



**Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

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 2006-2007**

The committee met eight times since it was elected in August 2006

President	Peter J. Tyler
Vice President	Ron Ringer (to 1/10/06); Virginia Macleod (from 22/11/06)
Secretary	Ruth Banfield (from 22/11/06)
Treasurer	Rosemary Kerr
Member	Pauline Curby (Continuing Professional Development)
Member	Deborah Edward
Member	Michael Tyquin (Membership Secretary)

### **Other Officers**

Public Officer	Virginia Macleod
Minutes Secretary	Virginia Macleod
Website Manager	Christine de Matos
<i>Phanfare</i> Co-ordinator	Annette Salt
PHA Librarian	Terri McCormack
ACPHA Appeals Committee	Peter Tyler
ACPHA Selection Committee	Roslyn Burge

## **President's Report**

When I was elected President of PHA (NSW) in August 2006, I stated that my aims were to understand members' needs, develop links with similar organizations, defend the status, integrity, and relevance of the historian, and represent history in its myriad forms. This was a daunting task, given that I was following the dynamic leadership of Pauline Curby during the previous three years.

I believe that progress is now being made towards these goals, although much work remains to be done.

Our first task on taking office was to review the various issues that emerged from the 'sexing up the PHA' forum organised by Pauline Curby in June 2006. The Management Committee recognised that it would be impossible to tackle all of these concurrently, so decided to set priorities, the first two of which are:

Priority 1 - 'Advertising our wares in business & architectural publications, possibly in the archaeologists' newsletter, National Trust and ICOMOS.'

Priority 2 - 'Organise training workshops for professionals/community groups involved in heritage studies on the elements of good historical investigation and writing.'

Subsequently, we have modified these targets in order to take advantage of other opportunities, but we have not lost sight of the underlying objectives.

### Management Committee

The Management Committee elected at the last annual meeting got away to a shaky start. Firstly, there had been no candidates for the position of Secretary, and I was forced to carry out these duties as well as those of President for a while. The situation was compounded by the fact that I was overseas for a period, as was the immediate past president, Pauline Curby. Fortunately Ruth Banfield agreed to be co-opted to the position of Secretary in November. Meanwhile, our newly-elected Vice President, Ron Ringer, found that he was unable to continue serving on the Committee, creating another vacancy until Virginia Macleod accepted the Vice Presidency (and took on the role of Minutes Secretary).

From the beginning of 2007, however, the Management Committee has worked smoothly and effectively. Eight meetings have been held in the last twelve months, including one in Canberra. One of the committee, Michael Tyquin, now lives in Canberra but he has still been able to fulfil the important function of assessing prospective new members, and contributed to our Sydney-based meetings through correspondence. Rosemary Kerr continued as Honorary Treasurer with her usual efficiency, and will report separately on the healthy state of our finances. The other Committee member, Deborah Edward has brought her experience as a professional editor to our publications.

To all these members of the management team, I extend my sincere appreciation. Without their support we could have achieved little.

Another group of volunteers makes a valuable contribution through their representation of PHA as delegates to official bodies and other associations involved with history or heritage. Reports from these representatives appear later in this annual report. An innovation this year is our practice of inviting one of the representatives to attend each meeting of the Management Committee, to provide better dialogue between PHA and the organisations where we have some affiliation.

### Member Survey

In March 2007 PHA conducted a comprehensive survey of all members in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. This was aimed at producing a profile of our members, including their educational backgrounds and experience, their work as a professional historian, and their needs for additional services.

A four-page questionnaire with 37 questions and space for open-ended comments was posted to all financial members, together with a stamped envelope for replies. 71 members (74% of the total) responded – a result that is far better than the customary response to a survey of this type. Because of the strong participation, we can be confident that the views expressed are a fair representation of the PHA membership.

Detailed analysis of the survey will be published in other places, although some interesting statistics can be recorded here:

- Three-quarters of PHA members are women
- 56.3% of members are in the 41-60 age band; only 12.7% are under 40
- Highest qualifications are equally divided between PhD and Masters degrees
- Almost half the members are self-employed
- A quarter of the members live in the city or inner-western suburbs of Sydney

The Management Committee has begun digesting the comments from members as well as the numerical results, in order to guide future policy.

