



Useful Knowledge

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA INC.

NO. 53 – SPRING/SUMMER 2020

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TO MARKET, TO MARKET



As we emerge from the COVID-19 induced lockdown, it is time to rebuild our shattered communities and their places. The loss of revenue and Hall use will impact heavily on the various Committees of Management and we will need to think of ways to revitalise our Halls.

It is fair to say that life at our Halls will be very different in the future, with social distancing, sanitation stations, entry and exit and even the way we hold our events.

Maybe more of our activities will be held outdoors, as they were in earlier days, when there were picnic sports, outdoor picture theatres and other entertainments.

Certainly our markets, with both indoor and outdoor stalls, will continue to play a vital part of Hall life and community activity. Halls with commercial kitchens should promote their use for the production of local jams, pickles, relishes and sauces. Onsite and offsite catering can be contracted.

Then to rebuild and refocus our communities we need to showcase just what each community has. We are reminded of the Great Exhibitions Institutes staged in Britain and the US in the Nineteenth Century which showcased the

industry and culture of a region. These normally ran for months, but could be run over a weekend or even a long weekend.

Perhaps it is time for a **Back to Appin**, to erect a plaque, on the site of the former Hall, or to have a weekend centred on your Hall and district. This occasion could be used to collect Hall history for a publication for our **Hall or Hall related History Competition** in 2021.

You may even use the occasion to launch your Hall logo and slogan or unveil your renewed signage.

In a recent funding announcement for the Clarence Valley Council the National Party Member for Page, **Kevin Hogan** stated 'Community halls are a crucial part of communities, especially in Nymboida'. (Nymboida was severely impacted in the 2019 bushfires, when eighty homes were lost in the district.)

Let us have your marketing plans to again make the Hall a vital and central part of all our communities.

2020 AGM
SATURDAY, 13 FEBRUARY, 2021
AT 10AM VIA ZOOM

TIME TO PLAN YOUR *Coming Events*

Clearly with prevailing circumstances it is difficult to plan into the future, but it may provide an opportunity to think about what annual events presently take place in your Hall and those that perhaps could.

Check out the following List

- Annual Reunion at the Hall to celebrate the Hall's birthday
- Anzac Dawn Service
- Art Mart
- Badminton Tournament
- Billiards Anyone? State Tournament
- Bric-a-brac Auction
- Car Book Sale
- Christmas in July
- Christmas Tree
- Coffee/Tea at the Hall – Wednesday afternoon or any time
- Country and Western Hoedown
- Dance On
- Darts Night
- Fruit Festival – Apple, Cherry, Peach, Plum, Quince, Strawberry, Watermelon, etc.
- Hometown Hall of Fame Annual Installation
- In residence: amateur; artist; photographer, poet; or writer
- It's Happening at the Hall in November
- Library Project
- Make Mine Movies
- Market
- Meet the Neighbours
- Mural Project
- Nature Ramble
- Open Day

- Opera in the Hills or Plains
- Pet Parade
- Pleasant Sunday Afternoon
- Potato, Pumpkin or Turnip Night
- Progressive Lunch, Tea or Dinner in collaboration with other Hall
- Researching Hall History
- Roast Night
- Robert Burns Night
- Rock 'n Roll – Music and Dance
- St George's Day and Dragon Dress Up
- St Patrick's Day at the Hall
- Stargazing at the Hall
- Table Tennis Tournament
- Trivia Night
- Twin Town Day
- Walk into History from the Hall

THANK YOU TO OUR PRINTERS

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



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

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MIV'S EVENTS CALENDAR IS ONLINE

mivic.org.au/events.html

Subscribe for weekly email updates on events throughout the week.

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

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Editorial

The year 1920 started a decade that was to become known as *The Roaring Twenties* in the English speaking world, *Annees folles* in France or in Germany *Die Goldene Zwanziger Jahre*. The ensuing decade was one of vast economic growth and cultural change.

It also saw women receive the vote and achieve ‘liberation’, and the coining of the word ‘flapper’. Indeed it has been a century of change for women and the men, who have conceded positions in Parliament, Councils and on Company Boards.

The late **Helen Reddy** of ‘I am Woman’ fame led that charge for the last half century, with her hit tune, first released on a ‘sleeper’ album in May 1971. Re-recorded as a single in May 1972 with an additional verse, and with extra backing and support vocal it reached number one on the charts later that year.

Post-Covid, we look towards a very much-changed future of distancing and sanitisation. However it will be one of opportunity to reconnect with our communities both locally, nationally and even internationally. On-line events and streaming have most certainly changed our world perspective with Halls and groups linking up to new technologies. These present exciting new challenges for us to take up and exploit.

Our meetings may no longer take place around tables, but with Committee members sitting in their homes in front of a screen and/or a camera. The potential is exciting, for we may be able to access the best minds for an hour or two to drive our organisations forward.

So too can the 2020s be one of massive change and community renewal where we focus on local at all levels – social, economic and governance. Each community needs empowerment to support each of its own organisations, businesses and administration.

The Local Government restructure of the 1990s robbed many communities of their ‘say’ in how they operate. Bureaucracies of mobile staff could not hope to understand the previous dynamics of the sometimes scores of communities within their purview.

We need to refocus on local and the Community Hall is the pivot **For the Community by the Community**. We need to wind back the clock to refocus on local, rather than simply be lumped in with the regional. Support for Hall activities, farm gate and local shops, and our youth to obtain the best nurturing available to develop a new generation of community leaders.

Past Wars produced a cohort of men and women who could organise and stage community events and could ably stand up for their districts and their needs. Today that leadership strength and training is not available.

Each community must have a solid rethink on what its assets are, starting with the Hall, and what is lacking to make the 2020s again roaring for it.

It isn't what we say or think that defines us, but what we do.
JANE AUSTEN (1775-1817)

Housekeeping

HISTORY PRIZES

There were once around one thousand Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria and we are keen to get as much history on each Victorian Institute as possible. Mechanics' Institutes were in many cases the first public building in many Victorian country towns and today they are the last.

1. HISTORY

This requires the history of: an Institute or group of Institutes; a person or persons connected with an Institute; an event or particular activity connected with an Institute; or, an artifact or book connected with an Institute. Projects can be submitted in either manuscript or book form. The Prize is \$1500, with five prizes of \$100 each.

CONDITIONS

1. Collaborative projects will be accepted.
2. All work must be the original research of the submitter or submitters.
3. No electronic submissions will be considered and all physical material submitted will become the property of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc., but copyright will remain with the author/s.
4. The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
5. Applications close on 1 October 2021. Announcements will be made at the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc. Annual General Meeting in 2021.
6. Entries must reach: Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc, Box 1080, Windsor, Vic 3181 by the specified date.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

Prevailing lock down and social distancing has forced us to think outside the square and the conduct of meetings and events by remote means. This we look on as an opportunity to gain a wider membership and greater participation by way of Membership on the MIV Committee which would be accessed via a remote site such as Zoom. Please think about having a representative from your Institute or Hall nominated for the MIV Committee and it would be great if that could be a young member as that

will be our future lifeblood. We meet four times a year and as required and papers are distributed prior to each meeting.

MARKET LISTINGS

As flagged in the last issue we are working on a **Market Directory**. If you stage an annual, quarterly, monthly, weekly or occasional market please let us know and we can assemble all the required details. You might even like to also give us a pitch as to why we should launch the **Directory** at your Market.

NEWS WANTED

Please let us have stories of your Institute, its history and/or its people with a couple of pictures. Copy for the next issue of *Useful Knowledge* 54 closes on **10 February 2021**. Email: therurastore@bigpond.com.



Buy Local -
Buy Australian Made

Season's Greetings to all the Mechanics' Institute community and wishing you a roaring 2021.

MAGAZINE ROUND

Tick after reading and pass it on

- President
- Vice-President.....
- Treasurer.....
- Secretary.....
- Committee (*Insert your name*)
-
-
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TARNAGULLA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BY GEORGE SWINBURNE

Tarnagulla is located some 180 kilometres north-west of Melbourne and European settlement of the district took place from the 1840s. Gold was found at Sandy Creek in 1852, and the settlement was renamed Tarnagulla in 1861.

Although a Committee met as early as August 1858 to form a Mechanics' Institute and the *Inglewood Advertiser* reported on 11 October 1861 that the Tarnagulla Mechanics' Institute was being established in brick premises provided by John Beynon, it was not actually formed until 20 May 1865 with 107 members and used the reading room of Thomas Page at the *Tarnagulla & Llanelly Courier* until it opened its own reading room in premises rented from George Fyfe on 17 June 1865.

Its rules, which numbered 55, were dated 1 June 1865, which was agreed to at the date of formation and bore the names of the 12 members and the officers and members of the General Committee. In July 1867 the Institute relocated to the Town Hall but it seemed at times to have had difficulty attracting members and raising sufficient funds to keep the Institute running.

It was reported at a meeting on 19 January 1871 that as a result of a number of members not paying their subscription and others having left the District, there was not sufficient money in hand to pay all the debts. There was also discussion as to the disposal of the piano. The piano features often in reports over the years and hiring it out to the New Year's Day Fete Committee, the School Board of Advice, the Fire Brigade and the Tarnagulla Star Minstrels must have been quite a source of funds. However in December 1871 the Council of the Borough of Tarnagulla took charge of the property and management as the Institute could not meet its debts. There was an advertisement by the Institute to let or hire the piano in 1874 and to sell it in 1875. Whether the Council actually ever established ownership of the piano is unclear.

In January 1876 steps were taken to reopen the Institute and to reclaim its property. After a formal application to the Council in February 1876 and lengthy discussions

with an elected committee, agreement was reached for the Institute to reclaim its property which was vested in Trustees and the Institute reopened on 26 March 1876 under a strict set of Rules. The council at first refused to hand over certain accounting ledgers and the piano but agreement was reached to reclaim these and the offer of Mr W Davey to pay £5 per annum and to keep the piano in good order and repair for use by the Institute, was accepted by the Council.

The Institute then seemed to get back into the swing of what it took as its role in the town and there was a Grand Concert held on 1 September 1876. There is a gap in copies of the *Tarnagulla and Llanelly Courier* and some are unreadable, but by February 1878 it appears to have been operating and getting strong support from the leading people in the town. There was discussion over whether to hold an Art Union to raise funds and this engendered some spirited discussion amongst the subscribers. At the annual meeting in March 1878 the subscribers were congratulated on the success of the Institute and considerable additions had been made to the library and all expenses cleared. The Institute seems to have been very active through 1878 and 1879 and in May 1879 it was reported to hold 1500 volumes, but subscribers had dropped off. Another entertainment with The Tarnagulla Stars was held and the Institute benefited by £10.

A Grand Amateur Concert was held on 9 April 1881 as funds were very short, but the first half of the 1880s could be described as very successful for the Institute with regular meetings and many new volumes procured with further fundraising concerts held. Also during this period the Institute oversaw the establishment of the Tarnagulla Literary & Debating Society which was particularly active over the period 1882–

85 and had a number of spirited debates. In particular, subjects included: Temperance, opening libraries and museums on Sundays, the observance of the Sabbath or the Sunday question, Women and her position in the Social Scale, Local Option and restriction of the alcohol trade, Perpetual Leasing and Is



Thomas Page had his original Tarnagulla and Llanelly Courier in Commercial Road, Tarnagulla (Photo: George Swinburne)

TARNAGULLA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE CONT...

Smoking Beneficial. The Temperance movement was alive and aggressive and demanded books on the subject be included in the Library. However, by May 1885 it seems, despite its popularity, it had died away and there were unsuccessful moves to continue it, in particular a lengthy and impassioned plea by the *Tarnagulla and Llanelly Courier* on 17 March 1888 for its re-establishment and public meetings imploring support.

The Institute itself, its library and entertainment fundraisers, continued apace and at the Annual Meeting on 29 March 1887, the affairs of the Institute were reported to be in a fairly prosperous condition despite membership being down as a result of a number of members having left the district. There were 1460 volumes in a condition for lending which had increased to 1555 in March 1890. Senior townsmen could not understand why young men did not care for the news and other activities. Strangely, the Borough Council was reluctant to give financial support.

In the 1890s a Mechanics' Club, also under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institute, was formed in May 1893 which also included debates. It obtained the use of its own reading room at the Town Hall and there were often large attendances of around 100 and the Club also held monthly concerts. Again, the leading townspeople were very supportive of the Institute and the Mechanics Club and participated in the debates. It even attracted many young people who were fostered to become public speakers and actively took part in debates. It was said "The young men of the town have caught on." The names of those speaking and their topics were reported at length in the *Courier*. Subjects of debates included "Constitutional Reform"; "Should the franchise be extended to women?"; "Whether theatres and music halls should be open on Sundays"; "Are you in favour of Income Tax?"; "Are you in favour of payment of members ? [of Parliament]"; "Should we smoke?"; "Which is the greatest evil in the colony, drinking or gambling?"; "Should the dog tax be enforced in Tarnagulla, and if so, should it be



Premises in Commercial Road rented from George Fyfe on 17 June 1865. (Photo: George Swinburne)

enforced by summons or the dog destroyed?"; "Should bachelors be taxed?"; "Should the free passes on the railways be entirely abolished?"; "Should unimproved land be taxed?" and "Are you in favour of the Stock Tax?"

The Mechanics' Club had a separate membership list to the Institute and "acquired"

the Institute piano! There were all sorts of games provided including chess, dominoes, draughts, cards, rope quoits, etc

By 28 April 1894 funds were again low and there were only 30 members. Also, the Mechanics' Club had faded away and despite calls for its resumption, it does not seem to have continued. In June 1894 a joint Sports meeting with the Fire Brigade was arranged to take place in October 1894 to raise funds for the Institute. It is believed this took place but there is no record of the result. In May 1896 the Fire Brigade were proposing to form a club along the lines of the Mechanics' Club, but there is no record of whether it got underway.

In July 1896 when funds were again at a low ebb, it was agreed to join with the Tarnagulla Bicycle Club and a Grand Cycling Carnival took place successfully at the Reservoir Reserve in aid of the Institute and about £10 was raised.

But funds were still low and at the Half-Yearly Meeting late in August 1894 it was resolved to cease subscribing to 5 of 20 newspapers and to buy more books. There were suggestions the Institute would need to close. No funds were available from the Government as they were not a free library.

Despite always being short of funds, the Institute continued to operate and the committee met regularly and Half-Yearly and Annual Meetings of subscribers held. A detailed report of affairs provided by the Secretary Mr Connochie at the Half-Yearly meeting on 26 July 1901 and included a call on the township for support. Many books had been added to the library, but many were missing and others dilapidated. The Secretary had spent considerable time on the library and



TARNAGULLA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE CONT...

was going to implement systematic supervision of the Reading Room. The Reading Room required repairs which the Council was being requested to undertake.

The Institute was an integral organisation in the town and over the years it raised funds from numerous concerts, dances, plays, lectures and soirees held in the Victoria Hall, sports meetings, fetes and carnivals.

It was instrumental in organising the celebrations for the coronation of King George V in 1911. Its fortunes fluctuated over the years and there were threats of closure, but it maintained the provision of many Australian and overseas newspapers and magazines. In 1901 it was reported to have over 2000 volumes. In January 1914 it was reported that its library was considered the most up to date and complete library in the State. It sponsored the formation of the very active Tarnagulla Literary and Debating Society in 1884 and in 1893 a Mechanics' Club for the younger people to play chess and cards and to conduct debates and put on concerts, musicals and dramatic entertainment. Good support in raising funds came from the Tarnagulla Brass Band and it regularly raised funds for the Tarnagulla Benevolent Society.

