



MARKING TIME

**30-31
AUGUST
2018**

State Library of NSW, Sydney

PROFESSIONAL
HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Presented by

PHA NSW & ACT

Professional Historians Association
NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY





WELCOME

Welcome to *Marking Time*, the 2018 Professional Historians Australia national conference, presented by the Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT, with support from the State Library of NSW, Professional Historians Australia, Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University and GML Heritage.

MARK DUNN

Chair, Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT

On behalf of the PHA NSW & ACT, I want to welcome all delegates to the biennial conference for professional historians. The following two days promise to be an engaging excursion through a variety of projects, challenges and opportunities that we all face. This conference gives us the opportunity to raise our heads from our busy schedules for a moment, scan the landscape and reconnect with each other. Thank you to the State Library of NSW for hosting us this year, and to Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian, for welcoming us to this great, world-leading institution. Enjoy.



JILL BARNARD

President, Professional Historians Australia

Professional Historians Australia is proud to share with PHA NSW & ACT in the Marking Time conference 2018. As professional historians from across the country gather to share aspects of their work, we look forward to provocative discussions, renewed inspiration in our professional standards and enhancement of the collegial bonds that bind our members together. On behalf of all our members, I congratulate the dedicated PHA NSW & ACT team who have worked so hard to ensure that this national conference will be memorable for all.



SPONSORS





MARKING TIME 2018

DAY 1 30 AUGUST, GALLERY ROOM

08:30AM Registrations

09:00AM **Welcome**

Welcome to country, welcome from Chair, President and Mitchell Librarian

09:30AM **Keynote: Professor Bruce Scates**

Performing the Past: Public History, Material Culture and Digital Imaginings

10:30AM Morning tea

11:00AM **Navigating emotion and reason**

Neville Buch, *Emotion and reason in local history and war and peace commemoration: a Queensland case study*

Bill Wilson, *Albert Borella VC MM - brave and (very) well remembered*

12:00PM **The sculptures we didn't see**

Deborah Beck, *A woman's place: the depiction and role of women in the Anzac War Memorial, Sydney*

Roslyn Burge, *Callan Park: forgotten memorials*

01:00PM Lunch

02:00PM **Uncovering hidden legacies**

Mary Sheehan, *A monumental disease: the Royal Exhibition Building and the Spanish flu*

Fiona Poulton, *Through younger eyes: reinterpreting memorials for a younger generation*

03:00PM **Lightning papers**

Alan Davis, *People and history: changing perspectives*

Janette Pelosi, *Marking time in New South Wales: the uses of administrative history*

Laila Ellmoos, *Remembering the Great Strike of 1917*

Nicole Cama, *What do we do with commemorative histories?*

03:30PM Afternoon tea

04:00PM **Panel: myth and memory in oral histories, museums and archives**

Rachel Buchanan, **Rebecca Carland**, **Katherine Sheedy**, *Memorialisation and storytelling*

05:00PM PHA NSW & ACT Annual General Meeting

06:30PM Networking drinks, The Attic, ArtHouse Hotel, 275 Pitt Street, Sydney



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DAY 2

31 AUGUST, METCALFE AUDITORIUM

08:30AM

Registrations

09:00AM

Entangled histories: Indigenous wars, military and shared spaces

Stephen Gapps, *Why are there no monuments to the Sydney Wars?*

Geoff Wharton, *Western Cape York Peninsula war memorials: honouring Indigenous service*

Jennifer Debenham, *Digital memorials: making frontier massacres visible*

Paul Irish, *Places of ochre and rust: interpreting sites of Aboriginal and European entanglement in Sydney*

11:00AM

Morning tea

11:30AM

Panel: Whose story is it?

