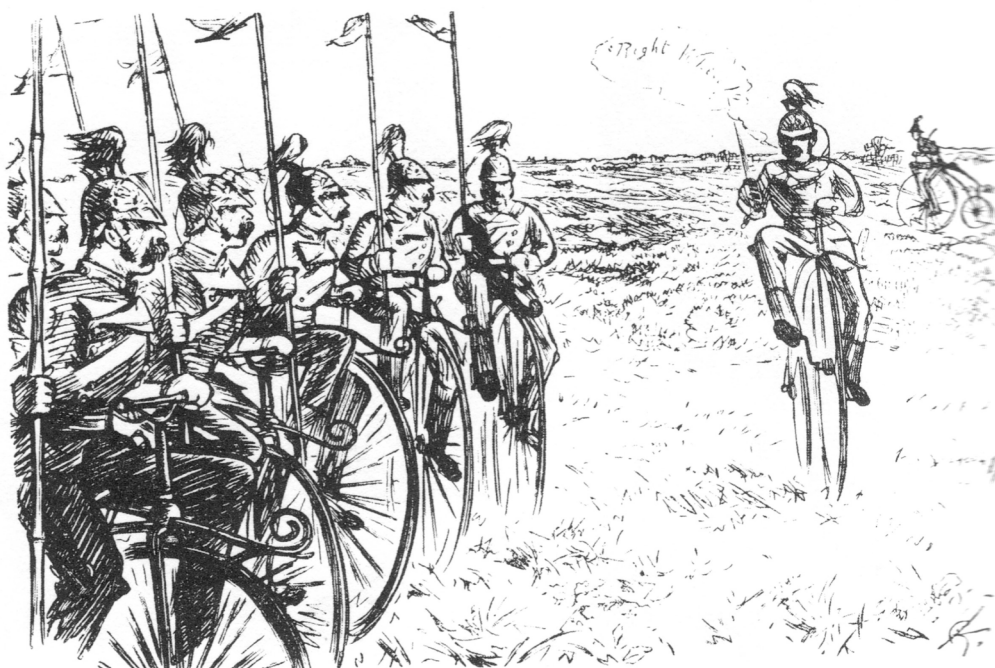


Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)

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PHANFARE



PHA NSW



***Phanfare* is the newsletter of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc and a public forum for Professional History**

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

President's Report

The proposed closure of the National Archives offices in Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart scheduled to begin next year and also proposed cuts to the funding for archives in other states has hit the history headlines recently. PHA (NSW) member Baiba Berzins has been closely involved in the campaign to keep these offices open and has circulated a petition. Please contact me if you would like a copy to use. I have written to the relevant Senator, Joe Ludwig and the Prime Minister opposing this failure to support national institutions in these places and pointing out that:

Our members are regular users of the files held in the NAA and appreciate the skill and professional assistance which is provided by the staff. While online digitised files can be provided in some instances, this can prove a cumbersome and possibly fruitless method of research, if files cannot be sighted. Historians need to immerse themselves in records in order to understand the flavour of the times and topic, they derive their understanding from this experience.

Just before this news broke we enjoyed an excellent workshop with Dr Hilary Golder. Her topic was very relevant to all archives, as she demonstrated the importance and usefulness of state record collections. (see report in this issue)

We were glad that Rosemary Annable was reappointed to the NSW Heritage Council for another 2 years until 2011. Hopefully our efforts to keep historians in the public eye, together with the History Council of NSW and the Royal Australian Historical Society, contributed to this result. We have written to commend the appointment and emphasise that it will always be essential to have a historian on the Council.

I am pleased to announce that the PHA (NSW) conference **Islands of History** is going ahead. Response to the survey of members indicated a good level of support and interest. Professional historians from Australia and New Zealand will meet on historic Norfolk Island from 18-25 July 2010. This will be on the eve of the World Heritage Convention's decision to include Kingston and Arthurs Vale on Norfolk Island and 10 other Australian convict sites on the World Heritage List.