The activities of the Institute, its Committee, General and Annual General Meetings were regularly reported in articles and editorials of the *Tarnagulla & Llanelly Courier* between 1865 and 1918.

Although there are newspaper reports of meetings held during WWI, there are numerous reports of meetings held at the "Mechanics" to farewell and welcome home our troops, the Repatriation Committee, the Red Cross, Benevolent Society and the Tarnagulla Progress Association.

There was a report in *The Age* on 29 November 1927 that the old Tarnagulla Borough Council Town Hall and Mechanics' Institute, being the former municipal council chambers, and an historical building which Bet Bet Shire Council, (in whom the property of the Borough vested), had proposed to sell it for removal, but that it had



*Tarnagulla Borough Council Chambers.
(Photo courtesy George Swinburne)*

been handed over by deed of gift from the council to the Mechanics' Institute and Library Committee. Further *The Age* on 3 April 1928, reported that at the annual meeting, Messrs Allison, Bool, Saunders and Ison were appointed trustees of the newly acquired building. However, no Deed was ever registered at the office of the Registrar General of

any transfer to give effect to this and although meetings of the Institute may have continued to be held in the building, there is no evidence that any actual ownership was vested in the Institute.

There are reports in the *Inglewood Advertiser* of an Annual General Meeting on 12 March 1929 and of singing in 1934.

The last published reference to the Institute that could be located was on 22 November 1960 when it was reported that £400 had been received from Harry Burstall by Gerald Benson of Tarnagulla, president of the Library Committee and senior Trustee of the Mechanics' Institute, for renovation of the building which had been in disrepair for some time. The building had the top storey removed and it was renamed Burstall Hall, but the building was demolished by the Shire in the late 1980s.

A Deed filed with the Registrar General on 27 April 1990 evidenced a sale to Noel Anthony Markey and the vacant land continues in private ownership.

Apparently when the building was to be demolished, the books that had comprised the Institute Library were offered for sale and some 400 books that were unsold were located in 2019 in a resident's shed and are held now in the **Tarnagulla History Archive** located at the Victoria Hall.

A once very active and noble part of the fabric of Tarnagulla had sadly faded away with the decline in the population of the town.

© George Swinburne, 2 October 2020
References: *Maryborough & Dunolly Advertiser*; *Tarnagulla & Llanelly Courier*; *Loddon Valley Courier and Farmers Advocate*; *Inglewood Advertiser*; *Bendigo Advertiser*; *Argus*; *Age*; and *Herald*; David Gordon Indexes and photos.

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.

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

Lock down at Berwick meant the doors were closed but work still continued behind the scenes with book ordering, payment of accounts, housekeeping, etc. It was also an opportunity to tweek their new website which is now 'live' at berwickmilibrary.org.au. Well done in getting this up and running with relevant pictures and an informative text.

The website also features a glowing tribute to the late **Pam Darling**, who was librarian from 1962-2009. 'She was dedicated to the library and tireless in her efforts on its behalf. She was awarded an Order of Australia for her service to the community and was a generous benefactor.' A framed montage of a photographic portrait surrounded by her awards and medals is also in the Library.



Commemorative frame for Pam Darling at the BMIFL. (Photo: berwickmilibrary.org.au)

Berwick has recently concluded another funding and service agreement with the City of Casey for a further four years. This gives security and certainty for forward planning.

KILMORE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE & FREE LIBRARY (Est. 1854)



A new sign at Kilmore's Monument Hill describes endangered species known to frequent the area. (Photo: Elyse Kelly)

Some six years ago, the Kilmore Mechanics' Institute and Free Library Inc. in conjunction with the Kilmore & District Residents & Ratepayers Association, received a grant from DELWP to locate and record the Rare and Threatened Species of Kilmore's Monument Hill Reserve.

This combined group, under the supervision of **Norm Stimson**, spent numerous hours, searching and recording flora and fauna, with many hours of footage from motion-controlled cameras to note the nocturnal fauna's locations. Nesting boxes for Phascogales, Barking and Powerful Owls have been built and wire surrounds provided to protect our rare flora species, which includes more than thirty orchid species – all living in our environmentally and historically significant reserve protected by Local, State and National policies and legislation, including significant landscape and vegetation protection overlays.

Our sign depicts four flora and two fauna photos and descriptions of these Rare and Threatened Species, size restricted us from listing all of them. The sign is located in the second car park where Monument Road begins its ascent and where several tracks and paths lead into the Reserve and up to the Monument lookout.

If you are in the Kilmore area it is well worth the trip up to our Hume and Hovell Monument (listed by Heritage Victoria as being of 'State Significance'). Upon taking a quiet walk in the

'bush' you will be surprised at how many wild flowers, orchids and native animals you will see, and if you are lucky a Phascogale or a rare orchid.

Hume and Hovell's Monument is currently in Kilmore's 'Public Parks and Gardens' precinct which was designated as such in 1911.

Our thanks to the Victorian Government, Mitchell Shire Council and the many local volunteers for their assistance.

Contributed by Vyvienne Whitehurst, Treasurer of the Kilmore Mechanics' Institute and Free Library Inc. and President of the Kilmore and District Residents and Ratepayers' Association. (Both the named groups successfully campaigned to stop a Freeway Bypass through the Reserve several years ago.)

MANSFIELD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1874)



(Photo: Bron Lowden)

In August the Mansfield Kindergarten Committee, led by **Andrew Setchell**, were advised that their \$173,000 funding application to help transform the Kindergarten and Mechanics' Hall in Ailsa Street, Mansfield had been approved.

This is in addition to the earlier 2018 funding of \$600,000, which was largely thanks to the work of **Sally Brennan** and Northern Victorian Upper House Member **Jacyln Symes**.

The funding will restore and extend the Mechanics' Institute building and as Sally Brennan has said 'This renovation and extension of the Mechanics' Institute will ensure this important historical building will continue to benefit the community for many years to come.'

MIV Committee Member **Corinne Brewis** has been asked to be an ongoing conduit with us.

STANLEY ATHENAEUM & PUBLIC ROOM (Est. 1863)

Lost Stories of the Great War: Stanley & Hurdle Flat School Honour Boards



Stanley (left) and Hurdle Flat (above) Honour Rolls (Photos: Chris Dormer)

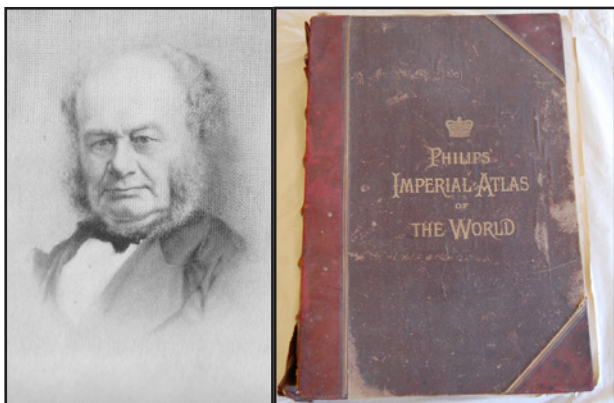
Many died very young, far from home and in awful conditions, by researching the personal stories of the nurses and the men who served in World War 1

the Stanley and Hurdle Flat School Honour Board Project will make a significant contribution by bringing the stories of the people from small rural communities such as Stanley and Hurdle Flat to the national story.

The beautifully illuminated Stanley and Hurdle Flat Honour Boards once displayed at Stanley State School (the Hurdle Flat School having closed in 1917) will now be part of a new permanent exhibition at the Stanley Soldiers Memorial Hall.

'The Great War: Stanley & Hurdle Flat' Project funded by *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations Program 2019-20 will honour the men and women who enlisted as soldiers or nurses and tell of the impact on their lives, their families and these two small communities.

Around the World in Eighty Maps: The Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World (1890)



George Philip II (1823-1902), Publisher of George Philip & Son (Photo: Wikimedia Commons); The Atlas found in the collection of the Stanley Athenaeum (Photo: Stanley Athenaeum Facebook)

'**Around the World in Eighty Maps**' the new exhibition at Stanley Athenaeum tells the story of how this substantial and impressive atlas arrived at the Stanley library, how Robert Craig is instrumental in the purchase of this significant volume, that reflected the aspirations of the newly elected library committee and their vision and optimism for the library and Athenaeum for the future, buoyed by the prosperity of Victoria and the reign of 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

The *Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World* at the Stanley Athenaeum is a rarity, being one of only two known copies in public collections in Australia and one of eight copies in worldwide collections.

'Around the World in Eighty Maps' will now be launched in November 2020. (Subject to COVID19 government directives, watch the Facebook page for more details.)

Visit the exhibition at the Stanley Athenaeum and Public Room, Main Street, Stanley. Open every Friday & 4th Saturday of each month from 10am to 12.30 pm or by appointment, contact: 0458 606 922 or 03 5728 6702

Victorian Community Fund Holsworth Local Heritage Trust Grant

The Friends of Stanley Athenaeum have been successful in receiving a \$2000 grant from the Victorian Community Fund Holsworth Local

Heritage Trust awarded by The Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The grant will assist to fund the publication of *Hearts of Gold: Minds of Mettle - Stanley Women of the 19th Century* and give voice to the remarkable migrant women who arrived, settled and made a new life in the rough and tumble world of the Nine Mile goldfields.

It tells the stories of 100 women, their achievements, challenges and the ways they found to make a living, support their families and serve their communities. It will bring the past to life, and offer new insights and perspectives for women today.

The C19th Women's book team of **Val Privett**, **Helen McIntyre** and **Robyn Harcourt** have almost completed their work of researching, writing and editing the stories of 100 Stanley and district women. *Hearts of Gold: Minds of Mettle - Stanley Women of the 19th Century* will be published and launched in early 2021. Reserve your copy now at any of the contacts below.

Fire on the Plateau: A History of Fire and its Management in Stanley

Researched and written by **Jacqui Durrant** and published by the Stanley Athenaeum has been nominated for **The Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Local History - Small Publication Award \$1500**, which is the best small publication or e-book (maximum 200 pages) which features Victorian local, cultural or social history. The book has created much interest since its launch in September 2019 and has been recently reprinted. Copies of the Athenaeum's popular book, *Fire on the Plateau*, by Jacqui Durrant are still available. They can be purchased for \$30 at the Stanley Post Office or can be posted by contacting E: stanleyathenaeum@gmail.com or M: 0458 606 922.

Contact the Stanley Athenaeum:
E: stanleyathenaeum@gmail.com
M: 0458 606 922;

W: victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/stanley-athenaeum

mivc.org.au/stanley.html

[facebook.com / Stanley-Athenaeum-1192094190800862/](https://facebook.com/St Stanley-Athenaeum-1192094190800862/)

WILLIAMSTOWN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1856)



(Photo: Bron Lowden)

The Williamstown Historical Society folk advise that restoration of the Mechanics' Institute, from where the Society operates its Museum, will now not be complete until 2023. In recent times foundation investigation works, on the Electra Avenue façade, have included CCTV inspections of the building's stormwater drainage system.

YARRAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1885)



*Work in Progress: Heesco Khosnaran returns to Yarram to continue his Heesco Town mural series
(Photo: ABC Gippsland Facebook)*

Located in south-east Gippsland, Yarram is very much a regional centre. However in recent years agriculture has been overshadowed with tourism with Yarram being close to the Ninety Mile Beach, Tarra Bulba National Park and Port Albert. Yarram Yarram is a term for 'Plenty of water' for it is located in swampy lands. Yarram Yarram Post Office opened in 1861 and was shortened to Yarram in 1925.

The Yarram Mechanics' Institute still holds its original building which is well-used by youth and community groups. It also hosts periodic markets and outdoor events which utilise the adjoining grounds.

Between March and April this year a young Melbourne-based Mongolian-born artist **Heesco** painted ten murals around the township of Yarram. He has recently returned to paint a further mural and this time it will be on the front of the Mechanics' Institute. It will feature a portrait of Tarraville-born opera singer **Ada Jemima Crossley** (1871-1929).

From the age of seven Ada took piano lessons and went on to play the organ and sing in three local churches, but notably Christ Church, Tarraville.

As a teenager she debuted in Melbourne as a professional Contralto Opera Singer in November 1889. There, with the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra, she gave a series of 'Promenade Concerts' in the Melbourne Town Hall. She progressed to become principal singer for **Charles Strong's** Australian Church Choir.

After meeting **Dame Nellie Melba** she travelled to London in 1894 and studied with **Sir Charles Santley**, then later with **Madame Marchesi** in Paris. She made her London debut in Queen's Hall in May 1895.

Ada developed a wide repertoire ranging from Gluck and Handel to Richard Strauss, and in 1903 had a repertoire of 500 sacred songs, and as well as English could sing in six other languages. She toured the US in 1902-03, did a series of recordings for Victor Gramophone, and then toured Australia and New Zealand in 1903 with a young **Percy Grainger** in her entourage.

She married surgeon **Dr Francis Frederick Muecke** in London in 1905 and after another visit to Australia in 1907-08 she scaled down her activity, but did charity concerts in London during World War I. Her London house was a gathering place for visiting and local Australian artists. She died at Woodlands Park, Buckinghamshire and was buried at St Marylebone Cemetery, East Finchley.

This project like that of the silos has the potential to 'revitalise' rural communities, large and small.

The Wonderful World of Mechanics' Institutes

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

SINGLETON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (Est. 1866)



(Photo: Bron Lowden)

Located on the Hunter River, the area was originally known as Patricks Plains, although the district was settled by Benjamin Singleton in the 1820s. Rail reached the town in 1863. Today the town has a population of around 14,000. Its industry strengths include: coal mining, electricity generation, vineyards, horse breeding and cattle raising. It is also the home of the Lone Pine Army Barracks.

The town hosts three museums: Singleton Historical Society; Royal Australian Infantry Corps; and the Mercy Convent 'Sacred Spaces'.

Singleton is also noted for its large sundial installed in 1988.

The Singleton Mechanics' Institute was first formed in 1842, with **Helenus Scott** as President. It was re-formed in early 1845 and the inaugural Institute lecture was given on 12 May 1845 by JJ Davies 'who gave a luminous account of the benefits that had been derived from Mechanics' Institutes in Britain', with further lectures to be delivered fortnightly.

Singleton Mechanics' Institute met in January 1848 when cash amounting to £22.8s.2½d was in hand along with a large number and some 'excellent books'.

It was 'reconstructed' in 1856 under the presidency of **Henry Glennie**, when 'various improvements were effected - a reading room was provided with suitable works and occasional lectures were given'.

In 1858 it was found necessary to close the reading room, and the institution 'fell into a languishing state'.

Meetings were held in 1862 with a view to resuscitate the institution, the result of which was a great change in the constitution of the society, and the Rev. **JS White** was elected president. The Institute was formed in and rented premises from **J Hill**.

In June 1862 a debate 'On the comparative advantage to Singleton on the extension or non-extension of the Railway beyond that town'.

The Institute was amalgamated with the Singleton Mutual Improvement Society in 1863 and in 1864 a reading room was opened.

'In 1865, action was first taken towards the erection of a suitable building, in which the committee was encouraged by the gift of a suitable site of land from **Mr James Moore**. Allotments of land were also given by Messrs **Alexander Munro** and **Marshall Burdekin**, whilst the ladies of the town devoted their talent towards the carrying out of bazaar, by which the sum of £500 was realised'.

The Twentieth Report was delivered to Institute for the Half-Year ending 9 July 1866.

It was noted that twenty-three meetings of the Committee had been held without a lapse for want of quorum.

