



COMING UP



SUMMER CLOSURE: 23 DECEMBER 2019 - 12 JANUARY 2020

A reminder that we will be closing for 3 weeks over the Christmas/Summer period.

The library will close at 12:30pm on Friday 20 December and re-open to members and the public at 9:30am on Monday 13 January 2020.

WELCOME FROM THE SECRETARY LIBRARIAN



This year has been one of challenges but also many opportunities.

It is without a doubt that Cato Square (now known as Prahran Square) and works associated with the Metro Tunnel have had an impact on ease of access to PMI throughout the year. On the positive side, the former Cato Square carpark has been transformed into a wonderful public space along with an underground carpark.

At our AGM, the members voted overwhelmingly to request the Parliament of Victoria to repeal our Act of Parliament from 1899 and enable us to be incorporated under the Associations Reform Act (2012). This will secure our future as it will allow us to have better control of our destiny and, importantly, provide financial security for now and into the future.

We have been very fortunate to become an associate member of *Public Libraries Victoria* — the peak organisational group that supports public library services across the state. One of the benefits will be to take advantage of accessing the genealogical database *Ancestry*, through a special funding model which will see a considerable reduction in

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ABOUT THE PMI

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OPEN:

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri

9:30am - 4:30pm

Thu

9:30am - 7pm

excluding public holidays and
the Christmas/New Year period.

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our subscription fees to this important database. We will also be able to better promote our unique collection and generate vital revenue streams through increased participation in the inter-library loan scheme.

Although we have reduced the number of events in 2019, I believe we have provided a more focussed program for our members and the community at large. This will continue in 2020. Some of our more popular events included our Chapel Street and Malvern historical precinct walks, our Victorian History Showcase, the BeConnected technology events during the Victorian Seniors Festival and the launch of President Dr Judith Buckrich's book on the history of Greville Street. This event required us to relocate to nearby Prahran High School due to the overwhelming popularity – probably one of our biggest events in recent years.

We would not be where we are today with our enthusiastic volunteer team. We have worked hard to upgrade our volunteer processes and procedures, which has paid dividends in terms of interest expressed from a broad spectrum of the community. Our volunteers undertake a range of tasks from book covering, indexing of historic journals, running family history workshops, overseeing our booksales and more. You, as members, have also contributed to the ongoing success of the PMI and we thank you for your ongoing support. Our members also include our associated groups: the ARHS, CATHS and the MIRC of the MIV.

Furthermore we would not have been able to achieve what we have, without the support of our Committee which is comprised purely of volunteers. Finally thanks must also be extended to the amazing staff – Chris, Ellen, Riannon and our casual team. Thank you all. All of these contributors collectively continue to provide a unique institution to anyone interested in Victorian history.

Please take care over the summer holidays and we will see you re-energised and as enthusiastic as ever in 2020.

Steven Haby, Secretary Librarian.

GENERAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY



We will be closed for the Australia Day Public Holiday on Monday 27 January 2020.

UPDATE

PMI INCORPORATION STATUS

Keeping you updated on the progress of the transfer of the PMI's incorporation to the Associations Reform Act (2012).

We are still hoping to hold an EGM (extraordinary general meeting) for members in the near future to approve the adoption of the rules under the Associations Reform Act (2012). We are currently awaiting advice from the *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning* about their expected timeframe for the process.

At least one month's notice will be given and information packs will be sent to members regarding the proposal to enable discussion at the EGM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIAL GROUP



Do you love family history and conversation?

The Family History Social Group will be back next year with the first session taking place on Monday 3 February (1-3PM).

Come along and share your knowledge and skills with other group members in a friendly and supportive environment, while making use of the many resources available at the *PMI Victorian History Library*.

No Bookings Required

 **ancestry Library™**

Ancestry Library Edition: What's New!

Updated Birth, Marriage & Death

- Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current (Australia and New Zealand)

Ama-Zine Adventures in Remaking History

Make Zines to remake Melbourne's LGBTQI+ history!

Learn about queer history in Melbourne. Bring your ephemera and/or photos and join us for this zine making workshop using stories, inspiration and assistance from staff, volunteers and the ALGA/PMI collections.

Limited spaces, bookings essential.



