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PHANFARE



Heritage Issues

PHA NSW



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Cover Picture: The picturesque Jenolan River photographed by Rosemary Kerr on her recent trip to the Caves.

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

Confused about Conservation?

Dear Aunty Anne

Please can you help me? I am a historian and have recently been asked by a smart and sexy architect to help with a Conservation Management Plan but I am confused about conservation and am not sure what to do. Is this a good idea and should I be doing this sort of thing? Please advise.

Confused Historian of Queanbeyan

Dear Confused of Queanbeyan

You seem to be confused about two things:

1. mixing work with pleasure, and
2. whether historians should be doing conservation management plans.

So long as it is the job you love, mixing work and pleasure should not be a problem. However I would counsel you about smart and sexy architects who may exploit you for your historical skills, which are actually essential to good conservation planning. Don't under-rate yourself. You are smart and sexy too, and the architect needs the historian as much as the historian needs the architect!¹

¹ Aunty Anne's Agony Advice in *The Heritage Herald* – handout from Anne Claoue-Long to participants in the PHA Heritage Workshop on 5 April 2008

President's Page

In the last issue of *Phanfare*, I encouraged members to write articles for this bi-monthly magazine of the Professional Historians Association of New South Wales. Soon you will have an additional outlet for your talents.

After PHA relinquished its connection with the journal *Public History Review*, members no longer had a specialised medium for the publication of longer articles that are not quite suitable for a more “newsy” magazine like *Phanfare*. This gap will be filled later in 2008 when PHA launches its new electronic publication *SHOWCASE*.

As the title implies, this aims to demonstrate the variety and depth of work that professional historians undertake. Unlike *Public History Review* which is now published by University of Technology, Sydney, *SHOWCASE* will only publish work written by PHA members, and may deal with any topic of historical interest, including aspects of current projects that members are researching. We believe that this will be useful in promoting the work of professional historians amongst potential clients in government and the commercial sector as well as other historians. In other words, it will be a showcase of public history.

The publication will appear in a separate section of the PHA website. It will not be produced at regular intervals, although it is envisaged that the contents will be revised at least twice a year. New material then may be added, but existing material will not necessarily be removed from *SHOWCASE*. It will be a dynamic, living publication with content that is constantly changing.

Original articles up to 4,000 words in length will be considered, or an equivalent amount of visual material. Reviews of books, exhibitions or seminars will not be accepted; they still should be submitted to *Phanfare*, which will continue just as it does now. *SHOWCASE* is an entirely different concept. The need for this new communication channel arose from our 2007 survey, where 88 per cent of PHA members said they would be interested in contributing to a new publication along these lines.

The PHA Management Committee is in the final stage of preparing the guidelines for publication, including a style sheet. A panel of three referees will be appointed to consider all material submitted, and to recommend to an independent editor which articles should be included on the website. The aim will be to display as broad a range of genres of public history as possible, representative of the many activities involving PHA members.

Because this is to be a truly peer-reviewed publication, all members of the referee panel must be current PHA members. Now is your chance to become involved, with the committee calling for expressions of interest from all members who would like to sit on the panel. Obviously not everybody can be included in the initial panel, but an opportunity to participate will arise later, because like the content itself, the referees will change so that a particular line of thought does not become entrenched. If you wish to nominate for the referee panel, please send a brief summary of your experience in this or related editorial areas to the PHA Secretary: secretary@phansw.org.au

Soon we will begin inviting members to prepare articles for publication in the inaugural *SHOWCASE*. We want it commence on a high note. Start thinking about your contribution now!

Peter J. Tyler
President

There goes the Heritage of the Neighbourhood!

Phyllis Phame

The media release of 19 February 2008 announcing the changes to what used to be the Heritage Office was short in length and short on detail.

...some former Heritage Office staff will now be integrated into the Department's development assessment, plan-making, strategic planning and policy teams. ...This will improve integrated outcomes and, by streamlining internal processes, assist in timely Departmental service delivery.

A standalone unit will specifically service the ongoing role of the Heritage Council, including overseeing proposed State heritage listings.

If you were wondering what "Departmental service delivery" is, you're not alone. One of the objectives of the NSW Government's State Plan, announced with much fanfare last year, was "cutting red tape". Somehow, whether with an ouija board or some other method, it had been determined that the people of NSW were immensely frustrated with red tape. Couldn't stand the stuff. Hence the appearance of words like 'streamlining', 'timely' and 'integrated' in the press release. These words are the diametric opposite of red tapishness, it seems.

The interesting thing is that these changes occurred while there was a review being conducted into the operation of the *Heritage Act* and even before the result of the Review was known. The report of the Review was produced by Gabrielle Kibble, Michael Collins (former Chair of the Heritage Council) and John Whitehouse, a planning lawyer, and released on 19 March 2008. These three were referred to as the 'Independent Expert Panel' although their backgrounds do not suggest independence. Whitehouse according to his law firm's website has been a special adviser to the Minister for Planning and Environment, the Assistant Director of the New South Wales Department of Environment and Planning and the Director-General of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Kibble is a former Director-General of the Department of Planning.

So the Heritage Council had many of its staff removed before it was known what changes would be recommended to the Minister. This is curious given that the backlog of nominations for the State Heritage Register amounts to 400¹ and outside assistance is needed at present to get through them. Some of the Panel's recommendations are:

- changing the composition of the Heritage Council. Confusingly it suggested two models so it is up to the Minister to decide which one to adopt. One model provides for the removal of all 'ex officio' members (ie the Government Architect, the National Trust) and replacement with skills based members to be appointed by the Minister.
- allowing the Minister to remove heritage items from the State Heritage Register if the listing renders it incapable of 'reasonable' or 'economic' use,² or if the listing is causing undue financial hardship to the owner, mortgagee or lessee.

¹ Minutes of Special Meeting of Heritage Council, 5 March 2008 (on Heritage Branch website)

² This may be an error in the report. The Act currently allows for objections to the listing of an item on the basis that it would prevent "reasonable economic use", not "reasonable or economic use".

- providing for State Heritage listing to follow an annual ‘theme’ and only nominations which fit into that theme (apart from emergency nominations) will be accepted in that year
- requiring nominations for State Heritage listing to meet more than one criterion unless they are exceptionally valuable or rare
- reassessing items on the State Heritage Register which were transferred from the previous list of items under a Permanent Conservation Order to see if they meet the heritage criteria, and if they do not, automatically removing them from the Register
- introducing ‘gateway criteria’ which requires local councils to consider planning factors when deciding whether to list an item.