Indigenous practitioners respond to issues of writing and curating Aboriginal history

Emily McDaniel, Peter White, Ronald Briggs and Melissa Jackson

12:30PM

The DX Lab

Paula Bray and Kaho Cheung

01:00PM

Lunch

02:00PM

Writing commissioned histories: or revealing difficult truths

Kate Blake, *From boarding to boardrooms: two milestones in contrast*

Sue Castrique, *One small world: the history of the Addison Road Community Centre*

Helen Penrose, *Out of darkness, into the light: recording historical child sexual abuse narratives (the sequel)*

03:30PM

Lightning papers

Jill Barnard, *Marking a place for the people - Flinders Park, Melbourne*

Sonia Jennings, *Cain's Cathedral*

Ian Willis, *Rotolactor dreams, a cultural icon in a contested space on Sydney's urban fringe*

Shirleene Robinson, *The Australian LGBTIQ community and commemorative projects: remembering, forgetting and the past in the present*

04:00PM

Afternoon tea

04:30PM

Closing: Public history today

Paula Hamilton and Paul Ashton, *The public turn*



KEYNOTE

Professor Bruce Scates, *Performing the Past: Public History, Material Culture and Digital Imaginings*

'Objects', the Director of Australia's National Museum tells us, 'have the power to connect us to the others' lived experience, to collapse time and space and...feel [the shape] and character of their worlds'. How might public historians employ objects to explore the contours and character of past societies? And how can those same objects be brought to 'life' by digital through digital technologies?

'Australian Journey: the story of Australia in 12 Objects' is a free resource developed by Monash University, Australian National University and National Museum of Australia that carries material culture into the public domain. Structured around the themes of Land, People and Nation, this innovative digital narrative will take you across the length and breadth of the continent, revealing the forces that shaped our history and offering new and nuanced perspectives on the past. Discussion will explore the project's potential and tackle some of the complex logistical, methodological and ethnical questions involved in the fashioning of a truly public history.

Professor Bruce Scates FASSA is based in the School of History at the Australian National University. He is the author of several books on war and memory, including *Return to Gallipoli: Walking the Battlefields of the Great War* (Cambridge 2006); *A Place to Remember: a History of the Shrine of Remembrance* (Cambridge 2009), and the lead author of *Anzac Journeys and The Last Battle*. His imagined history of Gallipoli, *On Dangerous Ground*, was commended in the Christina Stead awards and *Women and the Great War* (co-authored with Rae Frances) received the NSW Premier's History Award. Professor Scates has helped produce several radio and television documentaries, websites and a MOOC. Committed to public history, he worked with the National Museum of Australia, Monash University, the Australian National University and a host of cultural institutions to create 'Australian Journey' – a free, on-line documentary series.





ABSTRACTS

Jill Barnard, Marking a place for people - Flinders Park, Melbourne

Flinders Park, a public reserve in Melbourne, was nominated as a place for public meetings in the 1890s and a corner of the park maintained a role as a 'speakers forum' until the 1970s. It was the scene of mass meetings during the 1890 maritime strike and peace rallies during World War I. While the physical remnants of the 'speakers forum' now sit outside the National Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park (formerly Flinders Park), it is arguable that by moving the Australian Open from a private club, Kooyong, to more capacious facilities at Flinders Park, the spirit of democracy linked with the site was maintained.

Jill Barnard is a PHA Vic member who has worked as a professional historian for over 25 years. She is a partner, along with three other professional historians, of Living Histories.

Deborah Beck, A woman's place: the depiction and role of women in the Anzac War Memorial, Sydney

As we approach the commemoration of the end of the Great War in November 2018, the completion of the recent work on the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park will become a focal point. This paper will examine both the changing attitudes to the sculpture on the Memorial from its inception in 1930 until the present, and the exceptional prominence given to women in the original works. The sculpture by Rayner Hoff will be discussed in relation to the newly commissioned work for the Memorial by artist Fiona Hall.

Deborah Beck is a historian, writer and artist, who works at the National Art School. She is the author of three books, including *Set in Stone*, which won a NSW Premier's History Award in 2012, and *Rayner Hoff: the life of a sculptor*, published in March 2017.

Kate Blake, From boarding to boardrooms: two milestones in contrast

I compare two case studies from projects completed in the last 18 months: one for 50 years in business; the other for 100 years as an independent school. History in big business is often confined to 'About Us' on a company's webpage, while schools foster their identity with history. The company marked a semi-centenary using the traditional medium of a book, while the school used digital media to make a website. Company executives put themselves in our hands, while the school was directive about content, purpose, and tone. Using these contrasts and more, I reflect on approaches to milestones - the kinds of methods they use, the challenges they present, and the results they can achieve.