FREE EVENT

BOOKINGS

www.pmi.net.au/events

or

by phone: 9510 3393

COLLECTION CORNER

Holidays

by Ellen Coates

The holidays are upon us, where has the year gone? So, we thought for this year's last Collection Corner we'd look at holidays in our collection.

Holidays are an essential part of Australian culture and many childhoods, and holiday towns from all over Victoria feature in our collection. You can indulge your fond memories (or your family's) of seaside holidays in Dromana or Queenscliffe (for example) with fascinating books including *Queenscliffe Guesthouse Holidays: A tradition past* by Pam Baker and *History of Beautiful Dromana 1802-1927* by Spencer Jackson.

Did you know that in guesthouses, visiting was generally a traditional yearly event? Holiday makers usually went to the same guesthouse, looking forward to enjoying the same meals and meeting the same people. In Queenscliff, though, the locals and the young men stationed at Fort Queenscliffe provided plenty of chances for holiday romances.

According to Spencer Jackson's account of Dromana (in roughly 1927 while trying to spruik the area to sell Spencer Jackson Estates) flounder fishing was a favourite pastime in Dromana with the "climate delightful all year round". Jackson also felt that there was no doubt that in the future Dromana would be "the resort of the culture and beauty of Melbourne".

We also have a number of books about more geographically general holidays, such as *Favourite Escapes To The Outer East: 100 years of holidays, picnics and sporting carnivals held in the Outer Eastern Region of Melbourne*. From this work you can discover picnicing in Smith's Gully in 1885, or the attractions of Blackburn Lake, or even the local reaction to the Worker's Sports Federation's request to use Healesville facilities in 1936 (the locals were worried they were Bolsheviks, or maybe even nudists).

You can follow very early holiday makers such as Dan Dill and his working holiday in Australia in the late 1800s. His descriptions evoke a very different world to that which we'd experience as holiday makers today, but it has a similar spirit. Some of his tales of work wouldn't be out of place in the stories of modern-day backpackers. He does everything from house painting to fencing, with lots of stops at the pub when he could.

If specific holiday destinations or stories aren't your thing, then consider the road maps and guides. This collection includes a number of electronic resources as well as hard copy resources, which can give you a fantastic idea of the sorts of advertising people would have been seeing, the cars they drove and the routes they travelled. They might even give you some inspiration for your next driving holiday across Victoria.

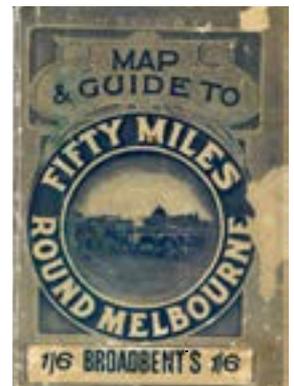
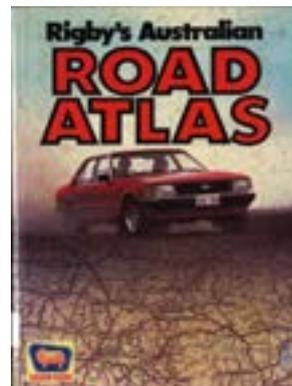
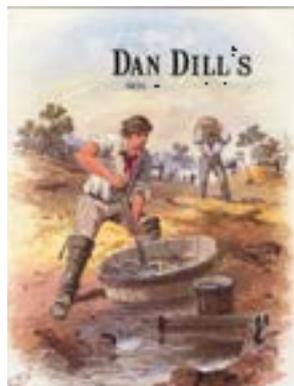
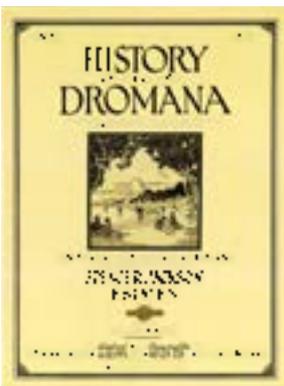
Finally, if you do want to plan a trip, then we hold contemporary walking and driving guides to historic sites around Victoria. You can explore them here at bit.ly/holidays.

When it comes to holidays, either reminiscing or planning them, our collection really is a great place to start your research.

From everyone here at the PMI, we hope you all enjoy your holidays, whether you are going away or taking a well-deserved break at home.



When it comes to holidays, either reminiscing or planning them, our collection really is a great place to start your research.



