



## **Annual report 2009-10**

PHA NSW (Inc), GPO Box 2437, Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone 02 9252 9437 Email – [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)



## 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 2009-2010**

President	Virginia Macleod
Vice President	Christine Cheater
Secretary	Jodi Frawley
Treasurer	Christine Yeats
Member	Laila Ellmos
Member	Susan McClean
Member	Zoe Pollock
Public Officer	Ruth Banfield

## President's report

This year we recognise and celebrate a quarter of a century's achievements. PHA NSW was founded in 1985 the Association was formed to support historians working outside academia. It is good to see that some of the founding members are still part of the organisation: Carol Liston, Terry Kass, Paul Ashton, Christa Ludlow and Rosemary Broomham.

Since its inception PHA (NSW) has set ethical standards, established a scale of fees, negotiated professional indemnity insurance, provided advice on contracts, published occasional monographs and voiced its members opinions in *Phanfare*. More recently PHA (NSW) has set up an electronic weekly employment bulletin, an email newsletter, and an undergraduate history prize. It provides workshops for keeping professional skills current and a network for members to meet and exchange experiences. Advocacy to promote historians in the eye of the community has been ongoing but has been increased recently. Today PHA (NSW) has over 100 members who are accredited according to the standards of the national body Australian Council of Professional Historians' Associations Inc. (ACPHA) formed in 1995.

After twenty five years PHA NSW is still going strong! A major highlight this year was the conference *Islands of History* held on Norfolk Island from 18-25 July. Peter Tyler convenor and the committee; Ismelda Bargas (PHANZ) Bruce Baskerville, (NSW & Norfolk Island), Christine Cheater, Pauline Curby, Cathy Dunn, Sue Mitchell and Ian Willis excelled themselves organising this event.

For the fifth year we held our *History in July* party when over forty members and guests were fortunate to hear an excellent talk from Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney Dr Kirsten McKenzie. Based on her book *Swindlers, Rogues and Opportunists: Impostors in the British Empire* she outlined the opportunities for false identity and its exposure in the colonies.

Thanks to the efforts of the executive committee and other members of PHA we have had a memorable and productive year, as you will read in the various reports that follow. It is gratifying to see that many members are contributing by giving us a voice on committees and by helping with workshops, mail-outs, email, website and more.

Our recent submission supporting the proposed new degree, Bachelor of Historical Inquiry at UNE was instrumental in its approval and it:

*will provide those who wish to work in museums, exhibition centres and publicly funded heritage and conservation bodies, a combination of study in professional areas, with more academic periodic and thematic approaches and subjects in the discipline of history.*

We have also supported the work of the Dictionary of Sydney, lobbied for the continuation of historians positions at the City of Sydney, as well as for the appointment of a historian to the NSW Heritage Council for another two years until 2011 and opposed the proposal to close the National Archives offices in Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart.

Three committee members are retiring. Jodi Frawley who has worked very diligently during the last year, both as minutes secretary and general secretary. Christine Cheater who has been our representative at ACPHA; and Sue McClean who has acted as membership secretary, represented us at RAHS and ran our pilot undergraduate prize. Our public officer Ruth Banfield has also assisted the committee, especially with social activities. These last three have served on the committee for several years. Our treasurer Christine Yeats, Zoe Pollock and Laila Ellmoos have also contributed much to the smooth functioning of PHA NSW and will be continuing to support the organisation. I would like to acknowledge the executive's efforts and thank them. It

has been a most supportive and pleasant committee to work with. I will not be standing for the committee, as after seven years I feel it is time for me to move over and move on.

PHA NSW is still young, at only 25. I feel that the Association is gaining strength and momentum. I hope that the incoming committee will continue to help keep historians in the public eye, in work, up to date and in production.

## **Virginia Macleod**

### **Secretary's report**

The committee met nine times over the 2009/2010 year. Meetings were well-attended by an enthusiastic committee. This past year has been very successful as far as initiatives undertaken by under the secretary's banner of our committee. These included a new business planning sub-committee and a range of continuing professional development activities.

