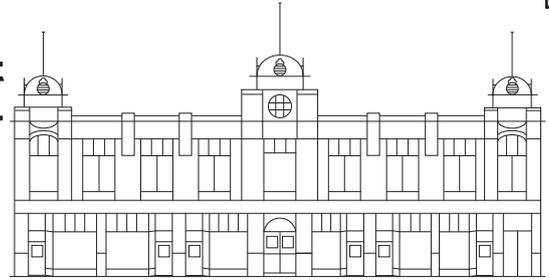


PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 77 - FEBRUARY 2013



INSIDE

Around the Library 2

Writing History:
Garry Powell 4
Elizabeth O'Callaghan 6

Books Etcetera 8

Historic Happenings 11

About the PMI:
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www.pmi.net.au

Patron:
Keith Dunstan OAM

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

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

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

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ANNUAL BRUCE TURNER LECTURE

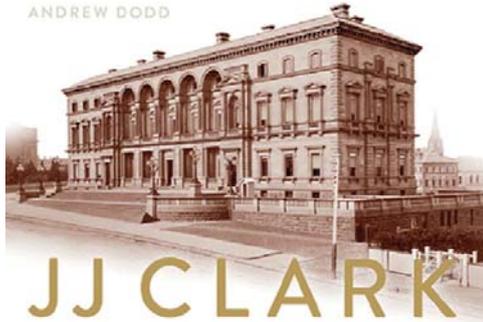
DR ANDREW DODD

author of

J J CLARK

ARCHITECT OF THE AUSTRALIAN RENAISSANCE

ANDREW DODD



JJ CLARK
ARCHITECT
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN
RENAISSANCE

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. Over six decades in a career full of prizes, dramas and spectacular drawings, Clark designed some of the most beautiful buildings in Australia and New Zealand, including Melbourne's Government House, City Baths and Royal Mint. When he died in St Kilda in 1915 he was described as 'Australia's greatest architect'.

3.00pm Saturday 2 March 2013
(after the PMI AGM commencing at 2pm)

at the PMI, 140 High Street, Prahran
Bookings ESSENTIAL: 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2pm Saturday 2 March
Notice/Agenda enclosed.

Details in
'Around the Library' p.2

SHORT HISTORY PRIZE

2012 results in 'Around the
Library' p.2

Details for 2013 in 'Writing
History' p.6

AROUND THE LIBRARY

MEMBERS NEWS

New Members

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

<i>Latrobe Community Health Service</i>	<i>Rev Robert Renton</i>
<i>Elaine Loddington</i>	<i>Charles Stewart Ross</i>
<i>Lovell Chen</i>	<i>Wendy Rutter</i>
<i>Jim Lowden</i>	<i>Sale Hall Memorial Committee</i>
<i>Malvern Historical Society</i>	<i>Jeremiah Sloane</i>
<i>Peter Mansfield</i>	<i>Margaret Stevens</i>
<i>McCrae Yacht Club</i>	<i>George Swinburne</i>
<i>Maira McFarlane</i>	<i>Tony Tibballs</i>
<i>Anne L. McKenzie</i>	<i>Deborah Towns</i>
<i>Mortlake & District Historical Society</i>	<i>Mike Trickett</i>
<i>Peter Nicholls</i>	<i>University of Melbourne - Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences</i>
<i>Elizabeth O'Callaghan</i>	<i>Kerry Vickers</i>
<i>Kristin Otto</i>	<i>Waverley Historical Society</i>
<i>Aron Paul</i>	<i>Wellington Shire Council</i>
<i>Karen Leadbeater Phillips</i>	<i>Whitehorse Manningham Library</i>
<i>Mary-Louise Phillips</i>	<i>Janette Williams</i>
<i>Port of Melbourne Corporation</i>	<i>Ursula Zamecnik</i>
<i>Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society</i>	
<i>Presentation Sisters Victoria</i>	

