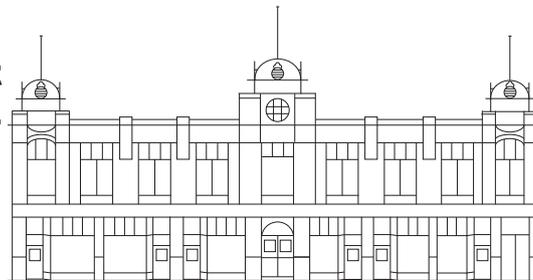


# PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 73 - FEBRUARY 2012



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

Patron:  
Keith Dunstan OAM

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

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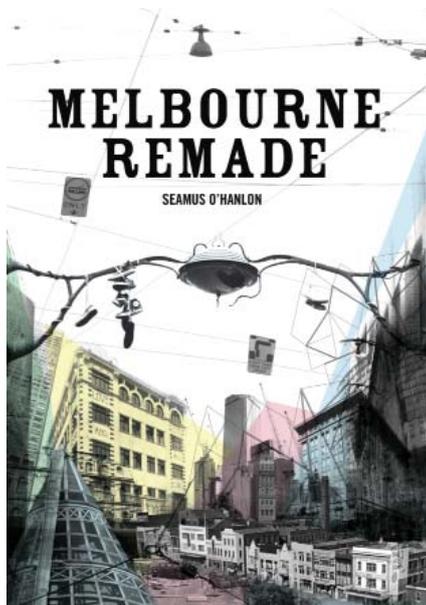
ANNUAL LAURIE MCCALMAN LECTURE:

## SEAMUS O'HANLON

on

# MELBOURNE REMADE

*The Inner City Since the 70s*



Taking up where *Making Modern Melbourne* left off, *Melbourne Remade* charts the social and cultural consequences of globalisation, the rise and rise of postmodern monoliths, and the recent resurgence of the CBD as a place to live, work and play. Come on a journey beyond the city's beloved laneways and explore the palimpsest that is Melbourne.

## 2.00pm, Saturday 3 March 2012

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)

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

2011 PMI Library

### Survey

*Summary of Results p.4*

2012

### SHORT HISTORY PRIZE

*Details p. 8*

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# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## MEMBERS NEWS

### New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Sep-Jan:

<i>Margaret Barnett</i>	<i>Margaret Holley</i>
<i>Neville Bedford</i>	<i>Adele Jones</i>
<i>Alison Birchall</i>	<i>Wayne Knoll</i>
<i>Frank Bren</i>	<i>Michael Middleton</i>
<i>Jessie Briggs</i>	<i>Peter Murphy</i>
<i>Narelle Castleman</i>	<i>Kai Nicholson</i>
<i>Danny Colgan</i>	<i>Rod Permezal</i>
<i>Guerilla Creative</i>	<i>Glenys Phillpot</i>
<i>Bronwen Dennis</i>	<i>Viktoria Rother</i>
<i>Maira Drew</i>	<i>Nobby Seymour</i>
<i>David Frost</i>	<i>Christopher Southall</i>
<i>Stephen Graham</i>	<i>Jacquie Taylor</i>
<i>Russ Haines</i>	<i>Alicia Tiller</i>
<i>Louise Halt</i>	<i>Marjorie Walker</i>
<i>Heritage Insight PL</i>	<i>Helana Wretham</i>
<i>Justin Hockley</i>	

### Financial Donors

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library Sep-Jan:

<i>Elizabeth Boundy</i>	<i>Kristin Otto</i>
<i>Clive Brookes</i>	<i>Ben Probin</i>
<i>Philippe De Gail</i>	<i>Keith Rogers</i>
<i>Deirdre Farfor</i>	<i>Mary Russell</i>
<i>Margaret Hicks</i>	<i>Barrie &amp; Margaret Stevens</i>
<i>Marilyn Kenny</i>	<i>Robert Sweetten</i>
<i>Douglas Kuhn</i>	<i>Jim Twomey</i>
<i>Maya Lazarus</i>	<i>Anne Tyson</i>
<i>Jadzia Lemieszek</i>	<i>Frank Van Straten</i>
<i>Donald Linforth</i>	
<i>Michael Macgeorge</i>	

### Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and groups who donated books to the library Sep-Jan:

