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# *PHANFARE*



PHA NSW



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**Cover:** Farewell to Summer. One of Arthur Wigram Allen's photographs of the leisure activities of well-to-do Sydneysiders, this image featured on the banner advertising *An Edwardian Summer*, the exhibition that has just finished at the Museum of Sydney. It shows a young woman watching *HMS Powerful* leaving Sydney Harbour on 5 September 1907 en route to be re-commissioned at Colombo. PX\*D 581 neg 2303 SLNSW

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This edition of *Phanfare* has been prepared by:  
Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa  
Ludlow and Terri McCormack

## *At the State Library*

The State Library's Exhibition Galleries are showing this year's finalists in the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize in the northern gallery. Check out Julia Holden's animated portrait *Muse* and other finalists on line at [www.moranprizes.com.au/default.aspx?id=6](http://www.moranprizes.com.au/default.aspx?id=6)

'Carved trees: Aboriginal cultures of western NSW' in the southern gallery has been devised by Indigenous Services Librarians Ronald Briggs, Melissa Jackson with contributions from Clifton Cappie Towle, who photographed and collected examples, and Leigh Purcell and Merv Sutherland.

One of the short films in 'Carved Trees' shows the removal of 52 specimens from Collymungle in the north-west of the state in 1949. In this operation the trees were cut down and the parts bearing the carvings were roughly trimmed off with a circular saw. This destructive approach made it impossible to appreciate the original setting of the carvings or even envision the whole trees. The resulting fragments went to museums where they remain in storage, though some were lost. As Ronald Briggs points out in the Exhibition guide, this documented removal is only a small sample of the destruction wrought on this example of Aboriginal culture. 'Because many white landowners feared losing their land, they cut down and destroyed carved trees on their properties, thereby removing the evidence of previous Aboriginal occupation'.

Both the Moran photographic exhibition and 'Carved Trees' run until 26 June. Also, a small collection of Max Dupain's photographs at gallery level at the top of the stairs on the southern side, celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

## *President's Page*

The PHA NSW was established just over a quarter of a century ago to provide mutual support for professional and public historians, and to promote our work to the wider community. It is an association that works first and foremost for the benefit of its members.

I mention this because Zoe Pollock (Vice-President) and I have been doing a lot of organising lately. As we were putting the filing cabinet at History House into order on a rainy Saturday about a month ago, one of the things we noticed was the considerable amount of advocacy work that successive executive committees have done over the years.

PHA NSW has prepared submissions on a variety of issues ranging from the National History Curriculum and changes to the NSW Heritage Act to threats to the holdings of the National Archives in Darwin, Tasmania and Adelaide. All of these issues, and many more, affect the work that we do as historians, both directly and indirectly.

This advocacy work, much of it unheralded, has been done behalf of our members in response to ongoing threats to the profession and practice of public history. Recognising the work of past committees has galvanised all of us on the current executive to continue advocating for history.

In other matters, congratulations to the PHA Norfolk Island Conference Committee which has overseen the publication of *Islands of History: Proceedings of the 25th Anniversary Conference, Professional Historians Association (NSW)*. This publication is a collection of papers from the conference held on Norfolk Island in July 2010 and will be launched at History House on Wednesday, 11 May 2011.

Don't forget to come along to the CPD session on the digitised records, to be held at State Records held at the Sydney Records Centre in The Rocks on Friday 20 May 2011, or to register your interest to speak about your work at the June CPD.

Check out the Professional Development page on the PHA NSW website to RSVP and to get more information about all these events: [http://www.phansw.org.au/professional\\_dev.html](http://www.phansw.org.au/professional_dev.html)

*Laila Ellmoos, President PHA NSW, April 2011*

## *In Search of the Perfect RED*

**Rosemary Kerr**

No nation is more warlike and high-spirited than the English, whose very clothes were fiery, wearing more scarlet than any nation in the world; as he might perceive by their coming so much to the Indian coasts to fight with the Spaniards; and that as they delighted to go in red and be like the sun, so naturally they were brought to those seas to single out such ships as from America carried the rich commodity of cochineal, whereof they make more use than Spain itself to dye their clothes and coats withal. •

\*The above quote from Thomas Gage, *A New Survey of the West Indies 1648 The English American* (New York: McBride & Co., 1928) is reproduced in 'The Quest for Red: Trade and experiment', Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.

We all know that historians appreciate a good red (or white, or amber for that matter), but I refer not to the quest for the perfect Cab Sav or Merlot, but for the colour 'red', the subject of an intriguing exhibition at the University of Sydney's Macleay Museum. Wine does come into the picture, however, with an extract from Sir William Petty's 17<sup>th</sup> Century manuscript, 'An Apparatus to the History of the Common Practices of Dying', which considers the effect of depth or thickness on coloured liquids, through an example of red wine in a large conical glass, which exhibits 'all reddish colours between black at the top and white at the bottom.' The story of 'Red' begins around 70 AD with Pliny's *Naturalis Historie*, which includes some twenty thousand topics on the natural world, including sources and recipes for all known substances used to make red pigment. Across the centuries the history of the manufacture and use of the colour red encompasses nature, science, art, technology, religious and economic empires and international espionage.