The last recommendation is part of the attempt to merge heritage conservation with planning controls. This Report was not written in a vacuum. The Panel knew that the Minister was planning a suite of planning reforms some of which are before Parliament right now, which will dramatically affect how heritage is taken into account in planning.

We already have the amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* which allow projects to be declared ‘State significant’ under Part 3A of that Act, and thus fast tracked through the approval process with Ministerial attention. This allows developers to bypass unsympathetic councils, as has been the case with the proposed development of ‘Rippon Grange’, an 1890s property in Wahroonga. When the developer’s proposal for a ‘seniors’ resort’ on the site was knocked back by the council and the Land and Environment Court on heritage and environmental grounds, they decided to build an elder care health facility instead. Being a health facility they could apply for it to be dealt with under Part 3A. It is now a ‘State significant’ proposal and the Minister will decide whether it proceeds.

Further amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* are now available for comment until 24 April. These provide for Local Environmental Plans to be made for areas that will control development in those areas. The Minister, not the Council determines what community consultation is required before the Plan is finalized or whether any consultation is required at all. This is part of the Government’s objectives of getting rid of ‘unnecessary red tape’ and making the system ‘more accessible to mums and dads’ (from the Foreword to the Community Guide).

The Community Guide states this will happen through a series of special design codes to be established by the Government. If a ‘mum and dad’ development proposal meets the requirement of the design code, it can avoid development assessment altogether.

In fact the draft amendments do not provide for any ‘design codes’. There is nothing in the Act to indicate what development standards a development will have to meet. These will be contained in the Local Environmental Plans, which, as I noted above, can be created without any community consultation at all if the Minister so determines.

No one is required under the proposals to consider whether the heritage or environment of an area has been taken into account in the Local Environmental Plan. At the moment, it all appears discretionary.

The trouble is, thanks to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, we have now all seen how Departmental plans and policies count for nothing, in the sad saga of Catherine Hill Bay. A wealthy developer decides he would like to build hundreds of houses in an area that the relevant Plan determined was unsuitable. Never mind that it contains rare vegetation, is subject to subsidence, is in the middle of an unspoilt historic village and is miles from transport. He does a lot of lobbying. He ‘bumps into’ the head local planner on his way to work and harangues him. He seeks meetings with the Minister. He pays lots of money to the Labor Party. He offers some native bush which he bought cheaply, for a national park. What's more he accuses the local planner, who is trying to follow the Plan, of being ‘biased’ for merely doing what he thought he was supposed to do in the public interest. And, hey presto! A pristine coastal site that was previously unsuitable for development is suddenly laid out with townhouses.



Catherine Hill Bay

For updates on these and related issues, see: www.planning.nsw.gov.au
and <http://whatseatingtheacanthus.blogspot.com>

The Historian's Place in Heritage

Rosemary Broomham

The PHA Workshop 'History, Heritage and Conservation Planning: The Power and Place of History' on 5 April was an appropriate beginning to Heritage Week, particularly as the presenters, Bruce Beresford and Anne Claoue-Long work in heritage offices, Bruce in the Department of Planning (formerly the separate Heritage Office) and Anne in ACT Heritage. They focused on the historian's role in heritage studies.

In teams that work together on heritage studies such as Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) the historian is usually expected to provide the whole history of the place in an impossibly short time and is often subsequently ignored. What they write is then parroted (or parodied) by other team members without further consultation, the ultimate goal being a statement of significance. Historians should insist on contributing to the statement of significance as their research and analysis is the basis of the whole study. The statement of significance can be the deciding factor in whether a site, building or object is retained or abandoned and in the state of New South Wales, in particular, retaining significant heritage is becoming more difficult every year.

Bruce Baskerville delivered an impassioned and detailed commentary on the preparation of a heritage document first stressing that the history in a CMP should not aspire to being a general history but instead should focus on the building, site or object and what has produced the remains that are present. The text may cover such factors as key people and other social influences; the materials used to shape it; and the effect of technological and scientific change over time. The history needs to show how the forces, processes and stages of a site's development shaped that place; the history can persuade others why a place matters. Of all the professionals working in the heritage industry, it is historians who see the 'course or pattern of history'; interpret the chronological dimension; and present the place, building, site or object in the broader context of local, state and national development. But be aware, as Anne pointed out, every state and territory has its own discrete criteria of significance.

Bruce and Anne both strongly urged historians augment the documentary evidence by visiting the place, if possible with the other members of the heritage team. There are important factors that only field study can identify, such as the appearance of sites, buildings, groups of buildings or objects – their shape, design and materials; the effect of the surrounding topography; their place within the landscape and the view they have of the landscape, this last aspect being important to the curtilage. There are also intangibles that can only be sensed by going to the place – smells, sounds, vistas, its poetry – or, alternately, the horror associated with a place, as in the sites of massacres or places of extreme punishment.

There are four levels of significance – local, state, national and world. Practitioners need to adhere to these, keeping in mind the type of government that will be responsible for any site, building or object that is judged to have significance. The history needs to persuade these people of the importance of the place in the present as well as the past. Tools that assist with this are themes, typologies (a word that is new to me) and regions. Themes can show the uses of the place and demonstrate how the storylines connect parts of a place across time. They can be used as headings for separate sections of the history, or as margin annotations to a text that flows chronologically. National and state themes are on the New South Wales Heritage Website but they should be used only when absolutely appropriate. Typologies is a term that refers to likenesses to other buildings, sites or objects and here the New South Wales

Heritage Register provides a source for discovering similar heritage items as does the Australian Heritage Database. The region or area in which the place, site or building sits is also important, although it's important to remember regions change over time, particularly in relation to law and government. For example, the ACT was part of colonial New South Wales before it became the national capital. But regions can also shift with changes in transport modes and routes.

Another important consideration that the speakers emphasised was the fact that the history in a CMP should be useful to its readers and that producing such a document should be a primary aim of the historian. Liberal use of maps, plans and images will assist the recipients of the CMP to understand the change over time. These should be referenced in the written text to aid identification. Tables and summaries are also helpful and, if the subject has aspects which are unfamiliar to the general reader, the inclusion of a glossary will explain them. The text should be in plain English and should clearly answer the key questions: why the building, site or object matters and what needs to be looked after.

The workshop covered other aspects such as the legislative context of the resulting Conservation Management Plan; interdisciplinary issues that arise from the many professionals who become involved, through requiring and creating CMPs; and the project teams assembled to do the work. Again the speakers emphasised the fact that the historian is important to the process of creating a CMP – in fact Criterion A of the New South Wales Guidelines states the need for a qualified historian. Going further, in addition to writing the history, the historian should be present at least one site visit and should actively involved in the assessment of significance. It would also help if the historian had the opportunity to review the interpretation that the other practitioners have derived from their work.



