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Suburban Blues
by Pauline Curby

**MAGAZINE OF THE
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(NSW) INC**

Phanfare



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Feb, Jun, Oct: Bruce Baskerville, Alison Comrie, Nicole Secomb, Anna Wong

Mar, Jul, Nov: Beverley Johnson, Terry Kass, Carol Liston

Apr, Aug, Dec: Christine Cheater, Grace Karskens, Tony Prescott

May, Sep: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack

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Exclusive – Report from the PHA's Bathurst Correspondent

I have been asked by the editors to act as Phanfare's "Regional Correspondent" for the Bathurst area and to provide from time to time a report on local developments of possible interest to readers. I am happy to do so but I must apologise for this report, my first, as its content will not go much beyond matters of personal interest. I have just returned to Bathurst from a trip overseas and I have yet to catch up on local history news.

Fancy a couple of weeks in a restored 17th century Franciscan monastery in a remote and stunningly beautiful mountain valley in the Abruzzi region of Italy? Read on for details.

I will begin with a very personal news item and report that I have taken early retirement from Charles Sturt University. With my departure, the teaching of history has ceased on that campus, at least in terms of face to face teaching of traditional history subjects. Students there may still take history subjects from Wagga via distance education and subjects in some other discipline areas contain significant history content. However, the classroom teaching of mainstream history subjects is no more. History had been taught on that campus for perhaps 50 years or more, since the days of the Bathurst Teachers College. I am sorry, in particular, to see the demise of the applied and public history subjects as they contributed much to both the students involved and the local community. Also for the chop was the Graduate Diploma and Masters in Cultural Heritage Studies, with the last of the students graduating in May 2003. But, my friends, that's the way of things on many campuses now. As with "Australian intelligence services" or "truthful Australian Prime Minister", the "Australian University" is in danger of becoming an oxymoron. However, I am not overly sorry to have left. No one on their deathbed has been known to say, "I wish I had marked more undergraduate essays."

So what will it cost to spend two weeks in the monastery with scrumptious Italian cuisine cooked with herbs and vegetables freshly picked from the monastery garden - and no one counting the wine bottles on the table? Read on for details.

In April, just before I left, Bathurst held its annual Autumn Heritage Festival. This is a wonderful example of a community-initiated effort to explore the local area's cultural heritage with tours and exhibitions organised by local experts, including the odd professional historian. For me, one of the highlights was the visit to the grave of Windradyne on the Brucedale property arranged by local Wiradjuri elders and the Suttor family. Other activities of a historical nature included "Life in the 1940s House" at the Chifley house museum, a tour of Bathurst's 1887 water supply pump house and tours of several of the district's historic homes specially opened for the festival. Next year, I may be allowed to conduct a walking tour exploring Bathurst's 19th century connections with republicanism. Negotiations are still under way with the staunchly monarchist organising committee, but I am optimistic.

My main project for the immediate future involves working with Bob Ellis on another play set in Bathurst. This production, tentatively entitled *Ben*, will be a one-man play about Ben Chifley. The play is set in Chifley's Bathurst home on a night in June 1951, a few days before his death. We expect to have the first draft of the script completed by the end of July and to have it on stage by mid-2004. Working with Bob is always interesting, not the least for his inexhaustible supply of stories about the private lives of the famous. Bob takes the "L" out of public history.

Finally, and this news I offer with no light-hearted commentary, I have to report that Theo Barker, Bathurst's much loved historian, is very ill. At the time of writing this report, he is out of hospital and staying with family. I do not wish to say more, as I am sure readers will understand.

I will attempt in my next report to give a broader commentary of what is happening in the Bathurst area, including perhaps a report on work by local groups on the Heritage Office's project to list heritage items in the Central West.

The cost for the two-week stay in Convento San Giorgio? A bargain at AUD\$800 for your room and board plus some local outings.

Legambiente, an Italian environmental organisation, manages the monastery. Our visit was organised by Conservation Volunteers Australia who take a small group annually for the two-week stay at San Giorgio.

There is, however, a non-negotiable requirement to your stay, a requirement that may involve a goat or, perhaps, a duck. No, just feeding them or, if you are really unlucky, mucking out their pens. You spend your mornings working on Legambiente projects, which may include, by way of example, walking track restoration or work on their permaculture farm. It's hard work but lunch and the siesta make up for it. For details visit the Conservation Volunteers Australia website (www.conservationvolunteers.com.au) and follow the links to their page on their overseas volunteer programme. They have similar arrangements with other overseas sites including, in 2003, an archaeological dig in North Africa and vegetation restoration work on Alcatraz, San Francisco. No matter where they send you, it beats marking essays or dealing with local councils.

