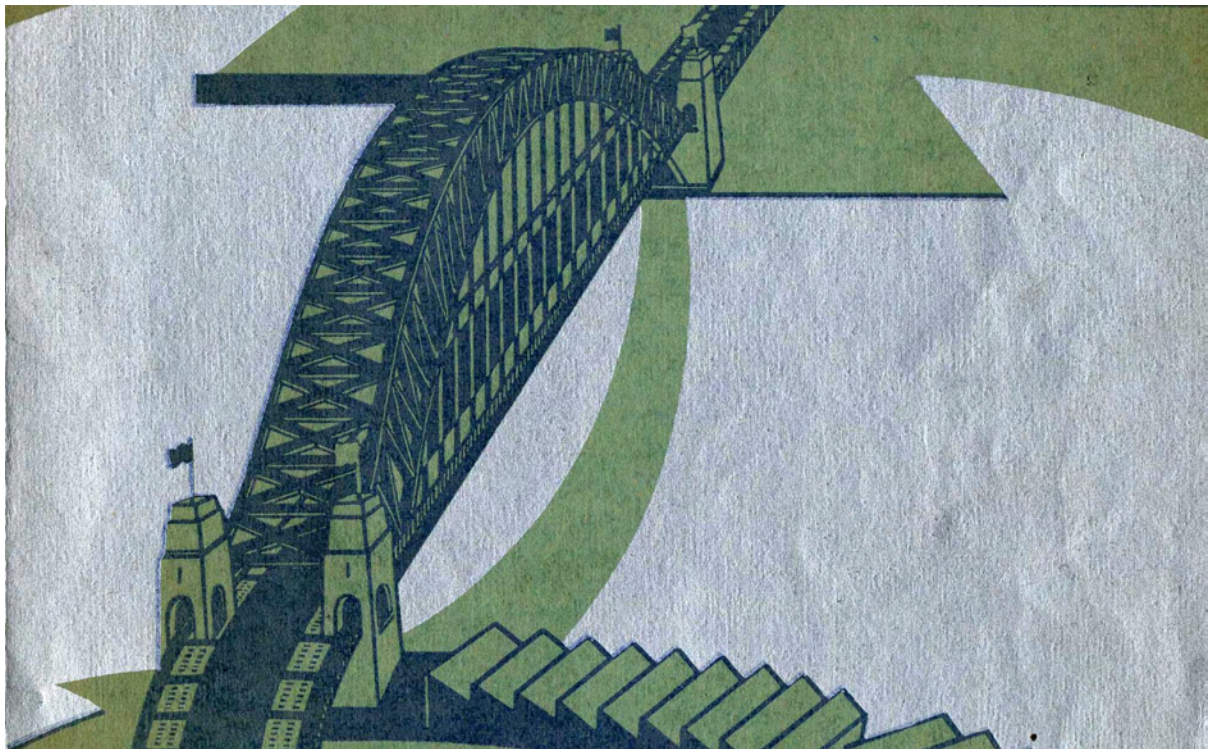


Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)

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PHANFARE



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Cover: Detail from cover of *Sydney Bridge Celebrations 1932*, published by Art in Australia Limited

This edition has been prepared by Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow and Terri McCormack

News & Views

Two historians (or so they were reported in the press) have lost their appeal in British courts over claims that US author Dan Brown plagiarised their ideas for his blockbuster novel *The Da Vinci Code*.

Three of Britain's senior judges dismissed the appeal by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh against an earlier High Court ruling which had also rejected their claims.

The decision leaves the "historians" facing estimated legal costs of three million pounds (\$A7.3 million).

In their action against the novel's British publishers Random House, Baigent and Leigh claimed that Brown copied significant parts of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* which they wrote in 1982.

Both books raise the possibility that Mary Magdalene had a child by Jesus, that she fled to France after the Crucifixion and that Christ's bloodline survives to this day.

In the appeal, the authors claimed it was wrong to dismiss the idea of a "central theme" in the historians' research which was used extensively in six chapters of *The Da Vinci Code*. However the appeal court focussed on whether the earlier book or a substantial part of it had actually been copied, not whether ideas had been used. Random House said it was glad "common sense and justice" had prevailed.

"We feel that today is an ominous one for those who wish to research a book on their own and come up with their own theories," Baigent and Leigh said in a joint statement.

Historians take note - actual passages will be protected by copyright but ideas are fair game!"

Christa Ludlow

President's Page

Thank you to all the members who replied to our survey. Almost seventy per cent of the financial members responded, which is a remarkable achievement for a survey using written questionnaires. The Management Committee is now digesting the information – not just the numerical results, but the implications for PHA and professional historians in general. These will be summarised in a future edition of *Phanfare*. In addition, a number of practical suggestions were received, and I hope that we will be able to implement some of these over coming months.

Plans for our regional mini-conference have crystallised, and you will soon receive full program details. The conference theme is “Public History in the Public Domain”, with a number of PHA members outside the Sydney metropolitan area presenting papers. The conference will be held at University House, Australian National University in Canberra on Saturday, 7th July. The proceedings will begin at 10.00am and finish around 4.00pm, so that members from Sydney will be able to attend after a comfortable three-hour drive before and after. For those who want to come to Canberra the day before and stay overnight, an informal dinner is being held on the Friday evening.

We also hope to repeat last year's highly successful “History in July” social event, but details and dates are still being negotiated. Meanwhile our Continuing Professional Development program continues, with a workshop or visit scheduled at roughly six-week intervals.

My innovation of a regular President's Newsletter circulated electronically to all members has proved to be very popular, largely because it replaces the numerous *ad hoc* circulars that cluttered everybody's inbox. The Newsletter in no sense replaces *Phanfare*, of course, but it ensures that ephemeral material reaches the members promptly. This is particularly important when advertising job opportunities.

