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Marie Byles (left) and Alf Brusted climbing Mt Cook,  
New Zealand, late 1920s

Image: Archives of National Trust of Australia (NSW)

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**PHANFARE No 210**  
**January-February 2005**

**Contents**

President's Report	3
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**Articles**

On the Fringes of the Discipline	4
A Visit to the Coast Hospital	5
The Relevance of History	7
The Frustrations of Researching Old Gardens	8
Oral History Association of Australia - the conference July 2005	12
Marie Byles: a spirited life	13

**Book Reviews**

An Eye for Photography	14
The Drought-Breaker	15

**Reviews – Events, Conferences**

PHA Visit to the Vaughan Evans Library	16
Exploring the History of Medicine	17
“Browned Off – Old Gardens in a New World” Australian Garden History Society Conference	19

**PHA Reports**

NSW Heritage Office – History Advisory Panel	21
State Records – Community Advisory Committee	22
Library Report	24
What's On	28
PHA (NSW) Directory 2004-2005	31

**President's Report – January 2005**

This is just a short word to wish all members a very happy new year. I hope this will be a productive and enjoyable year for us all.

The year 2005 marks the twentieth anniversary of PHA NSW Inc. This is a milestone that the executive wishes to celebrate in an appropriate way. If you have any thoughts on the format the celebrations should take, please let a member of the executive know and we will discuss this at our first meeting.

Continuing professional development remains a priority for the association so communicate with either myself, Peter Tyler or Kate Waters if you have any particular areas that you would like to see covered in workshops or seminars this year.

A final note: it looks as if ACPHA has made a breakthrough with regard to professional indemnity insurance. Members will be informed when more information is available on this.

**Pauline Curby**

## ON THE FRINGES OF THE DISCIPLINE

I don't know why, but for me, 2004 turned out to be a year for writing history in brief, asking a few words to stand in for the thousands we historians are more used to working with. Or, taking it further, doing it with no words at all.

In the first place there was the Darlinghurst Road upgrade. You read about it in the newspaper, as the widening of the pavement led to the usual concerns about missed business opportunities and generated much bagging of the Sydney City Council.

My concerns were somewhat different. The DA had required a public art/heritage component, and it was decided that this would be down to me. To inscribe the history of the street on the pavement. [deep intake of breath.]

Rest assured, I was dubious. Public art? Not my bag, I protested. And do you really mean the history, I asked? Don't you actually want celebration – the famous names, the achievements, the architectural snippets?

No, they said. The history. In around 1,500 words.

So now it is there. History on the pavement, in bronze. The road named for a governor, lined with fine mansions. Then terraces, evolving into boarding houses, then... you know the story. Sly grog, bohemia, R&R, prostitution, nightclubs, famous artists and infamous crooks. Culinary comments. A line of poetry here, a line of doggerel there. Humour, black and otherwise, pathos, and the odd serious comment. Hopefully capturing something of the past of the place.

The accolades and the brickbats are already in evidence. Mostly the latter. Some don't like the tone of it. Why is this recorded, and not that? How could you say THAT? I am going to have to formulate a standard letter of reply to all those people who are starting to object to the omission of events or persons dear to their own version of the story.

Then there was *Transposition: 5 Jewellers respond to Pymont's History*. This was an exhibition held in December 2004 at the Pymont Studios, managed by the Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia, and curated by Rhana Devenport. It was assisted by a grant from the NSW Ministry for the Arts.

The aim was to design pieces based on an understanding of the area's history, and I was asked to give a one day workshop and tour of the area to kick off the process. So you begin to see what a strange year this was. History onto a pavement is one thing. But history into jewellery? Where would all this end?

The results were wonderful. Brenda Factor turned harsh industrial remnants - literally the nuts and bolts of the workplaces of Pymont - into pink wax and silicon opposites, turning all the verities of our industrial past upside-down, while Sean O'Connell polished and honed his metals in an exploration of the intersections of the built and the natural forms of Pymont.

Rohan Nicol too responded to both these Pymonts, using bone, carefully collected from his local butchery, which he carved with the motifs of the Burley Griffin incinerator. He didn't talk much, but his work spoke eloquently of the bleached concrete of the incinerator, the bleached bones of the beasts slaughtered at the Glebe Island Abattoirs and the bleached colours of the underlying sandstone of the Pymont peninsula. Alice Whish went right back to John Macarthur's first and

only picnic on his Pymont land. Her delicate sculpting in silver of seeds and shells evolved from serious research and inspired serious concerns that future plantings on the peninsula be sensitive to the original vegetation regime.

And finally, the role of Pymont as a place of entry for migrants to the city, and the importance of the industrial contribution of these migrants to the overall economy inspired Joungmee Do, who used traditional Korean metal inlay techniques to craft wonderful pieces full of domestic images of arrival and acceptance in a new land.

I agreed to get involved in this project out of curiosity, and in the end I learned a lot. I could not avoid the conclusion that the stories I told were heard very differently from listener to listener. Everyone readily 'got' the idea that history can inform and educate about the present, and everyone understood that their work gained depth from the new knowledge they had acquired. 'I had no idea history could be so interesting', they said - and where have you heard that before? - but from the results of their labours it was clear that much of their interest came not from what I had said, but from the fusion of this with a great deal of interesting things they already knew. I think we historians could often be more innovative about the ways we attempt to transmit the story and more skilled at including the receiver as active in the process. Of course good teachers will tell you that they already know all this. It was good to be reminded.

And by the way, I couldn't afford any of the pieces these artists produced, but having seen them at work, so to speak, I do have a new appreciation of why the price tags were the way they were.

**Shirley Fitzgerald**



## **A VISIT TO THE COAST HOSPITAL**

At a recent joint event of the Health and Medicine Museums and the NSW Society for the History of Medicine, members were able to inspect the recently opened Museum at the former Coast (later Prince Henry) Hospital at Little Bay. The Hospital has recently closed and the heritage buildings and their surrounds are the focus for a new residential development overlooking the ocean.

It's a dramatic setting and the hospital has had a dramatic history. It opened in 1881 to deal with a smallpox outbreak. Patients were at first housed in tents on the beach. The hospital is associated with infectious diseases — it was the location of the State's lazaret, for leprosy

patients, for many years and typhoid, tuberculosis and diphtheria patients were treated there. The hospital staff cared for many children during the poliomyelitis outbreak and the museum features an exhibit on polio, the iron lung and the Salk vaccine which revolutionized treatment of the disease.

In 1894 the first Nursing Training School was opened and the Hospital has ever since been associated with nurse training, most importantly since 1960, when it became a teaching hospital for the University of NSW. In 1913 Fred Flowers, the then Minister for Health determined to build accommodation for 1000 beds at the hospital. Although the war interrupted progress on the

pavilion style “Flowers wards” as they became known, they are the most typical architecture of the hospital with their neo-Georgian style. One of these elegant buildings now houses the museum.



The museum is staffed by volunteers, all former nurses at the hospital with years of experience at their fingertips. Their knowledge made the inspection enjoyable and informative. Members also visited the chapel dedicated to nurses killed in war, the headland, the old lazaret site and the cemetery. The input of funds from developer Stockland and Landcom has meant that the museum building has been restored and elegant display panels set out the history of the hospital. For those interested in medical history, it is worth the visit – you can combine it with a swim at the nearby beach!

**Christa Ludlow**

Nursing & Medical Museum, Prince Henry at Little Bay Open Sunday and Monday, 1.00pm to 5.00pm Admission Adults \$3; children \$1 Enquiries: Mrs Maylean Cordia, 9419 7783
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## THE RELEVANCE OF HISTORY

My thanks to Terry Kass (Digging Up Estonian Roots: Phanfare No. 209) for revealing the mystery of where all the vowels in the Czech language disappeared to. The Estonians obviously stole them and, as they clearly now have too many, they should consider an exchange with the Czechs who have too many consonants. Terry, have you tried the Foreign Language Bookshop in York Street, opposite the QVB, for Estonian books? There is not much the bookshop doesn't have. Particularly delightful and useful are the bilingual children's books.

