

Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)

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PHANFARE



PHA NSW



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Cover Picture: The Ranken landau at the National Museum of Australia, <http://www.nma.gov.au/collections-search/image?irn=108346#oid=1986.0038.0001>

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This edition of *Phanfare* has been prepared by:
Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass,
Katherine Knight and Carol Liston.

President's Page

History in July 2012

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.

Public History Prize 2011

The PHA NSW's Public History Prize 2011 was also presented at History in July.

The Prize was introduced four years ago to recognise and reward the work done by undergraduate history students enrolled at universities in NSW and the ACT whose projects engage with the profession and practise of public history.

Our judge this year was Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, and on behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank her very much for agreeing to judge the prize and for her work in assessing the entries.

This is the first year that entries were invited from around NSW and the ACT – previously only students at University of NSW and the University of New England could apply – so I'm very pleased to announce that our winner this year is from the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

Our winner this year is Rosa Grahame with her winning essay 'Mountains out of molehills: Black Mountain and the Human Imagination'. Rosa is a fourth year history student at the ANU.

Dr Fitzgerald praised Ms Grahame's essay for its use of a "wide range of sources to consider changing understanding of the relationships between citizens and their landscapes, using the case study of Black Mountain, Canberra." Dr Fitzgerald commented that it argued "clearly the history of changing perceptions of 'value' and of 'wilderness', in a legal sense as well as in the understanding of the wider community, while the suggestion of an inherent racism contained in tentatively equating 'wilderness' with the concept of terra nullius points the way towards further enquiry."

Unfortunately Rosa was not able to attend History in July to accept her award, but as luck would have it, her grandmother Rachel Grahame is a PHA NSW member and was able to accept the award on Rosa's behalf.

Membership

There will be a number of vacant positions on the PHA NSW Executive Committee next year (2012-13). As we are a volunteer-run organisation, we need our membership base to volunteer to join the Committee in order to continue the work of the PHA NSW. If you would like to join now in preparation for taking on an executive role in the 2012-13 year, please contact the Secretary Michael Bennett: secretary@phansw.org.au

Don't forget to renew your membership subscription for PHA NSW membership for 2012-13. Fees are due on 1 July 2012, and should be paid before the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at History House at 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney on Monday 27 August 2012 at 6pm.

Social Media

Join the PHA NSW Facebook page here www.facebook.com/groups/198151240277294

Follow the PHA NSW on [twitter.com @pha_nsw](https://twitter.com/pha_nsw)

And don't forget our September CPD, Social Media for... Historians, to be held at Customs House on Monday 10 September 2012 from 12:30-1:30pm.

Historians all over the world are harnessing the power of social media to improve communication and

collaboration within the profession. Join City of Sydney Historians Lisa Murray and Laila Ellmoos, along with User Education Librarian Jeff Cruz for an overview of how historians are using Facebook, Twitter and blogs to develop professional online networks, to create online scholarly communities and to improve scholarly sharing and collaboration. We will also have a look at social media apps—such as Zotero and Diigo—that are efficient and helpful research tools used to organise and share research.

Book now!

www.eventbrite.com.au/event/3908578664

Laila Ellmoos, President PHA NSW

Remembering Peter Tyler with gratitude

I would like to add to the warm tribute by Rosemary Kerr in the last issue of *Phanfare* to Peter Tyler who died suddenly on May 12, 2012. When Peter learned that I was working on a history of arts activism in western Sydney, he mentioned his own experience there and willingly agreed to be my first oral history interviewee for the project. I interviewed him at his home in Darling Point, April 15, 2004, where he was kindly and patient with my lack of expertise with the recording equipment. Peter explained that he worked for the Arts Council of NSW from 1961 to 1965, first as touring theatrical manager and then with the Northside Festival. Most council board members and staff, he said, came from within a 10 mile radius of Sydney. “A branch of the Arts Council in Parramatta was analogous to a branch in Brewarrina.” He recalled taking the Young Elizabethan Players – a cast of seven actors – to high schools in Parramatta, Penrith and Liverpool. All students had to study a Shakespearean text in years eight and 11. They performed *Twelfth Night* and *Richard II*.

