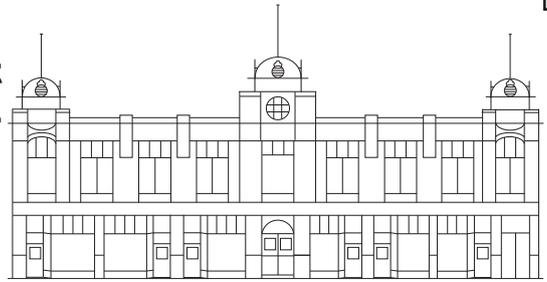


# PSRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 76 - NOVEMBER 2012



## INSIDE

Around the Library 2

Writing History:  
Ritesh Das 6  
Associated Groups 7

Books Etcetera 9

Historic Happenings 11

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

Patron:  
Keith Dunstan OAM

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

Membership:  
\$12 individual  
\$10 student/pensioner  
\$30 institutional

Feedback/suggestions  
for this newsletter  
may be directed to  
writer/compiler  
Christine Worthington

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

facebook

Name:  
Prahran Mechanics'  
Institute

FOLLOW ME ON 



This newsletter is  
sponsored by

**Windsor  
Community Bank®**  
Branch  
& Prahran Market  
branch



**Bendigo Bank**  
111 Chapel Street,  
Windsor, VIC 3181  
Ph 9510 9311  
[www.windsorcommunity.com.au](http://www.windsorcommunity.com.au)

## History Week 2012

[www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au) 21 - 28 October

*discover the wonders  
of Victoria's past*

Victorian History Week is an initiative of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and generously sponsored by the Vera Moore Foundation. For details of all the happenings during Victorian History Week visit [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au)

### Mon 22 Oct:

#### Annual PMI Short History Prize Announcement

Check our website [www.pmi.net.au](http://www.pmi.net.au)  
at 11am to find out this year's winner

### Sat 27 Oct:

#### Annual Historic Picture Show

#### Movies in the Home

(As Opposed to Home Movies)

Jointly presented by PMI and CATHS

*From the introduction of movies in the late 19th century, there were attempts to introduce low cost movies people could buy, hire and view in their homes.*

*Gerry Kennedy and Mike Trickett of CATHS will give us some of the history behind the progress of movies in the home and present some typical movies that were available to the home showman way back before the introduction of television. Stars include WC Fields, Charlie Chaplin, and Laurel & Hardy. The picture show will be followed by refreshments in the library.*

**2.00pm, Saturday 27 October**

**at PMI Victorian History Library, 140 High Street, Prahran**

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



### Throughout History Week 21-28 Oct:

#### Display: **SMILE ...** **CLICK**

Come to the PMI library and see a terrific display of 27 classic cameras from various eras ranging over 100 years from the early 1900s. Accompanying the cameras, from the collection of PMI member Ritesh Das, are sample pictures showing the styles of photographs throughout the times. Don't miss this!  
*Further details page 6 ...*

## MEMBERS NEWS

### New Members

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

*Asif Alam  
Allan Armstrong  
David Bozkewycz  
Henry Buch  
Marie Clark  
Christopher Cody  
Simon Davies  
Anne James  
Trevor Koop*

*Tony Lambides-Turner  
Susan Manley  
Deborah Marinaro  
Geoffrey Mellis  
Gregory Miles  
Christine Murray  
Stephen Parker  
Patrick Splawa-Neyman*

### Financial Donors

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

*Australian Railway  
Historical Society (Vic.)  
Stella Barber  
Ian Clarke  
Nicholas Fothergill  
Gillian Gengoult Smith*

*Kathleen Hislop  
Iraina Hofsteede  
Bruce McBrien  
Janet McDonald  
Harry & Margaret Oulton  
Hilary Ray*

### Book Donors

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

*L.D. Ashburner  
Clarice Ballenden  
Bayside Library Service  
Beverley Broadbent  
Jennifer Chapman  
Simon Davies  
Margaret Dunne  
Eastern Regional Libraries  
Corporation  
Sally Edwardes  
Alan Elliott  
Enterprize Trust  
Fitzroy History Society  
Juliet Flesch  
Footscray Historical  
Society  
Elaine Herbert  
Apri-Kaye Ikinici  
Peter Isaacson  
Tony Lambides-Turner  
Alf Lazer  
Brian Lloyd  
Brian Membrey*

*Chris Michalopoulos  
Anne Miller  
Montrose Historical  
Society  
Ken Penaluna  
Rotary Club of Footscray  
Ann Rusden  
Jeremiah Sloane  
Steve Stefanopoulos  
Robin Stewardson  
Tony Tibballs  
Deborah Towns  
Trentham and District  
Historical Society  
Adrian Turley  
Elizabeth Turner  
Arriness E. Watson  
Scot Whitaker  
Whitehorse Manningham  
Library  
Charles Wright  
Ursula Zamecnik*

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The PMI **building sub-committee** consists of President John Chandler, Vice President Chris Michalopoulos, PMI committee members Steve Stefanopoulos and Peter Wolfenden and in attendance, the Secretary Librarian, Tim McKenna. The sub-committee was charged with the responsibility of choosing an architect for the new library project at 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran.

