

If you belong to a Victorian historical group,  
you are invited to participate in the PMI's inaugural

## SHORT HISTORY PRIZE

See p.4 for details

Coming up - a most unusual display:

## WW2 ART DECO AEROPLANE ASHTRAYS

See p.6 for details



\* See 'March Lecture named for Bruce Turner', p.2

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Oct-Feb:

*[Faint, illegible text listing names and addresses of new members]*

### Financial Donors

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

<i>Leonard Ashburner</i>	<i>Janina Maciulis</i>
<i>Peter Bergin</i>	<i>Ian Matthews</i>
<i>Denis Boundy</i>	<i>Jennifer Matthews</i>
<i>Roger Boyce</i>	<i>Roland McCausland</i>
<i>Clive Brookes</i>	<i>Kristin Otto</i>
<i>Sara Cudlip</i>	<i>Diana Phoenix</i>
<i>Philippe de Gail</i>	<i>Cecile Rees</i>
<i>Geoff Durham</i>	<i>Keith Rogers</i>
<i>Jim Ellwood</i>	<i>Mary Russell</i>
<i>Deirdre Farfor</i>	<i>Richard Snedden</i>
<i>Bruce Joy</i>	<i>Philippa Strang</i>
<i>Alf Lazer</i>	<i>George Swinburne</i>
<i>Jadzia Lemieszek</i>	<i>Maureen Swinburne</i>
<i>Donald Linforth</i>	<i>Adrian Turley</i>
<i>Michael Macgeorge</i>	<i>Frank Van Straten</i>

### Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and organisations who donated books to the library Oct-Feb:

<i>Aboriginal Affairs Victoria</i>	<i>Eric and Gillian Day Dept of Parliamentary Services</i>
<i>Jim Badger</i>	<i>Margaret Dunne</i>
<i>Don Barker</i>	<i>Sally Edwardes</i>
<i>Bayside Libraries</i>	<i>Wilma Farrow</i>
<i>Dandenong &amp; District Historical Society</i>	<i>Ruth Gooch</i>

*Ken James  
City of Latrobe  
Alf Lazer  
Brownyn Lowden  
Jim Lowden  
Margaret McInnes  
Mary McCormick  
Tim McKenna  
Di Nicholas  
Mary-Louise Phillips  
Port Melbourne  
Historical &  
Preservation Society  
Adam Redman  
Rotary Club of  
Laverton Point Cook*

*South Yarra Primary  
School  
St Andrews/  
Queenstown Hist.  
Soc.  
Eric Steele  
Steve Stefanopoulos  
Helen Stitt  
Stonnington Libraries  
George Swinburne  
Adrian Turley  
Andrew Turner  
Frank Van Straten  
Yarra Plenty Regional  
Library  
Ursula Zamecnik*

## GENERAL NEWS

### Library Closures

A reminder that the PMI will be closed on the following public holidays:

Mon 8 Mar - Labour Day  
Fri 2 Apr - Good Friday  
Sat 3 Apr - Easter Saturday  
Mon 5 Apr - Easter Monday  
Mon 26 Apr - Anzac Day holiday

### Staff & Committee

As of February Ursula is working two extra days per week and is now full-time. Christine is working one extra day and is now working four days per week.

### March Lecture Named for Bruce Turner

The PMI's March lecture is from this year to be known as the 'Bruce Turner Lecture', after the former Secretary Librarian and life member of the PMI.

Bruce was the first professionally educated librarian to be employed by the PMI. During his time overseeing the then burgeoning historical collection, he endeavoured to reach out to the public by publishing articles and having speakers come to the PMI to talk about historical topics. Thank you, Bruce.

### Thesis on the PMI

Recently we received a copy of a thesis completed for the University of Melbourne in 2008 by Helen Stitt. The thesis discusses the role of the PMI in the very early community of Prahran.

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

Congratulations to Helen for her work which was very favourably commented on by her supervisor.

## PMI Historic Doors

A set of wooden and glass doors (which graced the entrance to the PMI when it resided at the rear of 140 High Street) has been returned to the PMI.

The doors were, for a number of years, installed in the Swinburne bistro, but were taken down and restored by David Crossley of Swinburne University after having suffered some wear and damage.