In the Medieval Age red was the colour of choice for new rulers of Europe, who clothed themselves in scarlet silks, velvets and fine woollens. Red also featured prominently in the decoration of churches and houses. An exhibit of an early edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* illustrates the frequent use of red in characters' costumes. Artists' skills were judged by the depth, complexity and fineness of the colour produced and guilds kept many trade secrets. The main source of the pigment until this time was the mineral, ochre. Reliable supplies of alum, which was used to fix colour, were essential and mainly sourced from Turkey, North Africa and Asia. In 1467, however, with the discovery of an alum mine near Rome, Pope Pius II seized the opportunity to ban all alum imports from Muslim countries. At this time, the Catholic Church altered the colour of its clergy's robes from purple to scarlet.

Christopher Columbus's westward journey across the Atlantic to the Americas led to the Spanish conquest of Aztec Mexico and with it, access to gold, silver and a dyestuff that would revolutionise the arts and sciences. The Incas and Aztecs used 'nocheztli', an insect growing on cactus, to make cosmetics as well as paint for murals. The crushed dry body of the insect, *Dactylopius coccus*, or cochineal, produced a brilliant red dye, brighter and more impressive than anything the Spanish had seen before. The Spanish colonisers quickly monopolised trade in the dyestuff and restricted all knowledge of its production. During the

Anglo-Spanish War, carried on intermittently between 1585 and 1604, the British and Dutch found their access to cochineal severely compromised. With the textile market heavily dependent on the dye, European spies ventured into South America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in search of the source of the dye to replicate its reproduction. Such was the British passion for red, that it attracted comment in Thomas Gage's *A New Survey of the West Indies 1648* (see opening quotation).

Advances in science during the nineteenth century altered the production of 'red' once more. The development of aniline dyes – the first synthesised dyes – at Britain's Royal College of Chemistry during the 1840s, marked the evolution of red pigment from mineral, then animal, to artificial production. A mixture of pure aniline and pure toluidine, when heated with mercuric chloride, stannic chloride or arsenic acid, instantaneously produced a magnificent red of intense power. The famous red and white labels in Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Soup Cans* series of silkscreen prints on canvas were produced using aniline dyes in the 1960s.

'The Quest for Red: Trade and Experiment' is open until 1 December 2011 at the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.




Andy Warhol, *Campbell's Soup Can*, 1964.  
[Image: [www.artchive.com](http://www.artchive.com)]



# *The High Cost of Historic Title Searches*

*Rosemary Broomham*

I have been carrying out historic title searches in the building behind the Hyde Park Barracks since 1980 when a lecturer informed my Historical Archaeology class that they should be the first step in preparing a site history. The office where these searches occur is still in the same building but the gradual digitisation of the records has greatly changed the search experience. I'm sure most of our members are very familiar with the setup in one or more of its phases. The two sections, one for plans and titles under the Real Property Act was on the northern side of the basement and the Old System titles and other relevant documents were in the southern basement, where they remain. Other remnants are the ground floor desk to the left of the entrance where searchers order copies and a passage to the right leading to the cashiers in the old Registrar General's Office where the tickets are sold. Although much of this arrangement remains, the search of titles under the Real Property system is now quite different.

Appt. No.s. 521, 4681 and 9904	<b>New South Wales.</b>	[CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.]
Reference to last Certificates		JOINT TENANCY AS TO AN UNDIVIDED
Vol. 5136 Fols. 68 and 69		ONE FIFTH SHARE
		ORDER NO. F713723
		REGISTER BOOK.
		<b>6571</b> <b>104</b>
		Vol. .... Fol. ....
<b>CANCELLED</b>		
<p>OCTAVIUS WILKINSON COWLEY, of Sydney, Conveyancer and RAYMOND WATSON SUSANS, of Wahroonga, Painter, by virtue of Certificates of Title Volume 5136 Folios 68 and 69 now surrendered for consolidation are now the proprietors of an Estate in Fee Simple as Joint Tenants in an undivided one fifth share, subject nevertheless to the reservations and conditions, if any, contained in the Grant hereinafter referred to, and also subject to such encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified hereon, in that piece of land situated at Paddington in the City of Sydney Parish of Alexandria, and County of Cumberland containing Two roods one perch or thereabouts as shown in the plan hereon and therein edged red being part of 2 acres 1 rood originally granted to George William Newcombe by Crown Grant dated the 6th day of April 1840.</p>		

