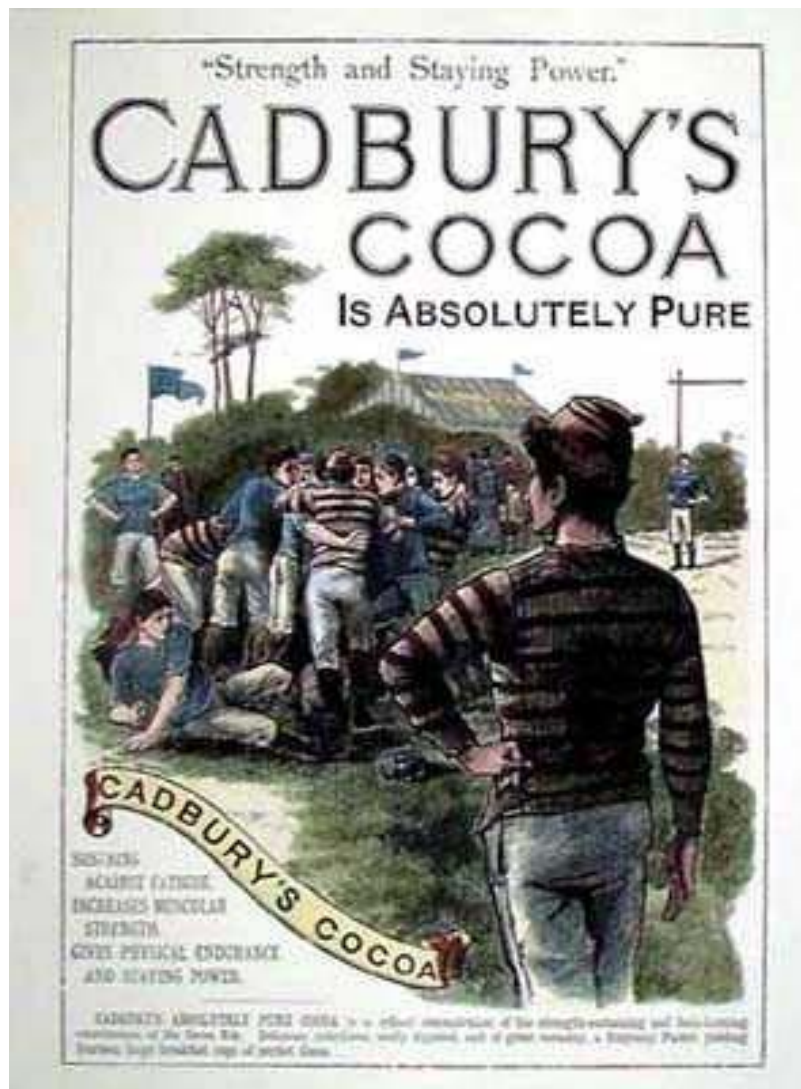


Phanfare

MAGAZINE OF THE PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS
ASSOCIATION OF NSW (Inc)

Number 203 - November-December 2003



Strong, dark and sweet. Hmmmm, I don't think the perfect chocolate crackle is hiding in there.

Phanfare

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***PHANFARE* FOR 2003- 04 IS PRODUCED BY THE FOLLOWING**

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Jan-Feb & July-Aug: Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald, Lisa Murray

Mar-Apr & Sept-Oct: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack, Anne Smith

May-June & Nov-Dec: Carol Liston, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, Nicole Secomb, Anna Wong

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TO CONTACT THE PHA NSW SEE INSIDE BACK COVER



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NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2003**

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This issue was produced by the North-West Collective – Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, Carol Liston, Nicole Secomb and Anna Wong

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Administrative Matters

It is now nearly three months since the new executive assumed control of PHA NSW Inc., and during that time we have been busy ensuring that administration is as streamlined as possible. The decision, made earlier this year, to discontinue - for financial reasons - the employment of the executive officer means that routine activities formerly undertaken by this officer are once again the responsibility of the executive. In addition a number of other members of the association have volunteered for various tasks. I commend these volunteers whose work ensures that the PHA runs smoothly, and hope others will consider volunteering for a role within the organization.

Professional Development

In the last two months the PHA has hosted two professional development workshops for members. The first, a forum entitled *Historians: Men and Women at Work*, was run in collaboration with Royal Australian Historical Society during History Week. This highlighted some of the varied work done by a range of historians. Recently an excursion to State Records Kingswood was held at which Carol Liston introduced participants to State Records finding aids and David Roberts, State Records Director, conducted a tour of the facility. Thanks to those who contributed to both these successful events. Our next professional development opportunity, a

documentary filmmaking workshop, will be held on 22 November.

Collaboration with RAHS

A number of the PHA activities discussed in this report have been assisted by the Royal Australian Historical Society. Despite the fact that our financial position has improved considerably since the AGM, the PHA is still a small organisation with no assets. Therefore we gratefully acknowledge RAHS assistance, especially their courtesy in allowing us to hold meetings at History House. One small way in which we can show our appreciation is by ensuring that whenever members have a new publication that at least two copies

are sent to RAHS: one for review and one for the library.

New members

Finally it is with great pleasure that I welcome two new professional and one new associate member to the PHA. Laila Ellmoos and Dr Bronwyn Hanna are new members and Christopher Salisbury is an associate member transferring from PHA (Qld). A number of other membership applications are currently being processed. Rosemary Kerr and her membership sub-committee are doing this most important job, using ACPHA guidelines and procedures set up by Annette Salt during her time as executive officer.