They were not as well received in the western areas as in the bigger urban high schools or private school with more academic traditions. Like country towns, Peter said, there were many working class people or semi-rural farm workers, who lacked the cultural background of other students. He had vivid memories of an experience in Orange, which he considered comparable to western Sydney. This time it was a ballet performance of excerpts for schools, with girls in tutus and sometimes rather effeminate looking men in tights.

There was no sign of supervision, but we started *L’Apresmidi d’une Faune* with Paul Grinwis, principal dancer from the Borovansky company. The audience was laughing and carrying on. It was staged like a Greek frieze – all very stylised. Paul decided it was no use to continue – the audience was so hostile – so he thumbed his nose at the students and marched off the stage.¹

As stage manager, Peter pulled down the curtain and was absolutely furious. He started abusing the kids – “don’t know what’s good for them”, “ignorant country swine or words to that effect”. His little tirade was fairly effective, he said, and there was quiet for the rest of the performance, but the news evidently reached the press. Next morning the *Sydney Morning Herald* carried a front page story and a cartoon showing Peter with a shotgun saying “You’ll enjoy this or else!” The Arts Council Board didn’t reprimand Peter. He was young and didn’t know how to handle such a situation. However, he felt it was indicative of the problem of “taking culture to the people, imposing culture on the people”. He thought it was inappropriate.

While some of the Arts Council branches nurtured local artists, both performing artists and musicians and visual artists, a lot of them saw themselves as having a mission to bring “civilisation to the bush”.²

Thank you Peter for such an honest and funny story told against yourself and for enhancing a history now close to publication.

Katherine Knight

¹ Oral History interview with Peter Tyler, K Knight, April 15, 2004

² Ibid

Vale Lesley Muir OAM Professional Historian

Members of the PHA who attended the Professional Development workshops on land titles research led by Lesley Muir and Terry Kass in recent years will be saddened by the news of Lesley's death in May 2012 following a short battle with cancer.

Lesley worked as a librarian at the State Library of NSW, Sydney Teachers College and the University of Sydney, where she retired as the Branch Librarian for the Faculty of Nursing in 2007.

Lesley was a professional member of the Professional Historians Association, but her professional work in history had its origins before the PHA was formed.



As a part time student she studied Geography at the University of Sydney, graduating with her BA in 1969. Local history became her passion, resulting in her MA Hons thesis, *A Wild and Godless Place: Canterbury 1788-1895*, in 1985. This was followed in 1994 with the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Geography for her thesis *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and the Design of Sydney's Public Transport System 1873-1895*.

Skills gained through her academic qualifications were generously shared with her local community. From the 1980s she worked with Canterbury and District Historical Society to research, write and publish booklets on aspects of the district's history. Her largest community project was involvement in researching and editing *Canterbury's Boys: World War 1 and Sydney's Suburban Fringe* that documented almost 2000 local volunteers who joined the First AIF.

Lesley had a passion for architecture and was an active member and office bearer of the Horbury Hunt Club, planning and leading many tours in Australia and overseas to inspect buildings by Hunt and his contemporaries. She contributed to the Historic Houses Trust exhibition and publication on John Horbury Hunt.

It was natural that her interests in architecture, geography and local history should lead her to work as a professional historian documenting the heritage of Canterbury in a stream of heritage studies, usually in partnership with her husband Brian Madden.

Her detailed knowledge of the network of personal, financial and political links in late 19th century New South Wales informed her contribution as a co-author of *The People's Choice. Electoral Politics in Colonial New South Wales*. (2007)

Lesley was an active member of the state wide Affiliated Societies network of the Royal Australian Historical Society from the early 1980s, serving on its Affiliated Societies Committee from 1985-2002, and chairing it from 2002 till her death. She was a councillor of the RAHS from 2002-2012, retiring as Senior Vice-President in 2012.

In 2007 she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to recording history, particularly of Canterbury. Shortly before her death she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society. As was her wish, and befitting an historian of Sydney's railway history and heritage, Lesley was buried near the Mortuary Railway Platform at Rookwood Cemetery.