<i>Australian Railway Historical Society Vic.</i>	<i>Carol Holsworth</i>
<i>Clarice Ballenden</i>	<i>Nurses Board of Victoria and Nurses Memorial Centre</i>
<i>Pam Baragwanath</i>	<i>Wilma Farrow</i>
<i>Bayside Libraries</i>	<i>Beatrice Garner</i>
<i>Linda Berndt</i>	<i>Wendy Graham</i>
<i>Corinne Brewis</i>	<i>Robin Grow</i>
<i>Douglas Stewart Fine Books</i>	<i>Marjorie Johnson</i>
<i>Margaret Dunne</i>	<i>Keilor Historical Society</i>
<i>Wendy Eldridge</i>	<i>Alistair Langdon</i>
<i>Brian Giddings</i>	<i>Charles Lewis</i>
<i>Julia Hamer</i>	<i>Christine Love</i>
<i>Valerie Heffernan</i>	<i>Dick Mack</i>

<i>Peter Mansfield</i>	<i>Justine Sloane</i>
<i>Tim McKenna</i>	<i>Clifford L. Spowart</i>
<i>Elizabeth O'Callaghan</i>	<i>Steve Stefanopoulos</i>
<i>Ray Peace</i>	<i>Tony Tibballs</i>
<i>Ken Penaluna</i>	<i>John Tully</i>
<i>Mary-Louise Phillips</i>	<i>Frank Van Straten</i>
<i>Irene Robinson</i>	<i>Raymond A. Walls</i>
<i>Susan Schneider</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>
<i>Jeremiah Sloane</i>	

## GENERAL NEWS

### 2011 Library Survey

Thanks very much to all PMI members who took the time to complete our big library survey last year. Please turn to p. 4 for some results information.

### Library & Committee

Joshua Ward will finish up his work placement at PMI on 27 Feb. Thanks to Gina from WISE Employment for organising the placement and thank you also to Joshua who carried out a whole range of tasks for the library including shelving, bibliographic searching, indexing, and copy cataloguing to the Libraries Australia database.

### Short History Prize

Congratulations to Dr Peter Mansfield, winner of the 2011 PMI Short History Prize for his entry *Able, gifted, trustworthy and disloyal : the political fortunes of Henry Bournes Higgins, MLA for Geelong, 1894-1900*. Dr Mansfield and his associated group, Geelong Historical Society, each received \$500.

Judges' comments:

*Peter Mansfield has written a well-considered and well-composed essay on Henry B. Higgins and his increasingly uncomfortable role as a parliamentary representative for the people of Geelong in the Federation era. Higgins is known to Australian history as a lawyer, intellectual and reforming judge on the High Court and has been the subject of biographical study including John Rickard's excellent book H.B. Higgins: the rebel as judge. Peter Mansfield's essay places the focus on the local while not losing sight of the bigger picture and is a good example of local history of the highest standards.*

The following entrants were Commended:

**Ellise Angel - *From rags to riches: A story of changes in a country school; Lavers Hill P-12 College.***

*Elise Angel is commended by the judges for her nicely told account of 'changes in a country school'. The community that she studies, Lavers Hill, was very much a world of its for much of its history, and the author has provided a good*

portrait of the school while being aware of its place in the wider world.

## Ronald J Gunn - *Life as a country boy*

*Ronald Gunn's Life as a country boy is commended by the judges as a fresh and lively account of his childhood which will strike a chord with many of its older readers while evoking a past era to younger readers.*

This was the second year of the Short History Prize, which is judged by a panel from the Professional Historians Association. Thanks very much to Dr Judith Buckrich, Dr Andrew Lemon and Ms Emma Russell once again for contributing their time to judge the prize and provide such thoughtful feedback.

We were pleased with the response to the prize, and would like to thank all those writers who showed their support by their submissions. Additionally, we're grateful to all those who donated their entries to the library.

Details of the 2012 Short History Prize can be found on page 8 of this newsletter, and a copy of the entry form and guidelines can be found on our website at [www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize](http://www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize).

## 2011 Picture Show

Thanks very much Ross King and Mike Trickett of the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society for a fabulous annual Historic Picture Show, held last October during History Week.

The theme of the show was 'Newsreel theatres of Melbourne'. Ross King has contributed his notes from the evening and they will appear in the May newsletter.



CATHS Vice President, Ross King and Secretary, Mike Trickett after the 2011 Historic Picture Show.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

A concept plan for the St Edmonds Road building is still in process, including space allocations and precise lift location. The recent

survey of PMI members has given the committee plenty of food for thought in the planning process.

In the meantime, the Australian Railways Historical Society is in the process of moving its collection to the ground floor at St Edmonds Road. For additional security, an alarm was installed before the Christmas break.

The secretary is arranging signage for the parking spaces at the front of the building.

## VOLUNTEERS NEWS

### Volunteer Stats

In 2011 26 volunteers contributed a whopping 976 hours worth of work in the library.

