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PHANFARE
Christmas Wrap Issue



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This issue was produced by the Hills District Group consisting of Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, Carol Liston, and Karen Schamberger.

President's Report

It is pleasing to see the revised PHA NSW internet website up and running – www.phansw.org.au. The design matches our new brochures, bookmarks and stationery, and is part of our plan to give a fresher look to PHA publications. Check that your name is correctly recorded in the membership list, and is included on the consultants' register if you are undertaking commissioned historical research. The new logo on which our designs are based was prepared by our national body, the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA), to provide a consistent style for all the state PHAs. A new website is being developed for ACPHA itself, intended to make it easier to navigate as well as presenting a more dynamic image.

Our mobile display of members' publications is also developing well. Twenty members have donated copies of their books or reports, and this together with panels showing covers and promotional leaflets for other books they have written makes an impressive sample

of the range of work we undertake. This will be supplemented next year by a "Showcase" publication with examples of members' work in different genres. The aim of these innovations is to make professional historians more visible to prospective clients, other historians, and the community at large.

Those of us who attended the PHA Christmas Party at History House had a most enjoyable evening. Social events such as the Christmas Party and our 'Christmas in July' are valuable not only for the pleasure of talking to other history practitioners, but also because they provide opportunities to informally compare notes about the highs and lows of our daily work, in a relaxing atmosphere.

An extensive program of Continuing Professional Development activities is being prepared for 2008 – you will receive details well before each function. The planned topics are quite varied, so there should be something of interest to every member. When you are talking to prospective employers or clients it is important for your credibility to be able to say that you participate regularly in such activities – for many professions it is nowadays mandatory to undertake continuing professional development in order to retain accreditation. Historians have not reached this stage yet, but it is probably inevitable; make sure that you are not left behind.

I want to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation to all the members of the PHA Management Committee, who have worked as a productive team throughout 2007. Finally, I want to wish all PHA members a safe and happy Christmas season, and a most stimulating and rewarding year of historical research in 2008.

Peter J. Tyler President

Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities Conference

Migration, connection, heritage and cultural memory

Flinders University 3-6 December 2007

A young Kurdish woman tells her story – imprisonment at the hands of Saddam Hussein's regime, torture and her eventual escape to Jordan. It is when she speaks about her daughter's life threatening illness that she breaks down. After a pause, she continues with the story of her migration to Australia and the story of discrimination she has faced in the small South Australian town of Mount Gambier. This is why she tells her story, over and over again to strangers, in the hope that it will bring understanding of not just her story but the stories of refugees and asylum seekers all over Australia.

This impromptu 'story telling' happened in a workshop at the conference called 'The Power of Storying'. The workshop presented a number of speakers from collaborators, to those who collect oral histories and display migrants' artworks as a way of advocating their cause - to reduce discrimination and bring attention to the treatment of asylum seekers in Australian detention centres. Unfortunately, there was little time left for group discussion but the talks shed light on the ethics of conducting oral history, the relationship between collaborator and subject and the power of personal stories in both continuing traditions and connecting with the new culture. This was just one workshop held on the last day of the *Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities* conference.

"Migration of peoples between and within cultures has shaped the world as we know it. The mass migrations of the last two to three hundred years have seen millions leave one country or continent for another – sometimes willingly, often not."¹

More than 300 participants from all over the world descended on Adelaide for this conference which was diverse, creative and very intense with up to eight concurrent sessions at any one time. Papers were organised into four sub themes of "Creative Responses to Migration", "Migration and Identity", "Politics of Global People Flow", and "Transnationalism, Identity and Connection".

With a large number of concurrent sessions over three days, I could only sample a few of the papers on offer and will outline a small number here. The fourth day was dedicated to a series of workshops.

The theme of "Creative Responses to Migration" included many papers on the literature, theatre, art and films about migration. For example, sociologist Keith Jacobs turned to literary fiction to explore the complex emotions surrounding migration that might not be possible in traditional academic writing. The boundaries of fiction, autobiography and non-fiction are often blurred in relation to self-identity. Graham Tulloch explored the role of literature in maintaining Lowland Scottish identity in 19th century Australia through place and house names drawn from Scottish literature, the writing of Scots-language texts in Australia, the

¹ L. Leader Eliot, "Forward", *Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities Conference Program*, (Flinders University, 3-6 December 2007), p.3

development of societies and events concerned with the ‘national bard’ Robert Burns, and the promotion of Scottish writers in Australia through literary criticism and essays.

Maria Zeiss examined the source of cultural memory brought to Australia by immigrants from Sardinia and Sicily whose heritage of the visual arts was used to document the landscape they left and the new landscape of Australia.

“Migration and Identity” was another significant theme running through many of the papers with some of the presenters also analysing their own heritage as in the case of the next two papers. Danielle Drozdowski spoke about the transmission of cultural memory amongst Polish migrants and their descendants. From her interviewees Danielle concluded that Polishness was a continuum of experience with children learning stories from their grandparents, although these stories often varied in great detail from the original telling. She particularly examined ‘macabre’ events such as genocide and the holocaust which ‘echo’ through the generations. Families created private spaces localising memory, reconstructing Polish identity in diaspora.

Michelle Burns analysed the experience of Eurasian identity through the Burghers – Dutch/ Sri Lankans who had trouble explaining what they were in Australia. She analysed the home decoration of a number of women and noticed that they used artefacts to express their identity, both consciously and unconsciously – one woman specially selecting ‘Asian’ artefacts in her former home of Malaysia to bring a piece of Asia with her when she migrated to Australia.