Carol Liston

Reflections on a history of race relations within Australia and New Zealand

In April this year, the arrival of a new grandson took me on my first real visit to New Zealand. The only other time had been a half day in Wellington in 1966. This time I spent two weeks in the North Island, beginning with two days in Auckland. Even as we travelled from the airport to the city centre, I was struck by the diversity of cultures reflected in the shops and signage along the roadside. This was significantly different from the largely Anglo Maori culture I had been anticipating and remarkably like Sydney. This impression continued as I walked through city streets and experienced waterfront and public transport.

Almost immediately, I found myself pondering the issue of race relations. Nearly everyone of indigenous or non-English speaking background, whose stories are woven into my draft history of arts activism in western Sydney, was influenced by their sustained experience of racism in Australia. Australians in the last two decades have witnessed the reemergence of public expressions of racism as with the rise of Pauline Hanson, alarm about Muslims following the attacks of 9/11 and the fevered debates about asylum seekers. Had New Zealanders shared similar experiences?

I hope I'm not merely repeating the "bleeding obvious" for those more familiar with New Zealand, but it seems an idea worth pursuing a little.



The Michael King Writers Centre at Devonport, named after the historian who was killed in a car accident in 2004, a year after the publication of his acclaimed [The Penguin History of New Zealand](#).

Current statistics reveal that New Zealand's population is now approaching 4.5 million.¹ The most ethnically diverse population is in the Auckland region, where about a third of the

¹ http://www.stats.govt.nz/tools_and_services/tools/population_clock.aspx

country's population lives. The 2006 census recorded ethnic groups in the Auckland region as European, including English and South African – 56.5%, Maori – 11.1%, Pacific 14.4%, Asian – 18.9%, and other smaller groups including Middle Eastern, Latin American and African. The proportion of Asians was expected to be the fastest growing in subsequent years and according to my superficial observations, this certainly appeared to have been so.¹

People familiar with New Zealand would know that Maori place names are far more common than English names throughout the country.

The Maori language is considered a national taonga (treasure) and is spoken by around 23 percent of New Zealanders. The language is undergoing a revival, with initiatives like Maori Language Week, Maori language schools (from pre-school through to high school) and a Maori language television station all playing a role in growing te reo.²

The Auckland Museum, like many throughout New Zealand, features a significant section on Maori culture, which is clearly a source of pride to Maori guides and cultural performers. Wherever possible, I found myself asking questions in casual conversations with people in chance meetings, quietly observing and reading any information available. I was introduced to the late Michael King's highly regarded *The Penguin History of New Zealand*, published in 2003 – a fantastic read as an example of accessible and authoritative history writing.³



A Maori guide explains a storehouse, Auckland Museum.

Until reading Tim Flannery's *The Future Eaters* in 1996 I was unaware that New Zealand was settled by Polynesians only 800 years ago. Michael King enlarges on this theme. "The

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<http://www.arc.govt.nz/albany/fms/main/Documents/Auckland/Population%20and%20stats/People%20of%20the%20Auckland%20region%202006.pdf>

² <http://www.newzealand.com/int/article/new-zealand-culture-maori/>

³ King, Michael; *The Penguin History of New Zealand*, Penguin Books, 2003

Great New Zealand Myth” taught in New Zealand schools from the 1910s to the 1970s told of a first Maori settlement in 1150 AD – the Moriori, which was subsequently overwhelmed by “The Great Fleet” of Seven Canoes 200 years later. Those of the Moriori who were not killed or absorbed into their society by the new arrivals, escaped to the Chatham Islands. Another part tells a dramatic founding story attractive to Europeans and Maori alike about adventures around the coast involving moa, greenstone and a fight with a giant octopus. It compared favourably with stories of heroism and nobility in the European tradition.

By repetition, King said, it became the accepted founding story by Maori and Pakeha (New Zealanders of European origin). Because shared mythology is ultimately more pervasive and more powerful than history, it became the accepted history. The reality, he wrote was more complex and varied. All verifiable evidence points to New Zealand having first been settled by East Polynesians in the 13th century – by different groups in different locations. King writes that even the story of the Moriori as a separate and earlier race proved without foundation.

In the 1600s and 1700s, some of the more negative cross-cultural exchanges led to the death of Europeans on southern exploratory voyages. This contributed to the British Government’s decision to establish its new penal colony in New South Wales in preference to New Zealand.

