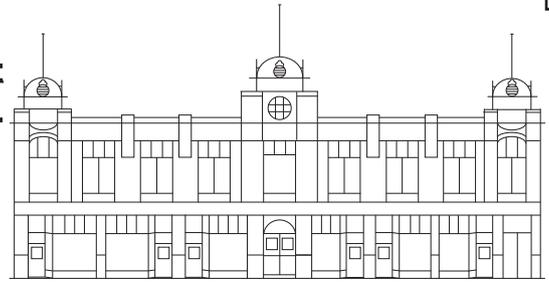


# PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 74 - MAY 2012



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Patron:

Keith Dunstan OAM

Open:

M-F 9.30am-4.30pm

Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

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Feedback/suggestions  
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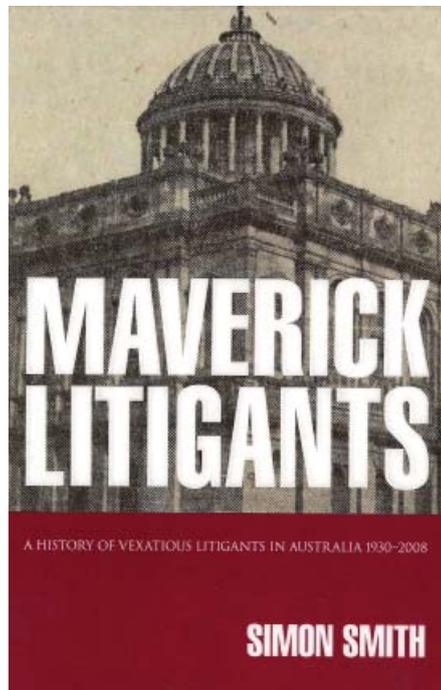
ANNUAL BRUCE TURNER LECTURE:

## dr simon smith

author of

# MAVERICK LITIGANTS

A HISTORY OF VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS IN AUSTRALIA 1930-2008



*Australia cherishes its eccentrics,  
dissenters, rascals, ratbags,  
cranks and agitators.*

Join us for an interesting and  
entertaining look at the  
litigant-in-person,  
the causes and origin of vexatious  
litigants legislation  
and an inside look at one of  
Victoria's most notable cases.

In her long life, Elsa Davis  
(1907-1989) was a promising  
entertainer, an overseas traveller,  
sister-in-law to a Governor General  
and the star of court appearances  
spanning over 50 years.



## 3.00pm, Sat 26 May 2012

(AFTER THE PMI AGM AT 2PM)

at the new PMI building,  
39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran  
(Melway 2L H11)

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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2pm at the new building - 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran  
AGENDA enclosed, see also 'Around the Library' p.2

## MEMBERS NEWS

### New Members

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

<i>Rebecca Albeck</i>	<i>Michael Leeton</i>
<i>Geoffrey Bentley</i>	<i>Tom Linke</i>
<i>Michael Bohan</i>	<i>Mark Lowry</i>
<i>Kellie Clayton</i>	<i>Paul McMurrick</i>
<i>Jenny D'Ambra</i>	<i>Catherine O'Reilly</i>
<i>Helen Ebsworthy</i>	<i>Nicholas Perkins</i>
<i>Andrew Frederick</i>	<i>Kien Phan</i>
<i>Glen Eira Historical Society</i>	<i>Miles Pierce</i>
<i>Bruce Gooley</i>	<i>Yolanda Pilepich</i>
<i>Sara Higgins</i>	<i>Daisy Searls</i>
<i>Yvonne Jenkins</i>	<i>Carmel Sheedy</i>
<i>Lynnda Kaye</i>	<i>Jeffrey Triplett</i>
<i>Miriam Kenter</i>	<i>Kevin Whitton</i>
<i>Paul Lee</i>	<i>Nicola Williams</i>
	<i>David Zerman</i>

### Financial Donors

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

<i>Leonard Ashburner</i>	<i>Janina Maciulis</i>
<i>Itiel Bereson</i>	<i>Roderick MacLeod</i>
<i>Tom Bryans</i>	<i>Ian Matthews</i>
<i>Cinema &amp; Theatre Historical Society</i>	<i>Jennifer Matthews</i>
<i>Geoff Durham</i>	<i>David Moloney</i>
<i>Jim Ellwood</i>	<i>Graham Price</i>
<i>Joan Esam</i>	<i>George Schwab</i>
<i>Lynne Hindhaugh</i>	<i>Murray Smith</i>
<i>Alf Lazer</i>	<i>Philippa Strang</i>