The glass windows of the doors have white etched borders and also etched are the words 'Mechanics' Library' in large capitals. The doors will be safely in storage at the PMI for the time being.

## 2009 Shinkfield Awards

Congratulations to the following Grade 6 students at schools in the Stonnington area who received the Alan Shinkfield Award for Excellence. These students met all the school's criteria for excellence, and made a positive contribution to the school and fellow students.

The award consists of a certificate, \$100 cash, a copy of the PMI history *Pioneer and Hardy Survivor* and a voucher for one year's subscription to the PMI.

Armadale Primary School - Luke Cominos  
Malvern Primary School - Jessica Garnham  
South Yarra Primary School - Madeline Lo Terzo  
Stonnington Primary School - James McNally  
Toorak Primary School - Byron Gunn  
Victorian College for the Deaf - Jerome Barbalace

Alf Lazer and Ben Quin represented the PMI in the presentation of these awards.

Additionally, each school was presented with a certificate commemorating the 25th anniversary of the awards, which listed all previous recipients of the award from the school.

## Historic Picture Show

At the annual Historic Picture Show, held in November last year, Peter Wolfenden treated members and guests to a demonstration of a real magic lantern show. Along with a brief history of

the emergence of magic lantern shows, Peter showed us some of his collection of historic glass magic lantern slides, dating from the 1870s.

This was Peter's final presentation. He inaugurated the Historic Picture Show in 2005 as a joint presentation of the PMI and the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society (CATHS). Peter was presented with a certificate of appreciation for all his hard work over the past five years.

We look forward to the next Historic Picture Show in November, to be presented by another member of CATHS.

## RIP Betty Malone

Betty Malone, an institution in Prahran history, passed away in November at the age of 97 years. In 2006 Betty was acknowledged by the Stonnington Citizen of the Year panel for her contribution to local history.

In 2008 she received an OAM for service to the community through the research and documentation of the history of Prahran and surrounding areas.

Betty wrote over a dozen publications about Prahran history (many of which are for sale at the PMI) and was a very hard worker for the Prahran Historical & Arts Society in its early days.

She was a member of PHAS for over 30 years and an honorary Life Member of both PHAS and the PMI.

Along with Laurie McCalman, she was very supportive of a close alliance between PHAS and the PMI, and gave lectures at the PMI library on a number of occasions.

## PMI PRESS UPDATE

Work continues on *Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill: an Isolated Settlement on the Shores of Corner Inlet* and we are aiming for publication in March.

## VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

### Volunteer Stats so far in 2009

So far in 2010 our 21 current volunteers have completed: 18 hours of newsletter

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

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 library staff gradually carry out an audit of the periodicals section.

Since the last newsletter we have three new volunteers on the team, all with library qualifications, which is marvellous. These people are helping with digitisation of the PMI archives, updating our collection holdings on the national *Libraries Australia* database and improving the content of the catalogue. International Volunteer Day 2009

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all who attended our annual International Volunteer Day luncheon on Saturday 5 December.

PMI President Alf Lazer was on hand to distribute certificates of appreciation and to express our gratitude for the amazing contributions by our dedicated and multi-talented team of volunteers in 2009.

One of the most important skills volunteers must have is the ability to juggle – their volunteer time around their busy lives and vice versa, and we do very much appreciate those volunteers who have put in a consistent effort over the past year to help with so many aspects of library operation.



## PRAHARAN MECHANICS' INSITUTE



SHORT  
HISTORY  
PRIZE

In line with the PMI objective to encourage and facilitate historical research, we invite you to participate in our Short History Prize 2010.

### TOPIC:

*A history of a place  
or aspect of a place in Victoria,  
written by a member or members  
of a Victorian historical society  
or similar organisation.*

Entries up to 15,000 words in length, non-fiction and previously unpublished (or only published by the historical group).

## PRIZE \$1000

Being \$500 for the author(s) and \$500 for the associated historical group

Closing date: 4pm Friday  
27 August 2010

For further information and entry forms contact the PMI on 9510 3393 or email [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or visit

[www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize](http://www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize)

To coincide with a special display coming up in April (see p.6) the first 'Writing History' for 2010 Christine talks to librarian and historian ...