Eighty-eight new books have been purchased with another one hundred and fourteen were on the way. There were 473 borrowings for the six months. New newspapers and periodicals had been placed on the Reading Room table.

The Institute made £60.5s.3d in the six months which brought a total credit balance of £1058.12s.5d.

The site, donated by James Moore, had a sixty-six feet frontage 'of the most valuable building ground in the town'.

The two storey Hall was gratuitously designed by **John Wiltshire Pender** and it was built in 1866-67 by **Thomas Cooper** of West Maitland, with **WC Clements** as Clerk of Works' at a cost of around £2270.

The foundation stone was laid on 29 August 1866 by **Clara Jane Moore** daughter of James Moore, 'in the presence of his Excellency, **Sir John Young**', on the same day as the Hunter

River Agricultural Association's Show. Present were also delegations from the West Maitland and Morpeth Schools of Arts and East Maitland Mechanics' Institute.

On 8 July 1867 Institute President, **James Moore**, chaired the proceedings and it was opened by Colonial Secretary, the **Hon. Henry Parkes**, 'in the presence of a numerous assemblage, between four and five hundred persons having been present'. Parkes noted the Institute had seventy-five members. The Secretary, **E Dixon** 'then read a paper which showed the Singleton Mechanics' Institute had had been established for a quarter of a century, having been formed in 1842'. **John Lee** of the West Maitland School of Arts also spoke. The Rev. JS White 'then delivered a very telling address upon the use and advantages of mechanics' institutes'.

In August 1867 about fifty members attended the half-yearly meeting. James Moore was in the chair. Investigation showed a deficit of £52.9s.3d in the General Account. The sum of £568 was in hand for the building with £1700 due to the builder. This sum did not include fitting out the building. Entertainments almost liquidated the General Fund debt and a Lottery was planned for the Building Fund debt. Donations of prizes poured in, with one cash donation from **Fred H Dangar** of £21, to the lottery prizes. The tickets sold well and resulted in £950, with a further £500 Government grant. The Hall was fitted out and a Grand Erard piano was purchased at a cost of £160 and a balance of £250.5s.1d remained.

At the half-yearly meeting held on 11 January 1872 it was reported that: thirteen Committee meetings had been held in the past six months; the *Town and Country Journal* had been added to Reading Room making 28 periodicals; the library was being used more than ever in the past, with the most interest being in biography and history; the entertainment celebrating the centenary of Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) had been successful; six readings had been devoted to literature and music; an Elocution class had been conducted by John L Browne during the quarter.

During the term there had been four lectures: three by the President, the Rev. JS White MA, 'How Englishmen obtained their Civil Liberty, and in what respect is it incomplete'; 'The Late Civil War in France'; and 'The Origins and Progress of the Law'; and one by **WC Browne** on

'The Prevention of War'. Mr **John L Browne** had given a dramatic reading on 'The Lady of Lyons'.

In January 1872 **EH Renny** BA, lecturer in chemistry at the Sydney Grammar School gave a lecture titled 'The Air We Breathe'.

In 1889 it was proposed to form a company to build a new Hall for a skating rink, theatre and other purposes and investigations were made to see if Council would lease the Committee space behind the Hall. This was subsequently done at a cost of £1500 and created a large dance hall and theatre.

It was rented to the Singleton Municipal Council from 1869-74. Later the Hall hosted the Patrick Plains Shire Council from its inception on 13 June 1906 until it quit the building on 30 June 1911.

In 1911 banks of tiered seats which could accommodate an extra one hundred people were installed each side of the front porch.

Gratis membership was extended to all soldiers during World War I.

In May 1922 a Public Meeting resolved 'That the trustees be empowered to remortgage to **Mrs S Bailey** all the land having a frontage of 66ft to George Street south by a depth of 165ft, also 132ft to High Street, 165ft on which is erected a building known as the Singleton Mechanics' Institute, for the sum of £840 for three years at 6.5 per cent payable on same dates as provided for in the existing mortgage, subject to the sum of £50 being paid off at the end of the first and second years of the term of the principal.'

In 1924 an electric light was installed over the front doorway.

The building was auctioned on 28 January 1940 'There was only one bid of £500 for the two buildings. It was announced that it would be dealt with privately.'

Clearly it did not sell for in August 1940 it was being renovated under the supervision of **JB Kennedy**. The durability of the original cedar timber was noted.

The words 'Mechanics' Institute' show out distinctly on the white globe. It served as Singleton Municipal Council Chambers from 1941-75.

The building currently hosts the Family History Society of Singleton; Singleton Potters; and the annual Singleton Arts Festival.

QUEENSLAND

HERBERTON SCHOOL OF ARTS (Est. 1880)



*(Photo: Herberton Community Website
herberton.weebly.com)*

Herberton is located on the Atherton Tablelands with an elevation of 918 metres and was described as being ‘fifty miles from Cairns (by pack track)’. It abuts the Wild River, which is at the head of the Herbert River and is in the traditional lands of the Dyirbal people. It takes its name from **Robert George Wyndham Herbert** the first Premier of Queensland.

The area was explored in 1875 by **James Venture Mulligan** who found tin and **John Newell** established the township in April 1880 to exploit the find. A smelter was erected by December 1880 and mining continued until 1985.

The township was laid out in August 1880 by Warden **William Matthew Mowbray** and the Post Office was opened on 22 November 1880. It was connected to Cairns by a railway line in 1910.

The Herberton School of Arts was established from an open air meeting held on 31 December 1880.

A historical summary of May 1884 states ‘a meeting was convened for establishing a School of Arts, when Mr **W C Ranson**, was appointed the secretary and effected a collection of £50. The present site of the institution was purchased for £18 on the 8th January 1881. On the 22nd of the same month the institution was fairly established in a bark humpy’.

By February 1881 it was noted ‘We have four hotels, and two more in the course of erection... and last, but not least, a School of Arts, for which £40, was subscribed’.

In July 1881 ‘They have had a ball at Herberton in aid of the School of Arts. There was nothing in the way of refreshments stronger than tea or coffee and some of the guests showed by their faces that they would, have liked something more exhilarating’.

In October 1881 ‘Our town is improving fast; good substantial buildings are going up, the largest of which is a public hall 30ft x 50ft for School of Arts’.

The single-storey Institute was built in 1881 of weatherboard and roofed in galvanised iron. The slanting block provided for an undercroft at the rear of the building.

It was opened on 9 November 1881 with a ball.

The first Local Government meeting to form the Herberton Shire Council was held in the Institute on 16 November 1881. The Herberton Provisional School opened in the building on 12 December 1881 and remained there until 1884.

In December 1881 the Institute was being marketed aggressively ‘To Theatricals, Etc. To let, the Herberton School of Arts Hall, 25ft x 50ft. For particulars apply to WC Ranson. Herberton, 1st December 1881’. This advertising continued until at least July 1882.

In April 1882 ‘At the District Court sittings in the case [George] Rutherford v [William] Jack (Herberton School of Arts) [for trespass], a verdict was given for defendant with costs, great rejoicing among our Herberton visitors, Cooper was highly complimented by the Judge [Chubb] for the able manner in which he brought the case on. Cooper made a crushing defence on behalf of the School of Arts’.

‘The action was in reality against the miners of Herberton, who pulled down a building in course of erection by the plaintiff on a piece of land which they (the miners) had purchased as a site for a proposed School of Arts. The case was decided in favour of the defendant. The Herberton people, who came nobly forward and raised over £100 for Mr Jack’s defence, can congratulate themselves upon gaining a verdict almost unanimously endorsed throughout the district. The ground in dispute had been granted by the Government as a reserve for the School of Arts’.

The Hall was extended to the rear in 1895 to provide for a stage and ‘two small’ dressing rooms.

It had additions in 1934 and Herberton Shire Council occupied the building for a time until its new offices were built.

The building was taken over by Council in 1986. It has also housed the community library since 1992 and has a geological collection on display along with a photographic exhibition.

The building was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992 and was still standing in 2019.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HAMLEY BRIDGE INSTITUTE (Est. 1879)



*Hamley Bridge Community Kiosk
(Photo: Joelle Hancock)*

Since last year the residents of Hamley Bridge have been collecting their library books from the town store. That's where the district's main library, 40km away in Balaklava, delivers and picks up what the borrowers have read and returned. The store has a Community Book Kiosk – a cupboard with a computer on top – where borrowers check out their books and return them.

The first Hamley Bridge library was established 140 years before, in 1879, when the Hamley Bridge Institute shifted from **Joseph Bell's** wheat store to leased premises owned by **Friedrich Wilhelm Grosset**. Bell and Grosset, with **William Barker** and **Joseph Black** had been the driving force in opening a library at Hamley Bridge by affiliating with South Australia's Institute. To affiliate, the group agreed to provide statistics of its membership and activities. Once affiliated, the Institute could receive the government subsidy, regular delivery of circulating boxes of books, lecturers and other support.

The area, 75km north of Adelaide, began as a farming district. A settlement grew around the railway bridge that was built across the Light River in 1868-1869. The iron-girder bridge was the biggest engineering project at the time, built to carry the railway line to the booming mining town of Burra. By 1880 the area had become an important railway junction with five platforms.

A Mutual Improvement Society had been meeting in the settlement since 1870.

Once affiliated with the SA Institute, thoughts turned to erecting an Institute building - to house the library, provide a reading-room, and also have a place for meetings and entertainment. Up to then, community events were held in the Mr Pendleton's Goods Shed.



(Photo: Joelle Hancock)

On June 4th 1884 the foundation stone for the Institute was laid by the **Hon. John James Duncan**. The 50 by 30ft stone building cost £600. It was soon receiving boxes of books regularly from the Adelaide Institute. By 1895 the Institute had 34 members and its reading-room was open one day a week. Occasional lectures were held and a Literary Society began in 1891. In 1910 its focus was on elocution, giving speeches and music.

Substantial additions and improvements were made to the building in 1904, providing a new library and reading room, a cloak-room, two dressing rooms and a stage. At that time the library held 1200 books. By 1906 the reading-room was open daily from 10am to 9pm, with an average of 20 visitors every day.

The Institute gained fame as an Art Gallery, beginning with **Julian Ashton** exhibiting 61 of his pictures in the hall in 1908. Six of them were donated to the Institute's collection. The Hamley Bridge brass band played when Mr Ashton unveiled the pictures. He spoke on *Pictures and how to interpret them* and the President of the Adelaide Institute, **WJ Sowden**, followed with an address on *Institute Work*.

A roll of honor for those serving in WWI was sponsored by the District Council and unveiled in 1917. The Institute was organising classes in dressmaking, millinery, painting and violin in 1921. The dressmaking class was still going in 1933. By then the Institute could boast of 'a splendid picture gallery (which) is a unique

feature for country institutes'. The number of subscribers grew steadily - 70 in 1936.

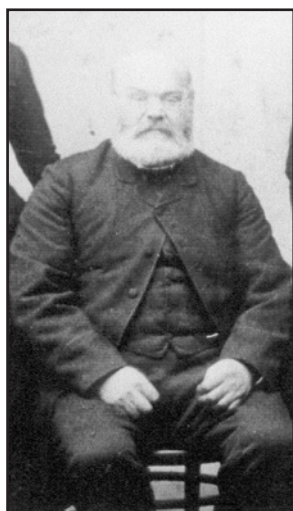
Improvements to the Institute building of a new supper room and new floor for the hall in 1937 kept up with community interests. Ten years of picture shows were fund-raisers for both the Institute and the local hospital. The CWA regularly met in the supper room until 1954. The library was overhauled in 1961 and the District Council assisted in various ways – a new toilet block in 1964 and \$200 in 1981. The Institute's centenary was celebrated with a Centenary Ball in 1984.

Recently the Institute hall became the community focus during the November 2015 Pinery Bushfires when it was set up as an evacuation, communication and supplies centre. In 2018 a book was produced to celebrate Hamley Bridge's 150th year.

The Institute continues to be used by different groups in the community. It was the Hamley Bridge Community Association that organised the Community Kiosk. It meets regularly and organises events in the Institute building - in 2020 an Australia Day lunch and Anzac celebrations. A regular Garage Sale and Market planned for March 2020 was postponed because of Covid-19. The Institute is available for hire.

TASMANIA

DEVON INSTITUTE (Est. 1859)



*Thomas Hainsworth
(1832-96).
(Source: Nic Haygarth
Collection)*

The Devon Institute was established at Torquay (East Devonport) in June 1859 for 'the better development of the natural and artificial products of the country, and for the dissemination of general information of all topics'. Any 'respectable settler, tradesman or labourer' was welcome on payment of five shillings. It had an enthusiastic mouthpiece and shining example of self-help in the form of *Launceston Examiner* correspondent

Thomas Hainsworth, a self-educated Yorkshire coal miner who taught school, wrote scientific newspaper copy and became the senior student of the Mersey-Don coalfield.

Like its Launceston counterpart, the Devon Institute was homeless during its early years. Originally lectures were held in the Hainsworth's Formby Schoolhouse. The rules of debate used by the House of Assembly were adopted, and meetings were concluded by singing the National Anthem. The board set about obtaining a grant to establish a library.

A program of monthly evening lectures was begun, a timeslot which accommodated its intended clients. The general policy was to confine lecturers to the membership—except for visiting Anglican clergy. The first speaker appears to have been **Archdeacon Robert Rowland Davies** on 'Flowers and their associations'. Other speakers included local police magistrate and Devon Institute president **James McArthur** on farm management; Institute secretary **Charles Friend** on 'The rise and progress of the Australian colonies'; Hainsworth on 'self-made men', and probably on 'The advantage of union in the social, moral, and intellectual progress of man'; the **Reverend Edward Patton Adams** on 'Japan, and the Japanese'; sawmiller and future Chief Secretary and Minister of Lands and Works **William Moore** on phrenology; Torquay postmaster **JD Jowett** on money; court registrar **RH Davies** on the 'Natural history of the islands in Bass's Straits' and 'Conchology'; **Archdeacon Thomas Reibey** on 'Imagination'; and the **Reverend Charles Brome** on 'Curiosities of vegetation'.

By 1863 the Music Hall at Torquay had become the Devon Institute's home. The building overlooked the river on Pardoe Street, Torquay, near the site of the present-day Edgewater Hotel and the Spirit of Tasmania Terminal. Stokes attributed the Devon Institute's decline—it lapsed after May 1863—to exhaustion of the supply of lecturers and popular indifference, but the loss of Hainsworth's zeal and vigour in 1861 when he moved to Table Cape would also have wounded it.'

However, the Devon Institute survived in name only. Its building hosted public meetings, the local temperance lodge, fund-raisers and popular entertainments. In 1871 the Devon Institute and the virtually defunct Torquay Library were amalgamated in the building known as the Reading Room. A renovated Devon Institute building, owned by the Devonport Council, remained a public hall long after its name change to the East Devonport Town Hall

in 1908. However, by 1944 it was too dilapidated for further use.

Contributed by Nic Haygarth, Tasmania

**MOUNT BISCHOFF MECHANICS' INSTITUTE/
ATHENAEUM HALL (Est. 1875)**



Athenaem Hall, Mount Bischoff, 1920s. Used as a cinema, there is a poster advertising the Charlie Chaplin movie The Kid (1921) on the wall. (Source: HT 'Harry' Waterworth (1872-1947) photo, Nic Haygarth Collection)

It says something about early Waratah society that to enter the town from the east, as most people did, you had to pass all the bastions of authority—the mine manager's residence, St James' Church, the police station, the court house and the mechanics' institute—in order to reach the dens of iniquity—the hotels and skittle hall—on the far side of the Waratah River bridge. In the early days the Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company not only ran the town but even owned the bridge. A mechanics' institute committee was established in December 1875 to raise subscriptions for the construction of an institute, the intention being to give the workingman a haven in good books and edifying lectures, the belief being that idle hands turned to gambling and alcohol.