I spoke about a collection of Latvian national dresses recently donated to the National Museum of Australia by Lidija Buduls and her family. Made by Lidija in Riga and Sydney, her mother, her daughters and various members of the Sydney Latvian community between 1926 and 1968, the three dresses are tangible reminders of Latvian heritage as it is passed on through three generations of women in the one family as well as the community’s efforts to continue their traditions in a new land. My colleague Laina Hall spoke about a Canadian Alexander Mussen and his experiences and tragic death in the NSW gold fields town of Piramal, near Mudgee in the early 1860s. His letters and the letters and surrounding the circumstances of his death reveal ongoing connections with family and place through communication and provide a story of redemption and the desire to commemorate someone lost to the other side of the world. To round our session we heard from Moya McFadzean from Museum Victoria who talked about the challenges of choosing migration stories – the personal and the public - and how to tell them in a museum environment.

“Politics of Global People Flow” included papers about terrorism, diasporic communities and overseas adoption. One paper by Sara Willis examined place-making at migrant hostels in Australia. Bonegilla, in particular is held up as a defining example of “the beginning place” for many migrants who arrived in Australia after World War II. In Australian and migrant memory, she sees this as an extension of colonialism and a kind of ‘dreaming’ story. According to Willis, Bonegilla appears as the most ‘finished’ place whereas other migrant hostels she has seen such as Wiltona, just outside Melbourne are unfinished, industrial sites with demountables, Nissan Huts and a temporary atmosphere. Hostels were always placed on the edges of cities of agricultural areas, as places midway between the old world and the new.

“Transnationalism, Identity and Connection” included papers about Australian multiculturalism – critiques and how it has been presented, social mobility, cosmopolitan communities and identity and youth. I particularly enjoyed Robin Chee’s paper about Malaysian Chinese youths in Singapore. Forty-Four percent of foreigners in Singapore are

Malaysian Chinese leaving Malaysia because of discriminatory policies towards them and geographical proximity. There is often a lack of Malaysian Chinese diasporic space unlike other communities, such as Indians. There is also an assumption of similarities and assimilation. However, the Malaysian-Chinese speak with Malaysian accented English and Mandarin and are treated differently from Singapore Chinese. This has led in part to the use of technology to carve separate spaces, virtual worlds, in a 'localised-foreign' land.

Encompassing all four themes of the conference were the plenary sessions which included a paper by Susannah Radstone about what the historical imagination can tell us. A paper by Francois Burgat who talked about the over-theologising of the West's understanding of Islam and the Arabic speaking world. His point was that the more we blame terrorism on Islam the less we see the mundane roots of its cause and the less we are able to deal with it. Interestingly, Burgat pointed out that it is the West's current hegemony over world affairs which will prove its downfall – the world is learning to speak English – becoming at least bilingual, if not multilingual but in English speaking countries we are monolingual, able to communicate only with each other and not with the majority of the world's population. The last plenary session of the conference was a very moving paper by Dr Malathi De Alwis about landscapes of loss in Sri Lanka due to civil war. She talked about 'tracing absent presence' where photos and objects of the person lost were seen as evidence of a physical presence when people were 'disappeared'. This was a very strong aspect of the conference, how can telling the stories of migrants can we make a more migrant friendly community, how can we as academics, social workers, members of society, advocate their cause. Overall, the conference was interesting, enjoyable and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the varied aspects of migration. I look forward to seeing some of the papers published in future.

Karen Schamberger
National Museum of Australia

Forthcoming Conference

Penrith City Library - The Makings of a City History Conference: A Social Snapshot

Saturday 8 March 2008, 9 am - 5 pm - Nepean Room Civic Centre, Penrith \$30.

Great speakers, good food, and a whole lot of history on our City. And I am sure you will learn something new about our history.

Please contact lstack@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au or Alison Spencer alisons@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au for a booking form.

Exploring the Colonial Secretary's Records

Researching the Colonial Secretary's records may present many challenges, but they are undoubtedly the historian's friend, said Christine Yeats, when introducing the latest CPD workshop on November 10.

Christine, Manager of Public Access at State Records NSW, distributed two Archives in Brief information sheets available from State Records and online

- No 64 – An introduction to the Colonial Secretary's correspondence
- No 65 – The indexes and registers to the Colonial Secretary's correspondence, 1826 – 1996

She also distributed a four page print-out, which outlined the steps in her detailed presentation. Following are some of the points she raised.

Records from 1788 to 1810 are limited, but after the arrival of Governor Macquarie, record keeping improved and the duties of John Thomas Campbell, his secretary, increased. Governors were initially responsible for the arrival of convicts and the control of the penal establishment, but by 1856 their responsibilities had expanded enormously and included the Surveyor General's office and immigration.

Not all records have survived, but references to them often have. The breadth of an issue is often revealed through the index, though the record should always be checked, too. When searching by keywords, remember the difference between 19th century and contemporary language e.g. "Aborigines" and the current "Aboriginals".

Petitions often give details about individuals, not just convicts. They may have information about imports, exports, trade, EIC monopoly. They may refer to places, the construction of roads and the development of gardens. Colonial Secretary's Aboriginal records are very important up to Federation, but less important after Federation, when Commonwealth matters separate off and some become a matter for Premier's records. When needing information to request a record, always read every single line of a reference in a register.

Land has always been an important issue and the demand initially far outstripped surveys. On Surveyor General's maps, little notations are often very helpful, because the records don't stand in isolation. Land and Surveyor General's Office records are very important and field books may even contain little drawings. Complexities increase after 1856, beginning with the passage of Robertson land legislation.

