**Victorian Margins**

**AVSA 2016 Ballarat 7-9 July 2016**

Call for Paper deadline extended to 17 February 2016

Keynote speaker: Prof. Joseph Bristow (UCLA), ‘Homosexual Blackmail in the 1890s’

In 2016, AVSA will join the Australasian Historical Association conference in Ballarat from 5-8 July, with a stream of AVSA papers and Keynote scheduled on 7-8 July, and a program of local sightseeing on Sat 9 July. This is a welcome opportunity to connect with Australasian colleagues in history with shared interests in the long 19th century, and for AVSA members to visit one of Australia’s finest Victorian cities. The conference will be held in Ballarat’s historical precinct. Delegates may wish to allow time to explore local sites such as the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute’s extensive library of 19th-century books, periodicals and newspapers.

AVSA’s Keynote Speaker will be Professor Joseph Bristow (UCLA), on “Homosexual Blackmail in the 1890s,” drawing on research for his new study of Oscar Wilde’s two criminal trials.

Papers (20 minutes) or panel proposals (2-3 papers) are invited on the AVSA conference theme ‘Victorian Margins’ – some possible angles include:

- geographic margins (in the UK; in the Empire; elsewhere)
- marginalised groups (marginalised by ethnicity; class; sexuality; region; nationality)
- temporal margins (1830s; fin de siecle)
- marginalised forms of culture
- economic margins (profits and losses; costs and benefits)
- margins as gaps
- margins as liminal spaces
- marginal values
- marginalia
- margins and centres

The AVSA stream committee welcomes papers relating to Victorian Margins from any discipline in the humanities. Proposals consisting of an abstract (400 words), together with a brief author bio/note of affiliation (particularly for postgraduates), should be submitted to Meg Tasker m.tasker@federation.edu.au by Wednesday 17 February 2016.

Those who would like to have their papers considered for an issue of the *Australasian Journal of Victorian Studies* on the theme, please indicate this with your abstract and aim to have the paper in a suitable form for publication as well as oral delivery by the time of the conference. Thanks!

The Australian History Association theme is ‘From Boom to Bust.’ AVSA members may offer papers on either theme, or neither, but all paper-givers must be financial members of either AVSA or AHA. Registration details available early in 2016, and venues will be in Ballarat CBD.

**Please note that this joint conference is being organised by the Collaborative Research Centre for Australian History at Federation University, with Dr Jolanta Nowak as Administrative Officer.** General enquiries to: aha2016@federation.edu.au please.