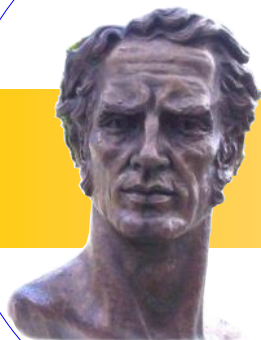




ISSUE 47 — SEPTEMBER 2018



THE WAYFARER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAM LINDSAY
GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.

THE POET OF AUSTRALIA 1833-1870
WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LITERATURE AND THE ARTS
IN AUSTRALIA

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We give acknowledgement
to the National Library of
Australia-Trove Newspapers
for these articles.

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THE ADAM LINDSAY
GORDON
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMITTEE INC.
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THE TALE OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON and the TWO BUILDINGS



The National Trust of Australia's Victorian division said it had nominated the CBD landmark, Federation Square, for the Victorian Heritage Register to recognise its "historical, architectural, aesthetic and social significance to the state". On Saturday 24th June 2006 we held our inaugural Froth and Bubble Festival in "Champions", The Australian Racing Museum Hall of Fame, now the Yarra Building.

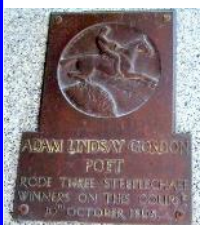
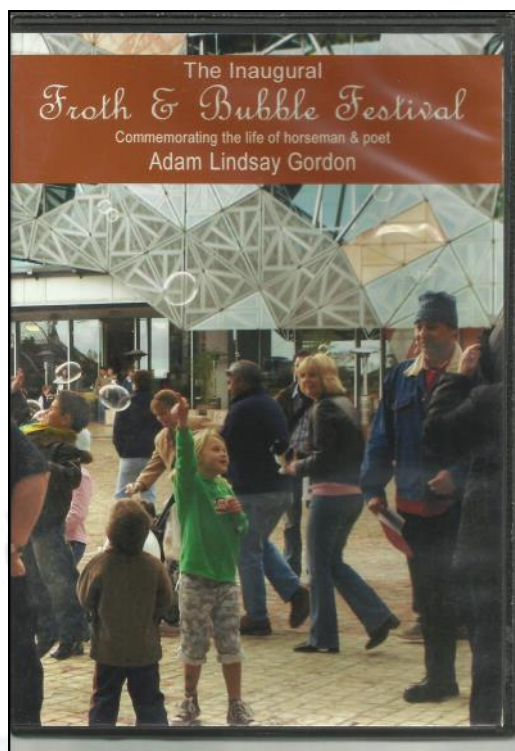


Photo by Ian Adams

At Flemington Racecourse in the Members' Stand we had a plaque to the memory of Adam Lindsay Gordon on the occasion of him winning three races in one day on the Flemington Course on 10th October 1868. "The new Club Stand will be the tenth grandstand built on the track since 1865. The new Club Stand will be open to members as a trial on Saturday 15 September. (*racing.com*)"



FROTH AND BUBBLE FESTIVAL

**The inaugural festival held on Saturday June 24th, 2006.
Commemorating the life of horseman and poet Adam Lindsay Gordon.
Held at "Champions". The Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame
Then at Federation Square in Melbourne.
Proudly presented by The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee.**



Top Left to Right: Dr. Helen Dehn, Prof. Chris Wallace-Crabbe OAM, Allan and Jenny Childs, Bernard Caleo, Geoff Denning.
Photographers: Andrew Lutz, Pina Raiola and Ian Adams.
Champions Curator and Exhibition Manager Tanya Williams, and Jackie Fenton.

