

Phanfare

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROFESSIONAL
HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

NUMBER 199 – May 2003



In This Issue:

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY MONUMENT RESEARCH
SOCIETY FOR HISTORY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
PHA READING GROUP
CONTROVERSIAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Phanfare

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May, Sep: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary
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TO CONTACT THE PHA NSW SEE INSIDE BACK COVER

**PHANFARE NO. 199
MAY 2003**

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

Cover: Philip Pomroy's oil painting 'Moving Out'
shows a steam locomotive travelling north from Werris
Creek Station.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I'd like to start by thanking all those members who contacted me with so many positive comments about the first electronic edition of *Phanfare*. The decision to attempt an electronic newsletter was not taken lightly and it is gladdening to see that it was received so well. Thank you to the Coasties Collective who made their final edition such a fantastic product. Tony, Grace and Christine have given many years service to *Phanfare* and we would like to thank them for all their efforts. I hope that some of you out there will take the opportunity to volunteer to form a new collective. Volunteer individually, or perhaps join with some colleagues and volunteer as a group. A *Phanfare* Collective is responsible for two to three issues a year. It is an opportunity to gain or refine some professional and desktop publishing skills as well as get together with a few colleagues for a chat and coffee. It is also an opportunity to make a contribution to the association.

In addition to a *Phanfare* Collective we are looking for a *Phanfare* Co-ordinator. This person is responsible for reminding each collective that it is their turn, assisting in finding articles, working with the executive officer and the email co-ordinator to ensure all members receive their issue of *Phanfare*. The co-ordinator is also responsible for fielding any advertising enquiries. Although monthly, it is not an onerous task. It is possible that two people could share the position by dividing the responsibilities.

This year sees our rep on the Australian Council of PHAs retiring from the position. Any individuals interested in representing the association are invited to step forward. This involves one face to face meeting a year, the occasional teleconference and some email communication, and reporting

to the NSW Management committee when appropriate. The representative usually works closely with the President.

We are also looking for an observer to attend the History Council of NSW meetings. Unfortunately our rep did not get elected to the Council this year but we have been invited to send an observer because our input is valued. This requires a meeting one Friday per month with a brief report the management committee. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions.

Finally, we are nearing that time of year when nominations open for the management committee. Give some thought to whether you might like to nominate. New members are always welcome.

You have probably noted that there are a significant number of vacant offices. A small group of individuals has been working hard for a number of years to ensure the association continues to function and offer products to members. Naturally there comes a time when they chose to move on to other things. It is incredibly important that other members be willing to step into these positions. We know people are busy. However, increasingly few members are choosing to give some time, forcing others to take on increasing responsibility to ensure the work is undertaken. This is not sustainable and the likelihood of having to decrease association activities or products increases. Many of these positions offer an opportunity to gain important skills, meetings and negotiations, public speaking, publishing and writing skills to name a few. And lets face it, they probably don't look too bad on the CV either. None of the positions are particularly difficult or time consuming on their own. They only become difficult when one person has to do several. New people with new ideas are the lifeblood of the association, ensuring our ongoing viability, interest and the ability to promote the profession. So if you can spare some time, we would love to hear from you.

Things to note

- o ACPHA is currently working on a model contract and guide to commissioning historians. This will be out later in the year.

- o As New South Wales is the host for this year's ACPHA AGM. A dinner will be planned for Saturday 8 August. If you are interested in meeting PHA members from other states put the date in your diary and wait for more info.

- o PHA NSW is currently looking at organising a conference in Bathurst early next year. Maybe you have an idea for a theme or would like to help. Let us know.

- o Have you been to an exhibition, read a good book or got a burning history issue you want to write about. If so, put it on paper and send it in for inclusion in *Phanfare*.

- o Our own AGM is coming up on the weekend of 16 and 17 August 2003. This will take place in the afternoon with refreshments and a guest speaker. Look out for details

- o AGM papers will be distributed electronically where possible

Finally, there has been some concern and confusion expressed by members over recent comments in *Phanfare*. Members are reminded that opinions expressed in *Phanfare* are not necessarily those of the association. Any reports, comments or statements issued by the Management Committee or the President are signed off as appropriate.

Nicole Secomb

The Australian Railway Monument, Werris Creek Research Project

Rosemary Broomham and Rosemary Kerr are currently leading a team of researchers who are seeking data for the Australian Railway Monument to be established at Werris Creek, near Tamworth, New South Wales. Our brief is to discover as many as possible names of people killed while employed by all types of railway organisations, public and private. The research will document the personal details of the employee killed and the circumstances of the accident. At a later stage, all available details will be entered into a database. Files of information about accidents will be analysed to highlight recommendations on safe-working procedures.