### Book Donors

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

<i>Dr J.V. Ashburner</i>	<i>John Howells</i>
<i>L.D. Ashburner</i>	<i>Malmsbury Historical Society</i>
<i>Clarice Ballenden</i>	<i>Dr Bob Marmion</i>
<i>Bayside Libraries</i>	<i>Tim McKenna</i>
<i>Berwick Mechanics' Institute</i>	<i>Donald Neish</i>
<i>Dr Judith Buckrich</i>	<i>Ken Penaluna</i>
<i>Margaret Dunne</i>	<i>St Monica's Catholic Primary School</i>
<i>Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation</i>	<i>Keith Stodden</i>
<i>Wilma Farrow</i>	<i>Arriness E. Watson</i>
<i>Geelong Jazz Club</i>	<i>Whitehorse</i>
<i>Brian Giddings</i>	<i>Manningham Library</i>
<i>Marita Hargraves</i>	<i>Mary Ann Willis</i>
<i>Dot Harsant</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>

## GENERAL NEWS

### Annual General Meeting

Enclosed with this newsletter should be your notice of the PMI's Annual General Meeting to be held at **2pm on Saturday 26 May** at the new building **39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran** (near the corner of Greville Street and St Edmonds Road - Melway 2L H11). Parking is available at the Izett Street carpark.

The AGM will be followed at 3pm by the Bruce Turner Lecture (details page 1).

### Library

We are in the process of receiving a very large donation from Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation. Some material has already been processed into the library, and much more will be added in the coming months.

We recently hosted a group of students from the public relations course at Swinburne University. Christine gave the students a brief talk about promoting a special library service, as part of a program designed to give the students perspectives on promoting a range of businesses/services. Thank you to David Zerman for organising the visit - we look forward to hosting another group from this course in future.

Ms Kasey Gardiner of the Department of Planning and Community Development visited the PMI on 19 April to gather some information for an article on future libraries. The PMI is an excellent example of a library with strong links with the past but also positioning itself in the landscape of future libraries. If Kasey is successful seeking newspaper publication for her article we'll let you know in the next newsletter. Kasey's article also promotes an enormous two-year review of the public library system by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries which is underway at present. To read more about this visit <http://tomorrowlibrary.com.au/>

There was an interesting piece on the front page of *The Age* on Sunday 29 April, lamenting the fact that many of the past Miles Franklin Award winning books are now out of print. Text publishing is this year bringing several of these back into print as part of a series of Australian classics to remedy what Text sees as a 'general neglect of our literary heritage'. Did you know the PMI library has 43 Miles Franklin Award winners in our extensive Australian literature collection?

### Laurie McCalman Lecture

Thanks very much to Seamus O'Hanlon for giving the annual Laurie McCalman Lecture on his book *Melbourne Remade: the Inner*



*Dr Seamus O'Hanlon at the PMI on 3 March.*

*City Since the 70s.* Thanks also to the Prahran Historical & Arts Society for co-presenting the McCalman Lecture as usual this year. A full house attended, including members of the PMI and PHAS, as well as some first-time visitors to the library.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Following a number of meetings, Committee and staff have all but finalised the Concept Plan for the new PMI. Broadly, it has been decided to locate the library (and associated functions) across the front of the building on the first floor, the appropriate location for PMI's main function but it also takes advantage of the natural light available in this part of the building. It is proposed to locate the Lecture Theatre towards the rear of the building with access gained via the Library. Other activities will be located in spaces at the very rear of the building and behind part of the Library.

As reported previously, the Committee has taken into consideration the many suggestions/comments made by members in the recent survey. For example, the desire by members to attend more lectures/presentations - including during daytime. To this end, the Library and Lecture Theatre have been separated to provide sound isolation.

Following completion of the concept Plan, Committee will select an Architect to prepare detail plans and costings.

Further details about planning for the new library will be available at the upcoming PMI Annual General Meeting on 26 May. The AGM will be held at 39 St Edmonds Road and this will be a good opportunity for members to inspect the building.

*Contributed by Peter Wolfenden*

## PMI PRESS NEWS

Work is well underway on the next PMI Press publication *Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria*.

We expect this book to be available by July so there will be further information in the next PMI newsletter. In the meantime, if you would like to go on the list to receive an order form when the book is released, let us know 9510 3393 or [press@pmi.net.au](mailto:press@pmi.net.au).

An article about *Valuable Steps* can be found in the 'Writing History' section of this newsletter.

## VOLUNTEERS NEWS

### Volunteer Stats

So far in 2012, 18 volunteers have contributed almost 280 hours work in the library, one book index (with 6 in process) and delivery of 350 PMI pamphlets.

Latest tasks include indexing digitised PMI archives and transcribing newspaper articles about the PMI from Trove.

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.

### National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated 14-20 May 2012.

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 6.1 million Australians who volunteer.

This year the theme is 'Volunteers: Every One Counts'.

We will be celebrating in the usual way by posting out thank-you cards and small gifts (NVW pin and a piece of NEW PMI merchandise).



Much of the feedback in last year's survey was so interesting that I'd like to address some of the specific comments in this year's newsletters. In the February newsletter we looked at comments about the newsletter itself - this time we'll focus on the question generally concerned with facilities and services ...

## MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

*As you are moving is this really relevant?*

Good question - actually the answer is yes. Comments on what people like or dislike about the facilities and services we currently offer are valuable. It is true that some of the issues our users currently experiences will be solved with our move to the new building, but not necessarily all of them without further consideration and action quite separate from the move itself.

*Disabled parking would be a plus.*

This is one issue that will to some extent be solved with the move, as there is a disabled parking space at the front of the new building. In the meantime, the nearest disabled parking spaces to the High Street building are at university car parks on High Street (next to Building G) and on the corner of High & Thomas Streets (next to the PMI building).

*Some shelves are hard to reach ...*

*Space between shelves and arrangement of shelves is a little limiting. Perhaps need Dewey numbers at the end of each rack.*

These things are all true. With a lack of space the collection storage has tended to expand upward, but it has been travelling outward a little too of late. Having access to our new building means that we have been able to store some duplicate and low demand items off site, reducing the pressure on the library shelves. (Such items show in the holdings on the catalogue with the note 'Stacks - 1 day wait'). When the move happens we will be mindful of the spacing of the shelves, especially since the PMI collection will be in a disabled access building for the first time ever in its history and sufficient space to allow movement around and between the shelves will be necessary.

Most members will be aware that the space we currently occupy was not purpose-built as a library, but was originally six shops combined to create a long awkward space. We look forward to being able to arrange the collection in a logical and respectable order. In the meantime, some Dewey number signage has been placed around the library.

If you ever have any problems locating or reaching any items please don't hesitate to ask staff for assistance.

*'Opening hours difficult when working ...'*

*'Opening on Sundays'*

*'... If there was one night a week when library open outside working hours that would provide greater opportunity to visit'*

Opening hours is something that isn't dependent on our move but it's likely that hours will be expanded when the move happens.

Some years ago (perhaps 15 years ago) the committee did experiment with later opening on Wednesday evenings. I'm not sure how long it lasted but was obviously discontinued as there mustn't have been enough business. Weekends seem to be the best time for most people and the committee will consider an extension of weekend hours at the new library. If time is particularly scarce you might consider calling or sending an email with a list of books you are after so we can have them ready for you when you visit.

*'... As the library has the catalogue online, a mail-order service at a cost together with return parcel envelope could be considered for those more distant members.'*

If you live remotely from the library and wish to use the collection there are several options.

1. Organise an inter-library loan through your local public library: We charge only for the cost of the sending the item(s) to the recipient library, but the public library may add an admin charge. To organise an inter-library loan give the item details to the library and have them send an inter-library loan request to [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au). The loan period for ILLs is six weeks, renewable free of charge.

2. We do post out books to some members who live outside the Melbourne metropolitan area. Our only fee is to be redeemed (in 60c stamps) the cost of sending the items out. If you are interested in this service contact the Secretary (9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au))

3. We do have historical groups who are institutional members of the PMI, meaning that all their members may receive our newsletter and borrow from the library. In the case of outer suburban or regional groups we would be happy for the group to act as an inter-library loan agent, borrowing books for their members. Ordering in bulk could cut down postage and increase access to the historical collection for people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to borrow from the PMI. If your local historical group is interested in making use of this service please contact us.

*'Sometimes there's not a great deal of room to sit...'*

*'More computers for online research would be useful'*

*'More tables for research'*

We do very much appreciate people's patience as we also accommodate quite a few volunteers who use table space and computers for their work. If you plan to visit the library for an extended time it is possible to call or email ahead so we can reserve a place for you at a table and/or computer.

**Look out for further member comments on events and the collection in the August newsletter.**

*This first part of 'Writing History' is contributed by Cinema & Theatre Historical Society Vice President **Ross King**,*



*who gave the following presentation on 27 October 2011 at the CATHS-PMI Picture Show on **Melbourne's Newsreel Theatres.***

In a few days' time, it will be 115 years since the first Australian subject was Cinematographed, this being the 1896 Melbourne Cup. Shot at Flemington Racecourse, it would be fair to say this was Australia's first newsreel.

During the formative years of the moving picture most of the film shot was of what would be later classified as documentary. Usually a number of short segments, each of around 100ft or 30m in length, segments were eventually edited together to make up a reel of about 600ft or so in length, resulting in an on screen time of 6 to 10 minutes. And so began the 'newsreel', often also called a 'topical', a 'pictorial', a 'cinemagazine' or 'gazette'.

In the early days the most notable of these were newsreels made by the French companies of Pathe Frere, or Charles Gaumont, and no visit to the cinema was complete unless one or two newsreels featured in the program.

It wasn't long before Pathe and Gaumont established offices in England and in other parts of the British Empire, including Australia.

Locally, the Australian Gazette was produced and with it the advent of the talkies in the late 1920s, the Australian Talkies Newsreel appeared with the sound recorded on a disc.

