

August 2016

Dear members,

Spring is in the air and a new and exciting *Warnimble* is heading your way.

About this time last year I wrote about the Warrnambool Historical Society being shortlisted for a Victorian Collections Cataloguing Award within the MAV 2015 Victorian Museums Awards. It would be gratifying to say that we achieved the top gong this year but alas, we fell just short having to settle for Highly Commended in the Volunteer Run Organisations! Next Year is our turn. The Victorian Museum Awards celebrate the wonderful achievements of the museum and gallery sector and three Victorian Collections Awards for Excellence in Museum Cataloguing were given out. These Awards acknowledge the hard work undertaken by organisations that are cataloguing their collections online using Victorian Collections and are judged on the number of artefacts catalogued, the proportion of items catalogued with accompanying photos, the quality of the records, the depth of historical research involved and the percentage of records made public.

Victorian Collections Award for Excellence in Museum Cataloguing (Volunteer Run Organisations)

Winner: Orbost & District Historical Society

Highly Commended: Warrnambool & District Historical Society

The comment was made once again that "our records are wonderfully detailed". We were pleased with the recognition our collection team earned as a result of their continued hard work and they deserve our heartiest congratulations and thanks.

Later this month Jude Fraser, a conservator from Melbourne University is coming to view our Pioneer Board with a view to giving us an indicative quote for the next phase of the conservation work. The Warrnambool Family History Group are soldiering on with their research into the lives of the and achievements pioneers on the board. One hundred and sixty have been completed and many more are almost completed.

The community activities crew has been very busy of late. Emmanuel College Year 7 students visited this week and will return soon for another session, there was a presentation at the Active Ageing forum at the Light House Theatre and two visits from groups from the Special Development School. We hosted the Our Lady Help of Christians Family Group last Sunday and a talk was given to the Vision Impaired Group at Archie Graham this week. and we have also provided a speaker for the Warrnambool Artists Group discussing 19th century artists, the School of Art and local women artists. WDHS members will conduct two tours of the many historic buildings in the TAFE precinct on 14 August as part of the SWTAFE Open day.

The society's AGM is scheduled for Sunday 25 September at 2pm at Mozart Hall. The committee is putting forward a special resolution to increase the number of members of the committee to up to ten. A notice will be sent to all members with the special resolution wording and the reasons behind the move. A notice regarding the committee members due for re-election at this meeting is attached. Please come along and be part of the future of our society. A guest speaker, Maggie Black, the great grand daughter of Niel Black who arrived in Melbourne from Argyllshire in 1839 and had a significant impact in the Western District of Victoria as both as a successful squatter and a Member of the Legislative Assembly, will follow the AGM. Maggie has written a fascinating book titled *Up Came a Squatter* exploring Niel Black's life and brings into focus the emergence of a new colonial society. Maggie is a writer whose work up to now has been mainly about development among poor and disadvantaged peoples in Africa and this will be an entertaining address not to be missed.

Last May we had a visit from Richard Reid in relation to a Department of Veterans' Affairs project aimed at producing stories of the Australian experience of World War One as reflected in local regions, memorials and small museums. Our local story has not yet been uploaded with the 55 other stories from across Australia, as the editing has not been completed. We will let you know when it is time to access our local offering.

We had a long and productive collections meeting recently and decided to make some subtle changes to the Vic Collections processes that may have been a bit cumbersome but very effective. We have purchased another sturdy shelving unit for the bathroom area to replace the makeshift ones and have acquired another metal cupboard for the archive room. There are always interesting items coming in for the collection. One treasure recently acquired is an 1872 small booklet that has a wealth of interesting information. The first twelve pages for the twelve months of the year have space for Memoranda and a record of Memorable events that occurred during that month including in 1st month January - 28 Tu. 26. Colony of New South Wales founded 1788 and 31 Fri. Port Phillip abandoned by Collins 1804. The following pages have a range of government services, a Town Directory, Country Directory, a description of Warrnambool facilities including churches, organisations and banks. Tariff of Import and Excise Duties, short excerpts about surrounding townships, mail times and about fifty pages of advertisements for businesses across the region.