Terry's article was a welcome insight into local history in a non English speaking society. In fact, when you cross the language barrier, you find, perhaps unsurprisingly, many elements in common with our home turf - the sources, archives, local history publications, research guides and so on. These things are universal. Also, in countries with closer contact with the 'West', using English is not such a problem as it is universally recognised as the 'lingua franca', so to speak (except presumably in France!), and many locals are keen to cultivate their experience with it. Americans in search of their ancestral roots are also a strong driving force in this. But of course it is common courtesy to at least have a go at the local language, not to mention its obvious use in accessing sources.

What you do find in Europe is a deeply ingrained sense of history, imbued from the beginning by the education systems, parents and grandparents. So it is common to find somebody from any walk of life talking about events of a few centuries ago and their effect on the society's development as though they happened the day before yesterday. A greater contrast with Australia is harder to imagine. What is of concern, however, particularly in the former communist countries that are rebuilding their education curricula, is that they look to countries like Australia for examples of a modern education system. And what is happening to the study of history in Australia and its place in curricula? What one hears from History Teachers Associations in Europe today are expressions of concern at the dumbing down of history, its absorption into more 'relevant' (career-oriented) subjects and the general loss of understanding of the past and its relevance to the present. Sound familiar?

When we embark on trendy exercises to deconstruct the study of history and morph it into something else, we are not only doing ourselves a disservice, we are helping to spread a malaise that undermines the possibility of better societies. We are still a long way behind European and other societies in absorbing history into our social bloodstream but there is progress to the extent that some of us can even make a living from it. But it certainly does not help when some of our colleagues in academe and education go to water behind us!

**Tony Prescott**

## THE FRUSTRATIONS OF RESEARCHING OLD GARDENS

In most histories about old places, little attention is paid to how the garden or grounds around a building were developed and used. In part, this was because heritage reports on heritage listed buildings were written for - indeed often *by* - architects, whose preoccupation was only with the building. But there are more complex reasons for this seeming oversight.

First, gardens are ephemeral – even enigmatic - compared with buildings. They can be changed more quickly and easily, according to the whims and fashions of their owners. Gardens are also places for self-expression, experimentation, nurturing, or invoking memories, colour or scents of beloved childhood places. They can also be sites for quiet reflection, retreat, or indulgence in sensuous pleasures. And being largely organic, they respond to the inexorable rhythms of nature – sprout, grow, mature and die.

Out of all these variables and constant change, very little usually survives in terms of tangible fabric; usually, only some tough old trees, perhaps some paving and edging, and an element or two such as an old fence, well, tennis court, or pond – all of which, I have argued elsewhere, should be included within a curtilage for the dwelling.

But how does a conservation landscape architect identify and interpret the sometimes few elements – the ‘accretions of occupance’ - that remain, in order to assess their potential heritage significance ? That is the challenge I have been facing these last 10 years.

Sometimes the architectural period and style of the building can provide a good starting point. Over the years I have acquired a good knowledge of what garden style traditionally accompanied a particular period house. It may vary from a simple geometric garden or survival plot for an early settler’s cottage, through an attempted Capability Brown landscape creation for an early 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion, or a gardenesque garden to display the horticultural wonders discovered throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to an Italianate revival garden for a boom period mansion, or the more sinuous paths and rainforest plantings of a federation period garden. And so on.

If a cluster of typical elements of such garden styles remain in place, one can usually regard them as constituting the ‘key period’ of the garden, and assess its significance accordingly – assuming, that is, that the house itself remains in place too.

In other instances, however, there may only be fragments – a grand old tree from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the remains of a tennis court from the 1920s, a brick fence from the 1950s, or some skinny native plants from the 1970s. What are the options in such cases?

One way of approaching this is to try to identify, and then contact, previous owners, to ask them if they have any old photographs, plans, sketches, paintings or descriptions of the garden. Occasionally this bears fruit, but because of the high mobility of the Australian population, these lucky breaks are few. Let me illustrate the problems with a current example.

Warringah Council approached me recently to provide a heritage assessment of a group of mature trees in the south-east corner of the Roche site at Dee Why that had been nominated for heritage listing by locals. The lot lies at the junction of South Creek Rd. and Campbell St. in Dee Why.





*The interwar cottage surrounded by the trees of the so-called 'botanical garden' at the corner of South Creek Road and Campbell Street*

*Photo: Mayne-Wilson & Associates, October 2004*

A visit to Roche enabled me to inspect the trees, and draw an initial conclusion that they were probably planted around 1910-20. One Roche officer made a tantalising reference

to these trees as 'a botanical garden', once owned by a family with the name of Smyth King. Follow-up consultations with the local studies unit of the Warringah library, however, yielded no further information; nor did questioning of the local historical society and dedicated local historians.

A plea for help on the Heritage Advisors Network yielded one hopeful response, giving some details about members of the Smyth King family. However, a follow-up chat with a few of its oldest female members (now in their nineties) yielded very little: none remembered a 'botanical garden' but one vaguely remembered a nursery being on or close to the site. A further reference of this information to our kind helpers in the local studies library and historical society still yielded no further information.

Our next hope was an examination of old aerial photographs starting from 1930. And yes, these revealed the presence of a cluster of mature trees on that corner of land in 1930 and throughout the ensuing decades, but little else. The land in the vicinity was being used for market gardening and poultry farming, and probably also for nurseries, but whether any of these had a connection with the 'botanical garden' was uncertain.

*The 'botanical garden' - corner of South Creek Rd (centre & left) Campbell St (right).*

*Photo: Mayne-Wilson & Associates, Oct. 2004*

To try to obtain more specific information, we then turned to Sydney Water and also the Land Titles Office. Sydney Water was unable to provide historical information, as their reticulation system only reached the area in 1968, the year that Roche acquired the site. At the Land Titles Office



we found the names of the successive owners of the piece of land (Lot 629), but this information was not conclusive either. It emerged that the south-eastern corner of Lot 629, where the most significant trees stand, was the property of a gentleman, Edward Edget Baylis, of Manly,

between 1890 and 1914. The north-eastern portion of Lot 629, however, was excised by Baylis in 1898, and was owned until 1921 by Charles Gottlieb Daniel Hirsch, a nurseryman, also originally from Manly. Hirsch also acquired Lot 639, immediately to the north of Lot 629, from Baylis in 1899, giving him a substantial piece of land for his nursery.

After a series of land transfers of Lot 629 between various people from 1914 to 1921, Ronald Talbot Smyth King acquired the (reduced) lot in 1921 and held it until 1968, when his family sold it to Roche. Given that he was a solicitor practising in the city, however, this gave little encouragement to the idea that he would have established a garden with a wide variety of trees in it. As mentioned earlier, none of his relatives could confirm that, either. The trees include Figs, Pines, Camphor Laurels, Turpentine, Agonis species, Melaleuca species, Willows, Brush Box, Coral Trees and Eucalypts, and as a 1930 aerial photograph shows, they were well established by then.

*Inside the garden, with weatherboard, interwar cottage in background.*

Source: Rappoport Pty Ltd. 2004



The tantalising question, then, is: did one of the several persons who owned Lot 629 before Smyth King establish the garden? The owner before Smyth King was a florist, so was she in some way responsible for the broad range of tree plantings? Or did Smyth King himself plant them? Or did he allow Charles Hirsch to lease the lot and establish a demonstration garden on it? Or, perhaps, did Smyth King pay Hirsch to plant an attractive garden with which to embellish his house?

On referring the name Hirsch to our panel of now devoted helpers, a member of the Smyth King family immediately turned up a whole list of persons with that name. Should we tackle them one by one in the hope that, finally, one of them will know all about the ‘botanical garden’ and produce the evidence we have been seeking?

