



# Useful Knowledge

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA INC.

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## MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS MIRC AND LAUNCHES LIBRARY DIRECTORY



The Hon. **Marlene Kairouz**, the Minister for Local Government, briefly visited **Prahran Mechanics' Institute** on the morning of Thursday, 5 July. During that time the Minister officially opened the **Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Resource Centre** and launched the **Mechanics' Institutes Library Directory**.

On arrival the Minister toured the Prahran Mechanics' Institute where their extensive Victorian and Local History Collection is held. In addition to the **Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre**, the building also houses the archives of the **Cinema and Theatre Historical Society** and **Australian Railway Historical Society (Victorian Division)**.

The launch was held in Prahran's William Moss Room in which a display of MIRC material: images; books; postcards; and artifacts was showcased. In addition, along the north wall, there was an exhibition of ten panels each representing one of the libraries which had been favoured by the most recent round of Government grants. In front of each panel were books and/or memorabilia representing each

library. We are most grateful to **Judith Dwyer**, Prahran Mechanics' Institute staff and others for helping to mount the exhibition.

In front of the main table, was featured our colourful banner **Mechanics' Institutes in the Frame**, and the screen featured the MIV website map of Victoria showing from where records had been sourced and the drop down listed the various individual digitised items from that respective Institute.

We also created a hardcopy List of Books that are now held in the MIRC and are now available for reference, but not for borrowing, at Prahran.

Minister Kairouz outlined the history of MIV and Government support including of the digitisation program, the forthcoming **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** Conference and Mechanics' Institute libraries. She then officially opened the **Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre**.

Library Sub-Committee Chair **Steven Haby** then introduced the **Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Library Directory** which details the ten member libraries and invited the Minister to launch it. The Minister then inspected the various Library panels and spoke to some of the five representatives of the ten libraries that were present.

Whilst Minister Kairouz's visit only lasted thirty minutes, she promised to return for a less formal visit one day in 'civies'.

We sincerely thank all in the Minister's office for making Minister Kairouz's visit possible.

*(Photo: Steven Haby)*

**NOTICE OF MIV'S ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING ENCLOSED**

**EARLYBIRD CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS  
CLOSE 1 SEPTEMBER 2018**

# Coming Events - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** - Early Bird Registrations Close
- 2 Tallarook Farmers' Market
- 14 Dean Hall and Mechanics' Institute - Casserole Night, 7pm. Contact: Claire 0407000143 or Ngairé 0417111485
- 22 MIV Annual General Meeting
- 22 MIV's 4th Annual **Wesson Lecture** - **Christine Mackenzie** Libraries in Victoria over the Past Sixty Years, with a World Sampling'. Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 11am.

## OCTOBER

- 1-30 Seniors Festival
- 5-7 Murtoa Mechanics' Institute Art Exhibition and Sale - Murtoa's Big Weekend, murtoabigweekend.com.au
- 7-14 History Week
- 8 Local History Awards winners announced
- 27 Kilmore Mechanics' Institute - Scaretactics: Scarecrows from Outer Space. Contact: Leanne 0408 166 088
- 27-28 Fawcett Cafe & Market
- TBC American Membership Libraries Meeting - Charleston Library Society

## NOVEMBER

- 1-30 Home is Where the Hall Is!
- 4-10 International Games Week
- 8-24 Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Production: 'The History Boys'. lilydaleatc.com
- 9-10 Tyers Arts Festival
- 11 Arthurs Creek Open Gardens
- 16-18 **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** Conference - Ballarat

**MIV'S EVENTS CALENDAR IS ONLINE**  
[mivic.org.au/events.html](http://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](mailto:editor@mivic.org.au) for inclusion in the online calendar. Let us help you promote your events!

- 17 Mechanics' Institute Halls Survival Workshop - Ballarat
- 19 MIV Bus Tour - Melbourne Institutes
- 19 Conference Keynote Speakers Public Lecture, Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 6.30pm
- 22 Mechanics' Institutes Australia - Sydney Day
- 24 WarrendyteMechanics'InstituteTheatre: 2018 Follies. warrendytehalls.asn.au

## 2019

## JUNE

- TBA UK Independent Libraries Association Conference

*Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress.*  
 CHARLES KETTERING (1876-1958)

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRINTERS

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## CHRISTINE MACKENZIE TO DELIVER WESSON LECTURE 'LIBRARIES IN VICTORIA OVER THE PAST SIXTY YEARS, WITH A WORLD SAMPLING'

Victorian-born, Maffra-raised, **Christine Mackenzie**, graduated BA from Monash University in 1973, and since then has been a career librarian. Christine's management appointments have been: Manager, Mornington Peninsula Library Service; Manager, Brisbane City Council Library Service; and CEO, Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service, from which she retired in 2016. More recently Christine has been Executive Officer of the Public Libraries Victoria Network and has been a Board Member and is currently President-elect of the International Federation of Library Associations and her chosen slogan is 'Let's All Work Together'. In recent times Christine has travelled widely across the globe to promote the Association's vision and goals.

It's been over eighty-years since **Ralph Munn** and **Ernest Pitt** deliberated on the delivery of a library service by way of Mechanics' Institutes across the State of Victoria and elsewhere in Australia. The result was the Munn-Pitt Report: *Australian Libraries: A Survey of Conditions and Suggestions for Their Improvement* published in 1935.

Over the past sixty years community libraries have become the domain of Local Government and only a handful remain in the traditional Mechanics' Institute. It has been a period of



remarkable transition by way of service and delivery.

Indeed we even see community libraries working on the honour system where members enter a building with their swipe cards, peruse the shelves, and return or borrow their books by way of barcoding. Then we see libraries in hall foyers, old phone booths, etc.

Recently the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Program** has taken over from role of the **Andrew Carnegie** library program of a more than a century ago.

The 4th Annual **Wesson Lecture** will take place on Saturday 22 September 2018, at 11am, following MIV's AGM at Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran.



SLUOC PUBLIC LECTURE  
19 NOVEMBER 2018  
PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE



State Library  
User  
Organisations'  
Council

Two of **MIA 2018's** keynote speakers have travelled across the seas to share their knowledge and experience with us. They have agreed to deliver a Public Lecture in Melbourne and Sydney. Their lectures in Melbourne are being auspiced by the State Library User Organisations'



Council at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran on Monday, 19 November at 6.30pm. Siân Williams will speak on the South Wales Miners' Library and Michele Frey's topic will be 'Small Town Halls in New Zealand'.

**The lectures are free.**

# Editorial

Looking back on the progress of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria it's been quite a race, if that is what you could call it. We've staged one **Mechanics' Institutes Australia** National Conference and Ballarat will be our second. We've had two **Mechanics' Worldwide** Conferences, one solo at Prahran in 2004 and the second in 2012 in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society and the Library History Forum.

It has been truly amazing to see such a network establish with MIV being a leading part.

Victoria by way of **Pam Baragwanath** and later **Ken James** has led the way in the group research of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria. Nationally Mechanics' Institutes and their ilk provided the nation's library network for the greater part of a century.

Institute Halls also provided meeting venues for the canvass of public issues, most notably Federation promoted widely by the network of the Australian Natives' Association

Halls played a leading role in the development of the film industry providing 'untied' venues for enterprising producers to screen their films, eg those of the Salvation Army's Limelight Department.

In November we have assembled a coterie of speakers who will probe Institutes individually and collectively, with varied themes. **Professor Richard A. Williams OBE**, Vice-Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, will open the Conference and later deliver a Keynote address.

**Siân Williams** will detail how the South Wales Miners' Library has assembled the very real remnants of the once thriving mining region of South Wales, not only their books, remnant banners and other artifacts, but also the memories of people that were part of connecting social scene. This has enabled an individual centre of study for Miner's Institutes and their libraries. The Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria are doing much the same thing by way of the visionary Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre which has been digitising Institute records since 2004. Very recently our book collection was also assembled and catalogued. **Minister Kairouz** opened the MIRC to wider use.

**Michele Frey**, another keynote, has built on her professional expertise to look at scores of New Zealand Institute and country halls to give an overview of their survival and future.

The **Halls Survival Workshop** is on Saturday, 17 November and will offer a wealth of information for any Institute or Hall, both big and small.

The **J Furphy & Sons Awards** celebrate two icons: the Furphy Watercart, which was a sustainer on the fields of battle and at many a bushfire; and Institutes, their activities and people.

We hope you can join us for the whole of MIA 2018 as this is not an annual event, the last was held in 2002. If you can't, make Saturday your Day when as Hall representatives you can attend for a vastly subsidised rate. You might like to stay for the Saturday night dinner and the J Furphy and Sons Awards and dance to the Seriously Sixties Band, fresh from the Moonambel Hall celebrations.

Indeed Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018 will be one of much **Celebration** which will ensure **Survival**. Head for Ballarat and join us.

*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 **UK48** is 1 December 2018.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Pat Anderson                      Tim McKenna

## NEWSLETTER ROUND

*Tick after reading and pass it on*

- President .....
- Vice-President.....
- Treasurer.....
- Secretary.....
- Committee (*Insert your name*)
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**Membership renewals were due for 2018-2019 on 1 July 2018.** Please contact the Treasurer if you have any queries.



## HERIOT-WATT VICE-CHANCELLOR TO OPEN MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AUSTRALIA 2018

We are very honoured and privileged to have the distinguished presence of **Professor Richard A Williams, OBE, FEng, FTSE, FRSE**, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of **Heriot-Watt University**, of Edinburgh, to Officially Open **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** on Friday, 16 November. He will also deliver the keynote address on Sunday Morning, 18 November, at 11am.

Professor Williams is a career engineer and has had wide experience in the private sector with innovation startups and was the youngest engineering professor in the UK in the public sector in 1993. That was as the Royal Academy of Engineering-Rio Tinto Professor of Minerals at the University of Exeter based at the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall.

Richard Williams was born in Worcester, of a notable car racing family. He was educated at King's School, Worcester from 1967-78, and then went on to Imperial College, London. From there he graduated with a BSc (Engineering) Honours in Mineral Technology in 1983 and completed a PhD in photoelectric chemistry applied to industrial diamond separation processes in 1998.

He worked as a trainee graduate metallurgist with the Anglo-American Corporation in Johannesburg 1979-80, and then joined De Beers Industrial Diamonds Research Laboratory. Whilst there, he undertook a PhD through Imperial College London - Royal School of Mines from 1982-86. From De Beers he was appointed lecturer in Chemical Engineering at the University of Manchester Institute for Science and Technology in 1986 and he remained there until 1993 when he was appointed to Camborne.

In 1999 he was appointed Anglo-American PLC Professor of Mineral and Process Engineering at Leeds and involved with a number of research related enterprises and was Director of the Leeds Nanomanufacturing Institute from 2004-2010. He became Pro-Vice Chancellor in 2005 with responsibility for leadership enterprise, knowledge transfer and international strategy.

Professor Williams moved to the University of Birmingham as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences in 2011, which also involved the operation of nine schools and a range of collaborative business activities. He was a Director of the Manufacturing Technology Centre



for High Value Manufacturing CATAPULT, 2011-15 and a Council Member of the West Midland Confederation for British Industry, 2012-15. In addition he was involved in leadership roles in developing and establishing major collaborative energy conservation research projects including: the Rolls Royce High Temperature Research Centre at Ansty, near Coventry; the Midland Energy Research Accelerator, with other regional Universities; and the Birmingham Centre for Cryogenic Energy Storage.

On being appointed to Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh in March 2015, Professor Williams said 'I am delighted to be joining a University that has such a proud heritage and evident track record of outstanding achievement in science, engineering and business and with such profound global reach. Heriot-Watt has an ambitious and sound strategic plan. I look forward to working with students and colleagues across the campuses in the UK, Malaysia and Dubai, along with our many partners and businesses in ensuring the University's future growth and success'.

He was a Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales 2005-15 and has been Visiting Professor at the Southeast University of Nanjing since 2015 and the China Academy of Sciences since 2014.

His pioneering work in x-ray microtomography has led to radical changes in manufacturing and engineering processes. In addition to Professor Williams's list of honours and awards, he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2009. He was also named as one of the UK's top 20 science innovators as a 'RISE Fellow' in 2015 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Professor Williams is married with two children, has interests in industrial history and art, and collects West Penwith (St Ives, Cornwall) artists. He is a member of the Athenaeum Club.

The visit of Professor Williams, as an exemplar of science, is most fitting at this time. Science, as a subject of curricular study, is becoming increasingly under critical review to ensure that Australia continues to be at the cutting edge of science and that its organisations, particularly the CSIRO are funded and promoted accordingly.



## CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN... MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AUSTRALIA - BALLARAT - 16-18 NOVEMBER 2018

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In just under three months we will be gathering at Ballarat Mechanics' Institute for the third **Mechanics' Institutes Australia Conference** with friends from across Australia and around the world.

**MIA 2018 - Ballarat** will provide an opportunity to review the progress of the Institute Movement over the last two decades, as well as their respective Associations. We will not be overlooking the progress of study of the history of Mechanics' Institutes around the world and combined efforts to address the dearth of published material on a Movement that had such a profound effect on worldwide literacy and culture.

We will also be looking forward with a view to greater cooperation and networking with interstate and overseas Institutes and Groups.

Our Conference theme of **Celebration and Survival** will provide plenty of scope for speakers and delegates to hear and learn of the Mechanics' Past, Present and Aspirations for the future.

The bus tours of Ballarat sites on Friday and Melbourne Institutes on Monday will give all an opportunity to see Institutes large and small. Overseas and interstate delegates will have an opportunity to travel on to Sydney on Thursday, 22 November for a day of activities there.

The **Call for Papers** required full Papers to be delivered by 30 September. The full Papers will be printed so that delegates will be able to read those that were delivered in parallel sessions.

**Registrations are open** for Conference delegates with the Early Bird rate available until 1 September 2018. Discounted rates apply to Members of either MIV, SMSA, AMISA, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute or the Melbourne Athenaeum.

For more information, including: Conference program; and online registration, please see the Conference website: [mivc.org.au/mia2018.html](http://mivc.org.au/mia2018.html)

### PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION

#### *General:*

**Sue Westwood, Steven Haby and Luke Mitchell** 'Analogue or Digital? What matters is connection and authenticity. Surviving in the Digital Age'; **Lorraine Huddle and ROAMNI (Greg Curcio and Jason Fabbri)** 'Digital Self-Guided Tours to Mechanics' Institutes Around the World'; **Catherine Kerrigan** 'Gap, Story, Place: The role of the independent library in the 21st century'; **Judith**

**Dwyer** 'Library History Matters'; **Bronwyn and Jim Lowden** 'Survivention: Strategies for Survival to Century 22'; **Peter Wolfenden** 'The Visitors: Enter the Picture Show Man'.

#### *Overarching:*

**Steven Haby** 'Generalist or Specialist: Considerations for a Mechanics' Institute Library Collection'; **Ellen Coates and James Baker** 'Innovative Institutes: The Unique Opportunities for Staff and Patrons in Mechanics' Institutes'; **Joelie Hancock** 'The Mechanics' Institutes in South Australia: Creating a Thorough Record'; **John Dent** 'Mechanics' Institutes in Tasmania'; **Steve Kellermeier** 'My Thesis - A Tale of Survival of the Hall and the Written Word'; **Ken James** 'Researching the Mechanics': Some Case Studies'; **Helen Monro** 'Seeking culture and identity in country towns: Mechanics' Institutes in Colonial Victoria'; **Lauren Weiss** 'Self Improvement Societies'; **Michele Frey** 'Small Town Halls of New Zealand'; **Sian Williams** 'The South Wales Miners' Library: Saving the Memory'; **Dr Martyn Walker** 'Thank goodness for student choice and the free market: The Mechanics' Universities, their origins and place in twenty-first century Britain.'; **Pam Baragwanath** 'Ubiquitous and Necessary'; **Wendy Birman** 'The West's Agricultural and Miners' Halls, Institutes and Others'; **Professor Roger Morris** 'World War I Memorials in NSW Schools of Arts and Mechanics' Institutes: 'So Much More than a Humble Hall'

#### *Individual Institutes:*

**Mike McCausland** 'A Twist to the Tale: How the Launceston Mechanics' Institute kept its Collection and lost its building'; **Steven Haby** 'Collaboration, Chequebooks and Coffee: Reflections on my first Eighteen Months as Secretary Librarian, PMI [Pahran Mechanics' Institute] Victorian History Library'; **Amy Tsilemanis** 'Exploring the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute (BMI): Past, Present and Future'; **Peter Jones** 'Future-Proofed Romance? Leaves from Little River [Mechanics' Institute]'; **Christine Windle** 'Part of Our Lives: The Inverleigh Mechanics' Institute'; **Anne Marsden** 'Pioneering Women: The Families of the Founders of the 1839 Melbourne Mechanics' Institution'; **Libby Webster** 'Tallarook: A Hallish Story'; **Winsome Allen** 'The Hunting of the Snark' or 'What it is that we should be doing now?' [Sydney MSA]



## HALLS SURVIVAL WORKSHOP 17 NOVEMBER 2018, 9.30AM-4.45PM

As MIV did in conjunction with **Mechanics' Worldwide 2004** at the Village Roadshow Theatre, thanks to the generosity of State Library Victoria, we this time plan a day-long **Halls Survival Workshop** at Ballarat. This will be staged on Saturday, 17 November and will start promptly at 9.30am. However the doors will open at 7.30am which will allow for Registration, a cuppa and/or a tour of the truly amazing Ballarat Mechanics' Institute and a chance to meet fellow-hall managers. The Registration desk will be staffed all day, so arrive when you can, collect your showbag and join the Workshop when you are able. No doubt any time spent here will bring to light some information you can take back to your Institute for consideration.



