Annual Report 2012-13

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Objectives of Professional Historians Association (NSW)

PHA NSW was formed in 1985 as a 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

Executive Committee 2012-13

President	Laila Ellmoos
Vice President	Christine Yeats
Secretary	Stephen Gapps
Treasurer	Jennifer Cornwall
Member	Emma Dortins
Member	Anne Claoué-Long
Public Officer	Judith Godden

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1.0   President's Report

This is my last year as PHA NSW President. It's been a full three years of activity and achievements, and I'd like to thank all my colleagues who have joined me on the committee since 2010 for all their hard work and dedication to the organisation.

One of the challenges for PHA NSW going forward is succession planning to ensure we have nominees to fill the executive positions. This will entail ongoing recruitment of members, both new and longstanding, to enthusiastically pitch in and join the committee. Members are also encouraged to volunteer their services in other ways to ensure we remain a vibrant organisation: write a blog post, organise a CPD, join the facebook group, represent the PHA NSW on an advisory body or assist with our advocacy work.

PHA NSW is a professional association run by and for its members – we all need to step up and share the load to help serve the organisation if we want it to remain a viable organisation that represents practising professional historians in NSW and the ACT. As they say, many hands make light work!

1.1   Continuing Professional Development

The PHA NSW offers its members a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities as a way of keeping members' skills current. These activities are also an important way of maintaining collegial networks and links between members, and with outside organisations. CPDs are run monthly and comprise a mixture of lectures, seminars and workshops and are usually provided at host venues in Sydney. The CPDs are greatly appreciated by members and widely regarded as an important benefit of membership of the PHA NSW.

PHA NSW has offered its membership a range of CPD sessions over the past year, both training and networking opportunities. The CPDs have been coordinated by members of the PHA NSW EC and general members. CPDs in 2012-13 have included:

- Eastern Suburbs Aboriginal History - organised by Michael Bennett and presented by Paul Irish & Michael Ingrey - Sunday, 24 June 2012 on Shark Island
- Explore Camden - a lecture and walking tour organised and conducted by Ian Willis - Saturday, 13 October, 2012 at Camden
- Defamation, legal issues and insurance for historians - a workshop organised by Judith Godden - Thursday, 1 November, 2012 at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney
- Collaborating on oral history with Aboriginal people: talking about ethics in the broadest sense - a workshop organised by Emma Dortins and presented by Kate Waters - Saturday, 16 February 2013 at Surry Hills Library & Community Centre
- Researching the Lands Department Records - organised by Christine Yeats and presented by Terry Kass and Caroline Ford - Wednesday, 13 March 2013 at State Records, Kingswood
- Social Media for the Cautious Historian - a workshop coordinated by Yvonne Perkins - Saturday 18 May 2013 at UTS

During the year, Vice President Christine Yeats developed procedures and guidelines for members organising CPDs; she also developed a checklist and an event evaluation form. Christine has volunteered to be the CPD Coordinator reporting ex-officio to the PHA NSW Executive Committee for 2013-14.

The CPD Coordinator's role will be to plan and manage the CPD program in consultation with the CPD Sub-Committee and the Executive Committee, in line with agreed guidelines and procedures. The CPD Coordinator will be assisted by the PHA NSW member(s) or the EC representative (s) who is managing an event, together with the PHA NSW Administrative Assistant.

It is envisaged that the roles and responsibilities of the CPD Coordinator will include the following tasks/responsibilities:

- plan the PHA NSW CPD events for the year in consultation with the CPD Sub-Committee and EC, including the topics, speakers and venues
- ensure each PHA NSW member(s)/ representative(s) arranging the events is provided with the CPD guidelines and procedures, together with the checklist, for her/his information
- liaise with the PHA NSW member/ representative and Administrative Assistant in planning each event, with reference to the CPD guidelines and procedures, and provide advice/assistance as necessary
- liaise with the PHA NSW member(s)/representative(s) and Administrative Assistant in ensuring that each event is advertised/publicised
- liaise with PHA NSW social media and communication networks for publicity
- ensure that the arrangements are confirmed prior to the CPD activity, and
- ensure that there is a blog post (maximum 500 words with a photograph) reviewing the CPD is prepared for the website after each event.

1.2 Communicating to members

PHA NSW members are increasingly well-serviced with a range of communications from the Executive Committee and ACPHA, and opportunities to publish their work, particularly with the establishment of Circa journal. The increasing avenues for publication and promotion of members' work are:
- Circa Journal (ACPHA, annually)
- ACPHA e-bulletin Historia (ACPHA, quarterly)
- PHA NSW blog on our website
- PHAES (fortnightly)
- President's Newsletter (fortnightly)
- Facebook page
- Twitter

1.3 Phanfare and the PHA NSW Blog

Since January 2013, members' work has been published on the new PHA NSW website blog: www.phansw.org.au/blog

The PHA NSW blog was established in January 2013 to replace Phanfare, a very well-received publication of members work since it started in 1985. After some consideration by the PHA NSW Executive Committee, in consultation with the editorial collectives, Phanfare was discontinued at the end of 2012. This was due to dramatic changes in publishing technologies and increasing difficulties in the regular, ongoing production of Phanfare.