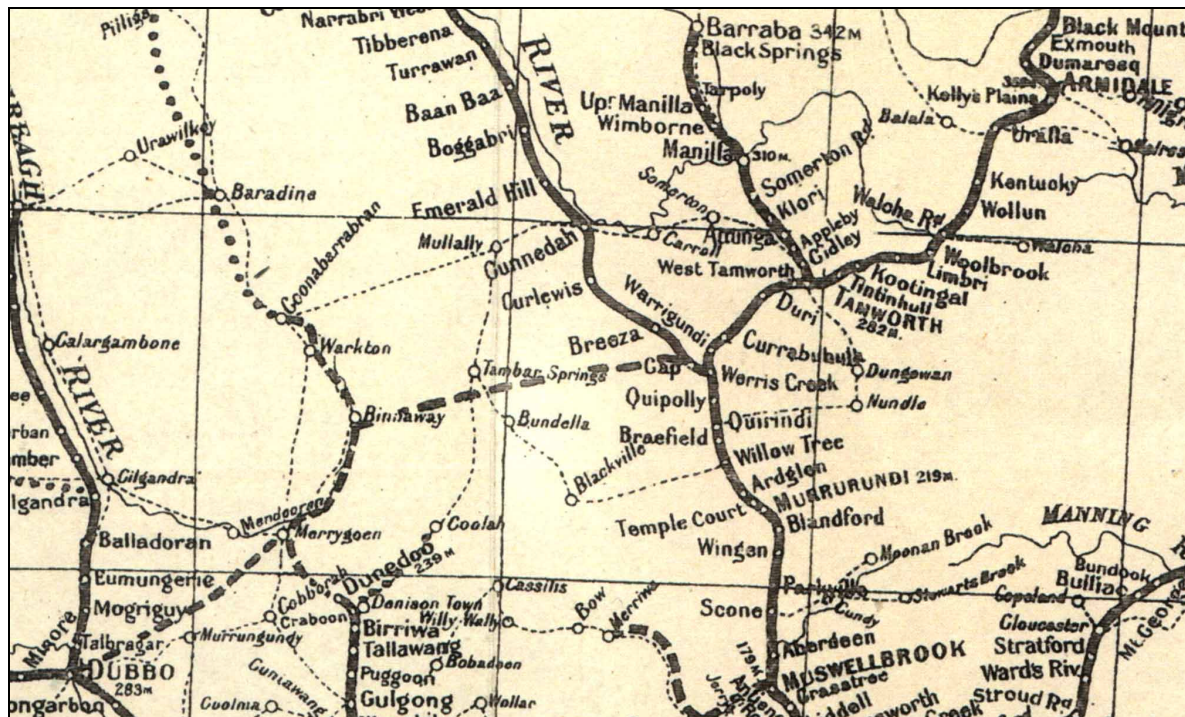
The names will be recorded on the Australian Railway Monument at Werris Creek Railway Station which is still in the design stage. Subsequently, the database will be made available to the public as a resource tool and aspects of the railway workers' lives and deaths will be exhibited in the form of interpretive displays. Analysis of the accidents and interpretation of what has been learnt from them in terms of safe working procedures are key results expected from this exercise. Information on passengers and others killed in railway accidents as discovered in the course of the research will be collected in the accident files that are collated during the project.



Formerly the Railway Refreshment Room famous for its home-made pies, the central building on Werris Creek Station, is currently being restored. It will house the display of railway memorabilia and the interactive database which will help visitors interpret the Monument. Photo: Rosemary Broomham

Werris Creek is the first town in New South Wales to be founded as a railway town. It was established in 1877 at the junction of the Great Northern Line and the branch line about to be built to Gunnedah. Awarded the contract to extend the line from Murrurundi to West Tamworth in 1874, William Wakeford reached Quirindi in August 1877 and moved his workers north to Werries Creek (as the area was originally named) for the next section. When W. Watkins won the tender for the branch line to Gunnedah through the Werris Creek Gap in September, a Post Office was authorised to serve the rapidly growing population. The Northern Line reached Werris Creek in mid-1878 – a shunting yard was constructed that year – and made its way to West Tamworth by October. The branch line to the north-west reached Breeza on 25 March 1979 and a passenger platform was installed at The Gap.

Being on an important railway junction, Werris Creek soon acquired numerous installations to improve its service to freight and passengers. These included a platform 1879; engine turntable 1883; semaphore signals 1884; brick station building and refreshment rooms 1885; gas works 1886; water columns, coal stage and engine workshops 1896; and water reservoir 1914. The establishment of a large abattoir at the Gap in 1894 increased the centre's importance and this was further enhanced when Werris Creek became the main northern depot of the Railways Mechanical Branch in 1917. It then acquired new workshops and a larger turntable to befit its new status. The long-promised western branch line to Dubbo via Binnaway was completed in 1923 and the District Superintendent's administrative staff moved to Werris Creek from Murrurundi in 1926.



