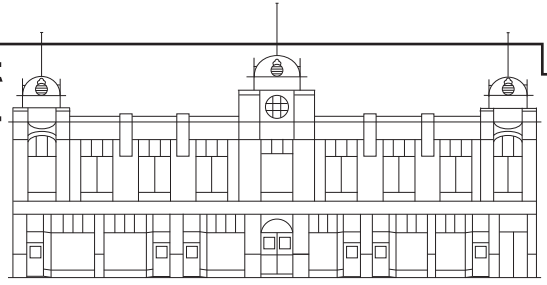


PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 84 - NOVEMBER 2014



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(This is a very abbreviated
newsletter!)

About the PMI:
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Open:
M-F 9.30am-4.30pm
Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

Membership:
\$15 individual (1 yr)
\$50 individual (5 yrs)
\$100 life (over 60s)
\$30 institutional

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AROUND THE LIBRARY

The PMI's BIG MOVE

We are pleased to announce that we have some firm plans for moving to our new building at 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran.

The PMI Library will be **closed for the WHOLE OF DECEMBER** while the move takes place.

The final day of opening of the library for 2014 will be
Saturday 29 November

and we encourage all members to borrow items for the Christmas period before this date.

Any books borrowed on or after 10 November 2014 will not be due until **Monday 2 February 2015**.

We intend to reopen in early-mid January and will advise members during the break of the exact reopening date.

Members will also be invited to the official opening of the building which will take place later on.

We are very grateful for the support and patronage of all our members during 2014, a year in which many of our normal activities have been suspended while we prepare for the move. We wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Change to Opening Hours

At the new library our opening hours will be extended on Saturdays to 4.30.

This means our opening hours will be **Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30**

2014 Short History Prize

The 2014 PMI Short History Prize was announced on our website on Monday 20 October, during Victorian History Week.

Two entries shared the prize and the \$1000 prize money this year:

Bryan Francis of Balnarring and District Historical Society for the entry *Bright eyed and bushy tailed: A recollection of childhood adventures living at Balnarring Beach*.

and **Dawn Peel of Colac and District Historical Society** for the entry *The local hall: an Australian story*.

The judges commented as follows:

It was impossible to choose one above the other of these entries as they are so different, and both were well presented and well written. Both were evocative

Cont. page 2 ...



facebook

... for updates on how our
move is progressing ...

... from page 1 ...

of a community. We also felt that each was an excellent representation of the best kind of local history, one based on personal experience but able to offer many insights into of a way of life now gone and the other a well researched informative paper in which a history of a community is presented through the story of a local institution – in this case a hall.

The following entries were commended by the judges:

Charles Lewis (Royal Historical Society of Victoria) *The exceptional Melbourne Cup Tuesday November 3rd 1942 Tavoy Burma: A story of Australian tradition, humour, resourcefulness and courage*

Lynette E Franklin (Nathalia & District Historical Society) *The Briggs family: Bass Straitsmen and their wives: an Aboriginal genealogy*

We would like to sincerely thank all entrants in the Short History Prize this year - your fine efforts made the judges decisions considerably more difficult.

We are very grateful once again to the judging panel from the Professional Historians Association - Dr Judith Buckrich, Jill Barnard and Emma Russell and look forward to their valued participation in next year's prize.

We will include articles on the prize recipients in next year's newsletter, and reproduce the winning entries in the online version of the newsletter.

Books for Sale

Owing to our increased workload in preparation for our move, we are no longer sending out lists of second-hand history books for sale. However, these books are still available in the library at marked prices on the 'Books for sale' shelf. This shelf is currently full so come in and grab a bargain.

VOLUNTEERS NEWS

Our volunteers have completed 887 hours work in the library this year and 4 book indexes (with 5 further indexes in process). We very much appreciate all the work that has gone into our archives this year, as well as so much work on the collection - processing large donations, ensuring the right information on the national database, and compilation of indexes for books in the collection.