Blair's plan for the Office & Nurses' Quarters Admission Section of Bloomfield Hospital, Orange was designed in 1910; the Admission Building opened in 1925. PWD Plan MH7/2



The lower image shows the same building at the extreme right on the crown of the original road into the extensive hospital grounds. Photo R. Broomham

Balmain Dunnies – and other exhibitions at the Balmain Watch House

Terri McCormack



Courtesy Fergus Fricke

Fergus Fricke is fixated with backyard dunnies. The Balmain resident has made it his mission to compile a photographic record of these quaint relics from the past before they all disappear in another wave of gentrification. As part of the Heritage Festival, he is showing some of his photographs at the Balmain Association's Watch House in an exhibition with the evocative title: *Getting to the Bottom of Balmain's Dunnies*. For those of a certain age, the inclusion of a toilet bowl and a stack of torn newspapers nailed to the nearby wall brought back memories we'd rather forget.

When Balmain was settled, residents cooked and ate inside the house and toilets were outside. Now the situation is reversed, with at least one if not more toilets inside while eating takes place on the deck, in the garden or outside one of the many local restaurants. The backyard dunny survived until the 1960s brought a change of lifestyle. Although few mourn the loss of 19th century sanitation, Fricke laments the near demise of these dunnies which should be preserved for their architectural heritage as well as the folklore associated with them. They are an endangered species and he estimates there are about 100 of them left in Balmain.

The exhibition covers the history of sanitation from the time the newly formed Balmain Council took responsibility for the disposal of night soil in 1860. Those were the days of the horse-drawn dunny men or night-men whose job was to remove night soil from cesspits and dunny pans and deliver it to punts off Adolphus Street to be taken out to sea. Council paid collectors £1 per pan per year. In 1889, there were 4,300 dunny cans and 500 cesspits in Balmain so they made a reasonable if unpleasant living.

Because they were often located near wells and dairies, dunnies and cesspits were a health hazard, causing typhoid, cholera, and a high rate of infant mortality. It didn't help that sewerage was often used as fertilizer. Balmain first received reticulated water from Botany swamps in 1880 and the first sewer was built in 1896, being completed in 1910.

As they demolish the backyard dunny for their double garage or house extension, how many new householders in Balmain are aware of the original purpose of the alleys running by their back fences or the tall sewer vents in the local parks? The Association would like to celebrate the centenary of the sewerage of Balmain by setting up an "occupied" dunny sculpture in a public place. Or Council could encourage owners "to sanctify the outdoor shrine by putting a caveat on the title deeds to prevent the removal of the one-hole saviour of our Balmain ancestors".

And an aside for those who are really interested in this topic: Thomas Crapper did not invent the flushing toilet. He made improvements to it.

Our Place – Our Faces

You'd have to live in Balmain to appreciate this exhibition, also at the Watch House. It's a selection of photographs from previous exhibitions, the Association's archives, local photographer David Liddle, and two local schools. There's Brays Book Shop, the Police Boys Club, the sole remaining butcher shop, the "jolly green giant" from Beatties' hardware who is so patient with bewildered old ladies, Joe the flower cart seller, and all the familiar places and faces that make this a village rather than a suburb.

Balmain through younger eyes, in another room at the Watch House, features photographs taken by local school children. They were asked to demonstrate "differences" and "contrasts" and some have done so admirably with their images of renovated and unrenovated houses, the old and the new bus stops at Gladstone Park, ferry cats with the Harbour Bridge as background, and lots of other Balmain landmarks.

The Last Straw - a salvaged Milk Bar

Just before the Heritage Festival, one of Balmain's most well-known landmarks closed suddenly – Peter's Milk Bar on the corner of Darling and Rowntree Streets. It has been there as long as most of us have lived here and shut down without warning. It was on the verge of being gutted when one of the Balmain Association members managed to salvage various items now on display at the Watch House. These evocative pieces from another era include back-lit advertising screens and signs for Milk Shakes and Sundaes, and one of the booth tables, cleverly displayed with mirrors to show all the chewing gum stuck to the underside of the table.

Balmain Sandstone features photographs of the Town Hall, Court House, Post Office, churches, schools, the Watch House itself and the many other sandstone buildings in Balmain. It was one of the stops on Bob Irving's *Discovery Tour* of former sandstone quarries in Leichhardt Municipality, one of the many Heritage Festival events I didn't manage to get to.

Overlooking Heritage – The Story of a Bridge

Rosemary Kerr

Most of us have probably taken a trip to the Jenolan Caves at some stage, and like the other tourists and day-trippers, after slowly winding your way down the final, dreadful – at times perilously narrow and precipitous - stretch of Jenolan Caves Road, marvel at the majestic Grand Arch and the awesome natural landscape that unfolds to reward this journey. Or else, make straight for Caves House and a coffee to revive, settle the nerves and prepare for the wonders that await you. Most visitors, however, may not be so aware of the little limestone arch bridge, at the bottom of the descent, just before the entrance to the Grand Arch, which, since 1896 has formed the final link in the road providing vehicular access to the Caves from Katoomba. Over the last few years, I've had the privilege of working with Sue Rosen & Associates and Dr Sid French of engineering firm, Worley Parsons, on a number of projects commissioned by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, to assess the heritage significance of many of the state's historic bridges. Researching the Jenolan Caves Bridge's history revealed its particular significance in the development of tourism in the area as well as some insights into the broader history of this region of outstanding natural and cultural heritage.



Figure 1: The Limestone Arch Bridge at Jenolan Caves was the final link in the road to the Grand Arch. [Photo: R. Kerr]

Created by slightly acidic ground waters dissolving the limestone, the vast network of caves on the eastern fall of the Dividing Range is one of the largest and most beautiful cave systems in Australia. Gundungurra and Wiradjuri Aboriginal peoples lived in the area before the arrival of Europeans effectively decimated their numbers and traditional ways of life. The Aboriginal name for the Jenolan Caves is 'Binoomea', meaning dark places, and Binoomea features in Gundungurra creation stories and legends. There is some indication that the original inhabitants feared the caves, which were home to the 'Dark Ones' or enemies of the people. According to a Gundungurra leader, Billy Lynch, however, in an article in the *Sydney Mail* in 1896, the elders knew the caves and carried the sick, sometimes from considerable

distances, into some of the caves where daylight penetrated, to be bathed in the subterranean water, which they believed to have great curative powers.³

