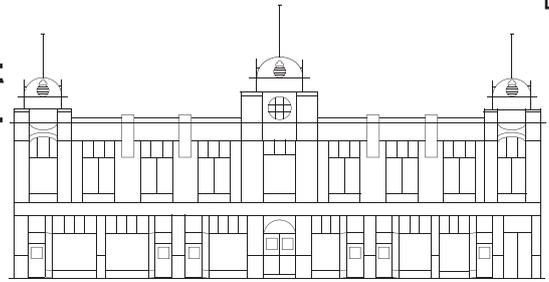


# PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 69 - FEBRUARY 2011



## INSIDE

Around the Library 2

Writing History: Feat.  
Elizabeth O'Callaghan 5

Short History Prize 6

Books Etcetera 7

Historic Happenings 11

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Patron:  
Keith Dunstan OAM

Open:  
M-F 9.30am-4.30pm  
Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

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for this newsletter  
may be directed to  
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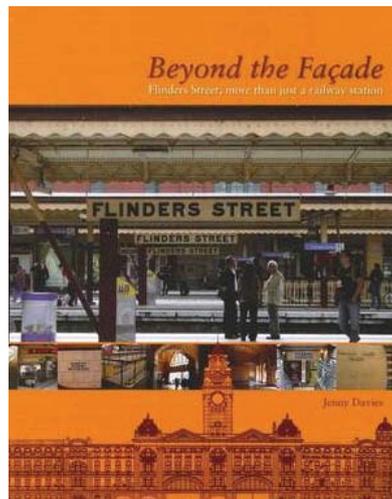
## ANNUAL BRUCE TURNER LECTURE:



### *Jenny Davies*

*winner of the 2010 Victorian Community History Award and  
the 2010 Melbourne Award for Individual Contribution to Profile*

## *Beyond the Façade* *Flinders Street, more than just a railway station*



*Beyond the Façade*  
explores the 100 year history of  
Flinders Street Station.

The history includes the social,  
commercial and architectural  
history of the station with a  
particular emphasis on the  
establishment of the  
Victorian Railways Institute.

**7.00pm, Wednesday 16 March 2011**

at the PMI Library, 140 High Street, Prahran (Melway 2L H12)

Seats are limited - **Bookings ESSENTIAL** - 9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)



## **Australian Heritage Week**

is a new annual national celebration  
of Australia's unique heritage  
which will run from

**Thu 14 April - Wed 20 April 2011.**

To find out how you can participate  
and lend the PMI a helping hand see p. 11.

## MEMBERS NEWS

### New Members

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

<i>Beth ...</i>	<i>Paul ...</i>
<i>Sam ...</i>	<i>John ...</i>
<i>F ...</i>	<i>Per ...</i>
<i>I ...</i>	<i>W ...</i>
<i>E ...</i>	<i>J ...</i>
<i>M ...</i>	<i>A ...</i>
<i>M ...</i>	<i>E ...</i>

### Financial Donors

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

<i>Clive Brookes</i>	<i>Jennifer Matthews</i>
<i>Tom Bryans</i>	<i>Roland McCausland</i>
<i>Judith Buckrich</i>	<i>Myrna Montague</i>
<i>Cinema &amp; Theatre</i>	<i>Narre Warren Family</i>
<i>Historical Society</i>	<i>History Group</i>
<i>Mary-Ann Cohn</i>	<i>Ben Probin</i>
<i>Philippe De Gail</i>	<i>Cecile Rees</i>
<i>Jennifer Elder</i>	<i>Keith Rogers</i>
<i>Michael Halsall</i>	<i>Barrie &amp; Margaret</i>
<i>Bruce Joy</i>	<i>Stevens</i>
<i>Murray Houghton</i>	<i>Philippa Strang</i>
<i>Peter Isaacson</i>	<i>George &amp; Maureen</i>
<i>Reuben &amp; Maya Lazarus</i>	<i>Swinburne</i>
<i>Jadzia Lemieszek</i>	<i>Jim Twomey</i>
<i>Donald Linforth</i>	<i>Frank Van Straten</i>
<i>Michael Macgregor</i>	<i>Peter Wolfenden</i>

### Book Donors

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

<i>Abbotsford Convent</i>	<i>Dr Margaret Hollands</i>
<i>Foundation</i>	<i>Norman Houghton</i>
<i>Alphington Primary</i>	<i>Immigration Museum</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>Margaret Kelly</i>
<i>Ararat Genealogical</i>	<i>Marilyn Kenny</i>
<i>Society Inc.</i>	<i>Lilian Kirk</i>
<i>Jim Badger</i>	<i>Roland McCausland</i>
<i>Pam Baragwanath</i>	<i>Janet McKenna</i>
<i>Lorraine Bates</i>	<i>Tim McKenna</i>
<i>Florence Breed</i>	<i>Mechanics' Institutes of</i>
<i>Burwood Tennis Club</i>	<i>Victoria</i>
<i>Alan Butt</i>	<i>MECWA</i>
<i>Douglas Stewart Fine</i>	<i>Mordialloc &amp; District</i>
<i>Books</i>	<i>Historical Society</i>
<i>Peter Dwyer</i>	<i>Elizabeth O'Callaghan</i>
<i>Eastern Regional</i>	<i>Judith Parker</i>
<i>Libraries Corporation</i>	<i>Rod Parnall</i>
<i>Andrew Edney</i>	<i>Mary-Louise Phillips</i>
<i>Jim Ellwood</i>	<i>Port Melbourne Historical</i>
<i>Athylie Gill</i>	<i>&amp; Preservation Society</i>
<i>Heritage Victoria</i>	<i>Adam Redman</i>
<i>Jack Hoadley</i>	<i>Travis M. Sellers</i>