Australian Aboriginal people were assumed to be less martial than Maori, less organised and vigorous, and therefore easier to control in the operation of a colonial enterprise. This decision protected Maori from a concerted attempt at foreign colonisation of New Zealand for a further 50 years and gave them better time to adjust to the implications – the advantages and disadvantages – of what would initially be a small European presence in their country.¹

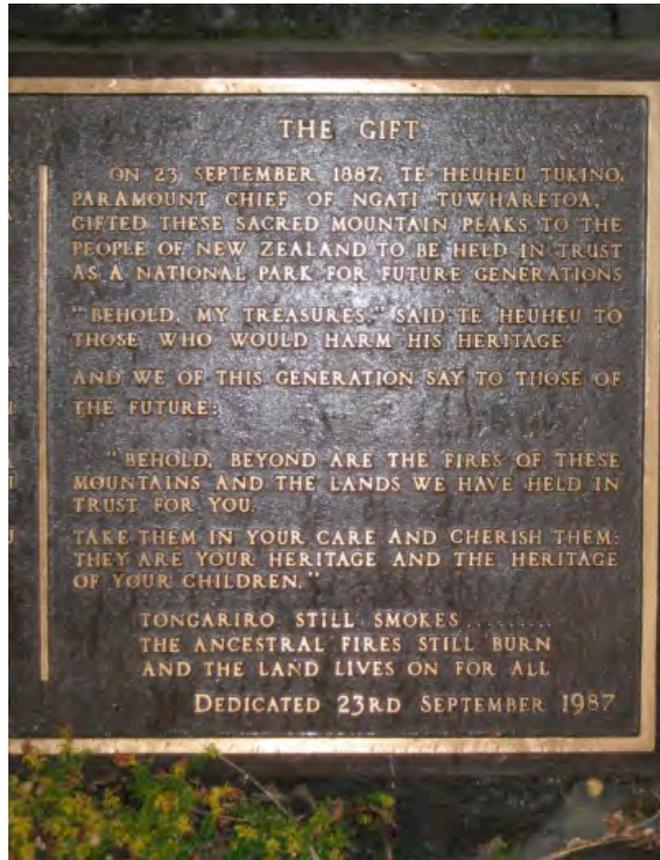
It remained Maori country unequivocally until February 1840, King writes. There were many mutual benefits for Maoris and Europeans. Maoris proved to be good entrepreneurs, competitive in business and good seamen on European ships. The decision by the British Colonial Office in 1839 to create a “settler New Zealand in which a place had to be kept for Maoris”, led to a rushed and inadequate treaty document signed at Waitangi between British and Maori representatives in February 1840. British migration increased rapidly so that by 1880 there were about 500,000 settlers, vastly outnumbering Maori.

For all its inadequacies, the fact that a treaty was negotiated at all appears to be one reason for the enormous differences between Australia and New Zealand. As Grace Karskens so eloquently states, the spread of settlement and race relations in Australia were “founded on a few days mistaken impressions, on not being able to see”. As she described an Aboriginal community after tens of thousands of years, not hundreds, on their land:

They knew country intimately, had named every place and feature, and invested all with multiple levels of mythological and spiritual meaning. Aboriginal people had mixed their labour, their spiritual beliefs, social structures and laws, their arts and industries so thoroughly with the land that they had coalesced and were indivisible.²

¹ Ibid., p.114.

² Karskens, Grace; *The Colony: a history of early Sydney*, Allen & Unwin, 2009, p.36.



This plaque in Tongariro National Park commemorates the placing of traditional lands by the Maori owners into NZ government hands in 1887 for the benefit of future generations and in order to protect it from European subdivision and sale.

Europeans completely failed to understand these relationships. Negotiations between indigenous peoples and the newcomers in Australia have been deeply and cruelly unbalanced as we all know. There is still a long way to go before anything like collective mutual respect and understanding can be claimed. Nonetheless, changes are occurring. I have been heartened by quiet developments in my own region of western Sydney. Watch out for the celebrations of the Bicentenary of the European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 2013.