Francesca Beddie has taken on the role of the PHA NSW Blog Editor and is on the lookout for blog posts written by members including reviews of books and exhibitions, CPD reports, member profiles and articles that deal with issues around professional practise. Similar to Phanfare, the blog is intended as a way of showcasing the work of PHA NSW members, and keeping members abreast of current issues in the field of public history.

The Executive Committee and the Blog Editor will later investigate the feasibility of an annual compilation of work published on the blog into the new Phanfare template as a pdf publication available for download on the website.

1.1.4 Business Plan and Operational Manual

The Business Plan was not updated for 2012-13. The Operational Manual is continually updated as procedures change.

1.1.5 Website

Yvonne Perkins took on the role of WordPress Site Manager and Content Manager in November 2012. She is assisted by our longstanding Site Administrator Christine de Matos. They have both been very dedicated in upgrading and maintaining the new PHA NSW website since its inception.

1.1.6 Membership

As outlined in the Membership Officer Report, fifteen new members have joined the PHA NSW since the 2011-12 AGM. During the last year, Membership Officer Emma Dortins developed a guideline so that we can process new members more efficiently. Thanks to Emma for all her hard work in this role since joining the Executive Committee in 2010. She will be stepping down at the 2012-13 AGM.

1.1.7 Social Media

One of the outcomes of the Organisational Review in 2011 was the investigation of new social media. To this end, the Executive Committee set up a Facebook group as a way of encouraging communication between members, especially those who are scattered throughout regional NSW and the ACT.

The Facebook page is a closed group – for PHA NSW members only. It allows members to promote their work, and to share feedback on exhibitions they have visited or books they have read; it is also is a forum for feedback on PHA NSW events and programs, including our CPD sessions.

Yvonne Perkins has taken on the PHA NSW twitter account with Secretary Stephen Gapps and we now have 140 followers.

1.1.8 History in July 2013

One of the highlights was History in July, held annually at History House. This year, the event was held on 24 July 2013.

Our guest speaker this year was one of our members, Dr Bruce Pennay, who was also the judge for the Public History Prize 2012. Bruce spoke about his recent work collecting photographs associated with experiences of post-war migrants who stayed at the Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre.

Bruce also presented the Public History Prize on the night. Because there were two winners, Bruce generously waived his judging fee and made a personal donation to augment the prize money.

1.1.9　　PHA NSW roundtable at the AHA Conference 2013

One of my last official functions as President was to chair a PHA NSW roundtable session at the AHA Conference in Wollongong. The session titled 'Public service: the role of history and historians in government' featured five members discussing some of the issues faced by historians working in the public sector at Commonwealth, state and local level. Francesca Beddie, Ian Hoskins, Emma Dortins, Caroline Ford and Christine Yeats drew on their experience and on case studies to discuss professional practice, ethics, policy impacts, and access to records. The roundtable session was lively and engaging, attracting almost 30 people.

The full abstract of the PHA NSW roundtable session is below:

Writing history about policy or working from within government presents particular challenges. Laila Ellmoos, President of the Professional Historians Association NSW (PHA NSW), will chair a discussion about issues faced by historians working in the public sector at Commonwealth, state and local level.

Five PHA NSW members will draw on their experience and on case studies to discuss professional practice, ethics, policy impacts, and access to records.

Francesca Beddie will explore how historical analysis can be useful for national policymakers, using on a case study of work produced on the Australian apprenticeship system. 'Christine Yeats will discuss the role of historians in ensuring sound archival policies and practice across government and the threat to records from the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, using State Records of NSW as an example. Ian Hoskins will talk about the challenges of presenting complex historical narratives in the local history context to the public, with reference to signage, walking tours, films and publications. Emma Dortins will show how historians can help provide a sound basis for legislative reform, drawing on her experience as a historian on the small, interdisciplinary secretariat to the working party reviewing NSW Aboriginal Heritage legislation in 2012. Caroline Ford will discuss some of the challenges involved in writing government history from the inside, using her history of heritage conservation practice in the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and a history of recreation in National Parks, as case studies.

Laila Ellmoos, PHA NSW President

2.0   Secretary's Report

2012-13 was my first year as Secretary of PHA NSW and very much a learning experience. With the support of the rest of the committee and in particular our energetic President Laila Ellmoos, overall I feel the executive achieved considerable results for the PHA NSW in the last 12 months.

A priority for me has been to return to the position of secretary much of the traditional secretarial duties that had been conducted by the President in the last few years. This has also been as part of a broader committee effort, joined by various members, in distributing administrative and functional tasks into manageable chunks.

An important part of this has been the expanding role of the Administrative Assistant. It has been a pleasure to work with Guy Betts in the role during 2013. I believe this position is critically important to the ongoing operations of the PHA NSW in a changing public history environment.

The PHA NSW employment service network PHAES has been regularly sent out fortnightly, with a few variations – sometimes depending on job notifications coming in at the last minute. One encouraging sign I have found is that while the bulk of jobs advertised are often available elsewhere or publicly advertised, there is on average two jobs a month (out of on average 5-10 queries) that come through prospective employers that have specifically approached the PHA.

This is a good indicator of the value of the PHA. I think however we could be more proactive – particularly in the area of local government – and the committee has discussed strategies for achieving this. We hope to achieve more in this area in the coming year.

