



FIFTY YEAR
REFLECTIONS
ON 1968

CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 14 & 16

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Location: RHSV - 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/XAUR>

RHSV members \$60, Non-members \$80, Full-time Students \$40

Friday 14 September 2018

- 5.00pm *Putting it out there: Melbourne in the 1970s* - exhibition launch**
Curator: **Zoe Henderson**

- 6.30pm The Royal Historical Society of Victoria Augustus Wolskel Lecture 2018**
'Now we know: a half-century perspective on Australia's Vietnam War'
Dr Peter Edwards AM, Honorary Professor at Deakin and the Australian National University

Sunday 16 September 2018

- 9.30am Registrations open**
Morning tea

- 10.00am Welcome address**
Associate Professor Don Garden OAM, President RHSV

- Introductory comments**
Maree Coote, Author: *The Melbourne Book, The Art of Being Melbourne*

- 10.15am Keynote address**
1968 – From the Vietnam War to Vietnamese Immigration: Melbourne’s Long “Sixties”
Associate Professor Seamus O’Hanlon Monash University

- 11.00am Save Our Sons: The Activists’ Perspective**
Rebecca Mclean Film maker
Dr Jean Mclean Convener of the Save Our Sons Movement 1965 - 1973, Member of the Legislative Council (Victoria) 1985 - 1999, Special Advisor - Victoria University
Screening of Rebecca McLean’s SBS documentary film *SAVE OUR SONS (S.O.S.)* 1996 (54 mins), followed by reflections from Dr Jean McLean and Rebecca McLean.

- 12.30pm Light lunch**

- 1.20pm Influences from abroad**
Paris, May 1968: and its wider influence
Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine University of Melbourne
Black Power 1968 and its ramifications in Victoria
Emeritus Professor Richard Broome La Trobe University

- 2.30pm Panel discussion:** all guest speakers including Dr Judith Smart, Adjunct Professor, RMIT University
Chair: **Dr Andrew Lemon**

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Augustus Wolskel Lecture 2018
Presented by Dr Peter Edwards AM

Now we know: a half-century perspective on Australia's Vietnam War

As 2018 marks the half-centenary of the most tumultuous year of the Vietnam War, when much of the world seemed on the verge of revolution, it is an appropriate time to revisit some of the major themes of the debates that divided Australian politics and society. As Melbourne was the epicentre of Australia's political earthquake, this is the appropriate place as well as time for such a retrospective.

What do we now know that we did not know fifty years ago?

How do some of the major arguments presented by participants in the debates of 1968, on all sides, look with the benefit of fifty years' hindsight?

Which long-held beliefs now appear to be myths or half-truths?

1968 From the Vietnam War to Vietnamese Immigration: Melbourne's Long "Sixties"

Presented by Seamus O'Hanlon

The significance and meanings of notable dates, eras and events are both highly historically-contested and geographically-specific. They are also often intensely personal. While the focus of most of the papers in this symposium is political - the 'events' of 1968 and the legacies of the protest movements of the 1960s in Australia and elsewhere - my introductory paper takes a more social and cultural approach to exploring the various meanings and legacies of 'the Sixties'.

Peter Edwards, currently an honorary professor at both Deakin University and the Australian National University, was the Official Historian of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-75. He was the general editor of the nine-volume series and author of the two volumes dealing with political, diplomatic and social aspects, *Crises and Commitments* (1992) and *A Nation at War* (1997). Most recently he published his personal distillation of the series, *Australia and the Vietnam War* (2014).

Peter is also the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of a number of other books and monographs, mostly dealing with Australian national security policy and policy-making. His books have won a number of major literary awards. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his historical work and elected a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs for his 'outstanding contribution to Australia's international relations'.

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Dr Peter Edwards AM



Seamus O'Hanlon

It does so by documenting a range of issues and events from the 'long-1960s' in Melbourne and speculates on their on-going effects on the city and Australian society more generally in the decades since.

Seamus O'Hanlon teaches contemporary and urban history at Monash University. His latest book is *City Life: the new urban Australia*, which has just been published by NewSouth.

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Putting it out there:

Melbourne in the 70s

Curator, Zoë Henderson, has grounded this exhibition in the domestic arena of 1970s Melbourne. We reflect on and explore the ways in which the life of the city and society were shaped by the changing ideas and actions of its citizens. The 70s were a turbulent decade driven by increasing social awareness and cultural diversity. Nothing reflects this better than the slide from the confronting political slogan in the early years of the decade - It's Time - to the slightly defeated plea, Get Australia Working, by 1977.

Whilst some of the concerns which led Melburnians to demonstrate were global – remember Portuguese East Timor? – some were distinctly Melbourne - hello F-19

and the freeways! In between there was a tsunami of old and newly defined political and social causes which reached and touched all Melburnians. This played out against a backdrop of political and social division brought about by the Vietnam War moratoriums, the Dismissal, the economic instability of the Oil Crisis and escalating local unemployment. Ordinary Melburnians took part in community groups, activist associations, consciousness raising, political parties. The young might identify themselves as Sharpie or Surfie, take courage to redefine their sexual identity, or simply enjoy being young and cool, growing their hair, wearing flares, beads and platform shoes. Whatever your take on Melbourne in the 70s, come and re-live the energy of the decade.

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Biographies

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome FAHA, FRHSV, Emeritus Professor in History at La Trobe University and Councillor RHSV, is the author of twelve books in Australian history covering the history of Immigration, popular culture, local history, biography and Aboriginal history. His publications in Indigenous History include *Aboriginal Victorians. A History since 1800* (2005) which won the NSW Premier's prize in Australian History, and *Aboriginal Australians A History since 1788*, 4th edition 2010, which has been in print since 1982.