## JIM BADGER

Jim Badger believes he was always destined to be a librarian and historian from a very early age. 'I was always fascinated by past ages and then - luckily - I found that if you were no good at sport at school, you got banished to the library.'

One of Jim's specialities is early horse-drawn vehicles, in which he developed a particular interest while working at the State Library of Victoria.

'There were staff there who had such expertise that they could pinpoint a picture to a particular date (often down to a matter of months) by the buildings or the fashion on the street, but could not tell a buggy from a brougham! So much of what is interesting in old photos or prints comes from what was shown driving by on the highways and bye-ways, or so it seemed to me, so I started to look out for books on carriages but without much success as far as Australia was concerned.

'Having noted that it was in fact very difficult to find any published guide to learning the differences between a buggy and a brougham these days, I wrote to Rigby to suggest a book on carriages in Australia and they sent me back a contract, so I then had to start to learn about carriages in earnest!'

The result was *Australian horse-drawn vehicles*, published in 1977 by Rigby as part of a series entitled *Pageant of Australia*.

But this was just the beginning. Some 30 years later, Jim would complete a doctoral thesis entitled *Swank or wheels: how Australians regarded private horse drawn vehicles 1788-1940*. The thesis, completed for the School of History at Latrobe University, earned Jim a Doctor of Philosophy.

In the course of his research, Jim has sometimes drawn inspiration from the paintings of S.T. Gill - portrayal of colonial scenes and carriage travel. Gill's in *Diggers' wedding* was of particular interest to him and

resulted in a *La Trobe Journal* article and a lecture at the PMI in 1999 about the social history issues raised by Gill's work.

'I've always had a soft spot for S.T. Gill, since as a kid I saw one of his lithographs of the discovery of the skeleton of the unlucky digger and thought about how thrillingly gruesome it was! Later on I came to appreciate Gill's lively interest in the world around him and his casual (some might say facile) style which never tempted him to assume "artistic" airs or strive after overly dramatic effects. I came to appreciate his ever-inquisitive, yet always kindly, eye. When I was writing the article about the *Digger's wedding*, I got to see some of his original artwork preserved in the gold rush portfolio that the State Library - commissioned from Gill just before he died. The freshness of the colours after all these years is truly breathtaking.'

Turning our attention to his fabulous collection, Jim says 'As a child growing up in Melbourne in the early 1950s, I was fascinated by the chrome-plated aeroplane ashtrays I spied in the lounge rooms of family friends and neighbours. What more powerful boy-magnet could there be than these alluring models with their spinning propellers and ability to turn and bank on their stands! How I longed to play with one.

'After years of childhood yearning, I finally acquired an aeroplane ashtray of my own about 20 years ago and now my collection numbers 40 or so, concentrating on the less common models or those examples where there is some link to the original owner, such as an inscription, maker's name or a date.'

During World War 2, aircraft photographs, identification charts and models appeared

(CONT. P 6)



(FROM P.5)

everywhere. 'In 1942, the volunteer Air Observer Corps recruited 8,000 civilians to staff 2,639 observation posts around the coast and 150 miles inland to provide early warning of air raids. Spotters were trained to accurately distinguish between astonishingly large numbers of aircraft so as not to raise false alarms.' Models and posters of aircraft hung in local halls all over the country.

'As a by-product of the new spirit of air-mindedness, a local industry of aeroplane ashtray manufacture got underway. In the days before plastic kits, the only way to build a model aeroplane was to construct it from scratch. Pre-cut kits were available, but they were expensive. Fortunately, it was the golden age of the DIY hobbyist - people found a creative outlet by crafting useful or ornamental objects from all materials found around the house, using simple tools such as pen knife, fretsaw, hammer and nails and pliers.

'It was a favourite pastime of sky watchers to carve and whittle models while on duty and their best efforts were used as training aids. Other models were mass-produced to supply the RAAF with subjects for observer training.

'Once a wooden model was finished to its maker's satisfaction, the next job was to cast it. It helped if you or your mates worked in a factory.' Models would be cast, finished, plated and assembled as 'under the lap' jobs. These DIY models were small - easy to smuggle in and out of the factory, and able to be completed around the inevitable production line delays and lack of supervision.