Probably the biggest leap forward took place in the mid 1920s when the American, William Fox, head of Fox Films in the USA using the newly patented Movietone sound system, produced the Fox News. In 1929 Movietone News with its laughing kookaburras on the opening title. By 1931 Ken G. Hall was engaged by Stuart F. Doyle of Union Theatres to establish Cinesound Productions, as the film production arm of Union Theatres. Although feature films were produced, the mainstay of the company was short subjects and a weekly newsreel, the Cinesound Review. The opening title featured a kangaroo jumping out of the title.

As an aside, Frank Thring's Melbourne based Efftee Films featured a koala in the opening logo - all representative of Australian nationalism.

By this time all of the major American film studios

were producing a weekly newsreel. The Fox Movietone International and Australian Editions, Paramount News, Metro News, Universal News, etc., and later on the Australian government through the Department of the Interior produced its own newsreel, the Australian Diary pictorial, that continued well into the 1970s.

From 1922 up until the coming of television, the main source of news for the Australian public came in the form of newspapers, the then still infant radio broadcast, and the cinema newsreel. By the time foreign newsreels reached our cinema screens they would be on events that in most cases had taken place weeks prior, so often as not while newsworthy events were featured in the newsreel the majority of items were of a topical nature and items were frequently recycled year after year using stock footage.

To cater to the public thirst for getting all the news, a novel idea emerged in London to create small basement cinemas purely for the exhibition of newsreels and short educational films.

At their peak in the late 1940s and early 50s, Melbourne had five newsreel theatres, Sydney had five and Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth each had one.

Located in Bourke Street, just west of Swanston Street stood two cinemas side by side. These were the Melba and next door the Britannia. At one time the Britannia housed a small film processing laboratory and also employed a cameraman who would go out during the day filming any events around the city streets such as a cable tram jumping the rails or shoppers in busy Bourke Street. The film would be taken back to the theatre, processed and be on screen within a few short hours. To promote custom a billboard proclaimed 'see yourself as others see you!'.

Following the success of a newsreel theatre in Sydney, early in 1932 excavation commenced on digging out a basement beneath the Melba theatre in Bourke Street, without causing any disruption to the daily showings. In September 1932 Melbourne's first newsreel theatre, the Times Theatre opened, having seating for 210. The Times was unique, as rear projection was used, that is the film was projected from behind and onto a translucent screen. Programs featured two or three newsreels, a couple of cartoons, a two reel comedy and perhaps a travelogue with a duration of 75 minutes, showing continuously from 10 in the morning until 11 at night.

The concept was enormously popular and soon a second newsreel show, the Albany, with 268 seats opened in the basement of the Albany Court building, Collins Street.

On Anzac Day 1948, disaster struck at the Albany. Safe crackers had hidden themselves in the theatre following the last showing on the Saturday night. As the theatre did not operate on Sunday the thieves attempted to blow open the safe. Being unsuccessful they then attempted to set reels of film on fire. After having smouldered for many hours, it was not until the following day the highly flammable nitrate film exploded, wrecking the interior of the theatre.

The force of the explosion was so great it blew a heavy metal roller door across Collins Street.

Fortunately no one was injured, but it resulted in the theatre closing for some months while engineers checked the structural integrity of the building and while the theatre was refitted.

When the ultra modern Hotel Australia was constructed in Collins Street in 1939, it included in its basement two cinemas, one of which was the Tatler newsreel with 225 seats. The other, the larger 498 seat Australia Cinema opened a few months following the Tatler. The Tatler name was taken from the name of London's first newsreel theatre in Tottenham Court Road.

Twelve months later in 1940, around the corner in Swanston Street, the art deco Century building was constructed. It too housed a cinema in the basement that opened on 28 June with a charity gala for the Red Cross, showing the feature 'Irene'. Following this initial feature the Century reverted to a Newsreel hour show. With accommodation for 497 patrons, the Century was the largest and most opulent of Melbourne's newsreel cinemas.

The last and smallest of Melbourne's newsreel theatres appeared in a rather basic converted Elizabeth Street basement early in 1951. This was the Star, with 185 seats it was established by the Sydney based Virgona family. The Star also initially used rear projection but was soon altered to front projection so as to increase the seating capacity.

On a hot summer's day the newsreel shows were a great place to cool off for an hour, or just the place to rest weary limbs at a time when shopping expeditions to the city were an all-day affair combined with a visit to Myers, Mantons or Coles cafeteria.

As the film program was continuous, one would wait until the show started to repeat before leaving, although if you wished you could sit and watch the program all over again. The Times Newsreel had an interval break complete with advertising slides between each session.

Television arrived in 1956, coinciding with the Melbourne Olympic Games. For many years I was a member of a Melbourne Motorcycle Club - the Melbourne Scooter and Cycle Association. The club had its origins when motorcycle and scooter riders were recruited by the TV channels to pick up film footage from the different Olympic venues and rush it back for processing so the Olympic events could be broadcast that night. The immediacy of television spelled the beginning of the end for Australian newsreels and the newsreel theatres.