International Volunteer Day: Owing to the timing of our move, our annual International Volunteer Day function (normally held early in December) will need to be postponed. We know how much our hardworking volunteers appreciate this celebration, and we will arrange it at the earliest opportunity at the new building.

Regarding the move: We plan to engage a professional moving company, but after

relocating there will be significant unpacking, shelving and other tasks to do. Some very kind people have already offered their assistance, but now that we know this assistance may be required reasonably close to Christmas, we would appreciate it if you could reconfirm your availability by email - christine@pmi.net.au

We are very much looking forward to being able to accommodate volunteers in a nice new work room at the new library.

MEMBERS NEWS

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Aug-Nov:

Financial Donors

Thank you to the following people who made financial donations to the library Aug-Nov:

*Jillian Gengoult-Smith
Margaret McDonald
George Schwab*

Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and groups who donated books to the library Aug-Nov:

<i>Akoonah Park Committee of Management Jeanette Angee Bendigo Post Office Gallery Edward Boyle Shirley F. Boyle Cinema & Theatre Historical Society Patricia Convery Frederick Ellis Lynette E. Franklin Friends of the Auburn Tower Glen Eira Historical Society Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club Marie-Therese Jensen Anne Latreille</i>	<i>Dr Annette Lewis Phyl McCarthy Peter Munro Hector H.D. Nunn Ken Penaluna Post Office Gallery, Bendigo John Power PROV Sandra J. Rickards Harry Rijs Susan Samuel Diana Sawyer Stuart Smith Stonnington History Centre Tony Tibballs Raymond A. Walls Yarra Plenty Regional Library</i>
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FICTION

This house of grief: the story of a murder trial / Helen Garner

Anyone can see the place where the children died. You take the Princes Highway past Geelong, and keep going west in the direction of Colac. Late in August 2006, soon after I had watched a magistrate commit Robert Farquharson to stand trial before a jury on three charges of murder, I headed out that way on a Sunday morning, across the great volcanic plain. On the evening of 4 September 2005, Father's Day, Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother, Cindy, when his car left the road and plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession. She followed it on its protracted course until the final verdict. In this utterly compelling book, Helen Garner tells the story of a man and his broken life. She presents the theatre of the courtroom with its actors and audience, all gathered for the purpose of bearing witness to the truth, players in the extraordinary and unpredictable drama of the quest for justice. This House of Grief is a heartbreaking and unputdownable book by one of Australia's most admired writers.

Inside the Hawke Keating government : a cabinet diary / Gareth Evans

As good as it gets in Australian politics. That is how the Hawke-Keating Government is now widely regarded. But how did this highly able, ambitious, strong-willed group work through its crises and rivalries, and achieve what it did? Gareth Evans's diary, written in the mid-1980s and published now for the first time, is the consummate insider's account. It not only adds much new material to the historical record, but is perceptive, sharp and unvarnished in its judgments, lucidly written, and highly entertaining. Gareth Evans was a Cabinet member throughout the Hawke-Keating years, as Attorney-General (1983-84), Minister for Resources and Energy (1984-87), Minister for Transport and Communications (1987-88) and Foreign Minister (1988-96). As Senator for Victoria from 1978 to 1996, he was Deputy Leader (1987-93) then Leader of the Government in the Senate (1993-96); as Member for Holt (1996-99) he served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1996 to 1998. He left Australian politics to become President and CEO of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group from 2000 to 2009, and has been Chancellor of the Australian National University since 2010.

