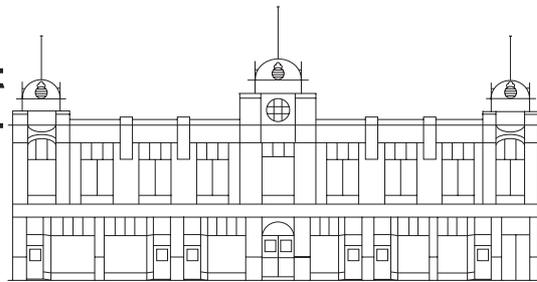


# PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 67 - AUGUST 2010



## INSIDE

Around the Library 2

Short History Prize 4

Writing History:  
Eric Steele 5

Books Etcetera 7

Historic Happenings 11

About the PMI:  
140 High Street, Prahran  
(PO Box 1080  
Windsor VIC 3181)  
Ph/Fax (03) 9510 3393  
[library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)  
[www.pmi.net.au](http://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

ISSN: 1836 2567 (print)  
1836-2559 (pdf online)  
Published quarterly.

This newsletter is  
sponsored by

**Windsor  
Community  
Bank**



111 Chapel Street,  
Windsor, VIC 3181  
Ph 9510 9311  
[www.bendigobank.com.au/public/windsor](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/windsor)

## NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK SEMINAR:



### Alison Boundy: Tracking Your Ancestors.

Alison Boundy is a retired teacher-librarian, and has had a long association with the Genealogical Society of Victoria library.

### George Legge: Writing Family History.

Dr George Legge is a member of the Family History Writers Group, a discussion circle of the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

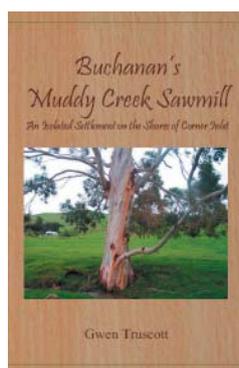
Alison and George's extensive experience can help you make the most of your family history research.

**1.00pm-3.30pm Saturday 7 August**

Afternoon tea provided

Seats are limited and  
bookings are ESSENTIAL

9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)



**New PMI Press  
publication  
AVAILABLE NOW  
Details p. 4**

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined May-Jul:

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

### Financial Donors

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library May-Jun:

<i>Ada Ackerley</i>	<i>Elaine Herbert</i>
<i>Roger Beeston</i>	<i>Lynne Hindhaugh</i>
<i>Judith Buckrich</i>	<i>Alan Holgate</i>
<i>Di Christensen</i>	<i>Harriet Houghton</i>
<i>Pauline Cunliffe</i>	<i>Wallace Kirsop</i>
<i>Jillian Durance</i>	<i>Roland McCausland</i>
<i>Thomas Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Elizabeth O'Callaghan</i>
<i>Carolyn Floyd</i>	<i>Arthur Payne</i>
<i>John Flynn</i>	<i>Martin Playne</i>
<i>Jillian Gengoult Smith</i>	<i>Graham Price</i>
<i>Gabriel German</i>	<i>Gabrielle Thomson</i>

### Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and organisations who donated books to the library May-Jun:

<i>Linda Aspinall</i>	<i>Helen Gobbi</i>
<i>Fran Bader</i>	<i>Government of</i>
<i>Jim Badger</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>
<i>Clarice Ballenden</i>	<i>April-Kaye Ikinci</i>
<i>Berwick Mechanics'</i>	<i>John G. Jennings</i>
<i>Institute</i>	<i>Alastair Langdon</i>
<i>Dr Judith Buckrich</i>	<i>Bill Mahoney</i>
<i>Connections</i>	<i>Phyl McCarthy</i>
<i>Unitingcare</i>	<i>Les Muir</i>
<i>Martin Davey</i>	<i>Nick Neary</i>
<i>Douglas Stewart Fine</i>	<i>Adam Redman</i>
<i>Books</i>	<i>John Simkin</i>
<i>Margaret Dunne</i>	<i>Stonnington Libraries</i>
<i>Geoff Durham</i>	<i>Bruce Turner</i>
<i>Eastern Regional</i>	<i>Victorian Government</i>
<i>Libraries Corporation</i>	<i>Angus B. Watson</i>
<i>Deirdre Farfor</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>

## GENERAL NEWS

### Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all members who attended the PMI Annual General Meeting on 19 May.

Two committee positions were open this year, with three nominations received. Chris Michalopoulos was re-elected, Steve Stefanopoulos was elected and then President Alf Lazer was not re-elected. Vice President Cr John Chandler assumed presidential responsibilities until the first committee meeting after the AGM, at which election of office bearers took place. Cr Chandler was elected President, Chris Michalopoulos Vice President, and Ben Quin Treasurer.

The committee would like to thank Alf Lazer for his many years service on the PMI committee. A profile of our newest committee member follows.

If you would like your name added to the list to receive committee meeting minutes let us know by phone 95103393 or email [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au).

