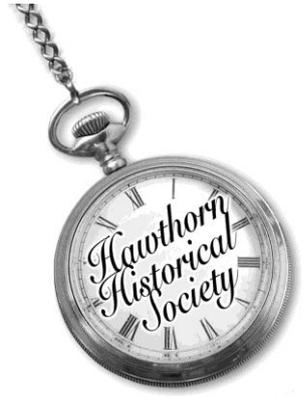


Hawthorn Historical Society



Newsletter • February 2016



Betty Marginson
A.M.
1923 – 2015

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Hawthorn Historical Society

Hawthorn Historical Society is affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Postal Address: Box 8, Hawthorn Community Precinct,
584 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn. 3122

Phone: 9278 4666 (this is the library telephone – you may leave a message)

Email: hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	Ms Elizabeth Yewers	9819 1218 lizyewers@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Ms Elizabeth Love	9889 7498 e.a.love@bigpond.net.au
SECRETARY/ MINUTES	Ms Andrae Talarico	0411 980 523
TREASURER / PUBLIC OFFICER	Ms Pamela Carter	0400 644 042
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Lindy Bajurnow Ramona De Niese	
LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE	Letizia Mondello	9278 4666

Hawthorn Historical Society Publications

Faint traces: Chinese in Hawthorn before the Second World War

Diane Nicholas & Mary Sheehan, \$15

Hawthorn streets index

Gwen McWilliam, (reprinted 2004) **OUT OF STOCK**

Street Walks

Village Walk (revised 2015) - \$7.50

Other Walks by Gwen McWilliam, \$5 per set

Publications can now be purchased on our website. Prices include postage



We can now send out your newsletter by email!

hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

If you would like to receive future newsletters this way.

Hawthorn History Walks

Discover the history of Hawthorn with a series of self-guided walks produced by the Hawthorn Historical Society.

Sets for the walks are available from Hawthorn Library for \$5.00 each.



Welcome

Dear Members and Friends

It was lovely to see so many attend our AGM at the end of last year. It was a time to celebrate many things including the appointment of our patron **John Pesutto MP**. We are delighted to have him on our team. In addition, we were delighted to award a Life Membership of the Society to past President **Shirley Ramsay** whose leadership over many years was marked by her graciousness and ability to encourage others in their work. There is a report and financial statement in this newsletter for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

We were also pleased to welcome **Dr Elizabeth Rushen** as our guest speaker talking about her research into female migration in the 1830's. A review of one of her books, which is in the Boroondara library, follows.

We plan to start the year with a **Picnic in the Park** on Sunday 14th February. We'll be at the Morang Road Reserve from 12.30pm so do drop in and take the opportunity to pop across the road and look at the Wurrundjeri Garden; Hawthorn as it might have looked before European settlement.

In March we will be looking for volunteers to staff our marquee at the **Glenferrie Road Festival** (Sunday 6th March). Again we hope to have a "Who's Been Living in my House?" and some child-friendly activities as well. The best thing about this Festival is the ability to chat with people about the history of the area and to hear about their interest in their suburb.

We are hoping for fine weather on 2nd April when we will hold a street/ riverside walk in the vicinity of **Creswick street**. So keep the afternoon free.

Our **Local History Room** sessions start on Wednesday February 10th from 11am to 1pm. It is a relaxed opportunity to work on your projects, ask some questions or catch up with friends. We can always find you something to work on as well if you need some guidance. We have received memorabilia related to a family of early Hawthorn residents which will need to be indexed; an interesting project to be involved with.

Did you know that Hawthorn Historical Society is affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria? This entitles our members to use their extensive library and to attend lectures for no cost. Their current exhibition **"Nail Can to Knighthood: The life of Sir Macpherson Robertson KBE"**, is well worth a visit too. The exhibition runs until March 4th (10am to 4pm M – Th, 10am to 3pm F). The RHSV is located in the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett Street (at the western end). Flagstaff Station is an easy walk away.

We trust that 2016 will bring you much to engage your interest and also opportunities to be involved in some exciting historical projects. We are planning some varied activities, walks and talks and welcome your suggestions and involvement. Looking forward to an active year together.

