

## Objectives of PHA (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 2004-2005

The committee met seven times since it was elected in August 2004

President	Pauline Curby
Vice President	Kate Waters
Secretary	Virginia Macleod
Treasurer	Rosemary Broomham
Member	Margo Beasley
Member	Rosemary Kerr
Member	Peter Tyler

# PHA (NSW) Inc Annual Report, 2004-2005

## President's Report

This year the executive has attempted to fulfil the objectives of the PHA (NSW) Inc (see [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) ) as much as time and resources have allowed. We generally made the following areas priorities:

- Representing members interests with commissioning bodies/prospective employers
- Raising the PHA's profile
- Continuing professional development for members

On many occasions members of the executive have represented members' interests by giving advice to commissioning bodies - informing them about ACPHA's code of practice and alerting them to the recommended scale of professional fees. On occasion I have approached organisations offering the services of a senior historian to advise selection/interview panels. These offers have generally been accepted.

While there has been no formal campaign to raise the PHA's profile, we have tried to do this on an ad hoc basis. Members of the executive have been taken every available opportunity to participate in meetings and forums in an effort to make the PHA better known. In addition, the website [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) has been updated and we have a new brochure 'advertising our wares'.

Members have been encouraged to undertake professional development to broaden their skills and knowledge and our committee has organised a varied program of events and excursions. These have been successful and we have received favourable feedback from participants. PHA funds are used to make up any shortfall when we have not been able to cover costs. (see separate report)

The publication of the most recent edition of the *Public History Review*, Volume 11, at the end of last year, marked the end of the PHA's association with this journal. In view of a declining subscription base, rising printing costs and reduced funding from the Ministry for the Arts, the PHA executive decided to terminate the arrangement. The Australian Centre for Public History at UTS will continue to publish PHR in an electronic format.

This decision left the PHA holding unspent grant money from the Ministry for the Arts for the next two volumes of *PHR*. The executive submitted a proposal to the Ministry to use this money for a PHA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication. Unfortunately our proposal did not meet the Ministry's guidelines and instead we were asked to pay the money to the History Council of NSW. The reason for this was to ensure that this money remained in the 'history community' rather than simply being absorbed into consolidated revenue. Accordingly I briefed the president and the executive officer of the History Council on the background to this decision.

As we are celebrating the PHA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year we would still like to proceed with the idea of an anniversary publication. A modified website proposal for this will be submitted to members at the AGM.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped ensure that the PHA functioned efficiently this year. Members of the executive have worked as a cohesive

team and in particular I acknowledge the contribution made by Margo Beasley and Rosemary Broomham, neither of whom will be standing for re-election. We are also indebted to the Royal Australian Historical Society for its ongoing support, in particular for allowing us to hold meetings and workshops in History House and the use of rent-free office space for our filing cabinet.

*Pauline Curby* President

### **Secretary's report**

This year we have spruced up our image with a new logo and new stationery. Our new website is easy to navigate so don't forget to visit [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

We have also produced a new double-sided standard format brochure detailing our work, for use at conferences and to generally raise awareness of PHA (NSW).

Events, electronic literature, articles and newsletters are regularly forwarded to all members by email. We also receive a constant number of inquiries by email, phone and even letters. PHA (NSW) is alive and kicking.

*Virginia Macleod* Secretary

### **Professional Development**

We have had a busy year of CPD activities – almost one a month on average. In these, we have tried to cater for a broad range of members' interests. Unfortunately, the response has been rather discouraging at times, with rarely more than twelve people attending. If we have been pointing in the wrong direction, perhaps our members will give the incoming committee some guidance about what is REALLY wanted.

4 September 2004 – Book Indexing Workshop, at History House (Max McMaster)

15 September 2004 – Behind the scenes at Sydney Conservatorium of Music

16 September 2004 – Symposium on Publishing (History Week event)

23 October 2004 – Internet Workshop, at UTS (Dr Heather Goodall)

1 December 2004 – Visit to Vaughan Evans Library and curatorial workshops, National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour

16 March 2005 – Visit to Trainor/Owen Collection of radiological history, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (Ms Brenda Heagney)

13 April 2005 - Symposium *The History Community and Heritage - 1901 to 2005*, with RAHS - part of the National Trust Heritage Festival