Robin McLachlan

PHA Discussion Group at History House on 2 July - Place in History - Discussion Leader, Virginia Macleod

Background readings were sections from two books by Peter Read - *Returning to Nothing: The Meaning of Lost Places* (1996) and *Belonging: Australians Place and Aboriginal Ownership* (2000), both published by Cambridge University Press, Mark McKenna's, *Looking for Blackfellas' Point: An Australian History of Place* (UNSW Press, 2002) and Dennis Foley's, *Repossession of Our Spirit* (Aboriginal History Inc, 2001).

The glossary of the Australian State of the Environment Report 2001 <http://ea.gov.au/soe/2001/glossary.html> gives these definitions: *Place* - may be a landscape, seascape, feature, area, site, building or other work, group of buildings, or other works or landscapes, together with associated contents and surrounds; *Heritage place* - a site, area, regional building or other structure ... that has heritage value. The report also defined *Historic, Natural, Identified, Indicative* and *Registered* places.

Sense of place is difficult to quantify because it has fuzzy, subjective boundaries - it is elusive and its importance varies from person to person. It is tied up with beauty, mother love and belonging, giving it an intangible quality that makes it different depending on whether it's viewed from the perspective of an insider or an outsider. Memory, loss and the connections between people are also relevant. Heritage studies often don't take the significance of losing place into account but it is important for individuals' stories to be recorded, because these often make an impact on the bureaucrats who have had no contact with the region, when they read about it.

Read, on page 6 of *Returning to Nothing* writes 'place, in the end, is where human events take place.' The book started as an Australian Research Council-sponsored project into the ways in which Australians relate to and value country of significance to them. He set out to answer the question: how is it that Australians connect to the places where they live? In the 1930s white people felt that they couldn't talk about the land because only Aboriginals knew about the land - debates concerning who rightfully belongs and the conditions of that belonging still haunt contemporary Australia. Aboriginal land rights and the reconciliation movement have had an unintended consequence of unsettling non-Aboriginal certainties about moral and legal legitimacy.

Ken Gelder, www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive/Issue-September-2000/gelder.html found it 'interesting' that Read expresses the settler experience of 'place deprivation' in the way that one might describe Aboriginal dispossession: the first chapter discusses Mrs Johnson who hands her property to her son but Read 'misses the opportunity to read this woman's complaint in relation to the Oedipal struggle he is charting ... in his effort to return wholeheartedly to country (to Mother)'. But, Gelder points out, she has not lost her land - by leaving it to her son she ensured that family's inheritance of the land continues. Members of the group felt that Read might also have given more respect to the subjects if he had written the stories and then the theory, rather than inter-leaving them.

Mark Mackenna, on page 6, 'liked the title *Looking For Blackfellas' Point* because it described [his] personal search to discover more about the indigenous history of south-eastern New South Wales. It also seemed to [him] as useful a metaphor as any for describing Australia's current search for reconciliation - sharing a perspective and a sense of place, journeying towards a future meeting point where Australians might find a history that explains what they have become and why some now wish for reconciliation'. He applied a set of questions to a local place but they weren't lost in the minutiae.

We reminisced about places we had known and studied: Ryde residents in the 1990s mourned the loss of the semi-rural life they had known decades earlier. They had hoped for a railway, which was going to bring prosperity after World War I but it wasn't built until after World War II. In the 1920s Progressivism moved from being interested in the public good to being preoccupied with using psychology to examine people's emotions as a way to stop class-consciousness. Could it be that the current attachment to place is a similar construct? Ryde had a mix of city and rural workers in a semi-rural area that shared a sense of place. The more recent clash of place versus property values can sometimes be modified by heritage. In some areas market gardens have been heritage listed and alternate housing has been provided for the displaced workers - it is a question of the group dynamics, not just the individuals and it is also a question of creating appropriate memorials. A good example is Maya Lin's award-winning National Vietnam

Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC - <http://www.vietvet.org/thewall.htm> - honours all those who served and is one of the city's most visited sites.