The original Mount Bischoff Mechanics' Institute building opened in 1877 stood on the site of the present-day Kenworthy's Stamper Mill. It featured a library collection, committee rooms, a reading room and a well-appointed hall with seating for 300—enough to accommodate the entire present-day population of Waratah. In 1881 the Mount Bischoff Mechanics' Institute had 163 subscribers from a population of 874. Most of the lectures were by ministers of religion. It raised money not only from subscriptions, but by holding bazaars, balls, concerts and other fund-raisers. The institute building also

accommodated homeless church services, public meetings and theatrical performances.

In 1886 twenty-eight subscriptions catered for the mobile mining population, including newspapers from the colonial capitals and other mining fields such as Otago, New Zealand, and Ballarat and Bendigo in Victoria. With the Mount Bischoff Tin Mine at its peak, the Institute was flourishing and decided to build a larger hall which would stand beside the existing building. This ambitious decision marked the start of the Institute's woes.

The new Athenaeum Hall (which roughly translates as a library or reading room) was designed by **Leslie Corrie** of Launceston and cost £2730 to build. Unfortunately, during its construction, the old Mechanics' Institute was destroyed by bushfire, nearly all its contents being lost including library books and, presumably, Hungarian artist **Anthony Egerer's** portrait of Mount Bischoff mine discoverer **James 'Philosopher' Smith**. It was now revealed that the lost building had been vastly under-insured. An angry Kayser wanted to withdraw the Mount Bischoff Co's annual £25 subscription, and when his directors disagreed he offered his resignation—which was refused. The new, separate library being built on the site of the old Mechanics' Institute was completed by committee members after the contractor, James Thomas, absconded to avoid insolvency proceedings. Fund-raising efforts now had stiff competition from local skating rinks. The Institute still existed in February 1888 but only 20 subscribers were attracted to a meeting called to discuss how to attack the total remaining debt of £930. In 1892 the building was sold for £875,



Event in progress at the Athenaem Hall, Mount Bischoff around 1914. Note the portrait of James 'Philosopher' Smith above the proscenium. (Source: JH 'Jackie' Robinson (1883-1953) photo, Nic Haygarth Collection)

presumably covering what remained of the debt. The Mount Bischoff Mechanics' Institute was dead.

In the twentieth century the Athenaeum Hall served as Waratah's town hall and cinema. Jewelled Nights, for example, **Louise Lovely's** locally-made silent blockbuster, was screened there in 1926 to a packed house of locals. The autographs of entertainers such as the Waratah Pierrots are still scratched onto the eaves of the stage.

Local photographer **JH Robinson** captured images of family reunions and fancy-dress balls in the hall. In recent years the publicly-owned Athenaeum Hall has been the Tarkine Interpretation Centre, housing the Robinson photographic collection, but in 2017 it reverted to yesteryear by accommodating a Thorne family reunion. 'Philosopher' Smith still watches over proceedings from the top of the proscenium arch.

Contributed by Nic Haygarth, Tasmania

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BALLY BALLY AGRICULTURAL HALL (Est. 1903)



(Photo: Flickr/Jean and Fred Hort)

Located in the Avon River Valley, 25km from Beverley in the Wheatbelt Region, 120km south-east of Perth. The area was settled in the 1870s. The Beverley Road District was created in 1871 and the Bally Bally School opened in 1901.

In 1903 fourteen acres were reserved for 'a Public Hall and Recreation' at Bally Bally and fundraising started in earnest. In the meantime local grazier **David Kilpatrick** offered the use of a room until the hall was built. The bank loan was covered by several guarantors.

In August 1904 contractors Messrs **Fairhead** and **Davey** started work on the stone structure which comprised the 40ft x 20ft Hall and 20ft x 15ft weatherboard Supper Room. It was opened

in November 1904 by **Charles Harper** MLA, followed by a tea, and then a concert and dance.

The first function to be held in the new Hall, after the opening, was the wedding of **Albert Alfred Wood** and **Lavinia Fisher** in February 1905.

From the outset a lending library was in charge of Miss **Kate Kilpatrick** and the Bally Bally Agricultural Society borrowed the book boxes from the Public Library in Perth.

It had early use by various Church Denominations and was an early Polling Place in 1910. There was also an Annual picnic with Tennis, Cricket and Rifle Clubs using the Hall and Reserve.

In September 1917 fire destroyed the Supper Room where the library was stored and the books and other Hall equipment was burned.

The Supper Room was rebuilt with sun-dried bats 14"x9"x6" made by **A Ware** for 16s per 100, and **W Rule's** building tender of £138.14s6d was accepted. A large gathering attended the re-opening in March 1918, with a public tea, social and dance. The Rifle Club had had a shoot in the afternoon.

In July 1919 the Bally Bally Rifle Club 'inaugurated a social and dance in aid of the Hall funds. Advantage was taken by the Soldiers Welcome Home Committee to formally welcome home the last batch of local men which included: Messrs **RC Duncanson; W Wynne; RRF Collard; E George; and A Edwards...** each man was presented with a souvenir by the Red Cross ladies, Messrs **GJ Sutherland** and **J Randall** being handed one each on behalf of their boys who have paid the supreme sacrifice'.

At the time it was agreed that an Honour Roll be purchased and placed in the Hall. However, there is no record of this ever being carried out.

Dances, the Annual Christmas Tree and pictures were screened monthly by the travelling company of Holman and Willey.

Such activities continued through the 1930s and during the War Years. In 1954 it was decided to rebuild the supper room, and in 1955 the interior of the Hall was painted and the external walls were tuck-pointed. Gas lighting was installed in the building in 1959.

In 1968 a local resident compiled a brief history of the Hall and the Committee resolved fortuitously to have it printed in the local paper. This shows that from 1904-68, the Hall had four Presidents, and six Secretaries, one of the latter refused 'to sweep the up the Hall or wash the dishes'.

Today the Hall is managed by Beverley Shire Council and Church use and Annual Christmas Trees continue.

USA

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (Est. 1824)



The Rensselaer Institute is located beside the Hudson River at Troy in New York State on a 107ha campus. It has an administrative and academic staff of around 1800 and some 8000 students. The students operate a variety of clubs and organisations, of which about 170 are funded by the Student Union, with another thirty being self-supporting. The University's motto is 'Knowledge and Thoroughness'.

In addition to campuses at Hartford and Groton in Connecticut, the University also operates the 510ha Rensselaer Technology Park, upon which its Business Incubator Campus is located. The Park, which has developed since 1983, now has seventy, mostly hi-tech tenants and these employ around 2500 staff.

Claimed to be the oldest technological university in the English-speaking world, the Rensselaer School was established in 1824 'for the purpose of instructing persons, who may choose to apply themselves, in the application of science to the common purposes of life'. Its founders were financier **Stephen van Rensselaer** (1764-1839) and educator **Amos Eaton** (1776-1842).

With a solid curriculum in design, science, engineering, electronics, information technology and management, it has a long list of notable alumni, which include: engineer **George Washington Gale Ferris** (1859-96) who designed the Ferris Wheel for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair; and Nobel 1973 prizewinning physicist **Ivar Glaever** (1929-).

The University is rated among the world's top fifty for science and technology. The Greek system at Rensselaer stresses Leadership, Fortitude, Innovation and Evolution. Their sports teams carry the title of RPI Engineers.

Useful Knowledge

MIV'S *Mechanics'* *Institutes* *Resource Centre*

The following additions have been made to our Library

A Short History of the Harbord Literary Institute for the Institute's Centenary, 1918-2018 – Keith Amos. Gift of Harbord Literary Institute

In the Name of Theatre: The History, Culture and Voices of Amateur Theatre in Victoria - Cheryl Threadgold. Purchase by MIV.

'Tarnagulla Mechanics' Institute' notes compiled by George Swinburne.

We would welcome donations of Institute histories and works relevant to the Mechanics' Institute Movement.

REMNANT LIBRARIES

Following up on the list of remnant libraries of the Mechanics' Institutes it is reported that the **Gobur** Collection has been catalogued and is housed in the restored bookcase at the **Fawcett Hall and Public Library**. However as far as we are aware the Fawcett Collection is yet to be fully catalogued.

A list of library remnants and holding Libraries with further details, such as contact and numbers, etc. is available for viewing at the MIRC.

MIV SCANNING PROJECT

The most recent records that have been scanned and the originals and a disk has been returned to the respective Institute include: **Brunswick** (est. 1868); **Deans Marsh** (est. 1886); **Myrniong** (est. 1867); and **Toongabbie** (est. 1883). If your Institute is still yet to have its records scanned, this can be done without cost, but requires booking in so that your records can be scheduled for digitisation and arrangements can be made for delivery or collection.



Map showing the spread of material collected as part of MIV's Scanning Project.

Case Study - SWANPOOL & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL & CINEMA

Swanpool is located in north-eastern Victoria, on the Midland Highway, 23km south of Benalla and 40km to Mansfield. European settlement of the area started in 1839. A school was established in 1871, the Post Office opened in 1877 and township was proclaimed in 1885. It is believed to take its name from the nearby Broken River where a number of swans congregated.

Early community meetings were held in the School and early in 1895 the community resolved to build a hall and this was done by the year's end. The Swanpool Debating Society met in the Hall and they established a library. Other groups to form included a Rabbit Eradication Group in 1904 and a Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites in 1908.

The IOR brought film screening to the Hall in 1913 and again in 1915 and the Swanpool Dramatic Club introduced theatre in the Hall in 1916. Wartime 'Send Offs' and 'Welcome Homes' were held in the Hall as were meetings to create an Honour Roll and organise a Peace celebration.

In 1925 'An unique entertainment will be held in the Swanpool Hall on Tuesday, 25th inst., consisting of a wireless concert and dance. The items will include broadcasting from Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, and should prove interesting. The concert will be followed by a dance, at which coffee will be provided but no refreshments'.

In 1930 the community took the opportunity to secure a site closer to the main road which had become available by way of road realignment.

This was provide a site for a more conveniently located hall and adjacent recreation ground.

In the meantime in 1937 'The Swanpool Hall was packed to the doors' for the kitchen tea dance tendered to **Flo Horsburgh** and **Bob Renkin**, prior to their marriage.

Finally in 1948 an appeal was launched for 'the proposed new Memorial Hall at Swanpool' and the press contained an architectural sketch of the Hall elevation.

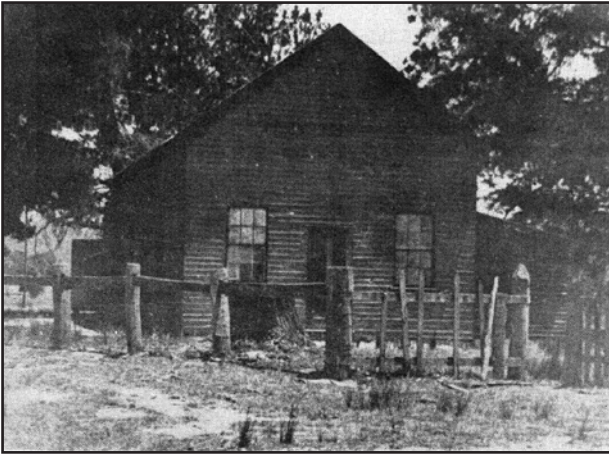
In 1951 there was 'a rubber drive, in aid of hall funds', with contributions to be left at the Swanpool Store. As fundraising continued it was decided to commence with the main hall and have the supper room erected at a later date. In 1954 work started on the slip-cast concrete structure by working bee. Volunteers would put up the woodwork on Friday, mix and pour concrete on Saturday, the take the formwork down and clean up on Sunday, ready to repeat the operation again on the following weekend. The gravel was sourced from the Broken River, the sand came from Lima East and the timber was cut and milled locally.

The foundation stone and a plaque were unveiled by Cr **FA Cook** MLA on 3 January 1956. Then, after a building period of two and a half years, the Swanpool and District Memorial Hall was finally opened by the Premier of Victoria, **Sir Henry Bolte** on 1 November 1957.

The new Hall, complete with a bi-box, took over film screening from St Aidan's Hall and the Hall Committee purchased their own projection equipment. Screening continued into the



*Left: Inside under construction. Note the biobox apertures; Right: Mixing concrete for wall pours.
(Photos: Swanpool Memorial Hall Heritage Collection)*



*Original Swanpool Hall.
(Photo: Swanpool Memorial Hall Heritage
Collection)*

1980s when it was no longer profitable and the equipment was sold.

In 1989 **Kevin Smith** retired from the State Electricity Commission. Kevin had had a long time interest in film and in October 1991 set up a movie theatre in the Swanpool Hall. At the Rosebud Film Society he subsequently met **Shirley Swallow** and they were later married. They ran the theatre as a business until New Year's Eve, 31 December 2011.

A community group then took over running the cinema and this was registered on 10 January 2012 as **Swanpool Cinema Inc.**

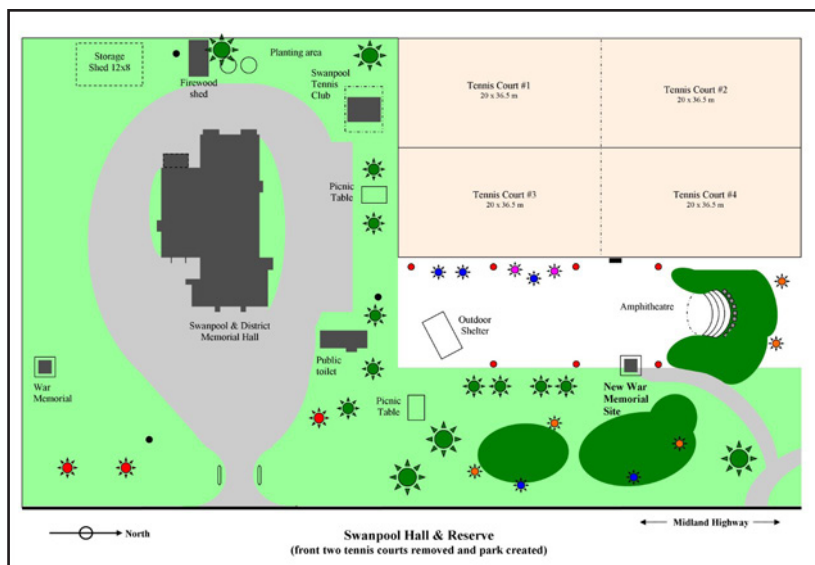
The Hall and adjoining reserve was designated a Neighbourhood Safer Place in 2013. In the same year the Swanpool Hall Committee of Management received a grant of \$270,000 from the Victorian Government's Regional Growth Fund - 'Putting Locals First'. The grant was

administered by the Benalla Rural City and the project was managed locally by **Dr Ian Herbert**. Major equipment and works achieved under this project included an extension of the kitchen and a full commercial kitchen installation, hall air-conditioning, a maintenance shed, and a new 36kw stand-by generator. The supper room chimney was extended in keeping with the original architecture and the whole hall freshly rendered. The cinema gained digital projection equipment and a motorised screen.

The Hall Committee of Management, who also has responsibility for the abutting reserve, had two of the unused tennis courts removed, with four still remaining for public use. A park was created with solar lighting, an amphitheatre and the 'Swan Pavilion' was constructed with seating and electric barbecues. Local artisan **Shaun Murphy** supervised the pavilion construction and supplied artworks including backlit swan motif panels and even swan feet on the benches.

