

# PHA NSW & ACT

Professional Historians Association

NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Annual Report 2018-19

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PHA NSW & ACT (Inc), GPO Box 2437, Sydney NSW 2001

Website – [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au) Email – [phansw.history@gmail.com](mailto:phansw.history@gmail.com)

PHA NSW was formed in 1985, and renamed PHA NSW & ACT in 2014, as a professional association for practising qualified historians. It is a founding member of the federal peak body Professional Historians Australia (PHA) (formerly the [Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations Inc. \(ACPHA\)](#))

**The objectives of PHA NSW & ACT are:**

THE Association works to support and develop the professionalism and status of public historians in the community through:

- I. Leading public historians in the continuing professional development of their skills and practices across a life-long career as a historian,
- II. Facilitating and inculcating an ethos of high standards of professional and ethical practices among public historians,
- III. Promoting concepts of public history and professional practice across the many fields of historical inquiry and diverse forms of interpreting and presenting history to which public historians are significant contributors,
- IV. Advocating public history perspectives in public debates concerning interpretations of history and the keeping of documentary, environmental and other historical records,
- V. Providing potential clients with guidance on engaging public historians for appropriate remuneration, conditions and other considerations,
- VI. Representing members in contractual and employment matters,
- VII. Recognizing the outstanding contributions made by public historians within the field of history and within the broader community,
- VIII. Fostering mutually supportive and co-operative relationships among public

historians, being a forum for the exchange and sharing of information and news

between fellow public historians, and publishing in any form of technology materials relating to the objects of the Association,

IX. Maintaining links, formal and informal including through memberships and affiliations, with public and private external bodies engaged in the practice of history in any of its diverse forms, and

X. Maintaining membership of and contributing to the evolution of Professional Historians Australia Inc, and maintaining and deepening collegiate links with other professional and public historians associations around the world.

### **Membership of the 34th Committee 2018-19**

Chair	Mark Dunn
Deputy Chair	Nicole Cama
Secretary/Public Officer	Alinde Beirhuizen
Treasurer	Nicole Cama/Martina Muller
Member (Memberships)	Patricia Curthoys
Member (PH prize)	Minna Muhlen-Schulte
Member (CPD)	Lisa Murray
Member (PHA delegate)	Michelle Richmond
Member (Alternate PHA delegate)	Francesca Beddie
Administration Officer	Naomi Malone
	Rachel Buist

The following report of the activities of the Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT is prepared in accordance with Clause 24 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Association, being that the business of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will include ...*reports on the*

*activities of the Association during the last preceding financial year.*

## **1.1 Chair's Report**

As you will see from the reports presented in the 2018-2019 Annual Report that follows, the year past has been one that has seen the PHA build on the success of the 2018 National conference that was hosted by NSW & ACT, while turning our attention back to growing the association and streamlining its processes. The year has seen some flux in the committee and a commitment made to update and improve our website, blog and outreach.

The conference, *Marking Time*, held at the State Library of NSW on 30-31 August 2018, was a great success. Delegates from all the national PHA's were represented and presented papers, with external presenters running panels on Aboriginal history and storytelling and digital history. Professor Bruce Scates presented the key note address—Performing the Past: Public History, Material Culture and Digital Imaginings. The contacts made and discussions started at the conference have shaped some of the 2019 program, most particularly our History Matters series.

History Matters, which will be reported on in detailed further in the report, has been the overwhelming success for 2019. In conjunction with Oral History NSW and the State Library of NSW we have so far hosted six sessions, consisting of two speakers and a chair. With a combination of members or each association and specialist practitioners, the sessions have been well received with a mix of PHA, Oral History and general public attendees. This is a series we intend to continue through 2020.

Through 2018-19 we have had a steady increase in member numbers, as outlined in the membership report. We were also very sad to lose two members who passed away during the previous year: Katherine Knight and Professor Ian Jack. Both will be sadly missed.

I would like to thank all those members who represented us on boards and committees through 2018-2019. These include Michelle Richmond (PHAus), David Carment (PHAus Appeals Committee), Judith Godden (PHAus Advice Committee), Christine Yeats (Honorary Librarian), Stephen Gapps (History Council of NSW), Michael Bennett (State Records Community Advisory Committee), Terry Kass (National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum), Christine Yeats (RAHS Archives & Records Management Committee) and Joy Hughes (Mitchell Library Consultative Group).

I would also like to thank the members of the 34<sup>th</sup> committee for 2018-19: Nicole Carma, Lisa Murray, Michelle Richmond, Francesca Beddie, Minna Muhlen-Shulte, Patricia Curthoys, Alinde Bierhuizen and Martina Muller. The committee has worked hard this year, with a few changes and disruptions along the way. A particular thank you to Nicole Carma, who after two terms as Treasurer for the Association, stepped off early in 2019. Nicole has worked tirelessly in the role and has made my job as Chair that much easier. Nicole's position was filled as a temporary appointment by Martina Muller, and thanks to her for volunteering to take on the role. We have also had a change in the administrative role for the Association. Thanks go to Naomi Malone who was in the position until the beginning of 2019. Since February we have been very happy to have Rachel Buist with us in the role. Both Naomi and Rachel are vital to the smooth operations that we have enjoyed in the past

twelve months.

This will be my final report for the PHA NSW & ACT as I have come to the end of my two terms as Chair and will be stepping down from the Committee. I would like to thank not only the current committee, but those who have been on previous committees, as well as all of our members and friends of the association. It has been a great privilege to represent professional historians in all our guises through the PHA and a humbling one to have been able to do so as chair of the Association. I look forward to seeing you all at future events and functions.

Mark Dunn

## **1.2 Secretary's Report**

### **Secretary & Public Officer's Report 2018-19**

As Secretary & Public Officer I am responsible for answering all general enquiries addressed to PHA NSW & ACT; organising and administering meetings of the executive committee; communication between the executive committee and members; and managing the National Job Bulletin.