Escaped convicts were most likely to have been the first Europeans to discover the Jenolan Caves, using the rugged terrain of the area as a safe haven. James Whalan, owner of *Gingkin* Station about 12 kilometres to the west, is reportedly the first European to have officially seen the Caves, while apprehending a petty thief, James McKeown, with a policeman from Hartley. James' brother, Charles Whalan, first explored the Caves with Nicholas Irwin around 1838. As pastoral settlement expanded in the region, stockmen would have wandered over the Jenolan and Kanangra areas in search of straying cattle and cattle rustlers were reputed to know the Caves. The 'Devil's Coach House' Cave derives its name from a tale published in a tourist guide in 1888 regarding Luke White, convicted of stealing cattle at nearby *Bindo* in 1839. White was camped in one of the caves when he had a horrifying encounter in the middle of the night with Satan, cracking his whip and driving his coach and four through the cave.⁴



Tourism began as early as the 1850s, when a few visitors began to access the Caves following an old cart track over Mount Bindo to Hartley with accommodation available at Binda Cattle Station about 13 kilometres from the Caves. The last two kilometres had to be made on foot or horse because of the steep terrain. The earliest visitors camped in the Grand Arch, often staying for several days. The Caves Reserve was declared in 1866, being the first area in the world set aside for the preservation of caves. At that time the Caves were known as the Fish River Caves as that was the direction from which early visitors arrived. Other names were Bindo Caves or McKeown Caves. The name, Jenolan, was adopted in 1884 after the parish name. In 1867 only the Nettle, Arch, Elder and Lucas caves had been discovered, and vandalism by tourists souvenirizing parts of the caves was a problem. A guide and caretaker, Jeremiah Wilson was appointed by the government in 1867 and he tried to ensure that people did not break the formations deliberately. Gradually tourist facilities were built at the Caves, including a dancing platform set up in the Grand Arch in 1869, where revellers could dance to the fiddle or accordion by lantern light until midnight when the cave became a dormitory. In 1880, Jeremiah Wilson built a wood and corrugated iron building for accommodation, which almost immediately proved inadequate. It was not until 1916, however, that accommodation standards evolved to the scale of the inexorable Tudor style three-storey Jenolan Caves House, providing tourists with a sense of romantic English colonial gentility in the midst of the wild Australian landscape.⁵

³ Phillipa Gemmell-Smith, 'Thematic History of Oberon Shire', 2003, pp 6, 56; National Trust of Australia, *National Trust Magazine*, No. 33 February 1986, p 15

⁴ Gemmell-Smith, pp 56-57

⁵ Gemmell-Smith, pp 57-59

Access to the Caves was always extremely difficult, but by 1884 there were three main routes. Initially most traffic came from Oberon, but when the railway reached Mount Victoria in 1868, Oberon had to compete with the shorter eastern route via Hartley. In 1884 a third route, the Six Foot Track from Katoomba, was formed - a riding or walking track for the adventurous that passed through the wild country of the Megalong Valley and Cox's River, over the formidable Black Range then into the Jenolan Caves Valley. When the 'Five Mile' was completed in 1885 almost to the Grand Arch, Mt Victoria gained much of the tourist trade.⁶

The limestone arch bridge was constructed in 1896 by the Public Works Department, which was responsible for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in NSW at the time. The bridge was the final part of the road to the Grand Arch, and this road was finally carried through the Grand Arch to link with the road to Oberon that same year. The Public Works Department Annual Report noted that the road had been

‘constructed at considerable cost through the Grand Arch, Jenolan Caves. While not interfering with the natural beauty of the scenery, it will [be] of great service [to] tourists in giving a good approach to the caves for both foot and vehicular traffic.’⁷

By that time, the Caves received almost 2,000 visitors a year, with numbers growing rapidly.⁸



'De Burgh's Limestone Bridge, unobtrusive from the road surface, repays closer examination afforded by the walking track below. [Photo: R. Kerr]

The bridge became known locally as 'De Burgh's Limestone Bridge' after Ernest Macartney de Burgh, whose name appeared on plans for the bridge. De Burgh was a civil engineer, who emigrated from Ireland, joining the New South Wales Department of Public Works in April

⁶ Gemmell-Smith, p 58

⁷ Public Works Department, Annual Report for Year Ended 30 June 1896, p 44

⁸ Gemmell-Smith, p 58

1885. He became Supervising Bridge Engineer from c1891 to 1900, and Engineer for Bridges from 1901 to 1903. Among other works he was responsible for the Hampden suspension bridge at Kangaroo Valley and the Maldon suspension bridge at Picton as well as a timber truss bridge built in 1899 over the Lane Cove River, named in his honour. Regarded as one of the ablest civil engineers in Australia; his legacy is perpetuated to this day in the name of the current De Burghs Bridge at Lane Cove. While de Burgh's name appeared on the plans, it is unlikely that he designed it personally. It is a simple plan, of the style built in Britain and elsewhere for more than 100 years. Nevertheless, the bridge is highly significant historically as a key factor in the social history and development of the Jenolan Caves as a premier tourist destination.⁹

One of the more enjoyable aspects of these projects is that we have to visit each bridge to photograph it and comment on its physical and aesthetic attributes. Construction of the road through the Grand Arch was an expensive exercise due to the difficulty of removing large rocks and constructing iron girder supports for the road. The limestone from which the bridge was constructed is extremely hard and difficult to cut. One large rock has been incorporated into the bridge instead of removing it and cutting it into blocks and can be identified by the absence of mortar. The rock has been chipped to resemble the joints which would have been there. In the 1950s during blasting of the Pinnacles as a safety measure, rocks fell onto the arch bridge, damaging the parapet. As you walk across the bridge you can identify replacement rocks of granite, rather than local limestone, as different lichen grow on granite.¹⁰

On this visit to Jenolan Caves, the limestone bridge was the focus of our attention, and we didn't have time to explore the Caves themselves. More bridges awaited and so, we pushed on to Bathurst via Oberon, without even a coffee at Caves House!



A view of Caves House which appears to be under renovation. [Photo: R. Kerr]

⁹ J. M. Antill, 'De Burgh, Ernest Macartney (1863 - 1929)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online Edition, Copyright 2006, updated continuously, ISSN 1833-7538, published by [Australian National University](http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080285b.htm) <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080285b.htm>; Correspondence, Oberon Council 29 February 2008

¹⁰ Correspondence, Oberon Council 29 February 2008

What's On in History

Prepared by [Christine de Matos](#)

APRIL-MAY 2008

Exhibitions

'The ever memorable 26 January 1808'. *Venue:* Museum of Sydney.

'Sydney views 1788–1888: from the Beat Knoblauch collection'. *Until April 2008. Venue:* Museum of Sydney.

'Politics & Power: Bligh's Sydney Rebellion 1808'. *Until 27 April 2008. Venue:* State Library of NSW

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

'Sydney's pubs: liquor, larrikins & the law'. *Until 2 November 2008. Venue:* Justice and Police Museum.