Financial Donors

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

<i>Denis Boundy</i>	<i>Michael MacGeorge</i>
<i>Ron & Ruth Cameron</i>	<i>Janina Maciulis</i>
<i>Di Christensen</i>	<i>Jennifer Matthews</i>
<i>Cinema & Theatre Historical Society</i>	<i>Myrna Montague</i>
<i>Philippe De Gail</i>	<i>Geoffrey Paterson</i>
<i>Jennifer Elder</i>	<i>Ben Probin</i>
<i>Pat Grainger</i>	<i>Cecile Rees</i>
<i>Peter Isaacson</i>	<i>Elizabeth Ridge</i>
<i>Reuben Lazarus</i>	<i>Keith Rogers</i>
<i>Jadzia Lemieszek</i>	<i>Mary Russell</i>
<i>Donald Linforth</i>	<i>Frank Van Straten</i>

Book Donors

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

<i>Anglican Parish of Mornington & Mount Martha</i>	<i>Essendon Historical Society</i>
<i>Ararat Genealogical Society</i>	<i>E. Finlay</i>
<i>Jill A'Vard</i>	<i>Trevor Fisher</i>
<i>Jim Badger</i>	<i>Flemington Association Inc.</i>
<i>Pam Baragwanath</i>	<i>Elizabeth Fraser</i>
<i>Bayside Library Service</i>	<i>David Frost</i>
<i>Bendigo Art Gallery</i>	<i>Val Gleeson</i>
<i>Braybrook College</i>	<i>Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation</i>
<i>Judith Buckrich</i>	<i>Roger Hobbs</i>
<i>City of Melbourne</i>	<i>Betty May Jackman</i>
<i>John & Sylvia Cope</i>	<i>Jennifer A. Jaeger</i>
<i>Simon Davies</i>	<i>Jeff Hirth Editorial and Ergonomic Services</i>
<i>Wendy Dear</i>	<i>Alfred Klink</i>
<i>Michelle Doyle</i>	<i>Tony Lambides-Turner</i>
<i>Margaret Dunne</i>	<i>Sandra Lanteri</i>
<i>Epworth Healthcare</i>	

GENERAL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

Enclosed with this newsletter should be your notice of the PMI's Annual General Meeting to be held at 2pm on Saturday 2 March at the library (140 High Street, Prahran).

This will be an excellent opportunity to find out more about the progress of the library and about how the plans for the new library are coming along.

Please be sure to RSVP by Monday 25 February so we can guarantee a seat for everyone.

There will be one committee member up for re-election this year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or another PMI member for the committee, forms are available from the Secretary Librarian and should be completed and returned by **23 February**.

Coming in 2013

A reminder that the activities of the library will be scaled down this 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 McCalmann 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, as well as the regular monthly recent additions list.

Christine Worthington will take 5 weeks' leave in March and April, and PMI volunteer Daniel Saporta will work part time in her absence. Daniel finished the Library Technician course at Swinburne University last year.

Libraries Australia Document Delivery System

The PMI library recently joined the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) system. This national system, run by the National Library of Australia, automates requests and payment of interlibrary loans.

Ursula Zamecnik completed training for use of this system last November and the system came online for the PMI in the same month. Already LADD is generating

more interlibrary business for the library, double the previous per month average.

Advantages of the system for the library include:

- the NLA bills recipient libraries automatically and reimburses us on a quarterly basis, making our accounting simpler, and ensuring that the payment method is agreed upon
- we now conform to the interlibrary loan fees structure used by the majority of libraries, making interlibrary loan transactions simpler
- the LADD system is linked in with the Libraries Australia (Trove) catalogue, so as we enter details for more and more of our unique collection items onto Trove we should see further increases in interlibrary loans in the future.

The modernisation of our interlibrary loans procedures is an important step which we are sure will result in better access to our important collection by more people in rural and interstate areas throughout Australia.

Short History Prize

Congratulations to Elizabeth O'Callaghan, winner of the 2012 PMI Short History Prize for her entry *Second to None : Warrnambool National School*, for which Elizabeth and the Warrnambool Historical Society each received \$500. More details on Elizabeth's entry can be found in 'Writing History on page 6.

The following entries were commended:

E E Kurth : Reflections on the Life of an Eminent Person by Alfred Klink:

This well researched and well told story brings to light new information about the heritage of the Kurth Kiln and its creator Professor Ernest Edgar Kurth. The author's personal journey of investigation and his keen interest in the topic make for delightful reading.

A Melancholy Occurrence by Val Gleeson:

Val Gleeson movingly unravels the mystery of two unmarked graves that had been talked about by long time residents of Wangaratta for many years. The essay is a great example of how understanding a particular site can bring much to light about a time and place.

