



Annual Report 2011-12

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

Telephone 02 9252 9437 Email – 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. \(ACPHIA\)](#)

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 2011-12

President	Laila Ellmoos
Vice President	Zoe Pollock
Secretary	Michael Bennett
Treasurer	Christine Yeats
Member	Stephen Gapps
Member	Anne Cloue-Long
Public Officer	Emma Dortins

PHA NSW Annual Report 2011-12

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PHA NSW Annual Report 2011-12

1.1 President's Report

1.1.1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

In late 2011, the PHA NSW Executive set up a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sub-committee in order to plan and manage our CPD program. The sub-committee is co-ordinated via email through Google Groups.

PHA NSW has offered its membership a range of sessions over the past year, both training and networking opportunities.

CPDs in 2011-12 included:

- A discussion about Native Title and the role of historical research, led by Michael Bennett, plus a walking tour of Redfern, led by local resident Lorna Munro, in October 2011;
- A tour of Darlinghurst Gaol led by Deborah Beck in February 2012;
- Digitised records of the Land and Property Management Authority led by Dr Terry Kass and Dr Carol Liston at State Records in March 2012;
- A preview of the Australian National Maritime Museum's collection of watercraft and a display of bark paintings and historical images for the Nawi Conference, led by Senior Curator Daina Fletcher and Curator of Historic Vessels David Payne, in May 2012;
- A talk at Shark Island by Michael Ingrey and Paul Irish their research into the hidden Aboriginal history of Sydney's Eastern suburbs in June 2012

1.1.2 Organisational Review

The PHA NSW celebrated its 25th birthday in 2010. The organisation was established to provide mutual support for professional historians, including public historians, and to promote the work of these professionals to the wider community. In the last quarter century, the PHA NSW has achieved a remarkable amount, but a volunteer-run organisation such as ours can always benefit from the occasional review of its aims and objectives and the establishment of strategic plans.

The first stage of the Organisational Review was an online survey sent out to members in October 2011. We had 67 responses from just over 100 members, and we had a lot of useful feedback.

The survey provided us with some good data on who our members are, what we value in the PHA, and how the organisation might respond to our needs better in the future. Valuable feedback on our initiatives and programs including: CPD program, Phanfare, our Employment Bulletin, President's Newsletter and Fee Scale.

The second stage of the Organisational Review was a face to face forum, convened by Peter Watts at History House on Wednesday 7 December 2011.

The third stage of the Organisational Review was the development of a detailed report on the results of the survey and the outcomes of the face to face members' forum, and the development of a strategic plan. The report was circulated all members in early 2012. The strategic plan is currently being developed.

My thanks to all those members who participated in the survey, and who were able to attend the forum. Your feedback and discussion was invaluable in helping us to plan for the future, and to engage in discussion around such topics as the role of professional historians, interstate and national interactions, strategic planning, and future directions.

1.1.3 Business Plan and Operational Manual

The Business Plan was updated for 2011-12, and the Operational Manual is continually updated as procedures change.

1.1.4 Membership

As outlined in the Membership Officer Report, seven new members have joined the PHA NSW since the AGM in September 2011. This boost in membership is due to the dedication of our Membership Officer, Emma Dortins, and I would like to thank her for all her hard work since joining the Executive Committee in 2010.

1.1.5 Phanfare

In late 2011, a long standing editorial collective made up of Mark Dunn, Lisa Murray and Roslyn Burge stepped down after almost 10 years. Phanfare has a new editorial committee to replace them, made up of Francesca Beddie, Jennifer Cornwall and Emma Williams. Thank you to the outgoing collective for all their hard work, and welcome to the new committee.

A new Master Document template in Word format for Phanfare was designed, to give the newsletter a fresh look that ties in with the website, but also to make formatting easier. The hard copy versions which were distributed to some libraries in NSW and the ACT, and the other PHAs, will be discontinued.

In late 2011, a Google Group was set up to enable communication across the editorial collectives, and with the President and Secretary.

1.1.6 Website

As noted in the Website Report, PHA NSW has a new website. Zoe Pollock has worked very hard to get this website launch, and on behalf of the Executive, I'd like to thank her for taking on this responsibility. It's been a long process, but will be a rewarding one, as the new website will allow members greater control of their information.

Christine de Matos was the PHA NSW's web manager for many years, and has been a great help to myself and the Executive in keeping the website updated. Now that the website is in wordpress, Christine is stepping down from this role, but like many of our members who give their time freely, I'd like to thank her for all her work.