Mid-century modern: Australian furniture design / Kirsty Grant

Mid-Century Modern: Australian Furniture Design is the first major survey and in-depth look at one of the most innovative and influential periods (1940s to 1970s) in Australian design. This exquisite volume includes lush photographs of more than 100 iconic pieces by key designers of the period, including Grant Featherston, Douglas Snelling, Fred Lowen and Clement Meadmore. Exposed to the technological developments and international design trends of the time, these Australian designers created unique, elegant and affordable modernist works. This volume features text on various aspects of mid-century Australian design by respected authors including academics, architects, collectors and designers. Kirsty Grant, curator of the exhibition, provides an overview of furniture design from the period, and Conrad Hamann contributes an in-depth text on mid-century architecture, the natural counterpart of furniture. Denise Whitehouse writes about Grant Featherston, while Peter Atkins considers the careers of Clement Meadmore and lesser known Michael Hirst. Additional texts approach mid-

Attention Former Prahran Tech / College Students

Reunion of Prahran Tech 1940s-60s

Anyone who attended Prahran Technical School during the 1940s-60s is welcome to attend the annual reunion organised by Bob Flanagan - see details on the right.



*Prahran Technical School
students from way back.
Where are they now ??
Notable students from the
1940's-1960's were Neryn Rose (tennis)
Lindsay Gage (basket ball) Bob McKenzie,
Kevin Sheedy & Kevin Bartlett (football) &
Joan Garden (opera).*

*Any past students are invited to a reunion at
the Malvern Vale Hotel, Malvern Rd Malvern.
at 12.0 noon Thursday 8th January 2015.*



Back to Prahran

On December 11, Melbourne Polytechnic are hosting 'Back to Prahran'. This free event invites alumni of the High St Prahran campus to come together, share stories and celebrate the campus' history. Whether you studied at this location under Swinburne, Prahran Tech or one of the campus' other identities we would love to see you there. If you are interested in being added to the invitation list to receive more information about the event, please email mp-admin@nmit.edu.au with your details.

century Australian furniture design from four different perspectives: that of the architect, by Neil Clerehan; the designer, by Mary Featherston; the conservator, by Suzanna Shaw; and the collector, by Dean Keep.

A row of goodly pearls : one hundred and twenty-five years of Loreto in Melbourne / Jane Mayo Carolan

This intriguing history from 1889 covers many stories of kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary education for young women and men. It is a testament to all of the Loreto Sisters and the many others who had the courage and fidelity to pave the way for the founding of Loreto Toorak.

The contribution of the Loreto Sisters to the education of women in Melbourne is an inspirational story. An institution as old as one hundred and twenty-five years deserves to have its history recorded, partly because there is much to tell us about innovative approaches to the education of girls and partly because it illuminates and uncovers a special social history of Melbourne. Numerous stories and anecdotes bring this history alive. The Loreto Sisters were highly educated, valiant women of strength and gentleness who encouraged their pupils to reach out, take their place in society and develop a passion to empower others. They opened a world of literature, art and culture and provided a quality of education for girls from any strata of society. As the Loreto Sisters' environment was largely free from models of male leadership, they provided valuable opportunities for all kinds of women to flourish.

The Melbourne foundations were the initiatives of an extraordinary Irish woman, Mother Gonzaga Barry. She wrote 'Win the heart of a little child and you can mould the character of a woman whose influence will extend and still be ennobling the world when we have long been dead and forgotten'. From her first school in Ballarat, with remarkable foresight Mother Gonzaga established six affiliated educational facilities in the inner city of Melbourne. These included Our Lady of the Angels, Albert Park; Saints Peter and Paul's, South Melbourne; the Central Catholic Teachers' Training College; Albert Park, the Loreto Free Kindergarten, South Melbourne; St Mary's College, at the University of Melbourne and Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak.

Each foundation challenged the norm, offering primary and secondary education for girls from impoverished families, kindergarten experiences for children whose fathers were out of work or away at war, free health and dental care with the provision of hot lunches. Furthermore the Loreto Sisters strongly promoted tertiary education for women. Along the way these Loreto Sisters maintained a deep fellowship with their past pupils, many of whom formed volunteer groups to assist in their works. The Loreto Sisters and their supporters saw themselves as one family, who could encourage the students to occupy their time and talents both inside and outside of the classroom and reach for the stars.