Events April

25 Tea, Tour & Talk. 'Great War stories'. Melanie Oppenheimer, 10am-12n; Shirley Seale, 1- 3pm. HHT. *Venue:* Rouse Hill House & Farm **Time:** see above **Cost:** \$20, mems/conc \$15 per session **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

30 Lecture. 'The Water Dreamers of Australia'. Michael Cathcart, School of Historical Studies, Melbourne University, Public Lecture Series. *Venue:* Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre A, Melbourne University **Time:** 6.30pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Caroline Hamilton, email: hamc@unimelb.edu.au; web: <http://www.historical-studies.unimelb.edu.au/events/>

30 Seminar. 'Reynolds' New Masterpiece: From Experiment in Savagery to Icon of the 18th Century', Kate Fullagar, 'Histories on Wednesday' seminar program, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University (Co-sponsored by the Centre for Cultural History). *Venue:* Room W6A 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12n-1.15pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Mark Hearn, email: mark.hearn@humn.mq.edu.au

Events May

3 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

7 Seminar. 'An American Dialectic of Enlightenment: Appropriating Horkheimer and Adorno'. Howard Prosser, 'Histories on Wednesday' seminar program, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University. *Venue:* Room W6A 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12n-1.15pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Mark Hearn, email: mark.hearn@humn.mq.edu.au

7 Walking tour. 'Sydney Architecture Walks'. 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

- 10 **Talk.** 'On guard: the NSW Volunteer Rifles'. Brad Manera, HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum **Time:** 10.30-11.30am **Cost:** \$15, mems/conc \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 14 **Seminar.** 'Traditional Urban Aboriginal Religion'. Kristina Everitt, 'Histories on Wednesday' seminar program, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University. **Venue:** Room W6A 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12n-1.15pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Mark Hearn, email: mark.hearn@humn.mq.edu.au
- 14 **Workshop.** 'Conservation Clinic at Kingswood', State Records. **Venue:** Western Sydney Records office **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Bookings essential:** email: accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au.
- 17 **Event.** 'Shoalhaven heritage weekend'. Free museum entry, including Meroogal. HHT. **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 4421 8150; web: www.shoalhavenmuseums.com.au
- 18 **Tour.** 'Living inner city: Waverton. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 2-4pm **Cost:** \$25, mems/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 18 **Tour.** 'Murder in the museum'. HHT. **Venue:** Police and Justice Museum **Time:** 6-9pm **Cost:** \$48, mems/conc \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 21 **Seminar.** 'Pistols! Treason! Murder!: A Multimedia Assassination'. Jonathan Walker, 'Histories on Wednesday' seminar program, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University (Co-sponsored by the Centre for Medial History). **Venue:** Room W6A 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12n-1.15pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Mark Hearn, email: mark.hearn@humn.mq.edu.au
- 22 **Tour.** 'True tales of sad souls'. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum **Time:** 6-7pm & 6.30-7.30pm **Cost:** \$15, mems/conc \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 28 **Seminar.** 'Law and Disorder: An Information Awareness Month Activity'. State Records and the RAHS. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 10am-3pm **Bookings essential:** RAHS, ph: (02) 9247 8001.
- 28 **Talk.** 'From sea to sky'. Event for the *Flying Boats* exhibition. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$20, mems/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 28 **Seminar.** 'Harry Potter and the Holocaust: History and Fiction'. Ann Curthoys, 'Histories on Wednesday' seminar program, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University (Co-sponsored by the Centre for Cultural History). **Venue:** Room W6A 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12n-1.15pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** Mark Hearn, email: mark.hearn@humn.mq.edu.au

Upcoming Conferences

'Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) 17th biennial conference: Is this the Asian Century?', 1-3 July 2008, Sebel Albert Park Hotel, Melbourne. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.conferenceworks.net.au/asaa/>.

'Locating History: Australian Historical Association Biennial Conference', 7-10 July 2008, University of Melbourne. **Enquiries:** email: aha-info@unimelb.edu.au

'Minority reports - Indigenous and community voices in Archives. International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (ICHORA4)', 3-5 August 2008, University of Western Australia. **Enquiries:** email: ichora4@ecu.edu.au; web: <http://www.archivists.org.au/ichora/ICHORA4/index.html>

'Archives - discovery and exploration. The Australian Society of Archivists annual conference', 7-9 August 2008, Perth. **Enquiries:** email: asaconference@emailme.com.au; web: <http://www.archivists.org.au/2008-conference-perth>.

'Revisiting the Massacre in History: An Interdisciplinary Workshop', 25-26 September, 2008, University of Newcastle, NSW. **Enquiries:** Dr Philip Dwyer, email: Philip.Dwyer@newcastle.edu.au or Prof. Lyndall Ryan, email: Lyndall.Ryan@newcastl.edu.au.

'The Centenary Conference of Rugby League in Australia', 7-8 November 2008, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. **Enquiries:** Andrew Moore, email: A.Moore@uws.edu.au

Call for Papers

'New Worlds, New Sovereignties Conference', 6-9 June 2008, Melbourne. Abstracts due by 4 April 2008. **Enquiries:** web: www.newsovereignties.org.

'Let's Talk About Sex: Histories of Sexuality in Australia and New Zealand', 2-3 October 2008, Macquarie University. Abstracts of 2-300 words and brief biographical note due by 30 April 2008. **Enquiries:** Lisa Featherstone, email: Lisa.Featherstone@humn.mq.edu.au or Rebecca Jennings, email: Rebecca.Jennings@humn.mq.edu.au

**To include an event in *What's On* email to Christine de Matos at cdm@uow.edu.au.
What's On is also on the web at <http://www.historians.org.au/whatson.html>**

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Suzanne Mitchell photographed this colonial dwelling Mon Plaisir on her recent visit to Mauritius. [See article p 20]

Planning a Seachange?

Margaret Blundell

Graduate Historian, Marget Blundell provides a participant's report on the 9th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference which was hosted by the University of the Sunshine Coast and held at the Events Centre, in Caloundra, Queensland, from the 5th to 7th February, 2008.

The conference theme was *'Seachange: historical perspectives on new and renewed urban landscapes'* and the peer-reviewed papers focussed on issues such as indigenous communities and urban expansion, water and cities, media images of sea/tree change as well as memory and place on the Queensland Gold Coast. There were also two sessions devoted to the history of town planning associations in Australia. My own presentation examined the impact of regional and town planning policies on heritage dwellings in coastal urban fringe areas. Conference participants, most of whom came from Australia and New Zealand, included university academics and researchers, prominent historians, government heritage officers, museum curators, urban planners and administrators.

