

Hawthorn Historical Society

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Newsletter - November 2017

VALE PROF. WESTON BATE

Professor Weston Bate was a founding member of the Hawthorn Historical Society, it's first Vice-President from 1974 until 1979 and President from 1980 to 1988.

We reproduce here a tribute from Professor Richard Broome published by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.



"The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and the community History Movement in Victoria is saddened by the passing of one its greatest sons, Professor Weston Bate, on 31 October.

"Weston Bate was born in Surrey Hills Melbourne, son of Mary Olive Akers, a Californian and Ernest Bate an English-born engineer. He attended Surrey Hills primary for three years before moving to Scotch College. He then served in the RAAF and flew Lancaster bomber missions from England.

"After the war he enrolled at the University of Melbourne under a serviceman's tertiary scholarship and was captivated by

History under the tutelage of Max Crawford and his few staff. Weston began teaching at Brighton Grammar in 1949, under the headship of Philip Wilson his future father-in-law, taking teacher training classes each afternoon. He began a part time MA in 1950, while teaching. His marriage to life-long partner Janice Wilson in 1955, and their four of six children being born before 1962, delayed the MA. It then became the ground breaking A History of Brighton (1962, 1983).

"After fifteen years of teaching at Brighton Grammar and Melbourne Grammar, Weston was appointed to the History Department at the University of Melbourne, where he became a passionate and captivating lecturer. He became Professor of Australian Studies at Deakin University in 1978 before retiring in 1989.

"If his History of Brighton set new standards in local history, Lucky City (1978) and his second volume of Ballarat's history, Life After Gold (1993) set new heights in goldfields community history. This writing assisted in the creation of Sovereign Hill, which honours him with the Weston Bate annual lecture. In retirement he wrote histories of Geelong and Melbourne Grammar, of the Metropolitan and Barwon Heads golf clubs (for he was a skilled player into his nineties), a wonderful book on Melbourne laneways and other publications. He also published a chat book of love poems to the Mornington Peninsula, Haphazard Quilt (2006).

"Weston Bate served on the Museum Advisory Board in the 1980s. He was a long-serving member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and was awarded a Fellowship of the Society in 1991. Weston served on the RHSV Council for fifteen years from 1990 and as President of the RHSV from 1991-97 and 2002-05. His greatest gift was to energise all those he met and to inspire historical societies across the state to pursue history with more skill, passion and tenacity."

"The RHSV sends its deepest sympathy to his wife Janice Bate, their children James, Rosemary, Tristan, Nicholas, Linden and Christopher, their partners and their families. His last days were spent peacefully at Cabrini Prahran with close friends and his much loved and loving family by his side. A passionate life force finally quelled."

Richard Broome

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JOHN COLIN MCINTOSH ROSE

Late in 2016 the Society was contacted by a researcher in Armadale, NSW concerning a WW2 pilot who had been born in Hawthorn and who had lost his life over France in 1942. A team in France had found the remains of his Lancaster bomber and was working to erect a memorial to the air-crew. One of the crew was John Colin McIntosh Rose. It was a fortunate co-incidence that we were able to put the search team in touch with Alison Stawell, a member of the Society and niece of Flight Lieutenant Rose. The Rose family have kindly shared this information about this airman.

JOHN COLIN MCINTOSH ROSE was born on 21 November 1921, at 81 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn. He was the third son of Charles William ROSE, a civil engineer, and Thirza Mary (nee Turner). He was named John after his grandfather John Rose, and the name McIntosh for his grandmother Annie McDougall McIntosh. In the family he was known as Colin Rose.

Colin attended Malvern Grammar School, and had commenced an engineering degree at Melbourne University when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on 5 January 1941.



He joined the RAAF 103 Squadron, and was a Flight Lieutenant based at RAF Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire, in the United Kingdom. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in November 1942 for his courage, determination and skilled flying.

On 21 December 1942 he was the pilot of an Avro Lancaster (W4787) that took off from the RAF base at Elsham Wolds for an operation on Munich, being one of 137 aircraft that took part in this operation on that night. The aircraft was either hit by flak or shot down by an enemy night fighter, and crashed near Maubeuge.

Colin's oldest brother, William McIntosh Rose, remembered him as the 'clown' of the family, often playing tricks on his mother and joking with his brothers. His loss was hard for all of the family, especially for his parents, who did not have confirmation of Colin's presumed death until July 1943.

