

PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER NO 75 - AUG 2012



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Open:

M-F 9.30am-4.30pm

Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

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Feedback/suggestions  
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### NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK

# National Family History Week 2012

Past • Present • Future



FREE SEMINAR:

## Family History for Beginners

### Alison Boundy: Journey Into Your Past: Research Skills for Family Historians

Alison Boundy (Genealogical Society of Victoria library) will outline some smart research sources and strategies to progress your searching.

### Clare Bristow: A Beginner's Guide to Ancestry Library Edition

Clare Bristow (ProQuest) will give an overview and demonstration of how the Ancestry database (now at the PMI) can help your research.

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

**1.30pm-4.00pm Saturday 4 August**

at Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian History Library  
140 High Street, Prahran Melway 2L H12

Afternoon tea provided - Door prizes  
Seats are limited and bookings are ESSENTIAL  
9510 3393 or [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au)

GUESS WHAT? The PMI now has:

 **ancestry library edition**

FIND OUT MORE ON P. 5 ...

## MEMBERS NEWS

### New Members

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

<i>Lyn Annetta</i>	<i>Jennifer Jones</i>
<i>Malcolm Bailey</i>	<i>Tom Kalogeropoulos</i>
<i>Libby Banks</i>	<i>Anne Kelly</i>
<i>Louise Blake</i>	<i>Musa Kilinc</i>
<i>Fatin Borhanudin</i>	<i>Jenni Mandersloot</i>
<i>Lauren Bourke</i>	<i>John Murphy</i>
<i>Chimene Bousejean</i>	<i>Victor Ronai-Horvath</i>
<i>Siobhan Browne</i>	<i>Prue Sparks</i>
<i>William Clancy</i>	<i>Deborah Townes</i>
<i>Ritesh Das</i>	<i>Rosalie Triolo</i>
<i>Sheena Daykin</i>	<i>Jane Webb</i>
<i>Amy Fox</i>	<i>Scott Whitaker</i>
<i>Shelley Freeman</i>	<i>Margaret Williams</i>
<i>Ian Harris</i>	

### Financial Donors

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

<i>Peter Bergin</i>	<i>Kristin Otto</i>
<i>Ann Carter</i>	<i>Arthur Payne</i>
<i>Lyn Firminger</i>	<i>Martin Playne</i>
<i>Gabriel German</i>	<i>Don Raisbeck</i>
<i>Elaine Herbert</i>	<i>Bruce Stubbs</i>
<i>Harriet Houghton</i>	<i>Jennifer Wardrop</i>
<i>Wallace Kirsop</i>	<i>Col Webster</i>
<i>Joan Nelson</i>	<i>Peter Welham</i>

### Book Donors

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

<i>Ararat Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Rod Parnall, from the estate of Colonel Lance</i>
<i>Jim Badger</i>	<i>Martin Cutliffe</i>
<i>Banyule City Council</i>	<i>Rotary Club of Carlton</i>
<i>Don Barker</i>	<i>RAE (Vic.) Historical and Heritage Association Inc.</i>
<i>Broadford and District Historical Society</i>	<i>Rotary Club of Carlton</i>
<i>Cohuna Secondary College</i>	<i>Shepparton Mechanics' Institute</i>
<i>Dandenong &amp; District Historical Society</i>	<i>Simpson and District Community Centre</i>
<i>Ronald Fisher</i>	<i>Lyn Skillern</i>
<i>Geelong Historical Society</i>	<i>South Warrnambool Presbyterian Church</i>
<i>Ronald J. Gunn</i>	<i>St Thomas' Anglican Church Upper Ferntree Gully</i>
<i>Bill and Carol Holsworth</i>	<i>Tony Tibballs</i>
<i>Apri-Kaye Ikinci</i>	<i>Kerry Vickers</i>
<i>Peter Isaacson</i>	<i>Susan Walter</i>
<i>Bob Kaighin and Betty Lebner</i>	<i>Arriness E. Watson</i>
<i>The Lake Primary School, Mildura</i>	<i>Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation</i>
<i>Betty Lebner</i>	<i>Charles Wright</i>
<i>Brian Membrey</i>	<i>Rob Youl</i>
<i>Robyn Miller</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>
<i>Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham</i>	

## GENERAL NEWS

### Library

A very large donation of books from Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation has now all been received, though the majority of the items are still to be processed into the library. Our book care volunteers will be working very hard in the coming months to prepare this material for the library shelves.

The PMI has recently become a member of Libraries Australia in its own right, instead of under Stonnington Libraries' membership. When items held by the PMI are found on the Trove database they now appear with the PMI's own National Union Catalogue symbol 'PMEC'. What this also means for us is that we'll now be able to make greater use of the services offered by Libraries Australia, including the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) and its associated payment system. For many years the PMI has been loaning items to libraries all around Australia and receiving payment by postage stamps (which can be a difficult way for the recipient libraries to pay). Being involved with LADD will enable us to receive requests through the system and have the loans and payments managed electronically. Ursula will soon undertake online training in this system.

