Garden Island, looking south from the Heritage Centre. R. Broomham
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Phanfare No 226 – September-October 2007
News & Views

It has taken two decades but Terry Kass is finally writing the book that he has always wanted to write.* Terry has been commissioned by the Clarence Valley Council to write a history of Grafton for its 150th anniversary in 2009. His interest in the city originated in 1989 when he worked on a report on the North Coast for the Department of Planning. The new book, Terry says, will draw on local sources such as the collection at Grafton’s Schaeffer House. He has already visited Grafton a number of times to acquaint himself with the lay of the land.

Terry is looking forward to researching his Grafton work with the assistance of local volunteers. He told the *Grafton Examiner*, ‘Already we have found material here…that was not available in all that is on offer in Sydney. Schaeffer House has been collecting for many years and what they have is really marvellous, quite exciting for me.’

‘Everyone here wants to make this project a success. And so do I. I can still hardly believe it, that I am here, writing the history of Grafton. It is something that I have wanted to do for the past 20 years’.

* This account of Terry’s appointment and the direct quotations come from a full-page article in the *Grafton Examiner*, with the permission of the editor.
President’s Page

Congratulations to Bernie O’Neil from South Australia, who was elected President of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA) at the recent annual general meeting in Darwin.

Bernie attended the Australian Historical Association regional conference in Armidale in September, and as President of PHA NSW I took this opportunity to meet with him and discuss a number of issues that have concerned us for some time. I believe that we can now look forward to a more productive relationship between the national and state bodies that should benefit all professional historians. Our ACPHA delegate, David Lewis, is keeping a close watch on New South Wales interests.

Next year we will have a chance to meet with the ACPHA representatives because the annual general meeting is being held in Sydney in late August, with PHA NSW as the host organisation. We will arrange suitable social and educational activities to coincide with this event, with all members invited to participate. Details will be announced early in 2008.

The Armidale conference at University of New England was a great success, proving that the history discipline is alive and well. PHA NSW was well represented by twelve members, and our travelling display of publications. A separate report appears in this issue of Phanfare. Conferences such as this provide scope for interaction with practitioners from other fields, and are vital for raising the profile of Professional Historians and showcasing our work.

Another indicator of the health of history is the growing number of awards, prizes, fellowships and research grants, including the munificent gift in September of half-a-million dollars to Mitchell Library by a descendant of the David Scott Mitchell family. This year also we saw the inaugural award of the Prime Minister’s History Prize, worth $100,000. Early in October the winners of the NSW Premier’s History Prizes were announced, and some of the other States offer similar awards. The Australian Historical Association itself makes a number of awards: The Magarey Medal for Biography, the Allan Martin Award, the Kay Daniels Award, the W.K. Hancock Prize, the Serle Award. Then at the recent conference in Armidale, a new AHA/CAL Postgraduate History Prize was announced, worth $4,000. On the local scene, the History Council of NSW presents the annual Max Kelly Medal. Some of these awards are for advanced students or early-career historians, while others are for established writers. It is gratifying to see the work of our next generation of historians recognised so generously. They are our future.

Peter J. Tyler
President
PHA Tour of Garden Island

Liz Adams

PHA members and guests attended a special tour of historic sites at Garden Island on Thursday 20th September as part of the History Week program.

After an introduction by Paul Martin of the Naval Historical Society, groups were taken through the secure precinct of Garden Island which is not normally open to visitors.

Garden Island, gazetted as a Naval Depot in 1859 was first used 16 days after the arrival of the First Fleet. It was allocated to ‘Sirius’ as a garden, secure from convict pilfering. By 1855 Garden Island was specifically used as a naval facility and from the 1880s major naval buildings, which remain today, were constructed. These include The Boatshed (1896) and the 1887 Rigging Shed and Sail Loft.

In 1892, a section of the sail loft was converted to a naval Chapel which has impressive stained glass windows and memorials donated by various naval associations, a bow shaped pulpit, a font made from the mast of a ship and the ensigns of George V, Elizabeth 11 and the 1967 Australian Elizabeth 11 ensign. Downstairs is the small stylised ‘Chapel of Remembrance’ where the roof represents an inverted hull held high by two ‘masts’. Commemorative plaques line the walls.

Notable in the Chapel are memorials and stained glass windows dedicated to the first Australian submarines AE1 and AE2 which were commissioned at Portsmouth in February 1914 and arrived in Australia in May 1914. All hands on AE1 were lost at Rabaul on 14 September 1914 when it disappeared in the strait between New Britain and New Ireland. No trace of the submarine or its 35 crew has been found. AE2 was the first British submarine to enter the Dardanelles and penetrate the mine field. It was driven ashore in April 1915 and the officers and men were made prisoners of war in Turkey.

Other buildings and sites of note are the Kuttabul memorial, the 1893 Stores Building, the 1888 Royal Marine Barracks, the clock tower and Administrative Building which was expanded in the 1940s and a number of residences constructed between 1885 and 1895. Captain Cook Dock, built in the 1930s and completed in September 1945 was a feature of the tour. The construction of the dock joined the island to Potts Point in 1942. 3000 million litres of water can be emptied in 4 hours by massive pumps sited 31m underground. The Hammerhead Crane, last used in 1966, is the largest in Australia. In the Floating Dock was the replica HM Bark ‘Endeavour’.