AT FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE GORDON WINS THREE STEEPLECHASES IN ONE DAY

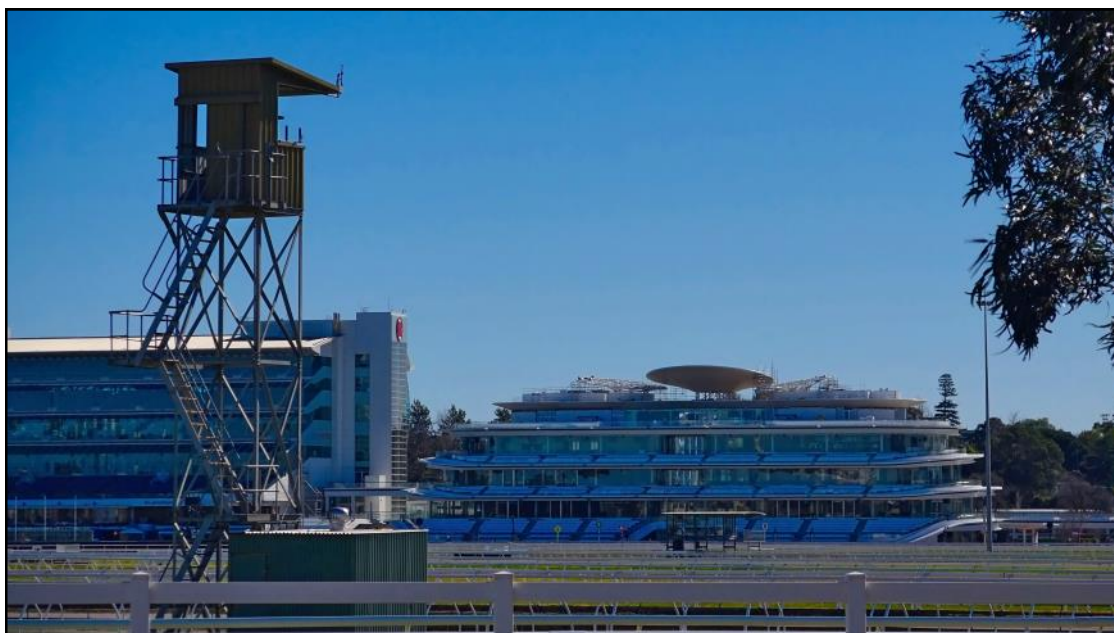


Photo by Ian Adams



1868 Oct 10 Gordon wins three steeplechases in one day. **Flemington Racecourse, Melbourne.** "Age" 12/10/68 Melbourne Hunt Club Cup on "Babbler". Metropolitan Steeplechase on "Viking". Selling Steeple on "Cadger", and yet he was so very short-sighted that he could discern a fence till he was close up to it, the manner in which he was wont



to lie right back in the saddle as he was crossing it being a remarkable feature of his riding. He always shook hands with his friends previously to taking part in a steeplechase, in case he never would be able to do so again.

(*The Inquirer & Commercial News Perth WA Friday 12 June 1896 Page 1*)



The Melbourne Races of 1838 and 1839 where held where the Southern Cross Railway Station now stands. There stood Batman Hill, a good vantage point for the races on the surrounding flats. The good citizens of Melbourne could easily walk there. On Tuesday and Wednesday March 6th and 7th 1838 the races were held.

*View from Batman Hill Looking West
State Library Vic. Accession no: H24527*



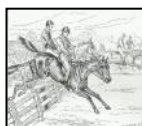
In 1840 the races were transferred to what is now the Flemington Course. A bushman rides into Melbourne for the 1842 race meeting *Port Phillip Gazette (Vic. : 1838 - 1845), Saturday 5 March 1842, page 1*

"Fortune, however directed me to the Gazette, which I held in my hand perusing after breakfast, when I lit on an advertisement respectfully informing the public that the Aphrasia steamer would for that day only run up the Salt Water River and disembark her passengers alongside the race course. Eureka ! I exclaimed, clapping my hands, it is clear ; I called the

waiter and bid him see whether the steamer was preparing for a start, while I ran up to change my dress. At ten precisely the bell of the Aphrasia announced the moment of shoving off ; at that precise moment my foot was on the stage ; I ran nimbly on board and made my way to the poop, where by good hap I found a seat among an immense crowd of the unwashed, female specimens of whom were suckling infantile productions of the race, and drinking Palmer's ginger pop. Fizz went the steam, fizz-whirr-r-r-r-r-r, gusht, gusht ; the paddles took a turn, pat, pat, pat, touching the water like a cat pawing a ball of cotton ; slowly the fine profile of her bows swung round the basin, and seeing her way clear she got her dander up and went slick away atrampling the water under her fins like a whale spouting in the face of a north-easter. In ten minutes we had cleared the outskirts of the town, washed the river bed against the ramparts of the slaughter houses, tanners' and fellers' yards, and were working away down the long still deserted reaches of the Yarra Yarra ; passing Long Reach the steamer plied away down the Middle Bend and through the Devil's Elbow with marvellous facility, anon the junction hove in view, and shaving the very edge of the low wooded bank, she wheeled right up the Salt Water River, and spun along at a rate that astonished the untrafficked highway of this tributary stream. We reached the destined scene of our exploit, and with a noise that out-rivalled her announcement at

starting the fire boat spat out the rushing steam as she closed with the bank and discharged her crowded decks. Closed in with an amphitheatre of grassy hillocks at the back, and bounded in front by the river, the race course spread out a scene of merriment and display."

