

Phanfare

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Phanfare

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This issue was produced by the Inner City Collective: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack and Anne Smith

Front Cover: Ward Cottage on Osceola Avenue, Winter Park, Florida was built in 1883 by the Episcopalian rector of that name. This house was later used as the Rollins College girls' dormitory.

President's Report – March 2004

The first few months of what looks like being another busy year for PHA members are over and it's good to see a number of members helping with various aspects of running the association. Their efforts reduce the executive's workload and are much appreciated.

A submission on the Review of the State Records Act, 1998 was prepared with input from the following members: Baiba Berzins, Roslyn Burge, Carol Liston, Virginia Macleod and Lisa Murray. In particular I would like to thank Lisa for providing feedback from a briefing she attended – wearing her vice-president of the History Council hat - at State Records. This was most useful in preparing our submission.

In my last report I mentioned that at the first executive meeting this year we would consider our direction for 2004. After a lively discussion the executive decided to make continuing professional development a priority and a sub-committee consisting of Peter Tyler, Kate Waters and myself are working on this.

Professional development

We have identified the following types of activity that we would like to undertake or have already done so:

- **Visits to repositories** – PHA member Terry Kass has organised a trip to the National Archives of Australia at Chester Hill on 13 May. More of these will be organised
- **Workshops** – two workshops on documentary filmmaking have been run by PHA member Sue

Castrique. More on a range of topics such as indexing are in the pipeline

- **Tours of historic sites** - PHA member Brendan O'Keefe has suggested a tour of mine sites in the Braidwood district later in the year. Details will follow
- **Reading group** – this is in abeyance at the moment but it is hoped that an enthusiast will revive it later this year. Any offers are welcome

As always, remember that the PHA is a completely voluntary organization. We will do our best to organise activities but members need to support these by attending whenever possible. It would also be helpful if members tell us what professional development activities they would like to participate in.

Raising the PHA Profile

Another matter that I mentioned in my last report was the desirability of the PHA having an input into the commissioning of histories. I noted that seven PHA members had volunteered to sit on interview panels and/or to advise potential commissioning bodies and that two senior historians had attended meetings with commissioning bodies. I am pleased to inform members that one of these bodies - a government agency - is now in the process of commissioning a PHA member to undertake a large project. The senior historian who advised this body has agreed to act in an advisory capacity during the course of the project. As there are apparently more projects pending with this agency this involvement should benefit our members. At least there is now one government agency that is aware of the PHA and the work that our members do.

Public History

As the academic year was about to begin the PHA executive was concerned to learn that the Public History course at UTS was under threat. A letter of support was sent that reminded the university that the practice of history is a professional skill. It was strongly stated that professional historians need qualifications and that courses at post-graduate level are essential for people who wish to work in the expanding field of public history. It was also noted that many of our members have benefited from such courses and that the PHA would be very concerned if post graduate courses in public history were no longer available in Sydney. I understand that after some discussion it was decided that a post-graduate certificate will be offered this year, but not the masters program. This is not a satisfactory solution, as the full range of courses that I – for one – undertook when I did the public history course at UTS in the early 1990s will not now be offered. The PHA is prepared to help revive the fortunes of the public history courses - if this is possible in the current tertiary education climate.

Pauline Curby President

POSTCARD

FROM WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

The Tear-Down House

Rosemary Broomham

While teaching at Rollins College, Florida from January to early March this year, I encountered an intriguing term – the ‘tear-down house’ – an expression that I felt, warranted some examination. The tear-down house is a concept shared by realtors and developers in sunny Florida, particularly in parts where the numerous lakes offer miles and miles of waterfront land. I have not heard this term in Sydney but it is apparent that our local developers also understand the concept and already put it to use whenever they can.



Described as a ‘tear-down house’, the above property has only lake glimpses but its position in a small, secluded cul-de-sac with a small fountain among the trees at its centre. Photo R. Broomham

Relatively unknown outside Florida, Winter Park is the city that tourists visit, either when their appetite for theme parks has been satisfied, or when they wish to avoid theme parks altogether. I refer of course to the giant fun fair Disney World and the ubiquitous mall outlets in neighbouring Orlando.

Spain claimed St Augustine in 1565 – in the north of present-day Florida – and defended it from British attack on numerous occasions from a fort at the mouth of the ... River. The Spanish herded the original Native American inhabitants, all members of Timucuan tribe, into missions, a strategy that combined with war, disease and intermarriage to destroy them by the mid-eighteenth century. Forty years later as the West was won, other Native Americans such as the Cherokee and Creek sought refuge in Florida as they were driven off

their land in neighbouring territories. They combined with runaway slaves to form the Seminole tribe, which fought guerrilla campaigns against the US government for another fifty years. It was after this fighting ended that Europeans and African Americans began to settle Florida and develop citrus farms.



The 1880s bird's-eye view of Winter Park shows Lake Virginia in the foreground with the scattered early buildings of Rollins College. Behind that is Lake Osceola, named for the leader of the Seminoles and the Seminole Hotel. On the left is the Winter Park Railway Station of the South Florida line while a narrow gauge railway known as the Dinky Line on Lake Virginia, connected Rollins College to Orlando. Rollins Archives

Florida's first planned city, Winter Park was created and promoted by developer Loring Chase and his partner Oliver Chapman on 600 acres purchased near the route of the ... railway line in central Florida in 1881. The interest in oranges accelerated during the 1880s, attracting numerous would-be orchardists. It was not the farmers that Chase and Chapman wanted to woo, however, their aim was to attract wealthy northerners to the warm Florida climate. The chain of lakes on their landholding offered further allurements for tourists who were invited to spend their time and money in one of the several grand hotels that were established there. Other northerners built their own luxurious winter retreats or moved there altogether.

Thus, from the early 1880s luxury housing was constructed on the waterfront and in other favoured areas. The Congregational Church founded Rollins College in 1885 on 67 acres of prime real estate bordering the shores of Lake Virginia, its site determined by Winter Park residents putting forward a winning bid of \$100,000 for the privilege. The small population believed a college would encourage growth. Now boasting a wealth of architect-designed Mediterranean-style buildings, the College is a dominant feature of the city.

To the west of the railway line there is another Winter Park. Known as Hannibal Square, it is one of the oldest African American communities in Florida, reputedly two years older than the more famous Eatonville, a wholly African American city to the north. Here, according to *The South Florida Journal*, smaller allotments surrounding ‘a church for coloured people’ were offered to ‘Negro families of good character’ from 1881. These people supplied the labour for the grand houses and parklike gardens of the wealthy residents to the east of the railway. West Winter Park is incorporated into the city but the people who live on the other side of the tracks are rarely seen shopping at the Farmers’ Market or strolling in Park Avenue. But they are the main passengers on the Lynx buses that provide a somewhat limited public transport system and the most numerous patrons at the Laundromat. These days, white businesses offices are filtering into the Hannibal Square area but their owners still warn tourists not to go there after dark. Florida is a southern state, socially as well as spatially.

Winter Park resembles Sydney both in the evergreen brushland that surrounds it and the real estate boom presently pushing up the prices of the more modest dwellings of the past. The two major periods in the cities development were the 1880s and the 1920s. Only one large hotel survives, as do few of the grand nineteenth century houses. The College Quarter estate developed in the 1920s for the growing faculty at Rollins retains its interwar style. But much other property in the area surrounding the college is regarded as eminently disposable.



Diagonally opposite the tear-down house a three-garage mansion takes shape in a grandiose French Provincial Style favoured by wealthy Floridians. Unfortunately view taken during construction, does not show the full intention of the owners and architect. The walls shown here are the concrete block inner walls coated with a tar product to resist moisture. The outer bricks were similar to sandstock bricks in appearance but pinker. The portico and the bay window featured limestone trims and the roof is slate. Land on the street is occupied by a ‘motor court’ and on the lake, by a swimming pool. The plans were available to visitors. Photo R. Broomham

Sources: Robin Chapman, *The Absolutely Essential Guide to Winter Park*, The Absolutely Essential Company, 2001; Jack C. Lane (ed), *Rollins College: A Pictorial History*, Rollins College, 1980; Rollins College Archives

A MEANDER THROUGH MUSEUMS OF WA

By Terri McCormack

Over the past eight months, I've been fortunate to see some fascinating parts of Western Australia in the course of my research for two separate projects: a centennial history of the Bureau of Meteorology, and a biography of peripatetic writer Ernestine Hill.

