



Useful Knowledge

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA INC.

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KATE TORNEY TO DELIVER WESSON LECTURE 'VICTORIA'S STATE LIBRARY - VISION 2020'

It is Victoria's iconic **State Library Victoria** turn to have a major makeover. (Victoria's other two cultural icons – Museum Victoria and National Gallery Victoria – having previously had theirs, since being relocated from the State Library site.)



State Library CEO, **Kate Torney**, will take us through the development and financing of the ambitious plan to reposition our Library into the 21st century and beyond. MIV has been a long-term member of the **State Library Users' Organisation**

Council, which has had an ongoing role in the development plan.

Mechanics' Institutes have had a major role in the development of library services in Victoria, and this was to be later facilitated by the Public Library (State Library) book box scheme. These boxes were sent by rail to Institutes, generally quarterly, and the previous box was then returned.

The **Wesson Lecture** is being delivered at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran on Saturday, 23 September at 11am.

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CASTLEMAINE CALENDAR CALL

You and your friends are invited to the exhibition viewing and launch of **Mechanics' Institutes in the Frame**, an exhibition of **Damian Callanan's** watercolours of Institute buildings.

The exhibition, which will be held in the **Castlemaine Market Gallery**, 44 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, will be officially launched on Sunday, 10 September at 1.30pm. However it will be open for viewing on Saturday, 9 September, 11am-5pm and Sunday, 10 September, 9am-3.45pm.

The following Institutes have been featured: Arthurs Creek, Ballaarat, Castlemaine,

Chiltern, Elmore, Emerald, Fawcett, Footscray, Fryerstown, Lilydale, Maldon, Melbourne, Moonambel, Murtoa, Shepparton, Sorrento, Stanley, Tallarook, Walhalla and Warrandyte.

The original Institute pictures are available for sale to Institutes or individuals prior to the launch for \$500. Calendars, packs of cards and prints will be available for purchase at the exhibition or by mail order.

NOTICE OF MIV'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE.

Coming Events - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1-31 National Family History Month
 12-20 National Science Week
 17-31 Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Production 'High Society'. More info: lilydaleatc.com

SEPTEMBER

- TBC Bookbinding Workshop, Stanley Athenaeum. Tel: Chris on 0458 606 922
 1-2 Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Production 'High Society'. More info: lilydaleatc.com
 9-10 MIV Art Exhibition of Damian Callanan's Mechanics' Institute paintings, Castlemaine Market, Castlemaine.
 10 Geoff Craig Memorial Lecture, Stanley Memorial Hall, 2pm
 15 Tallarook Mechanics' Institute performance: Mystery in the Air - a revival of 1940's radio drama. 2-course Dinner 6:30 and Show 7:30
 15-16 Warrandyte Theatre Company Production 'Proof'. More info: warrandytehallarts.asn.au
 22-23 Warrandyte Theatre Company Production 'Proof'. More info: warrandytehallarts.asn.au
 23 MIV Annual General Meeting, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran, 10am
 23 MIV's 3rd Annual Wesson Lecture, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran, 11am

OCTOBER

- 7 American Membership Libraries' Meeting - Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA
 15-22 History Week
 21 Costerfield Mechanics' Institute Hall Centenary, 3pm BBQ and Dance. Contact: Marjorie Harris (03) 5433 2625

MIV'S EVENTS CALENDAR IS ONLINE

mivic.org.au/events.html

Subscribe for weekly email updates on events throughout the week.

Member Institutes: email through details of your events, or public events being held at your Institute, both big and small to editor@mivic.org.au for inclusion in the online calendar. Let us help you promote your events!

NOVEMBER

- 1-30 **Home is Where the Hall Is** Month
 19 'The Man They Call the Banjo' production at Emerald Mechanics' Institute - 4pm. Bookings: trybooking.com/RPBA
 25 Moonambel Plaque Unveiling - Back-to-Moonambel weekend. Information: Jill Hunter (03) 5467 2211.

2018 - JANUARY

- 26-28 Fyerstown Antique Fair. Information: faf.net.au

JUNE

- 1-3 Independent Libraries Association (UK) Conference, Innerpefferay Library, Crieff, Scotland

NOVEMBER

- 16-19 Mechanics' Institutes Australia Conference, Ballarat, Victoria

THANK YOU TO OUR PRINTERS

Sean, Neal and the team from TDC3 Print Centre, 548 Bridge Rd, Richmond. tdc3.com.au



The MIV would like to acknowledge the support of our 'home' - the Prahran Mechanics' Institute.

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Letter From The President



I have always thought of myself as an optimistic kind of guy, a glass half full kind of person. So why then, when our editor came up with OPTIMISM as the theme of this edition have I had such a bad case of writers block?

It's not that today's Mechanics' Institutes lack grounds for optimism. On the contrary. In the words of a politician friend of mine, "they are undergoing something of a renaissance aren't they?"

Not just here in Victoria but throughout the English speaking world communities are rediscovering that the mysterious Institutions in their midst, far from being funny handshake societies, or venues for conclaves of automotive engineers, are in fact secular organisations dedicated to:

"the dissemination of scientific and literary information, useful knowledge and rational recreation"

Not only are they expressions of noble ideas, they were set up, financed and managed by volunteers from the very communities from which they sprang. Universally labelled "Hidden Gems" by those that come across them from Ballarat to Boston (USA). Berwick to Bradford (UK), Maldon to Montreal (Canada), Melbourne to Maine (USA), Prahran to Pennsylvania (Franklin Institute USA), Sydney to San Francisco (USA), Williamstown to Worcester (USA). There is much to be optimistic about.

However, while it is all very well to admire an historic building, restore a grand façade and primp and preen an architectural gem it is the life within that offers the greatest challenge and, like all great challenges, the greatest reward.

At their best, Mechanics' Institutes are independent, self-funded, values driven organisations, governed and often staffed mainly by volunteers. They have always sought to meet the needs of their communities somewhat higher up Maslow's hierarchy of needs than the day to day.

In Britain Mechanics' Institutes provided a way out from under a stifling system that offered little to the common man, while in North America they embodied the notion that all men were created equal and capable of bettering themselves through their own initiative. In Australia they also provided often isolated communities social cohesion and with their libraries and lectures, a window on the outside world.

Drawing further on Maslow's theories, adult education, lifelong learning, useful knowledge can all be reasonably described as offering pathways up through the hierarchy of needs towards and perhaps even to self-actualisation.

Maybe the realisation that this is what we have to fill our Institutes with if they are to be relevant to the 21st Century and the enormity of the challenge is weighing on my natural optimism.

Do I think we can do it? It might take a while but yes I do, but then I'm an optimistic kind of guy.

Robert Kingston
President.

Editorial

Counting down to twenty, or should that be up? Either way you look at it, it has been quite a ride. This issue looks at the forthcoming launch of our calendar and greeting card sets at the Castlemaine Market on the afternoon of 10 September at 1.30pm. Order a few calendars for Christmas gifts and couple of sets of mixed blank cards and spread the MIV story.

MIV's AGM on 23 September will feature the Wesson Lecture to be delivered by State Library Victoria's CEO Kate Torney. The State Library is being 'repositioned' for moving into the 21st century and beyond, continuing to remain as one of the truly great libraries of the world.

We are looking for some more members to come on board the MIV Committee to share in the Experience, Empowerment, Involvement and Innovation. We want all our Institutes to be: Learning spaces; Meeting spaces; Performing spaces; and last of all, Inspirational spaces and that is the challenge. There is great cause for optimism when one looks back over the past twenty years.

In this issue you will read how the UK Independent Libraries Association has successfully turned their AGM into an annual Conference, with the next being at Innerpeffray Library, Crieff, Scotland.

Elsewhere, the small village of Moonambel in central western Victoria is bracing itself for its greatest weekend since the 1860 goldrush hit town by celebrating the 80th anniversary of their Hall.

South Australian University's Catherine Kerrigan has turned her analytical mind to determine just 'What is an Independent Library' and shares her outcome with us.

Research on the illustrious history and influence of the Mechanics' Institute Movement is highlighted in the **International Cooperative Research Project on Mechanics' Institutes** a global endeavour started by the late Professor Robin Alston.

The recently reissued pioneering 1852 *Essay* of James Hole, details the operations of 703 Institutes in the UK. Hole devised the travelling library book box which was to be taken up widely in Australia. Huddersfield have shared their illustrious history with us, which could be replicated by dozens of Mechanics' Universities around the world.

Bron Lowden

NEWS PLEASE

Let us have your news on the Hall, its history and more importantly its people. Email the **UK** editor at editor@mivc.org.au. Submission deadline for **UK45** is 30 November 2017.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Bob Flavell	John Gray
Carla McKee	Pat Toomey
Ellen Elzey	Phillip Byers
Felix Meagher	Susan Hacker
Heide Kestle	Tony Meehan
Rhyll Mechanics' Institute	
UFS Dispensaries Ltd	

NEWSLETTER ROUND

Tick after reading and pass it on

- President
- Vice-President.....
- Treasurer.....
- Secretary.....
- Committee (*Insert your name*)
-
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OUR WEBSITE IS MOVING

MIV's website is now moving to our new domain **mivc.org.au**. This new site will allow us to upload more of our Magazine and Newsletter Archive, as well as other MI related items. Please update your website bookmarks.

UPDATE OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details for some of our office-bearers have been changed to the addresses on the Contacts list on page 2. Please add **editor@mivc.org.au** to your mailing lists so we can keep up to date with your news and events. For all other enquiries, please send to **info@mivc.org.au** and they will be forwarded on to the relevant person.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE 30 JUNE

If you have not yet paid your membership for the 2017-2018 and have misplaced your renewal notice, please contact the MIV Treasurer and we can send you out another one.



UK INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



Chawton House Library.

Photo: Chawton House Library Facebook

The Second Annual Conference and AGM of the newly styled and renamed Association was held at Chawton House Library, Alton, Hampshire from 2-4 June. This centre for Women's Writing was a very apt venue as 2017 commemorates the bicentennial of Jane Austen's death.

Present from Australia were: **Catherine Kerrigan** from the University of South Adelaide; **Tom Coleman**, from the Melbourne Athenaeum Library; and MIV's **Jim Lowden**

The Chawton House team of **Dr Gillian Dow**, **Dr Darren Bevin**, **Anthony Hughes-Onslow**, **Corinne Saint** and **Andrew Bentley** were the perfect hosts.

The Pre-Conference opened on Friday afternoon and Librarian Darren Bevin gave the assembled an introduction to Chawton House, built in the 1580s, and the context of Edward Austen's adoption by the Knight family and his occupancy of Chawton House and the subsequent Knight family.

Jane and her mother and sister Cassandra lived nearby, in Chawton. Her mother and sister are buried in the grounds of the venerable St Nicholas' Church, which abuts the estate, whilst Jane rests in Winchester Cathedral.

A 125 year lease was sold to a property development company in 1987 to convert the house into a luxury hotel and install a golf course. The company failed and left the House partially unroofed. This then enabled the comparatively recent acquisition by US entrepreneur and

philanthropist **Sandy Lerner** in 1993. The Elizabethan manor house was restored between 1996 and 2003. It was then passed over to a management group to develop the library of Women's Writing from 1600-1830 and create a program of cultural and literary events. Today the library, which has grown to more than 10,000 titles, with manuscripts, pictures and memorabilia, offers regular residential internships of two months for scholars.

Dr Kim Simpson, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Chawton House, introduced the current Eliza Haywood (1693-1756) exhibition. Haywood's early

life is a mystery. The beginning of her acting career, in Dublin in 1715, is the first definite evidence. She then authored some seventy plays and books, the first of which was *Love in Excess: Or, the Fatal Enquiry* (1719), finishing with publication of *The Wife* and *The Husband* in the year she died. She also largely wrote *The Female Spectator*, a monthly journal published between 1744-46, the first journal published and written by women for women.

Delegates then inspected the fifty acre gardens with the inspirational Andrew Bentley, a zoologist and environmentalist interested in bats, but a latter day passionate landscape gardener. Andrew has management of Chawton's 275 acre property, including the supervision of a score of Shire draught horses and 400 Corriedale ewes.



*Inspecting the gardens with Andrew Bentley
(right)*



Dr Gillian Dow welcoming delegates to Chawton House Library

Photo: Chawton House Library Facebook

Sites visited during the walk included the: Library Terrace; Edward Austen created 'Walled Garden'; newly planted Elizabeth Blackwell Herb Garden; Fernery; Shrubbery; terraced lawn, with Ha Ha, a ditch, invisible from a distance, which would keep grazing animals back from the house; treed avenue of lime trees which conveniently led to the inn; and in the distance, an ancient tithe-barn that had been relocated to the property at a cost of £350,000 by Sainsburys to facilitate one of their developments. This is to be turned into a future visitor centre and exhibition space for Chawton House.

It was then afternoon tea and the assembled were welcomed by Chawton's Executive Director Dr Gillian Dow, who outlined her aspirations for the Library with challenging times ahead. The assembled heartily thanked the Chawton House team for hosting the Conference.

In the evening, dinner was had at the Greyfriar Inn, a 16th century coaching inn with much-smoke blackened wood beams, located in Chawton, opposite the Jane Austen House Museum. Most of the party was in a quaint dining room at the top of a steep staircase.

On Saturday morning some of the delegates, who had walked from Chawton and beyond, looked in on St Nicholas' Church, where someone was playing the organ, an electronic one, which had been installed in the original casing in 2013. The Church was constructed between 1225 and 1250, and it was passed to the Bishop of Winchester by the Knight family in 1953 when the Farrington and Chawton benefices were joined.

The '**Bricks, Shelves, Books and People: Building for the Future**' Conference was opened at 9.50 by Independent Libraries'

Association Chair **Emma Marigliano** and the Presidential Address was delivered by **Dr Robert Anderson** who reviewed his time as President since 2003 and the progress of IAL, now ILA. Robert indicated he was stepping down as ILA President, since he was now living in Philadelphia.

In Session 1 'Histories and Contexts' **Catherine Kerrigan**, from the University of South Australia presented a Paper 'The Independent Library: Definition, Typology and Characteristics' which took delegates on an exploration of just 'What is an Independent Library?' having regard to the plethora of existing types. By way of slides, Catherine clinically took delegates through her lucid and logical classification of the various library types. Indeed original and welcome research.

Next speaker was **Eve Hartley**, an Arts and Humanities Research Council Heritage Consortium PHD candidate, based on the University of Huddersfield. Eve gave an explanatory and well-illustrated tour of 'How to Read Your Reading Room: Architecture, Collections and Connections' and how buildings, activities and heritage collections connect with today's users.

Present at the Conference was **David Pearson**, who had authored *Books as History: The Importance of Books Beyond Their Texts*. David gave the Foxcroft Lecture in Melbourne in 2013.

The Keynote was given by **Mark Purcell**, Deputy Director of Research Collections, University of Cambridge, on 'The Country House Library'. This fascinating journey highlighted the difficulty and search in establishing just what libraries existed in the various large country houses in the UK and what remnants still exist.

Mark also mentioned the advantage of legislation which waives Inheritance Tax on library collections or items, on the proviso that the items or the collection be accessible to the public. Mark's book *The Country House Library* is due for publication by Yale University Press in October 2017.

A generous lunch was served in the Old Kitchen with much valuable networking. Then came the Independent Libraries Association 28th Annual General Meeting, at which Emma Marigliano was returned as Chair and **Neil Pearson** was elected as President. **Louisa Yates** was re-elected as Secretary.

Session 2 'Treasures' then followed, with **Andrea Del Corno**, Italian specialist and curator,

at the London Library which was established by Thomas Carlyle in 1841. Andrea spoke on 'Fit for a Wedding: The London Library's *Per Nozze* Collection'. Centred around weddings in Italy, the limited publication of verse or prose is a local tradition that stretches back over centuries. The London Library collection 'For a Wedding' livres d'occasion editions is of exceptional interest to those looking at Italian customs and life down through centuries, and is world ranked.

Paper 2 was given by Louisa Yates, Gladstone Library's Director of Collections and Research and founding Festival Director of **Gladfest** now in its fourth year. Her talk 'Castles of Knowledge: Gladstone's Crenelated Bookshelves' was based on William Ewart Gladstone's essay 'On Books and the Housing of Them' published in 1898. Louisa showcased the process of Gladstone's 'hands on' design of St Deniol's Library (since 2010 known as Gladstone's Library), at Hawarden, North Wales, with its sliding stacks and crenelated bookcases.

The evening dinner was at the Swan Hotel, in High Street, Alton. The Swan's history dates back to 1499, but its current building exists largely from 1777 when it was converted to a coaching inn, providing accommodation.