Although the conference was relatively small and informal, compared with those of organisations such as the Australian Historical Association, there were sufficient papers for a series of parallel sessions on each of the three days. This often necessitated a mid-session dash between rooms. Fortunately, unlike at some other conferences, the order in which the speakers gave their presentations did not vary from the printed program. Some of the presenters also provided explanatory handouts or pamphlets for the audience to take home and there was a CD of the collected papers in the conference satchel.

The many highlights of the conference included;

1. A panel session on canal estates presented by the Director of Planning from Maroochy Shire Council, staff from the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and a lecturer in geospatial analysis from the University of the Sunshine Coast. These three commented on the negative aspects of canal developments. Unfortunately we did not hear the developer's point of view as a fourth panellist, the design manager from the listed company Stocklands did not turn up.
2. Illustrated talks on the heritage motels and high-rise buildings of the Gold Coast.
3. A very interesting keynote address by Professor Tony Dingle of Monash University on the topic of miner's cottages in the goldfield towns of Victoria.
4. A lively presentation by artist Blair McNamara whose paintings, installations and photography focus on the beach culture and changes to the urban fabric of the Sunshine Coast, especially around his home at Coolum.

As the conference was held in a (mostly) air-conditioned building, wet weather during the first two days did not really intrude on the activities, except briefly during a heritage walk around the streets between Kings Beach and Moffat Beach late on Wednesday afternoon. Overall, the conference – the first one of this series that I have attended – was engrossing, thoroughly enjoyable and the frequent breaks for refreshments provided plenty of opportunity for networking and conversing with fellow participants.

margblundell@westnet.com.au

A Night Out – Memories of the Gayline Drive-In Movie Theatre

Ian Willis

An important part of Australian popular culture has been the experience of the drive-in movie theatre. It is one of the defining markers of the baby-boomers based around movies and cars, which has helped mark a 20th century culture based on mass consumerism. As I have recently discovered the drive-in culture is a lively part of the popular memory.

What has intrigued me the most about the drive-in is the way many boomers start going gooey-eyed just at the thought of it. For them the experience brings back fond memories of their youth, when the world was at their feet and nothing was insurmountable. The drive-in was an important marker in their lives and for some it was a right of passage. In a way recounting the story allows many baby-boomers to regain some of their youth.

What has impressed me is the clarity of their images and the passion of their stories. The boomers remember their presence at the drive-in long before they remember the movie that was screening. They vividly recall the weather (the rain or the fog), the company (the new boyfriend or Mum and Dad and the kids), the food (banana fritters, choc tops, chiko rolls, hamburgers or pop-corn), the season (summer or winter), the smells (from the cafeteria), the car they drove (especially their first) or the sounds (forgetting to unhook the speaker from the car window as they drove off). It was a time for them when life appeared to be slightly slower, less complicated and more democratic – when there was no pay TV, no Internet and no iPods. Above all the drive-in was fun.

Our local drive-in was at Narellan. It was an independent screen when most were controlled by the two major exhibition chains, Hoyts and Greater Union. It traded as the Gayline Drive-In Movie Theatre, under the licensee EJ ‘Ted’ Frazer. Ted Frazer was a picture show man and operated cinemas at Scarborough and Lake Illawarra in the Wollongong area. He had chosen Narellan for his new business venture because it was a designated growth area and ‘land was a reasonable price’. (I have had the good fortune to talk to his son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Lyn Frazer, who are baby-boomers themselves.)

The Gayline Drive-In Cinema operated from 1967 to 1990. It was one of over 230 screens across the country with the first opening in Melbourne in 1954. It occupied 10 acres and had provision for 600 cars. On opening night in 1967 the Frazers screened *Lt Robin Crusoe USN* [Walt Disney, 1966, Technicolor, starring Dick Van Dyke, Nancy Kwan]. Over the years the Frazers screened a mixture of movies, with sessions starting at 7.30pm, seven days a week. Advertising was the lifeblood of the business and they would show 70 glass slides for local businesses before the show and during intermission. The high point for the Gayline was during the 1970s, but the writing was on the wall with some drive-ins closing during the decade. For the Gayline a combination of colour television, videos and RBT (random breath testing) reduced patronage and eventually forced the Frazers to operate part-time on Friday and Saturday nights. In the end land developers made Ted Frazer an offer ‘he could not refuse’.

The Frazers were more than pleased to share their memories of their previous lives as projectionist and shop assistant. They were concerned that no one would be interested in their story. Even so subjects like the Frazers have their secrets and are sometimes reticent about laying their souls bare. They are concerned how others in the community may judge them. They want a positive spin on their place in history and this can create a conundrum for the historian. Should the historian pull back from the brink or lay it all on the line? Historians need to be sensitive and respectful of their subjects, while being true to the story at hand and setting it in the broader context. There are many actors in the story of the Gayline and they deserve a voice as well, amongst them were: patrons, owners, employees, neighbours, film companies, advertisers, competitors, newspapers, local government; and each has their story. The multi-layered nature of the story needs to be teased out and unravelled so that the complete picture of continuity and change is explored by the historian. There is also the consideration of the site.

Walking the ground once occupied by the Gayline Drive-In now gives a real sense of place, even if all material evidence has long disappeared. You can still make out the lay of the land on the old drive-in site that is now covered in suburbia. Walking around the streets it is possible to visualise the projection shed and screen, and how it must have been; located in the middle of an old dairy farm. As cars queued down Moreshead Road for the late night session and once in the patrons secured the best parking spot. How the panel vans reversed parked so a young couple could snuggle up and watch the movie. Or Mum and Dad could put the kids in the front seat while they took advantage of the back seat. Or the young mother who could take her crying baby for a walk and watches the screen even without the sound. Or the kids who would take advantage of the playground with its rudimentary equipment that would not pass muster today. Or how everyone raced to the food concession at intermission and queued five deep waiting for chips and a hot dog. The Gayline may now be a distant memory, but the ghosts of movies long past still haunt the site. It is one of those 'lost places' that can only be revisited in the imagination of the past.

Movies, cars and the drive-ins are a part of popular culture which involves entertainment for the masses. Most historians ignore it. Maybe there is an element of snobbery about it as it is not high culture. Possibly there is something less than worthy about the drive-in, even sordid. Perhaps it conjures up images of sex and misguided love. Yet these parts of our culture can be a rich source of material. And so it has been with the Gayline Drive-In.