As foreshadowed, we have set up a “Small Projects Panel” of members who may be interested in undertaking the occasional small research job, often involving only a day or two of work for somebody who cannot get to the relevant archival material. In future, only members of this Panel will be notified of these projects, which again should minimise e-mail fatigue for the broader membership. Please contact me if you would like to be included in the Panel – any PHA Member, Associate, or Graduate will be welcome.

Peter J. Tyler
President

My Bridge – The Walk and the Exhibition

Rosemary Broomham

We thought we were going to cross the Bridge at sunset but we actually arrived in the dark. On our way there, as the train came out of the Wynyard tunnel we saw hundreds of small lights like those decorating the trees in Hyde Park, but smaller and bobbing gently. Then we saw that the tiny lights were on the caps that undulated slightly as the passing people walked and talked. Perhaps they were more like glow worms than tree lights. It seemed then that we had chosen the perfect time to walk across the Bridge on its 75th birthday. We were so impressed with our lighted caps that we have saved the batteries for a later outing. However, I'm not at all sure where else we can wear bright orange caps decorated with tiny lights and bearing an embroidered badge saying 'Our Bridge'.

There was music as we walked, and a light show playing on the pylons. Somewhere near the centre of the bridge we were treated to a compilation of historic sound bites. Young people of all types lay down on or near the lane numbers and had their friends photograph them with their mobile phones. Apparently, they were forming versions of the number 75. It was a very enjoyable party.

I must admit I have never thought of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as anything but the Bridge. Nor did I ever think of it as a social divide that I did not wish to cross, as Elizabeth Farrelly described it in the *Herald* on the celebratory day.¹ Having lived on the north shore for two thirds of my life, I have sometimes regarded the Bridge as an impediment - something that had to be crossed before things could happen. It was a crossing that needed extreme patience, one where the travelling commuter balanced on a knife's edge between timeliness and tardiness. 'I got held up on the Bridge', we'd say.

Of course I was not yet born when the Bridge opened. And I doubt that my parents walked across the Bridge on 19 March 1932. If they had, I'm sure the event would have been celebrated as one of the family legends. But they did purchase and treasure a copy of *Sydney Bridge Celebrations 1932* published by Art in Australia Limited. My parents did not hoard books and papers so the fact that this was a lifelong souvenir indicates that they valued it greatly. After all, the Bridge inspired my mother to sell their inner city house to a neighbour and move us north, as she explained it, to gain independence from my father's family. My brother believes our parents photographed the two sides of the arch gradually advancing to meet safely over the centre of the channel. He remembers an album with these pictures in it. However, if we did have such a record, it has been lost.

As we came off the Bridge and headed for Wynyard the white-painted AWA tower was straight ahead of us. When I first walked over the Bridge, my father took the whole family up to its observation deck. What was then the highest point in Sydney is now barely visible among the skyscrapers. It was not quite 75 years ago, but the memory of how Sydney looked when I was young definitely is historic.

¹ Elizabeth Farrelly, 'How the span that unites us can make arch rivals of us all', in 'Our Bridge: 75th Anniversary Special Souvenir', *SMH*, 19 March 2007

Looking at 'Bridging Sydney'

The Historic Houses Trust exhibition *Bridging Sydney*, curated by Caroline Mackaness, continues at the Museum of Sydney until 29 April 2007. The displays occupy two rooms and there is a small case of Harbour Bridge memorabilia outside the larger exhibition space.

A video (or DVD) provided the focal point in the smaller room. It covered the process of construction from the time that Bradfield first determined that he would build a bridge across the harbour to its official opening on 19 March 1932. When I came in, the video was describing the pageant that opened the Bridge. Covering several days, the celebrations began on 16 March when schoolchildren walked across; they were awarded a holiday two days later and the government declared a public holiday on the opening day, Saturday 19 March so all of Sydney could join in the celebrations. The NRMA organised the transport section of the historical pageant of motorised floats. This was the first traffic to cross the Bridge after Premier Lang cut the ribbon at the northern end, a ceremony performed minutes after right-wing extremist Francis de Groot had slashed it with his sword.² Interspersed with marching bands, the procession comprised 27 motorised floats; groups of war veterans; boy scouts; 626 children; and 100 bridge workers. It took about 35 minutes for the two-kilometre-long assemblage to pass by.³

The video showed the partnership between Jack Lang and J. J. C. Bradfield that ensured that the £4 million Bridge would be built. It included commentary by such people as historians Peter Spearritt, well-known Bridge enthusiast and author of *The Sydney Harbour Bridge: A Life*; Peter Lalor, whose book *The Bridge* was published by Allen & Unwin in 2005; Andrew Moore who has recently published a book about de Groot; and Alan Ventress, former Mitchell Librarian and current Associate Director of the State Records, City.



This image taken by Ted Hood looks at the Sydney Harbour Bridge from North Sydney as the two sides of the arch are about to join. ML SLNSW

² Rosemary Broomham, *On the Road: The NRMA's First 75 Years*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1996, p 59

³ 'Bridging Sydney' Exhibition, HHT, Museum of Sydney

Among the memorable comments were Spearritt's statement that the Bridge was so large in 1930s Sydney that the slow progress of the two sides of the arch could be observed from places that were miles away, such as Gordon. He has always seen it as a sign the depression would end some day; Ventress described the Bridge as 'an iron lung' that provided work for the unemployed in the depths of the Great Depression. The frightening and dangerous aspects of working on the Bridge were described and demonstrated. Others who spoke included two of Bradfield's grandchildren, and a selection of men and women who had watched the progress of the construction and/or walked across the span on 19 March 1932. Together, the comments of the informed and the memories of those who were there, made a moving record of the iconic status of the Bridge and its emotional importance to the people of Sydney.⁴

The other displays in the smaller of the two rooms holding the exhibition covered practical details such as the Moruya granite in the pylons; the cables that held the arches and made it possible to manoeuvre them to the perfect meeting place; and the special rivets that hold the Bridge together.