On 20 June the PMI hosted an evening meeting of the Professional Historians Association. The theme this year was a project recording the plight of the forgotten children and child migrants. Several members of the association spoke about their experiences recording oral histories of some of these people for the Find and Connect project. Further information about this project can be found at <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>

On 18 July we'll be hosting a group from the Auburn Probus Club, and members of the Sunshine (Docklands) Probus Club will visit in August.

### AGM and Bruce Turner Lecture

Thanks to all members who attended the AGM and Bruce Turner Lecture on 26 May. It was an excellent opportunity for members to have a look around the new building and see a copy of the draft plans. Special thanks to Dr Simon Smith (right) who gave the lecture about his thoroughly entertaining and informative book *Maverick litigants: a history of vexatious litigants in Australia*.



### The Value of Libraries

On 31 May Christine Worthington attended a symposium of the Australian Library and Information Association at the Australian National University in Canberra entitled 'The Value of Libraries'. Speakers from a public, university and special libraries talked about some of the ways they have been able to quantify their value - not an easy thing for any library that has to justify their funding dollars. It's an especially difficult thing to grapple with when we all know that libraries can offer so much that may not be immediately quantifiable in dollar terms. Especially interesting is the feedback from users of the different types of libraries in the surveys associated with the different projects and how they value their particular library and the services.

The three major areas of value for researchers at university libraries were contained in the following

statements:

- *the library provides access to information resources which are indispensable for my research*
- *has enabled researchers to maintain a comprehensive, high level overview of developments in their fields*
- *helps to eliminate unproductive time (e.g. in travelling to various libraries)*
- *saves people money (e.g. in not having to buy/subscribe to key resources or travel to other centres)*

A Victorian public libraries survey (that actually managed to reverse a \$5m funding cut) measures value in three broad categories:

- financial savings – how much people would have to pay a commercial provider for the same products and services.
- travel costs – how much time, cost and effort people were willing to put into getting to and using libraries.
- contingency valuation – how much people would be willing to pay to keep library services available for the community.

Surveys taken as part of the study revealed the following statement were true for library users: Libraries ...

- are safe and pleasant places to visit
- facilitate lifelong learning
- provide a free service/don't need to buy books
- support children's education
- help people obtain information not available elsewhere
- contribute to enjoyable and meaningful pastimes

Professor Ian Chubb (Australia's Chief Scientist), who gave the opening address, made some interesting general points about libraries and society:

Research has shown that in countries dependent on natural resources for wealth, results on international tests such as NAPLAN are generally quite low and much higher results are seen in countries not reliant on natural resources. He predicts that when the mineral resources run out and Australia needs to make a shift to being a knowledge economy to be globally competitive then knowledge, learning and information are going to be more highly valued and scientists, librarians and teachers are going to play an important role in this adaptation.

In a digital age Chubb says there is still a place for books and paper because libraries have custodianship and management of much information that has never been and will never be digitised (this would be true of much of the localised and obscure histories at the PMI).

In an era where there is more data being produced than ever before, libraries can help people to navigate. *For libraries are not just a storage house of information, but a place to build context and understand the world we live in. Like no other institution in society, libraries allow us to take knowledge and ideas and add cultural context. Libraries are a link to the past, and the story of who we are and how we got where we are.*

Indeed!

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Since the last newsletter, Committee has met on a number of occasions and together with sub committee meetings, addressed details associated with the new library building and issues surrounding the redesign of letterheads and website. These meetings have not only involved members of PMI Committee but also staff and recognition of membership input via responses from the recent survey.

Space allocation to associated groups within the new building has been resolved and formal agreements with these groups are currently being drafted. While we

have limited space available, it is fair to say that most requirements by our associated groups have been met or can be catered for.

The process of selecting an architect has commenced. Fifteen firms have been invited to submit an "expression of interest" based on the "concept plan". All responses are due by the end of July. At the time of preparing this report, 50% have indicated that they intend to respond to the invitation. Committee's intention is then to select from those who respond, a small number from which the successful respondent will be chosen.

Because our letterheads, With Compliments cards and website contain address information and artwork associated with our present building, it is necessary to review their designs well ahead of re-locating. We also consider it necessary to upgrade the PMI website to a current standard so that it is more user friendly for both website users and our staff who have the task of keeping information on the site up to date. At this time, it is also appropriate to consider the future, particularly the need to provide for growth of personal, portable, electronic devices and their ease of access to our website.