### Submissions

The 2006 PHA Annual report recorded our disappointment at the reduction in opening hours at Mitchell Library. As a result of submissions from PHA and other groups arguing for more user-friendly arrangements, a meeting took place with the State Librarian and her staff. The opening hours have since been modified, as well as improvements to the layout of the Reading Room to assist researchers.

Proposals to close the archives at Sydney Water drew a response from PHA NSW, ably prepared by our Treasurer, Rosemary Kerr. These archives are an important resource for researchers engaged in heritage studies or local history. The General Manager of Sydney Water subsequently reassured PHA that the archives were only closed temporarily while being relocated, and that public access would soon be restored.

On behalf of PHA, Rosemary Kerr and Deborah Edward both wrote letters to the Editor of *Sydney Morning Herald* in response to an ill-informed article about the

value of history, written by columnist Michael Duffy. Unfortunately these letters were not published.

PHA NSW keeps a watchful eye on proposed legislation at State or federal levels that may have an impact on the work of professional historians. An example is the current review of the NSW Heritage Act. Where necessary, we stand ready to make submissions to the appropriate authorities.

### Marketing and Promotion

Towards the end of 2006, ACPHA introduced a new emblem, with subtle variations for each State and Territory PHA. It considered that by using a consistent style throughout Australia, the image of professional historians and their Associations will be enhanced. ACPHA has supplied PHA NSW with stationery incorporating the new logo; this is being phased in gradually as existing stocks are exhausted.

Priority No.1 from the 2006 “sexing up the PHA” forum was found to be rather impractical when the Management Committee investigated the proposal more carefully. Instead, at its meeting on 24 January 2007, the Committee modified this proposal by adopting a marketing strategy devised by Michael Tyquin.

Initially this was going to take the form of a Powerpoint presentation that PHA members could show to community groups and prospective clients. However, following a CPD workshop on presenting history visually, the proposal was further modified to take the form of a DVD presentation. The details are now being refined in consultation with video producers Ikonfilm. Members will soon be asked to pose for photographs or filmed interviews in suitable settings that will form the core of the presentation.

Introduction of the new logo was a signal to redesign our other promotional material with a uniform theme. Revised brochures will be available in the next few weeks; re-design of the internet website has begun; a banner for display at conferences or public displays is being prepared.

To take advantage of new technology, PHA NSW also is planning to launch an internet ‘blog’ before the end of this year. This will allow interactive discussions to take place.

As part of History Week to be held in September 2007, PHA offered the television History Channel the services of members to talk about their work in Australian history. Production details are still under discussion.

### Networking

To improve the public recognition of professional historians and to make PHA more visible in the community, we have began building working links with other organisations that have similar interests. Networking with these bodies forms an important part of our marketing strategy.

Former Vice-President Ron Ringer represented PHA NSW at the 2006 Premier's History Awards Dinner held in Newcastle on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Unfortunately, PHA NSW could not participate in the National Trust Heritage Festival in March 2007, but we organised a popular event as part of History Week in September 2006, and will do so again in 2007.

At the end of June 2007, Pauline Curby and I attended a two-day conference arranged by the Professional Historians Association of New Zealand Aotearoa at Massey University in Wellington. It made us rather envious to see the vibrant state of public history in New Zealand. Both Pauline and I spoke about the PHA in Australia at a round-table session of the conference, as did representatives from Victoria and Queensland. We have established friendly links with our New Zealand counterparts, and can expect to see more Trans-Tasman interaction in the future.