Sunday's program started with Session 3 'Collaborations: Independent Libraries and Universities'. The first Paper 'Enabling Partnerships and Cooperation Across Sectors', was by **Katharine Hogg**, Librarian of the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, Foundling Museum, Bloomsbury, London. It has its genesis in the Foundling Hospital established in 1739 by Thomas Coram (1668-1751) and assisted by artist William Hogarth (1697-1764) and composer George Frideric Handel (1685-1759). This was the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery.

Businessman and philanthropist **Gerald Coke** (1907-90) spent the greater part of the 20th century assembling a world class collection of materials relating to composer George Frideric Handel and his contemporaries. It includes books, scores, libretti, manuscripts, art works, sound recordings, periodicals and ephemera. The collection was willed to the Foundling Museum. The Museum has developed strategic partnerships with: Goldsmiths University for music teaching and research; University of the Arts, Camberwell and West Dean College, University of Sussex, for conservation; and University College London, for archive studies. The Foundling Museum also collaborates with

the Handel House Museum in London's Mayfair sharing the care of collections and exhibition resources. It also works with the London Handel Festival, various professional performers and academic groups to present exhibitions, concerts and events.

Paper 2 'Independent Libraries Catalogues and Scholarly Communication' was delivered jointly by **Anne Welsh**, Lecturer in Library and Information Studies, University College London and **Gary Butler**, Library Assistant, Gladstone's Library.

This challenging paper went through the subject of enhanced cataloguing and data creation. Both lecturers had an intimate knowledge of Gladstone's Library and its books, many of which carry extensive marginalia which enhance the text by way of correction, comment or providing additional information. Then there are the additional details of the book, its design, manufacture, binder or bookseller labels and often its various owners. Many such titles exist in Independent Libraries.

A welcome Morning Tea followed, with break out into a then sun-drenched courtyard, where time was spent catching up and making new acquaintances.



L-R: Caroline Archer, Alexandre Parre and Connie Wan from Birmingham

Photo: Chawton House Library Facebook

Session 4 'Library Networks: Public Engagement and Impact'. A joint Panel of three, who represented Birmingham-based libraries, addressed 'Shared Solutions to Common Problems' and showed how co-operation happens and works. All presenters manage small entities, which are not the core business of larger organisations. To survive and be relevant they

have to sell themselves to the outside world and their parent 'company', for funding and support. Interestingly, each library is also managed by a non-professional librarian, but clearly a person of passion which drives the individual departments.

Paper 1 was given by **Alexandre Parre**, Custodian of Archives, at the Birmingham Assay Office, as well as Conservator at the National Trust's Charlecote Park, Warwickshire and an active member of the [John] Baskerville Society, which looks at the work of Birmingham's famous printer. Established in 1773, the Birmingham Assay Office was located in Birmingham's jewellery quarter. Birmingham's mark is the anchor and the office was relocated to a new purpose-built building in 2015.

Connie Wan, Program Development Manager, Birmingham and Midland Institute, followed with Paper 2. Connie manages the Library Collection and the creation of the Institute's programming of cultural events. Her particular interest is focused around nineteenth century visual art and culture with an emphasis on art education, production and consumption. The original Birmingham Library was established in 1779 and today is but part of the dynamic Institute which is largely driven as a meeting and theatre venue.

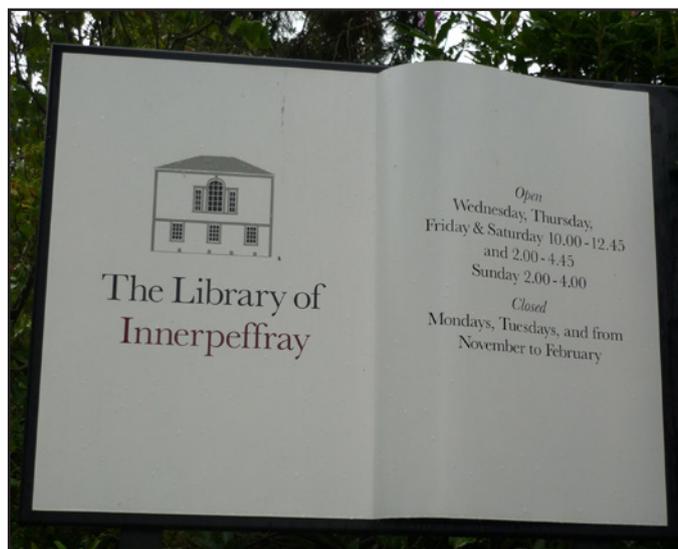
Paper 3 was delivered by **Caroline Archer**, Professor of Typography, Director of the Centre for Printing History and Culture at the Birmingham City University. Caroline curates a specialist library and archive of books, periodicals, printed materials and artifacts which reflect Birmingham's printing and typographic history from the 18th-20th centuries. Whilst the collection is housed at the University, it is not owned by them.

ILA Chair, Emma Marigliano, Chaired Session 5 'The Future'. This provided for wide ranging discussion on greater regional, national and even international cooperation. Regional meetings of ILA members were being planned. An enhanced website would highlight the 'assets' of ILA members. Open days and greater outreach provided opportunities for Library members to gain public support and hopefully increased revenue. The production of a book along the line of that of America's Membership Libraries, but with a single author/editor was also discussed as was the need to make ILA more visible to the public for members.

Forthcoming Conferences/Meetings: **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018 - Ballarat** 16-18 November 2018; and **Mechanics' Worldwide 2021 - Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh** were mentioned.

The ongoing need for greater international cooperation was highlighted and it was suggested that this be integrated by way of the **International Cooperative Research Project on Mechanics' Institutes** which was being facilitated by the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria (Australia) through their magazine *Useful Knowledge*.

It was agreed that the 'Conference' model for the ILA AGM was a resounding success and that a similar format would form the next meeting which will be hosted at the **Innerpeffray Library** near Crieff, Perthshire, Scotland on 1-3 June 2018.



ROBERT BEDFORD AND THE KYANCUTTA INSTITUTE

From time to time one comes across an incredible Institute story and the following is one that we felt worth telling in detail.

Located on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, Kyancutta is a village with a current population of around thirty. The railway went through the area in 1913 and the siding was named Polkdinney Tank, but was renamed Kyancutta when the township was established in May 1917. The name supposedly comes from Aboriginal 'kanjakatari' kanja 'stone' and katari 'surface water' or 'water on rocks'.

Kyancutta is a notable grazing and wheat belt region and wheat silos were established there and are still operational, currently being held by Glencore. The Kyancutta School was built in 1918, opened in 1919 and closed in 1945. Polkdinney Park opened in 1986 to commemorate 150 years of settlement and the names of early settlers are carved in the fence posts surrounding the Park.



Robert Arthur Buddicom, alias Robert Bedford (1874-1951), about 1900.

The first meeting of the Kyancutta Institute was held in **Robert Bedford's** home on 21 July 1917. **Joseph** and **Thomas O'Loghlen** were members. The foundation stone was laid on 15 June 1918 and the Hall opened on 19 September 1918 with **Joseph Anthony O'Loghlen**

(1890-1954) as President and he remained so for the next twenty-four years. All of the above were Institute trustees.

The Hall was extended in 1920, a kitchen added in 1940 and in 1968 a new foyer, supper room and kitchen were added to the side of the Hall.

A Library appears to have been conducted from the Institute until at least the late 1930s when it was transferred to Robert Bedford's Museum Institute.

The Kyancutta Comedy Kompany was formed in 1931 and it staged productions in the Hall and around the district for several years.

Likewise the Red Cross was formed in the 1930s and went through into the 1950s. Similarly the RSL met in the Hall and appears to have been formed in 1933 and continued until about 2000.

In March 1936 a Pioneers' Dinner was held in the Hall to celebrate the centenary of the first settlement of the area. The evening was chaired by **AW Barnes**, who had been a resident of the district for forty years. It was noted that 'more than 180 pioneers and friends' had gathered for the occasion.

The Kyancutta Country Women's Association Branch was opened on 2 July 1936 and consistently met in the Hall, and from 1938 staged their annual Flower Show and Ball. Music was provided by Mrs McMahan's Merrymakers' Orchestra and Cyril Clement Holman (1899-1983) acted as MC. The CWA constantly fundraised for the Hall and after fitting out the kitchen, they resolved in 1950 to purchase a piano for the Hall.

The Mothers' and Babies' Health Association used the Hall free of charge for visiting nurses from the 1930s until a purpose-built centre was erected in 1947.

The Institute became the place for many 'community building meetings', school concerts, and fundraisers particularly for the building of the Church of St Patrick.

Robert Bedford appears to have been longtime Institute Secretary and the Minute books of Institute still survive. His son Bill was elected President in 1948 and served several terms.

In 1962 RSL member and World War I veteran **Alfred Joseph Olsen** (1894-1974), donated a 25 pounder Howitzer field gun to the community and this was originally sited next to the Hall, but has since been relocated to Polkdinney Park.

The Hall was sold into private ownership in 2004. The money realised went to the Kyancutta Community Club which established Community Centre on the Recreation Ground in Bedford Road.

Synonymous with Kyancutta and Institute life from 1915 until the 1950s, were the enigmatic **Robert Bedford**, alias **Buddicom**, and his wife **Hilda**. The Bedford family held a reunion on the weekend of 3-4 October 2015 to celebrate the centenary of their arrival at the remote Polkdinney railway siding in 1915. The event was hosted by **Ned** and **Margaret Luscombe**. Saturday saw the relaunch of the book 'Robert Bedford of Kyancutta' with a photographic

ROBERT BEDFORD AND KYANCUTTA CONT...

display. A dinner was held in the evening with several speakers covering the life of Robert and Hilda. On Sunday there was a tour of the original homestead, cemetery, museum and aerodrome.

Robert Arthur Buddicom was born in Ticklerton, Shropshire, England on 7 November 1874. He was educated first at Charterhouse, then Uppingham School, and progressed to Keble College, Oxford, where he studied biology and physiology and obtained a BA, with Honours in 1897. He was awarded a scholarship to **Anton Dohrn's** privately funded Stazione Zoologica (Biological Station) at Naples, Italy 1897-98 where he studied marine science.

Robert was Curator of the Plymouth Museum and Gallery from 1900-01, then ran a market garden at Shiplake, Oxfordshire, and from 1906-14 he worked as a part-time demonstrator and lecturer at the London Hospital Medical College.

In 1915 he became involved in a court action concerning a prospectus of a failed business venture Stolz Electrophone Co (1913) Ltd and he decided to migrate to Australia.

He arrived in Sydney with his second wife and two children in 1915, learned of the availability of land in South Australia and acquired a block in the Polkdinney district.

On arrival at his 2000 acre holding he built a homestead from scratch, utilising the available materials of timber and stone.



Ethel Hilda Bedford, nee Lewis (1890-1977), aged about 20 years

Robert and Hilda put their energies into establishing Kyancutta as a regional settlement with appropriate infrastructure. On the farm they opened a co-op cash store with a Post Office agency attached and also ran 'a pie stall' for railway workers and others.

The establishment of a Primary School was their next mission, with Robert as Secretary of Kyancutta Progress and Vigilance Committee and this was opened with teacher **Henry J McKenna** in March 1919 and closed for want of numbers in 1949, just before Robert's death.

The need for a hospital in the remote region was readily apparent and so the Kyancutta Cottage Hospital and Medical Club was established in 1920 and the Hospital was operational by 1924.

His wife Hilda, who appears to have qualified as a midwife, was Hospital Matron and from the ninety-eight recorded confinements, there were ninety-nine successful deliveries. Robert appeared to work as its physician and as a veterinary surgeon, albeit without official qualifications.

In 1924 Robert launched radio station 5RB to further the cause of the district and opened a railway refreshment room in 1925 to welcome visitors. He purchased the store and Post Office in 1926 and this has continued in family ownership since then.

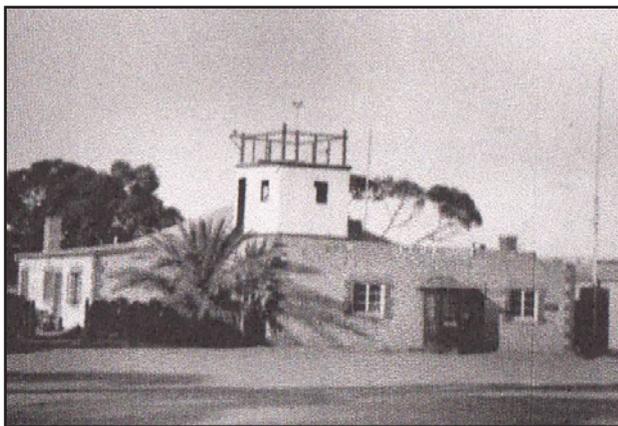
The region opened up a whole range of new anthropological, scientific and geological opportunities and he set about recording and collecting in the field. His interest in palaeontology and particularly meteorites was to gain him world wide respect.

In 1923 he had his sister Lilian ship over from England his collection of specimens and his book collection which may have been aggregated from various family members including his clergyman grandfather Rev. Robert Joseph Buddicom (1815-95) and engineer great-uncle William Barber Buddicom (1816-87).

In 1926 it was noted that 'Mr R Bedford of the Kyancutta Hospital and Museum had been on a collecting trip securing 'specimens of native curios, fossils and whale bones'.

In September 1927 Robert appealed in the press for animal specimens and stated 'he would like them to be sent alive; but failing this, dead specimens would be acceptable'.

The development of aviation saw a need to gather regional weather data and he acquired the appropriate instruments and started to provide meteorological data to Bureau of Meteorology in Adelaide. In 1928 Kynacutta was declared an official weather station with readings being taken at 3am and 6am daily.



The Kyancutta Museum Institute, built in 1929, showing weather tower added in 1951

In 1929 an aerodrome was established on the Bedford property. This provided a refuelling point for the Westralian Airways intercity service between Adelaide and Perth. Robert formed Eyre Peninsula Airways in 1929 and ran it until its closure in 1935. In the meantime the aerodrome was used for aviation-based missionaries and medics.

In 1930 **Amy Johnson** landed here on the way to Perth. The airport was used during World War II, for training and was also utilised as a 24/7 plane spotting station, with a roster organised by the Bedfords.

In 1929 he, with the assistance of two Italian day labourers, built and furnished the Kyancutta Museum Institute. In the main 7mx11m exhibition hall he set up an 'excellently arranged' display 'to demonstrate the evolution of man from primitive matter' from his ethnological, faunal and geological specimens. (Interestingly there is a second edition copy of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* in his extant book collection.)

The Natural [History] Museum 'under the auspices of the local institute', was officially opened on 26 June 1929 by State Governor **Lord Gowrie** 'to be freely accessible to the public'. Its Constitution provided clear objectives: publish

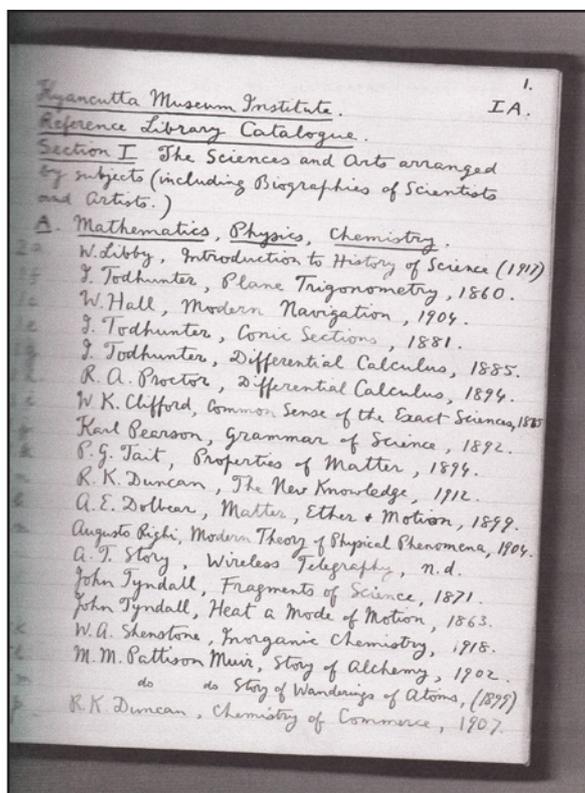


Robert Bedford in the Kyancutta Museum Institute. Photo from Walkabout, May 1st, 1949.

annual reports; engage in field collecting trips; promote research particularly in regard to the Eyre Peninsula and the north-western parts of South Australia; to provide an educational and indexed collection of natural history and archaeology; correspond and exchange with other museums; and publish memoirs from, time to time.

Robert's personal aspiration for the Museum was to act as a 'Pioneer in the movement for establishing Museum and Library facilities in country districts.'