*Contributed by Peter Wolfenden*

## PMI PRESS NEWS

Work continues on the next PMI Press publication Garry Powell's *Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria*. Indexing and final proofreading is underway. 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).

Garry's previous book (co-authored with Janet MacDonald) *Double Gold: 1870s mining and farming diaries with a history of Mount Franklin and district* (also published by PMI Press) has been taken up by an international publisher. Alexander Street Press (Virginia, USA) is compiling a collection of material entitled *Early Experiences in Australasia: Primary Sources and Personal Narratives* which will provide a unique and personal view of the early experiences of life in Australasia from 1788 to 1901.

## VOLUNTEERS NEWS

### Volunteer Stats

So far in 2012, 23 volunteers have contributed almost 434 hours work in the library, six book indexes (with three in process) and delivery of 350 PMI pamphlets.

Latest tasks include indexing digitised PMI archives and transcribing newspaper articles about the PMI from the Trove newspaper database. Much shelf checking has also been carried out, to make sure items in the most used sections of the library are in place. Book care volunteers continue to process the large number of items recently donated by Whitehorse Manningham libraries.

### National Volunteer Week

To celebrate National Volunteer Week (14-20 May) each of our fabulous volunteers received a thank you card (this year's theme was *Volunteers: Every One Counts*), a NVW pin and a new PMI keyring. Thanks to all our volunteers who have contributed to the growth and progress of the library this year.

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

Much of the feedback in last year's survey was so interesting that I'm addressing some of the specific comments in this year's newsletters. In the February and May newsletters we looked at comments about the newsletter, facilities and services. This time we'll focus on events at the library and the library collection ...

## MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

### Events

There were 175 respondents to the survey, and 53% said that they had attended an event at the PMI.

The comments relating to the content of these activities were very good:

*The speakers are always very interesting and informative (and the suppers are great!)*

*This is the aspect that attracts me most*

*I find the meetings to be always very friendly, informative and not too formal and I can't think of any changes that I would want made. There is a real sense of community and shared interest that is very welcoming.*

*I enjoyed the informality and friendly atmosphere  
More frequent presentations would be great!*

The comments relating to the timing of events, however, was not good:

*Move it from Wednesday evening - clashes.*

*I have a regular arrangement on Wednesday evenings, so I have missed several gatherings which seemed interesting.*

*Start the function a little earlier, say 6.30pm so that it's not too late with the problem of transport in the dark.*

*Problems of access at night.*

*Saturday or Sunday if open would be good, not at night as I would find it difficult getting in and out.*

*I have only attended weekday evening meetings. Do you hold weekend meetings? If no, perhaps consider that timeslot.*

As a direct consequence of that feedback, all our events this year were scheduled for Saturday afternoons and this has naturally proved popular. This year we also combined the May lecture with the AGM at the new building on a Saturday afternoon and this also went very well.

*A program of regular monthly talks on the same day of the week perhaps, or a month of weekly talks on related topics a few times a year.*

We're looking forward to our move to the new building as there will be a dedicated lecture room. It means that future events can be held even during library opening hours as they will not disrupt ordinary library operations as they would at High Street. The move will see the PMI return to being a multifunctional facility as mechanics' institutes were intended to be.

### Collection

First a small note on the general collection

*I would be interested to know what criteria are used for purchasing fiction. I don't believe the emphasis*

*or amount should change, I'm just curious.*

With the rise of the historical collection, the demise of the general collection has been forecast for many years. But it hasn't happened yet, as it is well used and people seem to like the way the small general collection compliments the historical. Items for the general collection include non-Australian novels, mysteries, biography, and general history. General collection items are acquired by keeping an eye on new publications by the popular authors and also by request from members – so if there are items you'd like to request feel free to do so.

Comments on the historical collection were very good and interesting to read.

*I think the local history collection is amazing - PMI is unsurpassed as a library for local history.*

*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 this library.  
I think expanding present history collections (Victorian) is a positive step.*

*No point duplicating local council libraries. Local history is well covered. What about history of buildings? I'm interested in domestic housing, styles architecture, floor plans, heritage colour schemes, etc.*

Under the number for general architecture, building styles etc (720) the catalogue shows 77 items (10 published in the last ten years). There are further items filed by location that deal with architecture and buildings of particular localities. 124 items in the collection have been given the subject heading 'Architects and architecture', 590 items are listed under the subject 'Historic buildings and structures', and 80 items have been assigned the subject 'Houses, residential buildings, etc'. Of course if there are gaps in subject areas and you would like to request an item you think we ought to have, please do request. Sometimes things slip through the net and members often give us great leads on items we've missed. Members interested in building heritage might be interested to know that we recently acquired Goad and Willis' mammoth tome *The encyclopedia of Australian architecture* (2012) (reference use only).

