

## HISTORIANS ARE PROFESSIONALS

People have always appreciated the relevance of history. They have felt the need to record and interpret the past, provide a context for understanding the present and even guide future planning. Professional historians work in a variety of fields including, education, government bodies and museums, mass media, legal research, heritage, planning studies, writing corporate and local histories. They are also called on to advise allied professionals such as archaeologists, archivists, architects, town planners and valuers. Some professional historians work for government agencies or private organizations. Others are independent consultants available to carry out commissions for historical research.

The practice of history is a professional skill. Historians are trained and experienced to critically assess evidence and events of the past and place them into a broader social context. Good research and communication skills are essential.

The basic professional qualification is an honours degree or equivalent in history, from a tertiary institution. Most professional historians hold additional postgraduate qualifications. Their credentials must be recognised by the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA) under the National Standards for Accreditation of Professional Historians in Australia.

PHA (NSW) membership assures professional accreditation, support, listing on the PHA (NSW) register, notice of employment opportunities and advice on fees and contracts. Regular professional development activities are organized to enhance and reinforce members' skills. To join and for more information see [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

# PHA NSW

## THE PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NSW) Inc

The Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc PHA (NSW) represents practising professional historians in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

### CONTACT US

Website: [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

Postal address: PHA (NSW) Inc  
GPO Box 2437  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia

Telephone: 9252 9437

Email: [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)

For advice on commissioning history please contact the President or Secretary.

To find a professional historian please see PHA (NSW) Historian Register at: [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) or contact President or Secretary via telephone or email address listed above.

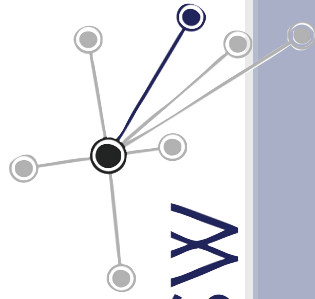
[www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

# PHA NSW

## WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS DO?

- Research and prepare conservation plans, heritage studies/surveys
- Assessment of cultural heritage significance
- Historical contextual studies
- Historical research and writing
- Editing and publishing
- Public speaking
- Oral history interviews
- Create historical tours & walks
- Radio talks
- Preparation of funding applications
- Project design and management
- Museum and cultural tourism
- Corporate and administrative histories
- Historical research & scripts for TV and film
- Biography and assistance with autobiographies
- Native title land claims
- Writing and researching local history
- Family history & genealogy

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# PHA NSW

## OBJECTIVES

PHA (NSW) was formed in 1985 as a professional association for practising qualified historians. It is a member of the national body – The Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations Inc. (ACPHA).

The objectives of PHA (NSW) are:

- To set and maintain standards of professional practice
- To ensure observance of the Australian Council of Professional Historians' Associations Inc. Code of Ethics and Professional Standards for Professional Historians in Australia
- To pursue common objectives and maintain links with other Australian professional historians' associations through membership of the Australian Council of Professional Historians' Associations Inc.
- To maintain links with other similar organisations
- To promote the concept of professional history and the status of professional historians in the community
- To represent its members in contractual and employment matters
- To inform its members and prospective employers of acceptable standards of employment
- To encourage its members' continuing professional development
- To collect and disseminate information of interest to professional historians

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of PHA NSW is based on the National Accreditation Standards prepared by the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA).  
See: [www.historians.org.au/services.html](http://www.historians.org.au/services.html)

### Applications

Please read PHA (NSW) Constitution and complete the application form at [www.phansw.org.au/membership](http://www.phansw.org.au/membership)  
Submit by email or hard copy to:

Postal address: The Secretary  
PHA (NSW) Inc  
GPO Box 2437  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia

Email: [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)

No application will be considered unless all the required documentation is mailed to the Association. Please make sure your referee details are current.

Membership fees should not be paid until the Association has notified you of its decision. Membership is renewable annually on 1 July.

## COMMISSIONING A HISTORY

Every person and every organisation has a story to tell and this contributes to a better understanding of our society. You need good historical research, writing and presentation to provide a clear understanding of your role, culture and significance. Compilation of good history is a specialised activity that requires sound historical method and knowledge combined with an appreciation of how to present information. A professional historian will do the best job for any project that requires historical information.

Clients need to recognize that good history is not cheap. Like other professionals, historians expect reasonable remuneration for their services.

An indication of the fees that may be charged can be found at: [www.historians.org.au/feescale.pdf](http://www.historians.org.au/feescale.pdf)

### Why employ a professional historian?

Producing accurate, thorough and lively history that locates your story in a wider historical context is complex. Professional historians work to accepted standards. They are academically qualified and bring broad historical knowledge, objectivity, strong research and writing skills to a history project.

### The purpose of the history

When choosing a professional historian, you need to be clear about the purpose of the work being commissioned and how it will be funded. Some organisations and individuals find it helpful to engage a professional historian to assist with design of a project brief and the selection of an appropriate candidate.