

# Phanfare

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\* Please access What's On at the  
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## **President's Report – October 2004**

After a small but lively annual general meeting at History House on 14 August all PHA executive members were re-elected unopposed. The team is now looking forward to a busy second term of office. Having survived a year, we anticipate that procedures will be further streamlined and hopefully our responsibilities will become less onerous. This is a good time to consider our direction for the forthcoming year. As we will be celebrating the PHA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005 I think we should make it a very special year. Any members who have thoughts on how we can mark this significant milestone should inform a member of the executive. All reasonable suggestions will be considered.

At our first executive meeting considerable time was devoted to discussing two ongoing problems: *Phanfare* and *PHR*. It is considered that *Phanfare* procedures need to be streamlined and all those involved are asked to go through *Phanfare* coordinator Annette Salt in order to maximise efficiency. We want to see how this operates for the remainder of the year. With regard to the *PHR* it was decided that no further action would be taken until later in the year when we know the result of our application for further funding from the Ministry for the Arts.

Another matter that gives me concern is the present status of the history profession. Anecdotal evidence suggests that only a minority of PHA members are making a living from consulting. Perhaps we should survey members on this. Is work drying up or is there sufficient for the veterans and beginning historians? This may not be a good time to reiterate what has been said many times in the past – but it needs to be said. Stick to our fees. Even though the ACPHA recommended scale of fees is

modest by professional standards, undercutting still occurs. Remember this is a highly skilled profession; don't undersell yourself. Members who write books, in particular, find their work is often undervalued.

At the same time it is important that we raise the PHA's profile. The executive aims to make the PHA (in friendly collaboration with the History Council and RAHS) the body that potential clients automatically turn to. The executive will be considering the best ways to make this happen. Meanwhile we have been taking every opportunity offered to participate in meetings and forums and by accepting invitations hope to make the PHA better known.

Members are reminded that the professional development committee tries to organise a varied program of events, excursions and professional development opportunities for members and visitors. The next will be a workshop on internet use for historians presented by Dr Heather Goodall at UTS on 23 October. There are still places available so members are urged to book now. It is disappointing when events have to be cancelled or attendance is small.

Pauline Curby

### **PHA (NSW) congratulates Dr Margo Beasley**

Recently, Wollongong University awarded PHA committee member, Margo Beasley her PhD, which examined the thesis summarised in the following synopsis.

My doctoral thesis was written in opposition to the work for which I am best known as a consultant historian, *Wharfies: the History of the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia*, which was a conventional institutional history of a very well known, highly influential, and exclusively male Australian trade union. I was aware of the 'behind-the-scenes' role that women played in the WWF but because the book was about the union, and not about the life of the family, the women could only ever be subsidiary within it. I set out in the doctorate to seek the waterfront women's story by accounting for what constituted meaning and significance in early twentieth century waterfront households in Sydney. Along the way I came to see that not only were women excluded from most conventional institutional histories, but so also were many men, as well as much of the work that most men, even unionized men, did. So the thesis became an account of meaning and significance from the perspective of the household that took all members of the household into consideration: men and children, as well as women. It was underpinned by the proposition that history that awards significance from the perspective of public life (as histories of trade unions do) necessarily privileges masculine relationships (actual or symbolic) and generates presence and absence along lines that are often gendered. By contrast, history that seeks meaning and significance from the perspective of the household can scrutinize women, children and men with relative equality. Through this route the interactive and entwined experiences of gender, class and generations can be made more visible, and alternative accounts of meaning and significance can emerge.

## *Touring the Con*

As most Sydneysiders are aware, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music began life in 1819 as a 'court of offices and stables' for Governor Macquarie who hoped that it would accompany 'a handsome and commodious [stone] castellated house for the residence of the Governor in Chief' of New South Wales. Convict architect Francis Greenway designed both house and stables. The Colonial Office delayed the new house until 1845 but construction of the stables began without authority soon after Macquarie ordered the plans in 1817. The building was designed with stalls for up to 28 horses, storage for grain and feed, harness rooms, space for four coaches, a coachman's residence, groom's accommodation, and cowsheds.<sup>1</sup> It was castellated and might operate as a fort if the need arose, but its function as a stables did not change until 1915.

State governors vacated both Government House and stables in 1901 to make them available for the Governor General who was based in Melbourne with the new Commonwealth government. In a hotly contested move, in October 1912, Labor Premier McGowan evicted the last Governor General to use the property, Thomas Denman, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron and his household. In this public takeover enacted before a crowd of 20,000, McGowan was supported by his ministers and 200 police. Consulted by those opposing the move, the Privy Council confirmed the New South Wales government's right to reclaim the property three years after it had taken possession.

In spite of the legal appeals against the repossession, the process of converting the stables to a Conservatorium of Music commenced with site preparation in 1912 and moved into construction the following year. Apart from the relocation of the main entrance from the southern to the western side facing Macquarie Street, there were relatively few alterations to the exterior walls. The main changes occurred inside where some structures were demolished to make way for the large brick auditorium that was built in the courtyard. The hall was covered by the roof that Government Architect W. L. Vernon had designed for the ballroom planned for Government House in 1901 but never built. The Conservatorium officially opened with a concert on 6 May 1915 and commenced teaching young musicians under its first director, Henri Verbrugghen, on 6 March 1916.<sup>2</sup>

For me, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music has associations of both pleasure and pain. In the long-distant past I was escorted there annually to undergo the grade examinations in piano. My music teacher, a seemingly ancient and somewhat excitable woman, would take all her pupils to the Con on the same day. Having blotted out the horrors, I have only the vaguest memories of most of these exams, and mainly recall the heady pleasure of racing around the Royal Botanic Gardens after it was all over. To me, the Conservatorium and the Gardens were parts of the same experience.

