

Historical Society

EST 1941

December 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest Newsletter – the last for 2023.



Season's greetings to all our members! May the upcoming year, 2024, bring joy and prosperity to each of you. We recently concluded the year with a delightful end-of-year dinner at the historic St. Philips Parish hall. In the company of 40 members and guests, we enjoyed a delicious meal catered

by Jayne Messendorf and were treated to a captivating presentation by Elizabeth Davie, an exceptional travel guide who regaled us with entertaining and interesting stories from around the world.

At this event, our Society's President, Doug Waugh, honoured John Jansson with life membership for his outstanding contributions to the island's history, particularly his invaluable maritime expertise. John's wealth of knowledge has greatly enriched our Society.

In other news, Laurie Dixon's book, **'Home Paddock Stories,'** saw a successful launch at the shearing shed Otira earlier this month, now entering its second print run. The book brings local history to life with personal anecdotes supported by wonderful illustrations and photographs. For those interested, the book is available at Turn the Page bookstore in Cowes.



Looking ahead to 2024, we anticipate the release of Hazel Johnson's fourth book in the **'Along the Tracks of Cobb & Co'** series. The next title in the series will look Victoria & the Goldfields. This eagerly awaited book will delve into Cobb and Co. routes and proprietors across Victoria, shedding light on the vital role Cobb & Co.



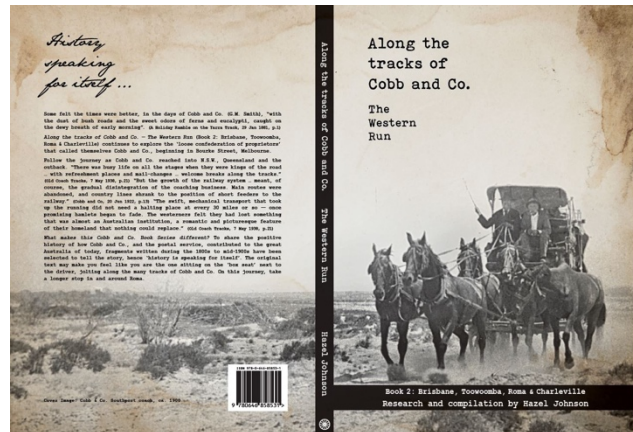
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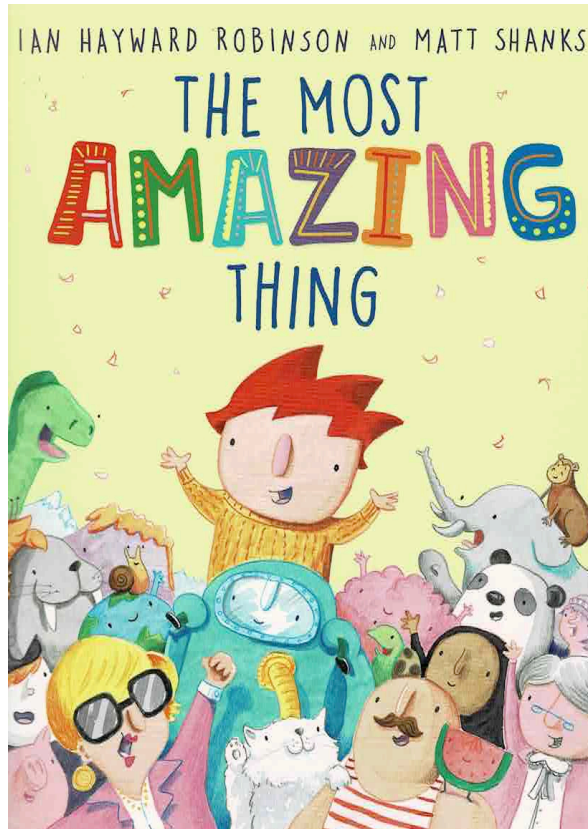
played in early European settlement travel to Phillip Island. We eagerly anticipate this exciting release.

'Along the tracks of Cobb and Co.- Back to the beginning' (Book 4: Victoria & the Goldfields) including Cobb and Co. routes and proprietors across Victoria ... release date 2024

www.cobbandcotracks.au



We extend heartfelt congratulations to our esteemed member, Ian Robinson, on the imminent release of his upcoming children's book, titled **'The Most Amazing Thing,'** published by Allen & Unwin.



Ian boasts an impressive background in writing, having graduated with honours in philosophy from the University of Melbourne. His intellectual journey led him to become a tutor in philosophy and a lecturer in the philosophy of education at Coburg Teachers' College. Furthermore, he served as the leader of the Curriculum Project Team (Primary) for the Victoria Ministry of Education. Before retiring in 2010, Ian held the position of manager of the Music and Writing Department at Chisholm Institute.

His passion for the written word extends beyond academia, as Ian has served as the President of the Melbourne Writers' Theatre and contributed as a theatre

critic for the National Times. Notably, his fantasy story 'The Crypt of Fleeting Hope' found its way to publication under the Penguin imprint.



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With such an illustrious background, we eagerly anticipate the release of Ian's upcoming project. If first impressions hold true, judging by the book's cover, it seems poised to be a resounding success. Best wishes to Ian on this exciting literary endeavour!



During December, I received an urgent call from the producers of the Channel 10 television series **What's Up Down Under**, who were in the region requesting a guide tour through our museum. So it was action stations – in the midst of the 'silly season', taking them through our wonderful displays – where they spent a couple of hours filming all sorts of exhibits. The episode will air in the new year – let's hope our part does not end up on the cutting room floor!



Above, Macca (centre) the host of the show *What's Up Down Under* with the crew and yours truly on location at our museum.



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I was thrilled to discover the release of Christine Grayden's latest book this month, titled '**The Lost Blanket**'. You can find this delightful read at Turn the Page bookstore on Thompson Avenue, priced at \$20. The book is not only a visual treat with pictures on every page but also offers an interactive element for children to enjoy – a fun challenge to spot the beetle on each page. As an educational bonus, children can learn to read both digital and dial clock faces to grasp the concept of time. Additionally, the book features colouring and story-writing pages, culminating in a happy ending that is sure to leave young readers smiling! For information to purchase see here:

https://turnthepagebookshop.com.au/p/the-lost-blanket?barcode=978046880419&search_key=christine



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New member:

It brings us great joy to extend a warm welcome to Ian McFee, our newest member this month. Ian is a familiar face to many of our members, having spent a lifetime as an islander and proudly descending from the McFee clan of Rhyll.



Known for his unwavering support for the community, Ian stands as one of the longest-serving members of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo, always ready to lend a helping hand. Ian remains dedicated to farming on his property in Rhyll and boasts an impressive collection of tractors that would rival the top collections anywhere!

As we bid farewell to 2023, we happily received a phone call from the Bass Coast Shire, bringing news of our successful grant application for the large acrylic display case. This case now beautifully displays the wonderful 1869 wedding dress currently featured in the museum. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Council for this grant, and we enter the new year with a heightened sense of financial relief!

See you all in 2024

Enjoy

Pamela Rothfield

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Newsletter written and edited by Pamela Rothfield

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