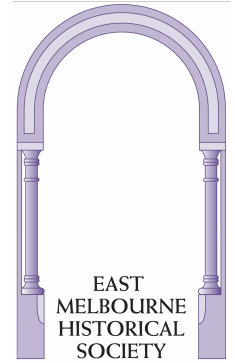


# EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



June 2023

## Aims

A full Statement of Purposes appears in our Documents of Incorporation but briefly the aims of the Society are as follows:

To foster an interest in the history of East Melbourne.

To build an archive of material relevant to the history of East Melbourne.

To promote interchange of information through lectures and tours.

To promote heritage preservation.

## Committee

President	Tim Holland
Vice-president	Barbara Paterson
Hon.Secretary	Sylvia Black
Hon.Treasurer	Malcolm Howell
Committee	Diane Clifford Jill Fenwick Ian Hind Sue Hodson Gay Sussex

## Contributions and Suggestions

We invite contributions relating to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1500 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome.

We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions, or anything else you might like us to organise on your behalf.

Please contact any member of our committee.

## Membership

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

Enquiries: [Diane Clifford](#)  
Email: [info@emhs.org.au](mailto:info@emhs.org.au)

Annual subscription **\$ 30.00**  
Guests are welcome at individual meetings **\$ 5.00**

Published by EMHS with funds provided by City of Melbourne Community Information and Support Grant.



**CITY OF  
MELBOURNE**

Affiliated with  
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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The Members and Committee of the East Melbourne Historical Society respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay respect to their elders past, present and to come.

## President's Letter

As we move from late autumn into winter our suburb shows us a different side to its beauty, with our deciduous trees shedding their autumnal-coloured leaves to show streetscapes where the handsome architecture of many of our buildings is in more plain view.

In a similar way the East Melbourne Historical Society adapts to the seasons, with outdoor events giving way to indoor functions.

Earlier in the year we had a wonderful event on women artists, generously hosted and provided by Krystyna Campbell-Pretty at the National Gallery of Victoria. While not an “outdoor” function as such, it fitted into the usual schedule we have of an event in February where we are “out and about”.

In April at our first meeting for the year in the East Melbourne Library we had a very well-attended and successful evening where five local people told the stories of five First World War soldiers who had been connected to the East Melbourne area. This was a great idea suggested by Jill Fenwick and was wonderfully curated and hosted by a great friend of the EMHS, Major-General Mike O'Brien. The five speakers did an excellent job of presenting in their own different ways the experiences of these soldiers.

It was good to see what a great resource our members are in keeping alive the history of our area, and that is key to the ongoing success of the East Melbourne Historical Society. I look forward to us maintaining the high standard of our events as the year unfolds.

Tim Holland

## Welcome New Members

Peter Jenkins	Jessica Agoston
Tim Dixon	David Pear
Jennifer Owen	Richard Owen



by Liz Rushen

In her recent article on portable houses (see East Melbourne Historical Society Newsletter, March 2023, pp.10-14), Sylvia Black noted the sale of the wooden house in Grey Street, on the eastern corner of what is now known as Verona Lane, on part of the Mercy Private Hospital site. This wooden house was advertised for sale in *The Argus* of 22 July 1881 by Mrs Brentani.<sup>1</sup>

Ann Brentani arrived in Melbourne from Launceston with her husband Charles in 1845 and established a 'watch, clock and jewellery establishment' first in Collins, then in Elizabeth Street.<sup>2</sup>



*The Flemington Cup  
made by Charles Brentani 1849,  
National Gallery Victoria*

Charles was an Italian citizen whose family ran a large hotel which still exists on the shores of Lake Como. In the nineteenth century, the hotel was very popular with English tourists including Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*.<sup>3</sup>

By the age of 18, Charles was living in England, convicted at York of receiving stolen goods and transported to Van Diemen's Land, arriving in 1835. Belfast-born Ann Campbell arrived in Melbourne in 1841, but due to the large number of unemployed Irish domestic servants, had moved to Launceston where, in August 1844, she married Charles Brentani, the couple re-locating to Melbourne the following year and established a clock and watchmaking business in Collins St.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See also Liz Rushen's booklet, *Clarendon Terrace and her Neighbours*, produced for Her Place Women's Museum in 2019, pp.32-34.