There has been some feedback from members on jobs listed that had unrealistic expectations – a perennial problem through the ages. On several occasions the committee have approached prospective employers to reconsider their scope of works and available fees. This is an area where the committee have discussed the issues and will endeavour to concentrate on in the coming year.

In terms of incoming correspondence, there has been mainly informational material that gets either binned or fed through to the Presidents Newsletter or email or social media to members.

The secretarial email address is a hotspot – unfortunately much of which is spam.

In terms of advocacy, several approaches have been made during the year to other organisations, institutions, government or other bodies including of note to the Powerhouse Museum regarding the Migration Heritage Centre, and Arts NSW regarding the NSW Premier's history awards.

The secretary position has been involved in PHA NSW social media, including regular Twitter feeds and posts on Facebook – it has been a pleasure to see more members join the members only Facebook group and contribute informational posts, and to see Yvonne Perkins join me in running the Twitter account with gusto – watching the PHA NSW Twitter followers rise from around 40 to 140 during the last 6 months of the year.

Overall this year, I have enjoyed assisting members where I have been able to, working with an excellent committee and getting to meet many more of our members.

2.1 Administrative Assistant's Report, 2013

The paid Administrative Assistant position was created in 2012 in order to provide assistance in the administrative operations of the Professional Historians Association (NSW).

The creation of this position has allowed the following services to be provided since that time:

- Collection, digitisation and distribution of correspondence sent to the PHA

- Minute taking at PHA NSW meetings

- Banking of cheques as required

- Drafting of the Professional Historians Association Employment Service email newsletter fortnightly, and monitoring potential employment opportunities for PHA NSW members

- Drafting of the President's Newsletter fortnightly

- Support at events such as History in July and Annual General Meetings

- Distributing online invitations to PHA NSW events via Eventbrite

- Updating the PHA NSW website as required

- Answering members' enquiries via email

- Other administrative tasks that may arise

This position was held in 2012 by Kate Laing, and from early 2013, by Guy Betts, both history honours students.

The position is paid at a rate of $25 per hour, with a maximum of 20 hours of work per month.

Stephen Gapps, PHA NSW Secretary

3.0   PHA NSW Membership Officer Report

The total membership of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc. at 3 August 2013 was 112 members. Professional members constituted 77 of these, Associates 25 and Graduates 10.

In 2012-213, interest in membership has been very healthy. Fifteen membership enquiries have been processed. Professional membership was offered to seven applicants, including one application for an upgrade from Associate level, associate membership was offered to five applicants and Graduate membership to three applicants.

The NSW committee has expressed support for a proposed ACPHA-wide review of membership criteria that would make requirements clearer to applicants and better support robust and objective committee decisions on membership applications.

Emma Dortins, PHA NSW Membership Officer

4.0   Public History Prize Report

Now in its fifth year, the PHA NSW Public History Prize is going strong. The prize is a yearly award to recognise and reward the work done by third or fourth year undergraduate history students enrolled at universities in NSW and the ACT whose projects engage with the profession

and practice of public history. The requirements are that the entry be the individual's own work (not that of a group), demonstrate competence in the use of primary source material and represent work undertaken during the year of submission for the prize.

To attract entries and to promote the prize, the PHANSW Public History Prize now has a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Public-History-Prize/317542854945299

This year nine entries were received for the prize. They were read and judged by PHA NSW member Dr Bruce Pennay, Adjunct Associate Professor at Charles Sturt University and author of commissioned histories and heritage reports, which often focus on the Albury-Wodonga border district where he lives.

Dr Pennay recommended that two applicants share the Public History Prize for 2012: Sarah Gregory from Macquarie University who wrote about the testimonies of two former Auschwitz-Birkenhau Sonderkommando survivors: the Gobbai brothers; and Brett Seymour from the University of Sydney who wrote a critical analysis of debates over the meanings and memories being imposed on Robben Island, South Africa. The two winning essays can be found at www.phansw.org.au/publications/undergraduate-essays

The prize was presented at the PHA NSW's 'History in July' event at History House in Sydney. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to Dr Pennay.

The PHA NSW looks forward to another exciting round of the Public History Prize this year.