At the conclusion of the tour, the groups moved on to inspect the current display of artefacts in the Naval Heritage Museum selected from over 250 000 individual items covering more than 100 years of Naval history. In the garden area are 1788 engravings believed to be Australia’s oldest colonial graffiti.
A Feast for the Eyes and Biscuit-Scented Nostalgia at the Museum of Sydney

Sydney Views 1788-1888 from the Beat Knoblauch collection – until 27 April 2008

Rosemary Broomham

Born in Switzerland and educated in Egypt, businessman Beat Knoblauch began collecting views of Sydney – his new home – soon after his arrival here in 1976. He is interested in history and wanted to continue a tradition of his homeland by displaying prints of local scenes on his walls. He enjoys many styles of art but deliberately focused this collection on Sydney on topographical views. As he states during the brief film featured with his prints, ‘I just like the idea of pulling something together to help to understand the development and also the beauty of Sydney in the past 200 years’.

The 100 pictures chosen by curator Susan Hunt represent only half of Knoblauch’s prints of Sydney scenes. Panoramas are prominent as are Sydney Cove and the first government house whose site the Museum celebrates. While creating the exhibition, Hunt pictured visitors to the exhibition ‘studying the early views in the gallery then walking outside and surveying Sydney today – finding themselves drawn into the irresistible game of comparing and contrasting key features in the landscape’. A large screen at the end of the gallery assists with some of these comparisons by presenting several current photographic panoramas above reproductions of the prints depicting the same scene. These can be changed by a touching computerised scans and the vantage points can be altered by pressing different locations on a Google map.

The exhibition begins with a section titled ‘First Impressions’, which shows prints from Arthur Phillip, The voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay published by Stockdale in 1789 and David Collins, An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, Cadell and Davies 1798, all hand coloured. London artist Robert Clevely prepared the scenes reproduced in Phillip’s journal from sketches by an unknown First Fleet artist while English artist Edward Dayes worked on sketches by the convict artist Thomas Watling. Dayes also created

1 Video interview of Beat Knoblauch in the exhibition, also cited in Susan Hunt, Graeme Davison, Sydney Views from the Beat Knoblauch collection, Historic Houses Trust, Sydney, 2007, p 10
2 Susan Hunt, ‘the Collector and the Collected’ in Susan Hunt, Graeme Davison, op cit, p 9
paintings from Watling’s work for George Barrington’s *Account of a voyage to New South Wales*, M. Jones 1803 which includes a very early view of Garden Island visited by PHA members in History Week.³

The prints are arranged in groups according to their location – the Entrance, the Heads to Sydney Cove, Sydney Cove itself, Townscapes, Fort Macquarie, Government House; Sydney from the North Shore, Darling Harbour and Dawes Point, Metropolis and Parramatta. Some of these views are very familiar, others less so. Some, such as additional version of Lesueur’s pen and ink drawing of the French encampment on the eastern side of Sydney Cove, have been obtained from European copies. Three of these are grouped together as item numbers 36, 37 and 38.

The exhibition’s later images are extensive panoramas and bird’s eye views some of which were published overseas. As one who was introduced to pictures of Sydney through the Mitchell Library’s Small Picture File, I welcome the chance to look at the first-generation prints of these images such as Frederick Charles Terry’s bird’s eye view of Sydney Harbour c1855 (Item 90). The last image in the exhibition (Item 100), A. H. Fullwood’s ‘Bird’s Eye View of Sydney, 1888’ is a triumph. Measuring 56.3 by 91 cm this richly coloured image was printed as a supplement to the *Sydney Mail*. This view looks down from the Darling Harbour side of the city presenting St Andrew’s Cathedral and the Town Hall in loving detail before spanning out to the north and the east to show the busy smoke-laden wharves on the left foreground and stretch out to the harbour coves on the northern and southern shores as far as the Heads.

There have been numerous exhibitions of Sydney views. For example, the Museum recently displayed a collection of Lycett’s paintings with their corresponding engravings and lithographs. But while some prints here are very well known, others are less familiar. Some of the latter examples came from paintings by Louis Auguste de Sainson, official artist with Dumont d’Urbeville’s expedition dating from 1826 to 1829 who ‘produced 182 views’ as well as numerous works in other genres.⁴ Other images that I have not examined closely before were views of Fort Macquarie drawn by artists with the expeditions of French explorers de Bougainville and Abel du Petit-Thouars and one of the military barracks c1845 by Captain Charles Hext of the 4th King’s Own Regiment stationed here in the 1840s. In some cases, the explanation of a print’s history clarified but my understanding roles of the artists and printmakers.

I found *Sydney Views 1788-1888 from the Beat Knoblauch collection* intensely pleasurable aesthetically and extremely challenging intellectually. Although I have visited this exhibition twice, it is only through the excellent catalogue that I am able to identify individual items and artists with any accuracy. I have used a number of these pictures in books and reports but, having taken the time to absorb the pictures and information in this exhibition, I recognise that I need learn to more about the creation and production of these and other images that I regard as accessories to my work. Only then can I treat them as works of art with their own intrinsic value rather than tools to help people see what I am describing.

³ ‘the Catalogue’, in Susan Hunt, Graeme Davison, op cit, pp 26-39  
⁴ ‘the Collector and the Collected’, op cit, p 11; ‘the Catalogue’, op cit, pp 86-7
The Biscuit Factory, Camperdown – until 2 December 2007

Thousands of people remember the biscuit factory in Camperdown. It was located between Parramatta Road and Pyrmont Bridge Road east of Lyons Road (the cross street opposite Missenden Road). Few of us actually saw the factory but we knew it was there because we all smelt it. In the words of the Historic Houses Trust publicity blurb it ‘was one of the sweetest smelling icons of Sydney’s industrial age’.