Kate Blake has extensive professional experience as a researcher and writer, and is presently completing a Doctorate in History at the University of Sydney. She works on history projects for independent research company, Worthington Clark. She recently authored *Equifax, Fifty Years in Australia*, a book about the 50-year history of Equifax Australia.



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Paula Bray and Kaho Cheung, The DX Lab

The State Library of NSW's DX Lab builds and supports new ways of design thinking, experimentation and research with technology. The DX Lab is a place where innovation and collaboration are explored. We deliver creative, engaging and new ways to explore the Library's collections, data sets and services through digital experiments. We use existing and emerging technologies to build experiences onsite and online. This presentation will showcase how we work in the DX Lab and touch on some of the significant experiments that have been made over the last three years.

Paula Bray is the DX Lab Leader at the State Library of NSW and is responsible for developing and promoting an innovation lab utilising emerging and existing web technologies to deliver new ways to explore the Library's vast collections and its data. Paula builds the DX Lab as a place for creative ideas and partnerships.

Kaho Cheung is a creative developer, with a particular interest in open data and interaction design. He is an advocate for using open source technologies, especially in the GLAM sector. Currently working in the State Library of NSW as the DX Lab Technical Lead, Kaho was previously at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, where he helped deliver the new collection website and public API in 2017.

Neville Buch, Emotion and reason in local history and war and peace commemoration: a Queensland case study

A difference lies between commemoration and history for professional practitioners. As philosophical thinkers, with clarity in meaning and critical thought, there is the question of whether the nature of war and peace is lost by the abuse of emotion and fallacies during the commemoration years. Using Queensland as a workable case study, a survey will be presented on the works from professional historians addressing the nature of war and peace for communities. There is both diverse and critical thinking on war and peace, but crucial to the investigation is the forthcoming centenary of 'post-war peace'. How will it be commemorated?

Dr Neville Buch is an independent researcher in Queensland local, intellectual and social history. He has been a Q ANZAC Fellow at the State Library of Queensland (2015-16). Dr Buch is Director of the Brisbane Southside History Network, and manages the Mapping Brisbane History Project.



Rachel Buchanan, Rebecca Carland, Katherine Sheedy, Memorialisation and storytelling

Oral history collections, archives and museum collections can all become surrounded by myth and emotion. They can also be seen as static memorials to the past. There are many challenges involved in interpreting the past and different ways of collecting can influence the ways we, as history professionals, navigate these spaces. This panel explores the role of the historian, the archivist and the curator in traversing the interplay between memorialisation and storytelling in three different areas of historical collection and practice: oral history, the archive and museum collections.

A trained journalist, then historian, **Dr Rachel Buchanan** became an archivist while she was curator of one of the biggest collections of personal papers in Australia – the Germaine Greer Archive, University of Melbourne. She is excited by the radical, creative potential of archival records to illuminate the past and shape the future.

Rebecca Carland is Senior Curator, History of Collections at Melbourne Museum. Her work centres on storytelling in the Natural Sciences collections; unpacking, reframing and contextualising the significance of the State Collection. Her latest exhibition *Inside Out* explored site specific storytelling and immersive theatre to engage with young adults.

Katherine Sheedy is a founding member of Way Back When Consulting Historians. She has worked as a professional historian for 15 years in the areas of commissioned history, heritage, interpretation and oral history. She is the author of business, educational, medical, community and municipal histories.

Roslyn Burge, Callan Park: forgotten memorials

In 1925 and 1931 two memorials to the sacrifices of World War 1 were constructed at Callan Park. Devoid of traditionally commemorative representation, both were designed by men long overlooked in their own land. One memorial, embellished with national emblems of flora and fauna, is the only structure in Australia designed by an internationally renowned architect. The other is decorated with that 1930s emblem of national engineering achievement, Sydney Harbour Bridge. After decades of neglect and relative seclusion, how have changing attitudes in the last twenty years generated renewed interpretation of these memorials in this increasingly public urban space?

Roslyn Burge is a Sydney-based public historian. As well as commissioned histories and exhibitions, her practice includes oral history projects commissioned by individuals, libraries, community and heritage organisations and those she has initiated in her local community.



Nicole Cama, What do we do with our commemorative histories?

For many of us commemorative histories are a key avenue for employment. I've worked on many World War I projects, however, I'd like to reflect on my most recent oral history project for St Vincent's College, Potts Point, and focus how we publish and share commemorative histories.