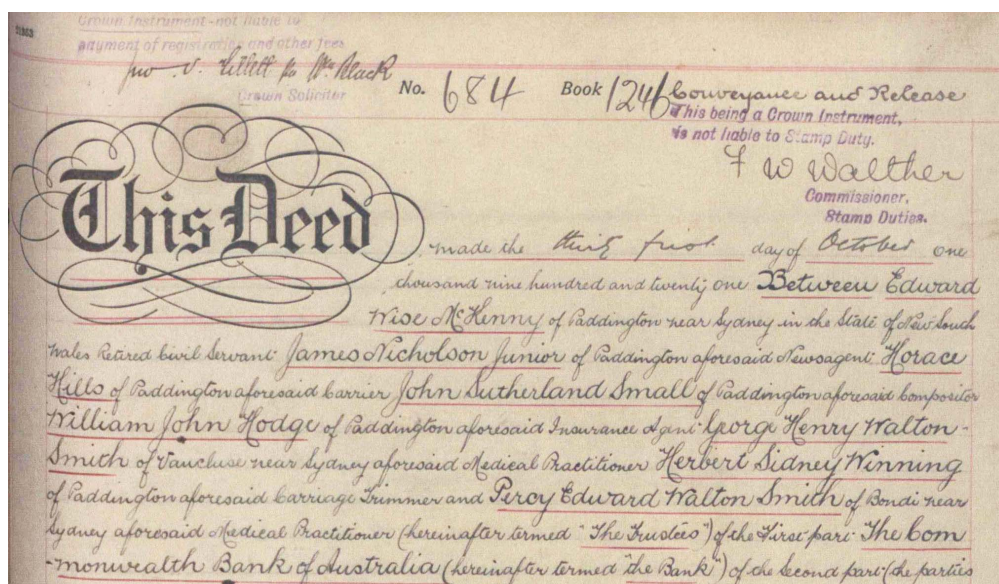
*A detail from a Certificate of Title created under the NSW Real Property Act. LPMA*

Digitisation of title documents has made the materials once available to searchers in the northern basement redundant. When I started, that basement housed a fairly complicated method for locating the piece of land and the kind of title it had, involving index books, large parish or town plans or sectional metropolitan plans or CMAs. In addition to the Lands Department employees, there were dozens of professional title searchers in there who were more than ready to help people like me who made irregular visits. The whole place buzzed with fascinating conversations about what people did on the weekend and what they planned for their holidays as well as many more personal matters. So interesting was this constant chat, it was often difficult to concentrate on reading the sometimes indecipherable and longwinded text on the titles and their accompanying documents.

I was always relieved to find that any piece of land I was investigating had been placed under the Real Property Act – commonly described as the Torrens Title system – introduced in New

South Wales on 7 November 1862 and operational from January 1863.<sup>1</sup> I much preferred the Torrens Title system because it was easier to follow. Once the first title was identified, the folios within the volumes that recording ownership showed the number or numbers of the next title and, after the first title had been established, they also showed the number of the previous one. These titles were shorter, easier to read, and usually included a plan of the property, a rare inclusion in Old System. Furthermore the number of books was smaller. This meant you just had to seek out the next volumes in readily accessible bookcases to discover what had changed after Primary Application for the Certificate of Title (CT). Spending a ticket on the Primary Application (PA) or Applications relieved the researcher of the need to trawl through document after document in Old System Titles, which was precisely what the Torrens System set out to do. The PA lists all owners of the land from the first grant.

Old System Titles provide the same information. It's just that the researcher has to find all the separate elements, decipher them and piece them together for themselves. Whereas a Torrens Title will usually include numerous brief notes on mortgages and their discharges, leases, resumptions, notices of transmission, caveats and sometimes several changes of ownership on a single folio or file, in Old System they are usually all on separate documents.



An excerpt from an Old System deed recording a property conveyance or acquisition. LPMA

Of course all these pieces of information are still available. Since the introduction of digitised records, the pages we once located in the northern basement can be searched on computers the ground floor and in the southern basement or on line. It is easier to find a Torrens Title if you know the Lot and Deposited Plan (DP) numbers because a digital version links the DP to Prior Titles issued under the Real Property Act. The main complication in this process today comes from the price of the copy tickets. Now \$13.00 per document, this fee can make a title search extremely expensive, especially if there have been a large number of property dealings after titles were computerised.

Another potential problem is the illegibility of some digital copies. A search I carried out on a property in Woollahra recently, where my client did not supply the relevant Lot and DP numbers, really tested the digitised documents. The traditional finding tools such as notations on the master plan were so indistinct that the officer on duty in the Old System basement

<sup>1</sup> Terry Kass, *Sails to Satellites: the Surveyors General of NSW (1786-2007)*, Department of Lands, 2008, p 42



retrieved the original and sold me coloured photocopies of that. It was lucky for me that the original was still available.