Elizabeth Yewers
President

REMINDER – We'd hate to lose you from our membership. Our financial year runs from October to September. If you haven't renewed your subscription this is your reminder. Can't remember if you paid? Contact our Treasurer Pam. Her contact details are on Page 2.

Vale – Betty Marginson

Vale - Betty Marginson 3.2.1923 - 18. 2.2015.



Betty Marginson, one of Hawthorn's outstanding dynamic community leaders, sadly passed away before Christmas at the age of 92 years. Betty May Reilly was born the youngest child of a shopkeeper's family in 1923 and grew up during the depression. She was educated at Williamstown High School then trained as a teacher, becoming the first generation of her family to attend University. Active in student politics at Melbourne University she became vice president of the Student's Representative Council in 1946 and was Victorian Minute Secretary for the Council of Civil Liberties.

She married Ray Marginson, a Commonwealth public servant in 1947 and raised four children as she returned eventually to teaching. Her particular interests then were in special education and migrant learning and she taught migrant English at West Hawthorn Primary School.

She became involved in the local Hawthorn community and in abortion law reform and friends encouraged her to stand for council in 1972. As a Hawthorn councilor for nine years, she was particularly proud of the progress made in preschool education and the establishment of a community Recreation Centre. She became Hawthorn's first female Mayor in 1976-77, at a time when heritage conservation needed a strong supporter and advocate. Betty was also the first woman elected to the executive committee of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Among her many contributions following her retirement from council, Betty was chair of State Consultative Council on Senior Citizens, on the Council of the University College of Melbourne University and founding president and Life Member of the Local Chapter of University of the Third Age. She was awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal in 1977, an Order of Australia for her service in 1993 and is listed on the honour roll as one of 200 "Women shaping the nation" at Victoria's Parliament House.

Elizabeth Love

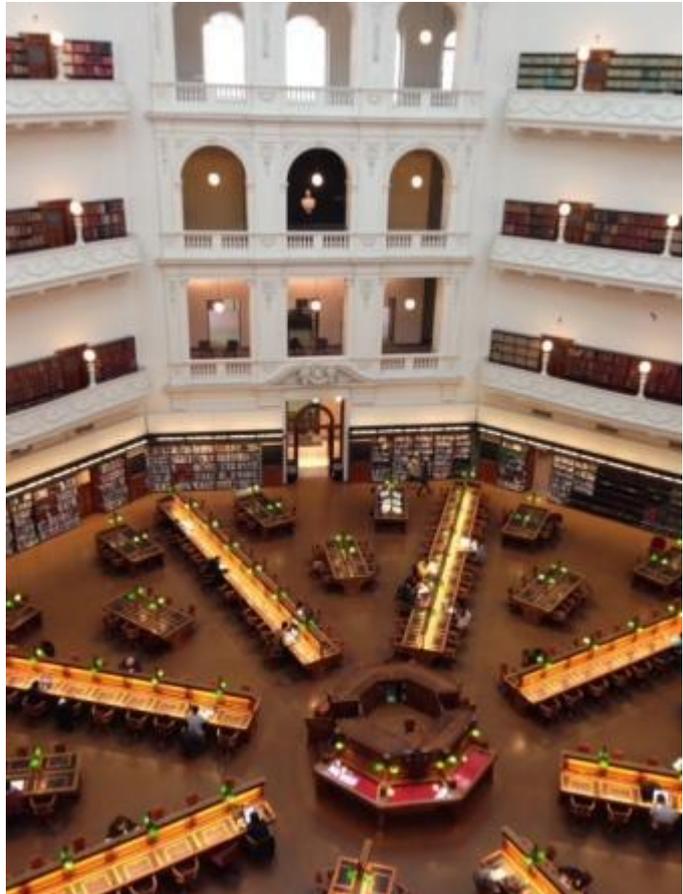
Acknowledgement: Betty Marginson Obituary: First-generation uni student in the front lines when Australian women were on the march by Simon Marginson, Sydney Morning Herald, January 8, 2016.

Article

Our State Library - A true gem

A short article about the State Library of Victoria has been in the pipeline for some time but as there are so many points of interest, the problem has been 'where to start'.