Pauline Curby President

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL
PHA MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND
THEIR FAMILIES**



A CHRISTMAS TREAT A PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED AUSSIE FOOD ICON

Ok - we know them all. The Aussie food icons that we have been brought up to love as daily fodder and treats - meat pies, Vegemite, Aeroplane jelly, pavlova, lamingtons, Arnott's biscuits. Yet missing from this list is an iconic celebration food that typifies the Australian cultural and culinary taste. For decades it was the treat for children's parties and school fetes. Most recently it even found its way to the PHA AGM festive table.

It's a recipe not found between the covers of the Commonsense Cookery Book, or other culinary guides. Perhaps appropriately for the Aussie post-war kitchen, it was a recipe found amongst that most ephemeral of food sources - the side of convenience food packages. Its ingredients are all copyrighted to foreign national food producers - yet the key ingredient is produced only in Australia and is available only in Australia. There is no substitute for the key ingredient so this food item cannot be produced outside our national boundaries.

A quick search of the web reveals that ex-pat Aussies miss this food, particularly at party time (children's parties and Christmas). Their unsuspecting foreign spouses often try substitutes for the key ingredient - and it doesn't work (trust me - Goggle and the food manufacturer's food lab both agree there is no substitute).

So if the key ingredient can only be obtained in Australia, surely this food is the lost Holy Grail of Australian cultural identity?

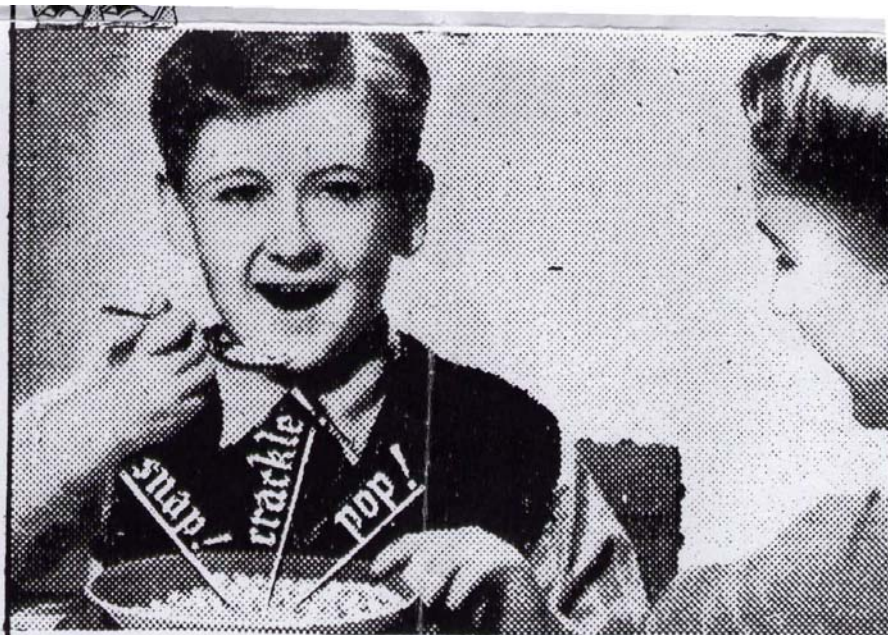
It's not a 19th century food. Indeed your hard-working Phanfare research team can attest that it probably is a food source invented for the baby-boomers. We have yet to find its key ingredient used in commercial recipes prior to 1945.

Yet like so many Aussie icons, this food has come to the forefront in our search for identity only because one of its parents wants to take it back, patent it and commercialise it.

What is this unrecognised icon - the humble chocolate crackle.

School fetes in the 1950s featured toffees, coconut ice and chocolate crackles. Yet it is the humble chocolate crackle that has lingered in my mind's taste buds. The child of Kellogg's Rice Bubbles, Cadbury's Bourneville Cocoa and Uni-Food's Copha, it was easily whipped up by child or adult and was almost impossible to get wrong (almost).

In February 2003 Kellogg's sought to patent the recipe for chocolate crackles. Kellogg's Rice Bubbles appeared in Australia in the 1930s. Bourneville Cocoa by that stage was already an old-timer in the Aussie pantry. The new comer that made the chocolate crackle possible was Unilever (now Unifoods) Copha - a solid white vegetable shortening made from coconut oil.



*Till his mother solved her troubles
With a bowl of crisp Rice Bubbles!*

Kellogg's Rice Bubbles are so crisp they speak for themselves with a Snap, Crackle, Pop! Yum! Yum! And these thrilling Rice Bubbles of Kellogg's are just brimming over with the energising nourishment your kiddies need. What's more, little tummies find Kellogg's Rice Bubbles so easy to digest. So get a packet of Kellogg's Rice Bubbles from your grocer to-day.

"Rice Bubbles" are utterly distinct from any other ready-to-eat cereal. Product and process are protected by Australian Letters Patent. Nos. 16524/28; 16525/28. "Rice Bubbles" is the trade mark of Kellogg's (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., for oven-popped rice.

Our intrepid research on behalf of the PHA has involved a search through the loose pages and stuck in bits and pieces of many a family cookbook. During the 1939-45 war - when butter and fats were in short supply - cooks wanting to make sweet things used clarified dripping or lard - often mixed with spices or lemon juice to remove the fatty taste. Then in the early post-war years Copha appeared and sweet treats like chocolate crackles, white christmas and dozens of sweet slices appeared, the stalwarts of a half century of cake stalls and fetes and bring a plate occasions.

Copha is only produced in Australia and is significantly rarer than Vegemite to purchase overseas. Without Copha, our iconic festival treats are impossible. On this ground we argue it is an intrinsic part of our Australia food cultural identity.

Your team has debated long over the correct recipe, and whilst our childhood memories hold dear something darker and a richer chocolate, here is the official recipe. Its ingredients and proportions are the same as the 1950s, though there has been much heated debate about the addition of coconut. (MY chocolate crackles never had coconut).