Special thanks to Judith Buckrich, Jill Barnard and Emma Russell of the Professional Historians Association for judging the prize, and thank you also to the many who submitted entries to the competition. Most of those who entered agreed to donate their work to the library and this adds considerably to the depth and diversity of the historical collection.

Victorian History Week

Thanks very much to Mike Trickett of the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society (CATHS) for presenting the annual Historic Picture Show on 27 October last year on 'Movies in the Home'. We're also very grateful to PMI member Ritesh Das for the installation of classic and vintage cameras from his collection, an additional History Week event.

MIV Visit

On 29 November a group of delegates from the 'Buildings, Books and Blackboards' conference attended a site visit and information evening at the PMI. Christine Worthington gave a talk on the history and development of the PMI. This was followed by a very interesting talk by Peter Pereyra (MIV President) on the Mechanics' Institutes Resources Centre and its MI archives scanning

project. Peter gave illustrated and detailed case studies of the historical insights to be gleaned from these unique documents, demonstrating the potent value they will offer to researchers in the future.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The contract with architects Curnow Freiverts & Glover has now been created and signed. The architect has commenced work and the committee looks forward to receiving the plans.

The first committee meeting for the year is scheduled for 6 February. If you would like to be added to the list of members receiving minutes of committee meetings, please notify the Secretary Librarian 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

PMI PRESS NEWS

The latest PMI Press publication, Garry Powell's *Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria* was launched on 15 October. Copies are available 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. A report on the launch by Garry Powell can be found on pages 4-5.

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

In 2012 24 volunteers completed 888 hours of work in the library, indexed 11 books 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.

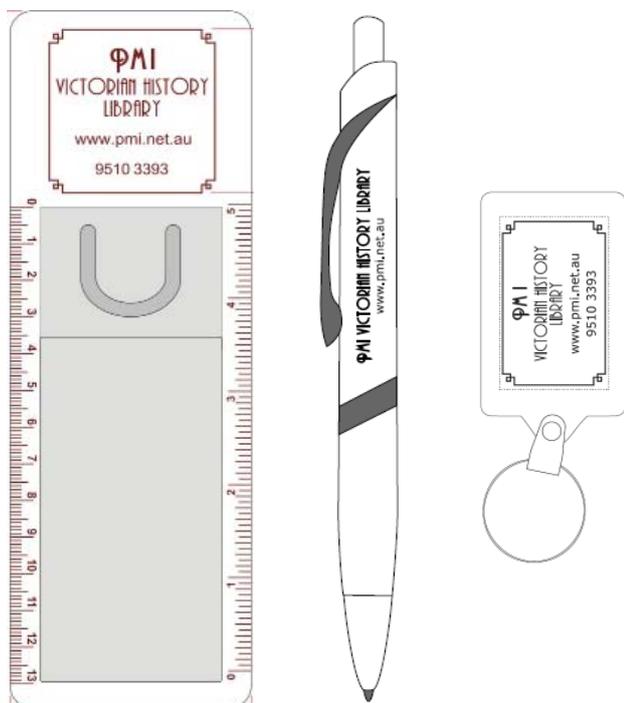
Volunteers with library experience are now trawling back through our old accession register checking items on the Libraries Australia (Trove libraries) database to ensure all our holdings are correctly listed and making notes on any anomalies they find. This is yet another example of a 'backburner' project which, despite its importance, could not be done without volunteer assistance.

International Volunteer Day

A lovely day was had by all on Saturday 1 December when we celebrated International Volunteer Day. As always, this function was a great opportunity for us to thank the volunteers for their work during 2012 and to acknowledge the big difference they have made to the fortunes of the library in recent times.

Thanks mainly to a generous community grant from the City of Stonnington, we had a tasty catered lunch. Certificates denoting each individual's contribution were distributed, and on hand to thank the volunteers for their efforts were the Volunteer Coordinator, PMI President, Cr John Chandler and PMI Patron Keith Dunstan OAM.