Later, I attended singing lessons and rehearsals in one or other of the seemingly innumerable rooms tacked onto the outside of the turreted section. Though not entirely free from anxiety, these experiences were far more pleasurable than the exams. The studios where lessons were held were not soundproof so, not only could people wandering past outside hear your efforts, but so also could other students in the corridors and possibly, teachers and students in the rooms on either side. In the Verbrugghen Hall there was less concern for the music that might escape than the sounds that invaded the space from the outside as all performances were

accompanied by the rumble and vibration of trains on the underground city railway. Thus, memories of the old Conservatorium were linked with a mixture, sometimes a cacophony of sounds, not all of them musical.

The Tour that suddenly became available during History Week gave me and thirteen other PHA members and friends a chance to renew our acquaintance with the Con in its new form. More than a small high school that began in 1916, the Sydney Conservatorium is now the centre for students of the University of Sydney who are studying for a Bachelor of Music. Woefully inadequate for this purpose, the old Con needed a multitude of practice and teaching studios and several spaces that could accommodate rehearsals of ensemble groups and operas. Adequate insulation from the city noise and the underground railway was also vital. To ensure that the new Conservatorium would harmonise with the neighbouring Botanic Gardens and Government House, much of the additional structure was built underground. On the northern side the two-storey Conservatorium High School nestles into the natural slope of the land, while the southern side comprises four storeys with the library and two recital halls. Above this section the roof lawn connects with the Botanic Gardens while all courtyards on the eastern side let in light and provide views of the Gardens.



*This aerial view of the Sydney Conservatorium shows how the new building has renewed its connection with the Botanic Gardens, which have always been an important element of the site. [www.cmit.csiro.au/innovation](http://www.cmit.csiro.au/innovation)*



*The focus of this picture of the four-level deep foyer is the staircase that brings students and visitors into the southern part of the building. To the right is the sandstone wall exposed by the deep excavation around the perimeter of the original building. Those familiar with the old Con can see the surface of the roadway where external students and desperate drivers used to seek short-term parking. Closer to the stairs is an extensive display case with selected archaeological finds below an outline of early Sydney. Courtesy David Collin, The PA People Audio Systems. [www.papeople.com.au/performingarts/perartd.html](http://www.papeople.com.au/performingarts/perartd.html)*

The historic Greenway building can now be seen without the muddle of its 1960s and 1970s and the Verbrugghen Hall has been lovingly refurbished as has its organ, which we heard in the concert that began the tour. Apart from such visually stunning elements as the four-storey high foyer that links the southern and south-eastern side of the new building with the old, the most remarkable feature of the new Conservatorium is the state-of-the-art quality of its acoustics.

The architects found both the vibration from the underground railway tunnels and the high and low frequency sounds made by air conditioning units as equally challenging pollutants of the pure sound that musicians seek. Amazingly, by isolating the rooms with cavity walls and raising some on waffle isolation pads, the architects and engineers have eliminated the noise and vibration of the trains. The recital halls were designed as rooms-within rooms mounted on springs. All services are sealed within the ceilings.

Fascinating though the architectural and engineering features are, our tour clearly demonstrated the point of the whole project, which was to facilitate the training and performance skills of our young musicians. We, the public, may not hear the sound of music lessons and practice seeping out into the Gardens any more but those who devote themselves to musical excellence will be able to properly hear themselves rehearse. Nor is the door of this very special facility closed to the public. We are welcome to hear master classes and performances in the new spaces; some of these musical pleasures are free, such as the half-hour luncheon concerts on Wednesdays.

### Rosemary Broomham



*This image shows the refurbished interior of the Verbrugghen Hall where free lunchtime concerts are held on Wednesdays from 1.10 pm. Other kinds of performances are available here at economical prices and joining the Sydney Conservatorium Foundation will access further discounts. Courtesy David Collin, The PA People Audio Systems [www.papeople.com.au/performing\\_arts/perartd.html](http://www.papeople.com.au/performing_arts/perartd.html) For further information ring 9351 1342*

<sup>1</sup> Barry McGregor & Associates, 'Government House Sydney, Conservation and Management Plan', 1997, pp 11-15

<sup>2</sup> Rosemary Broomham, in Barry McGregor & Associates, op cit, pp 162-4, 170-1, 172

## Accessing the History of Medicine Library Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP)

Through the kind offices of Peter Tyler, PHA members were allowed to explore the RACP Library. Librarian Alyson Dalby provided an informative tour and useful handouts. The Library is located at 145 Macquarie St Sydney, originally the home of the Fairfax family and built in the late 1800s.

This is not a library of clinical medicine. It holds materials on the history of medicine. Most resources are print based and include personal papers and photographs. The collection in the past was very broad but the library's development policy now focuses consciously on Australian medical history. It holds, however, a range of Medical directories and Registers for the UK, Canada and a number of other countries. Resources cover people and places, the development of ideas, the social impact of medicine, health, nursing, hypnotism, the development of medicines and even magic. Amongst other items, it holds a complete set of the *Medical Journal of Australia*, a first edition of Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, rare Australiana of the 'our visit to the colonies' variety, medical pamphlets and some antique medical instruments. It holds a range of bibliographies such as Ford's Bibliography 1790-1900 and has published its own bibliography.

We were advised of the importance of using a 'subject gateway' in accessing material on medical history on line. A subject gateway evaluates the resource. Some useful and interesting sites are as follows;

- Pub med: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>
- Med Hist: <http://medhist.ac.uk/>
- Images from the History of Medicine <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>
- Australian Medical Pioneers Index: <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/>

The library uses Barnard for classification – a system that is not very user friendly. The library is in the process of improving both cataloguing and access. Alyson Dalby advises that people wanting to access information should contact the library with their query in advance. This is particularly important as much of the material is held in the bowels of the building and about two-thirds of resources are about to be relocated off-site in climate-controlled conditions.

The reading room is open to the general public by appointment. If you have the name of the resource you want, it can be requested through your library on Inter Library Loan. Should you wish to borrow materials, membership of the library costs \$80 p.a. In its move to open to a wider clientele, the library is holding a series of lectures. A recent lecture was entitled, "His brain was wrong, his mind astray": Families and the language of insanity in New South Wales, 1860s to 1914'. The next lecture is planned for 6 p.m. Monday 18 October and is on 'Herbs and herbalists – mainstream or marginal medicine?' An entry fee of \$5 covers the lecture and refreshments.