Nicole Cama is a professional historian who specialises in social and public history. Since going freelance in 2014, she has worked on numerous projects, the most recent of which is an oral history project for St Vincent's College, Potts Point. She is the Deputy Chair and Treasurer of PHA NSW & ACT.

Sue Castrique, One small world: the history of Addison Road Community Centre

One Small World is a local history that presented a number of writing challenges. Until 1975, the site was one of the major army depots in suburban Sydney. The following year it was replaced by a community centre with an entirely different ethos and political outlook - in many ways its antithesis. Present-day members committed to protest and peace were uneasy about celebrating, or even recognising a conservative and military past. This paper explores the tensions in public memory, and dilemmas when a historian writes for their own community.

Sue Castrique is a historian, researcher and script editor. Her book, *Under the colony's eye: gentlemen and convicts on Cockatoo Island* won the Kay Daniels Award in 2016, and *One small world* was published in 2017.

Alan Davis, People and history: changing perspectives

Northern Territory Library has a dual role as Public and Research Library. Exhibitions appeal to a range of community groups, as does our schools program. I have contributed to the following exhibitions: *Territory Anzacs*; *The Bombing of Darwin*; *Down the Track* (WW2); *The Fujita Exhibition* (Postwar Reconstruction) and *Territory Families* (Multiculturalism). As Visitor Experience Librarian, I respond to changing attitudes toward history. Supporting research will always be our core business, but public interest in historic events such as the bombing of Darwin is growing and changing. Amateur researchers seek a personal connection to a place through memories of a relative or an ancestor.

Alan Davis is a Professional Historian member of PHA NT and Visitor Experience Librarian at Northern Territory Library, with previous experience as a Research Officer at NAA, Darwin. NTL exhibitions include: *Territory Anzacs*, *The Bombing of Darwin*, *Down the Track*, *The Fujita Exhibition* and *Territory Families*.



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Jennifer Debenham, Digital memorials: making frontier massacres visible

Today the range of memorials is not confined to imposing stone or bronze figures and obelisks but can include interactive and publicly accessible online sites. Increasingly, historians rely upon digital platforms to make tangible connections with their audiences. *Colonial Frontier Massacres in Eastern Australia, 1788 - 1872*, was launched at the AHA in July 2017. Since then it has proved to be a timely addition to the acknowledgement of the violence perpetrated on Australian frontiers. The site challenges fundamental beliefs of Australian pioneer histories, subverting the narrative of a peaceful and total extinction of the continent's original custodians.

Dr Jennifer Debenham is a historian and currently a Conjoint Lecturer at the University of Newcastle. Her publications include, with C. Cheater, *The Australia Day Regatta* (NewSouth Publishing, 2014), and *Colonial Frontier Massacres in Eastern Australia, 1788 – 1872*, with Lyndall Ryan et.al.

Laila Ellmoos, Remembering the Great Strike of 1917

What is the place of the Great Strike of 1917 in the collective memory of Sydneysiders? In this lightning talk, Laila will reflect on the exhibition she co-curated with Carriageworks to mark the centenary of the strike, regarded as one of Australia's largest industrial conflicts.

Laila Ellmoos is a historian with the City of Sydney Council. She has written three books including *Our Island Home: a history of Peat Island*, published in 2010. In 2017, she co-curated an exhibition about the Great Strike of 1917 at Carriageworks. Laila is a member of the PHA NSW & ACT.

Stephen Gapps, Why are there no monuments to the Sydney Wars?

In my book *The Sydney Wars: Conflict in the early colony 1788-1817* I ask why are there no monuments to the resistance warfare that was conducted across the Sydney region up to 1816. This paper extends my initial survey of monuments and memorials to the colonial 'small wars' – the skirmishes, battles and massacres that occurred as the Europeans occupied the Cumberland Plain – and suggests some reasons for this lack of commemoration. As the centenary of World War I begins to fade, is it time for public historians to analyse their complicity in the monumentalisation of modern military history?

Dr Stephen Gapps is a curator at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Stephen has a long-standing research interest in early colonial Sydney and its public commemoration in monuments, memorials and historical reenactments. His book, *The Sydney Wars – Conflict in the early colony 1788-1817*, was published in 2018.