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

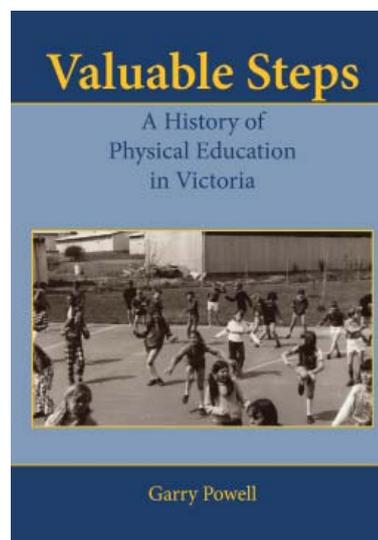
Beginnings: a Brief Account of Some of the First Europeans to Explore or Settle in Victoria \$13.50

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

Valuable Steps: a History of Physical Education in Victoria \$31.50

Launch of
Valuable Steps

Contributed by Garry Powell



On Monday 15 October in Templestowe the 2012 PMI Press publication was launched: Valuable Steps: A History of Physical Education in Victoria. Many sporting icons were in attendance and it was a most successful day.

After the initial greeting, two groups of Grade 3 students put on gymnastics and dance displays.

Guest speakers included:

Brian Dixon - Five times premiership player and member of the team of the century for Melbourne Football Club. In the early 1980s as Minister for Sport and Recreation he introduced the community based 'Life Be In It' program plus the 'Do It Daily' curriculum for schools.

Judy Dalton - Tennis legend and Ballarat resident. Judy won eight Grand Slam tennis tournaments, including a Career Grand Slam of Women's Doubles with wins at the US, Australian, French and British (Wimbledon) Opens. A journalist for the BBC for 20 years, Judy was inducted into the Australian Tennis

Hall of Fame at the 2013 Australian Open.

Steve Moneghetti - Australia's best ever marathon runner and four time Olympian was the third speaker. In 1992-93 Steve was the Chair of a Review Committee for school sport and physical education. The ensuing 'Moneghetti Report' was a major factor in sport and physical education getting mandated time in the school curriculum.

David Parkin launched the book. David, a premiership player with Hawthorn Football Club and a multiple premiership coach with Hawthorn and Carlton Football Clubs, was recently elevated to Legend status in AFL coaching. He is also a lecturer in Sports Science at Deakin University. David talked about the roller coaster ride of sport and physical education in the

school curriculum. Some decades have seen it prioritised and well-taught and others have seen a marked decline.

The author, also from Ballarat, gave a synopsis of the book per a power point presentation. This, his 14th book, traces the changes in school sport and physical education in Victoria from the 1860s until the present.

The formalities over, the crowd of 75 people enjoyed excellent finger food and fellowship for the next 90 minutes.

The book is available at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Victorian History Library, at selected bookshops, or direct from the author at PO Box 332, Wendouree VIC 3355. The price is \$35 plus \$10 postage.

An order form can be found on the PMI website at the following address: http://www.pmi.net.au/linked_docs/OrderFormVS.pdf



*Above: Brian Dixon, David Parkin, Judy Dalton, Garry Powell, Graeme Penschaw, Steve Moneghetti
Below: Garry Powell, David Parkin*



PRARRAN MECHANICS' INSITUTE



SHORT
HISTORY
PRIZE

In line with the PMI objective to encourage and facilitate historical research, we invite you to participate in our Short History Prize 2013.

TOPIC:

A historical essay, article or work on 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 30 August 2013

For further information and entry forms contact the PMI on 9510 3393 or email library@pmi.net.au or visit

www.pmi.net.au/events.htm#prize

2012 PMI SHORT HISTORY PRIZE

SECOND TO NONE

Elizabeth O'Callaghan has written an excellent piece about the Warrnambool National School which opened in 1849. It was the sixth National School to be opened in the Colony of Victoria. National Schools are a forgotten phenomenon of our education history and this work is so well researched and written, really bringing this particular school to life.

So said the judging panel for the PMI Short History Prize, of Elizabeth's winning entry *Second to None: Warrnambool National School*, which was announced during Victorian History Week in late October.

If Elizabeth's name sounds familiar to readers of this newsletter, it may be because she was the winner of the History Prize in 2010 for her entry *Alien to Us*. An article about her work with the Warrnambool Historical Society can be found in the PMI Newsletter of February 2011.

