



**Professional Historians Association  
(NSW) Inc**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008**

GPO Box 2437, Sydney NSW 2001

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## **Objectives of Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc.**

PHA (NSW) Inc. was formed in 1985 as an incorporated professional association for practising qualified historians. It is a member of the national body - 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

### **Management Committee 2007-2008**

The committee met eight times since it was elected in August 2007

President	Peter J. Tyler
Vice President	Virginia Macleod
Secretary	Ruth Banfield
Treasurer	Rosemary Kerr
Member	Pauline Curby (Continuing Professional Development Convenor)
Member	Christine Cheater (Minutes Secretary)
Member	Susan McClean (Membership Secretary)

### **Other Officers**

Public Officer	Virginia Macleod
Website Manager	Christine de Matos
PHA Employment Service	Cathy Dunn
PHA Librarian	Terri McCormack
ACPHA Delegate	David Lewis (to 31/1/08); Peter Tyler
ACPHA Appeals Committee	Rosemary Kerr
ACPHA Selection Committee	Roslyn Burge

## **President's Report**

It gives me great pleasure to report to members on the achievements of Professional Historians Association (NSW) Incorporated over the past year.

### Membership

At 30 June 2007, PHA (NSW) had 101 Members (70 Professional; 23 Associate; 8 Graduate). This total has remained almost constant for the last three years, with new members joining at the same rate as others withdraw. In 2007 we conducted a comprehensive survey to get a profile of our members, their interests and aspirations. The results of this survey were summarised in the last Annual Report.

### Activities

Detailed reports of our activities appear later in this report, prepared by those members responsible for particular areas.

Continuing Professional Development activities are arranged at intervals of approximately six weeks. Sometimes they are interspersed with social activities such as our 'History in July' networking function attended by publishers, archivists, booksellers, librarians, editors, as well as academic and public historians.

The bi-monthly magazine *Phanfare* is published on the website, with printed copies available for libraries and some individual members who pay an additional fee. Three Editorial Collectives – each consisting of 4 or 5 members - continue to compile the material, in rotation. In addition to *Phanfare*, the *President's Newsletter* is an unofficial electronic email to all members, circulated every 10-14 days and typically containing three or four pages of current information in each issue. It has now reached issue Number 44 since it commenced in March 2007.

In December 2008, it is planned to launch *SHOWCASE*, a refereed electronic publication to demonstrate the scope, variety and quality of members' work through articles up to 4,000 words in length. This will not be published at regular intervals, but rather will have articles added or removed from time to time to provide a representative collection on the website at all times. Articles are already being solicited from members.

Following a three-month trial period, the management committee has confirmed the continuation of the Professional Historians Association Employment Service, known as "PHAES". A PHA member, Cathy Dunn, produces a weekly *PHAES Bulletin* which is sent electronically to all members, and has proved to be immensely popular even amongst those who are not actively seeking employment. The *Bulletin* contains relevant job advertisements, tenders, calls for expressions of interest, and similar opportunities that can use the unique research and communication skills of historians. One of the aims has been to encourage members to search more widely than jobs using the words "history" or "historian" in the description. Everybody has been surprised at how many suitable employment opportunities (usually at least ten) are being detected every week.

In addition to the weekly *PHAES Bulletin*, PHA also has set up a "Small Projects Panel" consisting of about a dozen members who are particularly interested in small jobs that may only last for a week or two, such as researching the history of a building or a small business. These usually are not advertised in the normal outlets but come

to notice through word of mouth, internet contact, or casual telephone enquiries. Information about these projects is distributed to the Small Project Panel, and is not listed in the *Bulletin*. Any member can ask to be listed on the Panel.

PHA (NSW) has decided to award an Annual Prize of \$500 for excellence in public history that will be awarded to the best project submitted for final examination in a second or third year undergraduate course relevant to Public or Applied History. The first award will be made to a student at the University of New South Wales at the end of 2008.