In the village of Solre le Château near the border with Belgium, on 27th August 2017, a memorial was unveiled with all due honour in memory of the flight crew of Avro Lancaster W4787.

EVENTS

There was a packed house for our **Melbourne Mansions Seminar** on **Saturday 19th August**. We had four excellent speakers, Prof Miles Lewis, Mark Weller, and Maree and Barbara Wilding, whose topics complemented each other well.

Prof Lewis gave our inaugural **Michael O'Grady Lecture** and spoke about the internal arrangements of 19th Century houses in Melbourne with many interesting examples which demonstrated how they operated and how people managed their lives.



Mark Weller's talk centred around the renovation and decoration of his Victorian home and the traditional techniques used for embellishment.

Maree and Barbara Wilding shared the history of paper hangings in the late 19th and early 20th century and the research which was undertaken to revive their production.

There was good interest in the several displays targeting some important local estates, some of which have been divided up. This exhibition showed off part of the Society's collection of maps and photographs.

On Saturday 16th September, Curator and Historian, **Marjorie Delvean** opened up to us the life and work of the **Athenaeum** in Collins Street, Melbourne. It started life as one of the earliest Mechanic Institutes in Melbourne; almost as soon as Melbourne was settled. The *Athenaeum* has been a part of Melbourne life for nearly 180 years. Marjorie shared with us the many changes in the building structure and how the populace has enjoyed the library, the entertainments and the learning which has taken place there. She also dealt with queries as to how to preserve one's precious family memorabilia.

Jan O'Connell was our guest speaker at the **Annual General Meeting** on October 21st. Jan's background in copywriting and advertising has led to a lifelong fascination with the people and the companies associated with the food industry. Her first book, *Me & My Big Mouth* is to be followed shortly by a new book called *A Timeline of Australian Food: From Mutton to Masterchef*. She also hosts a website also entitled *A Timeline of Australian Food*.

Jan introduced the audience to eleven influential people associated with food in Australia since colonial times; as Jan called them, "Australian Food Heroes". These included Edward Abbott who wrote the first Australian cookbook in 1864, the 'Rowland Catering' of their day Messrs. Spiers and Pond and of course, a local Hawthorn favourite Cr Joseph Fowler who brought us Fowler's Vacola bottling kits.

This was a truly fascinating talk. Jan has put the substance of the talk as well as her overheads on her website; so if you missed it you can see it for the first time or you can live it all over again. This is the link to the material: <http://meandmybigmouth.com.au/australias-food-heroes/>

GEMS FROM FACEBOOK

There is a wonderful group of Facebook followers who are generous in sharing their memories of Hawthorn. Faye, who now lives in Western Australia, recalls growing up in Munro Street near 'The Quarry' Fritsch-Holzer Brick works.

"As a child if I looked over our back fence there was enough room to play football between the back fence and the edge of the Quarry. As time went by the edge of the Quarry came closer towards our back fence and eventually there was about 8 metres between the back fence and the Quarry edge, even a closer distance between our neighbour's back fence and the quarry edge.

There was a large round brick drain that ran under the road and under the neighbour's rear yard into the quarry. When we were kids we used to climb down to the drain and watch the empty trolleys going down to the bottom of the quarry and trolleys full of rock going up to the Kilns. In approximately 1973 (I think) this drain collapsed and the neighbour lost a good deal of his rear yard. Most of his 40 year old ferns, his work shed, tools etc. are now at the bottom of the quarry.

"Many years earlier, about 1959, a four year old boy climbed under the double gate and fell down the quarry to his death. Many of the local kids had ways to get into the quarry and often climbed down to the bottom using what was called "the work-men's track". There was a large playground at the end of the street which had a maypole, monkey bar, swings, seesaw and a slide. There was an area of land beside the playground that was grassed where the boys played football and when Guy Fawkes Day came around, people would bring wood etc. to build a huge bonfire in the middle of this oval. The young boys in our street would make the "Guy" to go on the top of the bonfire. Many people attended, letting off a huge variety of fireworks. The next day all the kids would look around for the unlit fireworks.

"The Bowling Green was a big attraction and still is. My Aunt's home in Fletcher Street was purchased by the Bowling Green and knocked down.