The sub-committee not only had to consider what was necessary and desirable for the new library but also had to keep in mind the necessity of limiting the expenditure for the project to a responsible level. After a very exhaustive process of interviewing and much consideration of seven excellent architects who expressed interest (as well as an independent building company) the committee decided to appoint Bill Glover, from the firm Kurnow Freiverts Glover. Bill is a highly regarded and experienced architect who has won many design awards.

I congratulate my fellow building sub-committee members for their diligence and hard work in completing this important stage of the process of providing the PMI with a new library.

Now the building sub-committee will begin the next phase of working with Bill Glover to ensure that the library will be well-planned and contain all facilities to see the PMI well placed to continue and enhance its activities for many years to come.

The **Windsor Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank**, which already sponsors our newsletter, has now announced a new sponsorship initiative. I recently attended a function organised by the bank at which the details of the initiative were outlined by Branch Manager Julian Kennedy and Chair of the Board, Jon Caneva.

We currently have a term deposit at the bank which, under the new initiative, will mean extra money for the PMI from the bank. If any members wish to open or roll over a term deposit at the bank, and mention the sponsorship deal in relation to the PMI, it will be of benefit to us. Also, there are benefits if a member takes out a loan and mentions the PMI. The PMI Committee appreciates the support that the Bendigo Community Bank gives to the PMI and the Stonnington community in general.

*Contributed by PMI Vice President  
Chris Michalopoulos.*

In addition to all the work associated with choosing an architect, work is well underway on a project for the rebranding of the PMI and developing a new website. This work is necessary because our building is the central theme of our current logo, branding and website; and would be confusing for people after the PMI moves to the new premises. This process involved seeking quotes from design firms, interviewing shortlisted firms and considerable meetings with the selected firm, Truly Deeply of South Melbourne (which also developed the logo for the City of Stonnington soon after its creation in 1994). The promotions subcommittee (consisting of John Chandler, Chris Michalopoulos, Peter Wolfenden and Steve Stefanopoulos) has been involved in the short-listing of applicants and consultation on the new logo in its draft stages.

Steve Stefanopoulos and Christine Worthington conducted interviews with shortlisted firms, and attended all subsequent workshops and meetings with

the selected firm providing detailed feedback from the PMI promotions subcommittee and themselves. The project is developing well, and will be completed well before the opening of the new building, when the new branding will be launched. Many thanks to all volunteer committee members, especially Steve, who have put a great deal of time into this project despite the many other PMI tasks before them.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Christmas Break Closure



It seems a little early for Christmas/New Year closure details, but this will be the last newsletter for the year.

We'd like to wish all our members a very happy, safe and relaxing summer break and advise that the PMI will close at **4.30pm on Friday 21 December** and will reopen at **9.30am on Monday 7 January 2013**.

The return book chute will be closed over the break, so be sure to organise your holiday reading and loan renewals by 21 December.

For those in your family who are interested in history - why not give the gift of reading this Christmas? PMI Membership Vouchers are easy to arrange and very affordable.

If you are buying books for friends and family this Christmas, members are welcome to bring them to the PMI to be professionally covered, only \$2.50 for hardbacks, with or without dust covers.

### Library

We'd like to give members early notice that the activities of the library will be scaled down next year. The Bruce Turner Lecture, AGM, Historic Picture Show and Short History Prize will all go ahead in 2013. On hold until after the move will be the Laurie McCalman Lecture, National Family History Week seminar, and PMI Press project. This reduced schedule will give staff more time to focus on preparing for the library's big move.

There will still be four newsletters next year, as well as the regular monthly recent additions list.

A large donation of books was recently received from author Brian Lloyd including quite a few items not held previously in the collection. Also amongst these items are useful second copies and items in good condition which we will use to replace very old and worn out copies.

### Visiting Groups

Thanks very much to Anne Kelly for arranging a visit to the PMI by the history group of Auburn Probus Club on 18 July. Thank you also to Swinburne teacher Anne Philpott, who recently brought a small group of Professional Writing and Editing students to the PMI to hone their research skills. Each of the students will be researching particular mechanics' institutes for their assignments. A group of Swinburne Public Relations students recently visited the PMI for a talk about the PMI and promotion of a special library collection. This was the second group of PR students that teacher David Zerman has brought in for a visit as a part of their studies.



### Melbourne Day

Thanks very much to the team from the Enterprise Ship Trust who installed a terrific display in our front window for Melbourne Day in August. The display features:

- a Melbourne flag (as flown by the replica schooner Enterprize)
- authentic ship items (sail, rope, and 'ocean plait' coil mat)
- a completely hand made dress such as Mary Gilbert would have worn aboard the Enterprize.