In July, after a fortnight working in Darwin, I crossed the Kimberley by Greyhound bus, visiting Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek, and Broome. For part of the journey, I travelled with Dr Lyn Fong from Queanbeyan who had just attended a family reunion in Darwin and wanted to follow the Fong family migration to the Kimberley in the 1880s. This neatly meshed with my research on Ernestine Hill's writings on the Chinese in northern Australia.

Kununurra, a relatively new town, is a service centre for the tourists who flock to Lake Argyle and the wondrous Bungle Bungles. Finding little of historical relevance, we spent a few days as tourists before heading north for Wyndham, picturesquely situated on Cambridge Gulf. Once the thriving port for the Halls Creek goldrush and the East Kimberley pastoral properties, Wyndham has declined with the closing of Vestey's meatworks and most local industry has moved to Kununurra. For the historian, however, Wyndham Port is a delight. Dominated by the massive Bastion Range behind it, the old town of Wyndham lines the mangrove swamps and mudflats of Cambridge Gulf where the five great Kimberley rivers meet on their way to the sea. The Port was founded in 1885 and reflects its earlier history. Much of the main street consists of the old Chinese shopfronts and Durack family stores built to service gold prospectors and cattle graziers arriving at nearby Anton's Landing. The three little historic cemeteries provide insights into the hardships of the pioneers, the Chinese, the Afghans, and the meatworkers who endured this harsh environment.

Wyndham Museum occupies the old courthouse and is managed by the enthusiastic but aging volunteers of the Wyndham Historical Society. Their fascinating collection includes pioneer artifacts and machinery, wartime history, photographic displays, and information folders on various historical themes. Perhaps predictably for an organisation focused on white settlement, I found little material on the Chinese in the research files to which I was eventually granted access. My colleague Lyn Fong, meanwhile, had met the few Chinese descendants still in the region and discovered a treasure trove of anecdotes and memorabilia which will probably not be passed on to the local Historical Society.

Reluctantly I left the hot steamy time capsule that is Wyndham and re-boarded the bus from Kununurra to Halls Creek. Here I spent several days working at the Meteorological Station, interviewing the observers about their isolated existence, and absorbing the confronting local culture of a largely black town run by a white minority. In a rattling old jeep, I was taken to see the remains of the goldrush settlement at Old Halls Creek and then south through spectacular ranges to the edge of the Great Sandy Desert.

As the only passenger on the little mail plane from Halls Creek via Fitzroy Crossing, I arrived in Broome, far too late to see it in its heyday. It took time to adjust to modern Broome and recognise remnants or renovations of original buildings in Chinatown and to appreciate the grandeur of latticed mansions lurking behind tropical foliage. The Broome Historical Society manages one of the best regional museums in Australia, partly due to the enthusiasm and professionalism of President Val Burton. Since 1981, it has occupied the old Customs Building and its several rooms contain well-organised displays on William Damier's 1699 visit, the pearling industry including Japanese memorabilia, the Broome Air Raid of March

1942, communications, cyclones, and pioneer settlement. These volunteer societies can rarely provide optimum working facilities for visiting researchers. Here, however, I was given a comfortable, quiet, and secluded space with open access to the Society's extensive subject research files and even a photocopier. It was a joy to be able to work without one of the volunteers hovering over my shoulder or, worse, trying to do my research for me!

The pearling settlement of Roebourne Bay was founded in 1880 and renamed Broome for the incumbent WA Governor in 1883. By 1901 the pearling trade employed 2000 people from many nations, many of them losing their lives in the brutal conditions. In 1912 there were more than 400 pearl luggers working from the cosmopolitan port of Broome and pearling was the fifth largest industry in the State. The industry declined following the 1930s depression and the second World War but resurrected in the 1950s with the introduction of pearl farming. All this and much more is explained at the *Pearl Luggers*, an interactive exhibition which includes two beautifully restored pearl luggers, fascinating displays of equipment and memorabilia, and an informative and entertaining lecture by a former diver.

At the other end of Western Australia lies historic Albany, overlooking the beautiful Princess Royal Harbour and the site of the first landing of European settlers in Western Australia. I was here in February 2004 following a couple of weeks work in Perth. Dutch records from 1627 indicate that Dutchman Pieter Van Nuyts first discovered the south western coastline, sailing from Cape Leeuwin to offshore islands near present day Ceduna in South Australia. The second European to visit the area was George Vancouver who entered King George Sound in 1791 on his way to explore the North West Passage. Like Nuyts, he had little interest in the area but he claimed possession and named King George the Third's Sound and Princess Royal Harbour. Next came Matthew Flinders who arrived at King George Sound in July 1801, closely followed by Nicholas Baudin on 11 February 1803. By the 1820s the area was being visited by the whalers and sealers who worked in the Southern Ocean.

Further French visits in the 1820s and the closure of Port Macquarie prompted the British Authorities to despatch a party under Major Edmund Lockyer to form a penal settlement at King George Sound. Sailing from Sydney in the brig *Amity*, they arrived in Princess Royal Harbour in the Sound on Christmas Day 1826, two years before the Swan River settlement. Albany is thus the oldest European settlement in Western Australia and was a major whaling station and coal shipping port. Many official and domestic nineteenth century buildings have been preserved, making Albany, originally called Fredericks Town after the second son of King George III, a fascinating place to explore. Henry Lawson lived here for six months in 1890 and wrote: 'Albany will never change much - it is a pretty town, but vague. It seems to exist only in a far-away-on-the-horizon sort of way; I like it all the better for that.'

As always, I checked out the local museums. The Albany Museum is situated on Point Frederick, the site of the first landing of European settlers in WA, and is one of four regional museums run by the West Australian Museum in Perth. It includes several historic buildings housing exhibitions. The privately-owned re-created *Amity* brig is 'moored' on dry land nearby. The main part of the museum is in the former Governor's elegant residence. I was disappointed by some of the displays here; they seemed dated, even dusty, and failed to adequately reflect Albany's rich natural and social history. I hope the renovations currently underway will improve the presentation of the unique character and history of this picturesque little city.

Almost next door to the Residency Museum is the Old Gaol Museum run by the Albany Historical Society. Occupying a complex of prison buildings which expanded around the 1852 Convict Depot, this folk museum is an evocative portrayal of the grim existence of its inhabitants. The active Historical Society is also responsible for the nearby Patrick Taylor house, a fine example of an early wattle-and-daub dwelling depicting the family life of one of the early settlers. The National Trust also runs a house museum, though on a larger scale and with spacious gardens. This is the Old Farm at Strawberry Hill, the site of an 1827 government garden. Locals told me that all three historical organisations cooperate in preserving and presenting Albany's heritage. This is not always the case elsewhere.

Esperance, overlooking the numerous islands of the Recherche Archipelago, was my next port of call and also has a long history of maritime exploration. In 1627 Pieter Nuyts sailed this coastline in the ship *Gulden Zeepaardt*. Later navigators included Frenchman Captain Bruni D'Entrecasteaux in the *L'Esperance* and *La Recherche* in 1792 in search of the explorer La Perouse. Matthew Flinders made the first accurate charts of the Recherche archipelago during his circumnavigation of the continent in 1802. In later years Esperance's waters were home to sealers and whaling ships searching for valuable Right Whales. Just east of Esperance is the harsh Nullabor Plain, crossed by Edward John Eyre and his Aboriginal companion Wylie in 1841. Suffering from starvation and exposure, they were rescued by a chance encounter with Captain Rossiter of the French whaling ship *Mississippi* at nearby Lucky Bay. From 1863, graziers arrived and by the 1890s Esperance was a vital link to the WA goldfields, subsequently declining when it was bypassed by the railway.