So for this festive season, cast back your minds to parties past, remember the humble chocolate crackle and have a Merry Christmas.

Carol Liston

CHOCOLATE CRACKLES

4 cups Kellogg's® Rice Bubbles®
1 1/2 cups icing sugar
1 cup desiccated coconut
250g copha®, chopped
3 tbsp cocoa

Mix Rice Bubbles, icing sugar, cocoa & coconut in a large bowl. Slowly melt the copha® in a saucepan over a low heat. Allow to cool slightly then add to Rice Bubbles mixture, stirring well. Spoon into paper patty cases and refrigerate until firm. (Makes 24)

copha™ - Registered trade mark Unifoods

CHOCOLATE SPIDERS: A NEW MILLENIUM TREAT*

1 pkt Chang's Original Fried Noodles 100g [Plain not chilli or garlic]
2 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter
200 g cooking chocolate

Microwave chocolate and peanut butter in a microwave safe bowl for about 30 seconds on high setting. Mix well until it is a smooth paste. Add noodles and coat them well. Spoon the mixture onto grease-proof paper, or into individual paper patty pans. Place in refrigerator until set.

* Kass family taste-tested

SALUTE TO SURFING SOLDIERS

'They came through the airport doors in dribs and drabs. Ragtime soldiers who had survived great trauma and were returning home'¹ wrote Daily Telegraph journalist Ray Chesterton. No, he was not describing soldiers returning home from war, but the injured Australians, survivors of the Bali Bombings of 12 October 2002.

The events of Bali will touch many of us for a long time. The bombings that killed over 200 people, including 88 Australians, showed that even a small NSW coastal town such as Ulladulla is not immune from the devastating effects of terrorism and the loss of our children makes it all so much worse.

Just over three weeks after the bombings, I stood with over 1,500 people on the shores of Mollymook Beach to bid farewell to my nephew Craig Dunn and his mate Danny Lewis who were both killed. Craig and Danny, were in Bali on a surfing holiday with their mate Nigel Davenport, who survived the Sari Club blast. Craig's life was always full of fun with surfing, fishing, hunting, diving, skiing, and camping. He could be easily described as your typical (stereotypical) 'aussie kid' who just simply loved the outdoors.

So much transpired over those preceding weeks in the media over the bombings in reflecting on the Anzac Spirit and legend and how Australia had reacted. The birth of that 'aussie' icon, the Anzac Spirit, and the Nation's baptism was on the shores of Gallipoli in WW1 with the courage and efforts of the Australian and New Zealand troops:

At Gallipoli, and then on the Western Front, the Anzacs proved the character of Australian Manhood for all the world to see and, through their victories and sacrifices, established a nation in spirit as well as in name.²

But ANZAC stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat.³

But should the Bali Bombings and its aftermath be reported as war against Australia? The Australian killed and injured were in Bali on holidays. Or was it just our Australian identity and pride that was wounded, as our injured returned and coffins draped in the Australian Flag started to arrive home:

¹ Ray Chesterton, 'Tears of Joy overflow as the Survivors Return Home', *Daily Telegraph*, October 15 2002.

² Alistair Thomson, *Anzac Memories: Living with the Legend*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1995, p.26.

³ C.E.W. Bean, *ANZAC to Amiens*, Australian War Memorial Canberra, 1946, p.181.

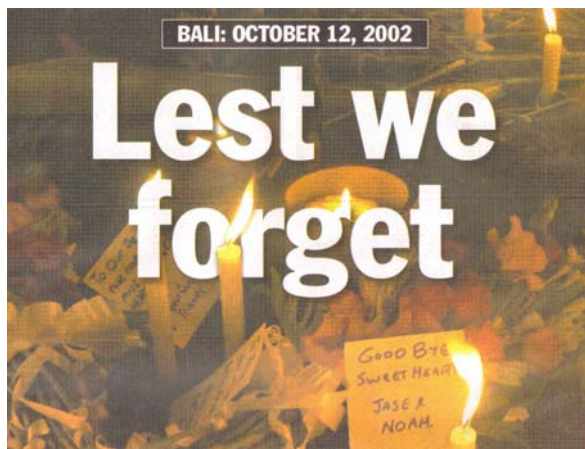
The headline read, “Digging deep to find the warrior within” in the article appearing in the *Daily Telegraph*⁴. Journalist Anna Cock reported on the emotive parallels between the experiences of our Diggers and the young Australians from in the Bali Bombings.

Media reports reflected on the bravery in helping mates and strangers escape from the Sari Club inferno, with headlines of sacrifice, mateship and bravery. The unselfish acts shown on television as injured victims put others before them, with the television imagery of the likes of bombing survivor Peter Hughes of Perth, who courageously surrendered his chance of medical care in favour of others.⁵ As survivors search hospitals and make-shift morgues for their mates, they show qualities of our Anzac Spirit and being Australian, as once again innocence was lost in Bali as at Gallipoli.

The surfing soldiers are missing at war, but in the spirit of happy young men just beginning life’s journeys, the weapons they used on the front line that night have not been lost.

They were armed with freedom of choice, spirit of adventure, love of outdoor life, a sense of kindness to others, the love of their family & home and respect for all things good.⁶

How quickly Australia referred back to our Anzac Spirit and legend in a time of emotional grief and shock. But to the families of the injured and those killed, it was their sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, best mates not any digger that was fighting in a war.



What a journalist reports and feel towards the events in Bali and how they perceive and write, is totally different to how a mother could possible feel after losing her child, a husband losing his wife in what were sudden and unfortunate circumstances.