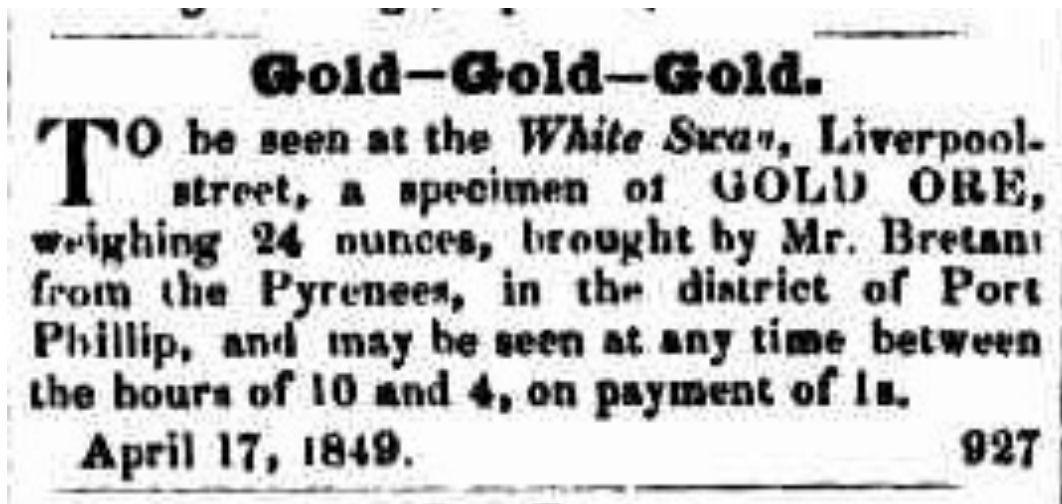
<sup>2</sup> Kurt E.A. Albrecht, 'Australian gold and silversmiths of the 19th century', *Victorian Historical Journal*, August 1979, Vol. 50, No. 3, pp.122-123.

<sup>3</sup> Douglas Wilkie, 'Frankenstein, Convicts and wide-awake Geniuses: the life and death of Charles Brentani', *Victorian Historical Journal*, Vol. 87, No. 1, June 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Brentani is listed in the 1847 *Sands & McDougall* directory as being a watch and clockmaker of Collins Street.



On 1 January 1850 Charles was naturalized about the time that the couple was involved in the controversy surrounding the discovery of gold in Australia and the part Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe played in suppressing the discovery in Victoria until after separation from New South Wales.



#### *Gold Gold Gold*

Stating herself to be ‘blessed with a very retentive memory’, forty years later Ann related the events in a letter to *The Argus*.<sup>5</sup> She stated that in May 1849, Thomas Chapman, a shepherd, took a 12oz nugget of gold into the Brentani jewellery shop to be assayed. Charles was in Geelong, so Ann asked one of their assistants by the name of Forrester, to value the gold. When Charles returned, he purchased the nugget and organised a party to look for the site. While some reports claimed Brentani’s cart springs were weighed down with gold on his return, other reports claimed he found nothing. La Trobe sent out a party of men who also claimed to find no evidence of gold. In April 1849, Charles Brentani travelled to Hobart where he advertised viewings of a specimen of gold weighing 23 ounces which had been found in the Pyrenees, Port Phillip.<sup>6</sup> In November 1850, news was received that the British Parliament had passed the Bill enabling Victoria’s separation from New South Wales although it was not until July 1851 that the NSW Legislative Council completed the formalities. The news of the gold discoveries in Victoria were largely suppressed until May 1851 when an explosion of newspaper articles announced the discovery of gold in Ballarat and other Victorian localities.

It appears that Charles Brentani was successful in his gold hunting explorations as in March 1852 he exported a box containing 160oz. of gold to London and

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<sup>5</sup> The Argus, 29 May 1882. The letter was widely reprinted, see *The Ballarat Star*, 30 May 1882, p.2 and *Illustrated Sydney News*, 8 July 1882, p.23; Garryowen, *The Chronicles of Early Melbourne*, Vol. 2, 1888, pp.789-790.

<sup>6</sup> *Colonial Times*, Hobart, 17 April 1849, p.3.

promptly retired from the jewellery business.<sup>7</sup> He purchased twelve properties and some hotels but did not live to enjoy his new-found prosperity as he died in Collingwood the following year, aged only 36.