At the Tenth Biennial Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine that was held in Canberra from 3-6 July 2007, PHA NSW arranged a display of members' publications in the foyer of the Manning Clark Centre at ANU. PHA brochures were placed in the conference satchels of the 150 delegates who attended. Several PHA members are also members of the ANZSHM, and took an active part in the conference. Immediately following the medical history conference, PHA held its own regional mini-conference in Canberra, at University House on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

In September 2007, a similar display of publications will be mounted at the Australian Historical Association Conference at the University of New England in Armidale. The President has been invited to speak about PHA NSW in a session dealing with the role of various specialised historical associations. Five members of PHA will be presenting papers at this conference, so again there will be an active presence. Undoubtedly these members will be networking with other historians between formal sessions.

When a new State Librarian was appointed in July 2006, PHA NSW immediately made contact, and we are very pleased to say that cordial relationships have been established with Ms Regina Sutton. As Chief Executive of the State Library, she regards historians as her core constituency; this has resulted in regular meetings and invitations to participate in Library functions – something that had not happened previously. Sound working relationships have also been formed with key personnel, particularly the Mitchell Librarian, Ms Elizabeth Ellis.

Although Pauline Curby did not seek re-election to the Council of the Royal Australian Historical Society this year, our relationship with "The Royal" has continued undiminished. All PHA committee meetings and general meetings are held in History House, as are most professional development events. Our filing system and stationery are also stored there. These services are all provided without charge. In recognition of this support, PHA made a donation to the RAHS Building Fund. Our gratitude must be expressed to RAHS President (and PHA member) Dr Ian Jack and the staff of "The Royal" for their co-operation.

PHA NSW is a member of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA), and is represented by David Lewis on the governing body. His report follows. Although the overwhelming majority of members supports the

existence of a national organisation, at times there are complaints that ACPHA has been somewhat ineffective in representing the interests of professional historians. The revised logo and stationery has been mentioned earlier, but this gesture can be seen as a peripheral issue to the main functions. PHA is making a submission to the annual general meeting of ACPHA in Darwin next week, outlining some of the specific concerns raised by members, although we are assured by our delegate that improvements are already under way.

When speaking with representatives of other PHAs in New Zealand earlier this year, we became aware that there is very little communication between the bodies, except for exchange of newsletters. Each PHA could be stronger if we shared more information at the executive level in order to learn about successful initiatives, and to avoid needless duplication, as occurred when NSW and Victoria conducted membership surveys concurrently, without being aware that the other State was doing so. It is hoped to establish an informal PHA Presidents' network in order to share experiences.

Also arising from the discussions in New Zealand, we regretted that PHA NSW no longer has strong links with local universities as is the case in Victoria, for example. Steps are now being taken to redress this situation.

### Social Activities

Much valuable interaction between PHA members and the wider history community happens at our social functions.

The annual Christmas party on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December took place on a balmy late afternoon and evening at the Rotunda on Observatory Hill. It was a very pleasant occasion with some 25 members present. Once again, thanks to Pauline Curby for organizing excellent food and drink.

After the success of our initial "History in July" networking function in 2006, we repeated the function this year at History House on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. On this occasion our guest speaker was Emeritus Professor Jill Roe AO. As in 2006, about 70 people attended: in addition to historians, there were archivists, publishers, booksellers, librarians and editors present. No charge is made to members or guests. Excellent food was supplied by professional caterers, served to the guests by the ubiquitous Curby clan. Many favourable comments were received subsequently; undoubtedly this event has established a new tradition as part of the PHA calendar.

Our regular CPD activities customarily include a social component as well, with suitable refreshments provided during or after the event.

### Continuing Professional Development

Pauline Curby and I have worked as a sub-committee of the Management Committee to devise and organise workshops, seminars or site visits as part of the CPD program for members. These activities are held at around six-week intervals. A separate listing appears later in this report. We try to cater for a broad range of members' needs, but nevertheless mostly we tend to see the same people at every event. Our survey indicated that some members find the times or location inconvenient, while many said that by the time they had finished a working week they were too exhausted

to attend a training session. We will take these responses into account when planning future activities.

With some trepidation, we decided to organise a regional conference for PHA members this year. As mentioned earlier, this one-day event was held in Canberra on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July. It proved to be a resounding success, with a strong contingent of Sydney-siders attending as well as a core group of locals from ACT and southern New South Wales. Undoubtedly this has set a precedent that will be repeated at the first opportunity, perhaps at a “border town” so that PHA members from the adjoining State can take part.