The Camperdown biscuit factory had been producing biscuits since 1891. But after a brief history of the site, the exhibition concentrates on its latest manifestation, the Weston Biscuit Company’s factory which closed in February 2004. As it was nearing the end of its life, the factory and its workforce were recorded by photographers Peter Campbell and Murray Fredericks. The result, as exhibited, is a judicious blend of people and processes which combines portraits of staff members and biscuit-making machinery. The machinery bears a selection of the biscuits produced at Camperdown shown on the conveyor belts that run through the exhibition like a leitmotif.

There are a few impressive biscuit tins and some TV ads for wagon wheels featuring kids. There is also a display showing what kind of apartments the architects made out of the biscuit factory, which are opposite the apartments fashioned from parts of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children on the other side of Bridge Road.

For me, by far the most appealing exhibit was the film produced by Afterglow Productions. Here staff members explained what the biscuit factory was like as a workplace. One observer compared it with ‘a mini fish market’. There were ‘rows and rows of conveyor belts with rows of ladies…chat, chat chat’. Indeed, staff members were encouraged to chat as they worked. Clearly, this was a workplace influenced by other philosophies than those presently in vogue. The people described it as a workplace that was ‘like family’. They were surrounded by colleagues who helped them through difficult times and rejoiced in their successes. They enjoyed going there.


**Behind the Scenes at the Mitchell Library**

Rosemary Kerr

Following the recent unveiling of the new look Mitchell Library Reading Room, some of our members took advantage of a rare opportunity to learn more about what really goes on behind the scenes at the place, which for many of us, is almost a second home. On 16 August, several Mitchell staff members spent an afternoon explaining more about the wealth of material held by the Library and gave some very useful advice about accessing some of the lesser known gems.

Mitchell Librarian, Elizabeth Ellis and Original Materials Manager, Richard Neville introduced proceedings before handing over to specialist staff to discuss particular collections. Maryanne Larkin, Curator of Manuscripts highlighted some of the larger collections, including political archives, such as those of the Australian Labor Party, the largest collection of all, and the Communist Party of Australia – a very well organised and heavily used resource. Church records also form a significant collection, such as the Uniting Church and the Methodist Overseas Mission records. Literary, theatrical and musical collections feature prominently. Much of the original material has survived time and trials – like William Bligh’s journal and logbook from the *Bounty*, complete with salt water stains!

Pictorial, cartographic and photographic material forms an important part of the Library’s holdings - in fact, the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries house one of Australia’s largest and most important photographic collections. Pictures and Maps Curator, Louise Anemaat and Alan Davies, Curator of Photographs, each provided a rundown on their collections. Access to these collections is via Picman, the computerised database - which includes manuscript material, though only contains around thirty percent of the material held – and the card catalogue, due to remain for at least then next seven years. Some modifications to Picman are being implemented, though there will probably be little change to the way clients search the database online. The Small Pictures File, held in the locked cabinets in the reading room, contains around 40,000 pictures, organised in alphabetical order according to subject headings, places and portraits. As Alan Davies pointed out, you often need to think laterally when searching for pictures and don’t always trust the labels – especially dates! Sometimes place names can be misleading too, as in the example that Alan showed us of Max Dupain’s ‘Tram Abstraction’, labelled as being taken in Sydney. Closer inspection, however, revealed that the type of tram depicted was only found in Melbourne. Another tip, when doing picture research is that ‘views’ are often catalogued as books, so it pays to check those card catalogues as well.

If you’re looking for maps, the Library has over 200,000 dating from the 15th Century to the present. You’ll need the various finding aids located on the shelves near the maps card catalogue and Webcat. Other places to look are the manuscripts catalogues, Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) records and printed books.

Martin Beckett, Microfilm Librarian, discussed the AJCP collection in some detail. This is a valuable resource containing microfilm copies of collections held in the United Kingdom and Ireland relating to Australian and New Zealand history, with particular emphasis on the colonial period and nineteenth century. Records come from repositories such as the Public
Records Office, London; the National Archives of England and other institutions, including the Royal Society and some museums. Detailed contents lists are available as is a handbook and guide to the series, which is probably the best place to start.

Rosie Block, Oral History Curator, introduced the Library’s collection of oral history material. The Oral History Programme began in 1991, when the Library started to actively seek oral history material, surveying the state to see what was out there to add to the existing collection that had been built up, largely by donations in earlier years. One of the major resources held is the NSW Bicentennial Oral History Project undertaken in 1988. In this series of interviews, around 200 people – some well known, others not so – speak about their memories of the first thirty years of the twentieth century. Other major items include a series of interviews with members of the Communist Party of Australia; corporate histories; and Siobhan McHugh’s interviews with workers on the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

The digital age has revolutionised the way we search for historical documents and Emma Gray from Reader Services demonstrated some of the exciting electronic resources now available through the Library. While some databases of journals and newspapers are only searchable in the reading room, many are accessible from home, via the Library’s website: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au. Just look under the ‘What’s New’ section of the home page for ‘Access Selected Databases from Home’ to see what’s available and you can log in by using your reader’s card number and creating a password. Some of the wondrous offerings include: Early English Books Online, which includes full text of publications of English language texts produced by printing presses in England and its colonies from 1473 to 1700. The index to the British House of Commons parliamentary papers between 1801 and 2004 is searchable, while the full text to these papers is available for the period 1801–1945. Emma gave us a demonstration of the Times Digital Archive, which includes all articles, advertisements and illustrations/photos in The London Times newspaper for the period 1785-1985, divided into categories to facilitate searching. We could only gasp in awe, wondering – if only the Sydney Morning Herald would do the same!