The library is indeed a gem that has contributed significantly, architecturally, historically and culturally to the fabric of life in Melbourne. A Public library, instigated by Lieutenant Governor La Trobe and Mr Justice Redmond Barry, has been on the same site since 1856. The original building, Queen's reading room is still there but time has witnessed many improvements and additions, a front portico (1870) and magnificent domed reading room (1913), so the structure we see today is really a collection of 23 individual buildings. At various times these also housed the Public Records Office, Museum Victoria and the National Gallery of Victoria



If you haven't paid the State Library a visit recently you are missing out. I recently went on a fascinating *behind the scenes* tour of the library. Not only does a visitor see the many public facilities on offer such as the Genealogical Reading Room and the Newspaper Reading room but also non-public areas including the connecting underground passageways, cataloguing and restoration areas, the arts and educational archives and the Catacombs Store containing unwanted items such as original furniture and lights.

The library has a superb collection including books, diaries, pamphlets and journals. It adds about 70,000 items each year and in 2015 received a \$5 million bequest of rare English books from the estate of John Emerson. Although the Library is no longer a lending library, the public and members have access to a huge catalogue and databases. Items can be ordered for inspection and staff will respond to email queries. The library still conducts traditional library and children's activities, but also holds many screenings, popular talks, classes and workshops, on topics such as using the library's e-resources from home, preserving photographs or memorabilia or researching family history.

On a separate visit I was fascinated by the sample of historic maps on view in the map room and was delighted to locate some maps featuring Hawthorn. The library has free wi-fi, a bookshop, a café, as well as space for temporary and permanent exhibitions.

One day whilst passing down Swanston Street I detoured and spent a wonderful hour at a delightful exhibition. *The Australian Sketchbook* featured 200 works, watercolours and drawings by T.S. Gill who insightfully and humorously depicted colonial life in nineteenth century Melbourne. Although his exhibition has now concluded you can still view it on the library's online gallery.



Those who are homebound for whatever reason can still enjoy many of the benefits of the library. Newspapers and magazines both current and past can be viewed on line. Anyone interested in history can explore the enormous collection of journals, digitalized maps, newspapers, postcards and photographs available to be viewed at home on your computer. The State Library website [It is one of my constant companions when I am involved in a topic of research, as I may use the **search and discover** feature numerous times over the course of a few days or even hours. \[slv.vic.gov.au\]\(http://slv.vic.gov.au\)](http://slv.vic.gov.au)

Hopefully this small introduction to the library may encourage some of you to consider becoming a Friend of the Library and supporting the library financially or as a volunteer whilst also learning about the programs, lectures and projects available. However my first suggestion is to go and visit, and when you are ready for a break sit on the front lawn near St George and his dragon and enjoy watching life and the people of Melbourne go by.

Elizabeth Love

Dates for Your Diary

Local History Room – Hawthorn Library 11am to 1pm

Wednesday 10th February

Wednesday 24th February

Wednesday 9th March

Wednesday 23rd March

Wednesday 13th April

Wednesday 27th April

Wednesday 11th May

Wednesday 25th May

Committee meets – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Local History Room

14th February 2016 – 12.30 pm onwards

To launch the year and to enjoy some time together, you are invited to bring a picnic lunch to Morang Road Reserve. The reserve is a short step to the Wurundjeri gardens so take the opportunity to visit.

Glenferrie Road Festival – Sunday 6th March 2016

We will be looking for volunteers for the day

2nd April 2016 – A street walk, Creswick street area.

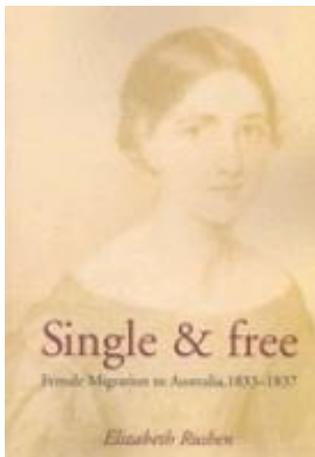
Recent Research Queries

If you can add any information, photos or anecdotes please contact the Society.