### Employment

When prospective employers of historians, or clients who are commissioning historical research approach PHA, this information is promptly distributed to members electronically.

Sometimes the request is for limited information about a particular person or historic site, involving only a day or two of research at State Records, the Land Titles Office or Mitchell Library. Often these enquiries are from people outside Sydney who are unable to access the resources needed. Many PHA members are not interested in this type of work, so during 2007 we created a ‘PHA Small Projects Panel’, which is a register of those members who offer such a service. As at the date of the AGM there are 9 members of the Panel; information about small projects is sent direct to Panel members, but not to the wider membership.

Consideration is being given to launching a more comprehensive employment service in 2008, similar to that provided by the PHA in Victoria. Under this scheme, all newspaper employment advertisements are regularly scanned to identify positions that potentially could be filled by historians.

### Publications

Our bi-monthly magazine *Phanfare* continues to appear regularly, thanks to the diligent efforts of the three editorial collectives. *Phanfare* is published on the PHA website; amongst the advantages of this format are the fact that more pages can be published in each issue, and coloured illustrations used. On 1 November 2006 the Management Committee held a meeting with the editorial collectives to discuss editorial policy. Appreciation is due to Annette Salt, who continues to be co-ordinator of *Phanfare*. Her report appears later.

Much information of importance to PHA members arrives between issues of *Phanfare*. It had been the practice for many years to forward this material to members electronically as soon as it was received. However, members began to complain about the proliferation of messages from PHA, often daily. To rationalise this onslaught of email, a *President’s Newsletter* was introduced in March 2007. Originally this was intended to be a fortnightly electronic publication, but the schedule varies a little so that the distribution of significant news is not delayed. Eighteen issues of the *Newsletter* have been published so far.

The membership survey disclosed that there is significant interest in establishing a “showcase” publication for the work of members. Thirty-two per cent of members



said they would definitely contribute to such a publication; a further fifty-four per cent indicated that possibly they would contribute. Our former journal *Public History Review* was intended to serve this function, but did not achieve that objective to any extent. In any case, publication of the journal has now been transferred to University of Technology Sydney, and there is no direct link with PHA.

In response to members' demands, the Management Committee is planning to create a new publication early in 2008. Because of the high costs of printing and distributing a hardcopy book or journal, this publication will appear in a special section of our revamped internet website. The two keynote papers from our Canberra mini-conference which are already on the website are an example of what can be expected. Although the precise details are still being developed, it is likely that this will be a peer-reviewed publication, with its own editorial panel. Examples of members' work in different genres will be sought, but not all will be published. Rather than regular dates for a discrete publication, there will be changing content, with various articles replaced by others from time to time.

### Conclusion

I believe that Professional Historians Association of New South Wales is undergoing a period of renaissance. There is so much vigour and enthusiasm in our ranks that we can look forward to a consolidation of our achievements so far. None of this would have happened without the support of so many members in so many ways.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President for the past year.

***Peter J. Tyler, President, PHA (NSW) Inc., 15 August 2007***

## **Honorary Secretary's Report**

All administrative arrangements have functioned smoothly, and there is no need to add anything to the report prepared by the President.

***Ruth Banfield, Honorary Secretary***

## **Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 30 June 2007**

At the end of the 2007 financial year, it is pleasing to be able to report that the PHA is in a strong position financially, with available funds at 30 June totalling \$14,274.85. During the past year, we consolidated both our St George Bank Cheque Account and Term Deposit - which matured at the end of September, amounting to approximately \$5,500 including interest - into a new St George Bank Society Cheque Account. This is an account which better suits the needs of non-profit organisations such as the PHA. While there is minimal interest earned, the fees are substantially less than we were paying with the ordinary cheque account as there are no monthly account keeping fees. Overall, the benefits of lower fees outweigh the lower interest rate and there is also the advantage of having all our funds available, should the need arise.