He also published *Fighting Hard. The Victorian Aborigines Advancement League* (2015). His latest book is *Naga Odyssey. Visier's Long Way Home* (2017) and he will soon publish a social and environmental history of Mallee Country with three colleagues.

Maree Coote

Maree Coote is a writer and designer, and the founder of publishing imprint and design studio Melbournestyle. A lover of all things Melbourne, she was one of the very first to identify the contemporary rise of Melbourne's cultural and place power.

Maree's unique understanding of Melbourne is made accessible through her command of history, culture, art and design for a wide variety of audiences. According to

Philip Adams, "Melbourne never had a more ingenious ambassador." Maree's first book *The Melbourne Book: A History of Now* is in its fourth edition after 12 years and has been dubbed 'Melbourne's Bible'. Maree is author/illustrator of over 18 books, including books for children, and she is recent winner the 2017 Bologna Ragazzi Award in Italy for her typographic marvel *Spellbound*. Her unique history *The Art of Being Melbourne* won the RHSV Local History Prize in 2012.

Associate Professor Don Garden OAM

Associate Professor Don Garden, OAM FFAHS, FRHSV, is the President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, a member of the Australian Heritage Council and Vice President of the Kew Historical Society. For many years he taught History and Environmental History at the University of Melbourne, where he is now an honorary Fellow.

Zoë Henderson

Curating the 1970s exhibition has been a wonderful opportunity for Zoë to really get to know her adoptive city and the stirring events and issues of 1970s Melbourne. Although her PhD thesis (Cambridge, 2002) was on southern African Middle Stone Age archaeology, she has also worked on more recent projects such as the archaeology of the Liliesleaf property in Rivonia, South

Africa.

After an exciting two-decade career as a museum archaeologist, including eight as head of the Departments of Archaeology and Anthropology, at the National Museum in Bloemfontein, Zoë moved to Australia and took time out to be a mother. This has created space to change emphasis and she has just completed the Graduate Diploma in Information and Knowledge Management (Archives and Recordkeeping) at Monash University. Her interests now include exploring how to capture a much more recent past

Dr Andrew Lemon

Andrew Lemon edited the Victorian Historical Journal throughout the 1990s and was president of the RHSV from 2009 to 2013. He chairs the RHSV Events Committee. In a writing career stretching from the late 1970s he has published extensively as a professional historian, with particular expertise in local history, school history and the history of Australian horse racing. He has won several national history and literary awards. Andrew's latest book is *The Master Gardener, a biography of T.R. Garnett*. He holds the degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Melbourne.

Dr Jean McLean

Jean was a founding member, the convenor and secretary of the Save our Sons Anti-Conscription Movement from 1965 until 1972. In 1970 Jean became the vice-chair of the Victorian branch of the moratorium movement, chaired by Dr Jim Cairns. This world-wide movement organised huge demonstrations across Europe and the USA and the first Australian march, on 8 May 1970, saw 100,000 people march through the streets of Melbourne - the biggest people's march ever held in Melbourne.

On 5 May 1971 Jean and 5 other women, from the Save Our Sons movement, were arrested for trespassing whilst distributing anti-conscription leaflets. They were gaoled for 14 days, triggering huge demonstrations in Melbourne.

From 1975 to 1980 Jean was Union Director of Prahran College of Advanced Education and, from 1981 to 1985, ACTU Arts Officer and a federal conference delegate from 1976 to 1988. Jean was elected to Upper House of the Victorian Parliament in the seat of Boronia Province which she held for 7 years followed by the seat of Melbourne West until her retirement from Parliament in 1999.

In recognition of her work as an activist, her extensive political career as a member of the Victorian Parliament and her contributions to Victoria University, Jean was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Hons. Causa).

Adjunct Professor Judith Smart

Judith Smart is an adjunct professor at RMIT University, and deputy chair of the History Council of Victoria. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria where she was on council from 2007 until May 2017 and now serves on the Society's Heritage Committee as well as coediting the RHSV journal with Richard Broome. Richmond and Burnley Historical Society is her main local society but she also belongs to Nepean and Apollo Bay. She is co-author, with Marian Quartly, of *Respectable Radicals: A History of the National Council of Women of Australia 1896–2006*, and coeditor with Shurlee Swain of *The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia*, an online reference tool at <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/index.htm>.

A major focus of her research over many years has been Melbourne during World War I, particularly the parts played by women, and in 2015 she coedited issues of the *Victorian Historical Journal* and the *La Trobe Journal on the Victorian home front*.

Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine

Charles Sowerwine, Adjunct Professor of History, La Trobe University; Emeritus Professor of History, University of Melbourne; Professeur des universités, Centre d'histoire culturelle des sociétés contemporaines, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

Charles taught at the University of Paris before coming to Melbourne in 1974. His *Sisters or Citizens? Women and Socialism in France since 1870* (Cambridge, 1982, 2008) was the first work of an Anglophone author published by the Presses de la Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (1978). With Claude Maignien, he wrote a biography of the pioneering socialist feminist, Dr Madeleine Pelletier (Paris, 1992). Recent publications include, with Susan Foley, *A Political Romance: Léon Gambetta, Léonie Léon and the Making of the French Republic, 1872-1882* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), and the third edition of *France since 1870: culture, politics and society* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).



VIETNAM PROTEST POSTER CIRCA 1970
PRINTED: SYDNEY
MAKER: UNKNOWN