



The Henry Handel Richardson Society of Australia Inc.

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February 2012 Newsletter

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HHR Centenary Writing Competition

An exciting announcement was made at the birthday celebrations – the Society will hold its first writing competition in honour of HHR in 2012 – the one hundredth anniversary of her only return visit to Australia.

We are very pleased to be able to announce now that the judge will be no other than the award-winning fiction and nonfiction writer, Helen Garner.

There will be a section for adult writers with a \$1000 prize and one for schools with a \$350 prize.

The competition closes on August 31. Results will be announced at the Annual Oration at the State Library of Victoria on October 12.

Further information plus the guidelines and entry form for the competition will be available on the website or by mail from Graeme Charles at P.O. Box 35, Chiltern 3683.

Can you help?

Members are encouraged to enter the competition and to promote and publicise it. We also need sponsors/contributions to cover the cost of the prizes, administration and judging. Two members have already made financial donations.

Birthday celebration, January 3, 2012



A happy crowd gathered once again for the birthday tea celebration at Lake View on January 3rd. The temperature was high but the garden was in a beautiful condition thanks to the work of Anne Vynner, the gardener, and Beryl Pickering, the voluntary Manager of Lake View on behalf of the National Trust. Everyone was able to find a spot under the shade of the trees and enjoy the sight of the flower beds and the gazebo with its new roof and the water in Lake Anderson. It was also very pleasing to see the newly repaired roof of the house. The repairs to the gazebo and the house were made possible by the hard fund-raising work of the North Eastern Ladies Auxiliary of the National Trust.

We were treated to Clive Probyn's fascinating account of HHR's only return trip to Australia at the age of 42 – *The Return of the Native: HHR's visit to Australia in 1912*. Clive drew on HHR's letters and the Notes she made on the journey which are now at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. The talk was interspersed with readings from the Notes by Graeme Banks, most notably a vivid description of the journey to Chiltern and of the town itself. The full text of Clive's talk will be available on the Society website.

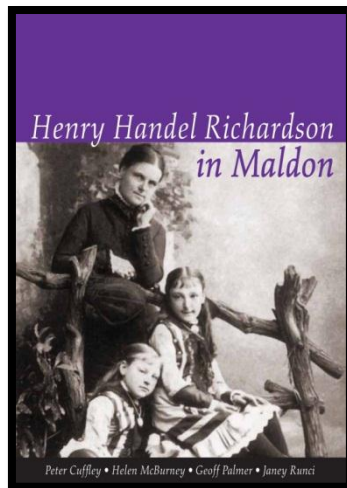
To conclude the evening Beryl Pickering cut the birthday cake, made once again by Mary Fuge.



DVD and Maldon book

Society member, Bill Steele expressed some concern at the end of this year's AGM that his DVD, *HHR: A Giant in Australian Literature* has not appeared on the HHR website. In the committee meeting that followed it was agreed that Bill's DVD will be mentioned on the website, alongside mention of the HHR in Maldon book, under Publications, giving their full titles, prices and cost including postage. The website will also include a hot key taking the reader of the webpage to Bill's 7-minute video based on the longer version (the short version is already on You-Tube). The HHR Society will buy 20 copies of the full video (running time: one hour) and these will be available at Lake View for purchase.

HHR: A Giant in Australian Literature, cost \$20, including postage, and can be ordered by:
Email gcharles@communityaction.coop or by
Telephone 03 5726 1173 or by
Mail P.O. Box 35, Chiltern VIC 3683
The HHR in Maldon book is available from HHR Book, PO Box 185, Maldon, Vic 3463,
also for \$20 (money order or cheque made out to Maldon Post Office) including postage.



Another Leipzig connection

You may remember in the last newsletter the reference to a new member, Susan Schaale, a student of English Literature at Leipzig University. Quite by chance another connection has been made with Leipzig since then. Professor Stefan Welz has contacted us and now joined the Society.

Professor Welz, of the English department at Leipzig University, has proposed a new translation of Richardson's first novel, *Maurice Guest* (1908), set in Leipzig and largely autobiographical. He has written to the Society to enquire about possible financial assistance. This would be the second German translation. Richardson's brother-in-law, Dr Otto Neustatter, a Munich eye doctor, produced the first, and so-called 'authorised' translation in 1912. This had involved both HHR (who paid for it) and her Germanist husband John George Robertson (who supervised it). In 1940 Richardson noted its prohibitively high price and described it as 'a particularly wooden translation.' Two chapters of the proposed new translation have been 'pre-published' and sent to the Society.

Those members who are intrigued by this project might like to contact its author at: Prof. Dr. Stefan Welz, Institut für Anglistik, Universität Leipzig, Beethovenstrasse 15, D-04155 Leipzig, GERMANY.

New Members

The HHR Society of Australia is delighted to welcome the following new members:

Susan Schaale from Chemnitz, Germany

Viv Burnett and Wayne Dempsey from Chiltern

Alison and Graham Stephens from Oxley

Helen Macrae from Brunswick

Patricia Crotty from Maldon

Professor Stefan Welz from Leipzig, Germany

Carmel Lillis and Tony Nicholson from Yarraville.



Carmel Lillis, pictured in the newly roofed gazebo, was celebrating her own birthday at the picnic tea on January 3. She was celebrating also the interest inspired in HHR's work by her enthusiastic school Literature teacher in 1970.

In the News – ‘a rampageous scandal’

HHR and her work appeared in Australian newspapers twice in the last month.