Lectures will be presented by PHA members and local or visiting specialists. Topics cover: writing convict history, South Pacific maritime history, history for heritage, Polynesian migration, South Pacific history, Pacific missions and issues and practice of public history. The conference will include site visits, island orientation and free time to explore the diverse heritage of the island.

Registration fee is \$350. Attractive travel packages have been arranged, including return air fares, accommodation of various grades, and car hire from as low as \$1,100 per person.

If you would like to present a 20-minute paper on one of the listed themes, please send a 150-200 word abstract before 14 February 2010 or for further details contact secretary@phansw.org.au.

Christine de Matos who has managed PHA (NSW) *What's On* for thirteen years is retiring from this job! I am sure all members agree this has been a great labour of love and appreciate Christine's efforts. I am happy to say that she will continue to monitor the website as efficiently as ever. Thank you, Christine.

At the PHA Christmas party we will be presenting the PHA undergraduate history

prize for the second year. I hope to see you all there on Tuesday 15 December 6pm-8pm at History House. Please RSVP to secretary@phansw.org.au by Friday 11 December.

On behalf of the committee, Vice President Christine Cheater, Secretary Jodi Frawley, Treasurer Christine Yeats, Susan McClean, Laila Ellmoos and Zoe Pollock, I wish you a Happy Christmas, relaxing holidays and fruitful New Year.

Virginia Macleod

president@phansw.org.au

New Arrangements at Lands Department (formerly Land Titles Office)

After the digitisation of the Charting Plans and the Torrens Titles Certificates, the public search area has been rationalised to the former Old Systems search area in the Basement. Copying services for plans and digitised documents are still located on the ground floor near the entrance but all access to registers and indexes is now in the basement area.

If in doubt when you need to do research, ask at the desk when you visit.

Terry Kass

New Reader Registration Procedures at National Archives

The National Archives has introduced new reader registration procedures.

All new visitors will be asked to provide proof of identity in order to obtain a reader cards that will allow them to view records in the reading room.

Current Card holders will be asked to register in the new system. Upon proof of identity, current card holders will be issued with a new reader card. Their reader card number will remain the same.

Visitors will be asked to present their reader card when they visit the reading room and when they are issued with records.

These changes resulted from a review of reading room procedures which recommended some measures to improve the protection of the records. The new registration procedures are part of a number of measures taken to ensure the availability and integrity of the records.

The following documents are acceptable as identification.

One (1) form of identification – showing photo, full name, current address and signature, such as:

- driver's licence

No other identification is required if the person can provide any of these documents.

Please note: For researchers from overseas, a valid passport will be considered an acceptable form of identification for this category.

OR

Two (2) forms of identification – one showing full name and current address, and one showing signature, such as:

- passport
- proof of age card
- employment security pass
- Medicare card
- pension/seniors card
- student identity card
- credit card, debit card, account card, or account statement
- entitlement card issued by the Australian Government
- council land rate or water rate notice, electricity or other utility account
- telephone/mobile phone account, or
- birth certificate.

Another PHA Award Winner

PHA member Terry Kass has won the Phyllis Mander Jones Award awarded by the Australian Society of Archivists for works published in 2008 in the category '2A Best publication that uses, features or interprets archives written by or on behalf of a corporate body'.

His publication, *Jewels in the Crown: a history of the Bridge Street Plans Room and Crown Plans 1788-2008* is a lavishly illustrated publication that explains the evolution of Crown plans using numerous images to demonstrate the different types of Crown plans and their functions. He elaborates on the procedures that underlay their compilation as well as outlining how to interpret them.

Some of the judge's comments relating to *Jewels in the Crown* included:

'The best! Lavish, attractive, informative - a must have. Excuse this rave about a fine product of the bookmaker's art using some fantastic archival resources.'

'Very attractive and informative - nice to see the plans, archival images, and images of the records as stored all included. Mix of history, user guide, and coffee table style book. Good treatment of what could be very dry.'

Terry Kass demonstrates the different types of Crown plans, and their purposes opening up many possibilities for use by historians. All crown plans are currently being digitised by the Department of Lands. Anyone who has recently obtained copies of Crown plans from the Lands Department will have noticed that some are now supplied as coloured, accurate and detailed copies far superior to the black and white copies formerly supplied from microfiche.