Place had different meanings for six speakers who reflected on Sydney in 'Whose City?', a public talk arranged by the History Council of NSW: Dr Grace Karskens considered The Rocks; King Fong spoke about Chinatown in the 1940s; Sue Green found refuge in Sydney; Linda Nellor said that the lives of many Italian-Australians centred on the Appia Club and Sophia Catharios felt at home after finding the Greek statues in Hyde Park's Archibald Fountain. One of the most-fondly remembered places was the Trocadero <http://home.westserv.net.au/~fordhen/Troc.html> Sydney's now-demolished dance hall.

This discussion provided a stimulating forum, in which we considered books we might not otherwise have read, met fellow historians and had a lively discussion. Thanks to the organiser Pauline Curby and the discussion leader Virginia Macleod.

Diana Wyndham

Heritage Tourism

Development Plans will be commencing soon covering Heritage Tourism at www.heritagetourism.com.au The online publication will be including attractions, accommodation, natural, indigenous, tours, cultural, ecotourism covering the Shoalhaven region NSW with possible further development to include the entire South Coast and then NSW.

This new project aims to benefit operators, the local community and conserve heritage assets. Provide assessment of current heritage tourism facilities and their market readiness, improve regional coordination and communication and heritage tourism infrastructure in the region, promoting and enhancing Heritage Tourism as adding depth and variety to the visitor experience, establish a communication networking for heritage tourism and partnerships.

Also planned with this project, which Historian Cathy Dunn and South Coast Promotions are undertaking is to conduct information and education seminar on Heritage Tourism in the Shoalhaven attendees would be drawn from indigenous community, tourism and services operators, Government departments all levels, National Parks & Wildlife, PHA (Professional Historians Assoc NSW), local heritage community groups, bus/coach companies, TAFE Tourism students and others. And obtain Industry support both in Tourism and Heritage & tourism services operators including Eco- tourism and Cultural Tourism.

For more information contact Cathy Dunn Ph: 02 44554780 or email info@heritagetourism.com.au

What's On

Events

Friday 18 July

One-Day Workshop on Retailing History will be held at Macquarie University, there will be nine papers on Australian and European retailing history. Paper givers include Dick Geary (Nottingham) on Class and Consumption in the UK, 1820-1950; Bev Kingston (UNSW) on the Challenges of Writing Retailing History in Australia. On account of limited available space, anyone wishing to attend and participate in the discussions is asked to contact: John Perkins at either jperkins@hmn.mq.edu.au

Coming Soon

History Week (NSW) 31-21 September 2003

Talks and lectures, 'behind the scene tours', heritage trails, exhibitions, open houses and gardens, book sales and launches are all possible events for History Week, the annual statewide celebration of history presented by the History Council of NSW. Further details available on the History Council website - www.historycouncilnsw.org.au Tel 02-9385.1070 Email: office@historycouncilnsw.org.au

The Australian Historical Association Regional Conference at Mildura September 2003. *Feast by the Murray:* A History conference about Food & Wine, Rituak & Sociability Environment, Region & Community Romance, Life Stories in Cross-Cultural Contexts, Rural life & Farming in the Margins. Conference details at www.his.latrobe.edu.au

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October 2003: *Transforming Labour Work, Workers, Struggle and Change:* The College of Art Griffith University Southbank Brisbane. Labour History Conference PO Box 403, Nathan Queensland 4111. Phone: 07 3861 4498 Email: conf@labhist2003.com.au Web: www.gu.edu.au/school/mgt/lh2003

Call for Papers

The 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Historical Association

To be held in Newcastle from 5 - 9 July 2004. Day one will be taken up by the Heads of History Meeting, followed by three days of the conference proper, including keynote addresses, panel sessions, and other events. The theme of the conference is Visions.

Without wishing to exclude other contributions, papers, which address this theme, are encouraged. Some suggested sub-themes include: History and the making of the future - Technology in history - History teaching - Dreams and nightmares - Aspirations, hopes and fancies Emancipations - Public history - History, radio, television and film

We are keen to include papers from all cholarly areas, in addition to Australian History. Negotiations are roceeding for incorporating the meetings of the Religious History Society, the Australian Mining History Association, the Australian Society for ports History, the Australian Society of the History of Medicine, and the Australasian Association for the History Philosophy and Social Studies of Science.