The extended sequence of proposals to build a bridge for Sydney and inquiries into the feasibility of such a project is exhaustively covered in the larger exhibition room. Here the chronology begins 'almost at the foundation of the colony'. The exhibition displays a prodigious number of designs submitted in competitions dating from 1900. There are also multiple versions submitted to the design competition by the winning engineering firm Dorman, Long & Co Ltd. I must admit that the dense detail needed to explain this repetitive bureaucratic process had me reaching for my notepad in desperation. The approach is thorough and academic, but I was unable to retain the information about all the early inquiries as I examined the later ones. I stopped making notes when I realised that I might be able to take home the catalogue, or at least consult it in a library.

Thousands of people were displaced when houses and business premises in North Sydney and the Rocks were demolished to make way for the Bridge approaches. Those who were renting received no compensation for their enforced displacement and few houses were built to replace those that were lost. The exhibition did include some panels offering an illustrated account of these demolitions but bureaucracy rather than people dominates this larger space. I strongly advise the viewer to debrief by checking out the collection of bridge memorabilia immediately outside this section. My favourite is the concrete planter made some time in the 1950s. It has that distinctive bridge shape and would be perfect for the drought tolerant succulents that we are now encouraged to grow.

At the 75th birthday walk, we were a little late for the people with kids in strollers but it was the same kind of Sydney celebration as I enjoyed at the Bicentennial in 1988. The Reconciliation March of 2000 that used the Bridge in an idealistic initiative was more purposeful. Though sadly, that movement seems to have come to a halt. The most enjoyable feature of such occasions has been the company of other people, mostly total strangers, who walk considerable distances in a happy camaraderie with their fellows, pushing strollers, carrying children, toting bags and eskies and enjoying it. The 'Bridging Sydney' exhibition and catalogue offer a thorough account of the planning and building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge but where are the people?

⁴ I liked the video so much that I tried to buy it at the MOS shop but they told me it was a compilation from several sources including the documentary about Bradfield shown on the ABC while I was crossing the Bridge.

Catholics at Hyde Park Barracks

Reviewed by Terri McCormack

Hidden away upstairs at the Hyde Park Barracks, there's a small exhibition on *Convicts, Catholics and St Mary's Cathedral*. Considering that one quarter of all convicts transported between 1788 and 1840 were Irish and that most of these were Catholics, it seems strange that their religion has not been given more prominence.

Following the Rebellion of the United Irishmen in 1798, many Irish political prisoners arrived in New South Wales. Like most of his Anglo-Saxon countrymen, Governor King regarded the Irish Papists with fear and loathing and his suspicions were vindicated when Irish convicts rebelled against English authority at Vinegar Hill in 1804. The colony was founded on mutual hatred between the English Anglicans and the Irish Catholics. Such sectarianism had been firmly implanted in British society since the English Reformation of the 16th century and it persisted in this country until quite recently. When job hunting in the 1950s, my parents advised me to conceal my Catholic background when applying for public service positions. And many of us will remember the abuse hurled by Catholic and State School children at each other on the way home. I'm not sure that this exhibition gives sufficient recognition to the religious discrimination underlying colonial society.

To Irish transportees, their Catholicism was integral to their existence. Priests were essential to provide the Eucharist, the central element of the Mass which all Catholics had to attend at least weekly. Several requests for priests were ignored and the celebration of Mass was forbidden. The display in the first section of the exhibition contains candlesticks, a porcelain statue of Jesus Christ, and a cover for the consecrated Blessed Sacrament kept at the house of William Davis where private prayer meetings were held. At these, convicts would have recited the three decades of the rosary together (one Our Father & ten Hail Mary's per decade), using their treasured rosary beads passed on from generation to generation. Without a priest, however, these convicts could not fulfil their religious duties by celebrating Mass so these objects are particularly poignant. Catholicism also forbade the faithful from entering non-Catholic churches and William Davis was among those flogged for non-attendance at Protestant services.

It was not until Irish chaplains Philip Conolly and John Joseph Therry arrived in 1820 that restrictions were relaxed and Mass was publicly celebrated. Father Therry obtained land on which to build a chapel, the site of the present St Mary's Cathedral. His trunk, his diary, and his plan for a Cathedral are exhibited. The trowel used by Governor Macquarie to lay the foundation stone on 29 October 1821 is held by Mitchell Library and for some reason was not lent but is represented here with a picture. There is also a priest's compact chalice with a caption indicating that it contained bread and wine shared by the community. At this period, only the consecrated bread – the host – was given to communicants while the priest drank the wine, often to the envy of the congregation. The cathedral project was costly and overly ambitious and when Father Therry celebrated his first Mass in the Chapel in December 1833 it was largely unfinished and unfurnished.

Dr John Bede Polding, the “Bishop of Botany Bay”, was a Benedictine priest who arrived in September 1835. Being from Lancashire, he met with less official hostility than his Irish predecessors. He served his flock for 42 years, being known for his pastoral care for convicts, criminals, and the poor and oppressed. He also laid the foundations of Catholic education. Exhibits in this section include a lock of his hair, a reproduction of a lithograph of him on horseback, his Episcopal ring worn after he became Archbishop in 1842, his snuffbox, his breviary of daily prayers, and a rosary and glasses that may have belonged to him – the caption does not clarify this. He died in 1877, was buried in Petersham Cemetery, and his remains were later re-interred in St Mary’s crypt.

The next section of the exhibition – Hyde Park Barracks Convicts and St Mary’s Chapel – provides the link between this display and the rest of the building. Under Dr William Bernard Ullathorne, the first Catholic Vicar-General in 1833, convicts were marched from the Barracks across to St Mary’s twice daily. By 1841, some 7000 convicts had passed through this program. Exhibits include several well-known reproductions of Sydney and Hyde Park Barracks and, of more interest, fragments of rosary beads and a St Bernard medal found under the floor boards of level three of the Barracks building. These are highly significant items to good Catholics who always carry their beads on their person and wear religious medals around their necks to remind them to pray to the image portrayed there. St Bernard was a 10th century Vicar General of the Italian Alps and a patron saint of travellers, pilgrims, and mountain climbers.