The mother of four daughters and a son, also named Charles, following her husband's death, Ann held the publican's licence for the Princess Hotel in Smith Street, Fitzroy and the Shepherd's Arms Hotel in Collingwood, leasing the hotels to various tenants. She participated in the social life of Melbourne, donating money to Frances Perry's hospital bazaar and to the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Nicholson Street and for several years, she attended the Lord Mayor's ball with her daughters.<sup>8</sup> She also had shares in the women's baths in St Kilda.

Ann Brentani owned the property in Grey Street, or, as she advertised in 1856, 'first door right hand side of Grey St, off Fitzroy Square' for at least twenty-six years.<sup>9</sup> In 1881, she sold the wooden house and as the property had a frontage of 66 feet, she built two brick houses on the site, naming them 'Brentani Terrace'.<sup>10</sup>



A widow for 33 years, this canny Irishwoman tripled her husband's assets to a value of £12,384 and died in August 1882, aged 59, at her property in Inkerman Street, St Kilda, three months after writing her letter to *The Argus*. The family is remembered today by Brentani Avenue in Elsternwick and Brentani Way in Docklands.

[Extract of architectural plans "Brentani Terrace", at 159 and 161 Grey Street, East Melbourne.](#)

<sup>7</sup> *The Argus*, 8 March 1852, p.3, 9 March 1852, p.3 and 17 March 1852, p.6.

<sup>8</sup> *The Age*, 22 September 1855, p. 5 and *The Argus*, 8 February 1859, p.3.

<sup>9</sup> *The Argus*, 7 September 1856, p.8.

<sup>10</sup> Ann Brentani, Grant of Probate, 7 September 1882, PROV VPRS 28/P000, 24/542.



