

*Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)*

*No. 235 March–April 2009*

# *PHANFARE*



***Look at the stars! look, look up at the skies!***

PHA NSW



***Phanfare* is the newsletter of the Professional  
Historians Association (NSW) Inc**

Published six times a year

Annual subscription:

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

Hardcopy: \$38.50

Articles, reviews, commentaries, letters and notices are welcome.

Copy should be received by 6<sup>th</sup> of the first month of each issue (or telephone for late copy) Please email copy or supply on disk with hard copy attached.

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ISSN 0816-3774

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**Cover Picture:** The Milky Way near the Southern Cross. Photographer Yuri Beletsky, La Frontera, Chile. NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day Collection [www.nasaimages.org](http://www.nasaimages.org)

This edition of *Phanfare* has been prepared by the Eclectic Collective – Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow and Terri McCormack

## News & Views

The City of Sydney Archivist Mark Stevens has just released the first version of the first version of the Historical Atlas of Sydney.

This consists of digital copies of map series in the Council Archives that can be viewed and down loaded as pdfs:

Trigonometrical Survey of Sydney, 1855-1865  
Dove's Plans of Sydney, 1880  
Atlas of (some) Suburbs of Sydney, ca 1885  
Rygate & West's Plans of Sydney, 1887  
Fire Underwriters' Plans of Sydney, ca 1917-1939  
City Building Surveyor's Details Sheets, ca 1956

The address is:

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/HistoryAndArchives/Archives/ServicesForResearchers/SearchTools.asp>

The maps are not delivered geo-registered, but they will be in the future – here and as part of the Dictionary of Sydney.

<http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/www/html/7-home-page.asp>

## ***President's Page***

The year began with plenty of planning and already several things have been achieved thanks to hard work by the committee and some other helpful members.

PHA (NSW) responded to the National History Curriculum proposals. We are grateful to Ian Willis and Ron Ringer who both contributed. We queried the implicit assumption that suitable good quality resources were available and suggested the need for more to be researched, collated and presented by professionals. You can read the document under Submissions at <http://www.phansw.org.au/publications.html>

A short guide for members having difficulties with contracts has been developed, suggesting what to look for when agreeing to a contract and what action to take if the contract is not honoured in some way.

*As the committee have to respond from time to time to inquiries about commissioning history, we have developed a check list of questions. This may also be useful to members who are working with a client on a brief.*

Both these papers are available to members please contact Ruth Banfield, [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)

PHA (NSW) has become affiliated to Expert Guide so we can provide free listings to all PHA (NSW) members who are included in our "Consultants' Register". To discover more have a look at [www.expertguide.com.au/](http://www.expertguide.com.au/)

If you wish to be listed please send your details to Peter Tyler, [treasurer@phansw.org.au](mailto:treasurer@phansw.org.au)

The committee has written to the Premier, Minister for Commerce, and the Minister for the Arts to indicate our concern that the State Records Authority of NSW which has had a strategy since 2003 for preservation of its digital archives, based on the solutions used by the National Archives of Australia, has received no funding.

We said that 'as historians we rely heavily on institutional records many of which are held by State Records of NSW. As more and more information is being stored in digital format we are concerned that this may not be readily available in the future' unless SRNSW is financed to secure these irreplaceable official digital records.

If any PHA member feels moved to write individually to their state member of Parliament this may add grist to the mill.

About a dozen PHA members met at the Hero of Waterloo for an enjoyable and lively discussion about why we celebrate Australia Day. This was the first such evening, thanks to Ron Ringer who led the discussion and I hope some of you can join us when we fix the next one in a couple of months

A date for your diaries: our ever popular History in July 14 July Bastille Day. If you haven't been before don't miss hearing Bridget Griffen-Foley speak on 'History & the Media'. Details will be published on the website nearer the event.

Virginia Macleod, April 2009



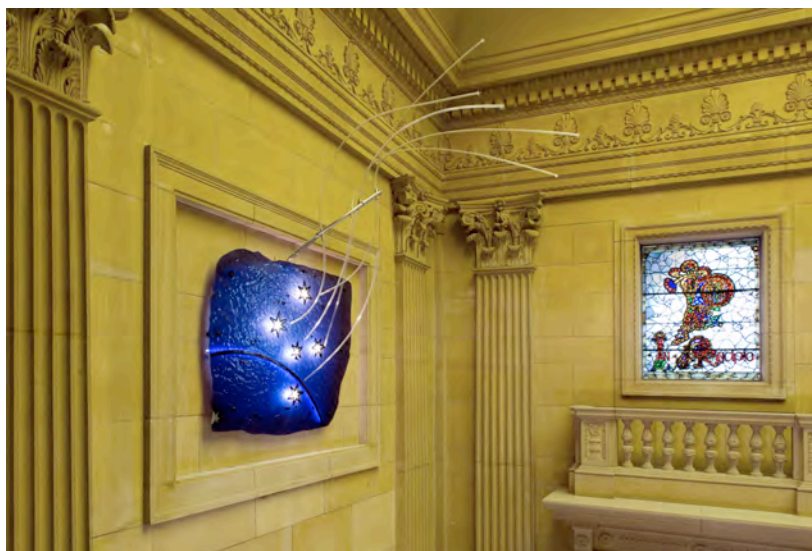
# ***Heritage Festival: 'Stars in the City'***

**Rosemary Kerr**

Four hundred years after Galileo first pointed a telescope towards the heavens, the National Trust's 2009 Heritage Festival is appropriately themed 'Our Place in Space: Under the Southern Cross'. As part of the Festival, The City of Sydney and Royal Society of New South Wales presented an afternoon of lectures and music at the Customs House on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. From our earliest recorded history, a quest for astronomical knowledge has been an integral part of our culture and is embodied in much of the city's built heritage.

The PHA's Dr Peter Tyler, inaugural Merewether Scholar, State Library of New South Wales and Historian of the Royal Society NSW, gave a comprehensive account of the history of early astronomy in Sydney. Aboriginal legends explaining how spirits created the sun, moon and stars, and rock carvings depicting constellations, indicate that the sky, and particularly the night sky, has long held a fascination for humans on this continent.