'Many aeroplane ashtrays have clearly been cast using the very best materials that could be sourced (stolen) from the production line ... if you had mates in the Planting Shop, you could get your model chromium plated.'

Completing a model could also involve grinding, drilling, filing, adding moving parts and engraving.

'Throughout the war, Australian industry and hobbyists turned out hundreds of cast aeroplane ashtrays, on a scale unmatched anywhere in the world,' says Jim. Come and see an extraordinary piece of Australia's history at the PMI in April.

A most unusual display ...

## WW2 ART DECO AEROPLANE ASHTRAYS

A selection of items  
from the collection of  
Jim Badger



*Between the late 1930s  
and the early 1950s  
many Australian households  
gave pride of place to  
at least one such ashtray.  
Not only did their stylised  
appearance and shiny finish  
add a touch of modernity to  
contemporary decor,  
but the choice of subject matter  
touched emotions lodged deep  
in the hearts of our grandparents.*

Showing at the PMI  
Mon 19 Apr - Sat 1 May

## TARNAGULLA NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM

Due to a generous financial donation from member George Swinburne, we were able to purchase from the State Library of Victoria, microfilm copies of the following newspapers:

***Tarnagulla courier 1864-1918***

***Loddon Valley courier and farmer's advocate 1919-1920***

These microfilm are available for research in the library and should very useful for people researching Tarnagulla and surrounding areas. Places covered include: Newbridge, Eddington, Moliagul, Laanecoorie, Mandurang, Avoca and Loddon districts.

## FICTION

NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

### **Explore the Yarra / Ron Amor**

The Yarra River continues to play a central role in the development and character of Melbourne and its environs. This long-overdue book takes the explorer on a voyage from distant snow fields through virgin forests, rural land, suburbia, industrial developments, the city, the port and finally the sea. Along the way it highlights some of the Yarra's key events, places and characters.

### **Possession: Batman's treaty and the matter of history / Bain Attwood with Helen Doyle**

This book tells the fascinating story of the only treaties ever made in Australia. It contemplates why these agreements were forged, how the aboriginal people understood their terms, why government repudiated them, and how settlers claimed to be the rightful owners of the land. Bain Attwood also reveals the ways in which the settler society has endeavoured to make good its act of possession – by repeatedly creating histories that have recalled or repressed the memory of Batman, the treaties and the aborigine's destruction and dispossession – and charts how aboriginal people have unsettled this matter of history through their remembering.

### **Capital: Melbourne when it was the capital city of Australia 1901-27 / Kristin Otto**

PMI member Kristin Otto's new book chronicles an interesting period in Melbourne's history. In 1901 Melbourne was a small city. Yet, as the world hurtled into a new era in the extraordinary first quarter of the twentieth century, this overgrown village oversaw the birth of modern Australia. Who made it happen? People like Helena Rubinstein, front-runner in the invention of the cosmetics industry; the Tait brothers, producers of the world's first feature film; confectionary king Mac Robertson, pioneer of the art of packaging; John Monash, man of steel, hero of concrete. And Melba herself, the original diva: Australia's first international superstar. In Capital, Kristin Otto illuminates the small-town web of influence, friendship and sheer coincidence that held it all together. For anyone who knows Melbourne, Capital will be a fascinating conversation with an old friend. For others, it will be a compelling introduction to a new one.

### **Inferno: the day Victoria burned / Roger Franklin**

On February 7, 2009, 173 Victorians died in the worst bushfire disaster in Australian history. On Black Saturday, as the day became known, families were torn apart, countless homes and buildings reduced to rubble, 430,000 hectares torched, communities crushed and entire towns destroyed in an unstoppable sea of flames. Written by veteran journalist Roger Franklin, Inferno is a classic blend of action, heartbreak, survival, love and community. The narrative brings to life individual tales of horror and heroism, recounts the devastation of Kinglake, Marysville and other besieged Victorian towns, and salutes the generosity and unyielding spirit of humanity on the state's darkest day. There were failings too, on a day of unprecedented tragedy. Communication breakdowns, inadequate warning systems, bush left unburnt for years and lack of leadership were all factors when Victoria boiled.