The Conference is hosted by the School of Liberal Arts, University of Newcastle. With the departure of Martin Crotty for a new position, David Lemmings has taken over as Convenor. A formal call for papers will be issued in the new year, but in the meantime if you have suggestions for panels, please contact David via the e-mail address provided below. David Lemmings School of Liberal Arts University of Newcastle NSW 2308 Email:david.lemmings@newcastle.edu.au

Seventh Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference 2004 - *The 21st Century City: Past / Present / Future* - 11 to 14 February 2004. Deakin University Waterfront Campus Geelong Victoria

Call for abstracts of papers for the 7th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference for 2004. The conference themes are again diverse but will centre on the history, condition and direction of the contemporary city and will explore and debate issues, ideas and viewpoints from a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary approaches. The conference will thus continue the tradition to create opportunities for national and international academics, practitioners, or researchers in urban history and planning history, and the many associated disciplines, to engage in critical discourse through which to define, interpret, and understand the issues.

Papers, once received, will be grouped in the thematic sessions. The organisers also welcome suggestions for other themes or open sessions. Delegates can elect to offer refereed or non-refereed papers, with the accepted refereed papers being published in the proceedings. Copies of non-referred papers will be made available at the conference. Format for abstracts and submission - The abstract should be on two pages as a Word document: Page 1: Name, affiliation, contact details, proposed paper title, indication of refereed or non-refereed paper; Page 2: Title of paper, abstract (400 words max.), preferred theme, keywords. Submit as e-mail to 'gunterl@deakin.edu.au' as an attachment; in the subject line of the e-mail write 'ABSTRACT: your title', title the document 'yourfamilyname_titleword'

Should the above fail or not be available, submit alternatively as a fax to Guenter Lehmann, School of Architecture and Building, Deakin University: 03 5227 8303. The abstract not exceeding 400 words should be submitted by 28 July 2003. Notifications of the acceptance of abstracts will be despatched by 15 August 2003, together with format instructions for the preparation of papers. Full papers for refereeing to be submitted by 30 September 2003. Delegates to have papers refereed will receive comments by 1 November 2003, Final papers and papers not being refereed are due by 1 December 2003.

We look forward to welcoming delegates to Geelong in February 2004. Should you have any queries about the submission of abstracts, suggested contributions or other matters concerned with the conference, please contact: Guenter Lehmann Deakin University Geelong Victoria 3217. Phone: 03 5227 8331 e-mail gunterl@deakin.edu.au

News

The Allan Martin Award

The Allan Martin Award is intended to assist early-career historians further their research in Australian History, particularly to achieve publication, which will make a significant contribution to the field. All forms of intended publication will be considered, e.g. a monograph, a series of academic articles, an exhibition or a documentary film, or some mix of these.

The Award commemorates the contribution to Australian History of A. W. Martin (1926-2002), in particular his interest in and encouragement of students and younger colleagues over a lifetime of teaching and research. The Award is available biennially for a sum of up to \$4000. Academic historians, public historians, and historians working independently are invited to apply. The Award will be administered jointly by The Australian National University and The Australian Historical Association.

A panel of three judges will be appointed by The Australian National University after consultation with The Australian Historical Association. The main criteria will be evidence of innovative thinking, sound scholarship, and the potential of the work for contributing to the knowledge and understanding of Australian History. A postgraduate degree should have been completed and approved for award. Applicants are invited to make a case for how they would use the Award to further their research and the field of Australian History. Possible uses could include travel to conduct research, a publication subsidy, and acquisition of documents or pictorial material: these examples are not exhaustive. Applicants should discuss the intended outcome. They should include copies of examiners' reports on their Masters or PhD thesis, the names of two referees, and written evidence of publishers' or other sponsors' willingness to support the chosen form of publication.

A copy of a completed Masters or PhD thesis should be available on request. (In special circumstances, an honours thesis may be considered.) The winner will be expected to use the Award within twelve months of notification, and to provide a written report to the ANU on the outcome and how the funds were used. The publication(s) resulting from the Award should acknowledge the contribution of the Award.

The Award will be made in the years of the AHA major biennial conference. The AHA will pay the conference registration fee for the recipient to attend the conference at which the Award is to be presented, and a contribution towards travel will be available. For the 2004 Award, applications close on 29 February 2004.