It is not until the fifth and final section – Sisters of Charity and Catholic Female Convicts – that it becomes clear why so many of the original objects in this exhibition come from the Archives of the Sisters of Charity. In 1838, Reverend Ullathorne brought out five Irish Sisters of Charity. They ministered to female convicts and immigrants at the Barracks and at the Parramatta Female Factory and in 1857 established St Vincent’s Hospital in Darlinghurst. Among other exhibits is the original hot coal crimping iron they brought from Ireland to crimp the white caps worn under their elaborate habits. While some of the objects in the exhibition come from the Sydney Archdiocesan Archives and St Mary’s, most are from the Sisters of Charity who, perhaps homesick for Ireland, valued their daily utensils, prayer books, and religious objects. These now constitute a valuable archival collection of which I for one was unaware.

There were some frustrating things about this exhibition, including uncaptioned items of furniture, inadequate labels, and too many reproductions of images. I visited the adjoining exhibition on the Female Immigration Depot 1848-1886 (which also contains rosary beads and medals) and was much more impressed by the range and presentation of exhibits. In comparison, the Catholic exhibition seems sparse and bare, and not at all like the atmosphere evoked by Catholic churches of the period. As a former Catholic, however, I found it interesting and was surprised to be emotionally effected by the very personal religious objects. I watched other visitors, wondering if those who lingered over every item were present or former Catholics curious about the origins of the discrimination they had suffered. However, without asking intrusive questions about their religious upbringing, I could not confirm this possibility.

Tough men, hard times – policing the depression

Exhibition at Justice & Police Museum 24 Feb 07 – 10 Feb 08

Reviewed by Rosemary Kerr

Rosemary Broomham and I had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the Historic Houses Trust's latest exhibition at the Justice and Police Museum on 6th March. *Tough Men, Hard Times – Policing the Depression* was launched by New South Wales Police Commissioner, Ken Moroney, who made an impressive speech (without reference to notes) in which he expressed genuine appreciation for the importance and contemporary relevance of remembering and reflecting upon the history of the police force and policing in New South Wales. Rosemary and I found that particularly gratifying, having written a thematic history of the NSW Police in 2005. The launch was accompanied by equally impressive catering, as is usually the case with Historic Houses Trust events! After the speeches, an audio-visual presentation and more fine food and wine, we adjourned to view the exhibition.

By way of introduction, in both the exhibition and the accompanying publication, the scene is set for the stark contrast between the prosperous, buoyant Sydney of the 1920s - so well represented in another HHT exhibition at the Museum of Sydney: *Thoroughly Modern Sydney*, which is briefly recalled here – and the turbulent tortuous, often violent years that followed. The international context and background to the growth of the two major political forces of communism and fascism are necessarily and succinctly introduced, with reference to Europe, Russia, Britain and America.

The exhibition focuses on major events of the Great Depression, such as the Rothbury coal miners' strike at the Hunter Valley in 1929; eviction riots; sabotage of the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening by New Guardsman, Francis de Groot; the assault by New Guardsmen on prominent unionist, Jock Garden; Jack Lang's premiership and dismissal. The stories and images powerfully evoke the hardships, tensions and fears that polarised society, both at a personal and political level, with the overriding contrast between the ideologies of communism and fascism at the core of the inevitable conflicts that ensued.



William John Mackay, Justice & Police Museum, HHT

Central to maintaining order in these anarchic times, was of course the police force. If the major at opposite ends of the political spectrum were Premier Jack Lang and New Guard leader, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Campbell, then the most influential figure in policing during the Depression was Police Superintendent William John MacKay. A Scot with a history of cultivating ruthlessness in his forces, his influence was apparent in the police's approach to disorder during the Depression – meeting striking miners and eviction rioters with gunfire; controlling crowds with batons in the streets. The police perceived themselves as the final barrier between public order and revolutionary class warfare. Their role went beyond maintaining law and order but also extended to espionage, infiltrating political organisations to counter the rise of militant groups on the left and right. When the Lang

government promoted MacKay to Metropolitan Superintendent (effectively Police Commander) of Sydney, they encouraged him to smash the paramilitary anti-communist New Guard. His temperament is illustrated by his instructions to police at a New Guard protest, to 'belt their bloody heads off!'⁵

The exhibition vividly draws out the underlying opposing political ideologies and the climate of desperation, fear and suspicion that drove sections of both the dispossessed unemployed and poverty stricken towards communism and the middle classes towards radical movements such as the New Guard. It is clear that policing was seen as vital, not just in dealing with outbreaks of violence and disorder but in the struggle to defend the economic and political system against the threat of revolutionary overthrow. Yet the threat came not only from the left, as evidenced by the New Guard plot to kidnap Premier Lang, his ministers and senior police; overthrow the government and establish a dictatorship.

Among the many stirring images are included: miners armed with pieces of timber, marching on Rothbury colliery and being met with police gunfire; families with their only remaining possessions in the street outside their home following eviction; the New Guard flag with its Union Jack, British bulldog and the warning: 'Don't Touch'; the sinister black Ku Klux Klan style robes and masks of the secretive Fascist Legion within the New Guard. Perhaps the most lingering, however, are those depicting the sheer masses of unemployed queuing for the dole and children lining up at soup kitchens. The last room of the exhibition includes huge panoramic murals of Happy Valley, the shantytown established at La Perouse as more and more people lost their homes.