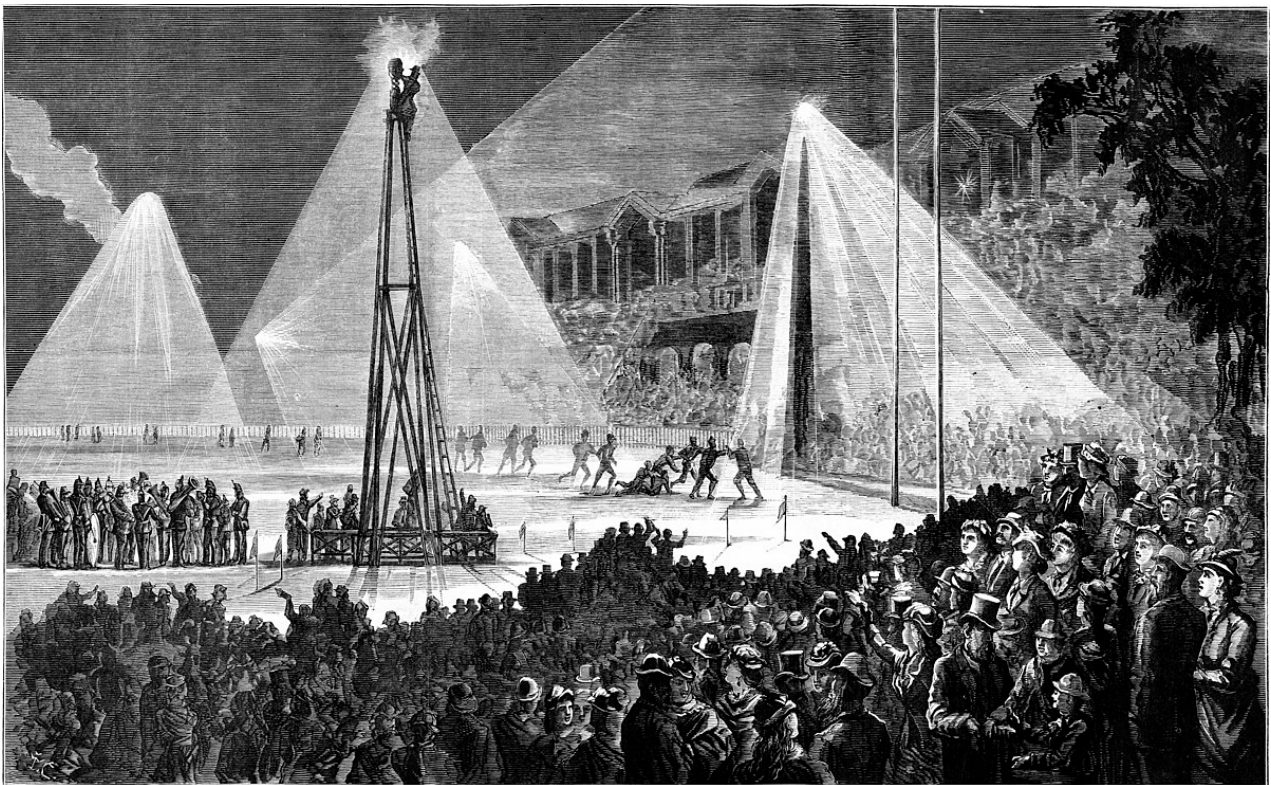
## NIGHT FOOTBALL AT THE MCG

*by Tim Holland*

Most people when asked when was the first occasion that night football was played at the MCG would probably guess around 1984 when the huge light towers were erected around the ground amid great controversy.

It would therefore come as a surprise to many that such a guess was out by more than 100 years, as night football had been first played at the MCG in 1879, albeit not with any great success.

Playing at night under lights is a key part of sporting competitions these days, with all stadiums able to accommodate that need. However it was not until the 1950s that football matches under lights were able to be conducted successfully in Victoria, and that was at the old Lake Oval in South Melbourne where the post-season night series was held for clubs that missed out on the finals.



*Wood engraving by James Waltham Curtis  
published in The illustrated Australian news, 30 Aug 1879*

In the mid to late 19th century Melbourne was a booming city embracing all the latest technological developments. When the Duke of Edinburgh toured in 1867 “all stops were out” to showcase the vibrancy of the colony of Victoria. To that end Melbourne saw a primitive form of electricity used for the first time in the lighting up of a few buildings for the Royal Visitor.



In the late 1870s electric lighting became a little more practical but was still in an embryonic form. This did not stop the entrepreneurially-spirited in the community who sought to get the MCC to conduct football and cricket matches under lights. Once the MCC agreed it would seem that five towers were placed around the ground with carbon arc lights atop them, driven by steam power. Some idea of the scene can be gained from the contemporary drawing, pictured here.

And so it came to pass that on 5 August 1879 two teams glorying in the names of the East Melbourne Artillery and the Collingwood Rifles went into battle on the football field at the MCG. Paying attendance seems to have been of the order of 8,000, with another 10,000 looking from outside the ground.

*The Australasian* newspaper said that the match was “a great result in point of financial result and attendance...but from a light point of view, and football too, it was not so good, the illuminating being scarcely sufficient and its distribution hardly so judicious as it might have been”.

*The Argus* report said that “the play did not excite much interest, as the men were continually going out of sight into dark patches, and the ball, though painted white, required too much of an effort for the eye to follow”.

*The Illustrated Australian News* had a more positive view of the encounter, describing the light as “most brilliant and peculiar”, although they did say that one of the lights burned itself out. Rather

amusingly in the circumstances this account also referred to the Rifles demanding a count of the Artillery players, under suspicion that they had more than the allowed number of players on the field; images of players being unsighted in the murky light come to mind, and one can imagine that opportunities for skullduggery would have abounded in the shadowy environment.

The East Melbourne Artillery and the Collingwood Rifles are entities whose fame has diminished since these halcyon days, but it would be surprising if their expertise was especially strong in the arts of football. The true skills of these organisations were probably better seen in the half-time break when 20 of each put on a tug-of-war display.

For the record the game was a draw but the tug-of-war went to the Artillery – observers saying that their background in pulling large cannon pieces around gave them the edge in the brawn department.

Anyway, after all that the promoters doubled down eight days later, but this time with the two leading teams of the day, Melbourne and Carlton. Although there were expectations of a good crowd the result was disappointing, suggesting that once the novelty of the first game had been sampled, the product was not a particularly enticing one given the limits of the technology at the time. Reports of this match refer to it not getting away on time as the technicians took some time to crank up the engine that powered the lights, leaving attendees in the cold and dark till 8.30 – not ideal!

