

Media Release

Gavin Jennings MLC
Special Minister of State
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Monday, 17 October, 2016

VICTORIAN HISTORY PROJECTS HONOURED AT ANNUAL AWARDS

A book about the history of Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria has been awarded top prize at this year's Victorian Community History Awards at a ceremony held at the Arts Centre today.

Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria have historically been meeting places for adult education, entertainment and the arts. The book *These Walls Speak Volumes: A History of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria* by Pam Baragwanath and Ken James, provides an insight into their pioneering role as one of Victoria's earliest community organisations.

Magda Szubanski was awarded the Judges' Special Prize for her autobiography *Reckoning*, delving into her father's dark past, while Anne Doyle's book about the Somali community of West Heidelberg, *Wadaddi Nabadda. Paths to Peace*, won the inaugural Cultural Diversity Award.

Other winning entries included a book about activism during 1970s Melbourne, the story of Hector Crawford and documentaries about Malvern's gifted Jewish sculptor Karl Duldig.

The Victorian Community History Awards are presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and funded by the Victorian Government.

A major event of History Week, the annual Victorian Community History Awards recognise the work of individuals and organisations committed to telling stories of local history.

Quotes attributable to Special Minister of State Gavin Jennings

"These fantastic award winning projects document our history and the development of Victoria as we know it today."

"I want to congratulate every winner on their contribution to detailing the many stories and perspectives of Victoria's rich history."

Quotes attributable to Public Record Office Director and Keeper of Public Records Justine Heazlewood

"From books about citizens and institutions, to documentaries, websites and valuable online databases – these projects provide the entire community with rich and diverse resources for learning about the history of Victoria."

List of the 2016 Victorian Community History Award winners:

Victorian Community History Award

These Walls Speak Volumes: A History of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria by Pam Baragwanath and Ken James

Judges Special Prize

Reckoning: A Memoir by Magda Szubanski

Collaborative Community Award

Breaking Out: Memories of Melbourne in the 1970s edited by Susan Blackburn

Local History Project Award

'We Are All of One Blood'. A History of the Djabwurrung Aboriginal People of Western Victoria, 1836-1901 by Ian D. Clark

History Publication Award

Hector: The Story of Hector Crawford and Crawford Productions by Rozzi Bazzani

Local History – Small Publication Award

The Village of Ripponlea by Judith Buckrich

Cultural Diversity Award

Wadaddi Nabadda. Paths to Peace. Voices of the Somali Speaking Community by Anne Doyle

Multimedia History Award

We Remember: Honouring the Service & Sacrifice of Local Veterans and the Wangaratta Community During WW1, DVD and Website. Rural City of Wangaratta

Historical Interpretation Award

Duldig Studio Documentaries by Eva de Jong-Duldig and Dr David Smith

Centenary of World War One Award

Home Front Ballarat WW1 Website: www.ballaratww1.org.au. Ballarat & District Genealogical Society

History Article (Peer Reviewed) Award

Beyond Failure and Success: The Soldier Settlement on Ercildoune Road by James Kirby, Provenance Journal

To view commendations and for more information historyvictoria.org.au.