### 140 High Street

Legislation to permit the sale of the 140 High Street building has now passed through both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

### Staff & Committee

Library Technician Ursula Zamecnik recently attended a very informative workshop run by the City of Stonnington entitled 'Winning Grants' and intends to make good use of the advice provided.

Ursula also attended a seminar at the Melbourne Athenaeum called 'Caring for collections' which was followed by a tour of the Ath's archives.

### Committee Profile: Steve Stefanopoulos

A big welcome to the PMI's newest committee member. For those who have not encountered Steve Stephanopoulos before, a short profile follows.

Tertiary educated in teaching, archives and records management and museum studies, Steve has worked for many years in school archives, currently at Loreto Mandeville Hall. He often provides professional advice on heritage collections to schools, hospitals and religious orders. While serving as a Councillor for the City of Stonnington 2004-2008 Steve chaired the Stonnington History Committee, where he was able to combine his passions for history and the local area.

# AROUND THE LIBRARY



*Above: Members of the Professional Historian Association gathered for their meeting on 16 June. At the meeting, Peter Yule and Andrew Dodd (below) spoke on their recent biographical works.*



*Above: Members of the Narre Warren Family History Group visited the PMI on 20 June.*

*If your historical group would like to visit the PMI on a Saturday afternoon for a PMI Peek (short talk, afternoon tea and an opportunity to explore the library), please let us know: 9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)*

## Group Visits

The Professional Historians Association and the Narre Warren Historical Society each visited the PMI in June.

If your historical group would like to visit on a Saturday afternoon for a PMI Peek (short talk, afternoon tea and an opportunity to explore the library), please let us know: 9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

## McCalman Lecture

Thanks very much to Kristin Otto, who conducted this year's Laurie McCalman Lecture on her book *Capital: Melbourne When it was the Capital City of Australia 1901-27* - a most vibrant period of Melbourne's history. This is the second time Kristin has presented the Laurie McCalman lecture (she previously spoke on *Yarra*) and the full house in attendance found it very interesting and enjoyable.

## VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

### 2010 Volunteer Stats

So far in 2010 PMI volunteers have completed 392 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.

Some volunteer achievements so far this year include:

- correspondence files 1995-2009 in the PMI archive have been scanned
- many holdings of the PMI continue to be added to the Libraries Australia database, with identification of many items held by the PMI that are currently not listed on that database
- work is well underway on our Collection Security Project involving the insertion of electromagnetic tape into books in the library. Three bays worth of books are now taped.

### Collection Security Project - HELP NEEDED!!

If you have ever thought about volunteering we can always use more help with the Collection Security Project. No particular skills are required for this work and your assistance will contribute greatly to the care and protection of the library collection well into the future.

### National Volunteer Week 2010

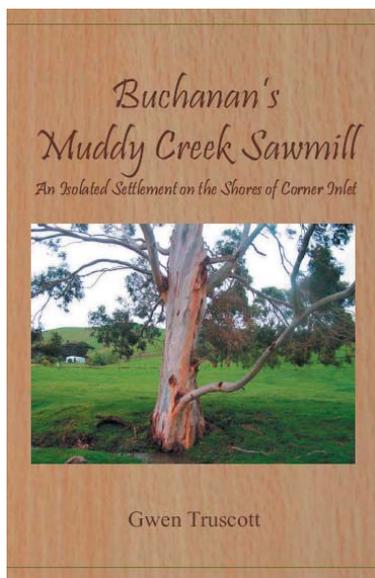
During National Volunteer week in May PMI volunteers received a thank you card produced by Volunteering Australia, and a small gift as an expression of our gratitude for their time and work.

## PMI PRESS UPDATE

The 12th PMI Press publication *Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill: An Isolated Settlement on the Shores of Corner Inlet* is now available and may be purchased from the author (details below). A copy of the book has been added to the PMI collection.

### *Buchanan's Muddy Creek Sawmill: An Isolated Settlement on the Shores of Corner Inlet*

*Before Thoms Sheppard created the township of Toora in South Gippsland, Victoria 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.*



Author: Gwen Truscott.  
Published: 2010.  
ISBN: 9780980453638.  
Extent: 51 A5 pages.  
Price: \$20 + p&h.  
Available from the author -  
order forms available at  
[www.pmi.net.au/press\\_pubs.htm](http://www.pmi.net.au/press_pubs.htm)  
or contact the PMI 9510 3393  
and we will post you an order form.

**PMI PRESS**  
VICTORIAN HISTORY PUBLISHING

## 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](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or visit [www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize](http://www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize)

*With National Family History Week just around the corner, this instalment of 'Writing History' features a PMI member who has organised a successful family reunion and published his family history ...*

## ERIC STEELE

### The Family Reunion

The idea for a family reunion came from the realisation that 2008 would be 200 years since the marriage of my ancestors James Scott & Euphemia Huntley in Ettrick, Scotland in January 1808. Five of their nine children migrated to Victoria between 1839 and 1858.

With support for the idea from two others whom I had been corresponding with on email for a number of years, a date and venue were chosen.