Paddle Steamer WikiCommons whatsthatpicture from Hanwell, London, UK. User:OgreBot/Watercraft/2014 October 1-4)



SOME SNIPPETS FROM EARLY MELBOURNE. The **Wurundjeri** are a people of the Indigenous Australian nation of the Wurundjeri language group, in the Kulin alliance. They historically occupied the Birrarung (Yarra River) Valley, its tributaries and the present location of Melbourne. Before European settlement, they lived as all people of the Kulin nation lived, on the land, predominantly as hunters and gatherers, for tens of thousands of years. Seasonal changes in the weather, availability of foods and other factors would determine where campsites were located, many near the Birrarung and its tributaries. (*Wikipedia*).

PORT PHILLIP. Captain Lonsdale having arrived with his detachment under the Sydney Government, with 30 prisoner labourers and mechanics, had selected the original settlement formed by Mr. Batman on the Yara-yara, as the site of the infant metropolis. Though in a beautiful situation as to scenery, it is, however, we are sorry to say, subject to some inconveniencies, being no less than seven miles from the lake, and vessels drawing 7 or 8 feet water only can approach it. The banks of the river for three or four miles are also so closely hemmed in with Tea tree scrub, that the wind is prevented from taking effect on vessels navigating it, and hence for that distance, they require to be towed or worked up and down, no easy task where there is little or no tide to assist. The Government had already commenced building a gaol and a Commissariat store, and the town has been named GLENELG, after the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. We are quite convinced, how-ever, that the patronage of that liberal minded and enlightened statesman, would have been just as effectually secured for the new colony, had its intended metropolis been named in better taste after the aboriginal name of that part of the country. (*Hobart Town Courier (Tas. : 1827 - 1839), Friday 4 November 1836, page 2.*)

MR. EDITOR, - I beg leave to correct an error in your article November 4th, on Port Phillip. It is where you state that the Yarra-yarra, now Glenelg, was first settled by Mr. John Batman. If any credit is due to an individual for selecting the site mentioned, I am the person. And thus I explain, in June or July 1835, Mr. John Batman landed at Port Phillip, and after, (I suppose) due search and deliberation, he left the head of the bay where the rivers are, and settled on the west head called Indented. Here he left the Company's men, and to this spot he afterwards sent his brother as overseer for the Company. At this chosen point he planted an orchard. Now, Mr. Editor, I contend that this planting clearly defined Mr. John Batman's approval of Indented Head as the best place to fix on. Thus much for that side of the picture. In July I fitted and sent out the Enterprise to survey Western Port and Port Phillip, at an expense to me of upwards of £200 ; part of July and nearly all August was occupied in this survey, which extended to 20 miles inland in many places. September 1st, landed my horses and goods at the landing place on the Yarra-yarra, where the present settlement is. No European was then there, - I began ploughing and gardening. Mr. J. H. Wedge, who was then out travelling from Indented Head, came to the new formed township, and was delighted with it. Not only did I land the first people, stock and goods there, but I had the whole of the bar at the entrance of the river for more than two miles beacons at my own expense, and I do think that I am entitled to some credit for thus paving the way for others to follow with less danger. I also planned out two streets, each 100 feet wide, at right angles in the said township. This I did because many persons were about to build without paying any regard to order - I then and yet conceive that the buildings would be less likely to obstruct the future government by being in line, than irregular. JOHN P. FAWKNER. (*Hobart Town Courier (Tas. : 1827 - 1839), Friday 25 November 1836, page 4*)