PHA (NSW) has continued to build up its collection of members' publications, so that displays can be mounted readily at conferences and on other suitable occasions. Some of this material will be on view at the annual general meeting in Sydney. We are also encouraging members to list their published material on the new national database launched by ACPHA, together with 'grey literature' that they have authored.

Thirteen members of PHA (NSW) attended the Australian Historical Association biennial conference in Melbourne at the beginning of July, with the theme "Locating History". Most of these members presented a paper at the conference. PHA (NSW) is an institutional member of AHA.

### Promotion and Consultation

Redesigned internet website and marketing brochures have now been supplemented by a portable display banner and small posters, all bearing a similar theme and using the new logo developed by ACPHA. This gives a uniform corporate image to all our marketing material as well as our stationery. Brochures were distributed to all delegates attending the History Teachers Association annual conference, and to the recent Shoalhaven Family History Fair.

PHA (NSW) has representatives on a number of official advisory or consultative bodies. It is the practice of the Management Committee to invite one of these representatives in turn to attend each meeting of the committee. The resulting exchange of information has proved to be valuable.

A member of the Management Committee, Susan McClean, sits on the Council of the Royal Australian Historical Society, thus maintaining the very strong links with that body. Our committee meetings, most of our CPD workshops and social functions, and our administrative records are held in the RAHS's History House. In recognition of this support we make a substantial annual donation to the RAHS Building Fund to help with the cost of maintenance of this historic building.

Relationships with the State Library of NSW/Mitchell Library have continued to develop since the restructuring that accompanied the appointment of a new State Librarian. Regular consultations take place with senior staff, one of whom is now given the title Professional Research Co-ordinator. An independent consultant was engaged by the State Library to report on users' perceptions of the library and its services; a team from PHA met this consultant and made a number of suggestions for further improvements. Discussions are under way to organise joint oral history projects between State Library and PHA which could be mutually beneficial.

Because of recent concerns about the teaching of history in the schools (although apparently NSW is better than other States in this regard), discussions are taking place with the History Teachers Association about the scope for PHA to assist in the development of appropriate teaching resources.

PHA has been active in protesting about proposed changes to planning and heritage legislation which seem to disregard heritage or historic significance in favour of allowing unrestrained access by property developers. Following a review of the *Heritage Act* commissioned by the Minister for Planning and the Arts, the NSW Heritage Office was closed, and its remaining staff (including some PHA members) allocated to planning teams within the Department of Planning.

A submission was made to the same Minister objecting to his proposals to lease the heritage-listed Callan Park Hospital to Sydney University for conversion into residential accommodation for 5,000 students, in the process removing public access to the waterfront and destroying much of the historic therapeutic gardens in which the buildings are situated.

### Conclusion

The 2008 Annual General Meeting marks the end of my term as President of PHA (NSW). I have found the last two years a stimulating experience, and I wish to pay tribute to my colleagues on the Management Committee who have provided unfailing support and encouragement during this period. Any achievements that have been made are the result of a strong team effort. In handing over to our incoming President I am confident that we have built a vigorous and vibrant organisation that can only look forward to still greater success.

At this stage I also wish to commend the efforts of our volunteers who represent PHA in other spheres. Their contribution is priceless. I must also pay tribute to the President and Manager of Royal Australian Historical Society, whose unfailing interest in our work allows us to regard History House as our home.

Finally, may I say 'thank you' to all the members of PHA (NSW) who have been such loyal supporters of their professional association.

***Peter J. Tyler***  
**President**  
**PHA (NSW) Inc.**  
**13 August 2008**

## **Honorary Secretary's Report**

All administrative arrangements have functioned smoothly, except that for a period the PHA email addresses were almost overwhelmed by excessive amounts of 'spam' messages. This problem has largely been resolved following an upgrade in the spam detection procedures of our Internet Service Provider. Thanks are due to the President for handling PHA correspondence and telephone messages during my absence overseas.