Keynote Speaker for the day will be **Michele Frey** co-author of, with Sara Newman, *On Saturday Night: Community Halls of Small-Town New Zealand* that gives an overview country halls throughout New Zealand, with detailed notes on more than seventy halls. Michele will look at how and why they continue to survive.

Subjects that will be covered during the day, with handouts or presentations will include:

- \* Arts Programs
- \* Australian Not-for-Profit and Charity Commission Charitable Status
- \* Baby Shows
- \* Dances
- \* Exhibition and Art Hanging Systems
- \* Film Staging
- \* Grantwriting
- \* Hall Maintenance & Management
- \* Insurance/Legal Issues
- \* Libraries

- \* Marketing
- \* Markets
- \* Museums
- \* Policies
- \* Record Conservation – Flood & Fire
- \* Crown Land Halls

A feature of the Day will be the presentation on the **Shire of Wellington's** Shire-wide Hall Program which assists all Halls in that Shire with financial assistance and managerial mentoring.

This day long seminar is open to all and any Hall can send up to two delegates along for \$30.00 each and this includes food and one set of notes. Interested members of the Public can attend for a Saturday-only rate of the \$125.00

Information and Bookings:  
[mivc.org.au/mia2018.html](http://mivc.org.au/mia2018.html)

This Conference would not be possible without the support and sponsorship of



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**FURPHY**





## BUS TOUR OF MELBOURNE'S MECHANICS' INSTITUTES 19 NOVEMBER 2018

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MIV hasn't done the usual bus tour this year as we were holding out to see how many starters we had from **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** to fill the bus. It will be coming from Ballarat and the Tour will start at the **Melbourne Athenaeum Library**, 188 Collins Street at 10am.

The Melbourne Athenaeum, started out as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution in 1839 and it has been at its current location since 1841. It has played a leading role in Melbourne's cultural life as a library, as a performing and cinema space, and as a key art exhibition gallery from 1911-70. With a rising membership the Athenaeum has engaged in recent times in regular lectures, music performances and club activities which include video and board gaming.

The bus will be leaving the Melbourne Athenaeum for the **Footscray Mechanics' Institute** at 10.15. Now in its third location since 1856, it operates from the greater part of a whole city block and is surrounded by several tenants, a number being not-for-profit. The distinctive Footscray building was designed by **Gerald Vanheems**, who later worked on the central spire of St Patrick's Cathedral, and opened in 1913. The library comprises arguably the greatest collection of Mills and Boon in Australia.

We will drive by the former **Flemington and Kensington Free Library and Mechanics' Institute** where State and Federal politician **Alfred Deakin** was once President.

After that we will be moving on to the **Brunswick Mechanics' Institute**. On a donated Sydney Road frontage, this distinctive building once featured the deep brown brick colour, for which the brick kilns of Brunswick were noted.

Things changed in 1926 when the façade was rendered. The Baths that were opened at the rear of the building in 1891 had already been filled in by 1924. This has now become a vibrant arts hub under the management of **Next Wave**. The 'Hammer and Hand' sculpture is quite recent.

From Brunswick we move on to the **Carlton Hall**, the main single storey brick building was constructed in just three weeks in 1877. A second storey and the distinctive façade with Gibbs surround was added later that year. Whilst in continuous community use, the building was in private ownership until purchased by Melbourne City Council in 1944. Since 1990 it has been known as Dancehouse and centre for the learning and performance of dance and has gained international repute.

After Carlton we move to **Prahran Mechanics' Institute** which in its new home, has become an even greater major centre for the study of Victorian State and Local History. Prahran also houses the records of the: Cinema and Theatre Historical Society; the Australian Railway Historical (Victorian Division); and of course the Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre, with its growing digital archive and monograph collection.

The tour will be terminating at Prahran, where the two Conference keynote Speakers, **Michele Frey** and **Siân Williams** will give a free Public Lecture in the evening.

The tour costs \$60 per head, with a guided walk through at each venue, lunch and afternoon tea and notes. Numbers will be limited so book early: (03) 9873 7202 or [theruralstore@bigpond.com](mailto:theruralstore@bigpond.com).



## J FURPHY & SONS AWARDS

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The **J Furphy and Sons Awards** will recognise the contribution of the Mechanics' Institutes and their people to Victoria's cultural and community life and that of the ongoing engineering ingenuity of the Furphy family. J Furphy & Sons have generously

agreed to sponsor these one-off awards as part of the MIV's 20th anniversary in 2018.

The **J Furphy & Sons Awards** will be made from nominations received from Member Institutes of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria.



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## MEMORIES OF THE MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY

A chance meeting with **Pam Baragwanath** resulted in the following story coming from a former Melbourne Athenaeum Library staffer who was there from 1951-62.

Straight from MacRobertson's Girls' High, sixteen-year-old **Barbara Marshall née McCombie** started working as a junior at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library in January 1951. Her duties included sorting books, putting them back on the shelves and tidying the magazine area.

She also worked on the desk with **Miss Martin** and **Miss Brougham** recording members' book returns and borrowings.

Periodically Barbara helped in the Country Library (Borrowers') Section which was managed by **Lynn Flett**. Lynn had to assemble the orders of country borrowers, wrap them up, secure each parcel with string, weigh the parcel and record the weight on the outside wrapping, along with that of the addressee. The parcels were then taken down to Post Office where they would be posted to country Victoria members or even to some interstate. The return parcels would be delivered to the Athenaeum and they were then unpacked and checked off against borrowing records.

Lynn's father was odd-job man, who had a hook for one arm. He put out the morning papers, varnished book covers, and did maintenance around the building, including fixing the lift when it wouldn't work.

**Margaret Miller** was in charge of ordering and receiving books. Parcels of books received from overseas were assembled together and taken by tram to the Customs House, where they were inspected for any pornographic content. Later a Customs Officer would visit the Library and inspect invoices for book titles. Barbara took over Margaret's job when she left to get married.

**Betty Birtwhistle, Jean Booth, Margaret Cornish** and **Leila Winchcombe** all worked in the Library. There was also a man, **Mr Burgess**.

**Mr Leslie Stephens** was in charge and he worked from an office upstairs. **Miss Nice** was his Secretary and she frowned upon the use of lipstick and nail polish. The office also served the Royal Humane Society.

Not far from the office was the Athenaeum Art Gallery and Barbara recalls the **Albert Namatjira** exhibition and how she nearly bought



one of his paintings for forty pounds... and now wishes she had done so.

There was a public phone in the Library for member and staff use and it was tuppence or two pennies fed into the slot to make a call. Members could reserve books for sixpence, and when they became available it was the duty of junior staff to ring the member from the payphone to advise that their book had arrived.

Library office hours were 9am-5pm, but the Library opening hours were 9am-10pm, Monday to Friday and 9am-12 noon on Saturdays. The staff were rostered to cover the period to 10pm or on Saturday mornings.

Barbara left the library in December 1957 to start a family and **Leila Winchcombe** took over her job. Barbara returned part-time in 1960 after her son was born. She then worked until August 1962 to await the birth of her daughter.

Thank you Barbara! Indeed Memories are made of times like these.

Is there anyone else out there who would like to share their stories of Institute life?



*The Library in 1957*

*Photo: The Melbourne Athenaeum: A Journal of the History of a Melbourne Institution*

# JOHN DESMOND BERNAL - SOCIALIST AND SAGE PART 2

BY BASIL WALBY

*As we grapple with the requirement for increased science and technical education, there is a pressing need to sell science both to the end users: Government and industry; and the participants, the students of today. The grassroots Mechanics' Institute movement played a major part in science education in the past, and today that role has been taken up by the Mechanics' Universities and others around the world.*

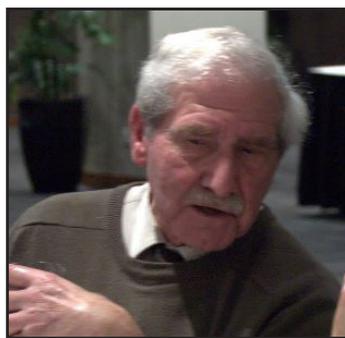
## JOHN DESMOND BERNAL



*Photo: © Wolfgang Suschitzky / National Portrait Gallery, London*

*In 1946 Bernal set up Birkbeck's Biomolecular Research Laboratory, the alumni of which were to have huge impact on future scientific research. Bernal saw that scientific research and its communication should be tailored for human need, with a long term goal. An example of this had been the challenging multi-author book *Science in War* hastily produced by Penguin in 1940.*

## BASIL WALBY



*British-born Basil Walby, the author of the following article, read chemistry and mathematics at King's College London and moved into science communication with Macmillan*

*Publishing. He came to Australia in 1971 to head up the publishing and communication arm of the*

*CSIRO. During his sixteen years, pioneering and utilising latest digital and electronic technologies, Basil turned their publishing unit into Australia's leading and one of the world's leading science communicators. CSIRO's distinctive publications can be found in bookshops today, and around the world by way of publishing partners.*

*Whilst the following Paper was written in 1995, its message and example of John Desmond Bernal is very profound – we need science and it must be promoted as a positive career path to our youth.*

***Continuing on from UK46...***

## SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

A third important preoccupation of Bernal concerned the various facets of communicating science -not only between scientists but also between scientist and more general audiences. He was probably fortunate to begin his career after graduating from Cambridge at the Royal Institution, an august organisation founded in 1799 to promote science and the diffusion and extension of useful knowledge.

From the time of its foundation by Benjamin Thompson, it has attracted a succession of excellent expositors on science right up to the present. Davy, Faraday, Dewar and the Braggs are notable amongst its list of directors. Original research and popular lectures have consistently been part of its program. Bernal, a natural communicator, was from the beginning acutely aware of the need for scientists to make their ideas as clear as possible.

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Bernal noted in 1939 that 'the number of scientific journals is altogether excessive'<sup>1</sup>. The 1934 edition of *World List of Scientific Periodicals* listed 33,000 different titles. *Chemical Abstracts* which published short summaries (250-300 words) from the international literature of chemistry even then was running to three volumes of 2000 pages each year plus a 1000-page index. He questioned the necessity for so much expenditure on journals with such limited readership. He believed that there must be better ways to disseminate the results of original research and thereby release money for the benefit of science.

<sup>1</sup> J.D. Bernal (1939). *The Social Function of Science*. London: George Routledge & Sons, p118.

The burden on libraries, learned societies and on the scientists themselves was huge. He identified the 'unit of information' as the original paper and thought how this unit might be reproduced more cheaply and how it could be distributed more efficiently to those who really needed it.

Printing was expensive and too many original articles remained unread. He realised that photography was the answer to producing short-run articles. He was also prepared to accept less-elegant reproduction than the usual expensive use of hot-metal type and line blocks for illustrations. How happy would he have been if word processors and photocopiers had been available then? It has taken us all of fifty years to get round to generating research papers on demand. The virtual journal is just about with us although there is the entrenched conservatism of publishers to overcome this. The problems identified by Bernal are even greater today as books and journals have proliferated and there has been an enormous explosion of the so-called 'grey literature' - reports, notes, reviews, etc., Bernal failed to sell his ideas, partly because he underestimated the strength of the opposition. Publishers were keen to protect their investment in journals and did not care how much was read. Shortages of ink and paper during WWII did lead to the rationalisation of abstracting services, another inefficiency identified in Bernal's book. In Britain, for instance, the various chemical societies took up a government-sponsored abstracting system covering all aspects of chemistry<sup>2</sup>. But this did not last. Government support was withdrawn in 1953 leading to renewed competition between societies both within Britain and internationally.

Bernal's idea that complete articles only should be stored in central archives and accessed when needed by readers was considered as a high-handed intrusion on the *laissez-faire* publishing practices of capitalistic nations - smacking too much of socialist planning. Interestingly, however, this scenario is being borne out today when the latest version of any research article may exist electronically on the World Wide Web. Some of the dangers inherent in centralised storage, such as openness to plagiarisation, were apparent to authors fifty years ago.

And as in the 1930s, editors and publishers still perceive dangers in radical methods of storage and distribution of information - notably in maintaining quality control and the

preservation of copyright. It becomes difficult to claim priority when no definitive version of the research exists on paper. Others worry about cluttering up the channels of communication with poorly constructed texts that have not been subjected to a series of filters represented by editors, referees, proofreaders, etc.

There has been no amelioration in the number of publications over the years. Indeed the position is worse today than it was before WWII. As each area of research has subdivided the demand for ever more specialised outlets has increased. Libraries and individuals can no longer afford to pay high prices for periodicals and decreasing print runs ensure even higher subscription rates. The dictum that 'periodicals exist for science not science for periodicals'<sup>3</sup> has been forgotten.

### THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE

European authors have struggled with language since Latin ceased to be the accepted medium of writing science. Bernal reminds us that Newton was still writing in Latin even though Galileo had dropped it for Italian earlier. However, by the 18th century scientists were generally adopting their vernaculars. By the beginning of this century certain languages were found to be more accessible to scientists than other and reflected colonisation of the world during the 19th century - notably English, French and German. At the time Bernal was writing, the practice of prefacing scientific articles with abstracts in these languages had become quite common. In the 1940s, Russian was often added particularly by the publishers in eastern Europe. It is worth noting that German, which played such an important role in chemistry publications before WWII, has declined in popularity. So has French in spite of strong pressure to encourage French scientists to publish in French-language journals. Many countries have adopted English as the preferred language for their science publications, realising that it has become the second language of many scientists world wide. The dominance of English amongst the largest of the producers of scientific databases has accelerated this move to monolingualism<sup>4</sup>. Bernal's solution to the language problem was to set up coordinating centres to disseminate individual scientific articles. He suggested three:

3 Bernal (1939), p300.

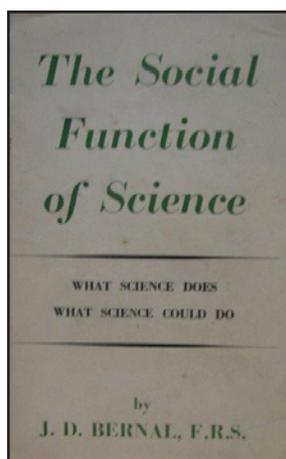
4 The US publishers BIOSIS and ISI have been accused of giving less exposure to non-English materials than is justified.

one in Geneva, one in the United States, and one in the Far East. To help in this internationalisation he enthusiastically supported the development of the International Council of Scientific Unions - created in 1931 from the International Research Council itself a product of post-WWI cooperation.

There is another aspect of the language of science which warrants some discussion. Original work done and reported in a typical research journal is accessible to an extremely limited group of readers - people who can be assumed to have a reasonably good understanding of the subject matter. Other types of readers are excluded. When discussing abstracts, Bernal points out that it would be 'an over-simplification to have only one set'<sup>5</sup> because there are potential readers with other interests than the prime audience. Such readers may be professionals with backgrounds different from that of the writer. Indeed, they may have but a general or a superficial interest in the topic. The implications were clear. There was a growing requirement for a new breed of interpreter of science - scientifically literate writers who were able to communicate science to the public. A few scientists had this gift - Hogben, Haldane, Julian Huxley, for example - but most had not. One or two journalists were performing this function - Crowther possibly being the best known in the 1930s - but there was a shortage of outlets for their writings.