Computer Folios begin after Volumes in the high 8000s and they have always caused problems because, once this point is reached, a searcher looking for the whole chain of ownership has no choice but to purchase each document sight unseen. The rapid proliferation of computer folios has exacerbated the rise in costs. Even the smallest change to a title generates a new document, commonly presented as a few sparse lines on an A4 page. Additionally, Computer Folios are similar to Old System Titles in that each change seems to be recorded on a new document. This can be a change to a new owner or an application for transmission through the death of a joint tenant or tenant in common. So if a transmission is noted on the computer folio, to find who died and the date of death, a researcher must pay for an additional document. This expense is compounded in cases where properties have been divided between several inheritors.

It is possible to purchase a Historical Title Search for a Computer Folio reference usually identified as Lot/DP number. The table that follows demonstrates the kind of costs a researcher can encounter. As this list from an original Historical Search shows only one of several computer folios involved in this particular search, it demonstrates how the whole project might generate document costs in the hundreds of dollars. This being the case it is important for historians undertaking this work to negotiate a fee that covers such exigencies or make an agreement where the client covers these costs or contributes something towards them. This can be a difficult manoeuvre as it is impossible to predict how much activity might have occurred in the computerised era.

Date Recorded	Number	Type of Instrument
30/1/1986	DP719581	DEPOSITED PLAN
3/3/1986	W211622	DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE
3/3/1986	W211623	TRANSFER
11/9/1989	Y593683	TRANSFER
11/9/1989	Y593684	MORTGAGE
11/11/1994	U782883	DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE
11/11/1994	U782884	TRANSFER
6/2/2008	AD749547	TRANSFER

\*\*\*\*\*

### CPD on Digitised Land Records

PHA members Dr Terry Kass and Dr Lesley Muir will explain the digitised records of the Land & Property Management Authority at a CPD on 20 May 2011 at the State Records Office, Globe St, The Rocks. Topics covered will include the SIX and PIXEL resources available at State Records reading rooms at The Rocks and Kingswood. The session will run for 2 Hours, starting at 10.30 am. Book your place with PHA Secretary, Michael Bennett.

## *Lots of Rocks*

*Report and photographs by Margaret Blundell*

On Monday 14 March 2011 about fifteen eager PHA members met at the NSW Public Works stoneyard at Alexandria for a talk by Dr Lisa Murray on the history of monumental masons in the Sydney area, followed by a guided tour of the stoneyard. Lisa's illustrated talk, which was also attended by the masons we would later meet out in the yard, covered a lot of ground, from the apprenticeship of a mason to the design and cost of different kinds of headstones. There was so much information to absorb both visually and aurally that, for many of us, note taking proved impossible.



*Supervising mason Paul Thurloe led the PHA group through the NSW Public Works stoneyard at Alexandria*

The talk was particularly interesting for me as my paternal great, great grandfather was the stone mason George Peters who, with his wife Jane, arrived in Sydney as an assisted immigrant in 1854 and set up a home and business in Parramatta. Through economic ups and downs George practised his trade, becoming better known as a monumental mason.

In 1879 George exhibited his work at the International Exhibition in Sydney receiving a bronze medallion for 'Cap and Pedestal Carving'. My sister and I have the medallion in our family archives and, not surprisingly, the life and work of George Peters is one of my research projects.

While Lisa's talk was informative for the historians there was some restlessness around the room when the masons discovered that much of the content was not immediately useful for them. Maybe they were just itching to get back to their manual tasks and thinking of how much time they would have to make up. When the talk ended, the masons hurried away leaving the rest of us to grapple with the intricacies of fluorescent safety vests which we all

had to put on before the tour. Strangely, given the industrial nature of the site, we did not need hard hats.

The tour, led by supervising mason Paul Thurloe, took us through the yard and into each of the main work areas, from the huge storage and mechanised cutting shed to the area where the masons worked with pneumatic and hand tools to finely shape and finish the stone. Paul explained how all the machines worked, answered all our questions and even provided a couple of us with the opportunity to chip away at a small block of sandstone with a selection of the chisels and mallets. I had a go at it and found the process to be harder than it looked. The mason supervising me pointed out that some movements required a greater use of ones shoulder instead of just the wrist and arm.

The last workspace we visited was the modelling studio, a peaceful, light-filled haven away from the noise of the other sheds. Only two masons were skilled enough to work here - Paul and Reuben (who was away). This was where the intricate and painstaking task of creating sculptural works, such as the new statue of James Meehan and a marble head for the damaged Charles Dickens statue, was carried out. Amidst the familiar tools and clutter I felt a rush of nostalgia and briefly contemplated learning how to work stone via a return to sculpture classes; then reality set in as I considered what that would entail. As my time is limited I think I'll just focus on honing my skills as an historian.