The Museum contained artifacts and examples from the various civilisations: Egyptian; Greek; Roman; Chinese; and Indian. Some specimens from the collection of British Egyptologist and scientist **Sir Robert Ludwig Mond** (1867-1938) were bequeathed

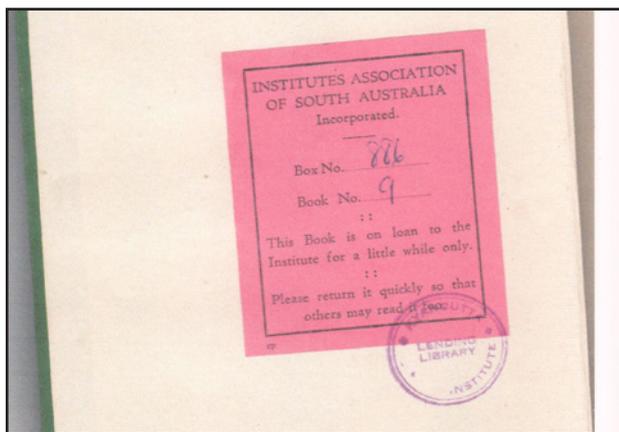


Page 1 of a 213 page of the Kyancutta Museum Institute Reference Library Catalogue, in Robert Bedford's handwriting.

to the Museum.

In 1933, when the Port Adelaide Institute Museum was being dispersed Robert acquired 'a large number of zoological and mineral specimens for Kyancutta'.

From the Museum base he traded widely in meteorite, particularly from the Henbury site in Central Australia, and fossil specimens from



Kyancutta Institute Lending Library book stamp on Institutes Association of South Australia bookplate showing book box number and book number

the Ajax Mine at Beltana and conducted a wide correspondence.

His ongoing research work, in collaboration with his daughter Joan, on archaeocyathinae and related fossils, resulted in the description of thirty-two new species and eight new genera. Details of the Museum's collections and research activities were recorded in *Memoirs of the Kyancutta Museum 1934-39*.

The Museum mounted an exhibition of eight cases of 'Evolution' at the Adelaide Centennial Exhibition in 1936, which had been trucked 'four hundred' miles by road from Kyancutta. It also exhibited a collection of its archaeocyathinae at the Science Congress in Auckland in 1937, where it was represented by the Bedfords' daughter **Joan**, who presented a Paper.

In 1937 he intimated that 'it is time for a high class library [to be established], also run on a free basis'. The Library was housed in a 3m x 6m room adjacent to the Museum exhibition hall. Two other small rooms led off the hall, one was an office and the other a store. From its opening in 1929 Robert and his wife appear to have assumed the library function for the Institute.

He was also skilled in communication and wrote numerous press articles and published pamphlets on: *New Species of Archaeocyathinae and Other Organisms from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* (Kyancutta: Museum, 1934); *Further Notes on Cyathosongia (Archaeocyathi) and Other Organisms from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* (Kyancutta: Museum, 1936); *Anatomy and Classification of the Cyathosongia (Archaeos) from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* (Kyancutta, Museum, 1937); *An Outline of Biosophy: Part 1* (Kyancutta: Museum, 1938);

Development and Classification of Archaeos (Pleospongia) (Kyancutta: Museum, 1939); *Tee-ni-bi-di Morse: A new Rationalised System for the Quick and Easy Learning of Morse Signals and particularly of Morse Reception* (Kyancutta: Author, 1941), on Morse code; *Those Freedoms* (Adelaide: Hunkins, Ellis & King, 1943), on freedom of religion; and with his daughter, Joan, *Further Notes on Archaeos (Pleospongia) from the Lower Cambrian of South Australia* (Kyancutta: Museum, 1937); and *Development and Classification of Archaeos (Pleospongia)* (Kynacutta: Museum, 1939)

There was one bit of usual community infrastructure Robert did not support and he and his fellow citizens solidly voted down the establishment of a hotel at Kyancutta.

Robert had first married **Laura Lucie Finlay** (1877-1949), at Paddington, London, on 1 January 1900. They had three children, a son and two daughters. After their divorce Laura married Frederick William Norsworthy.

From Robert's marriage with Ethel Hilda Lewis (1890-1977), there were two sons, William Rudolf 'Bill' (1909-1972) and Robert (1926-). Both served during World War II. There were also four daughters: Hilda Joan (1913-2000), who was his Secretary and Museum Manager; Sylvia (1917-2005); Bessie (1919); and Brunhild (1923-)

Robert Bedford died in the Central Eyre Peninsula Hospital, Wudinna on 14 February 1951, aged 76 and is buried in the Kyancutta Cemetery. Hilda died on 12 May 1977 and is also buried in the Kyancutta Cemetery. During Robert's busy life, he maintained a series of diaries which record personal and family life and these exist with the family.

The Museum shut its doors in 1972 with items going to: Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne; Museum of South Australia; Australian National University; and Museum of Victoria.

The University of Adelaide's Barr-Smith Library 'has a large collection of Bedford's manuscripts, notes and other records relating to his interests in natural history, meteorites, palaeontology and Egyptian antiquities'.

The long vacant Museum Institute building was converted to a residence in 2004 by his grandson Ned Luscombe and his wife Margaret.

Thank you to Ned and Margaret Luscombe for providing material and assistance in compiling this article.

Featured Institute

MOONAMBEL MECHANICS' INSTITUTE



Moonambel, at the foot of the Pyrenees in central western Victoria, is a former goldmining area. Originally known as Mountain Creek, the rush of 1860 saw some 30,000 people gather in the area, but the rush was shortlived and the diggings and the town were largely abandoned by the late 1860s. Today the area is known for grazing sheep and cattle and the production of fine wines.

A site for a Mechanics' Institute was reserved on the north-west corner of Grant and Brooke Streets, Moonambel on 26 March 1901. It comprised an area of nineteen perches and Trustees: Charles William Castleman (1871-1949), George Peacock (1861-1940), a farmer, and David McIntosh Stuart (1873-1935), a storekeeper, were duly appointed.

The first Moonambel Mechanics' Institute Hall was built in 1901 and had a distinctive internal pressed metal panel ceiling. There was an external structure which housed a bricked-



in copper, which was stoked with wood, and provided hot water for suppers and other events.

The Hall was opened in 1901 with a well attended concert and ball. This was the first of many memorable times in the Hall, ranging from: Church, school and organisation meetings and fundraisers; travelling shows; visiting picture show men; family celebrations, birthday parties, kitchen teas and weddings; farewells to families who were leaving the district; and final farewell wakes.

In 1911 it was noted 'that extensive repairs will be carried out' to the Moonambel Hall. These may have been necessitated after the 1909 floods.

Following on the planting of the Avenue of Honour earlier in 1918, it is noted in the press of December 1918 under 'Honor Board: The Moonambel residents have secured a beautiful honor board, which will be placed in the Public Hall. The Board contains the names of 65 heroes.' The Moonambel District Honor Roll or Board was unveiled on 19 December 1918, at 8pm, by Shire President Cr George Peacock.

The Honour Board was carved, assembled and signwritten by Heinrich Christian 'Herman' Classen (1872-1955), the cabinetmaker and undertaker in Avoca and it has stood the test of time, and flood.

In reference to the latter, we note the Institute was washed away on 3 December 1933. A press report noted: 'Moonambel Hall Gone. The flood was very severe at Moonambel where the

Mechanics' hall was completely swept away down the creek. The piano was dumped among some acacia trees in [Frederick] Date's old garden and is probably ruined. No trace has yet been found of the soldiers' honour board and it is no doubt in the bottom of the creek.'

Another account reads: 'At Moonambel, the hall was completely washed away and the piano was carried for a quarter of a mile.' And 'A large party of men recovered portion of the timber of the Moonambel Hall from Mountain Creek, and removed it to the Council's yards. Part of the hall is still wedged against the Archdale-bridge many miles from its original site.'

The 1930s were not good times for rural districts, but it is clear that the rebuilding of the hall was a priority as the *Argus*, of 16 July 1937, reveals: 'Other Districts: Avoca - It has been decided to build a new public hall at Moonambel. The former building was wrecked by floods three [four] years ago, and since that time near [£]550 has been raised toward the fund. The new committee of management will consist of Messrs S [Sidney] Dunell (President), W [Walter] Barnes (Treasurer) and T [Thomas] Hope Jnr (Secretary).'

The building of the new hall went ahead on a new site in Woods Street and cost about £600, with only £96 owing at the time of its opening on Friday, 19 November 1937.

This was a 'red letter' day Moonambel. The day started with a sports meeting, followed by tea at the Hall. The Hall was then opened Mrs Annie Summerfield (nee Bannister), who turned the key and Alex McDonald, MLA opened the door. Then Annie and her husband, Walter Summerfield, walked into the hall. A concert followed and then a dance which went well into the morning.

Over the years hall lighting progressed from the kerosene hurricane lamp to the Gloria lights, which were run on gas that had to be pumped up at a cylinder, and the mantles had to be pre-heated. Then in the 1950s George Driscoll from the local garage provided a 32volt set with an engine and generator. Finally the State grid electricity arrived in Moonambel in November 1962. The Hall was packed for the switch-on which was recorded



in a page pictorial feature in the *Weekly Times* of 23 January 1963.

An enduring feature of Hall life was the catering, provided by generations of dedicated ladies, which has sustained Hall events. In the more stressful times of bushfire the Hall has been pressed into service as a hospitality and meeting hub. These 'hidden' volunteers have formed the backbone of all hall-based fundraising.

The traditional fare of sandwiches, slices, cakes and sponges, has in more recent times been supplemented thanks to the availability of refrigeration and heating facilities. Now soup, pies, sausage rolls, cocktail frankfurts, and Chinese savouries vary the menu.

Moonambel had its share of glory in the 1970s with Premierships in Lexton Football League in 1973 and 1979 and the banners, now getting rather 'brittle', proudly hang in the Hall.

In the late 1980s, the progressive upgrade of the Hall started with the installation of a new floor and the painting of the Hall's interior.

An electric wiring upgrade of the Hall proved a tad overdue in 1991, when during a wedding reception, and various electrical appliances were in use in the kitchen heating food, the fuse on the roadside pole blew. Car headlights were brought into play and food was heated at various town homes and returned to the Hall, which was then lit by CFA floodlights.

Replacement of the aging weatherboards, with HardiePlank, started in 1996 and this was finally completed



in 1998. One feature that was retained from the old walls was the Ticket Box window on the front right hand corner of the building. This opened to a booth structure inside, which provided security and privacy for the ticket seller. This box has been long since been removed, but the ticket window remains.

A new toilet block, with three female and two male closets, was built beside the Hall in 1998 and a pressure pump was installed to service these.

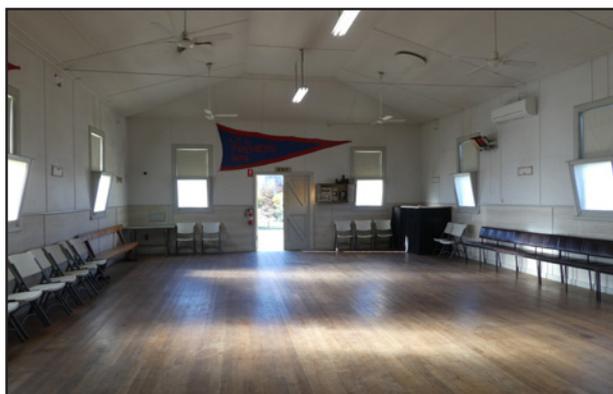
The year of 1999 was one of frenetic activity at the Hall. The wall cladding was competed, the roof was replaced and new plumbing was connected to a new 5000 litre water tank. The Honour Board had been retrieved from 'private' storage and a glass was fitted to its front to prevent further deterioration of its goldleaf lettering. New curtains were also installed around the windows.



To the right of the stage hangs a distinctive clock, its face being the slice of tree trunk, adorned with colored leadlight bird and flowers. It was crafted by the late **Gordon Campbell Ross**, longtime carpenter and odd jobs man at the Hall. He gifted it to the Hall on the occasion of his leaving the district. Gordon Ross died in Melbourne in 2007 and was buried in the Moonambel Cemetery.

In 2014 the kitchen area, at the rear of the stage, was restumped and the floor levelled. The kitchen received a complete makeover with new benches, double bowl sink, and a suite of new electrical goods, stove/oven, microwave, fridge, urns and pie warmers. The kitchen was also restocked with crockery and cutlery and kitchen utensils to facilitate wider community use.

To enable comfortable year round use of the Hall, community fundraising made it possible to install airconditioning in 2015, to augment the ceiling fans installed in 1999, in the summer.



This compliments the gas wall heaters used in winter.

The Moonambel Arts and History Group (MAHG), formed in 2003, also support and stage events and exhibitions in the Hall. MAHG was 2012 winner of the National Volunteer Award: Innovation in Volunteering.

The Hall is home to the Moonambel Community Theatre Company (MCTC), established in 2004 by two retired opera singers. The group has: extended the stage by about a metre further into the Hall, which makes it approximately 3.7 metres deep and 7 metres wide; installed stage lighting; and provided a public address system. New stage curtains have also been installed thanks to a local maker. MCTC have a props and costumes store at the rear of the Supper Room.

The Company usually stages at least two shows a year and in recent times these activities have been under the direction of **Gwynn van den Bergen**.

In addition to being the long-running polling booth for State and Federal elections, there has also been Avoca, and more recently Pyrenees, Shire use not only for elections but information meetings. Church services are also held in the Hall.

The Hall also hosts: a regular Playgroup; weekly afternoon card games; and the Annual Moonambel Ladies' Christmas Dinner. In addition community groups hold meetings and stage events, exemplified by: CFA, old time dances; Football Club, cabaret balls; and Tennis Club, fundraisers.

Then there are the occasional: Art and craft exhibitions; debutante balls; jumble sales; markets; and auctions. The Hall is an ever reliable venue.

Now everything is in readiness for the Moonambel Mechanics' Hall's big eightieth birthday celebrations focussing on 25 November. Contact: Jill Hunter (03) 5467 2211; Email: douglas.diva@activ8.net.au

DEFINING AND TYPING THE INDEPENDENT LIBRARY

BY CATHERINE E KERRIGAN

It may surprise members of this Association to learn that a formal definition for what constitutes an independent library currently does not exist. Geoffrey Forster, writing about the members of the Association of Independent Libraries (now the Independent Libraries Association) identified four different types of independent libraries: subscription libraries, mechanics institutes, literary and philosophical societies and, in a category on its own, the London Library (1995). The Independent Research Libraries Association (IRLA) set out three criteria for membership of the Association which included having collections of national or international significance; being privately endowed independent institutions; and collecting, promoting research, and providing access as their purpose (n.d.). This is not a definition as such as it applies only to a small number of independent research libraries.

So what is an independent library? To establish that, I surveyed nearly 400 independent libraries around the world using website and document analysis and, where possible, library visits. I looked for common characteristics amongst these and identified five characteristics of independent libraries.

The first of these characteristics is that independent libraries do not have parent organisations to provide them with governance. They govern themselves.

The second characteristic arises as consequence of that: they have to raise their own funds. This can be seen in IRLA's criterion that they be privately endowed institutions.

The third characteristic might seem a little odd but is important in identifying independent libraries: the independent library owns its collection. This characteristic arises from the fact that, as a consequence of having to raise their own funds, many independent libraries come to hosting arrangements with other institutions. Examples include the **Sybil Campbell Collection** at the University of Winchester, and the **Warburg Institute** at the University of London.

A fourth characteristic is that the library is a primary activity or activity of equal importance. To illustrate this characteristic, we can compare the **Huntington Library** to the **Tate Gallery** library. The research library at the Tate Gallery is a support function for the Tate Gallery. In contrast, the Huntington Library (comprising a rare book and manuscript collection developed by its founder, Henry Huntington) is a research destination in its own right and not a support function to the Huntington Art Collections. The library stands as

an equally important activity to the Huntington Art collections. Consequently, the Huntington Library is an independent library (The Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Botanical Gardens 2017).

Finally a characteristic which may seem trivial and possibly superfluous is that these are nonprofit organisations. However, I include this characteristic to exclude a couple of libraries which are commercial entities: these are the **Barbara and Leonard Littman Architecture and Design Library** in New Jersey and **Material Connexion** in New York which are both for-profit organisations whose customers are in business and industry.

These characteristics now provide us with a definition for the independent library and that is: an independent library is a nonprofit organisation that governs itself, raises its own funds, owns its collection, and which includes the library as a primary activity.

Of course there are other issues to consider as well. The first is to include independent archives within the notion of independent libraries. There are two reasons for this: firstly independent libraries use the terms library and archive interchangeably. For example the **Internet Archive** calls itself an archive and states on its website that it is a digital library (n.d.). Furthermore many independent libraries and archives have both library and archival materials in their collections.