Radio talks were popular and an embryonic television service was about to be launched. Publishers were beginning to fill a gap with titles such as *Armchair Science* until cut down by the wartime paper shortage. Ever innovative, H.G. Wells was calling for a 'World Encyclopaedia' to be updated continuously by teams of international experts. He was highly critical of the decline in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* into 'a mere mass of unrelated knowledge sold by high-pressure salesmanship'<sup>6</sup>. His call for a living and changing body of thought summing up the spirit of the age has taken all of fifty years to be heard by the producers of works of reference. At last we are in a position to retrieve up-to-date information from encyclopaedic databases by CD-ROM. It is surprising that it has taken so long for the digital computer which was invented in the 1940s to have been brought fully into action. Bernal was struggling with punch-card systems when he wrote *The Social Function of Science*.

## BERNAL'S LEGACY TO SCIENCE



It has been impossible in a short article to give anything like a complete account of Bernal's contribution as a commentator on science and its social responsibilities. He was a complex person, fashioned by his nationality, family, education, and driven by the politics following the First World War. It

is certain that he played an important part in promoting the use of science for humanitarian purposes in Britain from the early thirties until his death in 1971. Goldsmith in his biography says that unlike 'Rutherford or the Braggs he did not come to found a school, his strength lay in causing other minds to light up'<sup>7</sup>. He bridged the gap between physics and biology, he worked unstintingly for science in war and in peace, and he remained stalwartly on the side of the common man throughout his life. In 1939 he stated in dealing with the social implications of science that 'society is subject only to the limitations it imposes on itself'<sup>8</sup>. He never wavered from this belief. He said there was no longer any technical reason why everyone should not have enough to eat or any reason for being employed for more than three or four hours in disagreeable or monotonous work each day. He believed in preventative medicine and that science should bring power and liberation to people.

He saw that in living in an environment more and more created by humans, we should need to adjust to continuous change, whilst accepting that life would become less predictable. Some of the World's leaders may be about to understand that message.

## OTHER SOURCES

Julian Huxley (1978). *Memories I and II*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.

William McGucken (1984). *Scientists, Society and State: The Social Relations of Science in Great Britain, 1931-47*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

Basil Walby

Dated: 13 November 1995

5 Bernal (1939), p297.

6 Bernal (1939), p306.

7 Maurice Goldsmith (1980). *Sage: A Life of J.D. Bernal*. London: Hutchinson, p154.

8 Bernal (1939), p409.

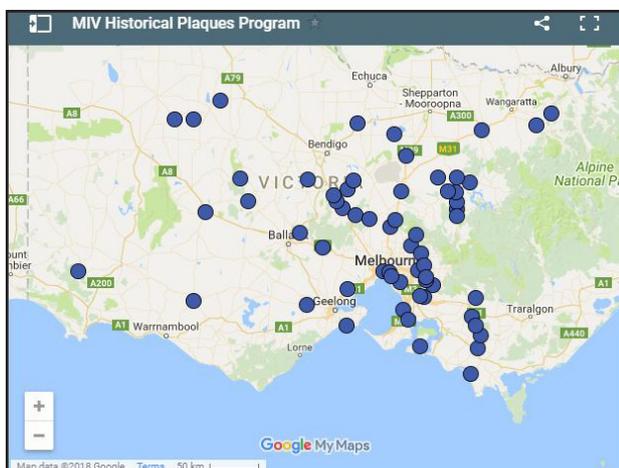
## MIV'S *Historical Plaques Program*

MIV's Historical Plaques Program has been running for 15 years, and has seen 61 Plaques issued to mark Institutes across the State. Of those 61, two were issued to Institutes who have lost their buildings this past year - No. 3 - Tallarook Mechanics' Institute - was lost to fire one night in May; and No. 16 - Emerald Mechanics' Institute - was demolished earlier this year to make way for a new community hub.

The remaining Plaques in the series mark Institutes or former sites of Institutes, connecting them to the great Victorian Mechanics' Movement which once numbered over 1300 Institutes.

The purpose of the MIV Historical Plaques Program is to inform the public of the history of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria and also give a snippet of history about the individual Institute. The idea of putting a plaque on Mechanics' Institute Halls was advanced by Committee member **Alan Tonkin** in 1999. Committee member **Paul Permezel** brought it to reality in 2003 and since then plaques have been installed to mark special occasions within the Institute. These plaques have been used to commemorate a significant date in the history of an Institute or town; be it an anniversary, or a significant renovation or restoration project.

The plaques are oval in shape (~30cm x ~20cm), with a blue baked enamel surface and white lettering. In consultation with Heritage Victoria, they recommended that they be the same blue colour as their plaques so as to be noticed from afar as marking an historic building. The plaque will carry the MIV logo, some standard text and a personalised space for details of the Institute (approx. 120 words),



*MIV's Plaques issued to date. We still have a lot of the State to cover!*



*Above: MIV Plaque No. 60 - Wandong Public Hall unveiled by Peter Dore, Ex-RAAC 3 Cavalry Vietnam, 25 April 2018, with a few of the local regular hall users; left: Plaque in its final resting place. (Photo: Karen Christensen)*

and also the plaque number. Pins on the plaque's reverse will enable fixing to stone, concrete or wooden buildings. They can be mounted on board if required. The plaques have an expected life-span of about fifty years.

### **Recent Plaques**

- No. 58 **Romsey Mechanics' Institute**
- No. 59 **Taggerty Mechanics' Institute**
- No. 60 **Wandong Public Hall**
- No. 61 **Yarck Mechanics' Institute**
- No. 62 **Your Institute?**

To order a plaque (They will cost \$195 each for MIV Members, \$250 for non-Members, including delivery, and will require your installation.) or for more information, contact: Judith Dwyer, Box 482, Berwick, V 3806 or jad134@hotmail.com. Check out the Plaques page on the MIV website for locations and individual citations - [mivic.org.au/plaques.html](http://mivic.org.au/plaques.html)

Wording and photographs can also be found on MIV's Open Plaques page. Please feel free to upload your own images via Flickr or Wikipedia and link them to our Open Plaques entries:

<http://openplaques.org/series/43>

## Featured Institute

### LAKES ENTRANCE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

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Located 320km south-east of Melbourne on Victoria's Ninety-Mile Beach, Lakes Entrance was originally inhabited by the Gunaikurnai people. The district was first settled in the 1840s by pastoralists.

**John Campbell** (1815-83), a station owner from Sale, and others built holiday shacks along the lake front in the 1860s and it became known as Campbelltown. This small scattering of dwellings was situated where the Eastern Beach Causeway is now. It was not an official township and was never gazetted. The township of Lakes Entrance was first proclaimed in 1887. It did not include the small, separate township of Cunninghame, surveyed in 1866, and which extended from Merranbaur Hill eastward to Lake Bunga.

In 1893 the people of Lakes Entrance requested the Government to drop the use of the name of 'Cunninghame' from their town, and also the name of 'Colquhoun', which although never gazetted, often appeared on Government maps.

The name change from Colquhoun to Lakes Entrance was gazetted on 16 March 1894 in spite of already having been proclaimed officially as Lakes Entrance in 1887 and 1888. The township of Cunninghame was officially changed to Lakes Entrance on 1 January 1915. The first unofficial Post Office opened on 5 February 1870, while it was not until 1879 that an official Post and Telegraph Office was established.

Today Lakes Entrance is a busy commercial fishing port and holiday destination.

A Mutual Improvement Association was formed around April 1890. Early community meetings appeared to have been held at Hunter's Hall, owned by **William Hunter**, who had built the Club Hotel at the western end of town in

1885. The *Australian Handbook* of 1903 notes a 'hall' existed.

In 1903 meetings were held for the staging of bazaar in January 1904 to raise money for the building of a Mechanics' Institute. Another recorded bazaar was held on 13-15 February 1907 and this raised '£100, clear of all expenses'.

A site was given by **George Alfred Carpenter** (1857-1918) in memory of his father **John Carpenter** (1814-91). The Hall was designed by **John Henry 'Harry' French** (1868-1953) and it was opened 26 September 1907.

A Library was part of the original Institute's activities but this closed in the 1920s. A lending library service of sorts was then carried on by 'some of the general stores'.

Many World War I send-offs took place in the Hall, including that for **Privates Alex Innes, George Hemming** and **Christy McNamara** who were tended a farewell in the Institute on 7 September 1915. Each was presented with 'a wallet' from the Football Club.





*Photo: Rob Dunlop*

In January 1918 the three **Gray** brothers – **Lance-Corporal James** (born 1891), **Gunner John Gerald** (born 1896) and **Private FC** had a Welcome Home in the Hall. 'To the accompaniment of suitable music two of the Grey [sic] brothers and a comrade named **Pte Nelson Smith** walked up the main passage and took seats in the platform amidst loud cheers by the audience. Later on the remaining boy FC of the Grey [sic] family was carried towards the platform amidst deafening applause. This soldier had the misfortune to lose one of his legs.'

The Lux Picture Company staged two screenings in the Hall during the holiday season in January 1918.

A Returned Soldiers' room and supper room was added to the Hall in 1924, with a biobox around the same time. Pictures were screened here from 1924-31 by Paramount, which included day and night screenings during the summer holiday season.

In August 1925 it was noted 'The extension of the Lakes Entrance Recreation Hall, and addition of two rooms for returned soldiers, with the installation of electric light, cost £1,800. The debt is being reduced at the rate of £15 a month. At a recent concert organised by **Miss T Wyld**, £20 for the reduction of the debt was raised.'

The Annual Fishermen's Ball transformed the Hall into 'a sea' of nets, lent by the Salmon Co., and an occasional 'suspended' boat was a feature of the early 1930s.

The Hall was surrounded by a sea of water during floods in the 1930s and 1950s. Following the torrential downpour of some 9.5 inches on 1-2 January 1949 hundreds of campers became marooned and sought refuge in the Institute until the floodwaters receded.

In March 1938 the Shire of Tambo took over the Hall debt which at the time was represented

by an overdraft of £1057.3s, accrued interest amounted to £242.11s and bank charges of £2.6s, making a total of £1302. By way of a special rate levied on residents of the Cunninghame Ward, in the intervening time to 31 December 1942, the Shire had repaid in six installments a total of £460, which left a total of £842 owing.

A major upgrade of the Hall took place in 1961 at a cost of £8500.

The Hall was passed to the Shire of Tambo in 1982, which became part of the East Gippsland Shire following amalgamations in 1994. After a 'Farewell Function' in November 1998, the Hall was demolished.

The Kennett Government and Council had made available \$1.7 million in April 1988 to provide the larger replacement. It was designed by **Murray Goff** and was opened on 4 December 1999 by the Hon. Rob Cameron.

The building at 18 Mechanics' Street, is still known as the Lakes Entrance Mechanics' Hall, and besides hosting a busy library, it has an East Gippsland Shire Council Transaction Centre and spaces for meetings and performance or exhibition.

The World War I Honour Roll that was originally located in the Hall is now housed in the RSL Memorial Hall.



*Photo: Sandra Brown via monumentaustralia.org.au*

## *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. We have not provided references for any of the articles (as their sources can be longer than the stories!), but we would be happy to send out notes we hold on Institutes if requested. Our newsletter is also indexed to enable histories of various Institutes to be aggregated over time.

### **BADGER CREEK HALL (Est. 1924)**



*Kathleen Cameron*

*(Photo: Chloe Smith via Weekly Times)*

The Hall holds a World War I Honour Roll which lists sixty-nine names, fifteen of those carry an asterisk which indicates that they did not return to Australia. Nine had enlisted from the nearby Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. Over the past three years a team led by **Kathleen Cameron** has been putting 'flesh' to the list of names and have produced a booklet from their findings. They workshopped their findings at an afternoon in the Hall on Saturday, 30 June at which descendants of some of the sixty-nine servicemen were invited. If you can assist with any information about World War I service personnel from Badger Creek contact (03) 5962 3639. [www: badgercreekhall.org.au](http://www.badgercreekhall.org.au)

### **BENALLA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1869)**

The **Benalla Costume and Kelly Museum** has mounted a special exhibition "**Dressed to Impress: One Woman's Wardrobe**" to celebrate the life of a well-known Benalla identity, **Margaret Richardson**, who died in October, 2015. In her younger days, Margaret attended many local country balls where there was great competition to be "Belle of the Ball". Having



*Exhibits currently on display in the Benalla Costume and Kelly Museum. (Photo: Benalla Historical Society)*

been particularly successful, she eventually won the "Belle of Belles", entered the Moomba Queen competition and became a "Moomba Princess".

Tall and elegant, Margaret was greatly admired for her sense of style and was to be seen wearing beautiful clothes no matter the time or occasion. She had even been seen mowing her lawn while wearing high fashion and high heels. Her funeral,

organised by herself, featured a powder blue coffin covered with her favourite hats and borne by two Clydesdale horses, complete with feathered head-dresses, pausing outside Margaret's favourite hairdresser which she had patronised weekly for many years.

Her clothing, while very much top class, did not feature many of the best-known brands. She was always keen to support local designers and much of the fabric used in her clothes was purchased locally. Nevertheless, all agreed that she invariably looked "a million dollars", whether out shopping or winning the prize at "Fashions in the Field" at the races.

The current exhibition displays a fine selection of Margaret's gowns, day-wear, jewellery, boots, handbags and other accessories. It gives a marvellous overview of one woman's passion for fine clothing. Opened in June this year, it will be on display for about twelve months.

Alan Monger

Hon. Secretary, Benalla Historical Society  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~benmus/>

### **BERWICK MECHANICS' INSTITUTE & FREE LIBRARY (Est. 1862)**

BMIFL was one of the beneficiaries of the Public Libraries Funding for Mechanics' Institutes during the financial year 2017-2018. This funding allocation, administered by DELWP, enabled the



*Minute Books, newly-bound by Hourihan Bookbinders, funded by DELWP Library Grant.  
(Photo: Berwick Mechanics' Institute)*

BMIFL to benefit greatly from the grant and achieve all of the goals set by the BMIFL for its use.

These were the refurbishment of the kitchen and bathroom, purchase of a custom built display table and chairs for adult patrons, improvement of the children's area including a low table, story teller's chair, book tubs and a substantial number of children's fiction and non-fiction books. DB Textworks software was purchased for use in the heritage area of the Library with signage to make the collection more accessible to the general public. Two old minute books from the BMIFL's collection have just returned from **Hourihan Bookbinding** of Kilsyth and these two books, from earlier years, will form six volumes in a new collection of minute books. (Jacob Hourihan has previously restored an 1858 family Bible belonging to the Bain family of Berwick for us. **Robert Bain** donated the land the BMIFL now partly stands on and descendants of the family were looking for a home for the bible and two ledgers. One of the ledgers dates from around 1900 and was used at the Berwick Inn (Border Hotel, built in 1857 by Robert Bain) and the other was used by one of Robert's sons who became a Berwick estate agent. All three restored volumes now live at the Library. We were very pleased with the work, especially the Bible which had been kept in outside storage for some years and had suffered. Jacob is currently undertaking more restoration/book binding work for us related to another grant received by BMIFL.)

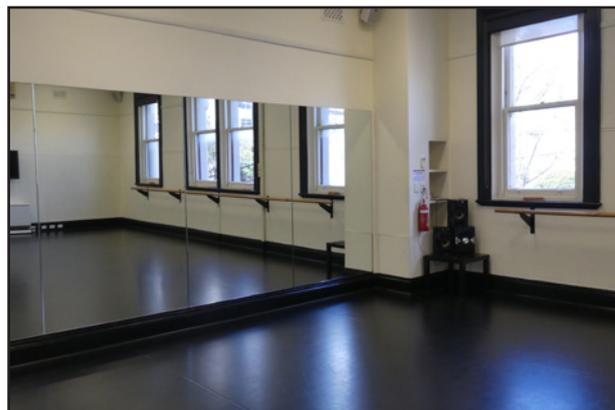
Many hours of volunteer input contributed to the successful outcome of the Library renovation project with the partners of some existing volunteers providing expertise in the kitchen

and bathroom refurbishments by undertaking plumbing and tiling work. Collection and delivery of many items was also undertaken by BMIFL volunteers and the Library Managers contributed a great deal of extra time in the selection and purchasing of items, particularly the children's books. Working together the BMIFL Committee and Library Managers have achieved a wonderful outcome.