The inadequacy of the lighting and the burning out of lamps were not the only equipment failures according to newspaper reports. In the Melbourne/Carlton contest the white ball burst early in the game and was replaced by the traditional brown/red ball. Unfortunately this was an unsatisfactory solution for spectators and players alike as it was difficult to see the ball in the eerie light. From somewhere a white-painted ball was found, and the game continued.

We have certainly come a long way these days with the technology, but equipment failure in stadium lighting is not just a thing of the past as we have seen such incidents in Australia in the 21st century, most recently this season at the Gabba in Brisbane.

## CELEBRATING PEOPLE POWER

*by Sylvia Black*

Many of us would remember the day our prime minister, Harold Holt, died. It was 17 December 1967 and the circumstances were exceptional. He went for a swim in the dangerous waters of Cheviot Beach on the Mornington Peninsular and never came back. He was presumed accidentally drowned.

Plans for memorials popped up all over the country. Even Holt's wife, Dame Zara, was quoted in *The Age* of 23 November 1968 as saying that proposals for memorials had 'gone too far ... People are being swept away by the memorial thing.'

The Melbourne City Council had its own plan for a local memorial. It would be a sun dial and would replace the old Grey Street Fountain in the Fitzroy Gardens. This was a step too far. The people rose in revolt. *The Age* reported that 170 East Melbourne residents signed a petition against the new memorial. The Council's own website gives 800 as the number, possibly from all over Melbourne.

Mrs Patterson, a guest-house proprietor who had lived at 119 Grey Street for 32 years, said 'the fountain was such a beautiful landmark that bridal couples and groups often had their pictures taken beside it.'

The fountain's three bowls are marked with the word GARNKIRK. Garnkirk is a small village near Glasgow, Scotland which was well-known in the 19th century for its fire-clay works. Its manufactured goods, mainly fire-bricks and furnace linings but also including garden ornaments, were sold around the world.

Erected in 1863 the Grey Street fountain is now celebrating its 160th year, thanks purely to the numbers of people who cared.

## OF GUMS AND MAYORS AND CHANGING PLANS: WEEDON RESERVE

*By Sylvia Black*



*The Weedon Reserve Sugar Gum.  
Photo: Sylvia Black*

For some time I have wondered about the origins of the big sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) which stands on the corner of Weedon Reserve where Wellington Parade splits into two, just before Hoddle Street. The sugar gum is a South Australian native so it is not remnant vegetation. So what were the circumstances surrounding its planting? It stands alone and is not part of any broader planting scheme, but was it once? It is on The National Trust's Register of Significant Trees which estimates its age as over 100 years and which gives it a classification of regional importance. It is unlikely that the tree predates the upheaval caused in the area by the construction of

the railway tunnel under Wellington Parade in 1901. My guess is that it was planted not long after. It appears in a rather blurry aerial view of East Melbourne in 1938, already looking quite well grown.

Apart from that I could find out nothing about the tree, but I did find out more about Weedon Reserve and its namesake, Sir Henry Weedon, lord mayor from 1905 to 1908.

The reserve seems to have been regarded more as wasteland than park for many years. *The Argus* of 2 Aug 1878 at last announced the good news that:

*some small reserves which have heretofore been rather an eye-sore and nuisance than otherwise, inasmuch as they favoured the accumulation of filth and largely contributed to the volumes of dust flying about during high winds-are to be enclosed and planted.*

This included the Wellington Parade reserve. Only two months later *The Leader* complained that the *pinus insignis* (now *pinus radiata*) were far too small. *The Leader* had words to say again, when on 10 May 1879 it grumbled that:



*... a number of oaks of large size were planted a year, ago; at the present the one-half of them are quite dead, while the remainder are in such an unthrifty miserable condition that it would be folly to allow them to remain.*

Henry Weedon meanwhile was growing up in Carlton. His father, also Henry, was a licensed victualer and licensee of Weedon's Hotel, Barkly Street, Carlton. Henry jnr grew up to be a painter and decorator and worked on some of Melbourne's most important buildings such as Parliament House and its library, the Melbourne Town Hall and Government House. With a good head for business he became a managing partner of Talma Photographic Studios of Sydney and Melbourne. Talma was a household name and had a reputation for high-quality work.

