

PHA

Phanfare

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PHANFARE

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Contact

Phanfare

GPO Box 2437

Sydney 2001

Enquiries Annette Salt, phanfare@phansw.org.au

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Phanfare 2006-07 is produced by the following editorial collectives:

Jan-Feb & July-Aug: Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald, Lisa Murray

Mar-Apr & Sept-Oct: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack, Anne Smith

May-June & Nov-Dec: Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, Carol Liston, Karen Schamberger

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This edition has been edited by the inner-city collective: Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald and Lisa Murray.

News & Views

* The Society of Australian Genealogists has moved their libraries to brand new premises at 379 Kent Street. Here in the light-filled space on level 2 you can find both their local and overseas libraries, as well as all their microfilms, computers and bookshop. They're open Tues, Wed, Thur & Sat 10am to 4pm. The fabulous Primary Records collection is still housed at Richmond Villa & is available Thursdays & Saturdays. The SAG's website and library catalogue has been revamped too, so it's now easier to search from home.



The SAG's new library at 379 Kent St.

* Nominations are open for NSW History Awards - see more details later in the newsletter.

* The Prime Minister's History Awards closed on Who will win the inaugural prize, the richest in the country? Stay tuned to find out.

President's Page

Well, the holiday season is over and it is time for us to get back to work. I hope that 2007 will be a rewarding year for all PHA members. Certainly the PHA management committee plans to make this a notable year, with the launching of a marketing and promotion campaign over the next few months. Recent articles by newspaper columnists prove once again how little the public at large knows about the purposes of history and the role of professional historians.

One never ceases to be amazed that people who would never dream of getting a third-year medical student to do their brain surgery will employ an unqualified amateur to write their corporate history. We want to reach opinion leaders in their favourite haunts to explain what a historian does, and to emphasise the importance of commissioning an accredited professional.

PHA NSW intends to have an active presence at the Australian Historical Association regional conference at University of New England, Armidale in September. Before then, probably in July, we are going to have our own regional meeting in Canberra. All members will be encouraged to participate in these activities, but we are particularly anxious to attract those who live outside the metropolitan area of Sydney.

We are also planning a comprehensive Continuing Professional Development program for PHA members, with an event scheduled at roughly six-week intervals. The first of these is a workshop on sources of Aboriginal history, to be held at History House on Saturday, 3rd March. Also planned are a workshop on presentation techniques for historians; a seminar showing how to supplement the traditional text-based histories with video clips on DVD; visits to significant archive collections, and a behind the scenes look at the Mitchell Library.

Naturally we are anxious to meet the real needs of our members, which is why the promised membership survey will be posted to you soon. We ask that you take the time to answer the questionnaire in a constructive spirit, so that PHA can build an accurate profile of our members and their interests.

Without this information we may be just poking around in the dark, because nobody on the management committee has met more than about half of our members. When the annual general meeting takes place later this year, I would like to see an influx of new candidates, in order to reflect the breadth of ages and experience in the Association.

Peter J. Tyler
President

Just launched: Australian Register of Historic Vessels

The National Maritime Museum, in conjunction with the Sydney Heritage Fleet, has just launched the first cut of this project on line.

<http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=53>

It aims to be a register of boats of relevance to Australia's history, of all types built up to 1965 that have a known provenance. It provides clear criteria for inclusion, and it will not cover wrecks.



Victorian cota boat Thistle
about 1903 ANMM Collection
Photographer Andrew Frolows ANMM

Parts of the site are little more than flagging a wish list at the moment, with the aim of eventually including audio recordings of oral histories and moving footage. Reference pages contain information about designers, types, classes and events. Again, this section is in its infancy, but the claim is that it will 'eventually provide a web of information linking boats to their communities.'

And for those who might happen to own a vessel, it promises a manual explaining how to document its history and how to preserve it.

Under the Canopy Launch

It was a surreal experience. As we sat in the darkened Ku-ring-gai Council chambers - temporarily transformed into a theatre - we watched and listened as our own words and those of some of the colourful characters of Ku-ring-gai's past were spoken by a cast of talented young actors. We wondered how often a commissioned history hits the stage as a play. This was the experience co-author Virginia and Macleod and I had at the launch of *Under the Canopy, a Centenary history of Ku-ring-gai Council* on 8 December 2006.

Even though the governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir was launching our book we did not have high hopes for the evening. We had been given only four minutes to speak and the launch was slotted in with a commemorative centenary council meeting. Family and close friends attended but we did not invite the usual contingent of PHA colleagues as we wrongly thought that the history launch would be little more than an adjunct to a fairly dry event.

Unexpectedly it turned out to be a great evening. As usual Professor Bashir did an exemplary job of launching the book and we took longer than our two minutes each to have our say. Then following the formalities furniture was shuffled round, councillors were allocated seats in the front row and the play began.

The Marian Street Theatre for Young People's take on our book – *Once Upon a Time in Ku-ring-gai* - was the hit of the evening. Writer, director and producer Margie Macrae did a fine job of dramatising the highlights of the history and the young actors performed with professionalism and skill. Our words 'leapt off the page' and were transmitted to the assembled audience with panache and humour. We were pleased to see that Margie picked up many of the nuances of the history, presenting a play that was much more than a triumphal march through the Council's chequered history.

I'm hoping my next publication – a centenary history of Freshwater SLSC - might make the big screen. Perhaps the ubiquitous Paris Hilton could be given a cameo role and Russell Crowe could advise on staging fight scenes – without mobile phones - between clubbies and surfies. Stranger – and funnier - things have happened. On the other hand it would be difficult to give Virginia and I such a good belly laugh as *Once Upon a Time in Ku-ring-gai* did.