Aboriginal dancer and choreographer Jo Clancy is currently directing a multi-artform performance installation with three Blue Mountains Aboriginal Elders, 11 Visual Artists and five Dancers called *Crossing Country, Making Tracks, Sharing Culture*. This project is responding to the European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 from an Aboriginal perspective and has the strong support of Blue Mountains City Council and the NSW Government.¹

*Photos and story by
Katherine Knight*

¹ <http://www.blakdance.org.au/Profiles/jo-clancy/>

Lost to view – the RAHS Collections

When the Royal Australian Historical Society was formed in 1901 to encourage the study of Australian history and the preservation of its traces, it had no home to for a collection. It rented an office in the Department of Education building in Bridge Street from 1916 until it purchased a wool store in Young Street that was converted to the first History House and opened in 1941.

During these homeless years, the Society lobbied for premises for an historical museum, with schemes to acquire Vaucluse House, Elizabeth Bay House or a floor in the Hyde Park barracks as suitable locations to show the story of Australian history. (Later generations agreed, with all three sites now home for government-run museums of Australian history.)

Interest in early documents, paintings, photographs and personal objects belonging to early historical figures was strong, and families lent hundreds of objects for an exhibition in 1922. Another large exhibition was held in 1938 in the Commonwealth Bank Building in Sydney for the Sesqui-centenary of the arrival of the First Fleet. When the Society moved into its own premises in 1941 there was space for a museum collection on permanent display. An extensive display was mounted in the Education Building Art Gallery in 1951 to celebrate fifty years of Federation.

The move from Young Street to Macquarie Street in 1971 saw parts of the collection dispersed, with many photographs and paintings presented to the Mitchell Library. Enough remained for a museum collection to be displayed on the first floor of the new History House (in the space currently occupied by the RAHS library). However, by 1981 the Council of the Society had accepted that it did not have the resources to conserve and display its extensive collections. Government institutions were establishing collections of historical materials and professional standards of curatorial care raised concerns about suitable storage while legal matters, particularly insurance loomed large (especially when the collection included many firearms), The decision was made to place most of the objects, photographs and manuscripts with these larger institutions. Some objects were sold to these institutions, but the majority were gifts. Most of the manuscripts and many of the photographs went to the Mitchell Library. Hundreds of objects, especially textiles, building elements, and photographs were given to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (now the Powerhouse). A smaller collection went to the newly announced Museum of Australia (now the National Museum of Australia, Canberra).

Separated from the people and their stories about why these things mattered and had been preserved, these collections waited patiently, not quite lost, but not quite found until the digital age and the bureaucracy of total asset management. In recent years these institutions have been cataloguing the collections and putting pictures of them on-line so that historians can at last start to access them again. The captions are scant, reflecting the institutional knowledge two or three generations after the objects were donated.

A search of the collections at the National Museum of Australia for objects from the Royal Australian Historical Society instantly explains the challenges the Society faced in 1981. Here are listed horse drawn vehicles, mining equipment and weapons.

The Ranken landau belonged to George Ranken, a Bathurst free settler of the 1820s. It is one of the oldest surviving horse-drawn vehicles in Australia. The thoroughbrace coach of the style used by Cobb and Co. featured in films and TV series before coming to rest in the

museum. Gold rush days are tangible in the gold cradle used by teenagers Tom and Lister to find the first grains of gold at Ophir for Edward Hargraves. Politics and government budget over-expenditure in those years was more dangerous than today, evidenced by the pair of duelling pistols used by Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW in 1851 when he challenged the Colonial Treasurer, Sir Stuart Donaldson, to a duel for criticising his expenditure.



The Ranken landau.

Source: NMA, <http://www.nma.gov.au/collections-search/image?irn=108346#oid=1986.0038.0001>

A search of the Collections Database for the Powerhouse Museum brings up over 500 objects already listed (and as many more awaiting listing). Most significant among these objects are the Marsden family dresses and the convict clothing. The other objects, rare and bizarre, give a strong sense of the importance people placed on objects and their association with events that shaped colonial life. There is a bronze fragment from a statue of Queen Victoria destroyed in the Garden Palace fire, a Bourke newspaper printed on calico in April 1890 when the town's printing paper had been destroyed in a flood and objects made from scraps of copper originally from the wrecked *HMS Sirius* and later used on the roof of St James' Church, Sydney.