With falling demand for newsreels by the mid 1960s, the rival Australian newsreel companies, Fox Movietone and Cinesound, amalgamated to produce the Australian Movie Magazine. This replaced the long established Cinesound Review and Australian Movietone News. Of the international companies Pathe pictorials released through Warner Brothers would still appear from time to time. I can recommend the 1978 classic Australian film Newsfront that portrays these events although within a foreshortened time frame.

By the end of the 1960s the supply of short subjects, cartoons and 2 reel comedies had also dried up as the comedies and cartoons were, and still are, shown on TV (e.g. Three Stooges, Laurel & Hardy, etc.). The newsreel theatres slowly changed over to feature films. Their smaller seating capacities were becoming the norm for modern day cinemas.

By the early 1970s, with changes to censorship laws and the emergence of the 'skin flick', the once popular hour show soon became the domain of the raincoat brigade.

Melbourne's first news theatre, the Times, beneath the Melba, always remained the Times while above, the Melba became the Liberty then rebuilt as the Odeon following a fire in 1950. The Odeon and the Times closed in 1977. The former Times basement is still there and became a retail space.

Around the corner, the Century newsreel became the Swanston Cinema then the Capitol 2 Cinema, before being converted into the Hi-Fi Bar that operates there today.

After a time as a skin flick house, the Albany disappeared under the development of the Sportsgirl Centre.

When the Hotel Australia site was redeveloped, the Tatler, which had been re-named the Curzon and Australia 2, also disappeared into the demolisher's rubble.

The least glamorous of all the Newsreel theatres, the Star in Elizabeth Street, is the only one that remains as a type of theatre - now the Crazyhorse sex venue.

The Cinesound and Fox Movietone newsreel archives are now owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

Right up until the demise of the Australian Newsreels, on every first Tuesday in November Movietone shot the Melbourne Cup, the film was rushed for processing so as to appear on city cinema screens the same night. The Australian Newsreel had come full circle.

#### Newsreel Theatres:

##### Melbourne:

1934 - Times - 210 seats - G.U.  
 1939 - Albany - 268 seats - Proscenium Investments PL  
 1939 - Tatler - 225 seats - Tatler Theatres PL  
 1940 - Century - 497 seats - Newsreel Theatres PL  
 1951 - Star - 185 seats - Virgona Family

##### Sydney:

Globe Newsreel - 540 seats  
 News-Luxe - 311 seats - International News PL  
 State Theatre - 239 seats - G.U.  
 World News - 342 seats  
 Wynyard - 227 seats - G.U.

Brisbane: Carlton Theatre - 332 seats

Adelaide: Savoy-NewsLuxe - 397 seats

Perth: Mayfair - 380 seats

*The Cinema & Theatre Historical Society's archive is held at the PMI and is open most Thursdays 10am-3pm.*

*Contact Archivist Gerry Kennedy 0432 434 169 or Royce Harris 9589 3448 or [archivist@caths.org.au](mailto:archivist@caths.org.au).*

*(CATHS recommends a phone call to check opening times before visiting). The next CATHS-PMI picture show will be held during history week in October.*

*Find out more about CATHS at [www.caths.org.au](http://www.caths.org.au)*

The second part of 'Writing History' features **Garry Powell**, author of the forthcoming PMI Press publication



## Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria

Garry's inspiration to write *Valuable Steps* came in 1990 from Harvey Cox, retired Supervisor of Physical Education who said to him 'Powelly, you've got to write the history of phys ed. You're the only one who was there in the early 60s and who is still involved today'.

Garry indeed began his career in 1963 as an itinerant PE teacher for the Education Department's Physical Education Branch. Over the next 49 years he has taught PE at primary and secondary levels and continued to teach PE 'hands on' while performing other roles such as Vice Principal and Principal. Garry has been a tertiary lecturer in PE also. As a retired teacher and Fellow of the Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) the new millennium has seen him sit on many physical education committees and reviews. He has also written seven published teacher reference books on physical education.

Having made the decision to write a history of PE in Victoria, in 1991 Garry set about gathering images and documents via ACHPER and the PE Staff Association (PESA) as well as many retired physical educators.

'The response was overwhelming!' he says, 'At one stage I had a garage full of boxes containing photos, notes, books and booklets. In 1995 I started researching the archives of the Education Department that were held in Treasury Place. This continued for eight years. Simultaneously, I was given unfettered access to the material left to ACHPER by such doyens in PE as May Cox, Rosalie Virtue, Lorna McConchie, Eunice Gill, Merlene Neagle, Brian Nettleton and Peter Fryar. The next eight years were spent putting all this information into a book that would be an accurate history, be thought provoking and provide a *good read*.'

On the subject of readers, Garry says that *Valuable Steps* will be a compulsory read for all physical educators and an invaluable resource for secondary and tertiary students of PE, as it will be the most comprehensive book written on the history of PE at the state level.