Anne Claoué-Long, Public History Prize Officer

5.0   PHA NSW Website Report
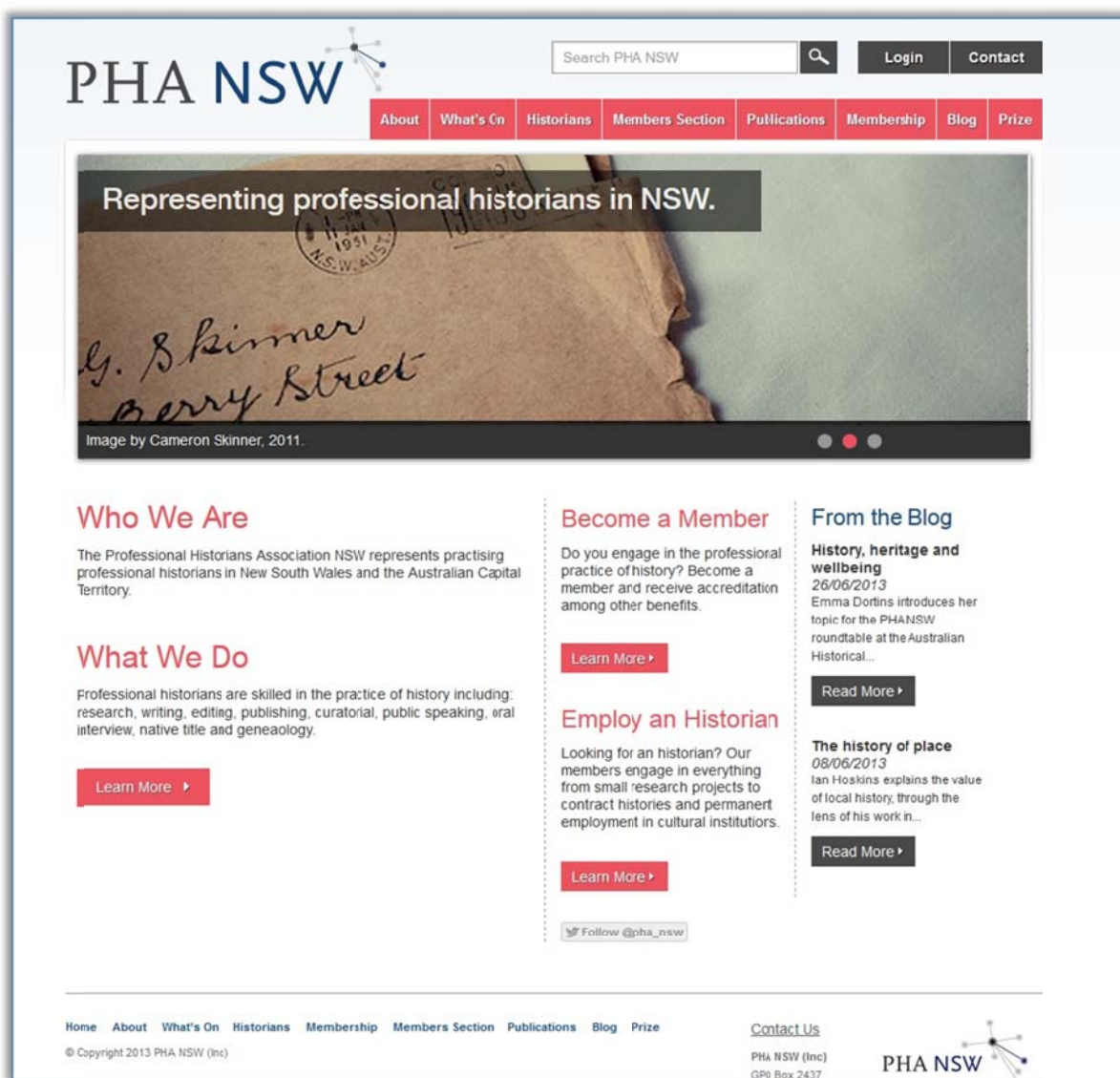
The new PHA NSW website has been up and running since September 2012 and has several new popular features, including a members' profile area that can be self-edited and a blog administered by Francesca Beddie. The website utilises the popular web publishing software Wordpress and is edited by Yvonne Perkins. The server-side of the website continues to be managed by Christine de Matos.

Traffic to the website has continued to grow over 2013. As can be seen in the graph and table below, visits to the site have grown four-fold between January and July this year (August statistics of course are still in progress). Taking the 'Unique visits' (ie from an individual, even if visited multiple times) to the site as a guide (the orange bar on the graph), January and February had between 1000-1650 visitors while in July we had 4458. In fact unique visitors have been consistently over 4000 per month since May of this year.

Monthly history
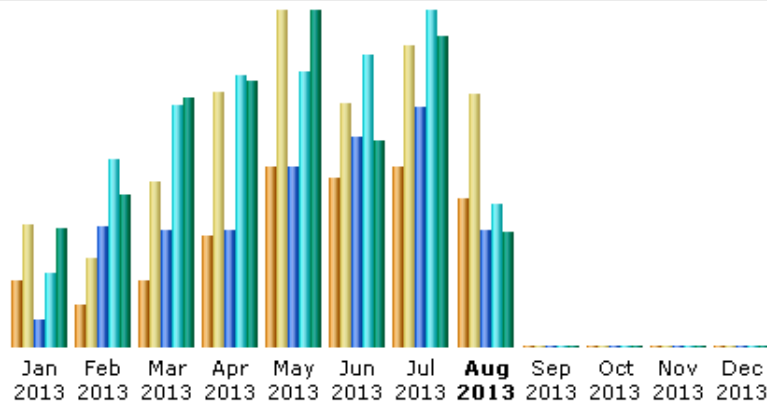
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2013	1,650	3,037	7,513	20,172	1.31 GB
Feb 2013	1,020	2,199	33,043	51,023	1.69 GB
Mar 2013	1,655	4,067	31,780	65,624	2.75 GB
Apr 2013	2,750	6,291	31,672	73,787	2.95 GB
May 2013	4,446	8,295	49,065	75,002	3.72 GB
Jun 2013	4,187	6,029	57,425	79,390	2.28 GB
Jul 2013	4,458	7,426	65,270	91,512	3.45 GB
Aug 2013	3,652	6,248	31,684	38,958	1.27 GB
Sep 2013	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2013	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2013	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2013	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23,818	43,592	307,452	495,468	19.42 GB

The 'Number of visits' includes return visits by individuals, which went from around 3000 in January to nearly 7500 in July. The number of individual web pages downloaded increased from a little over 7500 in January to over 65,000 in July, while the 'Hits' (which refers to all the individual bits that need to be downloaded, including images) has increased from just over 20,000 to over 90,000. 'Bandwidth' refers to the amount being downloaded. The best statistic to look at when gauging web traffic is 'Unique visitors' – many websites use 'Hits' as it looks more impressive but it is actually quite misleading.