Garden voices : Australian designers - their stories / Anne Latreille

This book is unique. It is the first book to embark on a study of designers who demonstrate a deep understanding of the Australian environment and an ability to work creatively with it. It provides an invaluable overview of twenty three key garden and landscape designers of Australia. Anne Latreille traces their life stories and achievements. They comprise historic figures, current practitioners, some well-known, others much less so. They work in lush tropical forests and chilly mountains, arid deserts and rolling countryside, beside rivers and the sea, in close packed inner cities and spreading suburbs. They fit each garden design to its place, respecting the natural landscape character. In this way, this book takes us on a journey -- a search for meaning and significance. New and exciting, it reveals a clear and panoramic vision. It moves us inside the designers hearts and minds and shows how Australian energy and imagination can be transformative, inspiring and progressive. With research extending over fourteen years, it is a vital reference for anyone -- from professional designer to garden lover -- who seeks a broader understanding of designing gardens in Australia, now and in the future.

Mary Gaunt : independent colonial woman / Bronwen Hickman

This is a rare biography of the pioneering Australian author, Mary Gaunt. Born on the Victorian Goldfields in Chiltern in 1861, Mary Gaunt was well-educated and well-connected. She was a tomboy and a rebel - her father encouraged her, her mother disapproved. One of the first female students to attend the University of Melbourne, she wrote articles and stories in order to fund her travels. She trekked through the great mahogany forests of West Africa. She went to China in the chaos that followed the downfall of the Ch'ing dynasty, and narrowly avoided the marauding White Wolf. She proved that a woman could live by her pen in that era when nice women didn't travel on their own. When war came, she was trapped behind enemy lines and never made it home to Australia. She died in occupied France in 1942. Her experiences were recorded in five pleasantly written travel books: *Alone in West Africa* (1912), *A Woman in China* (1914), *A Broken Journey* (1919), *Where the Twain Meet* (1922), *Reflection - in Jamaica* (1932). In 1929 she also published *George Washington and the Men Who Made the American Revolution*. Between 1895 and 1934, 16 novels or collections of short stories were published, mostly with love and adventure interests. Three other novels were written in collaboration with John Ridgwell Essex. A collection of interviews with Mary were published in the 1925 *Girls' Own Annual* under the headings "Pioneering for Women" parts I, II, and III, and "Strange Journeys I Have Made".

Dick Hamer : the liberal Liberal / Tim Colebatch

He was the reforming leader who made Victoria a leader in social equality, the arts, and the environment. He and his government built the underground rail loop, decriminalised homosexuality, abolished capital punishment, and outlawed sexual discrimination in the workplace. Hamer and his team ended the demolition of the inner suburbs, preserved the best of the state's buildings and landscapes, and set aside large areas of diverse ecosystems as national parks. They gave Melbourne key infrastructure such as the West Gate Bridge and the Thomson Dam, extended the city's tramlines for the first time in half a century, and built art galleries, libraries, and theatres

BOOKS ETCETERA

all over the state. Yet Dick Hamer was a Liberal: a Toorak boy educated at Victoria's best schools, who served for years under the conservative Sir Henry Bolte before taking the reins himself and making the Liberal Party a spearhead of reform from 1972 to 1981. Hamer was a different kind of politician. He was intelligent, fair-minded, courteous, and hard-working, and governed with the long-term interests of his people in mind. He never tried to manufacture issues or direct debates for short-term political gain. Victorians recognised this, and elected him three times in a row as their premier, the last Liberal premier in Australia to have achieved this feat. He stands as the exemplar of important qualities in the Liberal tradition. Dick Hamer: the liberal Liberal is the first biography to be written of this remarkable man, who so embodied a quality now lacking in our public life: integrity.