This detail from a 1916 map of the NSW Railways shows the Great Northern Line from Muswellbrook to Armidale, the north-western branch from Werris Creek as far as Baan Bar and the western branch to Dubbo via Binnaway under construction. The branch going north from Tamworth terminated at Barraba. NSWPP 1917

The Werris Creek depot continued to grow through the first half of the twentieth century until in the 1960s and 1970s it had the busiest freight yard in the state. At its peak its locomotive section employed hundreds in a 24-hour operation but after diesels took over, the staff was halved. Gradually, the Werris Creek steam maintenance sheds closed down and the town's population fell.

Former railway men working voluntarily for the project are glad that the monument will honour their dead but the Australian Railway Monument is not just about the dead. With its restored buildings, museum and display, Werris Creek will remind its visitors of the importance and grandeur of the railway, and the lives of those who served it.

Rosemary Broomham

Sources: Syd H. Ware, *A History of Werris Creek*, Quirindi Newspaper Company, c. 1975; Interview with Les Brown, John Carrol and Chris Holley at Werris Creek on 2 April 2003.

Australian Society for the History of Engineering and Technology

About 40 people met at History House on 10 April to discuss the setting up of a society to promote the history of engineering and technology in Australia.

The meeting, chaired by Ian Jack, heard that the idea of those proposing the society is that it cover a broad range of interests including social, political and economic history of technology, and that it encompass such fields as agricultural, biological, food, medical and electronic technologies, and the application of technology in trades and industry.

The focus of the society would be on history rather than conservation, collections or advocacy. Discussion followed on possible activities of the society and what topics needed to be considered in establishing such an organisation: For example:

- Whether it will deal with archives and the documentation of history;
- Saving and displaying examples of technology, especially Australian technology;
- Recognizing the social as well as the technological history of engineering;
- Will the society be in the model of a 'Learned Society' providing advice and opportunities for research and publication?
- Encouraging young members and students;
- Setting up a database of interests and expertise.

A steering committee was nominated to meet and report back within a few weeks. Another meeting would be called around late June to hear the findings and a speaker might be arranged for this occasion. The meeting nominated the following to form the steering committee:

Ian Arthur
John Geremin
Julian Holland
Ian Jack
Mari Metzke
Robert Renew
Patrick Tingwell
James Walker

The steering committee is meeting on 7 May and will report back to persons who have registered interest. To register interest, contact Ian Arthur at ianarthur@ozemail.com.au , fax 02 9967 0724

John Geremin has set up a new Yahoo Group for the use of members. Find out more at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aust_eng_history/. Use it to share and discuss any ideas for the propos

Christa Ludlow



WHAT'S ON

Prepared by Cathy Dunn

Events

Macquarie University History Seminars

When: Wednesdays, 12.30-2.00pm. Where: 1st floor, Room 127, Bldg W6A. All welcome

Please note gold coins are required for parking

- 14 May Julia Horne (History, University of Sydney) Writing a History of landscape and travel in nineteenth century Australia
- 21 May Laina Hall (History, University of Sydney) Inscribing the Land: Roads, Journeys and Overland Narratives in Australia
- 28 May No seminar4 June Steven Angelides, (Australian Centre, University of Melbourne) Feminism, Child Sexual Abuse and the erasure of Child Sexuality
- 11 June Sean Brawley (History, UNSW) Searching for Dorothy Lamour: Hollywood's Construction of the South Seas and wartime encounters with the South Pacific

Enquiries: Dr Marnie Hughes-Warrington (02 9850 8806) Departments of Modern History & Politics Macquarie University NSW 2109

PHA Reading Group

History House on 21 May - 4.30 for 5 pm.

Sue Mitchell will be leading discussion on two articles from *Frontier Conflict: The Australian Experience* edited by Bain Attwood and S. G. Foster. These are: · 'Historiography on the Australian Frontier' by Bain Attwood and 'Constructing National Histories' by Ann Curthoys *10th Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Conference*. Ourimbah Campus, University of Newcastle 27th June 2003. Enquiries to Dr Christine Cheater: Ph (02) 4349 4557 E-mail: christine.cheater@newcastle.edu.au

Calls for Papers:

Retailing Past & Present Macquarie University on Friday, 18 July 2003. Contributors so far include Dick Geary (Nottingham), Bev Kingston (UNSW) and John Fisher (Newcastle).

Papers are requested on any aspect of retailing and consumption anywhere. Contact:

John Perkins Senior Research Fellow Department of Modern History Macquarie University.