1.1.7 Social Media

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

The Facebook page is a closed group – for PHA NSW members only. It allows members to promote their work, and to share feedback on exhibitions they have visited or books they have read; it is also a forum for feedback on PHA NSW events and programs, including our CPD sessions. The Professional Historians Association Facebook page is at:
www.facebook.com/groups/198151240277294

1.1.8 History in July 2012

One of the highlights was History in July, held annually at History House.

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG was our guest speaker this year for History in July, held at History House on Monday 2 July 2012. His talk focused on his longstanding involvement with the United Nations of the World, starting when he received a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human rights as a schoolboy the late 1940s.

Mr Kirby has been involved in many United Nations activities since this time, which have given him the chance to see the new world order in action. Michael Kirby was wonderfully engaging and inspiring, and indeed we were very lucky to have him as our History in July speaker this year, as he was about to head overseas to launch the United Nations Global Commission on HIV and the Law report.

Finally, big thanks to my fellow Executive Committee members, I think we've achieved a lot in the past year!

Laila Ellmoos, President

1.2 Secretary's Report

Executive committee meetings were well attended and held nine times throughout the year. Important issues discussed included the strategic review held in late 2011, the development of a new PHA NSW website, use of social media, the appointment of an administrative assistant and the CPD program. On several occasions we were joined by Pauline Curby and Virginia McLeod, ACPHA representatives, who provided updates on initiatives being undertaken by ACPHA such as the development of a public relations policy and national e-newsletter.

The majority of correspondence directed to the secretary continues to be via email. Over 5,000 messages have passed through the inbox in the last 12 months. The collection of mail and other administrative duties (such as minute-taking at executive meetings) was capably taken over in February 2012 by Kate Laing who works four hours per week. Few messages are left on the answering service (an average of six per month). The decision was also made

early in the financial year to no longer advertise PHA NSW in the Yellow Pages. It attracted only several enquiries in the previous year and the cost of approximately \$700 was thought to be excessive.

An important development was the collation of electronic PHA NSW files and documents dating back to 2002 (a task completed by President Laila Ellmoos) and their storage in a cloud on Google Docs (soon to become Google Drive). The files and documents are easily accessible to members of the executive via any computer connected to the internet. They are also backed up on USB drives held by the President, Vice-President and Secretary. Hard copies of correspondence, minutes and submissions are also filed in the PHA NSW cabinet at History House, but the digital archive established this year will play an increasingly important role in preserving the Association's records.

PHA NSW advocated on two issues of importance to members during the past year with contrasting results. At the beginning of 2012, the NSW State Government announced that the City reading room of State Records of NSW would close on June 30. Along with the History Council of NSW, PHA NSW wrote to the Premier asking that the decision be reversed, but without success. More recently, it became apparent that the City of Sydney Council was considering withholding \$200,000 in funding for the Dictionary of Sydney. Dismayed at the prospect of seeing a unique and comprehensive digital resource close down, the Executive wrote letters to the Lord Mayor, 8 individual councillors and the Council CEO urging that the promised funds be delivered. Individual members wrote letters of support as well. The staff of the Dictionary itself mounted a sophisticated campaign using social and digital media. Happily, the Council voted in late July to continue the funding.

Michael Bennett, Secretary

1.3 PHA NSW Membership Officer Report

The total membership of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc. at 6th June 2012 was 109 members. Professional members constituted 78 of these, Associates 23 and Graduates 8. Seven new members joined at professional level: Adele Nye, Bronwyn Batten, Deborah Beck, Jane Kelso, Jayne Persian, Graham Shirley and Patricia Hale. Two of our valued, long-term members passed away this year: Peter Tyler and Lesley Muir.

Emma Dortins, Membership Officer

1.4 Public History Prize Report

The PHA NSW Public History Prize is a yearly award for a research paper in professional and public history. The prize is not only public recognition of skills in historical research and writing, but also a cheque of \$500. Entry is open to third or forth year university undergraduate history students in both NSW and the ACT and the requirements are that the entry be the individual's own work (not that of a group), demonstrate competence in the use of primary source material and represent work undertaken during the year of submission for the prize.

The Public History Prize for 2011 was won by ACT history student Rosa Grahame for her essay 'Mountains out of molehills: Black Mountain and the Human Imagination'. The prize

winning essay was chosen by the judge, PHA NSW member Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, who praised Rosa's essay for its clear arguments surrounding issues of 'wilderness' and *terra nullius*. Rosa's prize was presented at the PHA NSW's History in July event on Monday 2 July 2012 at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. Congratulations to Rosa and many thanks to Dr Fitzgerald.