The Esperance Historical Society attempts to include all these historical elements and more in the vast warehouse occupied by the Museum. It's one of the most extensive local museums I have ever seen but is rather overwhelming for the casual visitor. The collection includes a full sized vintage locomotive and passenger coach, a huge camel-drawn jig, a model period shop, enormous pieces of farming and mining machinery, cars and trucks, and displays covering the region's early pioneering and maritime history. A unique feature of the museum is the world's most comprehensive display of NASA Skylab memorabilia. Skylab was America's first space station and plummeted to the earth in 1979 to the northeast of Esperance.

This extraordinary accumulation of objects is overseen by a competent group of volunteers who also run a two-room archives section which is well equipped with computers, filing cabinets, copiers, and a reference collection. Unhappily, on the day of my visit the computers were down and they were unable to locate the oral history tapes on the Bureau of Meteorology which I'd identified from an internet reference. After a fair bit of buck-passing between the Historical Society and the Family History Society, the cassettes were not found. Being familiar with this scenario from many encounters with local history groups, I cut my losses and went on a delightful cruise of the islands of the Recherche Archipelago instead.

My final WA museum was the one in Kalgoorlie, also run by the WA Museum. It is an excellent museum and features a range of well-presented interior and external exhibits, mainly portraying the discovery, operation, and social life of the Eastern Goldfields. A lift takes visitors up the massive mining head where the whole town can be seen, itself an historic exhibit. With 43⁰ heat outside, I spent some time in the air-conditioned museum, being ejected at closing time. While I waited at the Railway Hotel for the Indian-Pacific train to arrive later that night to take me to Sydney, I witnessed a spectacular cyclonic storm, culminating in a lighting strike on a nearby eucalypt. Somehow, this seemed an appropriate conclusion to a fascinating time in Western Australia.



What's On

by Christine de Matos

April 2004

Exhibitions

- 'Working Harbour'**. Until July 2004. **Venue:** Maritime Museum.
'Convicts: Life at the Barracks'. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.
'Asylum Women: aged, infirm, destitute'. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.
'Lost City'. King St of the 1890s. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.
'Fifties Houses: Plus or Minus'. **Venue:** Rose Seidler House.
'DRUGS: A Social History'. **Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.

Events

- 3** **Tour.** *'Time Please, Ladies and Gentlemen'*. Tour of pubs in The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$38, mem/conc \$27 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.
- 3 & 4** **Tour.** *'Behind The Scenes'*. HHT. **Venue:** Government House Sydney **Time:** 11am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$15, conc/mem \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.
- 7** **Lecture.** *'The Public Trustee Office'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 10** **Tour.** *'Digging up the Neighbourhood'*. Archaeological sites in The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$15, mem/conc \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.
- 14 & 21** **Tour.** *'Return to the Scene of the Crime'*. Back alleys of The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Justice & Police Museum **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.
- 15-16** **Conference.** *'The Great Labor Schism 1955: Fifty Years After'*. Melbourne. **Enquiries:** Brian Costar email: brian.costar@arts.monash.edu.au; Peter Love email: plove@swin.edu.au; Paul Strangio email: paul.strangio@arts.monash.edu.au
- 18** **Talk.** *'Canberra's National 'Cathedrals': Where are they?'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$5.50, mems free **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 18** **Tour.** *'Living Inner City: Summer Hill'*. Social history walking tour. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 2-3.30pm **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** (02) 9518 6866.
- 25** **Talks/Tour.** *'Great War Stories'*. ANZAC commemoration. HHT. **Venue:** Rouse Hill Estate **Time:** 9.30-11.30am & 11am-1pm **Cost:** \$10, mem/conc \$7 **Bookings essential:** (02) 9518 6866.

May Events

8 Conference. *'Empires and Resistance: Rise and Fall of Great Powers'*. London.
Enquiries: email: conference2004@londonsocialisthistorians.org; web:
<http://www.londonsocialisthistorians.org>

Upcoming Conferences

'Eighth Asian Studies Conference Japan'. 19-20 June 2004, Tokyo. **Enquiries:** web:
<http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~kokusai/ascj/>

'XIIIth International Oral History Conference: Memory and Globalization'. 23-26 June 2004, Rome, Italy. **Enquiries:** Janis Wilton, jwilton@pobox.une.edu.au; web:
<http://www.ioha.fgv.br>

'Roadside Memorials: A Multi-disciplinary Approach'. 25-27 June 2004, University of New England Armidale. **Enquiries:** email: jclark1@pobox.une.edu.au

'15th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia'. 29 June-2 July 2004, Canberra. **Enquiries:** web: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA/conference>

'Medicine at the Border: The History, Culture and Politics of Global Health'. 1-3 July 2004, Sydney. **Enquiries:** Dr Alison Bashford, Department of History, University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

'An International Conference on Quong Tart and His Times, 1850 to 1903'. 1-4 July 2004, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. **Enquiries:** web:
<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/history/quongtart/>

'War and Citizenship in 20th century Australia'. 3 July 2004, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. **Enquiries:** email: m.trinca@nma.gov.au

'Computing Arts 2004 @ Newcastle'. 8-9 July 2004, University of Newcastle. Digital resources and the humanities. **Enquiries:** Hugh Craig ph: (02) 49215175; email:
hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au

'AHA Head of History Summit'. 5 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** email:
Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au

'Visions: 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Historical Association'. 5-9 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/aha2004>

'Fourth Biennial RHS Conference: Visions in Religion and History'. 5-9 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** email: Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au

'Computing Arts 2004 @ Newcastle'. 8-9 July 2004, University of Newcastle. Digital resources and the humanities. **Enquiries:** Hugh Craig ph: (02) 49215175; email:

hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au

'Projecting Australia: British Australian Studies Association Biennial Conference'. 2-5 September 2004, Cardiff University. **Enquiries:** Dr Bill Jones ph: (+44) (0)29 2087 6104; fax: (+44) (0)29 2087 4929; email: joneswd@cardiff.ac.uk

'The "Extreme Right" in 20th-Century Australia'. 9-10 October 2004, Sydney. **Enquiries:** Andrew Moore, email: a.moore@uws.edu.au; John Perkins, email: jperkins@hmn.mq.au

'2004 Museum Computer Network Conference: Great Technology for Collections, Confluence, and Community'. 10-13 November 2004, Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Enquiries:** email: mcn2004@igs.net; web: <http://www.mcn.edu>

'Paradigm Shift in Asia: East, Southeast, and South Asia in Comparative Perspective. International Association of Historians of Asia'. 6-10 December 2004, Taipei, Taiwan. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~iaha18tw>

Call for Papers

'Call for Seminar Proposals: History of Melbourne University'. For seminar series 2004. **Enquiries:** ph: (03) 8344 5468; email: b.ziino@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au; web: http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au/dept_hist/index.html#histunit

'Trans-Tasman Conference on Missionary History'. 8-10 October 2004, ANU Canberra. **Enquiries:** Email: ianwelch@coombs.anu.edu.au

'2005 National Conference of the Australian Historical Association'. 3-9 July 2005, Sydney. Held in conjunction with the International Congress of Historical Sciences. Theme: 'Inclusive Histories'. Submission of 250 word abstracts (individual paper or panel), plus 1 page CV, due **30 April 2004**. **Enquiries/submissions:** A/P Rae Frances email: r.frances@unsw.edu.au

'20th International Congress of Historical Sciences'. 3-9 July 2005, University of NSW Sydney. Poster submission deadline **31 May 2004**. **Enquiries:** email: cish2005@incompass.com.au; web: <http://www.cishsydney2005.org>

'The Japanese Occupation: The Lessons of the Past 60 Years After'. 5-6 September 2005, Singapore. Bio and 200 word abstracts due by **31 December 2004**. **Enquiries:** Kevin Blackburn, email: kpblack@nie.edu.sg; Karl Hack, email: kahack@nie.edu.sg; ph: (65) 6790 3414; fax: (65) 6896 9135.