This window will continue to be dressed by Helen Ebsworthy and her colleagues from the Enterprize Trust, and we'll keep you posted as new items appear. Have a look next time you visit the PMI.

### Family History Week Seminar

Thanks to all who attended our annual National Family History Week seminar. It was a full house this year. Alison Boundy (PMI Committee and GSV library) gave a talk called 'Journey into Your Past: Research Skills for Family Historians' and we were also very fortunate to have Clare Bristow (Proquest) join us to give a 'Beginner's Guide to Ancestry Library Edition'. It was a very interesting and information-packed day and we're very grateful to both speakers for their time and to Alison for arranging the main door prize gift (a book from the GSV bookshop).

If you've been planning to visit the library to check out Ancestry Library Edition, be sure to book ahead to be sure a workstation will be available for you to have a good play with it. Otherwise, you can bring your laptop along as it's easy to login and you can then save your records to your hard drive.

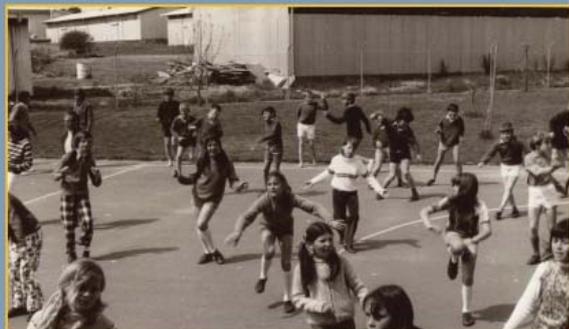
## ancestry library edition



Clare Bristow & Alison Boundy

## Valuable Steps

A History of  
Physical Education  
in Victoria



Garry Powell

### PMI PRESS NEWS

The latest PMI Press publication, Garry Powell's *Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria*, is now back from the printer. The book will be launched on 15 October and will be available for sale after that date.

There will be copies of *Valuable Steps* for sale at the PMI for \$31.50 (for PMI members) and \$35 (non-members). To have the book posted (to PMI members only) add \$10.

As reported in the General News section, the PMI will be operating on a scaled-down program next year as we prepare for the enormous job of moving the library. The publishing activities of PMI Press will also be on hold until after the move

### VOLUNTEERS NEWS

#### Volunteer Stats

So far this year 23 volunteers have contributed 692 hours of work in the library, produced six book indexes and delivered 650 PMI pamphlets.

Digitising and indexing PMI archive correspondence files continues. The Trove project, in which volunteers searched for and amended text of articles concerning the PMI on the Trove newspaper database is now complete. The text and images of relevant articles has been saved and will enhance and fill in some gaps in our archives.

Volunteers with library experience are now trawling back through our old accession register checking items on the Libraries Australia (Trove libraries) database to

ensure all our holdings are correctly listed and making notes on any anomalies they find. This is yet another example of a 'backburner' project which, despite its importance, could not be done without volunteer assistance.

#### International Volunteer Day

Our wonderful volunteer team will soon receive their invitations to our annual International Volunteer Day function, to be held at the library at the beginning of December. This function is a great opportunity for us to thank the volunteers for their work during the previous year and to acknowledge the big difference they have made to the fortunes of the library in recent times. On that day we will enjoy a catered lunch and distribute certificates denoting each individual's contribution in 2012.

### MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

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, May and August newsletters we looked at comments about the newsletter, facilities and services, events and the library collection. This time we'll focus on the things that members said they wanted to see in the future library ...

#### The Future Library

There were 175 respondents to the survey, and 122 (70%) responded in some way to question 14:

*The PMI library will be moving to a larger building in Prahran in the next year or two, and in the lead up to the move we are reviewing our collection and services for the future. What possible improvements would you suggest for the PMI at this time?*

There were five suggestions listed with the question, (respondents could choose more than one) and there was room for everyone to make further suggestions. The most popular of these was provision of a lunch/tea room for library users or coffee shop (52%) ..

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

*A lunch / tea room would be good. There are lots of coffee shops around so it is not necessary to have a coffee shop.*

*To be able to bring in a light lunch and eat in library user room would be appreciated very much.*

*An alternative to a coffee shop/tea room would be an area within the general library space, perhaps screened off (glass partitions to reduce noise transmission) where a few "lounge chairs" could be located together with tea making facilities.*

*I like the idea of a coffee shop, with real baristas.*

*A users tea room would be appropriate BUT NO coffee shop. The tail would soon wag the dog.*

*I think a tea room would be good as we often get carried away with what we are researching and then have to go and look for lunch*

The other most popular suggestions (all around 40%) in the list provided with the question were an

expanded program of lectures and other activities, the establishment of special interest groups and an expansion of online content and services.