Additionally, twelve book indexes were completed and added to the collection.

The entire book collection has now been tattle-taped and all outstanding catalogue records have been added to the Libraries Australia database (Trove).

Work continues on tattle-taping the periodicals collection, collating and scanning PMI correspondence archives, and bibliographic searching to support the acquisitions process.

Words can't describe what a radical difference volunteers have made to the progress of the library in recent years and we look forward to a continuation of this support in 2012.

### International Volunteer Day

Our 4th International Volunteer Day luncheon was held at the PMI on Saturday 3 December.

On this occasion every year we recognise and acknowledge the hard work and commitment of volunteers.

PMI President, Cr John Chandler, thanked the volunteers on behalf of the committee and presented certificates denoting each volunteer's individual contribution. Life Member and former Secretary Librarian Bruce Turner also attended and spoke of the very impressive contribution of the volunteers in 2011.

A catered lunch was provided, this time with the assistance of a Stonnington Community grant.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to our International Volunteer Day celebration.

## PMI PRESS NEWS

The PMI Press Reading Committee has made its selection for 2012. It is *A History of Physical Education in Victoria* by Garry Powell. In 2008 PMI Press published Garry's book *Double Gold*.

Thanks very much to the other writers who submitted manuscripts to PMI Press for this round.

## 2011 PMI Library Survey Results

175 people responded to the survey, a response rate of around 35%.

Some random comments are included below, but this is not comprehensive.

1. 57% of respondents identified as over 65 years of age, and 39% are within the 36-65 age group.
2. 59% of respondents live in the inner suburbs, and 33% live in outer Melbourne (the remaining 8% live in rural/regional Victoria or interstate).
3. The most popular uses of the library were leisure reading (historical collection) followed by family history and leisure reading (general collection).
4. 47% of respondents have been a member of the library for 1-5 years, and 44% have been a member for more than 5 years.
5. 62% of respondents used the library less than once per month, and 19% use the library once per month or more.
6. Of respondents who have visited the library, 92% said they have approached library staff for assistance with their research or to help them find particular items. In the second part of this question, 135 comments indicate a very good level of staff helpfulness and effectiveness.
7. Of respondents who have visited the library, 96% said the services and facilities (including lending services, reading areas, equipment etc) met their needs. In the second part of the question 14 people indicated some things they would improve.
8. Of respondents who haven't visited the library (or haven't visited recently), 66% said the main reason was because they live too far away from the library and 30% said parking in the vicinity of the library is too difficult. 13% said public transport is too difficult for them.
9. 43% of respondents use the PMI website less than once per month, and 25% said they use the website at least once per month. 31% said they have never used the website and/or don't have internet access.
10. 57% of respondents said that they have used the PMI catalogue, and the other 43% have never used the catalogue and/or do not

have internet access.

11. 16% have used PayPal to pay their subscriptions, with the remainder have never used PayPal and/or not having internet access.
12. 97% of respondents said they think the PMI newsletter and recent additions are informative and useful. The remaining 3% said they did not read the newsletter/recent additions.
13. 53% of respondents said they have attended an event or activity at the library.
14. 122 people (70%) responded to the final question regarding suggestions for our future library and this feedback was very interesting. Note that the following percentages do not add to 100 because respondents were invited to tick more than one option if they wished.
  - 52% voted for a library users lunch/tea room or a coffee shop on the premises, with comments revealing that a lunch/tea room was the more preferred option.

*Many library users arrive mid-morning and leave mid-afternoon - a facility for casual and relaxed, quick meals would add to the experience of the library.*

*Make the library a vibrant meeting place. I like the idea of a coffee shop, with real baristas.*

*A tea room would be a nice touch making the library more relaxing.*

*With the demise of the retail bookshop the reading room/coffee shop/magazine browsing space would appear open for exploitation.*

- 43% voted for an expanded program of lectures and other activities.

Suggestions under this topic included tours to places of interest, making podcasts of lectures available on the web, discussion groups during the day, allowing other groups to use space in the building for their activities, reading groups, book clubs, photographs and film

- 41% voted for the establishment of special interest groups relating to aspects of history.

Some suggestions given include family history, military history, garden history.

*A link to writers groups in the area would be good.*

*Users groups would be a means of reaching non-members.*

- 39% voted for an expansion of online content and services.

*Expansion of online content and services could*

*be useful for members who live a fair distance from the library.*

*Online is the future for access and attracting new members.*

*Increased online databases available to members would be an incentive to attract more members and you could have different categories of members so that costs were recouped.*

*Locals could upload their history photos.*

- 17% voted for an expansion of the library collection into other related subject areas.