*The PMI should retain its focus on history, particularly local and specialised histories and associated areas of interest. In the area of fiction, it would be good to concentrate on Australian fiction and perhaps build up a historical collection. It should resist expanding to far into amorphous general fiction.*

Members might be interested to know that the Australian fiction is not kept with the general collection, and there are around 1500 of these. Around 120 of these were published prior to 1960 and 270 were published in the last ten years.

*My reason for using the library is its history collection. So long as this doesn't suffer I wouldn't object to other subject areas but I don't know*

*whether I would use them - probably would depend on what these were.*

The collection has expanded in recent years, mainly due to a couple of very large donations. The Watson collection contained much Victorian history, but also a great deal of local histories of interstate places. We amended the collecting policy at that stage to say that if we received donated interstate histories that we would accept them, but we would not be able to allocate resources to chasing after and purchasing these items. Another area of expansion has been Australian history. Our policy has been to buy an Australian subject history of no such subject history was available to cover only Victoria. e.g. we would buy a book about food in Australia if there was no book about food in Victoria. Otherwise, we would accept only donated Australian history items. The Whitehorse collection contains significant Victorian history, but also a large number of Australian works which we have accepted.

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

*Rather than expansion of the range of the collection I favour limiting it to be as comprehensive as possible in the main subjects i.e. Victorian, local and Australian history.*

*The PMI collection policies should be continued, especially regarding Victorian local history, and family history/genealogy. I would think that any growth or expansion should be gradual, to meet a current 'need' rather than going into a new area.*

Some did make suggestions on subjects and formats for possible development:

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

*More local/Victorian history material available in digital format.*

There are currently 166 items in the catalogue given the 'electronic resource' descriptor, including various genealogical indexes and reproductions of rare books and directories we've had volunteers working on checking the product listings of suppliers and continue to keep on top of this. We're pleased that the Sands and Mac directories are gradually becoming available on CD and we are collecting these to replace the old microfiche version. The addition of Ancestry Library Edition is of course a great boost to the digital resources available at the PMI (see p.7 for further information.)

*More regional stuff e.g. Asia/Pacific  
Victorian railway history*

*All Australian history to be included*

*Increase in genealogy resources, particularly relating to Prahran's early days*

Point taken about genealogical resources, but we don't wish to replicate the great work of the Stonnington History Centre, which has excellent information about the people of early Prahran.

**Look out for further member comments on online content and the future library in the November newsletter.**

*This first part of 'Writing History' is contributed by PMI member and Melbourne Day Committee member  
**Judith Buckrich.***

**melbourneday**  
30 august

The Melbourne Day Committee invites all members of the Prahran Mechanics Institute to take part in this year's Melbourne Day celebrations.

We celebrate Melbourne Day on the anniversary of the landing of John Pascoe Fawkner's ship Enterprize on the bank of the Yarra River near the present day Immigration Museum on 30 August 1835. The ship contained a group from Launceston which included George Evans, a builder, carpenters, William Jackson and Robert Hay-Marr, blacksmith James Gilbert and his wife Mary.

Although there has been some lively debate about whether Fawkner's group in the Enterprize or John Batman's group in the Rebecca, which had landed earlier at Indented Head, and whose party trekked across to present day Melbourne were the first, it is now accepted by the Melbourne City Council and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria that the group on the Enterprize lead by John Lancey were the first – they came and they remained. It is through their efforts that Melbourne was sited where it is today.

In 1990 Melbourne businessman, Hedley Elliott asked for assistance from Sir Rupert Hamer (former Premier of Victoria) to promote the correct version of Melbourne's settlement by Europeans. This led to the establishment of Melbourne Foundation Day and the formation of the Melbourne Day Committee – a not for profit organisation - in 1992.

Since then the committee has established many annual events including a flag raising ceremony, tours of the Enterprize ship, entertainment programmes all over the city, Melbourne Day Debate, Gala Ball, Melbourne Awards ceremony, city attractions pass and intensive school participation.

The Melbourne Day Committee is the lead body responsible for raising awareness of Melbourne founding day and celebrating its anniversaries. The committee encourages Melbourne school students to participate in Melbourne Day events, encouraging Melburnians to recognise their heritage and celebrating the wonderful city we live in.

When Melbourne celebrated its 175th birthday in 2010 the Melbourne Day Committee was able to attract greater funding from the City of Melbourne and the State Government and has since been able to present a fuller programme.

We hope that you will tell your friends about the events that will take place this year – please look for updates on <http://www.melbourneday.com.au/>

## ancestry library edition

Family historians amongst our members will be pleased to find that we now have Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) available to use in the library.

The main difference between the ALE and the version that people have at home is that at home you can enter your tree and the database will attempt to find matches for the people in your tree to the collections of records in the database. With ALE you can search the databases by entering details about your ancestors using the various search fields provided - as you would with searching any other database.