Suburban Blues

In August 2001 I wrote a piece for *Phanfare* encouraging members who live in local government areas incorporated in 1906 to start lobbying to ensure that local government centenaries were marked with something more than a few fireworks. I suggested that councils might be persuaded to produce quality historical publications to mark the occasion. Therefore I was pleased when my council - Sutherland Shire - decided to commission a comprehensive history. I was not so happy when I saw the brief, however. This document needs to be brought to members' attention because it raises issues that as practising historians we need to address.

The sum of \$118 000 offered for writing a 100 000-word history of Sutherland Shire is inadequate for the quality and amount of historical research and writing required. In addition the historian needs to sub-contract an editor, proof-reader, indexer and another historian to read the manuscript. This means that the historian would not only research and write the work but would be de facto project manager as well. I suggested to Sutherland Shire Council that a more satisfactory arrangement would be for two contracts to be negotiated: one with the historian and another with an editor who could then, if required sub-contract the other professionals. This alternative arrangement was recommended because it is not sound practice for an editor and a 'referee' historian, in particular, to be paid and instructed by the historian undertaking the project. Both these professionals need to make critical comment on the historian's work, and this is much better done on an 'arm's length' basis.

Most senior historians regularly manage complex projects. Therefore working as a project manager is not in itself a problem. On this occasion, however, a two-year project researching and writing the history of one of NSW's largest local government areas - a daunting task in its own right - needs a separate project manager. In addition unforeseen events/problems, beyond the control of the historian, arise during the course of many complex long-term projects. The historian would need to 'lock in' other professionals to undertake work two years hence at 2003 rates of pay. S/he could find that s/he spends a substantial proportion of the contracted price paying other people.

With regard to the historian's remuneration two points should be noted:

- A work of 100 000 words can be said to take two years full-time to complete
- a published author, that is a level 3 or 4 historian, would normally be contracted to undertake a project of this complexity

Reference to the recommended ACPHA scale of fees indicates that the \$118 000 offered for the project is inadequate for the historian, yet the brief requires that out of this sum other professionals are paid as well. Historians have struggled for years to establish professional rates of pay for their work, and some clients, in particular government agencies now pay more attention to ACPHA's scale of fees. It is not unusual for a medium term contract for two to three months with, for example NPWS, to be worth \$20 000. Native Title Services pays a rate of approximately \$66 per hour for straightforward research on a short-term basis. We do not want to lose the gains we have made by accepting contracts that demand too much for the money offered.

Whereas prestigious projects of this nature generally attract about 20 applicants, only four tenders were submitted on this occasion. This response suggests that the brief and the remuneration offered were unacceptable to many historians. I submitted a non-conforming tender suggesting to Sutherland Shire Council that it either modify the requirements of the brief or allocate more money to the project. Not surprisingly neither alternative was chosen. Instead a team from a university was selected to undertake the work.

Finally the issue of representation of members by the PHA needs to be discussed. When I saw the brief for the Sutherland project and realised there were problems with it I asked the Association - twice - if a member of the executive would ring Sutherland Shire Council and discuss the brief. Because I was interested in tendering for the project I obviously could not make the approach myself, especially as the advertisement included this dire warning: 'The canvassing of Councillors or Council staff in regard to this

tender will cause the tender to be disqualified'. I made a phone call to the contact person and told her to expect a call from a PHA representative – none came.

This lack of a PHA response tells a commissioning body that professional historians are represented by an organisation of which little notice need be taken. Our recommended scale of fees can be ignored with impunity. Furthermore the requirements of this brief – if it creates a precedent – mean that sole history practitioners who do not operate within a university patronage system or have other sponsorship will be priced out of projects such as this. If this concerns you come to the AGM in August and discuss the issue.

I propose that we set up a small group (if no one else comes forward I will volunteer to convene this) to monitor advertisements for commissioned histories or other projects that are of interest to our members. We will also 'keep an ear to the ground' so contact can be made with commissioning bodies, if possible before a brief is finalised. Assistance with the brief and the offer of a senior historian to help with the 'cull' and sit on the interview panel will be made. I would like to have a reliable pool of volunteers to help so that these tasks are not too time-consuming for any one person. Obviously we need sufficient members willing to participate so that there is always someone who can be called upon who is not interested in tendering for the project in question.

We need a high-profile active association that adequately represents its members' interests or we may find ourselves unable to work in this profession. If you have any thoughts on this subject participate in the AGM so we can improve the way the PHA functions. And by the way, as Tony Prescott strongly advised in the April edition of *Phanfare*, stick to our recommended scale of fees – especially when dealing with large well-resourced councils. Have you any idea what general managers – with or without MBAs - get paid these days? It's well off our scale, that's for sure.