Thanks to the work on Total Asset Management at the Powerhouse Museum, more of the RAHS objects will gradually emerge from the anonymity of the last forty years and provide delight for historians and challenges for their stories to be retold by a new generation of historians and curators.

Carol Liston

(who not having enough to do is working through the RAHS records of its collections in her idle hours with RAHS Librarian Donna Newton!)

Norfolk Island Deaths: 1st Settlement 1788 – 1814

PHA member Cathy Dunn's research on Norfolk Island's 1st Settlement started many years ago with her husband's family members, Andrew Hamilton Hume, William Broughton and others.

Over the years she has continued her vast research and writings about Norfolk Island on the people, who arrived in NSW aboard *Royal Admiral* 1792, many of whom were on Norfolk Island such as master carpenter William Peat, who died on Norfolk Island on 11 June 1795.

Whilst working on the research project of the Old Sydney Burial Ground 1792 – 1820 for the City of Sydney in 2007 and 2008, once again Cathy noted the lack of a complete death/burial inventory for Norfolk Island's 1st Settlement.

Norfolk Island was first occupied and settled by the British in 1788, by a party from the settlement at Sydney then itself only five weeks old. The settlement on Norfolk Island played an important role in supplying Sydney until it became self-supporting. Norfolk's first settlement lasted until 1814.

Did you know that by late 1791 nearly half of the Colony was on Norfolk Island?

The first death on Norfolk Island was the drowning on 15 June 1788 of First Fleeter John Batchelor, a member of the Royal Marines 55th Portsmouth Company, who arrived in NSW, aboard the *Sirius* in 1788. He was a member of the first landing party on Norfolk Island on 6 March 1788. His body was washed up a week later and buried near the flagstaff.

From the known causes of death, drowning is the most common. As the convict John Grant wrote in his journal in 1805 "Many poor men have lost their lives on boats between ships and the Isle of Norfolk". Other causes of death include teething, dysentery, suicide, execution, accidents, convulsions, and epilepsy.

The Norfolk Island cemetery of today, which many PHA members visited as part of the was not the only burial location used during the 1st Settlement. There was a burial ground at Turtle Bay, which today is known as Emily Bay. The "Burying Ground" is marked on the 1796 Plan of Town of Sydney and South Side of Norfolk Island with adjacent grounds by William Chapman. There is a possible 1795 headstone at the Norfolk Island Cemetery of infant Mary Hook, so the commencement date for the Norfolk Island Cemetery is the mid or late 1790s.

Today the Norfolk Island Cemetery contains many of the surviving headstones from the 1st Settlement and was placed on the Australian Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980, in conjunction with the Kingston & Arthur's Vale Historic Area, which received World Heritage listing in 2010.

Some Norfolk Island 1st Settlement Headstones

Thomas Headington	13 June 1798
Captain George Hales	16 August 1801
Mary Guest	1 May 1804
John Owles	14 December 1806
John Badcock	2 February 1807

Not all 1st Settlement headstones of Norfolk Island are located at the Cemetery. One such is the headstone of Soldier's wife Mary Brabyn who died soon after her arrival on Norfolk Island in April 1796. Fragments of her headstone were found at Emily Bay, after the sand drifted during storms in the 1970s and 1990. Mary's headstone today is displayed at the Norfolk Island Museum, in the Commissariat Store, on the corner of Middlegate Road and Quality Row, in the lower level of the All Saints Church.

Cathy Dunn has recently published *Norfolk Island Deaths: 1st Settlement 1788 – 1814*, on CD-ROM, which also features photos of the headstones and miscellaneous shipping records. This was launched on Norfolk Island in March 2012 during Foundation Week.

The list of deaths has been checked for many duplicates in records such as Marg Buchannon, who died on 29 May 1805, as recorded in the Rev Fulton Burial List, but her death is recorded in the 1805 Muster but under the name of Marg Clarke.

There are over 260 deaths during the first settlement of Norfolk Island. Cathy's has painstaking check all primary records for Norfolk Island references to deaths, including journals and diaries, letters, musters, church records, victualling books, population returns and much more including collating this research.