2018-19 was my first year as Secretary & Public Officer on the executive committee of PHA NSW & ACT, as well as my first full year as a member of the PHA. It has been a pleasure meeting fellow members during the various social events and especially enjoyable getting to know the other committee members over the past year. I would like to thank outgoing Chair Mark Dunn for all his support, as well as Nicole Came, who left the committee earlier this year as Treasurer. I look forward to continuing to work with the other committee members for another fruitful year.

### **General enquiries and administration**

Before I started as Secretary in September 2018, it was decided by the executive committee that the Administration Officer was to be made the first point of contact for all general enquiries. This change has significantly lowered the workload for the Secretary. I would like to thank Naomi Malone, who resigned as Administration Officer in March 2019 and Rachel

Buist, who stepped into the role a month later for all their hard work and support. Most enquiries received by the PHA NSW & ACT are regarding job and research opportunities and we occasionally receive requests from the media for expert advice. It is the executive committee's aim to deliver a new website during the next term (2019-20) which will assist in answering these enquiries through a searchable members' database; allowing members to list their areas of expertise, contact details and availability.

It is my intention to set the dates for future executive committee meetings during the 2019 AGM. These dates will be listed on the website again so members know when and where the executive committee meets, allowing them to provide input or attend.

### **National Job Bulletin**

The National Job Bulletin is sent out every three weeks to all PHA members around Australia. PHA NSW & ACT Administration Officers, Naomi Malone and Rachel Buist, have both done a great job compiling the bulletin, sourcing job vacancies and grants opportunities online. Employment Officers from different states regularly contribute opportunities to be included in the Bulletin as well.

In May 2019 the executive committee decided to send out the Bulletin on Thursdays instead of Mondays to avoid work for the Administration Officer on weekends and increase readership amongst members.

### **Members Circular / Newsletter**

The executive committee aims to send out a newsletter to its NSW & ACT members once a month, including a message from the Chair, introducing new members, listing events, promoting members' work, grant opportunities and previews of the blog. I would like to encourage members to get in touch if they would like to include any of their work or achievements, or share opportunities and events with other members.

### **Facebook**

PHA NSW & ACT hosts an 'open' Facebook group where people can share posts and events with other group members. I am the administrator and able to accept people who request to join the group. The Facebook group is currently made up of more non-PHA members than PHA-members (ca. 2/3 of the group is not a PHA member). This means that the Facebook page can not be used to communicate exclusively with other PHA members, but that the general public can contribute, read and comment as well. If we would like to have a private Facebook page in the future, a new one will need to be created.

*Alinde Bierhuizen, Secretary & Public Officer, September 2019*



### 1.3 Treasurer's Report

#### Treasurer's report for AGM 2018-2019

PHA NSW & ACT Income and Expenditure report (1 July 2017-30 June 2018)	
Income	
Membership subscriptions	\$18,255.00
Copyright Australia	\$2,151.95
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$20,406.95</b>
Ticket sales	
History in July 2018	\$250.00
Christmas Party 2018	\$259.16
GML Heritage conference sponsorship	\$1,500.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$2009.16</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$22,416.11</b>
Expenditure	
Admin	
Administration Officer	\$2974.25
Office/stationery expenses	\$318.05
Insurance	\$408.00
RAHS rent	\$915.00
PHAus delegate Conference Flights	\$431.40
Governance (Fair Trading)	\$46.18
Bank fees	\$40.78
Website	\$35.00
Overpaid membership fees (members paid twice)	\$210.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$5378.66</b>
Events	
History in July 2017	

Catering	\$630.00
Speaking fee	\$300.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$930.00</b>
<b>Christmas Party 2018</b>	
Catering	\$1229.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$1229.00</b>
<b>2018 Conference</b>	
ArtHouse Hotel Room Hire and Catering	\$2153.00
Catering Laissez-faire SLNSW	\$4763.50
Keynote Speaker Bruce Scates	\$903.00
Printing + Tags	\$801.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$8620.50</b>
<b>History Matters</b>	
Speaker Fee: Greg Young	\$200.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Total events expenses</b>	<b>\$10,983.50</b>
<b>Memberships and Prizes</b>	
History Council of NSW	\$250.00
RAHS	\$163.00
Public History Prize	\$500.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$913.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	
Bruce Scates Ticket Premier's History Award	\$90.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$17,365.16</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>+\$5050.95</b>

### Accounts

The PHA NSW & ACT ended the financial year 2018-19 in a good position. We had a total surplus of \$5050.95 and the closing balance of accounts on 30 June 2019 being \$40,470.07

## Membership renewals

The PHA NSW & ACT had a total of 107 members as of 30 June 2019.

*Nicole Cama, Treasurer and Deputy Chair*

*Mark Dunn, Chair.*

### 1.4 Membership Officer Report

Between July 2018 and June 2019 the following 6 members were accepted.

1. At the Professional level: Kylie Andrews, Kate Bagnall, Jan Barkley-Jack, Karen Schamberger (by transfer from PHA VIC & TAS), Patrick Wilson (upgraded from Associate level).
2. At the Professional Historian (Associate) level: Caitlyn Dunn.

The Committee has also encouraged Professional Associate and Graduate members to consider upgrading their memberships with some success. We will continue to remind these members of that possibility.

It is with sadness that we note the death of graduate member, Katherine Knight, last October. Katherine's working life included 30 years of arts and cultural support, promotion and advocacy in western Sydney. Her history of arts activism, *Passion Purpose Meaning: Arts Activism in Western Sydney*, was published by Halstead Press in 2013. Her blog, *Western Sydney Frontier*, launched in 2014, provided regular updates on arts activism in the region. Another long time member, Professor Ian Jack also passed away in September 2019. Ian had been an active member of the PHA for many years and a great support to both the association and the broader history sector. He will be greatly missed in the community.