One curious twist is that Smyth King excised a small portion of his Lot 629 to a person by the name of Surovsov, on which the latter apparently built the small timber cottage which is also now a heritage item because it is ‘an intact example of inter-war housing’. Was Mr Surovsov a, or *the*, gardener for Smyth King? Did he establish or at least maintain the so-called ‘botanical garden’? So, where is Mr Surovsov (or his descendants) now?

These are all possible leads to follow, but the fee meter is ticking over, and Warringah Council’s resources for such studies are limited. If the leads to the Hirsch and Surovsov families are unproductive, could there be some information lurking within the State archives at Kingswood? Or some family chest, tucked away in a shed?

If not, do we have to confess to Council that our research has been inconclusive? In such a case, the heritage assessment for the trees will have to be based almost entirely on their age, variety,



condition, aesthetic value and local esteem (which is considerable), with ‘associations with a prominent person’ remaining problematical. Unless, that is, we get a break-through in the meantime . . .

**Warwick Mayne-Wilson**

**Conservation Landscape Architect**



An aerial photo of the site in 1951. The group of trees at the corner of the site appears already quite mature, and the Smyth King house (white arrow) is in place. The small cottage of Mr Surovsov is indicated by the orange arrow. The site of Hirsch's former nursery is indicated by the dashed blue line.

Source: Dept. of Lands

**ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA – the conference July 2005**

The national biennial conference of the Oral History Association of Australia should traditionally be held this year. However owing to the Australian Association's hosting the conference of the International Oral History Association in 2006 in Sydney, it was decided to petition the AHA organisers to allow us to join in with the CISH/AHA conference (its theme, very encouragingly, 'Inclusive Histories' so we felt hopeful of being included!) to be held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, in July 2005. Professor Rae Frances was kind enough to accede to our request and we were granted four round table panel sessions.

The first is on Day 1, 5 July, '**Talking Communities**', with the panel chaired by Janis Wilton and including Jill Cassidy, Heather Goodall, Mary Ann Jebb, Sandra Hodgson and Jan McCahon. Community oral history projects have reached out to include a wide range of participants and have used a variety of approaches. This panel will offer an exchange of approaches and projects: collaborative research, applied research, community ownership, performance, exhibitions, publication and multimedia.

'**Oral History and its challenges**' in a later session on 5 July will be chaired by Rosie Block and the speakers will be Margaret Hamilton, Paula Hamilton, Frank Heimans, and Margaret Park. The OHAA was established in 1978. Its formation coincided with the publication of Wendy Lowenstein's 'Weevils in the flour', and the heated debate about the place and reliability of oral history led by Patrick O'Farrell. Since then, the debates and challenges have continued. Among others, there is Geoff Spenceley looking again at the Depression and Keith Windschuttle with his recent attack during the History Wars. This panel will invite reflections beyond the debates. The presenters will highlight some of the contributions and challenges posed by oral history to the practice of history making in Australia.

The last session on Day 1, 5 July, will address '**Oral history and technology - the way forward**'. Francis Good, George Imashev, Richard Neville and Beth Robertson will address the challenges and decisions facing practitioners and archival institutions. These include which recording formats to use for interviewing; how multimedia can play its part; presentation and publication; archiving; storage; and access.

The fourth and final session is on Day 2, 6 July, its topic, '**Handling ethics and ethics committees**'. Drawing on the ethical guidelines of the OHAA and debates about ethics in oral history practice, the panellists, Cathie Clement, Julia Horne and Lucy Taksa will invite discussion about ethical practice in history more broadly. They will also invite reflections on the role of University Human Research Ethics Committees.

We do hope that members of the history community, as well as the oral history community, will be interested to attend.

**Rosie Block**  
**National President**  
**Oral History Association of Australia**

**MARIE BYLES: A SPIRITED LIFE**

*There once was a lady called Byles,  
who made us walk miles upon miles.  
She would call out 'Relax' and we'd fall on our backs,  
that very weird woman called Byles.*

So went the ditty affectionately created by 10 year old Sabine Erika which she sang with her sisters Monika and Renata after they had accompanied Marie Byles on one of her bush land walks near her home in Cheltenham during the late 1940's. This home in the leafy suburbs is no mere suburban fibro and sandstone bungalow. Its history and associations remain today a testimony to a committed conservationist, the first practicing female solicitor in NSW, mountaineer, explorer and avid bushwalker, feminist, author and a founding member of the Buddhist Society in NSW.

According to Sabine who lived with her family in nearby Beecroft in the 1940s and 50s, Marie “stood out like a sore thumb because she was so different”. The neighbours would have observed a small sprightly woman who chose to live alone, walking to the train station in her simple unadorned outfits – usually loose trousers and a simple shirt – to work every day as a solicitor with her own practice with offices in Eastwood and Sydney CBD. Many would have wondered why this woman would have left her home on such valuable land of over three and a half acres to the National Trust in 1971 and remained living there until she died in 1979. To understand the answer we have to go back to the 1920's and the adventurous youth of Marie Byles.

Born in 1900 to English Unitarian and vegetarian parents who valued individuality along with long and arduous tramps in the English countryside, Marie developed a respect for self discipline and the environment. In her unpublished autobiography ‘Many Lives in One’, Marie writes “mother taught me we cannot be true to ourselves unless we are indifferent to what others think and say about us”. This gave Marie the inspiration to follow her dreams and to strike out on her own. In Australia, aged 11, Marie was given the freedom to choose her school – Pymble Ladies College and her future career in law before marriage and family.

During her legal studies at Sydney University in the early 1920s, her passion for mountain climbing in NSW and throughout the world, was preceeded by her adventurous exploration of the bush land around Maitland Bay, then known as Boat Harbour, on the NSW Central Coast. Through escapades and camping trips to the area with her girlfriends Marie developed a strong love of the area. To protect the land and marine environment from the incursion of roads, houses and rutile mining, Marie along with members of the Sydney Bushwalkers Club lobbied the NSW Department of Lands to extend the public reserve from the northern end of Killcare Beach to encompass the larger area around Maitland Bay. In 1935 Bouddi Natural Park was created and was further expanded over the years. Marie's environmental and legal credentials made her the perfect partner to act as the consulting solicitor for the drafting up of the Constitution of the National Trust in 1946.

In 1938 Marie hired workmen to construct a sandstone and fibro one bedroom house on her bush land property at Cheltenham and named it after Ghandi's philosophy of Ahimsa. In Marie's words, ‘Ahimsa means harmlessness, harmlessness of acts, words and thoughts.’ In addition to the house Marie wanted to have a place on her land where like minded individuals could come

and stay to have discussions and to meditate. In 1942 she organised a working bee for friends to construct The Hut of Happy Omens.

Marie died at Ahimsa aged 80, a formidable, determined and brave woman who had conquered mountains, discrimination and her own pain in order to achieve her dreams for adventure, the environment and the spirit. Her decision to give her home to the National Trust was based on her faith in the Trust to help preserve the native bush land around her home and help protect the surrounding reserves.

Today the Trust honours her wishes by providing a sympathetic tenant to care for Ahimsa and by leaving the Hut and grounds open to visitors. A team of National Trust bush regenerators visit approximately three times a year to carry on the work of weed eradication that Marie championed throughout her life and the Parks and Gardens Conservation Committee recently undertook work in the vegetable garden near the house.

The life of Marie Byles will be celebrated in an exhibition planned for later in the year as part of the Trust's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary.

#### Sources:

National Trust Archives

Marie Byles, *Many Lives in One* (unpublished autobiography)

Allison Jane Cadzow, *Waltzing Matildas: A study of select Australian women explorers 1840s – 1940s*, (PhD Thesis, 2002)

Sabine Erika, Oral History, interviewed by Julie Petersen, December 2004

**Julie Petersen, Public Programs Manager**

**Museums and Properties Department, National Trust of Australia (NSW)**

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#### **BOOK REVIEW: *An Eye for Photography***

*An Eye for Photography: the Camera in Australia* by Curator of Photographs, Alan Davies, was launched at the State Library of New South Wales by Graham Bradley, the Library's Chair of its Capital Campaign. Crowds of people came to applaud this significant publication and also, one assumes the 'nation's greatest collection of photographic images'. Graham Bradley in his launching remarks paid tribute to 'Alan's treasures' and invited those present to 'take a stroll' through the collection courtesy of Alan's book.