The other issue is that there are also different types of independent library when one examines the characteristics. If we look at their functions, collection focus, and type-specific characteristics, we can see these different types of independent libraries emerging. As a consequence, I have identified seven different types of independent libraries: subscription, research, independent public, commemorative, artists, expatriate, and citizen libraries.

Subscription libraries are the original public libraries and their function can be summarised as learning and leisure – what we used to refer to as useful knowledge and rational recreation. Their collection focus is general and many are indistinguishable to those of public libraries. In addition they may have historic and special collections. In terms of type-specific characteristics, they charge annual memberships fees and are usually housed in heritage buildings. Examples include the **Melbourne Athenaeum** and the **Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts**.

Independent research libraries have a different function: that of research and preservation. The collection focus is usually single subject, however broadly or narrowly defined that may be. For

example the **Linda Hall Library** in the USA covers science, technology and engineering. In contrast the **Wood Library Museum** focuses on the history of anaesthesiology. The collections are generally historic and special. In terms of type-specific characteristics, they may charge membership fees and most of them were founded in the 20th or 21st centuries.

Independent public libraries have the same function as public libraries, meaning learning and leisure. The collection focus is general. But they differ from subscription libraries in their type-specific characteristics in that they are free to use and rely upon philanthropy. An example of an independent public library is the **Berwick Mechanics' Institute and Free Library**.

The function of *commemorative libraries* is to commemorate the life and work of an individual. The core collection focuses on the life and work of the individual concerned and may extend to their interests. In terms of type-specific characteristics, they often incorporate museums or exhibition spaces. Examples include the **Britten-Pears Foundation**: it is the UK's premier music research library but the core of the collection is Benjamin Britten's archives and the music library he put together. Another example is the **Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library** in the US.

Artist libraries are very different to other types of independent libraries. That is because they function both as libraries and as artworks. Collection focus is variable and relates to the artist's intent. In terms of type-specific characteristics, they are usually created by artists and frequently invert traditional library practices. Examples include the **Prelinger Library** in San Francisco and the **Reanimation Library** in New York.

Expatriate libraries have as their primary function providing access to foreign language materials. As a consequence, their collection focus is foreign language materials. Expatriate libraries include English language libraries in Europe and Asia, Korean language libraries in Japan and even a Catalan language library in the USA. Examples include the **American Library** in Paris and the **English Library** in Vevey, Switzerland.

Citizen libraries could be divided into three subtypes: however they are united by type-specific characteristics. Three main functions can be identified for these libraries: these are to foster literacy and reading, to collect and preserve local community heritage, or to counter dominant narratives. Collection focus can be general, local community heritage, or radical, alternative and anarchist collections. Anarchists are particularly attracted to libraries as one of the few institutions that they accept. Citizen libraries are marked by informal governance; they are grass roots,

volunteer-led efforts; and there may be umbrella organisations that promote and support their efforts. Examples of these libraries include the **Occupy Wall Street Archives**, the **Kate Sharpley Anarchist Library**, and of course the **Little Free Library** movement.

Readers of this journal may wonder where Mechanics' Institutes fit into these particular types of libraries. This depends on the individual library: some may be subscription libraries, some independent public libraries and some research libraries. As noted by Martyn Walker of the University of Huddersfield, Mechanics' Institutes originated to serve three main functions: as community centres, libraries and educational institutes. Over time, they have evolved in three different directions depending on the individual institute. Many in Australia have become community centres whilst some have remained as libraries. In the United Kingdom many of them have now become universities (Walker 2016).

If you are interested in seeing which other libraries around the world are independent or even within Australia, then further information is available online. To view the list of these nearly 400 libraries that were examined for this research, please visit bit.ly/ind_lib_list. These libraries have also been mapped on Google maps which can be found at bit.ly/ind_lib_gmap. A bibliography of books and papers relating to independent libraries can also be found at bit.ly/ind_lib_biblio.

Acknowledgements

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Around Victoria's Institutes

This column is comprised of contributed articles and those written 'in house'. Whilst care has been taken to ensure dates and facts, the scant history of Institutes makes it an impossible task to verify these. If you find a date, spelling or fact incorrect let us know and we will publish amendments in our next issue. Our newsletter is indexed to enable histories of various Institutes to be aggregated over time.

ALLANSFORD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1873)



Allansford Hall Committee, L-R: -, Caroline Onyett, -, Geoff Parsons, Judy Walters, Warrnambool City Council Mayor, Cr Kylie Gaston, Beverley Byron, -, Marianne McCulloch, Allan McCulloch, Jeff Uebergang, Chris Wilkinson.
(Photo: Warrnambool City Council)

The Allansford Mechanics' Hall passed into Warrnambool City Council ownership in the 1990s and since then it has been managed by a local Committee of Management. The long-running current Honorary Secretary is **Beverley Byron** and she is a great-granddaughter of James Anderson who had donated the former tennis court site alongside the Hall. This is now used as a car park.

In May 2017 the Hall underwent a major upgrade with a new roof, varnished internal ceilings, and 'flash completely renovated toilets'. The Project was funded by Warrnambool City Council's Small Infrastructure Fund (\$60,000) and the Institute (\$16,000).

The Committee's close working relationship with Warrnambool Council has ensured the Hall is well resourced and maintained.

ARTHURS CREEK MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1886)

From the distinctive 'For Bookings' sign on the front of the Hall, it is a most welcoming place. Their '**We'll Meet Again**' a concert and dance remembering the 'Welcome Home Celebrations' in the Hall for returning Diggers after WWI was held on 20 May

2017. It was a truly memorable occasion with all the old wartime songs, screened memorabilia, etc. and the usual AC 'super supper'. There is even a 40 page photographic record available for purchase. A link is available on their Facebook page.

BADGER CREEK HALL (Est. 1924)



Attached please see a photo of our newly built **Pop Up Library** situated on roadside in front of Badger Creek Hall. The establishment of this community facility was the brain child of our **Badger Creek & District Men's Shed** group – tenants of the Badger Creek Hall.

With a capacity of just approximately 30 books – this is proving popular with adults and children alike. Simply just bring a book – take a book – no fuss!

Visit our Pop Up Library at 358 Badger Creek Road, Badger Creek – possibly en route to Healesville Sanctuary?

Kathleen Cameron, Secretary,
Badger Creek Hall Committee of Management
Website: badgercreekhall.org.au

BALLAARAT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1859)

Ballaarat's online Newsletter and Calendar of Events has something for everyone. The Friends of Ballaarat Mechanics' are planning a Shopping Trip to Melbourne in October, which will visit ten outlets. Tours are now being conducted at the Institute every Saturday at 10.30am. Website: ballaratmi.org.au

BIRREGURRA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1865)

As part of Birregurra's **enLIGHTen Me** Project they are creating a mural and as part of that they

Around Victoria's Institutes

will be conducting an Aboriginal Cultural Painting Workshop and Mural Project with Gunditjmara Artist, **Joey Chatfield** on Saturday, 20 August 10am-12.30pm in the Birregurra Hall. Learn about Australian indigenous painting techniques including meanings, symbolism and storytelling.

The Birregurra Community Group's '**I have a hall in my heart**' project has also received a Commonwealth Building Better Regions grant of \$245,500 to augment the already assembled \$491,000, to turn the Birregurra Mechanics' Institute into a regional cultural facility and digital hub.

We are told 'The finished product is expected to include a live performance and exhibition space, feature stage/exhibition lighting, live streaming/video conferencing capabilities, a cinema grade projector, dressing room and storage space.'

CASTLEMAINE LIBRARY (Est. 1855)

The newsy **Friends of Castlemaine Library (FOCAL)** June bulletin is inspirational. Their '**Books for Babies**' kit has now been distributed to over 1500 newborns in Mount Alexander Shire. Citing Victor Hugo 'To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.'

FOCAL's Prison Outreach reading programs sends audio recordings back to families from Mum or Dad has been sustained by creative Crowd Funding. Then there was their **Famous Book Sale** on 12 May which resulted in \$3200 being raised. Nine groups then collected the remaining forty boxes of books.

On top of that, FOCAL recognised where a number of books came from and presented a computer printer to the **Maldon Athenaeum Library**. In addition they have the occasional lecture or music recital. If you live in the region drop by the Castlemaine Library and get the current information on how to join FOCAL.

CARLTON - DANCEHOUSE (Est. 1877)

The increasingly busy **Carlton Dancehouse Centre for the Performing Arts** recently participated in **Open House** and intern **Felicity Dennis** curated a display of the Hall's history and its Mechanics' Institute roots. It is an interesting story of a determined temperance advocate **James Munro**, who in late 1876, had nominated for the Carlton seat in Victoria's Parliament. The only Hall available was owned by hotelier **John Curtain**, who was the opposition candidate, and Munro was denied access. In early 1877 Munro challenged Melbourne builder **John Pigdon** to build the two-storey Carlton Hall in three weeks, from which to



Photo: Dancehouse, Melbourne Facebook

conduct his election meetings, which Pigdon did for the reputed sum of £2000. Along the way Munro offered the Mechanics' Institute the largesse of free use. He did win the election.

After several years Munro sold the Hall and the Institute operated until the mid-1880s. The Hall then had private uses through until 1927 when the Melbourne City Council purchased it for emergency homeless accommodation. The RSL then occupied it for a time. Then it became a kindergarten. Finally in 1992 it was taken over for experimental dance, a use which has continued.

Website: dancehouse.com.au

COSTERFIELD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1876)

The folk at Costerfield are preparing to celebrate the centenary of their existing Hall, built in 1917. Festivities kick off at 3pm on 21 October 2017.

COWWARR PUBLIC HALL (Est. 1883)



This Hall has its start with a Government land grant in 1883. The Mechanics' Hall, built around 1884, was long declared too small, so in 1929-30 the current Hall was built and it opened on the present site on 17 March 1930. At that time the

library was transferred to here and it remained operational into the 1950s.

In recent times the Hall has achieved notoriety by the 'Cow' sculptures which first appeared outside the Hall in 2011. These went 'wandering' in 2016 and one was found 'emaciated', some distance away, later in the year. It has since been replaced thanks to the work of **Lindsay** and **Wendy Moran**. The Hall was subsequently able to source Community Crime Prevention Funding for the installation of security cameras.

Commencing in 2016 the Hall has undergone a major upgrade starting with the roof and guttering, thanks to the efforts of Heyfield plumber **Daniel Jackson**. He then moved inside to upgrade the toilets. With the roof watertight, **Peter Theodore** undertook replastering of the roof and walls in the reading room/meeting room and kitchen. Hall Committee President **Garry Blair** has led painting bees throughout the Hall. Volunteers have also helped with the 'gutting' and reinstatement of the kitchen. The Hall has been closed for a period in 2017 but is due for reopening in October.

EMERALD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1904)

The latest word is that the Emerald Mechanics' Institute Inc. have been granted Management and occupancy of the Mechanics' Institute site until December 2017.

FRANKSTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1873)



Alan Scoble and his father Harry with grandfather Handley Scoble's war medals which have links to the Frankston Mechanics' Hall. Picture: Gary Sissons

We've previously talked about a 'sense of place' and its intangible meaning to people. Such an occasion that reinforces this concept was recently held at the Frankston Mechanics' Institute, which stands full-square on a hillside overlooking Port Phillip Bay. (However it is only less than a decade ago that a few dedicated local stalwarts battled to see that the Institute would remain there, when others were determined to see its demise.)

Recently, on 28 and 29 July, the **War Heritage Roadshow**, coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Veterans Branch and the

University of Melbourne – Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, was set up in the Frankston Mechanics' Institute. People could book a twenty minute one-on-one session with an expert specialising in: paper-based wartime memorabilia; or 3D artifacts, uniforms, kits, medals, etc.

Two people who turned up had an interest, **Alan Scoble** and his father **Harry**, who had the medals of former poultry farmer **Private Handley Trethewie Scoble**, No. 7318A. Handley enlisted for service in World War I at the Frankston Institute, and was farewelled from the steps of the Institute before marching to the Frankston Railway Station bound for training.

For Handley the reality of war hit home when his troopship was torpedoed in the English Channel on Anzac Day 1917. Fortunately the ship sank slowly and all survived, but not so all those who went onto the bloody Flanders Fields, and the horrific Battle of Ypres. Luckily Handley survived the rest of the War, but not before being almost buried, when a shell landed nearby his gun position.

The War over, he returned to Victoria to be welcomed home in the Frankston Mechanics' Institute, where he was presented with the City of Frankston Medal or as it was later be known as 'Bob's Medal'. Handley died on 11 October 1976 and his remains were interred in the Box Hill Cemetery.

MALDON ATHENAEUM (Est. 1863)



*Joy Leneaux-Gale (right), President of Maldon Athenaeum Library receiving new printer from FOCAL Committee Members Rhonda Butterworth and Clive Sharplin
(Photo: FOCAL Newsletter June 2017)*

The Maldon Athenaeum has recently been the recipient of a new computer printer from the **Friends of Castlemaine Library**. This recognises Maldon's role in the provision of library services within the region.

Maldon has also recently been granted 'Deductible Gift Recipient' Status from the Australian Taxation Office and all donations are now tax deductible.

The bookstock of the Maldon Athenaeum is now heading for 19,000 volumes and new titles are being added all the time. Members can even order

a new book so long as it is deemed suitable for general reading.

Maldon's casual lecture series recently featured local author, editor and publisher **Nick Hudson** who spoke on the latest edition of his *Modern Australian Usage*. A most entertaining afternoon which finished with tea and coffee.

Website: maldonlibrary.org.au

MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM (Est. 1839)

The Athenaeum's **Music in the Library** series continues with an increasing number of 'sell-out' performances. In the past, programming has been largely classical in nature, but recently there has been a contemporary series. The recent presentation of Saint-Saen's **Carnival of the Animals** by the **Inventi Ensemble** was a rare treat.

The now **Popular Board Games Day** on the first Saturday of every month between 10am and 2pm is gaining momentum. Just turn up and be prepared for a challenge.

The recent **Rare Book Week** saw cartoonist and illustrator **Judy Horacek** as artist in residence from 3-7 July and Judy gave a lecture on the evening of 5 July.

That irrepressible bibliophile **Richard Overell** gave a talk on Collecting Children's Books and related printed material from the early 19th century to the present. The latter included a nostalgic journey through comics, annuals, board games and swap cards.

The Athenaeum also participated in the recent **Open House Melbourne** with increased visitations.

Website: melbourneathenaeum.org.au

MOONAMBEL MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1901)

Moonambel is in countdown for their big weekend focusing on 25 November. It promises to be the biggest day since the goldrush hit Mountain Creek, as the village was then known, in 1860.

Why not be part of it and head for Moonambel that weekend? Take a look inside their immaculately kept hall and see the recovered Honour Roll that was salvaged somewhere from the flood in 1933, which swept away the Hall. Let us have your pics.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1854)

Prahran participated in **Open House Melbourne** on 29 July and provided a chance for all the occupants of the PMI building to put their best foot forward and this they did. Prahran featured its history via various publications and pieces of memorabilia. The **Cinema and Theatre Historical Society**, not only opened its archive centre, which is lined with files that cover the various cinema sites, it mounted an exhibition of posters, books, theatre tickets and cinema sites. The **Railways**

Historical Society staged an exhibition of model rail vehicles, carriage plans, railway route plans and timetables from rail and bus routes, tickets, etc. **MIV** had an exhibition of 'railway' Institutes, ie those that were near railway lines and items from our forthcoming Calendar. In all, a great day, with steady traffic, inspite of the very windy weather. Thank you to **Steven Haby**, **Ursula Zamecnik** and **Ellen Coates** for the effort they put into making it such an interesting day for all. Website: pmi.net.au

STANLEY ATHENAEUM AND PUBLIC ROOM (Est. 1863)

3RD GEOFF CRAIG MEMORIAL LECTURE

Sunday 10 September 2017 at 2pm at Stanley Memorial Hall

Friends of the Stanley Athenaeum present: **The Historical Archaeology of Water Management on the Goldfields**.

Focusing on the upper Nine Mile Creek and Three Mile Creek at Baarmutha, **Professor Susan Lawrence** will talk about her research relating to the leading role of gold miners around Beechworth in developing laws and regulations on water management in Victoria; the nature of historical water management practices; the archaeological evidence of these practices; and the environmental legacy and its impact on the landscape.

Professor Lawrence is the Head of the Department of Archaeology and History at La Trobe University. She is the author of several books on the industrial archaeology of Australia, including *Historical Archaeology of Water Management at Beechworth*, with J Turnbull and P Davies; *Dolly's Creek: Archaeology and History of a Victorian Goldfields Community*; and *Whalers and Free Men: Life on Tasmania's Colonial Whaling Stations*.

