



SEPTEMBER  
2000

EAST  
MELBOURNE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# Committee

---

## **President:**

Anne Colman

Phone: 9416 1969

Email: [a.colman@bigpond.com](mailto:a.colman@bigpond.com)

## **Vice President:**

Frank Lewis

Phone: 9419 0007

Email: [ludo@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ludo@ozemail.com.au)

## **Hon. Secretary:**

Liz Rushen

Phone: 9419 3811

Email: [rushen@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rushen@ozemail.com.au)

## **Treasurer:**

Margaret Wood

Phone: 9415 1159

Email: [megsiewood@one.net.au](mailto:megsiewood@one.net.au)

## **Committee:**

Elizabeth Cam

Phone: 9416 2187

Angela Mercer

Phone: 9415 9662

Email: [mercergreatcircle.net.au](mailto:mercergreatcircle.net.au)

# Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Annual subscription: \$25.00

Guests are welcome  
at individual meetings \$5.00

Affiliated with  
the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

# President's Column

This first newsletter, and the only edition to be delivered to all East Melburnians, is to introduce our society to you. Founded in August 1999, under the auspices of the **East Melbourne Group**, we have now become an incorporated body and an affiliate of the **Royal Historical Society of Victoria**. Our aims, while similar to most historical societies, emphasize our interest in the community of East Melbourne.

Our aims to encourage the study of Australian history and to disseminate this knowledge among members have been ably served thus far by an excellent array of speakers. **Professor Geoffrey Blainey** launched our society in October last year with his *Glimpses of Vanished East Melbourne*, a theme echoed in our Christmas function at the **Johnston Collection** in Hotham Street. This year our lecture theme has been the development of Melbourne, East Melbourne and the personalities who contributed. **Gary Presland's** *People, Land and Spirit: Koori Life in the Yarra Yarra District* set the scene, followed by **Dianne Reilly** speaking on *Charles Joseph La Trobe and early Melbourne* and **Assoc. Prof. Ann Galbally** on *Redmond Barry and the Cultural Foundations of Melbourne*. Our final speaker for the 2000 lecture series will be **Dr. Miles Lewis** whose focus is *East Melbourne: the Secret History*.

Complimenting these speakers, and providing practical research skills, was our excursion to the **Australiana Collection** of the La

Trobe Library. Organised by the La Trobe Librarian, Dianne Reilly, we toured the manuscripts, rare books and picture collections. The necessity for compiling archives was revealed.

This leads to another aim of the EMHS, which is to collect and preserve East Melbourne's history. To that end, we are working with the **East Melbourne Library** and the **Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Advisory Committee** on collecting community history. A seminar on *Preserving the Past for the Future* is an effort to initiate a collaborative approach to collecting and fulfils another aim which is to interact with other societies and libraries to conserve our history.

We have been fortunate to have **Holy Trinity's Hall** for our formal meetings this year and the use of the **East Melbourne Library** for our committee meetings. Several months ago we were delighted to 'discover' **Clarendon Terrace** as the venue for our Christmas function, and even more so as the regular home for the Historical Society from February 2001.

Our evocative logo was created for us by **Rod Goodwin**, graphic artist and longtime resident of East Melbourne. We are grateful to the many people and organisations who have, in the spirit of community, helped us establish this society.

Future newsletters will be sent to members of the Historical Society in March and September 2001.



Photograph of Fitzroy Gardens, looking west. *Rudd's New Views of Melbourne*



Melbourne 1885.

## Christmas Speaker

We hope you will join us for 'A Walk Around the Fitzroy Gardens' with Bruce McBrien (OAM). Bruce was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to amateur theatre and the National Trust of Australia.

A lifelong fan of musical theatre, Bruce has served on the boards of numerous amateur companies throughout Melbourne. In 1986 he founded the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria to encourage co-operation between the State's 60 amateur companies.

A keen historian, Bruce has given 500 talks on Living in Melbourne in the 20th Century and is planning a book on the subject.

He is the founder and convenor of The Garden Party group, which has met weekly since 1991 to help maintain the grounds of different National Trust properties. Last year the National Trust presented Bruce with an award recognising his 40 years of service to the organisation.

We are particularly delighted that Bruce will entertain us this year as he has long-established links with East Melbourne.

*Source: Stonnington Leader, 14 June 2000.*

# Calendar of Events

## **Sunday 3 September**

Public Meeting

The Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Community Advisory Committee will be holding a public consultation on Preserving the Past for the Future: community history, collections and collecting in the municipalities of Yarra and Melbourne.

Where:

Richmond Library Theatre, 415 Church Street, Richmond

When:

1.15 to 5.30pm

Further details:

Judith Biddington, 9387 8851

## **Thursday 12 October**

Community Night

We will be displaying an exhibition of early East Melbourne photographs, in conjunction with the East Melbourne Library, at the Community Night.

Where:

East Melbourne Library, George Street, East Melbourne.

When:

7.30pm

## **Wednesday 18 October**

Annual General Meeting.