The Sunday Telegraph produced a 16-page tribute to the Bali Bombings on October 20 2002,

which had been announced as a National Day of Mourning, with the words LEST WE FORGET on the front page.⁷ The feature is complete with survivors’ stories and reports on the aftermath activities in Bali.

⁴ Anna Cock, “Digging Deep to find the warrior within”, *Daily Telegraph*, October 16 2002, p. 35.

⁵ Peter Overton, *Sixty Minutes*, Television Broadcast, Nine Network, October 2002.

⁶ Bruce Summers, *Salute to Surfing Soldiers*, Ulladulla Info Community board, October 20 2002, <http://www.ulladulla.info/wwwboard/messages/113.html>.

⁷ ‘Lest We Forget: Bali October 12, 2002’, *Sunday Telegraph*, October 20 2002.

What does this imagery on the front cover, along with the words Lest We Forget, portray about the Anzac Spirit and the Bali Bombings in the media?

Many may question the right of the media to use these words on the cover of this feature.

In a way the Bali Bombings stole a generation of Australians as did Gallipoli and other wars, affecting all Australians from the "City to the Bush". It was a terrorist attack on Australian civilians - our sports people - surfing and football, women and children, and holidaymakers. The Bali Bombings were heartfelt across Australia, a magnitude possibly not seen since World War II

In the words of Prime Minister John Howard 'The Australian spirit has not been broken. Our spirit will remain strong and free and tolerant'.⁸ There is no doubt that the aftermath of Bali has added to the interest and pride in both our Anzac and Australian spirit, the legacy left to us all by the soldiers of Gallipoli. The loss of so many Australians has reinforced the Anzac spirit and the sense of our unique 'Aussie' identity, all just part of the Australian myth.

To summarise the effect that the bombings had on both families and Australia one turns to the poem on my nephew Craig Dunn's headstone overlooking the surf and ocean at Mollymook Beach on the South Coast NSW:

Terrorists took our boys from sight but did not win the fight.
Though deeply missed, the boys remain strong within our hearts.
Their spirit of adventure, freedom of choice, love and respect of
family and friends shall live with us all.
The Aussie mateship is now stronger than before.

A Salute to Surfing Soldiers

Cathy Dunn, September 2003.

An abridged version written for Phanfare

Newsletter of the PHA (Professional Historians Association NSW)

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Daily Telegraph

Sunday Telegraph

Publications:

Bean, C.E.W. *ANZAC to Amiens*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1946.

Thomson, Alistair. *Anzac Memories: Living with the Legend*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1995.


Others:

⁸ 'The Lives They Lived', *Daily Telegraph*, November 2 2002, p.2.

Nine Network. *Sixty Minutes*, Television Broadcast, October 2002.
Ulladulla.info Website., www.ulladulla.info.

Images:

Sunday Telegraph. Front cover 16 page feature of 'Lest We Forget: Bali October 12 2002', October 20 2002.



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NORFOLK ISLAND SHARED HISTORIES: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Norfolk Island had always been one of those 'must do' places that never seemed to come to the top of the list. The occasional consultancy work that had involved Norfolk Island had never included a budget to get me there, so the interest remained 'academic'. An accidental holiday escape changed that. I was fortunate to piggy-back on a tour arranged for the Berrima and District Historical Society by Linda Emery, the result of an accidental encounter and a coincidence of timing. Without access to such resources, much of the island's history - and its perspective on its own history - would have remained invisible. I would probably have read half a dozen novels and departed disappointed.

The landscape of Norfolk Island is as challenging today as it was to the settlers of 1788. Steep cliffs surround the island except for one place, where the infant settlement put down its base. On the opposite side of the island, the site where Captain Cook's expedition came ashore is a startling reminder of the hazardous nature of those early voyages and the physical achievements of those aboard who managed to land on the remote and treacherous places that they came across. The 1788 settlement was placed right on the sea shore; the wreck of the *Sirius* comes eerily real when you realise its timbers still lie in the surf barely 20 metres off shore.

Norfolk Island is a self-governing territory for internal matters but sits under the umbrella of Australia for external matters. It uses Australian currency and Australia Post. Its chief administrator, who lives in the colonial governor's house, is appointed by Australia (the new administrator is a former Northern Territory senator). There are no taxes - and no Medicare or pharmaceutical benefits. The education system follows the New South Wales curricula. There is no local source of energy, except for imported fuels, so there are no street lights, no neon lights - and no poker machines. There are two flights a week and a boat every six weeks or so. No fruit or vegetables are imported so when the island runs out of onions or fresh milk - as it did - you have to wait for someone to grow some more or import an alternative. The tourists do not out-number the local population - and on visual analysis seemed to be exclusively anglo-celtic 'mature' Australians or New Zealanders.

The local legislature is a combination of local, state and federal government in terms of responsibilities - somewhat a reminder of what the NSW legislature must have been like in the mid 19th century when Britain still held external powers. The voting system bares no resemblance to any on the Australian mainland. The nine legislators are elected by a system that gives each voter nine votes - an American system, which clearly recognises the family politics of small communities. The national anthem is still *God Save the Queen* - it could hardly be *Advance Australia Fair* - and they have their own flag and stamps.

Whilst there are several fine historical sites, and a general air of history in the tourist literature, one looks in vain to undertake historical research on the island. There is a small part-time library with printed resources and a small research collection based at the museums at Kingston, where there is a microfiche reader. Apparently, there is no microfilm reader on the island. There are contemporary records at the legislature. This is a community that has been stripped of its historical data by a complicated pattern of changing 'colonial' masters.

