Victorian Community History Awards 2017

Proudly participating in History Week
**Victorian Premier’s History Award**

This award, previously known as the Victorian Community History Award, recognises the most outstanding community history project in any category.

This is a book about country. It begins with consideration of the pre-colonial environment and traditional owners of a largely unknown area in north-west Victoria, and concludes with the area becoming nationally and internationally recognised for the unique qualities of its natural and cultural landscapes.

The human stories of the Kulkyne range from the finely balanced ways of the Indigenous Latji Latji and Nyeri Nyeri clans; to squatters and pastoralists; hunters, foresters, rangers and railwaymen; and to the earnest endeavours of interest groups, each focused on the Kulkyne's natural or cultural heritage. These stories are woven seamlessly together into a narrative based on painstaking research in oral histories and documentary sources, and draw on a deep appreciation of the workings of the natural world. This is best illustrated in those sections dealing with the book’s main theme, the restitution of the Kulkyne’s environments after decades of misuse and degradation.

John Burch set out to write something that would be 'available to any who would be interested'. What he has produced is a book that is history at its very best.

*Returning the Kulkyne*

John Burch

Published by the author, Melbourne, 2017

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**Judges' Special Prize**

The judges can award a special prize for any outstanding entry.

For eighty years her home, Cruden Farm, provided Dame Elisabeth Murdoch with a complex garden for which she had a deep and special love. Her gardener for more than 46 years, Michael Morrison, kept diaries that recorded the daily work in the garden, as it related, for instance, to the water features, walled garden, specialised beds, notable trees, and nursery. The diaries provide an invaluable record of the decisions made about planning and planting, watering and weeding, composting and cultivating.

The photographs by Simon Griffiths and the discussions that emerge from diary entries, combine to delight the reader. The balance that the two gardening partners achieved in landscaping and maintaining the farm grounds is expressed in Lisa Clausen's prose, often reflecting on seasonal change, birdlife, and particular features of the garden. In all, this work is a joy to dip into, or to read fully at leisure.

The book’s production is perfect, from the gorgeous photography and creative design, to the bound bookmark and end bands, quality paper, and bark-inspired end-papers.

*Cruden Farm Garden Diaries*

Michael Morrison and Lisa Clausen

Lantern (Penguin), Melbourne, 2017
Collaborative Community Award
This award recognises the best community collaborative work which involves significant contributions from several individuals, groups or historical societies.

For more than 70 years Fletcher Jones & Staff was an institution in the clothing industry. From small beginnings in Warrnambool in 1924, the company expanded under the benign and enterprising Fletcher Jones; by the 1970s it had more than 50 stores throughout the country and had become an Australian icon and a model of collaborative business practice. So deeply sewn into the fabric of Warrnambool's local community was the company of Fletcher Jones, that its closure sparked a campaign to ‘Save the silver ball and Fletcher’s garden’ and create a website to record the company’s history, staff memories and myriad connections with the local community.

The website, structured into the two main themes of the business and conservation issues, is replete with images, animated stories and videos about a company that had a humane ethos in the cut-throat world of clothing manufacturing. The site is attractively presented, easy to navigate and immensely informative. In short, it is an excellent example of a collaborative community project.

Commendations
Girgarre
Athol McDonald and Jenny Wadelton
Girgarre Living History, 2016

Australian Book Collectors.
Some Noted Australian Book Collectors and Collections of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Third Series, Volumes IV and V.
Charles Stitz, Editor
Books of Kells, Melbourne, 2016

Local History Project Award
This award recognises activities that enhance access to records of significance to local communities.

The Notables of Collingwood database contains 104 biographies at present, but twice that number are in the pipeline of this ongoing project. Searchable online at the Collingwood Historical Society’s website by alphabetical listing, the biographies have been well researched by society members.

The subjects of the biographies are past residents of Collingwood, Clifton Hill, and Abbotsford connected with various endeavours and a few outsiders who strongly influenced local development. Thus we become acquainted with early settler James Campbell, diarist Emily Childers, mirror manufacturer Abbondio Campi, stonemason and politician Charles Jardine Don, doctor and suffragist Grace Vale, and architect William Pitt. Each entry contains a photograph, where available, with a brief biography, and a link to the full entry. Further links lead to research sources and relevant external sites.

This project will greatly assist researchers of biographical, local and family history. It is a fine model for enhancing access to records of significance to local communities.

Commendations
Celebrating History: Items from the Queenscliffe Historical Museum Collection
R. Brown, J. Grant, S. Lee and D. Sawyer
Queenscliffe Historical Museum Inc., 2016

The Children of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate
Ian D. Clark and Fred Cahir
Australian Scholarly, Melbourne, 2016
History Publication Award

This award recognises the most outstanding non-fiction publication or e-book on Victorian history.

Charles Joseph La Trobe, a gentleman fond of painting, rambling and botany, was appointed Superintendent of the Port Phillip District in 1839. Influenced by the Moravian church, he supported institutions for moral improvement and parkland for community benefit in a society preoccupied with self-aggrandisement. Naturally conservative, he took charge of colonists impatient for separation from NSW and democratic rights. Tied up with red tape, the need for approval from distant officials, he endured the barbs of the wilful Argus and fickle public. Even before his appointment as Governor of Victoria and the onslaught of the gold rushes, he described himself as a ‘grave, careworn potentate’.