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to c.de-matos@uws.edu.au by 20th of the month.

IT'S NOT A HOBBY! THIS IS MY LIVELIHOOD!

When I leapt the desk at Mitchell Library all those decades ago to become a freelance researcher rather than a librarian, I was fleeing the mundane nine-to-five world of a steady income, continuity of work, and financial security. In the intervening years, I've enhanced my skills and qualifications as a consultant historian and have had many major projects lasting for months or even years. In the lean times, though, I still take on small private research jobs which come my way from the PHA, Mitchell, or by word of mouth and I'm still never sure whether or not I'll be paid. The work is varied and challenging, usually very short-term, and even the small genealogical jobs can involve some historical interpretation and evaluation.

The problem is getting the message across that, enjoyable though the work might be, I do need to be paid for it. I've been very lucky over the years with, to date, no defaulters but the insecurity remains. Because I can rarely be sure of the extent of the research, I don't usually request payment up front but trust to basic human honesty. In my first contact with prospective clients, I give them my hourly rate and the likely costs of additional expenses. This usually eliminates those who thought they were getting a free research service but some hopefuls linger on. There was the woman for whom I did a small job on convict ancestors. My combined invoice included an amount for research hours and \$29.25 for photocopying and postage. Back came her cheque for \$29.25 to cover costs and a note saying that no invoice had been received. She paid up in full when I sent another invoice but it made me wonder. And then there's those who want to pay in kind, like the well-known vintner who wanted a history of his vineyard in return for a case of fine wine. This was probably a better deal than the recent offer by an American boxing aficionado who was willing to pay for a *SMH* newspaper search with invaluable pugilistic memorabilia but no hard cash!

The most frustrating case was the wealthy businessman writing a book about his famous family's early contact with the Aborigines of Southern Queensland. I spent many months transcribing Crown Lands Surveyors reports and Colonial Secretary's correspondence for him. My regular invoices accompanying each consignment of material were met with a barrage of excuses for non-payment ranging from the GST and payroll problems to family disasters. At one stage, I sent a letter advising him that legally he would be unable to use any of the research material in his publication if didn't pay for it and he replied with any angry email "ARE YOU THREATENING ME? Well, yes, I was, although I knew I had no legal basis for it. Eventually, in small instalments and over many months, he paid up by which time I was too fed up to care. A year later, he had the nerve to contact me again. This time, I demanded prepayment of at least \$2000 before I started work. I never heard from him again.

With overseas clients, of course, one is completely at their mercy. There seem to be lots of overseas PhD students expecting their research to be done for them but they can be easily deterred by the mention of money. I've done small and large research jobs for people in England, France, India, Singapore, China, Canada, the US, NZ, and the Bahamas and have always received prompt payment (Western Union works well). Maybe I've just been lucky or maybe my clients have appreciated the value of historical research. It would be interesting to hear of others' experiences especially if anyone has devised a foolproof method of payment!

Terri McCormack

PHA Workshop

‘The Historical Documentary – From Idea to Treatment’

Seven PHA members sacrificed their Saturday leisure time and made their way into History House on the hottest, most humid day of Summer, recently. However as the very productive day unfolded, all of this faded into insignificance.

The occasion was (much more than!) a lecture by TV Scriptwriter, Script Editor and Historian, Sue Castrique. Sue’s extensive knowledge, with her background in television drama and film, which has earned her a number of awards, was generously shared with gathered members. The idea was that those present would bring with them a one paragraph synopsis of an item proposed for a television documentary and by the end of the day would have developed techniques for conceptualising and shaping the material for to carry this through.

As historians it seems we sometimes cannot “see the woods for the trees” as far as the television media goes, and a different perspective was all that was needed to start thinking with an “eye for the screen”. I for one was most impressed with Sue’s ability to impart her knowledge, and her tactfulness in steering people in the right direction. After a delicious lunch, we saw and discussed several videoed examples of different approaches.

We are privileged in that this is the second time Sue has presented the topic to PHA members, and she seemed to enjoy herself as much as we did. It was also fruitful for her, as appropriate to some research she was doing, she happened to mention an item she had seen in a recent museum exhibition, whose owner she really wanted to talk to but couldn’t imagine she would find. In an amazing coincidence, who should that have been, but Moi! How serendipitous.

The day went astoundingly quickly and we all left with our heads humming with revisions to our Synopses, our Treatments in the making, and with the sure knowledge that between us we had the nuclei for seven future award winning Television Documentaries!

Anne Smith

THE EDWARDIANS – SECRETS AND DESIRES

Exhibition at the Australian National Gallery, Canberra

This sumptuous and rewarding exhibition is based on the premise that on the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, a new (if short-lived) era of artistic achievement, social change, intellectual thought and new mores emerged, which is exemplified in its art.

The Edwardian era casts a long shadow. It is often thought of as the last golden era before the devastation of the First World War. It was the era of Empires and colonial administration. It witnessed the triumphs of science and technology (psycho-analysis, the motor car) as well as their humiliation (the sinking of the Titanic). It saw the maturation of the anxieties and fears which emerged in the *fin de siècle* (or as John Docker has described it, the Nervous Nineties) and their hardening into law and firm belief. From a historical point of view these themes are only lightly touched upon in an exhibition which focuses on aesthetics and personalities. This is not surprising in a period when portraiture flourished and the gowns, the jewels, the tea parties, the scenery, the hats (oh, those hats!) and the interiors were all visually luscious. Yet there are hidden jewels of historical insight to be found in the exhibition, and it seems that the artists of the Edwardian era, for whatever reason, were perhaps more introspective than their predecessors.



Take the painting on the left, *Chesham Street*, by George Lambert, ca. 1910-1914. Described as a “puzzle picture” it purports to show a man disrobing so he can be examined by his doctor. The catalogue states:

“This painting is a metaphor: this man seems to have nothing to hide, to be literally and metaphorically baring his chest, exposing his heart and soul to the world”.

But another view of the picture suggests the painting is more about concealment than exposure. Notice how the man’s bearded face and formal collar merge into the black background and appear divorced from his naked body. It is almost as if he is displaying a headless, lifeless statue. His eyes are closed, as if he does not want to witness the exposure of his private self.

The doctor is left to puzzle over the enigma of the Edwardian male.

Australian women artists are also represented. Florence Fuller, the painter of a contemplative work showing a young girl deep in her book said in 1913: “The hidden inner life has not yet succeeded in expressing itself on canvas...” She worked as a governess, taught and painted commissions to support herself. Bessie Davidson studied with Margaret Preston and travelled

to Paris to study and work in 1904. She lived in France until her death. Many of the paintings by and of women show them in indoors, against carefully observed interiors, reading, gazing into mirrors, sitting pensively on balconies or looking out of windows onto the world outside. The catalogue authors draw analogies with the impact Ibsen's plays had on the Victorian world, letting in fresh air and dangerous ideas, pointing out the claustrophobic nature of domestic life.

Part of the exhibition's appeal to an Australian audience is the large number of works by Australian artists who studied and sold their art in Britain and Europe during this period. George Lambert, Rupert Bunny, Charles Conder, Ethel Carrick and E. Phillips Fox all feature.



The ultimate painter of the Edwardian good life, however, was the American artist John Singer Sargent. His portraits of the wealthy have been likened to those of Velasquez. Outstanding portraits in this exhibition include those of the Duchess of Devonshire (of whom it was said she preferred inanimate objects to humans; she is shown clutching a nice piece of silverware); Lord Ribblesdale; and the artist Jane de Glehn and her husband (at left). His polar opposite must be Walter Sickert, painter of sordid working class bedrooms and women snared by poverty and prostitution. Sickert's painting *Ennui* shows a middle aged couple trapped in an interior which one feels is all too familiar to them, and was described by Virginia Woolf: "It is all over with them, one feels."

