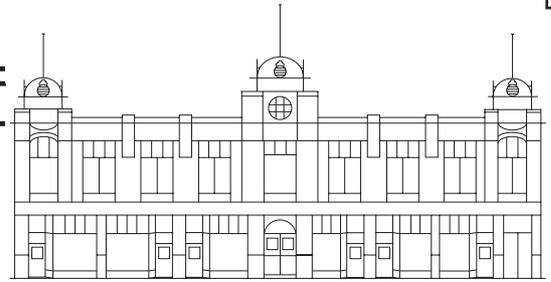


PSYCHIC MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 66 - MAY 2010



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AGM Insert

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
may be directed to
writer/compiler
Christine Worthington

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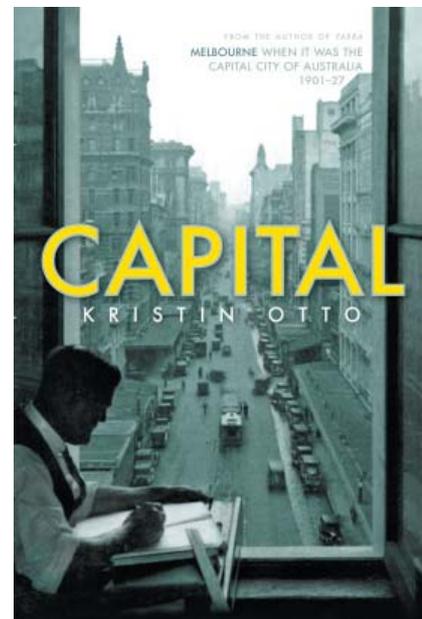
LAURIE McCALMAN LECTURE:

Kristin Otto

CAPITAL

Melbourne when it was the
capital city of Australia 1901-1927

In 1901 the Australian colonies came together to form a new nation which, for the next twenty-six years, was governed from Melbourne. It was a small city, a place where people knew each other, where small changes loomed large and the import of big changes could scarcely be imagined. Yet in the extraordinary first quarter of the twentieth century, as the world lurched headlong into a new era, this overgrown town, in all but name the nation's capital, oversaw the birth of modern Australia.



7.00pm Wednesday 26 May

at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian History Library

All welcome - entry is free - bookings are ESSENTIAL:
9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

The lecture will be followed by refreshments in the library.

The Annual Laurie McCalman lecture is a joint presentation of
the PMI and the Prahran Historical & Arts Society.

All members are invited to attend the PMI's

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.00pm, Wednesday 19 May at the PMI
See p.2 and your enclosed Notice for details ...

AROUND THE LIBRARY

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Members

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

Cathy ...
Dora ...
...
Peter ...
Robert ...

Financial Donors

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

Rae Anthony	Verene Lawrence
Itiel Bereson	Geoffrey Paterson
Cinema & Theatre	Murray Smith
Historical Society	
Joan Esam	

Book Donors

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

Linda Aspinall	Sts Peter and Paul
Jim Badger	Parish, South
Lorraine Bates	Melbourne
Jenni Casinader	Erika Torri,
Keith Dunstan	Athenaeum Music
Helen Gobbi	and Arts Library, La
David Hayter	Jolla, California
Robyn Holmes	Uniting Church
Anthony Knight	Historical Society
Tim Murray	Christine Worthington
St Michael's Grammar	Yarra Plenty Regional
School	Library
	Ursula Zamecnik

GENERAL NEWS

Library Closures

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

Mon 14 Jun - Queen's Birthday

Annual General Meeting

Enclosed with this newsletter is your Notice of Annual General Meeting, to be held at the library at 6.00pm on **Wednesday 19 May**.

Please RSVP your attendance at the AGM (9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au) by 4.30pm on **Monday 17 May** so we can ensure sufficient seating is available.

Committee nomination forms are available

from the library and nominations are to be submitted to the Secretary by 4.30pm on Wednesday 12 May.

140 High Street

Legislation to permit the sale of the 140 High Street building is progressing through the Victorian Parliament. PMI members are reminded that if you have any suggestions for the way forward for the PMI, or would like to participate in the process of planning the future of the library, please contact the Secretary. All suggestions and comments about the future role and needs of the library are most welcome.