Email: mrjohnperkins@yahoo.com.au

Transforming Labour Work, Workers, Struggle and Change: from **Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October 2003**. The College of Art Griffith University Southbank Brisbane.

How to contribute: Papers submitted for formal, academic refereeing must reach us by 16 May 2003. Mail: Labour History Conference PO Box 403, Nathan Queensland 4111

Phone: 07 3861 4498 Email: conf@labhist2003.com.au

Web: www.gu.edu.au/school/mgt/lh2003 <<http://www.gu.edu.au/school/mgt/lh2003>>

History Week (NSW) 13-21 September, 2003

Registrations close 23 May, 2003

Talks and lectures, 'behind the scene tours', heritage trails, exhibitions, open houses and gardens, book sales and launches are all possible events for History Week, the annual statewide celebration of history presented by the History Council of NSW. Groups, individuals & societies welcome to participate.

Registration form and further details available on the History Council website -

www.historycouncilnsw.org.au <<http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/>> Tel 02-9385.1070

Email: office@historycouncilnsw.org.au

Coming Soon

The 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Historical Association will be held in Newcastle from 5 - 9 July 2004. Day one will be taken up by the Heads of History Meeting, followed by three days of the conference proper, including keynote addresses, panel sessions, and other events. The theme of the conference is Visions.

The Australian Historical Association Regional Conference at Mildura September 2003.

Feast by the Murray: A History conference about Food & Wine, Ritual & Sociability Environment, Region & Community Romance, Life Stories in Cross-Cultural Contexts, Rural life & Farming in the Margins. Conference details at www.his.latrobe.edu.au

<<http://www.his.latrobe.edu.au/>>

Cathy Dunn

Historian

www.ulladulla.info/hsitorian <<http://www.ulladulla.info/hsitorian>>

Hot off the press from the Historic Houses Trust is a truly beautiful publication,

India, China, Australia: Trade & Society 1788-1850.

HHT has offered a 10% discount to PHA members.

To learn more about the publication, visit the website

www.hht.net.au/services/publications_catalogue/hot_off_the_press

<http://www.hht.net.au/services/publications_catalogue/hot_off_the_press> .

To order your copy, download the order form from the website. To obtain the discount offered, mention on the form that you are a member of PHA and send the form directly to,

Charmaine Moldrich

The PHA Reading Group

The PHA reading group, initiated by Pauline Curby met for the second time at History House in Sydney to discuss two papers on heritage; 'History on the Rocks' by Tony Bennett, J.Frow and M.Morris (eds) *Australian Cultural Studies; A Reader* published in 1994 and 'Susannah Place Museum' by Charlotte Smith published in the *Open Museum Journal*, Vol 5, July 2002.

The discussion, led by Susan McClean focussed on the political and Marxist approach of the Bennett paper and compared this with the approach of Smith written 8 years later. Susan argued that it did not present a new perspective but used an old fashioned progress approach. We discussed the issues of knocking down and replacing, a dialogue of progress as it relates to the historical preservation of Susannah Place and explored these implications from issues raised in the Bennett paper. We then launched into a discussion as to how these issues relate to our own work as historians. The lively and animated discussion continued over a meal at a local Chinese restaurant where we had the opportunity to talk about various projects in which the group are involved.

Our next meeting is on 21 May at History House where we will discuss the various issues in the current 'frontier conflict' debate. Contact Pauline Curby for further details

Suzanne Mitchell

Come to the Next PHA Book Club Meeting History House on Wednesday 21 May - 4.30 for 5 pm.

We will be discussing two articles from *Frontier Conflict: The Australian Experience* edited by Bain Attwood and S. G. Foster.

These are: 'Historiography on the Australian Frontier' by Bain Attwood

'Constructing National Histories' by Ann Curthoys

Sue Mitchell will be leading what I'm sure will be a very lively discussion.

Perhaps if anyone knows Keith Windshuttle they might like to ask him along. I will certainly be reading his contribution to this collection of papers.

Sue has also suggested that we look at:

'Across the Queensland Frontier' by Raymond Evans

'The Statistics of Frontier Conflict' by Richard Broome

Controversies in Australian History No. 1 – History as Contested Territory

Talk by Professor Richard Waterhouse, State Library of NSW, 8 May 2003

Reviewed by Rosemary Kerr

In light of recent public debates over various aspects of Australian history, particularly the frontier conflict controversy, it is timely to reflect on the nature and sources of disagreements among historians and to set some of these recent debates in context. In the first of a series of lectures on controversies in Australian History, Professor Richard Waterhouse, Bicentennial Professor of Australian History at the University of Sydney, traced developments in historiography from the nineteenth century to the present, examining conflicts over the approaches to writing history, sources, subject matter and interpretation. He examined the way in which changing historical methodologies have led to differing interpretations of colonisation, the convict system, frontier violence and the nature of Australian identity. Waterhouse acknowledges that historians will always disagree – it's their nature - and controversy has been an inevitable result of the ongoing process of re-examining and re-defining histories.