BMIFL would like to thank Jim Lowden of Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria for his sterling work in achieving this funding round, not only for the BMIFL but also the other recipients. We would also like to thank all of the personnel we dealt with at DELWP who were able to deal with all of our queries promptly and efficiently. These include **Colin Morrison, Colin McDonald** and **Julia Keeble**. Their assistance has been much appreciated.

Corinne Brewis, President, BMIFL  
[www.berwickmilibrary.org.au](http://www.berwickmilibrary.org.au)

#### **CARLTON MECHANICS' HALL (Est. 1877)**



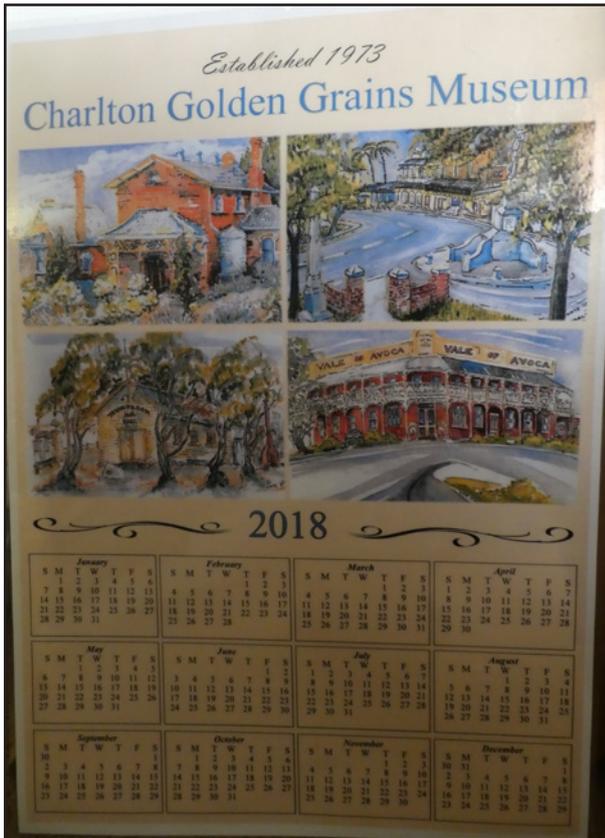
*Dancehouse's SkyLab*

**Dancehouse** celebrated Open House over the weekend of 28-29 July and drew a steady stream of visitors, who either came to look or participate in the program of activities and tours. The building and its 'clean' ambience is a great credit to Dancehouse's Artistic Director **Angela Conquet** and her dedicated team. It was also an opportunity to see the recently installed facilities in SkyLab which is fitted with mirrors, rails and a 'soft' floor. An interesting and enduring feature of Dancehouse is its provision of scones for events and large batches were produced over the weekend by **Ashley Dyer**, topped up with jam and cream and available to all comers.

Dancehouse is part of the Post-MIA 2018 Conference activities and you can book for the 19 November bus tour with MIV.

[www: dancehouse.com.au](http://www.dancehouse.com.au)

**CHARLTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1882)**



*A3 Calendar produced by the Charlton Golden Grains Museum for 2018*

Charlton's **Golden Grains Museum** is one of Victoria's significant regional country museums. Naturally it features things from Victoria's grain belt and a regional town. It also has an emphasis on indigenous and town settlement, with a good section on telephone and postal services. Whilst in the past it has been subject to floods it has always bounced back bigger and better than ever. Check it out. The Museum is open on Sundays from 11am-3pm or by appointment by calling Sue (03) 5491 1477 or Rose (03) 5491 1636. [www: charltongoldengrainsmuseums.webs.com](http://www.charltongoldengrainsmuseums.webs.com)

**FAWCETT HALL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY (Est. 1882)**

The Fawcett Hall Cafe and Market is on again over the weekend 27-28 October 2018. Local catering company **Harvesting the Feast** will again be looking after the weekend's food and coffee. Donations of household items, plants and garden items will be accepted by the Hall Committee with proceeds going to the Hall. For more information call Sandra on 5772 3223. In addition there will also be an Open Gardens over the same weekend 9am-4pm.

Fawcett Hall also recently undertook a mock-wedding photoshoot to showcase their facilities and other local business efforts to put on a beautiful event at the Spring Creek Road location. Check out their Facebook page or website for the pictures.

[www.fawcethall.org.au](http://www.fawcethall.org.au)

**FRYERSTOWN - BURKE AND WILLS MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1863)**



The **Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)** recently started a series 'Halls of Fame' in their newsletter *History News*. Featured on the front cover of the June 2018 edition is a pic of the **Burke and Wills Mechanics' Institute** at Fryerstown. The article at page five is ascribed to **Geoff Hocking**, Artist and Writer.

It is noted that 'A feature of the hall's interior is a splendid painted backdrop on the raised stage depicting a stylised rural landscape, while another wall bears testament to the locals who served and sacrificed in defence of the realm with a memorial board on which then names of those locals are memorialised in gold.'

As mentioned the Hall was built by and for a community which raised £300 to erect a memorial to **Robert O'Hara Burke** and **William John Wills** who had both died in South Australia in 1861 while on the ill-fated Burke and Wills Expedition.

**HILLENDE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est 1903)**



*Photo: Rob Dunlop*

Like all small Institutes the constant requirement for fundraising to upgrade Hall facilities to meet changing regulations, is increasingly onerous. The present building dates from 1941, after the earlier hall had been destroyed by bushfire. It also has additions that were made in 1964. The Hall site also holds a World War I Memorial. The Hall Committee, like several others, is presently grappling with the increased cost of Public Risk Insurance and are seeking options and we wish them well.

#### KANGAROO GROUND HALL (Est. 1884)

Quoted in a recent edition of the *Hurstbridge Round-a-bout* is a slab of text from **Pam Baragwanath** and **Ken James'** *These Walls Speak Volumes* about the Kangaroo Ground Hall, alas no more. Originally local meetings and entertainment were held in a barn 'kindly lent for the occasion'.

Early in 1884 the move to build a local Mechanics' Institute was championed in a letter to the press by one 'Little Nell'. A response pointed out that Mechanics' Institutes were places 'mostly for men' and asked if 'Little Nell' was simply looking for husband?

She did not have to wait long for in 1885, **John Donaldson** of Ivanhoe engaged **Joseph Stevenson** of Yering to build a 60ft x 26ft structure, with a stage and two anterooms. It was finished for community use in October. The Hall continued in private ownership but with community use until 1930 when it was purchased by the Kangaroo Ground Advancement League. The purchase price of £150 was provided by **Mrs White** by way of a five year loan. This was duly repaid within the required period and the Hall continued in community use. Around about 1954 the name was changed to Stevenson's Hall, after community worker **John Stevenson**, who had died in 1953. In 1969 Kangaroo Ground State School infant classes were held in the Hall. Some time later Council considered it unsafe and speedily demolished it.

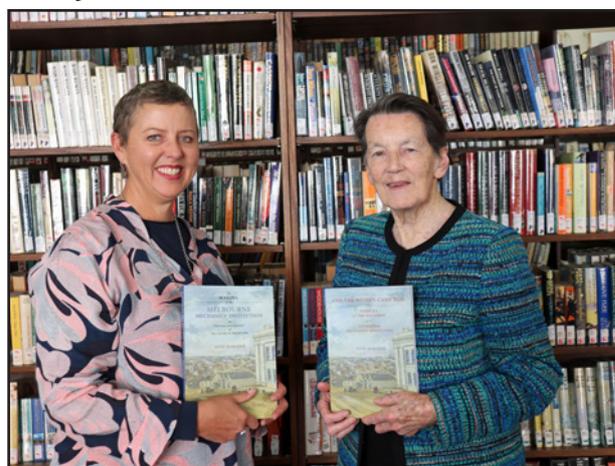
#### KILMORE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1854)

The annual Scaretactics has achieved quite a following and every year local people, businesses and community groups mount a scary site based on a theme. This year the event is being held on Saturday, 27 October from 10am-5pm in the town's main shopping strip. The theme for this year is 'Scarecrows from Outer Space'. Why not make a day of it in Kilmore, visit the Hume and Hovell Monument and take in Kilmore on



Old Hume Highway No. 31. Details: Leanne 0408166088.

#### MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY (Est. 1839)



Sue Westwood (left), Manager, Melbourne Athenaeum, and author Anne Marsden.

(Photo: James Baker)

The library was the scene of the late morning, 10 August, launch of Athenaeum Archive volunteer **Anne Marsden's** latest book *And the Women Came Too: the Families of the Founders of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution*. It was launched by **Dr Dianne Reilly AM**, Co-Founder and Secretary of the CJ LaTrobe Society and former LaTrobe Librarian, State Library Victoria from 1982-2008. A goodly number attended for the happy occasion.

The **Inventi Ensemble**, comprising wind and strings, returned to give an encore performance

on 17 August. The Athenaeum's late Friday afternoon musical performances, with a glass of wine and some cheese, are proving very popular.

The Athenaeum have also got their second film group up and running.

www: melbournethenaeum.org.au

**PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY (Est. 1854)**



*Decals on the windows behind the circulation desk. (Photo: Steven Haby)*

In recent weeks the interior of the PMI Victorian History Library has undergone some subtle but very striking visual changes.

The installation of decals comprising the building at 259-261 Chapel Street that was the first location of the PMI, constructed in 1857. It was demolished in the early 1900s. The decals provide a degree of privacy to PMI staff offices from the library.

The lift foyer on the first floor leading to the library shows our second building at 140 High Street in Prahran. The building is still there and is now occupied by **Melbourne Polytechnic**.

Finally the fire hose cupboard in our ground floor looks rather bland but does provide a useful storage space for our recently purchased digital radio which we use to play quiet and welcoming background music. We have received a licence from the Australian Performing Rights Association (APRA) to enable us to play music at selected times. Due to the acoustics of the building the music can be heard up the stairs and to the first floor landing but not in the library.

Thanks are extended to **Chris Moysey-Barker** our Marketing and Communications Officer who coordinated these projects.

Steven Haby, Secretary Librarian  
www.pmi.net.au

**STANLEY ATHENAEUM & PUBLIC ROOM (Est. 1863)**

***Launch of Stanley Times and Mining Journal***

Jim Lowden from the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria will launch the '**Stanley Times and Mining Journal**' by **Geoff Craig**, 4th edition. This the new digitally enhanced and reprinted edition of Geoff Craig's comprehensive history of Stanley. This new edition is a limited edition of 100 numbered copies and are indexed for easier use. Limited edition copies of the book will be available for sale on the day and afterwards at the Stanley Athenaeum.

The **Friends of Stanley Athenaeum** will host the launch on Saturday 25 August 2018, 10.30am at the Stanley Athenaeum, Main Street, Stanley. All welcome.

For book orders contact 0458 606 922 or 03 5728 6702; E: stanleyathenaeum@gmail.com

***Women of the 19th Century: Hearts of Gold & Minds of Mettle - Mary Rawes to Mariette Craig'. Until February 2019***



*Visitors to the Women's exhibition at the Stanley Athenaeum.*

*(Photo: Stanley Athenaeum and Public Room)*

The Stanley Athenaeum's 2018 exhibition **Hearts of Gold & Minds of Mettle - Mary Rawes to Mariette Craig** presents the little known stories of Stanley's C19th women, their diverse skills and occupations - in horticulture, gold mining and retail. These resilient women include a group who signed the 1891 Monster Petition for women' suffrage.

A ground breaking expose of the lives of C19th women on the Ovens Goldfield, the production and presentation of this project has been partly funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. There have been many visitors since the opening.

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>

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mivic/stanley.html>

<http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/stanley-athenaeum>

**TOONGABBIE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1883)**



*Roger Ries, Treasurer, and Bev Goddard, President, Toongabbie Mechanics' Institute.*

*(Photo: Michelle Slater via LaTrobe Valley Express)*

The folk of the Toongabbie Institute are pleased to see their Institute named in the list of thirty Gippsland public buildings that are to have free solar panels and ancillary facilities fitted to their

Hall. The recent announcement was made by Energy Minister the **Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio**. This is just another example of a Hall that was saved, this time by a concerned teenager. Hall President **Bev Goddard** and Treasurer **Roger Ries** and a happy team continue to keep the Hall like 'a new pin' as we found on the 2016 bus tour. This is a most deserving 'reward' for their work. [www.toongabbie.vic.au/community/toongabbie-mechanics-institute-inc/](http://www.toongabbie.vic.au/community/toongabbie-mechanics-institute-inc/)

**WILLIAMSTOWN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1856)**



Council signage on the now fenced site states 'Preserving the Heritage of Hobsons Bay' and work on the Caretaker's Cottage has started, so Williamstown will remain as one of the very few Institutes with an extant residence. In June 2018 the **Williamstown Historical Society** moved into the ex-Toy Library on the corner of Wood and Laurie Streets, Newport which will be the Society's temporary home for the next 2-3 years. Their extensive Museum collection has been put into storage. [www.williamstownhistsoc.org.au](http://www.williamstownhistsoc.org.au)

## *The Wonderful World of Mechanics' Institutes*

### AUSTRALIA

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**GUILDFORD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1862)**



*Photo: [www.swan.wa.gov.au](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au)*

Standing proudly in Meadow Street, Guildford is the quaint Mechanics' Institute, which has changed little since it was built in 1865, save the later addition of a porch. It is part of a township that, since being first settled, has not expanded beyond its original boundaries. The City of Swan has recently nominated the Guildford township to Western Australia's Heritage Council to have it listed on the State's Heritage Register.

Guildford was named by **Captain James Stirling** in 1829, after his wife's hometown in Surrey and it was subsequently surveyed by **John Septimus Roe**. Interestingly, Roe was to be the President of the **Swan River Mechanics' Institute**, the first Institute in Western Australia established in 1851. Guildford was initially set up as a branch of the Swan River Mechanics'.

**UNITED KINGDOM****ENGLAND****BRIDPORT LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION (Est. 1834)**

*Photo: Graham Hunt Photography*

Hard on the heels of the official reopening on the BLSI building, which is now bustling with activity, the Institute was favoured with a visit from **HRH Prince Charles** on 25 May. Bridport's main thoroughfare was lined with hundreds of people in anticipation of the afternoon visit. At the Institute, Prince Charles was introduced to the members of the **Bridport Area Development Trust** and Trust Chair **Trevor Ware** outlined the history of the Institute since it was conceived by **Henry Warburton** in 1834 up until its present re-birth. HRH, the Prince of Wales signed the Visitor's Book and after being shown over the building unveiled a commemorative plaque. The Prince's visit was a great fillip and fitting finale to the many years of hard work by the Bridport Area Development Trust and its team of supporters.

**LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY (Est. 1846)**

Having just been transitioned to University status from the Leeds Arts School, *The Guardian* newspaper has named **Leeds Arts University** head of the league table for 2019 in the design and

crafts category. Leeds excelled in the categories of 'student satisfaction' and 'career prospects six months after graduation'. This was in spite of having less spent per student compared to other Universities. LAU offers degrees in animation, illustration, graphic design, textile design and visual communication.

Leeds Arts University has its genesis from merge of the **Leeds Mechanics' Institute** and the **Leeds Literary Insitute** in 1846. Since then it has gone through a torturous route of renamings, restructures, merges and demerges.

Notable graduates include sculptors **Henry Moore** and **Barbara Hepworth**, contemporary artist **Damien Hirst** and fashion designer **Omar Kashoura**.

Other Universities in the top ten included: **Kingston** (est. 1899); **Goldsmiths** (est. 1891); **Loughborough** (est. 1909), **Lincoln Arts University** (est. 1863); **Bournemouth** (est. 1913); **Staffordshire** (est. 1901), **Coventry** (est. 1843) and **Nottingham Trent** (est. 1843).

**SCOTLAND****UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE (Est. 1796)**

*Photo: Police Scotland Air/PA*

Fire again roared through the **Glasgow School of Art's** iconic **Charles Rennie Mackintosh** building late on 15 June 2018. It also spread to adjoining buildings. 'The Mack' was still in the process of undergoing a £35 million refurbishment from the May 2014 fire and was due to re-open in 2019. Fortunately no student work was lost, as was the case in 2014, nor was the remnant library and some of its fittings which were saved from the previous fire for they were still in storage.