The book is available from the NSW Department of Lands, Prince Alfred Road, Sydney.



Closure of National Archives Offices – Message from Ross Gibbs, Director-General, National Archives of Australia

You will now be aware that on 2 November the Australian Government, as part of its Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) statement, announced that the National Archives, along with other government agencies, are required to find significant budget savings. For the current forward estimate years 2009–10 to 2012–13, the savings are \$700,000 in the first year and \$1.4 million each year thereafter.

In order to make savings of this order, to meet current commitments and move to being a 21st century organisation that can meet future demands, we need to make fundamental changes to the way we operate.

To achieve this, as well as reducing service costs in Canberra, we are closing state offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart over the next two-and-a-half years as building leases expire.

The decision to close these particular offices was difficult, but is, I believe, a responsible one. Canberra will bear budget cuts to achieve the savings, and there would naturally be a flow-on to all state offices. The decision to close the Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart offices was based on the knowledge that they could not endure any more budget cuts while still maintaining the high level of service that they are known for.

Informing staff has been our highest priority. On Monday 9 November, Assistant Director-General Anne Lyons, Assistant Director-General Stephen Ellis and I went to Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart, respectively, to tell staff in person what was happening. While there, we consulted with some of our colleagues in local archives, libraries and museums. In Hobart I met with our Consultative Forum. Separate arrangements are being made to meet with consultative forums in Adelaide and Darwin. Staff in Mitchell, Parkes, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne were also informed of the decision this week.

The timing of the office closures will allow us to deliver a planned approach. We are developing an employment transition plan for affected staff and an employment assistance service will also be made available to them.

The dates for the office closures are:

Darwin	30 September 2010
Adelaide	31 March 2011
Hobart – Melville Street	31 August 2010 (records storage)
Hobart – Macquarie Street	30 April 2012 (Reading Room and records storage)

Now that staff are fully informed, I want to reassure our users that meeting their needs into the future is a key concern. As well as ensuring the ongoing provision of the National Archives' service – both locally and online – in Adelaide, Darwin and

Hobart, we are considering the future of the records in these locations. Some of the records may be relocated to our repositories in Sydney or Melbourne, while others may be relocated locally under a memorandum of understanding arrangement with other sympathetic local cultural heritage institutions. These arrangements are being negotiated with National Archives staff in each office.

This is a period of great transition for the National Archives. We will be looking to the support of our colleagues, professional organisations and key stakeholders to manage this change.

We will keep you informed of progress through the many communication avenues we are currently establishing.

A New Website – Soldier Settlement

A new website has been created to provide data about soldier settlement. It can be found at <http://soldiersettlement.records.nsw.gov.au/>.

During the Great War, a scheme to settle returned men on the land was devised. Large areas were taken over for settlement but often they were poorly sited and the men were only given basic assistance. Many had little or no farming experience or, if they did, lacked that deep knowledge of their farms that only comes with years of using the same land. Some succeeded. Many failed. Their experiences were so severe that some even thought they would have been better back in the trenches with mud, blood and shells raining around.

Returned servicemen and women settled vast tracts of our state in the aftermath of the Great War. The rural communities they established lie at the heartland of regional Australia. But the story of soldier settlement has yet to be told. We know little of the experience of soldier settlers and their families as they battled to ‘make a go of it’ on the land.

The website will examine the history of soldier settlement in NSW opening up a largely untouched part of the state’s environmental, social, political and cultural history. It will record the forgotten stories of a generation of men and women who survived the Great War and restore history to the communities that made it.

Jointly funded by the [Australian Research Council](#), [Monash University](#) and the [University of New England](#) under an [ARC linkage scheme](#) along with Linkage partners [State Records NSW](#) and the [Department of Veterans’ Affairs](#) the site provides data about soldier settlers. State Records NSW hosts the project and its website. Extensive Lands Department files now held at State Records NSW have been the subject of indexing by volunteers over the past few years.