The other major difference is that there's a great deal more records on ALE than in the standard Aust-UK package that most people have at home, including records from the following locations:

- Australia (117 databases)
- Canada (1000+)
- Europe (1000+)
- Mexico (14)
- USA (1000+)
- Africa (10)
- Asia (44)
- New Zealand (24)
- South America (8)

The collection of Australian Resources includes 46 databases of material pertaining to Victoria including:

- Census & Voter Lists  
Australian Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980  
New South Wales, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857
- Birth, Marriage & Death  
Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922  
Australia Death Index, 1787-1985  
Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1950  
Australia Cemetery Index, 1808-2007  
Australia and New Zealand Obituary Collection
- Military  
Australia's Fighting Sons of The Empire: Portraits and Biographies of Australians in the Great War  
ANZAC Memorial, 1914-1918
- Immigration & Travel  
Victoria, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923  
Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868  
Western Australia, Crew and Passenger Lists, 1852-1930  
Australian Convict Transportation Registers – First Fleet 1787-1788, Second Fleet 1789-1790, Third Fleet, 1791
- Stories, Memories & Histories  
Who's Who in Australia, 1921-1950  
Australia's Fighting Sons of The Empire. Portraits and Biographies of Australians in the Great War  
A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry

- An Australian Biographical Dictionary
- Australian Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Time, 1542-1879
- The Dictionary of Australasian Biography
- Principal Women of The Empire: Australia and New Zealand, Vol. 1
- The Australian Portrait Gallery and Memoirs of Representative Colonial Men
- The First Settlement of the Upper Murray, 1835 to 1845. With A Short Account of over Two Hundred Runs, 1835-1880
- Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip, Australia
- Benedictine Pioneers in Australia, Vol. 1
- Fifty Years of Progress In Australia 1878-1928
- Benedictine Pioneers in Australia, Vol. 2
- Encounter Bay, The Miniature Naples of Australia
  - Schools, Directories & Church Histories, including:
    - Victoria, Australia, Index to the Children's Registers of State Wards, 1850-1893
    - Port Phillip, Australia Directory, 1847
    - The Rise and Progress of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand
  - Tax, Criminal, Land & Wills
    - Australian Convict Transportation Registers – as shown under 'Immigration & Travel'
    - New South Wales, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857
    - Australian Convict Index, 1788-1868
    - Australia, List of Convicts with Particulars, 1788-1842
    - Australia - Convict Savings Bank Books, 1824-1886
  - Reference, Dictionaries & Almanacs
    - A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry
    - An Australian Biographical Dictionary
    - The Dictionary of Australasian Biography

Now that the Victorian birth, death and marriage indexes will be searchable on Ancestry, it will no longer be necessary for us to retrieve the old CDs for members, and searchers will no longer have to keep changing CDs according to the particular time period being searched.

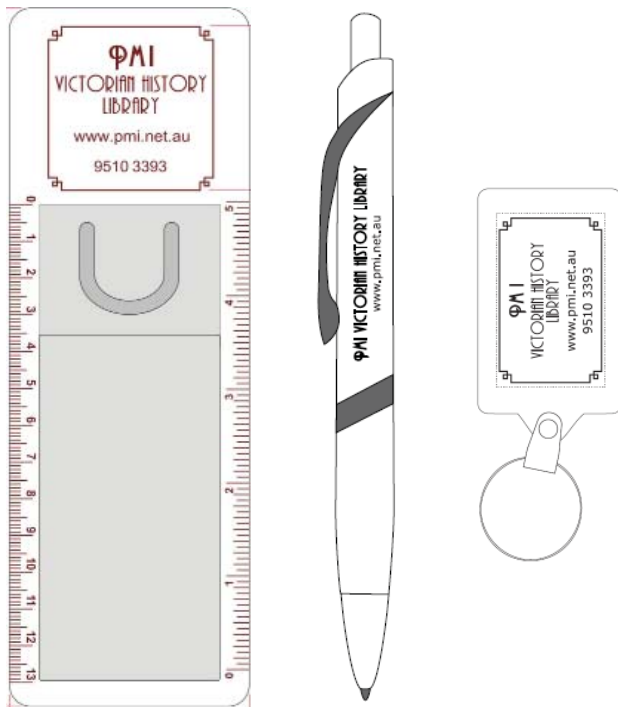
If you've not used Ancestry before you'll be surprised at how many original records are replicated for you to print and store. You can find out much more about how Ancestry can progress your research by coming to the National Family History Week Seminar at the PMI on Saturday 4 August (see p. 1).

Members wishing to use Ancestry Library Edition at a workstation in the library are encouraged to book a time (library@pmi.net.au or 9510 3393).

If you have a laptop computer you don't need to book - bring your laptop to the library, and we'll show you how you can log in.