It appears that the Booklet belonged to *Christopher Beattie, Born on the 7th January 1839 at Westlinton (near Carlisle) Cumberland England*. This is written in the memoranda section of January 1872. The February Memoranda reveals something about Mr. Beattie's attitude to his wife. Feb 10th. *Wife went to cadet of Temperance concert and was well pleased, and I stayed at home to mind the children and made Ernest a Kite. Mildred took a Bath and put Clara to sleep. Wife comes home ¼ to 11 o'Clock and very glad to, don't like the wife to be away from home anyhow whatsoever under no circumstances. Beattie C.*



Glenys Phillpot

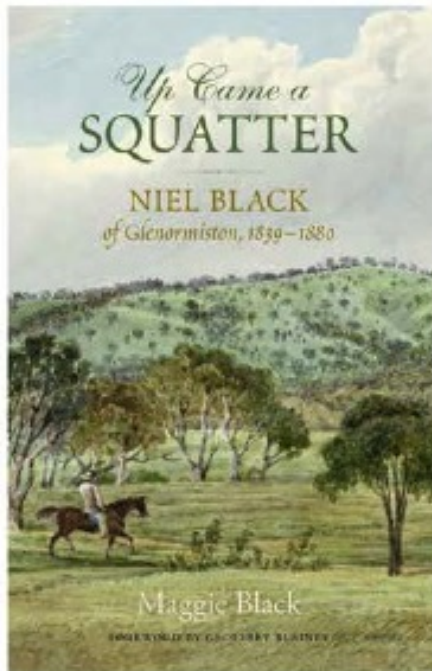
Thank you to the members who have responded to our request for email addresses if you have them, as we try to reduce the amount of printing and mailing.

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 Rosemary Isaac – Secretary (55628403) Email rosemaryisaac@icloud.com
 Committee -Janet Macdonald (Vice President). Barbara McLeod (Treasurer) Joanne Laity, Andrew Suggett, Eric van der Wal, Pat Varley and Marita Murphy.
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NEW SOUTH

Up Came a Squatter

Niel Black of Glenormiston, 1839–1880

Maggie Black

Niel Black, a Scot from Argyllshire, arrived in Melbourne in September 1839 intending to make his fortune. Ambitious and determined, Black became one of the most successful and energetic squatters in the Western District of Victoria – a livestock breeder and a Member of the Legislative Council. He was also a correspondent extraordinaire, and his letters to family, fellow pastoralists, colonial officials, and his chief UK business partner, Thomas Steuart Gladstone (first cousin of the British prime minister), offer a unique insight into the times. Black's letters and journals, now held at the State Library of Victoria, are the inspiration for this revelatory book written by his great-granddaughter.

Encounters with local Aboriginal people, battles with bush-fires, struggles with drought, family feuds, multiple trips back to Scotland in search of a wife, and Black's rise to gentrified excess are all beautifully realised in this fascinating history.

Illustrated with sketches, paintings, portraits, photos and maps, drawing on the collections of the Victorian and NSW State libraries and Black family, this book brings to life, in vivid detail, the life of a nineteenth-century squatter in rural Victoria.

MAGGIE BLACK is a writer whose work up to now has been mainly about development among poor and disadvantaged peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Her most recent book – *International Development: Illusions and Realities* (New Internationalist 2015) – explores the contradictions whereby a process intended to improve economic well-being inflicts destruction on powerless minorities. This has proved a surprisingly useful apprenticeship for a study of her great-grandfather's pioneering life in Victoria, with its themes of Aboriginal exclusion, 'improvement' of the land, and the emergence of a new colonial society. Among her other works are *A Cause for our Times: Oxfam's first 50 years* and *Children First: The story of UNICEF* (OUP, 1992 and 1996); and several books on water and sanitation, including *The State of the World's Water* (UCP, 2016).

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