Certainly it was all over soon after *Ennui* was conceived, and the days of the Edwardian country house were lost for ever. While the art of the period was full of grand gestures, artists expressed the ideas of their time. Those ideas could have been more clearly articulated in the exhibition's interpretation. For me, it was only upon introspection that the "secrets and desires" hinted at by some of the paintings became apparent. Some additional historical context of the kinds of ideas which were surfacing at the time, which are only vaguely hinted at even in the catalogue, would have allowed the full power of the art to reach the viewer.

Christa Ludlow

**Silos, Six-Packs and Start-up Castles:
the National Conference on the State of Australian Cities
Parramatta, 3-5 December 2003**

This conference aimed to provide a ‘focus for new urban scholarship’ and to ‘bring ...academics...together with new researchers...policy makers and practitioners who are interested in the Australian city’. The intention was thus to set up a forum for new research (carried out both in universities and outside them), for a dialogue between research and practice, and to set a research agenda for the future of our cities. Given Australian demographic and environmental patterns, and the challenges presented both by the burgeoning cities and the regional centres, these are timely, pragmatic and worthwhile aims. The key themes (for what ‘Big Words’ are worth) were: growth, sustainability and vulnerability. The conference was the brainchild of Patrick Troy from CRES at the ANU and involved a mighty array of universities and their constituent centres and faculties– the Urban Frontiers Program at the University of Western Sydney, Griffith University, the University of Melbourne, UNSW (Faculty of the Built Environment) - and government departments, including ACT Planning and Land Authority, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, and the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources. Politicians were also supposed to be involved, but only two showed up to speak – Diane Beamer (NSW Assistant Planning Minister and Minister for Western Sydney) and Mary Delahunty, the Victorian Minister for Planning. Mark Latham was scheduled to speak but had a pretty good excuse for not being there.

The major participants and organisers were thus mainly from planning, while paper givers also included a dynamic mix from sociology, geography, ecology, health sciences and transport studies. Notice anything missing? Apart from myself and Lionel Frost, there were no historians giving papers, and very few historians in the vast audience (two colleagues trekked up from Melbourne, one came down from Brisbane, and one more flew in to launch a journal). Since most urban historians believe in the relevance, not to say fundamental importance, of historical perspectives for understanding the urban present and planning for the future, this forum was something of a missed opportunity for historians.

It was also, of course, an opportunity to learn about the other ways cities are studied. There were six concurrent sessions, beautifully organised, and even colour-coded, by the folks from the Urban Frontiers Program – they deserve warmest congratulations. The session themes included the economy, social conditions, the environment, changing spatial structures, governance and finance and ‘the connected city’, which was mostly about transport. Of course the downside of this was that there were a large number of interesting papers I could not hear. However, I understand many will be up on the web shortly.

The session in which I spoke was about the urban fringes – the peri-urban areas, their functions and futures. This is the ever-shifting transitional region where Sydney meets the bush, where people build rural dream homes, where the city’s vegetables are grown (Sydney dominates in the leafy perishables market, apparently), where there are still tracts of indigenous vegetation, and where, according to Ian Sinclair from Edge Planning, thousands of Sydney’s trucks go to sleep at night. One of the city’s problems is that, with suburban expansion, the demand for master-planned housing developments and the concomitant rise in

land prices, where do all these other activities go? How can we protect precious stands of native vegetation? Where will our food, and our trucks, have to come from? Beyond and over the sandstone barriers?

My paper, based on my new ARC project, explored the history, archaeology and environment of Castlereagh and the Penrith Lakes Scheme as a case-study in Sydney's environmental history. This Scheme aims to 'rehabilitate' vast open-cut gravel and sand quarries by creating a series of huge lakes, but in the process is destroying a rich palimpsest of earlier cultural and natural landscapes. So it's a good site to look at Sydney's constantly reforming landscapes, the environmental impacts of its constant expansion, the relationship with the hinterland and the obsession with water. I tried to address the key conference themes by talking about the uncompromising demands and costs of urban growth, the vulnerability of local cultural landscapes and knowledge, as well as human attachment to, place on the rural fringes of Sydney. I also stressed that historical knowledge would enhance the future planning of the site, for example, by demonstrating the uses and limits of the notion of urban sustainability, or by problematising the 'keystone species' in their newly-created habitats (that is, humans in their new suburbs). Most of the papers I heard either had a short, usually token, historical background (not reaching back further than 1945), included erroneous historical statements or were completely ahistorical.

The relationship between cities and human health and wellbeing was another underlying theme, pulling together a number of the papers. Of course, for urban historians, this has been the perennial question about cities, so it's interesting to hear health professionals (Krishna Hort, Anthony Capon and Colin Berryman) grappling with statistics which show it is more dangerous and unhealthy to live in rural areas than in cities, despite common assumptions about urban versus rural life. They also talked about the difficulty of getting medical research funding for research that is not about disease, but about wellness and urban environments – aspects of urban life such as transport, parks, social interaction, safe and usable public places and so on. Nancy Marshall reported on her work on 'sea-change' people – people supposedly leaving the city for a better life in Pearl Bay or equivalent. In fact, her research shows that, in her target groups, about as many people move *to* the city as away from it, and guess what, about the same (high) proportion say they are better off after the move. Again, research challenges certain beliefs we have about ourselves and current demographic trends. Paul Tranter gave us a new twist on motor sports events, pointing out that these events cultivate images of 'vibrancy' and 'excitement' and are never reviewed critically. Yet they are clearly environmentally unsustainable, invade and colonise public spaces, promote unhealthy social values (glamorizing fast driving, smoking and drinking alcohol – all at the same time). When you think about it, what possessed Canberra's authorities to allow a race-track to be created right around the nation's premier political building? For the race organizers, of course, it was a winner - there was that priceless visual association for TV: the steel crown of Parliament House overtopping the roaring, snarling cars.

Suburbs were, as ever, a major theme, in terms of both human and environmental health. It was refreshing to hear the voices of people from the new master-planned estates in Gabriell Gwyther's paper. Here is evidence to counter simplistic, demonising journalism - the big houses in most cases, represent superannuation for the occupants, not merely bloated conspicuous consumption. Yet what these people have to say about immigrant populations in the places they left, and about these new estates as refuge and escape, also challenges complacent notions about our tolerant 'multicultural city'. Lesley Head talked about people's relationships with their backyards; Garry Smith told us about a grassroots campaign to raise

environmental awareness in Oyster Bay. This project employs the concepts and language of risk management to bring home the impacts of suburban behaviour – the real, measurable outcomes of everyday actions and habits.

One aspect I found bizarre about the presentations was that nearly everyone using powerpoint (and everybody did) had their whole paper written up on the screen, all in short, simple dot-point sentences, whereupon many proceeded to slowly *read out* each point in turn. Perhaps this is normal at these sorts of conferences! Another discovery, as you may have noted from ‘keystone species’ above, is that this was a wonderful place to pick up jargon. A ‘six-pack’ is one of those 1960s red-brick blocks of flats – nice! ‘Start-up Castles’ is another name for McMansions, though I suspect just as disparaging. ‘Silos’ has apparently been around for a while – we all inhabit disciplinary ‘silos’, talking to our own kind in our own language. What we must do is climb up out of our silos and talk to one another (doesn’t this conjure up delicious Leunig-type images?). I guess that is what this conference was about, and for the major silos represented, it worked. I am sure all the delegates look forward to long-term, useful and accessible outcomes based on the discussions and conclusions at the conference plenary. Hopefully more historians will contribute to such discussions in the future.

Grace Karskens

WORK

Administrative History of New South Wales Government

The State Records Authority of New South Wales seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced professional historians to research and write volume two covering the period 1901 - 1960, in a multi-volume administrative history of government in NSW.