Order forms are available at Stanley Athenaeum for the book, *Historical Archaeology of Water Management at Beechworth* (Turnbull, Davies Lawrence) Messmate Press, Melbourne 2015.

BOOKBINDING WORKSHOPS



Bookbinding workshop with Andrew Middleton. Participating in the workshop are Val Privett, Helen McIntyre, Ros Woods and Vicki Knopers (Photo: Stanley Athenaeum Facebook)

Experienced bookbinder, **Andrew Middleton**, has been running a fascinating bookbinding series of workshops at the Stanley Athenaeum this past month. Four 'Friends' have now completed 2 days of the 3 day course. The goal is to bind together the annual sets of *Nine Mile News*. This began in 2010 post-Black Saturday. So the twelve editions for each successive year since will be bound together and will be more easily accessible. Eventually, the bookbinding skills will be transferable to the repair of books in the Athenaeum's collection.

Bookbinding is a trade which probably originated in ancient India and peaked with Europe's industrial revolution. It requires up to two dozen steps with an array of interesting tools and equipment. It involves sewing, gluing, pressing and hammering! Mr Middleton has kindly donated three handmade wooden book-binding frames to the Athenaeum, as well as materials like linen tape, bees wax and mount board. A second series of these workshops will take place in September. Anyone interested in future bookbinding workshops please contact stanleyathenaeum@gmail.com or Chris at 0458 606 922.

WORLD WIDE BOOKS - SOUTHEM PROJECT

Dr Sarah Comyn one of the postdoctoral fellows from the **SouthHem Project** based in Dublin, has been visiting Victoria and carrying out research at various Mechanic's Institutes. Her research so far has taken her to Beechworth, Stanley, Chiltern, Ballarat and Bendigo. In addition to researching the surviving library collections, she is interested in the lectures and popular readings frequently held there.

In the Northeast she has spent time accessing information at the Stanley Athenaeum, Burke Museum (formerly Beechworth Athenaeum) and Chiltern Athenaeum, with some wonderful 'finds'. Of special interest at Stanley was an early edition donated and signed by local mining magnate **John Alston Wallace**. Share the brief blog post about Stanley: <http://southhem.org/2017/06/21/a-report-from-the-victorian-gold-fields/>

The SouthHem team have been busy sourcing and digitising library, bookseller and auction catalogues from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Straits settlements for the period 1783-1870. They have found over 400 catalogues with about 10% consisting of catalogues from Mechanics' Institutes.

The SouthHem Project is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and is based at the University College of Dublin. They are in the process of developing a website where visitors can access these catalogues. They will be providing glosses* about the history of the various catalogues, the people and organisations that produced them

and the collections. The website for the SouthHem Project will be live in September 2017.

*Glosses - an interpretation or explanation of something

WATER & MINING: WATER MANAGEMENT ON THE GOLDFIELDS

Exploring the works of the 'water merchants', through a series of maps and historical archaeology the 'Water & Mining' exhibition reveals how **John Pund**, a mining millionaire, created an extensive water race network that diverted water from the Upper Nine Mile towards the dry 'poor man's diggings' at the Two, Three and Six Mile. This system of races changed the water flow from the Kiewa water catchment to the Ovens water catchment and created significant environmental problems and changed the landscape forever.

Dates: until 30 January 2018.

Visit the Stanley Athenaeum and Public Room, Main Street, Stanley.

Open every Friday & 4th Saturday each month 10am to 12.30pm. (other times by appointment)

Like us on Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/St Stanley-Athenaeum-1192094190800862/?fref=ts>

victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/stanley-athenaeum | mivic.org.au/stanley.html

Chris Dormer

TALLAROOK MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1890)

The innovative Tallarook folk, ever for the challenge, provided a discount at the June Farmers' Market for those who turned up in pyjamas. However we are not sure about the story of how one person who turned up, well prepared for the cold in his army greatcoat with pyjamas over the top, and demanded his discount.

The most recent August Market featured: Di's Rhubarb; the Eildon Trout Farm showing off 'their sexy new van'; and the Smashed Crab Band, fresh from Heathcote, entertained periodically. The Market's broadcast email also carried the recipe for the winter-warming Hot-smoked Trout Kedgerree. To join the Tallarook events broadcast feed contact: libby@tallarook.org.au.

Tallarook Farmers Market - first Sunday every month from 9am - 1 pm

You get the feeling of a warm and cheery community welcome at the Tallarook monthly Farmers' Market, held at the Tallarook Mechanics' Institute (1891). Arrive to the infectious sounds of a local group playing catchy blues and rock, the smell of breakfast cooking, eggs in no less than seven different dishes and served with mushrooms, chorizo, hollandaise, smoked salmon, bacon, tomato chutney and a side salad. You could then browse through lovely fresh

produce from local farms: Buckleys Farm, McIvor Farm, Eildon Trout Farm, Locheilan Farmhouse Cheese, Avenel Mushrooms, Yellow Box Growers, Seven Hills Tallarook, Blue Tongue Berries and La Dolce Vita.

We came home with crunchy sweet Harcourt apples, an Apple Pie made from Pink Lady apples, fresh grain and sourbread loaves to last a week, Belgian chocolate, honey, apricot jam, rhubarb and ginger jam and wine as well as a swag of native plants. Next time we'll get there earlier to catch all the other stalls we missed.

It was great to see the local community in action and talk to the helpful hall manager and stall holders.

An upcoming function is – **Mystery in the Air – a revival of 1940's radio drama.** 15/9/2017 2-course Dinner 6:30 and Show 7:30 - \$65:00 (bookings and more info: www.tallarook.org.au/mystery-in-the-air). Also Father's Day Market with beer and an Indian Cooking Demonstration (see website: tallarookfarmersmarket.com.au or be in touch: manager@tallarookfarmersmarket.com.au)

Pam Baragwanath

WALHALLA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1867)

Walhalla - 150th Anniversary Celebration



L-R: Rob Ashworth and Geoff Anderson cutting the 150th birthday cake. Photo: Rae-Anne Vincent

The Walhalla Mechanics' Institute and Free Library celebrated its 150th anniversary in May this year (2017). The current manager, a member of the Walhalla Board of Management, **Rae-Anne Vincent**, organised an informal afternoon tea and invited community members to celebrate this significant occasion.

After welcoming guests, Rae-Anne invited **Rob Ashworth** to talk about the history of the building and its predecessors. Rob and his father wrote the history of the building in 1988.

The Walhalla Mechanics' has had an interesting history. It was first built in 1867, approximately 45 years after the movement began in the 1820s in Scotland. It was in the tradition of Institutes – providing a venue for the education of the community, many of whom had not had the benefit

of a full education. It promptly became a school from 1868 to 1875, much to the consternation of the townspeople.

It was burnt down in November 1888 when a fire raged through a number of shops in the town. The Institute was subsequently rebuilt in 1889 and was occupied in September. By 1914 the town's population had gone into serious decline as the mines began to close. But the Institute continued to struggle on, continuing to provide a community meeting space and library.

Fate intervened again when blackberries were being cut and burnt. The fire got away and the building, as well as the adjoining bank and the local Catholic Church burnt to the ground. It is understood that the insurance payment went to the Narracan Shire but no rebuilding subsequently took place. By then the population of the town being so small, it would have been a huge undertaking to rebuild. So nothing was to happen for around 40 years

However, the Committee remained and so did the land reserve. In the 1980s a team of keen Walhalla people, several with very strong connections to the town, decided to rebuild the Mechanics', as closely as possible to the original design. They pursued various avenues of funding and support, both government and non-government. This mammoth effort resulted in the reconstruction of the building which opened in 1988.

RMIT architecture students developed the plans. The local TAFE college (Yallourn – now part of Federation Training) built the doors and windows, the Army Apprenticeship School was able to come to Walhalla and build the frame. When the frame went up, it was a great advance and the supporters for the first time would start to see the outcome of their efforts. In 1988 the building was formally opened to great fanfare.

A committee of management continued to care for the building until the committee was merged with two other committees to form the **Walhalla Board of Management**.

A commemorative cake to mark the occasion made by Rae-Anne was then cut by Rob Ashworth and **Geoff Anderson**, Deputy Chairman of the Walhalla Board of Management, and enjoyed by the guests.

A plaque in the hallway gives recognition to those that contributed to the reconstruction of the building.

Graham Goulding

Website: visitwalhalla.com

The Wonderful World of Mechanics' Institutes

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

DELEGATE SCHOOL OF ARTS (Est. 1893)



*Photo: Delegate School of Arts
Committee of Management*

The town of Delegate is located 520km south of Sydney in the Snowy Monaro region, and is just north of the Victorian State Border. The area was settled in the 1820s by **Charles Campbell** who named the area. The Delegate Public School opened in 1871. Today the district, which is largely used for grazing, has a population of about 350 people.

Institute meetings appear to have been held in 1893 when an application which was made for Block 3, Section 8, Township of Delegate, in William Street had been reserved. In 1896 this was changed for Block 7 by vote.

In 1896 **Alexander Adam Oliver** (1855-1939) of Oliver and [**John**] **Murdoch** of Bombala prepared plans and specifications for a Hall, with revised plans finally prepared by 'Mr Keene [**William Frederick Keen** (1854-1928)] of Sydney'. Oliver & Co were the contractors who had commenced early in 1899.

In the absence of **Mr R Liddle**, **Mr Booth** officiated at the opening of the Institute on 23 August 1899.

A meeting held on 23 May 1906, empowered the Committee 'to have a [30ft x 20ft] Club Room erected and equipped at a cost not exceeding £200. This was done 'The cost of the building was £98, and the cost of the billiard table, erected and with accessories £81. Other furniture £12.4s, gas £15, painting £5.10s, and gravelling £1.19s, the

total being £213.4s.' It was officially opened on 7 September 1906. By 1907 membership of the library had risen to 33, with 650 books.

Honour Rolls later flanked the auditorium stage. A stone monument commemorates 'The Men from Snowy River', ten men who set out on 6 January 1916 to march 220 miles to Goulburn.

Today, in addition to it being the community hall, the building also houses a museum and a woodworking workshop. The Hall is owned by the Bland Council and managed by a Section 355 Committee of Management.

QUEENSLAND

COOLOOLABIN SCHOOL OF ARTS (Est. 1915)



Photo: sunshinecoastcommunityhalls.com

The village of Cooloolabin is located west of Yandina on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The area is noted for its horticulture, particularly the cultivation of bananas and ginger.

Albert Foster's sawmill was operational in the abutting forest from 1935. The US Navy Camp and Sawmill was located nearby during World War II. All these areas are now at the bottom of the Cooloolabin Dam built in 1979.

The move for a hall was started in 1915 through the Cooloolabin Farmers' and Fruitgrowers' Association. The promoters were: **John Fraser**; **Thomas Ivins**; and **SJ Mc Barron**.

In April 1916 the tender of **Joseph Ivins** was accepted to erect the building for £200. The building was finished in September 1916 for a meeting of subscribers was held there on 16 September.

The Treasurer reported that the Hall, with furniture, cost £325.9s.1d. Some £40 had been raised towards the £75.10s, the cost of the Beale & Co piano. **RJ McFadden's** tender for a drop scene and background had been accepted, as

were tenders for the Gloria Lighting and piano. Collectors were appointed for the drop scene and piano funds.

The Hall was officially opened on 24 January 1917. The debt was finally cleared by a public appeal in 1920, which raised £50.3s.

In 1924 tenders were called 'for the extension of the building, and enlargement of the library'.

In 1937 it was resolved to paint the building and a donation of paint from **AW Johnston** started the appeal. Dance and Euchre nights were a feature of hall fundraising.

A cyclone destroyed the Hall on 20 February 1954. A working bee was held on 6 and 7 March 'to dismantle and stack the timber and iron of the wrecked hall, ready for reconstruction'. To enable it to be rebuilt a grant of £200 was forthcoming from the **Courier-Mail Flood Relief Appeal**.

It was rebuilt in weatherboard in 1955 and reopened on 13 August 1955. A feature of the Hall is that it still remains unlined.

A picnic area is located in Hall grounds and regular Food to Share gatherings are held there.

The Hall's centenary was celebrated on 29 January 2017. There was an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia organised by **Elaine Ogilvie**. A community sausage sizzle started the event and afternoon tea featured mock chicken sandwiches along with jelly and custard slices. Later the surprise 'Balloon drop' proved a real talking point.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FREELING INSTITUTE (Est. 1868)



Photo: Freeling Institute Facebook

Located about 60km north from Adelaide and once sited on the Gawler-Kapunda line, Freeling lies at the foot of the Mt Lofty Range and abuts the Barossa Valley. The Roseworthy Agricultural

College, established in 1883, and since 1991 has been a campus of the University of Adelaide, is nearby. The town was named for South Australian Surveyor-General **Arthur Henry Freeling** (1820-85).

The Institute was formed in 1868 and the first Annual General Meeting of the Institute was held on 22 July 1869. At this meeting **John Baptist Austin** (1826-96) of the *Gawler Times* lectured on 'The Far North', with 'incidents of travels, illustrated by the magic lantern, giving views of the remarkable places in the north, parts of the colony and the new settlement at Port Darwin... Between 60 and 70 persons were present.'

'The usual quarterly lecture in connection with the Freeling Institute was given by Methodist the **Rev. James Maughan** (1826-71) on Tuesday 22nd inst [September 1868], the subject was 'A couple of hours among the chemical elements', with numerous experiments. The schoolroom was well filled.'

The Institute building was officially opened on 1 January 1884 by **Jenkin Coles** MP (1843-1911) and as he unlocked the door the assemblage sang *Rule Britannia*. The expenditure, including purchase of the property, amounted to £387.6s. Collections since August 1883, including a Government grant of £137, amounted to £337.2s.4d.

The foundation stone for the new Institute building on an adjacent site, designed by **Henry James Cowell** (1855-1935), was laid on 3 November 1905 by Sir Jenkin Coles. The contractors were **JT [John] Quinn** [1840-1912] & Co. of Hamley Bridge. The building cost £1300 and it was officially opened on 7 March 1906 by the Governor of South Australia, **Sir George Le Hunte** (1852-1925), who using a silver key, declared the Institute open 'in the name of the King'.

The two-storey building had dimensions of 92ft x 40ft and was capable of seating between 600 and 700 people. The proscenium and back drop were painted by **Alf Blanden**. At the time it had a library of 12,000 volumes.

The Library function ceased in 1967 and the books were dispersed.

The Institute was subsequently passed to Council and it is now managed by the Freeling Institute Committee of Management Inc. for the community.

The Institute and town, otherwise known as Gungellan, were used in the filming of the television series *McLeod's Daughters*.

In 2016 the aging kitchen and amenities area were demolished and replaced and the floor was renewed throughout the building.

TASMANIA

OATLANDS [MECHANICS'] INSTITUTE (Est. 1880)



Photo: Suzanne Lester via ADFAS

The town of Oatlands, on the shores of Lake Dulverton, is located about half way between Hobart and Launceston. It was named in 1821 by Governor **Lachlan Macquarie**, after a town in County Surrey. Oatlands Post Office opened on 1 June 1832. Oatlands was once an important administrative centre, with its own military garrison. Consequently a number of substantial sandstone public buildings exist in the town making some 87 buildings erected before 1837. The district is noted largely for its sheep production with some cropping. Oatlands stages a Spring Festival in October and since 2009 an Annual National Working Bullock Festival.

The Oatlands Literary Association existed in the 1860s and it had a library. In addition in 1869 play readings and concerts were staged. But by the late 1870s it had become moribund.

The move for a Mechanics' Institute started in 1879 when the need for a 'large hall' was promoted. *Walch's Almanac* gives the Institute's starting date as 2 February 1880. In July 1881 a Reading Room was known to be located in old Military Barracks until 'rooms promised in the new Town Hall' were ready.

The two-storeyed Town Hall was designed by **William Henry Lord** and constructed of sandstone at a cost of £1200 and opened on 17 September 1871.

In August 1881 it is recorded 'The Oatlands Institute, with its Library, has proved a great boon to the district...'

By March 1882 membership numbered one hundred and twenty-six and it was operating

from a room on the left-hand side of the Town Hall, and used another room at the rear which was the Reading Room.

The upstairs hall was used for community events and picture shows. Council employed a caretaker who had to assist the Institute in its activities.

In 1886 it was noted 'The books from the old library of twenty years previously had been dilapidated and obsolete but with the new shelves provided by the Council, the Library has 500 to 600 books.'

By 1887 the Library had reached 1200 books, with the Reading Room open 10am-10pm, Monday to Saturday, and 2pm-6pm on Sundays.

A billiard table was set up in the Supper or Reading Room at the rear of the Town Hall in 1891. The old Court House, built by convict labour in 1829 as a combined Chapel and Police Office, was sold to the Lands Department for £150 in 1891. The Institute then used it from 1891 to 1909. Then followed a period in private ownership until the building was purchased by the National Trust in 1977. It is now owned by Southern Midlands Council.