Elegantly written and meticulously researched, this biography carefully considers issues and shows sympathetic insight into character. The book is a handsome publication, featuring many of La Trobe’s sketches and water-colours. Although largely forgotten after his death—in accord with the motto of the university his Government founded, Postera crescam laude—La Trobe steadily increases in esteem.

Commendations

I Like a Clamour. Judge Walpole Willis, Colonial Judge Reconsidered.
Max Bonnell
The Federation Press, Sydney, 2017

Ranelagh. A Special Place
M. Breidahl, D. Dick and V. Grounds
Ranelagh Publishing House, Mt Eliza, 2016

A Journey of Hope and Resilience: Safeguarding Children for 120 Years
Lucy Bracey and Fiona Poulton
Children’s Protection Society, Melbourne, 2016

Cazaly: The Legend
Robert Allen
Slattery Media Group, Melbourne, 2017

Driftwood: Escape and Survival Through Art
Eva de Jong-Duldig
Arcadia, Melbourne, 2017

Local History – Small Publication Award

This award recognises the best small, limited-run publication or e-book which features Victorian local, cultural or social history.

This artistically designed and lavishly illustrated book explores Harry McBean’s legacy to the built environment of Castlemaine. Either as architect or contractor, McBean was involved with numerous Castlemaine commercial, municipal and private buildings. The son of a family who migrated from Scotland to Melbourne in the 1850s, McBean resided in Castlemaine from 1893 to 1904, and became prominent in the Presbyterian Church and municipal council. He called his house in the town Balerno after his family’s home village near Edinburgh.

McBean’s signature house style was red brick with tuckpointing and the decorative features of Queen Anne and Federation designs. Assisted by the Castlemaine Historical Society, the author introduces many early residents associated with McBean’s work. The book includes a town walk to 22 buildings exemplifying his style and illustrations of his typical house interiors. Inspired by her own McBean residence, the author deftly conveys McBean’s contribution to the distinctive character of Castlemaine.

Commendations

Kate Auty and Lynette Russell
Justice Press, Melbourne, 2016

A Shrine on the Mountain: The Story of St Peter’s Memorial Church, Kinglake
Jillian Durance
Published by the author with Stephen Holmes, 2016

We Are All Travellers: Celebrating 100 Years of Travellers Aid Australia
Alicia Cerreto with Sarah Rood
Travellers Aid Australia, Melbourne, 2016
Cultural Diversity Award
This award recognises the most outstanding project or publication that highlights the cultural diversity of Victoria.

These two documentary films focus on immigrants who arrived as children at Station and Princes Piers between 1947 and 1971, a time when one million migrants disembarked. *Reading the Wind* introduces migrants whose families fled oppression in their home countries. The restoration of Princes Pier in 2011 was the catalyst for this and other projects.

*Afterwards* encounters three of the children, now mature adults, who successfully adapted. The artist Domenico de Clario from Italy presented numerous exhibitions while Mimmo Cozzolino, also from Italy, wrote the popular *Symbols of Australia*. Maria Vamvakinou from Greece was an interpreter as a child to the Greek neighbourhood in Brunswick, and later became the first Greek-born woman to be elected to Federal Parliament. She reflects on ‘the dream of return’ syndrome among immigrants; many finally became anchored by grandchildren.

This project movingly explores the transformative experience of migration through the recollections of those who contributed to a peaceful and vibrant multicultural society on foreign shores.

**Reading the Wind and Afterwards**
Two documentary films directed by Adam Ricco, produced by Lella Cariddi in association with Multicultural Arts Victoria. On USB and website: https://vimeo.com/178414628

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Multimedia Award
This award recognises the best presentation of history which uses non-print media and has a broad community reach.

The gifted Cornish architect Joseph Reed studied classical and Gothic revival styles in London and later the architecture of northern Italy. Arriving in gold-rush Melbourne in 1853, he identified with the town’s aspirations to become a great city. The Melbourne Public Library was the first of a succession of grand public buildings by Reed; these included the classical Baptist church in Collins Street, the Independent church in Lombard Romanesque style and the monumental town hall. Wilson Hall was a vision in Tudor Perpendicular while the noble Exhibition Building was crowned by a dome reminiscent of the Florentine Cathedral.

Historic and contemporary images alternate in this video conveying continuity. Despite demolitions, most of the main buildings remain. The narration is clear, concise and perceptive. Celebratory baroque orchestral music heightens the sense of Reed’s architectural achievements and suggests an analogy between these two creative arts. Reed himself was a violinist and sensitive to the acoustics of buildings he designed. This video is a fine tribute to the marvellous legacy of Joseph Reed.

