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*Preserving our Heritage for the Future*

## Australia's Gutenberg Project

This project started up in 1971 when a US professor started to put books onto computers.

With the advent of the internet, and the help of hundreds of volunteers, the Australian version has been taking shape into a very valuable historical reference.

Unfortunately, the only catch is that you must have a computer but I am happy to print any book, for the cost of the paper.

**Summary of Books**

**Australian Writers**  
(e.g. Rolf Boldrewood, Marcus Clarke, Lawson)

**Journals of Explorers**  
(e.g. Eyre, Forrest, Flinders, Sturt, Giles)

**Dictionary of Australian Biography**  
(Excellent!)

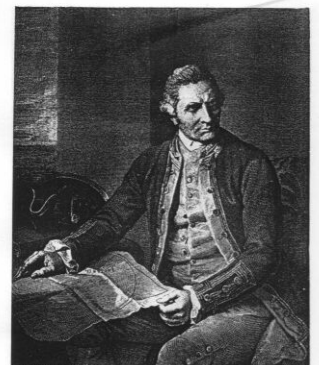
**Australian History**  
(Timelines, books, maps)

**Other Books**  
(Crime, cookery, travel, biography, etc)

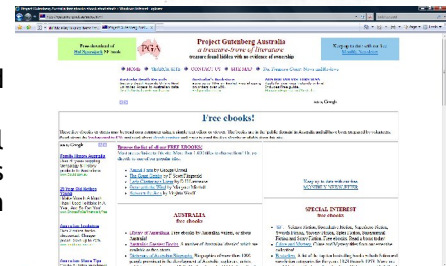
Many of the items are not available at your local library and would take a bit of effort to view them at the State Library in the city.

All material is public domain as I understand that the owners have sought permission or overcome copyright issues.

I cannot recommend [www.gutenberg.net.au](http://www.gutenberg.net.au) highly enough as a vital source for the serious student of Australian history or biographies.



*James Cook*



## The Next Meeting

**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 8pm, Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave.**

### Victorian Folk Music and Dance Club

The club has its roots back to the days of the original Bushwackers' Band in the mid-1950s. It was formed as the Victorian Bush Music Club in June 1959. That makes it a half a century old next year.

It changed its name to the Victorian Folk Music

Club a few years later, and has been very active since.

The connections to Ringwood are many. Firstly, the club has been meeting at Ringwood East Community Hall for many years, and is permanently based here. Secondly, the Club has had particular interest in the Ringwood Goods Shed, opened in November, 1887. We will go over the history of this event.

Thirdly, Harry Gardner, one of the senior members of the club, and his wife toured for many years with their puppets. Harry will take us through this heritage.

There will be a photographic display and some dancing as well.

**Another big evening, with lots of history, music, entertainment and movement.**

## Meeting Room Change

As our special guests require a bit of room to move around, we have booked **ROOM 3** instead of the usual room 4, at Federation Estate, as it is a little larger.

Unfortunately we are a bit closer to the symphony rehearsal, and we hope that neither ourselves, nor those next door, are impacted to any great degree.



# How to Date Your House

At our last meeting Samantha Westbrooke, a heritage architect from Helen Lardner Conservation & Design (HLCD Pty Ltd), and her helper Kimberley, a local lass from Ringwood, presented a very interesting production about architectural differences in Ringwood housing.

She showed examples of housing from 1840 to present day and explained how fashion and cost changed the styles. The process of determining and categorising houses can be used in any Melbourne suburb or country town. The difficulty arises when a house of one type is modified decades later with a different style, or an attempt is made to duplicate old styles, such as recent Victorian replicas.

Some of the different styles represented in Ringwood are:-

Early Victorian	1840 to 1860
Mid Victorian	1860 to 1901
Queen Anne	1895 to 1910
Edwardian/Federation	1901 to 1915
Bungalows	1910 to 1930
Inter war/Moderne	1918 to 1939
War Service housing	1945 to 1955
Modern (simple geometric)	1950 to 1970
“The Age” Small Homes Service	1940s/50s
Spec Project Homes	1970 to 1990
1990 to present sees garages incorporated into houses	
Revival styles	1990s-present

An example of the attributes of a housing type, in this case a Queen Anne house:-



- ⇒ Steeply pitched terracotta tiled roofs, towers/turrets and decorative gables.
- ⇒ Diagonal entry.
- ⇒ Extensive decorative embellishments, finials, dragons and gargoyles. Fretwork frieze panels and post brackets.
- ⇒ Chimney cornices and terracotta pots.
- ⇒ Leadlight or rectangles of coloured glass to windows

Samantha provided us with an “identi-kit” of each type, which is very useful when trying to date photographs. She also recommended a number of books:-

***Identifying Australian Architecture, Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present***, Angus & Robertson, 1989  
***Melbourne Architecture***, The Watermark Press, 1999  
***Our Inter-War Houses; How to Recognise, Restore and Extend Houses of the 1920s and 1930s***, National Trust, 1991  
***What House is That?***, Victorian Heritage Council (we have 2 copies for loan)

## What's On

A number of historical organisations have lectures open to the public:-

### ***The El Nino droughts of 1864-69 in the Australian colonies***

**Assoc. Prof. Don Garden**

7th August, 6pm, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melb., Book 9326-9288