As no book, documentary, film or radio program on Australian history is produced without reference to the Mitchell Library’s collections, copyright is an important issue. Jennifer Broomhead is in charge of the Intellectual Property and Copyright section and explained some of the factors that need to be considered when applying for permission to use material. Copyright ownership is the first matter to be determined – it’s not always the Library, in which case you’d need to find out who is the appropriate person from whom to seek permission. For example, in the case of pictures published in particular journals, copyright may reside with the publisher of the journal. Other factors to be considered include the time period that has elapsed since the work was created and the type of use for which it’s being requested. The Library provides guidance on how to acknowledge the material and copyright owners. Fees are charged to reproduce material; however, there are cases in which they are waived, for example, for theses or journal articles.

The first part of our tour concluded with Linda West, Reader Services Team Leader explaining that the Reader Services Team have different members dedicated to particular groups of readers, including Professional Researchers (that’s us). Other groups include: Academic & Tertiary (which could also include some of us, who wear more than one hat); Secondary Students; Leisure & Tourism; Business; and Indigenous Services. Linda focuses on the Professional Researchers and we hope to have another session very soon so that PHA members can find out more about these services.
The next stage of the afternoon saw us exploring some of the places we normally never see. Down in the stack we discovered where the collectors disappear to retrieve our requests – a good way to keep fit, no doubt, among the kilometres of books and manuscripts. A highlight was a visit to the pictures gallery, where Louise Anemaat showed us some of the original art works, some of which are enclosed in extremely ornate and valuable frames. Louise explained the Library’s policy of maintaining the links between the works and their previous owners or creators, who may have chosen the frames, even if sometimes inappropriate for the picture. Some of the more interesting works include book covers for some of Patrick White’s works, stuck into frames with blue sticky tape. Apparently the Library will keep the frames but secure the pictures with matching, though more archivally sound material.

To complete the picture, we were able to view the new reading room from the first floor balcony. This area was once open to the public for browsing, but now is normally only accessible on special occasions. It was a privilege and a fitting end to a fascinating and rewarding afternoon – certainly a highlight of the PHA’s CPD calendar. Thanks to all the Mitchell staff who gave so generously and warmly of their time and expertise.
Bev’s Book Launch

Pauline Curby

PHA member Beverley Earnshaw’s latest publication – Houses and Heritage, Residences of the Kogarah Municipality – was launched by Dr Robert Irving on 22 September at St George Community Hall in Kogarah.

This was a well-attended function, hosted by Kogarah Historical Society of which Bev is the current president. She was assisted in preparation of the book by Historical Society secretary Janette Hollebone who conducted land title searches on each of the 80 plus residences included in this well-illustrated publication.

In launching Houses and Heritage Robert Irving delivered an entertaining speech, highlighting some of the invaluable information it provides. The houses ranged from the 1860s Carss Cottage to War Service homes of the post-war period. All are illustrated with a mix of historic images and contemporary photos. As Dr Irving commented this is in many ways a mini history of changing housing styles in Australia.

It was wonderful to attend such an enthusiastic community gathering in this interesting part of Sydney’s south. Bev’s fervour for her project was reflected in her excellent presentation. Sales of the book were still going strong as we were leaving.

Bev and Jan at launch.jpg

Beverley Earnshaw and Janette Hollebone at the Kogarah Historical Society launch of Houses and Heritage. Photo Pauline Curby
Legacies and Leg Irons

Katherine Knight

Legacies and Leg Irons was a lively History Week forum presented at Parramatta Heritage Centre on September 21. It was aimed at local heritage enthusiasts, historical societies and museum volunteers. Many of those attending were also engaged in family history research.

The first speaker was Gail Davis, senior archivist with State Records NSW. She spoke about the proposed World Heritage listing of convict records of NSW and offered a lot of practical suggestions for those struggling to source records of ancestors. Less obvious records include references in surveyors’ field books and letters, the surgeon’s journal for a convict ship, which names all people receiving treatment, including the free. Musters and census records, the index to Colonial Secretary’s letters about land and the index to intestate case papers, which can provide information about where a convict died. Ticket of leave records provide information within a district and ticket of leave passports – about convicts permitted to travel to additional areas.

Clearly related to the first topic was Gay Hendriksen’s discussion of Women Transported, an exhibition being developed at the Heritage Centre about the women of the Parramatta Female Factory. Already funded by Visions Australia as an exhibition to tour nationally, Gay would appreciate any information about individuals in the Factory or advice about sources – ghendriksen@parracity.nsw.gov.au.

Providing an update on recent archeological work in Parramatta was archaeology and heritage specialist Mary Casey, director of Casey and Lowe Pty Ltd. She described the experience of excavating post 1788 sites near the junction of George and Charles Streets and uncovering artefacts and materials revealing sustained indigenous occupancy. Expert in Aboriginal archeological sites, Dr Jo McDonald was called in. Carbon dating of minute fragments of charcoal from ancient campfires led to the recently announced revelation of Aboriginal use of the site for at least 30,000 years – more than doubling previous estimates.

Curator of Cultural Heritage for Parramatta Park Trust, Verena Mauldon, talked about the “endless change of history” in the gathering and interpreting of evidence. She spoke particularly about the layers of history revealed in research of the Dairy Cottage in Parramatta Park and alternative interpretations. She reminded listeners that the Burra Charter is constantly updated and that the current endorsed version is now 1999.