Staff & Committee

Christine took two weeks leave in March after the sudden death of her mother - thank you to staff and volunteers for your patience and flexibility during this time.

RIP Oscar Slater

We were sad to hear of the passing of PMI member Leonard 'Oscar' Slater. Oscar died peacefully in his sleep on 11 April.

Oscar joined the PMI library in 1984 as a member of the Prahran Historical & Arts Society and was the author of *Walking Melbourne's Domain Parklands* and *Walking tour of South Yarra West* and he co-authored *Walking tour of South Yarra Central* with Betty Malone.

Group Visits

The Professional Historians Association and the Narre Warren Historical Society will each visit the PMI in June. If your historical group would like to visit the PMI for a talk, tour and afternoon tea please contact Christine on 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

Turner Lecture

Thanks very much to Gary Presland, who conducted this year's lecture on his 2009 Victorian Community History Award-winning *The Place for a Village: How Nature has Shaped the City of Melbourne*. This most interesting lecture was much appreciated by the full house in attendance.

WW2 Art Deco Ashtrays Display

Thank you very much to Jim Badger, who kindly allowed us to display a portion of his amazing collection of art deco ashtrays in the library. The display ran for two weeks and coincided with Anzac Day.

We are also very grateful to Jim for putting together the secure glass cabinets purchased by the PMI for housing this and future displays.

New Display Cabinets

Speaking of the new display cabinets ... if you or your historical group are interested in



Above: Gary Presland delivering the Turner Lecture on 17 March.



Above & below: WW2 Art Deco aeroplane ashtrays from the collection of Jim Badger on display at the PMI in April.



having the PMI host a small historical display using our new display cases and notice board please contact the library on 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au.

PMI PRESS UPDATE

The next PMI Press publication *Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill: An Isolated Settlement on the Shores of Corner Inlet* is close to publication and an interview with the author Gwen Truscott, appears in the 'Writing History' segment of this newsletter. Details of the book and how it can be acquired will appear in the next issue of the PMI newsletter and on the PMI Press website.

VOLUNTEERS' VIEWS

2010 Volunteer Stats

So far in 2010 PMI volunteers have completed 213 hours of work in the library (various tasks including book care, archive scanning and catalogue work), two book indexes (with several in progress) and delivery of 150 PMI pamphlets in the local area.

The book care volunteers have begun the process of inserting security tape in the collection and all new items added to the library. This is an enormous task that couldn't be done without such competent and dedicated volunteers.

Other volunteer achievements so far this year include:

- correspondence files 1998-2009 in the PMI archive have been scanned
- archive files from 1854 are being prepared for scanning
- many holdings of the PMI added to the Libraries Australia database, with identification of items held by the PMI that are currently not listed on that database
- updates to PMI catalogue including addition of many 13 digit ISBNs.

All of these tasks make an enormous difference to the library - they actually contribute to the long-term viability of the library and the staff and committee are most grateful.

National Volunteer Week 2010

The theme of National Volunteer Week 10-16 May is '*Volunteering: Now More Than Ever*'.

If you have ever thought about volunteering at the PMI - now is the time, as the PMI prepares for the next big phase of its history.

There is much to be done and a range of tasks to accommodate a variety of skills and talents.

With the next PMI Press publication shortly due for release, Christine talks to the author ...

GWEN TRUSCOTT

'Before Thomas Sheppard created the township of Toora in South Gippsland, Victoria, Australia in the 1880s, nearby to the west a settlement had already been born, flourished and declined, along with the local timber industry that had created and sustained it.'