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

On *Second to None*, Elizabeth writes:

The Warrnambool National School interested me because it was established so early in Warrnambool's history - in 1849, less than two years after the first settlers arrived in the new town.

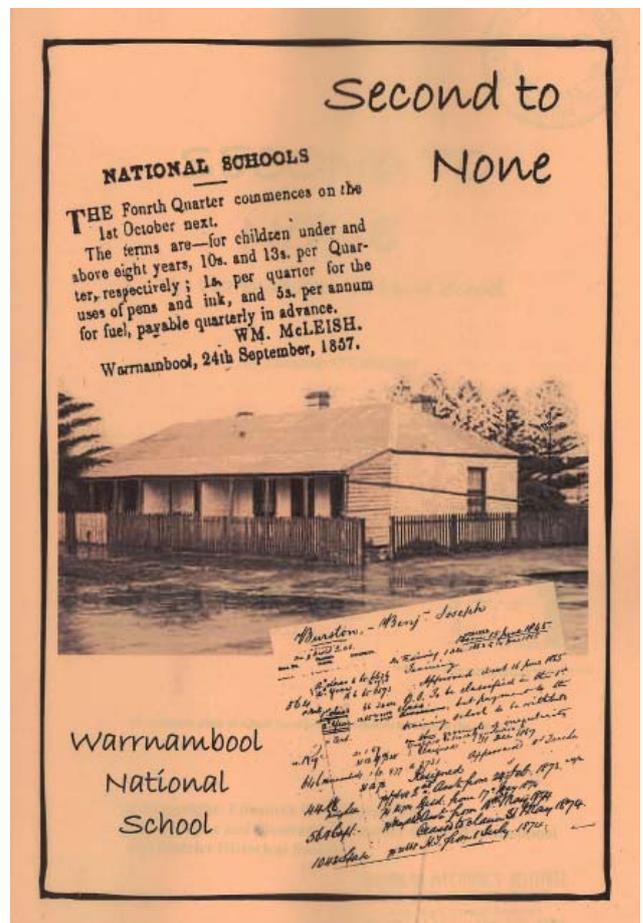
It was about the earliest example of a Warrnambool public building (except for the pub!) and of a community project with a group of local men organizing the funds to build and maintain a building that could be used as a school during the week and as a church on a Sunday. It was operating for 19 months before it became an official National School - the sixth one in the colony.

Researching the school's early days broke new ground for me as there was no local paper at that time to provide information and I had to make extensive use of the Internet for the first time. I found the school's early history fully covered in some Public Record Office material, an amazing 75 pages of correspondence written in 1850 by the Sydney Board of Education to the Warrnambool School Patrons. This correspondence showed that there was some opposition in Warrnambool to the transfer of the school to the National School system.

Current projects: I have now completed 37 local history booklets and hope this year to write one about the impact of the Boer War on the Warrnambool town. The text of my book on the lives of 19th century women in Warrnambool and district ('Silent Lives') is now complete and the book should be published later this year. My work on 79 local hotels continues, with 31 hotels still to be researched. When the research is finished I want to publish a hotel book called 'A Share of Public Patronage', perhaps in 2014.

That would be my sixth book. What comes after that? I'm not sure at this stage!

Elizabeth O'Callaghan, February 2013



FICTION

NOTE: All information reproduced from book jacket blurbs.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Snarls from the tea-tree : a history of Victoria's big cat folklore / David Waldron and Simon Townsend

Big cat scares have for generations haunted Victorians; stories of stock killed, claims of paw-prints left behind, rumours of 'beast' attacks only breeding the 'myth'. Often there was a large local response, with massive bushland hunts that focused on the notion of escaped lions, tigers or other big cats. The 'myth' of the big cat has evolved over time, but relates closely to Australia's engagement with its environment. Waldron and Townsend study this big cat folklore evolution across Victoria.

Eureka : the unfinished revolution / Peter FitzSimons

The Eureka Stockade... In 1854, Victorian miners fought a deadly battle under the flag of the Southern Cross at the Eureka Stockade. Though brief and doomed to fail, the battle is legend in both our history and in the Australian mind.