As editorial coordinator of the Dictionary of Sydney, Emma Grahame gave an update on work on the dictionary and the session ended with information about future convict heritage projects and initiatives in Parramatta.
Conserving Brush Farm Heritage
Photos and story by Katherine Knight

Brush Farm House with its later Palladian wings and restored verandahs.

As a result of a severe storm in 2004, the big two storey front verandah of Brush Farm House in Lawson St, Eastwood collapsed, revealing the elegant Georgian architecture of the original house. On a magnificent site with continuing visual links to Parramatta River, Brush Farm House was built by Gregory Blaxland for his family between about 1819 and 1820.

Blaxland was a well-to-do farmer from an old Kent family and on the advice of his friend Joseph Banks, had decided to seek opportunities in NSW. He arrived with his family in 1806 and in the following year.

Blaxland was a well-to-do farmer from an old Kent family and on the advice of his friend Joseph Banks, had decided to seek opportunities in NSW. He arrived with his family in 1806 and in the following year bought the land at Eastwood. One of the three men who later became famous for their crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, Blaxland was interested in developing improved agricultural produce and practice in New South Wales.

Unfortunately, his accounting skills didn’t match his experimental zeal and by 1831, he was forced to sell the Brush Farm property to his son-in-law Dr Thomas Forster.

English Minton tiles were laid on the later verandah and steps.
The house and farm remained within that family until 1880, when it was purchased and occupied by the Bennett family until 1894. It was during this period that the verandah with its iron lace decoration was added. The house was then leased and subsequently resumed by the State Government for use as a boys’ reform school. By about 1913, it was converted for use as a girls’ institution. Many other additions and alterations occurred to the building throughout this time. In 1988, it became a training academy for the Department of Corrective Services and in 1989, the Heritage Council of NSW placed a permanent conservation order on Brush Farm House.

The tour organised by Historic Houses Trust included inspections of the newly restored Brush Farm House and the nearby privately owned Riverview built in about 1873 by orchardist George Spurway, son of George Spurway senior, who was the convict overseer at Brush Farm.

Visitors enter the front door of Riverview, the cottage lovingly restored and maintained by private owners.

Stables, loft and coach house at the back of Riverview, now on the southern side of Brush Farm Park, part of the original Blaxland estate.

Local historian and writer Gregory Blaxell explained that each room at Brush Farm House has been restored according to the major use of that room. Hearth tiles have been reproduced from a few originals still available for dining and drawing rooms. In

After a long campaign by Brush Farm Historical Society, Ryde Council bought Brush Farm House and 1.2 hectares of land in 1990, with the intention of restoring the house and opening it for public usage. Ryde Council developed a conservation program and engaged Tanner Architects as design consultants and work supervisors. Conservation works began in May 2006 and after 13 months and the expenditure of more than $3 million, the building was ready for its first visitors.

The southern view from the upper balcony reveals the continuing link with Parramatta River in the distance. Housing development to the east and the growth of trees to the west hide the original range of views from Gladesville to the Blue Mountains.
a photographic process involving colour separation and printing on tiles before firing, the original patterns are being re-created with remarkable accuracy.

The decision was taken to restore the Victorian balcony, because no records were found which indicated what the building had looked like before its addition. Shutters were re-introduced as for the Georgian period. The original 1820s ironbark flooring has been identified in the western Palladian ballroom. Future use of the building will be a mix of commercial, government, community and private hiring.

Sadly, president of Brush Farm Historical Society Bev McClymont was unavailable to lead the tour that day. She was at the bedside of her husband John who had suddenly been taken ill. He died the following week. John is fondly remembered by many aspiring and established historians as a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher and guide.

**Prints of the photographic design for the drawing room hearth (above) and the dining room hearth (below).**
**Historical Re-enactments. should we take them seriously?**

Peter J. Tyler

This was the title of the Twelfth Annual History Lecture, organised by the History Council of NSW to celebrate the commencement of History Week on Friday 14 September 2007.

The speaker on this occasion was Professor Iain McCalman AO, Professor of History and a Federation Fellow at the University of Sydney. Besides being immediate past president of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, he also is a member of the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

A full house gathered at The Mint for this important event in the history calendar. Proceedings were opened by History Week media patron, ABC radio personality Richard Glover, with his amusing parody of Australian history, “1770 and All That”. Professor Emerita Jill Roe AO, as president of the History Council, then announced the winner of the 2007 Max Kelly Medal – Timothy Castle from University of New England - and presented the Annual History Citation to Professor Brian Fletcher.

By coincidence, both Iain McCalman and Jill Roe were created Officers of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2007 Queen’s Birthday Honours List, a rare award for mere historians.

Iain McCalman’s encounter with re-enactment began in a BBC television series purporting to retrace the *Endeavour* voyage of Captain James Cook along the Barrier Reef. The experience of being historians and able seamen under simulated eighteenth-century conditions proved to be so frustrating for several participants that they began to consider whether re-enactment could ever be historically valuable. They came to realise that the primary purpose of the exercise was entertainment for mass audiences, who “are moved to laughter, awe or pity at our modern-day sufferings and failures”.

Nevertheless, the experience led to the formation of an international academic movement for research into the re-enactment phenomenon. Regular conferences are held, and Palgrave Press in the United Kingdom is publishing a series of books on ‘History and Re-enactment’. Initial disillusionment has led to a focus on the origins and significance of this way of presenting history in a popular format. It can be seen as part of a trend “to emphasise the importance of understanding meanings within the past rather than with explaining historical causes.”