The Oatlands Library became a subscription library in 1895. In May 1941 the Oatlands Library became a Free Library supported by Council and the Institute then handed over its books to Council. Council struck a halfpenny library rate to support it. From 1944 book boxes were being sent to Parattah, Tunbridge, Tunnack and Woodsdale to provide a library service.

The Library came under the control of the State Library in 1949 and a Librarian was appointed and paid for by Council. In 1949 it was stated as having 2000 books.

The Oatlands War Memorial Library built in High Street, opposite the Town Hall, in 1966, is no longer used and the books were transferred to the Oatlands District High School Library.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CUNDERDIN AGRICULTURAL HALL (Est. 1906)

Cunderdin is located on the Great Eastern Highway, about 160km east of Perth. The area was explored by **Charles Croke Hunt** in 1864. It became a stop on the route to the Kalgoorlie goldrush and in 1894 a settlement was developed around the railway station. The Goldfields Water Supply Scheme passed through the town in 1901 and a pumping station was established there. This ensured a permanent water supply and led to the townsite being gazetted in 1906.



Photo: cinematreasures.org User: Granola

It was also an early grain, and still operational, receiving centre.

Cunderdin was the site of a significant Flying Training School during World War II and the airstrip, now owned by Council, is well-used by the Gliding Club of Western Club, as a residential training base. The town is also home to the large residential Cunderdin Agricultural College which operates from a 4000ha campus. The College is nationally noted for its academic excellence and the area hosts a major research project of the Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers' Association.

Cunderdin is principally a sheep grazing and cropping area. The township, which is a regional centre, with a well-resourced hospital, had a population of 700 in 2016, and tourism is growing this figure. Cunderdin in the Aboriginal Njungyar dialect can mean 'place of the bandicoot' or 'place of flowers'.

The movement to build the Agricultural Hall in Cunderdin started in 1906 with recorded fundraising in August 1908. It was to be subsequently built in three stages between 1910-56.

The tender for the Cunderdin Agricultural Hall was accepted in October 1909 with a cost to exceed £600 for the 50ft x 35ft, 13ft high brick and cement rendered structure. Mention was made of a Masonic Lodge occupying the Hall when completed, and that the Australian Natives' Association had a membership of fifty.

In April 1910 it was noted 'The contractor for the [Meckering] hall improvements, Mr J McCracken, is making fair progress, and in addition has made a start on the Cunderdin Agricultural Hall.' In June it was noted 'The new

hall is nearing completion and the contractors are working hard to have it finished next month.'

The early office-bearers were: CH Counsel, President; SB Donovan, Secretary; Mr Egeberg, Treasurer; and Messrs J Halbert, G Jasper, J Pascoe and F Pemberton, comprised the Committee.

The Hall was officially opened by Minister for Lands, **James Mitchell**, on 23 September 1910. The cost was £665.

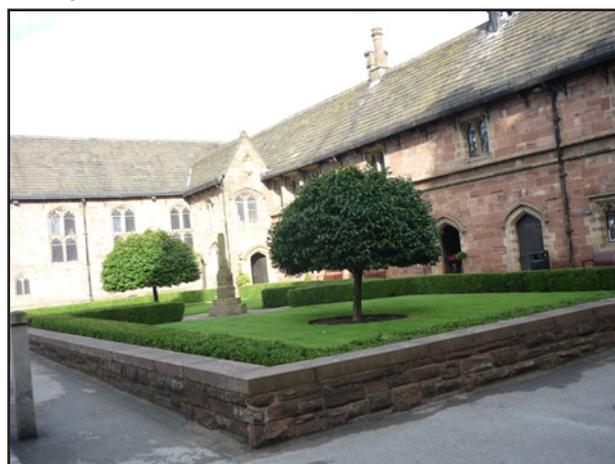
There was an Inter-War Free Classical Style façade, to the design of **Harry Jefferies**, and 24ft extension at the front added in 1922-23

Today the building is the home of Cunderdin Community and Toy Library. The Freemason's Hall, opened in March 1924, on the corner of Forrest and Kennedy Street, is now the major gathering centre. It had additions in 1960.

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND

CHETHAM'S LIBRARY, MANCHESTER (Est. 1653)



Chetham's, 'the oldest free public reference library in the United Kingdom', has recently been the recipient of a large cache of the papers of banker **Sir Benjamin Heywood** (1793-1865), a founder and President of the **Manchester Mechanics' Institution** in 1824. Heywood's *Addresses at the Manchester Mechanics' Institution* (1843) gives an account of the happenings of the Manchester Institute from 1825-40 and is a most valuable document in showing just what pioneering initiatives were being taken by Institutes: gymnastics classes, 1832; first railway excursion to Liverpool, 1833; first Christmas party, 1833; first season of the Institute's Cricket Club, 1834; first cheap concert 1837; and first exhibition 1838. Heywood also established the **Miles Platting Mechanics' Institute** in 1836, which established a day school.



Sir Benjamin Heywood. Photograph courtesy of Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives, Manchester City Councils

Chetham's is presently working through the financing of a massive 'repositioning' with the establishment of a Visitor's and Exhibitions' Centre in a recently 'returned' building from the Chetham's Music School and expansion of the main library into a former staffer's residential quarters within the library building. The estimated cost is around £20 million. We wish Librarian, **Dr Michael Powell** and the Chetham's Board every success in their mammoth undertaking. Website: chethams.com

PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM (Est. 1812).



Photo: www.thestage.co.uk

After being mothballed in 2009, because of dwindling audiences, the refurbished 340-seat Plymouth Athenaeum's theatre, is again lit up. Thanks to a long-term agreement with the **Barbican Theatre** and **Le Navet Bete** the operating future of the theatre is assured. The curtains went up recently with the production **Dracula: The Bloody Truth**. The library and theatre was bombed in 1941 and was finally rebuilt in 1961. During the period of the theatre's closure the Library, which has a strong local interest library, had continued to operate.

Website: plymouthathenaeum.co.uk

UNITED STATES

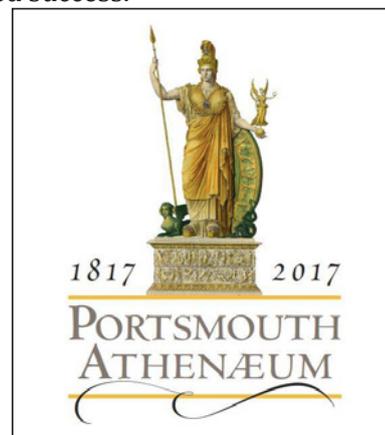
PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM (Est. 1817)



Photo: Portsmouth Athenaeum Facebook

Located in New Hampshire, the Portsmouth Athenaeum, for the past thirty years, has been in renaissance, with increasing outreach and public programs, including lectures, concerts and exhibitions. At the helm for most of the recent period has been Keeper **Tom Hardiman**.

The historic Athenaeum building hosts a 40,000 volume library, gallery and museum, as well as reading areas and a lecture space. This year The Athenaeum is celebrating its bicentenary with the recent launch of the book *Portsmouth Athenaeum: The Story of a Collection Through the Eyes of its Proprietors* which was accompanied by a Bicentennial Champagne Toast. We too lift our glasses to The Athenaeum's ongoing and continued success.



A logo has been designed for occasion by Susan Kress Hamilton of Phineas Graphics and includes an image of Athena—the goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature—found in one of the Athenaeum's rare books.

Website: portsmouthathenaeum.org

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ON MECHANICS' INSTITUTES (ICRPMI)

Recapping overseas resources:

The late **Professor Robin Alston** (1933-2011), based on University College London, produced lists: Mechanics' Institutes in England, Scotland and Wales 1823-50; Libraries in Ireland to 1850; and one that was coordinated in Canada. Alas Robin's website has been taken down and investigations are being made of UCL to see if these lists are still in its archives.

Historian and Labor politician **Dr Dame Mabel Tylecote** (1896-1967), in her history of *The Mechanics' Institutes of Lancashire and Yorkshire Before 1851* (1957), assembled much material about Midland Institutes. Her Papers are held by the John Rylands Library in Manchester.

Eve Hartley is a Heritage Consortium PhD candidate based at the University of Huddersfield. Eve's experience is in the areas of art and design and museum studies. In 2012 she received the Susan Cotton Travel Award to enable her to investigate how Norway and Iceland interpret and curate their heritage.

Eve's pioneering Paper 'Impact of the Mechanics' Institute Movement on Art, Design and Culture in the North of England' throws up the common worldwide question 'Why is the role of the Mechanics' Institute Movement, in shaping cultural identity, so often neglected?' It is interesting that the seven Universities that have funded Eve's

studies: **Bradford; Huddersfield; Hull; Leeds Beckett; Northumbria – Newcastle; Sheffield Hallam; and Teeside**, all come from Mechanics' Institute roots. Twitter: @EveAlexaHartley

Dr Sarah Comyn, is a Post Doctoral Fellow working on the European Research Council SouthHem Project, based on University College Dublin. It investigates the circulation the books and manuscripts from 1783-1870 in the Southern Hemisphere notably 1. Australia and New Zealand; 2. The Cape Colony and Natal in South Africa; and 3. Java and Straits Settlements.

Sarah is also researching Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria, notably those established during the gold rush. In addition to researching surviving collections, she is interested in documenting the lectures and readings staged in Institutes. She recently visited Ballarat, Bendigo, Beechworth, Chiltern and Stanley in the course of her research.

Contact: sarah.comyn@ucd.ie

Professor Philip Candy, is best known for co-editing the landmark, *Pioneering Culture: Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Art in Australia*. However Philip produced a pioneering essay on the Mechanics' Institutes in South Africa's Cape Province 'Mechanics' and Literary Institutes: A Neglected Foundation of Adult Education in Colonial South Africa.' A copy is available at the Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre at Prahran.

FUTURE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE CONFERENCES

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AUSTRALIA – 2018

It is now over fifteen years since the call went out for potential participants in the first ever National **Mechanics' Institutes Australia** Conference at the **Melbourne Athenaeum**. We are now repeating that call for another National gathering, this time at the **Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute** in **November 2018**.

In 2000 all States, save Northern Territory were represented along, with the UK and New Zealand, at **MIA - Melbourne**. We are confident that this can be repeated. We are keen to note the progress of the Institute movement since then, as well as celebrating the coming of age of MIV, which will then be in its twenty-first year. It will also celebrate the Institute people who have played pivotal roles in their various Institutes or in research. Think about a Paper, perhaps on the diversity of Institutes, as these will be called for early next year.

Record your interest with: bronlowden@hotmail.com.

MW 2021 - EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

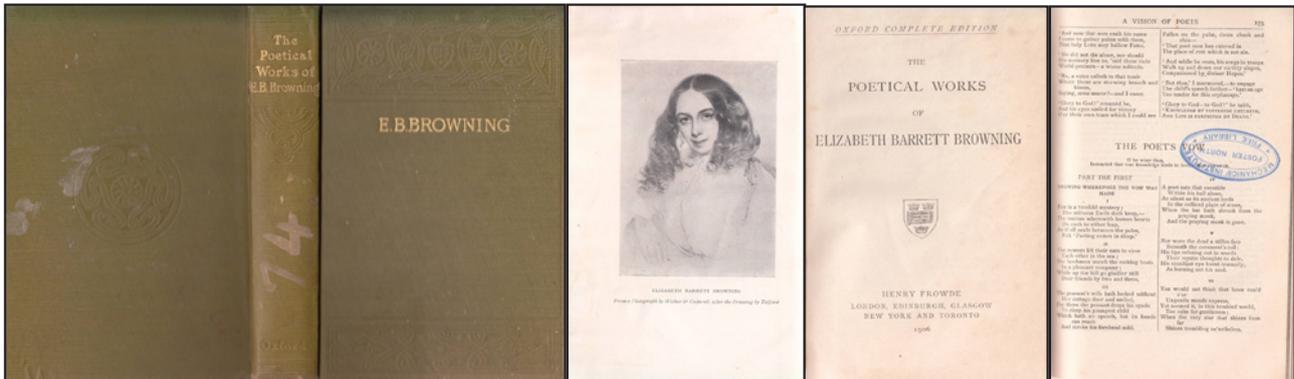
Following on the success of **Reinvention** at **MW 2016 – San Francisco** it was foreshadowed that the **MW 2021** would in all probability be in Edinburgh, Scotland at Heriot-Watt University, a 'Mechanics' University'. This will celebrate the bicentennial of the establishment of the **Edinburgh School Arts**.

However, **MW 2021 - Edinburgh** will not be a history lesson, but it will set out to show just what the Mechanics' Institute Movement achieved and how it influenced around the world. It will also provide an opportunity for national researchers on the various continents to present their progressive reports as part of the **International Cooperative Research Project on Mechanics' Institutes**. In the first instance record your interest with: bronlowden@hotmail.com.

Keep informed - join MIV
mivic.org.au/membership.html

Ex-Libris - FROM THE SHELVES OF A MECHANICS' LIBRARY

The Mechanics' Institutes are known universally for their libraries, which were in most cases the first in the many communities in which they were established. Whilst many books were taken to the local tip or sold, even the blandest title can tell us much about the Institute and the conduct of its library.



This issue's item is from the **Foster North Mechanics' Institute and Free Library** an Institute which no longer exists. The Hall was built, after a bushfire had destroyed the State School in March 1909. It appears to have been sold in April 1947 under the quaint 'For Sale' notice in the *Argus* of an auction at the Meeniyah Saleyards of 'Land, on which is erected the Foster North Mechanics' Institute'.

The Institute achieved national publicity by way of the implications of an insurance claim in 1928. The Institute building had been let for use by the Foster North State School (No. 3277), of which Benjamin, the son of William Bent was a student. Benjamin had broken his leg as a result of slipping on the polished floor in 1926. William Bent sued the Institute trustees for £999 alleging negligence 'in allowing the floor of a hall leased as a school to be polished.' His nine year old son, Benjamin, was carried into and from the Court. A full settlement was negotiated for £175, which included costs, and was confirmed by the Court.

Our book *The Poetical Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning* (1806-61) was published by the entrepreneurial **Henry Frowde** (1841-1927), who was publisher of Oxford University Press, in 1906. It is in its original olive green cloth, and is blind embossed on the front and rear cover. The title is gold blocked across the spine and E.B.BROWNING goldblocked on the front cover. It is printed by **Horace Hart** (1840-1916) printer to the University. (Hart authored the universally used *Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers*, which was first published in 1893 by Oxford University Press.)

The book carries a large '74' handwritten lengthways on the spine using white watercolour paint. It carries only one oval elliptical rubber stamp imprint in blue, albeit upside down, at the

top 'Mechanics' Institute' and at the base 'Free Library' with 'Foster North' in the centre. This is on the Dedication page.

There are two other interesting features of the book. There is the 24mmx10mm label of 'E.W. COLE, / Melbourne, Sydney, / and Adelaide' printed in red between two parallel variegated lines on white stock, which is glued on the very top left hand corner of the front pastedown. The other is a 25mm circular rubberstamp imprinted in black with 'E.W. COLE, BOOK ARCADE' around the perimeter and 'Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide' on a shield in the centre. This appears on lower left hand corner of the back pastedown.

Edward William Cole (1832-1918) was arguably Australia's most flamboyant bookseller. Arriving in Melbourne in 1852, he spent time as a miner, cordial manufacturer, post and rail splitter, photographer and pie stall operator, before entering the book trade in 1867. He was clearly a showman of the first order, when he opened his new in Bourke Street in 1873, which featured a huge rainbow painted over the entrance, and signwritten Coles' Book Arcade. Staff were dressed in bright red jackets and a pianist played popular tunes in the afternoon. Customers were encouraged to read the books as long as they liked with no expectation of purchase. He also compiled several books, the most successful of which was the *Coles Funny Picture Book*, first published on Christmas Eve 1879, and it went through many editions eventually selling over 800,000 copies. He established branches in Sydney and Adelaide by taking over the failed bookselling enterprises of **Edward Augustus Petherick** (1847-1917) in 1894. Following Coles' death in 1918 the business was short-lived and it was wound up in 1929 and its Melbourne properties were auctioned.

History Pages

VIVIENNE RAE ELLIS



An inquiry from researcher **Jane Sparrow** has been flicked on to us by **Bob Draper** of Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. It concerned **Vivienne Rae-Ellis** (1930-2015), journalist, actor, and author who wrote under the pseudonym **Antonia Bell**. Vivienne worked

as a community liaison and promotions officer at the **Launceston Mechanics' Institute** in the 1960s and 1970s in addition to being a regular with the **Launceston Players**. Following her divorce in 1978, she moved to England in 1982 and lived for several years in Essex. In 1988 she went live in Bath at 17 The Circus, a house occupied by painter Thomas Gainsborough and his family from 1759-74. There, she completed a biography of Gainsborough's wife, Margaret, nee Burr in 2012. Vivienne died at home on 20 March 2015, taking her own life, after developing a terminal illness. Described as 'the hostess with the mostest', she was 84. (Check out her Wikipedia entry.)