*A plaster mould for a new statue of surveyor James Meehan stands in the stoneyard.*



## *From Little Things Big Things Grow*

*Rosemary Broomham*

Those attending the after-hours visit to the exhibition 'From Little Things Big Things Grow: Fighting for Indigenous Rights 1920-1970' on 12 April were able to move freely between the exhibits and discuss their reactions with friends and colleagues. MoS Curator Inara Walden explained that this is a travelling exhibition devised by the National Museum of Australia. Focusing on the personal experience of the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians who fought to end the discrimination and injustice suffered by Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander people it presents many examples of individual experiences through videoed interviews documentary sources and files for visitors to read.

Leading activists are represented by life size cut-outs with notes about their main activities, while the personal experiences of lesser known people can be shared by activating touch screens at MoS or on-line. Two clear examples of discrimination and injustice are presented in the conditions prevailing in picture shows and public swimming pools well into the 1970s. In the former case the museum shows the two types of seats at the Bowraville Picture Theatre. Those at the back for Non-Indigenous patrons had thick upholstery and were separated by a rope barrier from the uncomfortable folding wooden seats at the front. Similar arrangements prevailed in Dungog in 1971 where the theatre confined Aboriginal people to backless wooden forms at the front. The ban on Indigenous use of public swimming pools is shown by a fence with peepholes evoking the different situations of whites and blacks. The only access Aboriginal people had to pools in many country towns was a view from outside the fence.

Among the major events in the struggle for equal rights was the Wave Hill strike when Aboriginal pastoral workers left Vestey's cattle station in August 1966. Their poor living conditions and totally inadequate payment in the form of rations led them to register their own rights to the land leased to Vestey's. As their leader Vincent Lingari pointed out, 'I bin thinkin' this bin Gurindji country. We bin here longa time before them Vestey mob.'<sup>2</sup> Ted Egan's song 'Gurindji Blues', released in 1971, provided an electrifying description of their treatment. Words and music are on <http://www.indigenousrights.net.au/section.asp?SID=11>.

Perhaps the most fascinating object is the one surviving bark petition from the people of Yirrkala which registered the objections of the Yolngu people to the proposed Bauxite mine at Gove. Without their knowledge, the General Secretary of the Methodist Overseas Mission, Cecil Gribble and the Australian government together decided to remove 140 square miles from the Arnhem Land reserve and lease it to the French mining company that was parent to the Gove Bauxite Corporation. It was the Yirrkala superintendent Reverend Edgar Wells who informed the media and brought the whole matter to public attention.

I have to thank Inara for urging us to check out the National Museum's website for more information about the exhibition. In doing so I encountered links to the Australian Research Council (ARC) website 'Collaborating for Indigenous Rights', which is maintained by the NMA. The product of a three-year collaboration between tertiary institutions and industry it has a collection of documents so extensive that it would take hours to read and think about them all. One of my favourites is former Chief Justice of NSW Jim Spigelman's film of the Freedom Ride of 1965 – [http://www.nma.gov.au/av/flbtg/NMA\\_Freedom\\_Ride.mp4](http://www.nma.gov.au/av/flbtg/NMA_Freedom_Ride.mp4).

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<sup>2</sup> Frank Hardy, *The Unlucky Australians*, One Day Hill, Melbourne, 1968; this edition London, 1981, p. 131 cited on ARC website 'Collaborating for Indigenous Rights'

## ***History Events at the Sydney Writer's Festival***

*For details, tickets and locations go to [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)*

### **Monday, May 16     1-2 pm free     Transport: An Australian History**

What did Australians do before the invention of modern transport? 'Transport' brings together the stories of heroic, groundbreaking and everyday enterprises in shipping, roads, rail and aviation across Australia. Author Robert Lee discusses the fascinating story of the development of transport in Australia and its impact on our lives.

### **Tuesday May 17     3 -4 pm Katoomba Celebrating Varuna: Disturbing the Status Quo**

Carole Ferrier and Humphrey McQueen celebrate Varuna's figurehead, Eleanor Dark, and her circle.

### **Wednesday, May 18     11 -12.30 pm     Knowing the Real David Scott Mitchell**

Australians have come to know themselves through the extraordinary collection that David Scott Mitchell left to the people of New South Wales and to Australia as a whole. Eileen Chanin, author of the newly released 'Book Life: The Life and Times of David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907)', Mitchell librarian Richard Neville and Macquarie University adjunct professor of modern history Michael Roberts discuss.

### **Wednesday, May 18     6.30-7.30 pm     Mike Carlton: 'Cruiser' and the HMAS Perth**

Mike Carlton tells us about what led him to research and write the history of HMAS 'Perth'.

### **Thursday, May 19     1-2 pm     free     The Enemy at Home**

During World War I nearly 7,000 German nationals and Australians of German and Austrian descent – so-called "enemy aliens" – were interned in camps in New South Wales. One was young Bavarian photographer Paul Dubotzki, whose photographs record the experience of internment and the artistry, ingenuity and resilience of the internees as they made the best of their predicament. In this book Nadine Helmi and Gerhard Fischer reveal astonishing insights about a little-known episode in Australia's history. They talk to journalist David Leser.