At the heart of many re-enactments – living in old houses, re-creating old settlements, fighting old battles – is a nostalgic impulse that alienates many historians, who are sceptical of these contrived situations. Cultural critics like Umberto Eco believe that this nostalgia is a psychic disease, where modern people want to inhabit imagined past worlds rather than face the challenges of the present. On the other hand, Manning Clark used to tell his budding student historians that their first necessity was to purchase a stout pair of boots, for only by visiting the site that one is writing about can one truly understand the circumstances in which particular events took place.

McCalman concluded by saying that “shallow reality-style formats can make the past look just like the present dressed up in funny clothes, but reflexive re-enactments can overcome that silly brand of anachronism … they can underscore the fact that the past is not the same as now, and that history’s inhabitants cannot be assumed to have felt or thought as we do.” This might be a fruitful topic for discussion in the pages of *Phanfare*. 

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Quotations in this brief article are from the published text of Professor McCalman’s lecture, which is available from the History Council of NSW for eleven dollars, including postage. Contact: office@historycouncilnsw.org.au

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**PHA Annual General Meeting**

Rosemary Kerr

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 18 August, with exactly the required quorum of 15 members (including one proxy - phew!!) Some of us gathered at History House before the meeting to take part in a photo shoot, with photographer Verity Gill, who is helping to design our new website and brochure. Historians in action were snapped inspecting heritage buildings, taking part in interviews and taking tours of historic sites such as the Conservatorium of Music – stay tuned for more details.

The meeting got underway just after 2.30pm, with President Peter Tyler summing up the year’s activities. Peter’s report is available in full on the PHA’s website, but some of the highlights of the past year included the membership survey, which provides a profile of members’ backgrounds, work experience and will help the Committee to better respond to members’ needs for services such as CPD activities. Marketing, promotion, networking and employment opportunities were all high on the agenda during the year and will remain so in the coming year. In response to members’ demands, the Committee is also planning a ‘showcase’ publication for members’ work to be published as a special section of our revamped website. The PHA finished the year in a strong financial position, which should continue, enabling us to maintain an active and vibrant Association.

There were an exact number of nominations to fill all positions for the Management Committee and the following officers were declared elected.

**President:** Peter Tyler  
**Vice President:** Virginia Macleod  
**Secretary** Ruth Banfield  
**Treasurer:** Rosemary Kerr  
**Members:** Christine Cheater, Pauline Curby, Susan McClean.

At the General Meeting immediately following the AGM, some of the issues raised for consideration in the coming year included: the need for closer ties between the PHA and universities; the possibility of an essay prize to raise awareness of the PHA amongst up and coming undergraduate History students; promoting history and the PHA to school students via the History Teachers’ Association; and closer collaboration with the State Library of NSW, particularly in initiating projects such as oral histories. The formal proceedings closed at 4.15, followed by afternoon tea.
“Engaging Histories” was the theme of the regional conference of the Australian Historical Association, held at the University of New England in Armidale from Sunday 23rd to Wednesday 26th September 2007.

Despite being a long way from any of the capital cities, a strong contingent of 240 historians from all over Australia attended the conference, delivering a remarkable 170-odd papers in those few days. Naturally, it was necessary to hold as many as seven concurrent strands. As anyone who has been to such an event knows, all the lectures that one is particularly interested in have a habit of being programmed at the same time, so choices have to be made. The streams included: ‘Australian Legends’, ‘History as story-telling’, ‘Biography’, ‘Frontiers of History’, ‘Brains and the Bush’, ‘History as a community asset’, ‘Forms of History’ and ‘History’s Audiences’. Papers covered a huge range of subject matter – from political and intellectual history to social and cultural topics, not only within Australia, but many with an international context. It was pleasing to see a strong focus on the practical value of history and its various applications in the wider community as a theme of the conference.

It is now fifty years since Russel Ward published his book *The Australian Legend*, which launched a new genre of interpretations of Australian history and the Australian identity. Because Ward was Professor of History at UNE, it was natural that a major strand of the conference should be centred on his work, including reminiscences from former colleagues. On Monday evening many delegates visited an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Russel Ward at the UNE Heritage Centre (on the site of the former Armidale Teachers’ College). A highlight was Ward’s daughter, Biff, speaking eloquently and informatively about her father.

The Russel Ward Annual Lecture formed part of the conference, with Professor Gillian Cowlishaw (UTS) speaking on “Principles of the Present: history and anthropology in Australia”. The AHA Anniversary Lecture was another feature, given by Professor Alistair Thomson (Monash) on “Family Snapshots as Historical Evidence”. Professor Thomson has just returned to Australia after teaching in English universities for the past twenty years; he is also President of the International Oral History Association. The conference opened with a keynote address by Professor Angela Woollacott (Macquarie) on “Frontier Violence, Australian Legends and Settler Manhood”.

Many of the academic historians expressed concern about the adverse effect of government funding cuts on the teaching of history in universities. In most institutions staff have been cut drastically; often the history department is merged into another discipline. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to see many young postgraduate students at the conference, presenting stimulating papers that proved history is not dead yet.

It also was very pleasing to see twelve members of PHA NSW at the conference, with seven of them giving papers or other presentations. This reflects the conscious efforts now being made by PHA to engage with other organisations devoted to the promotion of history. Indeed, one conference session was devoted to a discussion between representatives of the various associations, where it was agreed that we should co-operate more closely in future.
Another session provided the several state History Councils with the opportunity to describe their achievements as well as their constraints. A display of PHA members’ publications was set up in the foyer of Duval College where the conference took place, so that everybody had a chance to see the range of work that is carried out.