Paula Hamilton and Paul Ashton, The public turn

There has been a long boom since the 1970s in the quantity and range of activities that fall under the rubric of public history. This was fuelled, among other things, by the rise of cultural tourism, the heritage industry, technology, social movements, post-colonialism, mass education and the decline of traditional history departments. This paper reviews the current field of international public history and asks what Australian public historians can learn from the ways and means by which public history is expanding rapidly in other countries. We argue that it may be time to think about a more inclusive and capacious concept of what 'public history' is.

Professors Paula Hamilton and Paul Ashton are adjuncts at the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS and Macquarie University's Centre for Applied History. They are currently editing, with Professor Tanya Evans, a book for De Gruyter (Berlin) on *Making Public History*.

Paul Irish, Places of ochre and rust: interpreting sites of Aboriginal and European entanglement in Sydney

Across Sydney there is a hidden historical landscape within a landscape; a range of places associated with the 50 - 100 local Aboriginal people who continued to live across the coastal part of Sydney throughout the nineteenth century. Little physically remains of many of these places except their documented location, but others include some of the most significant 'historic houses' and sites in Sydney. They have what archaeologist Phil Jones describes as a double patina of 'ochre and rust' and deserve greater recognition for their ability to illustrate the complex, cross-cultural interactions occurring in this period.

Dr Paul Irish is a Sydneysider who works as a historian and archaeologist with Coast History & Heritage. For over ten years he has been piecing together the Aboriginal history of coastal Sydney with researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community, resulting in his 2017 book *Hidden In Plain View: The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney* (NewSouth Publishing) and the 2015 NSW History Fellowship exhibition *This Is Where They Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney*.

Sonia Jennings, Cain's Cathedral

A 5 minute paper looking at the politics of building the National Tennis Centre and the mark it has made on Melbourne's sporting culture. In the late 1980s Melbourne needed a new venue for the Australian Open tennis. What were the struggles within tennis circles to move from a private venue to a public one? What political forces were aligned for and against it? How did it come to be known unofficially as 'Cain's Cathedral' and then officially as 'Melbourne Park'? Now home to Australia's biggest sporting event, the Tennis Centre honours tennis legends Rod Laver and Margaret Court.

Sonia Jennings is a member of Living Histories. Her work includes histories on air pilots, nurses, sport, government, superannuation and fashion, as well as heritage studies and oral histories. Her latest publication, with Jill Barnard, is *It Started from Scratch: the first 50 years of the Australasian College of Dermatologists*.



Emily McDaniel, Peter White, Ronald Briggs and Melissa Jackson, Whose story is it? Indigenous practitioners respond to issues of writing and curating Aboriginal history

How do we work with Aboriginal history in the public space and who's story is it to tell? Four Aboriginal practitioners Emily McDaniel, Peter White, Ronald Briggs and Melissa Jackson will present and discuss the challenges curating stories for cultural institutions, government and corporate clients such as developers. How do you ensure a 'live link' between community and the archive? Whose language are we remembering these histories in? How can we imaginatively convey the past? The panel will also consider the issues raised by the previous session - Entangled histories: Indigenous wars, military and shared spaces.

Emily McDaniel is a curator and artist from the Kalari Clan of the Wiradjuri nation in Central NSW. She has held numerous public programs and curatorial positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Biennale of Sydney and Art Gallery of NSW. Most recently she curated *Four Thousand Fish* at the 2018 Sydney Festival to honour Aboriginal fisherwomen and their defiance against British colonists, who once excessively hauled 4,000 fish in one day.

Peter White is a Gamilaroi Murri from north-west NSW who has held a number of senior positions in major cultural institutions and government arts agencies. Most recently, Peter has been a freelance adviser on First Peoples' cultural and creative development. He is now Sydney Living Museums' Head of Indigenous Strategy & Engagement.

Ronald Briggs (Gamilaroi) is originally from Moree in central north-western NSW. He trained as a schoolteacher before beginning work as Indigenous Services Librarian at the State Library of NSW in 1991. Ronald is a keen family historian and has also worked with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. He is now curator of Research and Discovery at State Library of NSW.