Australia's answer to the Boston Tea Party and to the French people's storming of the Bastille was the Eureka Stockade. It was the moment when the diggers sense of outraged justice united them into a force that changed the course of Australian history. It is the greatest Australian legend outside of wartime, and one that has enormous resonance in the 21st Century as Australians continue to discuss what their formal relationship with Britain should be. Karl Marx followed it closely and wrote about it extensively, while Mark Twain described it as "the finest thing in Australasian history. It was a revolution--small in size; but great politically; it was a strike for liberty, a struggle for principle, a stand against injustice and oppression." Peter FitzSimons brings the whole story to life in his trademark fashion, making the reader feel like they're there as the mighty Eureka flag is first raised and rebels swear allegiance to it; as the British redcoats first launch their attack, and as the digger-rebels fight back in kind.

MILITARY HISTORY

Unknown warrior : the search for Australia's greatest ace / Mike Rosel

'Lest We Forget'-that mantra of military remembrance-failed for Captain Alec Little, Australia's greatest fighter Ace. Despite the recent outpouring in interest in our military heritage, the young Victorian credited with 47 victories is virtually unknown to ordinary Australians. He was only 22 when he died in his Sopwith Camel in a solo night pursuit of German bombers above the Western Front on 27 May 1918. Even when stripped of some of the myths, Little's deeds read like an improbable ripping yarn of pluck and derring-do from the Boys Own Weekly magazine. So how did he go missing from History's Page? Melbourne writer Mike Rosel, intrigued by coming across Little's first fighter at the Royal Air Force Museum, has recreated his motivations and meteoric life and death in the context of the long-gone Anglo-Australian culture. This first biography on Little is also a 'fair go' plea for better recognition for the thousands of Australians who fought the same enemy, but in Allied uniforms.

Hell's battlefield: the Australians in New Guinea in World War II / Phillip Bradley

This is the first book that tells the whole story of the Australians against the Japanese in New Guinea during World War II, from invasion in 1942 to the brutal end game in 1945. Besides giving new perspectives on the Kokoda campaign, the book covers the battles that preceded and those that followed, most of which have previously received scant attention. Phillip Bradley has conducted extensive research on the official and private records from Australia, the US and Japan, and as well as these perspectives, shows those of the Papua New Guineans. He has also conducted wide-ranging interviews with veterans, and made extensive use of Japanese prisoner interrogation records. The text is further illuminated by the author's deep familiarity with the New Guinea battlefields, and is well illustrated with photographs, many previously unpublished, and maps.

Bill the Bastard: the story of Australia's greatest war horse / Roland Perry

An epic yarn based on the true story of a great Australian war horse who rode with bravery and valour at Gallipoli, the desert campaigns of Egypt, and Palestine. Bill was massive. He had power, intelligence and unmatched courage and in performance and character he stood above all the other 200,000 Australian horses sent to the Middle East in the Great War. But as war horses go he had one serious problem. He was unrideable except by a single man, Major Michael Shanahan. Bill, it seemed, was reliable in every way including his ability to unseat men from his saddle. Some even thought he took a sneering pleasure in watching would-be riders hit the dust. Bill the Bastard is the remarkable tale of a bond between a determined trooper and his stoic but cantankerous mount.

The lost diggers / Ross Coulthart

During the First World War, thousands of Aussie diggers and other Allied troops passed through the French town of Vignacourt, two hours north of Paris. Many had their photographs taken by Louis and Antoinette Thuillier as souvenirs while they enjoyed a brief respite from the carnage of the Western Front. For all too many, this was their last moment away from the lines before being sent to their deaths in battles that are now part of the mythology of Australian nationhood - Pozieres, Bullecourt, the Somme. The weariness and horror of battle is reflected in their eyes, but the photos also capture a sense of camaraderie, high spirits and even a soupçon of romance. The Lost Diggers is the riveting detective story of the hunt across northern France for a rumoured treasure trove of antique glass photographic plates that led investigative journalist Ross Coulthart to an ancient metal chest in a dusty attic in a small farmhouse. The nearly 4000 glass plates he and his team from Channel 7's Sunday Night discovered are being hailed by experts as one of the most important First World War discoveries ever made. But that was just the beginning. With meticulous research and the help of descendants, Ross Coulthart has been able to discover the stories behind many of the photos, of which more than 350 appear in the book. Part thriller, part family history and part national archive, The Lost Diggers brings together these wonderful images and the amazing stories behind them.