The only book launching at the conference featured a PHA member, Terry Kass. Actually it was a “pre-launching” of Terry’s book *From Sails to Satellites: the Surveyors-General of New South Wales 1796-2007*. This will be published early in 2008, but flyers accepting advance orders are now being distributed.

Various award winners were also announced at the conference. The AHA's annual Ernest Scott Prize for the book "judged to be the most distinguished contribution to the history of Australia or New Zealand published in the previous year" went to Associate Professor Regina Ganter from Griffith University for *Mixed Relations: Asian-Aboriginal Contact in North Australia*. The History Council's inaugural John Ferry Prize for local and community history went to Lorina Barker, a PhD student at UNE, for her essay on the stories and memories of the Weilmoringle people. Highly commended was M.E. Rodwill.

Conference arrangements proceeded smoothly, aided by the fine spring weather and the excellent catering. Those of us with memories of the food in university colleges were pleasantly surprised by the quality, variety and quantity of the cuisine that is now provided. Congratulations are due to Frank Bongiorno and his team who were responsible for the organisation. Two days after the conference, Frank left to take up his appointment in the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at the University of London. He will be missed in Armidale.
A short history of education in Manly, NSW

Anne Smith

*Education is the best provision for old age.*

Just outside the Manly Art Gallery and Museum is a bronze bust dedicated to Charles Henry Parkes, depicted as the Father of Federation and Local Representative in Parliament. Of even more significance to the early settlers of Manly was his involvement in Education.

In the early years of the penal colony that was Australia, education seemed scarcely relevant to the affairs of what was merely a prison. However in 1848, a National Board of Education was established and educational reform gradually began to take place. Under Its Education Act, the Board would provide up to two-thirds of the cost of erecting and fitting out a school, wherever an attendance of 30 pupils could be guaranteed and local patrons found to undertake the responsibility of raising the balance of the money and superintending the building of the school.

In the Manly locality, many pioneer parents felt no compelling need for their children to read and write, abetted by such advice from the Government Guide to Emigrants as, ‘… a lad of 14 is quite as good as a man, either as a shepherd, stockman or hut keeper’. So it was very fortunate that the area’s generous benefactor, who came to be known as the ‘Father of Manly’, Mr Henry Gilbert Smith, offered an area of land at the corner of Belgrave and Carlton Streets, as a school site and guaranteed that £150 would be found. The stone building known as ‘Swiss Cottage’ situated on top of Constitution Hill was offered as temporary premises and on 28 September 1858, Manly’s first public school came into operation, with John Wiblin as teacher, assisted by his wife. To Mr Smith’s disappointment, only eight of the 62 eligible children in the locality attended. Nevertheless, by the completion of the new school in January 1859, 23 were enrolled. Fees were 3d. per week per child and the fifth and subsequent children were free.

In 1866, Henry Parkes introduced his Public Schools Act, which accepted the right of all children to education as something apart from religious teaching and concern of the State. Mr Smith’s optimism was justified by 1879 when Manly Public School became overcrowded with more than 150 children enrolled, and 100 of these attending school regularly. In May 1880 a site of one and a half acres with frontages to Wentworth Street, Victoria Street and Darley Road was acquired at a cost of £1074. ‘A commodious school and teacher’s residence was erected and completed by December 1882 at a cost of £3616, with Mr James Bardsley as its first teacher’.

Ironically, Henry Parkes at this time also had a hand in expanding the operations of the Star of the Sea Convent at the other end of Manly. In a Minute tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 24 June 1867, Parkes summarised the Government’s position on the Catholic Orphan School at Parramatta, which was a Government Institution but had been under the care of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. He strongly stated his unwillingness to tolerate the use of Government money to further denominational ends. This resulted in 1880 in three Sisters quitting Parramatta and taking up residence in a rundown house formerly owned by local

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businessman W Rolfe and briefly occupied by William B Dalley. Newly named the Star of the Sea Convent, the house was in what was then an isolated, rural area, near what was known as Curl Curl Lagoon at the Queenscliff end of Manly, a site later occupied by Stella Maris College.

Henry Parkes’ and William Wilkins’, Public Instruction Act became law in 1880 establishing a centralised, free, compulsory and secular system of State education, open to children of all religious denominations and social backgrounds. The legislation forced denominational schools, which then became private schools, to survive on their own if they could. Small Manly private schools such as; the 1864 Manly Beach Private Ladies School; 1868 Mrs L Baxter Ladies School; Whistler Street; 1876 Mrs Thomas Penny’s Private School, Manly; 1877 Ivanhoe College, Manly Beach; and the 1919 Church of England Preparatory School, gave up the struggle.

Under the 1880 Act, the residents of Balgowlah applied to the Department of Education for the establishment of a school in the region that eventually became Seaforth Public. The Good Samaritan Sisters had extended the Convent at Queenscliff and set up an Industrial School for girls, aged between 14 and 18 whose parents could not or would not look after them. After their school day, they received special training in laundry work, needlework, cooking and housework to equip them for life in the outside world. By 1883 reports showed ‘two schools, both conducted by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and accommodating 100 children – one attached to the church’. One was the St Mary’s and St Athanasius’ School ‘and the other an industrial school adjoining the present Convent’. In 1886, the Parramatta Orphanage closed altogether and the remaining orphans were transferred to Manly. 1889. The turn of the century saw the birth of one of NSW’s first private schools for girls. It was the well-remembered Brighton College which graced Manly’s foreshores for 71 years.