'But so too will it interest the general populus.'

All of us have been to school and all of us have experienced physical education in some form. This will bring forth memories and be able to place any reader into the 130-year time frame.'

Garry says that the benefits of PE are well researched and recognised both in Australia and overseas. 'It's a bit like climate change - our governments are reluctant to openly endorse it because it will require them to spend a lot of money. But again, like climate change, we need short term pain for long term gain.'

Regular, quality physical education at primary school promotes for children:

- correct body growth
- decrease in postural defects
- development of healthy physiology
- development of neural pathways and therefore overall cognition
- increased interest in school activity
- enhanced learning in other subject areas due to increased enthusiasm for school
- remediation in language for the kinesiesthetic learner
- better self image and confidence
- working as a member of a team

Most of all he says, 'Enjoyable physical activity and physical education at school is the basis for lifelong habits and the capacity to make informed choices.'

Garry outlines the models of delivery of PE in Victorian schools from the early days of the colony to the present day:

- In the early days PE was taken on a daily basis by military personnel brought in from outside the school system
- From the 1930s-60s PE was delivered by classroom teachers and visiting itinerant specialists in combination. In all primary schools in the state system District Inspectors enforced that the content and time allotment of the subject was adhered to. During this time, all primary teachers received basic training in the teaching of PE as a part of their pre- service training. This enabled a successful combination of generalist and specialist teaching in the subject.
- In the 1970s and early 1980s PE specialists were appointed to all government primary and secondary schools. At primary schools these were above the pupil:staff ratio. The results were amazing - there was a huge increase in the quality of the physical education being taught, better teacher satisfaction and school morale.
- In the late 1980s supernumerary staff allocation was abolished. All staff allocations were left to individual schools. This led to most schools choosing to have more teachers in classrooms in order to decrease pupil numbers in each grade. Most specialists were abolished in primary schools - not just in physical education, but also in music, art and foreign languages. Now the teaching of PE was left to the expertise of each class teacher.
- Additionally, with changes to the structure of

teacher training in the 1970s it became possible to do pre-service training with minimal exposure to some subjects. PE, music and science saw the greatest decline. Subsequently, these subjects became neglected in primary school curriculums, and this trend continues to the present.

Garry says that physical education today is in a 'strangely dichotomous situation. At secondary school level it has never been better - all have PE departments with numerous PE specialist trained teachers.

'At primary school level and in its allied tertiary insitutions it has never been worse. This is in conflict with the research showing that the prime age for acquiring physical skills is in the prepubescent years 7-11. These are students in Years 3-6. Yet we are abandoning children in this group, with skill acquisition coming in at secondary school level when it is too late for many children. And without the necessary skills many teenagers then choose not to be involved in PE because they feel incompetent - possibly cutting them off from a lifetime of enjoyment of sport and all the associated health and social benefits.

'The more affluent private primary schools have specialist teachers taking PE, and though there are recommendations for content and time allotment these are often not accommodated nor enforced at state schools. Sport, music and other extra curricular activities have also become opportunities afforded more often to privileged children.'

Garry says that the rapid increase we are seeing in obesity, diabetes and other lifestyle diseases can be put down in a major part to a lack of physical activity. 'The diet debate gets a lot of publicity but the second part of the equation - body movement - gets very little.

'But at the prime ages for the acquisition of physical skills children in general are becoming more sedentary - they are walking to school and playing outside less often because of safety concerns, and they are entertained at home by modern technology such as x-boxes, computers, iPads, iPhones, and more television stations than ever before.'

Garry hopes his history of physical education will get the public generally, and those involved in physical education in particular, thinking about the role of physical education in our schools and beyond. 'What is needed is a government to allocate funds or to legislate and enforce that physical education specialists take regular quality physical education programs in all primary schools.'

*Valuable Steps* is scheduled for release in July. It will be the 14th PMI Press publication.

If you would like to go on the list to receive an information sheet/order form at the time of publication please call Christine on 9510 3393 or email [christine@pmi.net.au](mailto:christine@pmi.net.au)

## 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 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)

## FICTION-FICTION

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

### **AUSTRALIAN HISTORY**

#### **The biggest estate on earth: how aborigines made Australia / Bill Gammage**

Across Australia, early Europeans commented again and again that the land looked like a park. With extensive grassy patches and pathways, open woodlands and abundant wildlife, it evoked a country estate in England. Bill Gammage has discovered this was because Aboriginal people managed the land in a far more systematic and scientific fashion than we have ever realised. For over a decade he has examined written and visual records of the Australian landscape. He has uncovered an extraordinarily complex system of land management using fire, the life cycles of native plants, and the natural flow of water to ensure plentiful wildlife and plant foods throughout the year. We know Aboriginal people spent far less time and effort than Europeans in securing food and shelter ... . With details of land-management strategies from around Australia, *The biggest estate on earth* rewrites the history of this continent, with huge implications for us today