The PHA NSW looks forward to another exciting round of the Public History Prize this year. To attract entries and to promote the prize, the Public History Prize now has a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Public-History-Prize/317542854945299

Anne Clague-Long, Public History Prize Officer

1.5 PHA NSW Website Report

In 2012 the PHA NSW implemented a new website. The website was built in Wordpress, an open source content management system that is easy to update and can be accessed from any computer. Tamale Creative conducted the build.

The new website features a modern look design that gives premise to historically textural images. It also has a separate profile for each member, a facility that can be built on in years to come. Members can edit and update information in their profiles themselves and can also control the level of detail published on the front end.

Another feature of the website is the members section. This content is locked and includes contract templates, advice on negotiating jobs and information about copyright, insurance and employment opportunities.

Zoe Pollock, Vice-President

1.6 ACPHA Report

The ACPHA AGM will be held in late August/early September 2012 in Perth after the PHA NSW AGM. Once again PHA NSW's financial support will allow alternate Virginia Macleod to attend, part of a strategy to increase the involvement of alternate delegates. Three ACPHA Skype conferences were held in 2011-12, in December, March and May and in addition several mini Skype sessions between Pauline Curby, Virginia Macleod (PHA NSW) and Geoff Speirs (PHA SA), the editors of *Historia*, ACPHA's new e-bulletin.

Public relations and structured professional development, on a national level, have been ACPHA's priorities for the past year.

In January this year ACPHA conducted a survey, the results of which indicated that members generally appreciated and recognised the need for ACPHA, but that communication and activities could be improved. There was a strong agreement amongst survey respondents that ACPHA:

- Encourages adherence to professional standards and ethics
- Encourages mutual support and co-operation amongst professional historians

- Provides sound advice on accreditation to PHAs
- Supports the work of professional historians
- Is in touch with bodies, institutions and agencies which are involved in the areas of history, culture and heritage
- Provides a forum for critical discussion of historical scholarship in Australia

The survey also revealed that:

- The majority of respondents were between 46–65 years old
- The most popular descriptions of work included Commissioned History, Heritage and Oral History
- Over half of the respondents said they were self-employed, either fulltime or part time
- Most respondents described the association as professional, necessary, informative, interesting yet dormant
- Members want communication and networking opportunities

Professional advice sought by ACPHA from a public relations company has made it clear that engaging our members should be a key strategy for increasing the value of ACPHA. Recognising members and their achievements via the website, newsletters or awards is vital to continued success of the organisation. Some initiatives are already in place, for example an ACPHA \$500 prize for the best article in *Circa*, to be announced later this year.

As the first step in ACPHA's re-focused public relations strategy our first electronic news bulletin, *Historia*, was distributed in early August 2012. With contributions from every state and territory, this will become a regular quarterly communication. It has been sent individually to all PHA members in Australia, with the exception of PHA Western Australia where it will be distributed by the secretary. It has also been sent to 'stakeholder' organisations in Victoria who may be interested in what's happening in the world of professional historians. It is intended that the bulletin will eventually go to 'stakeholder' groups in all states and territories.

Meanwhile it is felt that establishing a national newsletter will be a positive initial step in developing a 'national consciousness'. Responses to the newsletter will be automatically registered and it is hoped to fine tune future content.

At the invitation of AHA president Marilyn Lake, ACPHA president Sonia Jennings and I attended an AHA executive committee meeting in Sydney on 16 September 2011 and Sonia attended others in Melbourne and most recently in Adelaide in July. Sonia and ACPHA treasurer Judy Nissen also attended the 'After Standards Workshop' organised under the auspices of TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency). The main object of the workshop, held in Adelaide in July, was to look at the threshold learning outcomes for students completing majors in history, for bachelors, honours and masters degrees.

Pauline Curby, ACPHA delegate

1.7 PHA NSW Library Report

The PHA NSW Honorary Librarian is Terri McCormack. In 2004 arrangements were made with the RAHS to house the library collection of PHA NSW. The initial idea was to keep the PHANSW collection separate but this was not practicable. Most of the material forwarded consists of PHA publications from Australia & NZ. These are incorporated into the RAHS collection and labelled as PHA material. Publications already held by the RAHS (*Memento*, *Insites*, *Voiceprint*, *SL*, etc), are not forwarded as they are readily available elsewhere. Input is somewhat sporadic so there are not necessarily complete runs of interstate newsletters. The PHA library collection is rarely accessed by members. Summaries of the material added to the collection are published by the honorary librarian in Phanfare.