Narellan Drive-In as it was (left) contrasts sharply with the present-day view of its site. Ian Willis

Valuing Heritage in Mauritius

Suzanne Mitchell

A few months ago I visited Mauritius for a short stay en route to Madagascar and was intrigued by their history which I knew very little about. As usual when visiting new places we headed for the national History Museum in Mahebourg which is housed in a 17th century colonial building. The space is divided into three sections, each depicting various aspects of colonial rule from the Dutch to the French to the British. The island, situated in the Indian Ocean was first settled by the Dutch in 1598 and it became an important place on the trade routes from Europe to the East Indies. (There were no indigenous inhabitants.) Their initial intentions were to exploit the natural resources of the island but the Dutch abandoned it in 1710. The famous large bird the dodo was a native to Mauritius but the Dutch soon hunted it to extinction. All across the island in all the souvenir shops and historical displays are mementoes featuring the dodo.

The French under the direction of the French East India Company, took possession in 1715 and named it Ile de France. After the Napoleonic Wars the English took possession in 1810. In 1723 the French began the slave trade which was reluctantly stopped by the British in 1835, years after it was abolished by the British Parliament. Under French rule it was a maritime nation and under British rule it became a plantation colony. It was during the French occupation that Matthew Flinders was detained from 1803 until 1810 whilst returning to England from Australia.

It is from this era that buildings, estates and sugar mills survive and after years of neglect they are just beginning to value their heritage. In 2004 UNESCO conducted an International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition. From this program the Mauritian government began to seek ways in which to value and interpret its history.

There are a number of old colonial mansions which have survived some open to the public others in private ownership. The island is dotted with old sugar mills, often just the ruins and a prominent chimney. In the middle of cane fields are piles of volcanic rocks – often in the shape of a pyramid – which were cleared from the fields to plant the sugar cane. At the peak of sugar production in Mauritius in the 18th century there were over 400 sugar mills.

In driving around the island (it is only 47km wide and 64km long) there are lots of old chimneys among the fields of sugar cane. In Port Louis there are many old colonial buildings including the Aapravasi Ghat site listed on the World Heritage register where the indentured labourers from India were landed. Between 1834 and 1909 450,000 men and women were shipped to Mauritius as indentured labour to work on the sugar estates. They became a substitute for slave labour.

The Mauritian economy no longer relies on sugar as its main income, but depends on tourism. The Beau Plan mill north of the capital Port Louis has been converted to a museum which not only depicts the history of sugar production but also has a very good display on the slave trade. The interpretive panels are well designed and use graphics to illustrate the text. The museum depicts the technological aspect of sugar production with large displays of machinery used in sugar production, as well as the social context of the lives of the Indian indentured labourers whose descendants today make up about 70 per cent of the population. In addition, many of the old colonial buildings along the Port Louis waterfront have historical displays. It was fascinating to see how different cultures portray their history and encouraging to learn that the Mauritian government is making an effort to preserve and value their heritage. *[See picture on page 16]*

Virginia Macleod's Exhibition Launch

Anne Smith

The Nature of Manly Museum Exhibition, curated by PHA's Virginia Macleod, was launched with great fanfare at Manly Art Gallery and Museum on 4 April 2008. Sporting and media personality, Johanna Griggs, opened the exhibition. Johanna, whose childhood was spent on the Northern Beaches, gave a lively and informative account of her early years, which segued nicely into Virginia's exhibition. She expressed her excitement at being able to share personally the information in the exhibition with her two boys.

The Nature of Manly exhibition is very comprehensive, exploring the natural environment of Manly in the context of its unique geology, examining the changes over time to the natural elements, animals and plants, and to its built environment. It also examines the social impact people have had on Manly at different periods. The launch coincided with two art exhibition openings and the Manly Art Gallery was packed to the rafters with eager participants. So much so, it was hard to view the myriad pieces in the museum cabinets.

Virginia's in depth research has brought out hidden histories, and features previously unseen items from the Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Manly Library and the Manly Environment Centre collections. It is a treasure trove of photos, maps and paintings. Environment is strongly emphasised and as Virginia says,

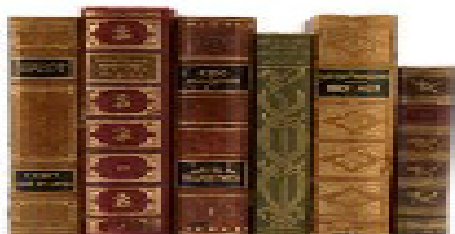
It is imperative to protect Manly's varied environment; the water, sea, harbour, wetlands, creeks, the land, rocks, reserves, gardens and parks can all continue to support more than just human life, which has appropriated such a large part of this place and affected the nature of Manly.

There is plenty of time to make a special trip to Manly to view Virginia's work, as her exhibition will be running all year. For more information visit the website www.manly.nsw.gov.au/gallery, or phone 9976-1421.



Virginia Macleod (right) at the opening of her exhibition The Nature of Manly with Anne Smith and Therese Kenyon. Photo: Manly Art Gallery and Museum

LIBRARY REPORT



Compiled by Terri McCormack.
Library enquiries: (02) 9810 4421 or
terrimc@ozemail.com.au

PHA PERIODICALS

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa. Vol 13, No 3, December 2007

Michael Kelly's editorial congratulates PHANZA on its achievements since its inception in 1994 but wonders why it seems irrelevant to so many working historians. There are about 120 current members and he believes that could easily be doubled.

A call went out for members to provide details of what they have or will be publishing and the impressive results are listed here. Special mention was made of those who only managed to publish one book this year. Clearly, says the tongue-in-cheek editor, they have to try harder. Don't these Kiwis have a life?

'The art of soothsaying' is an interesting and erudite article by Michael Kelly on visionaries, or futurists, whose brilliant imaginations have enabled them to predict future trends – but not always correctly. He doesn't just mean Nostradamus but people like science fiction writers Jules

Verne, H.G. Wells, and New Zealander Sir Julius Vogel, demographer Thomas Malthus, and American journalist John Elfreth Watkins Jr. In 1900, Watkins made about 170 predictions for the world in 2000: over 100 of them turned out to be right. These included the universal availability of telephones, air-conditioned cars, and electricity, English as the international language, and ready-cooked meals. He also foresaw a world without mosquitoes and flies but we're not quite there yet. Some more unreal predictions can be found at: <http://paleo-future.blogspot.com/>

Time Team is a contrived British TV series in which actor Tony Robinson oversees an archaeological dig which magically produces results in just three days – enabling it to fit neatly into an hour long programme. I watch it religiously and so it seems does Michael Kelly. I find it all a bit Anglophobic but then only the English could assemble such an eccentric cast of specialists. As Kelly says, it satisfies the inner archaeologist in all of us and that's the secret of its enormous success.