In the *Weekend Australian*, 14/15 January, a travel article described a visit to Lake View, Richardson's home during her time in Chiltern in parts of 1876 and 1877 at the age of six and seven.

In an article in Melbourne's *Sunday Age* on January 22, Michael Heyward, publisher at Text Publishing decried the treatment of Australia's literary classics. Speaking of Australian universities Heyward said, 'In not a single course in the whole country were students asked to read Henry Handel Richardson's *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*. This is the equivalent of not one Russian University teaching *Anna Karenina*, of *Madame Bovary* going untaught in France. It is a rampageous scandal to borrow a coinage from HHR herself.'

AGM Minutes – Lake View, January 3, 2012 at 5 pm

Present: Graeme Charles, Rex Fuge, Dot Charles, Heather McNeill, Helen McBurney, Louise Doddrell, Beth Chamberlain, Graham Banks, Frances Newbound, Bill Steele, Meg Probyn, Clive Probyn, Gloria Banks, Janey Runci, Kay Voglis

Apologies: Bruce Steele, Peter and Barb Cuffley, Marie Bell, Jenny Davidson, Ian Fraser

1. Welcome from President, Rex Fuge

2. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on October 16, 2010 at Maldon re year ending December 2009 were read by Graeme Charles and accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Graeme Charles Sec: Meg Probyn

3. President's Report – Rex Fuge

The Society began with just 6 members just a few years ago and now has close to 200.

Functions have been held both at Lake View in Chiltern and in Maldon.

In Chiltern the North Eastern Ladies Auxiliary of the National Trust has been busy raising money for a new roof on the gazebo and the nailing down of the roof of the house. Lake View has never had a grant from the Heritage Victoria but it is hoped that one will be given this year.

4. Treasurer's Report – Graeme Charles (see attached balance statements)

The report covered 2 years as we missed the last AGM. To rectify this it was suggested that the AGM always be held at the Chiltern celebrations on January 3.

Graeme noted that the bank balance is creeping up and will continue to do so with subscriptions currently due.

Income also came from the sale of 2nd hand books at Lake View and the DVDs made by Bill Steele. Also a grant of \$500 from the Indigo Shire Council for the birthday celebrations.

The Maldon balance will be kept separate to fund future Maldon events.

Helen McBurney presented more money from Maldon to Graeme.

Report accepted. Moved: Graeme Charles Sec: Meg Probyn

5. Election of Committee

Graeme Charles noted that the following nominations had been received:

President: Clive Probyn

Vice President: Rex Fuge

Treasurer and Public Officer: Graeme Charles

Secretary: Janey Runci

Members: Heather McNeill and Helen McBurney

As there were no additional nominations it was unanimously agreed that the proposed members be elected to the positions.

Rex Fuge was thanked for his work as the inaugural president and Dot Charles and Bruce Steele were thanked for their contributions to the committee.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Have you renewed your membership?

Just a reminder that this year's subscription of \$10 is due.

If you haven't yet paid, your subscription can be sent to the HHR Society of Australia Inc, PO Box 35, Chiltern 3683, or direct deposited to our account, number 77605 at the WAW Credit Union. BSB 803 070. Make sure to list your name with the deposit.

Listed below are those members who have renewed their membership.

If your name is not on the list, but you believe you have renewed, please let Graeme Charles know on 03 57261173 or email him on gcharles@communityaction.coop

Renewed:

Nada Reid, Glenda Campbell, Janey Runci, Heather McNeill, Rex and Mary Fuge, Ian & Marelle Whitaker, Ross Harvey and Rachel Salmon, Graeme and Gloria Banks, Barbara Murdoch, Clive and Meg Probyn, Beth Chamberalin, Louise Doddrell, Helen McBurney, Marie Bell, Peter & Barbara Cuffley, Linda Ross, Judy Dixon, Beverley Wain, Bronwyn Minifie

Henry Handel Richardson Society of Australia Inc

Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2010

Balance at WAW Credit Union 1/1/2010	\$ 1647
plus Receipts:	
Membership subscriptions	\$ 700
Donations received from members	150
Sales of Books	70
HHR Birthday and Oration receipts	3333
Bank interest	<u>15</u>
	\$ 5915

less Payments

Website	\$ 141	
Printing & postage	119	
HHR Birthday and Oration expenses	2723	
Purchase – DVD's	159	
Bank fees	<u>20</u>	<u>\$ 3162</u>

Balance held 31/12/2010 \$ 2753

Represented by

Balance as per WAW account statement 31/12/2010	\$ 2912
less unpresented cheque	<u>159</u>
Balance held 31/12/2010	<u>\$ 2753</u>

Prepared by Graeme Charles
Treasurer

Henry Handel Richardson Society of Australia Inc.

Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2011

Balance at WAW Credit Union 1/1/2011		\$ 2753
plus Receipts:		
Members subscriptions		960
HHR Birthday and Oration receipts		1445
Indigo Shire grant re Jan 3 2012		500
Sales – books & dvd's		338
Maldon October 2011 receipts		255
Donations		65
Bank interest		<u>15</u>
		6331

less Payments:

HHR Birthday and Oration expenses	\$ 1362	
Ex Indigo Shire grant – Adv. Re Jan 3	342	
Printing & postage	67	
Website	371	
CAV annual return fee	<u>41</u>	2183

Balance held 31/12/2011 \$ 4148

Represented by Balance as per WAW account statement \$ 4148

Prepared by Graeme Charles
Treasurer