My thanks to the Committee, and particularly to Alinde Bierhuizen, our Secretary and Nicole Cama, our now retired (and much missed) Treasurer, for their support and assistance. Thanks also to Rachel Buist, our Administrative Officer, and Naomi Malone, who previously held the position, for their assistance. And special thanks to our retiring President, Mark Dunn, for his assistance and encouragement during my time on the Committee. He, too, will be much missed.

*Patricia Curthoys, Membership Officer, September 2019*

## 1.5 Public History Prize Report

The PHA sought entries for the 2018 Public History Prize via advertisements to universities in Sydney, regional NSW and the ACT as well as social media, the History Council NSW and Public History centres at Macquarie and UTS. Disappointingly only three entries were received, and only one from NSW:

- 'Revision and Remembrance: The Evolution of Swedish Memory of the Second World War, undergraduate essay completed as part of Confronting the Past at UNSW;
- 'Taking Centre Stage—Indigenous Australian Activism and Popular Music in the 1980s, undergraduate essay completed as part of Making History unit at ANU; and
- 'The history of his town becomes the history of himself' Lyall Gillespie and local histories in Canberra, undergraduate essay completed as part of Making History unit at ANU

The judges, Francesca Beddie, Mark Dunn and Minna Muhlen-Schulte, selected *Taking Centre Stage - Indigenous Australian Activism and Popular Music* by Anthony Merlino. The essay stood out as the strongest entry in terms of the criteria with thought

- clarity of expression and excellence in writing;
- positioning Aboriginal contemporary music within international popular music history and Australia's colonial history to demonstrate originality in interpreting the past in contextual way; and
- confidently integrating the use of the secondary historical works alongside a close analysis of other artforms like Aboriginal visual arts, lyric writing and performance.

However the author was unable to attend *History in July* to be awarded the prize in person and the other two nominees were also absent. The lack of connection to students and timing that does not seem to align either with attracting entries at the end of semester or attendance at the event has led the PHANSW committee to rethink the efficacy of the Prize. It has been decided that the prize money (\$500) should be redirected in 2019/2020 to another prize or Continuing Professional Development event.

## 1.6 CPD Report

### CPD Report 2018-19

PHA (NSW & ACT) hosted the biennial Professional Historians Australia Conference “Marking Time” held on 30-31 August 2018 at the State Library of NSW. A separate report is presented on the conference.

The new galleries at the State Library of NSW opened in October 2018. Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville kindly took 18 members on a tour of the galleries on 30 January 2019. Richard was candid with members about the challenges faced with the new exhibition spaces and members animatedly discussed curatorial decisions around the gallery hang. Francesca Beddie published a report on this event on the PHA blog: <http://www.phansw.org.au/state-library-of-nsw-so-much-more-than-paper/>

We ran out of time at the conference to hear adequately from Paula Hamilton and Paul Ashton and so we reconvened a session for members on The Public Turn. This was held at History House on 14 February 2019. Paul looked at the development of the profession and university training, and considered participatory public history, asking how much do we practice this? Paula put out a call for action for historians to be creative in their approach to public history, expanding the boundaries of evidence to engage the imagination and emotion, so that history is a sensory, imaginative experience. Members engaged broadly in discussion after the two papers.

Following a suggestion from Paula Hamilton, the PHA (NSW & ACT) approached the State Library of NSW events and scholarship teams to pitch a new seminar series “History Matters”. The seminar series brings together practising historians and aligned professionals to discuss issues and challenges in the practise of history. The seminar series is pitched at historians and students, as well as the informed public.

The State Library enthusiastically embraced the idea, offering us value-in-kind support with the provision of a seminar room, ticket booking, promotion, and staff for the event series. The program of speakers has been organised by Paula Hamilton in consultation with the CPD Officer, and with support from Paul Ashton.

In recognition of the State Library’s substantial contribution, it was agreed to charge a small fee for the event. Experience of the library’s events team shows that charging a small ticket price also encourages attendance. The tickets are \$10 general public; \$5 PHA, OH, library friends. The State Library keeps the proceeds of ticket sales.

We approached Oral History NSW to co-present the event with us, with the hope of also sharing costs. Speakers are offered a fee of \$200 and the Chair \$100. This is commensurate

with our professional rates and the rates of the Australian Society of Authors. External speakers tend to accept the fee and invoice, whereas most members don't charge us a fee. We have yet to invoice Oral History NSW as costs to date have been minimal and the association's input minimal. We hope to grow the collaboration with the association next year.

The seminar series commenced in March and runs through to November, with a break in July to accommodate attendance at the Australian Historical Association annual conference. I would like to record my sincere thanks to Paula Hamilton for the time and effort she has committed to developing the program and lining up speakers. The program has proved popular and it is wonderful to have a range of speakers from inside and outside the association.

The seminars have been well-attended each month with audience numbers fluctuating between 25 and 45. The audience has been a mix of association members, academics, history students, and the general public. The library venue has proved a neutral space, welcoming to all, and the seminar series has encouraged thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion on the practice of history.

Six seminars have been held to date. A summary of the seminar topics, speakers and chairs are below.

### **Session 1 Why/Why Not? Life in the Past Lane – Wed 6 March 2019**

Speakers:

Paul Irish, Historian and Archeologist and Director of Coast History &  
Birgit Heilmann, Curator Hurstville Museums and Gallery, Georges River Council

Chair: Paula Hamilton, UTS

The first session is designed to introduce the audience to questions about why history is important to all our lives. We explore how ideas about the past are changing through the voices of two practitioners who work with history in very different settings. They will reflect on their own experience about the issues that have emerged in communicating history to different groups.