### **Burn: the epic story of bushfire in Australia, with an introduction on the Black Saturday fires / Paul Collins**

With the start of every bushfire season and the first threatening hints of burning eucalypt in the air, we are reminded, no matter where we live, that bushfire is an inescapable reality in this country. In Burn Paul Collins tells the epic story of bushfire in Australia, drawing on accounts of the most devastating conflagrations in Australia's European history – from the 1851 Black Thursday fire (which burnt out one quarter of Victoria) to the 1939 Black Friday fires (which took many lives and destroyed thousands of hectares in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania), the Canberra inferno of 2003, and the Black Saturday fires of 2009. Frightening, compelling, vivid, and provocative, Burn reveals stories of heroism, stupidity, political incompetence and environmental vandalism. This is the grand narrative of bushfire in Australia, the most fire-prone land on Earth.

### **Penshurst portraits: a brief history of the Penshurst district / Mount Rouse & District Hist. Soc.**

Penshurst, named after a picturesque Kentish village, is far removed from the thatched cottages and rose

gardens of old England. Here, in the Western District of Victoria, it is nestled peacefully under a dormant volcano, Mount Rouse. Peshurst rose from a century and a half of achievement through hard work and struggle, alongside the inevitable bloodshed and violence in the conquest of its ancient people.

This small township in the midst of the fertile plains of the land Major Mitchell once called Australia Felix, is unique on two accounts. It was the home of Victoria's first, and only, built Aboriginal Protectorate and, upon its inevitable failure, saw Australia's first utopian (Moravian style) Commune erected on its outskirts.

A small piece of Victoria, but nonetheless an enthralling one as readers will discover in this long-awaited volume.

### **William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College / Ursula M. De Jong**

This book is the story of William Wilkinson Wardell's 1889 design for the convent and school, Kew, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, now known as Genazzano FCJ College. It looks at the FCJ Sisters' vision for their new foundation at Kew in the boom years of Marvellous Melbourne; and at the architect's proposal through one beautiful surviving perspective drawing. This architectural history documents the building's conception, construction, payment and inhabitation. It takes the reader on a journey of discovery, leading to an understanding and appreciation of the significance of Wardell's nineteenth century building.

### **Loreto in Australia / Mary Ryllis Clark**

When a small group of Irish nuns arrived in Ballarat in 1875, with their charismatic leader Mother Gonzaga Barry, who could have imagined the influence they would have on Catholic education in Australia? The women were members of the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Loreto Institute. The original founder, courageous Yorkshire woman Mary Ward, in 1609 embarked on her life's work: to establish active religious communities of women unencumbered by the constraints of monastic enclosure and traditional church thinking. Ward was eventually imprisoned for heresy and her work suppressed, but her institute survived. In Australia, Loreto nuns have not only founded their own schools, but have run parish schools on a shoestring, worked in indigenous and other disadvantaged communities, taught in universities and held prominent positions in public life. Loreto in Australia is the fascinating story of women of great strength and charm and deep spirituality living lives that fulfil Mary Ward's prediction that 'women in time to come will do great matters'.

### **Side by side: a season with Collingwood / Peter Ryan**

The AFL game is the most scrutinised sport in Australia. Accredited media outnumber those covering federal parliament many times over. But for all that coverage, the truth of what makes an AFL club has, until now, been understood only by players and coaching staff. Peter Ryan spent the 2009 season with Collingwood, Australia's most famous sporting club, not just as an occasional observer, but one who spent every day inside the club. His narrative describes the club in such a way and with such revelations that even Magpies president Eddie McGuire was left surprised. Ryan was able to access places even the president has not been.

### **A place to remember: a history of the Shrine of Remembrance / Bruce Scates**

On 11th November 1934, over 300,000 people gathered on the slopes of Melbourne's Domain to witness the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance. It was the largest state war memorial Australia would build and it commemorated the sacrifice of no fewer than 114,000 Victorians who served in the Great War. *A place to remember* charts the Shrine's history from the first fatalities of the Gallipoli landing to the present day. With deft hand and luminous style, Bruce Scates masterfully situates the Shrine in its larger physical, cultural and historical landscapes. Archival image and first-person vignette mesh with vivid prose to reveal the Shrine, then and now; its changing patterns of meaning through the many conflicts in which Australians have fought and died, and the enduring significance of this grand memorial in the heart of Melbourne, for generations to come.