I had also made contact with Joy Roy from GSV (connected to the Scott family line) who had conducted previous reunions. Joy set up a web entry page for registrations of interest as well as advertising at the GSV, at other history centres and in magazines.

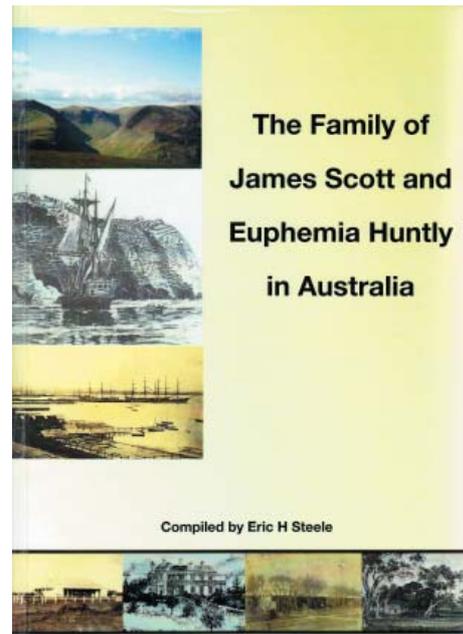
From this I built up a list of names and addresses and sent out a number of newsletters – the first newsletter was sent out in August 2007 (6 months prior to the reunion date). Six newsletters were sent by email and snail mail in the lead up to the reunion.

The venue chosen was an historic building in Dandenong (1869 vintage), similar in time to some of the early family homes around Australia. I particularly stressed the historic nature of the facility in newsletters and referred people to the City of Greater Dandenong website for more information. I provided a range of ideas for accommodation in Dandenong but left arrangements to individuals.

Part of the first newsletter read:

*Hi Everybody,*

*The purpose of the Reunion is to bring together those who are descended from James Scott and Euphemia Huntley,*



*married 1808, and to share our history, and perhaps link it all together for a future publication. Even those who feel they are only vaguely connected please come, as every small piece of the jigsaw helps complete the whole picture.*

*We hope all of you who are planning to attend are already looking out all your photographs, updating your records, recalling all those family stories that should be written down.*

Subsequent newsletters advised a donation of \$10 per adult would be sought to cover costs and encouraged people to bring photos for scanning.

People indicated their desire to attend and I was able to let them know how numbers were looking, 'stirring' them to action!! With a newsletter sent 30 January I included a typical Family Group Sheet for people to fill out and bring with them with details of their immediate family.

On the day of the reunion I had the assistance of receptionist, scanners, photographers and afternoon tea providers.

Photographers took a lot of photos and I compiled a CD which was sent to attendees in March 2008. The costs were covered by the donations.

Four rooms were set up with tables, charts, displays and PowerPoint presentations.

## Writing the Family History

The idea of writing another chapter of the family story was in my mind before the reunion, but the story did not take shape until some time after sitting down and analysing the new material I had available.

Five siblings and families arrived in the early days of Victoria. One family line died out soon after but the other four family lines maintained contact for some time – linked through migration, marriage, farming and Presbyterian church. They eventually spread through most of Australia.

From the reunion I discovered that there were many links between the families and that their descendants at the reunion were not very aware of their other 'cousins'. Each family was quite large so there were many ancestors to take note of without looking too widely. However I undertook the task of drawing together the families particularly in early days and stopped at about 1950.

Book was not just a listing of family trees etc but included background to the years (general interest).

After the reunion I reviewed the family details that people had filled in on information sheets and added them to my database. I also encouraged relatives to contribute stories, particularly if they had not been published before. Finished up including 15 short stories spread over the four families

I went through a number of ideas in preparing the book, which depended on the amount of information that was at my disposal. In the main I was relying on the families of the four siblings to point me in the right direction. My own research assisted in checking shipping records, census records, BDMs, cemetery records (including site visits)

One area of interest was trying to list all those family members who served in the two world wars – to recognise their service and contribution. I asked for help from relatives and gained many names, however after publication I found even more.

Made a number of comments in book

to encourage others to add stories of their immediate family lines

Thought about finishing book for 12 month anniversary of reunion. Found this to be unrealistic, but eventually set myself a target and was content to limit the material in the book to that which was available at the time. My target was set for publication and distribution in time for Christmas 2009. I ended up sending out the main batch of books early in October 2009.

I found a very helpful printer who assisted me to prepare the document, (100 pages colour cover and six colour pages) printed from my PDF file, arranged for binding and printed 200 copies of which 150 have been distributed to date. I was advised to arrange advance payment (even with relatives) which I did and it worked well and most copies had been ordered before printing so that I didn't have much guesswork.

When I look back at the reunion it is interesting to recall that it is mostly the good things that come readily to mind. It certainly was a lot of work but I gained a lot of information about the families personally.

The unexpected discoveries I found along the way were most rewarding – such as finding that a person I meet regularly at church was a fourth cousin. Also, after the book was published I found two completely new families through adoptions.

I could probably say that I wasn't able to get all the information I thought I needed to prepare the book, but I set a deadline and determined to use as much as I had available by that time.