"I recall when I was 11 or 12 and the bread was being delivered. It was delivered by horse and cart. The driver of the bread cart was Dave Elliot, a family man who came down Munro Street selling bread from the back of his cart. He would arrive at our house at about lunch time and he would leave his horse and cart at the side of the street to deliver my mother's order. He also brought in extra bread and mum would make him a sandwich and a cup of tea before he continued on his way. One time, my friend Johnny stole a loaf of bread from the cart and ran down the laneway to the Council store-yard to eat it. The bread was beautiful and fresh and smelt lovely!

"Fond memories of my childhood days; I hope you enjoyed my thoughts."

Thanks for these memories Faye, We did indeed enjoy reading them; we can just taste that bread!

BOROONDARA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES - JOINT EXHIBITION **EARLY MAPS OF BOROONDARA**

The six historical societies in Boroondara have come together to mount this exhibition. If you love poring over old maps and seeing early photographs you will not want to miss this.

In the Corridor Gallery at the **Camberwell Library**... until the end of November.

A REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Our membership year runs from 1st October.
Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership already.

If you are not sure whether you are a current member, send an email to
hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com OR contact our Treasurer, Pam, on 0400 644 042

Here are the details:

Current membership fees :

Family Membership: \$35.00	Family (concession) \$25.00
Single: \$25.00	Single (concession) \$20.00

Direct Payment to our Bank account:

By EFTPOS: BSB 033 050 Account: 146 383

The Hawthorn Historical Society (Please include your surname so we can track your payment)

Our mailing address

Cheques can be mailed to:

The Treasurer,
Hawthorn Historical Society Inc.
584 Glenferrie Road Hawthorn 3122

A HOME FOR HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce that the Boroondara Council has found a home for our Society in Inglesby Road Camberwell. We will be sharing premises with both Camberwell and Canterbury Historical Societies but will have our own dedicated office. This will be a place to store our collection and records and to meet with researchers. Although it is not in Hawthorn, our Council, through the good work of Kate Brewster, is seeking to find more permanent premises closer to the centre of Hawthorn.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We have the office but we need to furnish it. We are looking for good quality office furniture, bookshelves, chairs, desks or tables. If you think you can help out please ring Libby on 9889 7498 and we'll measure up to see if it will fit the room.

COMING EVENTS – some dates for 2018

We already have some interesting speakers lined up for next year so put these dates in your diary now:

Saturday 17th February 2018 – **James Nicolas** has long connections with Hawthorn and many memories and family stories to share. His current project concerns the history of the Auburn Amateur Football Club.

Saturday 17th March 2018 – **Paul Mishura** is the archivist at Scotch College. He has a wealth of interesting material concerning the history of the school in Hawthorn, its pupils and its buildings, including Leighwood House and the Glen mansion.

COMING EVENTS - continued

A Tour of Burnley Gardens



Wednesday 29th November 10 – 11 am
Meet at the Administration Block
Contact us for detailed instructions about how to get there.
If you require a lift, this can be arranged.
Cost: \$8

Established by the Horticulture Society of Victoria in 1861, The Burnley Gardens were set up to introduce new plants to the colonies, and to promote botanical and horticultural science. This it has done for over 150 years.

Conducted by a guide from the Friends of Burnley Gardens our tour will be exploring this history. We will see heritage trees dating back to the 1850's, and distinctive areas such as the Herb Garden, Grey Garden, Rose Garden and Native Garden.

FINAL EVENT FOR THE YEAR

Join us for an end of year celebration

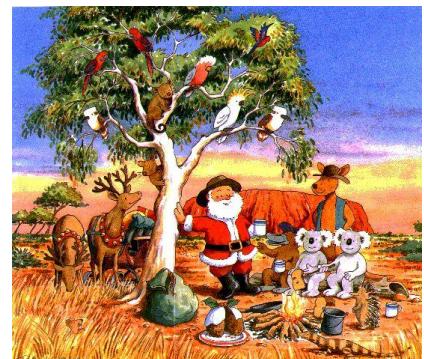
Sunday 3rd December, 4 pm to 6 pm

AUBURN HOTEL 85 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn East 3122

Enquiries for both events:

hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Or 9819 1218



<http://www.hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au>

Hawthorn Historical Society Inc.

ABN 85 074 207 584

PATRON John Pesutto MP, Member for Hawthorn

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