History Advisory Panel – Heritage Council of New South Wales

Meeting 19 November 2009 held at Heritage Office, Parramatta

1. Members congratulated Dr Bruce Pennay on his award of the Annual History Citation of the History Council of NSW.
2. Heritage Act Amendments. Cameron White reported that the new Act is currently in the implementation stage, which commenced on 16 October except for Section 170. Guidelines are being prepared for assessments based on the results of a workshop of experts held by the Heritage Office.
3. The Heritage Council has approved the History Panel's recommendation that SHR thematic based programmes be extended from two to three years to allow better research and assessment of the chosen themes.
4. Richard d'Apice alerted members that certain legislation before the NSW Parliament making changes to the Valuation of Land Act after a recent Supreme Court ruling will mean that properties with a heritage listing will need to be valued at their 'improved' value which creates a number of significant problems,
5. Proposed themes for the next SHR Programme for 2011-12. Dr Bruce Pennay agreed to prepare a more detailed proposal for the 'Arriving and Settling in NSW since 1945' theme which he has proposed.
6. The proposed 'Rural' theme was discussed. It seems to be suitable to be made into a phased theme rolling over a number of years with sub-themes.
7. An SHR theme around 'Coastal' development and activities such as recreation was also suggested.
8. Dr Caroline Ford reported on the preparation of the recent DECCW publication 'Challenges in the Landscape' dealing with the recent history of its management of historic heritage. This publication is available in the DECCW web site.
9. Current and recent SHR listings were noted.
10. The Australian Convict Sites World Heritage serial nomination has been assessed. Assessors from overseas have visited Australia to view and report on the proposed sites and have now completed their visits.

Terry Kass

What's On

There is no 'What's On' this month due to the long deserved retirement of Christine de Matos from putting it together. I am sure all of the Phanfare Collectives join with this Collective, in thanking her for the effort and attention she has put into that task.

Well Done!!

PHA workshop, Writing and Researching History

Dr Hilary Golder, author of several meticulously researched, well written histories, led a PHA NSW workshop on researching and writing history at History House on 14 November. This veteran of 30 years as a public historian, the term she prefers to ‘professional historian’, is the author of works such as *High and Responsible Office, a History of the NSW Magistracy and Politics, Patronage and Public Works, the Administration of NSW*.¹ In addition she has written a number of publications for government agencies and the City of Sydney.

The workshop began with an overview of the research potential of State Records NSW, an ‘unusually rich source’ that Hilary considers is underused. She cautioned historians, especially those who undertake commissioned work for local councils not to become ‘bogged down’ in purely local records at the expense of the wealth of material in State Records. A focal part of this workshop was Hilary’s background ‘briefing’ explaining the ‘centralising force’ of the NSW government as a legacy of the convict system. The need to keep tabs on the convict labour force as it spread throughout the colony, especially in the 1830s and 1840s, resulted in the creation of a very ‘un-English’ central record system. In many ways, Hilary argues, the convict system shaped the central/local dynamics of NSW, an important point for those writing local council histories. This is evident in the establishment of, for example the office of paid police magistrate, a result of the shortage of ‘gentlemen’ magistrates.

The Colonial Secretary was the ‘lynchpin’ of this system as everything went through his office. Records included in this vast correspondence such as reports from Commissioners of Crown Lands can give the researcher an insight into the formation of communities. In Hilary’s view, the reporting created for the administration of the convict system helped shape expectations and led to the custom of local communities writing ‘begging’ letters to Sydney. She believes the introduction of responsible government in 1856 did little to disrupt these centralising tendencies and, in the pre-party politics of the time, making deals with independents and ‘pork barrelling’ became entrenched. Hilary maintains this gave unusual power to voters, as money for minor works such as roads and bridges which could have been dealt with locally was dispersed from the central government.

A session followed workshopping *Archives Investigator* which, as Hilary pointed out is particularly useful when researching the period after 1856. The workshop concluded with a case study of Colonial Secretary documents relating to an ‘incident’ on the Clarence River in 1841 which resulted in the deaths of Aboriginal people and white settlers. This case study revealed the importance of a close reading of documents such as Crown Land Commissioners’ reports. These and similar sources provide vital clues to many facets of life on the frontier which can lead to a more nuanced writing of history, as opposed to a bald ‘body count’ approach.