***Ruth Banfield, Honorary Secretary***

## **Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 30 June 2008**

At the end of the 2008 financial year, the PHA's financial position is best described as 'well balanced', with income slightly exceeding expenditure by \$456, and our St George bank account at 30<sup>th</sup> June totalling a healthy \$14,730.86. At this time, approximately half the membership fees have been collected, so additional funds should be rolling in over the next few weeks.

Throughout the year, the major items of expenditure have been related to the PHA's promotional activities and Continuing Professional Development. Over the past year considerable efforts have been directed towards raising the PHA's profile by redesigning our website and producing a banner and posters for display at PHA functions and conferences, as well as a 'travelling' display of members' publications. On the CPD front, as well as our annual networking event, 'History in July', the PHA's inaugural Regional Conference was held at University House, Canberra in July 2007. These events account for a large proportion of the amount spent on catering and venue hire. As in 2007, the PHA donated \$1,000 to the RAHS Building Fund. This is likely to be an ongoing annual contribution towards the costs of maintaining the RAHS premises. The PHA benefits greatly from our association with the 'Royal', which provides us with headquarters for meetings, functions and library space. The ACPHA levy is our other major annual expense, based on \$20 per member, averaging around \$2,000 per annum.

The PHA's financial position should remain strong throughout the coming year, with the current fee structure providing a solid basis for continuing our existing works as well as giving us the flexibility to pursue new initiatives.

As this is my final year as PHA Treasurer, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and friendship over the past few years; to congratulate them on their energy and enthusiasm; and wish the new Committee every success. While being the money collector is probably not the most popular position in the PHA, it has given me the opportunity to meet and chat with, or at least have email contact with many members that I wouldn't otherwise have done, and this has been a pleasure for which I am extremely grateful.

***Rosemary Kerr, Honorary Treasurer***

## **Professional Development Report**

A range of professional development events have been provided this year for members (see list below). We have tried to respond to members' wishes by running workshops and events in which an interest has been expressed.

Our History Week trip to Garden Island in September 2007 was a great success. Upon arrival Paul Martin of the Naval Historical Society introduced us to the island's long history and groups were taken through the secure precinct, not normally open to visitors. At the conclusion of the tour, we inspected the current display of artefacts in the Naval Heritage Museum covering more than 100 years of Naval history.

In February members visited the University of Sydney archives. After an introductory talk, we toured the collection and found hidden treasures in a repository that few of us consider using when researching. Another successful workshop was held in June at the State Library NSW as a follow up to our introductory tour last year. This time we were given a 'hands on' introduction to a range of historical databases that many of us did not know existed.

Workshops at History House were instructive and practical for members – and a small number of non-members. It's good to see some of our 'out of town' members sometimes manage to attend, as this is also an opportunity to chat informally over morning tea and lunch.

The workshop on researching the Colonial Secretary's records presented by Christine Yeats, Manager of Public Access at State Records NSW, in November introduced us to the many challenges these records present.

The PHA Workshop 'History, Heritage and Conservation Planning: The Power and Place of History' organised to coincide with the National Trust Heritage Festival in April was probably our best attended. Presenters Bruce Baskerville and Anne Claoue-Long focused on the historian's role in heritage studies, with Bruce delivering a detailed commentary on the preparation of conservation management plans.

A PHA professional development workshop with Terry Kass in May on Department of Lands plans focused mainly on the lesser known Crown Plans. Whilst some Crown Plans have been transferred to State Records the vast bulk of this collection is still held by the Department of Lands. A major digitisation project to conserve the maps and make them more accessible to researchers is under way.

The highlight of the year was our third "History in July" evening at History House on 25 July. This is another valuable opportunity to network with members of the wider historical community as well as a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues. In an engaging speech Dr Dawn Casey, Director of the Powerhouse Museum, outlined her work as the inaugural director of the National Museum in Canberra, including the controversy that surrounded exhibitions at the museum.