#### **The Australian moment: how we were made for these times / George Megalogenis**

Australians are generally uncomfortable in the global spotlight - outside of sports stadiums. But after seeing us negotiate the Asian financial crisis, the tech wreck and the Global Financial Crisis that bred the Great Recession, the world is now turning to us, the 'miracle economy', for guidance. This is the page-turning story of our nation's remarkable transformation since the '70s. One of our most respected journalists, George Megalogenis, traces the key economic reforms and brilliant moments of collective instinct that opened our society to the immigration of capital, ideas and people to just the right degree. He pinpoints the events that shaped our good fortune and national character, and corrects our selective memory where history has been misunderstood or misdirected by self-interested political leadership. No one writing today is better at reading the numbers and telling the story around them than Megalogenis, and no one else has been able to coax our former prime ministers to candidly re-assess each other's contribution to the Australian Moment. Fraser, Hawke, Keating, Howard and Rudd, as well as Whitlam's confidant Graham Freudenberg, go on record for the first time about many aspects of the internal politicking, decision-making and bids for the legacy of our astonishing period of significant reform.

#### **Tasmania's convicts: how felons built a free society / Alison Alexander**

The history of the men and women transported to what became one of Britain's most notorious convict colonies. Following the lives of dozens of convicts and their families, the author uncovers stories of success, failure, and everything in between. While some suffered harsh conditions, most served their time and were freed, becoming ordinary and peaceful citizens. Yet over the decades, a terrible stigma became associated with the convicts, and they and the whole colony went to extraordinary lengths to hide it. The majority of Tasmanians today have convict ancestry, whether they know it or not. While the public stigma of its convict past has given way to a contemporary fascination with colonial history, Alison Alexander debates whether the convict past lingers deep in the psyche of white Tasmania.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### **William Lawrence Baillieu: founder of Australia's greatest business empire / Peter Yule**

Born in Queenscliff to English migrant parents, William Lawrence Baillieu first rose to prominence as a successful auctioneer during Melbourne's feverish land boom of the 1880s. He quickly built an enormous fortune, which he then subsequently lost in the crash of the early 1890s. But, ever the astute and daring entrepreneur, WL Baillieu resurrected his fortunes and those of his family by starting his own real estate agency and investing in the mining and infrastructure that would drive Australia's economy in the 20th century. In the early days of Federation, WL entered state politics and rose to become Minister of Public Works and Health. He continued to foster his business and media interests throughout his life, and by the time he retired, WL was director of the Herald and Weekly Times, the Electrolytic Zinc Company, the Dunlop Rubber Company, and Carlton and United Breweries. Peter Yule's biography is the first ever of this significant Australian - financier, philanthropist and founding figure of the Baillieu family dynasty - whose name and influence is inextricably wound throughout Melbourne's history.

#### **Private journal of a voyage to Australia / James Bell**

On 19 November 1838 James Bell, then aged 21, set out in the sailing vessel the Planter from St

# BOOKS ETCETERA

Katharine Docks in London to travel to Adelaide, an infant colony half a world away and not yet two years old. He left behind family, good friends and the mysterious C.P., a young woman with whom he hoped one day to be reunited

## **The flower hunter: the remarkable life of Ellis Rowan / Christine and Michael Morton-Evans**

Ellis Rowan was one of Australia's most accomplished artists and an incredible – if somewhat unexpected – adventurer. During World War One Ellis ventured alone into the tropical jungles of New Guinea in search of all 72 known species of the Bird of Paradise. Not only was she the first white woman to do such a thing, she was also 70 years old.

*The flower hunter* is the incredible story of a woman who went to extraordinary lengths to paint her beloved subject matter, journeying to some of the most wild and inhospitable areas of Australia and beyond. On her death in 1922 there was hardly a household in Australia that didn't know her name. Sadly, today she is all but forgotten, yet her work lives on in the 970 paintings carefully preserved in the National Library of Australia and in this, the definitive story of Ellis Rowan's remarkable life.

## **MILITARY HISTORY**

### **Anzac's dirty dozen: 12 myths of Australian military history / edited by Craig Stockings**

Australian military history is a landscape of legends. Yet across the length and breadth of our military heritage, accuracy and objectivity are often shunted aside so that tales and myths bent on commemoration, veneration, and the idealisation of 'Australian' virtues can thrive. In *Anzac's Dirty Dozen* a team of renowned historians resume the battle to expose a host of stubborn fantasies and fabrications that obscure the real story. Did our military history start at Gallipoli? Do we really punch above our weight in military might? Are our soldiers more ethical than others in combat? Is the US-Australia Alliance worth the trouble? And what if the role of Australian women in the war effort has been exaggerated, so that half the population can feel included in the Anzac story? Confronting and clear-eyed, *Anzac's Dirty Dozen* goes beyond the indulgent, politicised and emotionally-charged rhetoric of Anzac – that sacrosanct idea in the national psyche – to find out exactly what it means to be Australian at war, and proud of it.