### **Session 2 Commissioned Histories – Wed 3 April 2019**

Speakers: Greg Young, urban planner and editor of *Paddington: a history* (2019) & Pauline Curby, public historian and writer of *Randwick* (2010)

Chair: Tanya Evans, Macquarie University

This session questions the ethical issues involved in working on commissioned histories for different groups or communities. Is some level of compromise always inevitable? How do we work with indigenous clients and keep a professional distance? Is it particularly hard to do commissioned work using oral histories as part of the historian's skills? Should we only work with sympathetic employers?

### **Session 3 Beyond Signage? Heritage Interpretation – Wed 1 May 2019**

Speakers:

Sue Hodges, Heritage Professional and CEO of SHP (Victoria) & Sharon Veale, CEO GML Heritage (Sydney)

Chair: Mark Dunn, Chair PHA (NSW & ACT)

Session 3 asks: 'In the professional field of heritage interpretation, are historians out in the cold?' Heritage interpretation is dominated by specialists other than historians. And more often than not, interpretative schemes are concerned largely with aesthetics and texture. History is often accused of throwing heritage interpretation into a 'grey area' or a 'hot mess'. Are complexity and contested viewpoints incompatible with heritage interpretation? What are the opportunities for interpretation in the public domain beyond the traditional plaque or signage? What can historians do for heritage interpretation? What can heritage interpretation do for historians?

### **Session 4 Historical Authority and Alternative Voices – Wed 5 June 2019**

Speakers:

Paul Daley, *Guardian* journalist  
Christine Piper, novelist

Chair: Minna Muhlen-Schulte, historian and Senior Heritage Consultant, GML Heritage.

Professional historians are certainly not the only people who research and communicate the past to broad audiences. 'History is the work of many hands', as one writer said. This session

addresses alternative voices and ways that journalists and novelists write about and use history in their work.

### **Session 5 - A Babble of Voices: Using Oral History Collections – Wed 7 August 2019**

Speakers:

Dr Shirleene Robinson, National Library of Australia

Maria Savvidis, State Library of New South Wales

Chair: Scott McKinnon, Vice President, Oral History NSW

Oral history collections have been around for decades, but with the advent of digital technology our access to and use of collections is changing. Curators from two key repositories will highlight elements of their collection, and reflect on changing delivery and use by practitioners. Are oral history collections becoming more widely used? Will audio be surpassed by video? How important is social media for oral history collections? What about privacy issues in the internet age? And how should we incorporate Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property rights? Discussion following the two presentations will focus on how public historians can best make use of oral history collections in their work.

### **Session 6 - Memory and Landscapes Wed 4 September 2019**

Speakers:

Professor Paul Ashton, Adjunct and Co-Founder Australian Centre for Public History

Emily McDaniel, Indigenous curator

Chair: Dr Lisa Murray, City Historian

Working with communities on their history can be one of the most rewarding (and frustrating) elements of being a public historian. How can we collaborate authentically with communities? What are the most productive forms of consultation? How do we shape the proposed outcomes to the needs of the community? Do we need different approaches for different communities? This session will explore the gamut of community histories from oral history projects to genealogy, native title, cultural heritage and thematic histories.

Two more sessions are planned for the end of 2019:

Session 7 - Collaborating with communities Wed 2 October 2019



## Session 8 - Ignored histories: The elephant in the room Wed 6 November 2019

I have indicated to the State Library of NSW that the PHA is interested in collaborating with them again in 2020 to present a second year of the History Matters seminar series. I would like to sincerely thank Paula Hamilton, Maria Savvidis (Oral History NSW), Rachel Franks (SLNSW) and Rebecca Lawrence (SLNSW) for their assistance in organising this seminar series.

The other main event this year has been our annual mid-year get-together History in July, which was held this year on 7 July 2019 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at History House. Michelle Rayner, ABC History Listen, was the guest speaker. Michelle's presentation was titled "Hearing the past: the resilience of the audio history medium", in which she explored the new media of podcasts and compared it to the practice of radio documentaries. Around forty members turned up for a stimulating evening of discussion and catching up with colleagues over drinks.

Lisa Murray  
CPD Officer  
18 September 2019

## 1.7 Marking Time Conference Report

### **Marking Time Professional Historians Australia Conference 30-31 August 2018**

The PHA NSW & ACT were delighted to host the biennial national conference on 30-31 August 2018. We were fortunate for the value-in-kind support of the State Library of New South Wales, who provided the venue and technical support over the two days, ensuring a comfortable environment for sharing our knowledge and professional experiences. Delegates were welcomed by the Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville, who expressed the library's ongoing commitment to such scholarly endeavours.

A strong roll up of state and interstate delegates – more than 70 over two days – along with staff from the SLNSW, enjoyed a diverse program of papers. We were also joined by some undergraduate students (who received a special discount rate) from public history courses at Macquarie University, University of Sydney and University of Newcastle. The conference gave them an opportunity to network and learn more about the range of projects that professional historians work on.



Conference delegates at the end of two days - still happy! (photo: Geoff Wharton)

Professor Bruce Scates was the keynote speaker and shared with delegates his recent foray into public history and television, *Australian Journey: the story of Australia in 12 Objects* a project of Monash University using objects from the National Museum of Australia <http://www.nma.gov.au/education/resources/activities/australian-journey> Challenges of filming, interviewing, and selection of objects, along with budgets and copyright, were all touched on in Bruce's dynamic presentation. We also got to experience several excerpts from the program.

There was a strong focus of memorialisation on the first day and we discussed everything from over memorialisation, to unfinished memorials and unrecognised memorials. Commemorative naming and memorialisation was a theme that threaded across the two days.