The current population are largely descended from the Pitcairn Islanders who were given Norfolk Island in 1856 when the penal settlement closed. Their interest, not surprisingly, is in their families and their history on Pitcairn - the *Bounty* mutiny, the Polynesian linkages, and their re-settlement on Norfolk. They do not identify with the European settlement of New South Wales nor the first settlement on the island in 1788 nor the subsequent convict establishments.

Historical records are in short supply and their location is a mystery unless you understand the island's complicated pattern of colonial governance. The 1788 settlement was established from Sydney and managed from there, but when it closed in 1814 the people and their records went to Van Diemen's Land, therefore its records are split between Sydney and Hobart repositories. The second settlement was established in 1825 from Sydney and managed by the New South Wales administration until 1844 when the island was transferred to Van Diemen's Land. When the convict system closed in 1855, its records again went to Van Diemen's Land. In 1856, when the Pitcairn Islanders arrived on Norfolk the administration was transferred again to New South Wales, where it remained until about World War 1, when it was transferred to the Australian Federal government! The records since 1856 are thus split between New South Wales and Australian archives.

No wonder the Norfolk Islanders find difficulty in doing their own history. Each phase of their history has been systematically removed from their reach.

Perhaps we as historians can find ways to help them retrieve their documentary past.

Carol Liston

What's On!

Prepared by Christine de Matos

DECEMBER 2003

Exhibitions

'Italiani Di Sydney'. History and voices of Italians in Sydney. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'Captured in colour: rare photographs from the First World War'. Until 29 February 2004. **Venue:** Australian War Memorial.

'Max Dupain's Australians'. Photographic exhibition. Until February 2004. **Venue:** State Library of NSW.

'Patriotism Persuasion Propaganda - American War Posters'. Until February 2004. **Venue:** Maritime Museum.

'Strikes, Lockouts and Equal Pay'. Until March 2004. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'Working Harbour'. Until July 2004. **Venue:** Maritime Museum.

'Convicts: Life at the Barracks'. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'Lost City'. King St of the 1890s. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'Fifties Houses: Plus or Minus'. **Venue:** Rose Seidler House.

'DRUGS: A Social History'. **Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.

Events

Every Wed & Fri

Walk. 'Sydney Architecture Walks'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$20, mem/conc \$15 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9518 6866; web: <http://www.sydneymuseum.org>

16 **Talk.** 'Unpicking the Convict Shirt'. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum **Time:** 11am **Cost:** Free with museum entry **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.

20 **Carols.** *Carols at the Australian War Memorial.* **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.awm.gov.au/events/whatson/>

JANUARY 2004

- 19 **Talk.** *'Travels with Flinders' hat'*. Paul Brunton. Library Society. **Venue:** Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library **Time:** 12.30-1.30pm **Cost:** \$16.50, mem/conc \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1270; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au Also on 21 Jan, 5.30 for 6pm.
- 24 **Tour.** *'Sunrise Sensory Tour'*. Early morning garden stroll. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth House **Time:** 7-8.30am **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.
- 26 **Talks.** *'Australia Day - Pot Luck with History'*. Talks every half hour. RAHS. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 10.30am-3.30pm **Cost:** Free **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 26 **Event.** Free entry to all HHT properties to celebrate Australian Day. Free events. **Time:** 10am-5pm **Enquiries:** web: http://www.hht.org.au/whats_on/events/major_events
- 29 **Talk.** *'Navigation in the times of Flinders, Bligh and Cook'*. Peter Poland. Library Society. **Venue:** Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$16.50, mem/conc \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1270; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

'Seventh Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference 2004: The 21st Century City: Past / Present / Future'. 11-14 February 2004, Deakin University. **Enquiries:** ph: (03) 5227 8331; fax: (03) 5227 8303; email: guenterl@deakin.edu.au

'World History: The Next Ten Years'. 12-14 March 2004, Boston USA. **Enquiries:** email: p.james@neu.edu; web: <http://www.whc.neu.edu/NextTenTears>

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

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

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

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

History, University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

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

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

CALL FOR PAPERS

'AHA Head of History Summit'. 5 July 2004, Newcastle. Proposals due by **14 December 2004**. **Enquiries:** email: Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au (Copies of proposals to Robyn Arrowsmith email: rarrowsm@hmn.mq.edu.au)

'RIP: Death and Departure in 20th Century Australia'. 20 February 2004, Macquarie University. Abstracts of 500 words due by **15 December 2003**. **Enquiries:** email: jperkins@hmn.mq.edu.au or janker@hmn.mq.edu.au

'Projecting Australia: British Australian Studies Association Biennial Conference'. 2-5 September 2004, Cardiff University. Abstracts of 200 words due by **end of December 2003**. **Enquiries:** Dr Bill Jones ph: (+44) (0)29 2087 6104; fax: (+44) (0)29 2087 4929; email: joneswd@cardiff.ac.uk

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

'Empires and Resistance: Rise and Fall of Great Powers'. 8 May 2004, London. Proposals due by **18 January 2004**. **Enquiries:** email: conference2004@londonsocialisthistorians.org; web: <http://www.londonsocialisthistorians.org>

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

'The Great Labor Schism 1955: Fifty Years After'. 15-16 April 2004, Melbourne. 1 page abstracts due **1 March 2004**. **Enquiries:** Brian Costar email: brian.costar@arts.monash.edu.au; Peter Love email: plove@swin.edu.au; Paul Strangio email: paul.strangio@arts.monash.edu.au

'The "Extreme Right" in 20th-Century Australia'. 9-10 October 2004, Sydney. Abstracts (maximum 500 words) to be submitted to the organisers by **1 March 2004**. **Enquiries:** Andrew Moore, email: a.moore@uws.edu.au; John Perkins,

email: jperkins@hmn.mq.au

'15th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia'. 29 June-2 July 2004, Canberra. Abstracts of 300 words due **5 March 2004**.