## **General non-fiction**

*In the garden of beasts: love, terror and an American family in Hitler's Berlin* / Erik Larson

*Roman Britain: a new history 55 BC – AD 450* / Patricia Southern

*The great sea: a human history of the Mediterranean* / David Abulafia

## **FICTION**

### **Australian fiction**

*The amateur science of love* / Craig Sherborne

*Mapping the haunted city* / Al Cochrane

### **General fiction**

*Bright and distant shores* / Dominic Smith

### **General mysteries**

*Believing the lie* / Elizabeth George

*Down the darkest road* / Tami Hoag

*Breakdown* / Sara Paretsky

*Phantom* / Jo Nesbo

*You're next* / Gregg Hurwitz

*Beastly things* / Donna Leon

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

*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

## Brighton Cemeterians

2pm, Sun 20 May - Tour - Law Week: This Walk features different elements of the Law including George Higginbotham, Barristers and the Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates, who were part of the legal system. Also people who through the way they died were involved in the legal system by way of autopsy. Bookings are essential. *Contact Lois 9558 4248.*

## Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria

Sun 27 May - Bus Tour - Westward Ho!: Mechanics' institutes to the west of Melbourne. Join the bus tour at Berwick (9am), Williamstown (10am) or Footscray (10.15am). Visit MIs at Footscray, Little River, Anakie, Ballan and enjoy views of the You Yangs and the Brisbane Ranges. Cost \$50 includes light lunch at Little River Hotel Motel (a typical country pub) and tour notes. *Further information contact Judith Dwyer 9707 4254 or jad134@hotmail.com. Registration forms are also available at the loans desk of the PMI.*

## Friends of Kew Cemetery

7.30pm, Wed 23 May - Guest speaker - Celestina Segazio on 'Interesting Cemetery Tales and Humorous Epitaphs. No charge, refreshments provided, at Le Pine, 341 High Street, East Kew. *Further information and bookings contact Pauline on www.fobkc.org or 0417 278 950*

## Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

2pm, Sun 20 May - Tour - Coroners, Constabulary and Crime: A Law Week tour. An insight into unusual deaths, police investigations and crime in nineteenth century Melbourne. Leader: Elizabeth Hore.

2pm, Sun 24 Jun - Tour - Constructing the Colony - Architects and Engineers at St Kilda Cemetery. The tour visits the graves of architects and engineers involved in constructing many of the colony of Victoria's buildings and infrastructure. Many had a hand in creating Marvellous Melbourne and are responsible for some of Victoria's most significant 19th and 20th century buildings.

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

## Public Record Office

11am-2pm, Thu 17 May - Free workshop - Learning about education records

11am-2.30pm, Thu 21 Jun - Free workshop - Searching immigration records

Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne. Tours of the archives included with workshops. *Further information and bookings, visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar>.*

## St Kilda Historical Society

6.30pm, Tue 15 May - Talk - Dr Alan Dilnot (Dickens Fellowship Victoria) on 'What the Dickens?'. Come and mark the bicentennial of Charles Dickens' birth with Melbourne's foremost speaker on his life and works. Members free, non-members \$5. St Kilda Library, Community Room. *Further information and bookings: [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au) or phone 9209 6866 (leave a message) or phone/text 0405 510 799.*

## Stonnington History Centre

10am, Wed 11 Jul - Talk - 'Collecting Stonnington's history': a show and tell of the centres' recent acquisitions. Free entry, spaces are limited. *Further information and bookings: phone 8290 1360.*

## Veterans Unit, DPCD

8.45am-5pm, Wed 30 May - Veterans Heritage Workshop. For volunteers from Victorian community organisations who care for veterans heritage collections. Museum professionals and conservators will talk on conservation and cataloguing: preservation of paper, photographs, textiles (such as uniforms and flags); wood, metal & plastic objects; purposes and methods of cataloguing. Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne. *Free entry, bookings by 17 May essential. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Further information and booking form at <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/veterans/news-and-events/news/veterans-heritage-workshops> or contact Marina Larsson, Dept of Planning & Community Devt on 9935 3041 or [marina.larsson@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:marina.larsson@dpcd.vic.gov.au).*

## National Library & Information Week

Sat 20 May - Sat 26 May - Library & Information Week is designed to raise the profile of libraries and information service professionals in Australia. This year's theme is 'Think Outside the Book' and provides an opportunity for libraries everywhere to showcase their facilities, services and resources. This year during LIW we have combined the PMI's AGM with the Bruce Turner Lecture on Sat 26 May at **39 St Edmund's Road**. This will be your opportunity to come along and take a glimpse into the future PMI library.

For information about other goings on during National Library & Information Week visit:

<http://www.alia.org.au/liw/index.html>



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
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 WRITING HISTORY:  
 Featuring CATHS Vice President Ross King  
 and PMI Press author Garry Powell

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