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Cover image:

This beauty contest was uncovered by Mark Dunn while diligently researching at the Mitchell Library photographic possibilities for the interpretation of Tallawarra Power Station. It's from "Network", the staff newsletter of the Electricity Commission, March 1959.

The "difficult decision" as to who would be Miss Network had to be made by three male judges -- the Commercial Manager and Secretary, the Commission Medical Officer (always a good judge of physique), and the Chief Photographer --the winner being announced at the annual Miss Network Ball.

So, who was the Winner of Miss Network 1959? The lovely Marie Evans (18 years), a short-hand typist from the Power Station Construction Division's Mechanical Branch, located in Goulburn Street, Sydney. She's the one gazing adoringly up at you, second from the right at the bottom, in a fetching polka-dot bandeau swimsuit. According to "Network" newsletter, "Marie has short, blonde curly hair, fair complexion and China blue eyes. Her height is 5ft 2ins, and her weight 7st 2lb."

President's Page

Australia Day Address

On behalf of PHA (NSW) I attended the Australia Day address given by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. She reflected on one of her predecessors Lachlan Macquarie who was appointed 200 years ago in May 1809. Professor Bashir also admitted that Macquarie is her hero. As she expressed admiration for his qualities it seemed to me that she shared many of them.

Australia Day addresses cover diverse fields and are given by a variety of people. However in last year's address The Hon. James Spigelman also took a historical theme and analysed the dynamics of the overthrow of Governor William Bligh. It is good to see history being discussed for Australia Day, as well as festivities, ferrhythons and flags. If you are interested you can read the talks for yourself at

<http://www.australiaday.com.au/whatson/australiadayaddress.aspx>

Australia Day always seems to mark the end of the summer holidays, though doubtless most of us are already back at our desks. It would be good to know what our members are working on, especially those who aren't able to get to CPD events and other functions. The more we know more about our members the better we can support the organisation. Next week the executive will be reviewing plans for the coming year. Please let me know if you have any pressing issues or interest that you would like us to address.

History Awards at the PHA (NSW) Christmas Party

The PHA (NSW) executive committee, prompted by the suggestion from one of our members, Emma Dortins, decided to create an award to promote awareness of public history among undergraduates and to encourage them in this field. Grace Karskens at the University of NSW kindly facilitated this new venture. (*Ed.: Details of the prize's objectives were published in the President's Report in December.*)

Two students Bethan Donnelly and Ilana Cohn shared the award for their outstanding essays; and Bethan was able to attend PHA (NSW) Christmas party on 11 December 2008 to be formally presented with her certificate.

Right: Bethan Donnelly, Virginia Macleod, and Grace Karskens (photo: Peter Tyler)

Bethan has written a thoughtful essay about the Villawood Migrant Hostel- a home for many postwar migrants, the physical and psychological conditions experienced by migrants living there, and the impact of their subsequent settlement in surrounding suburbs and its place in the growth of greater Sydney. She based her research on books, images newspaper articles, websites and conducted an interview too. She describes the issues of food and employment, the lack of privacy in the infamous nissen hut accommodation, and outbreaks of violence. She contrasts all this with the propaganda and idylls used to attract migrants.



Ilana has written an analytical essay looking at the different interpretations of the Holocaust by museums in several countries including, Israel, Germany, USA and Australia. She considers how it has been remembered: in Israel as the rationale for the foundation of the state; in Germany to recognize the loss of so many Jewish people; in the USA the Holocaust is contrasted with American ideological values of tolerance and liberty. Sydney's museum focuses on the experience relying on guides who survived the Holocaust and plain presentation of objects and images without reworking them for special effects.

I commend these essays to you. Both have been published on PHA (NSW) website

<http://www.phansw.org.au/publications.html>

Virginia Macleod

January 2009

REPORT: History Council of NSW

February 21, 2009 is the date for the History Council of NSW AGM, to be held at the Lucy Osburn Nightingale Museum (2-3.30pm), at Sydney Hospital. Mark Dunn has been the PHA representative on the History Council since 2006 and has been nominated to stand again for 2009. A change for this coming term is that the Council will now be elected bi-annually, two year terms allowing further stability and continuity to the Council for the growing advocacy role of the Council. A Code of Conduct, worked on by the Council throughout 2008, will be tabled at the AGM. The Code of Conduct will be attached to the Constitution as a guide for Council members.

History Week 2008, organised by the History Council NSW, saw over 250 events organised across the state. To build on the growing success and popularity of this week, showcasing history in all its many guises, the History Council has made it a priority to begin organising for the coming years.

Fundamental to this is the early choice of themes, to allow for members, including the PHA, to better plan their own contributions and events. The theme for 2009 is Scandals, Crime and Corruption, a topic that NSW is all too familiar with. From searching for convict ancestors to bushrangers, prisons to politicians, gangsters to gang busters, NSW's history is full of such characters and stories from the inner city to the furthest reaches of the state. History Week 2009 runs from 5-13 September.

MARK DUNN

ARTICLE: Altruism and digital archives

The accelerating migration of archival material into digital formats – particularly via websites – generates a certain *noblesse oblige* for historians. Given that our research can so materially benefit from immediate access to searchable documents, data, images and audiovisual files, I believe that this abundance carries a moral imperative. In particular, the way that we interact with digitised material can considerably enhance its usefulness and aid broader community engagement with history.

Let's consider some examples. The National Library of Australia has recently undertaken a massive project to digitise historic Australian newspapers over dates ranging from 1803 to 1954. **Australian Newspapers beta** <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> delivers a searchable archive of scanned pages from numerous publications including the *Melbourne Argus*, the *Hobart Town Courier* and the *Canberra Times*. Each article is available to view as an image file or an Acrobat document, while the text is transcribed via optical character recognition (OCR) software. This facility not only saves historians the hassle of tracking down and eyeballing page after wearying page of microfilm; it also makes the information instantly available for research – or simply to check facts. However, like all OCR processes, the transcription of old newspapers is subject both to the quality of the base image and the vagaries of typeface and printing blemishes. Some of the transcripts are relatively faithful; others are essentially gobbledygook.

Users of Australian Newspapers beta can, however, correct the text of transcripts – which are naturally the base for the system's search facility. The process is a little clunky: text has to be corrected line by line so that it corresponds with the matching location in the article. There are, however, several benefits of investing time into emending these files. Firstly, transcripts can be copied and pasted, allowing users to append corrected text to their downloaded page images. This can facilitate reading of any hard copies that are printed out, but can also assist in searching files saved to your own hard drive via tools such as Google Desktop Search. Secondly, every corrected word ensures that future users can undertake more accurate – and more comprehensive – searches of the system. Even a limited contribution such as editing the names of people, places and topics builds the quality of Australian Newspapers beta as a historical resource. This not only assists our own research; enhanced access also encourages others to follow our historiographic tracks. Thirdly, actively engaging with the system provides usage statistics that the National Library can utilise when negotiating for support or expansion of this valuable resource. In these ways, then, the altruistic 'sacrifice' of correcting the text of scanned articles acts ultimately in our own best interests.