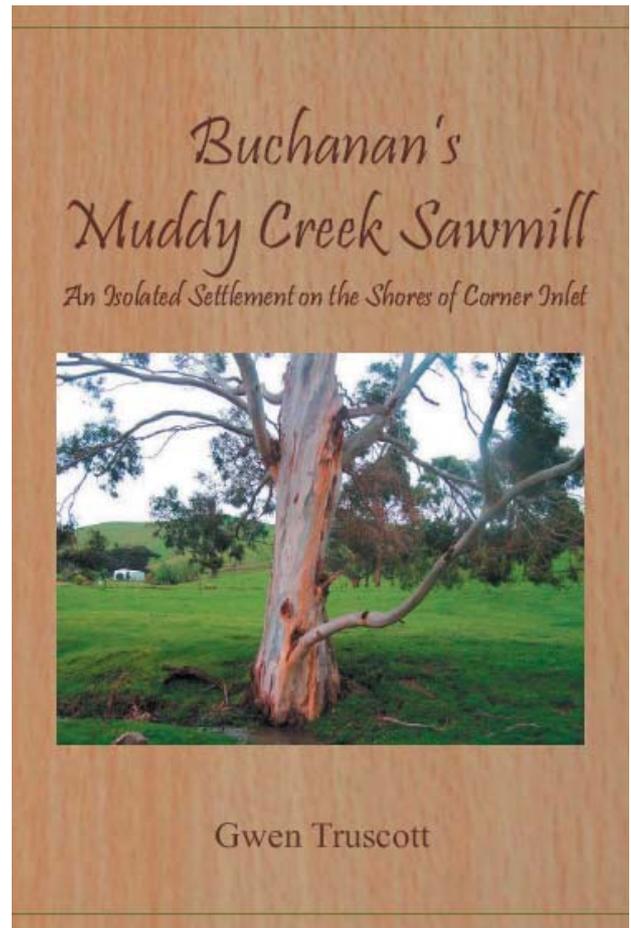
How did you first become interested in researching and writing the history of the Muddy Creek sawmill area?

I became interested in the area because of the close proximity of the former mill site to the farm where I have lived since my marriage nearly 60 years ago. Our farm is hilly and as my husband, Edgar and I worked the land, my eyes often surveyed the beautiful scene across Toora to the blue waters of Corner Inlet and the Wilsons Promontory mountains beyond.

Over the years details given by different authors of the names of those who died at Muddy Creek did not match up, and I thought something should be done about this anomaly. As I mention in the Preface to the book, it was when I became a founding member of the Toora & District Family History Group that I had the opportunity to start researching local history. The three deaths I found that were registered to have occurred at Buchanan's sawmill had not been mentioned before in local histories.

Did you go about your research with publication in mind, or did you think about publication later?

I was always hopeful of having the work published as I feel for the workers of that period, and for their wives and children who accompanied the menfolk seeking work in very isolated communities. The outline of my story had been written for years but it wasn't until I had a phone conversation with Librarian, Tim, at PMI who thanked me for the copy of the book, *Five Schools in the Toora District* which I had written jointly



Gwen Truscott

with my friend Coleen Bower, that I thought publication was possible.

Did your experience as a co-author of the Toora schools book give you much in the way of confidence for taking on another project?

I studied history at school. My parents valued education and gave me the opportunity to attend Upwey High School during the War years. It was there that I passed well in the subject of history for my Leaving Certificate. The system in those days was to sit for a three hour examination in December for each Leaving Certificate subject, under the auspices of the University of Melbourne.

I learned a lot from my co-author, Coleen Bower when we were researching the history of the early schools in the Toora district which was of special interest as Coleen's grandmother and my mother attended schools in the area, and this certainly gave me the confidence to take up another project. My husband and our four

(CONT. P 6)

(FROM P.5)

daughters have supported me when I asked them for advice. Our son, Rob, has seen to computer difficulties.

What was it about the Muddy Creek sawmill settlement that captured your imagination and make you believe it needed to be preserved in print?

I am hoping that quotes from newspapers (eg *Toora and Welshpool Pioneer*, 8 December 1893), 'Many a cosy home was there surrounded by luxurious gardens' will stimulate the imagination of readers. I can imagine hollyhocks growing tall beside walls or the brick chimneys, and the vegetable garden filled with high maize plants and pumpkin vines growing over the potato and swede turnip plots. I have been told just lately that a fowl run went down the bank of the Muddy Creek from the Buchanan/Handbury home. The *Pioneer* article also mentions 80 heaps of bricks that were found after the huts were demolished, indicating there were two chimneys to every hut, quite a comfortable set up one would think.

Are you researching anything else at the moment – can you see another publishing project down the track?