The burial list includes full details on each person and their family, along with status, arrival to NSW and Norfolk Island. There is a lack of actual and surviving records for Norfolk Island for the periods 1796 – 1800 and 1805 – 1814. Cathy suggests readers consult the references and the bibliography listed on the research CD for further information and readings.

The Norfolk Island 1st Settlement Deaths 1788 – 1814 is available to purchase online at www.australianhistoryresearch.info.

Whilst on Norfolk Island in March this year, Cathy also presented a history workshop at the KAVHA Public Research Centre, No 9. Quality Row Kingston and presented a copy of *A Steady Hand - Governor Hunter & His First Fleet Sketchbook*, to the the KAVHA Public Research Centre about the early days of John Hunter in the Royal Navy, his first journey to NSW with the First Fleet in 1788, being ship wrecked on Norfolk Island in March 1790 and his eventful journey returning to England in 1792.

Currently being prepared is a History Research week holiday package on Norfolk Island for April 2013, which will be available to members of the PHA.

Cathy's Norfolk Island 1st Settlement research has continued. At present she is researching all persons from the 1802 Norfolk Island Victualling Book.

Cathy Dunn

Print images available at

http://www.4shared.com/folder/agA0LHux/Norfolk_Islands_Deaths.html

August Conference From the Ground Up

A call for papers in the President's newsletter late last year alerted me to the possibility of participating in the August history conference From the Ground Up, to be held at the State Library in 2012. The deadline for proposed papers was February 10. The notice said:

By bringing together academics, postgraduate students and professional historians engaged with the history of Sydney and its suburbs, From the Ground Up offers an opportunity to explore the complexity of the city's past. It is interested in illuminating the mundane, ordinary and everyday; acknowledging the marginalised and dispossessed; exposing the forgotten; and exploring the connections in Sydney between people, place and broader historical, environmental and social forces.

In considering how we might rethink the history of cities, and Sydney in particular, papers might draw on immigrant, feminist, Aboriginal and environmental history, although a broad range of papers engaging with the conference themes is expected and encouraged.

An unexpected phone call from doctoral student Penny Stannard brought the opportunity into focus. As a result, we made the following submission:

Western Sydney has arguably become the most dynamic region in Sydney for the development of new cultural forms and expressions. Katherine Knight's paper, *Five case studies in cultural diversity in western Sydney arts activism*, presents a history of arts activism in western Sydney through the work of individual activists over a forty year period. Penny Stannard's paper, *Cultural policy moments; Suburban identities and historical narratives of Campbelltown, Sydney*, charts historical moments in Campbelltown in which cultural policy direction was applied as a strategy to address and influence changing place identity.

While these are two separate papers, they contain complementary material that provides an historical context in which to understand the region's arts and cultural landscape as it now stands. As such, it is suggested that they be considered as companion papers.

Penny and I have been very pleased to have our abstracts accepted and are awaiting program details. The conference will be held in the Metcalfe Room, State Library of NSW, August 23-24, 2012. For enquiries about the conference, please contact Dr Matt Bailey at matthew.bailey@mq.edu.au