Suggestions for expanded activity program:

*Tours to places of interest - perhaps monthly - coach, walking.*

*A program of regular monthly talks on the same day of the week or perhaps a month of weekly talks on related topics on the same day of the week a few times a year - titled something like 'The Summer Session Talks' would be interesting.*

Suggestions for special interest groups:

*I've never been a part of a history special interest group, but it sounds like it could be good.*

*This could also include special interest groups involved in other historical documentation such as photographs and film.*

*A family history group - research and documentation, different ways to present findings, etc.*

*Military, gardening, family history*

*The arts area in our community has always been of interest to me*

*A link to writer's groups in the area could be good. Even hold meetings for poetry & prose & local history perhaps.*

*What about history of buildings? I'm interested in domestic housing, styles, architecture, floor plans, heritage colour schemes etc*

*Special interest groups could include reading groups or book clubs.*

*... industrial history over the years around Melbourne.*

*Victorian Railway History*

*Aust documentary films related to history and biography - this could segue into events*

*Interest group in social history, particularly Victorian*

Suggestions for online content:

*Expansion of online content and services could be useful for members who live a fair distance from Prahran.*

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

*Is there any possibility of setting up 'podcasts' of some of the meetings for viewing on the web?*

*E books*

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

General comments for the future library:

*Add some comfortable chairs to allow for members to relax as they read.*

*Is there potential to have other local groups (such as historical societies) use the premises on a regular basis?*

The big picture:

*The PMI should retain its focus on history, particularly local and specialised histories and*

*associated areas of interest.*

*I would encourage you to continue promoting the library's emphasis on history.*

*All Australian history to be included.*

*I see the library should limit its involvement to subjects of a historic nature.*

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

*Make the library a vibrant meeting place.*

*Keep up the friendly and personal type of service if you can in the new building.*

*Please do not become too "self service" oriented, I love the staff and the fact they want to help.*

*In future I think you will receive more books etc as your members get older & offload them. (this is already happening quite a bit and we're very grateful)*

*I would also be interested to know how PMI's collection policy relates to the policies of the RHSV, AIGS, GSV and other libraries accessible on membership, rather than the state and other publicly-funded collections - SLV and universities - which are generally accessible on a different basis.*

The final comment listed is worth answering ... please let us know if any of the following is inaccurate:

At the State Library of Victoria all items on open and closed access can be freely used within the library but can't be borrowed. Free registration required for closed access materials.

At the RHSV, AIGS and GSV all items can be used within the libraries, but only by members (annual fees over \$60) and can't be borrowed. These groups have broader objectives beyond the provision of libraries including collection of primary source material, support to other historical organisations and research and research education.

Some university libraries, particularly those with history amongst their courses and subjects have some similar collections to the PMI which may be accessed by the general public within the library, but can't be borrowed by the public without paying an annual fee of over \$200.

PMI collection is accessible to members and non-members within the library, and members (annual fee \$12) may borrow (3 items at a time for the first six months, no limit thereafter) from the collection.

**This concludes our series on member feedback obtained in the 2011 survey, and thanks again for taking the time to provide us with such seriously helpful feedback. A copy of the full survey can be found at the loans desk.**

**If you found this feedback as interesting and informative as we do, keep an eye on next year's newsletters, as we'll be reporting on things relating to our move, including various aspects of planning the activities of the library.**

**If you have any further feedback, questions or suggestions for next year's newsletters please let us know ...**

**library@pmi.net.au or post to PMI,  
PO Box 1080, Windsor VIC 3181**



**SMILE ...  CLICK**

*Contributed by Ritesh Das*

The word 'camera' comes from the term 'camera obscura' meaning in Latin 'dark chamber'.

In the fifth century BC, the Chinese philosopher Mo Ti noted that a pinhole can form an inverted and focused image, when light passes through the hole and into a dark area. Mo Ti is the first recorded person to have exploited this phenomenon to trace the inverted image to create a picture. The first permanent photograph of a camera image was made in 1826 by using a sliding wooden box camera made by Charles and Vincent Chevalier in Paris.

For me, it all began when I was looking for some documents in my grandmother's cupboard. I found a couple of old cameras which were left by my grandfather. One of them was the most popular of its time Kodak Box Brownie-Six20'E' (1953-57) and the other one was a Kodak Autographic No.2 (1915-26). I looked closely and realised how such a simple mechanism made them such remarkable objects, and was struck that such simple and basic cameras could take such beautiful photos.

I started to learn about different camera makes, models and mechanisms. After having the two cameras on display. I was given three more by my uncle. This is how it started and became a more of a passion than just a hobby. I usually find cameras in garage sales, flea markets and auctions and some are gifted by family and friends.

At present I have about 60 cameras ranging from early plate to modern digital cameras. The oldest and, and my favourite,

is the 'Century' large format camera from 1901 (pictured left) which uses the negative film sheet instead of the negative roll. At present I am restoring it to its former glory so that I can use it again.