This was a valuable workshop for members who ranged from experienced to recent graduates. A positive outcome of the session is that we are pleased to welcome Hilary back into the PHA after an absence of some years.

Pauline Curby

¹ H. Golder, *High and Responsible Office, a History of the NSW Magistracy*, Sydney University Press in Association with Oxford University Press Australia, South Melbourne, 1991; H. Golder, *Politics, Patronage and Public Works, the Administration of NSW*, V1, 1842-1900, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2005.

National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum Meeting, 8 December 2009

History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

1. Automated e-mail reply from NAA. Investigation has shown that some e-mails have not been getting through. If no reply is received, then the enquirer should chase the matter up.
2. Conversion of old series numbers. Not all series that have been re-numbered will be located by typing in the original series number. Usually the old number will appear in the information field and will be successfully located there but some series have not had this entered consistently.
3. Lighthouse plans. Two plans of Cape George lighthouse from 1859 have recently been acquired by NAA.
4. Re-digitising of poor quality images. The copying service reports that they will only re-digitise images that are illegible, rather than those that are difficult to read.
5. Memory sticks. The use of memory sticks to download data or print images in reading rooms is not permitted due to security concerns.
6. Closure of NAA offices.
See separate report.
7. Freedom of Information Bill. Exposure draft is now available prior to being presented in the House.
8. Release of Cabinet documents. This will occur in January 2010 and will release the 1979 documents.
9. Phased release of Cabinet documents to reduce closed period to 20 years. The bill to implement this has not yet been passed.
10. Awards. The NAA received a Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Affairs.
11. Community Heritage grants. Over \$300,000 was handed out to societies and entities in NSW.
12. Shell shocked. A kit in conjunction with this exhibition has been released.

Terry Kass
PHA Representative

Closure of National Archives of Australia Offices in Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory

The National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum Meeting on 8 December 2009 was attended by Karen Griffiths, the National Archives of Australia Assistant Director General, National Co-ordination Branch to explain the closure and to listen to the concerns of the Forum.

The Forum expressed its concerns about the loss of these offices, particularly the loss of access for people of Aboriginal descent in the Northern Territory, and for students, especially those who are part way through research projects. It was thought ironic that the states where storage costs were much cheaper than in the major states of NSW and Victoria were those, which would bear the brunt of office closures. Concern at the loss of highly developed staff skills was strongly felt by the Forum. It was asked if a cost benefit analysis had been made of the comparison between the extremely high cost of moving archives to repositories in other states against the cost of retaining them in their current location.

Karen Griffiths explained that the National Archives of Australia along with other government agencies has been instructed to make significant cuts in its costs. The National Archives of Australia has not been as severely affected as some other departments but has found it difficult to find ways to make the budgetary savings.

It regrettably found that the best way to make the savings was to close offices. There is ongoing discussion with staff in the affected offices including redeployment to other states and other possibilities in the states or territories they were based in.

Negotiations are in train to try to retain the most significant records in the states where offices are closing and even to retain some staff. In Tasmania, the railway records will be transferred to the State Archives of Tasmania. The current priority is to direct efforts to Darwin, which will be the first office to close. The most heavily used records for Aborigines in Darwin have already been made available in a form that will permit people to continue their research. National Archives of Australia is continuing to explore ways in which to leave the most significant records in the states where offices are being closed.

The Forum passed two resolutions.

1. That it strongly urges the Federal Government to re-consider its decision.
2. That National Archives of Australia continue to explore measures to retain the most significant records in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide if the Government does not reverse its decision.

Terry Kass
PHA Representative

Member Profile - Dr Jodi Frawley

Born in Queensland to environmentally active and aware parents, Jodi's first career was in hospitality management. She enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sunshine Coast as a mature age student studying 'Australian and Cultural Studies' and 'Environment and Planning'. She acknowledges her good fortune to have been taught by Lynette Finch and Chris McConville and encouraged to pursue a degree constructed specifically for heritage research and planning. She was awarded a 'distinguished academic record' prize for her degree.