Italian explorer, Andrea Corsali, is credited with recording the earliest image of the Southern Cross, which he described in a letter to his employer, Giuliano de Medici in 1516, as 'so beautiful and fair that no other heavenly sign may be compared to it.' Celestial navigation was crucial in the age of exploration by sea, but until the development of longitude in the eighteenth century, no accurate charts of star positions existed for the southern hemisphere. It was Captain James Cook's expedition to observe the transit of Venus in Tahiti in 1769 that not only contributed greatly to the science of astronomy, but also led to the charting of Australia's east coast, and, ultimately, its colonisation by Britain. Charles Green, a member of Cook's party was the first astronomer to practice on Australian territory. Peter Tyler's presentation chiefly focused on some of the major practitioners of astronomy in the colony, both professional and amateur, but invariably male, from First Fleet astronomer, Lieutenant William Dawes, who set up astronomical equipment and established the colony's first observatory at Dawes Point.



*Jon Hawley was inspired by the earliest known image of the Southern Cross by Andrea Corsali to create the contemporary glass sculpture recently installed in the Mitchell Library vestibule. Bruce York, Imaging Services Department, SLNSW; Courtesy the Intellectual Property and Copyright Librarian Margot Riley*

The founding of the Philosophical Society of Australasia in 1821, a forerunner of today's Royal Society of NSW, comprised a small group of intellectuals with interests including astronomy. Thus, the early Australian colony was by no means an intellectual and cultural desert as it is often portrayed. Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of NSW from 1821 to 1825 had a passion for astronomy and set up his own observatory in the grounds of the Government House at Parramatta, spending his evenings stargazing. He brought with him his own private astronomer Carl Runkel. The Government officially took over the observatory at Parramatta in 1831 and in the 1850s the Reverend William Scott was appointed as the first Director of Astronomy for the NSW Government. The nineteenth century was the era of gentleman amateur scientists, yet over the years, many Sydney-based astronomers, many of them clergymen, made significant contributions to the field. John Tebbut Jr developed methods for the accurate observation of comets and in 1861 discovered one of the finest comets on record, covering an arc of 110 degrees. The observatory that Tebbut built on his property at Windsor remains today. The Reverend Edward Francis Pigot was interested in observing movements in the earth's crust and established an observatory at Riverview College.

By the nineteenth century, most of the world's surface had been charted and so attention could turn to matters other than navigation. However, when the present Sydney Observatory was completed in 1858, Reverend Scott found that the tower had been built higher than he expected to ensure that the time ball could be seen by ships all over the harbour, to set their chronometers. The tower then partly obscured telescope's view of the eastern horizon, signalling the Government's priority for accurate time keeping for shipping over astronomical observations. Meteorology became another important function for the Observatory and in the twentieth century, Australia became a leader in the field of radio astronomy. By the middle of last century, however, optical astronomy was becoming impractical in Sydney due to increasing air pollution levels and city lights making the night sky unobservable. The Sydney Observatory ceased its scientific activities in 1982 and is now an educational adjunct to the Powerhouse Museum.

In the second presentation, Tony Smith, Architect with the City of Sydney provided an insightful look at the many manifestations, both practical and symbolic, of astronomical observations in Sydney's built environment. Many of us are probably aware of the Southern Cross sculpture overlooking the vestibule of the Mitchell Library, the atmospheric night sky in the ceiling of the Capitol Theatre, the decorative stars in the stained glass windows of the Town Hall, and of course, Observatory Hill, yet there are many other less obvious reflections of our fascination with the stars, time, tide and the movement of the spheres. Elizabeth Bay House, for example, built by Architect, John Verge for Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay between 1835 and 1838, is precisely oriented to the sunrise at the winter solstice. As the sun rises on that day, it shines directly through the central axial hallway to the sandstone cliff face at the rear of the house. A recording of the event can be viewed online at: [http://www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights/videos/winter\\_solstice](http://www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights/videos/winter_solstice).

Timekeeping has been a crucial part of life in the city and in the days before wrist watches, clocks adorned every important public building in Sydney. Sundials, too, are to be found in Hyde Park north and the Botanical Gardens. Tony explained that Freemasons were particularly interested in celestial observations and Thornton's Obelisk, constructed in 1857 as a sewer ventilation stack, is alleged to be the gnomon<sup>1</sup> of a sundial. It is possible that,

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<sup>1</sup> The gnomon is the part of the sundial that casts the shadow.

before its relocation, the obelisk stood in the south eastern portion of Hyde Park and may have been linked to the Frazer Fountain – all part of a giant Masonic sundial.

Related to the theme of time, tide and weather, sites such as the Observatory and Fort Denison served a crucial role in shipping, with the time ball on the Observatory used by ships to set accurate chronometer readings for navigation. At Fort Denison, a gun was fired each day at 1.00 p.m. as the time ball dropped on the hour; smoke from the gun signalling the time to those not within sight of the Observatory. Fort Denison also maintained tidal recording equipment; accurate knowledge of tides being essential for coastal shipping, a vital form of transport and trade well into the nineteenth century. The GPO also served as an aid to sea transport, with weather information relayed from telegraphic stations along the coast. A red flag would be hoisted on the tower to signal gale warnings. In fact, the tower was built by lighthouse builders and at night a red light in the glass tower functioned as a lighthouse. The GPO tower was the tallest in the city for many years, and its bell chimes keeping the time, were audible all over town. What many don't know, however, is that on one occasion when the bell was removed and left sitting in Martin Place while maintenance work was carried out on the tower, Arthur Stace took the opportunity to write his famous signature, 'Eternity' inside the bell. The word remains on the bell today, despite efforts to erase it – a fitting and ironic addition to a monument to timekeeping.

Supper and a recital by the Royal Australian Navy Band's Woodwind Trio, 'The Commodores' provided a delightful ending to the afternoon, inspiring us, as we headed homeward, to 'Look at the stars! look, look up at the skies!'<sup>2</sup>



*Sydney Observatory 1874 (SLNSW)*

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<sup>2</sup> Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'The Starlight Night', 1877



# ***Celestial Navigation***

**Rosemary Broomham**

Attending the afternoon of lectures and music at the City of Sydney Library on 4 April, I was struck by a point made by Tony Smith, City Architect. He remarked that Australia has a special connection with the stars because it was Cook's journey to chart the Transit of Venus that led him to New Holland and the claiming the eastern part for Britain. The charting of our eastern coast and what was found there caused Banks to suggest that Botany Bay was a suitable place for a convict colony – and the rest, as we say, is history. This year's Heritage Week theme 'Our Place in Space' – marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope – can be interpreted as a reference to the heavens or the displacement of space on earth. But it turned my thoughts towards the skies and, of course, the Southern Cross.