The Menzies era : the years that shaped modern Australia / John Howard

An assessment of Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister by Australia's second-longest serving Prime Minister - a significant, unique and fascinating history of the Menzies era. Fresh from the success of his phenomenal bestselling memoir, Lazarus Rising, which has sold over 100,000 copies, John Howard now turns his attention to one of the most extraordinary periods in Australian history, the Menzies era, canvassing the longest unbroken period of government for one side of politics in Australia's history. John Howard was the second-longest serving Prime Minister in Australia's history. The monumental Sir Robert Menzies held power for a total of 18 years, five months and 12 days, making him by far the longest-serving Australian Prime Minister. His second term of 16 years is far and away the longest unbroken tenure in that office, and during his second term he dominated Australian politics like no one else has ever done before or since. Through this era, there was huge economic growth, social change and considerable political turmoil. Covering the impact of the great Labor split of 1955 as well as the recovery of the Labor Party under Whitlam's leadership in the late 1960s and the impact of the Vietnam War on Australian politics, this magisterial book will offer a comprehensive assessment of the importance of the Menzies era in Australian life, history and politics. John Howard, only ten when Menzies rose to power, and in young adulthood when the Menzies era came to an end, saw Menzies as an inspiration and a role model. His unique insights and thoughtful analysis into Menzies the man, the politician, and his legacy make this a fascinating, highly significant book.

Triumph and demise : the broken promise of a Labor generation / Paul Kelly

Drawing on more than sixty on-the-record interviews with all the major players, Triumph and Demise is full of remarkable disclosures. It is the inside account of the hopes, achievements and bitter failures of the Labor Government from 2007 to 2013. Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard came together to defeat John Howard, formed a brilliant partnership and raised the hopes of the nation. Yet they fell into tension and then hostility under the pressures of politics and policy. Veteran journalist Paul Kelly probes the dynamics of the Rudd-Gillard partnership and dissects what tore them apart. He tells the full story of Julia Gillard's tragedy as our first female prime minister - her character, Rudd's destabilisation, the carbon tax saga and how Gillard was finally pulled down on the eve of the 2013 election. Kelly documents the most misunderstood event in these years - the rise of Tony Abbott and the reason for his success. It was Abbott's performance that denied Rudd and Gillard the chance to recover. Labor misjudged Abbott and paid the price. Kelly writes with a keen eye and fearless determination. His central theme is that Australian politics has entered a crisis of the system that, unless corrected, will diminish the lives of all Australians.

My story / Julia Gillard

'I was Prime Minister for three years and three days. Three years and three days of resilience. Three years and three days of changing the nation. Three years and three days for you to judge.' On Wednesday 23rd June 2010, with the government in turmoil, Julia Gillard asked then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for a leadership ballot. The next day, Julia Gillard became Australia's 27th Prime Minister, and our first female leader. Australia was alive to the historic possibilities. Here was a new approach for a new time. It was to last three extraordinary years. This is Julia Gillard's chronicle of that turbulent time - a strikingly candid self-portrait of a political leader seeking to realise her ideals. It is her story of what it was like - in the face of government in-fighting and often hostile media - to manage a hung parliament, build a diverse and robust economy, create an equitable and world-class education system, ensure a dignified future for Australians with disabilities, all while attending to our international obligations and building strategic alliances for our future. This is a politician driven by a sense of purpose - from campus days with the Australian Union of Students, to a career in the law, to her often gritty, occasionally glittering rise up the ranks of the Australian Labor Party. Refreshingly honest, peppered with a wry humour and personal insights, Julia Gillard does not shy away from her mistakes, admitting freely to errors, misjudgements, and policy failures as well as detailing her political successes. Here is an account of what was hidden behind the resilience and dignified courage Gillard showed as prime minister - her view of the vicious hate campaigns directed against her, and a reflection on what it means - and what it takes - to be a woman leader in contemporary politics. Here, in her own words, Julia Gillard reveals what life was really like as Australia's first female prime minister.

WANT MORE? SEE THE FULL LIST OF RECENT ADDITIONS:

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MOVING DATE!! - DETAILS INSIDE

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