This follows hard on the heels of the celebration of Mackintosh's 150th birthday on 7 June and the rebirth of the Mackintosh designed **Willow Tea Rooms** of the formidable **Catherine Cranston** in Sauchiehall Street after a Heritage Lottery funded makeover. Renovations are also pending on **Hill House** in Helensburgh, a mansion which

**Charles and Margaret Mackintosh** designed and built for publisher **Walter** and his wife **Anna Blackie** during 1902-04.

In the meantime Strathclyde continues the late **John Anderson's** vision as 'The Place of Useful Learning' for some 23,000 students under Principal **Sir Jim McDonald** and a staff of 3,200. Strathclyde will be represented at **MIA 2018** by **Lauren Weiss**.

#### **BOSTON ATHENAEUM (Est. 1807)**



Boston's current exhibition, until 1 September 2018, is '**Subscription Campaigns: Contributions in Support of Community**'. In this day when 'crowdfunding' is the buzzword, this exhibition plumbs examples of wide subscription funding of centuries earlier.

Publishers, writers and artists funded expensive tomes by way of subscription and the books they produced contained the printed lists of subscribers, which included early libraries, and these now are valuable research tools. Some of our notable institutions were funded by similar means, with the Boston Athenaeum as being a worthy example. The iconic poster 'Avez vous place dans votre coeur pour nous?' or 'Have

you room in your heart for us?', and issued by the **Fatherless Children of France Inc.** around 1917, was used to promote the exhibition.

One great example in Victoria of crowd-funding was the State School campaign which raised money to build **Victoria Hall**, the school in Villers-Bretonneux in France after World War I. It still contains carvings by Australian artist **John Grant** and students of the then **Daylesford Technical College**. Each classroom contains the sign 'N'oublions jamais l'Australie' or 'Never forget Australia'.

#### **FOLIO: THE SEATTLE ATHENAEUM**



*Books in the main reading room moved into their new home at the Pike Place Market*

*Photo: Folio: The Seattle Athenaeum Facebook*

In July 2018 **The Folio** relocated to new premises at 93 Pike Street, #307, Seattle, or the Economy Market building at the south of Pike Place Market. This move was regrettable but the 'Y' would not extend the Folio's lease. The Market is a busy place, with harbourside ambience and views. In their new 'intimate, quiet and companionable' setting their program of lectures, readings, music recitals, panel discussions and forums continues, but as The Folio also share the building with HistoryLink some synergy is developing. The Library presently has around 600 members, 12,000 books on the shelves, with another 10,000 in storage pending cataloguing. In their new location the Folio Library opening hours are from 9am-6pm Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends. 'And anyone can help themselves to the selection of free-for-the-taking books outside the door.'

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*Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.*

STEPHEN HAWKING (1942-2018)



## NEWS FROM THE SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS

### **Honouring Henry Carmichael**

To mark the 185th anniversary of the founding of the **Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts** in March, SMSA members braved extreme weather conditions to take part in a bus trip to Seaham in NSW's Hunter region. The trip was in honour of the **Reverend Dr Henry Carmichael** who was a leading founder of the School, and guided its early years as its first Vice President.

Although the local area was at risk of flooding, we gathered in Seaham Cemetery at Henry Carmichael's grave site which the School had commissioned to be restored for this occasion. Sheltered by umbrellas, SMSA's president **Winsome Allen** unveiled a plaque in his memory using a Scottish flag to acknowledge him as a proud Scotsman and the origins of the School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute movement in Scotland. As part of the restoration, a plaque was produced recording the engravings on the headstone for all time



*Henry Carmichael*  
Photo: Newcastle Regional Library

by Henry near Seaham, alongside the site the original Carmichael home once stood. **Councillor Giacomo Arnott**, representing Port Stephens Council, was also present.

Following the ceremony at the grave site, members and distinguished guests reconvened at the Seaham School of Arts where a second plaque was unveiled to commemorate Henry Carmichael as a prominent pioneer settler of Seaham, a national and international award-winning wine-maker in the region, along with his significant contributions to Adult Education.

Henry Carmichael has rightly been called the SMSA's "guiding spirit". He was a



Although Henry Carmichael has no surviving direct descendants, we were delighted to be joined for the occasion by **Toby Ralston** and his family who are descended from Henry's wife, **Nancy Ralston**. Toby lives on part of the farm established

man of many talents and is worthy of much wider recognition than history has accorded him so far.

Carmichael travelled to Australia from Scotland in 1831 aboard the *Stirling Castle* in order to teach at the **Reverend John Dunmore Lang's** Australian College and boost the educational standards in the colony. On the voyage, he held classes for 50 Scottish mechanics who were also on their way to Sydney to build the College. The idea of continuing that educational program after arriving in Sydney was a key factor in the establishment of the SMSA. On 22 March 1833, with the enthusiastic support of **Governor Bourke**, over 200 people attended a public meeting, and the School was formed.

In 1838, Henry became a pioneering landholder at Porphyry Point on the Williams River in Seaham, where he was able to pursue another of his passions, viticulture – perhaps an unusual pursuit for a Presbyterian minister? His wine-making at Porphyry won national and international awards and, at one time, he



was the President of the Hunter River Vineyard Association.

Somewhat ahead of his time, Henry believed that wine-making was of great importance to the colony's economy. In a speech at the Annual Show in 1846, he said the Hunter region was "particularly well suited to vine culture" and that "from a national point of view he considered the cultivation of the vine of more importance than that of wheat, despite the existing prejudices against colonial wine."

Moreover, Henry's appointment as assistant surveyor in the Hunter region would have helped further to open the local area to settlement and trade. We know, for instance, that he surveyed a road between Paterson and Gosford in August 1850.

Even after settling at Porphyry Point, Henry maintained a strong link with the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, returning on many occasions to speak at the School. In 1844, he presented the opening lecture of the School's programme for the year. He also continued to



support regional institutions, and spoke at the **Maitland Mechanics' Institute** in the 1850s.

While the **Seaham School of Arts** was not founded until 1902, well after Henry's death, we feel sure that he would have been extremely proud of its existence in his local town and of the services it provided to the local community, which now continue under the management of Port Stephens Council.

Henry's dedication to the Adult Education movement and education in general was lifelong. He founded the **Normal Institute** in Elizabeth Street and, later, a school for local students on his property at Porphyry where he taught agriculture and academic subjects. He was a strong advocate for the introduction of a national school system and was involved in educational policy.

In 2016, the School was delighted that Henry was inducted into the **International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame**. The award acknowledged Henry's significant contribution to Adult Education, and in particular, his role in founding Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts. The award was accepted on the School's behalf by our former president, **Dr Roger Morris, AM**. By agreement, the medallion now takes pride of place in the Boardroom.

On his voyage back to England in 1862, Henry fell ill and passed away at sea. A newspaper report stated that his remains were taken to Indonesia for cremation, but the records for the cemetery state he was interred at Seaham Cemetery with his wife **Nancy Ralston**. Nevertheless, Henry's name appears on the headstone that was recently restored with the kind support of **Toby Ralston** and his family.

The School has created a limited edition souvenir photo book to commemorate our 185th Anniversary celebrations including the Carmichael bus trip and the celebration dinner. The 30x30cm hardcover book features 24 pages of full colour photos of the celebration events; an address from our President, Winsome Allen; and a lovely poem penned by one of our members. It is available from the SMSA Library at [library@smsa.org.au](mailto:library@smsa.org.au) for \$20 plus shipping.

*Photos, clockwise from left: Afternoon tea at Seaham School of Arts; new plaques to be unveiled and Henry Carmichael's headstone in Seaham Cemetery; crowds braving the bad weather to watch the plaque unveiling; Henry Carmichael; Seaham School of Arts; Winsome Allen unveiling the new plaque in the Seaham School of Arts; Henry Carmichael commemorative plaque.*



## UK INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE - CRIEFF & DUNBLANE

The 2018 Annual meeting of the ILA was this year hosted by the **Library of Innerpeffray** and the **Leighton Library**. Entitled *Past, Present, Future: the People in Independent Libraries*, the general tenor of the conference was one of sharing and collaboration – through networks of librarians and academics, as well as our communities and audiences who help share and engage with our cultural heritage. This year’s speakers represented a variety of institutions both large and small, who delivered talks covering numerous facets of libraries and their histories – reflecting the sheer diversity of the bibliographic community.

Opening with **Michael Osborne** and **Robin Davies** representing the Leighton Library, we were told of the strenuous efforts being made to serve a growing network of modern users in an historic building. Looking back over the history of Leighton Library, the hopes and plans for its future were laid out. It was interesting to hear how historic libraries face the issues of modern demand and how this could be achieved, such as shaping the physical structure of the space to accommodate growing visitor numbers and initiatives to engage with the wider community (including tourists). We learned of the struggles of the library’s custodians, not least conservation issues and pressures on a small staff and budget. Later, we were given a tour of the Leighton Library and saw first-hand both the charm and constraints of the building which opened its doors in 1687.

**James Hamilton** informed and entertained with his discussion of the **Signet Library** and its people. “War is no excuse”, focused principally on the (sometimes comic) attempts of the former Librarian **John Minto** to recall books from the front during World War I or from the bemused and horrified relatives of soldiers. In one story, Minto sent an irate letter to a prisoner of war demanding a book’s return as it has been requested by another reader! Through such tales, we saw how library records can provide intriguing insights into libraries and the figures who help to shape them, for better or worse. James reminded us of the rich tapestry of individuals who make up the library community, from fleeting visitors and long-term users to staff. In this way the talk linked into **Jill Dye**’s presentation of her innovative research into borrowers’ records. Comparing three institutions (Leighton, Innerpeffray and Orkney) Jill has sought out commonality and points of deviation in their individual histories, but most critically unearthed fascinating insights into patterns of usage. Through these records a greater understanding of the character and make-up of past library users can be built and how they influenced the library, and vice versa. For example, Jill’s analysis of the Innerpeffray

records reveals that users were (regardless of subject) borrowing mainly new material (i.e. new to the library) preferentially, and the interesting early representation of women readers in **Kirkwall (Orkney) Library**.

Day two of the conference opened with **Neil Pearson** (President of the ILA) speaking of his lifelong passion for books. Identifying the challenges faced by libraries, he spoke of his hopes to establish an “across the board initiative” to help members tackle conservation and funding issues by strategizing with the John R. Murray Charitable Trust. Bidding us more “Bibliographical fun”, we moved on to our keynote speaker, **Dr Kelsey Jackson Williams** (Lecturer in Early Modern Literature, University of Stirling).

“Bibliographers, Book Historians, and Independent Libraries” offered a rigorous and thought-provoking examination of the trends and academic shifts affecting the study of bibliography and libraries. Shifts, for example, from long-term and sweeping historical perspectives to micro-histories and an escalation in provenance research and material culture. There is, Kelsey highlighted, a particular focus on the uniqueness of the individual in terms of both objects and readers/owners of books.

Knowledge exchange was shown to have major positive implications for independent libraries and a ready response was incited with the proposal of forming networking groups to introduce academics and students to libraries in a bid to promote the reader exchange of information and generate new research by making students aware of the rich resources and untapped treasures hidden in library collections. What can libraries and academics do for each other, was a question loaded with promise.

**Sue Clutterbuck**’s talk “Restoring and Repairing the Iona Cathedral Trustees Collection” described the projects undertaken to modernise the library. Tracing the library’s history from 563 CE to the present, Sue discussed the work she is spearheading thanks to an £80,000 grant from HLF and the Iona Cathedral Trust (awarded in 2016). Part of the funding agreement was the need to focus not just on conservation of this unique library, but to demonstrate its community value through outreach. The Iona project gives a flavour of the cross fertilization of living heritage and the role of the library – the place of the library within its community and its ability to both deliver content and grow with its people. Sue has introduced several initiatives to raise the library’s profile – through cataloguing the collection to make it more discoverable, to fun and educational activities aimed at capturing the imagination of local school children.

**Ken Gibb** and **Jess Hudson** introduced the efforts at **Lambeth Palace Library** to publicise and

promote the **Sion College Library** collection (which came to LPL in 1996). Through an innovative online crowdsourcing project hosted on WordPress the team are working to not only increase awareness of the collection but to garner support and input from the public to assist with provenance research – from transcriptions to identifications of former owners. These efforts are helping to improve the already rich catalogue records that are being produced. The **Sion College Library Provenance Project** was relaunched in 2017 and has already received nearly 12,000 views from across the globe and delegates were warmly invited to participate.

After the final talk we had a tour of the sublime Innerpefferay Library (founded c.1680 by David Drummond, making it Scotland's first free public lending library) and grounds including the chapel which originally housed part of the library collection. After this, delegates were treated to a performance of "The Lamp" by **Linda Cracknell** a play set at and inspired by the Library of Innerpefferay. We would all like to thank the cast for a very enjoyable theatrical afternoon which proved a highlight of the conference.

**Louisa Yates** was teaching libraries how to be friendly with her talk focusing on **Gladstone's Library Friends** scheme. An eye-opener for many in the audience was the concept of "transactional" and "non-transactional" initiatives – what is being offered and what needs be given in return (if anything at all) to members of Friends' groups? What are the abstract or tangible benefits to your scheme and how does this influence uptake? The example of Gladstone's scheme (revised in line with GDPR in 2018), suggests donations from the public don't need to be tied to material benefits. Instead it was strongly advised that it is better to promote the most valuable assets we have – the uniqueness of our libraries. Privilege comes from supporting the library and helping to carry it forward into the future. Having restructured, Gladstone's have been able to raise their membership figures from 200 to 2000 as well as pulling in more financial support without imposing financial restrictions (such as minimum donations requests) or incentivising.

**John Crawford** spoke about the library of **Leadhills Reading Society**, founded in 1741 as the first working class subscription library. Charting its history including the establishment of the first rules and statement of mutual improvement in 1743 and the closure of the mines in the 1930s, John gave an overview of the peaks and troughs that the library has endured, before moving on to discuss the modern strategy being pursued to keep it in the public consciousness and safeguard the collections. This has included increased cataloguing efforts, publicity drives and the identification of areas that may hold potential interest for study, such as the collection of Bargain Books dating from 1737-1854. In this way it is hoped greater contact with academics can be encouraged.

John concluded by outlining key areas of focus to consider when helping to sustain a library:

- \* Research and understand what you have
- \* Think strategically and always have the bigger picture in mind
- \* Find opportunities to work with like-minded organisations
- \* Pursue skills development and take training seriously

Above all:

- \* Aim for a culture of continual improvement.

A novel concept for custodians of historic libraries is the establishment of an entirely new library, but this is precisely what **Helen Williams** has had the privilege of doing with the **Library of Mistakes**. Housed in Edinburgh, the library was founded to promote the study of financial history and it is hoped that it will one day become the "world's best business and finance library". Established in 2013, the library was the brain child of **Russell Napier**. Through the hard work of Helen and her volunteer, the collection of c.3000 books (which was formally opened to the public in March 2014) is now catalogued and available online via LibraryThing.

From new to revolutionary, our final speaker was **Lynette Cawthra**, who gave an account the **Working Class Movement Library**. **Ruth** and **Eddie Frow** were tireless and determined collectors who amassed an astounding collection of radical books, which formed the foundation of the WCML. Originally housed in Ruth and Eddie's marital home in Talford, by 1987 the collection had swelled to such a size that **Salford City Council** agreed to support the library and house it (along with Ruth and Eddie) in **Jubilee House**. This remains the library's home, but it now operates on a fully independent basis and has seen considerable modernisation to ensure the preservation of the collection. In 2014 the library, in partnership with the **People's History Museum/Labour History Archive**, was awarded HLF funding to undertake the *Voting for Change - 150 years of radical movements, 1819 to 1969* project. The funding facilitates five years' worth of new acquisitions to enhance the collections as well as supporting vital public engagement works. A positive forward focus to end the conference.

Overall the conference reminded us that together we can not only learn new strategies to tackle issues facing libraries, but work together to sustain libraries and their collections – keeping them as a valuable and current resource ripe for study. Conferences such as this are fertile ground for development and a fantastic opportunity for everyone from librarians to postgraduate students to create connections – both intellectual and social. It is thereby worth urging others to attend similar events in future.

Jessica Hudson, Sion Project Cataloguer  
Lambeth Palace Library

# Where They Stood

## LAKE BOGA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1892)

Lake Boga is located in north-west Victoria, 17km from Swan Hill. The Aboriginal inhabitants of the area were known as the Wamba Wamba or Gourrmjanyuk.