### ***Australian radical cartoonists***

**Dr Nick Dyrenfurth**

12th August, 5:15pm, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melb., Book 9326-9288

### ***Social history of Australian football***

**Peter Burke**

Same evening and place as lecture above

### ***Grave stories of Queen Victoria Market***

29th August, noon, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melb., Book 9326-9288

### ***The 48 Courts of Heathmont***

**Gerry Robinson**

13th August, 8pm, Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Suite 1/41 Railway Avenue, Blackburn

### ***Trailblazers: Migrant women activists Exhibition***

Until 27 Jul 2008 at Immigration Museum, Flinders St, Melb, 9927-2700  
Plus tours, activities and other exhibitions

### ***Drugs: a social history***

Until 5 Oct 2008  
Melbourne Museum, Nicholson St, Carlton, 1300 130 152  
Plus other exhibitions

### ***Pumping Station Tours***

### ***Collection Store Tours***

Daily, , 9392 4800  
Scienceworks, Booker St, Spotswood



*"Life was simple, practical,  
as we still live in  
Heathmont, it has been  
very important in our life!"*

Mary le Get

2005

Heathmont

Recollections

## Association of Eastern Historical Societies

It's our turn to host the next meeting of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July.

It will be held at Federation Estate, in room 4, from 1:30-4:00pm. All members are most welcome to attend but let Russ or Margaret know beforehand for catering purposes.

Catherine Turnbull, a very knowledgeable historian from Knox Historical Society (and wife of the AEHS President) will run a workshop on the topic of ***Disaster Preparedness***.

A number of local archives and museums have been, ironically, threatened with floods earlier this year, and it was only some quick moving in the wee, small hours of a stormy night that saved some history being washed away forever.

Here, at Ringwood, we cannot afford the loss of our history. Unlike a sport-

ing club, we can't just go and get replacements. We could insure our collection but any sort of compensation will not bring items back or restore them to their original quality. It is in our hands to take measures for any sort of disaster, including the progression of time on items such as newspapers, recorded media and glass/Polaroid photos, all of which have limited lives.

Catherine is a great speaker and has hands-on experience up there at Ambleside Park.

Russ will give a 10-15 minute talk on mining in Ringwood, including the gold/antimony mines and the kaolin deposits.

P.S. We will need 4-5 kind-hearted people to make sure that the other historical societies are welcomed as guests of Ringwood, to provide some cakes and biscuits for 30-40 people, and to sell some of our Heathmont/Ringwood histories.

# News

## RINGWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Russ Haines  
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9 Homebush Court, Heathmont  
E-mail:  
[mmck1880@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:mmck1880@vic.chariot.net.au)

Archives: North Ringwood Seniors  
building (ring Russ to gain access)

## Preserving our Heritage



**We have a NEW  
website at  
[www.rhs.org.au](http://www.rhs.org.au)  
Go and check it  
out!**

## Supper Roster

Please mark these in you diary. Bring milk and biscuits/cake. All the rest supplied. Others to assist.

**July** Gerry Robinson

**August** McKeons

**Sept** Smart

**Oct** McKeons

**Nov** Ainslie Scott  
and Francis McLean

## Donations

Arthur Lunt has donated his sitting money to the society, from the Ringwood Arts Society. Thanks Arthur.

## Research

There have been a number of visitors to the archives this month, mostly for researching articles in our newspaper collection, or ordering specific photographs.

## Work at the Archives

Things are moving ahead in this area. There has been a lot of tidying up, additional shelves are being looked at and the Lunts and others have been generous in their time to assist.

## Borrowing

The society encourages members to borrow books, journals or equipment for their own use. There is normally no charge or, if there are used for another organization, we ask for a small donation.

Some of particular items are:-

- Over 200 local histories of other places in Victoria.
- RHSV journals, which are full of interesting historical articles
- Photographs (duplicates only)
- Oral histories and videos
- 1920s/30s Newspapers (duplicates only)

The only rule is that they are returned in a timely manner in the same original condition.

## Enquiries

### Ringwood Cricket Club

A number of groups, at RCC, have split their period of existence into decades, and we got

the 1950s/60s group the other day. They also helped us to identify some of the photographs in the archives.

## Ron Mason

Russ spent a number of hours with Ron, who has been in Ringwood since the 1930s depression years.

We visited the movie studio that he ran in Ringwood for many years, which is still there in the old Olympic Shopping Centre in dusty but pristine condition. It was like walking back 40 years in time.

Also we talked for two hours on Ringwood. Arthur Smith will know Ron as he lived a couple of doors away in Ringwood Street, below the old central oval, next to Roy Wilkins, the builder. Hopefully, the stories and photographs can be put in the Leader newspaper.

## Ringwood Library

Your President had a meeting with Kathy Smalley, head Family History librarian with ERL. It was fruitful and, hopefully, will cement the relationship between the two organisations.

There are many areas where we overlap. The Ringwood branch has considerable holdings of genealogical microfiche and data, as well as an extensive newspaper collection since 1958. They also have a large local history book section.

In October, our society, plus Croydon Historical Society, will hold a joint presentation with ERL on Women's Suffrage.