- **Business Planning and Strategy**

This year saw the inception of a new sub-committee vested with the task of reviewing the work of the Association in relationship to the Association's constitution. The committee met once and agreed that more work could be undertaken under point 5 of our objectives: 'To promote the concept of professional history and the status of professional historians in the community.' The committee resolved to take a more active role in promoting historians by instigating a series of rolling representations to bodies that might employ professional historians. The sub committee identified Local Government Authorities and Heritage Professionals as two primary groups that could provide employment for our membership. This will be an ongoing three part process

- 1) A letter approach explaining the role and potential of professional historians to the identified bodies.
- 2) Follow up through email and telephone approaches
- 3) Where appropriate and possible meetings will be arranged between PHA committee members and potential clients on behalf of our members.

This year we initiated the project by sending 400 letters to Local Government Authorities across New South Wales. Each council received a letter for their Mayor; General Manager, Planning Department and Local Studies Library. Many organisations responded positively to the letters sent in the first letter. The strategy sub-committee is in the process of organising the second phase of the LGA project and preparing for the approach to the Heritage sector.

- **Continuing Professional Development**

An eclectic range of professional development activities were organised for members throughout the year. While all these events aimed to further members' professional skills/knowledge, most also included a social networking component which those of us who spend considerable time working in comparative isolation appreciate. In addition to workshops and excursions, our sociable Christmas party in December was a low-key but well-attended function. History in July was held for the fifth consecutive year and included a lecture by Dr Kirsten Mackenzie, *Swindlers, Rogues and Opportunists: Impostors in the British Empire*. The evening was a resounding success.

This year we are continued the new 'history in the pub' format as part of our CPD program. Members meet at the Hero of Waterloo Hotel to enjoy a convivial evening discussing a topical issue. Our first event in September was a great success and was be followed by another in National Trust Heritage Week in March when Paul Ashton led a discussion Myth and Memory Making the Nation.

The most popular events were those that were skills based and allowed members to improve technical aspects of their professional repertoires.

Members are urged to support the CPD program organised to enhance your professional standing.

The following CPD events were held during 2009/2010:

September	History Week – History at the Hero: The Convict Stain in Australia
October	Maps and Plans State Library of New South Wales
November	Hilary Golder Seminar on Writing Histories
February	Lands Department & SR NSW workshop on digital records
March	Royal Botanic Gardens Library visit & guided tour of historic aspects of the gardens
April	History at the Hero – Myth and Memory Making the Nation led by Paul Ashton
May	City of Sydney Archives digital access workshop
June	Powerhouse Museum
July	History in July, guest speaker Dr Kirsten Mackenzie

### **Jodi Frawley**

#### **PHA Memberships Report**

The total membership of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc. at 31 May 2010 was 103 members. Professional members constituted 71 of these, Associates 24 and Graduates 9. This represents a small decline in members at professional and associate levels.

Over 2009-2010, both numbers of enquiries concerning membership and actual applications for membership or for upgrade were considerably reduced. Six enquiries only were received over the year. No applications for membership were received. The sole applicant for upgrade is still accumulating the requisite experience to move forward. However, the PHA is disappointed that the other five have not yet applied.

In order to encourage potential applicants, six people who enquired about membership since January 2009 have been recently contacted again, with one enquiry of late June to be contacted later in 2010, if no application is forthcoming. As the PHA has enthusiastically sustained its CPD and other outreach activities, it appears that the Global Financial Crisis has most likely been the reason for lower numbers of applications. A membership drive will be advisable.

### **Susan McClean**

#### **The PHA (NSW) History Prize (Pilot) Report**

Keen to promote history as a profession as well as membership of the Association, the PHA (NSW) established in 2008-9 a Pilot PHA History Prize run with the assistance of Dr Grace Karskens of the History School at UNSW. Again in 2009-10 the Prize was shared by two excellent pieces of historical research and writing and have been posted on the PHA website. The Committee decided to expand the Pilot PHA History Prize to a regional university, the University of New England.

The PHA Committee decided in June to draw the pilot to a close at the end of 2010. The Committee will launch the full PHA Public History Prize, seeking entries from all universities across New South Wales. A subcommittee of the PHA Management Committee will manage the processes of the prize and will co-opt a respected independent historian, to judge the entries. The pilot has shown that the PHA Public History Prize increases knowledge among students of the PHA and of history as a career. We look forward to knowledge of our association and profession increasing as the prize is opened up to a great many more undergraduate students across the state.