Mr Bradley took the opportunity to publicise the Library's latest endeavour. It is called 'atmitchell.com' and its purpose is to digitise items from the collection. This will mean that the chief treasures will not only be published and preserved, but be opened to the whole world – and no need for white gloves. To name only a very few the treasures will include the journals of Abel Tasman, Captains Cook and Bligh, the paintings of Conrad Martens. Of course significant photographs will be there too and he mentioned views of Sydney unencumbered by buildings, the last view of Shackleton's ship 'Endurance' as it sank beneath the Antarctic ice and Cathy



Freeman, after her gold medal race entirely alone and exhausted on the track in the huge Olympic stadium, packed with excited spectators.

Alan Davies in his reply called it a 'ripper book' and 'was over the moon', congratulating the publishers, Miegunyah Press on its beauty and design. He mentioned that he had written Six books, two of which are on offer now by booksellers at huge premiums. He felt he had to give us the hint!

Alan paid tribute also to his colleagues who had assisted him in the preparation of the publication, and, unusually for these occasions, named them all, starting with the State Librarian, Dagmar Schmidmeier, without whose support the book and exhibition would just not have happened. Among those he thanked was Robert Woodley who had reminded him to include his favourite wedding photograph on the steps of St Mary's Cathedral, as well as his chief supporter and helper, Shirley Walker, who when he warned that he might get a little testy as the task wore on, replied, 'What's different!'.

The exhibition is part of the Sydney Festival and had its official opening in early January. It will be open until May and a 'stroll' through will reward the visitor with Alan's knowledge, expertise, humour and most of all the brilliant images superbly displayed.

**Alan Davies, *An Eye for Photography: the Camera in Australia*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, in association with the State Library of New South Wales, 2004. 229 pp. ISBN 0522851339**

**Rosemary Block**  
**State Library of New South Wales**

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### **BOOK REVIEW: THE DROUGHT-BREAKER**

PHA President Pauline Curby, has hidden talents as a rainmaker. When her last book (*Good Riddance*, written in conjunction with PHA Secretary Virginia Macleod) was launched at Terrey Hills in 2004, the guests had to huddle in the marquee to escape a summer storm.

On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005, we had the heaviest downpour for months when Pauline's latest book was launched at Sutherland School of Arts. This time it was her *Pictorial History of Sutherland Shire*, part of the series of twenty-plus suburban and regional histories published by Kingsclear Books in a similar paperback, 'landscape' format. Pauline's previous book in the series, dealing with Cronulla, is something of a best seller and, although there was an earlier book on Sutherland by another author, the publisher decided to commission an entirely new work for this edition.

Despite the weather, it was pleasing to see a large contingent from the Sutherland Shire Historical Society at the book launching by Mrs Dawn Emerson, president of SSHS. A supper organised by Society members was tackled voraciously by friends and guests while Pauline was busily autographing copies of the book for purchasers. Older inhabitants still regard Pauline Curby as a newcomer to "The Shire", because she and her family have lived there for a mere twenty-six years. Nevertheless, in this brief period, she has accumulated a comprehensive knowledge of the district while writing a thematic history for Sutherland Shire Council.

Sutherland was once known as the 'Birthplace of the Nation', but in 1993 the Council changed this to 'Birthplace of Modern Australia' to avoid offending the Dharawal people who lived here before Cook & Co. arrived at Kurnell. Most Sydney-siders have driven through at least parts of this area on their way to the South Coast or Royal National Park, but few would know much about its transformation from tiny fringe settlements to the present high-rise development. The key was transport. Pauline Curby describes the many attempts to link the Shire with the metropolis, not forgetting a few failures along the way. How many people know that there was briefly a steamship service from Cronulla to Sydney Harbour? Rowboats, ferries, punts, bridges all crossed Georges River in their turn. The arrival of the railway at Sutherland suddenly made places like Como accessible to day-trippers, followed by the steam tram to Cronulla which opened up the surf beach as well as providing transport for a few commuters and the handful of small poultry farmers and market gardeners who tried to eke out a living on the poor, sandy soil.

The essence of a pictorial history is the illustrations. Pauline has assembled a remarkable collection of photographs, most of which have never been published previously. They come from numerous sources, including snapshots from the family albums of older residents. Sometimes ingenuous, these have an authenticity that brings the people to life for us and makes us want to know more about them. Indeed, Pauline herself has discovered more since the book was published from people who have been able to identify the subjects of some photographs.

The book includes a select bibliography plus a helpful index of people and places. A fully referenced version is available at the Shire Library for researchers who wish to pursue particular interests. Recommended – it is refreshing to read local history presented in a form that is both accessible and scholarly.

**Pauline Curby, *Pictorial History. Sutherland Shire*, Kingsclear Books, Alexandria, 2004. ISBN 0 908272 79 0. 140 pp., illus., index. RRP \$24.95.**

**Peter J. Tyler**

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## **REVIEW: PHA VISIT TO THE VAUGHAN EVANS LIBRARY**

On December 1, 2004 a group from the PHA visited the Vaughan Evans Library at the Australian National Maritime Museum. The collection of this facility is based on objects rather than manuscripts. It does, however, contain the contents of the private library of the late Vaughan Evans who lobbied the government to have the maritime collection suitably housed and available to the public.

This is not a genealogical facility. All material in the collection relates to shipping and includes Lloyd's Register 1773 to the present, Lloyd's List 1741-1889, Lloyd's Captain's Register 1851-1947, Navy Lists (incomplete) and useful reference books eg Log of logs, dictionaries, and diaries. Microfilm copies of newspapers, PRO records, archival material and finding aids are also available.

Exhibitions are frequently rotated. In the large object room stored exhibits include a naval torpedo, the boat rowed by the Awesome Foursome at the Barcelona Olympics through to surfboats and surfboards.

There is a variety of model ships on display from the Iron Chief screw steamer to a modern ice breaker. Of particular interest is an intricate bone model carved by a Prisoner-of-War.

Specialized curators are responsible for particular areas of the collection: naval, commercial or leisure (which covers sailing and surfing). A marine archaeologist is also on the staff.

In the boat restoration department a vessel currently being worked on is a Vietnamese people boat.

Access to the Vaughan Evans Library is by appointment, 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Saturday. Ph (02) 9298-3734, Fax (02) 9298-3730, Email [fprentice@anmm.gov.au](mailto:fprentice@anmm.gov.au)

The collection of the Australian Heritage Fleet is also housed in this building where its wooden vessel collection is on display. One exhibit of interest is a replica of the Bounty launch which carried Bligh and his men safely to Timor. This is a volunteer society and has a collection of photographs and plans. Honorary librarian, Lewis Hughes, can be contacted on (02) 9298-3850.

**Beverley Earnshaw**

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## **REVIEW: EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

Last July, the History of Medicine Library at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians [RACP] and the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney inaugurated a series of presentations in the history of medicine, which is held at the historical headquarters of the RACP on Monday evenings. The aim of this series of presentations is to explore the history and development of medicine and its place in society. Through this series of lectures, we aspire to bring together physicians and other health care workers interested in the development of medicine; historians interested in the history of medicine, health, and disease; and others with a general interest in medicine and its place in today's society. The role of medicine in modern society is profound and provides extensive material for reflection. In our opinion, analysis and discussion of the history of medicine serves to place the present in context and generates some fascinating discussions! These discussions touch upon several important issues which should be discussed by individuals with wide-ranging expertise and background.