RETURNS OF STOCK 1836 –PORT PHILLIP SETTLEMENT

The returns of stock exhibit the following statement:- sheep, 42,621; cattle, 121; horses,14. There are already three public houses in the settlement, one of which is a rough slab hut, the others are of turf. The bulk of the population as yet live in tents. The Police Office is held in a turf hut. A store has just been opened for the sale of merchandise, by a person recently arrived from Hobart Town. The frame of a military barrack was in progress and also a weather-board dwelling house for

the commandant, Captain Lonsdale. The only shoemaker in the settlement occupies one end of the hut in which the Police Office is held. The want of a tailor is particularly felt; a carpenter, a black-smith, and a wheelwright, are also wanted. The government gang have as yet been solely employed in landing the government stores, a great portion of which are deposited in the open air. These convicts have conducted themselves remarkably well. Sheep and cattle stations have been formed at a distance of eighty miles from the settlement. (*Launceston Advertiser Thursday 29 December 1836 Page 3*)



View towards the river, the foreground consists of what is now the **corner of Elizabeth Street and Flinders Lane**; on the vacant allotment was later built the English, Scottish, and General Chartered Bank; cottage on the right subsequently become the site for the offices of Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Co.; in the foreground is a horseman; bullock wagon laden with hay is wending its way down Elizabeth Street; in middle distance first wooden bridge to span the river. 1844 (slv Accession no: A/S06/09/88/133)

Ars Longa (The technique of art is long, but life is short)

[A Song of Pilgrimage]

OUR hopes are wild imaginings,
Our schemes are airy castles,
Yet these, on earth, are lords and kings,
And we their slaves and vassals ;
Yon dream, forsooth, of buoyant youth,
Most ready to deceive is,
But age will own the bitter truth,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

The hill of life with eager feet
We climbed in merry morning,
But on the downward track we meet
The shades of twilight warning ;
The shadows gaunt they fall aslant ;
And those who scaled Ben Nevis,
Against the mole-hills toil and pant,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

The obstacles that barr'd our path
We seldom quail'd to dash on
In youth , for youth one motto hath,
'The will, the way must fashion.'
Those words, I wot, blood thick and hot,
Too ready to believe is,
But thin and cold our blood hath got,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

And 'art is long', and 'life is short',
And man is slow at learning ;
And yet by divers dealings taught,
For divers follies yearning,
He owns at last, with grief downcast
(For man disposed to grieve is)—
One adage old stands true and fast,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

We journey, manhood, youth, and age,
The matron, and the maiden,
Like pilgrims on a pilgrimage,
Loins girded, heavy laden :—
Each pilgrim strong, who joins our throng,
Most eager to achieve is,
Foredoom'd ere long to swell the song,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

At morn, with staff and sandal-shoon,
We travel brisk and cheery,
But some have laid them down ere noon,
And all at eve are weary ;
The noontide glows with no repose,
And bitter chill the eve is,
The grasshopper a burden grows,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'



The staff is snapp'd, the sandal fray'd,
The flint-stone galls and blisters,
Our brother's steps we cannot aid,
Ah me ! nor aid our sister's :
The pit prepares its hidden snares,
The rock prepared to cleave is,
We cry, in falling unawares,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

Oh ! Wisdom, which we sought to win !
Oh ! Strength in which we trusted !
Oh ! Glory, which we gloried in !
Oh ! puppets we adjusted !
On barren land our seed is sand,
And torn the web we weave is,
The bruised reed hath pierced the hand,
'Ars longa, vita brevis.'

We, too, 'Job's comforters' have met,
With steps, like ours, unsteady,
They could not help themselves, and yet
To judge us they were ready ;
Life's path is trod at last, and God
More ready to reprieve is,
They know, who rest beneath the sod,
'Mors grata, vita brevis.'

Adam Lindsay Gordon

Published in 'Sea Spray and Smoke Drift' (1867).

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[CLICK HERE FOR SECOND TUNE](#)



Lawrence Wells named Lindsay Gordon Lagoon in WA Part of Lake Carnegie. (Google Maps)

SOME MEMORIALS TO ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

Thomas A. and Harry E. Wells took up the running of Yallum Park near Penola S.A from 1851 to 1861 following the Austin Brothers. Lawrence Ellen Wells, the son of Henry E. Wells was born on 30th April 1860. Yallum passed to John Riddoch in 1861.

(The Grass is Green -The story of Yallum Park- by Gayee and Glen Clifford.)

A Cousin, Mr. Charles Frederick Wells, was born in 1849 at Lake Colac, Victoria, where his father, the late Mr. F. C. Wells, was engaged in pastoral pursuits. Mr. Wells was educated at the Scotch College, Melbourne, and on leaving school was employed for a time on Mingool Station, near Mount Gambler, then the property of his uncle, the late Mr. Henry E. Wells. In 1866 he

was appointed cadet in the Survey Department of this colony, and had the pleasure of travelling to Adelaide with the late Adam Lindsay Gordon, by whom he was introduced to the then Surveyor-General In 1866.