*Shepparton Club*  
*Ron Spencer*  
*St George's Presbyterian*  
*Church, Geelong*  
*St John Ambulance*  
*Australia (Vic.) Inc.*  
*St Thomas Apostle*  
*Parish*  
*Agnes Stagg*  
*State Library Users*  
*Organisation Council*  
*Eric Steele*

*Steve Stefanopoulos*  
*Stonnington History*  
*Centre*  
*Stonnington Library &*  
*Information Service*  
*Ann and Peter Synan*  
*Michael Walkom*  
*Jennifer Whineray*  
*Williamstown Historical*  
*Society*  
*Peter Wolfenden*  
*Ursula Zamecnik*

## GENERAL NEWS

### Sponsorship

We are pleased to say that the Windsor Community Bank is continuing its sponsorship of the PMI newsletter in 2011. Thanks very much to the bank's board and the Community Chair Jon Caneva for what will be the 5th year of this sponsorship.

### Library & Committee

We wish all our members a safe and relaxing time for the upcoming easter break and advise that the PMI library will be closed on the following public holidays:

*Labour Day, Monday 14 March*  
*Good Friday, 22 April*  
*Easter Saturday, 23 April*  
*Easter Monday, 25 April*  
*ANZAC Day public holiday, Tuesday 26 April*  
*Queens Birthday, Monday 13 June*

A new addition to the newsletter this year will be a regular 'News from the Committee' to keep members up to date with the goings on behind the scenes. Members can also go on the list to receive the minutes of committee meetings. The first instalment begins on page 3.

A reminder that we offer second hand history books for sale to members only. The list of items is updated monthly and emailed to members, posted to our website at [www.pmi.net.au/for\\_sale.htm](http://www.pmi.net.au/for_sale.htm) and there is also a copy at the front desk. Have a look and grab a bargain.

### 2010 Short History Prize

The inaugural 2010 Short History Prize was announced on the PMI website on 24 October. The winner was Elizabeth O'Callaghan of Warrnambool & District Historical Society for the entry *Alien to Us: The 19th Century Importation of Indian Labour into the Warrnambool District*.

Elizabeth received a certificate, PMI membership voucher and \$500. Additionally, the Warrnambool & District Historical Society received \$500.

The prize was presented on 30 October at the PMI by Dr Judith Buckrich of the Professional Historian's Association, to Elizabeth's stepson, Brendan, on her behalf.

The PMI is very grateful to the Professional Historian's Association for its provision of a judging panel (Dr Buckrich, Dr Andrew Lemon and Ms Emma Russell) for the prize.

Of Elizabeth's work the judges said: *Alien to us was chosen because of its original subject matter, and because it was well written, interestingly and clearly presented using original sources giving an insight into a specific historical episode, exploring the relationships between the two groups of people.*

The following entrants received commendations for their work:

Graham Goulding for *A Short History of Moe & Newborough*

Murray Houghton for *Destination Warrandyte 1851 to 1876: A Tortuous Path to Local Government*

Marilyn Kenny for *Kaleno for Parish of Doutta Galla*

The above entrants received a certificate and a PMI voucher.

Details of the 2011 Short History Prize can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. All enquiries to Tim: [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or 9510 3393.

## Loans to Historical Groups

At the PMI we are very aware of the difficulty members have accessing our collection when they live some distance from the library. Arranging inter-library loans can be a good way for remote users to access books, but if you want to borrow regularly this way it can work out to be expensive.

In 2011 we are running a pilot project with the Narre Warren Family History Group to effectively distribute loans to the group's members via direct loans to the group. This type of arrangement with historical groups could make the PMI library collection much more accessible to members of historical groups throughout Victoria.

If you or your historical group are interested in finding out about the progress and results of this pilot project, or if you are interested in being involved in such a project in the future, contact us [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or 9510 3393.

## IEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

In September 2010, the Committee discussed a number of issues including the leases at our two Chapel Street properties; the costs associated with purchasing and/or leasing premises in and around the Prahran Town Hall area; seeking advice on development potential of our Chapel Street properties; and investigating the purchase of a property in St Edmonds Road, Prahran.

The Committee sought legal advice with regards to the current lease agreements with our tenants in Chapel Street, to ascertain if the leases could be altered to allow the PMI to undertake building works to possibly move the PMI into the buildings. The discussions were fruitful, and the Committee decided that it is in the PMI's best interests to let the current leases continue and be reviewed once they come up for renewal.

The Committee undertook to gather information about properties in the vicinity of the Prahran Town Hall that have either recently been sold or let. The data gathered will help the Committee decide how to proceed with any future purchase or leasing of premises for the PMI. With this information at hand, the Committee noted that a property

on St Edmonds Road, opposite the PMI, was for sale. In conjunction with these investigations, the Committee decided to seek some preliminary advice on redeveloping the Chapel Street property with a multi-level building that would include a new PMI.