I agree that a symposium on constitutional history is not everyone's idea of a party so if you want more information on the *Concepts of Nationhood* conference – a stimulating event according to Susan Butterworth's article – have a look at this website:

www.mch.govt.nz/dominion/index.html

PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 50, Feb 2008; No 51, Apr 2008

After five years, Katherine Sheedy has handed over the editorship of *Pharos* to Fay Woodhouse. In that time, the newsletter has become a professionally-designed bi-monthly with regular articles as well as current features. The incoming editor introduces 'On the Job', a new

section looking at members' current projects. First under the microscope are Tsari Anderson, a researcher into Indigenous Stolen Wages, and Kim Torney, Research Fellow with the Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture Project at the University of Melbourne.

Another new idea in the latest *Pharos* is a series looking at interpretations of history in the electronic media. It begins with ABC Radio producer and presenter Michelle Rayner giving "a shameless plug" for her own weekly ABC Radio National program *Hindsight* on Sunday afternoons at 2.05 pm. Over four episodes from 6 April, she'll be presenting *History under Siege – Battles over the Past*, an exploration of the state of the 'history wars' in France, Argentina, Australia and Japan. She also recommends the following on ABC1 TV: *The Hunt for HMAS Sydney* at 8.30pm on 15 April; *Gallipoli Submarine* at 8.30pm – 24 April, and *Missing Presumed Dead* at 9.30 pm on 24 April.

The packed CPD program for 2008 includes visits to the Police Museum and the Melbourne Stories exhibition at Melbourne Museum as well as sessions on writing styles, marketing, funding & grants, and technology in history. A photograph of jolly faces and a glowing description indicate that the historians' train excursion to Ballarat in February was enjoyed by all.

And here are some fascinating facts extracted from the ABS (2006) and published in *The Age* on 19 Jan 2008:

- 700 people work as historians in Australia;
- 55% of historians work full-time;
- 61% are female, the median age is 46, with nearly a quarter being 55 or more;
- According to the Victorian PHA, it takes a professional historian 12 months to prepare a 50,000 word manuscript.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

HISTORY AUSTRALIA: Journal of the Australian Historical Association. Vol 4, No 2, December 2007

In the words of Graeme Davison, quoted by Jonathon Wooding: "The history of our public monuments is a vital clue, not only to what Australians have chosen to remember, but the nature of public memory itself". Wooding's article compares the symbolism of Irish-Australian memorials in the 1890s and the 1920s. In a similar vein, Paul Adams examines the Broken Hill memorial to socialist martyr Percy Brookfield and Bart Zino looks at the repatriation of the only two bodies (of 60,000 Australian deaths) returned from World War 1 battlefields.

Other articles examine Australia's role in the American-led occupation of Japan, the life of Judge John Vincent Barry, the demise of mateship in the Rockhampton railway workshops, and Martin Stuart-Fox proposes an alternative to the post-modern view of history.

A new history prize is always good news. The AHA, Copyright Agency Ltd and Monash University ePress announce a Postgraduate History Prize (worth \$4,000) for an unpublished article of historical research to appear in *History Australia*.

MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 34, January 2008

This issue focuses on food, not something you'd expect to find in archives but you might be surprised. West Australian history lecturer Dr Andrea Gaynor writes of some of the records she used for her book *Harvest of the Suburbs: an environmental history of growing food in Australian cities* (UWA, 2006). The Grow Your Own campaign in World War 2 was the Australian version of Britain's Dig for Victory slogan and promoted the suburban backyard with its vegie patch and chook

run as a patriotic duty and generated radio broadcasts, posters, competitions, and advertisements. This was a man's job. Women played their role on the gardening and food production front as members of the Women's Land Army.

Another article examines Australians and their relationship with food through menus, recipes and diets and looks at the changing attitudes to food in the post-war migrant hostels. Images of fruit tin labels kept by the Department of Commerce and Agriculture brought back memories but I can't recall the Golden Circle "Tinned Bananas in Pieces".

Sweet and Sour History looks at Melbourne's early Chinese restaurants and the way immigration restrictions affected the lives and businesses of Chinese restaurateurs. Applications to import staff depended on the kind of food served. The combination of Chinese food and European customers was regarded favourably but I'm not sure if this explains why the ubiquitous Chinese restaurants in Australian country towns now serve such awful Chinese food.

Despite some cynicism at the speed and serendipity of televised genealogical research, I, like many colleagues, have been watching the SBS documentary series, *Who do you think you are?* National Archives is also jumping on the family history bandwagon with its new book *Family Journeys: Stories in the National Archives of Australia*. It hopes to inspire readers to begin their own research journey with stories of well-known people like Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Annette Shun Wah, Hugo Throssell and his wife K.S. Prichard, and Noni Hazlehurst.

There's a new Max Dupain exhibition at National Archives, displaying many photographs previously unknown. Dupain travelled widely for the Department of Information to photograph Australia's way of life. The exhibition highlights his

engagement with architecture and industry and is expected to tour nationally later in the year.

State Records Authority of New South Wales. Annual Report. 2006-2007

State Records are now within the NSW Department of Commerce. This report was presented to Minister Eric Roozendaal by Associate Professor Lucy Taksa as Chairperson of the Board of State Records. It's a weighty tome containing Lucy's first message since she replaced Dr Shirley Fitzgerald as Chair and David Roberts' last review before he retires as Director.

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

Firstly, our congratulations to Rosie Block who has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Oral History Association. She certainly deserves this recognition after so many years of promoting oral history as President of the OHAA and as Curator of Oral History at the State Library of NSW.

Michael Clark has received the Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History for his work with the Sydney Engineering Heritage Committee's oral history program.

After many years and a complicated process, the Coffs Harbour 'Voice of Time' Oral History project has now been digitised. The oral history catalogue, interview summaries and audio snippets are now available online at www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/citylibrary

And for those like me who are still technically challenged, there's a workshop on Digital Recording Equipment at the State Library of NSW on Saturday 21 June. Phone Rosie Block on 9273 1697 for details but don't leave it too late.

PHA (NSW) Directory 2007-8

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For specific enquiries see list below

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Vice President: Virginia Macleod Tel.9977 4950

Secretary: Ruth Banfield Tel.9605 4089 or secretary@phansw.org.au

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Library, Archives, and Management Committee of the Royal Australian

Historical Society: Terri McCormack

State Records' Community Advisory Committee: Roslyn Burge

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Employment Network: Peter Tyler

Professional Development: Pauline Curby Tel.9527 7214

Publications

Phanfare Co-ordinator: Tel. 9252 9437 or phanfare@phansw.org.au

Editorial Collectives: See list at front of *Phanfare*

Other PHA publications: Ruth Banfield

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

Publications

PHA (NSW) web Site

www.phansw.org.au

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