Thanks to Peter Tyler and Alyson Dalby who, in different ways, put time and effort into organising a useful and informative session.

For further information, queries or bookings, contact Alyson Dalby, Librarian, or Christine Miller, Library Technician, (02) 9256 5413 or [racplib@racp.edu.au](mailto:racplib@racp.edu.au).

**Annette Salt**



## **‘Visions’**

The 12<sup>th</sup> biennial national conference of the Australian Historical Association took place in Newcastle from 5-9 July 2004. The program was organised by the University of Newcastle, but the venue for all sessions was the City Hall, which proved to be an ideal location.

Professional historians in private practice sometimes do not find a lot of interest in AHA conferences, because AHA members are predominantly academic teachers of the discipline, who gather to discuss pedagogy, historiography or arcane points of historical interpretation. This year the organisers broadened the appeal of the conference by inviting a number of related societies to participate in the program, which was linked by the theme of 'Visions'. These societies covered medical, religious, economic, sports, nursing, mining, maritime, science and technology, as well as women's history. Because of this range of interest, knowledgeable amateurs were found amongst the ranks of those who "do" history for a living.

The experiment was a considerable success, with well over 400 participants registered, and a great deal of interaction taking place at coffee breaks, over lunch, as well as in the formal sessions. Disregard the criticism in the Sunday press about the trivial content of the program and its alleged political bias; these comments were based on a highly selective reading of a preliminary version of the program. The offerings were serious and diverse, so there was something for everyone in the 300 papers that were given during eight concurrent sessions. Often it was hard to choose which one to attend. As always at conferences, the presenters ranged from the inspiring to the pedestrian; it was something of a lucky dip. Daily plenary sessions at which major keynote papers were given rounded out the program. Although the full proceedings will not be published, a solid book of abstracts helps attendees to recall the essential points of each lecture. Nobody should have gone home without some intellectual nourishment.

At least ten members of PHA NSW registered for the conference, mostly representing one of the other associations or societies that took part. A small contingent, but those of us who were there did our best to make our presence felt. And we enjoyed ourselves - don't forget to attend next time!

The diversity of the program is demonstrated by the papers offered by PHA NSW members:  
Roslyn Burge - "The campaign for Callan Park - visions and way forward"  
Christine Cheater - "Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte: racial stereotype or idealised image of an assimilated Aborigine?"  
Christine de Matos - "Alternative visions, alternative futures: the US, Australia and Japan's post-war constitution"  
Lisa Murray - "Feeling hot, hot, hot! Technological trends and infotainment in public history"  
Judith Godden - "Getting to know you: the pleasures, dilemmas and pitfalls of the biographer"  
Pennie Pemberton - "Coals from Newcastle: the Australian Agricultural Company's collieries in the nineteenth century"  
Suzanne Rutland - "Dreams and nightmares: Post-war Jewish migration to Australia"  
Peter Tyler - "Visualising tuberculosis - compulsory radiography in Australia, 1950-1980"  
Diana Wyndham - "Dr Norman Haire, Dora Russell and the 1929 Sexual Reform Congress"

**Peter Tyler**

# PHA Book Indexing Workshop

## with Max McMaster\*

As a new graduate member of the PHA, I was equally curious to meet other members of the PHA as to learn about book indexing. Max McMaster's introduction to indexing course at History House on 4 September enabled me to do both. We learnt about the theory of indexing and practised our new found knowledge in some illuminating exercises.

The audience is just as important in indexing as it is in writing and interpreting history. Who is the author's intended audience and what would they want to find? Indexes should reflect the intended audience. An academic work should have a longer, more complex index than a work for the general reader. A local history will have a long index because of the need to include all the names of the people in the book to gratify a local audience. Indexes are a tool for finding further information and are most effective when they are simple to use, clear and logical.

Space available for the index is also a constraint the indexer and author must contend with. Publishers may be reluctant to have a long index as it increases the cost of printing. To counter this, Max provided us with methods of ways of persuading publishers to agree to an index of reasonable length. He also demonstrated how to shorten our indexes while creating and editing them.

Balancing these aspects to create an index requires a solid knowledge of the subject of the book and the intentions of the author. These assist the indexer in the choice of terms: headings, subheadings and cross – references. The author also can be made aware of weaknesses and gaps in the text. Sound knowledge of the subject and the author's intent also helps when editing and attempting to shorten the index as terms can be rearranged or cut. Remembering of course, that whatever is excluded from the index is effectively censored!

With all of this in mind Max provided us with practical exercises, which challenged us to make logical decisions about the arrangement and inclusion of subjects. Comparing notes around the room demonstrated the varied and highly individual art of indexing. Having gained some confidence from this, we set out to critically assess real examples of indexes and were quickly able to discover the mistakes of the professionals!

\*Max McMaster BAgSc, GradDipLib, is currently Training Officer of the Australian Society of Indexers (Victorian Branch) and also past Chairman of the Society's Panel of Assessors. He is a freelance indexer and has had extensive experience in the teaching of back-of-book, database and journal indexing.

Australian Society of Indexers web page:

[www.aussi.org](http://www.aussi.org)

**Karen Schamberger**

## Prime Time History?

Sunday night television on the ABC now has a history program - appropriately slotted in between the latest British drama *Hustle* and a religious program. *Rewind* is hosted by Melbourne historian Michael Cathcart, known to many for his Readers Digestisation of Manning Clark's epic six volumes. In the first of fifteen planned 45-minute programs, Michael tells us that his aim is to present "a gallery of mysteries and human struggles and myths which are the stories of Australia". Fair enough, for a dozy evening audience contemplating the week ahead.

So each program has disconnected snippets - How did Phar Lap die? Was the Pyjama Girl really Linda Agostini? Where are Ned Kelly's bones? Why is the 1804 Vinegar Hill rebellion so little known? Not the big stuff of Australian history, but entertaining anecdotes for both professional and layman. But I winced when Michael said, "One of the great things about history is that we can all do it. It just takes a little digging into something you are interested in". Is this the right message to be spreading? If everybody can do it, who needs professional historians?