In October 2010, the Committee discussed the issue of leaving the current site earlier than expected, thus offering Swinburne University the option of buying the PMI out of the lease. Swinburne were not interested in this proposal.

The Committee continued to investigate the feasibility of redeveloping the Chapel Street properties and sought expert advice from qualified architects. In addition to this lively discussion, the Committee decided to start negotiating the purchase of 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran following a visit to the site by a number of Committee members.

In November 2010, negotiations between the PMI and the vendor of 39 St Edmonds Road continued, with assistance from our solicitor and real estate agent. Various issues arose, all of which led to further debate and discussion between the Committee and the vendors and our own solicitors.

As discussions on the possible purchase of 39 St Edmonds Road continued, so did the planning for future building works at Chapel Street. Safety inspections had been carried out following an inspection of the premises by a number of Committee members. Various reports were requested and the results of the reports were discussed and actioned by the Committee.

Also in November, the image or branding of the PMI was discussed and it was decided that the Promotions Committee should meet and discuss how best to market the PMI. Discussions also continued about how best to invest our funds following the sale of our premises on High Street to Swinburne University. The return on our investments and forward planning for the possible redevelopment of the Chapel Street properties and/or the purchase of new premises was highlighted and discussed with all finance matters in mind.

## PMI PRESS UPDATE

Work continues on the book 'Beginnings ..' by Frank Hutchinson, which is now taking shape.

Much of this work has involved extensive revision of the text by Mr Hutchinson with amendments made at regular meetings with PMI Press administrator Christine Worthington. The text has now been formatted and illustrations and permissions to use have been sought and nearly all gathered.

This project was made possible by a Victorian government Victoria175 grant, and we will shortly submit a progress report to the grant body.

Further details and an interview with Mr Hutchinson will appear in the 'Writing History' of the next (May) issue of the PMI newsletter. We look forward to a launch before mid year.

## VOLUNTEERS NEWS

### 2010 Volunteer Stats

The overall statistics for the 2010 volunteer contribution are as follows:

7 books indexed (with a further 6 in process)

250 pamphlets delivered

879 hours of work in the library (including newsletter mailings, book care, collection security, archives scanning, cataloguing tasks and other duties).

### International Volunteer Day

We had a successful International Volunteer Day luncheon in December, and we hope that all those volunteers in attendance had a great day. We are very grateful that PMI patron Keith Dunstan OAM was able to join us and also in attendance were PMI President Cr John Chandler and Vice President Chris Michalopoulos.

At our annual International Volunteer Day we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contribution made by our volunteers across several aspects of library operation including collection care and maintenance, archives preservation, library promotion and cataloguing and collections support work.

All volunteers received a certificate denoting their individual contributions to the library for 2010.

Thanks to our amazing volunteer team we look forward to another big year in the library as a number of massive projects steam towards their realisation this year.

### National Volunteer Week 9-15 May

Did you know that Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society. Volunteering Australia uses NVW to provide a platform to pay tribute to these volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others.

The theme of NVW this year is 'Inspiring the Volunteer in You' and hopes to 'raise the profile of volunteering and highlight that volunteering, now, more than ever, is important to Australian society and the contribution of all volunteers must be recognised'.



Each year during National Volunteer Week our volunteers receive a NVW theme thank you card and small gift from the PMI.

If you are interested in volunteering at the PMI do let us know [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or 9510 3393 or visit the Volunteer Page of our website: <http://www.pmi.net.au/volunteer.htm>

## HISTORY WEEK 2010

We would like to say a very big thank you to all those who helped to make last year's History Week such a success including Peter Wolfenden of the Wireless Institute of Australia, Gerry Kennedy and Mike Trickett of the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society, and Bruce Turner, for his very interesting and informative lecture on the history of Victoria Barracks.

Thanks also to the following people and organisations: Swinburne University for its kind permission to use a room at the university for the annual Picture Show; Judith Buckrich and the Professional Historians Association for their contribution to the Short History Prize; Prahran Historical & Arts Society for its joint presentation of the lecture by Bruce Turner on 30 Oct.

We must also applaud and acknowledge the efforts and initiative of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in its creation of such a vehicle for its affiliate societies to promote history in Victoria.



*Above: Peter Wolfenden at the PMI with his History Week display of Wireless Institute of Australia memorabilia.*

*Below: Mike Trickett and Gerry Kennedy after the annual Historic Picture Show held in History Week.*



*This issue of  
'Writing History' features*  
**Elizabeth O'Callaghan**  
*the winner of the inaugural  
2010 PMI Short History Prize.  
Elizabeth gives us some  
insights into her writing,  
Warrnambool history and the  
very active Warrnambool & District  
Historical Society.*

I became interested in local history writing following a move to Warrnambool after retirement in 1991. My writing career commenced in 1997 when I was doing volunteer work at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, Warrnambool. Amongst other activities I started the short guided tours and became involved with the training of guides and the writing of manuals and information sheets etc. With the encouragement of the Flagstaff Hill staff I began to research the Warrnambool Lighthouses and Lighthouse Keepers. This brought me into a new world and I learnt about such things as Government Gazettes, the Public Record Office, Australian Archives and the Warrnambool *Standard* Almanacs booklets. After a few months I handed over the many folders of material and remarked, "There's enough here for a book."