The Milky Way near the Southern Cross. Photographer Yuri Beletsky, La Frontera, Chile.  
NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day Collection [www.nasaimages.org](http://www.nasaimages.org)

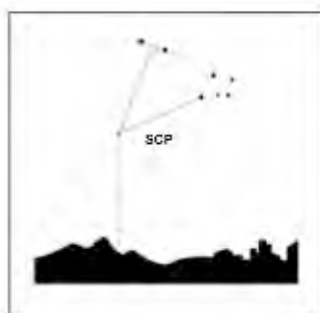
At the National Maritime Museum on 6 April, Captain Ross Mattson, Master of the HMB *Endeavour* provided a fascinating history of the evolution of celestial navigation. He explained that when he was training, his was the last class to receive tuition in celestial navigation. This method of finding a ship's position has been supplanted relatively recently by the Global Positioning System (GPS). A product of the space age, the GPS depends on a network of 24 satellites constantly broadcasting signals that can be interpreted almost immediately as latitude and longitude that are accurate to within 3 metres. In spite of this speed and accuracy, Mattson believes that navigating by celestial bodies can provide an important backup. Reliable only within 3 nautical miles, celestial navigation (CN) is not suitable for coastal sailing but works well on blue water. Once thought to have been totally superseded, this skill is now actively encouraged on tall ships. It relies principally on the sextant, a modern version of the instrument that James Cook used when he charted much of Australia's eastern coast over 200 years ago.

Calculations can be made using the sun at noon or immediately before dawn or sunset. The moon can also be used but stars provide the most accurate readings. These celestial bodies

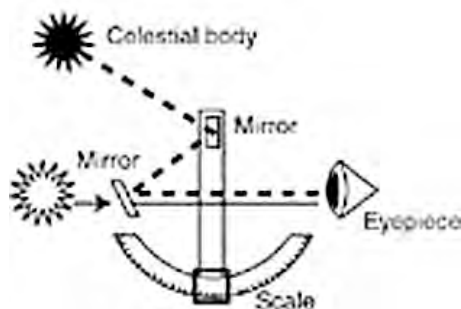


have been used since the Phoenicians explored their world about 4,000 years ago. Northern hemisphere navigators focused first on a star called Vega but changed to Polaris when the earth's spin axis moved. Also known as the North or Pole Star, Polaris points directly to the northern celestial pole. Celestial navigation is more difficult in the southern hemisphere. There is no South Star equivalent to Polaris so southern navigators use the Southern Cross to guide them to the south pole but is not in a direct line and the correct position must be calculated.

The Southern Cross is always visible in our skies but in summer it is upside down and nearer the horizon. Once it has been located, the navigator draws an imaginary line through its long axis. Following that line for a distance equivalent to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of the cross will locate the South Celestial Pole. A vertical line dropped from that point to the horizon locates true south. Alternatively true south can be identified by a right-angled bisection of a line joining the two pointers to the Cross – Alpha Centauri and Beta Centauri. Then the position of the South Celestial Pole is shown where the two lines intersect.<sup>1</sup>



Celestial Navigation is made possible by a number of finding aids. They include a sextant; hand compass; accurate timekeeper or chronometer; an Almanac which provides reference points to the angle of celestial bodies in relation to Greenwich; Norries Tables for trigonometrical reference points on land; Sight Reduction Tables; Star Plotter; Star Chart; parallel ruler; and dividers. Above all, it requires mathematical skill. Traditionally, a ship's day goes from noon to noon when the view of the sun reaches maximum altitude. Latitude is calculated through the declination of the sun as the Earth pivots on its axis through winter and summer. A sextant is used to find the angle of the celestial body in relation to the horizon. The navigator looks through the eyepiece and positions the mirror so the sun, moon or star appears to rest on the horizon by adjusting the moving arm on the semicircular scale. The angle shown on the scale gives the declination. Accurate readings are crucial because  $1^\circ$  on the sextant or 1 minute on the chronometer is equivalent to 60 nautical miles.<sup>2</sup>



Among the many complications encountered is the motion of the waves which can obscure the position of the horizon. When swells disturb the horizontal line, another calculation is required to find a virtual horizon from the difference between the tops and the troughs.

Longitude is calculated as the distance from the prime meridian at Greenwich which is  $0^\circ$ . This operation requires an accurate chronometer set to Greenwich time. The 24 time zones in the world are set  $15^\circ$  apart to reflect the speed of Earth's revolution each hour. However, the international dateline at  $180^\circ$  separates +12 and -12 of Coordinated Universal Time (formerly Greenwich Mean Time) and differentiates between eastern and western hemispheres. In the western hemisphere, if Greenwich time is 3 pm when the sun passes the local meridian, the longitude would be  $15^\circ \times 3 = 45$  degrees west. In the eastern hemisphere, where Australia is situated, the navigator has to calculate another variation from Greenwich to determine what day it is.

<sup>1</sup> Diagram and information, [museumvictoria.com.au/Science/Works/Education/celestial\\_navigation](http://museumvictoria.com.au/Science/Works/Education/celestial_navigation)

<sup>2</sup> Diagram showing the operation of the sextant, Australian Museums and Galleries Online

# *Firefighting Foundations*

*Christa Ludlow*

Today when we think of volunteer firefighters we tend to think of those local residents who battle bushfires in country districts, but there was a time when many of Sydney's suburbs were serviced by volunteer brigades.

PHA member Janette Pelosi has chronicled the birth and achievements of one such brigade. Her paper on the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Brigade won the 2008 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize awarded by Rockdale City Council. A copy of the essay has recently been donated by Janette to the PHA library. Pelosi has meticulously chronicled the events which led to the Brigade's foundation and their activities within the community.

Volunteer fire brigades had existed in Sydney since the 1840s alongside the official Fire Brigade Companies. The latter were funded partly by Treasury and councils, and partly by contributions from the insurance companies, an arrangement which continues even today. In the 1880s, however, the West Botany (later Rockdale) municipality had no fire brigade and had to depend on brigades outside the municipal area in the event of fire.

Volunteer companies could be registered with the Fire Brigades Board and this occurred in suburbs such as Parramatta, Woollahra, Paddington, Balmain, Ashfield and Granville. Registration meant abiding by the Board's rules but it also meant the Brigade would be financially subsidized. There were a number of such fire brigades in Sydney by 1890 but for reasons which are not quite clear, Rockdale's would-be firefighters had to battle the opposition of Rockdale Council to their brigade's registration. Presumably this was because registration meant the council would have to help fund the Brigade operating in this area.