### **A school of our own: Macclesfield Primary School 3620: a centenary history 1909-2009 / Margaret McInnes**

Macclesfield Primary School opened on the 3rd May 1909, in the mechanics' institute hall on the corner of Tschampions and Macclesfield Roads, where the Head Teacher, Miss Jean Walker had charge of six children... All that remains of the first school in the mechanics' institute between 1909 and 1929, is a patch of green grass and a lovely old tree, a reminder that the hall was burnt and destroyed by a vandal in 1997... This history traces a century of change: from slates to computers, class chanting to self-learning and pony paddocks to car parks. The school community has changed with the population and the impact of technology and modernisation. From the toil of farm labour to a commuter lifestyle and hobby farms, the population has diversified and Macclesfield has become a suburb of the Dandenong Ranges. Parallel with these social changes has been the determination of the community to preserve the special qualities of the school and its surrounds.

### **From horse shoes to high heels: Ringwood Shopping Centre and Eastland 1858-2008 / Richard Carter**

The suburb of Ringwood is located about 25 kilometres east of Melbourne's central business district. The main retail precinct in Ringwood centres around the Eastland Shopping Centre which fronts Maroondah

Highway (in previous years referred to as White Horse Road or simply Main Street) between Ringwood Street and Warrandyte Road. It is complemented by the remnants of an older style shopping precinct on Maroondah Highway. This book sets out to trace the history of the precinct from its earliest Crown sale in 1858, through the establishment of the township of Ringwood from about the 1880s, through its evolution over the following century, and to the establishment and growth of Eastland. The final pages focus on plans for the next stage of development of this precinct.

**Of full steam and taut hawsers: the tugs of Williamstown / Geoff Dougall 2009**

Throughout the history of Victoria, shipping and Williamstown have been synonymous. Fundamental to this history have been the tugs of Williamstown. Since 1840 over 110 tugs have guided ships into the docks of Melbourne. This book celebrates the unique stories of these tugs over 170 years, describing the challenges, courage and extraordinary efforts of man and machine as these tugs applied full steam with taut hawsers. From the smoke belching monsters of a bygone era to the powerful diesel tugs of today, they all contributed to the prosperity of Melbourne and the small village of Williamstown which was for so long their home.

**Practical observations upon the education of the people / Henry Brougham 2009**

Lord Brougham's *Practical observations* was published at a pivotal time in British history. Continental powers were in disarray and that unrest was spreading to Britain. The idea of any general education movement was widely regarded as foolhardy. However, Brougham correctly read the mood of the times and marshalled the middle employer class to provide an opportunity for their workers to gain an education and more importantly to improve their skills.

**The Belfast fantasy: James Atkinson in the Antipodes 1843-1887 / Marten A. Syme 2009**

In 1843, James Atkinson purchased a Special Survey of eight square miles of Port Fairy to establish a town (Belfast) by leasing or selling lots. The undertaking was ambitious, and after rapid growth, the town's growth faltered. Atkinson's exceptional fantasy for the recreation of an Irish estate in the Antipodes is reassessed. William Earle's ground breaking town history of 1896 argued that the decline was entirely due to Atkinson's land ownership. Critical evaluation of historical sources and contemporary comment justifies the contention that 'Earle got it wrong'. The detailed and referenced story also documents the town's steady physical development and the lost and surviving heritage buildings of this Victorian coastal village. The apparently vanished history of the town's heritage structures is reconstructed by drawing on sources assembled by the author for *Seeds of a settlement* and *A vernacular cottage collection*, supplemented by maps, legal documents and diverse records.