*Please continue your unique focus on local, Victorian and Australian history/literature.*

*Keen to see continuation and expansion of the local history collections.*

*I see the library should limit its involvement to subjects of a historic nature. General topics can be sourced elsewhere.*

*Expansion of the library collection might dilute the present strength and uniqueness of the library.*

*History and education could be the speciality.*

*It would be great for the library to collect Aust documentary films related to history and biography.*

- 15% voted for changing the name of the library to more closely reflect the function of the library.

*A change of name of the library, but incorporating 'mechanics' institute' in the letterhead - as it is history itself.*

*New name to reflect its history but explain its function/relevance.*

*As the library is mainly a History Library I think the name should reflect and stress that.*

*Please DO NOT lose the title 'mechanics' institute' as it is an important 'live' link to a great history.*

*The name is part of the history of the library and I would not like to see it changed.*

*Why change something that has worked so well for so long?*

*I would definitely not like to see the name of the library change as it is part of the heritage of the library.*

Much of the feedback in the survey was so interesting that I'd like to address some of the specific comments in this and future issues of the newsletter this year. Let's start with some comments from Q12 about the newsletter:

## MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

*Perhaps an occasional column contributed by library users. It would be nice to hear of end results made by family history researchers and those who have used the library for other forms of research eg students. A line or two from successful users could make interesting reading and generate connectivity with the PMI.*

To some extent we do this in the 'Writing History' segment, as most of the featured writers have been PMI members. But it's true that many members who use the library regularly would have stories of gems they have found in the collection for their research and it would be great to include them. If you have a short story of your research and how the PMI library has assisted you, please do send it to us via email or post. No more than 200 words please as we often find it's hard to fit everything into the newsletter.

*I look at the newsletter but don't read much. Would it be better online?*

Over half of our members receive the newsletter in hard copy, the rest receive it as a pdf file via email. If you wish to change your preference for the way you receive the newsletter do let us know. At the end of each year all the newsletters go up online on the newsletter page of our website at <http://www.pmi.net.au/newsletter.htm#archive>

*Like to see better quality paper used and envelopes.*

Recently I obtained quotes for having the newsletter professionally printed, but it was going to be very expensive. At the time our brand new photocopier had just arrived and it was decided that we would persevere with printing it ourselves on the premises for the time being and reexamine the use of a printing service in future. We have used envelopes for the newsletter in the past, and the feedback from our newsletter volunteers was negative in terms of the time it took (especially when folding and inserting a 12p newsletter) and the number of paper cuts suffered.

*When writing up the other society newsletters, more detail, do not use ref to page no, takes up valuable data info space.*

The journals are originally indexed for the library catalogue, and this is the reason why page numbers are included. These lists are then copied and pasted to the 'Recent Additions' and I'm afraid it would take Tim too long to go through them all to remove the page number references.

Incidentally, we have many back issues of historical society periodicals that require indexing which would make them much more useful for researchers.

If you have a computer at home and are interested in doing some indexing, please contact Tim. He might be able to match you up with a newsletter about a place or topic that interests you.

**Look out for further member comments in the May newsletter.**

*This installment of 'Writing History' is contributed by*  
**Dr Peter Mansfield,**  
*winner of our 2011 Short History Prize for his entry*  
**Able, gifted, trustworthy and disloyal : the political fortunes of Henry Bournes Higgins, MLA for Geelong, 1894-1900.**



My overriding interests

I have two areas of interest: the concept of respectable behaviour in Victoria in the late-19th century, and, secondly, the analysis of recent events and how they become part of our sense of history.

My preferred method is to analyze local events within the colonial or national context, and to use the material to write essays and short histories. Through trial and error, I now know that I do not like long books, genealogical charts, or the slavish retelling of old stories. I prefer the 'why it happened', rather than the 'what happened', approach to Australian history.

Respectable Behaviour

Respectability and British middle-class hegemony were overpowering forces in the late-nineteenth century. We are led to believe that our great-grandparents refused to discuss politics, religion, money or sex at the meal table but that did not prevent these issues being addressed in other forums. I am as interested in what our ancestors thought and said, as much as what they achieved.

I use multiple sources, including newspapers, minute books, diaries, maps and statistics

in order to gain a broader understanding of respectable and less-respectable behaviour. When researching the operation of about twenty mechanic's institutes and free libraries, I have found that the minute books highlight certain characteristics which suggest that all colonial libraries were alike. But my book, *Generous Providers and Stern Custodians: the development of libraries in the Colony of Victoria*, relied on multiple sources which demonstrate that every committee had to find its own way of grappling with the conflicting goals of responding to the needs of local communities whilst maintaining 'proper standards'. Debates about sensation fiction and Sunday opening of libraries were discrete examples of a much larger debate in society.