Michael Bennett, Secretary

1.8 NAA Consultative Forum Report

There has been a hiatus in meetings of the Sydney Consultative Forum since the Director went on leave late in 2011. A single meeting was held on 7 March 2012 but the minutes have not yet been received.

Terry Kass, PHA NSW Representative

1.9 History Advisory Panel to NSW Heritage Office Report

The History Advisory Panel assisted by offering professional advice on a wide range of issues, from the finalisation of the public communication documents for social significance, to reviewing tender documents and advising on the heritage importance of the Chinese Market Gardens in Randwick.

Late last year, Rosemary Annable retired from her position on the Heritage Council and as chair of the History Advisory Panel. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rosemary for all her time, effort and wide ranging expertise shared throughout her time in these positions. I believe that she was an important sounding board and support for the staff of the Heritage branch. Since Rosemary's resignation, the panel has not met and a new chair has not been appointed. Our advice continues to be circulated via email, but this is a poor substitute for regular meetings. Nicole Secomb is the officer currently responsible for running the panel.

Jodi Frawley PHA NSW Representative

1.10 History Council of NSW Report

The year 2011-2012 has been a busy year for the History Council of NSW (HCNSW), with an active program of events and advocacy on behalf of members and the history community continuing the role of the HCNSW as the peak body representing and promoting history in NSW.

As with past years, our major event, History Week, has occupied a lot of the Council's time in preparations, meetings and organising. The theme for 2012 is Threads, looking at fashion and dress. Dress is an important element of human expression, used to signify class, status, conformity, defiance, culture, celebration, profession and much more.

As with 2011's theme EATHISTORY, Threads has captured the imagination of the History Council and the groups who participate in History Week with some fantastic events already scheduled. It is shaping to be another successful History Week event. HCNSW is in the process of expanding the History Week event, with new Council initiated presentations and events in the coming years to increase the events prominence in the State calendar.

Throughout the year, the History Council has also continued to act in its role as an advocacy body for history and our member groups. One campaign that has been waged in conjunction with other organisations, in particular the PHA, has been the closure of the city office of State Records. The Council was disappointed that the end result of continuing funding pressures and cuts placed on State Records over the past years has resulted, amongst other cut backs, in the loss of a city office.

Working with the PHA NSW and the Australian Society of Archivists, the History Council co-ordinated a campaign to raise awareness of the issue, and although the combined efforts could not prevent the closure, our petition has received enough signatures to be presented for debate in the Parliament. The fight is not over yet, with further cuts to funding announced in the latest budget and no guarantee of continual funding for digital archives beyond the current financial year.

Another matter the Council focused on was the suspension of the NSW Premiers History Awards in 2011. The awards were under review in 2011, but with no word on their status or continuation, the History Council lobbied the State Government for the release of the review committee report and clarification on the future of the awards. We are happy to see the awards are once again to be presented in 2012, with the State Library of NSW taking the reins of promotion and presentation of the awards. The awards have been a significant feature of the historical calendar in NSW and showcase the best historical writing and presentation. They are the envy of the rest of the country and we are very happy to see them back.

Looking towards the future, in 2012 the Council has also updated its business plan to reflect new challenges and directions. Also at the first meeting of 2012, a new Executive Committee was elected. After 3 years as President, I stood down with Emeritus Professor Richard Waterhouse being elected as the new President. I continue to represent the PHA NSW on the Executive Committee and the General Council.

The Council was saddened in May with the loss of one of our Councillors and long time PHA NSW member and former President, Peter Tyler. Peter had not long joined the History Council but had already contributed much to the general discussion and debate around the table. His untimely passing came as a deep shock to the Council as it did to the PHA.

Mark Dunn, PHA NSW Representative

1.11 Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW Report

The committee met twice throughout the year with the closure of the City reading room in The Rocks being the main topic. Initially, the committee were informed that the reading room would remain open until the end of the 2014-2015 financial year when the lease expired, but the decision was made early in 2012 to close the doors on 30 June. The protests of the committee (and subsequent lobbying by the History Council, Australian Society of Archivists and PHA NSW) failed to reverse the decision. Many committee members, along with numerous PHA NSW representatives, gathered at The Rocks with SRNSW staff on 28 June to bid farewell to the reading room and offer their best wishes to Christine Yeats who had announced her retirement.