This service is strictly for MEMBERS ONLY!

ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE LIBRARY:



**PMI MAGNIFYING RULER  
BOOKMARKS**

and

**PMI PENS**

and

**PMI KEYRINGS**

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

**PRAHLAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**



**SHORT  
HISTORY  
PRIZE**

In line with the PMI objective to encourage and facilitate historical research, we invite you to participate in our Short History Prize 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

#### **Glenrowan: the legend of Ned Kelly and the siege that shaped a nation / Ian W. Shaw**

The siege of Glenrowan is more than just an Australian legend. The 41 hours when the Kelly Gang took over Ann Jones' Glenrowan Inn and held the police at bay have become a part of the Australian psyche. Most people know the bare bones of the story, but few know the names and actions of some of those who literally made history over those two days. In this impeccably researched work and vivid retelling, Ian Shaw brings the characters to life through their own words and the observations of those who were there. The real heroes - and the real villains - take centre stage, just as they did at Glenrowan in June 1880. There's the soulful Joe Byrne who toasts the success of the gang one moment and bleeds to death on the hotel floor the next. And the two younger outlaws, Dan Kelly and Steve Hart, who were well and truly out of their depth, seeing no way out at the end, preferring to die rather than surrender. Above it all sits the enigmatic figure of Ned Kelly - vainglorious, cunning and brave - a figure who made too many mistakes in too short a time for his gang to survive.

#### **Detective Piggott's casebook: true tales of murder, madness and the rise of forensic science / Kevin Morgan**

Welcome to hell, a world at war. The streets of old Melbourne are no longer a tidy grid but fractured with laneways like cracks in old varnish, a hotchpotch of chaos, of shanties and factories, woodpiles and chimneys, the city smouldering under its bludgeoned sky. Here, crime flourishes, the damaged fester and the wicked plot. Detective Piggott's Casebook presents for the first time the inside facts on ten of the most significant Victoria Police investigations of the early 20th century, drawing on the long-hidden personal papers of forensic pioneer and Melbourne's own Sherlock Holmes, Frederick Piggott (1874-1962), who joined the Melbourne CIB in 1912 and whose investigations covered many of the state's most gruesome and mysterious crimes, including the infamous murder of Alma Tirtschke and the subsequent wrongful hanging of Colin Ross. These uncensored accounts expose the graphic and often perplexing nature of the period's criminal investigation work and point to the dawn of a new era in Australian crime detection.

#### **University unlimited: the Monash story / Graeme Davison and Kate Murphy**

From its beginnings Monash has been a 'university in a hurry'. Born on the suburban fringe of Melbourne, it has reached outwards rather than gazed inwards. Over its five decades it embraced the challenges of the age of Sputnik, became a hotbed of student radicalism, then took an equally radical turn towards market capitalism to become Australia's largest and most international university, with branches in Italy, Malaysia and South Africa.

The Monash story shows how universities have transformed Australia since the 1960s. Based on extensive interviews with staff and students, and heavily illustrated, this is an engaging and candid portrait of a great Australian institution.

#### **Larrikins: a history / Melissa Bellanta**

From the true-blue Crocodile Hunter to the blue humour of Stiffy and Mo, from the Beaconsfield miners to the Sentimental Bloke, Australia has often been said to possess a 'larrikin streak'. Today, being a larrikin has positive connotations and we think of it as the key to unlocking the Australian identity: a bloke who refuses to stand on ceremony and is a bit of scally wag. When it first emerged around 1870, however, larrikin was a term of abuse, used to describe teenage, working-class hell-raisers who populated dance halls and cheap theatres. Crucially, the early larrikins were female as well as male. *Larrikins: A History* takes a trip through the street-based youth sub-culture known as larrikinism between 1870 and 1920. Swerving through the streets of Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, it offers a glimpse into the lives of Australia's first larrikins, including bare knuckle-fighting, football-barracking, and knicker-flashing teenage girls. Along the way, it reveals much that is unexpected about the development of Australia's larrikin streak to present fascinating historical perspectives on hot 'youth issues' today, including gang violence, racist riots, and raunch culture among adolescent girls.

#### **Australian fashion unstitched : the last 60 years / edited by Bonnie English & Liliana Pomazan 2012**

*Australian Fashion Unstitched* provides a compelling and authoritative survey of the myriad



influences and attributes of Australian fashion over the last sixty years. This post-war period saw Australia's fashion industry come of age. The word couturier became part of the Australian lexicon and glamorous Paris catwalk shows graced our shores, showcasing overseas styling to large audiences in our major cities. Displaying pride in our nationhood and paying tribute to our heritage, our young and emerging designers, in turn, embarked upon a long, sometimes arduous journey to offer Australian fashion to the world. Unique Indigenous textile design, cutting-edge swimwear, and fresh interpretations of global trends infiltrated the international marketplace, sustaining and bolstering the trademark of Australian design.