Local newspapers, maps, church sermons, planning applications, book purchases from London, and financial reports, provide a wealth of information that increases our understanding of the attitudes of the committeemen who ran the libraries. I say 'committeemen' in the literal sense because, in 1893, the Geelong Mechanics' Institute formed a 'women's sub-committee' and invited the ladies to 'think of ideas to assist the library'. But this request was a cipher or code because the GMI committee wanted the ladies to arrange bazaars and fetes to repay the bank overdraft. In that way, the men could concentrate on running the library. The convener of the women's sub-committee was a man.

Similarly, our understanding of the attitudes of local politicians is informed by analyzing multiple sources. Colonial politicians display a number of common traits (including religion, schooling and political persuasion) but there were differences too. Graham Berry helped draft the constitution for the Commonwealth of Australia but didn't want to be a federal politician, Richard Crouch was uninterested in the detail but wanted to be a federal politician, Henry Higgins was obsessed with the detail and claimed to be indifferent to his political prospects, Alfred Ozanne wanted to reform society, and Jonas Levien simply wanted to win. The common theme was that each person – and all their opponents – required 5,000 Geelong residents to vote for them, or their careers stalled.

I had been researching the career of Henry

Bournes Higgins, MLA for Geelong between 1894 and 1900, for some time and had a clear grasp of the events of his life as a local politician. But my 'Eureka moment' came when I identified one critical point: Higgins was not a joiner of local organizations. He never spoke in support of his political allies in Geelong and seldom addressed issues of local concern. When Higgins was suddenly swept up by the Boer War imbroglio, he received a blunt reminder about loyalty and respectability because no-one stepped forward to defend him on this contentious issue.

## Contemporary history

I never cease to be surprised by the amount of unused primary source material, or of the quantity of contemporary material that is ignored because it is not considered 'historical'. Recently, I wrote *In Perfectly Safe Hands: a history of local government in Geelong and District* and my current project is *The Honourable Member for Corio: an overview of the eleven MHRs for the federal seat of Corio*. Both projects involved the analysis of contemporary issues and events, and both projects provided opportunities to assess, review, and speculate.

### ABLE, GIFTED, TRUSTWORTHY and DISLOYAL

The Political Fortunes of Henry Bournes Higgins, MLA for Geelong, 1894-1900



Peter Mansfield

The amalgamation of the rival municipalities had been considered on at least ten occasions in the past century and yet all the serving councillors expressed shock when it happened to them in 1993. Similarly, Geelong's city council is currently debating the popular election of its mayor. The local press would have us believe that the issue has never been discussed before. The 2007 federal election campaign provided a new source of local information when political candidates and their anonymous supporters used the Internet to post comments about their rivals. During my research, I made a habit of printing these daily blogs and was greatly surprised to notice, a few weeks after the election, that most of the sites had closed down and the colourful language; about slush funds, rats, back-stabbing, secret dossiers, and one-dimensional unelectable idiots, had disappeared.

I am currently working on another series of essays on respectable behaviour. Subjects include the Inverleigh Mechanics' Institute, Alfred Deakin's speeches in Geelong, the popularity of Australia Day, and what happens when a marriage celebrant makes a mistake.

## My advice for history writers?

- Read a lot: as a librarian and historian, I am convinced that people who don't read can't write.
- Be aware of your audience but use a writing style that suits you.
- Be consistent with your grammar. Don't become too reliant on the spellchecker
- Focus on 'why' not 'what' and tell your audience the purpose of your essay.
- Ask someone to read your work at the penultimate stage. Readability is essential.
- Know when to stop writing. Remember that it is an essay, not an encyclopedia.

*Dr Peter Mansfield is a Research Librarian at Deakin University. A copy of Able, gifted, trustworthy and disloyal can be read at [http://geelonganddistrict.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/higgins\\_essay.pdf](http://geelonganddistrict.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/higgins_essay.pdf). This, and other works by Peter Mansfield, may be found in the PMI Library.*

PRARRAN 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 2012.

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, completed within the past 5 years and previously unpublished (or published only in the historical group's periodical).