Similarly, the **National Archives of Australia** <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/index.aspx> has for some time offered the facility to scan and upload files that are open for general access. There is a cost: \$16.50 per standard-size file and \$38.50 for larger folders. It is therefore relatively easy to rack up a bill of several hundred dollars in pursuit of an interesting paper trail – in addition to the cost of subsequently printing the material. The utility of the service is also less than ideal: each page is uploaded as a separate image file, necessitating a tedious one-by-one process of clicking and saving. However, once downloaded the images can be organised however you wish; I usually convert mine into Acrobat documents. At present there is no OCR process associated with these archival uploads, so

the contents of files are not searchable (short of visually reviewing each page). However, I am certain that – in line with the Australian Newspapers beta system – the National Archives will soon encourage users to contribute search tags or content summaries to assist others in researching materials placed online.

While I certainly don't wish to discourage historians from the singular pleasures of physically visiting archives and interacting with archivists, there are several arguments in favour of digitisation. The alternatives are, of course, either travelling to the archive and taking copious notes, or requesting the supply of photocopies. Both of these processes also entail financial outlay, but a direct cost comparison doesn't completely account for the value of placing files online. In the first instance, digitised files are always accessible – very handy if you are unable to take complete notes at the archives, if you have misplaced your hard copies, or if you want to share documents with a colleague. Unlike photocopying, digitisation need only happen once to provide universal availability, which helps preserve archival material and spreads the cost of access across the research community. International access to these materials may encourage scholars based overseas to include Australian materials in their research, hastening the integration of our local history into the wider historiography. Instant availability of archived files also means that fellow historians can more readily follow in your tracks. This may have strategic value in terms of others extending (and citing) your work!. And once again, utilising the digitisation facilities encourages support for the excellent service that the National Archives provide: most files are placed online within two weeks, whereas one now has to wait at least 4 months for photocopies or disks from the Australian War Memorial, for instance. For these reasons, the financial sacrifice entailed in requesting digitisation may repay the original 'altruistic' outlay.

Beyond these examples, there are many other ways in which historians can engage with the digital archives that are proliferating about us. This may be as simple as adding information to captions accompanying photographs or audiovisual files – the **National Film and Sound Archive** http://www.nfsa.gov.au/the_collection/ is, for instance, on the verge of opening their database to user input. Alternatively, we may wish to personally undertake scanning, uploading or indexing of out-of-copyright texts, photographs or historical datasets. For respective examples of such initiatives, see **Project Gutenberg** http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page , **Flickr: The Commons** <http://www.flickr.com/commons/> and the **Australian Social Science Data Archive** <http://assda.anu.edu.au/> . In each case these activities entail an quantum of sacrifice – of time, money or simply sharing the once private pleasure of owning a rare resource. However, in opening up and facilitating access to historical sources – and thus encouraging others to explore their own pathways through the online archival cornucopia – our altruism will ultimately benefit our own research as well as the wider pursuit of history.

PETER HOBBS

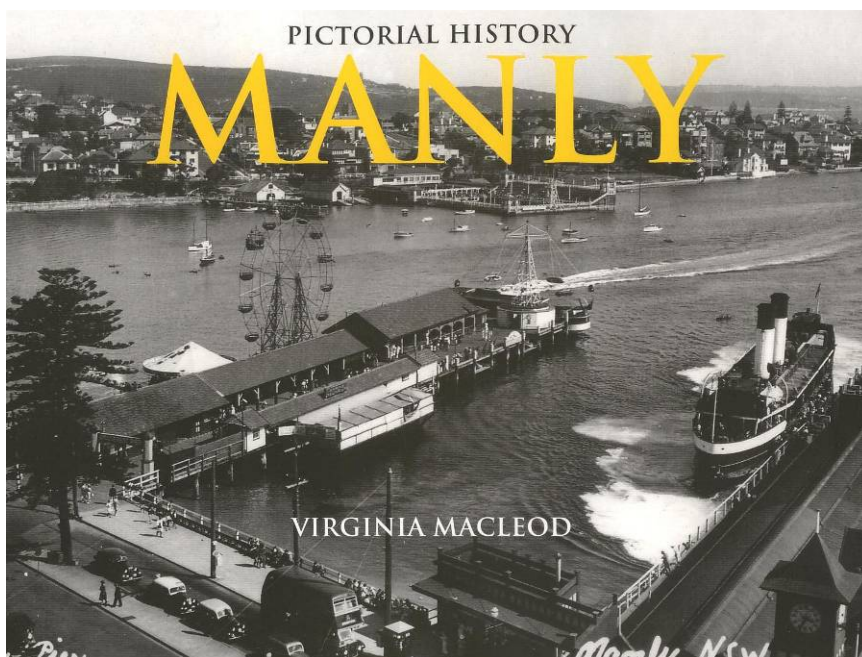
Medical Historian, Sydney

BOOK NOTES – Recent Books by PHA Members

Virginia Macleod, *Manly – Pictorial History*, Kingsclear Books, 2008, 140pp, illus., index, P/B.

This is the latest in a popular series of books dealing with various parts of Sydney, as well as a few places further away. There are now almost thirty books in the series, all in identical format: A4 landscape, packed with interesting and revealing photographs, linked by a text that provides a thematic historic overview of the area under discussion, usually beginning from before the time of first white settlement until the present.

While an earlier book in the series (by another author) covered the whole peninsular of northern beaches from Manly to Palm Beach, in this volume Virginia Macleod has been able to concentrate on the Manly municipal area. Most people know that Governor Phillip landed at Manly while exploring the harbour soon after establishing the new colony in Sydney Cove, and that he was speared by one of the 'manly' Aboriginals who resented this intrusion. Then in 1868 there was another assassination attempt on one of the beaches in what is now the Manly local government area, when the Duke of Edinburgh was shot at Clontarf. Fortunately the Duke recovered, so I don't think the caption to the illustration on p.11 should



describe his assailant as an "assassin". While in a pedantic mood, I could also suggest that the vessel passing under Spit Bridge on p.92 is a yawl rather than a ketch.