"Then write one!" was the response. So I did!

I came to the task with an ability to write plain English and a sound knowledge of Australian and world history. I believe it is essential to place all history writings in a wider context. I was also fortunate during the writing of *Leading Lights* to make contact with the descendants of 20 of the 29 lighthouse keepers so many more personal details were forthcoming. But I did note then the inaccuracies inherent in many family histories and I have been wary ever since of 'family tradition'.



If I can't verify a story then it remains just that - a colourful tale to be included with a word of caution.

My local history writing really began in earnest in 1998 when I married Les O'Callaghan, Warrnambool's leading historian and President at that time of the Warrnambool and District Historical Society. There was no escape! I was the Society's Newsletter Editor for ten years, publishing ten issues a year and including at least one original article each issue. Thus I have now written over 160 short articles on aspects of Warrnambool's history. Also, as the Research Officer for twelve years, I gained a vast knowledge of our local history - certainly a very rich and absorbing one.

I also like to list and catalogue and have indexed a variety of the Society's material, including newsletters, newspaper cuttings, dockets, labels, funeral records, some 19th century newspapers, houses and properties, badges and medals, origin of location names and books of historical interest (writing Statements of Significance for these). I found I was mainly interested in the 19th century because the stories and people in that era had a beginning and an end! I am attracted to topics that most people have not heard of before and I am always inspired to write an article or a booklet if I come across some relevant primary sources - letters, photographs, documents or even an artefact.

My second book on the Warrnambool Industrial and Art Exhibition of 1896-7 was an easy selection once I found that it was the biggest event ever staged in Warrnambool (70,000 attending over three months) and that the Historical Society had an original Committee Minute Book, the Secretary's Letter Book, several certificates and medals and the Weekly Times Souvenir Booklet. For my third book, *Early Trips to the Otways*, I had, as the nucleus of the text, several original articles written about an 1896 tour of the Otways together with about 50 wonderful photographs taken at the time.

In the twelve years I have been writing I have produced over 30 booklets and *Alien To Us* is one of them. My attention was drawn to the topic of local Indian labour problems when I was answering a research enquiry. The story was little-known, dramatic and easily researched by trawling through newspapers of the time. The property Tooram still exists so I could visit the site and take my mind back to the 19th century and absorb the history surrounding the ruins of bygone farm houses. I always collect my research material and mull over it for a couple of hours before deciding on the approach to the story. I am also not happy to start writing unless I have chosen a title. I then compose the text as I type it straight on to the computer. I write quickly and rarely change any text. A booklet such as *Alien To Us* takes me about a month to write, working about 16 hours a

*(Continued p.6)*

(From p.5)

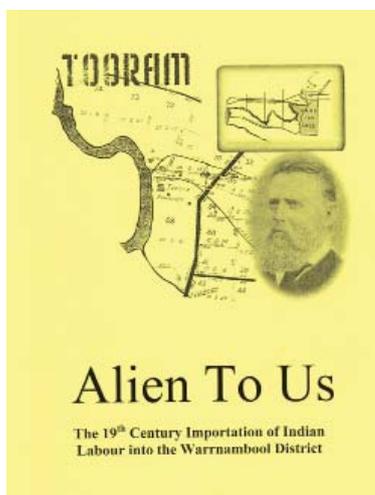
week. The Historical Society provides me with the front covers and the relevant illustrations and the photocopying, printing, collation and binding of the booklets are done by my husband and myself at our expense. The proceeds of the sale of most of my writings go to the Historical Society.

Of course I recognise that what I write today may be proved incorrect tomorrow. I suppose this is the difficulty that all historians face. I regret to say that I now have a photograph in one of my books incorrectly captioned, though I believed it correct at the time. But it is very hard to amend a text once the book is published.

Currently I have just completed an update of the booklet on the origins of the names of Warrnambool Streets (now 700 in the city) and am working on two booklets - one on a significant 19th century Warrnambool person, Joseph Archibald, and the other on the Warrnambool National School. As well, I am writing the history of the hotels of Warrnambool and district (36 completed, only 35 more to go!) and also in the pipeline is my pet project, *Silent Lives*, a book on the lives and occupations of Warrnambool women in the 19th century. The latter is not easy work as the achievements of women, in the main, went unrecorded. I am also keeping up with the writing of my own biography and I urge everyone over 50 to do the same!

What local history writing is all about is not only recording stories of the main events and prominent people of a place, but also ferreting out the stories that are unusual, long-forgotten, and absorbing and tell us so much more about the character of the area. In the Warrnambool and District Historical Society collection we have a file of articles and advertisements from old newspapers labelled 'Amusing and Colourful Stories'. There must be a hundred great stories in these files waiting for someone to engage in a little research and writing. I hope I have at least another twelve years of writing ahead of me to be one of these fortunate people!

*Elizabeth O'Callaghan*



## 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 2011.

### TOPIC:

*A historical essay, article or work of a place or aspect of a place in Victoria or a person associated with 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, recently completed and previously unpublished (or published only in the historical group' periodical).