**Once a country practice: a history of the law firm of Macpherson and Kelley / Nick Walker 2009**

In 1905 Jeffrey Macpherson founded today's law firm of Macpherson and Kelley in the Victorian market town of Dandenong. He did so on his admission to legal practice, using the Royal Hotel as his place of business. He was well-known in town as the son of the town's first state school headmaster and as a scholar who had excelled in English Literature at the University of Melbourne and had taught for some years at Melbourne Grammar School. In 1915 Jeffrey Macpherson took Charles Kelley as a partner in his practice, and together they securely established a high street law firm that half a century later, after the Second World War, was to be transformed into a large, modern firm, as the town of Dandenong was transformed into an industrial city. Charles Kelley and his partners led in this development and were followed by others who were just as enterprising as the firm's founders. A century after its modest beginning, Macpherson and Kelley is one of the biggest Victorian law firms outside the city of Melbourne. Once a country practice, it serves large commercial clients and has substantial financial interests, and now has strong city branches in Melbourne and Sydney, while its heart remains in the community of Dandenong – as Jeffrey Macpherson and Charles Kelley would have wished.

**Droughts, floods and cyclones: El Niños that shaped our colonial past / Don Garden 2009**

Loss of human life, destruction of crops and pastures, millions of dead animals, economic retardation and denuded landscapes – all these are associated with El Nino events in the early twenty-first century. They are part of our life. What is not so widely recognised is that, while the situation is becoming worse, El Nino events were present throughout the histories of colonial societies in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, and had serious and similar impacts.

*Droughts, floods and cyclones* is the most comprehensive study of this phenomenon, examining the impact of a series of El Nino events in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and French Polynesia in the second half of the nineteenth century.

**Miss D and Miss N, an extraordinary partnership: the diary of Anne Drysdale / edited by Bev Roberts 2009**

In 1839 Miss Anne Drysdale sailed from Scotland to Port Phillip. She was 47 years old, had a small inheritance, and was determined to be a sheep farmer. Soon after arriving in Melbourne, she took up land near Geelong and formed a partnership with another enterprising woman, Caroline Newcomb. They established a successful pastoral business, and for thirteen years lived and worked together on their properties, Boronggoop on the River Barwon and Coriyule on the Bellarine Peninsula. The daily lives of these remarkable women were

# BOOKS ETCETERA

recorded in Anne's diary; four of its five volumes have survived, providing a rare, detailed account of domestic and farming life in the 1840s. Substantial extracts from the diary are published for the first time in this book, telling the story of two extraordinary Victorian pioneers.

**Cyril Hopkins' Marcus Clarke / edited from the manuscript in the Mitchell Library by Laurie Hergenhan, Ken Stewart and Michael Wilding 2009**

This biography of Marcus Clarke was written a century ago by Cyril Hopkins, brother of Gerard Manley Hopkins, both close friends of Clarke, and is published now for the first time. Drawing on memories of their schooldays together in Highgate and Clarke's letters from Australia, Hopkins gives a fascinating picture of the mercurial immigrant's ups and downs, as he moves from banking to jackarooing before emerging as a controversial journalist in Melbourne's cafe society. Clarke's career as theatre critic, Bohemian bon viveur, librarian and author of the classic novel *His natural life* is vividly and movingly captured, along with the bustling and variegated character of a colonial city, the outback mining towns and the remote unexplored bush.

**In due season: Australian literary studies: a personal memoir / Harry Heseltine 2009**

Harry Heseltine was one of the first generation of scholars to establish Australian literary studies as a major discipline in the Arts faculties of this country's universities. *In due season* tells the story of his personal contribution to the development of the subject over something like half a century. This account of a long and distinguished career gives a special insight into the varying fortunes of the discipline he helped to establish, along with recollections of some of the major personalities involved. *In due season* also reprints some of his most important writings: milestones in a career which helped to shape our understanding of Australia's literary culture. They were right for their time, just as the book is right for this. All are truly words spoken in due season.

**Balanced growth: a history of the Department of Economics, Uni. of Melbourne / ed. by Ross Williams 2009**

Economics became a major discipline in the University of Melbourne following the establishment of the faculty of commerce in 1925 and the appointment of Douglas Copland as founding dean. As political economy, however, the subject had been taught in the faculty of arts from the university's foundation. This book provides a history of the activities of the department of economics: its staff and students, curriculum, contributions to economic theory and policy, governance and funding. The narrative is set in the context of the world outside the department, of higher education policy in Australia and the state of the economy.

