

EDITORIAL

This issue of the *La Trobe Journal* has a distinct biographical flavour and includes articles on a range of notable individuals with a diversity of interests and experience. It opens with Sandra McComb's survey of the remarkable life of the explorer and linguist Alfred Howitt, author of *The Native Tribes of South-East Australia* (1904).

Marcus Clarke and Henry Lawson are unquestionably major figures in Australian literature. In 'Marcus Clarke and Felix Meyer's cameo roles in the Paris Commune', Barry McGowan writes about Clarke's active support for the French Communards who were transported to New Caledonia after the failure of the Paris Commune of 1871. One – Michel Seringue – jumped ship in Melbourne and Clarke, with the indirect assistance of a young Meyer, led a public appeal to raise funds to support Seringue.

In 1892 Henry Lawson headed to Bourke in western New South Wales to both dry out and report on conditions there for the *Sydney Bulletin*. While there, he met another writer, Jim Grahame. In this issue John Barnes, a previous editor of the *La Trobe Journal* and himself a recent visitor to Bourke, writes about Lawson's time there and his friendship with Grahame. His article is accompanied by the text of Grahame's memoir of Lawson, written shortly after Lawson's death in 1922.

Lionel and Norman Lindsay were born and raised in Creswick in central Victoria along with their artist siblings, Percy, Daryl and Ruby. As young boys in the early 1890s, Lionel and Norman met and were influenced by a visiting English artist, James Miller Marshall, while he was painting outdoors at Creswick. Ross Bowden provides a fascinating account of Marshall's two years in Australia, which is informed by his father's correspondence with the Lindsays and focuses on the paintings that Marshall did during his time here and his interaction with the artists associated with 'Australian impressionism'.

Justice Henry Bournes Higgins; his niece, Nettie Palmer; and her husband, Vance Palmer, are also well-known figures in Australian history. But little is

TA McKay and his son Ron (centre and front) with aircraft displaying Specialty Press promotional banners, c. 1923. Private collection. See Bryans, p.82



known of Higgins' sister (and Nettie's aunt), Ina Higgins, a garden designer and first-wave feminist in Victoria. In 'Women gardeners without chaperones', horticulturist Sandra Pullman gives an overview of Ina Higgins' life, career and contribution to the advancement of the participation of women in non-traditional professions.

Pullman's article is followed by an investigation of the entrepreneurial printing and publishing activities in the first decades of the 20th century of Allan McKay, proprietor of the Specialty Press and several effective shelf companies, by Dennis Bryans, a previous contributor to the *La Trobe Journal*.

Frederick Sinclair was a noted socialist church minister in early 20th-century Melbourne. In 'Practical idealists: the Free Religious Fellowship, the Great War and conscription', Chris Wade, a staff member at State Library Victoria, recounts the role of Sinclair and the fellowship in anti-conscription protests and peace-related activities during and immediately after World War I.

In 1938 Achim Muhlen-Schulte returned to his native Berlin with his Australian wife and young child. Conscripted into the German army in 1943, he perished on the Eastern Front in early 1945. Using his letters to his wife, Muriel, and her memoirs written in her 80s, his granddaughter, Minna Muhlen-Schulte, the 2014 Berry Family Fellow at State Library Victoria, recounts her and her family's struggle to understand and come to terms with the past.

Ian D Clark, having recently found some new sources, provides a short author's note updating his article published in a previous issue of the *Journal* (no. 97) on James Dawson and the naming of the Maroondah aqueduct.

Finally, Shane Carmody, a former Director of Collections at the State Library, provides an obituary of Colin Holden (1951–2016), historian, author, library and gallery benefactor and contributor to the *La Trobe Journal*.

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