## PRIZE \$1000

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

Closing date:

4pm Friday 26 August 2011

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)

## COLLECTION NEWS

Readers of the 'Recent Additions' supplement to this newsletter for Dec-Jan may have noticed a large number of new items in the collection in CD format. These include

- many digital reproductions of rare books (including some local histories, a compendium of Victorian and interstate cyclopedias)
- as well as indexes, early directories and other resources useful for family history research.

Worth noting is that the Sands and McDougal Directories are gradually being digitised by Archive Digital Books and are being collated into CDs containing five years' worth. We are adding these to the collection, and until this project is complete our microfiche version will fill the gaps.

Amongst the localised resources we have a batch of digital items relating to Yea (rate books, cemetery index, church baptism and burial records), a compendium of five early books relating to the history of Ballarat.

If you haven't got a copy of the latest Recent Additions supplement, view it online at

[http://www.pmi.net.au/linked\\_docs/201101RecentAdditions.pdf](http://www.pmi.net.au/linked_docs/201101RecentAdditions.pdf) or contact the library and we'll post one to you.

## FICTION

NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

### AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

***Gold! the fever that forever changed Australia*** / David Hill

Australia's incredible gold rushes of the mid to late 1800s produced tremendous wealth and ensured the financial survival of the struggling Australian colonies. Not only that, but they also tripled the country's small population, were the last nail in the coffin for convict transportation, subverted the hierarchical British class system, laid the foundations of the Australian egalitarian ethos and stimulated the democratic ideas that led to the establishment of the nation of Australia. People from all walks of life – soldiers, sailors, policemen, lawyers, aristocrats, the destitute and the desperate – and even two future prime ministers of Great Britain and Australia, threw off their previous pursuits and made the often perilous journey to the goldfields, from where they would return either fabulously wealthy, with their pockets filled with gold, or demoralised and broken – if they returned at all. David Hill relates the people and events of this monumental turning point in Australia's history using the diaries, journals, books, letters, official reports, parliamentary enquiries and newspaper articles of the time, along with his own master storyteller's skill of bringing the past to life. From New South Wales and Victoria, up to Queensland and the Northern Territory, then down to Tasmania and across the great deserts of Western Australia, he tracks the huge gold discoveries that would forever change Australia.

***Front pages that shaped Australia: 100 of the nation's most influential cover stories and newspaper headlines, from 1629 to 2009*** / Stephen Gapps

Spanning nearly 400 years, this book brings together 100 printed news stories that illuminate key moments in our nation's past. Stephen Gapps' wide-ranging and thought-provoking collection of newspaper front pages and lead stories – as well as journal entries, posters and cartoons – takes a broad view on what constitutes headline news. While Australia's first traditional format newspaper, The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser appeared in 1803, this book begins a century and a half earlier in 1647, with the published account of murder and mutiny among the passengers and crew of the Batavia, shipwrecked on the Western Australian coast. It then follows the evolution of Australian history through the lens of printed news reports, decade by decade, up to the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria in 2009. Each chapter features an extended introduction capturing the key developments and themes of the decade, and within the chapters every news story is analysed and placed in the context of the society and politics of the time. Beautifully illustrated with facsimile newspaper pages and other supporting contemporary images, the book provides a fascinating, entertaining and informative context for understanding the formation of modern Australian society.

***The story of the Melbourne Cup: Australia's greatest race*** / edited by Stephen Howell

The Victoria Turf Club conceived the Melbourne Cup and gave birth to it as a handicap race in 1861, and since 1864 the Victoria Racing Club has guided the raising of the event to its iconic position, through the deeds of great horses such as Archer, Carbine, Phar Lap and Makybe Diva, genius trainers such as Etienne de Mestre, J.B. (Bart) Cummings, Lee Freedman and Dermot Weld, and brave jockeys such as Bobby Lewis, Harry White, Damien Oliver and Glen Boss, and through on-course entertainment and fun that have turned the spring meeting into party time. As early as 1880, 100,000 went to the Cup day meeting, already a public holiday; now about 400,000 attend Flemington's famous four days – Derby day, Cup day, Oaks day and Stakes or family day. In celebrating the 150th running of the great race, this book charts in words and photos the Cup's great staying journey in a way that allows readers to dip in and out as they choose. This is not just a book about winners, it's a story of the people who have made the Cup a national – and now international – institution, a race that not only stops the nation, but is now beginning to stop the rest of the world.

***The garden of ideas: four centuries of Australian style*** / Richard Aitken

The garden of ideas tells an inspiring and engaging story of Australian garden design. From the imaginings of emigrant garden-makers of the late-eighteenth century to the concerns of twenty-first-century gardeners, this book charts its way across four centuries through a handsome and satisfying fusion of images and text.

## ***Illness in colonial Australia* / F.B. Smith**

This book is an innovative, richly researched study of the impact of the age-old afflictions the settlers carried and their efforts to cope with them. The aboriginal inhabitants suffered terribly from the new diseases. They lacked inherited immunities and were particularly damaged by the new foods and animals, alcohol and weapons, curtailed access to ritual, hunting and fishing grounds, new words and notions, all foreign to traditional understandings. Meanwhile the settlers used the wealth from the land to create institutions to sustain their health. They paid medical practitioners from Home and elsewhere for diagnoses, advice, relief and treatments. The new Australians, once imperial transportation funds dried up, and bereft of a Poor Law taxation system or long-established charitable endowments, turned to a colonial general taxation and local fund-raising and quickly built general hospitals, insane asylums and benevolent homes, provided for professional nurses and training and started medical schools. Many of these institutions were ready and rough, but they appealed to existing expectations. The Friendly Society system, adapted from Home, encouraged employed members to join locally governed accident, sickness and maternity schemes. Casual labouring people, the maimed, the mad, the drunken, the aged and the blind fared poorly. The author of this book traces these extraordinary developments with empathy, careful detail and wry wit.