Thursday evening provided an opportunity for delegates to relax and catch up over food and drink provided by conference organisers at the Arthouse hotel. Convivial conversations were had by all and the bar tab encouraged everyone to stick around. This is a conference innovation that many hope will be replicated at future conferences.

The second morning focussed on Indigenous histories, with PHA members presenting work followed by a panel of Aboriginal practitioners. This was a fruitful two sessions that provoked many conversations.

The #DXLab at the State Library <https://dxlab.sl.nsw.gov.au/> shared their design principles and some of their latest projects, drawing both envy and puzzlement from the crowd. It certainly sparked conversations about audiences, a theme also taken up by Fiona Poulton in her presentation of a projection in the Geelong Peace Memorial and by Rebecca Carland as she shared a bold new approach to exhibitions for a younger generation at the Melbourne Museum.

Helen Penrose drew admiration from all for her leadership in sharing how she navigated controversy in history – particularly sexual abuse – with sensitivity and authority.

We had an active twitter hashtag #PHAus18 that encouraged wider conversations, sharing of references, and a bit of envy from afar. It was gratifying to see so many positive comments and summaries being shared with #twitterstorians.

The program is still available online <http://www.phansw.org.au/conference-2018/> and PHA members from around Australia were encouraged to look at the program and #PHAus18 for connections and references. The program forms an attachment to this report.

The PHA NSW & ACT organising committee would like to acknowledge their sponsors - the State Library of NSW, Professional Historians Australia, the Centre for Applied History at Macquarie University, and GML Heritage - for their generous support, which made the hosting of this national conference possible and ensured a productive two days of professional development for all delegates.

A report of the conference by Francesca Beddie was published on our blog and also a report published in *Historia*.  
<http://www.phansw.org.au/navigating-emotion-one-facet-of-the-historians-job/>

## Marking Time Conference 2018

### Financial report

Income		2018
PHA grant		\$2,000.00

Centre for Applied History		\$1,000.00
GML Heritage		\$1,500.00
Registration fees		\$8,983.96
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$13,483.96</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>supplier</b>	
Venue	State Library of NSW (in-kind)	\$0.00
Guest speaker 1		\$903.00
Catering ArtHouse	ArtHouse Hotel	\$2,788.63
Catering SLNSW	Laissez-faire	\$4,763.50
Printing - booklet & nametags		\$801.00
Welcome to Country		\$385.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$9,641.13</b>
<b>Difference (Profit)</b>		<b>\$3,842.83</b>



Conference organising committee: L-R Francesca Beddie, Michelle Richmond, Minna Muhlen-Schulte, Lisa Murray, Nicole Cama, Patricia Curthoys, Naomi Malone and Mark Dunn. (photo: Geoff Wharton)

Lisa Murray  
CPD Officer  
18 September 2019

## 1.8 Professional Historians Australia (PHA) Report

During 2018-19 Professional Historians Australia held four general meetings, with our AGM held in Hobart in July 2019. The Hobart AGM was hosted by PHAVic & Tas and included a one day Regional Forum – Challenging Histories - where members from a number of state PHA's presented lightning papers. The day concluded with a tour of the new exhibition Tense Past at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. The exhibition's curator, renowned Tasmanian Artist, Julie Gough, led the tour which was wonderful and enlightening.

As of 31 December 2018, the total number of PHA members was 508 up from 478 in December 2017. The size of the PHAs ranged from PHA (Vic & Tas) the largest at 218, to 13 in the Northern Territory.

### Publications

Professional Historians Australia produces two publications. Circa, the peer-reviewed journal and Historia, the quarterly e-bulletin circulated to all members. Historia focuses on news and events of interest to PHA members and stakeholder groups around Australia. Richard Trembath took over as editor this year but was greatly assisted by Jill Barnard. Circa was last published in June 2018. Only four papers have been submitted so far for the next edition of Circa and after much discussion it was decided that the four papers will be published online



as a trial. The PHA Aus committee also decided to invite presenters at the Hobart forum to submit shorter pieces for the online edition. These will not be refereed. These decisions have been conveyed to the editor of *Circa*, with a recommendation that the online edition be ready by the end of September. Book and exhibition reviews will be published separately on the PHA Aus website.

All editions of *Circa* and *Historia* are available on line at the Professional Historians Australia Website <https://www.historians.org.au/>

The current editorial Board for *Circa* is as follows: Chris Cheater (ed) PHA (Vic&Tas), Emma Russell (PHA VIC &Tas), Francesca Beddie (PHANSW&ACT), Ian Willis (PHA NSW&ACT) Neville Buch (PHA QLD), Brian Dickey (PHA SA), Richard Trembath (PHA VIC &TAS).

### **Survey**

A survey regarding the PHA publications, *Historia* and *Circa*, was circulated to all PHA members in early 2019. The response rate, overall, was disappointing, though most respondents indicated that they found *Historia* and *Circa* interesting, informative and useful. Most preferred that *Circa* not be transformed into an on-line journal. There were some suggestions as to how both *Historia* and *Circa* could be improved. Nevertheless, at the AGM it was agreed that given the cost in terms of both money and volunteer effort justified the trial of an online version of *Circa*.

### **Advocacy and Outreach**

PHA's president, Jill Barnard, responded to a number of issues on behalf of Professional Historians Australia this year.

She signed the joint statement calling on the Prime Minister to act on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Notice of this signing was posted on the PHA website's News section.

In line with AHA and other bodies representing researchers and academics, Jill wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Education protesting the intervention of the former Minister for Education's intervention in the ARC grant funding process.

Following a request from a PHA member, Jill wrote to the Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry to express disappointment that online family history death searches no longer reveal the age of death which is now only acquired when a certificate is ordered.