## FICTION

**General Fiction:**

Lustrum / Robert Harris  
Turbulence / Giles Foden  
Maralinga / Judy Nunn

**Mysteries:**

The girl who kicked the hornets' nest / Stieg Larsson  
The lost symbol / Dan Brown  
The Complaints / Ian Rankin  
The silent hour (Lincoln Perry series) / Michael Koryta  
The death of a Mafia Don / Michele Giuttari  
Hypothermia / Arnaldur Indridason  
The monster in the box [Chief Inspector Wexford series] / Ruth Rendell  
U is for undertow / Sue Grafton  
Nine dragons (Detective Harry Bosch series) / Michael Connelly

## **RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE PMI LIBRARY:**

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# HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Box Hill Historical Society Thursday 18 March - Guest speaker: Keith La Galle on 'Growing up in Blackburn'. *Further information and bookings 9285 4808 or boxhillhistory@gmail.com*

Cinema & Theatre Historical Society Saturday 20 March - Matinee at the drive-in: a visit to the Luna Drive-in, Dandenong. *Further information and bookings Les Auld, 36 Alfred Street, Seddon 3011*

Essendon Historical Society Tuesday 23 March - Guest speaker: Berris Hoddle Colville, (great-grand-daughter of Robert Hoddle, surveyor) on early surveying. *Further information and bookings 9370 4607*

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery 2pm, Sunday 14 March - Tour led by Kay Rowan 'Funerary Symbols and Cemetery History'. 2pm, Sunday 11 April - Tour led by Glen Turnbull 'The Boer War'. Meet at main entrance gates on Dandenong Road, East St Kilda (Melway 58 F9). Admission \$10, (under 18s and members of FOSKC free). *Bookings are essential 9531 6832.*

Greensborough Historical Society - Do we need one and are you interested? If so, you are most welcome to discuss this further at a public meeting at 2.30pm on 19 March at Diamond Valley Learning Centre (cnr Diamond Creek & St Helena Roads) Greensborough. *Contact Noel Withers on 9345 4513 or noelcw@bigpond.net.au for further information.*

Hotham History Project [North Melb.] Saturday 20 March - Historic walk: The churches of North and West Melbourne. Saturday 22 May - Historic walk: The Gidneys, horse traders of North Melbourne. *Further information and bookings 9658 9700.*

Kew Historical Society Thursday 18 March - Guest speaker: Ann Holmes on Boroondara Libraries. Sunday 11 April - Tour of Holy Trinity Church to be conducted by Reverend Roy Stanley. *Further information and bookings 9429 6693 or jvimpani@ozemail.com.au*

Malvern Historical Society Sunday 14 March - Malvern East walk: Ardrie and Repton Estates. *Further information and bookings contact Lorraine on 9885 9082*

Richmond & Burnley Historical Society Sunday 28 March - Historical walk: Richmond train crash. *Further information and bookings contact Daryl McMahon on 9428 7686 or tyersmac@bigpond.net.au*

## Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Tuesday 9 March - Guest speaker: Susan Priestly on George Higinbotham and his family. Saturday 20 March - Workshop: How to conduct a walking tour. Tuesday 13 April - Guest speaker: Bev Roberts on Misses Drysdale and Newcombe. Thursday 22 April - Guest speaker: Jenny Davies on 'Beyond the façade: Flinders Street, more than just a railway station'. *Further information and bookings contact 9326 9288 office@historyvictoria.org.au.net.au*

Womens History Month Seminar: 'Women on the Land' Thursday 2pm 11 March at the Public Record Office Victoria, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne. Dr Nikki Henningham, Executive Officer of the Australian Women's Register (AWR) and Dr Janet Butler, La Trobe University, will discuss their recent research into the lives of rural women in the 1980s and 1990s. Dr Charles Fahey, La Trobe University will address the theme of women and agriculture in Victorian history, and PROV will discuss their new publication A guide to finding Crown land records - Lands Guide. Free entry. *Further information and bookings call 9348 5600.*

## INSIDE:

**WRITING HISTORY:** Featuring Dr Jim Badger  
*April Display: WW2 ART DECO AIRPLANE ASSEMBLERS*  
*details p.6*

**THE PMI'S SHORT HISTORY PRIZE**  
*details p.4*  
**BRUCE TURNER LECTURE:**  
*Gary Presland on 'The Place for a Village'*  
*- 17 March - details p.1*

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