Eric Steele

*Eric's book and many other examples of published family histories can be found at call number 929.2, (a range of guides to family research are at 929.1). If you see writing and publishing your family history in your short or long term future, looking at other published works of this kind can give you ideas and inspiration. Be sure to book early for the Family History Week seminar (details p.1) for useful advice on family history writing.*

## FICTION NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

### ***Breaking news: the golden age of Graham Perkin / Ben Hills 2010***

It is now more than 30 years since Graham Perkin's tragically premature death, but his legacy lives on in every corner of the Australian media. Perkin was, without question, the country's greatest editor of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In his nine years at the helm of *The Age*, he transformed a venerable but moribund rag into a paper regularly voted one of the world's ten best broadsheets, alongside such great titles as *The Washington Post* and *The Times* of London. He changed forever the way that the media looks at society, and the way that people relate to the media. In this insightful, vigorous biography, veteran investigative journalist and Walkley Award winner Ben Hills – who worked under Perkin's editorship for six years – chronicles the life and times of Australia's most influential newspaper editor, and the history of the newspaper to which he devoted his tremendous talents. A cracking story in its own right, *Breaking news* is an engrossing read, not only for those who remember Perkin and the golden age of Australian newspapers, but also for everyone who reads the paper or watches the news today.

### ***Suburban heartland: a history of the City of Whitehorse / Lesley Alves 2010***

The City of Whitehorse, in the heart of Melbourne's eastern suburbia, is quintessential middle Australia, yet it has a heart all of its own that defies popular perceptions of suburbia as a monotonous wasteland. In the two hundred years since this piece of Wurundjeri country was first sighted by Europeans, the landscape has been transformed several times over: to farms, orchards, brickworks, boom-time housing subdivisions and institutions for the disadvantaged; to the spacious residential estates of the post-war era – some retaining their bush surroundings – interspersed with shopping centres and pockets of factories; to the villa units and flats, regional business and retail centres and knowledge-based industrial estates of the last thirty years. (Whitehorse's suburbs include Blackburn, Blackburn North, Blackburn South, Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Burwood, Burwood East, Forest Hill, Mitcham, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Nunawading, Surrey Hills, Vermont and Vermont South.)

### ***Great working horse stories / Angela Goode 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2009***

Funny, familiar and deeply moving, these true stories of Australian working horses stretch over three generations and every part of the continent. Teams of powerful, labouring Clydesdales, patient and spirited saddle horses, brave police mounts and talented Olympic competitors canter through its pages, their stories told first-hand by the owners who cared for and worked alongside them. Follow country tracks in a hawker's wagon, visit floodlit arenas with thumping music where horses perform with quiet trust, and trudge mountains where brumbies run. Trick riders, talented trainers and outback stockmen share their secrets. Updated with many contemporary tales, this third edition is an unmissable treat for horse-lovers.

### ***The river: a journey through the Murray-Darling Basin / Chris Hammer 2010***

In *The river*, Chris Hammer takes us on a journey through Australia's heartland, following the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin, recounting his experiences, his impressions, and, above all, stories of the people he meets along the way. It's a journey punctuated with laughter, sadness and reflection. *The river* looks past the daily news reports and their sterile statistics, revealing the true impact of our rivers' decline on the people who live along their shores, and on the country as a whole. It's a tale that leaves the reader with a lingering sense of nostalgia for an Australia that may be fading away forever.

### ***The unknown nation: Australia after empire / James Curran and Stuart Ward 2010***

*The unknown nation* is an illuminating history of Australia's 'search' for national identity. James Curran and Stuart Ward document how the receding tide of empire and Britishness posed an unprecedented dilemma as Australians lost their traditional ways of defining themselves as a people. With the sudden disappearance in the 1960s and 1970s of the familiar coordinates of the British world, Australians were cast into the realm of the unknown. The task of remodelling the national image touched every aspect of Australian life where identifiable British ideas, habits and symbols – from foreign relations to the national anthem – had grown obsolete. But how to celebrate Australia's past achievements and future aspirations became a source of public controversy as community leaders struggled to find the appropriate language and rhetoric to invoke a new era. *The unknown nation* unravels the origins, influence and implications of our hesitant coming of age.

### ***The Christmas Hills story: once around the Sugarloaf II / Mick Woivod 2010***

Revised and updated edition of *Once around the Sugarloaf 1992*. A mere hour's drive out of Melbourne's busy CBD through broad-acre Kangaroo Ground lies the very different, far more peaceful world of Christmas Hills, where birdsong and gumtrees set a pace more in step with the beat of a human heart. High in the hills above the ancient Yarra meandering its way through the fertile valley below, the people of Christmas Hills over the past 160 years have had to fight for their unique style of living every inch of the way. Learn how its first farmers faced the forest with axe and plough to carve out their paddocks and build their first homes. Read about the rustic wayside hotels that had dotted the old 'Yarra Track' passing through, that eventually gave way to colourful guesthouses for holiday-makers to escape the bustle of city living. Hear about how others in the south came to value the gumtrees and choose to hold the line against the suburbs forever creeping out towards them.