13 May 2005 – Open Day and inspection of archives, College of Nursing, Burwood

8 June 2005 – Inspection of restored Mint Building and library, Historic Houses Trust

16 July 2005 – Writing Workshop, at History House (Dr Mark Tredinnick)

*Pauline Curby and Peter Tyler*

## **Membership**

Sub-Committee members: Rosemary Kerr (Sec) Rosemary Broomham, Kate Waters

During the year we've received a healthy flow of membership applications. In total, we approved ten memberships – six Professional Members; two Associates; and two Graduates. It's heartening to note that among those were two members returning to our ranks after an absence, so welcome back to Jennifer Cornwall and Deborah Edward. Congratulations and welcome to new members: John Bentley, Clare Dempsey, Emma Dortins, Stephen Gapps, Andrew Honey, Anna London, Naomi Malone and Karen Schamberger. We look forward to meeting you and hope that you will take an active role in the Association.

Each year, as well as welcoming new members, we lose others who retire or, for various reasons, decide not to continue their membership. This year, three of our long-standing members - Beverley Johnson, Joan Kent, Ailsa Macpherson are retiring from the Association. Judy Wing is also retiring but retaining her membership. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their contribution to the profession and to the Association and wish them all the very best in the future.

*Rosemary Kerr*

## **Phanfare Co-ordinator's Report 2004-2005**

*Phanfare*, the newsletter of PHA NSW, has maintained, even improved, its excellent standard. The credit for this goes to the members of the three collectives who are to be congratulated for their continued efforts – all voluntary, of course.

Technically, with a few hiccoughs, the system of electronic conversion and distribution is working well. On behalf of all collectives, Rosemary Broomham has continued the task of downloading, printing and posting the remaining hard copies required mainly for organisations.

The membership of two collectives has remained the same: the Inner City Collective (Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack, Anne Smith) and the Central Collective (Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Lisa Murray and Shirley Fitzgerald). The North-West collective still has the experience of Terry Kass, Katherine Knight and Carol Liston but has lost Nicole Secomb and Anna Wong due to other commitments. Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn and Karen Schamberger have kindly volunteered to make good the shortfall.

During the last year, more articles have been sourced from outside the membership. This has meant diverse opinion and information. Members may wish to consider if this is in keeping with the rationale of the organisation's newsletter.

At the AGM, all your suggestions will be welcome.

*Annette Salt* Phanfare Co-ordinator

## **History Council of NSW representative**

In the period 2004–5, the History Council of NSW (HCNSW) continued in its work as the peak body representing and promoting the profile of history in the state.

In late 2004, the Ministry for the Arts approved the HCNSW's application for triennial funding. In 2005, Perry McIntyre was elected as President of the HCNSW, and Jill Roe as the Vice-President. Laila Ellmoos was elected as the PHA representative on the Management Committee, replacing Anna Wong who had been the previous PHA representative.

In 2004–5, recurrent issues for discussion by the HCNSW Management Committee included 'born-digital' records, HCNSW membership, the CISH conference, and planning for History Week and the annual History Lecture. In July 2005, the HCNSW made a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into historic heritage places in Australia. History Week continues to be the Council's key event for promoting the profile of history in NSW. The theme for History Week in September 2005 is 'transform', which highlights the 'changing practices of history as well as the dramatic changes to our environment and society'.

*Laila Ellmoos*

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

The PHA continues to be represented on the State Records NSW Community Advisory Committee which met in September and December 2004, March and May 2005. A report of the issues discussed at each meeting is published in *Phanfare*. The PHA email newsletter advises members when new issues of State Records' publications are available on its website: the online newsletter - *For The Record* – [www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/fortherecord/current.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/fortherecord/current.htm) and *Vital Signs*.

*Roslyn Burge*

## **History Advisory Panel of the New South Wales Heritage Council Report 2004-5**

The History Advisory Panel of the New South Wales Heritage Council meets four to five times a year and deals with matters relevant to the use of history in heritage work. Its major task during this period was formulating a methodology with worked examples of how to apply "Criterion A – Historical Significance" when assessing heritage items. This work was completed and readied for formal approval. The HAP is now directing its attention to Criterion D - Social Significance, and will deal with it in a similar fashion.

Other matters of importance dealt with by the HAP which affect PHA members, include the Place Names Policy, which was prepared by the Panel. The Heritage Office has now issued this Policy as a formal document. There has also been input into the aggressively large increase in fees for copies at the NSW Lands Department (formerly Land Titles Office), as well as into the role of professional historians in Community Heritage Studies. During the year, the HAP became the Advisory Panel to the Heritage Council responsible for matters of heraldry. The composition of the HAP was adjusted to accommodate expertise in this field.

