



# HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

C/o North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol St, North Melbourne, Vic. 3051  
Ph: 9297 3280 Website: [hothamhistory.org.au](http://hothamhistory.org.au)

ABN: 89 919 256 977

## Newsletter June 2006

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

This newsletter is being distributed together with an invitation to our next big event, the launch of the Annals of Hotham volume 5, a history of the North Melbourne Town Hall.

**Tuesday 27 June at 6.00 pm,  
North Melbourne Town Hall Supper Room  
launch by Barry Jones AO of  
*Pride of Hotham***

We are very excited about the impending launch of *Pride of Hotham: A tale of North Melbourne and a red-headed architect* by Bill Hannan. Bill has spent several years researching the history of the North Melbourne Town Hall and the book will be the first comprehensive history of this landmark building and the architect who designed it, George Raymond Johnson. Barry Jones and George Johnson's great-great grandson, Peter Johnson, also an architect, will speak at the launch.

Bill and Lorna Hannan, our longstanding Chair, have been working very hard to ensure the book will be ready for the launch on 27 June, the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commemorative opening ball in 1876.

The Hotham History Project has sought community patrons to finance some of the publishing costs of the book and it is hoped that patrons will be able to collect their copies of the book at the launch.

### **Rotary Club of Melbourne North - Vocational Service Award for Lorraine Siska**

We are pleased to announce that one of our hardworking committee members, Lorraine Siska, was awarded a certificate and cheque in recognition of "outstanding services to the community" at a Rotary breakfast on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The Annual "Phonse Tobin Volunteer of the Year Award" is presented by Martin Tobin, Managing Director of Tobin Brothers, in honour of his grandfather Phonse Tobin, to recognise members of the community who work in a voluntary capacity. This year there were three recipients. Brian Beyer received the Phonse Tobin award and a cheque for \$750 for his work as a volunteer at Ozanam House and for his work in helping set up a charity for children in East Timor. Peter Egan and

Lorraine received Vocational Service Awards and cheques for \$250 in recognition of their work with local community organisations. Unfortunately, Lorraine was travelling overseas and was not present to receive the award in person, but we hope it will be a lovely surprise when she returns.

### **PROGRESS ON OUR OTHER BOOKS**

#### ***Men of Hotham: Councillors & Staff of Hotham & North Melbourne 1859-1905* by Heather McKay**

This book is in the final stages of preparation and we hope to be able to launch it within the next couple of months. Heather has spent an enormous amount of time sifting through the Hotham Council minutes and other sources to glean all available information on the men who administered nineteenth century Hotham. The book is arranged alphabetically by name with a chronological listing of when the Councillors served. You will be sent an invitation to the launch when the details are finalised.

#### ***The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum***

The Hotham History Project is also planning a reprint of our first book, *The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum*, which has been out of print for some time. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, it can be ordered through the website and we will send you a copy. Alternatively, you can make enquiries through the Secretary, Mary Kehoe on 9329 5814 ([mekehoe@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mekehoe@iprimus.com.au)) or through the North Melbourne Library.

#### ***History of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club (working title).***

Work is still proceeding on this volume.

#### **West Melbourne oral history project**

At present we are still collecting the memories of residents growing up in West Melbourne in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are always interested in hearing from people who feel they have memories to share or who would like to become involved in putting our history together.

## HOTHAM HISTORY EVENTS

### **Tuesday 22 August at 7.30 pm, North Melbourne Library A Guide to North Melbourne Library's Local History Collection**

Our Local History Librarian, Heather McKay, and the Local History Coordinator for Yarra/Melbourne Libraries go to a lot of trouble to collect material to add to our Local History Collection. Come and learn about the extensive resources in your local library. This session will be held in meeting room 2 and space will be limited. Bookings Mary Kehoe (9329 5814, [mekehoe@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mekehoe@iprimus.com.au))

### **Saturday 23 September at 2.00 pm, North Melbourne Library Annual General Meeting**

Heather McKay will discuss the research for her book on Hotham Councillors. Many councillors were prominent local businessmen and as you will have gathered from some of Heather's articles in the *North & West Melbourne News*, council meetings between rival councillors were often very lively.

The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for members to catch up with news on all our projects and inform us of their own areas of interest. We would also like to encourage new residents to the area to join us and learn more about this fascinating part of Melbourne. Please join us at the North Melbourne Library on the fourth Saturday in September.

### **Committee Meetings for 2006**

Committee meetings of the Hotham History Project are held bi-monthly at the North Melbourne Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Dates for remaining meetings in 2006 are 25 July, 26 September and 28 November.

## OTHER RELATED EVENTS

### **21 June-30 September Town of North Melbourne 1905 Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel St., North Melbourne.**

Showcases the life of people living and working in North Melbourne in 1905. You may recall that this exhibition was on display in the City Gallery, Swanston Street in 2005.

In conjunction with this exhibition, PROV and the Hotham History Project are running some activities:

#### **Saturday 26 August 10.30 am-12.00 pm 'How to produce a local history book'**

Lorna Hannan will provide information and insight on how to research, collate and promote a family

or local history book and how to use oral history from your collection

#### **Saturday 8 July & 9 September at 1.30 pm Walking into the past, 150 years on the hill**

Lorna Hannan will lead a walking tour looking at the local history and landscape of North Melbourne, focusing on the community throughout Hotham Hill.

There will be a fee of \$5 for each of these activities. Bookings are advised and places can be reserved through PROV.

### **Saturday 19 August 9.00 am to 5.00 pm VAFHO Family & Local History Treasure Chest Dallas Brooks Centre, 300 Albert St., East Melbourne.**

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations is organising this event and there will be a wide range of stalls including the Genealogical Society of Victoria, State Library of Victoria, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Public Record Office Victoria, West Bourke Heritage Association and Hotham History Project. One of the special drawcards will be well-known genealogist, Nick Vine Hall, who will be available to help you solve the origins of your family surnames.

### **Sunday 15 October 10 am to 4.00 pm West Bourke Heritage Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Local & Family History Fair YMCA Hall, cnr Essex & Market Sts., Footscray.**

The Theme for the Fair will be "Editing & Publishing – Short Run Print Publications" and speakers will include Christine Worthington from the Prahran Mechanics' Institute which has been given a grant for small desk-top publishing. It should be an interesting and informative day with lots of opportunities to look at and buy some of the fascinating publications produced by the very active historical organisations that make up the West Bourke Heritage Association.

We look forward to seeing you at the *Pride of Hotham* book launch and at some of the other activities listed in this newsletter.