The publication features a series of evocative illustrations of the Brigade and its equipment, and provides some interesting insights into the hazards of nineteenth century life. One reads of 200 cricket bats lost to fire at a manufacturer's premises in 1899, numerous fires caused by attempts to burn rubbish, even more caused by "a light being thrown down" and others caused by smoking tobacco. The local pride in the Brigade was evident but I wonder how Lady Carrington, the wife of the Governor, felt when the Volunteer Fire Brigade asked for permission to name their fire engine after her youngest child!

The Rockdale Volunteer Fire Brigade had a short life, as it was replaced in 1902 by a partially paid or "retained" Brigade whereby the firefighters received retaining fees for being on call and payment for attending duty. This allowed for centralized control and a reliable workforce. The system of retained firefighters is still in operation today in NSW and performs a valuable service in supplementing the permanent firefighters employed by NSW Fire Brigades.

# What's On

by Christine de Matos

## April/May 2009

### Exhibitions

*'Accidental Encounters'*. Until 24 May 2009. Venue: Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.

*'Korean Dreams: paintings and screens of the Joseon Dynasty'*. Until 8 June 2009. Venue: Art Gallery of NSW.

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

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

*'Charles Darwin—voyages and ideas that shook the world'*. Until 23 August. Venue: National Maritime Museum.

*'Femme Fatale: the female criminal'*. Until 18 April 2010. Venue: Police and Justice Museum.

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

### April Events

#### National Trust Heritage Festival: 4-19 April 2009

visit: <http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/events/festival/>

**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.

**11-12 Event.** *'South Coast Maritime & History Expo'*. **Venue:** Ulladulla Civic Centre, Princes Hwy Ulladulla **Time:** 10am-4pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.blessingofthefleet.info/maritimeexpo/>.

**18 Tour.** *'Archaeology in The Rocks'*. HHT. **Venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

**19 Walking tour.** *'Living Inner City: Watson's Bay'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 2-4pm **Cost:** \$25m mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

**19 Talk.** *'Femme Fatale floor talk'*, Nerida Campbell. HHT. **Venue:** Police and Justice Museum **Time:** 2-3pm **Cost:** free with museum entry **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

**21 Talk.** *'Charles Darwin through his letters'*, Paul Brunton. Library Society. **Venue:** Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW **Time:** 12.30-1.30pm **Cost:** \$22, seniors \$20, mems \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au); web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/bookings/>.

**21 Talk.** *'Writing a diary under gunfire'*, Robert Holden. Library Society. **Venue:** Dixon Room, Mitchell Library **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$22, seniors \$20, mems \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au); web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/bookings/>.

**23 Lecture.** *'Changes in Furniture Manufacture in Australia during the 20th Century'*, Alan Perry. RAHS. **Venue:** History House, 133 Macquarie Street **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$7 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001.

- 29 **Talk.** *'Trade Wall: the taking of tea'*, Jacqui Newling and Raymond Leung. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6.30-9pm **Cost:** \$25, mems/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 30 **Lecture.** *'Remembering Australia's Great War'*, Institute for Public History at Monash University, State Library of Victoria and the History Council of Victoria. **Venue:** State Library of Victoria **Time:** 5.30-7pm **Cost:** free **Bookings essential:** ph: (03) 8664 7099; email: [bookings@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookings@slv.vic.gov.au); web: [http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/whats\\_on/index.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/whats_on/index.html).

## May 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.
- 3 **Walking tour.** *'Living Inner City: Randwick'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 2-4pm **Cost:** \$25m mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 3 **Tour.** *'Sydney Open exclusive - Colonial Parramatta'*, Carol Liston and Romaldo Giurgola. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum (bus) **Time:** 9.30am-5.30pm **Cost:** \$90, mems/conc \$85 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 5 **Talk.** *'Charles Darwin in Australia'*, Frank Nicholas and Jan Nicholas. Library Society. **Venue:** Dixon Room, Mitchell Library **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$22, seniors \$20, mems \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au); web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/bookings/>.
- 7 **Talk.** *'Captain Cook's souvenir waistcoat'*, Elizabeth Cook. Library Society. **Meeting venue:** Shakespeare Room, Mitchell library **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$25 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au); web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/bookings/>.
- 7 **Talk, music, cabaret.** *'Femmes fatales: sex, sin and shotguns'*, Nerida Campbell. HHT. Note: 18+ only, and come dressed in period costume. **Venue:** Police and Justice Museum **Time:** 6.30-9pm **Cost:** \$45, mems/conc \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 8 **Lecture.** *'Iron for Stone'*, Shawn Rowlands. 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](mailto:srickard@une.edu.au), or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email: [drobert9@une.edu.au](mailto:drobert9@une.edu.au).
- 14 **Talk.** *'Trade Wall: Rum: bloodiest of beverages'*, Graham Fleet and Liane Colwell. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6.30-9pm **Cost:** \$25, mems/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 15 **Lecture.** *'Getting a-head with ancient Greek divination: talking dead bodies, steaming entrails, and friendly lizards - but no beans with that please'*, Matthew Dillon. 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](mailto:srickard@une.edu.au), or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email: [drobert9@une.edu.au](mailto:drobert9@une.edu.au).
- 16-17 **Conference.** *'Local histories, global heritage, local heritage, global histories: Colonialism, history and the making of heritage'*, German Historical Institute London. **Enquiries:** email: Indra Sengupta, [isengupta@ghil.ac.uk](mailto:isengupta@ghil.ac.uk).



- 17-20 Conference. *'Museums Australia National Conference 2009'*, Newcastle NSW. Enquiries: **ph: (02) 4973 6573; email: [ma2009@willorganise.com.au](mailto:ma2009@willorganise.com.au)**
- 22 **Lecture.** *'A comparison of the Pali and Chinese versions of the Brahmana Samyutta, a collection of early Buddhist discourses on the priestly Brahmanas'*, Mun-Keat Choong. 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](mailto:srickard@une.edu.au), or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email: [drobert9@une.edu.au](mailto:drobert9@une.edu.au).
- 23 **Tour.** *'Archaeology in The Rocks'*. HHT. **Venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc\$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 24 **Walking tour.** *'Living Inner City: Balmoral'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 2-4pm **Cost:** \$25m mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 24 **Movie.** *'Dad and Dave come to town'*, HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 3-4pm **Cost:** free with museum entry **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 29 **Lecture.** *'"It Ain't Necessarily So": Challenging preconceptions about the experiences of the Australian Gallipoli POWs in Turkey'*, Jennifer Lawless. 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](mailto:srickard@une.edu.au), or David Roberts, ph: (02) 67733794; email: [drobert9@une.edu.au](mailto:drobert9@une.edu.au).
- 29 **Conference.** *'Australia, Asia and the Pacific: Imaginaries, Histories and Futures'*, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. **Enquiries:** Graham Seal, email: [G.Seal@curtin.edu.au](mailto:G.Seal@curtin.edu.au).
- 30 **Talk.** *'Insights into colonial times'*, Christine Yeats. SAG. **Venue:** Seminar Room, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Enquiries/bookings:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; email: [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au).