Throughout the year, the major area of expenditure has been on Professional Development activities. While we charge a nominal fee to attend these events, they are subsidised to a large extent. As the financial statement indicates, while the fees raised from attendance amounted to approximately \$1,400, the cost associated with the events was just over \$4,500. A large proportion of that amount was spent on 'History in July', the PHA's networking event, which we hope will become a tradition, and which is provided free to members.

The other notable item of expenditure this year, was a donation of \$1,000 to the RAHS Building Fund. As you are aware, the RAHS makes its premises at History House in Macquarie Street available to the PHA for meetings and other events, without charge. It also houses our filing cabinet and library. The Committee felt that a donation towards much needed repairs and maintenance to this historic building was appropriate.

The outlook for the coming year is positive. Having increased our membership fees for the 2007-8 year, we look forward to being able to continue to provide an active Association, with regular CPD and social activities. We will also be in a good position to respond to particular issues as they arise, such as funding small commissions to carry out projects that may require a time commitment beyond the capabilities of the voluntary Management Committee.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for their hard work and support over the past year.

***Rosemary Kerr, Honorary Treasurer***

## **Professional Development Report**

A range of professional development events has been provided this year for members (see list below). As usual some were better attended than others. We have tried to respond to members' wishes by running workshops and events in which an interest has been expressed. We appreciate feedback so we know how to plan for the future.

The highlight of the year was our second History in July evening at History House on 25 July. This seems set to become an 'instant' tradition. It is generally regarded as providing a valuable opportunity to network with members of the wider historical community as well as a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

It is many years since the PHA (NSW) hosted a conference so this year we tried something a little more ambitious with our regional mini-conference in Canberra. This July event was a resounding success. All papers were interesting and accessible with lots of lively questioning of speakers and animated informal chat over morning tea and lunch. The two keynote addresses were particularly well received and can be accessed on our website [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) under 'Publications'.

The following is a list of CPD events held during 2006/2007:

- Historic Parramatta River cruise, 20th September 2006 History Week event
- Current sources in Aboriginal History workshop: Michael Bennett, 3 March
- Giving better presentations workshop: Ron Ringer, 14 April
- Using film for creative history workshop: John Nikolakopoulos, 26 May
- ACT regional mini-conference: Public history in the public domain, 7 July
- History in July: guest speaker Emeritus Professor Jill Roe, 25 July
- Behind the scenes at Mitchell Library workshop, 16 August
- History Week event for 2007 will be a visit to Garden Island, 20 September.

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

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

The *Phanfare* collectives have worked well to provide members and subscribers with the usual high standard of articles, reports and reviews for which our magazine is respected. There have been a number of minor changes in the members of the collectives but this has caused no disruption to quality. Rosemary Broomham has continued the task of downloading, printing and posting the remaining hard copies required mainly for organisations.

The issue has recently been raised of a member preferring to receive the newsletter in hard copy and this has been approved pending extra payment.

The nature and role of *Phanfare* should be issues for further discussion at the AGM, particularly as our President is now sending by email a comprehensive newsletter which fulfils one of the objectives of *Phanfare*.

Should you have suggestions for improvements, bring them with you to the AGM.

***Annette Salt, Phanfare Co-ordinator***

## **ROHPO Working Party Report**

The working party was formed at the last AGM for the review of the PHA's Register of Historic Places and Objects. Of most immediate concern was that there is no procedure in place for the addition of new entries to the ROHPO. The working party would like to submit a draft procedure (see below) for addition of new entries to the ROHPO for the consideration of the Committee and membership. If this procedure is accepted and formalised, we propose to set the procedure in motion with regard to the nomination received last year from Christa Ludlow.

The working party requests approval to remain in operation during 2007/8 to:

- Continue discussion of the concept, scope and purpose of the ROHPO;
- Formulate a draft procedure for the revision of existing ROHPO entries;
- Finalise proposal for changes to the nomination form and nomination instructions– aimed at making the nomination process more accessible and appealing to members;
- Publicise the ROHPO and encourage members to make nominations;
- Administer the addition of new entries to the ROHPO.