Jane Sparrow has recently produced a book on Bath-based artist and world traveller **Adela Breton** (1849-1923), whose father was one of the founders of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute in 1842. BRSLI mounted an exhibition 'The Remarkable Miss Breton' in 2016. (Again check out Wikipedia.) If you can help with any further information on either Vivienne Rae Ellis or Adela Catherine Breton, or their Tasmanian connections, contact Jane: jsn11jsn@gmail.com

LIBRARY HISTORY

At the opening of the Williamstown Soldiers' Memorial Institute in South Australia on 24 January 1926 **Alexander J Murray** was asked to perform the honours. His opening speech contained the following 'He found in reading ancient lore that as early as 3800 years BC, Sargon I, the Semitic ruler of Accad, formed a public library. Ramses I [died 1290BC] in ancient Egypt possessed a library over which he had inscribed 'Dispensary of the Soul'. The first public library properly so called appears to be



Photo: www.barossa.sa.gov.au

that of [Gaius] Asinus Pollio [76BC-4AD] in 39BC, which he appropriately placed in the 'Temple of Liberty'. The famous Alexandrian library formed by Ptolemy I had 700,000 volumes. It is stated that the first public library in England was established about 1750AD, which was about 5550 years after that established by the Semitic ruler Sargon I. Even as Asinus Pollio placed his library so aptly in the Temple of Liberty, so may all libraries lead to the government of the people by science, sincerity, justice, and truth. This afternoon the people of Williamstown and Mount Crawford had erected a distinctive mark in the history of the place.'

Later, on hearing that the building was opening with a £150 debt, Mr Murray stumped up £50 towards its reduction.

PHRENOLOGY

Phrenology was a lecture topic widely heard in Institutes. However member **Val Goldsworthy** has drawn our attention to a most macabre lecture which was given by **Abraham Barrett** at the Launceston Mechanics' Institute on 18 July 1868. During the lecture Barrett exhibited the skull of self-confessed serial killer, **John Hailey** to demonstrate 'the worst possible description of a head... more of the conformation of a baboon than that of a human being, and the murderous angle from the eye to the centre of the ear was there'.

Scottish-born **Hailey**, alias **Robert Magattny**, was hanged by HM executioner **Solomon Blay** at Hobart Gaol on 23 May 1861, and after 'a botched job', he was eventually physically strangled by Blay. His body was then 'forwarded to the General Hospital' no doubt for experimental purposes, from which his skull survived.

History Pages cont...

For those with a further interest in the gory details, these are given via Trove in the *Cornwall Chronicle*, of 25 May 1861, pages 4-5 and for more on Solomon Blay (1810-94), see Steve Harris', *Solomon's Noose: The True Story of Her Majesty's Hangman of Hobart*.

And of Abraham Barrett, he appears to have been born in Tasmania in 1831, became a school teacher, and entered Launceston Council in 1861 and was Mayor in 1863-64. He later moved to New Zealand, but returned to Launceston about 1892 and entered Council again in 1893. In Launceston he conducted 'a large and successful school' and was still an Alderman at the time of his death at Launceston on 27 October 1899. He was married and had two sons and three daughters.

WHO'LL COME A WALTZING MATILDA WITH ME?



Photo: Rob Dunlop

During World War I, the German troops must surely have been unsettled when they heard Australian soldiers singing *Waltzing Matilda*, for these were words they understood. An apprentice or even tradesmen needed to 'auf der waltz' meaning 'to go on the waltz' or 'on a tramp' to gain experience or even work. Mathilde is a composite female name with 'macht' meaning 'might' or 'strength' and 'hild' meaning 'battle'. So the mighty battle maiden was on the move! Mathilde can also mean 'comforter - to keep warm' or 'coat' or 'blanket'.

The origins of Australia's second 'national' anthem have been under examination for many years, notably by **Richard Magoffin** and more recently by folklorist, the late **Dennis O'Keeffe**. In 1994 O'Keeffe received a Federal Government grant to compile a document 'Eight Days in 1894'. The resulting study looked at violent events during the 1894 Shearers' Strike, which seemingly ended with a shoot out at and the burning down of the Dagworth Station shearing shed in Queensland on 1 September 1894. A

strike ringleader **Samuel 'Frenchy' Hoffmeister** was found dead the next day, alongside the Four Mile Billabong near Kynuna, with a bullet wound through the back of his throat. His body was discovered by his mates. Then 'Up came the squatter a'riding his thoroughbred' (**Robert Rutherford 'Bob' Macpherson**, whose family owned Dagworth Station), and 'Up rose the troopers - one, two, and three (**Michael Daly, Austin Cafferty and Robert Dyer**). An inquest found the cause of death to be suicide. However when another strike-leader **John Tierney** was arraigned before the Bench on 1 October 1894 for the 'Dagworth' event, he was mysteriously discharged with 'no contest' from the Crown. After that the strike seemingly 'evaporated' for whatever reason.

In April 1894 **Christina Macpherson** had heard the tune 'The Craigielee March' played at Warrnambool races by the Warrnambool Garrison Artillery Band to an arrangement by **Thomas Bulch**. In the company of her father, **Ewen Cluny**, Christina travelled to Dagworth Station in either December 1894 or the early months of 1895. Whilst 'in transit' at Winton she met an old friend **Sarah Riley**, who was accompanied by her fiancée of eight years **Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson**. The couple were invited to visit Dagworth. It was during that visit, in 1895, that Christina played what she could remember of 'The Craigielee March' on an auto-harp or zither and it was after that Banjo wrote his poem.

There appears to be little doubt that Christina was for a time an uneasy part of the Paterson-Riley ménage a trois. Riley was to subsequently break off the engagement with Paterson, and both ladies were not to marry.

Interestingly the original draft of *Waltzing Matilda* carried the wording 'a-roving' but this was struck out and replaced by 'Waltzing Matilda'. The rest they say is history.

Playwright **Felix Meagher** has adapted O'Keeffe's story for the stage with a production entitled *The Man They Call the Banjo*. This was performed in the Freemason's Building at Prahran on 13 May and several Institutes had representatives present. All agreed with Jamie McKew's, the former Director of Port Fairy Folk Festival, summation 'Great Show'. There will also be a performance at the **Emerald Mechanics' Institute** on Sunday 19 November.

Felix has also scripted another play [Redmond] *Barry versus* [Ned] *Kelly* and is a member of the trio **Bushwahzee Band**. If you are interested in booking any of these events contact Felix Meagher (03) 9879 1654; or 0413 801 294; email: felix@bushwahzee.com.

AUTHOR WANTED

The Stanley Athenaeum Friends group is offering an opportunity for a history writer who may best be described as an environmental history writer or who is interested in writing with 'an environmental lens'.

Through the **2017 Public Record Office Local History Grants Program**, the Friends are investigating commissioning the research and writing of a history of Stanley with an environmental landscape approach and new insights.

Stanley is a village located on the Stanley Plateau in the foothills of the alps in north east Victoria. It is at the heart of a high country landscape with a history of 1850s gold mining followed by forestry, orchards and intensive agriculture. It is, and has been, important as a source of water for two major catchments of the Murray-Darling system, namely the Kiewa and the Ovens.

We plan to commission the writing of a Stanley local history which will explore broad themes, perspectives and storytelling including:

- * settlement history – indigenous, European and Chinese
- * changing responses to the landscape and environment
- * resource management including mining, water, forestry and agriculture
- * political and social influences – such as those from the multicultural goldfields and orchards, women and village institutions – and the impact of these on shaping the present and future of a small rural community.

The Friends' interest in exploring these is heightened by the recurring theme of 'water mining'. This was an issue in the 19th century and is again currently being encountered by the Stanley community.

The Friends' seeking submissions is an initial exploration of potential writers. The Friends are hoping you may be able to assist us with suggesting a possible writer who is keen to offer new insights about Stanley's history. This person may be an established writer, a post-graduate or graduate student who has a background or continued interest, in areas we wish to explore in commissioning a new publication.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants must submit a 300-400 word proposal outlining what they would focus on if successful.

The proposal must be original, and entirely the work of the author.

Applicants must submit **ONE** example of previously written work, maximum 3000 words, as support material.

Applicants must include a separate cover sheet document with their Name/ Address/ Email Address/ Phone Number clearly stated.

Submission documents should be in Word format, size 12 font.

The Selection Panel will assess all applications by blind submission, so applicants must remove details of authorship from the proposal and support material documents submitted.

The successful applicant selected to write the history of Stanley will be commissioned if the Friends of Stanley Athenaeum are successful in receiving a grant from **2017 Public Record Office Local History Grants Program**.

Assessed by a Selection Panel, one writer will be invited to produce a 300 word response along with a CV.

SUBMISSIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.

Deadline for Submissions: 11 September 2017. All submissions to Chris Dormer at stanleyathenaeum@gmail.com

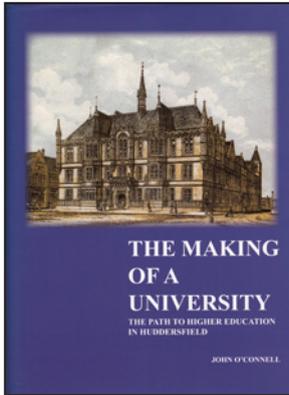
LIBRARY HISTORY MUSEUMS

We have previously mentioned the **South Wales Miners' Library**, at the University of Swansea, a huge storehouse of the Miners' Institute libraries, life and world impact of the South Wales coalfields. The Library is the main lending library for Department of Adult and Continuing Education. www.swansea.ac.uk/iss/swml/

Since referring to the above, our attention has been drawn to the **Biblioteksmuseet** at Borås in Sweden (The Libraries Museum of Sweden). In translation: The Society for a Library Museum was established in 1989 and it set about assembling remnant libraries and library related material in the very broadest sense of the word. The Library Museum opened in 1994 in Borås. It has permanent exhibitions featuring: travelling libraries; parish libraries; and study circle libraries within the Good Templars, workers, farmers and revivalists' movement. It is estimated that at the peak the combined number throughout Sweden was around 5000 sites, the Workers' Education Association having the largest number. www.biblioteksmusset.se

There may even be other Library Museums around the world and we would be interested to learn of these. Perhaps it is time for Australia to start addressing its cultural past by establishing a Library Museum.

Book Reviews



The Making of a University: The Path to Higher Education in Huddersfield – John O'Connell [1924-2011]. Huddersfield: University of Huddersfield Press, 2016. Hardback, with dustjacket. xxx, 163 pages, illustrated. 215 x 305 mm. 97818622180543.

This book, by the late Professor John O'Connell, excels on two levels. Firstly it guides the reader through the myriad of legislation, regulation and overseeing authorities. And, secondly it tells one of the great success stories of the Mechanics' Institute Movement of how the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute transitioned from 1841 through to the University of Huddersfield in 1992.

Drawing on the large extant archive, which is now safely housed in the award winning **Heritage Quay** building, on the University's Queensgate Campus, Professor O'Connell compiled a manuscript for a much larger publication. This went through three stages of contraction to produce the current version.

The University's motto is 'Trivium Quadrivium' based on the 12th century curricula of universities. Trivium being: grammar, logic and rhetoric; and, Quadrivium being, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music theory. Together these were known as the seven liberal arts.

Early courses ranged from basic English, through to Latin, French, and German. Further courses centred around the textiles core of which Huddersfield was a major player, and the science and technology which produced the cloth and kept the machines running. Yet others dealt in the marketing and financing of industry. Courses were staged both in the day and the night. Pupil-teacher training, pre the 1870 *Education Act*, was also undertaken. There was even research being conducted into the problems that industry were encountering, notably dyeing. That research has been adapted to current day needs in health sciences, digital imaging, railway engineering and robotics.

Huddersfield proudly acknowledges its Mechanic's Institute roots, and recognises this by enabling research into not only its rich history, but that of the Mechanics' Institute Movement in the United Kingdom, and around the world.

Professor O'Connell was at Huddersfield College of Technology, then Huddersfield Polytechnic from

1964-89, when he resigned. He died in 2011 prior to the publication of this book.

Available from: University of Huddersfield, £20, plus postage.



Where did all the Blacksmiths Go? - Shirley Xanthos. Prahran: Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press, 2017. Paperback. viii, 183 pages, plates, bibliography, index. 150x230mm 9780980453676.

Launched very recently at Prahran Mechanics' Institute, this title fills a void that has long existed in the industrial history of Australia. Blacksmiths were located in almost every country town throughout Australia. We all have fond memories of them when the bellows stirred the glowing coals to life in the forge or when **Jack Collins** struck the hammer on the anvil to fashion a horseshoe at Sovereign Hill Goldmining Museum. And there was generally the smell of horse manure or burnt hair. However, besides shoeing horses, these swathy gents were the people, who as de facto mechanics, fixed all manner of things for farmers, or anyone else for that matter. Most were also wheelwrights who built commercial or farm vehicles and fitted new steel tyres or rims to them. They could fashion up a brand for sheep, cattle or horses and sharpen picks or hoes.

The author takes us through the history of blacksmithing, starting with the Greek God **Hephaestus** or Roman God, **Vulcan**, along with the metals they used. Their product ranged from the utilitarian, which is encyclopaedic, to the decorative. The latter of which found its way onto buildings, fences, gates and funerary monuments.

In addition to the local blacksmith, Australia has had its share of inventive blacksmiths, who turned into industrialists and manufacturers, and to name a few: **James Alston** – pumps and windmills; **John Stokes Bagshaw** – seed drills; **Hugh Victor McKay** - harvesters; **Charles Ernest Ruwolt** - windmills; **John Shearer** – disc ploughs; **Richard Bowyer Smith** – Vixen stump jump plough; **Trewhella Bros (Benjamin and William)** – jacks and tree pullers; etc.

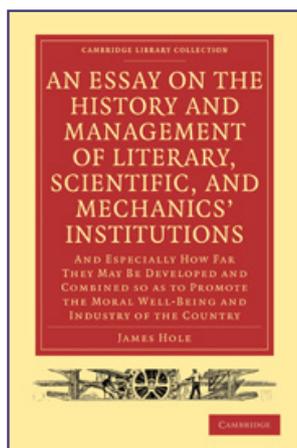
Almost half the book has been turned over to thumb nail biographies of some of Australia's blacksmiths, giving their speciality and some

Book Reviews

accompanying pics. Indeed a fascinating catalogue. The bibliography and suggested reading lists will be useful for those who will surely follow in this hitherto neglected field.

This book is a unique contribution to Australian industrial history and is worthy to be in every reference library.

Available from: Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran V 3181, \$34.95, plus postage \$9.50, or through your local bookseller.



An Essay on the History and Management of Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institutes: And Especially How Far They may be Developed and Combined so as to Promote the Moral Well-Being and Industry of the Country – James Hole [1820-1895]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Reissue. Paperback. 196 pages. 140 x 216 mm.

9781108009379.

This is a classic text on the early history of the Mechanics' Institute Movement and education. This essay was originally published by Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans in 1853, just after the Great London Exhibition of 1851, when universal education, let alone technical education was yet to be legislated.

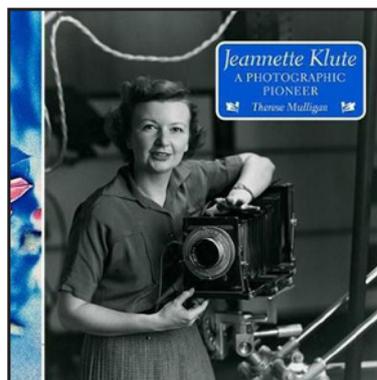
Born in Manchester in 1820, the son of a tailor, **James Hole** grew up in the Mechanics' Institute Movement and developed an early interest in cooperatives and improving the lot of the working class. He had the greatest influence as unpaid Secretary of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes and developed the book box scheme for remote rural communities. In later life he espoused the preservation of Common Land. He died in 1895.

Hole claimed 'the Institutes have established the right of the people to culture'. Indeed Mechanics' Institutes were staging Exhibitions long before 1851, in towns across the English Midlands.

He states that the 703 Mechanics' Institutes that existed in Great Britain prior to 1853 were collectively and dramatically improving the education and skills of the working class. Institutes, besides teaching basic literary skills to working class men, women and youths, were also offering courses in: the arts; commerce; industry; and science.

