

## Basketballer bounces back thanks to kind bequestor



*Al Fricker says his scholarship has given him the free time to volunteer as a basketball coach for a local junior team - an experience that has inspired him to pursue a career in teaching.*

*Morning Tea, June 3 - Author to speak on Heyer and the Regency*

*AN expert on the life and novels of best-selling writer Georgette Heyer is set to share her work with Heritage Society members in a private presentation.*

*Author of 'Georgette Heyer's Regency World', Dr Jennifer Kloester (PhD Arts 2005) is a sought-after speaker on Heyer, historical fiction and the Regency. She will speak at the next 'Morning Tea with an Expert' on Wednesday 3 June at the University of Melbourne. Please RSVP to Julie Owens on +61 3 8344 1761 or Sue Girling-Butcher on +61 3 8344 1056.*

An accident on the basketball court quashed Al Fricker's dream of becoming a sports star. But a generous bequest has changed his life by enabling him to pursue his new goal of becoming a teacher, and to give something back to the community as a volunteer basketball coach.

**AS** a teenager, Al was a rising star of the local basketball scene. His sights were firmly set on making it into the Victorian Basketball League and beyond. But this dream came crashing down at the age of 17, when he suffered a serious knee injury on court that destroyed his chances of ever playing basketball at a professional level. "I was devastated," Al recalls. "I had no idea what I'd do next. But I'd always been smart at school... so I thought I'd start with an Arts degree and see where that took me." Al was accepted to study at the University of Melbourne, where he developed a passion for history. But the financial hardship of student life took its toll, as he was forced to work two jobs to make ends meet.

### **A turning point**

In 2007, Al received a piece of news that he views as the turning point in his student life. He was awarded the Arno Herpe Memorial Scholarship,

established as a result of a bequest.

The financial support meant he could quit one of his jobs and concentrate on his studies. It also meant that he had enough spare time to volunteer as a basketball coach for a local junior team, Boronia Buffalos. "I had wanted to coach basketball for quite awhile," Al says. "But because of work commitments, I was never free on weekends to do it. Without the scholarship, I wouldn't be able to do this." Coaching allows Al to indulge his passion for basketball while helping young people achieve their goals.

He has recently been made Vice-President of the Boronia Buffaloes. The experience of teaching and mentoring others has inspired him to pursue further study, with a view to becoming a history teacher.

"I think I love coaching more than I loved playing, and it's inspired me to take that passion further and combine it with my passion for history."

# Eye expert shares vision for trachoma-free future

A world leader in trachoma research - who is working to combat the blinding eye disease that has plagued Australia's Indigenous communities for decades - shared his story with Heritage Society members last month.

Professor Hugh Taylor (BMedSc 1970, MB BS 1971, DO 1975, MD 1979), Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne, spoke to a group of 16 Heritage Society members and guests at the 'Morning Tea with an Expert' on Wednesday 29 April.

The renowned ophthalmologist, who recently became the first Australian to receive the international Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research, shared the challenges faced in eradicating trachoma and changing policy and political

thinking on indigenous eye health. Last year, Professor Taylor submitted a report to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, which outlined a strategy to treat and prevent vision loss in indigenous people.

"All Australians deserve equality in eye care," Professor Taylor told Heritage Society members. "Eye care is something

"All Australians deserve equality in eye care."

we can do, and something we can

change."

The Federal Government has recently pledged \$16 million to fund an Australia-wide trachoma control program, de-



Above: Professor Hugh Taylor chats with HS member Beatrice Burke over morning tea.

veloped by Professor Taylor. Heritage Society members were given a glimpse into the early days of his career, through a series of photographs of his work as a graduate in the 1970s.

Professor Taylor worked with a team including Fred Hollows to treat indigenous communities and research the causes and cures for eye disease.



Above: Professor Taylor at work, checking an eye for trachoma.



## A Message from Bequest Manager Sue Girling-Butcher

Dear Members,

Welcome to your first Heritage Society newsletter for 2009 – and an especially warm welcome to our new members.

It has often struck me in conversation with members that although many of you have "retired," you are now busier than ever. I do hope you will

have the chance to enjoy some of the upcoming Heritage Society events. The 'Morning Tea with an Expert' series is continuing to prove popular, with the first two events receiving very positive feedback. There are two more events in this series, including a talk by author Dr Jennifer Kloester on Wednesday 3 June.

I recently attended an exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art which really highlighted how the generosity of Heritage Society members can make such a differ-

ence to future generations of students and the wider community. The exhibition featured more than 200 artefacts from the David and Marion Adams Collection, fascinating treasures of Roman, Greek and Egyptian origin. David is a member of the Heritage Society. His late wife, Dr Marion Adams, a former Dean of Arts, was a passionate collector of art and artefacts. Following Marion's untimely death in 1995, David devoted much of his energy to expanding the collection in his wife's memory. In a ges-

ture of extraordinary generosity, David has bequeathed this collection to the University of Melbourne, where it will form part of the Potter's Classics and Archeology Collection and be enjoyed by the community for years to come. The exhibition is on at the Potter until October 11 and I strongly encourage those who are interested in art and history to visit it.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I look forward to seeing you soon.

# A garden tour through time at Burnley

The historic Burnley Gardens started out as the Richmond Survey Paddock more than 150 years ago, and have since been transformed into some of the prettiest 'classrooms' in Melbourne.