In 1900 Manly Public School gained classification as a ‘Superior Public School’. From 1905 to 1922 significant and lasting educational changes took place under Peter Board, Director of Education. In this period the entry of the state into secondary education broke the monopoly which had been exercised by the church and private schools. In Manly the school population and schools to service them were growing apace. In 1922, the Manly North School (later to become Manly West) was opened to receive the overflow of pupils from Manly Public. From 1922 – 1938 such schools as The Garden Primary at Balgowlah; Hillview College for Girls at Fairlight; Miss James School at Balgowlah; the Church of

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7 Pastoral on Public Education, 21 November 1859, in Forster and Haines, The Eye of Faith. p. 263
8 Sydney Morning Herald 1.10.1864
9 ibid p.204
England School on the Corso; Queen’s Ladies School North Steyne; the Grantley House School, and Camden School in Dalley’s Castle, all came and went. Others such as Manly Grammar School for Girls; Manly Grammar School for Boys; St Cecilia’s Balgowlah; St Paul’s Manly; Stella Maris College Manly; Balgowlah Heights Public School; the Palm Avenue School in Dalwood Home at Seaforth; and the Royal Far West School, which adjoins the Far West Home in Manly, and which had its beginnings in a small space in Manly Public School, came and stayed.

Manly Grammar girls enjoy the beach. Archives of the Good Samaritan Sister, Glebe

Manly Public School was demolished in September 1931 when local workers on Unemployment Relief due to the Depression built a new Domestic Science school from the stone of the old building. The building was officially opened by the Minister of Education on 14 October 1931.\textsuperscript{12} Enrolments for all schools, including infants and primary boys and girls, were 1,661.\textsuperscript{13} Manly Public School now spawned Manly Girls High School and Manly Boys High School, which split in two with one campus becoming Balgowlah Boys High School. Manly Domestic Science School became Manly Home Science, eventually transforming into the Mackellar Girls School. The 1931 buildings now house Manly Village Primary School.

The Wyndham Report of 1957 radically altered the concept of high schools. From the 1960s, these were to be comprehensive, co-educational and community-based.\textsuperscript{14} These sweeping reforms led to the demise of smaller private schools like Brighton College and the Manly Grammar Schools.

Educational ‘need’ covers all age groups, and Manly has been home to such diverse institutions as: the 1901 School of Arts, which became the Manly Literary Institute in 1923 and continues its life as the Manly Community Centre; the School of Artillery; the Australian Graduate School of Police Management; the International School of Management (formerly St Patrick’s Seminary); the Australian College of English; International House Sydney Waratah Education Centre, Manly; and many schools of dance. This era also established a variety of courses offered by Seaforth TAFE (Technical and Further Education); Evening Colleges; and Schools for Seniors, as well as provision for handicapped children in the public system.

The broad history of the development of education in Manly reflects the myriad changes in education, and chronicles the changing circumstances of the locality.

\textsuperscript{12} Metherell, T. Personal Papers on Manly School
\textsuperscript{13} http://www.manlyvillageschool.nsw.edu.au/about/history.html
\textsuperscript{14} Manly Daily Supplement 16.9.1982
What's On in History
Prepared by Christine de Matos

October/November 2007

Exhibitions

Events October

3 Lecture. 'The History of the Ambulance Service of NSW'. With Greig Hoare. RAHS. Venue: History House Auditorium Time: 1pm Cost: $7, mems $5 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
13 Open Day. ‘Learn about your Library’. RAHS. Venue: RAHS Library Time: 10am-3pm Cost: $5.50 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
28 Walking tour. 'Mansions, mysteries and murders of Newtown'. HHT. Venue: tba Time: 10am-3pm Cost: $55, mems/conc $45 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2266.
Events November


3 Talk. 'Fork and Talk: The Missing Japanese Midget Submarine'. With James Macken. RAHS. Venue: Reception Rooms, History House. Time: 5-7.30pm. Cost: $26, mems $22 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au


7 Lecture. 'Submarines in Australia'. With Peter Smith. Venue: History House Auditorium. Time: 1pm. Cost: $7, mems $5 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au


8 Symposium. ‘The Living Wage and National Values: Remembering Harvester, 1907-2007’. Gryphon Gallery, 1888 Building Grattan Street. The University of Melbourne. Enquiries: Gabrielle Murphy, ph: (03) 8344 5961; email: g.murphy@unimelb.edu.au


22-23 Conference. ‘Australasian Welfare History Workshop’, Wellington. Enquiries/submissions: Margaret Tennant, M.A.Tennant@massey.ac.nz
22-23 **Conference.** 'Distance and Diversity: Reaching New Audiences', Australian Media Traditions biennial Conference, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. **Enquiries:** email: mvanheekeren@csu.edu.au; web: http://www.csu.edu.au/special/amt/

24 **Walking tour.** 'Archaeology in The Rocks'. HHT. **Venue:** Susannah Place Museum. **Time:** 10am-12.30pm. **Cost:** $20, mems/conc $15. **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.

28-30 **Conference.** 'When the Soldiers Return', University of Queensland, Brisbane. **Enquiries:** email: soldiersreturn@uq.edu.au; web: http://www.uq.edu.au/hprc/?page=60799

29-30 **Symposium.** 'Occupying 'the Other': Australia and military occupations from Japan to Iraq'. CAPSTRANS, University of Wollongong. **Enquiries:** Christine de Matos, email: cdm@uow.edu.au

**Upcoming Conferences**


‘New Worlds, New Sovereignties Conference’, 10-14 December 2007, Melbourne. **Enquiries:** email: newworlds@newsovereignties.org; web: http://www.newsovereignties.org


**Call for Papers**

'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


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