### **Thursday, May 19     1-2 pm free     Family Matters**

How do you write a family history, especially one that spans several generations and therefore involves multiple characters? David Walker and Tim Bonyhady tell Elizabeth Johnstone about the research and the ethics involved in this intimate enterprise.

### **Thursday May 19     2.30 -3.30 pm free     Big Picture People**

William Charles Wentworth, Manning Clark and Justice Mary Gaudron all helped shape this country in unique and profound ways. Their biographers, Andrew Tink, Mark McKenna and Pamela Burton, give us the larger view of their remarkable lives. They talk to Peter Collins.

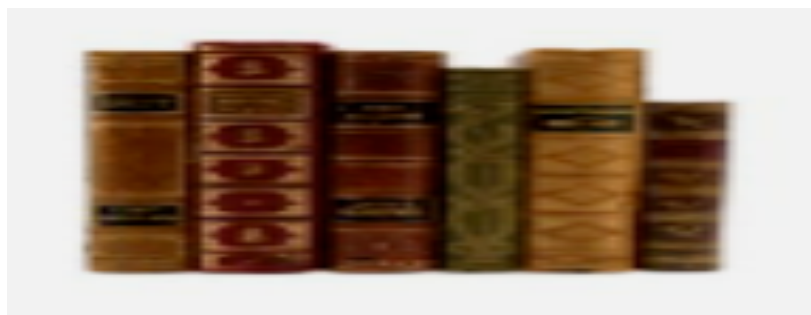
### **Friday, May 20     1-2 pm free     Radical Sydney**

Robbie Buck (702 ABC Evenings) talks with activist authors Dr Tony Moore, Terry Irving and Rowan Cahill about the writing of 'Radical Sydney'. This book documents the unruly and dissident past of the demographically diverse city of Sydney and the places where such incidents occurred. All the panellists have long personal histories of activism and historical research and writing.

### **Friday, May 20     4-5 pm     free     The Australian Pub**

Hear historians Diane Kirkby, Chris McConville and Tanja Luckins discuss their book 'The Australian Pub' with curator Charles Pickett.





## **LIBRARY REPORT**

*Compiled by Terri McCormack, Honorary Librarian*

*Library enquiries: (02) 9810 4421 or [terrimc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:terrimc@ozemail.com.au)*

## **PHA NEWSLETTERS**

***PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand.  
Volume 16, No 3, Nov 2010***

This issue contains an observer's account of the disastrous Christchurch earthquake of 4 September 2010. As one who had fought for decades to preserve the city's heritage, John Wilson was relieved that, with basic strengthening, the city's major heritage buildings all remained standing. Several had, however, suffered serious damage, including three significant stone churches. The repair costs are likely to be enormous and the government's offer of \$10 million is, according to Wilson, paltry. For safety reasons, several damaged buildings were demolished when some could have been saved. As well, fallen material was hastily disposed of when it could have been used for later restoration. It was reassuring that owners of some damaged buildings braced and secured them against further aftershocks but several structures of historical significance were subsequently demolished. Many were commercial buildings that set the character of shopping centres and had not been registered by the Historic Places Trust or by Christchurch City Council. More effective steps must be taken to protect all of the city's heritage buildings against further earthquake damage but recent council resolutions to strengthen to 67% rather 33% of the code mean costs will deter owners from restoring rather than demolishing damaged buildings. Christchurch residents are still coming to terms with their new cityscape and many areas remain cordoned off months after the earthquake awaiting decisions on their fate.

There is another article on the Christchurch earthquake by Michael Kelly who also addresses the implications for heritage buildings. He agrees with Wilson that any sort of strengthening is sufficient to keep a building standing but that it is costly to do it well.

The New Zealand Express Company building could, according to the local heritage lobby and the Architectural Centre, have been saved but neither the owner, council nor government were willing to bear the cost of retaining it.

Also in this issue, Barbara Gawith provides a revised version of the intriguing conference paper she delivered at the Norfolk Island conference in June 2010 entitled 'Finance and Risk on the High Seas'. This gave us an insight into the complex financial arrangements between ship owners, merchants and settlers in New Zealand and Australia before local banking and insurance underwriting systems became available. It will be published in *Islands of History: Proceedings of the 25th Anniversary Conference, Professional Historians Association (NSW)*, available in early May 2011.

***PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 66, Oct/Nov 2010; No 68, Feb/Mar 2011; No 69, Apr/May 2011***

They certainly know how to hold an AGM in Victoria! The photos of the Annual Dinner in the October/November edition of *Pharos* indicate that it was a lavish affair at the luxurious and usually male-only Melbourne Savage Club. Long-standing president Sarah Rood and Vice-president Katherine Sheedy stood down as a new committee was formed and Jill Barnard was elected new President. This official business was followed by a delicious meal and an entertaining address from their host Kenneth Park.