As per the original hall construction, most of the project works were completed with voluntary labour. Volunteers still meet every Thursday to carry out maintenance works and to prepare films during the screening season. Their engineering and technical skills are of a high calibre and are used to provide video, sound, electrical engineering, hospitality and trade skills

Swanpool Cinema received a Benalla Business Network 'Business Excellence Award' in the category 'Arts and Culture Industry' in October 2014. The Award was sponsored by Winton Wetlands, which has also sponsored Swanpool Environmental Festivals.



*Swanpool Hall and Reserve plan.
(Photo: Swanpool Memorial Hall Heritage
Collection)*

In 2015 **Tom Yates**, formerly of Lima South, donated a Hammond cinema organ and occasional recitals give an added dimension to Hall use. The Hall received an external coat of lime render in 2017.

Further landscaping in the park reserve has enhanced the area. In 2019 the War Memorial was relocated from the front of the hall to the park reserve, restoring the monument with the move. This was achieved with support from a Federal Government Department of Veteran's Affairs grant.

Solar panels were installed on the north facing hall roof in 2017. In 2020 an additional two rows of panels were added, taking the grid

feed-in total from 5kw to a full 15kw (three phase system).

The Cinema normally operates on Saturday and Sunday nights each weekend for ten months of the year. It takes a 'winter recess' in July and August. Double features are screened in the evenings, i.e., two feature films with an intermission for one entry price. Swanpool Cinema may be the only cinema left in Australia still following this format. Single feature matinees are also screened for the more popular films. Full details can be found on the cinema's website www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

Swanpool Cinema also hosts fundraising events and special screenings. Local film makers are also supported. New Year's Eve is always a big celebration and Swanpool Environmental Film Festival, commenced in 2013, is always well attended.

Non-cinema events are also held in the main hall. The largest of these is an art exhibition during the cinema's winter recess. The Bald Archy Exhibition was staged for many years. In 2018 this was replaced with SCRAP – the Swanpool Creative Recycled Art Prize. This is organised by the Swanpool and District Community Development Association. Three thousand plus people attend over sixteen days with income distributed to many community groups who supply the volunteer labour. Some concerts and plays staged throughout the year culminating in the annual local school (Peranbin College) Christmas play. Professional quality stage lighting and sound engineering is provided.



Swan Panels.

(Photo: Swanpool Memorial Hall Heritage Collection)



Kevin and Shirley Smith outside the Swanpool & District Memorial Hall.

(Photo: The Age)

The supper room is regularly used by community groups including: Swanpool Red Cross (formed in 1939); Swanpool CWA, from 12 March 1947, which also appear to have had a library which was stored in the Hall; and Swanpool Landcare since the late 1980s.

Over the years a team of volunteers has amassed considerable skills in the staging, editing and conversion of films from filmstock, video and other media such as DVD or BluRay or even internet downloads to fit the format of the D Cinema projection system. They also design and produce special slides for the various events. This all meshes with the state of the art Dolby surround sound.

However they have still retained 16mm and 35mm projectors for occasional historic use. Likewise they still have an old carbon arc glass slide projector to screen stills of adverts, etc.

The airconditioned theatre has seating for 200 and the mandatory Candy Bar has recently been fitted with an expresso coffee machine.

The Hall houses Honour Boards from World War I and World War II and the Vietnam War 'Roll of Honor' of 'Residents of Swanpool and District who enlisted for Active Service abroad'. The Honour Boards were fully refurbished in 2009, which included new gold lettering.

The Cinema Group launched a new website: swanpoolcinema.com.au in 2020.

As a model of volunteerism and a development of unquity in use and scope Swanpool is well worth a visit.

Whenever capital [The Hall] predominates, industry prevails, which increases the real wealth and revenue of all its inhabitants.

ADAM SMITH (1723-90)

The History Page

HERZOG AUGUST BIBLIOTHEK



Interior of the Library.

(Photo: Wikimedia Commons / User:Brunswyk)

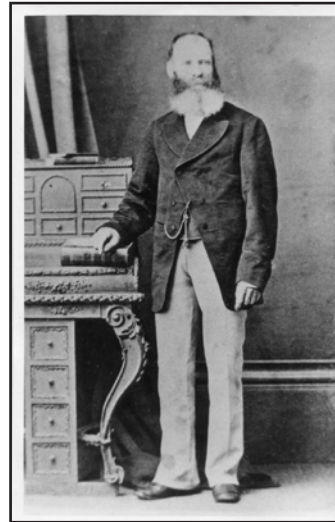
Established in 1572 by **Julius, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneberg** (1528-89) and greatly increased by his son **Augustus the Younger, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneberg** (1579-1666), the Herzog August Bibliothek (HAB) in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, is one of the oldest libraries in the world. During their lifetimes the Dukes scoured the world for books and at the time of Augustus' death the HAB had amassed a collection of over 200,000 volumes.

Augustus was a friend of German merchant, banker, diplomat and art collector **Philipp Hainhofer** (1578-1647) who travelled extensively and helped him assemble his library. On his diplomatic missions Hainhofer would ask distinguished people to create a page in his *Album Amicorum* or Friendship Book. Each individual would generally engage an artist to paint their page. Over a period of fifty years some one hundred dignitaries had signed Hainhofer's 'Das Grosse Stammbuch' (DGS) and these included: **Cosimo De Medici**; Holy Roman Emperors, **Rudolf II** and **Christian IV**; along with the Kings of Norway and Denmark.

After Hainhofer's death the Duke tried to acquire the book, but it had passed into private hands by an earlier sale. It was then thought lost until 1931 when it was auctioned in London. It was later auctioned in 2006 by Christie's of New York for US\$2.4 million. Recently it was placed for sale with Sotheby's London who respected the book's affinity with the HAB and contemporary German political, cultural and trade connections. The Library was thus given first offer which they

took up for a price of around £2.5 million. It is noted that this is the Library's most significant purchase since it bought the Medieval manuscript Gospels of Henry the Lion at auction in 1983 for £8.1 million.

ROBERT CRAIG - MINER & ORCHARDIST, STANLEY (1830 - 1911)



Robert Craig.

(Photo: Collection of the Stanley Athenaeum)

Robert Craig was a keen supporter of the Stanley Library and Athenaeum and a member of the new Stanley Library and Athenaeum committee in 1890-1891, being President of the committee in 1891. When Robert Craig moved the committee order the *Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World* in May 1890, he like other members of the Stanley

community were emigrants from different parts of the world and reflected the interests and aspirations of these early migrants and how they valued the library and the world it explored. Born in Musselburgh, Scotland in 1830, he came to Melbourne in 1854 and travelled to the Nine Mile goldfield. In 1859 he married Lucy Butler and they had five children. After mining he purchased a holding at Back Creek where he built a house and established a small orchard. He was known for being an 'omnivorous reader', had a retentive memory and was fond of political discussions, attending many political meetings in Stanley where he was always ready to question candidates.

Although he had failing health a month before he died Robert walked to the polling booth in Stanley to record his vote in the Australian referendum which sought to alter the Australian Constitution to extend the Commonwealth power in respect of trade and commerce, the referendum was unsuccessful. He died in 1911 and is buried at the Stanley Cemetery.

Robert Craig was the grandfather of **Geoffrey Craig** an important member and secretary of

the Stanley Library and Athenaeum from 1970 to 2000 and Stanley's historian who wrote thirty-nine local histories.

Sources: Craig, Geoff. *The Craig Family* (1982); Craig, Geoff. *The Stanley Athenaeum* (1999).

Contributed by Stanley Athenaeum

QUEEN VICTORIA'S IMAGE IN MECHANICS' INSTITUTES



Queen Victoria's portrait hanging in the Stanley Athenaeum. (Photo: Bron Lowden)

A University of Melbourne, Art History PhD researcher **Kim Clayton-Greene** has been seeking images of Queen Victoria that have appeared in the Colony of Victoria. One item that she has been working on was a parian ware bust produced by **William Taylor Copeland** (1797-1868) & Sons of Queen Victoria after an 1854 bust created by **Matthew Noble** (1819-1901). The bust was in the early collection of the National Gallery of Victoria that had been donated by **William Lonsdale** (1799-1864), who had returned to England in 1854. The Museum of Art, now NGV, was opened by the Governor of Victoria, **Sir Henry Barkly** (1815-98) on 24 May 1861, Queen Victoria's birthday. The bust cannot be located in the Gallery's collection although it is not recorded as being disposed of.

Interestingly in 1943, four large statues in Carrara marble of the Queen, Prince Albert and the Prince and Princess Wales, executed by **Charles Summers** (1825-78) and gifted to Victoria by **Sir William Clarke** (1831-97) in 1878, were de-accessioned from the Gallery and sold during the Directorship of **Daryl Lindsay** (1889-1976) from 1942-56.

PENNY POSTAGE CELEBRATES 180TH



The notice headed 'On and after the 10th January [1840], a Letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom, to any other part,

for one penny, if paid when posted, or two pence if paid when delivered'. Such was the wording which appeared under Post Office Regulations, the idea of which was the brainchild of **Rowland Hill** (1795-1879). The release date coincided with the 10 January birthday of his long-time friend and founder of the Mechanics' Institute movement **George Birkbeck** (1776-1841), who was in poor health at the time and died in 1841.

Initially prepaid letter sheets designed by **William Mulready** (1786-1863) were issued, but these were largely replaced by the 'Penny Black' adhesive stamp which featured the bust of the then youthful twenty-one year-old **Queen Victoria** (1819-1901) on 10 May 1840 and were placed on envelopes. Initially the stamps had trimmed edges, but were later produced with perforations to enable ease of separation.

One cancelled Penny Black, on an envelope, from the **Sir Humphrey Cripps** (1915-2000) collection sold for £359,000 in 2011 and was again recently advertised for sale by private treaty.

GAWLER CELEBRATIONS



Left to right: John Clift, a surviving Institute Committee Member; Geoff Strempe, Director, State Library of South Australia; Karen Redman, Mayor of Gawler.

(Photo: Jack Hudson via adelaidenow.com.au)

Gawler Council, recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Gawler Institute in 1870, with the opening of an exhibition. Titled '**Fire the Cannon**', the exhibition was launched by **Geoff Strempe**, Director of the State Library of South Australia. The Gawler Institute was established in 1857 and had the unofficial, slogan of 'It is Good to be Merry and Wise'. Gawler Mayor, **Karen Redman** said 'It's not only about buildings, it's about people and it's about telling stories, so that's what we are doing'. And on hand was a surviving Committee Member **John Clift** to tell some of those stories.

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

Our book for this issue comes from the Terang Mechanics' Institute & Free Library. It is *Ghostly Hoofbeats* by Norman Fox and published for the Wild West Club by Collins, 14 St James's Place, London.

The book is hardbound in honey coloured cloth and would have been blocked in black on the spine. It is of 188 pages, with 4 pages of adverts at the rear, with three pages of Norman Fox titles and another headed 'Other Westerns to enjoy'. The book is 190mm x 125mm in size and it was 'Printed in Great Britain by Collins Clear-Type Press: London and Glasgow [in] 1953.' It was first published in USA in 1952 by Dodd, Mead & Co., a publisher which operated from 1839-1990.

The cover of the original jacket has been cut and pasted over the cloth of the front cover and appears to have been varnished. It has been much thumbed with evidence of several top right hand corner page fold downs.

The front pastedown carries: a purple rubber stamp 'Terang Mechanics' Institute & Free Library' in 3mm caps roughly centre on the page; in the lower left hand corner is a rectangular 45mm x 95mm white label printed in black and within an ornamented border carries the wording 'Terang Mechanics' Institute Library/ Subscription: 5/- per quarter./ Associate Fee: 2/6 and 3d. per book./ (Payable in advance)/ This Book should not be kept beyond Seven Days'; and partly covered by the label is the 15mm x 30mm booksellers label, goldblocked on emerald green foil, which carries the name of Whitcombe and Tombs/Melbourne Sydney Perth.

Also on the front paste down, roughly ranged in three rows across the top of the page are a series of pencil or ink symbols, letters, figures or Roman numerals. There is also a horizontal column of more ordered initials or numbers down the right hand side of the page, again in pencil or ink. Ranged



across the top of the Library label at random are several other markings, with one actually against the text of the label.

Further throughout the text at the head of pages 9, 11, 12, 15, 27 and 53 there are odd markings, but mostly circles in either pencil or pen. On the rear pastedown on the top right corner is both pen and pencil markings and at the bottom right hand corner is a pencil marking. The Library stamp appears intermittently throughout the book and on both the back endpaper and pastedown.

One can only assume that all these are readers' marks to show that they had previously read the title. Such a method used has not been sighted before, but clearly this book was well used and read.

The author **Norman Arnold Fox** (1911-60) was a noted author of Westerns. His story lines were based in Montana where he lived with his family since boyhood. *The Gunsight Kid*, his first book, was published in 1941 and his output was generally two titles per year after that. His last book published in 1968 *They Rode the Shining Hills*, was of his short stories. A number of his books were made into radio plays and four titles became notable Western films which starred actors Randolph Scott, Audie Murphy, Tony Curtis and James Stewart. He died at Grand Falls, Montana, in 1960 aged forty-nine, from cancer.

The Wild West Book Club was launched by William Collins Publishers in August 1936,

following on the success of the Crime Club paperbacks launched earlier in the year, in April. The first batch comprised six titles and they sold at sixpence. Editions were later printed in India and they sold particularly well during World War II. Westerns were also produced as part of Collins White Circle list, which was part of the Crime Club.



Norman A. Fox
(Photo: Dan Cushman)

Titles in the Wild West Club were printed in a white circle, surrounded by a lasso, against a yellow background. The horizontal wording 'Wild West Club', had an ellipse above with 'Guarantee of a Clean' and an ellipse below with 'Open Air Story'. Some 123 titles were published between 1936 and 1959, with a number in hardback with distinctive commissioned artwork for the dustjacket, such as this example.

William Collins started printing and publishing in 1819 in partnership with Charles Chalmers and was initially noted for its educational publishing. Chalmers left the business in 1825 and it was continued to be run by the successive members of the Collins family. Fiction became a major part of its operations from the 1930s.

William Collins Publishers was acquired outright by News Corporation in 1989, which had previously acquired Australian publisher Angus & Robertson in 1981. Collins merged with US publisher Harper & Row in 1990 to form Harper Collins.