Enquiries: web: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA/conference>

'20th International Congress of Historical Sciences'. 3-9 July 2005, University of NSW Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: cish2005@incompass.com.au; web:

<http://www.cishsydney2005.org>

'2005 National Conference of the Australian Historical Association'. 3-9 July 2005, Sydney. Held in conjunction with the International Congress of Historical Sciences. Theme: 'Inclusive Histories'. Submission of 250 word abstracts (individual paper or panel), plus 1 page CV, due **30 April 2004**.

Enquiries/submissions: A/P Rae Frances email: r.frances@unsw.edu.au

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

STATE RECORDS WORKSHOP

On Saturday 25 October, the PHA conducted a workshop at the University of Western Sydney and State Records at Kingswood. The morning session, presented by Professor Carol Liston gave us the background of what records are kept at Kingswood and included an in-depth look at the State Records website. The State Records at Globe Street in The Rocks now has microfilmed material only available. The State Records consists of all official records generated by government offices whereas the Mitchell Library tends to have private papers. The creating agencies determine whether or not we may have access to the records. Hospitals, universities and local government are not covered by the Archives Act of the 1960s.

The State Records Authority has two parts:

- state records which have on-going historical importance
- government records repository which has semi-active government records - these do not have open access.
-

A letter is required from a government agency to access records in the repository.

Probate packets from the Supreme Court are now available at Kingswood. When checking indexes on line, be aware that not all indexes are listed on the website. If the index indicates there are 32 boxes of the records that you are seeking, there is a shelf list available at Kingswood giving more specific details of the contents of individual boxes.

After lunch we drove to the nearby State Records where David Roberts, Director of State Records took us on a guided tour. The first archive storage building was built in 1974 and has been added to since then. A new building is due to be completed about 2005. There are about 50 linear kilometres of state archival material and about 300 lineal kilometres of material in the repository.

Some of the older sections have been redesigned for offices and conservation space and we were able to see how methods of storage have changed over the past 30 years. The conservationists are currently working on large books from state prisons with photos of prisoners and details of their crimes. One book that we were able to view was from Maitland prison around the early 1900s. These records are being digitised and some are already available on the website. For those of us who have spent many long hours at Kingswood, we gained a renewed appreciation of the staff that has to search for our requests.

Thanks to Carol Liston for organising the workshop and to David Roberts for the informative tour of State Records.

Suzanne Mitchell

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE PERTH 4-8 SEPTEMBER 2003

A year or two ago, when I was a pup, academic historians spoke of 'eye-witness accounts' as one source – of very debatable reliability and usefulness – on which historians could base their investigations and exercise their historical skills. The concept of 'oral history' as a branch of history or as an historical pursuit in its own right was totally foreign.

Historians have, hopefully, come a long way since then. The recent Perth conference of the Oral History Association of Australia was a sound reminder of this. Rosie Block's paper on the Sydney Maritime Museum Oral History Project, for example, demonstrated that it was interviews that provided all the information necessary for the refurbishment of the James Craig as well as providing the narrative history. We are no longer constrained by the pedantic approach which discounts oral history because it can't be footnoted!

The program was very full, extending over three and a half days with up to fifteen sessions daily, many of them parallel. Attendees varied from volunteers with local history projects to academics intimately involved in the practice and theory of oral history – and everything in between. Most 'paper givers' were expert practitioners or post-graduate students.

In this article, with due respect to the various presenters, I intend to discuss those issues which they raised which I found of personal interest.

Ethics: Oral historians deal with a range of people, many of whom have sensitive stories to tell. The process can be very difficult; but the product also raises many ethical dilemmas. The existence of HRE Committees in academic institutions recognises this.

When seeking 'subjugated knowledge', the basis of oral history, the historian is faced with such ethical questions as who owns the stories and whose interpretation of the stories is accepted? If the information is transcribed, who owns the final text? What is the justification for colonising someone else's story? Developing the questions to be asked involves the preconceptions and prejudices of the interviewer. It is possible, even useful, to use a set of principles when framing questions, such as the principle of giving voice to a previously 'invisible' group. However, the interviewer must be aware that there are at least two people in the dialogue no matter how 'quiet' s/he is during the interview. Historians are often telling their own stories when interpreting the stories of others.

Janina Trotman came up with an interesting response to this particular problem by suggesting that the historian provide commentary as hypertext or annotation on the transcripts thus providing context and honestly dealing with his/her own role and responses.

Maria Harries suggested that the principles which should underlie ethical practices in oral history were threefold: first, there is no template as codes can miss the point by destroying the dynamism of the research process; second, all ethical practice should avoid harm; third, the interviewer has a duty of care and must extend respect and justice [that is, to defend those who can't defend themselves and to avoid discrimination and act fairly]. SO if the oral history project makes interviewees unhappy or uncomfortable, it transgresses ethical principles.

At an Ethics Workshop a number of practical ways was suggested to apply ethical principles to the research process. One point stressed was the importance of gaining genuinely informed consent. Is there really a choice for the interviewee? Is this a communal or individual decision? Has the rationale of the project and the interviewee's part in the project been properly explained? Is the consent form right? This last question is particularly important when the interviewee may disclose matters which will make the interviewer an accessory to illegal activity. It was suggested that consent form include the words, 'I will maintain confidentiality to the extent allowable by law.'

Reliability: reliability of oral history as an acceptable and usable source was also discussed by many speakers. The ever present problem concerns both memory and the desire of interviewees to embroider or purify their stories. Consequently it is important to ensure that the oral history project is poly-vocal. Wherever possible it should be contextualised and supported by major research and cross referencing. Geoffrey Bolton, in discussing the problems of reconciling the very different opinions of Paul Hasluck, considered that, while we need to look for other corroboration and to investigate carefully the nature of the people presenting the opinions, we must still be mindful of the genuine variation of opinion and not seek some artificial definitive answer.