Audio-visual recordings of interviews with people who lived through these times add to what is often an overwhelming experience in glimpsing an era in Sydney's history that seems so distant and barely imaginable in today's affluent times. Yet the spirit of radicalism is not completely dead. One of the interviewees, Phyllis Johnson, now in her nineties, who attended the opening, proudly proclaimed to Rosemary and I that she had been a communist all her life! One of her most vivid memories was listening to the speakers in the Domain on Sundays. Also a passionate feminist, she lamented that there was still much to be done with regard to women's rights. But we'll leave that for another story.



William Roberts (an original Anzac) and family evicted from their home into the street at Redfern. Hood Collection SL NSW

⁵ Historic Houses Trust, *Tough Men Hard Times, Policing the Depression*, HHT, Sydney, 2007, p 4

Prince Henry Nursing & Medical Museum, Little Bay

Reviewed by Terri McCormack

One of the Heritage Week Events organised by the Royal Australian Historical Society was a visit to a construction site. In 1881, the old Coast or Infectious Diseases Hospital, later Prince Henry Hospital, began as a cluster of bell tents on the sand dunes at Little Bay as a response to the smallpox epidemic. It is now being transformed into a \$400 million residential development by Stockland. The former public hospital site with its magnificent views over Little Bay is the largest undeveloped tract of coastal land in the Sydney basin. It's a controversial development and the Government and Stockland say much of the 84-hectare site will not be developed, with public access to the beach retained. Aged care facilities, a museum and a community centre are being built and much of the remainder of the site will stay as golf courses.

We were there to see the Prince Henry Little Bay Nursing and Medical Museum, located in the old Flowers Ward (formerly the Spinal Unit) since 2003. After the group of about 40, some of them not all that mobile, had negotiated their way through the dusty building site to the Museum, Mari Metzke, RAHS Manager, apologised for the inconvenience and pointed out that this was an excellent opportunity to see a work in progress. The site is an evolving process. If we revisit in a year or so, the Museum and other adjacent heritage-listed wards currently under renovation will be nestled in park land overlooking the Bay and surrounded by million-dollar multistorey apartments with little physical indication of how all that came about or what was there before.



Former wards of Prince Henry Hospital are currently being renovated for community use. The Museum building in the Flowers Ward is similar to the heritage building seen here & is located just behind it. From the verandahs of these wards, patients could benefit from fresh sea breezes from the Pacific Ocean just below

[Photo courtesy Mari Metzke, RAHS]

Former nurses and secretary of the Trained Nurses Association Lyn Smith then explained the genesis of the Museum to a group that included several former nurses, doctors and patients of the hospital. In 1991 the Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses Association, formed in 1960, established the Museum in the Nurses Lecture

Room to preserve the large collection of memorabilia they had accumulated. The late Maylean Cordia, former nurse and daughter of NSW Premier Bob Heffron, was the driving force behind the successful campaign to save nineteen heritage buildings on site, including the beautifully restored 191 4 Flowers Ward now housing the Museum. Landcom has provided finance for interpretive timelines and other projects but most of the work is done by volunteers.

The amount of material displayed in the various re-created wards is truly overwhelming and apparently much more is stored offsite. One feels that every scalpel and bedpan ever used has been retained. The Museum presents exhibits of early nursing and medical equipment, a 1960s era heart by-pass machine and extensive archival material relating to the nurses and doctors of the Coast/Prince Henry Hospital from 1881 – 2003. A fully functioning Iron Lung is a prize exhibit and we watched in horrified fascination as Lyn demonstrated how it worked. An impressive photographic display on the hospital and staff includes a tribute to renowned cricketer and former employee Charles G. Macartney.

An hour in the Museum, including morning tea, was barely enough before our RAHS group moved to the next venue – the non-denominational Nurses War Memorial Chapel. Dedicated in 1967 to the nurses who served in World Wars 1 & 11, this is a beautiful A-framed building with the Little Bay foreshore forming a magnificent backdrop to a huge stained glass window. Formerly it was used by hospital staff for quiet contemplation and one can see why it's now popular for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. It contains plaques commemorating individual nurses as well as one celebrating 100 years of nursing service. Unfortunately, not all of our group could access the rocky downhill path between noisy building sites and heavy earth-moving equipment to see this lovely peaceful place.



Participants in the RAHS tour gaze out the stained glass window forming the eastern wall of the Nurses Memorial Chapel to the ocean below at Little Bay.

[Photo courtesy Mari Metzke, RAHS]

A further challenge awaited us on this RAHS mystery tour and not everyone was up for it. To get to the old Coast Hospital Cemetery we had to find our way out of the construction site, drive further along Anzac Parade, locate the unmarked turning, drive across a golf course and avoid a group of determined putters, and take the

correct bush track to the remaining graves, now managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Coast Hospital Cemetery was formally dedicated in 1884. Together with the old Mortuary on the site of the pumping station on the golf course, it was a long distance from the Hospital which itself was safely removed from Sydney. Most people interred here died from smallpox, bubonic plague, leprosy, diphtheria, polio, typhoid, and other frightening infectious diseases. There were some 2000 burials here, including staff, patients, Chinese, and Aborigines from the local La Perouse community. Many of the early graves have been vandalised or are unexcavated under scrub land near the escarpment. In the Museum, we'd already seen some of the cemetery records including a large map showing numbered grave sites dated from 1897 to 1952. The wooden pegs marking Chinese graves were removed in 1981 and are now in the Museum. A headstone marks the one extant Chinese grave, that of Ah Won who died of bubonic plague on 7th May 1902, aged 32 years. It is only in recent years that his grave was rediscovered by his descendants. His Chinese name is Seng Won Yip and he is the 25th generation of the Yip family who arrived from Kwangtung (Guangdong) in southern China before 1880 and established themselves as prominent Sydney merchants.