Michael Cathcart is a smooth presenter, linking each episode and doing some interviews. He uses a team of attractive young historians and a cartoonist to help. Viewers actually get to see the environments in which serious historical research takes place, with segments filmed in Mitchell Library, State Records and various museums in Sydney and Melbourne. Some of the interviews may even qualify as oral history. Some are amusing, like the man living in the Kimberley region of Western Australia who believes that he has Ned Kelly's skull hidden under a tree, and shows us the initials "E.K." painted on it as evidence. Cathcart's team gently but convincingly disproved this theory.

Obviously a program with this structure cannot provide a lot of depth. Within the limitations imposed by the medium, and the restricted time available, it tries to avoid the superficial. It's worth watching, and with a bit of luck will increase the audience for Australian history. As long as they don't all do it.

**Peter Tyler**

### Journal of Australian Colonial History Vol 5

The University of New England is pleased to announce the pending publication of Volume 5 (2004) of the Journal of Australian Colonial History. This fully refereed periodical, established in 1999, emanates from the School of Classics, History and Religion and is committed to publishing the work of leading scholars in the field of early Australian history. Each issue also contains reviews of recent book titles. The forthcoming Volume 5 is due for release in September and contains articles on a wide range of topics, including early agriculture in NSW, rebellious sailors aboard the convict transports, the early work of the NSW Supreme Court, the history of the Eaglehawk mechanics institute, the employment of indentured Chinese labourers in the pastoral industry, bushranging and the new police force in the 1860s and opera on the Ballarat goldfields.

The issue can be purchased for \$33.00 (incl. GST and postage) by contacting David Andrew Roberts at drobert9@pobox.une.edu.au. As a special offer to members of the Professional Historians Association, some back issues of the Journal can be purchased for \$11.00. See <http://www.une.edu.au/arts/scch.htm/jach.html> for more details.

## The Writing History Festival

As a part of History Week 2004, the first Writing History Festival was held by the NSW Writers' Centre at Rozelle Hospital on Saturday 18 September. While the NSW Premier, Bob Carr failed to show, many writers, publishers, academic historians and a parliamentarian provided informative and thought provoking presentations.

The festival explored the process of writing history by professional historians, journalists and fiction writers who use imagination to illuminate historical material and events. Historians too need to use imagination and write well to evoke a sense of place and engage their readers.

The first thing that we all need to do is to 'listen' to our sources, as Shirley Fitzgerald suggested in the session entitled "Writing the City". What stories do our sources tell? A biography of a city will contain a multitude of voices so we need to ask: Who's missing and why? The sources of a local history require the historian to be a judge according to Max Solling. He noted that local history is concerned about the place, the people, and the interaction between the two. It raises questions about people. How was the community bound and how was it divided? The historian also must link the local community with wider regional or national trends in society.

The experience is different for the two authors on the panel. Immersion in and adoration for the city allows for a poetic description of place and character, as we heard from Barbara Brooks. Her ability to evoke a sense of place would also be useful to a historian. However, Gerard Windsor noted the tension between this creativity and the historian's need to distance themselves, observe and ask the hard questions.

Running concurrently with "Writing the City" was "What can fiction do for history? What can't it do?" This seminar explored the usefulness and validity of historical fiction. After lunch, there were two more sessions to choose from: "Reconstructing History" and "The Gatekeepers: History Publishers". The latter seminar was concerned with the publishers' role in publishing history, how much control they have and what they look for when they receive a manuscript.

I attended the "Reconstructing History" seminar, which explored the gaps in historical records and methods with which to fill them. Nick Bleszynski, an author, likes to know why things happened and uses fictional passages in his books to speculate on the thoughts and words of his subject. Historical evidence is mostly used for atmosphere. Mara Moustafine found oral history most useful in reconstructing the history of her family when they fled from the Japanese invasion to the Soviet Union where they fell victim to Stalin's purges. Her main problem was how far to push people into revisiting painful memories. Also in favour of using oral history to construct the lives of forgotten people was Aden Ridgeway. Noting the recent debates about the validity of oral history, he also pointed out that written sources are no less subject to bias. This was a problem also faced by Richard Nile. His biography of the author Kathleen Susanna Pritchard was particularly difficult as her enemies created the most significant evidence available about her life. She had destroyed most of her personal files. Richard Nile noted the difference between evidence and fact. He knew facts like the suicide of her father and that this fact must have affected her in some way, but how? There was no evidence so speculation was required.

Richard Nile also spoke at the last seminar “History vs Journalism” explaining that journalism was the first draft of history. Journalists, like historians, interrogate what is/ was happening in daily life. Julia Baird, noted that the historian’s role is to unscramble a nation’s myths and journalists are part of that process. Journalists work in two ways: either on the disclosure of facts or patterns, according to the journalist, Evan Whitton. Historians also look at patterns - gathering, mastering and organising data. However, the two professions are divided over what is a fact and when it becomes one. Journalists, unlike historians need to be decisive and less ambiguous than historians. Emphasis is placed on “being fast and first” rather than on accuracy according to Four Corners journalist Chris Masters, although they do make an effort to be accurate. Facts are seen as finite whereas historical understanding is evolving.

Facts can also be dangerous – they can land you in court for defamation as happened to Chris Masters. Soon, historians may also be subject to prosecution for defaming the dead if Phillip Ruddock’s proposed changes to the defamation laws are enacted.\* Evan Whitton noted that in the 1970s, when a similar proposal was aired the commission on defamation laws received no objection from anyone concerned with historical or biographical writing. Will the historical profession stay silent this time?

Overall, the Writing History Festival was a success with interesting presentations and useful discussions after each seminar. There was also a large and enthusiastic turnout. Hopefully, next year there will be a second and equally enlightening festival.