The lecture's title, "History as Contested Territory" evokes a battleground or playing field and is an apt way of thinking about the way in which history is contested in terms of who are the major players, winners or losers; and history itself as being fought over by those who seek to claim their particular version of it as legitimate. In the mid to late nineteenth century, as historians in Europe and America began to write national histories, they were preoccupied with defining particular qualities which underpinned societies and claimed for their own countries histories that were unique, better and more progressive than others, based on unifying elements which defined national identity. For example, in the 1890s, Frederick Jackson Turner's "frontier thesis" defined American society in terms of the values of practicality, egalitarianism and common purpose forged during the frontier experience. Defining a national identity has been a continuing theme in Australian history and Russell Ward's *Australian Legend*, published in 1958 drew on the frontier thesis to argue that "bush values" of toughness, resilience, egalitarianism, mateship and defiance of authority, embodied in the image of itinerant bush workers such as shearers, and later adopted by colonial capitalists, exerted a unifying influence on Australian identity. However, Ward was criticised for eulogising the bush worker at the expense of other members of Australian society, particularly urban dwellers, Aborigines and women. Manning Clark's 6 volume *History of Australia* (1962) was an attempt at a national history, but reflected the doubt and pessimism characteristic of the period in which he was writing.

In the 1970s and 1980s Australian historiography was influenced by ideas of cultural hegemony, expounded by what is now known as the Frankfurt School. This group, influenced by Marx and Gramsci, had emerged in the inter-war period in Europe and argued that culture was produced by ruling elites and imposed upon the masses, thereby denying people the ability to create their own cultural identity. For example, Richard White's *Inventing Australia* (1981) argued that Australian culture was an invention of intellectuals and ruling class elites rather than something that was created by the Australian people themselves.

In the 1960s the so-called “new social history” was influencing historiography in Europe and America. Historians sought to reconstruct the lives of “ordinary people” and aimed to quantify and objectify the past. Methodologically, they concentrated on using hard data on aspects of people’s lives such as income, housing, education etc. Data was laboriously collected, tabulated, graphed and analysed to produce a picture of society at a particular time. Historians also began to study subjects that had previously been ignored, particularly women, and in Australia, Aboriginal history. Written within a Marxist framework, these histories tended to focus on the oppression of particular groups.

In the 1980s historians became disillusioned with the new social history. Statistical data was unreliable as it was often incomplete and sometimes random. The interpretation of such data was also open to debate. The 1980s saw the rise of cultural historians who sought to ask a broader range of questions to discover more than a society’s material attributes, but something of the culture and mind-set of past societies. They also looked at a new range of sources, moving beyond the text, looking at material artefacts and rituals, drawing on the disciplines of anthropology and ethnography, particularly to recover the history of those who have left few written records. An important outcome of this approach to history was that groups being studied were given agency in a way that had not been possible before, as sources were limited to what was written about the protagonists from the perspective of others.

Waterhouse discussed some of the ways in which this new approach to history has changed our understanding of aspects of Australia’s past, including the convict system, the reasons for colonisation, women in Australian society and frontier violence. For example, in our view of convict society we have moved from the nineteenth century obsession with respectability which sought to remove the embarrassing “convict stain” of our past; to early twentieth century views of convicts as victims of a cruel English class system (George Arnold Wood); then later as a criminal underclass (Manning Clark, A.G.L. Shaw); and symbolic of decline and collapse of society (Alan Atkinson). However, since the 1980s our understanding of convict society has been revolutionised by historians focusing on the lives and backgrounds of convicts themselves, to reveal a very different image of young, urban, skilled and literate men and women who were victims of social dislocation. This interpretation of has been extended by Grace Karskens in her reconstruction of convict life in the Rocks, utilising a range of sources, including archaeological evidence from the “big dig” in Cumberland Street, revealing a convict society that was much more materialistic than first thought, where convicts exercised a large degree of control over their lives. From this perspective it is appropriate to view the convict system less as one of punishment than of an essential labour force.

This view in turn has implications for our understanding of the reasons for the colonisation of Australia. Historians have debated whether Australia was settled primarily as a penal colony or whether there were other economic motives operating. If, as Geoffrey Blainey has argued, the search for a new supply of flax was a primary factor in Australia’s colonisation, then it makes sense that a reliable labour supply would be essential to the production of staple crops.