### ***When wool was king: the inside story of Australia's wool industry / Alec Morrison 2009***

The Australian wool industry has seen boom times and busts, wars and droughts, political upheaval and market manipulation. Alec Morrison lived through it all. *When wool was king* is his story. Working his way up from jackaroo to chief executive officer, Alec experienced all facets of sheep station life. Towards the end of his career,

he became one of the most influential figures in Australian wool. Alec's first-hand experiences bring to life the world of this nation-defining industry: from demanding but generous station managers to hard-toiling shearers, he worked alongside them all. *When wool was king* traces wool-growing from the 1920s, when Australia rode securely on the sheep's back, to the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when it faces a very different future. Alec transports you into the social fabric of the once-grand sheep station, and then describes its demise at the hands of relentless social and economic forces. This book paints a colourful picture of what life was like when 'wool was king'.

***It's no secret: real men wear aprons: the story of Freemasonry in Australia / edited by Peter Lazar***  
Freemasons have been active in Australia since Joseph Banks came ashore with Captain Cook. This silent band of brothers exists in almost every town and suburb of Australia. But who are they? What are they up to? Are their rituals really secret? This book lifts the lid on Freemasonry in Australia. It reveals the secrets of the Craft and the stories of many famous Freemasons – Don Bradman, 'Weary' Dunlop, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, 'Dally' Messenger, Sir James Hardy, Chips Rafferty and 'Bud' Tingwell amongst them. Ten Australian Prime Ministers and many of the adventurers, inventors, entrepreneurs and pillars of society we have come to know and admire were Freemasons. Did it help them succeed? This book takes the reader on a guided tour of Freemasonry in Australia. It reveals the Craft's inner sanctums and the ancient rituals Freemasons use to learn and teach. It shows how the Craft embraces all cultures, welcomes all religions, provides friendship and helps Masons to develop themselves and to be happy. And it talks about a new future in which the wisdom of Freemasonry could well be directed in new, untested ways.

***Quarterly essay: Power trip: the political journey of Kevin Rudd / David Marr 2010***  
*Power trip* shows the making of Kevin Rudd, prime minister. In Eumundi, where Rudd was born, David Marr investigates the formative tragedy of his life: the death of his father and what came after. He tracks the transformation of a dreamy kid into an implacably determined youth, already set on the prime ministership. He examines Rudd's years as Wayne Goss's right-hand man in Queensland, his relentless work in federal Opposition – from *Sunrise* to AWB – and finally his record as prime minister. In Rudd's Queensland years, Marr finds strange patterns that will recur: a tendency to chaos, a mania for control and a strange mix of heady ambition and retreat. All through this dazzling and revelatory essay, Marr seeks to know what drives an extraordinarily driven man. As *Power trip* concludes, he enters into a conversation with the prime minister in which much becomes clear.

***Shitstorm: inside Labor's darkest days / Lenore Taylor and David Uren 2010***  
From highly respected journalists Lenore Taylor and David Uren comes the inside story of the Rudd government's darkest days in office. Its first term will be forever defined by the global financial crisis, or – to use the Prime Minister's term – the 'shitstorm' that engulfed the nation and the world. Based on interviews with all the key players on both sides of politics, *Shitstorm* reveals just how close Australia came to disaster, what Kevin Rudd and his colleagues did to avoid it, and the serious mistakes they made along the way – mistakes that now threaten the government's re-election. *Shitstorm* assembles a gripping picture of a rookie government facing the worst economic crisis in seventy-five years.

***Hawke: the Prime Minister / Blanche d'Alpuget 2010***  
Since its first publication in 1982, Blanche d'Alpuget's *Robert J. Hawke: a biography* has remained the benchmark by which other political biographies are measured. *Hawke: the Prime Minister* begins as Bob Hawke wrestles the Labor leadership from Bill Hayden and a few weeks later wins the 1983 federal election, thus achieving his life's goal of becoming Prime Minister of Australia.

## MILITARY HISTORY

***The Anzacs: Gallipoli to the Western Front / Peter Pedersen 2007***  
1918 on the Western Front. At no other time has Australia so influenced the course of world history. In the worst crisis of World War One the Germans had cut a wide swathe through the British line. The Australians knew their hour had come. 'Fini retreat', they boldly announced as they marched to halt the Germans at Amiens. Then it was their turn to advance, driving the enemy remorselessly before them. This important book traces the evolution of the Australian Imperial Force from the enthusiastic amateurs of Gallipoli to the skilled warriors of the Western Front, where fighting in conditions of unspeakable horror and brutality they won their legendary reputation as 'the best infantrymen of the war and perhaps of all time'. Combining detailed battle narratives with soldiers' accounts, Peter Pedersen moves from Gallipoli through Palestine to the Western Front, graphically recreating the campaigns of a war in which over 20,000 Australians – two out of every three combatants – were killed or wounded. Including New Zealanders at every stage, he also covers the war in the air and at sea, in dressing posts and hospitals, and on the home front.