If you can find it, the cemetery can be visited anytime but it would be advisable to go to the Museum first. Lyn Smith (9387 4412) and Yvonne Viney (9661 4093) are happy to welcome visitors from 1.00 to 5.00 pm on Sunday and Monday or by appointment. The Museum is a splendid example of what dedicated and informed volunteers can achieve and deserves as much support as possible. As the new development progresses around it, it will be easier to get there but it won't be as challenging or interesting.



Visitors on the RAHS tour inspect gravestones at the historical Coast Hospital Cemetery, situated above the Little Bay escarpment.

[Photo courtesy Mari Metzke, RAHS]

History Advisory Panel Meeting

Thursday 15th February 2007

Matters discussed included

1. SHR Criterion D Guideline: Further discussion of criterion was undertaken. A process to involve other stakeholders in discussions was devised.
2. *NSW Regional Histories*: options for progress were discussed and a 'sketch map' of a framework for implementing proposed activities and outputs was discussed.
3. A Business Case for a proposal to involve the NSW Heritage Office as a 'Heraldic Services Provider' has been drawn up and was discussed. It would also serve as an example of how to prepare such a proposal to argue for funding for the Regional Histories.
4. World Heritage Serial Nomination of Convict Sites in Australia. An update of progress on this matter was provided.
5. State Records had sought advice and input from the HAP about new Disposal Schedules for certain classes of government records. The input had been favourably received and most of the suggestions had been incorporated in the proposed schedule.
6. Ruins Policy. A response was received from the State Heritage Register Committee.
7. Panel Strategic Projects 2004-2007. A review of progress to date was undertaken that showed satisfactory progress had been achieved in meeting targets for this Panel.
8. Proposals for Strategic Projects for the Panel for 2007-2010 will be considered.
9. Membership terms will come up for renewal in 2007 though all members are currently eligible to continue.
10. NSW Premier's History Awards 2007. Nominations are open for the award. It was decided that the Heritage Office's online exhibition of NSW Heraldry by Bruce Baskerville would be entered in the competition.

Terry Kass
PHA Representative



LIBRARY REPORT

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PHA PERIODICALS

emPhatic: Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association, Tasmania Inc.
No 33, March 2007

PHA (Tas) members are scattered throughout the state, making it difficult to coordinate meetings. Face-to-face meetings are being reduced to an AGM and a professional development event, to be held half way between Hobart and Launceston. Being such a small organisation, they're trialling meetings by email to get as much input as possible.

Many of us have visited Port Arthur but few would be as familiar with these evocative ruins as Tasmanian PHA member Richard Tuffin. He has just completed his sixth annual Archaeology Summer Program, focusing on the 1834 Commissariat Officers' quarters. Details of research and excavation of this fascinating site are available on the excellent website: www.portarthur.org.au

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa. Vol 12, No 3, December 2006

Editor Michael Kelly applauds the NZ Government's support for such wonderful online historical resources as the *Dictionary of NZ Biography* and *Te Ara: the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* but describes the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as a poor cousin. Their online Register was launched in 2002 and contains 5312 entries but most of these lack full descriptions. Shortage of funding means the Trust can barely keep up with new registrations. The list includes both Maori and European places of national significance and, says Kelly, should receive similar support to other online resources.

Michael Kelly would also like a better online representation of the history of rugby in New Zealand. For rugby tragics – and trivia nuts – here are some of the available sites:

[Http://allblacks.com](http://allblacks.com).

www.rugymuseum.co.nz

www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture

PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 44, Dec 2006; No 45, March 2007

Photographs in the December issue show very relaxed PHA members picnicking at Blackburn Lake after a successful year.

Among other achievements, they co-hosted with the History Council of Victoria two packed sessions at the 2006 Melbourne Writers' Festival in August. The first session 'Shared Stories, Separate Voices' dealt with cross-cultural collaborations between indigenous and non-indigenous researchers & writers; the second session 'Life translated to the Page' was about oral history and biography.

Their first event of the Continuing Professional Development program for 2007 was a visit to the University of Melbourne Archives. The collection includes business, labour, and trade union records and I've found unexpected gems here while doing literary research in Victoria. They also hold an extensive photographic collection accessible through an online database.

Many Australians were saddened by news of the death in October 2006 of Wendy Lowenstein, pioneer oral historian who was a founding member of the Victorian branch of the OHAA. A human rights activist, she focused on the lives of working people and the obituary here reminds us of her ground-breaking work, *Weevils in the Flour*, a record of the lives of ordinary people during the 1930s Depression.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) Inc. incorporating News from the Professional Historians Association (NT) inc: Newsletter. Issue 87, November 2006

Incoming editor – and former magazine editor - Bernard Whimpress draws attention to the arresting cover, featuring the ACPHA logo hovering over an image of early Adelaide from Rob Linn's new history of Adelaide. There's also a pictorial centre-spread of PHA members in typical mode: meeting, talking, drinking and attending book launches.

The Turbulent Years: a History of the City of Adelaide 1929-1979 by Rob Linn is reviewed later in this issue by Whimpress. Linn's work is based on the rich resources of the Adelaide City Archive with the pictorial component being one of its strengths. Despite some minor complaints, the reviewer credits the author for his lively and expansive text and the Adelaide

City Council for (finally) publishing this history.

The 'News from Members' section indicates that PHA (SA) are busy people. There are snippets from about 17 members on their backgrounds, their current research & activities, and their publications.

Formed in 2006, the History Council of the NT held its inaugural workshop, co-hosted with PHA, on 'The State of History in the NT: where should we go from here' in October. Speakers included a history teacher, genealogist, heritage consultant, National Trust representative, and Pearl Ogden, an indefatigable Territory historian recently honoured with the inaugural Award of Merit from the Federation of Australian Historian Societies.

Also in the Territory, it's good to see that PHA members will be assisting the new Friends of the Gardens Road Cemetery with the restoration of this significant Heritage Place. Used from 1919 to 1970, many significant people in the Northern Territory's history are buried here, including several prominent Chinese families.