PRIZE \$1000

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

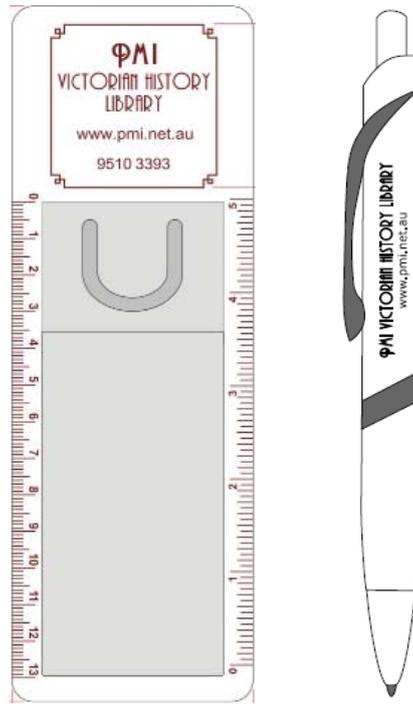
Closing date:

4pm Friday 31 August 2012

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)

ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE LIBRARY:



PMI MAGNIFYING RULER BOOKMARKS and PMI PENS

available from the loans desk

**\$4 each** (\$5 non-members)

**COLLECT THE SET!**

The following books are also available for sale at the PMI library:

*(prices listed are for members only)*

Buildings, Books and Beyond \$54

No Shops in Acland Street \$27

Frontier French Island \$45

Eliza's Vision: a History of Wattle Park \$27

Design for Living: a History of 'Prahlan Tech' \$31.50

Beginnings: a Brief Account of Some of the First Europeans to Explore or Settle in Victoria \$13.50

The Pride of Prahlan: a History of Prahlan Library \$25

Hoyts 1909-2009 \$13.50

## FICTION

*NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.*

### **AUSTRALIAN HISTORY**

#### **Australia's serial killers / Paul B. Kidd**

Since its first publication in 2000, Australia's Serial Killers has become a true crime classic. This edition is fully updated, bringing all the cases covered up to the minute. A recognised authority on Australia's most notorious criminals, Paul B. Kidd covers in unwavering detail 33 true stories of serial murder. In this gallery of infamy are world renowned killers the likes of the Night Caller, The Granny Killer, Ivan Milat, Kathleen Folbigg and the Snowtown murderers.

#### **The encyclopedia of religion in Australia / edited by James Jupp**

This book is the first major work of reference to describe the beliefs, practices and organisation of religion in Australia. It examines religion in several different ways: historical development, belief systems and controversies, as well as the social role each faith plays in modern Australian society. This comprehensive volume includes entries on indigenous spirituality, Scientology, hillsong, and atheism, and features all of the major religions. Richly illustrated, it includes a section dedicated to current debates and issues in modern-day Australia, such as the place of religion in politics, fundamentalism, religious education and social cohesion

#### **Australians: from Eureka to the diggers / Thomas Keneally**

This book brings to life the vast range of characters who have formed our national story, in the second volume of a unique history of Australia.

### **MILITARY HISTORY**

#### **The architect of Kokoda: Bert Kienzle – the man who made the Kokoda Trail / Robyn Kienzle**

If one person made the Kokoda Track that man was Bert Kienzle. Part Samoan and German/English, born in Fiji and raised in Germany and Australia, he was managing a rubber plantation and gold mine in Papua New Guinea at the outbreak of WWII.

#### **Digger Smith and Australia's Great War / Peter Stanley**

This book takes as its subject Australians called Smith who experienced the Great War. There were Smiths in every unit of the Australian Imperial Force, in virtually every rank, every job, including doctor, chaplain, pilot and nurse. Peter Stanley tells their stories in ways that attempt to integrate the experiences of men, women and children, soldiers and civilians, old and young, those who served and those who did not; seeking to connect those at home and those overseas rather than to perpetuate the unjustifiable separation between civilian and combatant that bedevils Australian military history.

#### **Shanghai fury : Australian heroes of revolutionary China / Peter Thompson**

The Ching Dynasty had been swept away and China's great republican vision had become a reality. It was a unique situation: two Australians, George Ernest Morrison and William Henry Donald, had helped to topple a 2000 year old empire and replace it with what would become the world's biggest and most diverse republic.