The following graph refers to the country of origin for our visitors (top 25 only):

Countries (Top 25) - Full list		Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
United States	us	10,629	11,388	480.46 MB
Czech Republic	cz	10,428	10,428	32.66 MB
Turkey	tr	1,756	1,756	5.16 MB
Australia	au	1,491	7,150	268.34 MB
Russian Federation	ru	968	978	6.96 MB
China	cn	852	1,033	88.97 MB
Taiwan	tw	807	807	2.81 MB
Israel	il	438	439	3.67 MB
Ukraine	ua	370	386	10.79 MB
Netherlands	nl	342	344	8.52 MB
India	in	332	349	3.00 MB
Japan	jp	299	311	23.97 MB
Hong Kong	hk	298	312	2.74 MB
Spain	es	268	274	3.57 MB
Canada	ca	259	310	53.75 MB
Great Britain	gb	152	227	11.99 MB
Thailand	th	141	142	2.03 MB
South Korea	kr	136	136	502.23 KB
France	fr	128	152	36.92 MB
Sweden	se	118	154	85.33 MB
Republic of Serbia	rs	117	118	3.87 MB
Saudi Arabia	sa	108	111	9.37 MB
Singapore	sg	103	106	1.22 MB
Malaysia	my	97	122	1.50 MB
Germany	de	90	101	22.49 MB
Others		957	1324	125.03 MB

The high level of hits from the US can at least partially be accounted for by the fact that it would include all URLs that do not end in a country domain (eg unlike .au), and it is possible that the high level of visits from at least some of the countries on the list may be more related to things like spamming or web-bots. Nevertheless, the diversity in country of origin makes for some interesting reading.

Some further interesting statistics: the busiest days of the week for visits are Fridays and Saturdays; the most popular pages include some of the *Phanfare*s and Public History prize winning papers; key search phrases include phansw and its variations or individual member names; and the most common referring search engine is, unsurprisingly, Google.

Despite this good news, many members would be aware that here have been some recent issues with the website. At the moment those issues have been resolved, but there remain some longer term decisions that need to be made about the best way to run the PHA NSW site. This will of course be a topic of continual discussion between the managers of the website, the service provider, the developers and the Executive Committee. The following includes a summary of these recent events.

On 11 June 2013, PHA NSW members and administrators lost all ability to access the backend of the website. The member profiles could no longer be accessed on the public view of the website. While the site was restored with a backup provided by our service provider, Bluefish, it soon became apparent that there was a larger problem. This was resolved by migrating all websites managed by Bluefish, including PHA NSW, to a new and more secure server. In the process of transferring the websites over, Bluefish upgraded some of the software as part of its program of increased site security. Unfortunately this meant that parts of our member profiles became invisible on the website due to inadequacies in the initial programming by the site developer. Once the programming side of the site had been addressed, full functionality was restored. It is this series of events that led to intermittent interruptions to the member section of the PHA NSW website in the middle of this year. Unfortunately, in the land of the internet these situations sometimes arise and we feel it was dealt with by all concerned in as timely a manner as was possible, and with no significant loss of data.

Currently our website is fully functional. The WordPress software that the website uses is up-to-date as are the versions of the plugins used, and further steps have been taken to ensure future security and stability of the website. The steps taken by Bluefish to ensure the security of the server appear to be working well. We will also continue to update and upgrade the website to make it as user-friendly as possible without compromising the site's integrity. Members will of course be informed of any new developments, and feedback on the new site is most welcome.

Yvonne Perkins and Christine de Matos, PHA NSW website coordinators

6.0   ACPHA Report

The ACPHA AGM was held in late August - early September 2012 in Perth. Once again PHA NSW's financial support allowed alternate Virginia Macleod to attend, part of a strategy to increase the involvement of alternate delegates. Three ACPHA Skype conferences were held in 2012-13, in December, March and June.

At the 2012 ACPHA AGM, PHA NSW delegates circulated a 'closer working relationship' proposal emphasising the desirability of a national focus and a higher profile for professional historians. Although this approach would relieve PHAs of many mundane tasks and save money through greater efficiency, concerns were raised about state PHAs losing their sense of local engagement and purpose. Despite the benefits of a national employment service receiving a lukewarm reception from some delegates, it was agreed in principle to support such a service. The only outcome of this so far is PHA Qld's interest in participating, on a trial basis, in NSW's employment service (PHAES). Details of this have yet to be finalised.

PHA NSW delegates suggested that the capitation fee per member be increased and membership fees be standardised across all PHAs. While it was agreed a rise in capitation fees was desirable, standardisation of member fees was not endorsed. It was decided, with the agreement of all delegates except WA, that capitation fees be raised to $30 per member for the next financial year.

PHA NSW delegates successfully proposed that ACPHA take over the full costs of production and distribution of *Circa*. This is to take effect with the publication of 4th edition in mid-2014. A new *Circa* editor, Sophie Church (PHA Qld) has been appointed.