Professional Historians Australia sent a message to warmly congratulate the Professional Historians Association of New Zealand for their annual conference and also took the opportunity to express their solidarity with, and condolences for, their colleagues in New Zealand / Aotearoa and all New Zealanders in the wake of the unspeakable crimes that occurred in Christchurch on March 15 2019.

Jill made a brief submission to the ‘functional and efficiency review of the National Archives of Australia’

Jill joined the International Federation for Public History as an individual member (group membership is not available) On joining, she received the latest newsletter of the federation and a link to the journal.

### **Honest History**

Honest History’s David Stephens donated \$800 to PHAus. It was agreed that this money be invested and used over the next few years to enable an ‘early career’ PHA member to attend/present at PHA conferences. The details of this bursary will be circulated with the call for papers for the 2020 Brisbane conference.

### **Website**

Professional Historians Australia continues to encourage states to contribute to the centralized Professional Development Program and Public Relations Program by adding events to the PHAus website. There is also a space on the website for states and territories to share good news stories.

### **Membership**

Professional Historians Australia re-examined the membership criteria to take into account the changing nature of degrees being that many are not strictly history only based. The Preamble for the National Standard for the Accreditation of Professional Historians in Australia was adjusted to reflect this change. A survey of new member’s professional qualifications, was undertaken through the year.

PHA NSW raised the issue of membership accreditation requirements particularly for those applying for Professional and Associate membership. As it currently stands prospective members who are applying with a degree higher than a Masters for a Professional Level or an Honours for Associate membership require no ‘appropriate experience or workplace skills’ to be accepted, as is the case for Graduate Historians. PHA NSW felt that as a Professional body, accreditation should reflect professional experience. This matter is currently being reviewed by the PHAus committee.

### **National Employment Bulletin**

The National Employment Bulletin continues to be subsidized by Professional Historians Australia. Overall it continues to be very well received.

### **National Conference**

A very successful National Conference was held in Sydney in late August 2018, hosted by PHA NSW & ACT. The 2020 PHA National Conference will be held in Queensland.

### **Professional Historians Australia Committee**

Francesca Beddie was elected as the new PHA NSW & ACT delegate, congratulations Francesca. Michelle Richmond will be the alternate.

Professional Historians Australia's new committee as of July 2019 is as follows:- Carmel Black (Qld) President, Alan Davis (NT) Vice-President and Website Manager, Helen Munt (WA) Secretary, Jill Barnard (Vic & Tas) Treasurer, Francesca Beddie (NSW & ACT) Public Relations and Publications Officer and Peter Donovan (SA) Accreditation Secretary. Many thanks to Jill Barnard and Sue Graham Taylor for their many years of service as PHA President and Secretary.

*Michelle Richmond, PHA (NSW & ACT) Delegate (2018-2019), August 2019*

### **1.9 Blog Report**

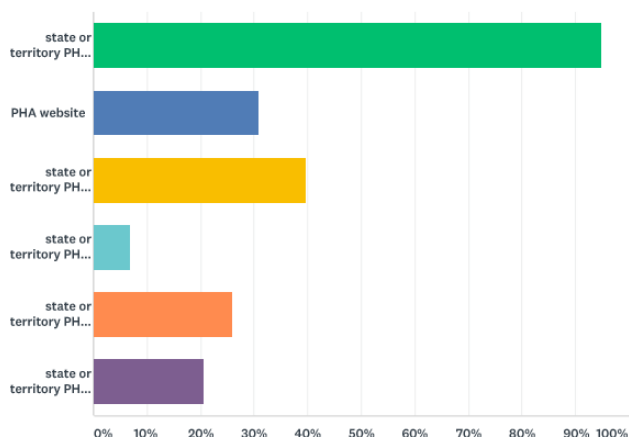
From September 2018 to August 2019, 23 posts were published on the PHA NSW & ACT blog. Judging from the comments, the more popular entries were those about members' work, the standout being Rosemary Kerr's discussion of her book on the history of the road trip. But even that post, attracted only seven comments – the subscriber list is around 140 people. Posts are re-published on the PHA NSW Facebook page, where they are usually seen by about 100 people.

This limited engagement with the blog is consistent with the message members have sent before about this form of publication. In 2017, a survey of PHA NSW members asking them about the blog attracted 17 responses, a response rate of 13 per cent. In 2019, just 8 per cent of PHA NSW members responded to the PHA Australia survey about publications. That survey showed that PHA members around the country overwhelmingly favour the newsletter as a means of communication, followed by websites, Facebook and Twitter.



Q9 Apart from Historia, what other forms of communication do you access for information about PHA activities and PHA members' news?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
state or territory PHA newsletter	94.83% 55
PHA website	31.03% 18
state or territory PHA website	39.66% 23
state or territory PHA blog	6.90% 4
state or territory PHA Facebook page	25.86% 15
state or territory PHA twitter account	20.69% 12

It has also proven difficult to get contributions. A few arrive unsolicited; the majority are commissioned by the blog editor. For many potential authors, writing for the blog appears to be daunting; others feel constrained about writing on issues pertaining to their day job or prefer to put the effort into maintaining their own blogs.

This report coincides with the decision to rebuild the PHA NSW website. It is therefore timely to consider whether the blog should continue. The usual purpose of a blog is to raise the organisation's profile and engage with the blog's readership. At the moment, only members can subscribe to the blog, which limits its reach. And, as mentioned above, the articles do not stimulate discussion. It would be possible to change the subscription protocols so that any reader could sign up to receive alerts about the blog. This might help to raise the PHA NSW profile, but there is a reputational risk here. Without regular content, the blog could project the wrong image of the association. This means added pressure on the blog editor and contributors to maintain a publication schedule. The PHA NSW membership has not shown an appetite for such a commitment, which leads to the recommendation that the blog be discontinued and members' efforts be channelled into other forms of communication with each other and beyond.