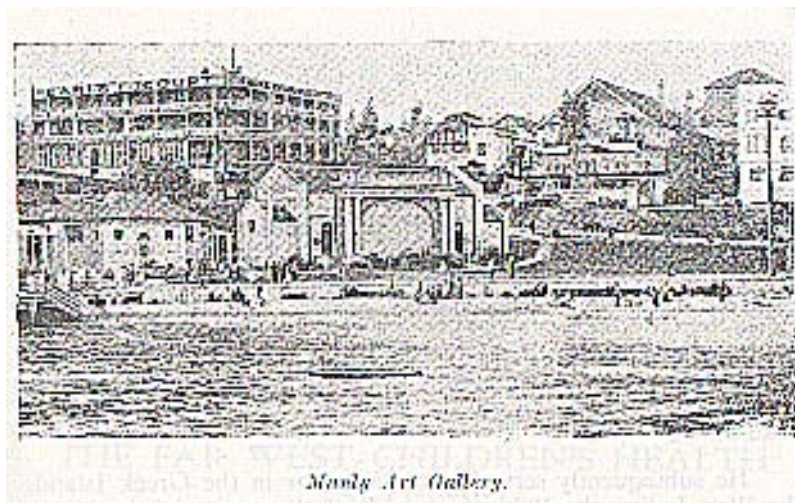
For further information about the project and a copy of the brief please contact
Alan Ventress,
Associate Director, City,
State Records Authority of New South Wales,
PO Box 516 Kingswood, NSW 2747 Tel (02) 8247 8653, Fax 8247 8626, Email
adc@records.nsw.gov.au

Closing date: 30 April 2004

A POTTED HISTORY OF THE MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM, AND SOCIETY

Although it has been there for 80 years, many Sydney residents do not realise what a gem they have in the Art Gallery and Museum nestled beside the Harbour at Manly. The seeds for this major New South Wales Regional Art Gallery were sown in January 1924, when a painting by Australian artist James R Jackson, won an art competition organised by the *Manly Daily* newspaper. A group of local people then petitioned Manly Council to buy the painting. Subsequently, the Council followed up with the beginnings of an art collection. Although there were several galleries in country centres by 1924, there was no precedent for a suburban public gallery. The establishment of this Manly collection created a great deal of interest.

Originally housed in the Manly Town Hall, in 1925 it comprised thirty works, including some well-known artists such as Margaret Preston, Thea Proctor, Will Ashton and Lloyd Rees and Norman Lindsay. Today's main exhibition gallery was originally built as a bandstand on the site of a very early rough ladies swimming baths at this western end of the Esplanade. In 1930 the bandstand was converted into the gallery and the collection has been housed there ever since.



After this the collection grew very quickly. By the end of 1930, there were 79 paintings and 62 historical photographs. In 1940 the gallery received a gift from the artist Dattilo-Rubbo of more than 100 of his own works. Also in 1940, a local Patron of the Arts, Colonel A Spain donated five paintings, including "The Flower Seller" by Tom Roberts.

However during the Depression and throughout the war years money for professional staff was scarce. So by the 1950s, both the building and the collection had badly deteriorated. In 1966 a volunteer at the Gallery, a lady by the name of Clarice Thompson cleaned half of a Penleigh Boyd painting and presented it at a Council meeting in an endeavour to convince reluctant aldermen that the paintings were in desperate need of attention. Clarice was promptly appointed Honorary Art Gallery Director, and the Council renovated the building. However, locating the collection was the first problem Clarice encountered. Owing to the non-existence of storage space at the gallery, the pictures had been poked into any available space in various Council buildings. Two important pieces were found in the loft of the

Council Depot and a great surprise to her was finding Cossington-Smith's "Bed Time" gracing the floor of the old kitchen!

Interesting works now came to light. A valuable record of early Manly, and a milestone, was reached when a bid at a London auction secured Conrad Martens "Manly Beach 1854". Extensions in 1966 provided a small storage room and an upper gallery, with controlled lighting and air-conditioning which made it possible to house works on paper.

Nowhere in Sydney at this time was there a permanent collection of quality Australian pottery. So this was another exciting area to tackle. From a modest two pots – a *Peter Rushforth* and *Hiroe Swen* – the first to be purchased by a public collection in Australia – the Collection has grown to one of great importance. Thanks to a bequest by the late Molly Askin, widow of Sir Robin Askin and former patron of the Gallery, this ceramic collection which gave its minders many headaches before it was safely 'behind glass', has since been on permanent exhibition in its own large display area.

A blow to the Gallery came in 1976 when a theft left the Gallery without six of its treasured works, including *Tom Roberts* "The Flower Sellers", and "Swans and Peacocks" by *Norman Lindsay*. The pictures were missing for seven years but amazingly all were eventually recovered.

The collection grew steadily and became properly catalogued for the first time. With a great deal of enthusiasm from Manly Council's Alderman, Joan Thorburn, and with the assistance of a grant from the State Government, a Museum was added to the original art gallery building and opened by the Premier in 1982. This evolved into a Museum of the Beach and now has one of the most extensive collections of swimwear in Australia.

There is today a great emphasis on exhibitions to be provided for short periods of time, to enable greater sections of the community to enjoy the diversity of Australia's creative arts. Going along with this, the Gallery holds national survey exhibitions of contemporary quilts and ceramics; travelling regional exhibitions, and major exhibitions of local art, through the Society's amalgamation with the Peninsula Art Society. So flexible is the space that it has even held exhibitions of ancient Egyptian artefacts! The principal objective is to provide the community with ready access to great works of art from many sources.

The fund-raising arm of the Gallery, the Manly Art Gallery and Museum Society Inc, had its official beginnings in more recent times. In 1985 a meeting was convened in the Manly Art Gallery & Museum with a view to amalgamating three separate groups of volunteer supporters into one body to be known as the Manly Art Gallery and Museum Society. Throughout the Gallery & Museum's history it is important to reflect that there has always been strong community support. This has taken various forms, through task forces, committees and auxiliaries.

The role of the Society has been debated over the years. Was it purely to assist the Gallery financially – ask no questions, make no waves? Was it to assist the Gallery & Museum merely in social events? Should it try to bridge any gap that existed between the Gallery, the Society and the community? Or should it just run itself for itself? Perhaps it should be more to enjoy the art displayed to the full, and endeavour to learn more about art, specially the Gallery's Collection of works of Art.. What is it supposed to achieve? Is it supposed to achieve anything?

These various elements were blended to create a single dynamic organisation, able to respond to the changing issues of the Manly Art Gallery & Museum – And, who could ask for better surroundings in which to conduct meetings? Although at times it is most distracting with so many interesting works on display.

Manly Art Gallery & Museum Society is proud of what it has achieved in a relatively short time. Today the Society plays a leading role in the Gallery & Museum and its artistic programs. The Gallery & Museum and the Society operate on a partnership basis. By working together, in consultation, in collaboration, the Gallery & Museum and the community are able to build a viable and relevant institution. Without the continuing support of the Society and its members, the Gallery & Museum would be nothing more than a hollow building. In recognition of the Society's leadership, the Gallery and Museum provide members with some excellent benefits. Each year Society members are given advance notice of all exhibitions and are able to take part in their opening festivities. It is a very social and friendly way to enjoy the best that Australia's visual artists have to offer.

Fundraising is a most important function of the Society with the funds being made available to acquire new works. One popular weekly event bringing in regular funds is the Life Drawing Class. The Society also plays a leading role in the Gallery's artistic programs. For instance, each year the Society funds an *Express Yourself* Exhibition which highlights the creative achievements of Higher School Certificate students studying the visual arts. This exhibition's role model is the hugely successful *Art Express* in the City; the significant difference being that Manly's version is distinctly local. In addition to exhibiting students' works, the Society funds a scholarship of \$2000 to assist a talented student in furthering their studies at a tertiary institution.

From the positive community feedback it seems that whatever the Gallery and Society are doing, it is working extremely well, and they will be hard pressed to remain "the best kept secret in town" for much longer.