HISTRIVIA: THE HUMBLE MATCH AND THE PRAHRAN CONNECTION

by Jerry Bell, PMI member

How often do you use a humble match these days? Would it be once a week, once a month or so, once in a blue moon, or never? Whatever it is, it will be a far cry from the peak usage in Australia of 12 matches per person, man, woman and child, per day, which occurred in 1941. Given that our population at that time was 7.2 million, the mind boggles at how many matches that would represent!

Sweden was the early leading producer of matches. In 1861, the leading Swedish match company appointed two Quaker manufacturers of blacking in England, William Bryant & Francis May, as their agents for white phosphorus matches. So good were these gentlemen at selling matches, that the Swedes could not keep up with the demand, and Bryant & May decided to go into manufacturing on their own account.

The match industry initially evolved around supplies of the best timber for the matchsticks. It was soon realized that the very best tree was the Aspen poplar, which grew extensively in Northern Europe, Scandinavia and North America. It did not grow in Australia, and the only timber, which was remotely suitable here, was the Queensland Hoop Pine — which was used by some smaller manufacturers, although not by Bryant & May.

Having said that, the Australian industry was amazingly quick off the ground. The first factory started production in Sydney in 1843. Melbourne's climate was probably more suitable than Sydney's for match manufacturing anyway. Melbourne's first factory started in Hotham in 1869. It moved to Richmond, and closed in 1870. Some small, ephemeral operations followed, until 1895, when the large British firm of R. Bell & Co (who made wax vestas) opened in Swan Street, Richmond. They then moved to the Dublin Brewery site in Church Street, Richmond, merged with Bryant & May and in 1909 they jointly opened the splendid building on the same site which we see today.

Alas, when the 1970's came, the match industry went into terminal decline. The two main reasons were the US Surgeon General's report linking cancer to smoking, and the subsequent banning of smoking in public places; and the invention of the disposable gas lighters and gas guns. Bryant & May closed in 1988, and the last factory in Sydney, Hanna Match, struggled on until 2001.

However, matchcover collectors, known as Phillumenists, keep the memories alive, and the hobby is still very actively followed in Australia and around the world. The Australian Society is based in Melbourne.



What has all this got to do with Prahran? As mentioned earlier, a few ephemeral factories opened in Melbourne in the 1870s, and one of these was in Prahran, and therein lies a story. One of the earliest large factories in England was Richard Bell & Co, which was founded in 1832, it made wax vestas as well as matches. It was this R. Bell & Co who opened in Richmond in 1895 to make wax vestas.

Richard Bell was an Irish Quaker, and his son, Richard, was reputedly "wayward" in the terminology of the day. In the 1860s, Richard Jnr was sent to the US to a Quaker colony to be sorted out, in modern parlance. Whether this was achieved or not, Richard Bell junior apparently set out for Australia and opened a match factory in Prahran, on the eastern corner of Izett and Greville Street in 1873. As far as we know, for nothing has survived, he made conventional white phosphorus matches. Two years later, he moved to Collingwood to make wax vestas, and two years after that, closed up shop, left Australia to go back to the US, and, it appears, was drowned en route. All we have are three references in the Argus relating to various appearances in the local magistrates court, and the evidence of the rate books and street directories of the time.

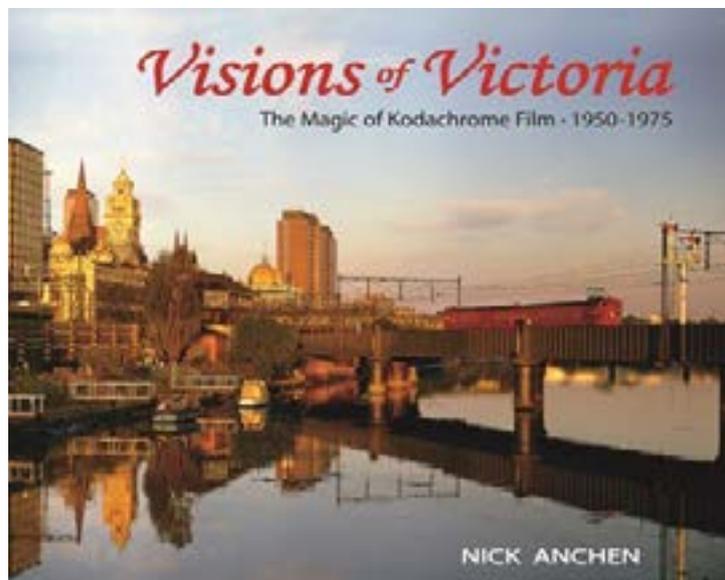
For further reading PMI has a copy of the author's book [Lighting up Australia: the story of the Australian match manufacturing industry](#) (2008).