Pauline Curby



Image caption: Pauline Curby, flanked by co-author Virginia Macleod and the mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Councillor Nick Ebbeck, speaking at the launch of *Under the Canopy, a Centenary history of Ku-ring-gai Council* on 8 December 2006. (Photo: Kevin Curby)

The 'Dairy Precinct' at Parramatta Park

Katherine Knight's article on her tour of the area known as the 'Dairy Precinct' at Parramatta Park (*Phanfare*, no.221, Nov-Dec 06) was a most welcome sign of interest in the area and indeed the only published reference to my work since the publication of *Government House Parramatta 1788-2000: A History of the Governors, their Home, and its Domain, Parramatta Park*, Caroline Simpson, Sydney, 2003.

I need however to correct a couple of misunderstandings. Firstly, the house for which there is strong evidence that it was a former malt kiln (later converted to a gardeners house) is the house currently identified as the Rangers Cottage - it is the house with the sunken room and peculiar drainage.

I have not suggested that 'Salter's House' served in that capacity. There is some evidence however, that 'Salter's House' may have had a temporary incarnation as a brewery (and also as a gardeners house) but the evidence for that theory is not as strong as the evidence supporting the malt kiln theory for the neighbouring Rangers House.

Secondly, while the statement attributed to Verena Mauldon that the 'divergent views of the history of this site are at times based on different readings of the same evidence' is true as far as it goes. It does not recognize that new evidence uncovered in my research (undertaken after that done for the Conservation Management Plan which informs the current interpretation of the 'Dairy Precinct') revealed errors of fact that seriously undermine the current understanding and treatment of the place. In *Government House Parramatta 1788-2000: A History of the Governors, their Home, and its Domain, Parramatta Park* I put forward a series of conundrums and theories, presenting the raw evidence, an analysis of it and inviting readers to contribute to the discussion.

It has been disappointing that to date there has not been a response. The new evidence which is detailed in Chapter 10 informed a new reading of the existing evidence and enabled the articulation of the theories that I put forward there.

Thirdly, there is no document in existence that says Macquarie converted Salter's House into a dairy. It is known that he purchased Salter's House and it is also known that he converted an old farmhouse into a dairy. That it was Salter's House is a theory, not a fact. There were other residents in the Domain at that time including George Howell who had purchased land from Salter in an unregistered transfer and there could have been others.

The current policy in the Park of treating the new evidence (at least in their tours) as if it doesn't exist, misses the opportunity of exploring problems of evidence and the conundrums that can arise. Reliance on the fabric alone is particularly problematic in the 'Dairy Precinct' context since materials from the

store (constructed in 1790) were moved to the Domain in 1813/1814 to be used in the construction of the gardeners houses. There is a real possibility that 'Salter's House' was constructed in 1814 for a gardener with the materials recycled from the 1790s. The area now identified as the 'Dairy Precinct' is shown on maps of the late 1850s as a garden and orchard area. Not only that, Mr Moody's dairy cottage was shown as being located in an area referred to as the Stockyard on plans of the same period.

This was situated adjacent to the Domain Creek, directly opposite the garden area. To complicate matters further a dairy was constructed in the gardener's house in 1823, well after Macquarie's departure from the colony in February 1822. The architectural description closely resembles the sunken room under the Ranger's Cottage. There is not merely one anomalie in the current interpretation - there are many, many evidential and analytical inconsistencies.

Ultimately, I do not believe the conundrums associated with the place will be resolved without further archaeological investigation in areas that have not yet been explored. Funding problems have plagued the Park since its inception and made the commissioning of research difficult but the long standing policy of giving historians only minor roles in the work that has been undertaken to date has played its part in the current dilemma.

The ignoring of the anomalies in the current interpretation until there can be certainty seems to indicate a discomfort with uncertainty, rather than excitement at the opportunities for discovery; it seems a little bit ostrich like to me. And as any historian worth their salt will tell you, all history is a story, an interpretation of the past based on the known evidence, the strength of which is often determined by the analytical skill of the story teller, as much as the strength of the evidence.

Dr Sue Rosen
Director
Heritage Assessment And History (**HAAH**)
www.haah.com.au



Image: Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum, 10-11 February 2007

Kylie Phame – girl historian

After years of silence, old timers will welcome the return of an old friend, through the daughter. Yes folks, Phyllis Phame found time to have a daughter long the way, and that daughter, wonder of wonders, became an historian. Her name is Kylie. Are you Phyllis' daughter?, they say. And that is enough. For some, her name does not matter, with a genealogy like that.

Kylie writes. "I have been trained to believe that knowledge is power but now it seems this is a burden to historians. I think I am not the only historian have found in recent times that they have been restrained from using images, plans and photographs of buildings, places etc because of the perceived terrorism threat. Is every public building under a threat from the terrorist menace? They seem to have an interest in most of the public buildings that are currently required to have updated or new heritage reports. Seems terrorists are the only ones reading the reports. Are historians the only ones out there that realise we are not planning to undermine the state? Apparently no one remembers that most of the plans, reports, photographs, accounts or histories of places are available in archives, libraries and other repositories with few big secrets worth bothering over. What to do?

And now, we are trying to celebrate Our Bridge and that self same bridge is a target? Or is it? And what is the implication for historians in current authorities when the plans are deemed a perceived security threat and can't be seen by the public. What happens when those exact same plans and images are available through other public authorities and institutions?