Examples of other sources in the index to the Colonial Secretary's letters about land, include Petitions with subheadings like Inhabitants, Schools and Hotels. Often the earliest hotel licence indicates when a place was established. School records can be helpful, because they were established when there was sufficient population. Most of those records are now in separate school files.

Sometimes letters were extracted from the Colonial Secretary's records between 1826 and 1982 to create "Special Bundles". Christine said it is impossible to generalise on what constitutes a "Special Bundle", but they include subjects like blanket returns for Aborigines and key criminal cases. If correspondence can't be found in the main series, these may well provide a fruitful source.

In the Colonial Secretary's correspondence, nothing is ever easy, Christine said. But even if a letter received is lost, there may still be a copy of the letter sent repeating the contents of the letter received. If the issue is sufficiently important, beginning with Governor Darling, there may be a parallel series of Minutes and Memoranda, which are indexed. "It never hurts to check the indexes," Christine said.

In 1831, a Court of Claims was established to resolve the difficulties created by individuals being promised land, but not possessing titles. These claims were often not resolved until the early 20th century and can be searched via indexes. An unusual but sometimes valuable source of information is Plays submitted for Approval . . . Performed. There is a full list on the website submitted from about 1844 and extended to include films from 1908. While it was a form of censorship, it is also a living social history and literary record. Full texts are held by State Records.

Although researching the records is never easy, Christine said, be prepared to persevere, think laterally, note even the most obscure notations on a record and remember that staff are there to help.

Christine can be contacted for assistance – phone 8247 8617, fax 8247 8604, or email accman@records.nsw.gov.au

Katherine Knight

Family History Fair

Sunday 9 March 2008, 10am - 4 pm at Penrith City Library, 601 High Street Penrith. The Library opens at 10 am.

This first email is an invitation to join us at our Family History Fair in the Sydney region. It is being held at Penrith City Library in their very spacious lower lounge area and Theatrette. State Records will be there providing short talks throughout the day.

Trade tables are available. We would appreciate to hear of your intentions asap. Tables will be \$10 each. **Entry is free for stall holders** and a gold coin donation for others.

To book a table/s please **contact:** Judy McLeod at jmcleod@exemail.com.au

There is **easy parking** in the Civic Centre carpark and drop off to the area is easy. Penrith Plaza is next door. Plenty of food available, either in the Library, or next door in the Plaza. Stall holders will have access to free tea and coffee facilities all day.

We are hoping to get a great crowd along and a great variety of trade tables. This is a **great opportunity to promote your Society/group**. We would love to see you there.

Christmas gift suggestions for girls wishing to please affectionate relations and true friends

(Useful advice found on pages 148 and 149, Girl's Own Paper, Vol. VIII – No. 362, December 4, 1886, and with instructions for their manufacture.)

“For a small present, costing at the utmost one shilling, the fashionable little ‘hold-all bags’ are good. These bags are four in number, and are connected together only at the top; they are filled with odds and ends, such as buttons and silks, until they stand upright and all of a row, and they find conspicuous place among drawing room nick-nacks. . . .

“The present method for concealing flowerpots when required for drawing room decoration makes another simple but acceptable present. This is a bag of plush into which the pot is put. . . .

“From America comes to us a novelty in bedroom decoration, and one very suitable as a present to a young lady who uses her bedroom as a sitting-room and likes it prettily decorated. This is known as a ‘pillow sham’, and is a long strip of linen or cambric ornamented with lace and ribbons, and laid over the top part of the bed in the daytime only. . . .

“Palm-leaf fans still find favour as drawing-room fans, but are no longer left undecorated

“Blotting-book covers of velveteen are always acceptable presents. . . .

“Large photograph holders can easily be made at home. . . .

“Bachelors’ wall pincushions are useful presents for gentlemen. They are made of plush, and are ornamented with the perforated brass ornament used about the harness of cart-horses. . . .

“The newest decoration for white wooden articles is the poker or burnt-wood work. This consists of burning down the background of any design so that the design itself is in relief. . . .”

So there you are – to the girls among us – some great ideas and still time to enjoy “this secrecy, this planning and this patient work.”

Happy Christmas!

Katherine Knight

History Advisory Panel of NSW Heritage Office – Meeting of 15 November 2007

Matters discussed

Strategic Projects for 2007-2010

Members of the panel adopted different projects as their responsibility.

Heritage Act Review

Little feedback has been received from the Review Panel to date.

National Heritage Nomination strategy

Panel suggested an approach

DEW issue a triennial set of themes or typologies for eliciting NHL nominations. These themes could take into account factors such as

- Themes of current interest in developing a Tentative List for World Heritage nominations,
- Themes of current interest within the period of ‘Living memory’, such as post-World War Two migration,
- Upcoming anniversaries,
- Themes arising from current or completed thematic studies commissioned by DEW, notably pastoralism, town planning, mapping the coast, Australia at war,
- Themes that allow for metropolitan, suburban and regional distinctiveness to be explored.

Rum Rebellion bicentenary

There seems little possibility of finding suitable projects to link with this event since most of the built heritage of that era has been demolished but the possibility of flagging SHR/LEP items associated with the event was suggested.

State Arms Centenary online exhibition

The success of this has been outstanding as an exhibition as shown by the number of online visitors. It could serve as a model for future web exhibitions.