***Anzacs in Arkhangel: the untold story of Australia and the invasion of Russia 1918-19 / Michael Challenger 2010***  
In 1918, after four years of bloodshed, the Allies desperately stood their ground in the trenches of the Western Front. But when the Russian Bolsheviks came to power and made peace with Germany, the Allies were left reeling. They despatched a secret mission to the frozen expanses of northern Russia to prevent the vast military stores from falling into German hands. Iced-in over the winter and with no chance of reinforcement, these men became embroiled in the Russian Civil War. In spring a special relief force, which included over 100 Australian volunteers, was sent to extricate them. Landing in the remote northern city of Arkhangel, they battled not only a Bolshevik army, but also a climate of extremes and a wilderness of swamp and melting snow. *Anzacs in Arkhangel* uncovers the exploits and achievements of these Australians, bringing to light a part of the Anzac

legend that is not so much forgotten as never before known.

***Pacific fury: how Australia and her allies defeated the Japanese / Peter Thompson 2008***

Written by a master storyteller, *Pacific fury* vividly portrays the barbarity, the sacrifice and the bravery of the Pacific War, from Pearl Harbor to Kokoda to Hiroshima. Peter Thompson presents, for the first time, an account of the conflict that places Australian voices and action at the heart of the struggle and recreates the battles of land, sea and air in a single volume like never before. Wiping away the smears of General MacArthur, who said Australian diggers had no fighting spirit, and Winston Churchill, who said they came from 'bad stock', *Pacific fury* brings this epic conflict to life in a sensational history not to be bettered in a generation.

***Anzac fury: the bloody battle of Crete 1941 / Peter Thompson 2010***

In March 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill summoned Australian and New Zealand troops from the victorious battlefields of Libya on an impossible mission against Hitler's finest armies in Greece. The legendary Anzac Corps was reformed in the white heat of battle as the troops were driven south to the island of Crete. There has never been a battle like the Nazi parachute attack on Crete and there probably never will be again. It remains the only operation in the history of warfare in which a major strategic objective was attacked and captured solely by airborne troops – but it cost the Germans the lives of more than 4000 elite troops. In *Anzac fury* Peter Thompson dramatically combines personal memories with combat action, giving voice to Australians and New Zealanders who found themselves fighting a merciless foe. In particular, the narrative follows three of the new Anzacs – Lieutenant Michael Clarke, Private John Peck and Sergeant Keith Hooper – in their compelling adventures from the first shots in the Western Desert, through the battles of Greece and Crete, to captivity as prisoners of war and Germany's final surrender.

***The Australian Light Horse: the magnificent Australian force and its decisive victories in Arabia in World War One / Roland Perry 2009***

This is the story of the magnificent men of the Australian Light Horse and the crucial part they played in the fighting in the Middle East during World War One. First raised during the Boer War, the Light Horse attracted many from the outback – men who knew how to survive and fight in hot and dry country, and who had a special bond with their horses. Battle-hardened at Gallipoli, by the time the men arrived in Palestine they were more than ready to play their critical role in Colonel Lawrence's defeat of the Turks (in the face of the British High Command's acceptance of the status quo). And under their brilliant commander, Sir Harry Chauvel, they were victorious in the Sinai, Palestine and Syria – culminating in the last great cavalry charge in our history, the taking of Beersheba in 1917. Their victories played a decisive part in shaping Middle Eastern history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***The Western Front diaries: the Anzacs' own story, battle by battle / Jonathan King 2010***

Hidden under the shadow of Gallipoli for decades, the true story of what happened on the Western Front is finally brought into the bright light of day. And what a story it is ... The Anzacs' Western Front campaign had a greater impact than Gallipoli in almost every respect: five times more soldiers served and were killed there, more than five times as many battles took place and it was there that an astounding 52 Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians. Using hundreds of brutally honest and extraordinary eyewitness accounts, *The Western Front diaries* reproduces private diaries, letters, postcards and photographs to tell of the many heart-rending experiences, battle by bloody battle. Straight from the mouths of the men who fought there it doesn't get more honest, raw or breathtaking than this.

***What's wrong with Anzac? the militarisation of Australian history / Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds 2010***

In recent years Anzac – an idea as much as an army corps – has become the dominant force within Australian history. The commemoration of Anzac Day is bigger than ever, while Remembrance Day and other military anniversaries grow in number and significance each year. Pilgrimages to Gallipoli, the Somme and Kokoda are commonplace, and popular military history dominates the bestseller lists. Anzac has seemingly become a sacred, untouchable element of the national identity. In this brave and controversial book, some of Australia's leading historians dare to ask questions about Anzac. They suggest that the Anzac obsession distorts our understanding of the past, replacing historical fact with mythology. The authors investigate official sponsorship of Anzac through the funding of commemoration and education, and show the ways it has been mobilised as a conservative political force. Finally – and perhaps most devastatingly – they ask whether nations are really made in war and whether the deaths and loss on foreign shores have been justified.