\*The discussion paper on defamation law reform is on the Attorney General’s website: [http://www.ag.gov.au/agd/WWW/agdHome.nsf/Page/Publications\\_2004\\_Defamation\\_law\\_reform](http://www.ag.gov.au/agd/WWW/agdHome.nsf/Page/Publications_2004_Defamation_law_reform)

**Karen Schamberger**

## The Great HISTrivia Quiz

The Great HISTrivia Quiz, a highlight of History Week 2004, was held on the evening of Wednesday 15 September at History House. The PHA fielded a crack (or, more accurately, cracked up – especially after a few drinks) team, "PHA and Away," featuring Pauline "Don't argue, I'm the President" Curby, with Peter "Fastest-Finger-First" Tyler filling out the answer forms, valiantly supported by the Two Rosemarys (Broomham and Kerr, that is).

Quiz Master, David Lewis had obviously put a great deal of time and effort into coming up with some particularly tricky questions. I mean, really – the fish emblem of NSW? For those who'd like to know, it's the Blue Groper! New South Wales' State motto? Peter Tyler actually knew the answer to this one – in Latin – but the marker would only accept the English translation. But for those of you who fancy yourselves as "intellectuals" and think you can ignore popular culture, be warned! There might come a day when you wish you could remember who won last year's Rugby League Grand Final, who Ronald Reagan's first wife was, or recognise a picture of Miss Universe.

Out of nine teams, the PHA finished fourth. A little disappointing, but not tragic. Congratulations to Lisa Murray and her team, "The Nigels," who took out first place. Thanks to David Lewis and the RAHS team for a fun night.

**Rosemary Kerr**

## Introducing Some of Our New Members

### **Karen Schamberger**

With a passion for history inspired by a brilliant high school teacher, I was amongst the first intake of students of a new degree, B.A. in Ancient History, at Macquarie University in 1998. I promptly fell in love with Egyptology and was chosen to help excavate, record and conserve two tombs at Saqqara, Egypt in 2000. My Honours thesis focused on state formation in Ancient Egypt and was completed in 2001.

In 2002, I became a nomad. The excuse was to learn about my roots. My father is Austrian and my mother is a Malaysian of Chinese descent. So I went to China and taught English at a Teacher's College near Shanghai. The income supported many adventures throughout China and Tibet.

But the dream had to end . . . and in 2003 I returned to Sydney, brimming with experiences and ideas but nowhere to channel them. Thankfully, I stumbled upon the Public History course at UTS and will complete my Masters this year. Currently an internship at the Australian National Maritime Museum is teaching me more about the practice of Public History. There I am working on an exhibit about the relationship between East Timor and Australia. My strongest interest lies in migrant histories, minority histories, Egyptology, trade and cultural exchange networks.

### **Shawn Hollbach**

Shawn Hollbach recently moved to Sydney from Western Australia, where he became a professional member of the PHA (WA) in 1998. He has worked for the past seven years in the area of native title research and research management, primarily for Native Title Representative Bodies in Western Australia.

Since 2003, he has been employed as Principal Research Officer with the Office of Native Title, Department of the Premier and Cabinet in WA, where he has been involved in reviewing the WA State Government's guidelines for the provision of information in support of native title consent determination negotiations ('Connection Guidelines'). In this role, he has also coordinated the provision of advice to Government on connection materials submitted by native title claimants seeking an agreed determination of native title.

He is co-editor with Christine Choo of *History and Native Title*, published by the Centre for WA History at the University of Western Australia in 2003. This volume reproduces the perspectives of Aboriginal leaders on the native title claims process in Western Australia as well as scholarship by non-indigenous practitioners in this field.

Shawn has a BA (Hons) in History from the University of Western Australia. He is currently on leave from the WA public service and studying towards a Graduate Diploma in Public Policy at the University of Sydney.

In addition to his interest in the role of history and historians in the native title claims process, Shawn also has a keen interest in the history of sexuality and the history of social movements in Australia.

## State Records – Community Advisory Committee

State Records Tel: 9673-1788, fax 9833-4518 and [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

The Community Advisory Committee of State Records met on 30 August 2004 and the following issues were discussed.

- **Stage 6 Kingswood** - construction of Stage 6 is expected to be finished in about six months. Stage 6 will house archives and temporary records; it will be 3 storeys each one only 2 metres high allowing quicker retrieval and will have state of the art, greenhouse gas compliant, underground air-conditioning system.
- Development of this project has been funded through State Records own funds and a Treasury loan of \$10 million.
- **Refurbishment of Level 2, City Office** – tenders closed in August to redevelop compactus area and provide seminar room and office space. It has not been possible to sublet Seminar Room on level 3 and this room will continue to be available until mid 2005.
- **Storage of material in Supreme Court** – staff at the Court and its History and Heritage Committee is making great progress with their records.

State Records worked with Supreme Court to prepare a display for History Week 2004 to be held in the foyer of Queen's Square building. Two evening lectures will be presented showcasing the Court's records and how they may be used.

- Access directions in relation to probate material have been made and further access directions will be completed shortly. The Court is progressively relocating material to State Records.
- **Judge's notebooks** - will continue to be open but it is uncertain whether State Records will continue to take them. Now that proceedings are recorded notebooks have a different value.
- **Changes to access directions – critical infrastructure** – due to heightened terrorism risk agencies will review security issues. The RTA has closed much of the Sydney Harbour Bridge plan collection and this will impact online images and items to be displayed during the Bridge celebrations next year. Restrictions may also cover Warragamba dam and Water Board detailed series plans.
- **Website updates**
  - *Insolvency Records* - online indexes now complete and allow search by name, location, occupation and year.
  - *1841 Census* – index allows residence searches
  - *Convict Exiles – Naturalization – Randwick Asylum – schools records* – indexes complete
  - *Goal photos* – index complete
  - *Convict pardons* – on-going project by volunteers
  - *Orphan schools* – to be completed shortly
  - *Mariners & Ships in Australian Waters* - index hosted by State Records
  - *Colonial Secretary's correspondence post-1825* – new listing to be added shortly, includes location information

Technical difficulties encountered by Mac computer users will be addressed.