Work for the Queensland government in the Cultural Heritage Branch of the Environmental Protection Authority followed. As a Heritage Research Officer, she researched and wrote heritage register entries for the Queensland Heritage Register. Additionally, she worked as a subcontractor to Thom Blake, Historian and Robert Riddell, Architect undertaking the history component of conservation plans. During this time she also worked as the project officer on a Centenary of Federation Project at Griffith University called 'Queensland Screen' collecting information about films made in, about, or for Queensland.

A move to Sydney in 2001 following her partner's job move enabled her to return to university and undertake an honours year (UTS) and a PhD (University of Sydney). Her topic was the transnational and environmental history of botanic gardens and a PhD thesis entitled 'Botanical Knowledges, Settling Australia: Sydney Botanic Gardens, 1896-1924' was the outcome. A particular interest in the movement of plants and their subsequent impact on environments for both indigenous and non-indigenous communities underpins her research. She also collected two student awards for essays generated from her research: the Ken Inglis Prize in 2006 and the National Museum of Australia Student Prize for Environmental History in 2009. Jodi is the current Merewether Scholar at the Mitchell Library working on a project called 'Science, Pastoralism and Environmental Change in Nineteenth Century New South Wales' focussing on the introduction of exotic grass, fodder and forage species. She is also looking for gainful employment!

Jodi writes that, 'I love being an environmental historian. I believe that environmental history and heritage planning are key places to explore historical precedents for the coming challenges that climate change will bring. Each area has the potential to lead our community in demonstrating adaptive practices for sustainable living in a time of change.'

Jodi joined the PHA NSW in 2003, not long after moving to Sydney and was elected secretary of the PHA executive in August, a position she claims she is thoroughly enjoying. Jodi delights in meeting other members at PHA events and hearing about the interesting work that people are doing. She looks forward to working on behalf of the membership in this important role.

PHA New South Wales Continuing Professional Development Workshop: Map Collection Mitchell Library New South Wales, 20 November 2009

This workshop was well attended with 15 members present. Andrew Carr and Maggie Patten gave us a personalised tour of the map collection in the Mitchell Library. In the Mitchell Room we were given a background to the library's map holdings which contain at least 170, 000 maps including 40,000 subdivision plans. Maggie showed us how to find maps on the website and to check the map card catalogue.

Andrew gave us advice regarding investigating the National Library's collection online plus the City of Sydney archives. He showed us the Fire Underwriter's Plans of Sydney, which showed the owners of the building plus the fire exits. He explained the mysteries of the map location numbers and Boggs and Lewis area classification, which is the type of Dewey system for maps. He very clearly told us of the four different sizes of maps held in the important collection of the New South Wales Lands Department maps and the three types: country, parish and town maps, and how subdivision plans have information added as to type of vegetation, roads and bridges.

We then had afternoon tea. Refreshed, we were divided into two groups. Our guide showed us other sources to access at the Mitchell Library. They included a guide to maps in the New South Wales Parliamentary Papers, Bailliere's Gazetteer in the reference section, which did not contain maps but descriptions of places plus a large collection of maps on microfilm.

Another guide showed us the map card catalogue. The use of Gleeson's list of geographical names of 1954 providing the names of the different counties or parishes in which the locality you may be researching could be found was also demonstrated. The Mitchell Library holds three very important collections, the Thomas Holt collection, the Berry collection and the Dixon collection.

Andrew and Maggie took us down to the bowels of the Mitchell library where we saw a sample of these. It is an Aladdin's cave of Land Subdivision Posters, which were like sparkling and illuminating jewels. The artwork on some of these was extraordinary. The Dixon collection contains some letters dated back to 1778. This collection is a repository of some handwritten letters containing information on the Shoalhaven River such as data on marshes and information not found elsewhere.

All 15 PHA members who attended came away excited at the new avenue that we could access for our research.

Ruth Banfield

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