BIOGRAPHY

Bert Hinkler: the most daring man in the world / Grantlee Kieza

Grantlee Kieza tells the thrilling story of Bert's life and with it the bigger story of how the world was changed forever by men like Hinkler. Fast paced and revealing, this is an overdue, full blooded biography about one of Australia's most astonishing sons. He's all but been lost from history but once upon a time, Bert Hinkler, a small, unprepossessing man from Bundaberg was feted as one of the most daring aviators in the world. Mussolini's favourite pilot, Hinkler was an adventurer who along with early pioneers flew single handed across countries, continents and oceans - often with nothing more than a lunchbox and the page of an atlas to guide him. Whether as an aerial showman or as a World War I fighter pilot, Hinkler's exploits thrilled the world, drawing massive crowds, and in his time he enjoyed the fame and adulation of his peers like Charles Kingsford Smith and Amelia Earhart. But behind the headlines was a more private - and more complex man, who juggled two relationships with two different women on two continents.

The two Frank Thrings / Peter Fitzpatrick

They shared a name and their physical resemblance was startling. And, both Frank Thrings were huge figures in the landscape of 20th-century Australian theatre and film. But, in many ways, they could hardly have been more different. Frank Thring the father (1882-1936) began his career as a sideshow conjuror, and he wheeled, dealed, and occasionally married his way into becoming the legendary "F.T." - an impresario, speculator, and owner of Efftee Films, Australia's first 'talkies' studio. He built for himself an image of grand patriarchal respectability, a sizeable fortune, and all the makings of a dynasty. Frank Thring the son (1926-1994) squandered the fortune and derailed the dynasty in the course of creating his own persona - a unique presence that could make most stages and foyers seem small. He won fame playing tyrants in togas in Hollywood blockbusters (perhaps his most famous role was that of Pontius Pilate in Ben-Hur

BOOKS ETCETERA

[1959]), then, suddenly, he came home to Melbourne to play perhaps his finest role - that of Frank Thring, actor and personality extraordinaire. Central to this role was that Frank the son was unapologetically and outrageously gay. In this compelling dual biography, author Peter Fitzpatrick tells the story of two remarkable characters. It's a kind of detective story, following the lives of two men who did all they could to cover their tracks, and to conceal 'the self:' Frank the father used secrecy and sleight-of-hand as strategies for self-protection; Frank the son masked a thoroughly reclusive personality with flamboyant self-parody. It's also the tale of a lost relationship - and of the power a father may have had, even over a son who hardly knew him.

A story of seven summers : life at the Nuns' House / Hilary Burden

From London journalist to owner of the historic, ramshackle Nun's House in Tasmania and two alpacas (named Jack and Kerouac) and providore of local produce, this is Hilary Burden's journey.

Farewell, dear people: biographies of Australia's lost generation / Ross McMullin

For Australia, a new nation with a relatively small population, the death of 60,000 soldiers during World War I was catastrophic. This book seeks to retrieve the stories of the extraordinary individuals who gave their lives for the cause. Included are 10 extended biographies of young men who exemplified Australia's gifted lost generation, from an internationally acclaimed medical researcher to a military officer described as an Australian Kitchener to an engineer who excelled on Mawson's Antarctic mission. Through the men's tales, this magisterial book enriches the story of Australia immeasurably.

Contents include 10 extended biographies: Geoff Mcrae, Tom Elliott, George Challis, Ted Larkin, Clunes Mathison, Robert Bage, Gresley Harper, Wilfred Harper, Phipps Turnbull, Carew Reynell.

FICTION

Australian fiction

Forecast: turbulence / Janette Turner Hospital
Beyond the horizon / Peter Watt
The burial / Courtney Collins
In the company of strangers / Liz Byrski
Goodbye lullaby / Jan Murray
The convent / Maureen McCarthy

General mysteries

Trust your eyes / Linwood Barclay
The black box / Michael Connelly
Standing in another man's grave / Ian Rankin
Live by night / Dennis Lehane

General fiction

The cleaner of Chartres / Salley Vickers
The Kingmakers daughter / Philippa Gregory
The one hundred year old man climbed out the window and disappeared / Jonas Jonasson
Winter of the world / Ken Follett
The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry / Rachel Joyce

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HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Brighton Historical Society

Will reopen for the new year on Thu 7 Feb.