**SINCE** the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus was founded in 1891, budding horticulturalists have wandered the grounds, studying hundreds of different plant species, collecting specimens and learning about the campus' heritage-listed trees.

On Wednesday 4 March, Heritage Society members were invited to take a closer look at this special outdoor 'laboratory' at the first 'Morning Tea with an Expert' for 2009. Burnley College horticulturalists Andrew Smith and John Rayner hosted tours of the campus for 15 Heritage Society members and guests, inviting them to explore the enormous range of plants, flowers and trees in the shady Sunken Garden, the sprawling Oak Lawn and Herbaceous Border, the Native Garden and the Main Lawns and Lily Ponds. These days it is the base for more than 200 students, and the site of some significant 'green' experiments. Professor Nigel Stork, Head of the



*Above: Horticulturalist John Rayner with HS members Roy and June Hardcastle and guest Helen Burbery in the rose garden.*

School of Resource Management, told guests that staff and students at the campus were investigating new ways to respond to climate change through horticulture.

"We are looking at what we can do for climate

change and we believe this campus can play an important role in modifying it," he said.

"Right on this roof above us, for example, we have started a green roof and are measuring how it changes the cooling



properties of the building." The historic garden tour served as the perfect introduction to a talk by alumnus, garden historian and author, Richard Aitken (MA 1991). Mr Aitken's historical books *Gardensque* and *Botanical Riches* were published by Melbourne University Publishing's Miegunyah Press, which was established as a result of bequests from Sir Russell and Lady Mab Grimwade.



*Above: Mr Rayner leads a tour of Burnley Gardens.*

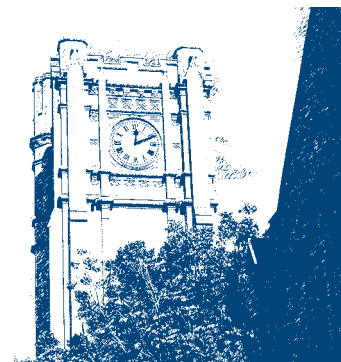


*Above: HS members (left to right) Peter Game, Julie Tester and Ron McIntyre learn about some of the garden's historic trees.*

## Time to shed light on the Heritage Society clock tower

Have you ever noticed the ubiquitous clock tower that appears in Heritage Society publications? Some of you may recognise it as an iconic landmark at the University's Parkville campus. The turreted clock tower defines the oldest precinct of the historic campus, erected in 1921 as part of the Old Arts building. As a lasting symbol of the

University of Melbourne's heritage, the clock tower will be remembered by students past, present and future. For this reason, it was chosen to represent the Heritage Society. Like the clock tower, members, via their support, will continue to have an impact on students well into the future and will form an important part of the University's history.



## Former teacher ensures learning goes on

Heritage Society member Sylvia Gelman has believed in the value of education her entire life,

**ON** her first day of school, at the age of five, Mrs Gelman decided that she wanted to become a teacher.

"My own teacher was so sweet that I wanted to follow in her footsteps," Mrs Gelman recalls. Mrs Gelman stayed true to her childhood dream and pursued a career in school education that spanned more than 30 years. Recently celebrating her 90th birthday, Mrs Gelman built a name for herself as a renowned Victorian educator. She began her career as a teacher in rural secondary schools and rose to the rank of Senior School Mistress at Mount Scopus Memorial College in Burwood. She left this position in 1969 to take on community service with the National Council of Jewish Women in Australia, and later became the Council's National President. Mrs Gelman's support of education continues through philanthropy. A member of the Heritage Society – the group of people who have remembered the University of Melbourne in their wills – she was inspired to give to Melbourne due to her strong personal connection to the University. Her late husband, alumnus Manuel Gelman (BA (Hons) 1932, GDipEd 1933, MA



*Above: Heritage Society member Mrs Sylvia Gelman*

(1934), was former head of the Department of Languages of the Melbourne College of Advanced Education, before it amalgamated with the University of Melbourne to create the current Faculty of Education. After retiring in the early 1970s, Mr Gelman remained closely involved with the University until he passed away in 1993. Mrs Gelman decided to establish a scholarship in his memory, to annually award an outstanding University of Melbourne education student. Mrs Gelman says it made sense to her to create an award that would help students excel in the field of education.

"My husband and I both shared an interest in education," she says.

"I want to see that my husband's name is not forgotten within the field."

Mrs Gelman gives to the University because she believes it is "the source of knowledge and advancement"

"Anything that can assist the university to advance education - whether through study or research - is important."

## WHAT'S ON

### Heritage Society Events

#### **Wed 3 June : Presentation by Dr Jennifer Kloester.**

More details listed on front page.

#### **Wed 19 August: Morning tea at former home of renowned architect Robin Boyd, 290 Walsh Street, South Yarra.**

Professor Philip Goad (BArch (Hons) 1985, PhD 1993) will provide insight into the life and works of Mr Robin Boyd. Please RSVP to Sue Girling-Butcher on +61 3 8344 1056 by Monday 10 August.

#### **Wed 11 November: Annual Heritage Society Lunch.**

Invitations to be sent in October.

### Special Public Event

#### **15 - 20 June : The University of Melbourne's Festival of Ideas.**

Leading thinkers will present free lectures, seminars and panel discussions exploring the intersection of climate and cultural change.

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