My third story *From St Dennis to Euronga* has been written in the rough for a long while. As it starts with the birth of William Truscott in 1955 at St Dennis in Cornwall, it is not all Victorian history as I wanted to write about what I had found of the Truscott history in Cornwall. William died on the Truscott property 'Euronga' at Toora in 1920.

The three books, *Five Schools in the Toora District*, *Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill* and my Truscott story, *From St Dennis to Euronga* all have links to each other through the Truscott, Ferres names and of the district of Toora.

I wish to thank the Prahran Mechanics' Institute personnel for choosing to print my story. I would like to extend special thanks to the Administrator of PMI Press, Christine Worthington, for the professional manner in which she has presented my book for printing.

Full details of this publication will be available soon on the PMI Press website www.pmi.net.au/press.htm and in the next PMI newsletter.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE



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 or visit

www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize

FICTION-FICTION

NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

The centenarians, life's quiet sunset: a genealogical record of those who reached the grand old age and lie buried at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria / Travis M. Sellers 2010

This is the first book in the *Remembering them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Society's fascination with centenarians is enduring and for many of the 28 centenarians, to reach the grand old age of 100 was not without heartbreak. They all lived unique and interesting lives through era-defining epochs during a remarkable period of world, national and local history spanning from 1806 to 2005. For these hale and hearty centenarians, their longevity is worth remembering...

Bottersnikes and other lost things: a celebration of Australian illustrated children's books / Juliet O'Connor 2009

Lazy Bottersnikes in outback rubbish tips, Sir Pronoun's dilemma about standing in Miss Noun's place and the story of how Jack built a house, a hut or a shack are all to be found in this treasury of Australian children's illustrated books. Exploring everything from school days to fantasy worlds, from its nineteenth century beginnings to the twenty-first century, this compilation is remarkable for its breadth of coverage, encouraging new ways of seeing the Australian child's literary history.

The book is beautifully illustrated and includes works from some of Australia's best known and loved writers and illustrators: Mem Fox and Patricia Mullins, Bob Graham, Libby Hathorn and Gregory Rogers, Gary Crew and Shaun Tan, Pamela Allen and old favourites such as May Gibbs and Ida Rentoul Outhwaite. This book illuminates the icons and the lesser known components of Australian children's literature in a wonderful collection for those passionate about children's books.

Malcolm Fraser: the political memoirs / Malcolm Fraser and Margaret Simons 2010

Written in collaboration with journalist Margaret Simons, Malcolm Fraser's political memoirs trace the story of a shy boy who was raised to be seen and not heard, yet grew to become one of the most persistent, insistent and controversial political voices of our times.

The book offers insight into Malcolm Fraser's substantial achievements. He was the first Australian politician to describe Australia's future as multicultural, and his federal government was the first to pass Aboriginal Land Rights and Freedom of Information legislation, also establishing the Human Rights Commission.

After his parliamentary career, Fraser continued to be an important player in public life, playing a key role in persuading the USA Congress to impose sanctions on South Africa as part of the battle against apartheid. He was also the founding chairman of CARE Australia, one of our largest aid agencies.

A future in flames / Danielle Clode 2010

What is it about Australia that makes it so prone to fires? Have humans made things worse, or better? Is it possible to live in the Australian bush but be safe from fire?

No other continent on earth is as susceptible to bushfires, over such a large area, as Australia. Fires are a constant and ongoing part of our history, ecology and culture. Yet despite repeated disasters, across all states throughout the last two centuries, we seem to be no better at surviving bushfires today than we were when fires burnt through the first European settlements.

The book is a personal journey of discovery that looks at what we have learnt from the lessons of the past and attempts to understand why, after so many years, people are still dying in bushfires.

Coming soon... to a beach near you! / Roger and Barbara Seccombe 2009

Roger Seccombe has spent almost his entire working life involved in one way or another with the movies... producing them, directing them, photographing them, writing about them and projecting them!

But one aspect about the cinema continues to fascinate him: not so much *what* films we saw but *where and how* we saw them. Roger believes the movie-viewing experience can profoundly affect our appreciation of a film.

Dim lights, old velvet curtains, the wind in the trees outside and the distant sounds of the ocean. The old beach resort cinemas so often had everything needed for a night of magic!