PHA NSW delegates – with assistance from Victoria and South Australia – have now produced four editions of a national e-bulletin, *Historia*. While this is distributed to members it was originally intended that it also go to state and national stakeholders. To deal with any possible privacy issues Geoff Speirs (PHA SA) drafted a letter to be sent to stakeholder organisations asking if they would like to be included in a mailing list. Thus far Tasmania and Victoria are the only states to have provided stakeholder lists. Every PHA is encouraged to do this as it is an important way of reaching the wider history community and should assist in raising the profile of public historians.

In October 2012 ACPHA wrote to ABC CEO Mark Scott concerning proposed cuts to Radio National, especially the impact on programs such as *Hindsight*. A press release was also sent to the print media. A reply was received from Michael Mason, Assistant Manager, Radio National.

PHA NSW delegates flagged a proposal for re-branding, including a new name for ACPHA. This will be further discussed at the 2013 AGM. PHA NSW executive has supported this initiative.

It was decided that ACPHA endorse the formation of a National Committee of Editors and a National Book Review Panel and that ACPHA accept the offer of Dr Neville Buch (PHA Qld) to coordinate this.

Victorian delegates reported on PHA Vic's structured CPD trial that started in July 2011. In total 40 per cent of members (57) participated, with 20 completing the required points. Some resistance was noted to the scheme being compulsory, especially from older and rural members. PHA delegates have discussed the idea of voluntary formal recognition of CPD with their committees. This will be further discussed at the 2013 AGM.

I take this opportunity to thank alternate ACPHA delegate Virginia Macleod for the support she has given over the last three years and for the initiative she has shown in this role. She is now stepping down and I am very pleased to welcome Emma Dortins as her replacement.

Pauline Curby, PHA NSW ACPHA delegate

7.0   PHA NSW Representative RAHS Library Committee

I was elected the Professional Historians Association NSW representative on the Library Committee of the Royal Australian Historical Society on 2 May 2013 when Terri McCormack stepped down from the position, pending her move overseas. Terri had been the PHA representative on the Committee for a number of years. In taking on the role of the PHA representative, I gratefully acknowledge Terri's contribution to the work of the Library Committee and the PHA NSW.

The RAHS Library Committee is currently chaired by Elizabeth Ellis, Vice President of the RAHS, who was elected in January this year. The former chair was Dr Julia Horne. Julia's many achievements and her work as Chair from April 2011 to January 2013 were recorded with thanks by the RAHS Council at its January meeting.

The RAHS Library Committee meets four times a year. According to its Terms of Reference the 'purpose of the Library Committee is to provide strategic support for the operations of the Royal Australian Historical Society Library, and to ensure that the Library Collection Development Policy is implemented'.

Over the past six months the Committee has been primarily concerned with the successful implementation of the Library Digitisation and Database Projects, following the allocation of $25,000 from the NSW Government's grant to the RAHS for the Western Crossings Bicentenary.

This has involved the:

- establishment of an ongoing management system for the library databases that identifies key roles and responsibilities for their successful and robust operation;

- development of standard practices for cataloguing, data entry and digital image production, as well as procedures for ensuring compliance with these standards; and

- advising on the committal and management of annual budget to employ specialist contractors for maintenance and upgrades for existing digital collections and funding for expansion of digital content.

The Library Digitisation and Database Projects were successfully completed on time and to budget and the results can be viewed on the Western Crossings pages on the RAHS website. The

Frank Walker Crossings Collection digitisation project is particularly noteworthy. Frank Walker – 'historian-in-the-field' – was president of the RAHS at the time of the centenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains. Much of his personal archive is held by the RAHS. It includes: glass lantern slides, scrap albums and booklets of news cuttings, photographs and ephemera. The Frank Walker Crossings Collection page provides access to a selection of this material to honour both his contribution to preserving historical records about the original expedition, and the bicentenary of 2013.

Other ongoing matters considered by the Committee have included:

- Library space and storage arrangements including the Rare Books Room. This room has not been available for use by library visitors for the past few years but it is shortly to be reinstated as a research space

- Library content on RAHS website, and

- Promotion of Library for increased recognition and usage, both onsite and online.

Christine Yeats, PHA NSW Vice President and PHA NSW Representative on the RAHS Library Committee

8.0   NAA Consultative Forum Report

The Sydney NAA Consultative Forum held three meetings during this year. The NAA provides lists of record series recently cleared for access to members of the Forum at each meeting. Meetings also provide information about recent NAA exhibitions and outreach activities as well as serving as general forums to provide user input into NAA operations.

Due the closure of a number of interstate offices, the Sydney repository now holds some records for other states. A new National Archives facility will be constructed in Canberra near the Mitchell NAA storage repository. The NAA facility in Queen Victoria Terrace in Parkes in the centre of Canberra will remain open.

Matters most relevant to the members of the PHA NSW include the re-structuring of the NAA although this will not affect normal user services. The installation of a new PABX telephone system for the Sydney office means that new telephone numbers had to be assigned to the NAA. The new numbers will be shown on the NAA website. A recorded message will direct callers to the new numbers. A new service is now available on the NAA website called SODA 'Stream of Digital Archives' providing access and links to the latest files digitised and made available online by NAA. To the relief of many researchers, USB drives may now be used on the computers in the NAA reading rooms.