**Susan McClean**

**PHA (NSW) web site report**

The PHA (NSW) web site continues to provide up-to-date online information to members and interested parties, including professional development workshops ([http://www.phansw.org.au/professional\\_dev.html](http://www.phansw.org.au/professional_dev.html)) and *Phanfare* and other publications (<http://www.phansw.org.au/publications.html>). The big event this year has been the Norfolk Island *Islands of History* conference, and the web site was the central portal for communication about this successful event. Later in the year, the web site will publish papers presented at the conference.

Unfortunately, there have been no further developments on the What's On and Links pages on the web site, as flagged in the 2009 report, primarily due to major disruptions in my own life over the past 6-10 months. However, developing replacement pages for the old What's On that used to appear in *Phanfare* and on the old ACPHA web site is still on the agenda and will hopefully be available from early 2011. Another factor is that Zoe Pollock is currently making investigations into having the PHA (NSW) web site redeveloped and redesigned. This would provide even more detailed communication, with a members-only secure area, a search feature, and reorganisation of information to make the site even easier to navigate.

Our web hosting service, Bluefish, migrated our current site to a new and better server this year. Unfortunately, this also means we have lost our August 2009-March 2010 statistical data as the old software (Webalizer) was incompatible with the new system. We can get an idea of web usage, though, from the surviving April-June 2010 statistics (the July statistics unavailable due to the transition). Illustration 1 below contains some useful information about pages visited and kilobytes downloaded.

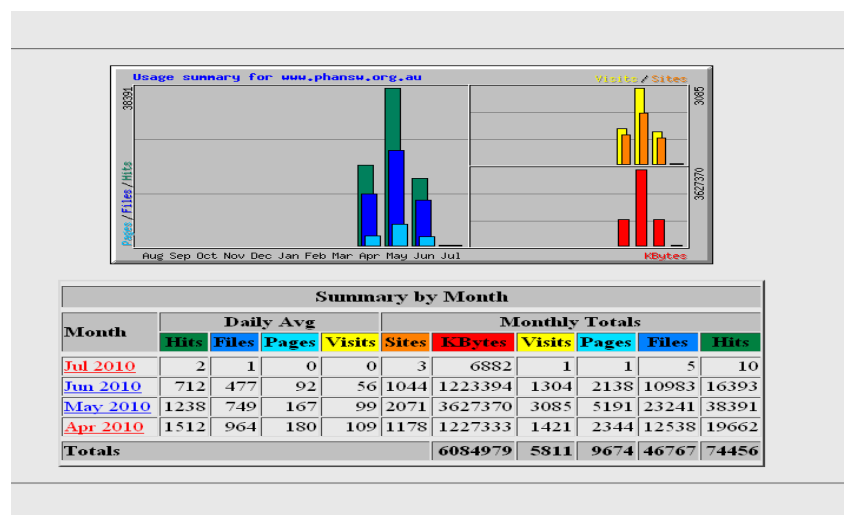


Illustration 1: Monthly statistics May to July 2010

The two most useful statistics are Sites and Pages. Over this period, as can be seen in Illustration 1 above, the average monthly number of site visits (the nearest statistic we have to ascertaining the number of people visiting the site, vague though it is) was 1431 (1178, 2071 and 1044 for April, May and June respectively), ). It must be remembered, however, that it is difficult to distinguish between visits from 'real people' and bots and crawlers. The average monthly number of Pages downloaded to the visitor's computer (roughly, one html page) was 3224 (2344, 5191, 2138).

May was the busiest month of the three for site traffic. Using that month as an example, the most viewed page was, perhaps surprisingly, the 2006 December issue of *Phanfare*, followed by the December 2009 issue (a Christmas theme emerging?), with the Norfolk Island Information pack and conference documents page in third and fourth places. The top ten entry pages for visitors to the site are in Illustration 2 below, with the home page (/) in first place, as would be expected, followed by the Norfolk conference documents page and the member list page.