#### **Desert boys: Australians at war from Beersheba to Tobruk and El Alamein / Peter Rees**

About 1300 Australians died in the desert campaigns of World War I, while another 3500 died in North Africa and the Middle East during World War II. Thousands more carried the wounds of war for the rest of their lives. Countless families were left behind to mourn the dead and comfort the injured. A ripple effect of grief passed down the generations. This is the story of Australia's desert wars as never before told. Using letters, diaries, interviews and unpublished memoirs, Desert Boys provides an intensely personal and gripping insight into the thoughts, feelings and experiences of two generations of Australian soldiers. In many cases these were fathers and sons going to successive wars with all the tragedy, adventure and hardship that brought.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### **A life by design: the art and lives of Florence Broadhurst / Siobhan O'Brien**

Florence Broadhurst, the one-time chanteuse of Shanghai, Bond Street salon owner, world-renowned wallpaper designer and Sydney socialite, lived a life steeped in subterfuge and deception. Here, for the first time, we get a glimpse at the fascinating woman behind the hand- printed brocades.

#### **Say it with feeling: Gerald Stone**

Since his arrival in Australia from the United States in the early 1960s, Gerald Stone has been at the forefront of Australian news media from working on such legendary programs as This Day Tonight to founding executive producer of 60 Minutes. His career has spanned the glory days of free-to-air television and made him an intimate of the most famous names in the industry - whether proprietors such as Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch, or stars such as Jana Wendt, Ray Martin, George Negus and Richard Carleton.

# BOOKS ETCETERA

In this fascinating memoir, Gerald's journey through the world of Australian television is full of characters, genuine insights and illuminating stories. Gerald's own tale offers a panoramic yet intensely personal view of these never-before-heard stories behind some of TV's most treasured moments.

## **The master: a personal portrait of Bart Cummings / Les Carlyon**

In the world of horse racing, Bart Cummings is the master. His astonishing tally of twelve Melbourne Cup wins arguably makes him the greatest trainer in Australia's history and, by statistical measures, as freakish as Bradman. His laconic wit and indifference to the trappings of wealth and fame have seen him recognised as a national treasure in his own lifetime. He is one of Australia's great characters. As Les Carlyon writes, he simply isn't like anyone else. Cummings doesn't come into it: to everyone he's just Bart. Carlyon is Australia's most revered observer of racing. For close to forty years he has known Bart and chronicled his remarkable career. Now, in *The Master*, Carlyon gives us a portrait of the man, his horses and his world away from the glamour of the big race days. It shows us a Bart few have seen before. Intimate, personal, informed and captivating - *The Master* is loaded with stories and characters that reveal much of the character and modus operandi of Bart.

## **Sandbelters: memories of middle Australia / Robert Murray**

Set largely in wartime and postwar Sandringham, in Melbourne's bayside 'sand belt' of suburbia, this is a story of an average Australian family in a middling period of our history, not so very long ago. Author and journalist Robert Murray enlivens family records and memories handed down over generations with his own recollections of state schools, Sunday school, the boy scouts, 'wireless' series and work as a messenger boy with a now defunct newspaper, *The Argus*. He also writes about his parents' country origins among large extended families of their own; their memories help him bring the pioneering days of his own grandparents and great-grandparents to life.

## **The happiest refugee: a memoir / Anh Do**

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. This book tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination - a big life with big dreams. Anh's story will move and amuse all who read it.

## FICTION

### **Australian fiction**

Empire Day / Diane Armstrong  
Spirit house / Mark Dapin  
Piano lessons / Anna Goldsworthy  
Cold light / Frank Moorhouse  
The colonial queen / Peter Corris  
Blood / Tony Birch  
Hergesheimer hangs in / Morris Lurie  
Tiger men / Judy Nunn  
The opal desert / Di Morrissey  
All that I am / Anna Funder  
The chemistry of tears / Peter Carey  
The Freudian slip / Marion Von Adlerstein  
Loose: a wild history / Ouyang Yu

### **General mysteries**

Born to run / John M. Green  
Cell 8 / Roslund and Hellstrom  
V is for vengeance / Sue Grafton  
Death comes to Pemberley / P.D. James  
The fear index / Robert Harris  
The potter's field / Andrea Camilleri

### **General fiction**

The song of Achilles / Madeline Miller  
The sense of an ending / Julian Barnes (2011 Booker winner)  
The stranger's child / Alan Hollinghurst (2011 Booker list)  
On Canaan's side / Sebastian Barry (2011 Booker list)  
A cupboard full of coats / Yvonne Edwards (Booker list 2011)  
Derby Day: a Victorian mystery / D.J. Taylor (Booker list 2011)  
Far to go / Alison Pick (Booker list 2011)  
Snowdrops / A.D. Miller (Booker list 2011)  
The Sisters brothers / Patrick deWitt (Booker list 2011)  
Jamrach's menagerie / Carol Birch (Booker list 2011)  
The dovekeepers / Alice Hoffman

Flash and bones / Kathy Reichs  
Slash and burn / Colin Cotterill

## **WANT MORE? SEE THE FULL LIST OF RECENT ADDITIONS:**

*The monthly 'Recent Additions' list is automatically sent to all those who receive this newsletter by 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

## Australian Heritage Week

Sat 14 Apr - Sat 22 Apr - Australian Heritage Week is an annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage run by the federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. The department encourages all communities to get involved with planning and hosting a range of exciting activities during Australian Heritage Week that showcase your unique local heritage to the rest of the country.