And here's a useful link to keep available. The whole Index to *Australian Garden History* from 1989 to 2004 has been published in PDF form so you can search it online or save it to your own files. See www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) Inc Newsletter. No 98, November 2006

PHA (WA) has participated in focus groups resulting in *State Library of Western Australian Strategic Directions 2006-2008*. Battye Library continues as a discrete collection with its heritage collections acquiring a greater profile. The Library is addressing the loss of expertise through the retirement of its aging workforce by training

and developing new staff.

Lotterywest has funded the Historic Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC), a major photographic preservation project at the WA State Library which is the envy of other libraries and archives. PHA member Ronda Jamieson describes the copying or digitisation of 71 film titles and 30, 000 photographic negatives, the microfilming of all WA newspapers, and the recent scanning of the Library's colour negatives.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY: Newsletter. **No 29, Dec 2006**

The Centre celebrated its 21st birthday in October 2006. The latest project is to produce a centenary history of The University of Western Australia in three formats: a history, pictorial records, and a web version.

At the celebratory vice-regal function, Associate Professor Jenny spoke of the founding of the Centre and its role in promoting public history, especially through publication of *Studies in Western Australian History*. She credited Professor Tom Stannage with much of the pioneering initiative. Dr Gregory herself contributed hugely to the Centre and is now moving on, confident it will "continue to encourage the teaching, research and writing of the history of our region for many years into the future".

HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office. Vol 13, No 2, Spring 2006

Years ago, an artist friend rented one of the upper stories of the old Trocadero in King Street, Newtown. With its unexpected nooks and crannies, it was a

fascinating place and we contributed to its colourful history with many memorable parties. It was also a dangerous place and, as it crumbled about us, we regretted that nothing was being done to preserve the unique building. One of the few indoor skating rinks and amusement halls surviving from the 1880s, it went through many manifestations before being vacated in 1994. Recently listed on the State Heritage Register, the building has now been stabilised and the Victorian Flemish exterior restored to its former glory by the owner, Moore Theological College, to celebrate their 150th anniversary. The College is considering future uses but I doubt my friend could afford to live there now.

Families of merchant seamen who died during wartime often feel their loved ones are given less recognition than Royal Australian Navy casualties. This was partly redressed last year with a memorial ceremony off Bermagui on the NSW south coast to remember 36 crewmen lost when the *Iron Knight* was torpedoed by a Japanese naval submarine on the night of 8 February 1943. The remains of this BHP iron ore freighter were only identified in May 2006. The *Sydney Project* dive team, supported by the Heritage Office, descended an amazing 125 metres to record the wreck which has now been declared a protected site. Many other merchant navy ships known to be sunk off the Australian coast during World War 2 await discovery – and the families of lost crewmen await closure after all these years.

HISTORY AUSTRALIA: Journal of the Australian Historical Association. Vol 3, No 2, December 2006

History Australia is now available at www.epress.monash.edu.au/ha/. You might like to check Professor Desley Deacon's presidential piece on the teaching of Australian history, Professor James Walter's 'Friendships in the Hothouse' about political friendships, South African prisons under

apartheid by Barbara Caine, Richard Broome's account of the struggle for autonomy at Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve, or Australian Press representations of the Vietnam War by Rachel Stevens. There's also an obituary for John Ritchie (1941-2006) by Ian Hancock, and lots of book and exhibition reviews.

In her review of *The Encyclopedia of Melbourne*, Dr Lisa Murray congratulates the editors for leading the way with their contribution to the study of urban history. Lisa and the team at the City of Sydney Council hope to surpass the Melbourne achievement with their mammoth online *Dictionary of Sydney*.

INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. No 49, Summer 2006; No 50, Autumn 2007

The big event for the HHT in 2007 is the 75th anniversary of THE BRIDGE, being celebrated with a publication and exhibition at the Museum of Sydney, but other things have also been happening.

Backpackers will soon be able enhance their Sydney experience by staying on the 'Big Dig' archaeological site in The Rocks. First excavated in 1994, the highly significant site yielded rare physical evidence of Australia's first European settlement. The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority called for innovative proposals for development of the site, including the conservation of in-situ archaeological remains. The Youth Hostels Association (YHA) was the winner with a design by Tzannes Associates assisted by Godden Mackay Logan. An environmentally-sensitive youth hostel will provide not only budget accommodation in an upmarket part of the city but also public access to a world-class archaeological education centre. It's a fascinating experiment and I can't help visualising late

night confrontations between the ghosts of former residents and 21st century travellers.

MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 32, Summer 06-07

The Fall of Saigon in 1975 was the topic chosen by Dr Peter Edwards for his inaugural R G Neale Lecture. With the benefit of hindsight, he uses the documents of the Department of Foreign Affairs to reflect on our current concerns and controversies. Just as John Howard took a hard line against MV *Tampa* asylum seekers, so Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam sought to repel incursions by South Vietnamese who felt abandoned by their American and Australian allies. In November 1975, Whitlam was dramatically replaced by Malcolm Fraser. Vietnamese refugees arrived by the boatload and transformed Australia, laying the basis for a multicultural Australia. And South Vietnamese veterans now march with their Australian allies on Anzac Day.

The events of 1975 also had international ramifications for Australia. Our geographic position as part of Asia became more significant. The strategic policy of 'forward defence' aimed at encouraging democracies in South East Asia had obviously failed and was replaced with more emphasis on self-reliance. Our alliance with the United States was confirmed and once again we are involved with our ally in a risky commitment far from our own shores. This time, according to Dr Edwards, we are not defending democracy but trying to impose it – a much greater challenge.