Anne Smith



Parrots window, c.1905, Louis Comfort Tiffany, The Charles Homer Morse Museum, Winter Park Florida

Historical Quiz & Invitation

1. Chester Hill is well known to historians because,
 - a. it has the hotel with the largest bottle sales in Sydney,
 - b. it is the home of Ivan's butchery
 - c. it is the location of an important chemical works developed in World War Two
 - d. it is the location of the Sydney repository of the National Archives of Australia.
2. Chester Hill is accessible,
 - a. only by helicopter
 - b. only by foot
 - c. by car
 - d. by train, car and foot
3. The Sydney repository of National Archives,
 - a. contains only records for NSW from after 1900
 - b. has only a selection of heavily culled files from after 1945
 - c. has only records relevant to NSW
 - d. has files, maps, and plans, photos and film pertaining to NSW, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, the ACT and Tasmania from the early the early nineteenth century onwards.
4. The National Archives of Australia at Sydney,
 1. has nothing apart from files,
 2. occupies a small building with no facilities
 3. cannot assist any users
 - a. is the best place in Sydney to purchase a wide range of NAA publications.
5. The Sydney repository of the National Archives of Australia,
 - a. only looks after paper-based records,
 - b. stores and destroys paper based records
 - c. keeps only a few plans
 - d. has a large fully equipped newly built Preservation section with the ability to handle various sorts of audio-visual materials

If you did not answer "d" for each question, you seriously need to attend the PHA tour of the Sydney repository of the National Archives of Australia. Even if you did answer correctly, you should attend the tour and see what happens "behind the scenes".

Numbers will be limited, so get your name in early.

The tour is scheduled for 10.00 am, Thursday, 13 May, at the Chester Hill repository, at 120 Miller Road, Chester Hill.

Please contact Terry Kass, (9749 4128) if you wish to attend.

Introducing Some of Our New Members

It's heartening to report that membership of the Association continues to grow. Since last *Phanfare*, another three people have been accepted as full members, and we extend a warm welcome to David Lewis, Dr Barry McGowan and Ron Ringer.

Following are a few brief notes to introduce some of the members who have joined us this year:

Bronwyn Hanna

Bronwyn Hanna's PhD examined the historiography of women architects in early twentieth century NSW. Her consequent co-authored book, *Women Architects in Australia 1900-1950*, was widely reviewed and won the Bates Smart Prize for Architectural Media and a commendation from the Art Association of Australia. After teaching and researching at various universities in Sydney, she now works for the Heritage Office. She is a member of the Professional Historians' Association, SAHANZ and Constructive Women. In 2004 she is sitting on the History Council of NSW as the Heritage Office's representative

Ron Ringer

Ron has a BA (Hons) degree from Nottingham University and an MA in History from the University of NSW. He runs a communications and corporate writing organisation, Syntax Writing Services Pty. Limited and has published several secondary school Modern History texts. In July 2002 he was commissioned by Elgas Limited to research and write a history of their organisation and this has been published recently. Ron is currently developing a series of short-form business histories and documentaries in association with The History Channel, a subsidiary of Foxtel.

Mary-Jean Sutton

Mary-Jean's background is in Historical Archaeology and Aboriginal Studies. Her Honours thesis focussed on the built environment and special configurations of Aboriginal missions, reserves and other institutions in Queensland from 1825 to 1986, comparing these with prisons and other 'total institutions.' During her undergraduate studies she worked in a voluntary capacity on a number of archaeological projects including the Regentville excavation; the excavation of nineteenth century workers' huts at Pymont and the Central Australian Archaeology Project, run by the University of Sydney. Since graduating from the University of Sydney in 2000, Mary-Jean has held a number of positions with archaeological consultants. She is currently employed by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) as Project Manager / Archaeologist where her main role involves managing and carrying out Aboriginal and Historic heritage and archaeological projects throughout NSW.

Reports from our Reps

HISTORY COUNCIL

The first meeting of the History Council in February was a Planning Day to set the general direction and program for 2004. Key events, such as the Annual History Lecture and History Week, have already been scheduled for this year as well as other initiatives to promote history to a broader audience.

Premier's History Awards

The History Council will maintain its association with the Premier's History Awards. These awards were established by the New South Wales Government in 1997 to honour distinguished achievement in history by Australians. The awards are conducted in association with the History Council of New South Wales. The categories are:

- **The Premier's Australian History Prize** for a major work of Australian history (\$15,000)
- **The Premier's General History Prize** for a work of history on a subject of broad significance (\$15,000)
- **The Premier's Community and Regional History Prize** for a significant contribution to the understanding of Australian community, institutional or regional history (\$15,000)
- **The Premier's Children's History Prize** for a book, film, television or radio program, CD-ROM or website which increases the historical understanding of children and young adults (\$15,000)
- **The Premier's Audio/Visual History Prize** for the presentation of history utilising non-print media (including film, television, radio, CD-ROM, website or digital video disc) (\$15,000)
- **State Records NSW - John and Patricia Ward History Prize:** The John and Patricia Ward History Prize (\$15,000) has been established by State Records NSW in memory of historian John Manning Ward and his wife Patricia. It is intended to encourage the use of original materials, rather than secondary sources, in the research and writing of history.

Each year, the Ministry for the Arts requests a list of people who would be willing to act as judges for the Premier's History Prizes. The History Council is currently collating a list of possible judges for each award category. If you would like to put forward a nomination, please pass your suggestion to the PHA President.

History Week

History Week will be held in September 2004, but preparations have already begun. The theme for this year is 'Links in Time' and the deadline for the registration of events for inclusion in the History Week Calendar closes in May! The History Council will be actively promoting the issue of cultural diversity and will encourage indigenous and NESB organizations to participate in History Week.

The PHA held a very successful forum as part of History Week last year and it will be great if we could organize more events for 2004.

Forums

In previous years forums have provided opportunities for the History Council to consult with members for member participation and advocacy. Forum topics have included heritage, privacy and archives, cultural diversity and history, children's History. Some forums have been held in partnership with organisations including the Migration Heritage Centre and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Forum topics proposed for this year include:

- Legislative Landscapes Symposium
- Writing History Forum
- Whose City? Reflections on the Histories and Memories of a Regional City

The History Council is seeking to host further forums in partnership with other organizations. Let us know if you have a good idea.

It looks like an exciting year is planned for 2004. The History Council welcomes the opportunity to develop program and events in partnership with other organizations. This is a great chance to promote the Professional Historians Association, so put your thinking caps on and let us know your great ideas.

Anna Wong

MEETING AT THE NSW MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS, 5 DECEMBER 2003

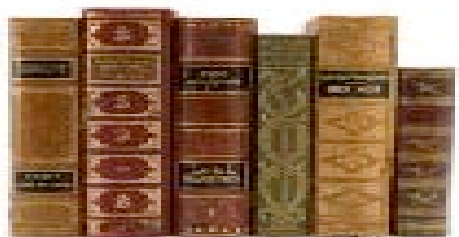
This meeting was attended by Kate Waters and Margo Beasley on behalf of the PHA. The Ministry for the Arts called the meeting. Other attendees included ministry staff, the members of the literature and history committee (which advises the ministry) and representatives of history organisations that receive funding for various things from the ministry including the PHA, the RAHA and the History Council. The PHA receives funding towards the production of *Public History Review* which is edited by Paul Ashton and Paula Hamilton at UTS. That is why we were requested to send representatives to the meeting.

The basic purpose of the meeting was that the ministry is concerned that it doesn't see clear outcomes, in terms of skills development and cultural diversity in the community, for the funding it provides to history organisations. This was compared to such things as major poetry workshops, literary festivals and so on to which the Ministry contributes funding under its 'literature' hat. Although there is no immediate threat to funding, it was suggested that history organisations may well come under increasing scrutiny.