*Francesca Beddie, Blog Editor, August 2019*

## **1.10 RAHS Library and Archives Strategic Review Working Party Report**

### Purpose of the Library and Archives Strategic Review Working Party

The purpose of the RAHS Library and Archives Strategic Review Working Party is to make certain that the necessary strategies are in place to ensure the protection and care of the RAHS Library and Archives Collection in planning the proposed building project. It meets on an ad hoc basis.

### Membership

RAHS President Christine Yeats), RAHS Senior Vice President (Carol Liston), RAHS General Manager (Suzanne Holohan) and RAHS Librarian (Donna Newton).

### Summary report on library activities over the past 12 month

#### RAHS Library rationalisation

The rationalisation of the library collection has continued over the past 12 months. This has been carried out in accordance with the Library Collection Development Policy – which states that the library acquires material that:

- is published by RAHS
- is relevant to the field of NSW local history or the broad spectrum of Australian history including material published by RAHS affiliated societies
- supports the current and future research, information, educational and development needs of the RAHS and its members and clients, and
- includes reference works and biographical dictionaries that provide contextual historical information.

#### RAHS Journal on Trove

Thanks to a donor the RAHS Journal, 1901-54 is now available on Trove. To access the digitised copies of JRAHS articles published between 1901 and 1954, use the RAHS Journal, Magazine and Conference catalogue as a starting point and follow these steps.

- Step 1: Search the RAHS Journal, Magazine and Conference catalogue, by Title, Subject, Author or all three options. A list of articles will be displayed.

- Step 2: Select the relevant article from the list.
- Step 3: Go to Trove's Journals, articles and datasets Zone and paste the selected article title in the Search Box, using double quotes around the words in the title, and press Search.
- Step 4: The Results screen will display the article with the icon "View online Trove Digital Library" in the bottom right hand corner.
- Step 5: Click on the title line or the View online icon and the article will appear.

#### Planning for 2019/2020

The ongoing tasks/projects are planned:

- strategies to protect and care for the RAHS Library and Archives Collection in planning for the proposed building project
- implementation of the Library Collection De-accessioning and Disposal Policy (Retention and disposal schedule), and
- rationalisation of the History House basement storage space.

*Christine Yeats*

*PHA Representative on the RAHS Library Committee*

### **1.11 Mitchell Library Consultative Group Report**

There have been three meetings of the Mitchell Library Consultative Committee (another cancelled owing to severe weather). Refinement of the library's online catalogues has continued including the long awaited addition of the large collection of subdivision plans. Digitisation of microfilmed manuscripts collection is progressing and PHA members were invited to submit recommendations for priority. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau material is also being digitised but is currently available only in the library.

Refilming of the microfilms of Mitchell Library's significant FM4/- series is completed. However the first 4000 films in the series were too badly affected by vinegar syndrome to be refilmed. Mostly privately owned papers, filmed several decades ago and the present whereabouts of the originals not always known. It is a sad loss for historians.

Philippa Stevens (Manager, Information and Access) invited comments on a proposal to

remove the catalogue entries for FM4/- films that are no longer available. This would mean a loss of any listed in reference sources in publications. And for those that contained pictures in the collection, references to PXn (notes) would also go. It is important to keep a paper trail. Please contemplate and if concerned send comments to Philippa Stevens.

Government Printing Office negatives have returned to State Archives, however the library retains the videodisks it produced of the negatives. The library used the original negatives when prints/scans of images were ordered, such prints now can only be produced from the videodisk. For scans, prints from the negatives contact or visit State Archives at Kingswood. Work is continuing on improving the quality of the GPO images in SLNSW catalogue.

The successful 'Launch into Library Research' a series of full-day seminars on various topics has continued. The library's refurbished galleries and collections displays reopened in October and PHA members attended a tour conducted by Richard Neville and staff.

The National Library of Australia has commenced digitising the 10,400 Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) microfilms: PRO reels and the M[iscellaneous] Series (to be completed in 2020). The 11 handbooks to the various PRO series have been digitised as have the detailed contents listings for the M Series, all of which can be found on Trove (manuscripts).

A \$4million donation to the State Library Foundation by Mr Len and Mrs Gretel Ainsworth will fund a new world-class conservation laboratory.

The Coral Thomas Fellowship has increased to \$100,000. A new Fellowship is being offered: the Ross Steele AM Fellowship for research on the SLNSW's picture collection.

Still no Disabled Access, except unfriendly external elevator. Appalling and absolutely ludicrous that heritage agency and council officers cannot agree on the design and location of a ramp and lift (since 2014).

*Joy Hughes*

## **1.12 NAA Consultative Forum Report**

No report

## **1.13 History Council of NSW Report**

Over the last 12 months the History Council of NSW has a new look executive and General Council as well as new staff. A great deal has been achieved, including attaining ongoing funding, our Speaker Connect program and a fabulous series of events for History Week in 2019, but in particular, the HCNSW has been working with other History Councils around the country to launch a Value of History Statement. Based on a successful model from the US, the statement is designed to not only showcase the importance of history in the community but to be a practical document, to be endorsed by communities and individuals and to be used in the promotion of heritage and history. Professional historians have been central in developing the Value of History Statement and the council hopes it will be widely endorsed by PHAs, and promoted by them to local groups as a valuable practical tool in showing the importance of their work to government and other sectors. The statement is attached below at 2.2.

*Stephen Gapps*

#### **1.14 Community Advisory Committee of State Records NSW Report**

The State Archives Advisory Group held four meetings during the 2018-19 financial year. The main subject of discussion of interest to PHA members was the development and implementation of a new collection search database for external users. Launched in August 2019, the system is based on the Primo interface platform. It contains 1,7 million records and there is a substantial increase in the number of digitized items now available on-line. There is also greater functionality for pre-ordering records before visiting Kingswood. Preliminary discussions are underway for a tutorial session for PHA members to learn more about the finer points of using the system.