Process: some interesting variations between historians concerned the need for a preliminary interview. Frank Heimans' practice was to have an unrecorded preliminary session and he considered that this was essential to building rapport and eventually provided a better taped interview. He allowed several weeks to elapse before the final interview. He also saw great value in logging, as opposed to transcribing, interviews as the logs provide the themes.

Product: Arguments concerned what the actual product was. Perhaps the primary product is the taped, unedited interview and all else is secondary use of the product. But transcription is also part of the product. To transcribe or not transcribe was a much debated question. If left as tapes, the historical project may go nowhere. However, simple transcription does not provide context or interpretive framework. Moreover, transcription is not the original document; the taped interview is. Pauses, tears, tone are difficult to convey in the transcript. The verbatim transcript is also suspect as it is frequently edited to avoid the many facets of oral discourse which are annoying in a written form. There is also the

problem of dealing with interviewees who, when checking their transcripts, do not want themselves represented by the colloquial text. However, if this is not retained, the transcript loses the dynamism of the interview.

Many historians [and this particularly applied to those who worked in the media or as curators of museums] wanted to enhance the product to present it in an accessible form. To do so, it was suggested that oral historians download protocols for compilation tapes from a free source, www.digidesign.com. In the resulting compilation tapes, it is possible to add narrative and music. However, when editing the tape and/or transcript or making a compilation tape, the historian must be clear about the principles on which such editing was made.

Although I have not directly discussed them here, the papers presented were interesting and informative. Fortunately they are available from the Oral History Association. Some have already been published in *From All Quarters*, OHAA, Journal 2003, Number 25.

We need oral history projects now because these will pre-empt loss through death. Their ongoing production is also important because, once a heritage project is underway, the time for completion is always constrained and oral history projects are time-consuming. So, if in doubt, get to it!

Annette Salt



MOVE OF ORIGINAL ARCHIVES TO KINGSWOOD

State Records is advising stakeholders that because of funding constraints relating to accommodation in State Records' city premises it has become necessary to reduce the city tenancy and move the small quantity of archival material remaining in the city, to Kingswood.

The records series being moved include convict records, land records to 1856, lower court records, pre-1824 Supreme Court records, pre-1901 criminal records, Aborigines Welfare Board records, and the records of the Colonial Secretary.

It is anticipated that all the records will be at Kingswood by the end of January 2004 and that the Colonial Secretary's records will be the last series to be moved.

It should be noted that there will be no changes to access arrangements and the archives will still be available in their entirety to the public at Kingswood.

State Records has an extensive, long term program to make the Colonial Secretary's archives more accessible and will continue with this major task to make these records as widely available as possible, particularly through the forty Community Access Points State Records has established around NSW.

State Records regrets the inconvenience this move will cause and suggests that potential users should contact our Reading Room on (02) 96731788 to check the location of the records and the progress of the move before coming to the city reading room.

**If you would like to discuss any aspect of this matter,
please feel free to contact Alan Ventress on (02) 92478653**

PHA MEMBER'S BOOKLAUNCH

The latest book by Sue Rosen, *Government House Parramatta 1788-2000* (Caroline Simpson, Sydney 2003) was launched at a reception held by the Governor Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shenhadie at Government House on 13 October 2003. One hundred guests celebrated the achievement of producing the book. As many of the guests were family and friends of Caroline Simpson, it was a celebration touched by sadness that she did not live to see this last, and most lavish, of the books she published.

Sue's book is subtitled *A History of the Governors, their home and its domain Parramatta Park* and is the product of archival research spread over five years. Sue intensively consulted the relevant primary sources here and in Britain and the result is a superb production with over 200 photographs and an accompanying CD with detailed appendices so that the research can be followed up by other historians.

In her talk at the launch, Sue outlined the importance of Old Government House and Parramatta Park as an immensely important, and comparatively neglected, site of cultural, social and economic significance to Australia. She took the opportunity to stress the need to involve historians in our heritage and the maintenance of such places as Old Government House and Parramatta Park. That historians could be excluded, and the problems of such exclusion, appeared to be news to many in the audience.

I expect that a review of this work will appear in *Phanfare* in due course, but in the meanwhile if you wish to buy this collectors' item, limited (to 500) edition, contact Sue Rosen or Customer Service on phone 9828 0127.

Judith Godden.

MEMBER UPDATE

For those of you who have been following the adventures of PHA member Alison Comrie, we are both pleased and saddened to inform you that she has moved to New Zealand. Not surprisingly, she has mesmerised the Kiwi population of Christchurch, and within days of her arrival became the star reporter for the New Zealand Army.

Alison promises to become our new trans-Tasman correspondent. We look forward to hearing from her soon.

COMMISSIONING A HISTORY

When an organisation such as a surf club, council, hospital or waste disposal depot commissions a history, it is usually a 'one off'. As the exercise is unlikely to be repeated the commissioning body often struggles in unfamiliar territory. While some acquit themselves admirably, others do not. By the time the history is ready to be launched the organisation has usually been through a steep learning curve. Sometimes the lessons learnt are passed onto other organisations, sometimes not. Often the same mistakes are repeated in different contexts.

In *Phanfare* earlier this year I commented on the need for the PHA to be involved in advising commissioning bodies and suggested that senior historians could help write briefs, assist with 'culls' and participate in interview panels. This would make a very worthwhile voluntary contribution to the PHA and help commissioning bodies avoid some of the pitfalls commonly encountered in commissioning histories.