In 1899 Weedon was elected to the Melbourne City Council for Albert Ward, which he continued to represent until his death in 1921. He was lord mayor in 1905-08 and made an alderman in 1913. He entered Parliament in 1905, and was member for East Melbourne in the Legislative Assembly until 1911. In 1919 he was elected to the Legislative Council to represent the Melbourne province. He had involvement in an enormous number of major public institutions as life governor, trustee or board member, and was a leading Freemason.

Importantly, he was a faithful East Melbourne resident from 1896 until his death. After short stays at Burlington Terrace and 121 Gipps Street he moved to his first permanent address in 1899. This was Belvoir, 410 Albert Street, just up from Burlington Terrace and opposite St Patrick's Cathedral, now demolished for a car park. He was there for five years before moving to Yallambee, 35 Powlett Street, also demolished, this time for apartments.

As a city councillor he was chairman of the council's parks and gardens committee and of the Alexandra Gardens committee. Appropriately, in 1913, the City Council made the decision to name the long un-named patch of ground at the end of Wellington Parade Weedon Reserve. The newspapers did not allude to any fanfare or promises of new planting in Henry Weedon's honour. On 22 May 1923 the author of a letter to the editor of *The Herald* wrote that:

*I notice that the Weedon Reserve, at the end of Wellington Parade, where Richmond shakes hands with East Melbourne, has been shockingly neglected. Its beds are trampled flat and hard as a Riverina plain. The only things that thrive on them are aloes, a whole platoon of them, standing in stiff ugliness. The grass is moulting and dry; paper and rubbish of yesterweek and windblown against rusty barbed wire.*

By 1945 the reserve was still in bad shape and the City Council decided on a beautification scheme. A number of old trees would be removed, and the area redeveloped. Perhaps these were the trees that had been planted alongside the sugar gum and would have given it more context.

The current planting scheme of young eucalypts and palm trees was laid down in the 1990s. At last Sir Henry Weedon, honoured with this small patch of land bearing his name, need no longer be ashamed.



*Portrait of Cr Sir Henry Weedon (Lord Mayor 1905-08)  
BRUN, Vincenzo 1908, City of Melbourne Collection*

## MONKEY GRIP AND HELEN GARNER

*by Gay Sussex*

Monkey Grip was Helen Garner's first book. Published by McPhee Gribble in 1977 it has been selling consistently ever since. In 1978 it won Book of the Year and now is an established Australian classic.

McPhee Gribble first opened an office in South Yarra in 1975, moving to the Jolimont Lane office and underground bunker in East Melbourne in 1976 and from there to Drummond Street Carlton in 1980. It was in 1976 in Jolimont Lane that Helen Garner presented her book for possible publication. Today it is a classic, often described as the book that defined a generation.

Kath Kenny in *Staging a Revolution* writes:

*McPhee recalls the day at their half underground office in a laneway in East Melbourne when Helen arrived to tell us rather diffidently that she thought she might have written a novel. Would we take a look? They – McPhee and Gribble – read it overnight.*