Carol Liston offered to forward to State Records material she and her students have prepared – publicans licences, stamp sellers, Commissioner for Crown Lands.

Request made that a list of bundles which have been filmed is made available on the website and whether it is possible to view them in the City Reading Room.

- **Volunteers** – the Volunteer Program (approx 40 people) has been running for 2 years and their work has made a great impact, particularly with indexing projects.
  - **Indexing** – discussion about current indexes which focus on family and local history and items which have been filmed will be continued. *Archives Investigator* aims to allow more diversified searching.
  - **Metasearch** – State Library and Newcastle Region Library are working with State Records on a pilot project to look at simultaneous searches across multiple databases. Some limitation in technology – search is slow and limited number of return hits.
  - **Return Aboriginal hair** – State Records had samples of Aboriginal hair taken from people in Binalong, near Yass, 147 years ago. Considerable effort was spent finding an appropriate home for the hair, which Alan Ventress handed to the elders of the Onerwal Land Council at a ceremony in Yass. A smoking and burial ceremony is planned at Binalong involving local school children and teachings about Aboriginal culture.
  - **Guide to responsible government** – Christine Shergold is working fulltime on the guide, which will be complete in January 2005 and published almost immediately on the web.
  - **Administrative History of NSW Government** - Hilary Golder has completed Volume 1 – to be published by UNSW Press before the end of the year. Peter Tyler is making good progress on Volume 2 which should be completed by September 2005.
  - **Department of Commerce / Ministry for the Arts Digitization Working Group** – a report is being prepared on material State Records has digitised.
  - **Martyn Killion** - is now working as Senior Policy Officer with the Ministry for the Arts. Alan Ventress recorded his congratulations to Martyn in his new role, on his work with the CAC Committee and at State Records over a period of 17 years.
  - **Financial situation at State Records** – a budget cut of effectively 7.5% for the current year will severely impact the work of State Records. Staff numbers will be reduced and discussions are underway with the PSA about a voluntary redundancy program. The Chair will provide an overview of the situation in the annual report. Additional avenues of funding have been closed down – eg, the Digital State Archives project has not been funded.
- NSW is poorly funded on a per capita basis, particularly when compared to archival institutions in other states

**Roslyn Burge**



## **Publishing not Perishing!** **A Symposium on Book Publishing**

The process and mechanics of writing for publication were the topics discussed by a panel of three speakers at History House, on Thursday, September 16, 2004. The symposium was jointly organised by RAHS and PHA NSW for NSW History Week. Author Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley, editor Avril Janks and publisher Tony Moore provided their professional perspectives, enlivened by personal anecdotes, and then discussed questions from the audience.

Bridget described her book *The House of Packer – A History of Consolidated Press*, which grew from a PhD thesis. The second – a biography of Frank Packer – was the one she was told could not be written: “There are no archives and the family won’t talk.” But in writing the first, she unearthed plenty of archives and having established her credibility, she found ample cooperation.

Bridget discussed the writer’s choice of topic.

Sometimes the topic chooses the writer, as was her experience with the Frank Packer biography. If it is an academic thesis, the question of writing for a wider audience becomes important. Is it straight or creative non-fiction, oral history, documentary?

How realistic is it for a wider audience? Should it be geographically wider than just one town?

A major work is a lonely undertaking. You may become the sole expert so you talk only to yourself!

Time management is important – be realistic. If you have the luxury of fulltime writing, will it take two or three years? Negotiate time expectation with the commissioning body. If non-commissioned, pace yourself. Calculate the time and then add at least six months. The manuscript keeps “bouncing back” from editor and publisher.

Establishing your scholarly and literary objectives takes time.

Developing a chapter outline is very important, though it needs to be flexible. There may be too much or not enough material. The better your chapter outline, the better it is to manage. When you write becomes a personal decision. Will you research and then write a chapter, or have spurts of writing after accumulated research?

Bridget began and ended with entertaining quotes from reviewers illustrating how “boring Bridget” of one review became the “relentless raconteur” in another. She finished with a warning.

Uniform defamation laws are proposed by the federal attorney general, though they may not be retrospective. If this becomes law, writers may need detailed legal advice.

Editor Avril Janks has worked with PHA NSW president Pauline Curby on several of Pauline's books. Contrary to the possible perception of the tough unsympathetic overseer, Avril emphasised the affinity that develops between historian and editor. 'The editor is the historian's closest friend and the same becomes true in reverse,' she said.

The first stage of the editor's role may include the following:

1. Condensing and concentrating history – making the writing as acceptable as possible to as many as possible. Ensuring the reader is receptive to your expertise. The commissioning agent often determines the angle to be taken
2. Reduction expert – to fit the budget set by the publisher. Sometimes you may be asked to dispense with information or to add more.
3. Asking questions – what does this mean? From the reader's perspective why is it so important? For academics, government bodies, students etc, the choice of language is important. Look at the language use in similar publications. Techniques may include shorter sentences, break-out boxes, longer paragraphs, the use of two columns (to accommodate more words).

How do you present your work?

Pictures – captions, credits, relevance to text?

While writing, keep as much visual material as possible and continue to reference accurately as you collect it. Ensure you have page numbers in footnotes.

Footnoting – publishers have preferences – endnotes are sometimes very long.

Don't discard any material – it can be used in later writing, monographs, journal articles, or as material for school curriculum use, website etc.

Stages of production – outline:

Assuming that a publisher has agreed to publish, there are technical considerations as well as editorial.

To deliver a manuscript to an editor. A disk copy is far more useful than print – check with the editor for technical compatibility. The manuscript is handed over to the editor as custodian – required by the commercial nature of publication – when it will be changed by the editor.

The editor will comment on the structure and may change sequence of chapters or focus. If the word count is specific, may be able to negotiate an extended word count. If not very experienced, the writer often has trouble visualising the published form. "The earlier in the publication process you make changes – early in proof stages – the less expensive."