### Other Australian history:

*Mark Strizic: Melbourne, marvellous to modern* / Emma Matthews

*Six months of panic: how the global financial crisis hit Australia* / Trevor Sykes

*The footy almanac: the AFL season one game at a time* / edited by John Harms and Paul Daffey

*On the record: politics, politicians and power* / Laurie Oakes

*Savage or civilised? manners in colonial Australia* / Penny Russell

*Heart and soul: Australia's first families of wine* / Graeme Lofts

*Stopping all stations: Melbourne's unfinished rail network: opportunities lost* / Rick Anderson

*The tin ticket: the heroic journey of Australia's convict women* / Deborah J. Swiss

*The party thieves: the real story of the 2010 election* / Barrie Cassidy

*Confessions of a faceless man: inside campaign 2010* / Paul Howes

*Sydney* / Delia Falconer

## **MILITARY HISTORY**

### ***The Korean War: Australia in the giant's playground* / Cameron Forbes**

The Korean War has never really ended. Although a ceasefire agreement was reached in 1953 after three years of savage warfare, the conflict continues to simmer just below the surface, threatening at any moment to break into full-scale fighting. It makes the divided Korean Peninsula, with its tragically separated people, one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world today. Fought at the beginning of the Cold War, with the US-led forces of the United Nations on the one hand against the forces of communism, led by Mao Zedong's China, on the other, the Korean War had dramatic consequences. It shaped the great ideological confrontation of the 20th century and spurred the arms race. Australia's role won it the key strategic alliance with America and set the pattern for our involvement in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. In return, Australian troops took part in some of the conflict's fiercest fighting, won vital battles and suffered and died across Korea's unforgiving hills and mountains. Cameron Forbes, acclaimed author of *Hellfire*, tells the story of the war in a riveting narrative. Researched in China and Korea, and drawing on extensive interviews with Australian, American, Korean, Chinese and Turkish veterans, the book reveals the conflict on all its levels – human, military and geopolitical. As compelling as it is comprehensive, it will serve as the definitive history of Australia and the Korean War.

### ***To Salamaua* / Phillip Bradley**

Following on from his acclaimed book *The battle for Wau*, Phillip Bradley turns his attention to the Salamaua campaign – the first of the New Guinea offensives by the Australian Army in the Second World War. Opening with the pivotal air and sea battle of the Bismarck Sea, this important title recounts the fierce land campaign fought for the ridges that guarded the Japanese base at Salamaua. From Mount Tambu to Old Vickers and across the Francisco River, the Australians and their American allies fought a desperate struggle to keep the Imperial Japanese Army diverted from the strategic prize of Lae. *To Salamaua* covers the entire campaign in one volume for the first time. From the strategic background of the campaign and the heated command conflicts, to the mud and blood of the front lines, this is the extraordinary story.

### ***Arthur's war* / Arthur Bancroft with John Harman**

In November 1940, Arthur Bancroft kissed his sweetheart, Mirla, goodbye and signed up with the Royal Australian Navy to go to war. He was nineteen years old. Arthur's war is the extraordinary story of his ordeal, and his survival. Arthur made a habit of cheating death – on the ill-fated HMAS *Perth*, which was sunk during the Battle of the Sunda Strait; as a prisoner of war on the notorious Burma-Thailand Railway, where it is said a man died for every sleeper laid; and miraculously surviving a second shipwreck that left him lost at sea, clinging to debris, for six days. While a POW Arthur risked his life to keep a secret diary written on paper scraps in which he recorded the agony and comradeship of life on the railway. Against all odds, Arthur made it back to Australia and to Mirla, who never lost hope for his eventual return all those years he was lost at war. Arthur's story is one for all Australians: a captivating saga of courage, mateship, survival – and love.

# BOOKS ETCETERA

## ***The ghost at the wedding: a true story* / Shirley Walker**

Three generations, two world wars, one family. The young men who worked in the canefields of northern New South Wales in 1914 couldn't wait to set off for the adventure of war. The women coped as best they could, raised the children, lived in fear of an official telegram. They grieved for those killed, and learnt of worse things than death in combat. They bore more sons to replace those lost, and these were just the right age to go off to the Second World War. The book chronicles events from both sides of war: the horror of the battlefields and the women left at home. Shirley Walker's depictions of those battles – Gallipoli, the Western Front, the Kokoda Track – are grittily accurate, their reverberations haunting. Written with the emotional power of a novel, here is a true story whose sorrow is redeemed by astonishing beauty and strength of spirit.