As the cameras of these eras are not commonly displayed, I have offered to share my collection so people of all ages can appreciate where and how today's models originated. This is also the first time that I have displayed part of my collection. In future I would like to set up a small museum dedicated to cameras and photographs.

Being a member of the Australian Photographic Collectors Society ([www.apcsociety.com.au](http://www.apcsociety.com.au)), I have gained valuable skills and knowledge from other members. Within the society there is a newly formed large format group, and its members will use very early cameras and film processing techniques.

I would be happy to share my collection at any venue or any organisation. I'll also be glad to answer any questions. Please contact by email ([cameras@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:cameras@hotmail.co.nz)) or mobile (0406116797).  
(Reference: Wikipedia)

**Smile ... Click, a display of 27 classic cameras from various eras ranging over 100 years from the early 1900s, is already on show in the library and will be here until the end of October. Be sure to have a look next time you visit.**



## News From Our Associated Groups



### Cinema & Theatre Historical Society

The Cinema and Theatre Historical Society was established by a small group of cinema enthusiasts in Melbourne back in 1989.

Today the society boasts close to 350 members throughout Australia, with several overseas members amongst its ranks.

Regular meetings are held at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville. CATHS also conducts organised cinema inspections and tours for its members to view, photograph and record information on present and past cinemas and theatres.

CATHS has an extensive archive of cinema history, photos and other memorabilia. Our archive is housed at the Prahran Mechanics Institute and is staffed by volunteers. The archive is generally open on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The volunteers who man the archive have been cataloguing and digitising the holdings for some time, and thanks to a grant received from the National Library of Australia, the database is now networked. Additional work stations have enabled the process to be sped up and a large percentage of the holdings are now catalogued and available for searching. The CATHS database contains information on most of the venues which have screened movies throughout Australia.

The database provides facilities to search by location, cinema or theatre name, exhibitor's name and a variety of other criteria. As well, where available, photos of the venues are displayed.

The database can be searched either from the computers in the CATHS rooms next to PMI, or from the PMI Library computers. Members of the public are welcome to access our system to search out their favorite cinema. Indeed many university students, family researchers and heritage organisations have used the archives.

In recent years CATHS has been pleased

to arrange a film screening for PMI members and will be doing so again this year.

The CATHS web site at [www.caths.org.au](http://www.caths.org.au) contains lots of useful information on present and past cinemas, with limited search facilities also on line.

*Contributed by Gerry Kennedy,  
CATHS President*



### Australian Railway Historical Society (Victorian Division)

Established in 1945 the Australian Railway Historical Society, Victorian Division, Inc. has a proud history of over 60 years of catering for all who have an interest in the railway history of Victoria. We currently have a growing membership of over 750 throughout Australia and overseas.

The ARHS library was previously located in rooms at the Windsor Railway Station until 2001 when the private operators decided that they could obtain more rent from a commercial business. The library then resided in a container at the Newport workshops which was definitely not a satisfactory state of affairs. The arrangement made between Swinburne University and the Prahran Mechanics' Institute in 2009 allowed for additional rooms on the High Street frontage and the PMI kindly agreed to make space available to house the collection. The ARHS library has collection strengths in Victorian and Australian railway history which of course neatly complements the PMI collection.

Ultimately the collection will be available for the use of PMI members but at the time of writing there is still much work to be done in organising and cataloguing the collection.

The ARHS library is now housed at the new PMI premises at 39 St Edmonds Road Prahran and is attended on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm. PMI members are welcome to visit and to browse the collection.

*Donald Barker  
ARHS Librarian*



## Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria

The corner of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute that is home for the **Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre (MIRC)** has been a hive of activity this past year. The MIRC has been established by the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria (MIV) to provide a comprehensive source of information relating to the mechanics' institutes movement, both past and present.

**MIV scanning project:** The major activity of the year has been digitizing the records of MIs. The MIV received a grant from the Victorian Government to enable the scanning of the archival records of mechanics institutes from across Victoria. The records of fifteen mechanics' institutes have been added to the MIRC database by Anne Palamountain. Anne diligently works through the variety of records - minute books, cash books, library catalogues and rules, correspondence - scanning each record and carefully handling the often fragile documents.

Records from MIs still active in their communities, and records from mechanics' institutes no longer in existence, have been located and scanned. The assistance the Project has received from regional libraries and local historical societies in locating these "missing" records is greatly appreciated.

**Cataloguing the MIRC Collection:** The task of cataloguing the collection began this year with the installation of the DB/TextWorks software. The MIV, together with CATHS and the ARHS, were successful in obtaining a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia for this Joint Collection Management System.

The first step has been to transfer the Big Mech database to the new software. The Big Mech database contains material on all known Victorian institutes. Its contents includes ownership, management, architectural and historic material.