Top 10 of 61 Total Entry Pages					
#	Hits		Visits		URL
1	1103	2.87%	958	35.04%	/
2	308	0.80%	223	8.16%	<a href="#">/documents/conference2010.html</a>
3	227	0.59%	124	4.54%	<a href="#">/member_list.html</a>
4	269	0.70%	101	3.69%	<a href="#">/historian_reg.html</a>
5	185	0.48%	101	3.69%	<a href="#">/publications.html</a>
6	164	0.43%	96	3.51%	<a href="#">/professional_dev.html</a>
7	172	0.45%	86	3.15%	<a href="#">/heritage_reg.html</a>
8	170	0.44%	74	2.71%	<a href="#">/membership.html</a>
9	129	0.34%	71	2.60%	<a href="#">/member_facilities.html</a>
10	140	0.36%	67	2.45%	<a href="#">/objectives.html</a>

Illustration 2: Top 10 entry pages for May 2010

The most popular visitors were, I am afraid, bots, crawlers and spiders, especially Google and Yahoo. But that is good as it means they are updating their information about the site for their search engines, and Google is the most popular referring search engine to the PHA (NSW) site. The five most popular search strings used in search engines to find the PHA (NSW) site in May were, in order from one to five, professional historians association, pha nsw, historian, islands of history conference, and historians. A breakdown of the countries from which people are visiting is in Illustration 3 below, with nearly half the domain names coming from Australia (48%).

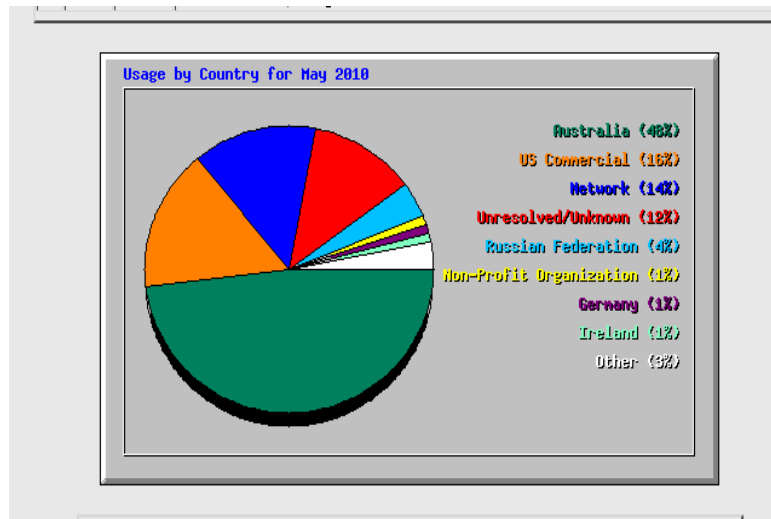


Illustration 3: Site visitors by country (domain name) May 2010

The statistics are to be used as a guide only. Bluefish have promised that a more accurate statistical program will be implemented on the new server. As usual, comments and suggestions for the web site, current or new, are most welcome (webmaster@phansw.org.au).

#### **Christine de Matos, web site manager**

#### **ACPHA report**

ACPHA last AGMA was held on 5/6 September in Brisbane and was attended by delegates from Qld, NSW, Victoria, SA, WA and NT. Two teleconferences were also held. Over the last year most of ACPHA's activities have revolved around two issues – responding to the proposed closure of three state branches of the National Archives and resolving an ongoing dispute with the tax office. ACPHA's campaign against the closure of branches of the National Archives in SA, NT and Tasmania involved raising public awareness of what this meant for researchers in these state and lobbying relevant members of parliament. ACPHA President, Bernie O'Neil, met with the Minister to discuss the concerns of professional historians. The campaign enjoyed some success with most of the records remaining in the states for the time being.

The dispute with the tax office resulted from a failure to notify it about changes in personnel and the subsequent breakdown in communications between the two parties. Also because of the wording of its constitution ACPHA has determine that it does not meet the tax office's criteria for a 'not for profit' organisation. It will therefore have to lodge a yearly tax return and pay tax on its bank interest earnings. The back taxes have been paid and ACPHA is now urging all PHAs to recheck their tax status.

In other financial matters

- \$2000 was given to PHA (Vic) to assist in the publication of its public history journal, *Circa*
- PHA (NSW) was given \$2000 assistance for the Norfolk Island Conference

#### **Christine Cheater, ACPHA delegate**

#### **PHA (NSW) Library Report**

The PHA Library is physically housed in the Library of the Royal Australian Historical Society at



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

Regular Library Reports in *Phanfare* aim at keeping PHA (NSW) members informed of local and interstate conferences, exhibitions, and publications of historical relevance. A further function of the Library Reports is to alert members to new resources or websites identified by interstate members. They also provide us with a benchmark, enabling us to compare our activities and operations with those of our fellow organisations in other States.

