



Hotham History Project Inc.

Estab 1995

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Hotham History News

Summer 2014

Happy New Year to all friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project.

2013 ended with a bang with the launch of our latest publication *Moving Around* by Rae Nicholls and Lorna Hannan.



Rae at the gate of her childhood home in Brougham Street (from the book cover)

Over 100 members and friends attended the launch at St Michael's Hall in North Melbourne. The Hon. Richard Wynne officially launched the book and spoke very eloquently about a way of life that is quickly disappearing. Our thanks to St. Michael's for providing the venue for the launch of our twelfth publication.

Our New Constitution

Other good news received at the end of 2013 is that our constitution, adopted at our AGM on the 12 October 2013, has been officially approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the framing and proof reading of this document. As a reminder to members, the Committee for 2013/14 is:

Chair: Lorna Hannan
Deputy Chair: Rae Nicholls
Secretary: Mary Kehoe
Treasurer: Marlene Shanahan
Committee members:

Jenny Cook,
David Evans,
Heather McKay,
Lyn Martin,
Guy Murphy,
John Poynter
Lorraine Siska.

Jim Brady has stood down and the Committee would like to thank him for his valuable input over many years, in particular, Jim's memorable performances at some of our historical re-enactments

Programme for 2014

2014 will be a busy year with a programme of walks and talks that we hope will continue to stimulate your interest in the local history of

North and West Melbourne. Please note these dates in your diary.

Workshop – Historical Subdivisions in North and West Melbourne presented by Geoff Leach.

1.00 - 4.00 pm Saturday 22 February 2014.

Dewey Common Room, Bastow Institute, 603- 615 Queensberry St, access from Union Street.

Geoff Leach is an academic in IT at RMIT University with a keen interest in our built form environment. In this workshop Geoff will discuss how the original crown lot subdivision into quarter acre blocks relates to the widths of single, one and a half and double fronted houses. He will also demonstrate how the LANDATA database can be used to trace the timeline of subdivision and development back to the original crown land sales.

Bookings essential at:
[info @hothamhistory.org.au](mailto:info@hothamhistory.org.au) or
Mary Kehoe: 9329 5814.

Walk – Journeys: the goldfields route and other stories (partnered with the North Melbourne Library).

2.00 pm Saturday 12 April
In the 1850s North Melbourne was the starting point for a

journey to the goldfields. This 90 minute walk will trace the steps of the pioneers on their way to the goldfields through North Melbourne and examine the significant sites and heritage properties along the way.

Meet by the seats at St. Mary Star of the Sea in Victoria St. at 1.50pm.

Walk – A walk through North Melbourne with Bill Liddy & Friends

2.00 pm Saturday 3 May.

This walk will be part of the National Trust Heritage Festival that will run from 18 April to 18 May 2014. The theme of the festival is 'Journeys' which will celebrate our nation of travellers. Bill Liddy grew up in North Melbourne and, together with help from his friends, will lead this walk – a personal journey through North Melbourne's streets and lanes centred around Lothian, Victorian and Queensberry Streets. Further details to be advised.

Walk – Maribyrnong River with Richard Ennis.

Sunday 15 June 2014.

Melbourne's second river, the Maribyrnong, has many important sites of historical significance. This walk, lead by Richard Ennis, will take in Pipemakers Park, Walter Burley-Griffin's Essendon Incinerator and the Incinerator Arts complex. Further details later.

Annual General Meeting.

2.00 pm Saturday 23 August 2014.

Guest speaker and venue to be advised.

Talk – The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum by Mary Kehoe.

7.30 pm Tuesday 28 October.

It is now 15 years since the publication of Mary Kehoe's history of the *Melbourne Benevolent Asylum*. This was an important milestone for the Hotham History Project since it was our first publication. In this talk Mary will outline the history of this premier building from its opening in 1851 to its demolition in 1911. Venue to be advised.

Walk – Errol Street Memories

2.00 pm Saturday 8 November.

This walk will take in Errol Street and include commentary from residents who attended King Street Primary School in the 1940s and 1950s.

Further details to be advised.

Book Sales

Copies of our latest publication, *Moving Around* by Rae Nicholls and Lorna Hannan are selling fast and a second print run has been ordered. To purchase a copy contact Mary Kehoe at: info@hothamhistory.org.au.

Vale Al Knight, 1924 2013*

Al Knight was an important contributor to the Hotham History Project in its early years. Born in London, Al started work at fourteen in the warehouse of Macmillan's publishing. At eighteen, Al enlisted in the Royal Navy, trained as a motor mechanic and served at the D. Day landing. After the war he enrolled in St Martin's School of Art and Design and was drawn into the exciting artistic

life of post-war London. He worked in a number of bookshops where his flair and love of books saw him rise to management positions.

He moved to Canada in 1957, establishing himself as an all-round publishing executive. In 1971 he moved to Australia to become CEO of Thomas Nelson's, only to leave in 1976 to establish, with Anne Godden, the publishing company, Hyland House. For more than twenty years Hyland House published hundreds of titles, specializing in Australian gardening, Indigenous writing, fiction, history, and children's books.

Al moved to North Melbourne in 1993 with his Australian family, historian Janet McCalman and their children Nick and Imogen. He loved it because it 'reminded him of growing up in London'.

When Lorna Hannan and Janet McCallum founded the Hotham History Project in 1995, Al provided invaluable design and production advice. Lorna remembers the last time she saw him, tying up his dog, Duncan outside the Melrose St supermarket. "What a gracious man he was".

He will be sorely missed.

*This is an edited extract of Lorna Hannan's obituary published in the North & West Melbourne News in March 2013.

We look forward to seeing you at some of the above activities.

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters and notices please advise us at info@hothamhistory.org.au