- ❖ Charles Darrell Merrett, Australian Flying Corps pilot WW1. Published article by Bob Owen in response to research given to the author by Elizabeth Love.
- ❖ City of Boroondara is seeking historical information about the Church Street shopping precinct near Barkers Road in order to develop some interpretive signage
- ❖ The Farrar family seeking information about several forebears who operated a grocery store at #2 Bell Street, Hawthorn through the 1920's
- ❖ Malvern Historical Society has asked for help in identifying a photograph
- ❖ Margot Dorum is researching the St Josephs School & Chapel, soon to be St Josephs Mews. If you have any photos she would be most interested
- ❖ Relatives of George and John Collier are seeking information about these early cabmen who operated around Camberwell and Hawthorn in the 1890's & early 1900's

Book Review

It was a delight to welcome Dr Elizabeth Rushen to our AGM in 2015 and to hear about the life and work of James Pinnock who was an emigration agent and Hawthorn pioneer. His home The Hawthorns is still standing in Creswick Street.



“Single and Free- Female Migration to Australia 1833 - 1837” is one of several of her books held by the Boroondara library service. It outlines the work of the London Emigration Committee (LEC) in its purpose to enhance both the colonies and the lives of women in poor circumstances by sponsoring the emigration of women to Australia. The scheme was intended to give able young women opportunities to improve their lot in life in Australia; it would redress the gender balance and bring a civilizing influence to the young colony.

Some 2,700 women arrived in the colonies through this programme. The LEC carefully selected women from varied backgrounds with agricultural & household skills; both educated and semi-literate. This is a scholarly work, easy to read which brings together statistical information & personal recollections from diaries and letters. It illustrates the path of the women from selection, through the three-month journey to their lives and employment after arrival. I particularly enjoyed the excerpts from letters which gave a rich understanding of the varied experiences and contributions made by these women to Australia.

A recommended read if you like getting into the details of a story.

Library call number: **325.241 RUS**

Elizabeth Yewers

HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ABN 85 074 207 584

ANNUAL REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2014 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

This year has seen good signs of growth in the Society, thanks to a hard working committee and some wonderful contributions from our members. We've had opportunities to engage with our local community and with one another and to hear, learn and be fascinated by new insights. We have embraced social media and found a whole world of like-minded souls. We've grappled with changes to local planning and zoning schemes and sought to preserve the memories and images of Hawthorn in the face of the changing face of our suburb.

The Local History Room at the Hawthorn Library has continued to be a good place for members to connect with one another and to pursue their research interests. We are there each 2nd and 4th Wednesday. On Wednesday 22nd July we were delighted to welcome **John Pesutto MP, Member for Hawthorn**, to meet with members. He takes a keen interest in local history and was interested in our projects and plans for the future. We also discussed our perspectives on urban planning and how we can best balance preservation of our heritage with urban growth.

Such was his enthusiasm for local history that we invited him to be a Patron of our Society. We are delighted that he has accepted.

We were saddened by the passing of Ruth Dwyer, in June 2015. Ruth was our friend, colleague and long-standing committee member who made a significant contribution in numerous capacities to the Society over many years. She was a careful researcher and fine writer whose scholarship will be missed. Elizabeth Love is making a compilation of the articles she wrote over the years for the Society and we will be republishing these in our newsletters from time to time.

MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Our **Annual General Meeting** last year was a cause for celebration being the 40th anniversary of the founding of our society. We were honoured to welcome many distinguished guests and old friends, amongst them Foundation Members of the Society, Prof Weston Bate, a past President and his wife Janice and Albert Isaacs who was the first editor of the newsletter. Prof Bate, kindly consented to cut a 40th Anniversary cake to much acclaim.

We were pleased to have Dr Peter Love, Senior Lecturer in Politics and Public Policy at Swinburne University speak to our meeting on "*The Eastern Suburbs Technical College - Swinburne, from Technical College to University*". He gave a scholarly and entertaining overview of Swinburne University from its establishment as the Eastern Suburbs Technical College in 1908 by George Swinburne, a former mayor of Hawthorn and Victorian parliamentarian.

We farewelled Shirley Ramsay as President of the Society and as a member of the committee and we have missed her calm and gracious guidance at the committee meetings but not from an active involvement in the Society. In 2015 we are pleased to award her Life Membership of the Society in recognition of her years of service.