Bookseller George Whitcombe and printer George Tombs started out in New Zealand in 1882 as printers, booksellers and educational publishers. The business moved into the Australian market in 1901 and published local

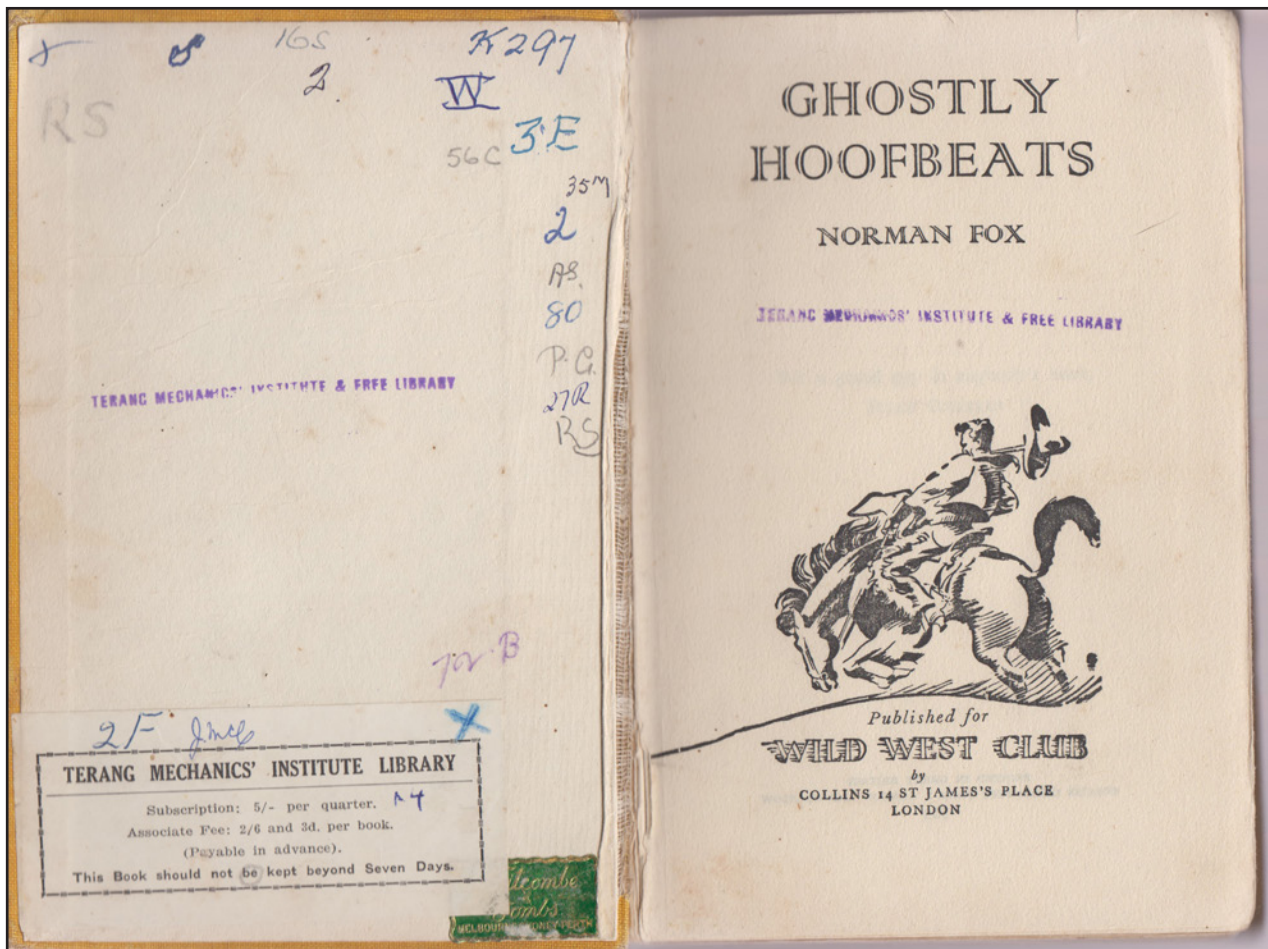
school texts and general books and developed a very strong library supply business.

The Terang Mechanics' Institute appears to have been a joint venture with the Temperance Movement and they opened their building in 1862. In 1864 trustees were gazetted for 'a site for a Mechanics' Institute and Temperance Hall at Terang'

Well known Colac architect Alistair Hamilton prepared plans for a new 75ft x 29ft brick Temperance Hall in 1885 and it was built by McAllister and Stansmore of Camperdown and opened in April 1886. In the meantime the old Hall was sold to Messrs Archibald and Bateman.

A brick Reading Room and Library was built in 1898. Abutting this, the larger Hall was erected in 1910 and a balcony was added to this in 1929 and over the years there have been extensions to the latter. The Hall was remodelled in 1959 and it became known as 'The Civic'. Following the building of the new Library in the late 1970s, the Terang & District Historical Society occupied the Reading Room and Library building until the 1990s, when the whole building was passed to the Terang Rotary Club to manage.

In recent times the Reading Room and Library section of the Hall has been occupied a by a solicitor's office and a medical clinic.



Where They Stood

APPIN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST 1913)

Appin is an area located in the Wimmera Region of north-western Victoria, 20km from Kerang. The region was taken up by **Alexander MacCallum**, **Andrew Oldcorn** and **James Forsyth** as their 120,320 acre Tragowell Pastoral Run in 1845.

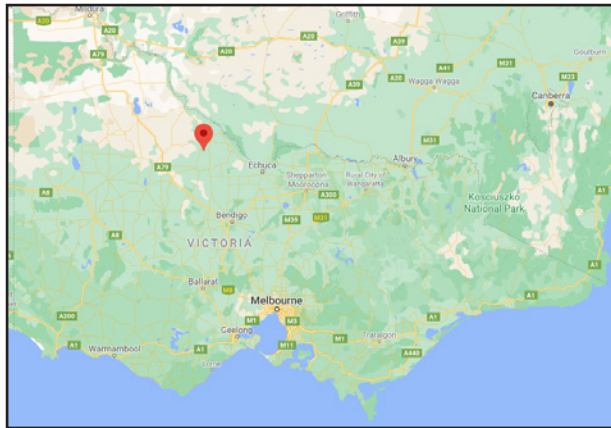
The Appin State School, No. 2351 opened as Lake Meering State School in a five acre timber reserve on 1 February 1881 and in 1887 it moved to a new building on Dunstan's property, adjacent to the Loddon River Footbridge, and was renamed Appin. It also served as the Post Office.

The need for a Community Hall was pressing and two sites were advanced, with entrenched supporters for each. In June 1913 'The arbitration in connection with Appin Hall took place on Monday, when Messrs **Davey**, of Kerang, and **Seales**, of Pyramid Hill, with Mr **Richards**, of Kerang, as umpire, visited Appin. After viewing both sites and hearing evidence on both sides, the northern site, near the Appin school and Methodist Church was chosen. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction, as a large number think that the decision was given against the weight of evidence'.

A site for the Appin Mechanics' Institute was donated by **John Nicholas Herdman** and **EM Davies**, Institute Secretary, sent plans and specifications for an Institute building for Department of Health approval in May 1913. The plans showed a main hall and stage.

In August 1913 it was reported 'The contractors for the erection of the Appin Mechanics' Institute seem to be getting on well with their work, and no doubt will have it finished on time'. In the meantime the Committee of the Appin South Public Hall were calling tenders for the erection of another hall at the site close to the Appin Butter factory.

Designed by **Mr Turner** of Kyneton, the 55ft x 25ft hall was then built by **Charles Taysom** of Kerang. Then, with 'a splendid Sutton's Cable piano' installed, it was opened on 13 August 1913 by **Cr Cameron**. 'The concert programme was supplied by the Kerang Nigger Minstrels'.



Appin, Victoria (Source: Google Maps)

In September 1913 'The opening of the bazaar in aid of the Mechanics' Institute of this district took place in Wednesday, 10th inst. **Cr Richardson**, in a few well chosen words declared the Fair open. The large hall was nicely decorated with green and white, and blue and gold, the five stalls being artistically draped

to match the decorations'. Forty couples were present at the Friday evening dance.

In October 1913 'A plain and fancy dress ball was held in the Appin Mechanics' Institute on Friday evening when about 30 couples tripped the 'light fantastic toe' to the music supplied by Messrs **Vallance** (accordion), **G. Jobling** (violin), and **George Long** (piano) and **WA Wood** and **E Bott** were the MCs.

Both Halls had varied uses, such as for 'the inquest on the body of **John Croton**, whose death at Appin by a vehicle accident' in November 1913. The verdict was 'That deceased was accidentally killed on the 24th November by falling out of cart where he broke his neck and that no blame was attachable to anyone'.

In March 1914 'A very successful dance took place in the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday, 25th inst., when about 30 couples tripped on the splendid floor to music ably supplied by Messrs **Vallance** and **Jobling** assisted by **Miss L Coad**, and **Mr WA Wood** carried out the duties of MC'.

The Halls also had Church use as in January 1915 when the **Rev. George Brammall** hoped to resume the Church of England service at Appin on Wednesday at 8 o'clock when the first monthly service will be held in the Mechanics' Institute. 'He would be glad if Appin friends would have this intimation made known and do their best to make the work at this centre a success'.

Fundraisers for the Patriotic Fund were also held and the Red Cross staged monthly dance and euchre nights.

In April 1915 'The committee of the Appin Mechanics' Institute have provided for their annual sports, which will be held on Easter

Monday. The profits will be devoted to the Patriotic Fund’.

Another such event was in July 1915 ‘A euchre party and dance was held in the Appin Mechanics’ Institute on Monday, 12th July, in aid of the Australian Red Cross Fund. The euchre, which was well patronised by locals and visitors’.

During World War I the Institute it had farewells for soldiers, with one taking place in August 1915, when a social evening and presentation was tendered to English-born **Corporal James Steadman** and **Private Joseph Birch Richardson**, who had enlisted. Dancing was kept going until the early hours and a collection taken up during the evening in aid of the Red Cross fund realised £1.4s.

In addition there were fundraisers for the Tennis Club and the Appin Sports Committee used it for meetings and in conjunction with their Annual Easter Monday Sports Meeting.

In May 1916, after the Appin Mechanics’ Sports, ‘A dance was held in the evening in the Mechanics’ and despite a rather dark and threatening night it was well attended, about 25 couples taking part. During an interval in the dancing a fountain pen was presented to Appin-born **Sapper Donald Sutherland**, of the Signallers’ Coy, who was home on final leave from Broadmeadows.

In August 1917 ‘In the Appin Mechanics’ on the 6th inst. a Welcome-Home, the first held in the district was tendered to **Private Joseph Richardson**, who was wounded with shrapnel in the hip in France and has been invalided home and discharged. Proceedings opened with dancing, after which Mr H Sutherland welcomed Private Richardson, and in a brief speech, referred to the fine patriotic spirit of the Richardson family, of whom four brothers have enlisted. **Mr G Howcroft** spoke on behalf of the young people, and tendered to Mr Richardson a most enthusiastic welcome home. Private Richardson on rising to respond was accorded a round of applause. He thanked the people one and all for their kind reception and mentioned in conclusion that before passing the medical test he had been rejected on six occasions, the first being in August, 1914.

In March 1921 advertised were ‘Appin Sports, March 23, 1921. - Funds for Mechanics’ Institute and Public Hall. To be held on grounds near Appin Public Hall. First event 1 o’clock sharp. Admission—Adults, 1s; Children Free’.

Hall Secretary, **Neil Sutherland**, in his 1933 return described the building as ‘a country

dance hall with supper room attached’ capable of accommodating 150-200 persons.

In August 1954 the Hall was relocated to the Timber and School Reserve on Murphy’s Lake Road, and new toilets were erected there.

Maintenance and upkeep was an ongoing problem for the Committee and in 1978 the Committee met with Kerang Shire Engineer about the state of the Hall. It was agreed that the building did not warrant further expenditure and the Hall was eventually demolished in March 1982. The original site included an oval and tennis courts.

Odd Spot

At the opening of the Kulin (WA) Agricultural Hall in May 1919, Basil Murray, Managing Director of the Farmers’ and Settlers’ Association of Western Australia spoke to the text ‘Organise – Fight Organisation with Organisation’ and said that ‘no farmer could afford to live outside the farmers’ organisation’. That statement is equally applicable to MIV or Community Halls.

Basil Lathrop Murray (1875-1925) was born in South Melbourne (V). Educated at Melbourne Grammar School, he was later employed by the Victoria Insurance Company and went to Perth to open a branch. He was an inaugural member of the Farmers’ and Settlers Association and played a significant part in the establishment of the cooperative Westralian Farmers Ltd, the bulk handling of wheat in Western Australia and the setting up of radio station 6WF. He died at Melbourne following an operation and his remains were returned to Perth for burial.

HALL UPDATE



In UK51 an article appeared on the now demolished Boolading (WA) Hall. We have been advised it was demolished in 1984 or 1985, prior to the unveiling of the Memorial plaque in October 1985.

(Photo: Tom Lloyd, Shire of West Arthur Archive)



SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS

In this very unusual year our paramount concern has been the health and wellbeing of our members. To ensure this we have suspended all in-house member group meetings and the library has operated on a Click-and-Collect basis.



We have been unable to present our planned events programs but have continued with selected Zoom presentations and films. Winsome Allen, our president, has kept our members informed of major building works including replacement of the roof membrane, alterations to the accessible toilet and improvements to our theatre.

2020 has been a year to contemplate our past and to plan for the future. In anticipation of our 200th anniversary Lesley Scanlon has been working on her book which explores the role of the SMSA in the social and cultural development of Sydney in the early nineteenth century.

We are planning a full program of events for 2021. Two of these events will bring the past into the present: first, the Carmichael Lecture will celebrate the life of this much neglected early educator and vine grower; second, 'An Evening at the SMSA in 1841' will re-enact a debate, 'Should Women receive the same Education as Men?' which was held at the School. We will encourage audience participation at this event and look forward to an informative and fun evening. Colonial costume optional.

We are very pleased to welcome two new members of staff, **Andrea Shrewsbury** the new Marketing and Events Coordinator and **Poppy Roberts** our new Administration Assistant.

Dr Lesley Scanlan

The following three people were involved with the SMSA and the social and cultural development of Sydney in the nineteenth century.

Scottish-born **Nicol Drysdale Stenhouse** (1806-73) was educated at the University of Edinburgh and became a Writer to the Signet in 1831. He arrived in Sydney in 1839 and registered as a solicitor in 1840. Waterview House*, Balmain, his home, became a meeting

place for Sydney's literary scene and was dubbed 'The Stenhouse Circle'. His large library was freely available for loan and after his death it was purchased and gifted to the University of Sydney. Not surprisingly, his membership list included: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Committee 1855-63, Vice-President 1863-67 and President 1867-73.

*This was built in 1835 by merchant Frederick Parbury (1808-77) and occupied by Stenhouse from the 1850s until his death in 1873. It was demolished about 1905.



*David Scott Mitchell
(Photo: State Library
of New South Wales
[a668028 / PXC
831,166](Mitchell
Library))*

David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907) was born in Sydney, the son of Dr James Mitchell and Augusta, nee Scott, who had wealthy family connections in the Hunter River area. He was educated at St Philip's Grammar School at Church Hill, then as a member of the first student intake at the new University of Sydney, from which he graduated with a Master of Arts. He joined the Sydney

Mechanics' School of Arts and was prominent in its debating group. Following his father's death in 1869 he inherited a substantial estate and ramped up his 'magnificent obsession' of book collecting, notably Australiana, but particularly of New South Wales, and was later spending up to £2000 a year on overseas purchases. His massive 40,000 book collection, along with 'pictures, engravings, coins tokens, medals and manuscripts' were gifted 'to the people of his native state [NSW] on his death on the understanding that they be housed in a separate space to be known as 'The Mitchell Library'.

Rose Scott (1847-1925) was born at Glendon, near Singleton (NSW), the daughter of Helenus* and Sarah, nee Rusden. She was home educated and did not marry, although she did have a long and close association with her cousin David Scott Mitchell. Following the death of her father in 1879 she moved to 'Lynton', Jersey Road, Woollahra, where she held regular Friday night salons for academics, artists, writers and poets. She also started to assemble a significant library



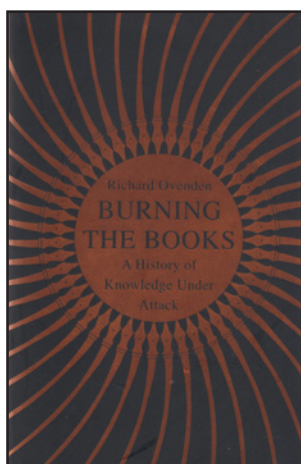
Rose Scott
(Photo: Wikimedia
Commons)

of female writers and feminist literature and was a founding member of the Women's Literary Society in 1889. She later campaigned on 'Womanhood Suffrage' which was the topic she chose to address the Hamilton (NSW) Mechanics' Institute in December 1902 and in the

following year she was lecturing in Queensland under the title of President of the Women's Political Education League of NSW. Until her death, she was full of wit and humour and revered as 'The Lady of the Treasure House', where a flake from the Blarney Stone was ensconced in a glass cabinet. One of the press eulogies read 'The good they do lives after them. Vale!'