The issue of frontier conflict has become controversial in recent years as historians have sought to understand Aboriginal culture and to describe the Aboriginal experience of European contact. Historians of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries usually ignored Aboriginal people entirely in their histories, or if they did discuss Aboriginal resistance to European

encroachment, dismissed it as a minor irritation in the march of progress. In the 1960s historians began to re-examine the nature of relations between Aboriginals and Europeans, however, the Aboriginal experience was usually discussed in terms of what was done to them and expressed in terms of oppression and victimisation. Around the time of Australia's Bicentennial when historians used the term "invasion" to describe the settlement of Australia, controversy raged, prompting Geoffrey Blainey, in 1993, to coin the term "black armband" view of history. Blainey offered an alternative view of Australia's settlement, emphasising the great achievement of settlers in turning the land to productive use and in introducing democratic principles and institutions. Blainey's views were reminiscent of nineteenth century progressivism, arguing that the dispossession of the Aboriginal population was acceptable as they had failed to make the best use of the land. Ironically, Europeans used the majority of the land for pastoralism, which according to progressive ideology is not as high on the scale of development than agriculture and commerce.

Henry Reynolds in *The Other Side of the Frontier* (1988), adopted a new approach by including a range of Aboriginal responses to European settlement. Reynolds also examined Aboriginal culture pre-1788 and was concerned to show how that culture had survived through a process of accommodation and adaptation, so that while Aborigines were forced to fit into European society, their own traditions were not completely destroyed. His work therefore points to agency as well as oppression.

Of course, no discussion of controversies would be complete without mentioning the Windschuttle debate. While acknowledging that Windschuttle has revealed errors in some historians' arguments through his re-examination of sources and that historians have an obligation for accuracy, Waterhouse regrets that this debate has been driven by contemporary political agendas. While stirrers have their place, Windshuttle shows little understanding of the values and culture of Australian society in the nineteenth century and his techniques are that of the journalist or lawyer rather than the historian.

Waterhouse concluded that while an objective past does exist, we can never comprehend it fully because its documentation will never be complete – there are always gaps in the sources. Thus, history is both an art and a science and the skilful historian will focus not only on the text but context to give meaning and understanding to the past.

History has indeed been contested territory, both within the profession and outside it as various parties use and abuse it to suit particular political agendas. In the current political climate in which leaders have demonstrated a lack of acknowledgment and understanding of the past and a desire for simple, unifying narratives, rather than complexity, conflict and controversy, it is vital that historians are heard more often and more vocally in the public arena. This first lecture has whetted the appetite for the forthcoming series.

LIBRARY



REPORT

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

PHA PERIODICALS

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand.
Vol 9 No 1, April 2003

The Professional Historians' Association of NZ has a new enthusiastic committee who aim at better national representation. Despite limited financial resources, they intend to continue producing *Phanzine* and speaking out on history related matters.

This issue features, *inter alia*, a profile of Gavin McLean ('New Zealand's most prolific published historian'), disturbing changes to the National War Memorial in Wellington, lack of protection for New Zealand's coastal archaeological sites, and the logistics of setting up a new museum in Otaki.

PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 25, February 2003; No 26, April 2003

The Victorians' Professional Development program for 2003 should make us all envious. It includes talks and tours on the Victorian History Council, PROV Land Files, Getting Published, Melbourne University Medical

Museum, and Editing a Community History - and that's just up to July!

There's also a review of *The Facing Island: a personal history*, based on family letters about Phillip Island, and written by Jan Bassett, an early PHA member who completed this labour of love just before her death in 1999.

Susan Jannison, PHA member and Liberal Candidate in the 2002 State Election, describes the steep learning curve involved in campaigning for political office. She found it a valuable experience but it all sounds very exhausting and intimidating with few rewards.

The April issue presents two views on the controversy sparked by Keith Windschuttle's *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History*. Dr Cathie Clement, member of the WA PHA, draws on her extensive research experience in the Kimberley and as an expert witness to discuss orthodoxy and conservatism in current historiography relating to Aboriginal history. PHA(Vic) member Caitlin Mahar reviews the recent public debate between Windschuttle and Patricia Grimshaw from the University of Melbourne. Windschuttle has certainly provoked discussion with his controversial assertions and several other PHA newsletters have also published Cathie Clement's articles - but none from Keith Windschuttle himself!

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) INC NEWSLETTER.
No 2, March 2003

This is the first newsletter we've received from the PHA(NT) so welcome to the Territorians. Like the Tasmanians, they have limited membership numbers but recently they held a social event in Darwin and are also hoping to hold a workshop for members working on Native Title issues. We wish them all the best and will watch their activities with interest.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS
ASSOCIATION (SA) INC NEWSLETTER
Issue 76, March 2003**

Both the Editor and President refer to the debates over revisionist views of history in reviews of the National Museum and of Keith Windshuttle's book on Australia's Aboriginal history. They acknowledge that it is good that history is making the headlines but realise that a "slanging match masquerading as a serious debate will do nothing to advance the cause of historians".