Terry Kass, PHA NSW Representative on the NAA Consultative Forum

9.0   History Advisory Panel to NSW Heritage Office Report

Mark Dunn, fellow PHA NSW member, was appointed last November as historian to the Heritage Council and thus became Chair of the History Advisory Panel. Nicole Secomb remains as the officer responsible for running the panel, in a period of restructure for both the Heritage Branch and the Office of Environment and Heritage. Changes to the procedures for approval of appointments to such panels meant that I attended meetings in an observer capacity for much of

the year. My appointment has, however, now been approved.

Over the past year the History Advisory Panel assisted the NSW Heritage Council by offering professional advice on a wide range of issues, including the rural and the 'modern movement' thematic studies, as well as a project on the social significance guidelines. We also participated in a workshop with Heritage Branch staff regarding the writing of short and engaging histories.

Patricia Curthoys, PHA NSW Representative on the History Advisory Panel

10.0   History Council of NSW Report

The past year has been a busy and productive time for the History Council of NSW as the peak body for History in NSW. The Council has developed and run a comprehensive program of events as well as maintaining an ongoing advocacy role in the sector.

In September 2012, the major History Council event, History Week was a huge success. The theme for 2012 was Threads, which encompassed everything from fashion to sweat shops. For the first time, the History Council curated part of the week, with the selection of a series of muses to inspire modern designers to present new works from historic ideas. Five pieces were completed and placed on exhibition in the foyer of Mitchell Library to coincide with a symposium with the editor of Vogue Australia and Margo Riley from the library. A short film titled Six Spectres, by film makers ABSORB captured the muses and the library in a beautiful piece. A program called Speaker Connect was also launched, where speakers are linked to community libraries and organisations across the state. This sends speakers to communities who may otherwise not have the opportunity to hear professional and academic historians. The program was very popular, with a number of PHA members involved, and is being repeated in 2013. The program for the 2013 History Week, Picture This, has been published on the Council's website.

In May 2013, the Council held a very successful (and over-subscribed) symposium at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre in Katoomba to explore the bicentennial and the mythologising of the 1813 Blue Mountains Crossing. The event was filmed and videos are being posted on the History Council website. Also in May, we sponsored a panel at the Sydney Writers Festival, presenting the winners of the NSW Premiers History Awards 2012. This was another successful event and has proved a popular addition to the Writers Festival program and a good way to publicise the NSW Premiers History Award winners.

Advocacy continued to occupy an important place in the History Councils' 2012-13 work program. The closure of State Records city office and the continual threat to funding of the Digital Archive were our main focus through the year. This is still a major threat to the integrity of the archives and the future of historic research in NSW. The recent White Paper on Planning in NSW released by the State Government has also been of concern to the Council. The History Council attended a planning day that explained the threats to heritage in NSW of the new policy paper and wrote a submission to Government. The History Council has since been invited to sit on a heritage roundtable with other heritage and history organisations hosted by the Minister for Environment and heritage, Hon Robyn Parker.

In April 2013, the Council ran an online survey to gauge the State of the history sector. The survey, which attracted over 700 responses, asked a series of questions about where people worked, what they did, who they thought their audience was and what were the issues fronting

them. The results will allow the Council to refine our approach to advocacy and representation to better address the concerns of the sector overall.

Finally, our biggest challenge ahead is a proposed cut to Government funds for peak bodies. The History Council relies on a tri-annual grant to pay staff and operate our programs. With funding likely to be cut across the sector, the next twelve months will be challenging for the History Council and other arts organisations in NSW.

Mark Dunn, PHA NSW Representative on the History Council of NSW

11.0   Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW Report

The Community Advisory Committee of State Records met twice in the 2012-13 financial year. The first meeting in September 2012 focused on the impact of the closure of the Sydney Records Centre. The committee was informed that only limited microfilm and microfiche had been transferred to the State Library of NSW, including divorce indexes and guides, Public Services lists, teachers' rolls, records relating to Jimmy Governor (Aboriginal outlaw), surveyors sketchbooks and some correspondence of the Colonial Secretary. Rhonda Campbell provided an update on additions to the online resources of State Records including the Child Care and Protection Index. A vote of thanks was given to the volunteers who had indexed the soldier settler files. Rhonda also reported that a new agreement had been signed with Ancestry.com to digitize additional records, including the NSW Police Gazette (which was made available in October 2012).

Find My Past was engaged to index and digitize will books. Cassie Findlay updated the committee with details about the work undertaken to create the Digital State Archive, a system which aims to capture government records in digital format. State Records has agreed to assist government agencies with the process of migrating records into digital form. Numerous complexities were discussed, including the difficulty of ensuring that sufficient records are transferred into digital format to create an adequate archive.

Committee members were also given the opportunity to preview and test the new OpenGov NSW website, which contains agency annual reports and documents released under freedom of information (governed in NSW by the Government Information [Public Access] Act of 2009). The website can now be viewed at https://www.opengov.nsw.gov.au

The second meeting, held in March 2013, examined the role of State Records in the upcoming ANZAC Centenary Commemoration. State Records is running a project to identify the various records they hold in relation to World War I. A selection of the records will be presented in an online gallery divided into three sections: In Service, In Remembrance and On the Home Front. The committee also discussed the results of the recent on-line satisfaction survey conducted by State Records. Most responses were favourable, although there was some criticism of the closure of the Sydney Records Centre.