***Zombie myths of Australian military history / edited by Craig Stockings 2010***

Zombies are very hard to kill. And no matter how many times you try, they keep coming back to life. Over and over and over again. Australian military history is peppered with myths that refuse to die. Over the years many books on Australian military history have given rise to a host of 'zombie' myths. A great many have a strong commemorative and celebratory tradition and aim to entertain or memorialise the gallant deeds of past Australian servicemen. In this book leading Australian military historians tackle ten of the most enduring historical zombies that have staggered their way through the annals of this nation's military history. From the mistaken idea that there was no Aboriginal resistance to occupation, to misplaced sentiment surrounding the incorrigible Breaker Morant, Gallipoli as a near success, the conspiracies around the sinking of the *HMAS Sydney*, Japanese designs to invade Australia in World War Two, up to the triumphal success that was East Timor – this book seeks to lay these zombies to rest once and for all.

***Kokoda / Paul Ham 2004***

In this unique and balanced portrayal, journalist Paul Ham recounts both the Australian and Japanese perspectives of the Kokoda Track campaign, in which thousands fought and died during World War Two. Based

# BOOKS ETCETERA

on extensive research in Australia and Japan, *Kokoda* intimately relates the stories of ordinary soldiers in 'the world's worst killing field', and examines the role of commanders in sending ill-equipped, unqualified Australian troops into battles that resulted in near 100% casualty rates. It was a war without mercy, fought back and forth along miles of mountains, river crossings, swamps and coastal plains, with both sides racked by hunger and disease, and terrified of falling into enemy hands. Defeat was unthinkable: the Australian soldier was fighting for his homeland against an unyielding aggressor; the Japanese ordered to fight to the death in a bid to conquer 'Greater East Asia'. Paul Ham captures the spirits of those soldiers and commanders who clashed in this war of exceptional savagery, and tells of the brave souls on both sides of the campaign whose courage and sacrifices must never be forgotten.

## ***An awkward truth: the bombing of Darwin February 1942 / Peter Grose 2009***

Darwin was a battle Australia would rather forget. Yet the Japanese attack on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942 was the first wartime assault on Australian soil. The Japanese struck with the same carrier-borne force that devastated Pearl Harbor only ten weeks earlier. But there was a difference. More bombs fell on Darwin, more civilians were killed, and more ships were sunk. The raid led to the worst death toll from any event in Australia. The attackers bombed and strafed three hospitals, flattened shops, offices and the police barracks, shattered the Post Office and communications centre, wrecked Government House, and left the harbour and airfields burning and ruined. The people of Darwin abandoned their town, leaving it to looters, a few anti-aircraft batteries and a handful of dogged defenders with single-shot .303 rifles.

Yet the story has remained in the shadows. Drawing on long-hidden documents and first-person accounts, Peter Grose tells what really happened and takes us into the lives of the people who were there. There was much to be proud of in Darwin that day: courage, mateship, determination and improvisation. But the dark side of the story lingers: looting, desertion and a calamitous failure of leadership. Australians ran away because they did not know what else to do.

Absorbing, spirited and fast-paced, *An awkward truth* is a compelling and revealing story of the day war really came to Australia, and of the motley bunch of soldiers and civilians who were left to defend the nation.

## **GENERAL AND NON-AUSTRALIAN HISTORIES**

*The American Civil War / John Keegan 2009*

*Hot flushes, cold science: a history of the modern menopause / Louise Foxcroft 2009* Winner of the Longman-History today Book Award 2009.

*Darwin's armada / Iain McCalman 2010*

*A history of Britain: at the edge of the world? 3000 BC-AD 1603 / Simon Schama 2009*

*A history of Britain: the British wars 1603-1776 / Simon Schama 2009*

## **FICTION**

### **General Fiction:**

*The mystery of Olga Chekhova / Antony Beevor 2005* [donated by Adam Redman]

*Lean on Pete : a novel / Willy Vlautin 2010*

*House rules / Jodi Picoult 2010* [donated by Linda Aspinall]

*Island beneath the sea / Isabel Allende 2010*

*The past and other lies / Maggie Joel 2009* [donated by Clarice Ballenden]

*The second-last woman in England / Maggie Joel 2010* [donated by Clarice Ballenden]

### **Mysteries:**

*Private / James Patterson with Maxine Paetro 2010*

*A question of belief / Donna Leon 2010*

*Accused / Mark Gimenez 2010*

*American devil / Oliver Stark 2010*

*Corduroy mansions / Alexander McCall Smith*

*Dark matter / Juli Zeh 2010*

*Deception / Jonathan Kellerman 2010*

*The snowman / Jo Nesbø 2010*

*The stone cutter / Camilla La ckberg 2010*

*Without fail / Lee Child 2003* [donated by Bruce Turner]

*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*

*Bleed for me / Michael Robotham 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](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) and we will add you to the mailing list.*



# HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Ararat Cemetery - 2pm, Saturday 16th October - Walk: Presentations will be conducted at ten gravesites: Mary Grano, Williams (shot during burglary), Robert Barker, Elizabeth Flattely, George Stevens, Peter Sadler, Misses White (music teachers), Hude family, Marcus Northcote, John Hewitt. *Contact: Secretary Marion McAdle 5352 1963.*