During every presentation, a number of relevant items from the History of Medicine Library relating to the topic of that evening are on display. In this way, Alyson Dalby (right), the librarian of the College, demonstrates how the holdings of the library are relevant for historians and physicians alike. The College library is a unique and extensive resource for historians interested in the history of health, disease, and medicine: it contains a vast array of primary and secondary materials. Apart from a vast array of medical journals, the library holds original editions of a large number of medical manuscripts. Individuals who are interested in the history of medicine are encouraged to consult these holdings (preferably after making an appointment with the librarian – details below).



The first presentation in this series given by one of the leading historians of Australian psychiatry, Catharine Coleborne (Dept. of History, University of Waikato, New Zealand). On

5 July 2004, she related how family and friends described the behaviour of individuals who came to be confined to mental hospitals in New South Wales between the 1860s and 1914. These lay descriptions of insanity, which were gleaned from those close to patients by asylum doctors during initial interviews at the stage of asylum committal, eventually became marginal notes in the case records of patients. Cathy based her presentation on her extensive research of patient records, which often also includes the correspondence between individuals confined to mental hospitals and their family.

The second presentation was given by Sue Evans (right), a lecturer on Herbal Medicine at Southern Cross University.



On 18 October 2004, she discussed how practitioners of herbal medicine have been practicing in Australia for over 150 years. For most of that time, the reaction of the medical profession towards these alternative practitioners has been hostile. Over the years, a number of attempts have been made to regulate these practitioners (as well as to outlaw them). The debates and controversies between physicians and herbal practitioners have often been characterised by ignorance and suspicion. During the



last decade or two, some rapprochement between both groups and practitioners has occurred. Most general physicians acknowledge the usefulness of herbal medicine. Training in herbal medicine is now provided at a small number of Australian universities. Whether physicians and herbal practitioners understand each other better remains to be seen.

Both lectures have been a great success; the Macquarie room in the College of Physicians was packed at both occasions. Because of this success, we are currently planning to hold six presentations in 2005. Alyson Dalby and Hans Pols (above), co-organisers of the presentation series, have contacted a number of historians interested in medicine and physicians interested in history to give presentations. Everybody with an interest in the history and development of medicine is invited to attend, and we are looking forward to fruitful exchanges between historians and physicians!

### **Hans Pols**

**Unit for History & Philosophy of Science, The University of Sydney**

#### **See *What's On***

Presentations in the History of Medicine are held in the Macquarie Room of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 145 Macquarie St., Sydney. 6:00pm for 6:30pm. Contact Alyson Dalby [racplib@racp.edu.au](mailto:racplib@racp.edu.au) or 9256 5413.

For more information consult the web-site of the Unit for History & Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/hps/newevents/>.



**REVIEW: “Browned Off – Old Gardens in a New World”  
Australian Garden History Society Conference – October 2004**

*The droughts to which we are so continuously subject render abortive all attempts at maintaining a garden in the English style; and point out to me, that stonework, and terraces, and large shady trees, the characteristics of Hindostanee gardens, are more suited to our climate than English lawns and flowerbeds*

John Thompson, Chief Draughtsman, Surveyor General's Department, Sydney, in an 1839 letter to J.C.Loudon, London

Some 200 delegates from New Zealand and around Australia enjoyed a highly successful 25<sup>th</sup> national conference of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS), held at the Art Gallery of NSW from 14-18<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

A day and a half of lectures, covering topics from macro-landscape scale to micro-gardening practice, was accompanied by 2 and a half days of guided walks, garden visits and exploration of the Sydney Basin. Threaded throughout was how creative, influential and destructive an element water has been in the very formation of the region, its base of rock and soils, range of altitudes, microclimates and thus the arrangement, density and nature of development possible.

That this should occur amidst tightening water restrictions in the middle of a 1:100 year drought was apt: that it be undercut by typically erratic spring weather with showers and rain on most days was perverse: but leaves shone, light was soft and umbrella sales and borrowing blossomed.

A range of ‘extras’ spiced the fare, like a preview on 14<sup>th</sup> October of the new Historic Houses Trust offices and research library at the Mint. Librarian Megan Martin and AGHS Chairman Colleen Morris demonstrated its garden history resources, amplified by the generosity of Professor Richard Clough's (third) donation of books; and the late Caroline Simpson's family's, of her rich collection of artefacts. The library has been renamed after her: doubly fitting given her passion for colonial history, and long involvement with the AGHS.

A parallel trove of resources resides in Victoria's State Library, and the other event that night was the NSW launch of its catalogue book *“Gardenesque: a celebration of Australian Gardening”* – compiled by Richard Aitken, accompanying an exhibition at the State Library of Victoria until 27 February. [See Terri McCormack's Library Report.]



***Agave americana*, matching sundial & white cedars at James Broadbent's "The Cottage", Mulgoa - burnt right up to the verandah posts in the 12/2002 bushfires - note the brown 'tips' ... you can't stop an agave!**

HHT Director (and former AGHS Chairman) Peter Watts and Richard Aitken spoke of the long history of gardening in Australia, its rich collections, and the increasing depth of scholarship epitomised by the establishment and growth since 1980 of the AGHS. Its mission as “the leader in concern for and conservation of significant cultural landscapes and gardens through committed, relevant and sustainable action” is cementing with the 2002 publication of the mammoth *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (eds. Aitken, R. & Looker, M.); *Studies in Australian Garden History* (2003) and 2004 Miegunyah Press volumes *Clearings: 6 colonial gardeners and their landscapes* (ed.: Cox, P.); *Gardenesque (sic)*; and *Green Pens: a collection of garden writing* (eds: Holmes, K. et al) – all written or contributed to by AGHS members.

The vital role of volunteers - including the various National Trusts - in identifying and lobbying for the conservation of historic gardens; and the generous Government support at Federal and State levels in funding early garden surveys in each state (by Peter Watts (VIC); James Broadbent (NSW); Jeannie Sim & Jan Seto (Qld.); Tony Whitehill (SA); Oline Richards (WA); and Phil Fraser Simons (TAS) needs to be remembered and celebrated.

Papers from the conference will be published in due course. Check the Australian Garden History Society website - <http://gardenhistorysociety.org.au>

**Stuart Read, National Management Committee, AGHS**



**Walking up the famous drive at *Brownlow Hill*, with dry stone dam wall, urns, over-arching Chinese elm tracery, and swirling mists.**

**Peaceful front verandah and garden scene at *Lewers Bequest and Penrith Regional Art Gallery* - sculpture, lush groupings of hardy plants & an open invitation to sit & wonder**





**REPORT: NSW Heritage Office History Advisory Panel Meeting**

Held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004, beginning at 2.00pm, NSW Heritage Office Library, Old Kings School, 3 Marist Place, Parramatta

Matters discussed included

1. Fee increases at the Lands Dept (formerly L.P.I.) and effects on heritage research. The abolition of the post of Historical Officer was also noted and discussed. It was decided to make representations on these matters, possibly in association with other historical bodies and State Records of NSW.
2. A proposed minor revision to the examples accompanying the Heritage Places Names Policy was discussed and adopted.
3. The HAP examined various projects that would form the main strategic projects for the term of this Council. They included:
  - i) Heritage Office website: revision of history pages;
  - ii) SHR Criterion D Guideline: outline issues;
  - iii) *Ruins Policy*: joint project with Archaeology Advisory Panel;
  - iv) Illustrated model thematic approach to identifying potential items for SHR and National/Commonwealth Lists in NSW;
  - v) Strategy for multi-party preparation of thematic histories through funding programs.These were all noted and discussed and were ranked in order of priority.
4. The proposed appointment of another member to the Panel to represent Heraldry interests was also discussed in the light of the recent State Arms legislation that gave responsibility for advice on state arms on heritage buildings to the NSW Heritage Council.
5. Panel member Bruce Pennay suggested that the Heritage Office might also be interested in the need to update heritage studies for many of the newly amalgamated municipalities and shires from the most recent round of LGA amalgamations in NSW.