Women Transported Exhibition

Panel heard a report about the planned exhibition linking all the female factories across the penal colonies and the way in which the project was deepening understanding of the different convict experiences across Australia. It has successfully located some artefacts associated with them and has encouraged further searching for items associated with the factories.

Terry Kass

National Archives of Australia – Sydney Office Consultative Forum Meeting 4 December 2007

1. NAA is now part of the Department of Finance and De-regulation under the Special Minister of State, John Faulkner.
2. Sydney Office has now assessed 6 km of VDR (Valuable Discontinued Records – "orphan" records who no longer have an agency responsible for them). Most of them were assessed as being valuable and will be retained.
3. Sydney Office has recently received a large quantity of AV records to ensure that they had appropriate storage.
4. "Who Do You Think You Are?" a successful TV programme promoting genealogy will screen its Australian segment in the New Year. NAA will hold an event informing people of the genealogical resources of the NAA. It also plans to release a publication using NAA records to research the ancestors of some famous Australians.
5. Post Office digitisation project of files in SP 32/1 has almost reached the end of the alphabet in conservation work and has digitised records as far as "Gundurimba Part 2".
6. Digitisation of records in RecordSearch is now nearing its 20,000,000th image.
7. The NAA website has been re-organised.
8. The "Uncommon Lives" website featuring NAA records of certain Australians was released on 29 August.
9. The 1977 Cabinet Papers were released on 4 December and selected parts will go on the NAA website on 1 January 2008.
10. On 13 November, heritage grants were awarded to 85 recipients to undertake conservation work or assessment of their collections.
11. To assist small community archives, the NAA recently published *Keep it for the future!* a 64-page guide outlining policies, procedures and giving suitable advice. This retails at \$4.95, a bargain by any standard.
12. The Director of the Sydney Office, Colin McTaggart, announced that he would be going on leave in early 2008 prior to retirement so he wished the forum well. His role in overseeing and steering the forum and his ready willingness to listen to the concerns of users was applauded and he was wished an enjoyable retirement by the forum.

Terry Kass

Some New “Original” Sources

Getting access to copies of original sources has always been vital for historians. This often meant a trip to libraries, which held older publications, such as State Libraries, the Mitchell or National Library or, alternately, a visit to the archive. More recently, with the boom in computer technology, a host of older primary sources have been made available. Some of them are available on-line such as the digitised newspapers for the 1840s.

The development of computer software programmes which enables you to take a picture of a source so it can be viewed in PDF format on all types of machines has ensured that large range of sources which are rare or difficult to access are now readily available.

One of the major providers of PDF copies of original sources is the firm ArchiveCD Books that operates from South Australia. It has been copying old out of copyright publications and making them available for sale as PDF documents. Their choice of publications has sometimes been a little idiosyncratic, but is partially governed by what is made available to them. They have selected a range of original publications, which been aimed at the genealogist or family history researcher but are very useful for the historian. As PDF documents, they are true to the original, typographical errors and all.

The firm has recently made available the *Aldine Centennial History of NSW* for 1888, a key publication that was issued in regional variants including local biographies. Their version has 11 variant regional sections, making it a key source for the regional and local historian. Similarly, their issue of the 1906 *Cyclopedia of NSW* is very useful, since it contains long sections about business, government departments, and professional organisations plus biographical data about businessmen, government officials, and professional men, mainly from Sydney.

A range of directories has been digitised and made available for sale. They include pastoral directories, lists of school teachers, and religious directories. However, the project that really sets them apart from the ruck of general publishers is a project to digitise the *Police Gazette* and the *Government Gazettes*. For NSW, they have digitised the *New South Wales Government Gazette* for 1832-1845; 1847; 1850; 1855; 1865 and 1875. They also offer the *NSW Police Gazette* from 1862 to 1910.

These PDFs can be bought as individual volumes or as full or partial sets. Standing orders are available with a discount.

Their web address is <http://www.archivecdbooks.com.au/>.

Terry Kass

What's On in History

Prepared by [Christine de Matos](#)

DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008

Exhibitions

'History Begins at Home Exhibition'. *Until 7 December. Venue: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.*

'Convict hulks: Life on the prison ships'. *Until end 2007. Venue: Museum of Sydney.*

'Tough men, hard times: policing the depression'. *Until 10 February 2008. Venue: Justice and Police Museum.*

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

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

Events December

- 1 *Walking tour. 'Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-1pm Cost: \$25, mem/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org*
- 3-5 **Conference.** *'Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities: a conference about migration, connection, heritage and cultural memory'*, Flinders University, Adelaide. **Enquiries:** web: <http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/events/movingcultures.html>
- 5 **Lecture.** *'Lighthouses of Australia'*. With Ian Clifford. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 5 **Walking tour.** *'Sydney Architecture Walks'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org
- 5-6 **Conference.** *'Victorian Women's Suffrage and Political Citizenship conference'*, University of Melbourne. **Enquiries:** Judith Smart email: jsmart@unimelb.edu.au.
- 8 **Special Event.** *'Carols by Candlelight'*. HHT. **Venue:** Elizabeth Farm **Time:** open 6pm, carols 7.30pm **Cost:** free **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 10-14 **Conference.** *'New Worlds, New Sovereignties Conference'*, Melbourne. **Enquiries:** email: newworlds@newsovereignties.org; web: <http://www.newsovereignties.org>
- 12-14 **Conference.** *'Governing by Looking Back: How History Matters in Society, Politics and Government. First Annual Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference'*. Australian National University. **Enquiries:** <http://rsss.anu.edu.au/themes/conference.php>