In September last year, the PHA Melbourne Writers' Festival Event pitted two teams against each other before a capacity audience in a debate entitled 'History is best left to historians', adjudicated by Michelle Rayner. Eminent historian Graeme Davison joined Susan Aykut and Robyn Annear in the 'Transportees' team for the negative while the affirmative 'Free Settlers' team included playwright Hannie Rayson, Rachel Buchanan and Al Thomson. The negatives won with Davison declaring that history is too important to be left to historians but the affirmatives also had a valid point. As Al Thomson said, history should be left to historians – but not everyone should become a historian.

2011 marks the twentieth anniversary of the official launch of PHA (Vic) and members are encouraged to contribute their memories during the year to *Pharos*. They will help to create a unique archive of the contribution made by the organisation to historical practice over the past twenty years. Jill Barnard got the ball rolling in February/March 2011 followed by Helen Penrose in April/May with her recollections of her discovery of the PHA and its profound effect on her professional life.

Following February's *Historically Speaking* session on Web 2.0 technologies, PHA (Vic) has launched their own Twitter page @PHAVic to promote members' current work and connect them with other cultural and historical institutions. An article by Catherine McLennan explains how to get involved by setting up a Twitter account at <http://twitter.com> and then search for the institution or organisation you are looking for. As she says, Twitter may seem like an alien world for some of us but it can be useful for connecting historians and cultural institutions, for sharing news and ideas, and for streamlining our online information. The bimonthly *Pharos* has already gone digital with recent editions now accessible at the newly redeveloped PHA(Vic) website.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) Inc – incorporating News from the PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) Inc. Newsletter. No 100, March 2011**

The major event for PHA (SA) was the launch of their new website on 4 March 2011, the date of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Edited by Brian Dickey and Susan Marsden and researched by Alison Painter, it is entitled *Celebrating South Australia* and can be found at [www.sahistorians.org.au](http://www.sahistorians.org.au). This is the Association's contribution to the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of South Australia. It is designed to make members' work more widely accessible and contains a wealth of historical information on South Australia. Complete with an Image Gallery, a daily record of events and links, the site is ongoing and is a useful resource for all kinds of researchers.

Another major project will be the first ACPHA national conference to be held in Adelaide on 5-6 August 2011. This celebrates three important events: South Australia's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary; the centenary of the transfer of the Northern Territory from South Australia to the Commonwealth; and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PHA (SA), the first association for professional historians in Australia. For more information see: <http://www.historians.org.au/acpha/Conference/index.shtml>

And here's another site celebrating South Australia's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Devised by History SA, it recreates life on board the first nine ships to travel to South Australia in 1836 at: [www.boundforsouthaustralia.net.au](http://www.boundforsouthaustralia.net.au)

PHA (NT) is still getting over Cyclone Carlos but has managed a few book launches, including Alan Powell's *Northern Voyagers – Australia's monsoon coast in maritime history* (Australian Scholarly Publishing). Members David Carment and Mickey Dewar gave presentations in March at the Chief Minister's 1911 Centenary Seminar commemorating the takeover of the NT by the Commonwealth on 1 January 1911.

**RETROSPECT: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. Annual Review. August 2010**

2010 was a full year for the Victorian PHA, highlighted by the first edition of their journal *Circa*. The scope of the monthly Continuing Professional Development sessions has been broadened to become more topical and is focussed on new developments, recently published works and interesting sites. Historians can be notorious for the state of their own records but PHA (Vic) has now consolidated all their archives from assorted homes, sheds, garages and cupboards and have instigated a records disposal schedule. There are currently 156 accredited members, including 109 Professionals, 18 Associates, 16 Graduates, and two Retired members. PHA (Vic) has recently restructured itself to include two Vice Presidents in training to takeover the leadership role who are responsible for assisting specific portfolio holders. It is hoped this will make for a smoother transition process. In her final president's report, Sarah Rood acknowledges the crucial support she has received from her committee and particularly from Vice President Katherine Sheedy.

## NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

### ***HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW. Bulletin. Spring 2009***

This final issue for 2009 contains several interesting articles, including one on the Dunera Boys by Mike Sondheim, President of the Dunera Association, and another by Donna Newton on the unique Foster and Watson Press Clippings collection at the Royal Australian Historical Society. Eureka Henrich, PhD candidate at the University of NSW, examines migration museums and exhibitions and their role in multicultural awareness. Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York might be the most famous but the first was Adelaide's Migration Museum which opened in 1986. The lead article by Sylvie Ellsmore of the NSWALC Policy and Research Unit looks at Land Councils and Aboriginal heritage protection and asks – where to for NSW?