**Terry Kass**

**REPORT: STATE RECORDS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

State Records Tel: 9673-1788, fax 9833-4518 - [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is one of two advisory committees convened by State Records to provide feedback on existing and proposed products and services, to advise on possible new or modified services, evaluate the current level of service performance and recommend performance indicators of service quality. CAC comprises representatives of State Records' main public user groups and in addition to representation by the PHA, include academic and professional historians, regional and metropolitan representatives. Details of the two committees and a list of committee members is shown on page 17 of State Records' Annual Report 2003-2004 (available in hard copy or online ([www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au))).

The Community Advisory Committee of State Records met on 29 November 2004 and the following issues were discussed.

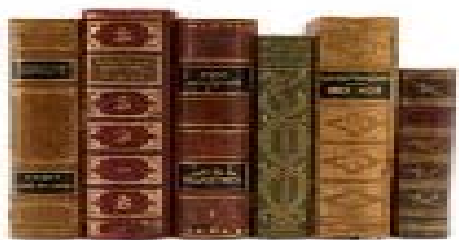
- **Annual Report 2003-2004** – is available in hard copy and on State Records' website.
- **New Access directions by Supreme Court** – have been made for:
  - matrimonial (divorce) records. Previously closed they are now open to public access after 30 years. State Records holds records up to 1930 and Supreme Court from 1930 onwards.
  - Adoption records – closed for 100 years (a direction consistent with access conditions set by Dept of Community Services.
  - Criminal cases –closed for 75 years. Previously open to public access after 30 years, Supreme Court has indicated they are happy to consider applications to access records less than 75 years old for family history and larger research projects.
- **Indexes**
  - **Colonial Secretary's Index 1826-1856** - added to website. Index covers requests from individuals for land, leases and purchases, received in this period. New listing is more extensive and includes a "remarks" field.
  - **Index to Colonial Secretary's papers 1788-1825** available on CD Rom – cost \$42.95 (email [puboff@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:puboff@records.nsw.gov.au)).
  - Reminder - Colonial Secretary's records extend beyond 1825 and Joan Reese's index for the 1820s is available.
  - **Index to Divorce records 1873-1903** now completed by State Records staff – indexes up to 1911 to be completed shortly.
  - **Records of Orphan School** completed by volunteers. Copy of Orphan School records held at State Library will be copied for State Records and added to the index.
  - **Police Service records index** now complete for period 1852 to 1888 – work continues on index to registers to 1913.
  - **Index to pardon records and Ticket of Leave Passports** are included in the Convict records recently added to website.
  - **Archives Investigator** –probate records continue to be added.
- An extensive list of ongoing and future indexing and data entry projects for the next 12 months was circulated – highlights include:
  - Defunct Company Office and Soldier Settlement records to be added to Archives Investigator
  - Aborigines Welfare Board photos to be indexed

- Aboriginal people mentioned in Colonial Secretary's papers
- Hotel plans to be indexed – volunteer project
- Listing of Surveyors' Field Books 1794-1832 already available online as Short Guide 13 – phase 2 will list Field Books from 1832-1861. Note: Field Books post 1861 (indexed) are held by the Lands Department – these will be transferred in time to State Records.
- **Guide to Records relating to Responsible Government** - the Guide will be structured chronologically in 4 main sections – pre responsible government commencing in 1824; Responsible government 1856-1906 and 1907-1956 and 1957-2006. Guide will cover establishment and membership of Parliament, elections, right to vote, separation of Queensland and Victoria, new states movement, various movements to abolish or reform the Legislative Council, the constitutional crisis of the 1920s and 1930s, Jubilee & Centenary Celebrations of Responsible Government in 1906 and 1956.
- **Archives in Brief #49 – November 2004** – provides overview of resources available in the reading room in the Sydney Records Centre in The Rocks. Listing will be updated as material is copied and added to the resource.
- **New accessions** – the Vernon and Sobraon estrays from the RAHS have been registered and are now available on *Archives Investigator*. Aborigines Welfare Board series are being added and school records held at Newcastle Regional Repository have also been registered.
- **Activities program January to June 2005** – details of a range of seminars offered by State Records is available on State Records website. In addition, State Records responds to numerous requests for talks which form part of an overall strategy including exhibitions to assist readers and staff are happy to receive requests for talks. Representatives of the Society of Genealogists acknowledged Christine Yeats' commitment to give weekend talks as part of the SAG program.
- **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Railways in NSW** – State Records will possibly mark the anniversary with a web-based strategy including possible digitising of some records.
- **Administrative History of NSW Government** – Volume 1 written by Hilary Golder is with UNSW Press and expected to be published in March 2005. Peter Tyler continues to make good progress on Volume 2 (1901-1960) and the manuscript is expected to be finished by September 2005 and published in 2006.
- **Land Titles Office (LTO)** - general discussion about records at LTO where records were being microfilmed then destroyed – Primary Application Packets had been culled twice and the increasing cost of copying material at the LTO – reflecting pressures with 3.5% budget cuts and staff reductions.
- **State Records (Amendment) Bill** was passed the Legislative Assembly on 10 November and introduced into the Legislative Council that day.

**Roslyn Burge**

**For the Record** – Dec 2004 - [www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/fortherecord/current.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/fortherecord/current.htm)  
**Now&Then**, Dec 2004, provides information about new research tools and resources, services and seminars, exhibitions and other activities.

- [www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/now&then/default.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/now&then/default.htm)



### LIBRARY REPORT

Prepared by Terri McCormack, Librarian.  
Library enquiries: (02) 9810 4421 or  
terrimc@ozemail.com.au

### PHA PERIODICALS

#### ***PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 33, October 2004***

The PHA (Vic) continues its series of professional development sessions. The past few months have included a visit to the delightful premises of the Royal Historical Society, a tour of the refurbished Public Records Office in North Melbourne, and an evening where members spoke of their works in progress.

If your current projects involve writing for the popular press or providing opinion pieces, you should heed the advice of Nicholas Bomford, senior sub-editor for the *Herald Sun*, in this newsletter. Articles need to be relevant, to be personalised, illustrated, and submitted on time. Language should be used creatively but needs to be precise and concise: use short sentences and short paragraphs. For editorial purposes, writing to size is crucial, especially if your 3000 word submission will be cut to 700 words and your inspired conclusion is radically changed or disappears.

Anyone interested in garden history should get to the State Library of Victoria before the end of February. PHA member Richard Aitken has curated an exhibition and accompanying illustrated book titled *Gardenesque: A celebration of Australian Gardening*. Original records and sumptuous colour-plates tell the story of gardening and gardens in the Garden State.

The refurbished State Library of Victoria is a magnificent building but can it afford to service readers? Shortage of funds may lead to restricted services, fewer facilities and staff cutbacks. PHA members are being asked for their views on limited opening hours and other concerns.

It's all over now but this issue provides a comprehensive program of events marking the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade in Victoria. Was the rebellion a clarion call for democracy or just a complaint against taxation? These issues have been well covered in the press and, as with many historic events, its significance depends on the interpretation - and the interpreter.

#### ***PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC Newsletter. No 81, November 2004***

President Susan Marsden likens the PHA to a duck floating serenely on placid waters while its feet, the committee members, paddle frantically to keep it afloat. The analogy no doubt applies to all Australia PHAs where too few do too much. The South Australians have been paddling away and have been as busy as ever with networking, campaigning for members' interests, and other events. The latter includes the interesting 'roving lunches' which visited the Lutheran Archives in July and the Ara Irititja project at Netley in September (See below for details).

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION, TASMANIA INC.****Newsletter No 26, July 2004**

A PHAT group has been formed in Launceston in northern Tasmania. It contributes to the PHA meetings in Hobart through teleconferencing. Members are also made aware of others' current projects through the 'News of Members' segment in the newsletter, as is done in Victoria. This has been tried several times in *Phanfare* in NSW but never seems to succeed.

The second in the series 'Why I became a Historian' is supplied by Richard Ely who began at the University of Queensland with a Masters degree on the nature of historical understanding. With this rather esoteric background, he tutored at the University of Tasmania, published on methodology, acquired a doctorate, and, as he put it, "backed into researching and writing the history of a particular past".