Events January

- 2 *Walking tour. 'Sydney Architecture Walks'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$25, mem/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org*
- 5 *Walking tour. 'Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-1pm Cost: \$25, mem/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at www.sydneyarchitecture.org*

- 19 *Workshop. 'Genealogy and the Public Trustee NSW'. With Caroline Gage. SAGS. Venue: Richmond Villa, 120 Kent St Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$22, mems \$18 Bookings essential: web: <http://www.sag.org.au/downloads/act07q3.pdf>*

Upcoming Conferences

'9th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference: Sea Change? Historical responses to new and renewed urban landscapes', *2-7 February 2008, University of the Sunshine Coast. Enquiries: email: cmconvi@usc.edu.au; web: <http://www.api-network.com/main/pdf/calendar/Conference2008> Callfo.pdf*

'1968 Forty Years On: an interdisciplinary symposium on history, politics and society', *8 February 2008, Melbourne Historical Journal and Eras, University of Melbourne. Enquiries: email: Eras@arts.monash.edu.au.*

Call for Papers

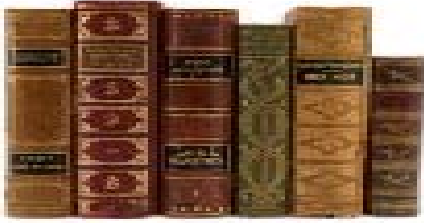
'Nations, Diasporas, Identities', *27-30 March 2008, Victoria University of Wellington. Due by 15 December 2007. Enquiries: email: brad.patterson@vuw.ac.nz; web: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/stout-centre/research-units/issp/conferences/conf-nations.aspx>*

'Locating History: Australian Historical Association Biennial Conference', *7-10 July 2008, University of Melbourne. Proposals for papers and panels etc due by 31 December 2007. Enquiries: email: aha-info@unimelb.edu.au*

'The Centenary Conference of Rugby League in Australia', *7-8 November 2008, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. Abstracts of 250 words due by 1 March 2008, full paper for publication by 1 May 2008. Enquiries: Andrew Moore, email: A.Moore@uws.edu.au*

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

***What's On* is also on the web at <http://www.historians.org.au/whatson.html>**



LIBRARY REPORT

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

PHA PERIODICALS

emPhatic: Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association, Tasmania Inc. No 35, September 2007

In her President's Report for 2006-2007, Dianne Snowdon refers to the difficulty of keeping the Tasmanian PHA alive. There are only 15 financial members and, like all such organisations, the burden falls on a small committed group but they need more than that for an AGM quorum. In Sydney, most of us just have to catch a bus or drive into the city for our annual meeting. In Tasmania, members from Launceston and the north have to make a special trip.

The incoming president is Richard Tuffin who for many years has been an effective voice as their ACPHA delegate. The new Executive hopes to raise the PHA Tas profile by contributing to local heritage and planning debates. Email meetings will be abolished in favour of two annual face-to-face meetings & issues will be circulated to members for comment as they arise

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa. Vol 13, No 2, August 2007

This issue focuses on the *Making History in Public Conference* at Massey University in Wellington at the end of June 2007. It was a trans-Tasman affair and there are photos of NSW President Peter Tyler and Vice President Pauline Curby as well as Queensland and Victorian representatives.

It sounds like one of those "wish I'd been there" events. Pauline has given us her report in an earlier *Phanfare*. In this issue, some of the 100 attendees describe the various takes on "public history" presented during this interesting weekend, including Peter Tyler who was impressed by the vitality of New Zealand public history and the number of young historians taking part. Pauline and Peter took part in the final session, a "Trans-Tasman Public History Roundtable"

discussing issues and challenges faced by historians in the public arena. Another participant was Sonia Jennings from PHA Vic who reports on the conference in *Pharos* for September 2007.

PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 48, September 2007; No 49, November 2007

In September 2007, PHA Vic sponsored a hugely successful session - *The Many Lives of Marvellous Melbourne* - at the Melbourne Writers Festival. Chaired by ABC Radio National's Michelle Rayner, the panel included Richard Aitken (garden history & green spaces), Stella Barber (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra), Andrew Lemon (sporting obsessions & the Melbourne-Sydney rivalry), and Clare Wright (Melbourne's pubs & history as a recurring notion).

As always, PHA Vic has had a full CPD program with recent lectures or workshops on such diverse topics as Significance Assessment, Writing History, Marketing and Promotion, Setting up your own Website, and a review of members' current work.

As well as being active in their association, several PHA Vic members have been involved in recent publications. These include *They are but Women: the road to female suffrage in Victoria* (Suffrage City Press, University of Melbourne) which was launched by former Premier Joan Kirner AM, *Crescendo, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 years* (by Stella M Barber), *Olims Hotel Canberra: through the Ages*, by Sarah Rood with Belinda Ensor, *Evolution through Innovation: a History of Marketing Education at Monash* (by Katherine Sheedy with Emma Russell), and *Dimmeys of Richmond: the Rise and Fall of a Family Company* (by Samuel Furphy).

RETROSPECT: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. Annual Review. August 2007

This is the annual overview of the PHA Victoria for 2006-2007. The incoming committee established its priorities as assessing the services it provides to members and raising the PHA profile. An indication of the healthy state of PHA Vic is *Pharos*, produced monthly by the multi-skilled Katherine Sheedy and always filled with interesting and informative material. Other highlights of the PHA calendar are the frequent CPD sessions that provide members with new research skills and enable them to get together.