## Upcoming Conferences

- 'Constructing the Past: AHA Regional Conference'*, 30 June-3 July 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast. **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. **Enquiries:** ph: (07) 3346 7410; email: [m.bellanta@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.bellanta@uq.edu.au).
- 'XVIIth 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/>.
- 'The Eleventh National Labour History Conference'*, 8-10 July 2009, Perth. **Enquiries:** email: [bobbie.oliver@curtin.edu.au](mailto:bobbie.oliver@curtin.edu.au); web: <http://www.asslh.org.au/perth>.
- 'Work, Globalisation and Democracy/Capital in Crisis: Implications for Labour and Society'*, 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](mailto:brad.patterson@vuw.ac.nz).
- 'The Limits of the Book'*, 20-22 July 2009, University of Queensland. **Enquiries:** Dr Chris Tiffin, email: [c.tiffin@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.tiffin@uq.edu.au) or Assoc. Professor Pat Buckridge, email: [p.buckridge@griffith.edu.au](mailto:p.buckridge@griffith.edu.au).
- '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/>
- 'Seventh International Conference on the Book'**, 16-18 October 2009, University of Edinburgh. **Enquiries:** <http://book-conference.com>
- 'Independence and Decolonization'**, 15-17 April 2010, The Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. **Enquiries:** Professor Susan Deans-Smith, email: [sdsmith@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:sdsmith@mail.utexas.edu).
- '21st International Congress of Historical Sciences' (CISH/ICHS)**, 22-28 August 2010, Amsterdam. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.ichs2010.org/>.

## Call for Papers

- '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](mailto:g.gallop@econ.usyd.edu.au) or [g.patmore@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au) or [crienafz@iinet.net.au](mailto:crienafz@iinet.net.au).
- '2009 Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science (AHPSSS)'**, 11-12 July 2009, Emmanuel College, The University of Queensland. Paper submissions due by **11 May 2009**. **Enquiries:** Charles Wolfe, email: [c.wolfe@usyd.edu.au](mailto:c.wolfe@usyd.edu.au); web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/aahpsss/conference-2009.html>.
- 'Internationalising Media History—From Australia to the World'**, 23-25 November 2009, University of Sydney. 300 word abstracts due by **30 May 2009**. **Enquiries:** Dr Penny O'Donnell, email: [Penny.ODonnell@usyd.edu.au](mailto:Penny.ODonnell@usyd.edu.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](mailto:C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz).
- '"Lands and Peoples in History and Law": Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference'**, 11-13 December 2009, Wellington. 1-2 paragraph abstract plus half page CV due by **30 June 2009**. **Enquiries:** Dr Grant Morris, email: [grant.morris@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:grant.morris@vuw.ac.nz).
- 'Isolated Cases? 100 years of Australian medical research'**, 21 February 2010, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. 200 word abstract and 100 word bio due by **31 July 2009**. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.cs.nsw.gov.au/rpa/museum/>

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to [cdm@uow.edu.au](mailto:cdm@uow.edu.au).

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

## ***Exhibition – Shooting Through: Sydney by Tram***

***Rosemary Broomham***

The latest Historic Houses Trust exhibition at the Museum of Sydney opened officially on 7 April. Its name is taken from the once popular expression ‘to shoot through like a Bondi tram’.<sup>1</sup> Unusually, the opening ceremony was held outside on the forecourt where the trailer car of a cable tram stood next to a tram stop, its platform serving as the speakers’ dais. Chairs were lined up for special guests – for former employees of Sydney’s tramways and members of the Sydney Tramways Museum at Loftus – and stools were arranged nearby for a select group of primary school students. A small but vocal group of demonstrators from EcoTransport Sydney and Leichhardt Council enlivened this unusual scene, which was also attended by an impressive jostle of journalists and professional and amateur photographers. Seeking support for modern rather than historic trams, about seven demonstrators traversed the forecourt carrying a model of the city’s current tramcar while the remainder enunciated well-rehearsed choruses touting the advantages of a light rail extension to Dulwich Hill over the recently announced plan for a metro to Rozelle. Alas, having no camera with me, I am unable to reproduce the resultant tableau for *Phanfare* readers and now publicly acknowledge the usefulness of cameras on mobile phones.



*Tram in Loftus Street (detail), photographer unknown, 1955. Leo Stone/Vic Solomons collection, City of Sydney Archives*

Former premier Bob Carr opened the exhibition with high praise for its vivid recreation of Sydney’s past. Like Historic Houses Trust chairperson Jill Hickson, he enthused about the nostalgia overload that the exhibition evoked, partly from the pictures of the trams themselves but also contributed by the scenic backgrounds of those pictures. Of course both these people had actually ridden on trams, as I have. As a child, I associated tram rides with visits to grandparents, at Enfield and Fairlight, an uncle at Northbridge and family friends at Watsons Bay, the trams being reached by a long walk and a subsequent train journey. On rare

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<sup>1</sup> The Macquarie Dictionary 2nd Revision, 1988, p 1566

occasions we used trams to go to the beach at Balmoral or Manly. In my teens I preferred trams to buses because their slower speed and broader view of the surroundings offered plenty of time to decide the correct stop. However, the mode of transport itself did not enthuse me in the way it has affected many others.

As the curators Caroline Butler-Bowdon and Annie Campbell freely admitted, the exhibition owes an incalculable debt to the Sydney Tramway Museum archives and members. Others who have contributed greatly are former employees who worked on Sydney's trams – some interviewed in 1982 by Richard Raxworthy and others consulted during the last two years specifically for this exhibition. They have provided the invaluable component of personal experience, some of which are on view, interspersed with the opinions of experts. Many of the photographs come from Howard Clark, Chairman of the Sydney Tramways Museum who documented the last days of the service with a camera given to him in 1958.