Dr Nikki Henningham, winner of the Ian Maclean Award for 2005-2006, has been uncovering migrant women's stories in the National Archives. Early in her research into the Australian-Migrant Women's Association, she realised that the voices of the migrant women themselves revealed much more than the paper records. In this instance, oral history took priority over the archival record. As Executive Director of the

Australian Women's Archives Project, Hennington has ensured that the stories of these women, so vital to the history of multicultural Australia, can be accessed on the biographical register of the AWAP at www.womenaustralia.info

THE SITE GAZETTE: Friends of the First Government House Site Inc. Vol 13, No 1, Summer 2007

Recently, the Department of Environment & Water Resources nominated eleven convict sites for World Heritage Listing. Much to the disappointment of the Friends, the First Government House site was not included. They are pleased, however, that Professor David Flint has launched a campaign to return the NSW Governor to Government House, currently functioning as "just another house museum".

VITAL SIGNS: State Records NSW. No 9, September 2006

This issue focuses on the current exhibition at the Globe Street Gallery of State Records. Called *In Living Memory*, it contains surviving photographs from the records of the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board. Although these series of records are imperfect, they are of major importance in legal cases. Many Aborigines who were wards of the Aborigines Protection or Welfare Board have never been paid apprenticeship wages, child endowment, and other payments placed in trust funds for them. The Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme is now seeking to redress this injustice. The Aborigines Welfare Board records provide documentary evidence to support individual's claims.

Although it has distracted me from my research at times, it has been great to see groups of Aboriginal people coming in to

view the exhibition, which is on until 30 June 2007. Initially nervous and quiet in this strange environment, they are soon laughing at familiar faces and comparing memories of life at Kinchella Boys Home or Cootamundra Girls Home. Several of my indigenous friends have checked out the exhibition and, with their amazing kinship connections and oral traditions, soon found old family members going back generations.

VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 35, October 2006

Last year was a big one for the OHAA because of the International Oral History Conference in Sydney in July 2006. According to Janis Wilton's report, 417 people registered from 28 countries, including unlikely places like Chile, Mexico, Nigeria, Ukraine & Zimbabwe. There were 198 presentations, several master classes and special interest groups. It was a bilingual conference, making it difficult for the local convenors who did not speak Spanish, and abstracts of papers will be published in both languages.

The Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History has been awarded to Beth M Robertson from the State Library of South Australia. Her *Oral History Handbook*, a wonderful resource for all engaged in this discipline, is in its fifth edition. Another well-justified honour is the Order of Australia Medal awarded to Janis Wilton for her service to the community as an historian, to history organisations, and through the preservation of Chinese heritage in NSW. Her *Golden Threads* exhibition was one of the first to focus on Chinese history and heritage in this country.

And back at the coal face, Anna Jarrett provides a detailed illustrated account of the History Alive Audio Installation project at the Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Farm Museum.

What's On in History

Prepared by [Christine de Matos](#)

Events April

7, 14,

- 21, 28 Walking tour.** *'Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org
- 12 Tour.** *'Art deco series: Art Deco theatres'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 9am-5pm **Cost:** \$79, mem/conc \$69 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 13 Tour.** *'Barracks after Dark'*. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 7-9pm **Cost:** \$15, mem/conc \$10, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 14 Tour.** *'Art deco series: Kirribilli – walk through the ages'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 11am-4pm **Cost:** \$59, mems/conc \$49 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 14 Talk.** *'Searching for convict records'*. State Records. **Venue:** St Bartholomew's Family Day at St Bartholomew's Church, Ponds Road, Prospect **Enquiries:** Sharyn Wicks ph: (02) 9622 8309 or Marion McGuirk ph: (02) 9636 1905.
- 14 Talk.** *'Get to work! 190 years since construction began on Hyde Park Barracks'*. With Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 2-3pm **Cost:** \$15, mems/conc \$10, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 16 Workshop.** *'Visit to NSW Land Titles Office'*. SAG. **Time:** 9.30-11.30am **Cost:** \$22, mems \$18 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247-3953; fax: (02) 9241-4872; email: info@sag.org.au; web: <http://www.sag.org.au>
- 18 Talk.** *'Dissent and Disorder'*. With Caleb Williams and Dr Ann Stephen. HHT. **Venue:** Police and Justice Museum **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$15, mems/conc \$12 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 19 Lecture.** *'Railway Signalling on the NSW Railways'*. With Bob Taaffe. RAHS. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$7 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 21 Tour.** *'Asylums of Sydney: Gladesville Hospital & The Priory'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 10am-3pm **Cost:** \$49, mems/conc \$39 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 25 Talks.** *'Anzac Day'*. With Shirley Seale (morning) and Associate Professor Douglas Newton (afternoon). **Venue:** Rouse Hill estate **Time:** 10am-12n & 1-3pm **Cost:** \$10, mems/conc \$7 per session **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

Upcoming Conferences

'Imperial Curiosity: Objects, Representations, Knowledges', 27-29 June 2007, University of Tasmania. Enquiries: web: <http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/imperialcuriosity/>

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

'The Colonial Present: Australian Writing for the 21st Century: Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Australian', 1-4 July 2007, The University of Queensland. Enquiries: web: <http://www.asc.uq.edu.au/asal/>

'Medicine In Context: Tenth Biennial Conference Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine', 3-6 July 2007, Australian National University, Canberra. Enquiries: email: prue.deacon@health.gov.au or Anthea.Hyslop@anu.edu.au

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

'Old Stories New Ways :Oral History Association of Australia 2007 National Conference', 27-30 September 2007, Indooroopilly, Brisbane. Enquiries: web: <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au>

Call for Papers

'Cultural Context Conference: National Trust Heritage Festival', 15 June 2007, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill Sydney. Abstracts of 300-500 words due **30 March 2007**. Enquiries: email: conference@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au; web: <http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au>

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

'Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities: a conference about migration, connection, heritage and cultural memory', 3-5 December 2007, Flinders University, Adelaide. Abstracts of 250-300 words due **31 March 2007**. Enquiries: web: <http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/events/movingcultures.html>

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

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

What's On is available on the PHA Website

PHA (NSW) Directory 2006-7

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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

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