Despite these early violent episodes, Manly is best known for its relaxing, holiday atmosphere. Virginia is a long-time Manly resident, and writes about the beaches – both harbour and ocean – and other recreational facilities with warmth and understanding. The carefully selected photographs make a fitting counterpoint, showing the changes in beach culture, behaviour and fashions over a very long period. Readers also can see the gradual growth of the famous Norfolk Island pine trees along the waterfront. Some of the photographs from the 1880s resemble French impressionist paintings of the same era, e.g. those on pages 37 and 39.

At first, Manly was relatively inaccessible except by water, leading to its reputation as being "seven miles from Sydney and a thousand miles from care". A significant theme throughout the book is the steady improvements in transport links – ferries, trams, buses, the Spit Bridge(s) and the punt which preceded it. Virginia also pays due attention to another side of Manly – the public institutions on North Head such as the Quarantine Station, St. Patrick's College, the military establishments, the hospital, and the national parks that have been developed in more recent times.

Despite the slogans, there were bleak times as well, graphically illustrated by the beachcombers during the Depression on p.115, and the three-dimensional social commentary by sand sculptor John Suchomlin.

Inevitably, a book of this type is somewhat episodic in its content. This is not a fault of the author, as it is intended for the casual reader – local resident or visitor – and not as a comprehensive historical analysis. For those readers who wish to explore these aspects in more depth, Virginia provides a useful bibliography. For those wanting to know more about the Quarantine Station, I would mention there is also a detailed history by (Lady) Jean Foley, *In Quarantine*, (Kangaroo Press, 1995).

Within the constraints imposed by the format, Virginia Macleod has written an engaging and accessible text, based on careful research by herself and others, whose contribution she has graciously acknowledged.

Another book about the peninsular written by a PHA member was published in the last twelve months, but this time concentrating on a single beach, Harbord or Freshwater as it is popularly known.

Pauline Curby, *Freshie. Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club – 100 Year History*, University of New South Wales Press, November 2007, 280pp, illus., index, P/B. \$65.00.

This is a sumptuous glossy large-format book published to celebrate the (probable) centenary in 2008 of one of Australia's oldest volunteer surf clubs.

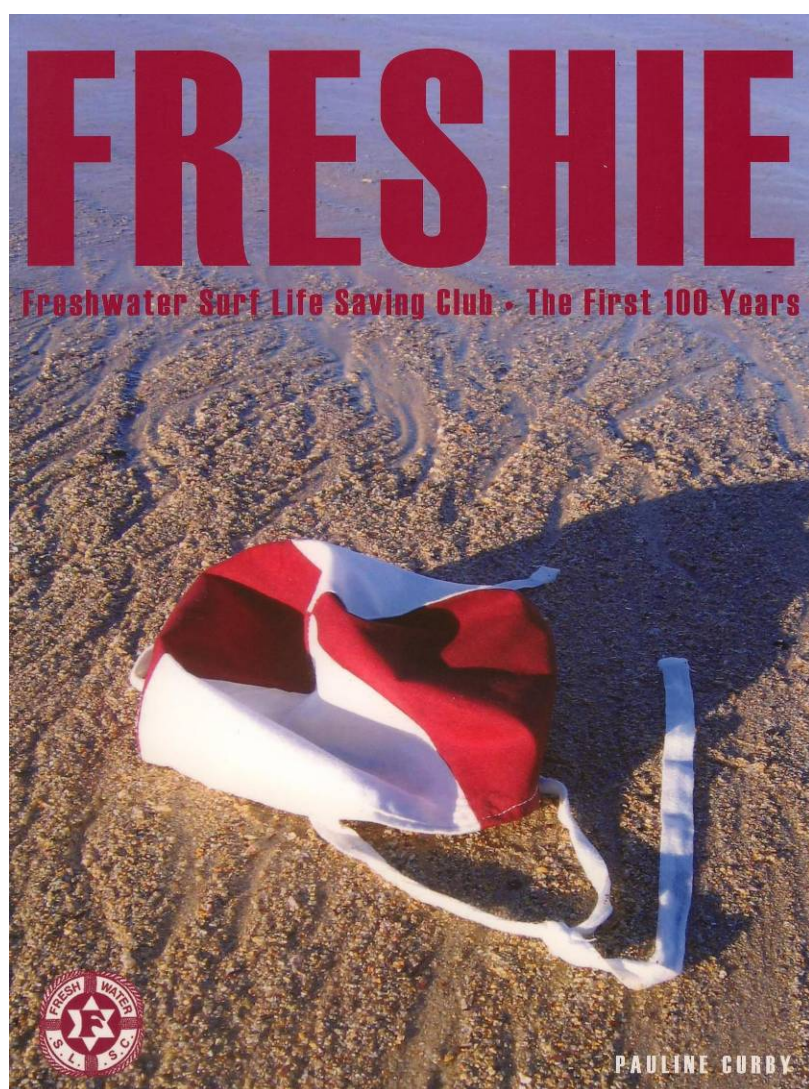
Pauline Curby has taken care to place Freshwater in the broader context of the development of sea-bathing and surfing in Australia from the nineteenth century. In doing so she has demolished some widely-held myths about the restrictions imposed by wowsers and timid local government, although it is true that as early as 1838 swimming was prohibited in Sydney Cove because it was considered a "gross violation of decency". Like Virginia Macleod in the book described above, Pauline also writes about a Duke – in this case the legendary Hawaiian Olympic champion Duke Kahanamoku who

introduced surfboard riding to Australia. His surfboard is a sacred relic displayed at the FSLSC clubhouse.

From the early twentieth century "Freshie" became a favourite beach for working class men (initially) from all over Sydney. Partly this was due to the excellent surf, but also because it was not frequented by the fashionable hordes who visited Manly by tram or ferry. Surfing was traditionally a masculine recreation, and for much of their existence surf clubs only tolerated women in supporting roles. Pauline Curby writes eloquently about the eventually successful efforts of the "petticoat lifesavers" to flatten this macho barrier.

This book is a model of how the history of a sporting organisation should be written. It is not merely a celebration of brave,

selfless citizens, as they may have preferred to describe themselves. Doubtless there were some raised eyebrows when club officials read the draft manuscript revealing some of their less noble moments, but to their credit they allowed the publication to proceed unexpurgated. Pauline has managed the conflicts adroitly, while her confident style and careful scholarship ensure that readers remain involved throughout. Taken overall, the book remains a tribute to a club that is justifiably proud of its traditions and its achievements.



Plentiful black and white and colour illustrations support the text vividly, in an attractive layout designed by Di Quick. It can be enjoyed as a coffee table book to browse through in leisure moments, or as a serious piece of social history. Inevitably such a lavish presentation results in a rather high retail price which may deter the younger generation, although every respectable municipal public library - and every surf club - should have at least one copy.