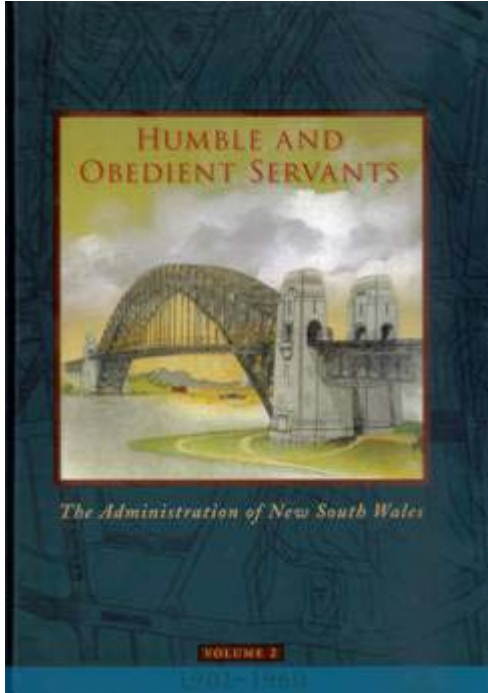
Where does a girl historian turn? How to get around this madness and publish your work? In the year of the Bridge a question that is worth pondering, was the Bridge (unofficially) opened by a terrorist?

Well almost. Was De Groot? Was Lang? What WAS THE New Guard if not a terrorist group? Was the present Prime Minister's family implicated? Or yours? Where would you have lined up on the big issue of the day? King or country? Eh? Well, how else do you put it?

And how do we work if these questions are not to ask?"
Thanks daughter of Phyllis. Glad to have your input, even if the times are against us all.

Review of Humble and Obedient Servants

Peter J. Tyler, *Humble and Obedient Servants, the Administration of NSW, Vol. 2, 1901-1960*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2006, 267 pages



Peter Tyler's *Humble and Obedient Servants*, published to mark the sesquicentenary of responsible government in NSW is the second of three volumes (the third is yet to come) dealing with the administrative history of NSW. It follows Hilary Golder's *Politics, Patronage and Public Works*, a history published in 2005 that synthesises some important threads of NSW's history. Golder is a hard act to follow but Peter Tyler rises to the occasion to produce a well written, exhaustively researched work that makes an important contribution to the history of NSW.

This nicely presented and very readable book will provide much needed historical context for those of us who delve into the files of NSW's numerous government agencies in the course of our professional work.

In his examination of the period 1901 to 1960, Tyler has made good use of a wide range of files held by State Records NSW - in addition to other sources. Focusing on three major agencies: the Premier's Department (formerly Colonial Secretary), Treasury and the Public Service Board, he provides a unique insight into the inner workings of government administration in NSW.

Each of the chronological chapters deals with several changes of government and includes a useful overview of the political background of the period. Events in the wider world are also highlighted as well as the internal manoeuvrings of the public service.

One of the recurring themes is the role of women in the public service. Their subservient role is demonstrated by telling details such as the fact that female tracers were only employed in drawing offices in the Lands Department in the 1930s to prevent 'mental stagnation' in well-educated young men (p. 13). Later in the politically incorrect 1950s an equal pay claim included the argument that women needed a 'good appearance' to attract men and this cost money. While this may still be the case, the argument would no longer be used in this context - hopefully! (p. 161)

A selection of State Records' 'special bundles' – always an invaluable source for the researcher - has been put to good use in features such as 'Slow relief or no relief' (pp. 114-115) dealing with depression-era 'begging' letters written to Premier Jack Lang. Tyler quotes some of these but concludes that, despite their plight, 'few people received any tangible support' as a result of their poignant letters. The whole process became 'bogged down in bureaucratic indifference'.

This volume is full of fascinating details such as the fact that Gordon Childe – later professor of archaeology at the University of Edinburgh – was Premier John Storey’s secretary in 1921 (p. 72). Judging from Tyler’s depiction of these ‘humble and obedient servants’ there seem to have been few men of this intellectual calibre employed in the public service in the years that followed.

In this otherwise carefully balanced history the author occasionally suggests how exasperating he finds some aspects of the old public service ‘culture’. One example is with regard to the special arrangements made during World War II for the evacuation of politicians and public servants – including drivers – from Sydney should it be bombed or invaded. Those selected were to reside in the compact central western town of Orange. Tyler comments tartly, ‘Why motor drivers were regarded as essential is a mystery – anywhere in Orange would have been within comfortable walking distance’. (p. 170) One gets the impression that for this author, who incidentally as a child lived in Sydney through the war years, such contingency plans - never implemented of course – smacked of rats leaving a sinking ship.

In the last two decades covered by this history the baleful influence of Public Service Board chairman Wallace Wurth, with his ‘flair for cultivating influential patrons’, is examined. Tyler - with an uncharacteristic lapse into colloquialism - describes Wurth as a ‘control freak’ during his 21 years as head of the Public Service Board.

Details of some of the penny pinching (pp. 137 & 208) that went on under this regime, while big budget items were ignored, are revealing. In 1952 – to cite just one example – it was decreed that one inch margins were no longer to be used in children’s writing and drawing books to save paper in schools. Was this ever implemented I wonder? I would have liked Tyler to answer the question he poses towards the end of the book: ‘was Wallace Wurth a puppet or the puppet master?’ (p. 205) - the latter I surmise from reading this work.

While this is in the main a fine work of history, there are some shortcomings – perhaps inevitable in a work of such a vast canvass. I found a few ‘typos’ (pp. 101 & 192) and at times the structure seemed a little schematic. More space could perhaps have been devoted to a key issue such as the implications of the class background of much of NSW’s public service.

The abandonment of the patronage system of the 19th century and the ascent up the social scale of ‘middle aged men from relatively humble backgrounds’ who made up the majority of the NSW’s public service did not produce the improvements in public administration that were hoped for. Instead it led to the rule of mediocrity.