All the reports in *Retrospect* indicate that the organization is travelling well. Of particular interest is the Employment Service Report. A total of 36 employment service notices, with 112 jobs, were sent out. These have been broken down into Commissioned histories (2), heritage work (35), oral histories (3), research work (10), lecturing & teaching (4), museum & exhibition work (31), archival work (8), and miscellaneous (19), i.e., education, public programmes, administrative, advisory boards, volunteer work. The PHA plans to further promote the professional skills of its members to potential employers.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office. Vol 14, No 2, Spring 2007

This issue celebrates the inclusion of the Sydney Opera House on the World Heritage List with reference to the often complex nomination process. This iconic structure was recommended by ICOMOS as “undoubtedly a world-renowned monument that traverses space and time”. There are now 851 properties on The List, including 660 cultural, 166 neutral and 25 mixed.

Heritage Office staff are now working on a Convict Sites nomination. This will include eleven sites – all on the National Heritage List – which, collectively, tell the overall convict story. More information is available at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

Two very significant projects highlight the extremes of heritage management. The NSW Government has set a target date of 2009 for the completion of heritage asset registers for 65 NSW agencies. This has prompted the University of Sydney to conserve the unique heritage buildings within its campus. Chris Legge-Wilkinson, manager of Heritage Policy and Projects, also sees his brief as including movable heritage, held in University Museums, the University Archives and the Library.

At the other extreme, the state’s humble but distinctive timber bridges are to be conserved. The Heritage Office is part of the Timber Bridge Task Force developing a strategy to retain these tangible records of the state’s engineering history.

Recent additions to the NSW State Heritage Register include Norah Head Lighthouse, the last of the colonial era light stations with its unique optical mechanisms. More unexpected inclusions are the Hermit’s Cave Complex near Griffith, the home of Italian Valerio Ricetti for years, and The Rooty Hill, because of its role as a government farm and an Aboriginal meeting place.

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA JOURNAL. No 27, 2005

Entitled *Talking Families, Talking Communities*, this is the annual journal of the Oral History Association of Australia, now edited by Francis Good, formerly of the NT Archives Service. As always, it covers a wide range of topics, including Aussie Rules in Darwin, Tjapukai renewal in Kuranda, the Sydney bushfires of 1904, Victoria’s mountain men, a report on the Ex-Political Detainee Forum at Singapore in 2006, and Using the Five Senses to Trigger Memory..

Carla Pascoe has bravely embarked on a study of attitudes to the formerly taboo subject of menstruation. Entitled ‘Silence and the History of Menstruation’, her article confirms that cultural discomfort with the subject remains, particularly among older women, while young women are much more frank in matters relating to the female body. As she writes: “The most profound insight gained through the project was an appreciation of the power of silence, which can communicate more loudly than words”.

Fittingly, Rosie Block, Oral History Librarian at the State Library of NSW, has provided a tribute to her old friend Richard Raxworthy, one of the country's most enthusiastic and pre-eminent oral historians. He died on Christmas Eve 2003 but his memory lives on in his many interviews, particularly of Harbour Bridge workers, held in his oral history collection at the Library.

VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia.
No 37, October 2007

I fear I might be missing the boat as far as digital technology is concerned. In May, Frank Heimans and Peter Rubinstein featured at the *Oral History goes Digital* conference and their presentations are reproduced here. ProTools, a program to be used on a laptop, sounds far too complex for me. Maybe I'd better investigate Peter's Edirol R-09, a hard drive digital recording device that, he claims, any idiot can use.

An interesting article by Colleen Hatterley's on 'Collecting Indigenous Oral History' is reproduced in this issue. She emphasises how essential it is to retain the Aboriginal vernacular and demonstrates this with two versions of a recorded interview with a stockman on the making of greenhide rope: one for Standard Australian English and the other retaining Aboriginal English.

An article with the intriguing title 'Reflections of an accidental oral historian' also got my attention. Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod used the testimony of survivors as a primary source for his study of a German-Jewish community under Nazism in the former German Democrat Republic. He has no training and it was not until he had nearly finished his PhD thesis – *Life under siege: the Jews of Magdeburg under Nazi Rule* – that he joined the Oral History Association. He also used archival material but it was the oral histories that enabled him to reconstruct events of the time.

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2007 NSW Premier's History Awards & History Fellowship Winners

The 2007 Awards and Fellowship winners were announced by the Minister for the Arts, the Hon Frank Sartor, at Government House, Sydney on 9 October 2007.

THE 2007 NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS

The annual NSW Premier's History Awards were instituted in 1997. They are intended to recognise and promote excellence in historical research, writing and presentation. Total prize money is \$90,000.

THE AUDIO/VISUAL HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

John Hughes

The Archive Project: the Realist Film Unit in Cold War Australia

Early Works – ABC TV

Unearthing the largely unknown history of maverick and labour-aligned filmmaking, distribution and exhibition in Melbourne after World War II, *The Archive Project* casts a sharp focus on a small part of the world. But in doing so, it gives startling insights into the history of nations, political beliefs and the development of filmmaking itself in the era just before television emerged to challenge all categories of public knowledge and discourse.

Produced with great craft and the determination of a detective, John Hughes' film continues the historical work pioneered by the subjects he investigates. Combing through archives to find previously unknown footage from the 1940s and '50s, synthesizing arguments in his own precise persona, interviewing men and women who devoted their youth to the pursuit of cinephilia and libertarian ardour, Hughes has retrieved a vivacious portion of history and, in so doing, has produced something rare and powerful: an exemplar of audiovisual history, told *in* cinematic form *about* cinematic form.

THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

Libby Robin

How a Continent Created a Nation

University of NSW Press Ltd

A highly original history of the complex relationships between nature and culture in Australia, *How a Continent Created a Nation* is also an impassioned call to weld them together for a sustainable future. Drawing on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, this important book examines the complex and shifting ways in which the natural world has been envisioned by people with keen interest in it – amateur and professional scientists, educationists and farmers, whose research and experience complement Aboriginal knowledge and cultural understandings.

With an astute eye for narrative significance, Libby Robin covers a broad temporal and spatial canvas, using crisply focused stories from a fascinating range of sites to support her arguments about the interplay between the natural and social characteristics of Australia. She interrogates the varied historical meanings of a cast of non-human 'characters', including the wattle, the

platypus, the lungfish, the pure Merino and the museum, to produce an intriguing reading of Australian national identity.

Robin communicates clearly, imaginatively and with authority. Her book is both provocative and inclusive, written with understanding of the failed aspirations of the past and with a sense of the profound urgency with which we need to address the task of finding new ways of dwelling in this land in a time of global change.

THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

Regina Ganter

Mixed Relations: Asian-Aboriginal Contact in North Australia

University of Western Australia Press

Regina Ganter's book gives a wonderful sense of the regional 'North' of Australia as a place layered with stories and entangled histories which challenge our understanding of mainstream Australian history, which is often generated from Sydney or Melbourne. *Mixed Relations* is a polyethnic history of Asian (Chinese, Filipinos, Malays, Japanese) migrants and their relationships with Australia's Indigenous people from Western Australia to the North Queensland coast as well as their respective encounters with colonial governments' management and policies.

In this well-produced account the poignant oral histories are matched by a range of historical and contemporary photographs that give the reader a sense of the strangeness and diversity of the communities who have lived across the top of this continent. It combines these with extensive documentary and archival research that charts the many obstacles which repressive governments introduced to prevent movement between groups, mixed marriages and reproduction. Ganter shows how these families and communities have survived to flourish against all odds. Her book makes a major contribution to our understanding of race relations in both Indigenous and Australian history. We see that our past is not just riven with a stark conflict between black and white but that relationships between different cultural groups have been rich and complex, just as identities have shifted according to circumstance.

THE GENERAL HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

Christopher Clark

Iron Kingdom: the Rise and Downfall of Prussia, 1600-1947

Allen Lane, Penguin Books Ltd

'The core of Germany is Prussia. There is the source of the recurring pestilence.' Thus argued Prime Minister Winston Churchill to British MPs at the height of the World War II struggle for mastery in Europe in 1943. Christopher Clark, author of a notable biography of Kaiser Wilhelm II, now gives us his completed survey of the rise and fall of this key European state over the full span of its existence. Founded from an unstable amalgam of disparate territories in the seventeenth century, the kingdom of Prussia under its Hohenzollern rulers thereafter became a renowned centre of military and intellectual innovation in the eighteenth century, the effective nucleus of the German nation state in the nineteenth century, and the supposed malign heartland of German militarism in the twentieth century.

The approach the author takes to his challenging subject is highly ambitious, combining traditional historical narratives about rulers and wars with more contemporary analysis of the economic, social, sexual and cultural foundations of state power. As a result, *Iron Kingdom* breaks new ground, not only by the comprehensiveness of its coverage, but also by the intellectual breadth of its understanding of the relation between the state and its culturally diverse population of subjects. It is, indeed, a model of how any such history ought now to be written and sets a new standard of expectation for historians of power and the state.

For the interested general reader the book makes accessible in compelling narrative form an enormous amount of information about a key player in modern European state power struggles. For the specialist European historian the book provides a stimulating demonstration of the diversity and contingency of the Prussian state-building experience – an antidote to the assumption that, somehow, Prussia embodied all that was wrong about German culture and aspiration. For the student of politics and international affairs the book presents a remarkably relevant case study of techniques for the marshalling and management of state power – a study of how it can be done, and of how it can slip away.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

John Nicholson

Songlines and Stone Axes: Transport, Trade and Travel in Australia

Allen & Unwin

Songlines and Stone Axes is a poignant and groundbreaking examination of the interaction between spiritual pathways of understanding and storytelling and distinct trade routes that clearly connected what are often believed to be disparate Aboriginal tribes. Facilitating trade and ceremonial exchange between Aboriginal people and those beyond Australia’s geographical borders, these relationships were developing long before the arrival of Europeans, highlighting networks of interaction and exchange evolving over thousands of years.

John Nicholson’s meticulous research is a key feature of this text, providing crucial factual detail while stimulating further questioning in the reader of the way the Aboriginal point of view has been represented in the past. He has taken on a powerful and complex subject and presented it in a way that is accessible, understandable and thought provoking.

This is not merely a factual recount of the associations existing between Aboriginal tribes but a narrative insight into the formation of a people and a civilization that functioned within a distinct set of spiritual and ceremonial rituals and beliefs. Challenging many contemporary views of ancient Aboriginal society, Nicholson clearly communicates to the reader how a largely nomadic and territorial people can be profoundly connected through activity and spirituality via the practice of exchange.

Songlines and Stone Axes is presented as a book for younger readers. However, the treatment of the subject matter is done with integrity, respect and genuine insight based on extensive research, such that the text also opens to a much larger audience, calling readers to reflect on the tens of thousands of years Aboriginal people spent inhabiting this country before 1788. The greatest achievement of this book is that Nicholson has taken an issue around which much intense and complex debate wages and opened it up to a community of young people who can then formulate their own questions as they contribute to this ongoing discussion.