Image Above: Bryant & May's iconic factory building, designed by William Pitt and built by Clements Langford in 1909. (Source: Jerry Bell)

New Books and Periodicals

Visions of Victoria: The Magic of Kodachrome Film 1950-1975 / Nick Anchen

(Bruce Turner Collection)



Melbourne underwent great changes in the decades following World War II, with rapid population growth and mass migration during the 1950s and '60s forever altering the face of the city.

Despite the changes, Melbourne in this period was often considered to be idyllic, with an ease of life, and a strong sporting and social culture. Kodachrome 35 mm film became commercially available in Australia in the early 1950s, and with its vibrant colours and grainless quality, it rapidly became the film of choice for many photographers. Melbourne, with its wide, tree-lined streets and fabulous 1880s architecture, was a natural subject for photographers of the period. So too were regional cities such as Ballarat and Bendigo, along with many of the state's attractive country towns and picturesque rural landscapes.

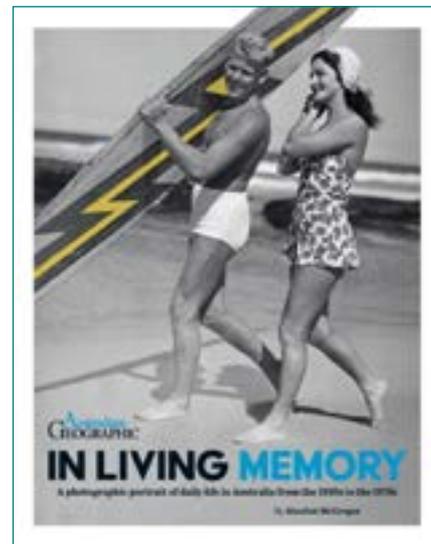
Visions of Victoria is a journey back in time to a very different place with red trains and green trams, Moomba parades, FJ Holdens and men wearing hats viewed through the wonders of Kodachrome, the world's most beautiful film.

Features: The Kodachrome Story, Melbourne Street Scenes Melbourne's Architecture 1954 Royal Visit 1956 Olympic Games Flinders Street station Melbourne Cricket Ground The 1972 Melbourne Flood Moomba parades Melbourne Suburbs, Ballarat, Bendigo and Country Victoria Plus features on Melbourne's railways, tramways, shipping and aviation

A journey back in time to a very different Victoria viewed in majestic living colour through the wonders of Kodachrome, the world's most beautiful film.

In Living Memory / Alasdair McGregor

Australian Geographic's In Living Memory takes you on a trip down memory lane from 1930 to 1980, surveying these decades with a collection of fascinating, surprising and entertaining photographs of everyday Australian life. Author Alasdair McGregor places the images in their historical context with insightful commentary to introduce each of the four chapters – the way we lived, the way we moved, the way we worked and the way we played. This warmly nostalgic collection will appeal to all ages – those who remember the milkman, the dunny man and the ice chest, and those who cheered on Dennis Lillee's moustache or took part in the 'bikini wars' on Bondi Beach.



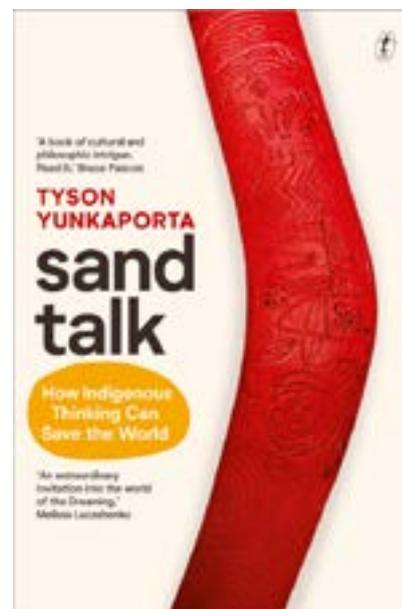
Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World / Tyson Yunkaporta

This remarkable book is about everything from echidnas to evolution, cosmology to cooking, sex and science and spirits to Schrödinger's cat.