This is indeed an important – albeit depressing – topic that warrants further discussion. An Australian spirit of egalitarianism that led to an absence of a hierarchy of liberally educated upper bureaucrats, as in Britain, disappointingly produced a regime in which – Tyler concludes - ‘conformity [was valued] rather than creativity in administration’ (pp. 158-160). As he commented elsewhere, ‘only conformity brought rewards’ (p. 188). The fact that the size of office carpets were an indicator of status in the public service says it all. (p. 142) It is indeed a misfortune for our state that a career path such as this, more or less open to talent, should with some notable exceptions produce only lacklustre minions.

Two of my favourites from the range of well-chosen illustrations featured in *Humble and Obedient Servants* are depression images: one showing well-dressed families at 'happy valley' in the Sydney suburb of Brighton, while in the other children at Belmore North Public School line up for soup and bread. One little boy in tailored suit and hat looks like a miniature businessman but may well have ended up as a 'humble and obedient servant' in the NSW public service. (pp.112-113)

Pauline Curby

THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

In case you didn't know it already the Sydney Harbour Bridge is 75 years old in March this year. To celebrate this auspicious occasion the Museum of Sydney is staging a major exhibition on the history of the bridge, the design competition, its construction and everything you need to know about it and a good deal else besides.

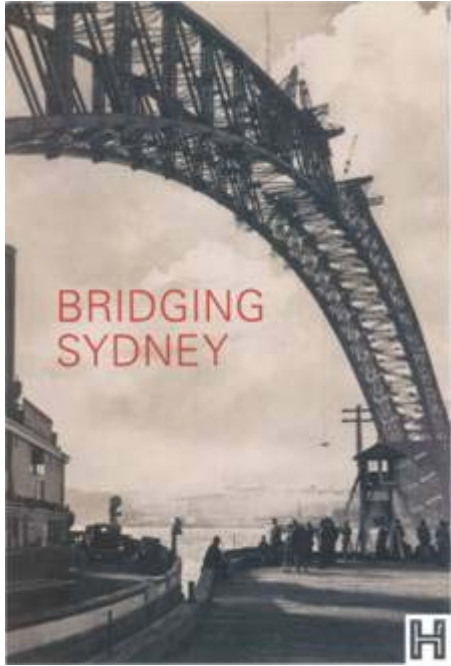


image left: Arch in the sky (detail), Harold Cazneaux, 1930, silver gelatin photograph. Courtesy the Cazneaux family and the National Library of Australia. Cover image for the Bridging Sydney book and exhibition.

There is no need to discuss the history of the Bridge and all its accoutrements other than to say it's a lot more than just a bridge. This exhibition, which unusually (but welcomed) covers two entire rooms plus a small amount of upstairs foyer, is not only comprehensive but also visually interesting and uses a number of fun ideas to get the messages across.

The accompanying book edited by Historic Houses Trust curator, Caroline Mackaness, is both a beautiful production and a mighty contribution to scholarship on the bridge. Lavishly illustrated, its structure and layout allow it to function as both a coffee table book and a serious academic work. Admirers argue that it will achieve status as *the definitive* book on the bridge. It may stand the test of time more than the anniversary edition of Peter Spearitt's *The Sydney Harbour Bridge*. It may reach a larger audience than the Peter Lalor's wonderfully quirky and informative work *The Bridge*. But all of these will feed off each other, and who could blame anyone for getting onto the bandwagon? The writings, ravings and adulation of Our Bridge will continue for the next few months, so we might as well all enjoy it.

And if you want to enjoy it in its historical context, you can join Lisa Murray, of the City of Sydney and Ian Hoskins, of North Sydney Council in a walk from Lang Park to Milson Point. Lisa and Ian will be exploring the resumptptions that made construction of the bridge possible. There are 2 tours on March 9 & 11, departing 10am, as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. More details www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history

• INNER CITY COLLECTIVE

Bridging Sydney exhibition open 16 December 2006 – 29 April 2007, Museum of Sydney, cnr Bridge & Phillip Streets, Sydney
Lalor, Peter, *The Bridge*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2005. 381pp. ISBN 174175027X
Mackaness, Caroline (ed.), *Bridging Sydney*, Historic Houses Trust New South Wales, Sydney, 2006. 288pp. ISBN 1876991224
Spearitt, Peter, *The Sydney Harbour Bridge : A Life*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2007. 192pp. ISBN 0868409251



Review of *Between the Flags*

Jaggard, Ed (ed.) *Between the Flags, One Hundred Summers of Australian Surf Lifesaving*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2006, 262 pages

With its arresting teamwork and unique drill, the reel, line and belt was a traditional an icon of surf lifesaving. For those of us old enough to have seen it in regular use, its operation is memorable. Who can forget the sight of the reel, always conspicuously sited on the beach and the flurry of activity if a rescue were needed: the reelman briskly winding out the line which was then played out over the heads of the linesmen, before the beltman - the best and bravest of the team - swam out to perform a rescue? For children of the 1950s and 1960s witnessing this scenario was as much a part of a day at the beach as building sandcastles or getting sunburnt.

How and why this drill - described as 'archaic' by one American observer - was replaced by more modern methods of surf lifesaving is one of the fascinating stories told in *Between the Flags*. This thematic history of surf lifesaving was commissioned by Surf Lifesaving Australia (SLSA) to celebrate the centenary of the movement and to mark the year of the lifesaver. By avoiding a state-based history this volume enables the reader to gain a better appreciation of the national development of the movement over 100 years. There is a minimum of repetition and no obvious disjuncture between the different styles of the 11 contributors – including a PHA member – all brought together by editor - and contributor - Western Australia's Professor Ed Jaggard.

Perhaps it was a good idea to have a Western Australian 'sandgroper' in charge of the project. One of the most heated controversies in surf lifesaving history is the debate about which was Australia (and the world's) first surf lifesaving club. As Australian surfing began in Sydney this is strictly a NSW debate. The issue is dispensed with in this work efficiently, effectively and one hopes without too much blood on the surf club floor.