*Terry Kass*

## **National Archives of Australia – Sydney Consultative Forum Report 2004-5**

The Sydney Consultative Forum brings together representatives from users of National Archives. Members include representatives from professional history, local history, genealogical, ethnic history and archival organisations, which use the Sydney Repository as well as from academe.

It meets about four times per year. Matters dealt with include, public outreach activities of the NAA, as well as input from the forum into how to better serve the needs of users. The PHA representative provided input into proposed new copy fee regimes, and attended the workshop on this matter held at Sydney. There is an ongoing issue about the sale of the Department of Housing and Construction plans in a manner bypassing the Commonwealth's own Archives Act to a private company which does not allow access except for a high fee. The NAA is pursuing this matter at the request of the PHA.

*Terry Kass*

### **Library Report**

The main function of the Honorary Librarian is to receive and store library material and to report on items of interest in regular Library Reports in *Phanfare*, the newsletter of the Professional Historians Association of NSW. The majority of items received are newsletters and journals from other historical organisations and societies. The Library Reports keep local members informed of interstate activities, events and publications of historical relevance and connects them to other corporate members of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations.

During the year 2004-2005, the bulk of material received by the Honorary Librarian was transferred to the dedicated PHA space at the Royal Australian Historical Society. This was accompanied by a listing of all the periodicals and monographs received since 2000. In July 2005, the Honorary Librarian also became a member of the Library Committee of the RAHS.

Meanwhile, newsletters from the various Professional Historians Associations in the Australian States and New Zealand as well as history-related publications from other sources have continued to arrive. The Librarian reviewed this material and extracted important or interesting elements for inclusion in *Phanfare*. Members were informed of events, activities and publications of their fellow organisations in Library Reports in *Phanfare* in July-August 2004, January-February 2005, March-April 2005, and July-August 2005.

*Terri McCormack* Honorary Librarian

### **ACPHA report**

During the past year ACPHA has continued to work on fine tuning the ethics and appeals procedures to produce a workable system that also meets all legal requirements. Advice has been provided to member PHAs on a range of issues, in particular relating to tax status and the application of accreditation standards to new members. The issue of obtaining affordable insurance for PHA members has continued to exercise ACPHA. After considerable negotiation ACPHA was able to organise a new group insurance policy, again through Ambro Insurance Brokers in Victoria, at a much more affordable rate than individual policies. The development of

a common constitution, acceptable to all PHAs and in line with ongoing legal advice, continues to be worked on by ACPHA.

*Kate Waters*

### **Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 30 June 2005**

At the end of the year 2004-5 the financial position of the PHA (NSW) remains healthy in spite of our recording the small loss of \$1442.02. Of this loss, \$721.38, or about half, came from there being two payments for office insurance in this year – one at the beginning of the year and the other at the end – a move in the due date that should not recur.

Totalling \$20,136.05, our funds at the end of this year were inflated by the transfer of \$12,969.95 from the No 2 Account that had been established for *Public History Review (PHR)*. This merging of our two accounts on 31 August 2004 was undertaken to reduce bank fees. However, as the PHA has since ceased its direct connection with *PHR*, a further \$8,800 has been withdrawn from the PHA Business Cheque Account this July. Representing two unused grants from the Ministry of Arts this sum has been paid to the History Council as the Ministry directed.

In real terms the proportion of the remaining funds exclusive to the PHA at the end of 2005 was \$11,336.05. This reduced balance still compares favourably with the balance of \$8,608.12 that we had on 1 July 2004. Part of this amount is in the Term Deposit that now stands at \$5,230.72.

After the cost of publishing *PHR* Volume 11, which was \$8,800.00, the ACPHA levy remained our greatest single expense at \$1,900.00 with fees to workshop presenters running a close second at \$1,658.20. Apart from the Introductory Book Indexing Workshop in September 2004 when we spent \$1208.20 to bring Max McMaster from Melbourne – his travel expenses being \$383.20 – the modest cost of our Continuing Professional Development events has been covered by the fees paid for attending them. Other significant expenditure covered the upgrading and maintenance of our website, the design of our new logo and the printing of new stationery. We have also paid for the automation of our emailing system.

Unfortunately, our auditor Sandra Grollmus has tendered her resignation as she is winding down her business in preparation for her retirement. As a consequence, the PHA will need to appoint a new auditor for 2005-06.

Thanks again to the hardworking executive committee and to Rosemary Kerr for her work as Assistant Treasurer.

*Rosemary Broomham* Treasurer