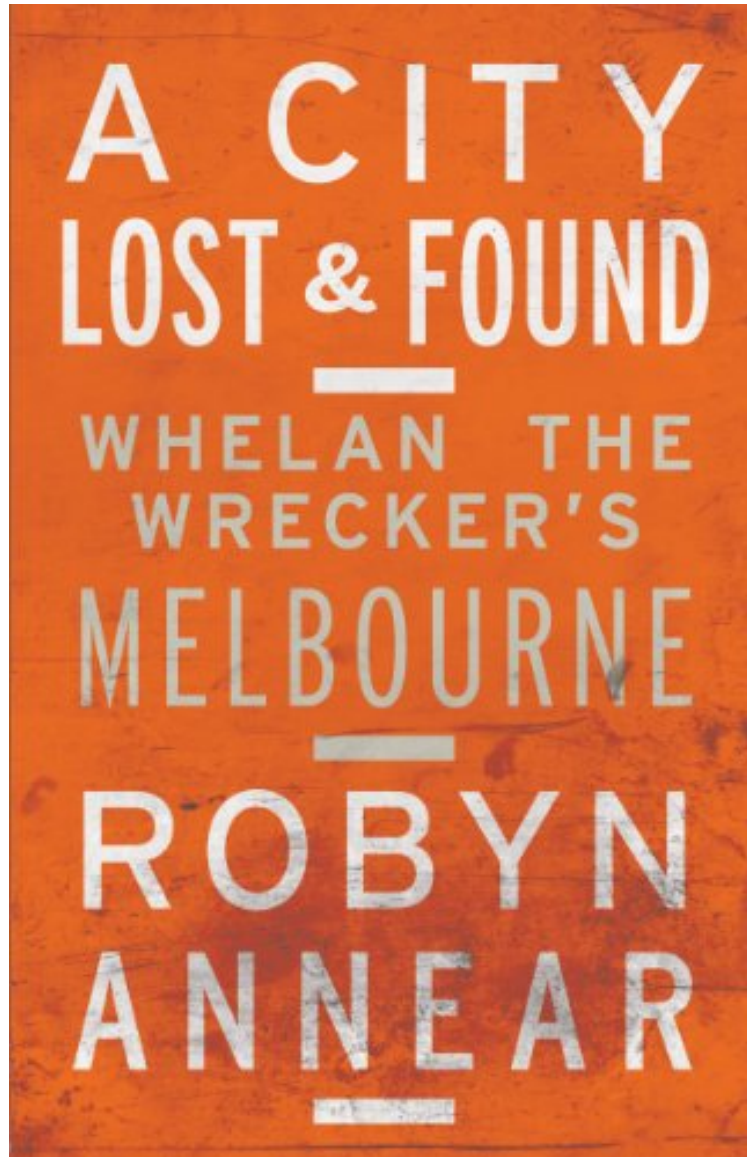


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A City Lost and Found: Whelan the Wrecker's Melbourne

Robyn Annear

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Robyn Annear : A City Lost and Found: Whelan the Wrecker's Melbourne before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A City Lost and Found: Whelan the Wrecker's Melbourne:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good look at Melbourne building history.By RUSSELL VESSEYInteresting for a Melbourne based person to see how the city centre has developed over the past 100 or so years and gives history of some sites going back to settlement. Probably not much use for interstate people unless they have a specific interest in Melbourne. Interesting to see how working conditions have changed as well.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 'Want to know about yesterday? Ask a wrecker.'By Jennifer Cameron-

Smith In this book, Ms Annear tells the story of the building and rebuilding of Melbourne, through the work of Whelan the Wrecker. Over almost 100 years, the Whelan family demolished old buildings. In the 1890s, Jim Whelan demolished some cottages in Brunswick, salvaging some useable material for sale. In 1991, the company was forced into liquidation. Ms Annear has used Whelan's demolition sites as portals, to enable her to explore the city at different stages of its development. What buildings were removed? What buildings replaced them? Cities develop over time, and changed patterns of life and land use often result in new and different buildings being required. Founded in 1835, Melbourne has undergone many booms and busts. Between the gold rush of the 1850s and the present, the city has undergone continual transformation. Some of the buildings demolished could (and perhaps should) undoubtedly have been saved. But others were hazardous. This book isn't about what was lost to the wreckers' ball. At one level, it's about the art and skill required to demolish buildings, the danger involved, and the pride in completing the job safely. At another level, it's about the opportunities for development and redevelopment, the functional use of space, and the organic nature of cities. Over time, the phrase 'Whelan the Wrecker' is heres' expanded its meaning. By the 1950s, it was no longer just a reference to the firm, but a reference to any scene of disorder. I first heard the phrase used during the 1960s. Each chapter of this book is prefaced by a map, with markers showing which sites are involved. There are photographs and anecdotes, characters and events. I really enjoyed reading this book: a history of a city through the history of a firm engaged in dismantling its buildings. Jennifer Cameron-Smith 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Mark Samarias Well researched and well written.

'Old landmarks fall in nearly every block ... and the face of the city is changing so rapidly that the time is not too far distant when a search for a building 50 years old will be in vain.' — Herald, 1925. The demolition firm of Whelan the Wrecker was a Melbourne institution for a hundred years (1892–1992). Its famous sign — 'Whelan the Wrecker is Heres' on a pile of shifting rubble — was a laconic masterpiece and served as a vital sign of the city's progress. It's no stretch to say that over three generations, the Whelan family changed the face of Melbourne, demolishing hundreds of buildings in the central city alone. In *A City Lost and Found*, Robyn Annear uses Whelan's demolition sites as portals to explore layers of the city laid bare by their pick-axes and iron balls. Peering beneath the rubble, she brings to light fantastic stories about Melbourne's building sites and their many incarnations. This is a book about the making — and remaking — of a city. Robyn Annear is an ex-typist who lives in country Victoria with somebody else's husband. She is the author of *A City Lost and Found*, *Bearbrass*, *Nothing But Gold*, *The Man Who Lost Himself*, and *Fly a Rebel Flag*. She has also written several pieces for the *Monthly* magazine.

About the Author Robyn Annear is an ex-typist who lives in country Victoria with somebody else's husband. She is the author of *A City Lost and Found*, *Bearbrass*, *Nothing But Gold*, *The Man Who Lost Himself*, and *Fly a Rebel Flag*. She has also written several pieces for *The Monthly* magazine.