Appendixes include extensive club membership lists, always a good marketing strategy to bolster sales amongst those who like to see their names in print. The book is comprehensively referenced and indexed, which helps to ensure its value for other researchers.

One surprising omission is that there is no map to locate Freshwater along Sydney's coastline. Readers unfamiliar with the northern beaches will be reaching for their street directories or GPS to place Freshwater into some spatial context.

It is pleasing to note that both these authors have donated a copy of their books to the PHA collection which is displayed at history conferences and similar events, as a showcase of the range of publications written by PHA members. There are now about fifty books in the display collection; make sure that your work is included.

PETER J. TYLER

REVIEW: Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera

**December 2008 to February 2009
State Library of New South Wales**

Summer in Sydney, this time around, has actually been hot. Temperatures in the high 30s and 40s seem to be every other day. It's almost too hot for the beach. But if you *were* going to go to the beach in Sydney, Bondi would be the beach to head for. It's a playground as much as a swimming spot. And if you think this is a recent phenomenon, then a trip to the galleries at the State Library is in order.

The current exhibition, *Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera*, showcases Bondi in the closing years of the 1930s and first years of the 1940s, illuminated in the beautiful and extraordinary photographs of George Caddy. Caddy, a local photographer and keen jitterbug dancer (hence the show's name), photographed his friends and colleagues down at the beach. Clad in (mainly) modern swimsuits, they posed for the camera in all manner of positions from pyramids to handstands atop flag poles, tumbles, lifts, leaps and balancing acts that defy the imagination. Collectively these displays were known as 'beachobatics', a mix of acrobatic and gymnastic display by local gym users on the sands of Bondi.



The State Library jumps to the jitterbug at the opening of Bondi Jitterbug. (photos: Mark Dunn)

The collection only recently came to light, left in a shoebox in Caddy's son's garage and rediscovered in the late 1990s. Shown to the Mitchell Library photograph curator Alan Davis, the clarity and intensity of the shots piqued his interest. Why hadn't he heard of Caddy before? And so, the story of George Caddy, and 'beachobatics', was slowly pieced together.

Not only did Caddy capture the acrobats, but he also had a keen eye for the other aspects of Bondi culture that made the place iconic; marching life guards, the young and fit sunbathers, lounging bystanders, even himself and partners dancing the jitterbug on the boardwalk, a portable gramophone providing the tune. While much of Caddy's work is concentrated on and around the beach, he was a fine photographer of the city as well. Some of the highlight images for me were his street scenes captured around Sydney. A man waits for a tram, two women come down the stairs to the station, workers jack-hammer the footpath. To break it all up, old newsreels featuring life on the beach and jitterbug dancers in the clubs of pre-war Sydney play throughout the exhibition.

Many of Caddy's images are the types of photos of Sydney we have come to expect from Dupain or Cazanaux, so to see the same through another's eyes, a virtual unknown, is like a fresh view of a familiar scene. He has all the classic poses and the framing, but with an unexpected playfulness that makes you feel like giving the whole thing a go yourself (although unless you're a contortionist it's not recommended).

Only 300 of Caddy's negatives were found, but the accomplished nature of the shots, the composition and the technical difficulty of some of the beach images suggest a photographer who had many years of experience behind him. What became of the rest? And what became of George, as he photographed and danced up to the war and then, seemingly, never did either again.



The collection of George Caddy is as fun as a good day at the beach. And with the air conditioning at the library working well, it makes for a very nice distraction from the heat outside. **MARK DUNN**

George Caddy, 5 November 1939 (a2391037)

Max Stewart hand-balances off Alf Stanbrough's posterior, while Wal Balmus is in a reverse hand-to-hand balance. Bearer Alf Stanbrough is in the jackknife position, which places great strain on his triceps. A professional equilibrist, Wal Balmus also ran a body-building and fitness school in Sydney and Alf Stanbrough was one of his prize pupils, used in the school's publicity, because of his age. At this time, Wal was 47 and Alf was 56 years old.

REVIEW: *Old Register One to Nine DVD: The Registers of Assignments and Other Legal Instruments*

Indexed by Lois Sabine, NSW Dept of Lands and State Records of NSW, Sydney, 2008, (\$125 available from Dept of Lands and State Records of NSW)

This publication represents the raw material of history rather than its final product. Its value will be seen in the uses made of it and works published on the basis of its data. Experienced historical and genealogical researchers who use the Lands Department (formerly the Land Titles Office) have long known of the 'Old Registers' that record legal transactions from 1802 to 1824. Compilation commenced in 1800 but surviving Registers date from 1802 onwards, though some transactions from before 1802 were included. Though mainly focused on recording land transactions, these Registers also recorded an assortment of other legal assignments and transactions such as shipping whaling and sealing agreements, assignments of personal property, bonds, marriage settlements or separations, wills, mortgages of crops, sales of livestock or goods and a host of other agreements.

Initially, Register entries consisted of very brief summaries of transactions such as 'A sold B a house' or maybe 'A sold B a house on the Rocks'. Later, partly due to legal changes, more details were provided including fuller details of the property, the identity of the parties, any payment or important clauses. By the 1820s, it is possible to find near-complete transcripts of deeds in the Registers.

The index to the Registers held at the Lands Department was compiled in 1856 omitting all transactions that did not involve land. In addition, in keeping with the established practice of the Registrar-General at that time, they were only indexed by the 'Vendor', i.e. the party selling or disposing of the property. A major problem with the Index was the lack of information about the property being transferred, though over the years, many searchers have pencilled in annotations such as '40 a Bankstown' on the Index entries. There was no index to the 'Purchaser' who received title to the assets or property transferred.

The Old Registers themselves were held in safe custody rather than on open access like Old System deeds, whilst the Index was shelved in a remote corner of the Deeds Basement at the Lands Department in Prince Alfred Street. The Registers are complex to use for those with little or no knowledge of legal forms and transactions. They have never been highlighted in any historical publication, though works of enduring value have used them such as Brian Fletcher's *Landed Enterprise and Penal Society* and D R Hainsworth's *Sydney Traders*, which relied upon copies held at the Mitchell Library.

Now the anonymity of these Registers to the historical and genealogical professions is set to change. The issue of this DVD makes the nine Registers freely available, coupled with new Indexes compiled by Lois Sabine. The complete text of all nine Registers is included on this DVD in PDF format making them accessible to researchers on both PC and Macintosh operating systems as well as for those using older computers. The new Indexes include more complete indexes of the 'Vendors' as a 'FROM' Index including all non-land transactions plus a totally new Index to 'Purchasers' as a 'TO' Index. Since the new Index also includes a brief description of the property or transaction as well as a date, it simplifies research enormously. No longer when searching land held at some stage by some prosperous merchant like Samuel Terry or Robert Campbell are we obliged to look at numerous irrelevant entries.