## ***A very rude awakening: the night the Japanese midget subs came to Sydney Harbour* / Peter Grose**

On the night of 31 May 1942, Sydney was doing what it does best: partying. The theatres, restaurants, dance halls, illegal gambling dens, clubs and brothels offered plenty of choice to roistering sailors, soldiers and airmen on leave in Australia's most glamorous city. The war seemed far away. Newspapers devoted more pages to horseracing than to Hitler. That Sunday night the party came to a shattering halt when three Japanese midget submarines crept into the harbour, past eight electronic indicator loops, six patrolling Royal Australian Navy ships, and an anti-submarine net stretched across the inner harbour entrance. Their arrival triggered a night of mayhem, courage, chaos and high farce, which left 27 sailors dead and a city bewildered. The war, it seemed, was no longer confined to distant desert and jungle. It was right at Australia's front door. Written at the pace of a thriller and based on new first-person accounts and previously unpublished official documents, the book is a ground-breaking and myth-busting look at one of the most extraordinary stories ever told of Australia at war.

## ***Return of the Gallipoli legend: Jacka VC***

A hero returns home to a country that is riding high on victory and bolstered with pride. But anyone who has experienced war knows it can never be left behind. This book continues the story, told in *Hard Jacka*, of Albert Jacka VC – soldier, legend and friend. In this meticulously researched account of a hero and his comrades-in-arms, Michael Lawriwsky explores the human cost of war. Coming home is bittersweet and the memories and experiences of war are never forgotten, irrevocably changing the world view of the soldiers who returned to a nation on the brink of the Great Depression. It is through the eyes of Albert Jacka, VC that we catch a glimpse of how survival away from the trenches becomes an emotional battle on the homefront.

## ***The Burma campaign: disaster into triumph 1942-45* / Frank McLynn**

Often described as 'the forgotten war', the Burma Campaign was one of the most punishing and protracted military adventures of World War Two. It has become notorious for the ingenious tactics used by Britain, America and the allies on the one hand and the Japanese and their allies on the other, as well as for the atrocious conditions that had to be endured by both sides. Seasonal monsoon rains as well as famine, disease, snakes and crocodiles all bore heavily on the troops. Impenetrable jungle, poor transport infrastructure and the Allied preoccupation with the war in Europe made this the longest single campaign fought by the British in the Second World War. It is against this epic backdrop that Frank McLynn constructs the dramatic story of the four larger-than-life commanders directing the Allied effort: Louis Mountbatten, Orde Wingate, Joseph Stilwell and William Slim. Strikingly original in its approach, the book explores the Campaign through the prism of these four men and their often stormy relationship. Through the interactions and antagonisms of its principal players, we see how the plans, designs and strategies of generals and politicians were translated into a hideous reality for the men on the ground.

Other military history:

*Remember them: a guide to Victoria's wartime heritage* / Garrie Hutchinson

*Don't forget me cobber: the battle of Fromelles* / Robin S. Corfield

*Crimea: the last crusade* / Orlando Figes

*The red rose and the white: the Wars of the Roses 1453-1487* / John Sadler

*Beneath Flanders fields: the tunnellers' war 1914-18* / Peter Barton, Peter Doyle and Johan Vandewalle

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### ***Against the grain: Brian Fitzpatrick and Manning Clark in Australian history and politics* / edited by Stuart Macintyre and Sheila Fitzpatrick**

Manning Clark was Australia's most celebrated and contentious historian. Brian Fitzpatrick was Australia's best-known radical historian and a courageous champion of civil liberties during the Cold War. The two men shared a long friendship that was tested by fundamental differences in their understandings of politics and history, and sustained by their personal tribulations. *Against the grain* examines the dual careers of Fitzpatrick and Clark as activists and historians, and shows the political and personal difficulties that beset both men throughout their careers. The essays and memoirs in this collection critically observe the men's legacy and the value of their work to future generations, recalling the controversies in which they figured and the continuing arguments the set in motion.

### ***Antarctica to Footscray: Arch Hoadley: a man of inspiration and courage* / Jack A. Hoadley**

This book researched by Arch Hoadley's son Jack, has extensive chapters on Hoadley's participation in the Mawson Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14, his role as foundation Principal of Footscray Technical School and his active development of scouting in Victoria. It includes the sociological context in which Footscray

# BOOKS ETCETERA

developed between 1916 and 1947. It also describes Hoadley's contribution to the development of a liberal rather than instrumentalist view of technical education. While avoiding hagiography, the book shows why Arch Hoadley is still warmly remembered by ex-students, scouts and Rotarians even though he died aged 60 in 1947. Clearly he was a man of enormous energy, fortitude, compassion and wisdom who deeply influenced the civic life of Footscray and the life chances of many young men. Donated by Jack Hoadley, copies can be purchased from the author, email [jho21690@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jho21690@bigpond.net.au)

## Other biography:

*Barassi: the biography* / Peter Lalor

*How to make gravy* / Paul Kelly

*One thing led to another* / Mark 'Chopper' Read

*One man show: the stages of Barry Humphries* / Anne Pender

*Well done those men: memoirs of a Vietnam veteran* / Barry Heard

*The view from Connor's Hill: a memoir* / Barry Heard

*Mary Poppins she wrote: the true story of Australian writer P.L. Travers, creator of the quintessentially English nanny* / Valerie Lawson

*Lazarus rising: a personal and political biography* / John Howard

*Decision points* / George W. Bush

*A journey* / Tony Blair

## GENERAL NON-FICTION

*The hemlock cup: Socrates, Athens and the search for the good life* / Bettany Hughes