Melissa Jackson is of Bundjalung descent with family links to the Baryulgil area near Grafton. Melissa worked in various government departments, including Department of Housing and Attorney General's Department before starting work at the State Library of NSW in 1991. She has a background in teaching and obtained her librarianship qualifications from University of Technology, Sydney. Melissa is President of ATSLIRN, the national body representing Indigenous library workers.



Janette Pelosi, Marking time in New South Wales: the uses of administrative history

NSW State Archives records the administrative history of the New South Wales government from 1788 to the present day. Such histories may assist the historian in identifying relevant archives which may provide evidence to prove or disprove myths and to balance the emotion of hindsight with the immediateness of the day. Understanding the context of archives assists historians to know what records were created, those that survive and those that were never made. This talk will consider the challenges of researching and writing government administrative history and interpreting official and related sources to mark time in NSW.

Janette Pelosi is a professional archivist and historian. She was the winner of Rockdale City Council's Ron Rathbone Local History Prize 2008 for a history of the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Brigade. Janette is the Senior Archivist at NSW State Archives responsible for recording the NSW government's administrative history since 1788.

Helen Penrose, Out of darkness, into the light: recording child sexual abuse narratives (the sequel)

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has issued professional historians with a new challenge. Usually marking a significant historical milestone, the commissioned histories we write for organisations have a new responsibility to record exceptionally difficult truths. At the 2016 PHA conference I spoke of my proposed methodology to tackle the recording of historical child sexual abuse. This paper, as a sequel, will draw directly on the Brisbane Grammar School project to explore how the subject was recorded without sully too much the many loved people, myths, events and stories which usually accompany school history writing.

Helen Penrose has a Master's degree in History from the University of Melbourne, and is a member and past president of PHA Vic. She has worked as a professional historian since 1993 and was a founding director of HistorySmiths in 1994 www.historysmiths.com.au. Her history of Brisbane Grammar School will be published in February 2019.



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Fiona Poulton, Through younger eyes: reinterpreting memorials for a younger generation

War memorials are often surrounded by ritual, tradition and solemnity. They are commonly associated with RSLs and/or aging community members who act as custodians of memory. They are less commonly places of connection for younger people. Through Younger Eyes is a project that explores the lives of Geelong residents who were affected by WWI, through the eyes of young locals today. This paper examines how this project challenges the traditional use of the war memorial, using technology and collaboration with young people to transform and bring meaning to sites of memorialisation, and to connect people with the past.

Fiona Poulton is a historian with Way Back When Consulting Historians and co-Vice President of PHA Vic. A graduate of the Master of Public History at Monash University, she is the author of several commissioned histories and has broad experience in oral history, heritage research, exhibitions and digital history.

Shirleene Robinson, The Australian LGBTIQ community and commemorative projects: remembering, forgetting and the past in the present

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer Australians have lived through extraordinary, although uneven, social change. How well have such experiences been recorded and commemorated? Does this past need to be connected to the present? What role should the LGBTIQ community play in preserving and making public its lived experience?

Dr Shirleene Robinson is a historian and Associate Professor at Macquarie University. She has published many books, including *Something like slavery? Queensland's Aboriginal child workers, 1842-1945* and the co-authored, *Gay and Lesbian, Then and Now: Australian Stories from a Social Revolution*. She is also the President of Sydney's Pride History Group and Oral History NSW.

Mary Sheehan, A monumental disease: the Royal Exhibition Building and the Spanish flu

Spanish flu emerged in the final months of the Great War, then swept the world killing between 50 and 100 million. Roughly 12-15,000 died in Australia, and about two million were infected, with many more affected by the loss of a partner, a parent, or orphaned. Despite the huge death toll and catastrophic social effects, few monuments have been erected globally in memory of the millions who died. This paper will consider the lack of attention given to Spanish flu and its victims in Australia, despite the role played during the crisis by the nation's iconic Royal Exhibition Building.

Mary Sheehan is a member of the Living Histories team; a foundation member of PHA Vic; and inaugural chair of PHAust. Mary has worked in heritage, undertaken multiple major oral history projects and has had numerous commissioned histories published. Her current interest: victims of the Spanish flu.