Firstly, let's look at what the DVD does not do. There is no index to place but this continues the standard practice of the Lands Department, not to provide place-based indexes. Anyone presently wanting to do place based or site based research in the Registers must proceed by using the names of owners. Data must be sought from other sources before research can commence. The option of using the charting maps of the Lands Department will often not be possible for research using this DVD. Usually in Lands Department research if all else fails, in place-based research one can simply proceed forward from the grant from the Crown. In this case, this fallback position will not always be possible since many transactions in these Registers date from before the issue of the Crown grant. However, the availability of the TO Index gives an alternative avenue of research. Experienced researchers will know that researching backwards at the Lands Department is often as useful as researching forwards.

Now, what does the DVD give researchers? First and foremost, it includes both the FROM and TO Indexes, which make it possible to locate transactions by the names of the parties involved. Because all transactions are now indexed, the DVD provides much wider and easier access to a range of commercial and legal dealings that extend well beyond land. With both indexes available it is simpler to link up transactions regarding a single parcel of land. They even include transactions involving Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). We can now chart the activity of individuals, the prominent and the obscure as well as the ups and downs of different types of business activity, and the landscapes of personal relationships with greater confidence and detail. For example, we can see how Samuel Larkin acquired so many parcels of land in Parramatta that he was singled out as a land engrosser when the Governor reported on the process of ascertaining rights to grants in the 1820s and 1830s. The indexes include useful cross-references. When obscure legal or archaic terms are used, they are often explained in the Index entry. An Introduction to the DVD outlines how they are set out and some tips on how to use them as well as explaining the organisation of the Registers themselves.

Once relevant register entries have been identified, you simply go to scanned images of the relevant register pages to find the entries. Not only is the actual entry there for the user but so are all the Lands Department notations such as Real Property Application or Deposited Deed Packet numbers relating to individual parcels of land.

Who will use this publication? Family historians will be delighted by the name-based indexes, whilst local historians will gain access to data about the development of places, as will heritage historians researching site histories. A whole range of historians will benefit from the access these DVDs provide to the Registers giving data about rural development, commercial dealings, personal affairs and shipping. Of course, all these enhancements are available if you choose to use the DVD at State Records or the hard copy printout of the Indexes that Lands will make available at its Queens Square office.

However, the high cost of these DVDs will limit the market to those who have a genuine need or will use them heavily. Nevertheless, they should be in every library and historical society in the County of Cumberland (since the Registers largely centre on this area) as well as family history society collections. The Department of Lands and State Records of NSW are to be congratulated in making these vital sources so widely available.

TERRY KASS

Consulting Historian

REPORT: PHA visit to the National Archives of Australia

On Wednesday 19 November 2008 members of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW) enjoyed a visit to the National Archives of Australia (NAA) at Chester Hill. The visit was hosted by Fiona Burn, Assistant Director, Access and Communication in the Sydney office. Fiona spoke about how to use RecordSearch effectively to find records relating to your research interests and records relating to specific names, and several key series: Commonwealth building and land records, and post office records.

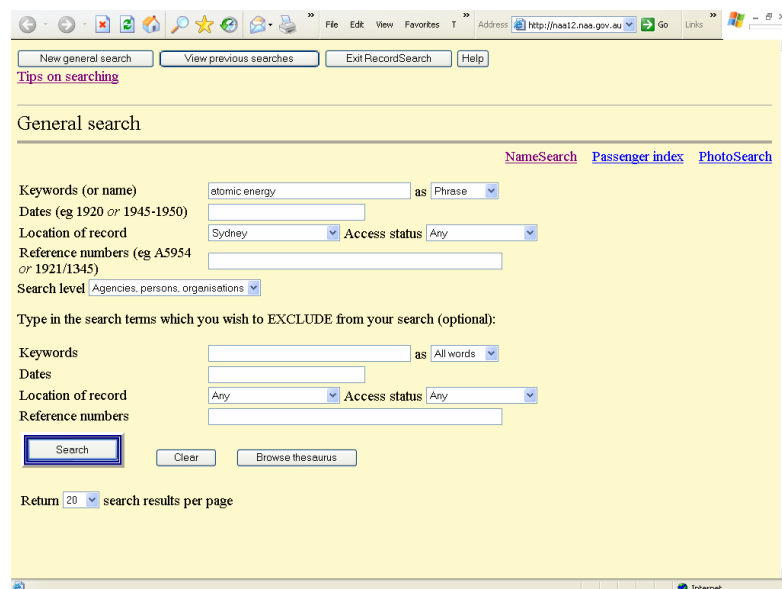
editors note: Fiona provided an informative tutorial on how to use RecordSearch, which Janette has included for our information. For PHA members already au fait with this powerful archives catalogue, skip down the article to the series descriptions.

RecordSearch (<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch/>)

RecordSearch is comprehensive in describing Commonwealth agencies and Commonwealth series, although it is not comprehensive for individual files. There are 6 million items in RecordSearch but about 50 million in the NAA's collection. The most popular series for research are included in RecordSearch but you may not get an item listing for a series.

The item level database was originally created to record access decisions. The former RINSE (Angam Part 1) and the Part 2 database recording access decisions on items were combined as RecordSearch. RecordSearch is the starting point for research. There are still a lot of paper lists but RecordSearch is being added to on a daily basis at item level.

Shown below is the **General search screen** in RecordSearch. The *keywords (or name)* field allows you to search as 'All words', 'Any words' or 'Phrase'. *Location of record* allows you to limit the search to a particular repository: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, etc. *Access status* allows you to specify if you only



want records which are 'Open', 'Open with exception', 'Closed', or 'Not yet examined'. The *Reference numbers* This can be used to specify an agency, person, organisation, series or item (eg. C3943 or CA 278). Hint: Read the Tips on Searching. At the bottom of the screen Reference numbers can be used to exclude one or more series (eg. B2455, B883).

Search level allows you to search 'Items', 'Series', 'Agencies, persons, organisations', 'All until a

match is found', 'All', or 'Use preferences'.

As in the screen on the left, you might search for 'atomic energy'. RecordSearch will search note fields as well as titles. Thus it will locate the phrase 'atomic energy' within an agency note, for example. The series note gives detail of what is documented in a series. The agency note (eg. CA 278) gives that

agency's administrative history – how it was established and what its functions were. If you click on 'Function' in the agency result screen you may find other agencies which have also had that function. If you click on 'Find series recorded by this agency' the result is record series which were created by that agency. The controlling agency is the current agency which controls records in the NAA. This relates to the transfer of custody only to the NAA – there is no transfer of ownership when records are transferred to the NAA.