The enterprising life of Dr Henry Backhaus: Bendigo pioneer / M.J. Nolan 2008

The discovery of gold in Victoria in the early 1850s led to an influx of people from all over the world.

Among the diverse range of characters arriving on the Bendigo goldfield was a Catholic priest, Dr Henry Backhaus. Very soon, he demonstrated by his wide-ranging interests that he was vastly different from the typical clergyman of his time.

This account of the life of Dr Backhaus considers his German family background, his education in Rome, missionary experience in India and his time in Australia, of which nearly thirty years were spent in Bendigo. In an attempt to separate the facts from the volume of fiction that has accumulated since his death, some 300 references from archival and contemporary sources have been used to outline the story.

He died a very wealthy man and his estate was left for the benefit of the church, subject to some unusual conditions. For the first time, the story of the mysterious Backhaus Estate, which has provided a sizable income to the church for over one hundred years, is outlined.

The Marsdens of Melbourne: the rise and fall of a family's fortunes 1841-1941 / Anne Marsden 2009

Three men, three generations: a snapshot of 100 years from early Melbourne. The turbulent **Joseph Ankers Marsden** arrived in 1841 – just six years into Melbourne's history. 'Larger-than-life' and with enormous energy, Joseph attracted controversy as a Wesleyan lay preacher and a social activist in the burning issues of the day, including anti-Transportation and Separation from N.S.W. before going on to 'make his pile' at the goldfields.

The lifetime of his son **John Marsden** coincided with the Victorian Age. John's career as Victoria's Public Works Architect spanned the 'boom and bust' era, and he was responsible for the design of many significant Melbourne buildings. By 'keeping his head below the parapet' he rose to become Victorian Chief Government Architect.

John's son **Edgar Marsden** was from the same mould as his grandfather Joseph. He was never happier than when holding centre stage, especially as a singer, whether at a school concert or as a leading tenor on the London stage. His other abiding passion was cricket and he coached a Fijian team to undertake a colourful tour in Australia in 1907. Edgar was gassed in France in World War 1 and this, sadly, ended his singing career.

The Marsden women – three wives and a sister – round out the story of three generations of the family. They experienced widely differing lives, achieving much, albeit in the shadow of their husband's careers and activities.

Wimmera / Homer Rieth 2009

Replacing the battles of heroes and gods with the struggle of mortal humans with time and space, Homer Rieth in *Wimmera* re-invents the epic. All the classical elements are there but they are now democratic, and ours. The narrator's anonymous informant knows a thing or two. Objective and personal, learned and demotic, local and vast, *Wimmera* is the history of a region and seedbed of a vision where 'the bunyip indeed lays down with the manticore'. There is nothing like it anywhere.

Hung out to dry: Gilbert Toyne's classic Australian clothes hoist / Peter Cuffley and Cas Middlemis 2009

The rotary clothes hoist is an Australian icon. *Hung out to dry* tells the story of Gilbert Toyne, the inventor who designed and patented the first all-metal Australian rotary clothes hoist.

Born near Geelong in 1888, Gilbert Toyne patented four significant designs for rotary clothes hoists, between 1911 and 1926. By the 1930s,

Toyne's rotary clothes hoist was available for purchase across Australia and New Zealand, with manufacturing bases established in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney.

This book introduces Gilbert Toyne's life and work, and reveals some of the underlying reasons why the 'Toyne hoist' is not a household name in Australia.

Toyne originally trained as a blacksmith and wheelwright, yet this clever and inspired man strove to establish his product nationwide and beyond. Toyne's rotary clothes hoist was considered to be 'indispensable in a modern residence' in 1913. Then World War One interrupted production and marketing, and the Aeroplane Hoist Manufacturing Company of Australasia Limited closed its doors. Toyne served in the Great War and returned home to face personal turmoil in 1919. But he was still passionately committed to promoting his clothes hoist invention, and uprooted his family a number of times in order to establish production centres in three states. Although his efforts to control the Australian market were thwarted by world events and personal loss, Gilbert Toyne's patented 1926 all-metal design defined the standard for Australian rotary clothes hoists for decades to follow.

Changing stations: the story of Australian commercial radio / Bridget Griffen-Foley 2009

Radio is the most pervasive medium in Australia, being immediate, intimate and inexpensive. This sweeping national study covers the history of Australian commercial radio, from its beginnings to the introduction of digital radio.