*Carthage must be destroyed: the rise and fall of an ancient civilization* / Richard Miles

*God's philosophers: how the medieval world laid the foundations of modern science* / James Hannam

*Pirates of Barbary: corsairs, conquests and captivity in the seventeenth century Mediterranean* / Adrian Tinniswood

*Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* / Timothy Snyder

*Bad ideas?: an arresting history of our inventions* / Robert Winston

*Antony and Cleopatra* / Adrian Goldsworthy

*The Plantagenets: history of a dynasty* / J.S. Hamilton

*The Royal Stuarts: a history of the family that shaped Britain* / Allan Massie

*The story of England: a village and its people through the whole of English history* / Michael Wood

*Crime* / Ferdinand von Schirach

*1989: the year that changed the world: the untold story behind the fall of the Berlin Wall* / Michael Meyer

*Zulu rising: the epic story of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift* / Ian Knight

## FICTION

### Mysteries

*Worth dying for* / Lee Child

*The reversal* / Michael Connelly

*The Singapore School of Villainy* / Shamini Flint

*The priest* / Gerard O'Donovan

*Death mask* / Kathryn Fox

*Moonlight mile* / Dennis Lehane

*The lock artist* / Steve Hamilton

*The Wyatt butterfly* / Garry Disher

*Known to evil* / Walter Mosley

*Operation Napoleon* / Arnaldur Indridason

*Three seconds* / Roslund and Hellstrom

*Port Mortuary* / Patricia Cornwell

*Red wolf* / Liza Marklund

*Postcard killers* / James Patterson and Liza Marklund

*August heat: an Inspector*

*Montalbano mystery* / Andrea Camilleri

### General fiction

*Freedom* / Jonathan Franzen

*The invisible bridge* / Julie Orringer

*The Finkler question* / Howard Jacobson

*Look at the birdie (short stories)* / Kurt Vonnegut

*Fall of giants* / Ken Follett

*Daniel* / Henning Mankell

*Insurrection* / Robyn Young

*The death of King Arthur* / Peter Ackroyd

### Australian fiction

*Time's long ruin* / Stephen Orr

*When colts ran* / Roger McDonald

*The plantation* / Di Morrissey

*The body in the clouds* / Ashley Hay

*The philanthropist* / John Tesarsch

*Five bells* / Gail Jones

For the full list of new items, see the monthly 'Recent Additions' supplement to this newsletter.

## 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 posted 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

## Beyond the kitchen: Australian women food writers in a changing society

Hear about six women food writers. Featuring Dr Adele Wessell (Southern Cross University) and Alison Wishart (National Museum of Australia) on Flora Pell, author of *Our Cookery Book*; Charmaine O'Brien (food writer) on our first celebrity chef Margaret Preston; and Professor Donna Lee Brien (Central Queensland University) on Margaret Fulton, Stephanie Alexander and Maggie Beer.

A talk in the Making Public Histories series, presented by Monash University, the History Council of Victoria and the State Library of Victoria. 5.30-7.00pm, 10 March 2011. Bookings required 03 8664 7099, email [bookings@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookings@slv.vic.gov.au), or online at [slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on](http://slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on)

Further information: <http://www.womenshistory.com.au/default.asp>

## Boutique magnifique: memories of fashionable Collins Street

A film by Leslie Rosenthal. A general history of fashion and clothing through the perspective of a selection of Collins Street boutiques and department stores that no longer exist. The film consists of 18 short stories of the various people involved and goes for two hours. Screening at ACMI in Federation Square on Saturday the 5th and 12th of March at 4 pm. Price is \$8.

## History Victoria Support Group Seminar

10am-3pm, Saturday 12 March 2011 at Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Narre Warren (adjacent to Fountain Gate Shopping Centre).

The main themes for the day are 'Who owns history?' and 'Making a website work for you'.

A charge of \$15 per person, to be paid on the day, will cover lunch and morning and afternoon tea provided by, but please book beforehand, as below. There is no charge for the Seminar Day itself.

For further information and bookings contact the RHSV before 9 March: (03) 9326 9288 or email [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)

## St Kilda Historical Society

Sun 20 Mar 2011 – Walking tour – 'Stroll Thru History' guided by Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens. Limited numbers, pre-bookings required: [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au) or ph 9537 1967

## **Australian Heritage Week**

Australian Heritage Week is a new annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage which will run from **Thur 14 April - Wed 20 April 2011**.

This is an initiative of the federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, which encourages all communities to get involved with planning and hosting activities during AHW that showcase their unique local heritage. Further information and details of AHW events may be found at the following website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week/index.html>

To mark the first Australian Heritage Week, we are running a membership drive. **All new members who join during AHW will receive a complimentary PMI pen.**

**You can help** by detaching the slip below and passing it on to a friend or family member who is interested in history.



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## INSIDE

**ANNUAL BRUCE TURNER LECTURE:**  
*Jenny Davies on 'Beyond the Façade: Flinders Street, more than just a railway station': Wed 16 Mar. See p. 1*

**WRITING HISTORY:**

*Featuring Elizabeth O'Callaghan, winner of the 2010 PMI Short History Prize p. 5*

**NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE WEEK**

*Details p. 11*

**PMI HISTORY DISPLAY**

*at the library in April - see p. 11*

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