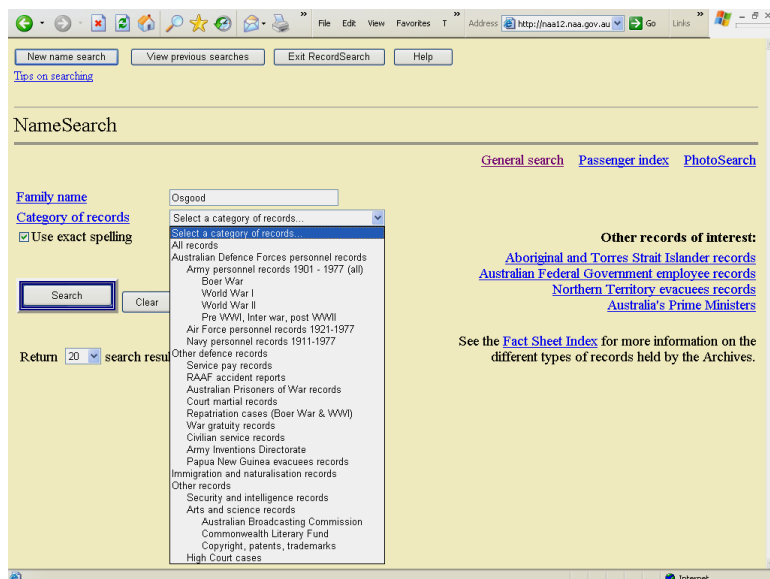
Note that the contents dates of a series can be different to the accumulation dates. For example C2377, Commission notes is an example of a series where top-numbered files were put into a new system. Thus accumulation date and contents date are different.

The series also shows the Quantity and Location (eg. 0.72 metres held in NSW). "A" series are registered in Canberra, "B" series are registered in Melbourne and "C" series are registered in Sydney. Under the older accession system "MP" series stands for "Melbourne Permanent" series and "SP" stands for "Sydney Permanent" series. Series with prefixes like MP, SP and CP will have a slash and a number (eg SP16/4) and the number after the slash will denote a different series. The more recent consignment system (eg. A561) uses the slash and number to denote a different consignment of the same series so A561/1 means Consignment 1 of A561 and A561/2 means Consignment 2 of A561 and so on. When searching in RecordSearch it is thus only necessary to search for A561 without the number after the slash but if it is a SP number, for example, you will need both of the numbers before and after the slash to identify the specific series. You can also search by the series number and the item/control no. if it is unique. (As yet it is not possible to search by the barcode on the box or item.)

Currently there are 185 linear kilometres of storage at Chester Hill. Some records from other states are held at Chester Hill, including some from Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane. Some series in RecordSearch show no quantity in metres held at all because they were registered as part of a survey of records from a government department which have not yet been transferred.

Melbourne has records relating to all of Australia because many Head Offices of Departments were based in Melbourne before they transferred to Canberra. Items from a series may not be listed on RecordSearch if no one has made an access application for items from that specific series. The items may be physically held of course but will not yet have been looked at by any researcher.

Access clearance is done either by examining individual files or undertaking a risk analysis appraisal of some of the series, such as by sampling 5% of the series and then opening the whole series. Items then go onto RecordSearch as they are cleared. Also series with a wide potential for research will be targeted for access clearance rather than those with limited potential. An example of such targeting is series with genealogical or 'personal details verification' potential. The most heavily used of these are the World War I and World War II service records plus immigration records. Other priorities are preservation-based. The NAA has audiovisual records stored at Chester Hill. Three copies are made and the items for these are listed on RecordSearch. Note that it takes ninety days for access clearance of material.



NameSearch, released in April 2007 allows you to specify the category of records without having to know which series to search. It identifies series which include names of individuals. The specific series are linked to categories in the drop down box (shown above). Thus you can search for a 'name' and the category 'security and intelligence records' or just choose 'World War II' records. It will find the same information as is available in RecordSearch.

It is still possible to use RecordSearch to find names. You might try both 'Frank Smith' and 'Smith Frank'. One benefit of using RecordSearch is that you can exclude a specific series, or several series, using the Reference numbers field (eg. B2455 to exclude WWI Service dossiers). You do need to know the series number to exclude it. You can also use the option to exclude something like 'HMAS' from a search for Penrith when you only want to find the place, not the ship! You can also limit your search by the 'Location of records', that is where the NAA physically holds them. Remember that the Australian War Memorial (AWM) holds official records which are subject to the Archives Act which are Commonwealth records. These will be listed in RecordSearch, although private donations will not.

Commonwealth Buildings and Land Records

The NAA holds many records relating to Commonwealth buildings and land records; the earliest date from the 1860s. These are records taken over by the Commonwealth from the Colony of New South Wales. The coloured architectural drawings in the series Drawings of Post Offices, Customs Houses, Army and Navy establishments, and Government House (SP821/1) date from 1861 to 1954. About ninety per cent of these drawings are of post offices, but there are also some defence and naval establishments and customs houses up to the 1920s. Later series of plans and drawings date right up to 1978. Two series of specifications for construction and alterations for Commonwealth buildings are listed on RecordSearch. The series are Specifications (SP155/1) 1881-1950 (most are from 1901 onwards) and Specifications (SP277/1) 1947-1953. There are a number of series of correspondence re buildings which are listed on RecordSearch (especially Property files). Try the follow series listed on RecordSearch: SP16/4, SP126/1, SP615/1, SP351/1 and SP1450/1. You can usually search in RecordSearch by place names. The item list may not specify the name of the building. Other series which are not all listed at item level on RecordSearch are: SP16/5, SP16/7, SP273/1 and SP572/1. Also SP857/1 to /14, Property and Survey Records (eg. Army, Navy, Post Offices, War Worker Housing, etc.) may be of interest for many properties. An example is Weerona Station which was taken over by military authorities.

Defence

The NAA holds many records relating to defence in your local area. These include: SP459/1 Army HQ Eastern Command Correspondence; Navy Correspondence; Coastal fortification records from the 1870s (includes plans and drawings for Sydney, Port Kembla and Newcastle); Land Settlement

Records; Defence Service Homes Plans of Houses and building blocks. Series include Correspondence 1912-1964 (SP459/1) and General correspondence files, multiple number series 1871-1965 (SP1008/1). An example of a World War II file is one relating to Berrima Gaol and its unsuitability for use as a detention barracks. There is even a booklet on the history of Berrima Gaol in the file.