Pauline Curby

PROFILE - ANNE SMITH

I graduated with a BA in 1994, (aged 50) majoring in Psychology and History and Philosophy of Science and achieving a few High Distinctions on the way. I then applied and was passed over for 84 jobs in the museum area, and ended up working as Secretary to the Staff Cardiologist at Manly Hospital.

In the meantime, I decided to write a book on my father to counteract his contributions being overlooked in the broadcasting Industry. To get started I undertook a Local History Certificate at the University of NSW. We were the inaugural intake and I received a glowing report for my paper and a suggestion that I may like to carry on with them and do a PhD. This was a little overwhelming, but then my lecturer transferred to Humanities at UTS and suggested that I carry on with this faculty with a combined Sydney University/UTS Master of Letters in Local History.

I graduated with my Masters Degree in 2003, after transferring to a Master of Arts in Local History, upon being commissioned to write a history of my old school, Stella Maris at Manly, which is coming up for a 75th Anniversary in 2006. I have also thrown my hat into the ring to write a History of Freshwater Surf Club. Dad's book is now on the backburner for the time being.


In my spare time, I am President of the Manly Art Gallery and Museum Society, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Historical Society; Treasurer of the Australian Federation of University Women, Northern Beaches branch; and in my leisure time I sing in an Acappella Group (which loves to sing wherever we are invited!).


NLA e-CallSlips

When I was recently on a flying visit to Canberra to complete some urgent research at the National Archives, I also visited the National Library to check for copies of some obscure military manuals relevant to another project I was engaged upon.

Since my last visit, the NLA had instituted a new electronic system of undergoing publications called "e-CallSlips". I had to register as a user and was given a reader's ticket. A barcode on the ticket identified my reader's details to their computer system so that when I found an item I wanted, I simply needed to swipe the card across the barcode reader attached to their catalogue computer terminal. This simple process entered my details on their system along with the details of the publication.

My request was the printed out on a special slip in the bowels of the building for the staff to retrieve the item. This slip came with the full bibliographic details of the publication, its call number, and issues if you were seeking a journal, along with my name and looked like this:

Request number: 900286.1	Time: 06 JUN 2003 09:42am
Call number:	N 358.16 C652
Copy/Volume:	
Item Barcode: -900286	
Print Form: EAST	
Title: Coastal artillery training. Vol. 1, Training.	
Author: Great Britain. War Office.	
Imprint: Melbourne : Modern Printing Co., 1941.	
Collation: ix, 226 p., [15] leaves of ill. (some folded) : ill., forms ;	
18 cm.	
Edition:	
Series & No.:	
Serial Info.:	
Comments:	
Supply:	Supply Now
Staff Use	
Patron Name:	Kass, Terry
Petherick Location:	
Patron Type:	MRR
Pickup Location:	Main Reading Room



Anyone who has had to struggle with my handwriting on call slips (most notably the long-suffering and infinitely patient Mitchell Library staff) will realise what a boon this is, both for staff and for the reader. Once the item was retrieved, it was then a simple matter for me to collect it from the request shelves.

The reader's ticker also doubles as a copy card, and can be loaded with credit to use in their photocopy machines.

This system also permits you to request some items in advance as well as by e-mail.

The NLA's outline of the procedures involved in requesting an item is detailed below:

HOW TO REQUEST AN ITEM FROM THE NLA COLLECTION USING e-CallSlips

You must be registered as a National Library reader to use e-CallSlips

REQUESTING A BOOK

- Go to '**Our Catalogue**' (www.nla.gov.au/catalogue) and find the item you want
- Check that the status is **Available** (middle column of lower window)
- Click on the **Request Item** button on the right
- Click on the small circle next to the prompt '**I want to place an eCallSlip request for this item**' and select 'OK'
- Enter your **reader number** by swiping your card through the swipe reader, or by typing your number and clicking on **Submit Barcode**
- A summary of your request will display
- At the prompt '**Use this item now, or reserve?**'
 - Leave on 'Use Now' if you want to use the book on the day of request
 - Click on 'Reserve' if you want to use the book at a later date - it will be held for up to 5 days
- Take note of the **Pickup location**
- Click on **Finish** and then **OK**