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) Inc Newsletter.****No 89, September 2004; No 90 November 2004**

The PHA in WA has been as busy as ever with regular talks, including a well-attended seminar last year on historians working as consultants. Several PHA members described the challenges of setting up their own business and Penny O'Connor from the Heritage Council of WA provided information on contracts and tendering.

Some recent WA publications are of more than local interest.

- *A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: the life of William Dampier*, by Diana and Michael Preston (Doubleday, 2004) is a brilliant presentation of the life and work of this important explorer, cartographer and buccaneer.
- Andrew Gill's *Convict Assignment in Western Australia* (Blatellae Books, Perth, 2004) questions conventional assumptions about WA's convict period.
- A new edition of Bill Loane's *The Koolama Incident in the Timor Sea, 1942* (Rosenberg Publishing, 2004) tells of the only ship bombed in WA waters during World War II. The complex story includes hints of mutiny and conflict surrounding the escape of 180 survivors. The sunken wreck of this coastal steamer still rests below Wyndham Wharf.
- The eccentric and prolific Daisy Bates left large collections of her material relating to Aborigines in major repositories in most States. Peter Bridge's new indexed edition of her work *My Natives and I* (incorporating the text of *The Passing of the Aborigines*) makes this often duplicated material accessible and comprehensible.

**QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN. No 73, October 2004**

Rodney Hall, growing up in Brisbane, "loathed the rampant ockerdom, the rigid conformity that invaded everyone's life, dictating not only what you said and did and wore but even what you allowed yourself to think". I endured the same restrictions and fled to Sydney as soon as I could. Now, Associate Professor Carole Ferrier and Raymond Evans have edited *Radical Brisbane* (Melbourne, Vulgar Press). As guest speaker at the PHA AGM, Carole spoke of innovative creativity, of workers' demonstrations, and countless campaigns and protests in Brisbane, many of the later ones challenging the conservative government of Premier Bjelke Petersen. I haven't yet sighted the book but it will take a lot to convince me that the Brisbane I knew was a hotbed of radicalism and social action.

An alternative aspect of the Sunshine State is seen in *Showing Off: Queensland at World Expositions 1862 to 1988*. This was written by Judith McKay, Senior Curator at the Queensland Museum, as the inaugural Queensland Smithsonian Fellow for 2001. Based on research in the USA, UK and Scotland, it describes Queensland's participation in twenty-three world expositions between 1862 and 1988, thus affirming "the triumph of Western civilisation in an era of unprecedented imperial expansion."

## NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

### ***Ara Irititja: protecting the past, accessing the future - Indigenous memories in a digital age.***

This is an innovative and exciting project from the Social History Unit of the Pitjantjatjara Council. The aim is to locate and document lost historical and cultural material relating to Anangu (Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people) whose territory extends across the Northern Territory to South Australia and Western Australia. The harsh climate makes it inappropriate for these fragile materials to be physically returned so some 35, 00 items have been made accessible via a purpose-built electronic archive including artefacts, photographs, film footage and sound recordings. These digital archives have been delivered to 11 Anangu communities via a 'Niri Niri' - a unique workstation built to resist power failures, dust and sand. The term comes from the Pitjantjatjara for a scarab beetle. Further details of this important project to secure the Anangu past for future generations are available at [www.irititja.com](http://www.irititja.com)

### ***INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. Spring 2004***

This issue contains excerpts from an insightful essay by art critic John McDonald on the Rex and Max Dupain exhibition at the Museum of Sydney. The work of these eminent photographers - father and son who were not always in harmony - reflects the evolving Sydney most of us know and love.

The Trust has recently acquired six family images of the Wentworth family of Vaucluse House. PHA member Joy Hughes writes of the significance of this acquisition in identifying members of this famous family.

### ***MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 27, September 2004***

The faces of the four Beatles gaze out from the cover of this edition. National Archives holds their passenger entry forms when they toured Australia in 1964. These have been digitised so you can view their original signatures online through RecordSearch if you really want to.

The ongoing digitisation of many NAA records is very useful. There are, however, aspects of advancing technology that are extremely frustrating. A casual undated inter-office email with no heading and concluding with something like "Best wishes to the wife & kids from Bob" is the archival document of the future. Who is Bob? Who is the recipient? When did he send it? This type of correspondence file raises all sorts of queries but at least such documents are being preserved. Australian State and National Archives have formed the Digital Recordkeeping Initiative to develop a uniform approach to digital recordkeeping. Digital hardware and software become obsolete so rapidly that the major challenge is to store digital



records in a standard format that will be readable by future electronic technology. National Archives also provides several guidelines to help government agencies manage their digital records.

Those who recall the cramped working conditions at the North Melbourne premises of the Victorian Public Record Office will be surprised by the new upmarket reading room and facilities. Original material from both the National Archives and the PRO can now be viewed at the joint storage facility at 99 Shiel Street. Because Melbourne was the original seat of the Commonwealth Parliament, the regional collection of National Archives here is particularly rich. Collection databases can still be accessed at the Melbourne Archives Centre in Casselden Place in the CBD and at the Genealogy Centre at the State Library of Victoria.

### ***ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA: JOURNAL No 26, 2004***

This annual publication is entitled *More from All Quarters* and contains papers from the conference of that name held in Perth in September 2003. The range of papers reflects the conference theme of diversity. They include papers on Aboriginal perspectives, on non-European settlement in Northern Australia, on the progress of the Fremantle Oral History Project, on multicultural Manningham in Melbourne, and on Jewish schoolchildren in Nazi Magdeburg.

In *Blended Voices: crafting a narrative from Oral History Interviews*, Rebecca Jones describes the sensitive process of editing oral history interviews for publication. She uses examples of verbatim and edited interviews - before and after versions - based on oral history interviews with migrants in south-eastern Melbourne to demonstrate the relationship between the narrator and oral historian in honing the final product.

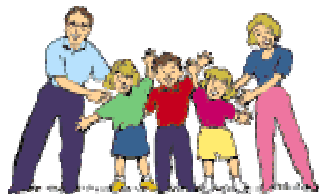
This issue includes biographies of the three Honorary Life Members for 2003: Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Richard Raxworthy, and Judy Wing. Sadly Richard died on Christmas Eve 2003. Rosie Block and Peter Lalor have contributed moving tributes to this generous multi-talented man who did so much for the profession of oral history. His knowledge of the Sydney Harbour Bridge - its construction, its builders, its archives - was unparalleled.

### ***VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 31, October 2004***

Rosie Block, Lesley Jenkins and Janis Wilton were the fortunate Australian representatives at the International Oral History Association Conference at the Campodoglio in Rome in June. Their article describes the surprises, delights and technical challenges of this bilingual event. The theme was "Memory and Globalisation" enabling experiences across nations to be compared. The wide range of sessions included a powerful final segment on the archives of repression. Sydney will host the 2006 conference.

Last year was marked by several local oral history events. At the May seminar, writer, broadcaster and raconteur Siobhan McHugh related the processes involved in interviewing eminent architect Harry Seidler. The July Seminar was "Alternative Views - Oral History with Indigenous and Ethnic Communities". Roslyn Burge described the Centre for Public History project, The Tamils and their Neighbours; Dr Heather Goodall spoke of the oral history process underpinning the publication of *Isabel Flick: the many lives of an extraordinary Aboriginal woman* and also of her work with the Vietnamese community; and

Lucy Porter of the Older Women's Network described the Support Circle formed to encourage Aboriginal women to tell their stories, culminating in the book *Steppin' Out and Speakin' Up*.