Throughout the text, Hole draws on his wide field experience to show how the Institutes had participated in the reform process and their impact on upper and middle class attitude to Institutes, by being patrons and supporters.

Available through all good bookshops, \$34.95, plus post.



Jeannette Klute: A Photographic Pioneer –

Therese Mulligan and Becky Simmons. Rochester: RIT Press, 2017. Paperback. 72 pages, illustrated mostly in colour.

Index. 210x210mm. 9781939125439.

Jeannette Klute (1981-2009) was one of three women in the 43 students that began in the photography class of 1938 at Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics' Institute in New York State. (The Institute was renamed Rochester Institute of Technology in 1944.)

She 'was one determined person' and persisted and gained an entry-level position at Kodak as a lab assistant. Soon she was working with Eastman Kodak scientist Ralph M Evans in the development of colour photography using the dye transfer process. She rose to head their Photographic Technology Studio in 1974, from where she retired in 1982, by which time women formed a significant component of the research team.

The authors showcase Klute's work, as a skilled researcher and an extremely talented art photographer. In doing so, they have utilised the rich archives at RIT which trace the history of photography and its teaching from before 1900 and the holdings of the Jeannette Klute papers.

Launched in conjunction with an upcoming exhibition of Jeannette Klute's work at RIT from 5 October-3 November, this well designed and illustrated text is one of a projected series on the achievements of RIT alumni. The exhibition features photographs from Klute's book *Woodland Portraits* (1954) and the 'Derivations from Colour Photographs' process developed with Dorothea Peterson.

Available from: RIT Press, eshop, USD\$21.95, plus postage.

Our People

The Mechanics' family is vast and we would appreciate notification of any items that would be of interest to our wider readership in Australia and across the world.



After more than eight decades of dedicated service to the Jindivick community **Mrs Lorna Parke** has recently been acknowledged for her many years of service to the

Jindivick Mechanics' Institute by being awarded a lifetime membership.

Over a period of fifty years, Lorna held many roles on the Jindivick Mechanics' Institute Committee of Management as well as active involvement in many events held at the hall such as the annual Jindivick Craft and Flower show. Her community work was acknowledged in 2008 with an Australia Day Medallion.

Chairperson of the Jindivick Mechanics' Institute **Mary-Royce Hall** said, "We acknowledge the outstanding dedication of Lorna to the Jindivick community. Her dedication and counsel to the Jindivick Mechanics' Institute Committee of Management has been consistent over many decades and much appreciated by the Jindivick community."

Moving to Jindivick 1933 as a young girl, Lorna was entrenched within the community early. When asked to reflect on those early years at the Life Membership award presentation, Lorna said:

"I have many lovely memories coming and going from the hall as a shy young girl, teenager and into later life. My father was on the hall committee, it seemed fitting to join in. I have seen many changes to the hall and it has been a good job!"

On the 1st June 2017 after many years dedicated service, Lorna gave notice to resign from her role as a Committee of Management member of the Jindivick Mechanics' Institute but promised to maintain an active interest.

On behalf of the Jindivick Mechanics' Institute and the Jindivick community, Chairperson Mary-Royce Hall said,

"We will miss Lorna Parke's involvement with the day to day running of our community hall. Lorna has contributed and invested a

large amount of time, effort and knowledge over the years. We thank her for volunteering, her dedicated association and for providing an example of commitment to the community to which we can all aspire to. We recognise her years of service that made a difference to her community's progress to succeed."



After being President of the UK Association of Independent Libraries, now Independent Libraries Association, since 2003, **Dr Robert Anderson** has stepped down. Robert has recently been appointed Chief Executive/President of the

American Chemical Heritage Foundation, based in Philadelphia (USA), and has recently moved house to there.



British actor and bibliophile, **Neil Pearson** was recently elected President of the UK Independent Libraries Association. Neil has had a distinguished career in television and film and received the BAFTA award for Best Actor for

Between the Lines (1992-94). In his other life, Neil runs an online antiquarian bookshop which specialises in theatrical material and the expatriate literary movement which operated in Paris between the Wars 1918-39. Neil authored the book on Manchester-born publisher Jack Kahane, *Obelisk: A History of Jack Kahane and the Obelisk Press* (2007), and is a keen Texas hold 'em poker player. Photo: www.bbc.com



The Friends of Castlemaine Library's **Enid Chapman** has recently turned ninety and the event was celebrated with a birthday party given by FOCAL. Enid was a foundation member and is now a Life Member of FOCAL. It is noted that 'Enid rarely

Our People cont...

misses a book sale and is always ready to help, usually bringing along a beautiful fruit cake to share with the workers.' Our best wishes to Enid and for many future happy occasions with the Friends, comes from us all.



Tom Coleman of the Melbourne Athenaeum Library recently attended the UK Independent Libraries Association Conference at Chawton House Library, Alton Hampshire. Tom, then travelled on to Europe. This is the first time

Australia has had representation at the ILA AGM Conference.



Local identity **Kevin Mayhew**, who has a long record in promoting Chiltern and its history and built heritage, has recently taken over as President of the Chiltern Athenaeum. We welcome Kevin into the wonderful

world of Mechanics' Institutes and wish him all the very best in continuing the management and mission of the Chiltern Athenaeum. *Photo: Mark Jesser*

Gladstone's Library at Hawarden, Wales offers opportunities for internships of three months or occasionally, work experience. Interns live onsite in the 30ha park-based Library and applications are sought from time to time. You can follow the recent work experience and 'adventures' of **Olivia Jones** from 10-14 July 2017 at www.gladstoneslibrary.org



We overlooked in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours the award to **Helen Hoppner** of the Order of Australia Medal. Helen has been a long-time stalwart of Cowwarr Public Hall, painted the mural at the Glengarry Mechanics' Institute with

Ken Drane, and the Chair of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management. Belated congratulations to Helen.

Vale



Loyal Kilmore Mechanic's Institute supporter **Ursuline Ann Boran** passed away at her home, 'Omaru', High Camp on 26 June 2017, aged 79. A skilled wordsmith, Ursuline had won the Bush Poetry Competition at the Kilmore Celtic

Festival the previous weekend. Very proud of her County Limerick, Irish heritage she collected Foster and Allen recordings, along with those of Slim Dusty and had a large repertoire of Henry Lawson poems. She also played an able violin.

Ursuline farmed the family sheep and cattle property and in earlier years successfully

showed and later judged Ayrshire cattle at agricultural shows in the Southern States. Highly respected, she played an active and reliable part in numerous Kilmore organisations including: Young Farmers, Scouts, Country Women's Association, Historical Society and Pyalong Music Group. She also 'pioneered' a travel agency in Kilmore. Such was her diligence on behalf of clients, that one night when a bus soared past a group of waiting would-be passengers, she rang the police to have them intercept the bus, and have it return to Kilmore.

Ursuline was a regular worshipper at Kilmore's St Patrick's Catholic Church at which her largely attended funeral service was held, prior to the interment in the Kilmore Catholic Cemetery alongside her parents. The day was likened to a 'Back to Kilmore' with many people attending from great distances. Our sincerest

Vale cont...

condolences go to her sister, Mary-Camilla, and her extended family of nieces and nephews. Google Ursuline Ann Boran one in blue



Larger than life, **Hugh McDonald Anderson**, was born at Elmore in 1927, and grew up during the Depression. His real education started at the Bendigo School of Mines, where he discovered the library. There was

also an exceptional teacher, who introduced him to classical music, literature, and radical politics and he joined the Communist Party in Bendigo in 1943. From there he graduated from surveyor, to teacher, to Melbourne University student. At the latter he met radical intellectuals such as **Stephen Murray-Smith** and Hugh contributed to the first issue of *Overland* in 1954. Hugh pioneered the collection of the largely oral stories and songs and published *Colonial Ballads* in 1955, and local histories followed. The author, editor and compiler of some eighty books, Hugh wrote one on the great promoter and supporter of Mechanics' Institutes, *Out of the Shadow: The Career of John Pascoe Fawkner* (1958). His other work of immense interest to Mechanics' Institute historians, was with **Les Blake**, *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria* (1973), a massive three volume work. This work has frequent references to State Schools being started in Institutes, or later moving into them, after fire, flood or relocation of buildings.

In 1974 Hugh established the publishing house, Red Rooster Press, which had the motto 'While I live, I'll crow!'

Hugh was a long-time member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and served as a Councillor and Vice-President for a time, and was elected Fellow in 1974. He was also elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities in 2011. The University of Melbourne conferred a D.Litt degree on him in 2008. Hugh Anderson died in Melbourne on 3 March 2017, aged 90. A private cremation was followed by a Celebration of his life at Melbourne University House. Our

deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Dawn, and children Warwick and Marcia and their families.



Also from Kilmore we note the passing of **Christopher Charles Hannaford 'Chris' Schafer** at Kilmore on 28 June 2017, aged 77 years. Chris was the stalwart and backbone of the Kilmore Institute's annual **Organ Plus** recitals

which rotated around three Kilmore churches – Christ Church Anglican, St Andrew's Presbyterian and the Uniting. The pedal bellows organ at St Andrew's was the most challenging for the spring returns on a number of keys were dysfunctional. So to stop their continued playing Chris positioned matches, suitably cut to size, underneath the lips of the offending keys. He was a consummate professional, insisting on the best, which he gave for years as Christ Church's organist. A man of sparkling off-the-cuff wit and repartee, **Organ Plus** rehearsals always seemed to be better than the real thing. Indeed fond memories. Rest in peace Chris, after your years of suffering. Our sincerest condolences to Carol and his large extended family.



We note the passing of yet another former Kilmore Mechanics' Institute stalwart, **Beverley Mason**. Bev like others protested the demolition of the original Kilmore Mechanics' Institute building in 1976. She was a founder member of the revived Kilmore

Institute in 1994, and was a great supporter and helper at any Kilmore MI activity, and many other community activities. Bev moved to Wagga in 2009 to be near her sister and passed away at Calvary Riverina Hospital, Wagga on 12 August 2017. Indeed a life well-lived. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family.

Community Page

RECIPE

Australian farmers and manufacturers, many of which are Institute volunteers and supporters, deserve your support. Hopefully the purchase of Australian grown and made products will help reward them.

CREAM OF CARROT SOUP WITH GINGER

Serves two

Ingredients

1.25 kg medium carrots, peeled and chopped
 250 grams butter
 250 grams finely chopped onion
 1 teaspoon minced garlic
 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
 1 tablespoon peeled and finely chopped fresh ginger
 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
 2 tomatoes, seeded and chopped
 750 ml vegetable stock
 250 ml cream

Method

In a saucepan, over medium-high heat, melt the butter, then add the onion, ginger, garlic, chopped tomatoes and lemon peel. Stir in stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat, partially cover, and simmer for about twenty minutes, until carrots are very tender.

In a blender, puree the soup. Return soup to the saucepan, and over medium heat, stir in lemon juice. Decant into a bowls, season with salt and pepper. Add cream on top and serve.

SPOT THE 'BAKER'S DOZEN' REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, No. 44

1. What size is the 'Vision' of State Library Victoria?
2. Which Hall recently installed a Pop Up Library near their front gate?
3. Where was the 'We'll Meet Again!' concert recently staged?
4. Who devised the Travelling Library Book Box Scheme?
5. From which Hall did 'the cow wander'?
6. Name six of the Institutes that will feature in the MIV 2018 Calendar?
7. Currently, where is the door from the Salutation Inn?

8. Where is Jane Austen buried?
9. Who did pioneering research work on the Mechanics' Institute Movement in South Africa?
10. Which Institute is currently seeking an author for their local history to be written?
11. Who attended the ILA Conference at Chawton House Library from Melbourne?
12. Which Hall celebrates its 80th anniversary in November?
13. What was the real name of Robert Bedford?

SPOT THE 'BAKER'S DOZEN' REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 43 – ANSWERS

1. Telangatuk East; 2. Fulham Hotel; 3. Damian Callanan; 4. Nothing; 5. Turkey; 6. Hamel; 7. David Rosengreen and Alan Wetton; 8. Ray Parkin; 9. Booie; 10. Artist; 11. John Savage 'Jack' Henderson; 12. Peter Pereyra; 13. Emerald

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Useful Goal for the Near Future

There was a Review in the *Australian Journal of Adult Learning* (57, 1, April 2017, pp. 159-160) by **Rob Townsend** of Federation University of the book by Pam Baragwanath and Ken James, *These Walls Speak Volumes: A History of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria*. As expected, the excellence of the book is acknowledged. The reviewer notes he is not an historian but recognises that as a natural outcome of such a resourceful book, there should be a next step. The information about these important buildings is now available. What Rob Townsend, along with, I suggest, all the readers of this volume, is calling for is the follow-on stage of the big picture. What happened in these MI buildings (legal and illegal) and who were the vast range of men and women who were responsible for all the activities?

As one who lives north of the Murray, I wonder when the NSW and Queensland versions of the Victorian study will be available to read with joy. But then I join with Rob Townsend in suggesting that the follow-up of the data gathering on buildings needs to be continued in revealing what actually happened in those MI buildings and who were the people responsible.

Dr. Barrie Brennan

Ideas & Opportunities

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Those Institutes that conduct libraries, museums and theatres may have opportunities for work experience placements to assist with day to day operation or running special events. Some schools require students to serve so many community service hours and even some large businesses require the same and this may be an opportunity for further community outreach.

SIGN UP AND BE SEEN

As we drive around Victoria we still see Halls unsigned and worse still no contact details, in, on or near the Hall. Then we hear of Halls 'dying' from lack of use.

One quick whip around, or a Hall or Street barbecue would finance a Hall sign. Perhaps even a five year Hall membership would entice a student to do a 'For Hire' notice for your window.

Further the claim that a web presence is too expensive or complicated is a nonsense if your Institute is a financial member of MIV. You can have your own dedicated site, with pics and five pages of content for nought dollars. Check out the new Romsey Mechanics' Institute 'presence'. Further you can advertise your events on the MIV site.

Let's have pics of your new signs and your website info and stand by for action. Perhaps someone will donate a bottle of presentable red for the most original?

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Victorian Government has a new 'Child Safety and Code of Conduct' brochure which outlines the responsibilities of all those Institutions who deal with children. Hall Committees should investigate their responsibilities under this legislation and assist members in gaining their 'Working with Children' certificates, details of which are available from the Department of Justice website.

AN ANNUAL PICNIC

One overseas Institute has been running an Annual Picnic for its members, friends and sponsors for many years. It's a great idea, and whilst we may not all be able to go to Hanging Rock, there are many other landmarks worthy of a visit. Let us know what you are planning.

PLAN YOUR FUNDRAISING

There can be no doubt about it, the way to raise some serious cash is to plan a Back to. Plan well ahead and advertise a wish list for your hall. Perhaps your Hall's windows and surrounds need replacing. Undertake and install one, and advertise

the cost of having a single window done. Hall families or local businesses could then sponsor a window with a suitably inscribed plaque. Similarly doors, etc. Even a new suite of crockery or cutlery, a fridge or deepfreeze. Everything should have a price, and who knows?

WHO WAS F.H. THOMAS ESQ?

Around many hall walls there are photographic or even painted portraits of people and places, or even Honour Rolls. You may be able to outsource a project with the local school to research these people and places. This can then be part of your 'Hall Archive Book/s' which contain copies of your key documents: title, gazettal notice, trust deed, certificate of incorporation, history, newspaper clips, posters, ball tickets, etc. This can then be easily accessed for further research or even future historians. Every Hall should have such a record book.

HOW'S YOUR HISTORY

All too often we read in Institute stories of: 'a local farmer donated the site for the Hall', and 'Mr Smith designed the building which was erected by Brown brothers.' Who were these people who had such a profound effect on the history of your Institute by way of your building? Bring them to life and put their names forward on your websites and handout flyers. Tell the full story of your hall. We recently learned that one family, that had had a pioneering role in an Institute, when contacted, only too willingly stumped up some serious cash for a restoration program. Lesson: recognise your pioneers. One English University recognises its Institute roots by having proudly named all its key buildings after the Institute's founding fathers and mother.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

The latest news to come out of the office of Hon. Greg Hunt, as Minister for Sport, in May 2017, is that the entity will now be known as the 'Sport and Arts Lottery' and heritage will be part of that. It is also believed that it may be Australian Capital Territory-based to overcome the various State-based lotteries and their existing agreements. Whilst last year it was believed legislation for a 'Heritage Lottery' would be introduced late in the year, it now appears a report is being prepared for delivery to Parliament for delivery late this year.

It is interesting to note that **Dr Gerard Vaughan**, Director of the National Gallery of Australia, in concluding his address to the Heritage Council of Victoria on 19 July, urged the need for a 'Heritage Lottery' type fund to support heritage preservation and art gallery and museum maintenance and purchases.