CPD events held since the last annual general meeting were:

- History Week event, visit to Garden Island, 20 September

- Researching the Colonial Secretary's papers workshop – Christine Yeats, 10 November
- Introduction to University of Sydney archives, 14 February
- History, Heritage and Conservation Planning: the power of place in history workshop, 5 April
- Department of Lands plans. Workshop, Terry Kass, 24 May
- Introduction to online historical data bases, State Library, 24 June
- History in July: guest speaker Dr Dawn Casey, 23 July

***Pauline Curby & Peter Tyler, CPD Sub-committee***

## ***Phanfare Report***

*Phanfare*, our electronic magazine continues to appear every two months. Printed copies are supplied to libraries and some individual subscribers. During the year Annette Salt relinquished her role as Co-ordinator, with this responsibility now transferred the Secretary.

Compilation of the magazine continues to be the function of three separate Editorial Collectives, who produce each issue in rotation. The Collectives each consist of four or five people, whose names are listed in each issue. We must place on record our appreciation to the dedicated Collective members, who regularly obtain sufficient suitable material, edit it as necessary, and then format it into an attractive layout.

## ***ROHPO Working Party Report***

The Working Party dealing with the PHA Register of Historic Places and Objects has not been very active during the past year, so there have been no additional entries in the Register.

***Emma Dortins, Convenor***

## ***Library Report***

The PHA Library is physically incorporated in the Library of the Royal Australian Historical Society at History House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, where publications are available to RAHS and PHA members. Before transferring material to the RAHS, the PHA Honorary Librarian receives and assesses incoming library material. She then reports on items of interest in regular Library Reports published in *Phanfare*, the newsletter of the Professional Historians Association of NSW. The bulk of material received consists of reciprocal newsletters and journals from other historical organisations and societies. We also receive regular newsletters and magazines from National Archives, State Records NSW, the NSW Heritage Office, the Historic Houses Trust, and other such institutions, as well as some annual journals and review copies of books.

Regular Library Reports in *Phanfare* connect New South Wales members to other corporate members of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA). These Reports keep them informed of local and interstate conferences, exhibitions, and publications of historical relevance. A further function of the Library Reports is to alert members to new resources or websites identified by interstate members. They also provide us with a benchmark enabling us to compare our activities and operations with those of our fellow organisations in other States.

In the financial year 2007 to 2008, the PHA Librarian compiled three Library Reports. These appeared in *Phanfare* in July-August & November-December 2007, and March-April 2008. There was a noticeable decrease in the amount of material received during the past year. This was partly due to other States following the NSW lead and producing electronic newsletters. If this trend continues, the role of the Librarian will need to be reassessed and consideration given to providing these interstate newsletters directly to our members.

**Terri McCormack, Honorary Librarian**

## **Reports from Representatives**

### **Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations**

David Lewis continued in the position of NSW Representative to ACPHA until the beginning of 2008, and then became the Alternate Representative when the President became the principal delegate in line with ACPHA preferences.

The Committee is made up of representatives of each State and the Northern Territory:

Bernie O'Neil (SA)	President
Judy Nissen (Qld)	Secretary
Sonia Jennings (Vic)	Treasurer
Cathie Clement (WA)	Accreditation Secretary
Richard Tuffin (Tas)	
Alan Davis (NT)	
Peter Tyler (NSW)	

A three-day annual meeting is held in various cities in rotation. The 2008 meeting is being held in Sydney on August 15-17. It is expected that the 2009 meeting will take place in Brisbane, and will include a conference for professional historians, coinciding with the sesquicentenary of Queensland. In the intervening period between annual meetings, teleconferences and regular exchanges of electronic mail take place between delegates.