REQUESTING AN ISSUE OF A JOURNAL

- Go to '**Our Catalogue**' (www.nla.gov.au/catalogue) and find the item you want.
Click on the **Request Item** button on the right
- Click on the small circle next to the prompt '**I want to place an eCallSlip request for this item**' and select 'OK'
- Enter your **reader number** by swiping your card through the swipe reader, or by typing your number and clicking on **Submit Barcode**
- The next screen will show a summary of the Library's holdings of the journal - check that the issue you require is held and if so click on the blue **National Library of Australia** link
- A summary of your request will be shown
- At the prompt '**Is the issue/copy you are requesting published before 1990**' - select the appropriate button
In the **text box**, type the details of the issue of the journal that you require, giving as much information as possible
- At the prompt '**Use this item now, or reserve?**'
 - Leave on 'Use Now' if you want to use the journal on the day of request
 - Click on 'Reserve' if you want to use the journal at a later date - it will be held for up to 5 days
- Take note of the **Pickup location**
- Click on **Finish** and then **OK**

Please note that issues of overseas journals prior to 1990 are stored offsite so delivery times are a minimum of 2 hours.

It is interesting to note that a number of overseas libraries such as the British Library are now also using electronic ordering via e-mail.

The State Library could easily benefit from such an innovation, though it would certainly require a great deal of retrospective cataloguing of the Mitchell Library's printed books collection, which, mercifully, is still available (and readable) as a card catalogue. Electronic cataloguing of the scanned catalogue of the State Library's pre 1980 catalogue would not only be necessary before such an innovation was introduced, but it would also circumvent the angst of frustrated readers trying to decipher the electronic artwork or spaghetti which often appears on screen when searching for publications in the scanned catalogue.

Terry Kass

CONSIDER THE HEALTH ISSUES!!

How often have you arrived at the Kingswood repository of State Records and put in an order for a long run of heavy indexes and/or registers, and had the staff wince when they see your request.

Often there are Occupational Health and Safety issues involved in the handling of large runs of these heavy records.

It is possible to pre-order the items you want. This not only means that the items will be ready when you arrive. It also means that the staff can bring them out gradually when there is less pressure on them, and they can utilize additional hands if needed and reduce the strain upon them.

So before you make your next trip looking at huge runs of these records, consider pre-ordering them. It will make the staff a good deal happier.

The e-mail address for pre-ordering is <mailto:accinfo1@records.nsw.gov.au>.

Commercial in Confidence, Accessing Government Records

Historians need to be aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult to access the records of some government agencies - especially those that have been 'corporatised'. The term 'commercial in confidence' is the latest refrain that is used to deny historians access, and if the records sought are less than 30 years old there's not much you can do about it.

Virginia Mcleod and I were contracted by Mosman, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Joint Services Committee (JSC) to write a history of waste disposal and recycling services in the SHOROC local government areas. When we started the project in 2001 we understood that access could be obtained to records at Waste Service NSW's offices at Chatswood. Unfortunately this government agency was 'corporatised' not long after we signed the contract and the shutters went down. Although there is still a library at Chatswood, there is no public access to it. Luckily many of the old Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA, the predecessor of Waste Service NSW) resources had been transferred to the EPA library in Goulburn Street so we made extensive use of this facility. But we still needed access to files relating in particular to Bare Creek tip at Belrose which the MWDA assumed control of in 1979. Until that date Warringah Council managed this tip and all its records were made freely available to us – including many that are quite damning of the tip's operation. Management of Bare Creek after 1979 is unfortunately rather a blur because we did not get the access we required.

Eventually following a lengthy exchange of telephone calls and emails we were invited to submit a list of topics about which we wanted information. Then a former employee was engaged to 'review' relevant files. Desperate by this stage, we indicated that as a compromise we would be willing to let him collect the information if we could at least see photocopies of relevant material. I even suggested that 'commercial' information such as tender prices could be blacked out. We were unlikely to be using such information anyhow. No photocopies were allowed, however.

I was given a copy of hand written notes arising from his review and had two meetings with the former employee. At these questions were answered and matters relating to Bare Creek tip were discussed. Although the former employee undertook his commission with intelligence and courtesy, this is not the same as doing one's own research. We considered making use of Freedom of Information legislation but were advised that this would be expensive, time-consuming and would only be relevant if we were searching for specific documents. Whereas we wanted whole files!