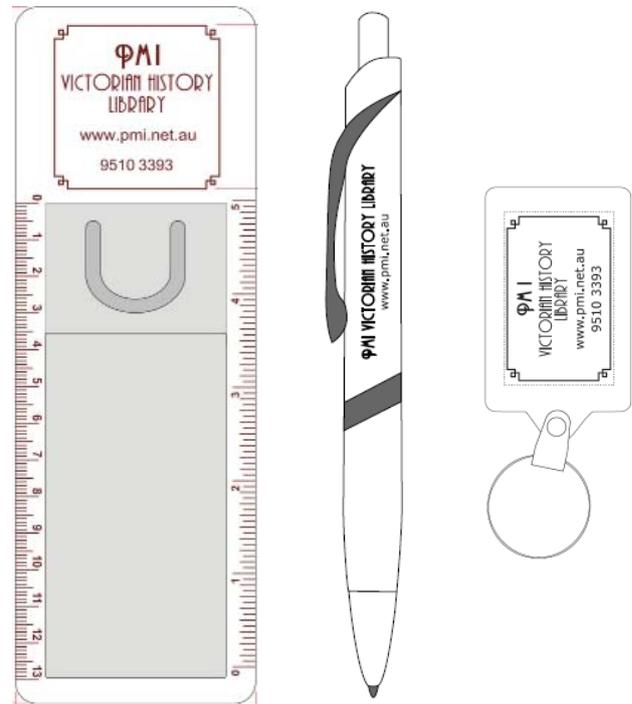
The flexibility of DB/TextWorks enables easy editing of the contents, and greatly assists the updating of information.

**Research:** Searching the digital newspaper files on Trove to find early references to mechanics' institute events and activities has been the domain of MIV committee member Jack Stock. He has located references to official openings of MI buildings, and reports of significant events. Jack has concentrated on those mechanics' institutes for which there is limited information in the MIRC files.

The MIV would like to thank PMI for making the space available for the MIRC and also for the assistance provided to members and others who contact PMI seeking information about the mechanics' institutes of Victoria.

*Judith Dwyer, MIV Secretary*

## 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  
'Prahran Tech' \$31.50

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

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

Valuable Steps: a History of Physical Education in  
Victoria (after Oct 15) \$31.50

## FICTION

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

### AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

#### **Ticket to paradise: a journey to find the Australian colony of Paraguay among Nazis, Mennonites and Japanese beekeepers / Ben Stubbs**

In 1893, Australian journalist William Lane dreamed of creating a utopia where his socialist ideals could flourish, far away from his home in Queensland. He enlisted 238 followers and convinced them to sail across the Pacific with him to Paraguay, where he intended to create a paradise where brotherhood would be the order of the day and where hard work would reap its own rewards. And then reality set in. Expecting green and fertile fields, the New Australians found instead a dustbowl; expecting wine, women and song, they realised that their leader wanted them to remain abstemious and monogamous. This was not paradise but a kind of hell and Lane would face open rebellion from his followers. In 2010, Australian travel writer Ben Stubbs made his own trek to the wilds of central Paraguay to discover the remnants of New Australia and to search out the stories of those who stayed behind. He discovers a series of utopian colonies, including New Japan and New Germany, and their inhabitants, who lead strange double lives, caught between the countries they think of as home and the one they live in every day. Funny, unexpected and fascinating, this is an adventure travel story with a difference.

#### **The sting: Australia's plot to crack a global drug empire / Nick McKenzie**

It was a David and Goliath style battle: Australian investigators up against a global organised crime empire. What seemed like an impossible task resulted in one of the most ambitious investigations in the world, infiltrating international money laundering streams and exposing the global crime bosses in control of the world's drug trade. The Sting is the never-before-told story of the ongoing efforts of Australia's most secretive and powerful law enforcement agency to topple the new face of organised crime. This is a tech-savvy, billion-dollar empire with tentacles reaching across the world, from outlaw motorcycle gangs to powerful Asian crime syndicates to law and government agencies. This is not a conventional story of good versus evil. It chronicles criminal, law enforcement and political tactics through the eyes of its major players - the criminal investigators, the international crime bosses, the senator, the drug cook and the investigative journalist - and exposes what many in power don't want the public to know.

#### **The true story of Ned Kelly's last stand / Paul Terry**

Using science, history and family lore to unearth a new understanding of how a legend was made this is the full story of the most famous siege in Australian history - the man and the myth; the people great and small. When Ned Kelly fought his 'last stand' at Glenrowan, he made his suit of armour and a tiny bush pub part of Australian folklore. But what really happened at the Glenrowan Inn when the Kelly Gang took up arms against the government? Who was there when the bullets began to fly and how did their actions help to set the course of history? Almost 130 years after the gunfight, a team of archaeologists peeled back the layers of history at Glenrowan to reveal new information about how the battle played out, uncovering the stories of the people caught up in a violent confrontation that helped to define what it means to be Australian.