For earlier editions of the Bulletin and up to date information on history matters and History Week 2011, go to the Council's website at [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au)

### ***ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA JOURNAL. No 32, 2010***

The title of this annual publication – *Islands of Memory Revisited* – recalls the conference and 2009 edition of the same name in which each author 'charted a separate island in a sea of memory'. As Editor Dr Terry Whitebeach writes, this journal contains an amazing range of areas and topics including theoretical considerations of the review process, the uses of oral history in fiction, and the memories of first love. There are accounts of oral history projects in Indigenous communities, at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, in biographies of South Australian architects, and in accounts of the forest communities of Tasmania. An overview by Maree Stanley of the *Queensland Speaks* oral history project at the University of Queensland revisits the debate on whether the recorded interview or the transcript should be regarded as the primary document in oral history.

Ben Morris, in a pertinent piece in this season of Anzac memories and memorials, addresses the gap between official and personal memories of war. Cleverly titled 'Permission to speak, Sir: official history, whose reality?', it looks at how soldiers' reflections differ from official accounts of war. He is particularly interested in veterans' recollections of the Vietnam War and is concentrating on the battlefield memories of one platoon who served in 1967. Despite the passage of thirty-seven years, most recall significant traumatic events although their memories do not necessarily accord with the popular or official accounts nor indeed with each other. As a former officer, Morris is not an unbiased investigator and has to reassure his interviewees that he is conducting legitimate research for the Australian War Memorial, not a witch-hunt of past events. He concludes that "the official version of the war may have omitted soldiers' experience that could be seen as tarnishing the image of the glorious warriors of our national myths".

***VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 43, October 2010***

It seems impossible but the Oral History Association has survived the retirement of long-term president Rosie Block. At a celebration after the AGM meeting on 17 August 2010, Di Ritch, Frank Heimans, Margaret Park, and Paul Brunton spoke of the extraordinary contribution Rosie has made to the practice of oral history in this country. In her role as the inaugural Curator of Oral History at the State Library of New South Wales, she built up an unrivalled oral history collection and organized innumerable seminars and workshops. Now she has herself become the subject of an oral history. PHA (NSW) member Virginia Macleod conducted four interviews that have been packaged with photos and transcripts and deposited in the State Library. Commissioned by the OHAA committee, this was presented to Rosie on the occasion of her retirement from the Association.

At the OHAA seminar in Sydney on 8 May 2010, Beth Robertson from the State Library of South Australia addressed the timely topic of oral history's race against time in moving from analogue to digital. The world is running out of the equipment to play back cassette tapes so they should be digitized ASAP. Meanwhile, the National Library of Australia, US Library of Congress and European repositories of audiovisual archives are stockpiling spare parts for replay equipment. The State Library of NSW's oral history collection is especially at risk. It is estimated that analogue and early digital audiovisual formats are at far greater short-term risk than any paper-based materials held in libraries and archives. Most organisations are working to a deadline of 2020. You have been warned!

**LIBRARIAN'S NOTE:** Additional material received includes *Heritage NSW* Winter 2010; *Insites: the Magazine of the Historic Houses Trust*, Spring 2010; *Memento: National Archives of Australia*, No 39 2010; *The Site Gazette: Friends of the First Government House Site(Inc)* V.16 No 3, Winter 2010; and *SL: State Library of NSW* Spring 2010. Because the information is now dated or because they are readily available elsewhere to members, these publications have not been reviewed. This Library Report sets a precedent by focusing solely on newsletters from organizations predominantly involved in the practice of history.

Like New South Wales, interstate Professional Historians Associations are increasingly going digital with their newsletters, making them more accessible to members. This will soon make my role as disseminator of interstate historical information redundant. Therefore, this may be my final library report in this format. The matter is under discussion with the PHA (NSW) Committee. Any input from members on the viability or desirability of continuing the Library Report would be much appreciated at [terrimc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:terrimc@ozemail.com.au) or [phanswpresident@gmail.com](mailto:phanswpresident@gmail.com)

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Minutes Secretary: Michael Bennett

Membership Secretary: Emma Dortins

Public Relations: Laila Ellmoos

Public Officer: Emma Dortins

Website: Christine de Matos

## *Representatives on other bodies:*

Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA): Pauline Curby, Virginia McLeod (Alternate)

ACPHA Appeals Committee: Emma Dortins

ACPHA Advice Committee: Zoe Pollock

*Phanfare* Co-ordinator: Michael Bennett

Honorary Librarian: Terri McCormack

History Council of NSW: Mark Dunn

State Records Community Advisory Committee: Michael Bennett

National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum: Terry Kass

History Advisory Panel to NSW Heritage Office: Jodi Frawley

RAHS Council representative Susan McClean

RAHS Archives & Records Management Committee Terri McCormack

## *Professional Services*

Library: Terri McCormack

Employment Network: Laila Ellmoos

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

Editorial Collectives: See list at front of *Phanfare*

Other PHA publications: Secretary

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

*Publications*

**PHA (NSW) web site** [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

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