The series SP1008/1 General correspondence files, multiple number series 1871-1965 includes details of rifle ranges. They include plans of areas required and often include photographs. Files may include permissive occupancy granted by the NSW Department of Lands giving permission for a rifle range, for example at Wollongong, and they include copies of the plans referred to. Files also mention 'drill halls' and 'drill grounds'. They may include requests from the local community to use the hall or by farmers to graze their cattle on the rifle range. Post World War II land records are general assessments though sometimes there are post World War II files that name individuals where land is required for Commonwealth Government purposes (eg CSIRO).

There are two main series of land settlement correspondence files. The War Service Land Settlement Division's files (SP777/2) were created by the Head Office in Sydney from 1945-1952 (S prefix) and then the office moved to Canberra (LS prefix) from 1952-1961. The files cover the review of the land, inspection surveys, purchase and acquisition of land for servicemen and agricultural information. Files in SP777/1, from 1947 to 1961, have now been titled by name of estate, eg. Flowerdale Estate Temora (Control Symbol LS979). Most of these files included folded plans, eg. the file for Wambrook Estate includes a plan detailing its suitability. There are also separate series (C2311 and SP205/5) created by the War Service Homes Commission of plans of war service home designs and plans of the area chosen on which to build them.

Post Office Records

Among a wealth of post office records held by the NAA are Post Office files, Personnel records, Personality files and photographs. The NAA holds thousands of photographs, mostly as negatives. Personnel records include Registers of postmasters (eg. C2919). Personality files relate to people who worked for the Post Office and became famous later. The Post Office created files and sent questionnaires to previous employees. They are a great source for postal history.

The Post Office files (SP32/1) were created from 1860 to 1920 but include information covering the mid 1800s to c1920. They include petitions for establishing post offices and for improved services. The petitions include the distance from the nearest post office. Most date from the 1860s but some relate to the 1830s. Usually the petition is the first item on the file. All the Post Office files are listed in RecordSearch by name of post office. These post office files have been flattened by Conservation in preparation for digitisation. Files up to 'Gh' have already been digitised though work on later files has been suspended at present. It is possible to request and pay for a digital copy. The file on Junee Post Office includes a petition dated 1878 for money order services. Also on the file will be information on who held the position of postmaster or postmistress. There are separate series for non-official post offices. For example SP520/1, Correspondence (Post Offices closed) (Non-official (Allowance)) 1913-1960 shows that the Gerogery Post Office was a non-official one. It was run by a local school teacher.

The Post Office History files alphabetical series (C3629) were created by the Public Relations section of the Post Master General. The section looked for newspaper clippings and often took original papers from separate recordkeeping systems or even extracted Personal history cards. All these items were formed into an artificial series which was transferred to the NAA in the 1990s. The Post Office cards

show who held the positions at post offices, eg. the card for Lane Cove can be found on the Post Office History file but there is also a separate series of these cards (eg. C3943). Files may also include petitions for the installation of a public telephone at the Post Office residence. There are also files about mail contracts and deliveries. Mail contract registers date from the 1860s and mail contract files and cards date from the early 1900s. These series may include notices on mail routes which were published in the *NSW Government Gazette*.

World War II Press Censorship

Publicity Censorship files (SP106/1) for published material include country regional newspapers submitting information from post offices. For example they would submit a list of local lads who had joined up but they were not permitted to mention their names. All these files are listed on RecordSearch by name of newspaper.

Aliens and Internees

Alien registration forms relating to aliens and internees in World War I and World War II are not arranged geographically. Aliens were non-naturalised non-British persons. World War I alien registration forms are arranged by nationality and by surname. World War II alien registration forms are in three series. The first (SP11/2) is by nationality then by surname and is for those who did not later get naturalised. The other two series (SP11/3 and SP11/5) are for those who later became naturalised (SP11/5) or died or left the Commonwealth (SP11/3) and are arranged by surname.

In NSW the World War II security dossiers (C123) consisting of about 15,000 files dated between 1940 and 1945 are all listed in RecordSearch. Index cards were created by name (C125), nationality (C126) and location (C127) so it is possible to look up the town of Orange and find names from that area.

The visit ended with our thanks to our host, Fiona Burn, and much discussion over a fine afternoon tea provided by Christine Cheater.

JANETTE PELOSI

What's On February/March 2009

by Christine de Matos

Exhibitions

'David Mist: Swinging Sydney'. Until 8 February 2009. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera'. Until 22 February 2009. **Venue:** Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW.

'Wollongong City Gallery 30th Anniversary Exhibition'. Until 15 March 2009. **Venue:** Wollongong City Gallery.

'Rebellion: "the ever memorable 26 January 1808"'. Until July 2009. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'Journey to a New Life - Italian Migration in NSW'. Until 31 July 2009. **Venue:** Powerhouse Discovery Centre.

'Citizen soldiers: The New South Wales Volunteer Rifles, 1854-85'. Until September 2009. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'Irish Orphan Girls'. Until 30 October 2010. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

February Events

Every Wed **Walk.** 'Sydney Architectural Walk'. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.

Every Sat **Walk.** 'Sydney Architectural Walk'-Utzon. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.

8-13 **Conference.** 'Evolution-The experience'. The impact of Darwin and Darwin's ideas on society. Melbourne Convention Centre. Enquiries: <http://evolution09.com.au/index.php>.

10 **Walking tour.** 'Digging up Sydney!'. RAHS. **Meeting venue:** History House, Macquarie St **Time:** 5.45-7.45pm **Cost:** \$20, mems \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.

13-14 **Conference.** 'Legacies 09' Public Memory conference, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba. **Enquiries:** Dr Brian Musgrove, ph: (07) 46 311043; email: musgrove@usq.edu.au OR Dr Lara Lamb, ph: (07) 46 311069; email: lamb@usq.edu.au

18 **Tour.** 'Art treasures of Parliament House'. HHT. **Venue:** NSW Parliament House **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$39, mems \$29 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.