*Born in Bombay (Mumbai), India, Helenus Scott (1802-79) arrived in Sydney in 1822 and settled at Glendon and was the inaugural President of the Patrick's Plains (Singleton) Mechanics' Institute in 1845. He later moved to Newcastle where he was Magistrate.

Book Reviews



Burning the Books: A History of Knowledge Under Attack - Richard Ovenden. Paperback. 308 pages, illustrations, bibliography, index. 155 x 235 mm. 9781529378764 (London: John Murray, 2020).

The author, career Librarian Richard Ovenden, has held key positions in a number

of major libraries in England and Scotland and is presently Librarian of the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, a position he has held since 2014. His experience, in research libraries, book and manuscript digitisation and information provision, has made him acutely aware that the 'Key to the fate of knowledge is the idea of curation'.

Indeed 'Knowledge is power' and since information has been recorded in a permanent form on stone, clay, vellum or paper, there have been cohorts of those who either wish to preserve, control and/or destroy it.

This book deals mostly with those who preserved or preserve that information. Conversely there are those who wished or wish to destroy it, in the hope that as George Orwell sums it up in his *Nineteen Eighty-Four* 'the past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth'. German intellectual Heinrich Heine was very prophetic when he wrote in 1823

'Wherever they burn books, they will also, in the end, burn human beings'.

Public libraries and archives are bastions of a free society, empower the people and are crucial to the maintenance of our democratic way of life. Although this is now under threat with the commercialised electronic storage of information which can be 'deleted' with a keystroke.

Historically, as man gathered into groups, their initial knowledge storage was oral and passed from generation to generation, with seasons governed by the stars and the movement of the sun. Then information in the form of picturegrams was scratched on stone or painted on cave walls. Later it was punched into clay tablets or drawn on papyri. Then alphabets evolved to be communicated on parchment or paper. Large scriptoriums provided copies of early books which were traded widely throughout Europe.

Libraries evolved along the way: Ashurbanipal at Nineveh; Borsippa, Iraq; Herculaneum, Italy; Pergamon, Turkey; and Alexandria, Egypt. The latter, had the mission to assemble the world's knowledge where scholars would work to advance and build on that knowledge.

The Great Library of Alexandria comprised two parts. The first, the Mouseion established in 283BC, was a temple to the muses, nine Greek sister goddesses. They presided over human creativity and knowledge, everything from astronomy, to epic poetry, history and more. The original museum, was a living library of scrolls (books) and scholars. The second, Serapeum, established between 246-221, was a lavish

Book Reviews cont...

building, which in addition to a scroll library, had statues and works of art.

Later libraries such as: St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai (6th century); Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester and Bodleian, Oxford (15th and 16th century); Vatican Library, Rome (15th century); the Hertzog August Library at Wolfenbuttel (16th century); and Chetham's, Manchester (17th century), and their successor librarians have continued to aggregate significant collections.

Specialist libraries such as the Hill at Minneapolis; Linda Hall at Kansas City; and the more recent Lanier Theological Library at Houston have set out to become a collection of collections.

However just as libraries were established, so too were they razed or dissipated as at: Ashurbanipal, Nineveh by Babylonian forces in 612BC, but unlike later library destructions much of the library survived because it was on baked clay tablets; Herculaneum, by volcanic eruption in 79; Domnus Tiberiana, Rome, by fire in 192; Alexandria by the Caliph Omar in 640; Oxford, purged 'of superstitious books and images', 1550; Heidelberg, presented to Pope Gregory for the Vatican Library in Rome, 1622; Library of Congress, Washington by the British Army 1814; and Louvain University, by the invading German Army in 1914.

Today, 'We are drowning in information, but are starved of knowledge' as John Naisbitt observed as early as 1982.

The subtlety of information destruction is around us today with the National Library of New Zealand de-accessioning some 600,000 'overseas' titles from its collection. In Australia there have been successful challenges mounted to de-accession and/or destroy items after digitisation. In Victoria's case it has been massively successful with the resultant offsite State Library store at Ballarat and enhanced Public Record centre at North Melbourne.

It is ironic that this book should come from the publishing house of John Murray, for it was a John Murray who witnessed and supported the burning of George Gordon, Lord Byron's manuscript memoirs in the fire grate at 50 Abermarle Street on 17 May 1824. One who had read the memoirs, William Gifford editor of the *Quarterly Review* observed them 'fit only for a brothel and would damn Lord Byron to certain

infamy if published'. That may be his view, but destruction deprived eternity of the opportunity to review the life of Byron in his own words.

The final chapter of *Burning the Books*, 'Coda' is addressed to the 'holders of power' government and/or funders and passionately and lucidly advocates for the support and maintenance of libraries and archives. The following are the five dictums.

Firstly, they support the education of society as a whole and of specific communities within it.

Secondly, they provide a diversity of knowledge and ideas.

Thirdly, they support the well-being of citizens and principles of the open society through the preservation of key rights and through encouraging integrity in decision-making.

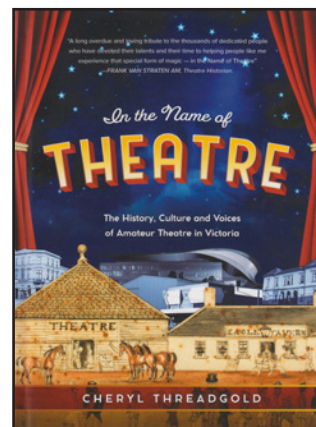
Fourthly, they provide a fixed reference point, allowing truth and falsehood to be judged through transparency, verification, citation and reproducibility.

Finally, they help root societies in their cultural and historical identities through preserving the written record of those societies and cultures.

We will leave the last words to Richard Ovenden 'Finally, libraries and archives help root societies in their cultural and historical identities through preserving the written record of those societies. The idea that they are key to helping communities appreciate their 'sense of place' and 'common memory' is nothing new'.

This is a *must read* for all concerned and connected with the preservation and storage of information.

Available: Booksellers, including Readings, at \$32.99, plus postage.



In the Name of Theatre: The History, Culture and Voices of Amateur Theatre In Victoria – Cheryl Threadgold. Hardbound. xii, 343 pages, colour and black and white illustrations, bibliography, index. 210 x 285 mm. 9780646813394.

(Black Rock: Author, 2020)

Theatre historian Frank Van Straten's introduction seems a logical way to start this review. 'A long overdue and loving tribute to the thousands of dedicated people who have devoted their talents and their time to helping people like me experience that special form of magic – in the Name of Theatre'.

Given theatre, like Mechanics' Institutes, has been in Victoria since early settlement, such an in depth study is very much overdue. This book certainly does not disappoint, from the Pavilion Theatre adjacent to Melbourne's bustling Eagle Tavern of 1842, which was featured in Liardet's graphic early watercolour, to the vibrant companies that have trod the various stages across the Halls of suburban and regional Victoria, it is a fine tribute.

Of course performances have not always been inside, the Aboriginal community produced their corroborees many millennia ago, and early settlers witnessed such events. The Aboriginal song, dance and theatre tradition continues today, in 'Welcome to Country' and other activities.

The Harrow Sound and Light Show in Victoria's Western District launched in 1997 is also staged outdoors.

Early hotels generally had theatres attached at which performers could appear. These were good revenue earners and attracted custom to their venues. Amateur theatre progressed from the various professional companies that moved around the nation. Local 'histrionic' or theatre groups often travelled the region giving performances in aid of the local Hospital or other benefit, such as a Church, Hall, School building fund, Wartime funds, bereaved family or even an injured worker or jockey.

Given most halls had a piano, they provided an outlet for creativity in song, music and dance. 'Itinerant' teachers, bankers, clergymen, railwaymen and an occasional barrister contributed their vocal, musical or theatrical talents to the various communities into which they were posted.

Thanks to the Council of Adult Education and staff members Colin Badger and Alf Wesson, theatre was taken to and promoted within rural Victoria in the 1960s and this resulted in many of the country companies being formed or even reformed.

Other groups such as the Irish and Scots have added their rich culture and music, theatre and dance. Alien Prison Camps during World War I and II also had a theatre and performance

presence and Tatura's Turaton Music Company was a participant.

In recent times other talents are utilised in making costumes, props and sets, creating lighting or sound effects, along with the financing and marketing an annual program of several productions. Indeed amateur theatre engages thousands of people by way of production and many hundreds of thousands by way of patronage.

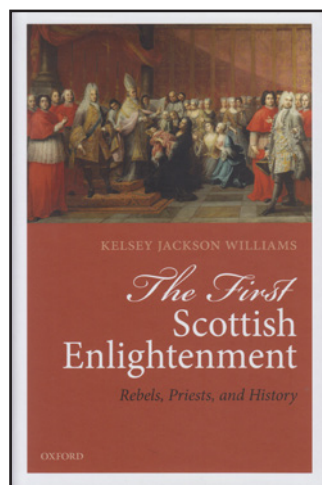
Historians, from reading this book, will learn much about the theatres and the practitioners and/or performers who figure or figured in Victoria's vibrant theatre scene. There is even a list of companies that were once known to exist. Arranged in alphabetical order each currently operating group has been dealt with, accompanied by their qweerky logos and a picture or two.

A cursory glance gives a sprinkling of Institutes which currently host theatre: Camperdown; Lilydale; Melbourne; Warrandyte; and Williamstown.

This has been a huge task in bringing this very pleasing volume together and it will be of great interest to those who visit the theatre or for those engaged in some aspect of being part of one.

Based on her award-winning 2019 PhD thesis with Swinburne University of Technology, Dr Cheryl Threadgold has certainly given us a wide and informative overview of theatre and its history in Victoria and we commend all concerned in the production of this publication.

Available from: Cheryl Threadgold, Box 215, Black Rock, Vic 3193. Email: thrdgld@optusnet.com.au. RRP\$45.00, plus \$10 pack and post.



The First Scottish Enlightenment: Rebels, Priests and History - Kelsey Jackson Williams. H a r d b o u n d , dustjacket. xv, 351 pages, black and white illustrations. 165 x 240mm. 9780198809692. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)

The evidence for early Scottish Enlightenment is compelling. During the fifteenth century, formal grammar

Book Reviews cont...

schools, which also included sewing schools for girls were established in Scotland. Private tutors were also used. During this period three Universities were also set up by Papal Bull: St Andrews (1410); Glasgow (1451) and Aberdeen (1495). All these initiatives paved the way for the Scottish *Education Act* of 1496.

Curriculum was widened in the sixteenth century and the educational emphasis was shifted from one of an aural ritual to reading the word. This was supported by a number of local printers who were producing books, starting with Chepman and Myllar in Edinburgh in 1507. There was also a growing number of booksellers who were importing books from Europe, some of which were also printed in English.

Queen Mary of Guise, wife of James V of Scotland, became patron of a series of public lectures in the 1540s which led to the inauguration of Tounis College in 1558, and that was to become the University of Edinburgh in 1582.

The Protestant *First Book of Discipline*, published in 1560, advocated an ambitious plan to set up a school in every parish in Scotland. Supporting this move to literacy was the publication of the Geneva Bible printed in the English language in the same year, along with a Scottish Act of Parliament which abolished the mass and Papal authority in Scotland.

In 1574 the return of Andrew Melville from Geneva to become principal of the University of Glasgow saw radical change in University curriculum and the teaching of biblical and ancient languages. He became principal of St Andrews University in 1580 and assisted in the foundation of Marischal College in 1593.

The *School Establishment Act* of 1616 mandated the setting up of a publicly funded school in every Parish and to be under Church supervision.

The alignment, on Scotland's east coast, of the two old universities of St Andrews and Aberdeen with the liberal and largely independent University of Edinburgh and Marischal College, both teaching a wider utilitarian curriculum, gave a huge impetus to Scottish Enlightenment in this region.

In addition, there were shared private libraries of the likes of: Sir David Craufurd (1665-1726) of Drumsoy, Ayrshire; Sir George Mackenzie (1636-91) of Rosehaugh, Ross; Sir John Lauder (1646-1722) of Fountainhall, Scottish Borders;

Sir Andrew Ramsay (1619-88) of Abbotshall, Fife; and Andrew Balfour (1630-94), Archibald Pitcairne (1652-1713) and Robert Sibbald (1641-1722), all of Edinburgh.

Then there were the public libraries of: Innerpefferay at Crieff (1680); St Magnus' at Kirkwall (1683); Leighton at Dunblane (1684); and Advocates' Library at Edinburgh (1683). The establishment of the Advocates' Library was also to support local legal education rather than having to go south to England or to the Continental universities.

In the wake of the protracted Wars of Three Kingdoms from 1638-51, the Catholic James VII of Scotland and II of England and Ireland, ascended the throne in 1685. This Restoration brought a whole range of scholars back to Scotland who had been studying at Scots College in Paris, Douai or Rome or from the Universities of Leiden, Utrecht, Groningen, Franeker or Geneva.

However James' assault on the Anglican Church and its associated London-based Parliament brought unease and led to the bloodless Glorious Revolution of 1688-89. This saw him being deposed and replaced with his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William III of Orange.

The *Act for Settling of Schools* of 1696 brought schools under the control of the Presbyterian Church and put measures in place to establish further schools.

It is against this background that Kelsey Jackson Williams takes up the story of Scotland's early Enlightenment and the role of 'Scotland beyond the mountains' to the north-east in the process. This was a Scotland that had doggedly shown its independence and was more aligned to Europe than to England. It includes a critical review of past Scottish culture and written history, notably the work of Hector Boece (1465-1536) and George Buchanan (1506-82).

The financial disaster of the Darien Scheme (1695-1700) and the Act of Union in 1707, set the scene for Scotland to become an international player both abroad and to the south in England in intellectual thought and commerce.

Williams takes us through a line-up of key players, Catholics, Conservative Jacobites and Episcopalians, engaged in a whole range of disciplines during the late 17th century and the first half of the 18th century. All were influenced by some external work, largely European.

Benedictine scholar Jean Mabillon (1632-1707) with his *De Re Diplomatica Libri VI* (1681) set the standard and methodology for the assessment and academic treatment of historical archival documents and artifacts.

Lawyer George Mackenzie (1636-91) attempted a revisionist history with *A Defence of the Antiquity of the Royal Line of Scotland, with a True Account of when the Scots were Govern'd by Kings in the Isle of Britain* (1685). In addition to founding the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, he actively prosecuted Scottish Presbyterian Covenantors.

Historiographer, Thomas Innes (1662-1744), working with his brothers Lewis and John, adopted this model and assembled the evidence based on archival research, along with a survey of the landscape and landmarks and published his *Critical Essay on the Ancient Inhabitants of the Northern Parts of Britain, or Scotland* (1726) and *Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Scotland*, which existed in manuscript until published by the Spalding Club in 1856.

The archaeologist Alexander Gordon (1692-1755) investigated and mapped the megaliths, Borders Roman forts and stations, castles, towers and burial sites to publish his *Itinerarium Septentrionale: or, a Journey thro' most of the Counties of Scotland, and those of North England...* (1726).