Tyson Yunkaporta looks at global systems from an Indigenous perspective. He asks how contemporary life diverges from the pattern of creation. How does this affect us? How can we do things differently?

Sand Talk provides a template for living. It's about how lines and symbols and shapes can help us make sense of the world. It's about how we learn and how we remember. It's about talking to everybody and listening carefully. It's about finding different ways to look at things.

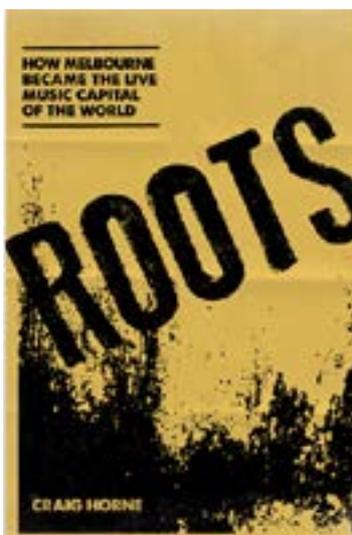
Most of all it's about Indigenous thinking, and how it can save the world.



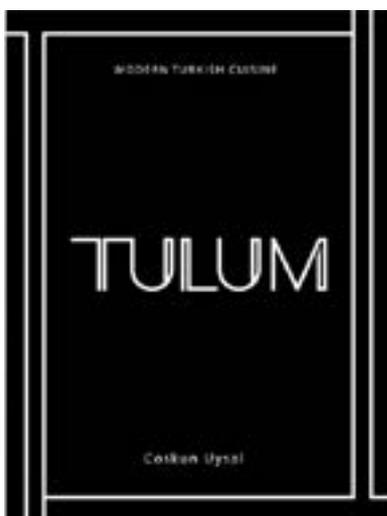
Roots: How Melbourne became the live music capital of the world / Craig Horne (Bruce Turner Collection)

A Melbourne sound that is at once both rakish and debonair.

So what specifically is it about Melbourne that, according to the Sydney Morning Herald, it's able to support around 465 live music venues as compared to 453 in New York, 385 in Tokyo and 245 in London despite its population being a fraction of those major world cities? Despite the flaky weather, the footy and Netflix, Melbournians are committed to going out at night and in great numbers in heat or hail to listen to live music and to find those bands and singers they've heard on Spotify or discovered on Soundcloud.



Tulum: Modern Turkish Cuisine by Coskun Uysal (Bruce Turner Collection)



Tulum, a much acclaimed modern Turkish restaurant in Melbourne, recently awarded its first Chefs Hat by the Melbourne Good Food Guide, is the creation of one of Australia's most exciting new chefs, Coskun Uysal.

With 7 chapters representing the 7 diverse regions of Turkey, each with their own seasonal ingredients, this

handsome cookbook captures the essence of Tulum's delicious modern Turkish cuisine. Now the book allows the home cook to create delicious, refined dishes from all 7 regions.

National Gallery of Victoria: NGV Magazine

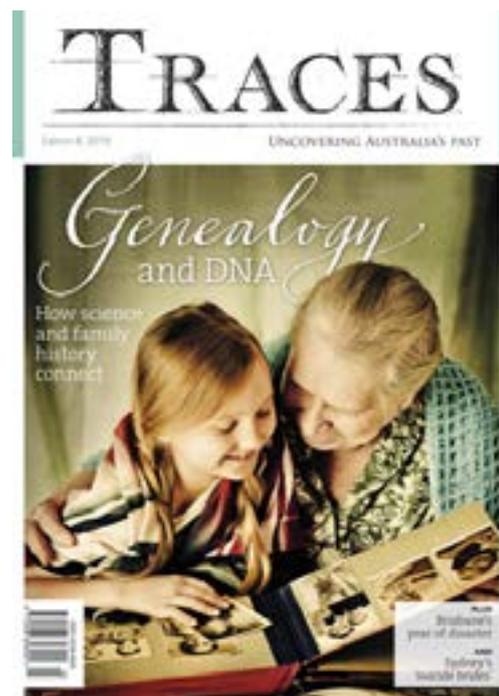
Vol.19 NOVEMBER 2019: Tammy Kanat / Paola Di Trocchio p16. Camille Henrot / Jane Devery p20. Collection: Spring, from the four seasons p23. One suggestive moment [Petrina Hicks: Bleached Gothic and Olympia: Photographs by Polixeni Papapetrou] / Isobel Crombie p30. Life is but a dream [Olympia: Photographs by Polixeni Papapetrou and Alice in Wonderland] / Olympia Nelson p34. Polixeni Papapetrou