Some resources of the reading room (mainly microfilm) have been transferred to the State Library of NSW. Archivist Fabian LoSchiavo was stationed at the library in July to assist with the transition. This is a welcome development, but the absence of a reading room in the city staffed by highly skilled archivists is a grave loss to the history profession.

Michael Bennett, PHA NSW Representative

1.12 Treasurer's Report

1.12.1 Overview

The attached financial statement shows that PHA NSW has a surplus of \$2,957.10 for the financial year ended 30 June 2012 compared with a deficit of \$13,223.60 in the previous year. Overall expenditure in 2011-12 was less than in previous year where \$31,903.31 was expended, including \$17,454.43 on the July 2010 *Islands of History* conference on Norfolk Island. Throughout 2011-12 expenditure was closely monitored throughout to ensure that funds remained in surplus.

1.12.2 Membership

Revenue from 2011-12 membership fees totalled \$14,100.00. This includes \$2,265.00, which was received before the end of the 2010-11 financial year and carried forward. As at 30 June 2012 the number of financial members was as follows:

- 78 Professional members
- 24 Associate members
- 8 Graduate members

Members continue to have the option of renewing their membership subscriptions via electronic funds transfer (EFT), although the take-up has been slow. In the 2011-12 financial year only 26 Professional members, 8 Associate members and 3 Graduate members renewed using EFT.

1.12.3 Administrative Assistant

In 2012 an Administrative Assistant (Kate Laing) was engaged to work four hours (@ \$25.00 per hour) a week to assist with a range of tasks, including the preparation of PHAES.

1.12.4 Website

Tamale Creative has been engaged to develop a revamped website. An initial payment of \$1012.50 was made in 2011-12. The other website costs are web hosting and renewing the domain name.

1.12.5 Expenditure

During 2011-2012 the other significant items of expenditure were:

- ACPHA Levy \$2,200
- Consultancy fees (This includes \$500 paid to Peter Watts to facilitate the meeting with PHA NSW members following the 2011 survey results.)
- Donations (RAHS Building Fund) \$1,200, and
- Social events (History in July, Christmas Party) \$3,105.52.

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

Christine Yeats, Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Yeats".

21 August 2012

President

Date

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.
ABN 53 012 141 720

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	This Year 2011-12	Previous Year 2010-11
<u>INCOME</u>		
Membership Fees	14,100.00	11,795.00
CPD Events	435.00	605.00
Subscriptions	35.00	38.50
Norfolk Island Conference	200.00	6,165.00
Interest earned	0.00	76.21
Royalties	1,780.38	0.00
Reimbursements*	<u>299.40</u>	0.00
	16,849.78	18,679.71
Membership Fees in advance	2,520.00	2,265.00
TOTAL Income for financial year	16,849.78	18,679.71
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
ACPHA Levy	2,200.00	1,980.00
ACPHA Conference/Meetings	1,213.00	0.00
Administrative Assistant (Salary)	1,600.00	0.00
Advertising & Promotion (Yellow pages)	0.00	627.00
Bank & OFT Filing Fees	91.60	64.20
CPD Events: Venue, catering, transport, honorariums	300.00	763.15

Consultancy Fees (PHAES & Government submissions)*	800.00	750.00
Donations (RAHS Building Fund)	1,200.00	1,500.00
Gifts	149.40	0.00
Insurance	705.37	705.37
Internet transactions (data downloads, internet messages)	0.00	0.00
Norfolk Island Conference (incl launch)	0.00	17,454.43
PHA representation at functions	0.00	120.00
Phanfare (printing & postage)	210.00	226.54
Photocopying	15.00	0.00
Postage (incl. PO Box rental)	244.95	213.00
Presenters' Fees & expenses	0.00	0.00
Prizes and Awards	0.00	1,000.00
Publications	0.00	0.00
Royalties	0.00	0.00
Social events (History in July, Christmas Party)	3,105.52	2,058.98
Stationery	17.80	44.94
Subscriptions*	688.00	460.00
Telephone (Telstra)	220.54	220.80
Website (hosting, database admin & redesign)	1,131.50	3,714.90
TOTAL expenditure for financial year	13,892.68	31,903.31
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR	\$2,957.10	-\$13,223.60
FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2011		
St. George Bank - Society Cheque Account 428 209 243	\$25,131.33	\$23,981.93