Brighton Historical Society 2pm, Sunday 8 Aug – AGM: Plus John Payne on 'A Walk Down Memory Lane: The Early Theatres of Melbourne'. *Bayside Arts & Cultural Centre (former Town Hall), cnr Wilson & Carpenter Streets, Brighton. Further information and bookings 9553 8650.*

East Melbourne Historical Society - 8pm, Wednesday 15 September 2010 - Speaker: Gary Morgan. Roy Morgan founded his market research company in 1941 and Gary Morgan is going to give us the inside story on his father and tell us why those surveys won't stop ... *Location: Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. Entry fee: Members free, non members \$5.*

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery -

Tour: 2pm, Sun 22 August – 'Booksellers, Authors and Literatti'. An account of the characters, anarchy and rage, court cases, libel, snobbery and scandal.

Full Moon Tour: 6.30pm, Sat 26 September – tour the cemetery by torchlight.

Seniors Week Tour: 10am, Thu 7 Oct – historical perspectives of the interred.

*Online bookings: www.trybooking.com Further information: Pearl 9531 6832 or www.foskc.org*

Glenlyon / Daylesford - 150th anniversary of the formation of the Glenlyon Roads Board. Weekend of festivities 22-24th October. *For enquiries please contact Dave Johnson 5348 7761.*

History Victoria Support Group – Saturday 7 August – Seminar: 'The Role of Historical Societies in 2010. Hosted by the Hamilton History Centre at Baptist Church, 48 Gray Street, Hamilton. \$15 covers lunch, morning and afternoon tea. *Further information: 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au.*

Kew Historical Society - 8pm, Wednesdays - Talks: 11 August: Ruyton Girls' School. 8 September: Dee Fraser, Bendigo Bank 'History of community banking'.

Koo-Wee Rup - South Eastern Historical Association 2010 discovery school: Swamped by information: a history of the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp. Seminar day Sat 16 Oct, coach tour Sun 17 Oct. *Total cost of 2 days activities including meals is \$60. More information: Heather Arnold (h) 5629 4396 (w) 9704 7696 (mob) 0407 521 637 email harnold@dcsi.net.au*

North Melbourne: Hotham History Project - 7.30pm, Tue 27 July - Speaker: Dr Graeme Smith on Lost Dogs' Home, past and present and its critical role in the welfare of Melbourne's animals. *North Melbourne Library. For further information, phone Mary Kehoe on 9329 5814.*

Richmond - Sun 19 Sep - Walk: Yarraberg history. Join us on a walk through the area of Richmond known as Yarraberg, which is bound by Burnley Street, Bridge Road, Victoria Street and the Yarra River.

Mon 4 Oct - Walk: Seniors Week history walk: Blood on the tracks Monday, 4th October. The Richmond train disaster of 1910. There are two walks on the day, at 10 am and 1.30 pm.

*Further information: richmondhs@optusnet.com.au*

Royal Historical Society of Victoria - 6 May-6 Aug - Exhibition: the centenary of Flinders Street Railway Station. The exhibition will also be open on the weekend of 24 and 25 July as part of the Melbourne Open House program. Author and curator Jenny Davies will be in attendance. *For group visits to the exhibition, please contact Jenny on 5426 2142 or jenny.davies7@bigpond.com if you wish to have a guided tour.*

St Kilda Historical Society 3pm, Sun 8 Aug: Simon Smith on The Governor General, the Entertainer and a tale of two vexatious litigants. Community Room, St Kilda Library Foyer. *Further information and bookings: 9537 1967 or info@skhs.org.au*

State Library of Victoria: 26 Mar-5 Sep - Cowen Gallery exhibition: I cover the waterfront: Rick Amor 1993-2007. Blue rotunda, Cowen Gallery.

7 May-3 Oct - Cowen Gallery exhibition: Burke and Wills: Terra Incognita  
*Further information at www.slv.vic.gov.au*

## INTERNATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK:

Free Seminar: Family History for Beginners - 8 August - details p.1

PMI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - brief report p.2

## WRITING HISTORY:

Featuring family historian Eric Steele p.5

## INSIDE:

### PMI Committee:

Mrs Alison Boundy, Cr John Chandler  
(President), Mr Chris Michalopoulos (Vice President), Mr Ben Quin CPA (Treasurer), Mr Steve Stephanopoulos, 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)

PRATHAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY  
PO Box 1080  
Windsor VIC 3181

## BOOK COVERING SERVICE



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

*Paperbacks - \$1.50*

*Hardbacks with dust covers - \$2.50*

This service is strictly for MEMBERS ONLY. Maximum of 5 books at a time please.

## THE GIFT OF HISTORY



PMI library membership vouchers are an easy and affordable way to please hard-to-buy-for history buffs.

Ask at the library or check the 'Gift Membership' section of our website:

<http://www.pmi.net.au/membership.htm>

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