If the 2014 **Glenferrie Road Festival** was a wash-out, Sunday March 22nd this year compensated in spades. It was the perfect day for the event and the crowds were out in force. Our display included old photos and maps. We offered a 'Who's been Living in my House?' service for a small donation and had an 'I Spy' activity for children to find local historical landmarks with their parents. We had some wonderful engagement with the community, gained some members and people signing up for walks.

The following Saturday 28th March was the occasion for our **Beswicke's Harcourt Street History Walk**. John Beswicke designed many extraordinary homes in this prestigious street and our guide was none other than his grandson, Ken Bethell, also an architect and author of the book about Beswicke's work. Mr Bethell's knowledge of the architecture, the architect and his family was, as expected, exemplary. We were also fortunate to be invited into two of the homes. The day finished with a fine afternoon tea and much conversation.

In this centenary year of the landing at Gallipoli, April saw the launch of the Gallipoli & Beyond programme of events which was a combined effort of the City of Boroondara and its history societies, **John Torpey**, representing the Hawthorn Historical Society as well as Kew RSL. He undertook some fine research on the soldier memorials from WW1. **Celebrating our ANZACs** was a joint event between St Columbs Anglican Church and the Historical Society on 23rd May. This was the result of a project researching those who enlisted from this parish in World War 1. Phoebe Costello and Elizabeth Yewers were the speakers at this event.

We organised a **New Members Welcome Drinks** at the Glenferrie Hotel in June. It was a great turn out and went off so well that we plan to do it again next year. We welcomed a number of new members and also reconnected with some others we hadn't seen for a while.

June saw us visit **The Fabulous Miss Phryne Fisher** exhibition of costumes at Ripponlea and in July **Albert Isaacs** gave a fascinating talk on **Hawthorn in 1910**. Drawing on the writings of Colles and Dew in 1910, Albert shared insights about our local area and how life might have been lived here 105 years ago. Albert was the first editor of the Hawthorn Historical Society Newsletter and has wide experience in speaking about local matters of historical interest. There was lively discussion and it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Elizabeth Love has been researching the Hawthorn West area for many years and this year produced a revised "**Hawthorn Village Walk**" for the Society. On September 5th she was our guide for a walk unfolding the plans and development of the original village of Hawthorn. Elizabeth brought considerable knowledge of the development of the precinct and the stories of the early residents, low and high-born. An interesting selection of early maps and photographs added to the story.

We were pleased to be invited to two different events in October. We manned a table at the **Seniors Festival** at the Hawthorn Arts Centre and made some good contacts. We

were also invited to attend a thanksgiving service at Christ Church to mark the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of Henry Creswick to the colony of Victoria.

We decided to hold an event for History Week which would encourage our members to tell their stories of discovery. **Look What I've Discovered! - Hawthorn History Show and Tell** was held on Saturday 24th October and what a spectacular event it was. This was a huge undertaking; an exhibition and six short talks in an afternoon. Particular thanks to our speakers, Jim Love, Rob Gray, Ramona De Niese, John Torpey and Elizabeth Love and to those who donated items for the exhibition, in particular Sandra Torpey, Ian Hammet and Michael Talarico. The event was such a success that we are keen to repeat it next year. It was an occasion which proved that we have talent and interests in abundance within our society.

PROJECTS

We have continued to work with our Swinburne team, now graduated, on an ad hoc basis to complete the History Walk App. We have seen considerable progress on this project but it is not yet complete. We are grateful to our faithful team who have been juggling work and life commitments to do this pro bono work.

Your committee has been coming to grips with Heritage Places Nominations prompted by the new Boroondara Planning Scheme and been in discussion with the Council's Strategic Planning body. There has been a hard working community group called Precinct 24 which encompasses the area between Church Street and the Yarra River. This group is seeking to minimize the impact of new zoning in the area and we have been able to give some guidance about historical aspects of the precinct.

We have made an audit of the Heritage Plaques which were erected in 1985 and may need replacement. and plan to approach Boroondara Council with a proposal to restore or create new plaques. We are photographing each house in the St James Park heritage precinct and collecting current information about these houses. We have collected, scanned, or photographed material related to Hawthorn and add newspaper articles relevant to Hawthorn under our Trove account at National Library of Australia. It is important to keep a record of now for future generations and we have continued to photograph houses and keep a current real-estate file.