THE JOHN AND PATRICIA WARD HISTORY PRIZE (\$15,000)

Klaus Neumann

In the Interest of National Security: Civilian Internment in Australia During World War II
National Archives of Australia

During World War II the Australian authorities interned more than 15,000 civilians, comprising Australian residents (including British nationals) and those detained overseas and sent to Australia for detention. *In the Interest of National Security* recounts the experiences of seven men and three women who were interned in this context, thereby providing an overview of Australia's internment policies in the recent past.

This fascinating insight into government policies and practices seeks to determine why this internment of more than 15,000 civilians is still a 'little known chapter' in the history of Australia. Klaus Neumann examines the wealth of material held by the National Archives of Australia relating to internment, including the correspondence files of the principal government departments responsible for shaping and implementing the internment policies. Scrutinising case files held by the National Archives of Australia as well as private papers of former internees held in libraries and archives across Australia, he deftly combines his examination of the policies themselves with an examination of how internment affected individuals. The use of a variety of unpublished, original resources from a range of repositories enables Neumann to detail the breadth and poignancy of civilian internees' experiences.

In the Interest of National Security provides an accessible and revealing account of civilian internment during World War II. It also draws attention to the wealth of archival resources available on this topic, perhaps in the hope that others too will explore this crucial chapter of Australian history.

JUDGES FOR THE 2007 NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS:

Professor Ross Gibson (Chair), Associate Professor Paula Hamilton, Ms Emma Harris, Dr Anne O'Brien, Associate Professor Michael Roberts and Ms Tracy Sullivan.

THE 2007 NSW HISTORY FELLOWSHIP (\$20,000)

The NSW History Fellowship is offered annually by the Government to assist a person living in New South Wales to research and produce a work on a subject of historical interest relating to New South Wales.

TONY MOORE has been awarded the 2007 NSW History Fellowship to enable him to research and write the book, 'Death or Liberty', a history of convict rebels transported to the colonies, especially NSW, in the first half of the nineteenth century. This will be the first narrative history that brings together the stories of political prisoners, both men and women, sent to Australia as convicts. The project will extend our understanding by exploring the connections between transportation, convict resistance and colonial political culture.

The judges were particularly impressed with the way the proposed work combines considerable scholarly merit with strong popular appeal. This topical and timely study will

bring new perspectives and new audiences to this critical period in the history of Australia, from the founding of NSW to the end of convict transportation. It is often forgotten that transportation was used as a way to rid Britain of its political dissidents and rebels who were, as Moore states, 'viewed by authorities with the same alarm as today's "terrorists"'.

In a highly competitive field, the judges also noted Moore's engaging and passionate approach to his subject matter, and observed that, not only will he produce a readily accessible book, but his expertise in filmmaking may also assist in bringing his story to the screen.

Mr Moore is a cultural historian and author of *The Barry McKenzie Movies*. He is Commissioning Editor of Pluto Press, prior to which he was a documentary maker at ABC TV. He has recently completed a Doctoral thesis at the University of Sydney on the history of Australia's Bohemian Tradition.

JUDGES FOR THE 2007 NSW HISTORY FELLOWSHIP:

Dr Erik Eklund, Dr Alison Holland and Associate Professor Melanie Oppenheimer.

Launch of the History of Freshwater by Pauline Curby

Five years of careful research and preparation culminated recently in the launch of Pauline Curby's latest tome, 'Freshie', a History of Freshwater Surf Lifesaving Club. The launch coincided with the dawn of the centenary year of the founding of the club and consequently was a grand affair with representatives of nearly every era of the Club's history and their families and friends. Reminiscing was the order of the day.

Pauline acknowledged the wonderful effort the Surf Club archivists had put in, uncovering hundreds of old photographs and much useful material. She complimented them on organising such a long lead time and for choosing a professional historian to write the history, ensuring a very sound record of the Club's most interesting and colourful history. In turn, the President of the Club thanked Pauline for the excellence of the end result.

In her acceptance speech, Pauline commented that at a launch of the Cronulla Surf Club History the week before, she had coincidentally had a conversation with a 103 year old woman who had met Duke Kohanomoku during his history making visit to Freshwater in 1903.

The books were selling like 'hotcakes' during the evening. A very timely launch right on Christmas and a whole year before the actual 100th takes place - right before next Christmas!

Call for Papers; The History of Rugby League in Australia

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, 7-8 November 2008

This is a preliminary call for papers and contributions to a conference recognising the cultural, historical and social significance of rugby league in Australia 1908-2008. The convening group, the Tom Brock Bequest Committee, a group which promotes the scholarly study of rugby league, is seeking support and sponsorship from significant cultural institutions within Australia. The committee is pleased to welcome the Powerhouse Museum as a joint sponsor.

Deadline for abstracts: (250 word) 1 March 2008

Deadline for papers for publication: 1 May 2008.

5000 words maximum, as MS Word document, in final polished form for refereeing. It is proposed that a publication, consisting of contributions to the conference, will be provided to all participants as part of their registration fee and will be available on the first day of the conference. Therefore the above submission date is non-negotiable.

It is further proposed that the conference also feature a non-academic stream of contributions from former players, journalists, and others who may not wish to contribute to the publication.

Abstracts should specify whether it is your intention to submit a 5000 word paper for refereeing.

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

Publications

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www.phansw.org.au

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