Also in this issue, political historian Dr Jenny Tilby Stock contributes an article demonstrating that being an expert panellist at the SA Constitutional Convention 2003 is not as boring as one might think.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS
ASSOCIATION (WA) INC
NEWSLETTER. No 83, March 2003**

This issue contains an article by Dr Cathie Clement, also published elsewhere, on the "Massacre Myth saga" recently generated by Keith Windshuttle's attack on Indigenous historiography in his *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History*. Clement, an experienced historian specialising in North West Western Australia, expresses concern at the use of press and political power, and selective research, to discredit those writing about Aboriginal suffering caused by past Government policies. She deplores the total reliance on 'official' records and the denigration of oral accounts. She recommends that we remain informed through the ACPHA discussion forum at:

www.historians.org.au/discus/

And, to keep some element of impartiality in this heated controversy and to learn lots more about the protagonists' views, we need to be informed that Keith Windshuttle's own web site is: www.sydneyle.com

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

**AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN. No 95,
Summer 2002/2003**

This, the first Bulletin we've received from AHA, contains reports on the Brisbane 2002 "Crossing Boundaries" Conference, the Heads of History Conference at the University of Qld in July 2002, and the 13th George Rudé Seminar in Hobart in July 2002. If you missed all those, you can still plan for the CISH Congress to be held at the University of NSW in July 2005. The International Committee for Historical Sciences (ACHA/CISH) is an umbrella organisation of national associations of historians which holds an international congress every five years.

This Bulletin includes the Presidential Address delivered at the 2002 AHA Conference by the former president Jill Roe. She examines the history of the Association and assesses the health of history in Australia today. She concludes that 'history is holding its own but the odds are worsening'.

**CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
HISTORY: NEWSLETTER.
No 21, November 2003**

The big news is that work on the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australian History has begun under Editor in Chief, Dr Jenny Gregory, and General Editor, Dr Jan Gothard. Expressions of interest are still being sought from contributors on a vast range of topics.

Recent and forthcoming publications include *Settler, Servants and Slaves: Aboriginal and European Children in Nineteenth Century Western Australia*, by Penelope Hetherington; *Under a Bilari Tree I born*, Alice Bilari Smith with Anna Vitenbertgs and Loreen Behuat, and *Country: Visions of Land and People in Western Australia*, edited by Andrea Gaynor, Mathew Trinca and Anna Haebich.

The Library and Information Service of Western Australia (LISWA) had now reverted to its former more recognisable name of State Library of Western Australia.

CITY OF SYDNEY QUARTERLY.
Summer 2003

All a bit passé now, but this issue celebrates Sydney's spectacular New Year, the re-opening of the Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Pool, the Sydney Festival, and the *Barani* website's audio-visual prize awarded to Dr Anita Heiss and Terri McCormack in the NSW 2002 Premier's History Awards.

HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office & Heritage Council of NSW. Vol 10, No 1, Autumn 2003

The Heritage Council and the Heritage Office have moved into Georgian splendour at the refurbished former Kings School, overlooking the picturesque Parramatta River.

Also aqua-related but less sublime, Sydney Water's Heritage and Conservation Register now contains more than 200 items. Items also on the State Heritage Register include the Prospect Reservoir, the Ben Buckler sewer vent at Bondi, and the Sydneham Drainage Pit and Pumping Station at Marrickville.

The largest urban archaeological dig in Sydney lasted six months and took place at the Australand site in Ultimo. Over a million items were unearthed and significant finds will be restored and preserved on site. Australand received the State Government's inaugural Heritage Management for their encouragement of public involvement in the project. There was also public participation at the Meriton redevelopment site in Parramatta. By participating in the digs, the community learns not only about archaeological methods but also about their own past.

INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales.
Summer 2002; Autumn 2003

The Historic Houses Trust is renovating the Mint Building in Macquarie Street as their headquarters. Archeological investigation of the site has yielded significant evidence which will be incorporated *in situ* in the Trust's design for the refurbished building.

Rare historical evidence of the Hyde Park Barracks complex has been acquired by the Historic Houses Trust Foundation. This is a plan and elevation of the Barracks, c1819, by Louis-Claude de Saules de Freycinet who visited Sydney, for the second time, on the French ship *Uranie* in November 1819.

MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 22, January 2003; No 23, May 2003

Two important websites recently launched are: www.primeministers.naa.gov.au which lists the records of our first 25 Prime Ministers, and www.ww2roll.gov.au, the Nominal Roll of over one million who served in WW2.