In response to the pioneering *Atlas Maior* (1662-72) of Joan Blaeu (1596-1673), Scottish geographer Robert Sibbald (1641-1722) produced *An Account of the Scottish Atlas* (1683). Later economist Sir James Steuart (1712-80) suggested a national survey in his *Enquiry into the Principles of Oeconomy* (1767). However it was to be some time before economist and statistician John Sinclair (1754-1835) produced his comprehensive *Statistical Account of Scotland* (1791-1799).

King's physician and antiquarian Patrick Abercromby (1656-1716) translated and published Jean de Beaugué's *L'Histoire de la Guerre d'Ecosse*, which was published in Paris in 1556. This appeared as *The History of the Campaigns 1548 and 1549* in 1707. He later produced *Martial Atchievements of the Scots Nation*, the first volume of which appeared in 1711 and the second volume in 1715. Both were printed by Robert Freebairn, a fellow Jacobite.

Genealogist William Hamilton of Wishaw (1630s-1724) assembled a great archive on Scottish families and districts and his *Account of the Shyres of Renfrew and Lanark* was published posthumously by the Maitland Club in 1832.

Antiquarian, historian and solicitor James Anderson (1662-1728) worked on his opus *Selectus Diplomatum et Numismatum Scotiae Thesaurus* based on Scottish public records, but this was incomplete at his death and it was finished by Thomas Ruddiman and published in 1739. Anderson's *An Historical Essay showing that the Crown and Kingdom of Scotland is Imperial and Independent* (1705) and *Collections relating to the History of Mary Queen of Scotland* (1727-28) were used by his nephew the Presbyterian divine and historian William Robertson (1721-93) for his *History of Scotland 1542-1603* (1759) in three volumes. Robertson also produced *The History of America* (1777), also in three volumes.

Printer and publisher James Watson (c.1664-1722) was notable for the publication of *Choice Collection of Comic and Serious Scottish Poems* issued in three parts (1706, 1709 and 1711). In 1713 he issued a *History of Printing*, translated by John Spottiswood, from an earlier French title by Jean de la Caille (1645-1723), *Histoire de l'Imprimerie et de la Librairie* of 1689, with 'a publisher's preface to the printers in Scotland'. Watson also published the *Edinburgh Gazette* in 1699 and the *Edinburgh Courant* from 1705.

Classical scholar and publisher Thomas Ruddiman (1674-1757) authored and published *Rudiments of the Latin Tongue* in 1714 and also did a number of other translations as well as publishing some historical and legal works.

This aggregation of knowledge culminated in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, published first in Edinburgh between 1768-71.

These are but few of the people and highlights which laid the groundwork for the second Enlightenment from the 1740s through into the early 1800s. This in turn set the scene for the growth of the Mechanics Institutes and community libraries.

This work is a very worthwhile and thought provoking read which shows an enlightened Scotland stretching back well beyond the generally and widely accepted period.

Available from most booksellers: About AUD\$143.95.

Our People



Having just retired as Senior lecturer in the RMIT University's School of Business, Information Technology and Logistics, **Dr Sue Reynolds** has very recently joined the Board of the Melbourne Athenaeum Library. Sue has a long association with

the Melbourne Athenaeum by way of arranging student visits and placements. In addition to her book *Books for the Profession: The Library of the Supreme Court of Victoria* (North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2012), Sue has been published widely in library and history journals on library and Mechanics' Institute history. We wish Sue continued productive research in her retirement.



Dr Robert Anderson retired as President of the Science History Institute in Philadelphia on 15 May 2020 after having completed his four-year term. He managed to make his way back to England before all was locked down. When he took up his US position he stepped down

as long-time President of the UK Independent Libraries Association. In recent times Robert has re-engaged with his old Cambridge College, Clare Hall where he chairs a couple of its Committees. Now a professed 'free man', Robert can concentrate on his research interests. Robert presented at **Mechanics' Institutes Worldwide - 2004** at Prahran.



Another person who attended **MW2004** was **Bob Draper** who represented Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. Now retired from Bath University, Bob is still heavily involved with BRLSI and during the tough times has produced

the weekly *Bob's Bulletin*. It highlighted the

virtual lectures conducted via the Institute's website and since re-opening on 1 September those that are staged in the building where 'social distancing, ventilation and sanitizing will be in place'.



We farewell **Melanie Ryan**, an old friend, who had been Program and Communications Manager at Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts for the past eleven years. Melanie initiated programs and developed events for SMSA's increasing and diversified membership.

She has resigned to pursue new opportunities and we wish her well in the future.



Professor Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal and Head of Heriot-Watt's Dubai Campus, is getting ready for the big day for the opening of the new Heriot-Watt Campus in Dubai. He is well qualified for the task having spent his student days studying architecture, civil

engineering and construction management at firstly the University of Salford and then the Loughborough University. He then lectured at Liverpool University and he joined the Heriot-Watt team and became Deputy Head of the Dubai Campus in 2008 and has been Head of Dubai Campus since 2010.



We welcome **Professor Pascale Quester** as the new Vice-Chancellor at Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn. Born and educated in France, with a specialty in management marketing, she has held appointments in: France – Sorbonne and University of Nantes; the

US – Ohio State; New Zealand – Massey; and most recently Australia at the University of Adelaide,

Our People cont...

where she was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and President (Academic) from 2011-20. Professor Quester is emphatic '*we are the Swinburne University of Technology, we are going to be working with industry and students on creating the technology of the future*'.

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts new Marketing and Events Coordinator is **Andrea Shrewsbury**. Andrea has experience in marketing communications, events and project management and has worked across arts and culture, government and professional services. Most recently Andrea has held marketing and project coordination roles with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne.

Poppy Roberts has recently taken up the role of Administrative Assistant with Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts. Poppy is a well-versed administrator from the United Kingdom who has been living in Australia for almost five years. Her time in Australia has seen her working mainly in administrative roles for various companies from entertainment to interior design. Poppy comes from a creative background having worked at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, an open-air gallery in the north of England for three years before her move to Australia.



Professor Adam Shoemaker takes up his new appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University in 2021. He is currently Vice-Chancellor and President of Southern Cross University, and held that position since 2016. Previous postings have included Griffith

University, Monash University and the Australian National University. Professor Shoemaker is a leading researcher in indigenous literature and culture. He takes over from **Professor Peter Dawkins, AO** who has driven a program of immense change during his ten years at Victoria University and has left a lasting legacy of teacher and student outcomes. We wish Peter well in retirement and welcome Adam in his new role.



Meanwhile at Federation University, **Professor Duncan Bentley** has recently taken up the role of Vice-Chancellor and President. Previous to this appointment he was at Swinburne University of Technology where he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Born in South

Africa, Duncan graduated in law from the University of Cape Town and University of London. He then pursued a career path in accounting and worked with Ernst and Young and Price Waterhouse Coopers and entered academia by way of Bond University. Besides Ballarat, Federation has two other campuses – Morwell and Brisbane.



Author of the first world overview of Mechanics' Institutes, *The Development of the Mechanics' Institute Movement in Britain and Beyond* (2017), **Dr Martyn Walker** has recently taken up a part-time appointment at the University of Bolton supervising PhD students.

Martyn is currently working on a Paper for presentation at **Mechanics' Institutes Worldwide 2021 – Edinburgh (Heriot-Watt University)**.



We welcome the appointment of the new Minister for Mechanics' Institutes, **Shaun Leane**. Oakleigh-born, Shaun is an electrician by trade and was elected to Parliament in 2006 as MLC for Eastern Metropolitan. He served as Parliamentary Secretary

from 2014-18 and then as President of the Legislative Council from 2018 until he was appointed as our Minister in June 2020. We welcome Shaun into Wonderful World of Mechanics' Institutes and look forward to working with him in the future.

Vale



One of Buninyong's grand old gentlemen, **Donald Francis 'Don' Ogilvie**, passed away at the Geoffrey Cutter Centre, Ballarat on 25 August 2020, aged ninety-five. He was born in the Curator's Cottage at the Buninyong Botanic Gardens and spent the early part of his life in the footwear trade in Ballarat. Don then joined the staff of the Ballarat School of Mines and was later with the College of Advanced Education at Mt Helen from where he retired in 1986. In retirement Don, in his signature tweed cap, was often seen in the Buninyong Library reminiscing with locals and visitors alike on the lives and landmarks of Buninyong based on his family link with Buninyong which stretched back 170 years. His seat in the Old Library may now be vacant, but his memories have been thankfully recorded for posterity. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan and children John and Peter and their families.



It is much sadness that we record the passing of **Kathleen Bearsby** at the Port Kembla Palliative

Care Hospice on 22 June 2020. She was 85. Born in England, she spent most of her working life in Sydney. Kathleen 'retired' to Clifton where she attended the 17 November 1996 public meeting convened to save the then derelict Clifton School of Arts for the community.

Kathleen was a consummate fundraiser who could be counted on to come up with innovative and successful ways to raise funds and was deeply involved in Clifton's fundraising which saw the building re-opened to community use in 2003. (In 2002 a bus tour, organised by Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, visited Clifton and people purchased their distinctive tee-shirts which are still worn.)

In the Clifton's centennial year 2010-11 Kathleen was elected a Life Member and in the same year she became President.

As Clifton's representative, Kathleen was an inaugural member of the Association of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts (NSW) in 2003 and rarely missed a meeting. Later she became AMISA's first and only Life Member in 2018. She was passionate about the sustainability of Schools of Art and their ilk and was involved in insurance and governance issues.

Kathleen was a very private person, but was very keen to share her 'Hall' knowledge. She was also a competent studio potter and cook, and was a long-time stallholder at the Coledale Markets where she sold her pickles and jams largely sourced from her own garden.

Kathleen will be sorely missed by the Schools of Arts community and her many friends. May she rest in peace.

We note the passing of **Austin Maxwell 'Max' Gregory** on 21 June 2020 at Coinda Lodge, Warragul, aged 85. Max was a long-time member of the Committee of the Hallora Public Hall and author of *The Centenary of the Hallora Public Hall, Formerly the Longwarry East Mechanics' Institute 1906-2006*. Our deepest sympathy to Vickie and his children Lance, Mark, Ross and Karen.

Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in Heaven where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.

AN ESKIMO LEGEND

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.

ST GEORGE'S CAKE

A treat for St George's Day, 23 April or on any festive occasion.

Ingredients

3 eggs
 350 grams flour
 120 grams currants
 175 grams sugar
 60 grams each of lard, butter and mixed peel
 2 teaspoons of baking powder
 2 teaspoons caraway seeds
 1 teaspoon of ground ginger
 Milk to moisten mixture as required

Method

Rub the lard and butter into the flour.
 Add the sugar and baking powder.
 Beat the eggs and add with all the other ingredients.
 Add milk to soften mixture.
 Place in greased cake dish.
 Bake for two hours at 200C.

Enjoy! And why not raise the Cross of St George on 23 April.

SPOT THE BAKER'S DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE No. 53

1. On which page is the slogan 'Buy Local - Buy Australian'?
2. Where are seat legs fitted with swan-like feet?
3. Who authored *Burning the Books*?
4. In which Victorian town does the Turaton Music Company operate?

5. When was the Glorious Revolution in Britain?
6. Who was one of the leaders of the revival of the Clifton School of Arts?
7. On what date is St George's Day?
8. Which Institute celebrates its bicentennial next year?
9. In which State is the Mount Bischoff Mechanics' Institute?
10. Who has recently retired from the RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) University?
11. Who authored *In the Name of Theatre*?
12. Where do the Appin Mechanics' World War Institute Honour Boards now hang?
13. From which library is the Ex-Libris item from?

SPOT THE BAKER'S DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 52 – ANSWERS

1. Acheron Mechanics' Institute; 2. 1 October 2020; 3. Dame Vera Lynn; 4. Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts; 5. Tallarook Mechanics' Institute; 6. Solar Panels on Halls; 7. Bruce Draper; 8. Gawler Institute; 9. Lilydale Mechanics' Institute, Athenaeum and Free Library; 10. Fred and Sue Perez; 11. Boxty Bread; 12. In Hepburn Shire, in north-west Victoria; 13. Felix Meagher.

Odd Spot

On the Moose Jaw Public Library (Saskatchewan, Canada) website was the following excerpt from **Patience Strong** (1907-90). 'Things we take for granted, old familiar scenes; families and friendships, home - and all it means; Take on greater value when they seem to be threatened by some danger or calamity. We have rediscovered in this our time of fear all the things we cherish, all we hold most dear. So let us remember as we go our ways, lessons Life has taught us in these anxious days'.

Ideas & Opportunities

SHOWCASE YOUR COLLECTION

We were impressed with the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute's **Take Five** idea. Every week they showcase five items from their immense collection. This keeps things new and keeps people coming back to see what is next. In fact those towns that have empty shop windows it might be an idea to showcase your Institute and its happenings with periodic window displays. You could even feature some of your remnant library titles, or pictures thereof, that need some repair and a costed sheet for binding repairs could be used to solicit donations.

MEMORIES OF THE HALL

In each issue we publish a Vale column and we are reminded of the old Chinese proverb when an old man [or woman] dies a library burns. Don't leave it until its too late and get their memories down now. Have a **Pleasant Sunday Afternoon** at your Hall invite all and sundry to come along and bring a plate of afternoon tea along with pics, posters, etc. Appoint a facilitator to introduce the various themes: lighting; water; sanitary arrangements; dance and bands; entertainments; film; groups that used the Hall; events; notable Committee members; Hall patrons, etc. You will also need a couple of scribes to record and get the information down and have a tech savvy person with a scanner on hand to copy the pics, documents, etc.

EVERY HALL SHOULD HAVE A LIBRARY

Halls are places of memory, albeit largely intangible by way of past events and connections. Support those memories with a book, picture, flyer and poster collection. Buy a lockable shelved bookcase and display case to show off some of your prize items, by way of copies. Make your Hall, your community's keeping place and that will hopefully ensure its long-term future.

KEEP YOUR HALL CURRENT

In locating Hall contacts, because there are no listings on the internet we often finish up at the local Shire Council or Tourism Office. They give us a phone number which may be disconnected or the person is no longer connected with the Hall in a recent case seven years ago. Occasionally they provide an email address which may be of a local business that has changed hands.

So after each annual meeting we suggest you advise the Shire, Tourism Office and of course MIV of your latest contact details, and update the sign on the Hall if required.

CREATE A SOUVENIR

Every Hall should aim to create a short history, card, picture and/or bookmark. Something that people can buy and take away. A bookmark could have your logo, slogan and a saying of a notable local like 'Give it the benefit of the chance' or 'You could be in Full Trouble' or even 'Deep Hot Water'. These could be printed several up on an A4 sheet of card and then laminated and then cut into the strips.

HALL UPGRADES

The following are some ideas gleaned from a Hall wish list: Sealing roofing, external facades and insulation; Supplementing water tanks and supply/store fitting connections; providing, leafless gutters and metal fly screens/barriers; Generator set connections; Amenities improvements; and Communications package. Cost them out and let your wants be known. You may even wish to establish a fundraising barometer in front of your Hall to see how the target is progressing.

OPEN DAY

Every Hall should have an Open Day each year to showcase it and what the community has to offer. Invite groups and businesses to set up a table to showcase their wares and give them and any local talent an opportunity to take to the stage during the day. Include on your Committee or on Special Sub-Committees representatives of local organisations who use or could even use your Hall.

MAKE YOUR MEETINGS WORTHWHILE

People who give their time to serve on Committees, should not have it wasted. Prepare agendas from submitted items and circulate them. Set a time limit for the meeting and address the issues by keeping to the relevant item. Have a bowl of sweets on the table. Circulate the Minutes with items allocated to people for follow up.

BUY LOCAL - BUY AUSTRALIAN