This denial of access to information by government agencies concerns me – as a historian and as a citizen. There are two tips in Warringah – Kimbriki and Bare Creek. As Kimbriki management effectively commissioned us, we had free access to all their records. We did not have access to comparable information for Bare Creek. In fact I think I gleaned more information on this tip from Kimbriki files than from anywhere else. I am not a resident of Warringah but if I were I would be very concerned about the lack of access to information about a putrescible tip, badly sited in an environmentally sensitive area. As a resident of Sutherland Shire I am now concerned about what is hidden in files at Chatswood about the far larger Lucas Heights tip. Why all the secrecy? What is Waste Service NSW trying to hide?

Pauline Curby

Another Publication from a PHA Member

Congratulations to Michael Tyquin on the launch of his new book: *Little by Little, a Centenary History of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps*. The launch, held at Victoria Barracks on 1 July, was an impressive occasion with Governor Marie Bashir present. General Peter Cosgrove in formally launching the book spoke movingly about the work of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. Despite the fact that when the military band struck up historians who attended were nearly drowned out as they gossiped over their cups of tea and toasted sandwiches, it was a memorable event.

Useful Web Sites

Read about Australia's first submarines, the AE1 and the AE2. They were launched in 1913 and were manned by composite Australian and British crew.

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/ww1_navy/ae1_ae2.htm

Two web sites, which have recently become operational, provide welcome data for historians.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a collection of documents relating to Australian foreign policy on their web site at

<http://www.info.dfat.gov.au/info/historical/HistDocs.nsf/>

This collection provides transcriptions of a selection of what are judged to be significant documents on the evolution of Australian foreign policy. The site does not have digitised copies of the documents.

National Archives also has an attachment to their web site on the lives and careers of Australian prime ministers useful to historians (as well as harassed parents needing help with school assignments). The biographies are set out in phases, such as early life, career before politics, etc. The address is <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/>

Documents highlighting notable moments in the careers of each prime minister are also on the site as illustrations. What makes these illustrations even more notable is that they are digitised copies of the relevant documents. A click on the illustration and you get a full copy of the document on your screen. Unlike the DFAT site, you can actually see the documents and make your own judgments.

Our reference: 2003/256



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
OF AUSTRALIA

About Australia's Prime Ministers website

Main features of the website

- **Home page**
the gateway to the site and includes 'Quotes' and 'Fascinating Facts' about the prime ministers
- **Meet a PM**
brief biographical information about each prime minister's life and time in office and looks at the official role of the wives of prime ministers
- **Timeline**
a chronology of events in Australian political history
- **Who's who**
key players during the term of office of each prime minister
- **Glossary**
terms and main organisations
- **Research map**
the core of the website – lists collections of original material in Australia and overseas for each prime minister. Links to detailed database of information about collections in National Archives

- **Fast facts**

a quick reference tool summarising key personal and political facts (and some fascinating trivia)
The site is also linked to specially created sections on the websites of the National Library of Australia, Australian War Memorial, ScreenSound Australia and John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library – our portal partners.

A few facts from the website...

- In 1941 Robert Menzies became the first Australian Prime Minister to fly overseas when he left Australia for England in a Qantas Empire flying boat.
- Ben Chifley refused to wear ceremonial clothes and became a Privy Councillor in his own suit.
- At 25 Malcolm Fraser was the youngest MP entering Parliament in 1955.
- John Curtin opposed conscription during WW I, but introduced limited overseas service for conscripts in WW II.
- Enid Lyons, wife of Joseph Lyons, was 'Queen of the Public Service' in a Hobart carnival, with nine-year-old Errol Flynn her pageboy.
- William Morris Hughes helped found three political parties, and was expelled from them all: the Labor Party (in 1916), the Nationalist Party (in 1929) and the United Australia Party (in 1944).

6 February 2003

Another Member Publication

The NSW Heritage Office has recently added a new publication to its website:

Terry Kass, *A Thematic History of the Central West*.

This work uses the NSW State Themes to develop a history of the Central Western Region of NSW as a pilot for the development of further such studies.

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PHA

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

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www.historians.org.au (national)
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A Guide to the PHA NSW Web Site

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Publications in the Monograph Series are \$22 each (incl GST). Other publications are free. Postage charges may apply for multiple orders. Address orders or enquiries to PHA Publications, GPO Box 2437, Sydney NSW 2001

Information for members on professional development and practice is also available on both Web sites

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