*Australian Fashion Unstitched* narrates this fascinating story through the eyes of the designers themselves, as well as the journalists, academics, fashion photographers and museum curators who represent this vibrant industry. By placing fashion within our nation's socio-economic, cultural and historical context, *Australian Fashion Unstitched* promises to educate and inspire all readers who have a love of fashion and an abiding respect for history.

### **The Duldig Studio : a history / Helen Kiddell**

Once the former home of artists Karl and Slawa Duldig, the Duldig Studio invites visitors into the creative world that the Duldigs inhabited, and showcases their sculptures, ceramics, and drawings. This history offers insights into their experiences on a journey which led them across continents, from Europe to Australia. Their story sweeps from the rich cultural milieu in pre-war Vienna, dips into the cosmopolitan society of Singapore in the late 1930s, and continues on to Australia, where, as Jewish refugees, they experienced time behind the barbed-wire fences of an interment camp. After the Second World War, Karl and Slawa both became art teachers in Melbourne, managed a cottage pottery business, and Karl continued his professional career as a sculptor.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **As I remember them: men and women who shaped a life / Peter Isaacson**

'Here are twenty six eulogies, obituaries and speeches about people whose lives touched mine – and about the 56,927 aircrew of Bomber Command of the Royal Air Force who died defeating Germany and Italy in the Second World War' Peter Isaacson. 'This remarkable book is a mosaic, it conveys unity and purpose in clear, controlled prose. It is forthright and gentle, in turn. The tributes carry a sense of fellowship and fun, with descriptions of those who 'lived, really lived' Geoffrey Blainey.

### **True North: the story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack / Brenda Niall**

Growing up in suburban Perth in the 1920s, the two Durack girls were fascinated by tales of the pioneering past of their father and grandfather overlanding from Queensland in the 1880s and setting up four vast cattle stations in the remote north. A year spent together on the stations in their early twenties ignited in the sisters a lifelong love of the Kimberley, along with a growing unease about the situation of the Aboriginal people employed there. Through war, love affairs, children and eventual old age, the Duracks continued to write and paint – their closely intertwined creative lives always shaped by the enduring power of the Kimberley region. With unprecedented access to hundreds of private family letters, unpublished memoirs, diaries and family papers, Brenda Niall gets to the heart of a uniquely Australian story that spans the twentieth century.

### **J.J. Clark: architect of the Australian renaissance / Andrew Dodd**

Colonial architect John James Clark was fourteen when he began practising as an architect. By the age of nineteen he had designed the Melbourne Treasury, Australia's finest Renaissance Revival building, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2012. Over six decades, he designed some of the most beautiful buildings in Australia and New Zealand -- Melbourne's Government House, City Baths and Royal Mint as well as the Treasury Building in Brisbane and the Auckland Town Hall. While he is little-known today, when he died in 1915 he was described as 'Australia's greatest architect'. This fascinating biography reveals the inspiration and drama of Clark's controversial career, and contains original plans, elevations and previously unpublished sketches.

### **John Beswicke : 1847-1925 : heritage architect / Ken Bethell**

John Beswicke was a prolific architect during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. He commenced as an architect 13 years after a competition was called for the design of the first Government House in Victoria, and 10 years after the Victorian Institute of Architects was formed. The majority of Beswicke's designs were built before Federation in 1901. ... Beswicke designed buildings in and around Melbourne ... A dapper and urbane gentleman, he was a keen sporting shooter, motoring

# BOOKS ETCETERA

enthusiast and inventor, as well as a devoted family man. ... This book cements Beswicke's place as one of Melbourne's foremost architects of his era

## **Catherine McMahon : a remarkable convict woman / Damian King and Liz Schroeder**

This is the meticulously researched, 19th-century story of Catherine McMahon, a convict who served time in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) during the mid-1800s. Catherine's life includes being married to two husbands - John Copely and Thomas May. Catherine's first husband, John Copley, was a Yorkshire man who was convicted of stealing sheep and served time on Norfolk Island before meeting and marrying Catherine. Catherine and John struggled for permission to marry, established a business, were later declared insolvent, and then moved illegally to the state of Victoria in Australia. They lived and raised a family on the Victorian goldfields before selecting land at Jallukar, near Stawell. Their lives, pre- and post-convict, give a detailed picture of the times, up until John died in 1876. Catherine sold the land in 1888 and three years later married Thomas May, who was also a convict. When Thomas died 12 years later, he left Catherine one shilling in his will. This treatment towards the surviving Catherine ended up influencing the outcome of a local election. It had so outraged the people that - as a political consequence - the local vote was swayed to elect the suffragist Vida Goldstein, who was running for Australia's Parliament. Catherine moved to Menzies in the Western Australian goldfields in 1904 and died there in December 1906.