The area was first explored by **Major Thomas Mitchell** on 21 June 1836, and in his field book he noted a thick fog which when at 11am it suddenly cleared 'a beautiful bow or iris was seen as the fog was rising'. 'Boga' in Old English means 'anything bent or arched'.

The Reedy Lake Pastoral Run of some 370,000 acres was taken up by **George Curlewis** and **Robert Campbell** in 1845. The Lake Boga Moravian Aboriginal Mission Station was established in 1851 and it closed in 1856.

The Swan Hill Railway opened in 1890 which passed by Lake Boga. Lake Boga State School, No. 2596 opened in 1892 and amalgamated with the town-based Lake Boga State School, No. 3278 when it opened in 1897 under **Henry Bird**. The Post Office opened in 1893. Initially public meetings around Lake Boga were held in **Rowe's Hall**.

A one rood twenty-nine perches 'Public Purposes' reserve, Allotment 1, Township of Lake Boga, Parish of Kunat Kunat, was obtained and gazetted on 18 November 1892. This was located on the south-west corner of Marraboor and Murray Streets, Lake Boga.

At the November 1893 meeting of the Lake Boga Progress Committee plans, prepared by architect **Christopher Alfred Cowper**, were considered for the building of the 'Lake Boga Mechanics' Institute' which 'show a very nice building'. It was resolved to call for tenders for the Hall in gypsum brick and weatherboard.

In February 1894 it was reported that 'Considerable progress is being made with the local Mechanics' Institute. The contractor, **Mr A Hooke**, is pushing on with the work, and the building should be finished in three or four weeks.' The Hall opened in July 1894 and a library was established.

In 1903 the Hall was being used for Church services and by the **Boga Rangers Militia** for drills.

On 25 November 1907 'the township was enveloped in a dense dust storm and the wind blew with hurricane force' at around 8pm. 'It lasted only a few minutes but the time was quite



*Photo: Alf Wesson*

sufficient to wreck the Lake Boga Mechanics' Institute and Free Library. Some of the roofing iron was carried a distance of a quarter of a mile. The organ was destroyed, but the piano appears to have escaped the falling bricks. The books of the library [which numbered 900 volumes] were saved, as fortunately no rain fell. It is proposed to at once erect another building, and the ruins are to be sold and carted away.'

A meeting of residents was held on 29 November 1907 'to take steps to erect a commodious Mechanics' Institute in place of the structure demolished by the storm on Monday night.'

It was rebuilt in timber and was opened by the Shire President **F Dew** on 14 October 1908 with a Concert and Ball. The Hall cost around £660 and 'was finished with the latest appliances'. It was noted that the Hall could seat over 300 people, had a 30ft x10ft stage, was well ventilated and it was lit by acetylene gas.

In 1924 the Hall was reconstructed at a cost of £1200 and it became known as the Lake Boga Mechanics' Institute and Memorial Hall, with a Memorial Room for the RSL. It was completed in December 1924. An opening concert was being



*Source: Google Maps*

arranged by **Mrs Sandiford** of Swan Hill. Tenders were let for the conduct of ‘motion pictures’.

The Soldiers’ Memorial Room was opened in February 1925 by **Francis Edward Old** MLA. **Arthur Maddock David**, State Secretary of the Returned Soldiers’ League was present, as was Shire President Cr **JG Dunstan**. Mr Dunstan ‘spoke appreciatively of the work of the soldier settlers.’

Early in 1940 the Lake Boga Younger Set was organised to raise funds for the War effort. They staged a debutante ball in the Hall which resulted in a profit of ‘about £50’ and £15 was given to the Comforts Fund and £16 went to the Red Cross.

With the intensification of World War II in the Pacific, and following military reconnaissance, it was found that Lake Boga would be an ideal stretch of water for flying boat operations. On 18 June 1942 **Flight Lieutenant George Stewart Moffat** was put in command of the soon to be created No. 1 Flying Boat Repair ‘Secret’ Depot – Lake Boga. It was estimated that some £214,000 would then be required to establish the Depot on the shores of Lake Boga.

On 2 June 1942 an advance party of thirty servicemen arrived in the area and these were billeted at the Royal Hotel, Swan Hill which was then requisitioned as temporary barracks. In the



Photo: Nigel Daw

meantime Depot Headquarters was established in Campbell Street, Swan Hill on 6 July 1942. The first Flying Boat arrived from RAAF Rathmines (NSW) on 12 July and the Depot overhauled its first plane Catalina A24-17 on 5 August 1942. By 14 October 1942 site accommodation was ready to take the 150 personnel that were billeted at the Royal Hotel. These were, for camouflage reasons, housed in an extension to the existing town.

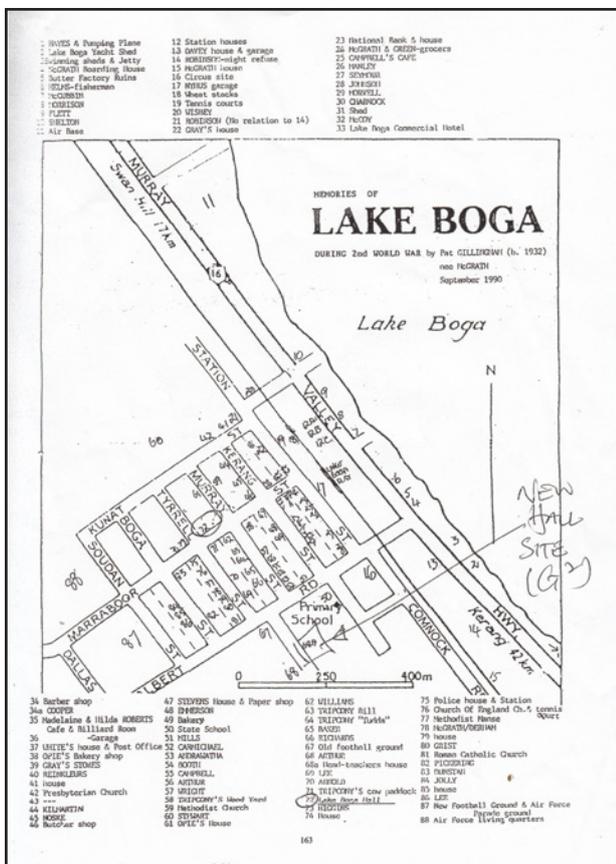
Two fires occurred in March 1943, the first at the Depot’s Hospital Quarters and the second gutted the Sergeants’ Mess. By December 1944, the base reached its peak strength of 943 service personnel, of which 102 were members of the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force. In February 1945 all USAAF aircraft departed leaving only RAAF aircraft. On 9 May 1945 all personnel were stood down for the day to participate in the celebration of the cessation of hostilities. From then until 12 November 1947 the Depot was progressively scaled back until the appointment of a caretaker at that time.

In all some 416 planes had been serviced at Lake Boga and these range from Catalinas, Dorniers, Martin Mariners, Supermarine Walruses, Noorduyt Norsemen and Vought Kingfishers.

The huge influx of military personnel required the enlarging of the Hall in 1942 to cater for dances, motion pictures, boxing matches, meetings and Anzac Day Services. It was still standing in 1983, but was demolished later, possibly in 1984.

The new Lake Boga Community Centre was built in Lalbert Road, on the part of the State School site, in an area formerly occupied by the Headmaster’s residence. It was built between 1981-86, with stage one opening in mid-1982 and the final stage was completed and opened in 1986.

Some Institute Records (1900-27) exist in the Swan Hill Library. Other records are held by the Catalina Museum at Lake Boga, but in 2018 were in storage, pending sorting and cataloguing.



From: Memories of Lake Boga During 2nd World War by Pat Gillingham (1990)

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

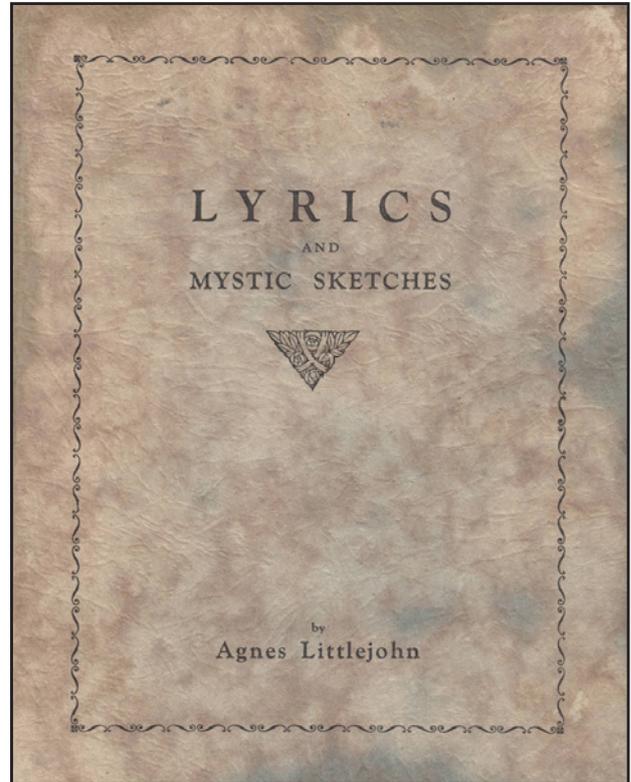
*The Mechanics' Institutes are known universally for their libraries, which were in most cases the first in the many communities in which they were established. Whilst many books were taken to the local tip or sold, even the blandest title can tell us much about the Institute and the conduct of its library.*

The item for this issue is from the **Geelong Mechanics' Institute** which had its genesis from 1842. It moved into its Ryrie Street building in 1856 and this was added to over the years. The building suffered a substantial fire in 1926. The mentioned Librarian is **Donald McDonald** (1867-1938) who was Secretary-Librarian from 1899-1936.

*Lyrics and Mystic Sketches* was published in 1928, although that date is not on the title page. The 180x240mm book is hardbound in a marbled blue-brown leatherette paper. The sighted copy carries the title and author's name on the front cover, within the surround of a rectangular decorative border. There is no wording on the spine. The rear cover has a 75x100mm canary coloured label, pasted centre, at the base of the book carrying the wording 'Geelong/ Mechanics' Institute/ (Incorporated). At 'Section' it carries very faint markings in pencil of which '501' is discernible. The inside pastedown on the top left hand corner carries 'LB [?] 353' in ink. The front flyleaf on the top right side carries the wording 'With the Author's/ Compliments' in ink. The text is printed in black with red borders throughout, with opening letters in red on laid paper. The title page is laid out 'Lyrics/ and/ Mystic Sketches/ by/ Agnes Littlejohn/ Illustrations and Designs by/ J Muir Auld/ Published by/ Edwards Dunlop and Company Ltd/ Sydney.'

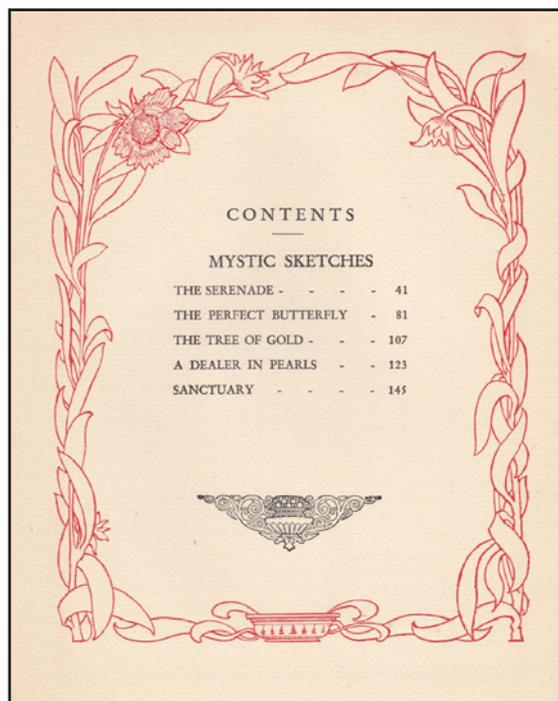
Four of Auld's line engravings 'Ebb Tide', 'She-oaks Swaying Melody', 'Mystery of the Trees' and 'River Scene' appear through the text. The face of the rear flyleaf carries 'Press Notices' and the verso the wording 'Wholly set up and printed in Australia by/ Blake & Hargreaves/ 53-55 George Street Nth, Sydney.'

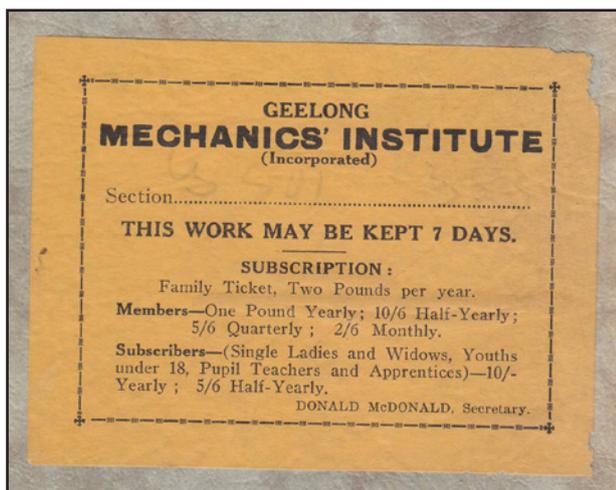
The Paddington (NSW)-born author **Agnes Littlejohn** (1865-1944)



was the daughter of Scottish-born businessman and Company Director **Thomas Littlejohn** (1825-1906) and her similarly illustrious brother, **George Stanley** (1862-1923). Agnes had published numerous editions of her poetry and prose.

The illustrator and designer **James Muir Auld** (1879-1942) was born in Ashfield (NSW). He attended drawing classes at the Ashfield Technical School at night and later joined **Julian Ashton's Sydney Art School**. Auld contributed to the *Sydney Mail* and the *Bulletin* as a black and white artist, but also did some oil painting. In the 1920s he illustrated several books. His work hangs in most major Australian galleries and he died leaving an estate of £52.





The publisher Edwards Dunlop & Co. is generally known as paper merchant and stationer. It was started as a partnership by Scottish émigré **William Philip Dunlop** (1842-1906), paper salesman, and **Frederick Lewis Edwards** (1828-1906), law stationer and bookseller, around 1873. By 1928 it was

headquartered and operated from a distinctive warehouse complex at 414-418 Kent Street, Sydney that had been designed by **Robertson & Marks** in 1897. Edwards Dunlop was to have branches in most Australian capital cities, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. It was taken over by Brown and Dureau, an Amcor subsidiary in 1989, and now is known as Amtrade.

The printer, Blake & Hargreaves Pty Ltd, 53-55 George Street, North Sydney was a partnership formed by Sydney-born **William James Blake** (1867-1952) and **Charles Hargreaves** (1886-1953). Yorkshire-born Hargreaves came to Australia in 1911 and worked with John Sands and after World War I service 1914-18 was in partnership with Blake from at least 1921. The partnership was turned into a proprietary company in 1929 and was still operating, but at Marrickville, in the 1990s. Charles Hargreaves' war diary is in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

## *The History Page*

### FLYING VISIT TO TOORAWEEAH



Photo: [www.theland.com.au](http://www.theland.com.au)

You never know who will drop in and such was the case when entrepreneur **Dick Smith** landed his helicopter in the drought-stricken NSW outback town of Tooraweenah on 13 June. Dick wandered by the local CWA Hall and found three people there for the regular Sip and Sew afternoon. Needless to say they offered him a cuppa and a scone and after asking what they needed most they found themselves in possession of a cheque for \$5000 for a kitchen makeover. Dick's visit to Tooraweenah was the prelude of his distribution of the latest tranche of **Dick Smith Foods'** profits

and he wrote a cheque for a further \$1 million to the Country Women's Association of Australia which was currently probing drought relief at a Conference in Dubbo. That makes distribution in the ethos of Dick Smith Foods of 'Let's give it all away' to total some \$10 million edging towards the **Newman's Own Foundation** (Australia) sum of \$18 million.