Cinema & Theatre Historical Society

Open most Thursdays 10am-12 noon & 1pm-3pm. Right next door to the PMI Library, 140 High Street, Prahran. *Please phone Royce 9589 3448 or Gerry 0432 434 169 to confirm opening times before you visit.*

Friends of Coburg Cemetery

2pm-4pm, Sun 24 Mar - Tour - Remarkable Women of Coburg Cemetery. Celebrating International Women's Month, on this guided tour you will find out about the lives and passions of local women from yesteryear. Coburg Cemetery, Bell Street, Preston. \$10 per person (\$2 members). *Bookings essential: email focc.group@gmail.com*

History Victoria Support Group

Sat 16 Mar - Seminar - Toolbox Topics. Topics include Exhibitions on a Shoestring Budget; the Role of a Volunteer Co-ordinator; Social Media for Historical Societies; Sourcing and Writing Grant Applications. Euroa Flour Mill, 17 Kirkland Avenue, Euroa. \$15 per head includes a light lunch and morning tea. *Bookings essential: email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone 9326 9288.*

Museum Victoria

10am-12pm, daily - Walking tours - 'Melbourne's Golden Mile'. Walk 'marvellous Melbourne and experience how the discovery of gold shaped the city. Discover the surprising characters behind Melbourne's growth from Prima Donnas and prime ministers to bushrangers and architects. Mon-Fri: Immigration Museum to Town Hall ; Sat-Sun Town Hall to Melbourne Museum. All tours depart from Federation Square. \$20 (\$15 concession and Museum Victoria members) includes guide book. *Bookings 9928 0096 or 1300 780 045 or at Best of Souvenirs, Federation Square.*

Public Record Office

11am-2.30pm, Fri 18 Feb - Free seminar - 'Researching Property Records'. Researching property is not just about bricks and mortar - it can also offer a fascinating glimpse into the social fabric of a home, street and even community. There are many different entry points into researching property at Public Record Office Victoria. How and where you start depends largely on where the property is located and what we have in our collection relating to your area. Includes a tour of the archives. *Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne.*

9.30am-4.30pm, Thu 21 Feb - Free workshop - 'Interpretation: Revealing the Stories of Your Collections'. Designed to improve your skills in interpretation, this training workshop offer tips and ideas to engage visitors in your museum objects. Topics include: principles of heritage interpretation, making connections with audiences and use of media. Learn techniques to help impart the messages you want to share. Enhance your visitors' experience through meaningful and provocative interpretation of your collection and you will connect them to your region's heritage forever! *Stratford Historical Society and Museum, Hobson Street, Stratford VIC 3862.*

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

St Kilda Historical Society

2.45pm, Sun 17 Feb - Talk - Russell Nolan Lewis on 'The Nolan Lineage'. Influenced by his cousin Sidney Nolan who grew up in St Kilda, Russell Nolan Lewis, contemporary impressionist artist, talks informally about his Nolan lineage, from Ireland to Ballarat (1850s) through northeast Victoria (1880s) to St Kilda and Sidney Nolan (b.1917) and beyond...

Members free, non-members \$5.00. St Kilda Library Community Room, 150 Carlisle Street.

6.30pm, Thu 21 Mar - Walk - Peter Johnson, architect, on 'Development of Acland Street South 1850 to 1920'. Meet at the corner of Acland and Barkly Streets.

Further information and bookings: info@skhs.org.au or phone 9209 6866 (leave a message) or phone/text 0405 510 799.

Stonnington History Centre

10am-11am, Wed 24 Apr - History Matters workshop - 'Community milestones: key developments in Stonnington's past'. Trace the development of our city from 1856 using timelines for Prahran, Malvern and Stonnington. *Further information and bookings contact Stonnington History Centre 9290 1360 or history@stonnington.vic.gov.au*

PMI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice inside

ANNUAL BRUCE QUINER LECTURE:

Dr Andrew Dodd on 'J.J. Clark: Architect of the Australian Renaissance'

WRITING HISTORY:

Featuring Garry Powell & Elizabeth O'Callaghan

PMI SIDELINE

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 Wolfenden

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