These Library Reports are dependent on the availability of incoming material from other history organisations, societies and government agencies. In recent times, fewer publications have been received by mail. This is partly due to several organisations now producing electronic versions of their regular newsletters. In the financial year 2009 to 2010, the PHA Librarian compiled two Library Reports. These appeared in *Phanfare* Number 238 for September-October 2009 and Number 241 for March-April 2010.

#### **Terri McCormack, Honorary Librarian**

#### **PHA Norfolk Island Conference Report**

Our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday Conference was a hugely successful event that took place at Governor's Lodge Resort on Norfolk Island from 18-25 July 2010.

Thirty-two papers were presented over four days. Speakers came from every Australian State and Territory, as well as New Zealand, Nouméa, and the United Kingdom. As well as PHA members, they included academic historians, authors, archaeologists, heritage specialists and linguists, who broadened our sometimes parochial viewpoint by discussing unfamiliar aspects of history in the South Pacific – convicts in New Caledonia, tribal warfare in the Chatham Islands, origins of the unique language spoken in Norfolk Island, as well as considering professional issues of concern to public historians, such as: are we just guns for hire?

There were 60 registered delegates, including 16 members of PHA NSW. There were 18 partners or friends accompanying delegates. One of the most pleasing aspects was the keen interest in the conference by local Norfolk Islanders from all walks of life. 28 of them attended, some for the whole conference; some for particular sessions. The Chief Minister (Hon. David Buffett, AM, MLA) opened the Conference and attended several sessions. The Vice-Regal representative and his wife (His Honour Owen Walsh, Administrator of Norfolk Island, and Mrs Bianca Walsh) hosted a reception at Government House – the oldest in Australia still in continuous use – and he came to some sessions. Other functions were arranged for us by the Norfolk Island Historical Society and the Kingston Lions Club, and there were visits to the various museums and heritage sites hosted and co-ordinated by PHA member Bruce Baskerville, who is Site Manager for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area. The local radio station broadcast daily interviews with Conference participants.

So, in total over one hundred people took part. The success is due to the diligent work of our conference committee, which has worked on the project since October 2009, and our travel consultant from Norfolk Island (Ms Jannise Witt), who attended every committee meeting and ensured that the logistics were exactly as needed. And of course we must not forget the various sponsors who provided substantial financial contributions and support in kind, and who are listed at the end of this report.

Evaluation questionnaires are still being collated, and will be summarised in a future issue of *Phanfare*. These comments are typical:

- “Congratulations on an efficient, enjoyable and informative conference at a great location. All the papers were interesting, many were surprising, and some were ground-breaking.”
- Another said “a fabulous conference at a fantastic location.”
- And yet another wrote “thoroughly enjoyable, informative & stimulating.”
- While someone else wrote “Very well organised. A really good range of topics and speakers.”

The Conference Proceedings will be published in book form later this year. After we returned from Norfolk Island, UNESCO announced that the convict sites we inspected a week earlier have now been listed in the register of World Heritage sites.

#### CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

Allen & Unwin  
Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations  
Australian National Maritime Museum  
Copyright Agency Limited  
Governor’s Lodge Resort Hotel  
History Council of New South Wales  
Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island Government  
Professional Historians Association New Zealand Aotearoa  
Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc  
Royal Australian Historical Society  
State Library of New South Wales  
State Records, New South Wales  
The Travel Centre, Norfolk Island  
And the Universities, Government Departments and  
Museums which subsidised the attendance of staff members.

#### **Peter J. Tyler, Convenor, PHA Norfolk Island Conference Committee**

##### **RAHS Council Report**

Over 2009-2010 the RAHS has continued its hospitality towards the PHA offering a venue for meetings and events and a home for our records. For the first half of 2010, the RAHS has been preoccupied with the refurbishment of its auditorium, making History House less available in the first half of the year. Nevertheless the PHA remains most grateful to the RAHS for welcoming us to their centrally located ‘home’.