## FICTION

### **Australian fiction**

The taste of river water / Cate Kennedy (poetry)  
The mountain / Drusilla Modjeska  
The hanging garden / Patrick White  
Comeback / Peter Corris  
The light between oceans / M.L. Stedman  
Floundering / Romy Ash  
The fine colour of rust / P.A. O'Reilly  
Worse things happen at sea / William McInnes and Sarah Watt  
The daughters of Mars / Tom Keneally  
Black Wattle Creek / Geoffrey McGeachin

### **General mysteries**

The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection / Alexander McCall Smith  
The drowning / Camilla Lackberg  
Stay close / Harlan Coben

### **General fiction**

Bring up the bodies / Hilary Mantel  
The little shadows / Marina Endicott  
Poor man's wealth / Rod Usher

### **General non-fiction**

Venetian curiosities / Donna Leon  
The origins of political order / Francis Fukuyama  
Winter King: the dawn of Tudor England / Thomas Penn  
The history of England volume 1: foundation / Peter Ackroyd

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## ***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

## Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

2pm, Sun 26 Aug - Tour - Artists: including such painters and photographers as James Quinn, Hugh Ramsay, Sybil Craig and William Pitt. Leader: Elizabeth Hore.

2pm, Sat 8 & Sun 9 Sep - Tour - For the Ride to Conquer Cancer - Take a tour through the tombstones to meet some fascinating, determined, charismatic characters. Each one made a distinctive mark on the world we see today. Unfortunately, they all had one thing in common - cancer. But rather than focus on their deaths let's focus on their lives, the experiences they had, the rich tapestries they wove and the legacies they left behind.

All proceeds in support of Peter Mac and the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

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

## History Victoria Support Group

10am-3.15pm, Sat 4 Aug - Seminar - Working with Family History Groups. A guide for historical societies to foster partnership with their local family history groups RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. \$15 registration fee includes a light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/BREP](http://www.trybooking.com/BREP).

## Friends of Kew Cemetery

7.30pm, Wed 25 July - Guest speaker - Kenneth Parks on 'Tombs that tell tales...a look at cities of the dead and the tombs contained therein'. No charge, refreshments provided, at Le Pine, 741 High Street, East Kew. Further information and bookings contact Pauline on [www.fobkc.org](http://www.fobkc.org) or 0417 278 950

## Public Record Office

11am, Wed 1 Aug - Free workshop - Finding a person: An introductory information session for those tracing their family history using the PROV collection

2.30pm, Wed 1 Aug - Free workshop - Wiki workshop: Discover how to add your ancestor to the PROV Wiki.

11am, Thu 16 Aug - Free workshop - Reading 19th century handwriting.

11am, Fri 7 Sep - Free tour - Tour of the archives and introduction to the PROV collection

11am, Mon 17 Sep - Free workshop - Digging deeper: An advanced PROV searching session

Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne. Further information and bookings, visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar>.

## St Kilda Historical Society

6.30pm, Sun 9 Sep - Talk - Dr Peter Fitzpatrick on 'The two Frank Thrings'

6.30pm, Tue 16 Oct - Talk - Dr Mimi Colligan on Sheila Florence.

Members free, non-members \$5. Community Room, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street. 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.

## State Library of Victoria

10am-3.30pm, Mon 30 Jul - Family History Feast. The annual Family History Feast is a day of free information sessions for family history researchers. Discover the major Victorian government agencies for genealogical research and how they can help with your family history research. This year's Don Grant Lecture will be given by Professor Janet McCalman on 'Family secrets: the Vandemonians in Victoria'. Further information and booking form at <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/event/family-history-feast> or contact 9348 5609 or [enquiries@prov.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@prov.vic.gov.au).

## Stonnington History Centre

10am, Wed 12 Sep - Talk - 'Conserving your family photos'. Find out how to look after your precious print and digital photos.

10am, Wed 24 Oct - Talk - 'Chapel Street: a pictorial'. Follow the development of this landmark streetscape from the 1840s to the present.

## National Family History Week

Sat 27 Jul - Sun 5 Aug - Did you know that family history is the second biggest subject on the web with sites receiving billions of hits per year. There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history related organisations so the week has broad appeal across Australia. During the week events will be conducted across the country that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects including family reunions, seminars, talks, open days, history walks, book launches, film evening and expos. Check your state for details of local events.

For information about other goings on during National Family History Week visit:

<http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au/>



Past • Present • Future

National Family History Week

27 July to 5 August 2012

[www.familyhistoryweek.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au)

The banner features a blue background with a white grid pattern. On the right side, there is a faded image of a person in a hat and a building. A tablet computer is shown in the foreground, displaying the website.

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