#### **QF32 / Richard de Crespigny**

On 4 November 2010, a flight from Singapore to Sydney came within a knife edge of being one of the world's worst air disasters. Shortly after leaving Changi Airport, an explosion shattered Engine 2 of Qantas flight QF32 - an Airbus A380, the largest and most advanced passenger plane ever built. Hundreds of pieces of shrapnel ripped through the wing and fuselage, creating chaos as vital flight systems and back-ups were destroyed or degraded. In other hands, the plane might have been lost with all 469 people on board, but a supremely experienced flight crew, led by Captain Richard Champion de Crespigny, managed to land the crippled aircraft and safely disembark the passengers after hours of nerve-racking effort. Tracing Richard's life and career up until that fateful flight, QF32 shows exactly what goes into the making of a top-level airline pilot, and the extraordinary skills and training needed to keep us safe in the air. Fascinating in its detail and vividly compelling in its narrative, QF32 is the riveting, blow-by-blow story of just what happens when things go badly wrong in the air, told by the captain himself.

#### **Nazi dreamtime: Australian enthusiasts for Hitler's Germany / David S. Bird**

Nazi Dreamtime is the ground-breaking story of extreme-right, ultra-nationalist thought and practice in Australia in the period immediately before and during the Second World War. It focuses on those native-born Australians who were attracted to the ideology of Nazism in Germany from 1933.

#### **Saltwater in the ink: voices from the Australian seas / Lucy Sussex**

During the 1800s, thousands of people travelled from England and Europe to the new lands of the Antipodes. The voyage was a period of transition, a time of unaccustomed leisure and reflection. It produced a mass of sea-diaries and letters - we could call them Victorian blogs. Much of this writing is extraordinary: the authors, even those with little education, revealing a gift for narrative, observation and indeed entertainment. They write of birth, death, shipwreck, flirtation and secret adoration. Lucy Sussex has collected these voices, including: a bride of 16; one of the first men to play Australian Rules football; a woman running away from a brutal husband; another staving off a breakdown with drugs; a family fleeing imprisonment for debt; and her own great-

# BOOKS ETCETERA

grandmother, who was lucky to survive the first white settlement in the Kimberleys. These voices speak to us, in the ancestors' own words.

## **The spying game: an Australian angle / Bruce Bennett**

What are the roles of reason and imagination in secret intelligence? How do apparently normal people get involved? What happens to them? While British, American and Soviet empires have produced plentiful supplies of heroes, villains and stirring tales, Australians have typically averted their gaze from this country's involvement in the 'second oldest profession'. And yet espionage has been a part of Australia's history since the earliest European imaginings of a southern land mass. Australian spies have produced their share of heroes and villains and this book shows how they influenced Australia's diplomatic and military policy, and the personal price some of them paid.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Gina Rinehart / Adele Ferguson**

Gina Rinehart is not just the richest person in Australian history, she is fast becoming one of the richest people in the world. The daughter of Lang Hancock - legendary arch-conservative, secessionist, mining millionaire and discoverer of the world's largest iron ore deposit in the Pilbara - Gina has grown up in a family known as much for its front-page legal stoushes as for its business acumen and toughness. With her reported wealth more than doubling in the last twelve months, Rinehart is beginning to flex the enormous power her money gives, buying larger share holdings in television's Ten Network and newspaper group Fairfax Media. They are moves that will give Rinehart and her controversial views a major place in Australian life and public affairs. Based on painstaking research and a wealth of interviews with Rinehart's colleagues, friends, family and former employees, award-winning journalist Adele Ferguson has written the definitive biography, shining a light into the private world of Gina Rinehart, her family, her feuds and the iron determination that has driven her relentless rise.

### **An open house: recollections of my early life / David Boyd**

Written just prior to his death in 2011 at the age of 87, David Boyds highly personal family memoir provides unique and fascinating insight. Highly entertaining and accessible, An Open House is an important contribution to the nation's artistic heritage and a revealing portrait of one of our most famous families by one who lived in it.

## **FICTION**

### **Australian fiction**

Prime cut / Alan Carter (crime fiction)  
Foal's bread / Gillian Mears  
Nine days / Toni Jordan  
Paving the new road: a Rowland Sinclair novel / Sulari Gentill  
The robbers / Paul Anderson  
The Diggers Rest Hotel: a Charlie Berlin mystery / Geoffrey McGeachin

### **General fiction**

Beneath the darkening sky / Majok Tulba  
The yips / Nicola Barker  
Philida / Andre Brink  
A tiger in Eden / Chris Flynn  
The teleportation accident / Ned Beauman  
Sweet tooth / Ian McEwan

### **General mysteries**

Kill Alex Cross / James Patterson  
The fallen angel (a Gabriel Allon thriller) / Daniel Silva  
The Saint Zita Society / Ruth Rendell  
Gone girl / Gillian Flynn  
A wanted man / Lee Child  
The affair / Lee Child  
Inspector Singh investigates: a curious Indian cadaver / Shamini Flint  
Kill me if you can / James Patterson  
The age of doubt: an Inspector Montalbano mystery / Andrea Camilleri  
Istanbul passage / Joseph Kanon

## **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 4 Nov - Tour - All Souls: looking at religious people buried in St Kilda Cemetery. In Western Christianity, this day is observed annually on 2nd November following All Saints' Day. All Souls' Day actually dates back to an ancient Pagan Festival, which celebrated the belief that the souls of the departed would return to the family.