Geoff Wharton, Western Cape York Peninsula war memorials: honouring Indigenous service

Prior to the 1980s, defence service by Indigenous Australians mostly was unrecognised and not commemorated. Equally, the frontier warfare of the 19th century was forgotten in Australian histories until the 1970s. Working as a librarian at Weipa throughout the 1980s, Geoff assisted the Mapoon and Napranum communities to repatriate archival images and records from missionary descendants in Australia and overseas. Discussions with community Elders about their local histories highlighted their desire to recognise the military service of their ancestors. This led to research and design work for the Mapoon and Napranum communities to establish war memorials in 2010 and 2014.

Geoff Wharton OAM is a professional historian and community relations specialist based in North Queensland. He recently completed thirteen World War I biographies of former residents and staff of the Yarrabah Church of England Mission for Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Yarrabah Sub-Branch of the RSL.

Ian Willis, Rotolactor dreams, a cultural icon in a contested space on Sydney's urban fringe

On Sydney's urban fringe is the Menangle Rotolactor which was once located on the Macarthur family's historic colonial property of Camden Park. The former icon is at the centre of a stage where a series of actors are contesting rural space over issues of urban development. Now abandoned in a paddock, the Rotolactor was once an agricultural wonder attracting over 2000 tourists a week to Menangle. Today community activism in the village is resisting the commodification of its heritage, neo-liberal capitalism, and state planning. A successful community festival used nostalgia and memories to re-enforce ownership of the dominant narrative.

Dr Ian Willis is a professional historian, an honorary fellow at the University of Wollongong and a member of a number of professional associations. He has a special interest in local studies, place and Sydney's rural-urban fringe.



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Bill Wilson, Albert Borella VC MM - brave and (very) well remembered

This paper explores the practices of memorialisation, in particular of Victoria Cross awardees, with multiple memorials. The paper utilises a case study of Captain Albert Chalmers Borella VC MM who has 18 memorials in his name. The argument is not that VC winners do not deserve recognition, clearly, they do. It is that memory and commemoration which should be constructed according to the social, cultural, and political needs of the society producing them are often over-politicised or inappropriately claimed and result in incongruous memorials. The paper considers what are the obligations of a professional historian when advising on memorials.

Dr Bill Wilson is a professional historian from Beechworth, Victoria. Bill spent many years in the Northern Territory in policing and later lecturing at Charles Darwin University before retiring to north-east Victoria. Bill writes on policing, crime, punishment and occasionally on military topics. He is Membership Secretary for PHA Vic.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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Cover images clockwise from top left:

Nurses leaving Blackfriars Depot, Chippendale during flu epidemic, April 1919. Digital ID NRS4481_St6674, NSW State Archives

Captain Cook's Statue, Hyde Park, c.1900-1910, PXE 711/405, State Library of NSW

Jelleke Vanooteghem on Unsplash

Pemulwuy (Pimboy: Native of New Holland in a Canoe of That Country), 1804, Neele, S., & Grant, J., State Library of Victoria



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LOCATIONS

CONFERENCE

State Library of New South Wales

Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000

sl.nsw.gov.au

Day 1 - Gallery Room, Mitchell Wing

Day 2 - Metcalfe Auditorium,

Macquarie Street Wing

GETTING THERE

By train

The closest train stations are Martin Place (200 metres) and St James (450 metres).

By bus

The Sydney Explorer bus stops outside the Library on Macquarie Street. There are bus stops in Elizabeth Street near Martin Place (240 metres away) and Castlereagh Street near Martin Place (350 metres away). Plan your trip at transportnsw.info

By car

The nearest parking station is Sydney Hospital, located on Hospital Road. If you have a Mobility Parking sticker, you can use the parking spaces at Shakespeare Place, on the corner of Macquarie Street and the Cahill Expressway.

EVENING EVENTS

NETWORKING DRINKS

30 August, 6.30pm

ArtHouse Hotel

The Attic, top floor

275 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

arthousehotel.com.au

NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS

31 August, 6pm

State Library of NSW

Gallery Room, Mitchell Wing

Join the State Library as they announce the winners of the NSW Premier's History Awards and launch History Week. The NSW Premier's History Awards Address will be delivered by leading historian of colonial NSW and author of the acclaimed book, *The Colony: A History of Early Sydney*, Professor Grace Karskens.

This event is ticketed separately and discounted tickets are offered to conference delegates. Contact markingtimeconference@gmail.com for the discount code.



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2018

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