Katherine Knight

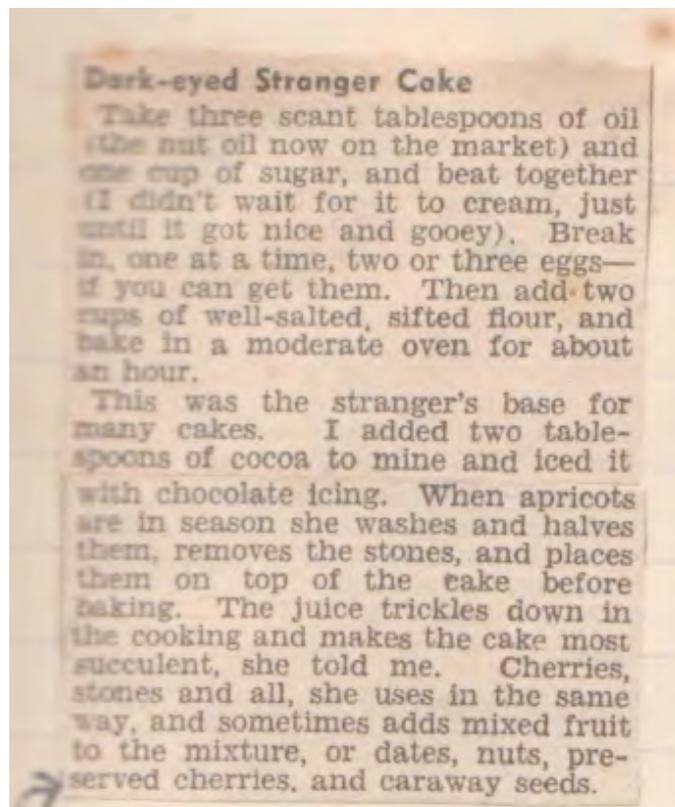
Dark-eyed Stranger Cake

Thanks to the National Archives, we were able to find the source of the mysteriously named “Dark-eyed Stranger Cake” in my mother’s wartime recipe book. A columnist Vesta Junior was exhorting her readers to be adventurous with cooking and not to be defeated by the lack of usual ingredients. “Real ingenuity can make up for most of the missing items,” she wrote.¹

She described a chance meeting with a lady over a table in a café and their ensuing conversation about the mayonnaise they were served. The lady, she thought, was Austrian and between them they considered the missing ingredient was oil. Unlike her Australian counterpart, the lady was accustomed to using oil in a wide range of dishes. Among them was a cake she made as a foundation for a wide range of uses.

Vesta Junior was amazed and experimented with the recipe. She thought it a great success. Now she was publishing it for the benefit of readers.

My daughter, who had found the recipe in her grandmother’s book, was very amused to read Gran’s comment: “NB – For emergency use only – slightly leathery.”



Katherine Knight

¹ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/627861?zoomLevel=1>

History Lovers' visit to Norfolk Island April 2013

PHA member Cathy Dunn from Australian History Research is hosting a history lovers' holiday on beautiful, historic Norfolk Island.

The tour takes 8 Days. The package of 7 nights includes:

- * Return airfare to Norfolk – Flights depart Friday April 12 Sydney Saturday April 13 from Brisbane
- * Seven nights accommodation at Fantasy Island Resort in a one bedroom self contained apartment
- * Seven days car hire (car insurance plus petrol payable direct)
- * Meet and greet at Norfolk Island airport
- * Return airport transfers on Norfolk Island
- * Guided half-day tour of Norfolk Island
- * Guided tour of World Heritage at Historic Kingston and Convict Settlement
- * Complimentary miniature golf – golf your way through Norfolk's history
- * Complimentary A Walk in the Wild – a unique rainforest walk
- * Copy of Norfolk Island 1st Settlement deaths 1788 – 1814
- * Contact us for further details

Prices are based on a specially discount airfare (current at 12 June 2012) and subject to change and availability until the time full payment and ticketing is complete.

Costs: Ex Sydney from \$1250, Ex Brisbane \$1205 per person. Based on twin share in a one bedroom apartment.

The units all have a large, full kitchen and spacious lounge room, cooking facilities comprising microwave, gas cook top, fridge, toaster and jug, as well as cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery. There is also a guest laundry with washer, dryer, laundry tub, iron and ironing board. Everything you need for a relaxing holiday is right here on Norfolk Island.

Norfolk has a unique beauty of its own, with its renowned tall majestic pines, sheer cliff faces, coral reefs and beautiful beaches. Almost one third of the island is devoted to National Parks and Reserves. But Norfolk Island is far more than a picturesque island in the South Pacific, it is paradise with a past. What was once a convicts' nightmare is now the tranquil home of the descendants from the Mutiny on the Bounty, who have their own unique culture and their own language.

There is much to see and do on Norfolk Island:

- * Dining out in the numerous restaurants or have lunch at the local brewery
- * Re-enactment of the Bounty Mutiny (with parts played by actual descendants)
- * Scuba diving, swimming, & snorkelling & fishing
- * Fascinating Historic tours and Eco-tours or visit Captain Cook's landing place
- * Bush-walking or take some time out to relax and enjoy Norfolk's peaceful existence
- * Glass bottom boat coral reef trips
- * Museums and historic Cemetery walk

PHA (NSW) Directory 2011-12

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For specific enquiries see list below

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Other PHA publications: Secretary

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