The ACPHA internet website is being re-designed and re-written, and should be released publicly before the end of 2008. ACPHA has already launched an electronic database of PHA members' work. Originally this was planned to be a record of 'grey literature' such as unpublished reports, but the concept has now been expanded to include published books or pamphlets, journal articles, and academic theses. This database will allow researchers to discover material written by professional

historians that may not appear on traditional library catalogues, and would otherwise be lost to posterity. All PHA members are encouraged to contribute to the database.

**Peter Tyler, PHA (NSW) delegate**

### **History Council of New South Wales**

The year 2007-2008 has been a successful and busy year for the History Council of NSW. History Week 2007 included more event hosts than any previous history week festival. 270 events were registered for the festival, up from 180 for 2006-07, including from the PHANSW. The PHA hosted a tour of the Garden Island Naval precinct, including the historic chapel, Kuttabul Memorial and Royal Marine Barracks. The event was a great success.

The Annual History Week lecture was also a success for the History Council being presented by Professor Iain McCalman on Historical Re-enactments and whether they should be taken seriously. The lecture attracted a large and mixed crowd, with a lively discussion afterwards. Also as part of History Week was the third Off the Beaten Track lecture series, with Ian Jack presenting lectures in Western Riverina and Murray River districts on the Pastoral Legacy. At the lecture, it was also the History Council's great pleasure to present the Annual History Citation to Emeritus Professor Brain Fletcher for his contribution to the teaching and study of Australian history for over 40 years.

History Week for 2008 is also about to begin, with even more events than the previous year, including an Open Day in the Rocks and Millers Point. Again the PHA has an event registered, being a harbour cruise and tour of the historic former army maritime base at Chowder Bay, which is now a marine science research centre.

As well as the History Week and associated events, the History Council was involved in a number of advocacy roles throughout the year. In conjunction with the PHA, the RAHS and the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the History Council made submissions to the review of the Heritage Act and followed the development of the review and processes involved. The same process was followed for the review of the Cultural Grants Program. The History Council also wrote to the new Federal Minister for Education concerning the National History Curriculum and has kept a watching brief on the teaching of history at a tertiary level. A number of other watching briefs concerning copyright, the digitisation of records (at Mitchell Library and the Department of Lands), censorship and Indigenous issues have also been established by the History Council through 2007-08.

A new award established in 2007 was the John Ferry Award, recognising outstanding local and community history being produced throughout NSW. This is an area so often overlooked. A second new award is also to be established by the History Council for school history which will be launched in History Week 2008 to begin in 2009.

The Council continues to grow with 14 new members (individual and corporate) joining the History Council in 2007-2008.

**Mark Dunn, PHA Representative**

## **Community Advisory Committee of the State Records of NSW**

The PHA continues to be represented on the Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW and reports of these meetings are published in *Phanfare*.

***Roslyn Burge, PHA Representative***

## **National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum**

The Forum has only met a few times in the past financial year. The former Director of the Sydney office, Colin McTaggart, retired at the end of 2007 and the new Director, Michael Hoy did not call a meeting until August 2008.

The NAA continues to provide lists of record series recently cleared for access to members of the Forum at each meeting. The meetings also provide data about recent NAA exhibitions and outreach activities as well as serving as general forums to provide user input into NAA operations.

***Terry Kass, PHA Representative***

## **History Advisory Panel to NSW Heritage Office**

Due to the disruptions and other impacts of the Heritage Review process and changes to the Heritage Office, the HAP has not met as frequently as intended.

A set of strategic priorities for the period 2008-10 was devised and members of the Panel took one or more of these as their responsibility. The Panel continues to provide advice and input to the Heritage Office on historical issues and a range of allied matters relating to heritage assessment and management. Rosemary Annable continues as chair of the Panel.

The Heritage Office representative on the Panel, Bruce Baskerville, who has served the Panel as its secretary for a prolonged period and has been a strong advocate of the Panel's role within the Heritage Office has recently accepted another position as Site Manager for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island. He leaves with the best wishes of the Panel.

***Terry Kass, PHA Representative***

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