- 19 **Workshop.** *"Grant us this day..."*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House, Macquarie St **Time:** 10am-3pm **Cost:** \$11, \$6 mems and affiliates **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.
- 20 **Lecture.** *'Soldiering in the Age of Macarthur and Macquarie: A day in the life'*. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth Farm **Time:** 7.30-9.30pm **Cost:** \$39, mems \$29 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 19-21 **Conference.** *'The Pacific Connection: Trade, Travel and Technology Transfer Conference'*, University of Melbourne. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/conferences/conferences-zero-nine/the-pacific-connection.html>.
- 22 **Lecture.** *'Men of science series: Darwin'*. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth Bay House **Time:** 3-5.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: 02 8239 2211.
- 24 **Lecture.** *'Technologies of Play: Surf boards and skate boards in the United States'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House, Macquarie St **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.
- 25 **Lunchtime talk.** *'Historic Houses and Gardens in England'*. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 1-2pm **Cost:** Free with museum entry **RSVP essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 27 **Workshop.** *'Sydney Historical Archaeology Professional Workshop'*. **Venue:** Hall of St Stephen's Anglican Church on Church Street, Newtown **Cost:** \$50, \$35 students, pens and unwaged **Enquiries:** email: krissy@australarchaeology.com.au or pamela@australarchaeology.com.au.
- 27 **Lecture.** *'Early Christian and Contemporary Greek Ideas of Unity and Disunity'*, Greg Stanton, University of New England Classics and History Lecture Series. **Venue:** UNE A3 Lecture Theatre in the Arts Building **Time:** 9.15am **Enquiries:** Shirley Rickard, ph: (02) 67733062; email: srickard@une.edu.au, or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email: drobert9@une.edu.au.

March Events

- Every Wed** **Walk.** *'Sydney Architectural Walk'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.
- Every Sat** **Walk.** *'Sydney Architectural Walk'—Utzon*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.
- 4 **Lecture.** *'Who remembers the Humber car?'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.
- 7 **Cruise tour.** *'Environment vs development on Sydney Harbour'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Commissioner's steps, Circular Quay **Time:** 10am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$59, mems \$49 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 8 **Walking tour.** *'Glebe part two: The Toxteth Estate'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 10am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$39, mems \$29 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.

- 13** **Lecture.** *'The Earliest Christian World Chronicle? A new Leipzig papyrus'*, Alexander Weiss, University of New England Classics and History Lecture Series. **Venue:** UNE A3 Lecture Theatre in the Arts Building **Time:** 9.15am **Enquiries:** Shirley Rickard, ph: (02) 67733062; email: srickard@une.edu.au, or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email:drobert9@une.edu.au.
- 25** **Lecture.** *'Augustus Alt: Soldier, Engineer, Surveyor and Isopsephist'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House, Macquarie St **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$7 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.
- 27** **Lecture.** *'The Royal Easter Show: from Parramatta to Homebush, the glories of the agricultural displays'*. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth Farm **Time:** 7.30-9.30pm **Cost:** \$39, mems \$29 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 27** **Lecture.** *'"Mind-forg'd Manacles": the mechanics of control inside late-nineteenth century Tasmanian charitable institutions'*, Andrew Piper, University of New England Classics and History Lecture Series. **Venue:** UNE A3 Lecture Theatre in the Arts Building **Time:** 9.15am **Enquiries:** Shirley Rickard, ph: (02) 67733062; email: srickard@une.edu.au, or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email:drobert9@une.edu.au.

Upcoming Conferences

'Local histories, global heritage, local heritage, global histories: Colonialism, history and the making of heritage', 16-17 May 2009, German Historical Institute London. **Enquiries:** email: Indra Sengupta, isengupta@ghil.ac.uk.

'Museums Australia National Conference 2009', 17-20 May 2009, Newcastle NSW. **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 4973 6573; email: ma2009@willorganise.com.au

'The Eleventh National Labour History Conference', 8-10 July 2009, Perth. **Enquiries:** email: bobbie.oliver@curtin.edu.au; web: <http://www/asslh.org.au/perth>.

'Work, Globalisation and Democracy', 9-10 July 2009, University of Wollongong. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.geocities.com/peaconference/>

'Ireland and the Irish Antipodes: One World or Worlds Apart', 9-12 July 2009, New Zealand. **Enquiries:** email: brad.patterson@vuw.ac.nz.

'Cultures of Violence and Conflict The Second Conference of the International Society for Cultural History', 20-23 July 2009, University of Queensland. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.arts.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=82751>.

'The Talk about Town: Urban Lives and Oral Sources in 20th Century Australia', 27-28 August 2009, State Library of Victoria and Melbourne Museum. **Enquiries:** web: <http://arts.monash.edu.au/public-history-institute/conferences/2009-talkabout/index.php>

'ACHS Conference: 'Catholics in Australian Public Life since 1788', 12 September 2009, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/>

Call for Papers

'XVIIIth Biennial Conference of the Australasian Association of European Historians (AAEH): Europe's Expansions and Contractions', 6-9 July 2009, Flinders University. Enquiries: web:

<http://www.theaaeh.org/>

'21st International Congress of Historical Sciences' (CISH/ICHS), 22-28 August 2010, Amsterdam.

Proposals due **1 February 2009**. Enquiries: web: <http://www.ichs2010.org/>.

'Constructing the Past: AHA Regional Conference', 30 June-3 July 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast. Abstracts of 200 words plus short bio due **6 February 2009**. Enquiries: web:

<http://www.theaha.org.au/conference%202009/flyer.pdf>

'Network for Research in Women's History Conference: The Girl in History', 1 July 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast. Abstracts due **6 February 2009**. Enquiries: ph: (07) 3346 7410; email:

m.bellanta@ug.edu.au.

'Independence and Decolonization', 15-17 April 2010, The Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Abstracts of 2-500 words plus one page CV due by **1 March 2009**.

Enquiries: Professor Susan Deans-Smith, email: sdsmith@mail.utexas.edu.

'Social Democratic Parties and Business: An Historical Analysis', Business and Labour History Group, 28 September 2009, University of Sydney. Abstracts of 300 words due by **17 April 2009**. Enquiries:

email: g.gallop@econ.usyd.edu.au or g.patmore@econ.usyd.edu.au.

'2009 Melbourne Conference on China 60 Years of the People's Republic—Transformations and Challenges', 13-14 July 2009, University of Melbourne. Abstracts due by **17 April 2009**. Enquiries:

email: Conference-on-China@unimelb.edu.au.

'Health and Medicine at the Frontier: Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Biennial Conference', 28 September-2 October 2009, Perth. Abstracts of 150 words plus 50 word bio due **30 April 2009**. Enquiries: email:

L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au or crienafz@inet.net.au.

'Centre and Periphery: New Zealand Historical Association Conference', 27-29 November 2009, Massey University, New Zealand. Abstracts of 250 words due by **30 June 2009**. Enquiries: Dr

Christopher van der Krogt, email: C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz.

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to cdm@uow.edu.au.

Note: 'What's On' on the web temporarily unavailable due to new ACPHA site.

PHA (NSW) Directory 2008-09

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Email: secretary@phansw.org.au

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Publications

Phanfare phanfare@phansw.org.au

Editorial Collectives: See list at front of *Phanfare*

Other PHA publications: Ruth Banfield

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Publications

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