/ Susan Van Wyk p36. From the NGV to the Tate: the misunderstood William Blake / Martin Myrone p40. William Blake's Virgil Wood engravings / Louise Wilson p42. Me and my muse / Kim Devereux p52. Pieta p58. The archer [Mortimer Menpes, The Archer c.1897] / Petra Kayser p62. Framing Archer / Holly McGowan-Jackson p65. The intricate designs of Lisa Waup / Hannah Presley p72. Josh Muir animated / Kayla Clinch p76. Marking time: indigenous art from the NGV / Judith Ryan p78. Transcript [Nora Heysen official war artist] p80.



Traces: uncovering the past

Vol.8 2019: Songs of home [music in the early colony of New South Wales] p6. Old parliament house, Adelaide p10. Australia's Byzantine trophy of war part 1 [Shellal Mosaic] / Timothy Carnovale p12. Brisbane's year of disaster [1864] / Duncan Richardson p15. Sydney's suicide brides [Alexander Sly and Ellie Sly and other murder suicides in Edwardian Sydney] / Tanya Bretherton p18. Australia's first naturalists [Indigenous Australians as naturalists] p22. Tapping the admiral [origins of the phrase tapping the admiral] / Jessica Barratt p25. Turning genealogy into a career / Paul Gorry p26. Using DNA in genealogy p33. Writing family history for children / Hazel Edwards p35. A Chinese farmer in European clothes [Jan See Chin] / Pamela Wong p38. Mina Magerman: a Khoisan woman far from home / Kristyn Harman p40. Point Hicks lighthouse / Sandy Guy p44.





Governance

The PMI is incorporated under the [Prahran Mechanics' Institute Act No 1617 \(1899\)](#) and operates under the [Rules of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute and Circulating Library](#), gazetted in the Victorian Parliament on 24 July 2007.

Members are provided with copies of the PMI legislation and Library Policy on request.

Committee

The PMI is administered by a committee of seven people. Six Committee members are elected by the members of the PMI at the annual general meeting for a four year term of office and one person appointed by the City of Stonnington. The current PMI Committee Members are:

- ▶ Dr Judith Buckrich (President)
- ▶ Cr John Chandler OAM
- ▶ Cr Steve Stefanopoulos (Vice President & City of Stonnington representative)
- ▶ Dr Michelle Negus Cleary
- ▶ Mr Ben Quin, CPA (Treasurer)
- ▶ Mr Chris Michalopoulos
- ▶ Mr Tim McKenna

The PMI Library Staff

- ▶ Steven Haby, (BASocSci Librarianship) (Secretary Librarian)
- ▶ Ellen Coates (BA (Hons); MA (Info. Stud.) (Collections Librarian/Volunteer Coordinator)
- ▶ Christine Moysey-Barker (AssocDegInfoStud) (Marketing and Communications Coordinator)

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute is an institutional member of the [Australian Library & Information Association](#) and is a member society of the [Royal Historical Society of Victoria](#).

Find Us Online

Did you know the PMI Library has a Facebook and Twitter page? We also have a Blog!

Check us out at:



/PMILibrary



institutingthepast.wordpress.com

Visit Us



Parking

Parking is available at the institute on a first-come-first-serve basis. There are 3 spaces at the front of the building and a further 7 spaces in the garage (accessed from the front of the building on St Edmonds Road) – please park in the numbered spaces to avoid blocking cars in. If all spaces are taken, there is 1 hour parking in St Edmonds Road and Greville Street. There are 500 undercover paid car parking space at Prahran Square, located on Izette Street. Visit www.chapelstreetparking.com.au/ for more details in relation to parking in the area.

Trains

The Institute is one block from Prahran Station (Sandringham Line), turn right into Greville Street and then right again into St Edmonds Road.

Trams

There is the #6 tram running along High Street, the #72 tram along Commercial Road and the #78 tram along Chapel Street.

Buses

Buses #216, #219 and #220 run along Commercial Road. You can alight at the Prahran Market stop.