New premises at 85 Macquarie Street, Hobart, were recently opened, replacing the Rosny Park facility, thus making the regional archival office more accessible. And newly refurbished facilities in Darwin have also been launched at Kelsey Crescent, Millner.

Ross Gibbs is the new Director-General of National Archives, replacing Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtich who has become CEO of the State Library of Victoria. Ross was previously Director and Keeper of Public Records at the Public Record Office of Victoria. He follows in the footsteps of Ian Maclean (1919-2003), the first Archives Officer responsible for Commonwealth archives appointed to the Commonwealth National Library in 1944, who died in February this year.

The travelling exhibition *Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage* is now in Canberra where this wonderful collection of treasures from the State Library of NSW and elsewhere seems to fit more comfortably into the NAA Gallery than it did in the Mitchell Galleries.

Memento features the work of researchers who have used National Archives for their book, film or other published work. The May issue highlights the work of Associate Professor Desmond O'Connor, Head of the Department of Languages at Flinders University, whose speciality is Italian migration to South Australia.

Other uses for archives are more concrete. The extensive collection of records on Mount Stromlo Observatory will be used to rebuild the historic complex, destroyed by the January bushfires in Canberra.

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA: JOURNAL 2002 No 24

Edited by June Senyard, this bulky annual journal is entitled *Speak: Voices of a 20th Century Nation*. Articles are organised under the headings: Indigenous Australian stories; Regional Stories from NZ and Australia; Stories of Experience; and Oral History in the Field.

Interesting topics include Japanese war brides, Ten Pound Poms, the lack of gay and lesbian oral histories, and the Australian jazz archive at Screensound. Sensitive issues involved in oral interviewing are addressed by articles on 'Researching Sydney child survivors of the Holocaust' and 'Interviewing People with Painful Childhood memories'.

VITAL SIGNS: State Records NSW. No 3, December 2002; No 4, March 2003

This newish magazine from State Records contains lots of interesting articles by archivists and others. The December issue

featured Merle Oberon, Ken Burns, street art of Newtown, a review of Robert Jordan's *The Convict Theatres of Early Australia, 1788-1840*, and an interview with Croatian Australian archivist Svemir Popovic.

In his introduction to the March issue, Director David Roberts discusses archives as artefacts as well as information resources. State Records' new exhibition policy is based on the idea that contact with historical objects enables people to make almost mystical connections with the past. Historians, of course, are so accustomed to dealing with 'old' records and to evaluating archives as information sources that they become blasé and might miss this magic bond. It is not surprising then that State Records has turned to enthusiastic amateur collectors to provide the material for the series of talks, walks and films entitled *the house of Exquisite Memory*, running until August 2003.

VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. Vol , 2003

Before she heads off to fresh pastures in Canberra, Margaret Park, North Sydney Council Historian, describes her experiences over many years working with oral history. She stresses the importance of seeing oral history in its social and historical context and provides informed comments on the difficult processes involved in making the results accessible to the public.

George Imashev, Curator of Film and Sound at the Australian War Memorial, describes the Sound collection at the AWM. He also gives details of the Memorial's Digitisation Program. He examines the issues behind the digitisation of archival material and provides important technical information about this process.

The NSW Heritage Office Library

3 Marist Place, Parramatta, 2150

The NSW Heritage Office Library is a publicly available heritage research resource. The collection consists of over 7000 items, and includes many conservation management plans, heritage studies, thematic studies and Australian and NSW histories, as well as a wide range of heritage monographs and journals.

Following our move to new premises at the former King's School building in Parramatta the library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. Visits by appointment only. Please phone the librarian, Libby Robertson, on (02) 9873 8591 to make an appointment. Items are not available for loan, however there is a photocopier available (20c per page).

You are most welcome to visit the library to conduct your own research. Libby will assist readers in the use of the collection. She will also undertake research at your request for up to 30 minutes free of charge. Any further research will be charged at \$144 per hour.

The library catalogue is currently only accessible from within the Heritage Office and linked government agencies. Future plans are to purchase a new catalogue system that will enable internet access.

We are also planning to introduce a subscription service to provide a range of additional services for an annual fee. These would include regular e-mails on new accessions, contents of recently received journals and photocopies of requested articles, as well as password access to the catalogue via the internet.

While we are in the planning stages for this service we would like to know what services you would like to receive as part of a subscription. Send comments to elizabeth.robertson@heritage.nsw.gov.au

Needless to say, we are delighted that this major collection is now safely stored at our home base and accessible to the wider heritage community. Please come and visit us some time!



View of Werris Creek looking towards The Gap from the balcony of the Old Signal Hotel Guesthouse. R. Broomham

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

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