Not all 'clubbies' have been completely enthusiastic about this publication. A very senior member of one of the Cronulla clubs told me he has read it from cover to cover, making it only the third book he has read in his life. Nevertheless he was critical of the first chapter in particular where he found a plethora of unfamiliar words and concepts. This chapter, 'A National Icon, Surf life Saving and Australian Society and Culture' by Nancy Cushing and Leone Huntsman is a courageous one with which to begin the volume but is important as it demonstrates how surf lifesaving 'gave Australians a unique icon' and 'reinforced cherished Australian values of volunteerism and mateship'. It also led - the writers argue – to us 'feeling a greater sense of ease with the Australian environment'.

Sean Brawley's chapter 'Surf Bathing and Surf Lifesaving, Origins and Beginnings' looks back to surf lifesaving's antecedents in 18th century Britain and in the United States where volunteer members of the Humane Society of Massachusetts performed surf rescues in the early 19th century – 100 years before Australia's movement began. This and the next chapter by Ed Jaggard on 'governing surf lifesaving' places surf lifesaving in an Australian context and is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the history of the movement. So too is Douglas Booth's chapter 'Managing Pleasure and Discipline' which examines how beaches went from being 'parade grounds to playgrounds'. This deals with social relations among surf lifesavers

within the club, traces the reasons for the exclusion of women, their eventual acceptance in 1980 and the phenomenal expansion of the nippers' movement.

One of the most interesting chapters, Alleyn Best's on surf lifesaving technology, is much more than a catalogue of a progression from whaling boats as used by the Sly brothers at Manly in the early 20th century to the ubiquitous IRBs (inshore rescue boat). Disconcertingly Best describes how SLSA waited almost 30 years, until 1950, before it adopted a device to release lifebelts quickly if the line became entangled in seaweed during a rescue as happened on a number of occasions. Tragedies such as the death of Merv Fletcher at Dee Why and Jim Peryman at North Cronulla in 1950 may not have occurred if SLSA had not ignored a device to release the belt quickly - invented in 1924 - after a similar death had occurred at Corrimal. This unconscionable delay shows the surf lifesaving movement at its worst.

The chapter on competition by Ed Jaggard and Barry Galton deals with what they term the 'luck of the surf' and highlights some of the spectacular wins and losses seen on the beaches over almost 100 years of competition. This chapter demonstrates some of the tensions in a movement by reiterating what has been termed a 'mantra' of the surf lifesaving movement: 'patrols come first'.

Murray Phillips' chapter on amateurism and professionalism also deals with an important dilemma that was particularly pressing in 1936 when the Amateur Swimming Union 'ruled that amateur swimmers who competed in surf races against professionals, including paid lifeguards, would forfeit their amateur status'. This chapter cursorily deals with an important element of surf lifesaving by tracing the history of the paid lifeguards (an American term not used in the 1930s) who gradually took over from the 'paid lifesaver/beach inspector' on Sydney's beaches in the 1970s.

Caroline Ford and Ed Jaggard's chapter on surf lifesaving overseas traces the movement's gradual expansion in the 1920s and 1930s to a handful of other countries. Most notable is the way in which surf club members serving in the Middle East during World War II introduced surf lifesaving whenever they were stationed near a surfing beach. The movement's expansion in Britain from the 1940s to the 1970s when Australian clubs began visiting places such as Tenby in Wales (where there's no surf!) and Bude in Cornwall is explained.

In the last chapter, 'Waves of Change, Future Directions', Cameron O'Beirne draws the many threads together and questions the future of the movement:

Already, we are seeing clubs coexisting with paid council lifeguards, patrolling the same area at the same time, and occasionally providing a similar service. Is this the best way to use already stretched human resources, and does this provide an efficient and adequate lifesaving service for the public?

The answer has to be 'no' and already some Sydney metropolitan councils have asked the same question, rightly concluding that surf clubs that do not patrol the beaches have no place on them.

There are some shortcomings in this otherwise excellent publication such as a couple of factual errors that have crept in. For example Manly Council liberalised its 'bathing' regulations in 1903, not 1902 (p. 31) and Manly Surf Club did not begin as a 'private social club' (p. 37) but only

assumed this role in 1911 after a dispute with the Council. These errors will undoubtedly be corrected in later editions.

I have some other quibbles and would like to have seen a more comprehensive treatment of women in surf lifesaving and the role of the paid lifeguard. It seems a pity too that a chapter on meritorious conduct has been replaced - I understand - by a series of features on individual rescues. I also question the use of the term 'Gold Coast' in the inter-war period for the district that was referred to as the 'Queensland south coast' until the 1950s.

Despite these criticisms this beautifully illustrated volume is a must for anyone writing the history of an Australian surf lifesaving club. I found it most useful as many others undoubtedly will.

Pauline Curby

Pauline Curby has just finished writing a centenary history of Freshwater SLSC to be released at the end of 2007.