Trams served parts of Sydney from 1861 – when they were powered by horses for four years – to 1961, when the very last tram journeyed from Hunter Street to La Perouse. After the horse trams were discontinued steam trams were installed in 1879 to take visitors to the International Exhibition in the Garden Palace. Cable trams negotiated the steep hills of North Sydney and parts of the Eastern Suburbs and electric power replaced steam from 1899. The Sydney system was the second largest in the world. At the extremes, it reached 'Watsons Bay, Bondi, La Perouse and the beach suburbs in the east; and Canterbury, Abbotsford and Ryde in the west. Isolated lines operated in North Sydney, Manly, Narrabeen, Parramatta, Enfield, Arncliffe, Rockdale, Kogarah and Sutherland'.<sup>2</sup>

One thing that was instantly recognisable was the clever way the exhibition design suggested the look of the trams themselves with buttresses of cream and green as mounts for exhibits such as the plan showing the extent of the network in 1933. These flank tram seats drawn up for viewing the filmed interviews while a short distance away is a driver's cabin with its controls and the drum and cable behind it. At the far end of the exhibition space a foot-operated whistle and a hand-operated bell invite a modicum of viewer interaction while other paraphernalia such as destination boards, uniforms, tickets and Government Tourist Bureau advertisements for other destinations help recreate the tram riding experience.

Most remarkable however, is the high representation of photographs, paintings and other art works that are displayed here. A few, like the many photographs provide street scenes of Sydney when trams were the dominant form of public transport. Others engage more closely with the trams and their passengers, their creators reflecting pride or affection or offering social commentary in ways that do not seem to have a parallel today. Would any passengers or artists who ride Sydney's buses record their reaction on canvas? Perhaps the most striking example is Herbert Badham's 'The Travellers' which shows a woman in the smoking section of a toast rack tram. Wedged between two men who are about to light a cigarette and a pipe she looks only slightly apprehensive. Other artists represented are Frank Hinder, C. H. Percival, Roland Wakelin, Douglas Dundas, Eveline Syme and Ailsa Lee Brown. Some of their works appear in the catalogue but a visit to the exhibition is the only way to see them all. The inclusion of quotations from Kenneth Slessor's 'A Portrait of Sydney' in *Bread and wine: selected prose* and an excerpt from the poem 'Going home' in *Darlinghurst Nights* further enrich the experience. The exhibition *Shooting Through: Sydney by Tram* will continue until 18 October 2009.

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<sup>2</sup> Caroline Butler-Bowdon, Annie Campbell, Howard Clark, *Shooting Through: Sydney by Tram*, HHT, 2009, p 6



## *The Tram to Bondi Beach: An Illustrator's View*

*Julie Vivas talks to Rosemary Broomham*

*The Trams to Bondi Beach* is a children's picture book written by Elizabeth Hathorn and illustrated by Julie Vivas that was published in 1981 when trams were a distant memory. The



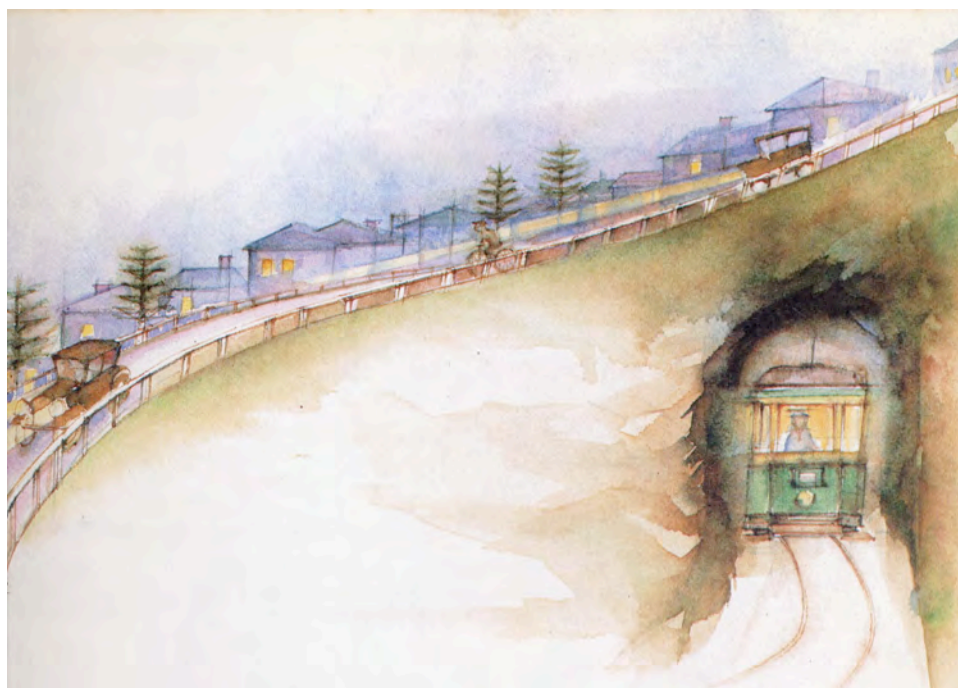
story tells of a young boy called Keiran who dreamed of selling newspapers to tram passengers on the Bondi run. He particularly admired an older boy who reached his customers by moving swiftly along the running board of the toast rack trams. But soon after his father allowed him to sell papers, he fell on the road while jumping from the running board when the tram began to leave the stop. After that Keiran was limited to a stationary selling point at the beachfront.

I was fortunate enough to watch the development of the illustrations as artist Julie Vivas developed them and was particularly impressed with the careful research of the trams, the route to Bondi, the

scenery and the other traffic in addition to people's clothes, all from the 1930s. Like the curators of *Shooting Through: Sydney by Tram*, she too visited the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus for information on trams and tram travel as well as the appearance of Bondi between the wars. It was there that she discovered that the tram bypassed the steepest part of Bondi Road and travelled under it through a tunnel via Denham and Fletcher Streets.

Pictures from Elizabeth Hathorn, *The Tram to Bondi Beach*, Illustrated by Julie Vivas, Methuen Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney, 1981 courtesy of the artist.

*The Tram to Bondi Beach* is available at the MOS Shop.

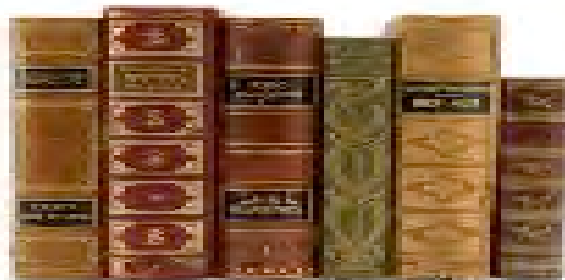


# LIBRARY REPORT

Compiled by Terri McCormack.