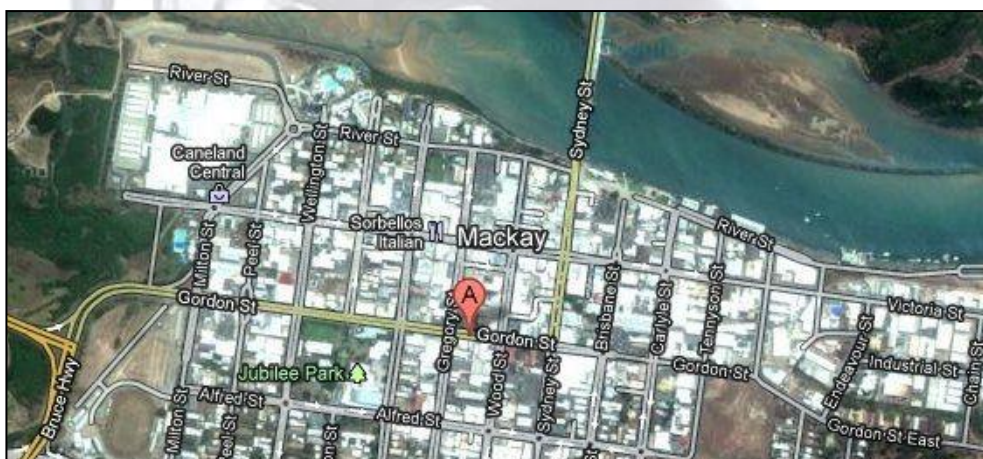
(South Australian Register Adelaide, SA Saturday 14 November 1896 Page 7)

The Calvert Exploring Expedition was financed by Albert Calvert in an attempt to explore largely unknown areas of Western Australia. It is included in this website as it was led by a South Australian, Lawrence Allen Wells and managed from Adelaide by the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (South Australian Branch). The expedition consisted of Larry Wells, leader, Charles Wells (his cousin, and second in command); George Jones (mineralogist and photographer); George Keartland (naturalist) and James Trainor. Bejah and Said Ameer were engaged as camel drivers.

The expedition left Mullewa in Western Australia 13 June 1896 heading north towards the Fitzroy River. Following on the practice established on the Elder Expedition, Wells established a base from which he scouted ahead for water. In the early stages they travelled within the bounds of settlement, where water was good and feed for the camels adequate. These early stages were over territory Wells had covered on the Elder Expedition. Wells noted in his diary that Jones and Keartland had begun to collect specimens. All these were later abandoned as will be seen. By 21 July they had reached latitude 26 24' and filled the water-kegs as they were about to move into unexplored territory and could no longer be sure of water supplies. The country was sandy with porcupine grass, desert gums and bloodwoods. Mulga thickets and small forests of desert gums were encountered, as were occasional sand ridges. On 23 July a lagoon was discovered which Wells named after Adam Lindsay Gordon, the poet.

(<http://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=205>)

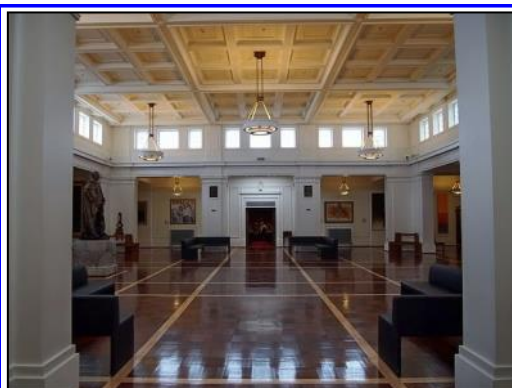
MACKAY QLD MAIN STREET -(Google Maps)



In May 1863, Government Surveyor Thomas Henry Fitzgerald submitted his design for the Mackay town plan. He named roads that ran north to south after the royal family—Victoria, Albert and Alfred. Rumour has it that Albert and Alfred were often mixed up, which prompted council to change the street name. When selecting street names, Mr Fitzgerald had commemorated many British literary figures such as Byron, Shakespeare, Tennyson and Carlyle.

To pay tribute to home-grown literary talent, Albert Street was re-named Gordon Street after the Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon.