STATE RECORDS – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2006

- ◆ State Records **T** 9673-1788, **F** 9833-4518 - www.records.nsw.gov.au
- ◆ **Council on the Cost and Quality of Government Review** – originally a review of State Records, the focus changed and became a review of recordkeeping across the public sector in NSW. State Records was found to be a prudently and efficiently run organization. One of the major recommendations is that State Records should work towards 100% retention and disposal authority coverage of the government by 2010. State Records provided good guidance on managing digital records and to assist agencies which require practical guidance a small unit within State Records will be established.
- ◆ **Department of Commerce** – A positive outcome of the review is the transfer of State Records from the Ministry of the Arts to Commerce as an agency more central to government. State Records is part of the NSW Procurement branch of the Department of Commerce. There is now wider scope for competing for funds and already funds will be available for a Digital State Archive. A new logo, based on the State crest, will be created.
- ◆ **Concise Guide Conversion** project continues and seventy-five percent of the work is complete.
- ◆ **Primary Application Packets** - two consignments (NRS 17513) have been transferred and usage is increasing. It is necessary to go to the Department of Lands for the packet number: item lists are not yet available through Archives Investigator (or the web) and researchers (who may pre-order items if they have the details) must use the Reading Rooms where item lists are available. Collaboration with the University of Western Sydney has assisted with the microfilming of the first nine Registers of Assignments and other legal documents re Property (1794-1824).
- ◆ **Website additions** - Index to early probate records (some dating from 1790, many wills and other documents relating to women); railway employees and salaried officers 1856-1890; through a collaboration with Macquarie University Centre for Comparative Law

History and Governance (www.law.mq.edu.au/scnsw/Correspondence) digitized documents from miscellaneous correspondence relating to Aborigines (believed to be collected by William Burton) is now available; Index to Tasmanian Convicts, including those transported to NSW, is available on the website of the Archives Office of Tasmania; AIB110 – the NSW Coat of Arms – extensive searches within State Records for the warrant proved unsuccessful.

- ◆ **Sydney Harbour Bridge** – NRS12685 –photos have been added to Photo Investigator (though some are restricted).
- ◆ **Citing records** – discussion ensued about appropriate citation of records, particularly in relation to *AIB 10 Citing State archives* and it was agreed to review AIB 10.
- ◆ **Bridging Sydney** – in partnership with Historic Houses Trust has been published and more than 30% of the images (and more than 80 items in the accompanying exhibition at Museum of Sydney) are from State Records’ collection, making it the largest exhibition with which State Records has been involved. Although State Records was not required to contribute funds considerable resources of staff time were involved.
- ◆ **Exhibitions and community** – as a means of engaging with the community and establishing State Records’ profile State Records is seeking funding to explore ways of working with external community organizations to showcase their records and links to State Records.
- ◆ **Digitisation of *Government Gazettes* and *Police Gazettes*** – Gold Books has approached State Records to use OCR (optical character recognition) technology to digitize these publications. *Hanson’s Pastoral Possessions* will also be digitized (and searchable) and available in the reading rooms. There was discussion about digitizing electoral rolls and blue books which may be undertaken as part of the government’s digital content strategy.
- ◆ **Encyclopaedia of NSW** – discussion about creating such an encyclopaedia.

REMINDER – *In Living Memory* – the exhibition of photographs from the records of the Aborigines Welfare Board from 1916-1966 will continue until 30 June 2007 in the City Reading Room. Read about the exhibition in latest edition of *Vital Signs* - www.records.nsw.gov.au - scroll down to link to *Vital Signs*.

What's On in History

Prepared by [Christine de Matos](#)

FEBRUARY 2007

Exhibitions

'Convicts: Sites of Punishment'. *Until 15 July 2007. Venue Hyde Park Barracks Museum.*

'City of Shadows'. *Until 11 February 2007. Venue: Justice and Police Museum.*

'Bound for Glory: Exquisite Books of French Pacific Voyages'. *Until 25 February 2007. Venue: Picture Gallery, Mitchell Wing, State Library NSW.*

'Bridging Sydney'. *Until 29 April 2007. Venue: Museum of Sydney.*

'In Living Memory: an exhibition of surviving photographs from the records of the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board, from 1919 to 1966'. *Until 30 June 2007. Venue: State Records Gallery, The Rocks.*

Events February

- 8/21 Workshop. 'Professions and Occupations'. *Searching occupations in the State Archives. Venue: 8th – WSRC (Kingswood), 21st SRC (The Rocks) Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Bookings essential: web: http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/activities_program_57.asp*
- 10 Special event. 'Early Australian TV at Rose Seidler House'. *Watch rare 1950s TV footage while picnicking in the grounds. HHT. Venue: Rose Seidler House Time: gates open 6pm for 7.30pm start Cost: \$29, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2266.*
- 10 Walking tour. 'Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon'. *HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$25, mem/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org*
- 11 Tour. 'The Mint site tour'. *HHT. Venue: Hyde Park Barracks Museum Time: 2.30-3.15pm Cost: \$30, mems/conc \$25 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211.*
- 12-14 Conference. 'Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference (APEBH)', *University of Sydney. Enquiries: Professor Gordon Boyce, email: g.boyce@gut.edu.au; web: <http://ehsanz.econ.usyd.edu.au/>*
- 19 Workshop. 'Visit to NSW Land Titles Office'. *Australian Society of Genealogist. Venue: Land Titles Office Time: 9.30-11.30am Cost: \$22, mems \$18 Bookings essential: web: <http://www.sag.org.au/new/pgmdetail.htm>*
- 20 Talk. 'Three Cheers for Liberty!'. *Warwick Hirst, curator of exhibition 'On the Run: Daring Convict Escapes'. Library Society. Venue: Dixon Room, Mitchell Library Time: 12.30-1.30pm Cost: \$12 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au*
- 23 Talk. 'Ben Haneman Lecture 2007: Being sick and cured in antiquity'. *Dr Alain Touwaide, Smithsonian Institution. Library Society & NSW Society of the History of Medicine. Venue: Friends Room, Mitchell Library Time: 5.30 for 6pm Cost: \$17, mems/conc \$12 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au*

- 24 *Talk. 'Archives and the Digital Camera'. Australian Society of Genealogist. Venue: Richmond Villa, 120 Kent St Time: 1.30-3.30pm Cost: \$22, mems \$18 Bookings essential: web: <http://www.sag.org.au/new/pgmdetail.htm>*