The discussion proceeded on a number of levels all revolving around the general idea that there needs to be more community involvement with the practise of history if cultural diversity is to be promoted and that this is what the ministry wants to see as the outcome for its money. Indigenous history came in for repeated mention but so did that of other 'neglected' groups. In general the ministry sees the History Council as having the major responsibility for the promotion of history in NSW but it would also welcome action along these lines from the PHA. We suggested that our members are ideally placed to assist community organisations with history projects. The Ministry offers various cultural grants for which organisations could apply, with assistance from PHA members. Such projects might include, for instance, running workshops for community organisations about the various practical, achievable ways in which they might approach the recording or writing of their history. Applications for cultural grants projects close on 7 May 2004.

Margo Beasley

LIBRARY



REPORT

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PHA PERIODICALS

EMPHATIC: Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association, Tasmania Inc. No 24, October 2003

Much of this issue is taken up with ACPA issues, Volume 10 of *Public History Review*, members' news, and recent conferences. The Biennial Conference of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association last September sounds interesting, with talks by Edward Duyker on early French contacts with VDL, John Currey on David Collins and Patronage, and poet Jim Everett and historian Henry Reynolds engaging in the Windchuttle debate which had major reverberations in the Tasmanian press and academia.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) Inc Newsletter. No 87, February 2004

The Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) is using a small grant to engage consultants to develop guidelines for a major preservation project aimed at targeting and preserving items at risk in the Battye Library and providing

great public access to the preserved records. The HRRC are seeking contributions and comments before they apply for funding from Lotterywest for this exciting and important project.

Dr Cathie Clement reviews three recent publications by Fremantle Arts Centre Press. *Tom & Jack: a Frontier Story* by Geraldine Byrne tells of the settlement of the East Kimberley by the Kilfoyle family, relatives of the Duracks, and is in the same mode as Mary Durack's *Kings in Grass Castles*. *Castaway: Remarkable true stories of survival* by Douglas Sellick is a well-presented anthology of survivor's tales from four separate 19th century shipwrecks in the southern Indian Ocean but it suffers from the lack of an index and map. *Araluen to Zanthus*, a gazetteer of Perth suburbs and West Australian towns by Ian Murray and Brian Goodchild, is a useful reference tool providing handy historical data in an accessible format.

The PHA of WA reminds us that March was Women's History Month in Australia. An on-line forum invites women to contribute their own piece of history at the website: www.triviumpublishing.com/womenshistorymonth

QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN: newsletter of the PHA (Qld). No 71, February 2004

Interstate members will be saddened to hear of the death of John Kerr (1942-2003), who with his wife Ruth contributed hugely to public history and to history-related organisations in Queensland. As Margaret Kowald writes in her obituary, he was Queensland's foremost historian on railways and the sugar industry and many historians are indebted to him for his generosity with research and advice.

Judy Gale Rechner writes of the pleasures and pitfalls of Native Title Assessment work. In some detail, she explains the process of acquiring the essential land

tenure and survey documents that determine if Native Title has been extinguished from the Woolloongabba Land Centre (the equivalent of the old NSW Land Titles Office). Her other essential tools were the Native Title Act 1993 with relevant State Schedule of extinguishing tenures, and much patience and time.

Archivist Margaret Mack describes some aspects of the valuable James Cook University History Collections. The North Queensland Oral History Project was launched in 1982 and consists of nearly 2,000 hours of recordings. These include two extremely important 'Black Collections': the Black Oral History Collection dating from the 1970s with tapes from Murray Upper, Palm Island, and Mackay; and the Freir Collection of 100 tapes collected over 15 years at Kowanyama. Another significant part of this relatively unknown collection is the NQ Photographic Collection, comprising an estimated 50,000 historical photographs.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

ARTS BULLETIN: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE NSW MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS. No 76, February 2004

The leading story in this bulletin of news, events and grants on the arts scene is about the effective recycling of two historically significant buildings - the Carriage Workshop and the Blacksmiths' shop - at the old Eveleigh railway workshops. They will be transformed into a new performing arts centre called CarriageWorks at Eveleigh providing rehearsal rooms, workshops, theatres, and offices for Sydney's theatre and contemporary dance companies.

HISTORY AUSTRALIA: Journal of the Australian Historical Association. Volume 1, Number 1, December 2003

The AHA celebrates its thirtieth anniversary with the launch of this new journal, edited by Marian Quartly and prefaced by AHA President David Carment. At 169 pages, this is a substantial publication including Bruce Mansfield's keynote address at the AHA Anniversary Conference at Mildura and Richard Waterhouse's Departmental Report on history at Sydney University.

Inaugural authors include David Walker, Nell Musgrove, Melissa Bellanta, Kate Bagnall, Jacqueline Wilson, and Marc Brodie, covering Asian relations, post-war Melbourne families, notions of the Australian Desert 1890-1908, Australian mothers & Chinese children, mental asylum tours, and 1920s Victorian country towns.

The current 'history wars' surface in the 'Debate' Section: Chris McConville addresses fundamental aspects of the historians' craft; Lyndall Ryan describes her experience as a target of the media witch hunt and demands more support from the AHA; and James Hammerton considers oral testimony as evidence.

INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. Autumn 2004

Eminent historian Professor Peter Spearritt has given his valuable personal collection of historical material to the Museum of Sydney. This includes paintings, photographs, books, ephemera and even his Sydney Harbour Bridge memorabilia. He is now at the University of Queensland but is best known for his work on 20th Century Sydney so his collection is appropriately housed and will be put to good use.

Research collections such as this will be more accessible when the Trust occupies its new premises at the Mint in Macquarie Street later this year. Curator Robert Griffin reports on the important archaeological finds made during construction of the new Head Office, demonstrating the value of an historically aware organisation such as the Trust taking over such a significant site.

A new exhibition *Red Cedar in Australia* opens in May at the Museum of Sydney. Guest Curator John McPhee draws on the accompanying book for his article on the popularity of this timber for furniture making in colonial NSW and the unregulated land clearing which led to its current scarcity.

MEMENTO: News from the National Archives. No 25, January 2004

It's time again for the annual release of Cabinet Records and this year's batch relate to Gough Whitlam's government in 1973. And it may be useful to know that many of the NAA's collection of Whitlam records can be accessed online at whitlam.naa.gov.au.

Professor Geoffrey Bolton is the recipient of the 2004 Frederick Watson Fellowship which he will use to complete a book about Sir Paul Hasluck and his influence on Indigenous affairs and foreign policy.

The latest exhibition in the NAA Canberra gallery is called *It's a Dog's Life! Animals in the Public Service* and features the deeds of the many devoted animals that have served the government at war, in the outback, in Antarctica, on guard duty, as draught animals, and even dung beetles, moths and worms engaged in biological control.

In complete contrast, another exhibition in the ACT Treasures Gallery, *No Common Creation*, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the High Court and its close relationship with National Archives of Australia.

NATIONAL TRUST NSW. Heritage Festival 2004

This year's Heritage Week runs from 24 April to 2 May. The published program, including a location index, is now available. The range of activities seems to grow each year and it's good to see so many local communities becoming involved in their history and heritage.

VITAL SIGNS: State Records NSW. No 5, December 2003

This issue profiles the latest exhibition at the Sydney Records Centre at Globe Street. *In the realm of the Censors* deals with a period of massive social change between 1955 and 1982 when censorship authorities were challenged on many fronts. Much of the material on display charts the emergence of the feminist, gay and other cultural and political movements and comes with a warning that some people might find it offensive. Some items are from a series of censorship records from 1963 to 1979 and are publications which will be familiar to many of us, including Frank Moorhouses' *The Americans Baby*, *The Adventures of Fanny Fondle*, and 22 editions of *Playboy*.

'The New Sex Workers' is an article about those engaged in projects about sex, sexuality and the sex industries. It includes interviews with Liz Bradshaw, the Curatorial Researcher for the SRO exhibition, Helen Vnuk, author of *Snatched: Sex and Censorship in Australia*, a research team working on a three year project called 'Understanding Pornography in Australia', and the Librarian of the Eros Foundation Archive at Flinders University Library in Adelaide.

The latter is a restricted collection of newsclippings, correspondence, magazines, videos, and material from sex-related organisations.

PHA NSW DIRECTORY 2003-2004

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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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