Five members of the PHA combined to present their latest work at History House in a Series organised by the PHA Representative on RAHS Council, Susan McClean. The event was held at the RAHS with administrative input from the RAHS and the WEA. Chris Cheater, Ian Willis, Ron Ringer, Beverley Earnshaw and Pauline Curby explored the history of a variety of localities in ‘Understanding Places’ run in October/November 2009. In September 2010, PHA member Bronwyn Hanna will be part of another WEA/RAHS series entitled “Women Architects in Twentieth Century Australia”. In this way PHA work is showcased, while simultaneously drawing general audiences for history to History House.

Other similar PHA contributions to the RAHS will be organised in the coming months. Each year the PHA (NSW) contributes to the RAHS building fund in acknowledgement of their generous

hospitality.

### **Susan McClean, PHA Representative**

#### **RAHS, Library, Archives and Records Management Committee Report**

Since July 2005, Terri McCormack has represented the interests of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc on the Library, Archives and Records Management Committee of the RAHS. Meetings are usually held quarterly and recommendations are forwarded to the Council of the RAHS for ratification. The current convenor of the Committee is Kylie Rees, Honorary Archivist of the RAHS. Other members include Rosemary Annable, Margaret Coleman (Library Users), Donna Newton (Librarian), and Mari Metzke (Manager).

In the financial year 2009-2010, only one meeting was convened, on 25 September 2009. Matters discussed included the sale of excess RAHS journals (ongoing); culling, de-accessioning and sale of superfluous material in the shelved collection (ongoing); microfilming of Minutes Books 1901-1931 (now completed); and problems associated with unsuitable archival storage areas in the basement.

The library was temporarily closed in the early part of the year due to refurbishments. It has now been reorganised, providing a more accessible reference area. Restricted access is also available once more to the Rare Books Room. Ongoing projects include the updating of both the Books Database and the Journal, History & Conference Proceedings database, the indexing of History Magazine and the Journal, and the microfilming of the Foster & Waterson press clipping collections. Tours of the Library publicise its specialised local history resources. In the past year the Library had 197 registered users with 112 of these being new users. The library has one paid Librarian and is hugely dependent on its skilled volunteers who perform such tasks as indexing, cataloguing, shelving, stocktaking, repairs, conservation and cataloguing of the photographic collection.

### **Terri McCormack, PHA Representative**

#### **NAA Consultative Forum Report**

Considerable attention has been devoted by the Sydney Consultative Forum to the proposed closure of some regional offices of National Archives in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and South Australia. Members explored alternative options to the closure as well as communicating the displeasure of their respective organisations to the closures. Yet, whatever changes were made to the proposed closures was due to the vocal public campaign opposing the closures. Whilst not all matters have been satisfactorily resolved, services will not be curtailed as drastically as originally proposed.

Security arrangements have been upgraded at all National Archives reading rooms and procedures for applying for a reader's ticket have been strengthened. A new electronic newsletter is now available free from National Archives entitled [news@archives](mailto:news@archives). Readers can subscribe to this on the NAA website.

Pro-active digitisation projects are largely concentrating on migration documents. The digitisation programme of the post office files in Sydney (SP32/1) has been suspended for the moment to concentrate on other digitisation projects. Reader's orders for copying are no longer photocopied by NAA, but are digitised. This eliminates future damage to the record by re-handling for other copying and allows those records to be subsequently made available to other readers via RecordSearch.

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

### **Terry Kass, PHA Representative**

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

The History Advisory Panel assisted in devising themes for the next round of thematic studies to be funded by the Heritage Office. The themes will encourage the completion of thematic histories with associated programmes to identify relevant items of State Heritage Significance. Suggested themes include 'Arriving and Settling in NSW after 1945' 'Coastal heritage' and a 'Rural' theme. If the Heritage Council accepts them, these themes will be further refined.

The Panel had been kept informed of ongoing changes to the NSW Heritage Act and the relevant procedures after the Heritage Act Review.

Almost all representatives on the History Advisory Panel have now reached the maximum term allowed to sit on the Panel. Whilst new members with fresh ideas will be welcome, there will be some loss of 'corporate memory' from the changeover. Patricia Hale is the officer currently responsible for running the Panel.