Events March

- 3 *Seminar/Discussion. 'Current Sources in Aboriginal History'. With Michael Bennett. PHA Professional Development. Venue: History House Time: 10am-12n Cost: \$15, mems \$10 Enquiries: email: secretary@phansw.org.au*
- 5 *Talk. 'Gabi Hollows at the Library'. Gabi Hollows on working with Indigenous women and health issues. Library Society in association with Women's History Month. Venue: Dixon Room, Mitchell Library Time: 5.30 for 6pm Cost: \$17, mems/conc \$12 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au*
- 6 *Workshop. 'Effective Publications Workshop'. With Rebecca Laskary. The Associations Forum (NOTE: for n-f-p associations only, not individuals). Venue: The Menzies Sydney Time: 9am-5pm Cost: \$660, mems \$440 Enquiries: ph: (02) 9904 8200; email: support@associations.net.au; web: <http://www.associations.net.au>*

Upcoming Conferences

'2nd Asian Australian Identities Conference', 28-30 June 2007, Melbourne.
Enquiries: email: tseen.khoo@arts.monash.edu.au or jacqueline.lo@anu.edu.au

Call for Papers

'Old Stories New Ways :Oral History Association of Australia 2007 National Conference', 27-30 September 2007, Indooroopilly, Brisbane. One page proposals due 28 February 2007.
Enquiries: web: <http://www.ohaagld.org.au>

'Engaging Histories: Australian Historical Association 2007 Regional Conference', 23-26 September 2007, Armidale, NSW. 200 word abstracts due 1 March 2007. Enquiries: Dr. Erin Ihde and Dr. Frank Bongiorno (Conveners), email: confco@une.edu.au

'Lessons of the Past: Applications of History for Today's Threats: The Inaugural Terrorism History Conference', 14 June 2007, International Affairs Conference Centre, Canberra. Abstracts due 31 March 2007. Enquiries: Dr Sean Brawley, email: s.brawley@unsw.edu.au

'9th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference: Sea Change? Historical responses to new and renewed urban landscapes', February 2008, University of the Sunshine Coast. Formal call for abstracts to come. Enquiries: email: cmconvi@usc.edu.au

To include an event in *What's On* email to Christine de Matos at cdm@uow.edu.au

Call for Nominations - 2007 New South Wales Premier's History Awards

From the *History Council of NSW*:

The New South Wales Premier's History Awards are made to Australian historians in recognition of distinguished achievement in scholarly writing and publication and in the presentation of history in non-print media. The awards are conducted in association with the History Council of New South Wales. The 2007 awards, each valued at \$15,000, are:

The Australian History Prize for a book on Australian history

The General History Prize for a book on international history

The Community and Regional History Prize for a book which contributes to the understanding of Australian community, institutional or regional history

The Young People's History Prize for a book or audio/visual presentation which increases the historical understanding of children and young adults

The Audio/Visual History Prize for the presentation of history utilising non-print media (including film, television, radio, CD-ROM, DVD or website)

John and Patricia Ward History Prize for the Use of Archives in Writing History for a book which uses unpublished archived sources.

Works may be nominated by authors, agents, publishers or producers. All works must have been first published or produced between 11 March 2006 and 9 March 2007.

The closing date for nominations is 16 March 2007.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available from:

Awards Staff, Arts NSW

PO Box A226

SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 To download forms go to: www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Email: jean@arts.nsw.gov.au

Ph: 02 9228 5533 Fax: 02 9228 4722

Freecall 1800 358 594 (within NSW)

Conferences – detailed calls for panels, workshops and papers

GOVERNING BY LOOKING BACK: HOW HISTORY MATTERS IN SOCIETY, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

First Annual Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference Hosted by the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University Canberra 12-14 December 2007

Much of the rhetoric in politics and government is about shaping the future. Yet their day-to-day realities are pervaded by coping with the past. The past impinges on political life in many different respects. Many political regimes are founded on historical compromises between rival social forces. Others are built on histories of conflict, conquest and oppression which have a way of returning to the present in the form of unresolved traumas and 'forgotten pasts'. More generally, political agendas are often dominated by long-standing social problems rather than by novel ones. Incumbent office-holders are constrained by the commitments entered into by their predecessors. Much of their energy goes to dealing with the unintended outcomes and public controversies generated by past government policies. This is reinforced by the ever-expanding range of accountability mechanisms that surround centers of public power today, who critically scrutinize their past performance. Yet at the same time, public institutions struggle to retain their collective memory as their veterans leave in droves, staff turnover rates are peaking, and frequent reorganizations have become the norm.

Governing proceeds by looking back as much as by looking forward. The importance of the former is often underappreciated. In the early postwar decades the social sciences were focused on providing the underpinnings for things like planning, scenarios and strategies. As the limits of this ideology of governance have become clearer, the past has made a comeback. Much scholarly attention is now focused on governing by looking back. There has been an explosion of studies on collective memory, public accountability, policy evaluation and social learning.

This conference organized by the Research School of Social Sciences of the Australian National University taps into that trend. It brings together scholars from across the social sciences who study how societies and organizations remember, frame and cope with the past in their efforts to govern themselves. Its aim is to foster academic and policy dialogue about how to assess and improve institutional capacities for remembering and learning from the past in and beyond Australia.

We invite proposals for theme clusters (a series of related workshops, paper sessions and/or panel discussions), workshops (full-day, invitation only intensive sessions aimed at fostering collaborative research) paper sessions (public presentations and discussions of thematically linked papers), and panel discussions (on current issues and controversies related to the conference theme).