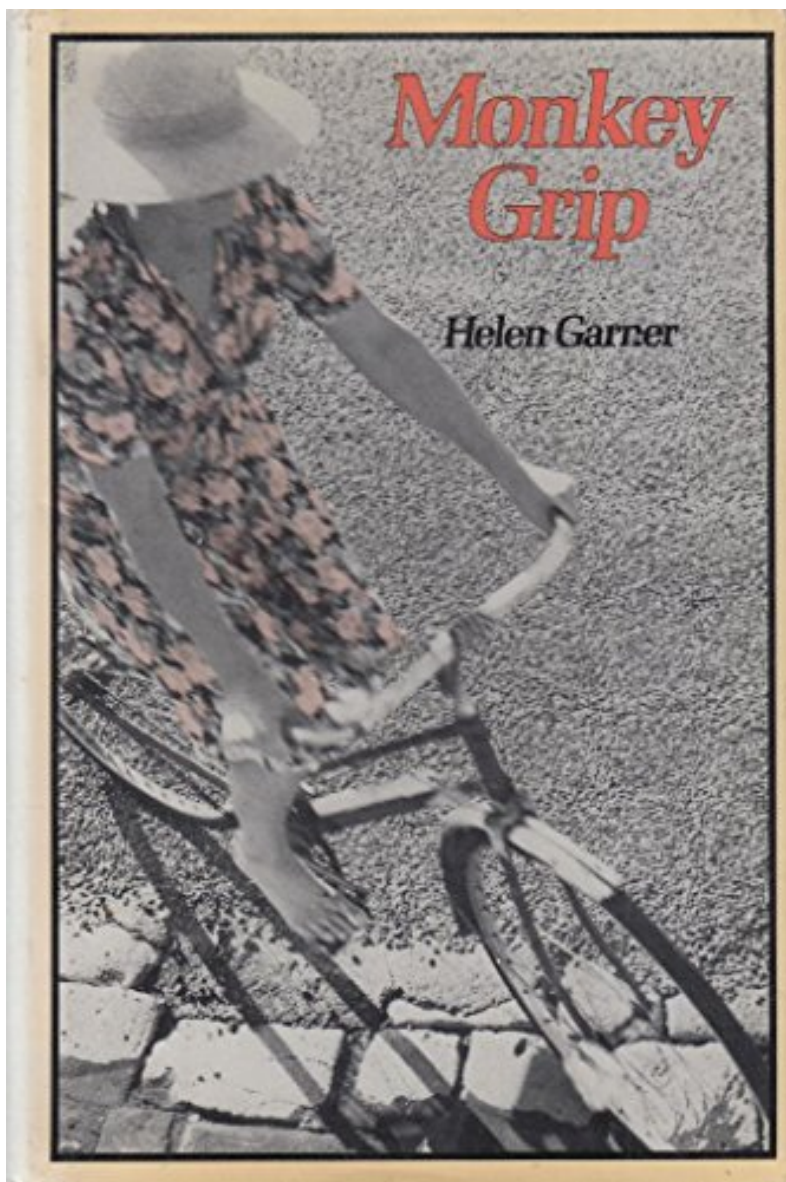
Charlotte Wood, in her introduction to the latest edition of *Monkey Grip* writes:

*Everything about the partnership of Hilary McPhee, Diana Gribble and Garner, all three aged in their thirties, was to become iconic, for it represented the wresting of Australia literature from the grip of conservative old men into the hands of radical young women.*

Garner has often been accused of recycling her diaries and generally she claimed that her work was fiction, but in 2002 she wrote in *Meanjin*:

*It's as if this were cheating. As if it were lazy. As if there were no work involved in keeping a diary in the first place: no thinking, no discipline, no creative energy, no intelligent or artful ordering of material; no choosing of material, for God's sake; no shaping of narrative; no ear for the music of human speech; no portrayal of the physical world; no free movement back and forth in time; no leaping between inner and outer; no examination of motive; no imaginative use of language. (You tell them Helen!)*

Although Garner did not give much attention to East Melbourne, concentrating rather on her share house stories and her heroine Nora in Carlton and Fitzroy, she can still increase our understanding of inner city Melbourne. Another area where *Monkey Grip* and East Melbourne cross is the treatment of drug addicted Javro at St Vincent's - not pleasant and not effective.



So if you remember the *Pram Factory*, *Betty can Jump* and the protest movement you will understand this book. Your library should have a copy or your teenage granddaughter will.

Bibliography

Brennan, Bernadette,

*A writing Life:*

*Helen Garner and her life.*

Highly recommended

Garner, Helen, *Monkey Grip*.

Garner's first book

Kenney, Kath,

*Staging a revolution, when Betty rocked the Pram.*

Recently published and an excellent coverage Sands & McDougall Post Office Directories.

*Monkey Grip,*  
*Cover of First Edition, 1977*



## THANKS, ANDREW, EAST MELBOURNE WILL MISS YOU

*by Jill Fenwick*

After thirty-five years as our local pharmacist, Andrew Pyman has retired. He will be sorely missed, always welcoming, knowledgeable and helpful to everyone who came into his pharmacy. During the Covid pandemic Andrew rose to the occasion, making his own hand-sanitiser when supplies were short, and collaborating with our wonderful local retired nurse, Shelley Faubel, to provide a vaccination service in his shop. We wish him and his wife Tanya well in their retirement and hope they have many years of happiness, with the first thing, a trip to England to see their daughter.