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

## Glen Eira Historical Society

10am-4pm, Sun 21 Oct & Tue 23 Oct - Open Day - Discover our passion for local history, see our collection holdings, view our marvellous maps, see our displays on local topics, talk to us about your local interests

Learn more about the Glen Eira area. 965 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162, all welcome.

## Nepean Historical Society

Sat 20 Oct - Sharing our past: professional scanning service. If you have a photograph, written text or object that you think is of local historical value and are willing to share it, we will scan it into our records, provide a copy for your records, acknowledge your ownership and with your permission make it available for others doing research. *Bookings essential: [archive2.nepeanh@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:archive2.nepeanh@vic.chariot.net.au) or PO Box 139 Sorrento 3943.*

## Public Record Office

11am-2.30pm, Fri 16 Nov - Free seminar - This seminar covers a range of Victorian prison records which can be accessed for research purposes. Learn about the history of Victorian prison systems, what records PROV holds, and using the PROV website to access such prison records. The session also includes a guided tour of the archive.

10am, Wed 28 Nov - Free workshop - Crowdsourcing Local History: Find out how the PROV is using collaborative online tools to enable users to explore and share local history.

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

## RHSV

9.30am-3.30pm, Fri 17 Nov - Conference - Celebrating 50 years of local history in Victoria - marking 50 years since the ground-breaking *A history of Brighton* by Weston Bate. RHSV, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. *\$50 registration fee includes a light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Enquiries: 9326 9288 or [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)*

## St Kilda Historical Society

6.30pm, Wed 17 Oct - Talk - Dr Mimi Colligan on Sheila Florence

6.30pm, Tue 20 Nov - Talk - Mary Stuart (CEO Luna Park) on 'Luna Park'

Members free, non-members \$5.00. St Kilda Library Community Room, 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.

## Stonnington

15-18 Nov - Literary Festival - 'Our writers and readers of Stonnington'. Includes Hazel Edwards on 'Writing a non-boring family history', a guide to unearthing the history of your house and much more. *Further information and bookings contact Stonnington History Centre 9290 1360 or [history@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au)*

## Stonnington History Centre

10am, Wed 24 Oct - Talk - 'Chapel Street: a pictorial'. Follow the development of this landmark streetscape from the 1840s to the present. *Further information and bookings contact Stonnington History Centre 9290 1360 or [history@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:history@stonnington.vic.gov.au)*

## Victorian History Week

Sat 21 - Sun 28 Oct - To celebrate, why not spend the week travelling back in time, discovering Victoria's wide and wonderful past. From fascinating walking tours and engaging discussions, to exhibitions and 'history in the making' events - there is something in store for everyone to enjoy. History Week is organised by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and supported by the Vera Moore Foundation. *For information about other goings on during Victorian History Week visit:*

**<http://www.historyweek.org.au>**

**History Week 2012**

[www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au) 21 - 28 October

*discover the wonders  
of Victoria's past*

## Victorian History Week

Featuring:

Historic Picture Show: 'Movies in

the Home'

Smile .. Click display of classic

cameras

WRITING HISTORY:

Including reports from our associated groups.

INSIDE

**PMI Committee:**  
Mrs Alison Boundy, Cr John Chandler  
(President), Mr Chris Michalopoulos (Vice  
President), Mr Ben Quin CPA (Treasurer), Mr  
Steve Stefanopoulos, Cr Claude Ullin (City  
of Stonnington representative), Mr Peter  
Woffenden  
**Staff:**  
Tim McKenna B.Ed. (Librarianship) (Secretary  
& Info. Stud.; Grad. Dip. Info. Man (Promotions  
& Publications Librarian, Membership Secretary,  
PMI Press Administrator, Newsletter Editor),  
Ursula Zamecnik (Library Technician)

PMI VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY  
PO Box 1080, Windsor VIC 3181

## BOOK COVERING SERVICE



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

*Paperbacks - \$1.50*

*Hardbacks with dust covers - \$2.50*

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

## THE GIFT OF HISTORY



PMI library membership vouchers are an easy  
and affordable way to please hard-to-buy-for  
history buffs. Ask at the library or check the  
'Gift Membership' section of our website:  
<http://www.pmi.net.au/membership.htm>

Also available at the library are PMI pens (\$4)  
and handy PMI magnifying ruler bookmarks (\$4)

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