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## PHA PERIODICALS

***PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc.***

**No 54, Oct 2008; No 55, Dec 2008; No 56, February 2009; No 57, April 2009**

The newly-designed October issue contains an interesting article called 'My life in Archives' by Elizabeth Wood-Ellem who, in July 2008, was invested as a Commander of the Crown of Tonga for her work as a historian of Tonga. Her publications include *Queen Salote of Tonga: the story of an era 1900-1965* (1999) and *Songs & Poems of Queen Salote* (2004). Her archival life began by researching the papers of E.M.Forster and has taken her from the position of Archivist of the Modern Manuscripts at Cambridge to Nuku'alofa via Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. She was brought up in Tonga and returned there in 1981 with a UNESCO commission to investigate the possibility of setting up a National Archives and Record Office.

Each of these *Pharos* issues showcases recent publications by Victorian historians and it's a very impressive output indeed. And the regular CPD events continue. In October, a panel of speakers related their experiences in responding to commissioned briefs and looked at different perspectives of the tendering process. The November Workshop gave insights into setting up an exhibition, communicating with designers and the unexpectedly difficult task of writing interpretive labels. In March, a group of Melbourne PHA members made an excursion to Geelong where they visited the Geelong Heritage Centre, the National Wool Museum, and were given an historic walking tour by local PHA member Peter Mansfield.

It came and went so quickly that most of us missed at least part of the ABC TV documentary series *Rogue Nation*. Some people thought the coverage of colonial history far too simplistic while others found narrator Michael Cathcart's frequent comments on the action overly intrusive. In the February issue of *Pharos*, Michelle Rayner, Executive Producer of the ABC Hindsight program, asked historian Michael Cathcart whether the documentary's approach to such well known events as the Rum Rebellion is revisionist. He agrees that the series does cast a different more positive light on Governor Bligh and the caricatured image of him hiding under the bed. The series owes much to Robert Hughes' *The Fatal Shore*, the most influential book on Australian history according to Cathcart. The basic premise underlying the series, he believes, is the development of a political consciousness, of the notion of citizens' rights, in a convict society. There are so many ways of telling a story, he says, and this is one of them.

I imagine many of us can relate to Lesley Alves' article in the December issue entitled 'Do historians ever take a holiday?' On her recent trip to Europe and Asia, she was unable to resist visiting eight museums, three ruined castles, three historic bridges, four stately homes, one royal palace, two industrial heritage sites, two historic gardens, one national archives, and several cathedrals, historic churches and temples. It does seem that historians can never stop researching.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) Inc Newsletter.**  
**No 93, December 2008**

The South Australians have had an eventful year, including a PHA session at the State History Conference in August. They have written to the new Minister for Heritage and Conservation expressing concern about the state of heritage generally in South Australia and requesting her commitment to worthwhile and substantial programmes to celebrate the State's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Lots of interesting ideas are floating around but so far efforts by the PHA and the History Council of South Australia to get government funding for major anniversary projects have not been successful.

This issue contains reviews of several talks given at the 17<sup>th</sup> State History conference in August 2008. Notes from Brian Samuels' talk on *Community Identity and Everyday Heritage* are produced in full. He is the Principal Heritage Officer with the SA Department for Environment and Heritage and has some pertinent things to say about the ways "community" is defined and its relationship with heritage.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) Inc Newsletter.**  
**No 107, Feb 2009**

The West Australians have followed the New South Wales lead and are now producing electronic newsletters. In the latest issue, there are extensive profiles, with photographs, of three new members. Graeme Henderson from the Western Australian Museum reports on his book *Redemption of a Slaveship*, the result of his historical and archaeological investigations on the 1841 wreck of the brig James Matthews at Woodman Point, south of Fremantle.

The combination of landscaped gardens and native bushland in the centre of a capital city make Kings Park in Perth unique. Dorothy Erickson has written a beautifully illustrated book detailing its history from the 1830s through its development as a park in the 1890s to the present day. The title - *A Joy Forever: the story of Kings Park* - is taken not as might be expected from Keats but from a misquote used by Sir John Forrest, original Chairman of the Board that sought to establish this wonderful asset.

In 2007, the Hon. Dr Carmen Lawrence, member of State Parliament from 1986-1994 and Premier from 1990-1993, lodged her personal papers relating to her state parliamentary career with the Library at Curtin University of Technology. This fascinating collection includes volumes of newspaper clippings, media summaries and statements, speeches, electorate correspondence, circulars to ministers, memorabilia, and subject files on a wide variety of themes. Much has been digitised and can be accessed at: [www.john.curtin.edu.au/lawrence](http://www.john.curtin.edu.au/lawrence).

This website of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library is an interesting one. It also contains a recently completed web resource, *Diary of a Labour Man*, by historian Heather Campbell, portraying John Curtin's day-to-day life. For this and other resources have a look at the website: [www.john.curtin.edu.au/diary](http://www.john.curtin.edu.au/diary).

## **RETROSPECT: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. Annual Review. August 2008**

In this annual overview of the PHA Victoria, outgoing President Sarah Rood reflects on the contributions made by the PHA during the year 2007-2008. Without the monthly CPD sessions, an Employment Service, and bi-monthly editions of *Pharos*, the history landscape would be very bleak and there would be no history network. The diversity and depth of this community in Victoria are evident in the Annual Reports that follow on finances, membership, the employment service, Continuing Professional Development, public relations, ACPHA, and the History Council of Victoria.

The annual Employment Service statistics are interesting. Sixty-six subscribed members received notification of 116 opportunities ranging from small research jobs to large commissioned histories. Twenty-eight jobs, or 25%, were advertised exclusively through PHA (Vic). By far the greatest number (44) were for museum and exhibition work followed by heritage work (16), significance assessments (14), miscellaneous – education, editors, writers etc (14), commissioned histories (9) and research work (9), oral histories (5), and archival work (5). Maybe things like film and television work and interpretive signage were included in the miscellaneous category.