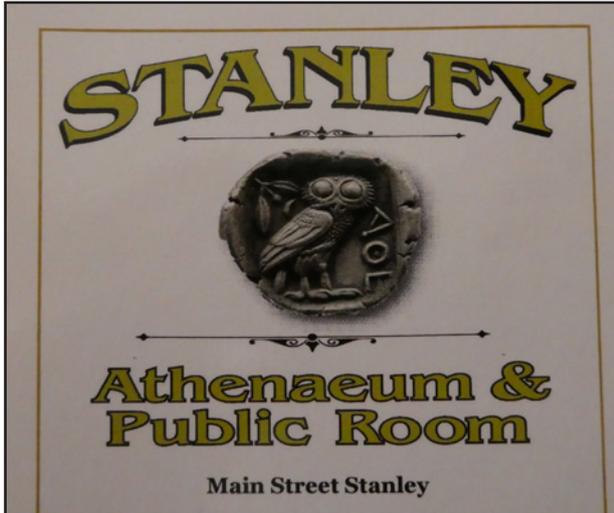
### THE *ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA* IN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARIES

In recently reviewing the history of the **Laanecoorie Mechanics' Institute and Free Library**, established in 1889, we found the following article from 1899 which relates to its library. 'Tarnagulla, Wednesday. Yesterday a presentation of *The Argus*, copy of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was made to the Laanecoorie Mechanics' Institute. The movement was originated by Councillors **Allan, Tupper** and **Wirth**, of the Marong Shire Council. Mr Allan also presented a handsome case for the books. In moving the presentation, Councillor Tupper paid a high compliment to *The Argus* for its enterprise in placing before the public such a store of literature as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.'

In 1899 the *Argus* made available the 24 volume set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which normally sold at £37, at half price for £18.10s and they could be paid off in £1.1s

installments. Hundreds of sets were sold or donated to libraries. The Mackinnon family who controlled the *Argus*, **Lauchlan Kenneth Scobie Mackinnon** (1861-1935) at this stage, were noted for Scottish religious and educational promotion for the upkeep of a moral society. That said LKS Mackinnon, of Stakes fame, was a great supporter of the turf [horseracing].

#### THE OWL OF ATHENE

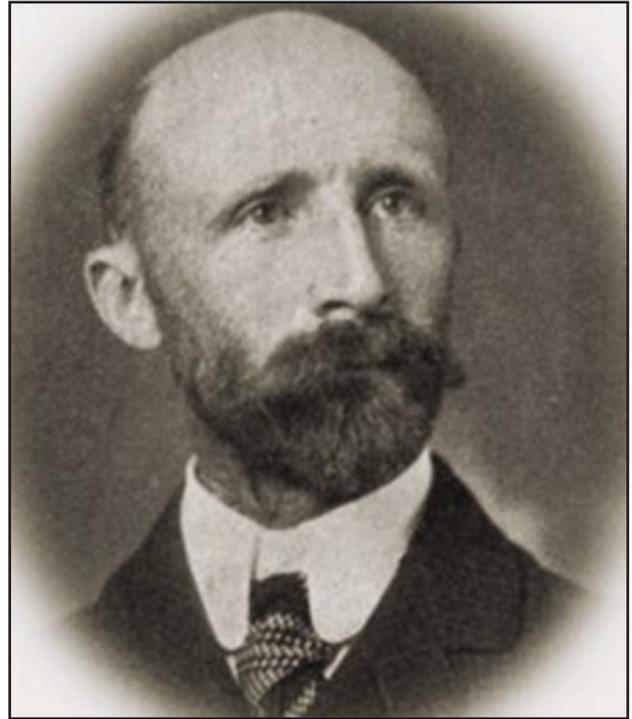


The new advertising flyer of the **Stanley Athenaeum and Public Room** features a logo of the **Owl of Athena**. 'In Greek mythology, a little owl (*Athene noctua*) traditionally represents or accompanies Athena, the Virgin Goddess of Wisdom. The Owl of Athena has been used as a symbol of knowledge, wisdom, perspicacity and erudition throughout the western world.' The Greek playwright **Aristophanes\*** notes the prevalence of the little owls in Greece. Stanley's Reading Room is now open every Friday 10am-12.30pm and on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Stanley's particular image is from a silver Greek tetradrachm coin which carries the inscription 'AΘE' which is an abbreviation of the Greek 'AΘHNAIΩN' which translates as 'of the Athenians'. This coinage was issued between 480-420BC and was in daily use and was valued at four Athenian drachmas. The coins were referred to as glaukes (γλαυκες) or owls. A fine surviving example of the 'glauke' is held in the **Museum of Fine Arts, Lyon, France**.

\*Notable quotes from Aristophanes include: 'Quickly, bring me a beaker of wine, so that I may wet my mind and say something clever.'; 'A man may learn wisdom even from a foe.'; 'You should not decide until you have heard what both have to say.'; and 'Under every stone lurks a politician.'

#### BOLTON MECHANICS' BOY HONOURED IN LOS ANGELES



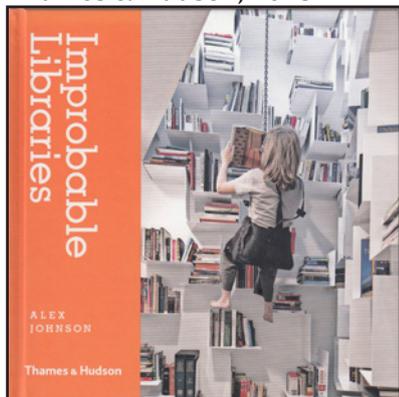
*John B. Parkinson, 1905.*

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of Los Angeles City Hall, a plaque was recently unveiled proclaiming 5 July as **John Parkinson Day**. This was tribute to the architect who designed some fifty of LA's key buildings. John Parkinson was born in 1861 in Scorton, Lancashire the son of a millworker. He started as a builder's apprentice and attended night school at the Bolton Mechanics' Institute. He migrated to: Winnipeg, Canada; then moved to Minneapolis, Wisconsin; Napa, California; Seattle, Washington; and finally Los Angeles. He died suddenly in 1935 and was succeeded in his practice by his son **Donald**. Local commentator **DJ Waldie** noted 'For a very forgetful city, the buildings themselves remember Parkinson for us.' His Los Angeles Memorial Colosseum, built for the 1932 Olympic Games, will again feature in the forthcoming 2028 Olympic Games.

For those interested in reading more about this dynamic man, refer: Stephen Gee, *Iconic Vision: John Parkinson, Architect of Los Angeles* (Santa Monica: Angel City Press, 2013); Manques Vickers, *John D Parkinson: Eternally Elevating the Los Angeles Skyline* (Scotts Valley: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017); John Parkinson, *Incidents by the Way: The Boy! What has the Future in Store for Him?; What will be his Experience?* (Los Angeles: Press of G Rice & Sons, 1935).

## Book Reviews

**Improbable Libraries** - Alex Johnson. Hardback. 240 pages, illustrated in colour and black and white. 185x185mm. 9780500517772. London: Thames & Hudson, 2015.

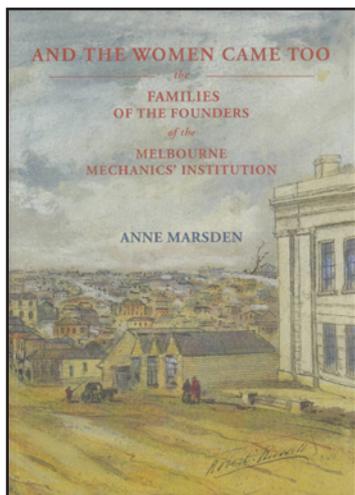


In introducing the book, the author asks 'does your library arrive at your home on an elephant? Perhaps it floats down the river? Is it in your local telephone box, rail station,

park – or even in your own back yard?' This sets the scenes for wild imaginings and the book does not disappoint with photos of 212 libraries, and 206 of them in colour. Needless to say both the author's parents are librarians. This is an inspirational book and it could well be used as an example to set your town up as another library on this pleasurable trail of book places. The one we really liked was the mobile tank-like library described as a 'Weapon of Mass Instruction' on page 202-03.

Available from good booksellers \$32.00, plus postage.

**And the Women Came Too: the Families of the Founders of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution** – Anne Marsden. Paperback, perfectbound. 204 pages, index. 180x255mm. 9780646988160. Melbourne: Melbourne Athenaeum Library, 2018.



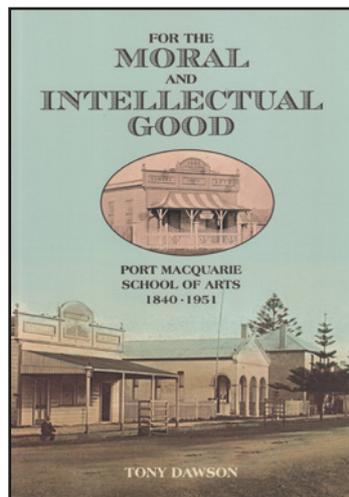
This book follows on the author's previous work *The Making of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution*. It breaks new ground of research, for few women have been noticed in early Australian history. In New South Wales **E l i z a b e t h Macarthur** and

**Mary Reibey** have been noticed and in Victoria

**Georgiana McCrae** left a worthy record and the diaries of **Emily Childers** from 1850-56 were the subject of intensive study by the late **Jean Uhl**. **Caroline Chisholm** of course has been researched widely. **Alexander MacKillop**, the father of **St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**, was an early trustee of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute. However in general little attention has been given to this vital and potentially rich area of investigation, but the sampling that Anne Marsden has placed before us has laid important groundwork for further study. The author firstly sets the scene of women travelling to Melbourne, the conditions they found there and its social mores. Part Two looks at a sampling of the Institute's wives in Melbourne. In all a most worthy addition to every early Victorian history bookshelf. Mechanics' Institutes historian, **Pam Baragwanath** provided a worthy Foreword.

Available from the MIV On-Line Bookshop \$30.00, plus postage.

**For The Moral and Intellectual Good: Port Macquarie School of Arts 1840-1951** - Tony Dawson. Paperback, perfectbound. 155 pages, illustrations, reading list, index. 175x250mm. 978092393915. Port Macquarie Historical Society, 2016.



The book begins with a very useful summary of the history of the Mechanics' Institute Movement and its propaganda arm the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. We learn that the Methodist the **Rev. Ralph Mansfield** was distributing copies of SDUK

publications before he handed over stock to Sydney bookseller **George William Evans** in 1834. Mansfield also spoke with Major Mitchell at the meeting to form the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts in March 1833.

At Port Macquarie it took three tries to establish a viable School of Arts: Port Macquarie Literary Association (1840); Port Macquarie Literary Association/School of Arts (1856); and

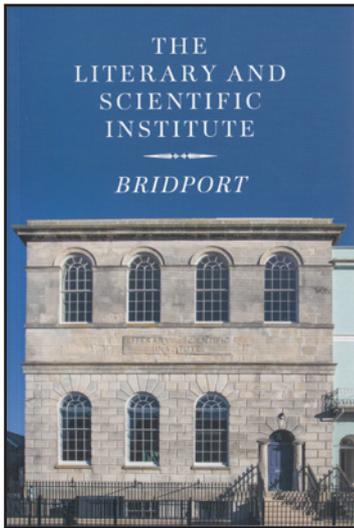
## Book Reviews cont...

finally Port Macquarie School of Arts (1882), and this survived until 1951 when its assets were passed over to Council to establish a community library. The building was demolished in 1971 and the site is now occupied by Port Macquarie's Glasshouse, the new Cultural Centre.

In this well-researched and written book the author takes us through the Institute's history with its people, events and always its finances. It is a good read, well illustrated and produced by Wauchope printer M&S Offset.

Available from: Port Macquarie Historical Society Inc., Box 82, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444. \$25.00, posted.

***The Literary and Scientific Institute: Bridport*** - TP Connor. Paperback, perfectbound. 72 pages, illustrations in colour and black and white, readinglist, index. 160x235mm. 9780954057060. Bridport: Bridport Area Development Trust, 2018.



The Bridport Association for Mutual Improvement was formed in 1830 when Britain was in economic depression and the threat of civil war was considered a real possibility. Like in many other areas, initial office-bearers were religious Dissenters and the

Committee was chaired by **William Forster**, a Quaker. **Henry Warburton** MP was a Unitarian and a supporter from the outset and he offered to build an Institute in East Street. He laid the foundation stone of the two-storey building in 1832, with the library being on the ground floor and the lecture hall being on the second floor. It was then intermittently used until it closed. It was revived in 1855 by the community, but Warburton died in 1858 and it was inherited by his nephew. Agreement was eventually reached in 1864 with the new Bridport Literary and Scientific Institute who renovated and re-opened the building and it operated until 1950. Documentation, by way of Minutes, exists from

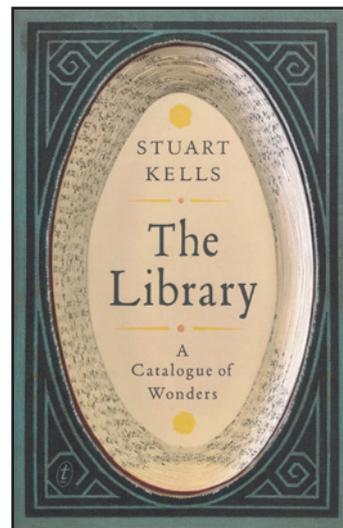
1872-1950 and from then it was passed to Council who vacated the building in 2003. It then became subject to legal wrangling which was not resolved until 2015. Since then the **Bridport Area Development Trust** has proceeded to its recent reopening. A truly inspirational story and well told by **Tim Connor**.

The book is a very handsome production well illustrated with contemporary documents and photographs. It is set in typefaces designed by **Michael Harvey**, who resided in Bridport from 1958 until his death in 2013, with the text in Mentor and the headings in Ruskin. Designed by **Dalrymple** of Edinburgh, it was printed in Wales by **Gomer Press**.

Architectural historian **Dan Cruikshank** provided the worthy Foreword which concludes 'A fine historic building has been brought back to life to serve a purpose that, in its objectives, would make its enlightened founders feel proud.'

Available from: Bridport Literary and Scientific Institute or Waterstones Booksellers £9.99, plus post.

***The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders*** - Stuart Kells. Paperback, perfectbound. 278 pages, acknowledgements. 155x235m. 9781925355994. Melbourne: Text Publishing, 2017.



From the light-globe moment of discovering a copy of *Pieces of Ancient Poetry from Unpublished Manuscripts and Scarce Books* collated by 'NY' in 1814 the author takes us on an amazing life's journey through the world of books and knowledge. 'NY', or unmasked as **John**

**Fry**, was an enterprising and imaginative Bristol bookseller and publisher and he would be chuffed to think that his publishing efforts to cater for bibliophiles and the spread of knowledge continued to have impact today.

Kells takes us from the verbal 'books' of the ancients to the lavish elephant-folios of

## *Book Reviews cont...*

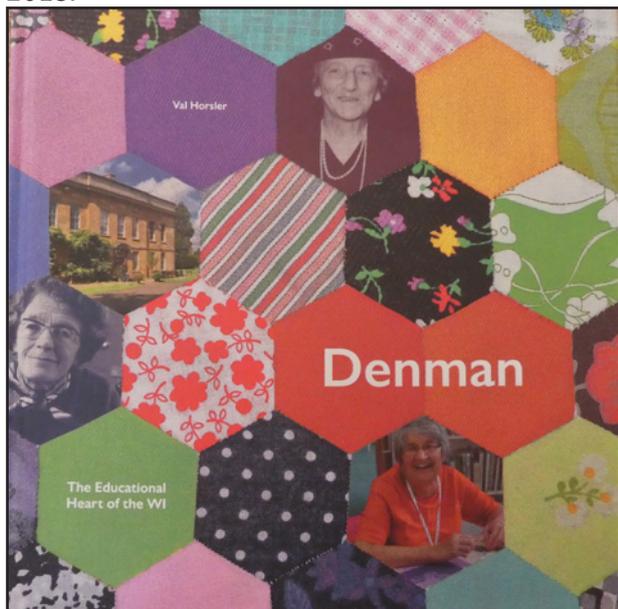
**John Gould's** *Birds and beyond*. In addition to the authors and their stories, there are the publishers, printers, booksellers, bookbuyers, collectors, librarians, thieves, forgers and an occasional prankster.

Then of course there are the book 'storehouses' in their various forms, from the shed on the farm, a few shelves in the front room, to the fantastical massive private purpose-built storages of the Folger Shakespeare Library, to the institution or state-owned repositories, libraries like Victoria's own State Library and the religious libraries from the Vatican to the monastic at St Gallen.

The material construction of the book through the ages and even the traits of its printers and compositors come in for analysis. Indeed 'A love letter to libraries and their makers and protectors.' This is a commendable read and a tribute to books, as our friends. Perhaps in a future edition an index could be considered as there is just so much fascinating material in this book that could be then be quickly accessed.

Available from: Good booksellers, \$32.99, plus postage.