*Pyman's Pharmacy, 1956.  
140 Wellington Pde, East Melbourne*

Andrew is a third generation pharmacist, He was born in 1960, the third and youngest child in his family, with two older sisters, Jill and Jan. Their grandfather worked for the pharmaceutical firm of Felton Grimwade, formed in 1867. In 1902, the Melbourne Company went into a joint venture with A.M. Bickford and Sons (Adelaide) and in 1930, with another amalgamation of several smaller pharmaceutical companies, and which eventually became Drug Houses of Australia.

Andrew's father, James Bryce Pyman, followed in his father's footsteps. In 1950, a notice announcing his engagement to Anne Clarissa Ludemann, describing him as 'a science graduate studying Pharmacy'. By 1952 Jim Pyman was renting the Williams Pharmacy at 140 Wellington Parade, on the corner of Powlett Street, now the 7/11 store. When the owner, Mr. Williams, offered to sell the whole building to him Jim Pyman declined, his wife preferring that they remain tenants. He would later move to the current Drycleaners and then to the site of the present Post Office. The last move was to 84 Wellington Parade in 2004. The pharmacy was in close proximity to the local hospital, St Ives' Hospital in Vale Street and its closure in 1978 took away a good source of revenue, but East Melbournians had come to rely on Pyman's Pharmacy, with its helpful staff and highly valued Pharmacist.

These were the days when pharmacies were known as dispensaries, with the owner following a doctor's prescription and making up the product himself. One such product was Violet Powder, used by women before the invention of deodorant. As a small child, it was Andrew's job to weigh the Violet Powder and put it into a brown paper bag for the customer to take home. When the levels in the barrel were low, Andrew's father would lift him into the barrel to scrape out the remaining powder. Washing bottles was another chore he undertook, as was caring for the leeches which were kept on damp cotton wool and dispensed to local doctors. His sisters had the job of counting the pills into small bottles

Andrew's schooling was at Caulfield Grammar and then, in his father's footsteps, he was accepted into the Pharmacy College in Royal Parade, Carlton North. He enjoyed his studies, but dropped out before graduating, finishing the year as a Builders' Labourer, before moving to Geelong's Deakin University to do a chemistry course, returning to the Pharmacy College in 1987 to finish his degree, his 'second go' seeing him win prizes and become a fully qualified pharmacist. In 1988, his father died and Andrew stepped up to running the Pharmacy. By then he had met and married his wife, Tanya, then still a medical student, undertaking a 4 year Family Medicine Programme and qualifying as a G.P. (General Practitioner). The wedding was held in the Fitzroy Gardens.

I can't pay higher tribute to Andrew than this from Isobel M., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

*Mr Andrew Pyman is an absolute delight to see and deal with. He always has the time of day for you, is very thorough, helpful, friendly and warm. He was SOOOO incredibly accommodating when I needed his signature on my stack of visa docs.*

*Unfortunately, we no longer live in East Melbourne, but my hubby is fortunate enough to still work in the area: Wish all pharmacists were like Mr Pyman.*

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 21 June at 7.30 p.m.

### **The Art of Being Melbourne**

In her Royal Historical Society of Victoria award-winning book *The Art of Being Melbourne*, Maree Coote creates a clever history of Melbourne as seen through artworks of Melbourne's urban landscape. Art meets History as she tracks the Melbourne zeitgeist through 20 decades of art from 1835 to today.

For the first time, the colonial mavericks, Impressionist masters, iconic Moderns and young contemporaries come together in a single volume to describe the city, its development, and the parallel invocation of our culture and identity.

*The Art of Being Melbourne* went on to win the New York Independent Publisher Award.

Wednesday, 16 August at 7.30 p.m.

### **Che Fortuna**

Dominic Bonadio, who most of us know as Dom from Il Duca restaurant, as a lockdown project, got to work writing his family story. Dom will bring this story to life for us in what is sure to be a talk both historically interesting and entertaining. As he puts it:

*I have owned restaurants in East Melbourne since 1981 so most of my working life has been in the area. The name of the book is Che Fortuna and is about my grandfather who went to US in 1900 to my father being a POW in Algeria in WW2 to him coming to Australia in 1952 and then subsequently to my life in the hospitality industry since 1972.*

Both events at the  
East Melbourne Library,  
122 George Street, East Melbourne.

**Cover Image:**

*Grey Street fountain, Fitzroy Gardens, 2023. Photo: Sylvia Black*