## What's On

by Christine de Matos

January/February 2005

## Exhibitions

**'Australia under Attack 1942-1943'**. Until 28 March 2005.

**Venue:** Australian War Memorial.

**'The Studio of Jorn Utzon-Creating the Sydney Opera House'**. Until 1 May 2005.

**Venue:** Museum of Sydney

**'Eye 4 Photography'**. Until 29 May 2005. **Venue:** State Library of NSW

**'Convicts: Life at the Barracks'**. Until May 2005. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

**'Scrimshaw: The Art of the Whaler'**. Until July 2005.

**Venue:** Australian National Maritime Museum

**'Jailed: Penitentiary to Private Prison 1840-2000'**. Until 10 October 2005.

**Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.

## January Events

### All January (except 1 & 26)

**Tour.** *'Walk and Talk at the Barracks'*. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 2.30-3pm **Cost:** Free with museum entry

**14, 17, 21** **Tour.** *'Stories from the Home Front'*. **Venue:** Australian War Memorial **Time:** 10.30am **Cost:** Free **For more examples of AWM tours/talks:** web: <http://www.awm.gov.au>

**13-15** **Conference.** *'Genocides: Forms, Causes and Consequences'*. Berlin. **Enquiries:** email: [namibian-war@freenet.de](mailto:namibian-war@freenet.de); web: <http://www.hist.net/ag-genozid/namibianwar>

**19** **Talk.** *'Back on the Wool Track'*. Michelle Grattan on C.E.W. Bean and his writings on the wool industry. SLNSW. **Venue:** Dixon Room **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$16.50, mem/conc \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au)

**25** **Talk.** *'Joseph Banks's Endeavour Journal'*. SLNSW. **Meeting venue:** Foyer inquiry desk **Time:** 12.30-1.30 pm **Cost:** \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au)

### 26-Australia Day Events

**Free entry and lectures** at RAHS History House. **Time:** 10.30am-3.30pm

**Free entry** to HHT properties, including Elizabeth Farm, Elizabeth Bay House, Government House, Hyde Park Barracks, Justice & Police Museum, Meroogal, Museum of Sydney, Rose Seidler House, Susannah Place Museum, The Mint, and Vacluse House. **Time:** 10am-5pm.

- 29 **Workshop.** *'An overview of the manuscript collections of SAG'*. **Venue:** Seminar Room, 24 Kent St Sydney **Time:** 1-3pm **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; fax: (02) 9241 4872; email: [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)  
**Free entry and lectures at RAHS History House. Time:** 10.30am-3.30pm
- 31 **Talk.** *'Robert Burns'*. Susannah Fullerton. SLNSW. **Venue:** Metcalfe Auditorium **Time:** 12.30-1.30pm **Cost:** \$16.50, mem/conc \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## February Events

- 1 & 8 **Walking Tour.** *'Return to the Scene of the Crime'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Justice & Police Museum **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 5 **Talk.** *'Pioneer Lebanese Hawkers and the Development of Southern NSW'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Reception Rooms **Time:** 5pm **Cost:** \$26, mem/conc \$22 (incl dinner) **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)
- 12 **Workshop.** *'The National Burial Index'*. Search tips on using this resource. SAG. **Venue:** Seminar Room, 24 Kent St Sydney **Time:** 1.30-3.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$18 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; fax: (02) 9241 4872; email: [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)
- 13 **Tour/Walk.** *'The Icon, the Architect and the City: Utzon and the Sydney Opera House'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** TBA **Time:** 1-5pm **Cost:** \$38, mem/conc \$35 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 13 **Tour.** *'til death us do part'*. Explore origins of modern marriage. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth Bay House **Time:** 2-4pm **Cost:** \$20, mems/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 14 & 17 **Workshop.** *'Breaking Up'*. Guide to newly available divorce records. State Records NSW. **Venue:** 14- The Rocks, 17- Kingswood **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** Free. **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8247 8613; email: [accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au)
- 16-19 **Conference.** *'Health and History: International Perspectives: The 9th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine'*. Auckland. **Enquiries:** Linda Bryder, email: [l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz); web: <http://www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/cce/conferences>
- 18 **Workshop.** *'Grant us this day...'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 10am-3pm **Cost:** \$11, mems and affiliates \$6.60 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)
- 20 **Tour.** *'The Locker Collection'*. Behind the scenes collection viewing. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 2-3pm **Cost:** \$10, mem/conc \$7 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 22 **Lecture.** *'American Technology in Australia: What kept it out and who let it in'*. RAHS & ASHET. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$7 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

- 28**      **Lecture.** *'Medicine and Mythology: Health and Healing in Indo-European Myths'*. Carole Cusack, Presentations in the History of Medicine series. **Venue:** Macquarie Room, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 145 Macquarie St Sydney **Time:** 6 for 6.30pm **Cost:** \$5 **Bookings:** Alyson Dalby ph: (02) 9256 5413; email: [racplib@racp.edu.au](mailto:racplib@racp.edu.au)

### Upcoming Conferences

**'The Vietnam War, Thirty Years On: Memories, Legacies, and Echoes'**. 14-15 April 2005, University of Newcastle, NSW. **Enquiries:** Dr. Chris Dixon, email: [chris.dixon@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:chris.dixon@newcastle.edu.au) OR Dr. Nathalie Nguyen, email: [Nathalie.nguyen@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Nathalie.nguyen@newcastle.edu.au)

**'2005 National Conference of the Australian Historical Association'**. 3-9 July 2005, Sydney. Held in conjunction with the International Congress of Historical Sciences. **Enquiries:** A/P Rae Frances email: [r.frances@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.frances@unsw.edu.au)

**'20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Historical Sciences'**. 3-9 July 2005, University of NSW Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: [cish2005@incompass.com.au](mailto:cish2005@incompass.com.au); web: <http://www.cishsydney2005.org>

**'The Japanese Occupation: The Lessons of the Past 60 Years After'**. 5-6 September 2005, Singapore. **Enquiries:** Kevin Blackburn, email: [kpblack@nie.edu.sg](mailto:kpblack@nie.edu.sg); Karl Hack, email: [kahack@nie.edu.sg](mailto:kahack@nie.edu.sg); ph: (65) 6790 3414; fax: (65) 6896 9135.

### Call for Papers

**'XVIth International Conference of the Association for History and Computing'**. 14-17 September 2005, Amsterdam. Title and 200-250 word abstract due by **1 February 2005**, full paper by **1 May 2005**. **Enquiries:** email: [michelle.van.den.berk@niwi.knaw.nl](mailto:michelle.van.den.berk@niwi.knaw.nl); web: <http://www.ahc2005.org>

**'The Past is Before Us: 9<sup>th</sup> National Labour History Conference'**. 30 June-2 July 2005, University of Sydney. Papers for refereeing to be submitted by **11 February 2005**. Papers for non-refereed publication to be submitted by **25 February 2005**. **Submissions/enquiries:** Greg Patmore email: [lh2005@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:lh2005@econ.usyd.edu.au)

**'Japan – Negotiating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Japanese Studies Association of Australia Conference'**. 3-6 July 2005, University of Adelaide. Proposals of panels due **28 February 2005**, paper abstracts due by **4 April 2005**. **Submissions/enquiries:** email: [jsaa2005@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jsaa2005@adelaide.edu.au); web: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/jsaa/>

**'Dancing with Memory: Oral History and its Audiences: XIVth International Oral History Conference'**. 12-16 July 2006, Sydney. Proposals due **30 May 2005**. **Enquiries:** email: [IOHA@uts.edu.au](mailto:IOHA@uts.edu.au); web: <http://www.ioha.fgv.br/>

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to  
[c.de-matos@uws.edu.au](mailto:c.de-matos@uws.edu.au) by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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PHA Collection Mitchell Library

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Heritage Council- History Advisory panel  
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NSW Ministry for the Arts  
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### GPO Box 2437 Sydney NSW 2001

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**The Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc** is the organisation representing qualified historians in NSW and ACT who are professionally employed or commissioned to undertake historical work.

## **Publications**

### **PHA (NSW) web Site**

[www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

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PHA (NSW) Register of consulting historians

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## **Monographs**

*Historians & Native Title*

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*Public History Review*

Annual Journal

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### **National web site**

[www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au)

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