*Further details and events listings can be found at*

*<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week/>*



## Cinema & Theatre Historical Society

The CATHS archives (next door to the PMI library) is now open to the public on most Thursdays 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm and last Saturdays of Feb, Apr, Aug and Oct 10am-12pm. If you have an enquiry or would like to find out more about CATHS or its interesting cinema and theatre archives all are welcome, but please phone first to confirm the archives is open. *Call Royce on 9589 3448 or Gerry 0432 434 169.*

## Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemetery

11am, Sat 26 Feb - Tour - 75 Years On. The tour covers the history of the Memorial Park, 75 years on from its foundation in 1933. Subjects include a champion Australian Rules footballer known as the 'Prince of Moorabbin' immortalised in the song 'Up There Cazaly!', a victim from Australia's worst industrial accident, the legend of 'Garryowen', a police constable shot whilst on duty, Australia's greatest tight-wire circus walker, the Premier who was a 'John Wren' man, a champion jockey acknowledged by his peer as the world's best big race jockey, and the inspiration behind the bid for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. *Tour starts from Waranga Road entrance. \$5.00 for members (\$10.00 non-members) and includes refreshments and a tour guide pamphlet. Bookings essential. Book on-line [www.focrc.org/tours.htm](http://www.focrc.org/tours.htm) or ring Vivienne on 03 5420 7671.*

## Friends of Coburg Cemetery

11am, Sat 21 Apr - Launch of self-guided heritage walk: The walk will visit the last resting places of a surprising variety of people including local and state politicians, trade unionists, sportsmen, defence personnel, victims of man-made disasters, local government officers, manufacturers and criminals. Presented with the Melbourne Cemeteries Trust, and part of Australian Heritage Week. *The Coburg Cemetery (Bell Street, Preston) is close to the East Coburg Number 1 tram and Bell street bus stops. Further information contact [WTodd@gmht.com.au](mailto:WTodd@gmht.com.au)*

## Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

2pm, Sun 26 Feb - Tour - High Society and Some Low: This tour will recount stories of some of the prominent Melbourne families buried in the Cemetery, and maybe a black sheep or two. Leader: Kay Rowan.

2pm, Sun 25 Mar - Tour - Notable and Notorious Women: There are many fascinating women buried in St Kilda Cemetery. Find out who wrote the music for 'Waltzing Matilda', who our very own Helen Keller is, who the notorious Madame Brussels really was, and learn of the background and achievements of other outstanding Australian women. Leader: Mary Reid.

2pm, Sun 22 Apr - Tour - A Military Tour: This tour will look at some participants in WW1, the South African Boer War and in the Victorian Defence Forces (prior to Federation in 1901). It will include male and female serving personnel, with brief discussion of the engagements they were in and the conditions they had to endure. We will also stop to acknowledge Albert Jacka VC. This tour is part of the process of remembering those who fought for our freedom. Leader: Glen Turnbull.

*All tours: \$10, \$5 (members). Bookings essential. <http://www.trybooking.com/BDIG> or 9531 6832*

## Public Record Office

11am-1pm, Wed 22 Feb - Free workshop - Caring for your photos and documents (Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne).

*9.30am-4.30pm, Thu 23 Feb - Free workshop - Just digitise it (Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, 35-37 Castella St, Lilydale)*

*Further information and bookings, visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar>.*

## St Kilda Historical Society

An illustrated presentation taking us beyond the screen of St Kilda's most elegant and enduring movie theatre with its larger than life characters. Discover The Astor's previous incarnations; its inception on the northern frontier in Chapel & Dandenong Rd St; its connection with St Kilda Council, and its hosting of the St Kilda Film Festival during its 75yr odyssey. Community Room, St Kilda Library. Light refreshments [and popcorn] provided.

*Further information and bookings for both of the above events: [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au) or phone 9209 6866 and leave a message. Members free, non-members \$5.*

## PAULINE MCCALMAN RECTURE:

Featuring Seamus O'Hanlon on  
MELBOURNE REMADE

## 2011 SURVEY RESULTS

## WRITING HISTORY:

Featuring 2011 Short History Prize winner  
Peter Mansfield

## INSIDE:

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