Avril's summary:

Retain material and detailed references as much as possible. The publisher will need to get permission to reproduce images from the copyright holder. Thirty words is the rule of thumb for quotations, though this is flexible. Add the address of the publisher in references for editor.

Answers to questions:

Australian Government Style Guide – 6<sup>th</sup> edition – gives preferences, but is flexible. Sometimes the Macquarie Dictionary is used for language guide.

Keep the guide and dictionary with you.

Maintain good contact with the editor from early as the friend and custodian of your work. The editor's role should be invisible so that yours becomes more visible.

Copyright laws keep changing all the time, so you need a constant overview.  
Footnotes/endnotes. References are the sources used in the text. Bibliography is everything you were reading (or a selected bibliography).

Tony Moore is the commissioning editor for Pluto Press.

He looks for the quality of ideas and the quality of writing.

His interest is influenced by trends, fashions, interest, world events.

Pluto looks for interesting material, either by emergent writers or experienced writers who are being retired by a big publisher. Interest includes biography, autobiography or memoir.

Tony is interested in blending an issue with a human story/narrative story, tales of traditions. He is currently looking at a non-academic "Fan book" – a history of soaps as 50 years of TV approaches – out for Mothers Day, sex and tickle appeal to the English market, Christmas Day etc.

A book will sell better if there is more than one market.

He has just published Mark Latham's biography by Craig McGregor. He considered his mother and *SMH Good Weekend* readers as among his audience.

New academics are getting better at a journalistic style of writing for a wider audience.

He tested the potential for a history of the Holden Kingswood on 2BL with Angela Cattern and the phones went into meltdown. It was published in doco style and sold in Paddington, in garages, Gowings – crossing over into working class.

Tony commissions 10 to 20% of Pluto's work. He goes hunting for stories with an authentic voice and sales through partnering. Book sales are reducing, but they are always competing with Murdochs etc.

In seeking to make Aborigines sell, the author of a book on Aboriginal country music went to the ABC, SBS, Festival Records – CDs, there was a drive in schools and it's going well.

With songs from soaps there will be CDs to come.

Some of the more radical themed books may be sold through the trade union movement, others can be sold in bulk through networks and institutions as well as shops.

He "has no more love left" for assisting writers to write their books – which he used to do. It is immensely time and energy consuming and he now works on the philosophy "if you can't write it down, you'll probably never write it." He no longer talks with potential writers, simply sends them a questionnaire.

Media launches are often very important as part of sales – for authors and small publishers particularly. (Left wing authors tend to be prima donnas!)

Pluto's role is to "make a work of art happen in the market place". Pluto has survived 25 years, but changed ownership three times. There are big financial risks, so a publisher must be commercially oriented. Australians are not very entrepreneurial.

Pluto now does publishing runs of 5000 – "deep niche" – and bigger ones up to 10,000. The big boys think in terms of 20,000, 40,000 and 50,000. A cricket biography may sell 30,000 "before sold".

The good news for historians is that true stories – human interest – sell well now. Women buy more books and also buy for men.

**Katherine Knight**

## Heritage Council - History Advisory Panel

The new Panel met in August and was welcomed by Heritage Office Director Reece McDougall.

The members for 2004-2007 are Ian Jack (Chair), Bruce Baskerville (Heritage Office), Annie Clarke (heritage teacher, tertiary), Carol Liston (history teacher, tertiary), Sharon Veale (NPWS, state government rep), Terry Kass (PHA), Bruce Pennay (History Council), Sue Rosen and Anne-Maree Whitaker (consulting historians).

Some members were unable to attend the first meeting, including Terry Kass who was in Estonia (what an excuse!).

The Panel discussed possible strategic projects for the next three years, and agreed on the following (briefly summarised):

1. Review and update history pages of Heritage Office website, including compiling a calendar of coming notable historical commemorations
2. Develop a guideline for State Heritage Register Criterion D relating to social and cultural associations
3. Progress the draft 'Ruins Policy', possibly as a joint project with the Archaeology Advisory Panel
4. Consider ways to fund and prepare thematic histories.

The Panel will next meet in November 2004 and thereafter in February, May, August and November 2005.

Other matters discussed included the draft interpretation principles and guidelines, which members considered should take into account prior historical research and analysis and involve an historian who has worked on the site, and the recent fee increases at the Land and Property Information office.

**Anne-Maree Whitaker**

# LIBRARY



## REPORT

Prepared by Terri McCormack, Librarian.  
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## PHA PERIODICALS

*PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand.*

**Vol 10, No 2, July 2004**

As always, the NZ newsletter contains several interesting articles. There's a long interview with Gizelle Byrnes about her recent book *The Waitangi Tribunal and New Zealand History*. This thought-provoking piece about historiography and identity demonstrates the very different historical experience in New Zealand and Australia. Michael Kelly finds little comfort in recent surveys on British historical knowledge. And he looks at a couple of heritage battles in Auckland against the background of New Zealand's rapidly disappearing built heritage.

*PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc.*  
**No 32, August 2004**

The Victorians have launched an Australian Historical Calendar. This perpetual calendar is a reference guide for establishing any day of any month in any year from 1788 to 2030. It's available for

\$5.00 from Tsari Anderson at [mail@phavic.org.au](mailto:mail@phavic.org.au)

The Continuing Professional Development program continues. The Public Speaking Workshop was interactive and challenging. Further sessions include site visits to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Public Records Office, an oral history workshop, and an evening devoted to Members' Current Works.

If you need good background material on Melbourne's history, look up the Royal Historical Society's new exhibition *Why Melbourne? From Dreamtime to the Capital of Victoria*, now online at [www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au).

*PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) Inc. Newsletter.*  
**No 6, July 2004**

I often complain about having to go all the way out to Kingswood to access NSW State Records. NT historians have more extreme distance problems. Some of the records previously held in Darwin at the NT Archives Service are being transferred to the Alice Springs regional office. At a recent function, NTAS staff explained to PHA (NT) members that local firms and people are encouraged to donate material if they know it stays in their region.

