

*This issue of
'Writing History' features*
Frank Hutchinson
*the author of the latest
PMI Press publication*

**Beginnings:
A Brief Account of Some of the
First Europeans to Explore or
Settle in Victoria.**

*I would like to say at the outset that when I commenced the research and writing of **Beginnings**, over ten years ago, it was not intended for publication. This was a project of personal interest. My working life involved me in a number of primary industries that required me to travel throughout Victoria. I was amazed at the productivity of such a small state. This fostered a keen interest in finding out for myself something of the European discovery and occupation of the state.*

I had a particular interest in learning about the first European occupiers of the various districts of Victoria and something of the difficulties these pioneers had to overcome to successfully occupy these districts.

I started out by just recording the books I had read for further reference. My interest led me to start taking a few notes including some detail where I found something of particular interest and, as the saying goes, 'the rest is history'.

From the Preface to *Beginnings*

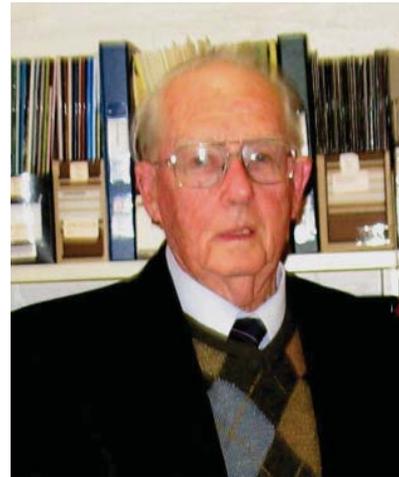
Frank Hutchinson's book will soon be launched at the PMI and will be the 13th publication by PMI Press. This is a project awarded a Victoria 175 grant from the Public Record Office Victoria.

Beginnings is comprised of:

- a chronological list of the earliest visits to Victoria and attempts to settle
- brief notes on the exploration and earliest settlement of the state, region by region
- a summary of the early Murray River paddle steamer industry

and will serve as a guide for anyone interested in the way the early exploration and settlement of Victoria unfolded. It will also be a useful guide to further reading.

The project began as a simple chronology of the discovery and exploration of Victoria. He then began a chronology of the earliest pastoral settlement, but found that in order to do this properly he would need to compile this information region by region.



Frank says that the most challenging part of his project was to keep the information as brief as possible without losing the substance of the information, as the references he used contain the full details. He found the information gathering process to be the most rewarding aspect of the project, along with the satisfaction of bringing such a lengthy project to its conclusion.

Frank carried out a significant portion of his research at the La Trobe Library (at the State Library of Victoria). After he had completed his manuscript he took it in to the La Trobe Library, to show the staff what he had been working on, and they said they would like a copy to add to the library.

Beginnings will be distributed online via the BookPOD Bookstore at

<http://www.bookstore.bookpod.com.au/>

If you are digitally challenged you can obtain a copy over the counter at the PMI library or you can send BookPOD a cheque or postal order (but give BookPOD a call first on (03) 9803 4481 to find out how much to add for the postage cost to your area).

The Victoria 175 History Grants program is part of celebrations to mark 175 years since the founding of Melbourne and the first European settlement in what became Victoria.

The program aims to support community organisations who seek to preserve, publish and commemorate the origins of the founding stories of Victoria. The program is administered by Public Record Office Victoria on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

A full listing of the grant recipients and their projects can be found at http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/CommunityCollections/Victoria175_recipients.asp Funding under this grants scheme has been awarded for many interesting and much needed projects including research, publications, newspaper digitisation and conservation of documents and artefacts.