### **Terry Kass, PHA Representative**

#### **History Council Report**

The year 2009-2010 has been a busy year for the History Council with an increase in events and advocacy. History Week 2009 was themed Scandal, Crimes and Corruption and it touched a nerve with the history community. With over 171 events hosted, it was one of our most successful History Weeks to date. The lecture given by Chief Justice James Spiegelman titled "The Macquarie Bicentennial: A Reappraisal of the Bigge Reports" pre-empted the Macquarie 2010 Bicentennial. On this theme the History Council has hosted a series of lectures through 2010 with HHT at the Museum of Sydney. The 'Visions of Sydney' series has looked back at the Macquarie era and examined the legacy, if any, still evident in modern Sydney. The Macquaries as a couple, Macquarie's relationship with Aboriginal Sydney and Macquarie's planning vision have been discussed with some of Sydney's most eminent historians including Grace Karskens, Shirley Fitzgerald, Paul Ashton, Peter Read and Rob Freestone. This series continues through the remainder of 2010.

As well as our Visions and History Week program, the History Council has been co-hosting the History in Conversation series with the City of Sydney Libraries. In an effort to further promote the Premier's History Awards, History in Conversation, which began in 2009, allows the author or creator (in the case of mixed media winners) to discuss their works through an interview style talk. Three talks were held in 2009, with the same planned for 2010, one of which was held in July. The History Council has also continued to play an advocacy role with a number of campaigns throughout the year. In conjunction with the PHA and RAHS, the History Council continued to raise a voice for historians in relation to the changes to the NSW Heritage Act and the Heritage Council. Although a number of changes were made, a historian was reappointed to the Council with a guarantee of this being an ongoing position.

Along with the Heritage Act, the History Council has made submission on the National Curriculum, supported the digitisation of Mitchell Library materials, campaigned for State Records digital programs, joined the national fight to retain National Archive offices open in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide and supplied judges and advice for the Premiers History Awards.

## Mark Dunn, PHA Representative

### Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW Report

The PHA continues to be represented on the Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW. Members are also advised when State Records' publications (such as *For the Record, Now and Then* and *Vital Signs*) are available on its website and links circulated with PHA email newsletters. The meetings also advised members about changes on the SRNSW website including additions to State Records' website and online resources; enhancements to Archives Investigator and State Records' presentations on You Tube and other web media. The committee also discussed the future directions of digital archiving at State Records NSW.

## Jodi Frawley, PHA Representative

### Treasurer's Report

- **Overview**

The attached financial statement shows that PHA (NSW) made a profit of \$14,159.78 on its activities during the financial year ended 30 June 2009. This compares with the deficit of \$2,815 in the previous year. While overall expenditure was about the same as for 2008/09, the profit is attributable to the \$18,285 in registration fees and sponsorship for the *Islands of History* conference on Norfolk Island in July 2010, received before the end of the financial year.

Revenue from membership appears to be less than the previous year; however membership subscriptions for 2009/10, totalling \$5,535, were received before 30 June 2009. These appeared as membership fees in advance in the 2008/09 financial report. The total revenue from 2009/10 membership subscriptions was \$12,185.

- ***Islands of History* Conference**

As at 30 June, conference outgoings amounted to \$1,443 but the total expenditure is likely to be around \$12,000, although publication of the proceedings has not been costed yet, it is anticipated there should be a small surplus. Congratulations must go to the organisers of the conference for their able management of the finances. The summary set out below provides an overview of the conference income and expenditure to date.

#### Income up to 30 June 2010

Conference registrations	\$15,530
Sponsorship	\$2,630
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,285</b>

#### Expenditure up to 30 June 2010

Insurance	\$800
Norfolk Island Travel Centre	\$643.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,443</b>

- **Change to membership renewals**

This has been the first year that we have offered members the option of renewing their membership subscriptions via electronic funds transfer. This is operating smoothly with a number of 2010/11 renewals being made through this facility.

- **Expenditure**

During 2009/2010 the single largest items of expenditure were:

- ACPHA Levy \$2020
- Advertising & Promotion (Yellow pages & LGA mail out) \$1461.76
- Donations (RAHS Building Fund) \$1,200, and
- Social events (History in July, Christmas Party) \$1867.82.

The remainder of the budget was taken up with administrative and operating expenses.

**Christine Yeats, Treasurer**

**President**

**Date**