In tracing the often contentious evolution of regulation and ownership, *Changing stations* considers programming and listening, the national and the local, the mass and the personal, 'payola' and 'cash for comment'. It looks at all genres, from drama, music and quiz shows to sport, politics and talkback.

The iconic names of commercial radio come to life in this engaging story: from Norman Banks, Grace Gibson, Bob Dyer and Jack Davey to Andrea, Bob Rogers, Brian White, John Laws and Alan Jones, together with lesser known figures, such as the station manager who privately dismissed listeners as 'morons' and the first woman cricket broadcaster in Australia.

House of hits: the great untold story of Australia's first family of music / Jane Albert 2010

Few, if any, of AC/DC's fans would know that the band's unmistakable brand of raucous, hardcore rock was delivered to the world via a small Australian family music publishing business, Alberts. In fact the lives of

BOOKS ETCETERA

most Australians have been touched in some way by Alberts, through sheet music, *Boomerang Songsters*, radio stations, bands – artists like the Easybeats, John Paul Young, Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs, the Angels, Rose Tattoo and AC/DC – and the film *Strictly Ballroom*.

Who is behind this business that has been quietly shaping Australia's musical landscape, culture, entertainment and media for most of its existence? Starting as an unassuming watch and clock repair shop in suburban Newtown in Sydney in 1885, today Albert Music is one of Australia's oldest family-owned and run businesses, which is now in its fifth generation of ownership. Yet few people have heard of the company or know anything of the family that still runs it, because they never before agreed to have their story told. Until now.

Maverick litigants: a history of vexatious litigants in Australia 1930-2008 / Simon Smith 2009

Australia cherishes its eccentrics, dissenters, rascals, ratbags, cranks and agitators. There are numerous books celebrating that fact. To explain this phenomenon authors and commentators draw variously on Australia's convict past, the forced emigration of political dissenters such as the Chartists, the isolation from Europe, the early privations of 'life in the bush' and even the presence of unique flora and fauna. Within this odd mix, egalitarian values that eschew a class system are celebrated.

However, in the legal sphere, the environment is more restrained. It is an arena where the form of documentation, time limits, case law, wigs and gowns and the skills and courtesies of the professional advocate that make the system work, dominate. It is less tolerant of the litigant-in-person. It is as if they are an interloper. Those individuals who persist in self-litigating and who try the patience of those administering the system are eventually declared by the court to be 'vexatious litigants' and are banned from further litigating.

Maverick litigants traces the evolution of this harsh legal sanction since its introduction into Australia in 1930. This book also explores the legal theory behind the sanction and explains recent moves to modernise it. Most importantly, the book brings to life the previously untold stories of six of Australia's vexatious litigants and argues that they can more properly be described as people of ideas, as reformers and activists seeking to advance those ideas, causes and themselves through the legal system. In short, they are maverick litigants.

FICTION

General Fiction:

Saturday / Ian McEwan 2006
On Chesil Beach / Ian McEwan 2008
No great mischief / Alistair MacLeod 2001
Captain Corelli's mandolin / Louis De Bernières 1998
Girl with a pearl earring / Tracy Chevalier 2000
Solar / Ian McEwan 2010

Mysteries:

The ice princess / Camilla Lackberg 2009
The man from Beijing / Henning Mankell 2010
Wyatt / Garry Disher 2010
The price of love / Peter Robinson 2010 (short stories)
The first rule : a Joe Pike novel / Robert Crais 2010
Blood men / Paul Cleave 2010
Among thieves / David Hosp 2010
Rupture / Simon Lelic 2010
61 hours : a Reacher novel / Lee Child 2010
Humpty dumpty in Oakland / Philip K. Dick 2007
The merry misogynist / Colin Cotterill 2009
Caught / Harlan Coben 2010
Smoke and mirrors : a Brad Chen novel / Kel Robertson 2010
Never look away / Linwood Barclay 2010
The bricklayer / Noah Boyd 2010

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE PMI LIBRARY:

The monthly 'Recent Additions' list is automatically sent to all those who receive this newsletter my email. 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.



HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Art Deco & Modernism Society 9.45am, Sunday 9 May - Walking tour of South Yarra, focusing on many interesting buildings including a significant number of interwar apartments which were a part of a major period of development for this area. \$25 per person (booklet and water provided). *Booking form (to be submitted by 3 May) available from the PMI.*

Box Hill Historical Society – Speakers: 20 May - Keith and Betty Rooney on their many years of community work. 17 June - Barry Sheffield on railway trestle bridges of the Yarra River Flats at Yarra Glen. 19 August - Jacquie Nichols-Reeves on the City of Whitehorse Art and Memorabilia collection. (*See Box Hill Historical Society newsletter April 2010 p1*)

Brighton Historical Society 2pm, Sunday 23 May - Guest speaker: Roland Rocchicciolo on his memoir *And be home before dark: a childhood on the edge of nowhere*. Bayside Arts & Cultural Centre (former Town Hall), cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets, Brighton. \$10 BHS members and conc., \$15 others. *Further information and bookings 9553 8650.*

Essendon Historical Society 25 May: Norm Hutchinson will talk about 'The suffragette and the squatter' (the story of Annie Lister and P.S. Watson). (*Further information and bookings 9370 4607*)

History Victoria Support Group 10am, Saturday 29 May - Seminar Day: Tourism and History. \$15 including morning and afternoon tea. Hosted by Rutherglen Historical Society, Common School Museum, Murray Street, Rutherglen. *Further information and bookings 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au.*

Malvern Historical Society 2 May - Walk: Glenferrie Road. 5 May - AGM: Guest speaker John Hawker on historic trees in Stonnington. 23 May - Bus trip: Tracking the tracks – 100 years of Electric Trams in Stonnington (*For further information and bookings ring President Lorraine 9885 9082*)

Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria 9.45am, Sunday 23 May - Day tour: Mechanics' institutes of the Cardinia Shire and the City of Casey. \$45. *Further information and bookings 9707 4254. Booking forms available from the PMI.*

Melbourne Athenaeum - 1pm, Saturday 19 June - Seminar: Caring for collections, with Kay Craddock and Angela Henriksen. Members \$25, others \$30. *Bookings library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au.*

Ringwood Historical Society Talks: May: Sue Thompson on Dame Nellie Melba. June: History of the Bureau of Meteorology. July: Ian Munro on the history of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (*Further information and bookings Secretary Margaret McKellar 9729 4359*).

Royal Historical Society of Victoria 11 May: Weston Bate on how he became a local historian. 15th May: On the ramparts: day excursion to Queenscliff. 20 May: Meredith Fletcher on Jean Galbraith: writer in a valley. 8 June: Bruce Pennay on reading block 19 Bonegilla (*Enquiries and bookings 9326 9288*)

VAFHO (Victorian Association of Family History Organisations) 28-30 May - 7th Victorian Family History State Conference: 'The Border and Beyond'. ClubMulwala, Yarrowonga. *Further information and bookings mullum36@bigpond.com*

Walhalla - month of May - Goldfields Railway: centenary celebrations 2010 (see Walhalla Chronicle March 2010 p14).

Waverley Historical Society - 23rd May: Ian Jenkin on Glen Waverley area railways (*Bookings Secretary Norma Schultz 9802 9332*)

GAURIE MCCALMAN LECTURE:
 - 26 May - details p.1
Kristin Otto on 'Capital:'
PMI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 - 19 May - insert and details p.2
WRITING HISTORY:
 Featuring PMI Press author
 Gwen Truscott p.5

PMI SIDELINE

PMI Committee: Mrs Allison Boundy, Cr John Chandler, Mr Alf Lazer, AM (President), Mr Chris Michalopoulos, Mr Ben Quin, CPA (Treasurer), Cr Claude Ullin (City of Stonnington representative), Mr Peter Wolfenden
Staff: Tim McKenna, B.Ed. (Librarianship) (Secretary Librarian), Christine Worthington, B.A., Dip. Lib. & Info. Stud.; Grad. Dip. Info. Man (Promotions & Publications Librarian, Membership Secretary, PMI Press Administrator, Newsletter Editor), Ursula Zamecnik (Library Technician)

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