**Joseph Reed and the Making of Marvellous Melbourne**

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Commendations
From Small Beginnings: The Victorian School of Languages
Catherine Bryant and Bruno Mascitelli
Australian Scholarly, 2016

Andiamo
Angelo Indovino
Published by the author, Melbourne, 2017

Chinese Fortunes
Exhibition and event
Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc., 2017

HM Gaol Beechworth
Nanette Collins, hmgaolbeechworth.com

Donald Cemetery
Donald Public Cemetery Trust, 2016
www.donaldcemetery.com.au

East Loddon Remembers
East Loddon P-12 College and East Loddon and District Historical Society
www.eastloddonanzacs.com

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Historical Interpretation Award
This award recognises the most outstanding local history project presented in a unique format.

This guided township walk has a compact format, concise information on 54 stops and a clear fold-out map. Conformity to the usual template for guided walks masks the skill underlying the project. The individual buildings form a window on to the industrial, commercial and cultural history of Kyneton and also reflect the early development of regional Victoria.

Far from being trapped in the past, the town is constantly adapting to change. Thus a church becomes a theatre, a bank is reinvented as a museum, the former butter factory operates as a retail emporium, and the school once attended by Alfred Deakin is now the private residence College House.

Retail advertisements transport readers back to earlier times, and anecdotes such as that about the recalcitrant post office clock enliven the text.

This booklet, dedicated to one of its foremost contributors, Don McLure, has a strong community dimension and is an exemplar of a guided township walk.

Discover Historic Kyneton: A Guide to Discovering Kyneton’s Historic Places and People
Discover Historic Kyneton, 2017

Commendations
Falls User Guide
http://www.fallsuserguide.com/blue/welcome-tablet.html

Alpine Heritage Guide
Alpine Shire Heritage Network, 2016

Olinda Heritage Walk from Settlement to Village
1905–1915
Mount Dandenong and District Historical Society, 2016

Centenary of WW1 Award
This award recognises the best work or project on the impact of WW1 on Victoria or Victorians.

Among the Victorian artists represented in this book are Arthur Streeton from the Heidelberg School, and Dora Meeson whose ‘Leaving for the Front’ is a feature of the Ballarat Art Gallery. Remarkably, four of the artists who figure prominently come from the Ballarat district, namely Will Dyson and Hilda Rix Nicholas from Ballarat, Will Longstaff from Clunes and Norman Lindsay, member of the talented Lindsay family, from Creswick.

In addition to portraying the conflict, several of the artists were involved with the war effort. Norman Lindsay painted powerful recruiting posters and helped raise funds. Will Dyson, Australia’s first official war artist, and husband of Ruby Lindsay, was twice wounded on the Western Front.

Travers has crafted an engrossing tale of the men and women who creatively interpreted the events and effects of the war. The book contains excellent reproductions of paintings on quality paper, comprehensive footnotes, bibliography and index. It is a notable contribution to the centenary of the Great War.

To Paint a War
The Lives of the Australian Artists Who Painted the Great War, 1914–1918
Richard Travers
Thames & Hudson, Melbourne, 2017

Commendations
The Everyday War
Andrew May, Nicole Davis and Nicholas Coyne
Provenance, no. 15 2016-17 and website: https://melbournehistoryworkshop.com/portfolio/the-everyday-war-2017

J.D. Burns. Poet, School Boy, Soldier, Martyr
A.J. McAleer
Lilydale RSL sub-branch, 2016

Contribution and Conflict: A History of Wonthaggi and the First World War
Sebastian J. ‘Sam’ Gatto
Wonthaggi and District Historical Society, 2016
History Article (Peer Reviewed)
This award recognises the best essay or article published in a recognised peer reviewed journal that illuminates the history of Victoria or Victorians.

In this imaginative and engaging article, Miranda Francis recovers the history of a crèche established at Footscray High School in 1976, and in so doing uses this micro-history to illuminate Victorian women's changing experience of work and family life in the 1970s, the impact of feminist ideas and activism, and how women were able to force change in child care provision.

Francis deftly interweaves and compares archival documents and oral history interviews to enrich our understanding of the complex interconnections between women's experience and institutional needs, novel ideas and conservative resistance, and local action and public policy.

Thank you
Thank you to all the entrants of the 2017 Victorian Community History Awards for your contribution to capturing, preserving and sharing our State’s memory.
Established in 1998, the Victorian Community History Awards are held in celebration of activity undertaken to explore and preserve the State’s history. The range of award categories acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

The Victorian Community History Awards are presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The 2017 Awards ceremony was held during History Week on Monday 16 October at the Arts Centre Pavilion in Melbourne.

Start planning your project for 2018 and uncover your local history today.

To find out more about the Victorian Community History Awards visit: http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/programs/victorian-community-history-awards

Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street North Melbourne
10am–4.30pm Monday to Friday
(and the second and last Saturday of the month)
prov.vic.gov.au

Ballarat Archives Centre
Cnr Mair and Doveton Streets Ballarat
10am–4.30pm Mondays and Tuesdays
prov.vic.gov.au

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
239 A’Beckett Street Melbourne
10am–4pm Monday to Friday
03 9326 9288
historyvictoria.org.au

Front image cover:
Student bank at Macleod High School.
Public Record Office Victoria. VPRS 8935/P1, Unit 3, Item 180