### **Draft procedure for addition of new entries to the ROHPO**

1. A nomination will be made by a PHA member, using the form downloadable from the PHA website, ROHPO pages. The nomination will be submitted to the Secretary, who will forward it to the ROHPO working party.
2. The nomination will be checked by member/s of the working party to ensure that minimum thresholds are met – ie. That the essential fields of the form have been completed, that the item is clearly identified, and that its history and significance has been addressed. (If not, the nominator will be contacted and asked to provide more information).
3. The nomination will be placed on the PHA website, publicly accessible ROHPO pages for a period of one month. Invitation to comment on the nomination will be issued via the PHA email network. Comments will be sent to the Secretary, who will forward them to the working party.
4. After consideration of comments received, the working party will form a recommendation to the Committee on the matter of the nomination.
  - 4b. If necessary, in light of the comments received, the working party will approach the nominator and ask for a revision of the nomination. The nominator may then submit a revised nomination to the working party. If the concerns expressed by members have clearly been addressed, the working party will proceed to form a recommendation to the Committee. If the definition or assessment of the item has substantially altered with the revision, the nomination may be re-presented for member comment as above.
5. The Committee will come to a decision as to whether or not to accept the nomination onto ROHPO based on the working party recommendation.
6. If the nomination is approved for addition to the ROHPO, it will be passed to the web administrator, who will upload it to the site. The nominator will be notified, and a notice will appear in the following edition of Phanfare and on the email network, that this addition has been made.

***Emma Dortins, Convenor***

## **Library Report**

The main function of the Honorary Librarian is to receive and assess library material and to report on items of interest in regular Library Reports published in *Phanfare*, the newsletter of the Professional Historians Association of NSW. The majority of items received are reciprocal newsletters and journals from other historical organisations and societies. We also receive regular newsletters and magazines from National Archives, State Records of NSW, the NSW Heritage Office, the Historic Houses Trust, and other such institutions, as well as some annual journals and review copies of books.

The PHA Library is now incorporated in the Library of the Royal Australian Historical Society at History House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Duplicate material is culled and most of the items catalogued by RAHS librarian Kathy Curran are newsletters from interstate and New Zealand Professional Historians Associations. These publications are available to RAHS and PHA members.

It is the Librarian's role to alert New South Wales members to what is happening both locally and nationwide by providing details about recent publications and reviews, historical events and activities, and archival and library matters. Regular Library Reports in *Phanfare* keep our members informed of local and interstate conferences, exhibitions, and publications of historical relevance. These Reports connect them to other corporate members of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA).

The PHA Librarian compiled four Library Reports in the financial year 2006 to 2007. These appeared in *Phanfare* in July-August & September-October 2006, and March-April & July-August 2007. Library Reports in *Phanfare* give a useful overview of what other PHAs are doing and so enable us to evaluate the status of our own association. It is particularly useful to inform our members about new resources identified by members of other associations and to direct them to websites which might assist their own research and professional development.

***Terri McCormack, Honorary Librarian***

## **Reports from Representatives**

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

David Lewis was appointed to the position of NSW Representative to ACPHA in 2006-2007. ACPHA has finalised the logo, with a new, contemporary logo passed to each state, and relevant changes have been made to stationery. David Lewis was elected head of the website committee (of which progress is being made: a new website should be established and running this year) and was the Public Relations Officer for the committee. In this role, he was able to get exposure for ACPHA in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the ABC.

The Committee this year was made up of representatives of each state and the Northern Territory. The Committee is as follows:

Bill Wilson (NT)	President
Bernie O'Neil (SA)	Vice-President/Secretary
Cathie Clement (WA)	Accreditation Secretary
Richard Tuffin (Tas)	
Caroline Evans	Minutes Secretary
Judy Nunn (Qld)	Special Projects
Sonia Jennings (Vic)	Treasurer
David Lewis (NSW)	Public Relations

Among other things, ACPHA has been concerned with shorter opening hours of archives and libraries, and has lobbied relevant authorities to maintain hours.