We were pleased this year to receive a grant from the RHSV for the production of a pop-up banner which now has pride of place at all our events.

TECHNOLOGY

As well as managing our website, Elizabeth Love has been managing our Facebook page and we are connecting with people with a wide & varying range of interests. We have made a number of new links and had Facebook dialogue with other historical societies as well as the City of Boroondara, Ephemera Society, State Library of Victoria, Boroondara Arts Centre, The Hawthorn Rowing Club and more. While some 300 people (and rising) follow us and receive our regular updates, our reach is much broader as these people 'like' or 'share' with their friends. Many of these people spent their early years in Hawthorn and even if they have moved away still make valuable contributions by posting their recollections and old photos. The discussions are diverse; the list includes old houses, Hawthorn icons, the tramways, the Wurundjeri people, corner shops, school photos, football and churches.

PUBLICATIONS

Elizabeth Yewers is now formatting the quarterly newsletter but the Boroondara Library Service continues to help out with printing, thanks to **Jayne Ginger**. Thank you to all those who have contributed articles.

Elizabeth Love and Elizabeth Yewers have also continued to contribute regular articles concerning local history to the Glenferrie Times which is distributed by the Glenferrie Traders Association. In gratitude for our contributions they have offered us a donation which we will put towards reprinting the Hawthorn Streets Index by Gwen McWilliam which is now out of stock.

COMMITTEE

We gained two new members to our committee over the year. We have been pleased to welcome **Letizia Mondello** representing the Boroondara Library Service. Letizia is the new library Team Leader at Hawthorn. It is good to have her input to our discussions and eases the use by us of the library resources. We also welcome **Ramona De Niese**. Ramona's family history includes several connections with Hawthorn which she shared at the History Show and Tell day. Thanks go to **Pam Carter** who has capably taken over the job of Treasurer and to **Andrae Talarico** and **Lindy Bajurnow** for their contributions to the smooth running of the organization over the year.

Particular thanks go to **Elizabeth Love** who has worked so hard this year; who has been researching and responding to queries, writing articles, managing the website and facebook, photographing our area and organizing our material. Above all, Elizabeth has a creative vision of where our Society can go and a desire to help us go there.

While we have many fine events this year, our society is about more than events. Our desire is to encourage people in their own research and to have them add to the corpus of knowledge which will leave a legacy for the future. We encourage you to become involved. There are plenty of wonderful tasks to share. Join us.

Elizabeth Yewers – President

FINANCIAL REPORT - HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

INCOME	2015	2014
Membership Subscriptions	\$1,250.00	\$948.00
Donations	\$ 131.00	51.50
Sale of Cards/Publications	\$ 434.30	137.00
Sale of CD & other Research	\$ 50.00	72.50
Bank Interest	\$ 9.49	12.48
Special Functions – Glenferrie Road Festival	314.00	249.65
Harcourt Street walk	95.00	
St Columb's Anzac talk	43.55	
Hawthorn Village walk (non members)	60.00	
Elgin Street talk	22.50	
Albert Isaac's talk	20.00	
Paypal setup	.26	NIL
Reimbursement re wine	72.00	NIL

TOTAL INCOME	\$2,502.10	\$1,471.13
LESS EXPENSES		
Affiliation Fee Royal Hist Soc Vic	70.00	\$66.00
Annual Fee Consumer Affairs	53.00	51.40
Insurance via Royal Hist Soc	310.00	310.00
Postage & Photocopies	107.98	194.70
Printing & Stationery	328.07	121.85
Website Costs -Renew Hostgator & tnsfer fee	173.03	109.90
- Domain registration fee	249.00	
2014 AGM wine	152.07	
Paypal fees	5.89	
Stock Change Adjustment	NIL	75.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,449.04	\$928.85
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	\$1,053.06	\$542.28

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 30/9/2015**ASSETS**

Cash at bank	\$4,873.72
Cash at PayPal	\$ 14.31
Unsold publications	\$2,514.10

TOTAL ASSETS **\$7,402.13**

LIABILITIES

Prepaid subscriptions	\$ 185.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$ 185.00**

NET ASSETS **\$7,217.13**

AS AT 30/9/2015 WE HAD 71 PAID UP MEMBERS.

Pamela Carter
Treasurer