East Melbourne: the Secret History

Our guest speaker will be Dr Miles Lewis, Reader in Architecture, University of Melbourne, and author of Melbourne: the city's history and development.

Where:

Holy Trinity Hall, Trinity Place, East Melbourne

When:

8.00pm

## **Wednesday 20 December**

A Walk Around the Fitzroy Gardens with Bruce McBrien OAM.

Our final get-together for the year will be held at Clarendon Terrace

Time:

8.00pm

Cost:

\$25.00

To purchase tickets: Contact Margaret Wood, ph 9415 1159

# Foundation Speaker

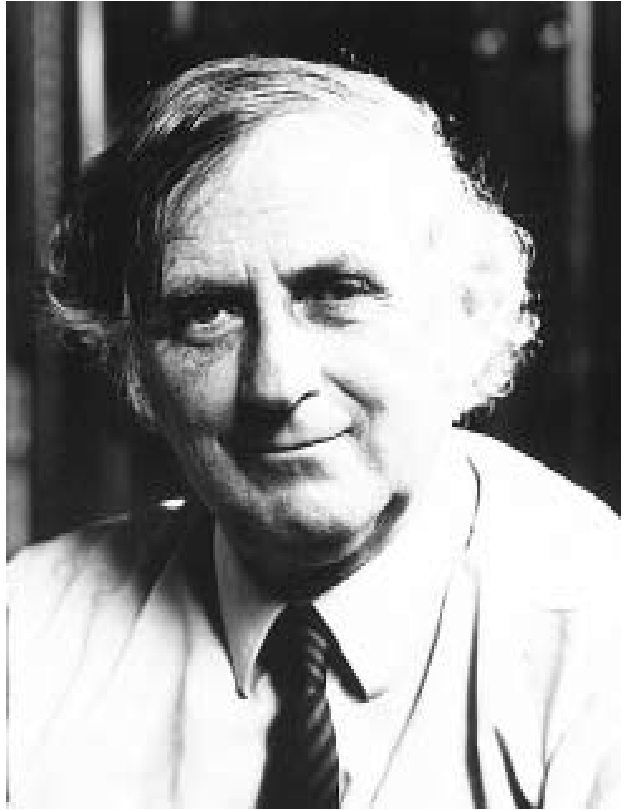
Professor Geoffrey Blainey launched the Society on Wednesday 20 October 1999. Professor Blainey is one of Australia's best-known historians and commentators.

His first book was published when he was in his early twenties, and since then, he has written another 29. Some of his books are widely known overseas. His book, *The Tyranny of Distance*, now in its 20th edition, has given Australia one of its most widely-quoted phrases. A recent book is *A Shorter History of Australia*. His new history of the world is to be published in October.

He has written weekly columns for a variety of daily newspapers including *The Australian*, *The Melbourne Herald*, and *The Age*. His televised history of Australia, *The Blainey View*, was shown in ten episodes on ABC television.

For twenty years, he held chairs in economic history and then in plain history at the University of Melbourne. He has been chairman of many institutions including the Australia Council

At the United Nations in New York in 1988, Geoffrey Blainey – along with the celebrated economist Professor JK



Professor Geoffrey Blainey

Galbraith – was awarded a gold medal for 'excellence in the dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of mankind'.

Among those supporting the launch were the President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Assoc. Prof. Don Garden, the Executive Officer of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Mr Kevin Gates, the Conservation Manager of the National Trust, Mr Ian Pausacker, and the first Hon. Secretary of the Victorian branch of the National Trust, Mr Noel Goss.

# Researching your house, garden or an early East Melbourne resident?

The following institutions could be useful starting points.

## 1. La Trobe Library

(Australiana Collection of the State Library of Victoria),  
La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000.  
Tel: 9669 9824.

*includes:*

- manuscripts 9669 9014
- newspapers 9669 9859
- rare books 9669 9032
- pictures 9669 9032
- genealogy 9669 9080
- architectural drawings 96699032

## 2. Public Record Office of Victoria

2 Casselden Place, Melbourne, 3000  
Tel: 9285 7999

*includes*

- council records (rate books, council meeting minute books)
- building records
- land selection files
- public school records
- immigration records

## 3. University of Melbourne Archives

119-129 Barry Street, Carlton, 3053  
Tel: 9344 6848

*includes*

- architectural drawings
- documents of early Melburnians

## Can You Help?

Jennifer Elder

(Member #47)

is researching Ormiston Ladies' College and would appreciate receiving any information on the College.

Greg de Moore

Peakhurst NSW

is researching the life of Sarah Barbor who lived at 20, 22 and 129 Simpson Street between 1890 and 1907.

Barbara Atkins

of Mt Evelyn

is researching Stewart Jolimont Rowe, who was born in East Melbourne in the 1880s.

If you are able to help any of these researchers, please contact Liz Rushen for further details.

We are interested in collecting archival material on East Melbourne. If you have anything of interest, please contact us.