Aside from Primo database, discussion items included future State Archives exhibitions (possibilities include the history of protest and great fires of Sydney), their new partnership with Sydney Living Museums and the ongoing review of the *State Records Act*, for which public consultations are being planned. The advisory group will undergo significant change towards the end of 2019. Future meetings will be issues based, but the PHA will receive notice of meetings so it can be determined if the issue is of interest to members.

*Michael Bennett*

## **2.1 Agenda AGM 2019, 25 September 2019**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Annual Report 2018-19
4. Election of Officers:
  - Chair
  - Treasurer
  - Deputy Chair
  - General Committee Member-PHA Representative
  - General Committee Member
5. PHA Blog
6. Matters of which due Notice has been given:

**NOTE:** Only current financial members of PHA (NSW & ACT) Inc may vote at the Annual General Meeting or be nominated for office.

- Written nominations, signed by the nominator, seconder, and candidate will be received up to the start of the meeting.
- Candidates may be nominated for more than one position.

General Meeting to Follow the AGM

1. Website upgrade
2. History Matters Topics 2020
3. Value of History Statement 4. Any other business



## 2.2 Value of History Statement, History Council NSW

# The Value of History

The study of the past and telling its stories are critical to our sense of belonging, to our communities and to our shared future.

History shapes our **identities**, engages us as **citizens**, creates inclusive **communities**, is part of our **economic** well-being, teaches us to **think critically** and creatively, inspires **leaders** and is the foundation of our **future generations**.

**Identity:** History nurtures identity in a world characterised by difference and change. History enables people to discover their own place in stories of families, communities, First Peoples, and nations—individuals and groups who have shaped the world in which they live. There are stories of freedom and oppression, justice and inequity, war and peace, endurance and achievement, courage and tenacity. Through these varied stories, the systems of personal and community values that guide approaches to life and relationships with others are shaped.

**Engaged citizens:** History helps people craft solutions that meet community needs. At the heart of democracy are individual citizens who come together to express views and take action. Understanding the history of contemporary issues that confront our communities, nation and world can clarify misperceptions, reveal complexities, temper volatile viewpoints, and open people to new possibilities, leading to more effective solutions.

**Strong communities:** History lays the groundwork for strong, diverse and inclusive communities that are vital places to live and work. Communities are wrapped in human memory: Indigenous knowledge, family stories, oral histories, social customs, cultural collections, heritage and civic commemorations. These all strengthen our connections and commitment to one another. History supports a sense of community identity and place; and that in turn promotes social cohesion, individual and collective wellbeing, and resilience.

**Economic development:** History is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities with a strong sense of historical identity, material heritage and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy, providing an infrastructure that attracts talent and enhances business development, including cultural tourism.

**Critical skills:** History teaches independent thinking and vital skills for the twenty-first century. Historical thinking requires critical approaches to evidence and argument and develops contextual understanding and historical perspective, encouraging meaningful engagement with concepts like continuity, change and causation, and the ability to interpret and communicate complex ideas clearly and coherently.

**Leadership:** History inspires leaders. It provides them with role models to meet complex challenges. Personal stories of leadership reveal how women and men met the challenges of their day and can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time.

**Legacy:** History is the foundation for future generations. It is crucial to our future because it explains our shared past. When we preserve authentic, meaningful and significant stories, places, documents, images and artefacts, we leave a foundation upon which future Australians can build.

This statement was adopted on 3 July 2019 by the History Councils of [New South Wales](#), [South Australia](#), [Victoria](#) and [Western Australia](#). It draws on the work of history organisations in the USA that promote the relevance and value of history through their History Relevance campaign. The four Australian History Councils have, with permission, adapted the USA 'Value of History' statement for all Australians to use.

## Call to action

We call on individuals and organisations in Australia to endorse, share, and use this statement on the value of history in contemporary life. With common agreement, commitment, and open conversation about why history is important, we believe the historical community can better articulate history's critical role in the public sphere.

Endorsing this statement in principle, via your nearest History Council, is an initial step. See below for contact details. Look for the Value of History statement on these sites to see how you can show your support.

We encourage you to adapt and incorporate these ideas into projects, funding applications, training materials, mission statements, websites, marketing materials, submissions and other organisational outlets.

### **History Council of New South Wales**

Email: [admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au)  
Website: [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au)  
Facebook: [@HistoryCouncilNSW](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCouncilNSW)  
Twitter: [@HistoryNSW](https://twitter.com/HistoryNSW)

### **History Council of South Australia**

Email: [secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au)  
Website: [www.historycouncilsa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilsa.org.au)  
Facebook: [@HistoryCouncilSA](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCouncilSA)  
Twitter: [@history\\_sa](https://twitter.com/history_sa)

### **History Council of Victoria**

Email: [info@historycouncilvic.org.au](mailto:info@historycouncilvic.org.au)  
Website: [www.historycouncilvic.org.au](http://www.historycouncilvic.org.au)  
Facebook: [@HistoryCouncilVic](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCouncilVic)  
Twitter: [@History\\_Vic](https://twitter.com/History_Vic)

### **History Council of Western Australia**

Email: [office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)  
Website: [www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)  
Facebook: [@HistoryCouncilWA](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCouncilWA)  
Twitter: [@WAHistcouncil](https://twitter.com/WAHistcouncil)

This statement was adopted on 3 July 2019 by the History Councils of [New South Wales](#), [South Australia](#), [Victoria](#) and [Western Australia](#). It draws on the work of history organisations in the USA that promote the relevance and value of history through their History Relevance campaign. The four Australian History Councils have, with permission, adapted the USA 'Value of History' statement for all Australians to use.