How not to do it

Historians applying to undertake a commissioned history should watch out for:

- **The brief from hell** usually requires that the historian do everything themselves (including indexing and proofreading) and cover every conceivable aspect of the organisation's history - for very little money. Local government briefs of this ilk look as if they are also used for road or garbage contractors. An anniversary/centenary is usually fast approaching and the time frame is unrealistically tight.
- **The Ben Hur interview panel** has a cast of thousands. So many varied interests need to be represented that if there are one or two members of the panel who actually know anything about history, it is a miracle. The interview focuses on peripheral issues and you leave the room convinced that while one quiet little panellist may have read some of your work, no one else has – certainly not anyone with authority.
- **The communication black hole.** As the application is never acknowledged those who don't make it to the short list are completely in the dark until the whole process is over. Those who do score an interview usually find out that they were unsuccessful at the next PHA function or in the Mitchell reading room. Feedback (if any) for unsuccessful candidates is so wide of the mark that you wonder if anyone read your resume. A recent refinement of the communication black hole is that no information is divulged because it is all 'commercial in confidence' – a phrase we seem to hear a lot these days in NSW.

How to do it

Considering that these are only some of the horror stories heard in professional history circles with regard to commissioned work, it is satisfying to report that the City of Sydney's recent commissioning of a history of Glebe avoided these pitfalls.

The Glebe brief was straightforward, clearly stated what was required, with eligibility for membership of the PHA a requirement. In fact this commission was advertised only through the PHA email network and the Glebe Society. There was no 'communication black hole' and those who did not make the short list received a courteous letter a few days after submissions closed.

A panel of three, all with suitable expertise, conducted interviews - no cast of thousands was needed. The interview was pleasant, informal but completely professional. Discussion of remuneration and a timetable for completing the work indicated that this was a carefully considered but flexible project. Within a week unsuccessful candidates were informed of the panel's decision. Not surprisingly a local PHA member with many years of research and publication in the history of Glebe was chosen.

The fact that there is an in-house historian at the City of Sydney means that it has a much greater chance of 'getting it right' than other commissioning bodies. Obviously most organisations do not have this 'luxury' and need to lean on outside expertise if they wish to commission a history successfully. This is why it is important for the PHA to offer the help of a senior historian in the early stages of the commissioning process. It would be good to see more straightforward pertinent briefs, insightful culls and well-conducted interviews so that briefs from hell and Ben Hur interview panels become a thing of the past. Of course an organisation does not need PHA advice or expertise to avoid the communication black hole. This is simply common courtesy.

Members should 'keep an ear to the ground' with regard to any forthcoming commissioned histories. Keep the executive informed and we will try to ensure that the PHA has a presence on the commissioning body. There is a wealth of talent and expertise amongst our members and former members, some of whom have moved on but who wish to retain contact with the organisation. Certainly enough to help commissioning bodies 'get it right.' Tactful constructive advice to bodies commissioning histories will help to promote all professional historians and raise the profile of our organisation.

Finally, congratulations to PHA member Max Solling on his selection to write the history of Glebe - from one of the unsuccessful applicants.

Pauline Curby

LAST WORD

Yes, this is just an excuse to have a few cocktails over the Christmas period, but did you know that cocktails possibly originated in New York, or was it England, or perhaps Mexico? Actually, there are many stories about the origin of cocktails. One story is that a barmaid called Betsy, who worked in a tavern in Hall's Corners, New York, served her own mixed drink recipe cocktail called 'Betsy's Bracers' to the American and French soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

Another story tells of a mixed drink recipe called 'cock's ale' that was consumed during cockfights during the colonial period. This particular drink was prepared with a mixture of ale, into which a sack of par-boiled chicken, raisins, mace and brown sugar was mixed. It was then left for nine days to ferment before drinking.

Originating in Santo Domingo and popularised in New Orleans, *The Saverac* is also cited as the first cocktail. This drink was invented by Antoine Amedee Peychaud, the creator of Peychaud Bitters. Peychaud opened a drugstore in New Orleans and apparently served drinks to his friends in a 'coquetier', the French word for an egg cup. Mispronouncing coquetier, the word gradually became 'cocktail'.

Searching on the internet, there are 101 stories of where and when the cocktail was first served, with every country claiming the honours. Whatever its origins, the stories are certain to be more creative and lively after sampling a few. Here are a couple cocktail recipes to take you through Christmas and the New Year.

Vodka Sazerac*

2 parts vodka
3 drops Pernod
2 drops angostura bitters
top up lemonade
1 sugar cube
3 ice cubes

Put the sugar cube into an glass and shake the bitters on to it. Add the pernod to the glass and swirl it. Drop in the ice cubes and pour in the vodka. Top up with lemonade and stir gently.

(And as an example of cross-cultural exchange, here is the recipe for a cocktail I sampled at a jazz bar in Newport while attending a very educational historic architectural summer school in the United States earlier this year.)

Raspberry Lemonade**

1 tall glass with ice
1 shot of GOOD vodka (Stoli, Absolute, Grey Goose etc)
1 shot of Chambord Liqueur (Black raspberry flavour)

Fill almost to top with sweet and sour mix. Top off with lemonade or lemon-lime equivalent.

* From www.cocktail.uk.com

** Kindly provided by a future professor in Kentucky, USA. Thanks DB.

PHA NSW DIRECTORY 2002-2003

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<i>Public History Review</i>	Paul Ashton [PHA Editor] Tel 9181 3330 Address PO Box 219 Leichhardt NSW 2040 Australia
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PHA

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

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www.historians.org.au (national)
www.phansw.org.au (state)

WEB PAGE PUBLICATIONS

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PHA NSW Register of Consulting Historians
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A Guide to the PHA NSW Web Site

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