The PHA (NT) is in the process of amending their Constitution in time for their AGM on 24 August. Last year they had trouble getting the requisite quorum. They shouldn't feel bad about that: PHA (NSW) almost didn't make the numbers for their recent AGM either.

*PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC Newsletter.*  
**No 80, July 2004**

Lots of photographs of members and events enhance the South Australia PHA's newsletter. This issue contains President Susan Marsden's Report and the

unexpurgated minutes from the AGM for 2003-2004. The year's major achievement was the favourable response from the Heritage Branch to the PHA submission seeking increased funding for and tightening of local heritage protection. Other events included monthly lunches, roving lunches at the History Trust of SA and the Lutheran Archives, and three seminars.

Susan Marsden urged members to recruit history graduates and individual historians to become professional members of the Association. Work opportunities for historians in South Australia are expected to increase now that new legislation requires local councils to properly document heritage places.

#### **QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN. No 72, July 2004**

There's an article here on one of those obscure archival collections that you could easily overlook. The Corporation of the Diocesan Synod of North Queensland Archives in Townsville holds papers and correspondence of the Bishops of NQ. Their diocese stretched from Mackay to the Torres islands and west to Mount Isa. The collection contains fascinating details of life in the north from the 1870s. They are hoping to digitise their lantern slides from the Palm Island and Yarrabah Missions.

Recent proposals from the Queensland Heritage Council have concerned the National Trust of Queensland. Recommended changes include removing the statutory status of the QHC and giving more decision-making to local government authorities. There are also indications that the Queensland Heritage Register might be viewed as substantially complete with no further input. The Trust has devised an electronic kit to assist local Regional Heritage Committees with heritage legislation at [www.nationaltrustqld.org](http://www.nationaltrustqld.org)

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

This publication contains the Annual Report of the Victorian PHA. President Philip Bentley considers *Pharos*, the regular newsletter, vital for maintaining a sense of community within the association, especially for those unable to regularly attend meetings. He also sounds a warning about the dangers of apathy in the ranks. In his words, "The PHA can only continue to operate effectively when there are people prepared to volunteer their time".

#### **NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS**

##### **VITAL SIGNS: State Records NSW. No 6, July 2004**

The present *Censorship* exhibition runs until January 2005. The next exhibition will be based on the personal and official photographs held by the former Aboriginal Welfare Board. One of the curators is Aboriginal Liaison Officer Kirsten Thorpe whose personal and professional background is revealed in an intriguing article. She explains how confronting it is for Aboriginal people to access the records of the Aboriginal Welfare Board where they often encounter wounding racist comments. Kirsten, with Melissa Jackson from the State Library of NSW, recently ran a training session at Emu Plains Correctional Centre to introduce Aboriginal women to family history research and to the State archives which can help them establish their Indigenous identity.

And for those who haven't yet noticed: the very useful *Index to Insolvency Records, 1842-87* is being progressively added to the online indexes at the State Records website.

## PHA (NSW) List of Officers 2004-5

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Website [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

For specific enquiries see list below

President	Pauline Curby Tel 9527 7214
Vice President	Kate Waters Tel 9518 0139
Treasurer	Rosemary Broomham Tel 9660 3107
Assistant Treasurer	Rosemary Kerr Tel 9327 3706
Secretary	Virginia Macleod Tel 9977 4950
Executive members	Margo Beasley, Rosemary Kerr, Peter Tyler
Minutes Secretary	Margo Beasley Tel 9908 4621
Membership Secretary	Rosemary Kerr Tel 9327 3706
Public Relations	Margo Beasley
Internal network (email)	Kate Waters
Website	Christine de Matos Tel 9570 9797/Cathy Dunn Tel 4455 4780
PHA Collection Mitchell Library	Sue Rosen Tel 9876 1655

### Representatives on other bodies

Australian Council of PHAs (ACPHA)	Margo Beasley Tel 9908 4621 Kate Waters Tel 9569 7515
ACPHA Appeals Committee	Peter Tyler
ACPHA Selection Committee	Roslyn Burge
History Council of NSW	Anna Wong Tel 9690 1968
Heritage Council- History Advisory panel	Terry Kass Tel 9749 4128
National Archives Customer Council	Terry Kass Tel 9749 4128
NSW Ministry for the Arts	Margo Beasley, Kate Waters
State Archives Customer Council	Roslyn Burge Tel 9810 7324

### Professional Services

Employment Network	Kate Waters, Tel 9569 7515
Library	Terri McCormack Tel 9810 4421
Professional Development	Pauline Curby, Peter Tyler Tel 9363 5242, Kate Waters Tel 9569 7515

### Publications

<i>Phanfare</i>	Annette Salt Tel 9489 5997 Editorial Collectives see list at front of <i>Phanfare</i>
<i>Public History Review</i>	Paul Ashton PHA Editor Tel 9181 3330 Address PO Box 219 Leichhardt NSW 2040 Australia
Other PHA (NSW) publications	Virginia Macleod

# 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

## **PHA PUBLICATIONS**

### WEB SITES

[www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au) (national)  
[www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) (state)

### WEB PAGE PUBLICATIONS

Available on [www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au):

*Code of Ethics*  
*Professional Fees*  
*History as a Career*  
*Commissioning History*  
*Internet History Links*  
*What's On in History*

Available on [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au):

*PHA NSW Register of Consulting Historians*  
*PHA NSW Annual Reports*  
*Register of Historic Places and Objects*

## **Phanfare indexes**

### BROCHURES/BOOKLETS

*A Guide to the PHA NSW Web Site*

### MONOGRAPH SERIES

*Ethics for Historians*  
*Historians and Native Title*

Publications in the Monograph Series are \$22 each (incl GST). Other publications are free. Postage charges may apply for multiple orders. Address orders or enquiries to PHA Publications, GPO Box 2437, Sydney NSW 2001

Information for members on professional development and practice is also available on both Web sites

## ***PUBLIC HISTORY REVIEW***

Address enquiries concerning the Association's annual journal to *PHR*, PO Box 219, Leichhardt NSW 2040

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