## **NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS**

### ***HISTORY AUSTRALIA: Journal of the Australian Historical Association.* Vol 5, No 2, August 2008; Vol 5, No 3, December 2008**

These are the last two editions by Marian Quartly before Penny Russell and Richard White take over as editors. The August number showcases aspects of Indigenous language, education, religion, illness and rights, acknowledging the importance of Aboriginal history within the mainstream of Australian history. Timothy David Castle's article - 'Watching them hang: Capital Punishment and Public Support in colonial New South Wales, 1826-1836' – is also reproduced. It earned the author the Max Kelly Medal for 2007 from the History Council of New South Wales. The article by Amanda Barry on 'Aboriginal education history and the British Empire' won her the Wiley-Blackwell/Australian Historical Association Prize for 2007.

Incoming president Martin Lyons presents his inaugural message in the December issue. It examines the current process and problems of ranking history journals in a formal hierarchy. The contents of this edition are eclectic and scholarly and cover gender issues, Australian magazines, a new look at the New Guard, the Great White Fleet visit of 1908 revisited, and a critique of Gavin Menzies' 1421. Several of our members will relate to George Parson's reflections on the heated battle between Ancient and Modern History at Macquarie University in the 1970s.

For any of these articles, note that *History Australia* is published online by Monash University ePress at: [www.epress.monash.edu](http://www.epress.monash.edu)



**MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives.**  
**No 36, January 2009**

The latest exhibition at National Archives is Shell-shocked: Australia after Armistice. In this issue, Dr Michael McKernan explores the impact of the Great War on the wider community and cites some poignant examples of loss and grief. His description of families in shock gives another perspective to the early inter-war period that we often think of as the liberated Jazz Age. By 1939, Australians were wiser about war and there was no repetition of the community jubilation of 1914 when young lads infused with patriotism rushed off to support the Empire. The website [www.mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au](http://www.mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au) enables many of these diggers to be traced by place name and shows that service people were born or enlisted in more than 15,000 places in Australian and overseas.

Of course, many did not enlist in World War 1 and Dr Bart Ziino has investigated the archival record to see why these men resisted the powerful pressure to join up. In 1915 and early 1916, a "Call to Arms" form was sent to thousands of men of military age. Ill-health was the major reason given for not enlisting, closely followed by obligations at home. Farms and businesses often depended on the work of young men, especially where other siblings had already enlisted or become casualties, and women often pleaded for exemptions for their sons. Some thought they could serve the war effort better at home. One was C.J.Dennis, a clerk in the Naval Office, whose *Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (1915) and *The Moods of Ginger Mick* (1916) became the most popular works read by soldiers in World War 1.

Dr Pam Oliver investigates another war-related topic in her article on the positive but largely forgotten relationships that existed between Japan and Australia before 1941. Japanese traders and workers came to the Australian colonies from the 1850s. Following Federation, Japanese merchants, tourists and students were given special exemptions from the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 that discriminated so harshly against other Asians and especially Chinese. His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Training Squadron regularly visited Australian waters and Japan was active during World War 1 in operations against German vessels in the South Seas and the Indian Ocean. The Japanese Navy had even accompanied Australian troops to Gallipoli. In Sydney and northern Australia, networks of Japanese trading companies flourished and played an important role in the Australian economy. Australian tourists reported on the cleanliness and friendliness of Japan compared with their visits to unsavoury parts of China.

After the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931, however, the Japanese were regarded with suspicion. Even those who had been involved in the pearling business in the north for decades were no longer accepted. Officially, though, Australia remained on friendly terms with Japan until 1940 when Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Italy and Germany. By the end of World War 2, most Australians, especially those whose family members were POWs, regarded the Japanese as cruel and inhumane and it has taken another generation to restore friendly relations between the two countries and peoples.

**THE SITE GAZETTE: Friends of the First Government House Site (Inc).**  
**Vol 14, No 3, Spring 2008; Vol 14, No 4, Summer 2009**

The Friends of the First Government House Site support Tony Abbott's call in the Sydney Daily Telegraph (13 Oct 2008) for more study of British History. They believe that we need to set the facts straight on our British genesis as well as our colonial history. The historic remains of the First Government House in Bridge Street have, according to the Friends, been overlooked for inclusion for a convict sites nomination for World Heritage Listing. They quote an article by PHA member and Senior Heritage Officer Bruce Baskerville in the National Trust Magazine (Spring 2007) to prove their point. Bruce describes Old Government House at Parramatta as representative of all the Government Houses in demonstrating the vice-regal authority in the convict system. This description applies more correctly to the remains of the First Government House in Bridge Street, say the Friends who continue to lobby for the inclusion of the Sydney site on the World Heritage list.

The 2009 issue contains a provocative article examining the 1789 smallpox epidemic that decimated Sydney's Aboriginal clans and destabilised their social structures. It concludes that the First Fleet officers cannot be blamed for causing the epidemic, deliberately or otherwise. It was a different strain of smallpox, not the one familiar to British surgeons, and was probably transmitted via Indigenous trading routes from Macassan visitors to Northern Australia. The anonymous writer fails to explain the coincidental timing of the catastrophe.

**VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 38, April 2008**

Interesting articles, as always, fill this edition of Voiceprint. Rosie Block and Bob Mitchell review Fast Cars and Tractor Engines, an Urban Theatre Project based on urban history. For those who missed it, there's a summary of the workshop conducted by renowned oral historian Alistair Thompson in Sydney last year. Paula Hamilton reports on her impressions of the OHA Meeting and Oral History in the Digital Age Conference in Pittsburgh last October. And Deborah Ruiz Wall and Dee Hunt write about the Filipino contribution to Broome's pearling history.

Frank Heimans contributes an interesting article on his oral history project conducted in Millers Point for the Department of Housing. Fifty residents, many of them fourth generation, were interviewed to identify what it is that makes this part of the city a community. The rich maritime history of this precinct gives it a special character and is particularly significant now that Sydney no longer has a working harbour. The master tapes have been deposited with the State Library of NSW Oral History Collection and are a valuable resource for researchers.

If you're still mystified by your new recording device, now is the time to make a booking on 9273 1697 for the next Digital Recording Equipment workshop at the State Library on 20 June 2009.

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## *PHA (NSW) Directory 2008-9*

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

For specific enquiries see list below

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National Archives Customer Council: Terry Kass

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Historical Society: Terri McCormack

State Records' Community Advisory Committee: Roslyn Burge

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Professional Development: Pauline Curby Tel.9527 7214

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*Phanfare* [phanfare@phansw.org.au](mailto:phanfare@phansw.org.au)

Editorial Collectives: See list at front of *Phanfare*

Other PHA publications: Ruth Banfield

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

## *Publications*

### *PHA (NSW) web Site*

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

available on line

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ISSN 0616 3774