**Denman: The Educational Heart of the WI** – Val Horsler, editor. Hardback. 160 pages, illustrated in colour and black and white. 260x260mm. 9781788160179. Third Millennium Publishing, 2018.



Issued to celebrate seventy years of the remarkable institution that is **Denman College**. The visionary purchase of Marcham Park at Abingdon in Oxfordshire in 1947 has provided an educational focus for British Women's Institutes. It is certainly a far cry from the day when **Adelaide Sophia Hoodless** (1857-1910), founder of the Women's Institute Movement in Canada, published her *Public School Domestic Science* (1897) or 'The Little Red Book' that stressed hygiene, cleanliness and frugality for women. Adelaide would have approved of Denman's grassroots approach to its far-ranging educational programs, which vary from one day to one week, from advanced driving, to carving up an animal carcass, or baking of the perfect scone. Over the years the curriculum has changed, but there has been one constant, a quiet place where women gather to reside and share common pursuits, relax and stroll around the seventeen acres of grounds and some neighbouring land.

Things have changed since **John Elwes**, an eccentric owner of the original mansion, advised his guests of the best place to sleep in a room to avoid being rained upon. The current house was built in the early 1800s by **Thomas and Emily Duffield**, and the rooms now generally have en suite facilities. Other accommodation has since been built on the grounds, as has lecture rooms, workshops, studios and kitchens.

It is a long time since **Elizabeth, Lady Brunner** advanced her 1945 manifesto at the WI AGM for a place 'where we can learn more of our heritage, and consider and discuss our future'. The ladies at Denman College will most certainly be cutting the birthday cake on 24 September 2018 to celebrate a truly unique and memorable record of women's education.

*Denman*, the book, admirably tells the Denman story in text, quotations and a suite of photos covering the seventy years. A worthy purchase for inspiration.

Available from: Women's Institute, Abingdon, Oxford, at £25, plus postage.

*All my life, I have been fascinated by the big questions that face us, and have tried to find scientific answers to them. If, like me, you have looked at the stars, and tried to make sense of what you see, you too have started to wonder what makes the universe exist.*

STEPHEN HAWKING (1942-2018)

## Our People



We overlooked the appointment of **Cameron Auty** as the new Manager of the **Burke Museum and Cultural Heritage for Indigo Shire** based on **Beechworth**. Cameron, a graduate of Deakin University, comes

from an administrative background in Local Government and with **Museums Australia (Victoria)**. Cameron has agreed to run the Museums Workshop of the **MIA 2018 Halls Survival Day** on 17 November.



Mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours as a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) was **Anthony James McAleer** of Mount Evelyn 'For service to the community, and to military

history'. Tony authored the three volume history of the Lilydale Athenaeum, Mechanics' Institute and Free Library, *Lilydale Icon: A History of Lilydale's Athenaeum Building* (2005). Congratulations on this well deserved recognition. (Photo: Greg Carrick)



We note the appointment **Patrick Watt** as Programs Manager of the **Yarra Ranges Regional Museum** at Lilydale. Opened in 2011, the Museum, which has won a number of awards, shares an amenities centre with the

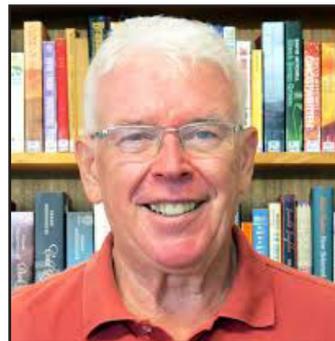
**Lilydale Athenaeum** and collaborated with our Regional Meeting in 2015. Patrick's previous appointments have included the **National Sports**

**Museum** at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the Burke Museum at Beechworth.



At the most recent AGM of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute in June **Professor Terry Lloyd** was elected President. Terry was formerly Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of **Federation University** until his retirement in 2012.

He has been a Board member of the BMI for a number of years and was Vice-President and Chaired the Library Committee. We look forward to working with Terry during **MIA 2018** in November.



**Phil Reed** was recently elected President of the **Association of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts (NSW)** and has been on the Board of the **Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts** for

several years. Phil organised and chaired the very successful Insurance Forum held at the SMSA in June. We look forward to working with Phil on the regular NSW pages which will appear in *Useful Knowledge* in the future.



AMISA (NSW) has recently elected **Kathleen Bearsby** as its first Life Member. Kathleen has had a long association with the resurrection of the **Clifton School of Arts** from a derelict

shell to a cultural landmark on the south coast. She is also a Life Member of that group. Clifton was a foundation member of AMISA and Kathleen

## Our People cont...

has been its delegate regularly attending meetings in Sydney. Congratulations Kathleen.



We note the recent resignation of **Georgie Meagher** (above left), Director and CEO, from **Next Wave** at the Brunswick Mechanics' Institute and the appointment of **Susannah Day** (above right) in her stead. Susannah had previously been Head of Program and Operations at Brunswick. Susannah is a career arts manager, with experience in Australia, UK and Asia, and most recently coordinated the biennial contemporary Dance Massive. We look forward to seeing Susannah on our **MIA 2018** post-Conference Bus Tour.



We note **Professor Joanna Bourke** of the School of Humanities, Faculty of Education and the Arts of **Birkbeck College, London** has been commissioned to write the bicentennial history of Birkbeck College,

which started out as the London Mechanics' Institution in 1823. This is a huge project and we wish her well in sifting through the large record of one of the world's great technical education centres. No doubt Birkbeck will be celebrating their bicentenary with a round of events and we will keep you posted as details emerge.

We missed the retirement of **Emma Marigliano** from the **Portico Library** in Manchester. Emma also played a key role in the Association of Independent Libraries, now the Independent



**Libraries Association**. She is widely known for the programs and exhibitions which she produced whilst at the Portico. Emma is now operating as an independent consultant on Library and Book History and

Illustration and Cultural Heritage, and she curated the most recent exhibition at the Portico 'Beautiful Monsters'. We have fond memories of wandering by the Portico and ascending the back stairs to the domed haven of the Portico and partaking of some Yorkshire Pudding Pie. Happy retirement Emma and thank you sincerely for your past efforts on behalf of independent libraries everywhere.



Congratulations to **Professor Simone Wonnacott** on her role in having **Leeds Arts University** being named *The Guardian's* 2019 **University of the Year** in the design and crafts sector. Simone graduated from Leeds

University with an MBA from a background in Human Resources. She joined Leeds School of Arts in 2004 as Vice-Principal and in 2009 was appointed Principal. Since then Simone has restructured and transitioned LSA into University status, which was achieved in 2017.



Overlooked in the Australia Day Honours was **Dr Peter Gerald Mansfield OAM**, a former Committee Member of MIV 'for service to community history and heritage

preservation'. As a career librarian Peter was Chief Executive of the Ballarat-based Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation from 1979-2001; Chief Executive Officer of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation 2001-10; Librarian/Historian of the Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library, Deakin University 2011-2015; and as a Member of the Public Record Advisory Council, Public Record Office Victoria, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 2000-2007. He has also given long distinguished service to the Local History community as: Central Highlands Historical Association, Founder in 1984; Ballarat Historical Society, Past President and Committee Member; and Geelong Historical Society, Member from 2001. Peter has written extensively on Ballarat and more recently on Geelong history in the areas of Local and State Government representation and Geelong regional cemeteries.



The Melbourne Athenaeum Incorporated wishes to advise that **Marjorie Dalvean** (pictured above right) has retired from her role as voluntary archives coordinator. After close to 15 years volunteering 2 - 3 days per week, Marjorie has agreed to hand over the administration and coordination of the archives to **Ruby Gray** (pictured above left) who has worked and volunteered with Marjorie for the past 5 years. Ruby is a qualified Library Technician and is keen and willing to continue her volunteering on Wednesdays going forward.

The Melbourne Athenaeum archives will be open on Wednesdays and we'll continue to welcome new volunteers as Ruby settles into her role. The Melbourne Athenaeum would also like to thank **Anne Marsden** and **Gerry Ely** who have contributed to the archives through their research work but are stepping back from their weekly commitments. Current research projects include the uploading of theatre programs into

the Victorian Collections website, and research and cataloguing of art exhibitions held in the Gallery during the 1940s. The Melbourne Athenaeum archives is also cataloguing its documents to be uploaded to the Victorian Collections website where they will be available to the general public.

It is hard to effectively describe the positive impact that Marjorie has had on the organisation over her time here. She commenced working in the library as a junior assistant in the 1950s before returning after retirement to volunteer. Her voluntary work commenced with an archives room full of crushed boxes and documents that she set about sorting, sifting and cataloguing. She harnessed willing helpers who, as a team with limited resources, stamped the Melbourne Athenaeum Incorporated as a place both worthy of research and intrinsic to the story of European settlement in Port Phillip. She encouraged research essays to be written and published, promoted the organisation far and wide through talks and workshops, welcomed visitors, and responded to 1,000s of enquiries ranging from family research to city planning. She networked and engaged with other historical organisations to ensure this organisation was identified as both a credible and worthy historical institution in Melbourne.

One of three honorary members of the Melbourne Athenaeum Incorporated, Marjorie will continue to mentor Ruby and the other volunteers in the archives.

Melbourne Athenaeum



We have news that **Professor Carl Bridge** of the Menzies Centre of Australian Studies and Department of History at King's College, London is shortly to be up and about after a spell in hospital. Carl was the author of:

*Trunk Full of Books: History of the State Library of South Australia and its Forerunners* published in 1986; *The British World: Diaspora, Culture, Identity* in 2003, and a string of other Australian titles and was Director of the Menzies Centre at King's College, London from 1997-2014. We all wish Carl well in the road back to full health.

# 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.*

## RECIPE

### GINGER BEER

#### Starter Plant Ingredients

8 sultanas

Juice of two lemons

1 teaspoon of lemon pulp

4 teaspoons of sugar

2 teaspoons of ground ginger

2 cups cold water

#### Feed 4-10 days

2 teaspoons of ground ginger

4 teaspoons sugar

#### Feed Day 11

4 cups boiling water

Juice of 4 lemons

4 cups sugar

#### Method

1. Place the starter plant ingredients in an airtight container and let ferment for three days.
2. Feed the plant each day, from Day four to Day ten with ground ginger and sugar as above.
3. On Day 11, place Day 11 ingredients as above in a large container. Strain ginger beer 'plant' through muslin in to the container. Then stir in 28 cups of cold water. Bottle and seal.

It makes about twelve bottles. Leave to stand for about a week, before drinking.

**To continue with your ginger beer plant.** Put half the retained strained squeezed mixture into an airtight container with 2 cups of cold water. Feed each week for two weeks, with 2 teaspoons of ground ginger and 4 teaspoons of sugar. Then repeat the Day 11 procedure.

Recipe from: Currabubula Red Cross Branch, *Recipes and History from the Old Tin Hall* (2013).

## A BLACKBOARD

In the old days blackboards were a teaching vehicle and we occasionally applied other artwork and wording. A blackboard wall could be a feature in your Hall with an occasional inspirational quote, coming events, call for help, donations, etc.

## SPOT THE BAKER'S DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 47

1. Who will officially open the **Mechanics' Institutes Australia 2018** Conference in Ballarat on 16 November 2018?
2. What is the name of the latest exhibition, curated by Emma Marigliano, at the Portico Library in Manchester?
3. Name the Methodist Preacher who was distributing Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge publications in NSW in the very early 1830s.
4. Where did Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts pioneer, Dr Henry Carmichael, die?
5. In which Institute Hall is SkyLab located?
6. What is the 'Weapon of Mass Instruction' mentioned in the text?
7. Which mentioned Gippsland Hall is to have free solar panels installed.
8. What book was recently launched at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library?
9. Where is the South Wales Miner's Library located?
10. Which Institute features in a town that is nominated for Heritage listing in Western Australia?
11. Who was Agnes Littlejohn?
12. When and where is the **Halls Survival Workshop** being held?
13. Who was elected to the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 2014.

## SPOT THE BAKERS DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 46 – ANSWERS

1. Birregurra; 2. Tallarook; 3. Two; 4. Acheron; 5. John Desmond Bernal; 6. Furphy Water Carts; 7. Bullumwaal; 8. Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre; 9. Michele Frey and Sian Williams; 10. Rushworth Museum; 11. 30 August; 12. Purnim; 13. Fawcett.

## OPEN HOUSE

This concept is really catching on as an idea and you really can have it any time. Plan it well ahead put a sign on the front fence of the impending date and publicise it well. Have a barbecue and morning and afternoon tea and schedule a few impromptu items throughout the day to add interest and even visitor participation. And don't forget a donation jar.

## *Ideas & Opportunities*

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### SET A COSTED FUNDING GOAL

The recent exhibition at the **Boston Athenaeum** highlights the modus operandi of any successful fundraising or to use today's jargon 'crowdfunding'. Establish a target need and go for it. Put up the fundraising barometer outside your Hall and watch the total grow. And when it is finished record the names of those who made it possible, even if that well known funder of worthy causes 'Anonymous' is amongst them. Success breeds success.

Such an example was MIV's Art Project last year made possible by Institute and personal orders for calendars and cards. Hopefully that will continue with the next round of 2019 calendars.

### RESEARCHING HONOUR BOARDS

An article which appeared in the *Weekly Times* on 28 June 2018 about the Honour Board in the Badger Creek Hall 'The hobby farmer **[Kathleen Cameron]** started the project in 2015 when the Mechanics' Institute [sic] of Victoria wrote to hall committees across Australia to encourage them to produce booklets commemorating those listed on their honour boards.' The call is still out there and it would be interesting to know of other Halls who took up that challenge. Perhaps it is also timely to start work on World War II Honour Boards so that those that still have memory can help. It would be a fitting tribute to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2020.

### PLAN A CLEAN UP

A recent visit to a Mechanics' Institute property showed it to be spotless with a place for everything clearly identified and signed. The thinking was if you find a hall or room clean, users are expected to leave it clean and if they don't, they are billed accordingly or the cleaning cost is deducted from their bond.

A clean Hall and grounds also engenders a mindset of care and caring and when you are on the hunt for donations or support, is a worthy object for contributing to or supporting.

### SOLAR PANELS

We note the 28 June announcement by **Lily D'Ambrosio** on behalf of the Government, that solar panels will be placed on some thirty public buildings across Gippsland. The list includes halls at: **Budgeree; Cowwarr; Flynn; Giffard West; Glenmaggie; Hallora; Jindivik; Kilmany; Longford; Nambrok; Neerim; Neerim South; Rosedale; Seaspray; Stradbroke; Toongabbie;**

**Tyers; Walhalla; Willowgrove; and Yallourn North.**

Perhaps the Government could consider rolling out this plan to Halls across the State in order to save on the substantial cost of providing heat, light and power to small community halls. This would free up limited resources to spend on Hall maintenance.

### PLAN EVENTS WELL AHEAD

In order to maximise attendance and impact at Hall events, these should be planned well ahead. Ideally each organisation should, have an annual calendar of events – New Year's Eve Huddle and Dance; Christmas in July with Song; Spring Run to the Hilltop or Local Mound; Anzac Day Hell-Fire Dawn Breakfast; End of Harvest Hop; Full Moon Fiesta; Rabbit Roast; Cheese from A Round Foodathon; Senior Residents' Soiree; Youth Hoedown in the Hall; Art and Craft Extravaganza; or let your imagination run wild.

And please let your MIV know. Councils have promotional facilities and local newspapers and even publications like the RACV's *Royal Auto* magazine or the *Weekly Times* may even promote them. It might be that MIV could descend on your event with a busload to swell the crowd.

### APPOINT A PRESS OFFICER AND 'ARTIST IN RESIDENCE'

All too often we hear of an event when it is over which is sad. It is suggested that every organisation should have a Press Officer and this could even be a communications student from the local secondary school. It would be their role to spread the news of your organisation and your events regularly to a list of outlets of which MIV would be one. The 'Artist in Residence' would be called on to come up with flyers for forthcoming events and produce occasional murals for Hall events.

### HIRING YOUR HALL

We have been banging on about signwriting your Hall and placing booking details on the Hall. One remote Hall in Western Australia recently advised that they have a regular annual weekend booking from a group that engages in nudist bush walks from the Hall. The group camp around the Hall and use it as the base for meals and a Saturday night dance. They cause no trouble, leave the Hall as they find it, and leave a very substantial cheque behind as well. The group had found the Hall in a chance drive by and had called the number on the 'For Hire' sign.