An indicative, non-exhaustive list of possible topics includes:

- Public remembrance and forgetting in Australia;
- Learning from history wars;
- Use and abuse of historical analogies in public deliberation and policy design;
- Processing problematic pasts: Inquiries, blame management and political legitimacy;
- Organizational forgetfulness and institutional amnesia in the public sector;
- Economic history, economics training and economic policy paradigms

- Path dependencies, policy change and welfare state transformation
- Pros and cons of the accountability industry
- From policy evaluation to policy learning

Deadline for proposals: 1 March 2007

Conference program correspondence to:

Tim Rowse, History Program, RISSS (tim.rowse@anu.edu.au)

Paul 't Hart, Political Science Program, RISSS (hart@coombs.anu.edu.au).

SEA CHANGE? HISTORICAL RESPONSES TO NEW AND RENEWED URBAN LANDSCAPES

**9th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference
Caloundra Cultural Centre, Sunshine Coast Queensland Australia
5-7 February 2008**

"SEA CHANGE", the demographic shift from metropolitan centre to ex-urban coastal strip, encapsulates a crucial transition in urban life and built environment. The Sea Change [and in some parts of Australasia an associated 'Tree Change' migration to inland towns] has already sparked debate within local communities and amongst planners at state and local level. Missing is any sense of the historical context for this demographic shift. This Conference will provide opportunities for historically informed analysis of current 'Sea Change' transitions.

The Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conferences have traditionally brought together scholars from diverse academic disciplines who share common interests in the historical background to contemporary urban issues. Participants in the 2008 Conference might draw on architectural and design histories, planning and environmental studies, urban history and heritage studies, or urban and cultural theory.

Practitioners in planning, urban design and architecture, as often as university-based scholars, have actively participated in these conferences. We aim to strengthen this connection between history, theory and practice by focussing on the theme of Sea Change and the parallel restructuring of inner urban and regional/rural Australasia. As with past Conferences we also welcome papers on other urban regions and on other historical eras. Organisers especially welcome papers from post-graduate scholars.

Key conference themes might include:

- Histories of the 'new' in urban Australasia
- Histories of planning responses to rapid urban growth
- Local history, heritage issues and urban expansion
- Architectural histories of ex-metropolitan growth
- Histories of real estate/tourist imagery of the coast
- Planning histories of tourist landscapes
- Local identities and Sea Change
- Post-industrial urban landscapes in historical context

- Media imagery and new urban landscapes
- Long-term urban and housing change beyond the metropolis
- Community, conflict and equity in new urban regions

The Conference is now accepting proposals for papers and panel sessions.

Closing date for submissions: 1 June 2007

Format: Electronic submission as email attachment in MS Word (PC or Apple-Mac systems) to: uhph2008@usc.edu.au and CC: cmcconvi@usc.edu.au

EMAIL subject line: ABSTRACT: UHPH2008

Maximum length 250 words

Title of paper, name, affiliation, phone numbers and email of author/s.

Proposals for Panel discussions to include an outline structure for panel

Further enquiries: Chris McConville, University of the Sunshine Coast

Ph: 07 5430 1257 or Email> cmcconvi@usc.edu.au

Places in Context - Natural & Cultural Landscapes National Trust Heritage Festival 3-18 March 2007

There are hundreds of events in the heritage festival program. Full details can be found at www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au PHA members Christa Ludlow, Roslyn Burge and Lisa Murray are actively involved in the Trust's conservation committees. They extend a warm invitation to all PHA'ers to come along to the following events.



THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

DEADLY HERITAGE: launch & talk

TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2007

Join the National Trust as it celebrates the launch of its
online master list of cemeteries

To showcase the deadly heritage to be found in our state's cemeteries, historian Dr Lisa Murray, chair of the National Trust Cemeteries Committee, will present an illustrated talk:

Symbolic Gestures: memorial designs and symbolism

When: 10:30am - 12 midday

Where: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Watson Rd, Observatory Hill, Sydney

Cost: Free, includes morning tea

Bookings: (02) 9258 0123



VANISHING LANDSCAPES

TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2007

A SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) PARKS AND GARDENS CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

What is happening to our natural and cultural landscapes? What should be saved and how should we go about it? Hear case studies of parks, gardens and other landscapes by speakers involved in their identification and conservation, and take part in a discussion about their future survival.

Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre,
Observatory Hill, Sydney

5.30 for 6 pm

\$10 or \$8 for Trust members; Refreshments available;

Enquiries: Christa Ludlow 0416 243292



Tickets available at door

Bookings: (02) 9258 0123

PHA (NSW) Directory 2006-07

Postal Address GPO Box 2437 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia

Telephone 9252 9437

Email secretary@phansw.org.au

Website www.phansw.org.au

For specific enquiries see list below

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Vice President Ron Ringer Tel 9352 1055

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Secretary Position vacant

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Minutes Secretary Ron Ringer Tel 9362 1055

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Public Relations Peter Tyler

Public Officer Virginia Macleod Tel 9977 4950

Website Christine de Matos Tel 9570 9797

Cathy Dunn Tel 4455 4780

Representatives on other bodies

Australian Council of PHAs (ACPHA) David Lewis, Peter Tyler (Alternative)

ACPHA Appeals Committee Peter Tyler Tel 9363 5242

ACPHA Selection Committee Roslyn Burge Tel 9810 7324

History Council of NSW Mark Dunn

Heritage Council- History Advisory panel Terry Kass Tel 9749 4128

National Archives Customer Council Terry Kass Tel 9749 4128

State Archives Customer Council Roslyn Burge Tel 9810 7324

Professional Services

Employment Network Peter Tyler Tel 9363 1249

Library Terri McCormack Tel 9810 4421

Professional Development Pauline Curby,

Peter Tyler Tel 9363 5242

Publications

Phanfare Annette Salt Tel 9489 5997

Editorial Collectives See list at front of *Phanfare*

Other PHA (NSW) publications Virginia Macleod

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

available on line

PHA (NSW) Register of consulting historians

List of financial members

PHA (NSW) Annual Reports

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