Editorial policy and guidelines for writing for the PHA NSW & ACT blog

The goal of the blog

The PHA NSW & ACT blog is a platform for members to showcase their work; to contribute an historical perspective to current debates; to report on members' activities such as conferences and professional development activities; share views and information about professional practice and historical resources; and introduce ourselves to the membership and wider audience.

Target audience

The blog has the potential to reach a wider audience than does the [Facebook page](#). It also serves as a dynamic element on the website, so aims to engage visitors to the site, including potential employers, fellow historians, journalists and others.

Contributions

We try to publish a post or two every month. We are especially interested in contributions that highlight the role of the professional historian and demonstrate the relevance of history. Contributions can come in the form of a member's profile (see questions), a report on an event, an historical story, a comment on an issue, a review of a book or exhibition, or a call for debate.

The blog strives to be content rich. It is not a forum for advertising events or publications. This can be done via the Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Citations and links

Please provide links to publications cited or to other resources where readers can delve further into you subject. Footnotes can be included but only when strictly necessary.

Who can contribute?

Contributors must be members or friends of the PHA NSW & ACT. It is helpful to you if you have an up-to-date profile page on the website to which we can link your byline.

Please contact the blog editor before you submit a post to ensure that your idea is suitable for the blog. The editor will work with you to refine the topic. The editor will copy edit the post and moderate any comments. Drafts should be sent to the blog editor in a Word document, with hyperlinks either embedded or with full URLs supplied.

Comments

A good blog is interactive. This is something to keep in mind when drafting your posts. Once a post has been published, authors should keep an eye on the blog to see what comments have been made and, where suitable, reply to generate further discussion.

The blog editor decides if a comment is suitable for publication or if a discussion on a post has reached the point at which it should be closed. Offensive remarks and those not pertinent to the purpose of the blog – promoting the history profession – will not be published.

Style guide

Submissions should be between 500 to 1,200 words and be accompanied by at least one image (landscape in shape and ideally 691x221 pixels) for which you must hold or have obtained the rights, unless they are in the public domain.

The blog can demonstrate the craft of historical writing and story-telling. Please ensure that your contribution is written in a style that will resonate with the general reader. A good heading that encapsulates the essence of your post will help attract readers and search engines. If you are writing a longer piece, please use subheadings.

Not all readers are Australian. It is therefore important to put places and events into a context that makes them comprehensible to a wide readership. Hyperlinks can be useful here.

Republishing

Authors are welcome to reuse their content and, if they wish, to invite the PHA NSW & ACT to republish articles. We encourage contributors to circulate their posts and to promote the blog.

Further resources

Contributors may find this [guide](#) to blogging for historians useful.