The AGM is to be held in Darwin on the weekend of the 24-25 August. Bill Wilson has stated his intention to resign from the committee as he is moving interstate.

Peter Tyler is the alternate NSW delegate to ACPHA. ACPHA has also decided that representatives should serve for about five years, and then step aside. A succession plan would consist of an alternate delegate taking over from the primary delegate, thereby reducing the need to 'reinvent the wheel' each time a new delegate is appointed.

### ***David Lewis, PHA (NSW) delegate***

## **History Council**

The History Council of NSW functions as the peak body representing history and historians in NSW. In addition to PHA NSW members, the History Council of NSW includes representatives from State Records Authority, National Archives, State Library of NSW, Society of Australian Genealogists, City of Sydney, Historic Houses Trust, university history departments, and professional and community history groups. The PHA NSW is represented by Mark Dunn, a professional historian working in the heritage industry.

In 2006 History Week, the History Council NSW major annual event, explored dual themes under the one banner 'Find Yourself in History' which addressed the 400th anniversary of the first documented European Map of Australia and the 150 Year anniversary of the election of the first Parliament in NSW. During the week long event, the Off the Beaten Track lecture series was also being staged with four regional centres hosting.

The overarching theme of the 2007 History Week is *Legacies*, to commemorate the gifting to the state of David Scott Mitchell's immense collection of Australian literature, history, pictures and manuscripts in 1907. The History Week celebration begins with the 12th Annual History Lecture on Friday 14 September. The lecture is being held this year at the Mint on Macquarie Street. The lecture will be given by Professor Iain McCalman on Historical Re-enactments, discussing their popular appeal, whether they have any historical value and what as historians, we can learn from them. Following the lecture, over 270 events across the state have been

organized, including the travelling lecture series *Off the Beaten Track*, this year visiting Griffith, Deniliquin and Albury-Wodonga.

During 2006-2007 the History Council NSW organised a number of forums and events, including the Newcastle and Hunter Regional History Fair and Information Day at Tocal College in the Hunter Valley. The day included a range of speakers, including PHA members, talking on researching, writing and publishing history. The History Council NSW was also involved with the Indigenous Reflection of the '67 referendum, held at State Library of NSW in conjunction with University of Newcastle, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and NSW Reconciliation.

Throughout the year the History Council NSW has also continued its role of advocacy for History in NSW through meeting with the new Ministers for the Arts and for Education, as well as representation on a number of boards and committees. The History Council NSW is also exploring a number of collaborations with other professional groups, including the History Teachers Association, to expose a new audience to the History Council NSW work and role.

**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 which met three times. Reports on two meetings were published in *Phanfare*.

Members are also advised as soon as State Records' publications (such as *For the Record*, *Now and Then* and *Vital Signs*) are available on its website, [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

**Roslyn Burge, PHA Representative**

### **NAA Consultative Forum**

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 4 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 forum is provided with data about recent releases of records, and the state of digitisation programmes for records. Other matters that have engaged the attention of the forum included copying costs, matters of access to records as well as issues of personal privacy and the slowness of the NAA server after the National on-line release of World War One personnel records.

**Terry Kass, PHA Representative**

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

Dr Rosemary Annable currently chairs the History Advisory Panel of the New South Wales Heritage Council. It meets 4 to 5 times a year and deals with matters relevant to the use of history in heritage work. After its successful formulation of a methodology of how to apply "Criterion A – Historical Significance" when assessing heritage items, the Panel has devoted considerable effort in the past year to formulating a similar guideline for "Criterion D – Social Value".

Since the HAP became the Advisory Panel to the Heritage Council responsible for matters of heraldry, new members with expertise in heraldry were added to the Panel. An exhibition celebrating the State Arms (which also had an internet presence and was noted in the *Sydney Morning Herald*) was prepared. The Panel was involved in formulating guidelines for assessments of coats of arms and proactively seeking to preserve them. A policy regarding ruins has also been the focus of the Panel's attention. The Panel supplied input into a serial nomination for Australian convict sites being prepared at the Federal level.