(Our History by Katie Fedosenko Mackay Mercury Friday March 2, 2012-With thanks to Janet Mitchell).



King's Hall Old Parliament House Canberra
Photo Wiki Commons Author Nick-D

A replica of the bust of Adam Lindsay Gordon, Australian Poet, (1833-1870), was unveiled in King's Hall Parliament House Canberra on Tuesday 13 June 1950. The original bust by the late Kathleen Scott (Lady Kennett) was placed in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey as a result of public subscription in 1934. It was unveiled by the King when Duke of York. Since this is the only representation of an Australian writer in the Abbey, and because Kathleen Scott was the widow of Scott of the Antarctic, the presentation of the bust has a special association value for the National Library, to which it has been entrusted by Mr. Menzies. The chief speaker at the unveiling was the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia (Sir John Latham), who was associated with Lord and Lady Kennett and with the gift to the Commonwealth itself. Both houses of parliament attended the unveiling. (From Trove Newspapers)

The Canberra suburb of Gordon is named after the poet. It was gazetted on 12 March 1987. Street names in Gordon are named after notable sportsmen and women.

Forecourt Brighton Vic Library



Penzance Street Glenelg SA Site of Gordon's Home



Ballarat. Annie's Memorial Citation



FROM THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

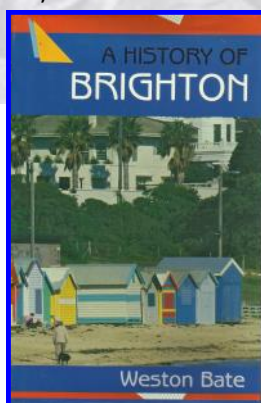
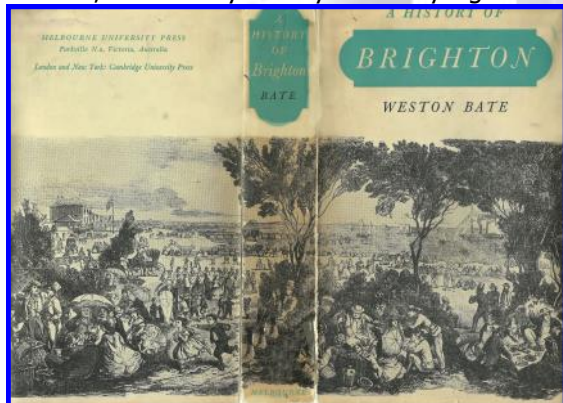
History Week 7—14 October 2018 <http://www.historyweek.org.au>

History week was an initiative of the great community historian Weston Bate, when he was President of the RHSV. Weston Bate (1924-2017) whilst a history teacher, accepted a commission to write the history of Brighton. This became his MA thesis and his project shaped his life and that of the community history movement. His book with its expansive research, deep sense of place and vivid writing, encouraged many historians to see local history as valuable, and helped to inspire the creation of a hundred new historical societies at that time. Weston was a dynamic energiser of people and associations. He inspired hundreds of historical societies to pursue history with more skill, passion and tenacity.

(adapted from Richard Broome's obituary in *The Age*).

Books first published in 1962. Reprinted with corrections 1963. Second edition 1983.

It is important that we keep the flame alive and continue our work to promote the importance of, and sheer pleasure to be found in, community history. In today's global world, local stories are becoming more important. (RHSV)



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON
COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
INCORPORATED

Sunday Afternoon 7th October 2018
At

The Marine Hotel
215 New Street Brighton Vic.
2:00pm to 4:00pm

Refreshments will be provided
All are Welcome



Visit Adam Lindsay Gordon's
Dingley Dell Cottage.
Port MacDonnell S.A.
Phone Allan Childs 0408 382 222

THE HENRY LAWSON MEMORIAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY meet monthly on the third Saturday of each month (Feb-Dec.) Monastery Hall rear St Francis Church 326 Lonsdale Street. Entry via church car park in Elizabeth Street Melbourne. 1.30. to 4:00pm. \$5 for afternoon tea.

SIGHS OF SORROW

"Sighs of Sorrow is the first dedicated modern classical song cycle on the poetry of Australia's first European poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon. It is written by the Australian composer Xavier Brouwer, and is an emotional and psychological journey into the poet's mind."

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What did the sock say
when it saw the toes?
"Well, I'll be darned".