Difficulties were also expressed about using Archives Investigator and State Records agreed to continue offering training courses to members of the public. It was pointed out that an online tutorial is available. PHA NSW members are encouraged to complete the next survey which is due later in 2013. It was clear from both meetings that State Records are embracing new digital technologies, but that lack of funding is hindering further progress.

Michael Bennett, PHA NSW Representative on the Community Advisory Committee of State Records

12.0   Treasurer's Report

12.1   Overview

The PHA NSW has maintained the favourable position established in the last financial year. It ended this financial year with a surplus of $389.40. This is small by comparison to the equivalent amount for 2011-12 of $2,957.10 (and potentially misleading when taking into account the payment of the annual ACPHA Levy of $3,270.00 in July 2013, taking it into the new financial year 2013-14). It does, however, reflect the changing priorities and operating costs of the PHA NSW, most notably the delivery of an enhanced CPD program. Even so, as the attached financial statement indicates, overall spending during 2012-13 was moderate, with the Executive Committee exercising suitable caution in this regard. The balance of the PHA NSW's St George account as at 30 June 2013 was $24,852.83.

12.2   Income

12.2.1 Membership fees

This revenue source is estimated to be an amount of $13,330, made up as follows:

- $10,810.00 (received during the 2012-13 financial period, payments for membership renewal and new members

- $2,520.00 (membership fees paid in advance of the August 2012 renewal deadline - see financial statement for 2011-12).

A further amount of $1,380.00 was received, consisting of renewal payments in advance of the 20 August 2013 deadline and those of new members.

As at 30 June 2013 the number of financial members was as follows:

- 80 Professional members

- 23 Associate members

- 9 Graduate members

12.2.2 CPD Payments

An amount of $950.00 was received in relation to CPD events.

12.3   Expenditure

An amount of $3,450.00 was paid for administrative support services. The range of tasks includes taking minutes for the Executive Committee, contributing to the PHAES Bulletin and president's newsletter and assisting at member functions.

The other significant item of expenditure was an amount of $4,157.50 for the design and maintenance of the website.

INCOME	**This Year 2012-13**
Membership Fees	10,810.00
CPD Events*	950.00
Subscriptions	0.00
Norfolk Island Conference – including publication sales	35.00
Interest earned	60.00
Royalties	0.00
Reimbursements	0.00
Membership Fees in advance	1,380.00
TOTAL Income for financial year	**13,235.00**

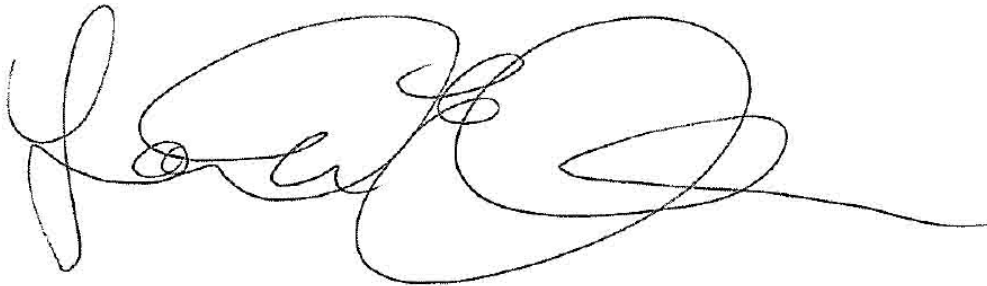| **EXPENDITURE**	
ACPHA Levy**	0.00
ACPHA (attendance at meetings, conferences)	106.20
Administrative Services (payment of professional fees)	3,450.00
Advertising & Promotion (Yellow pages)	0.00
Bank Fees	8.40
CPD Events (honorariums, presenters' fees, venue hire)	994.00
Consultancy Fees (PHAES & Government submissions)*	0.00
Donations (RAHS Building Fund)	0.00
Gifts	0.00
Insurance (Public Liability)	477.40
Internet transactions (data downloads, internet messages)	0.00
Norfolk Island Conference (incl launch)	0.00
PHA representation at functions	0.00
Phanfare (printing & postage)	0.00
Photocopying	0.00
Postage (incl. PO Box rental)	254.20
Presenters' Fees & expenses	0.00
Prizes and Awards	500.00
Publications (design and printing - brochures, other)	1,588.90
Royalties	0.00
Social events (catering)	1,327.60
Stationery	0.00
Subscriptions (History Council, AHA, Museums Australia)	487.00
Telephone (Telstra)	236.80
Website (design and maintenance)	4,157.50
TOTAL expenditure for financial year	**13,624.40**
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR	**389.40**
FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2013 - St. George Bank - Society Cheque Account 428 209 243	**24852.85**

* An additional amount of $240 was earned (social media for the cautious historian) but not deposited until after 30 June 2013.
** Amount of levy for 2012-13 was $3,270.00. Payment made after 30 June 2013, placing it outside this financial statement (i.e. cheque for payment deducted from PHA NSW account after 30 June 2013.

Jennifer Cornwall, PHA NSW Treasurer, 3 August 2013

PHA NSW President:

Date: 15 August 2013