

Phanfare

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Kiichiro Ishida, *The Shell Gatherers*, c. 1922, gelatine silver photograph. Collection of The Shoto Museum of Art.

Currently on display in the Museum of Sydney exhibition: *Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle 1920s – 1940s*. (courtesy of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales)

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This issue was produced by the New Collective (yes ... we are trying to think of a better collective name!) – Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald and Lisa Murray.

According to *the (sydney) magazine* (issue #10 January 04) **History books** are going to be hot in 2004!!!!

Perhaps 2004 is the year historians are going to take over the world?!!

hot in 2004

Straight-leg trousers	Exposed brick
Subtle feminine dressing	Big tiles
Small neighbourhood restaurants	Lawn bowls
Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin	Campari
High-fat beef	Lap pools
Red lips	Outdoor cinema
Any shade of green	Johnny Depp
Water tanks	History books
	Pork
	Nano technology

President's Report - December 2003

As the end of a busy year approaches it is time to look back at the first four months of this executive's term of office. It is good to note that we have moved out of crisis mode and that the PHA (NSW) Inc is functioning reasonably efficiently. There is room for improvement, but this is hardly surprising in a relatively small voluntary organization that has limited financial resources. At the moment we have money in the bank and while we are lean we're not mean!

The Future

At our first executive meeting in February 2004 we will be considering our future as an organization that seeks to represent historians working in the public sphere. I draw members' attention to the 'Objects of the Association' which can be accessed on our website. These objects will guide our deliberations as we consider where we should take the association in the future.

One of these objectives is to 'promote the concept of professional history and the status of professional historians in the community'. Although the PHA has worked hard over many years to do this, there is still much to be done. We wish to consider new initiatives that would see this objective implemented more fully. Undoubtedly there will be plenty of ideas from the executive and other members for us to consider.

One of the ways in which we can raise the status of professional historians is by taking a more active role in the process of commissioning histories. As already reported some weeks ago seven PHA members answered the call for volunteers to sit on interview panels and/or to advise potential commissioning bodies. Informal contact has been made with a number of bodies interested in contracting or employing historians and two senior historians have attended useful productive meetings with commissioning bodies. Thanks to those members and to others who have volunteered to do this as the need arises. It is hoped that by becoming involved in the early stages of planning that PHA representatives will assist in the preparation of better briefs and, when appropriate, lend support and give advice to commissioning bodies so that informed decisions are made when histories are commissioned.

Another objective of the association is to encourage members' continuing professional development. As I have indicated on several occasions I will be striving, while president, to expand the professional development opportunities available to members. At PHA gatherings these days as one mixes with long-term and new members it becomes apparent that there is a wide range of experience and different levels of professional skill in our organization. In addition there are a number of members who, although only starting as historians, come to the organization with valuable skills and experience from earlier careers. This has possibly always been the case. One of the areas that future professional development could address is to examine how members can expand their employment opportunities by finding work that combines historical expertise with skills from previous careers. In addition some members may be interested in workshops that seek to enhance written and verbal communication skills. I

know better IT skills would probably make your president's life easier. I don't think any of us are too old to learn.

Representing the PHA

We appreciate the efforts of a number of our experienced members who represent the PHA on various panels/committees. This is an important role and one that also helps to promote the 'concept of professional history and the status of professional historians in the community'. It should be remembered that these members represent the PHA and not other organizations with which they may have affiliations.

All representatives are asked to report – as some have done in the past - to the executive after meetings. The report need only be brief but pertinent matters should be addressed. These reports should appear regularly in *Phanfare* so that members can be kept informed.

It is important that the executive be notified if a designated representative is unable to attend a meeting. Sometimes there is an alternate who will automatically take the representative's place, but this is not always the case. When this happens the executive will authorise an alternate representative.

Communication

In conclusion: remember that we are all volunteers in this organization. Most of us have very busy lives and juggle multiple commitments. If you volunteer to do something for the PHA we can reasonably assume that you will undertake the task expeditiously and efficiently. If this is not possible please let the executive know and someone will volunteer (or be conscripted) to take your place. Email is there to make our lives easier. So keep the communication channels open in 2004 so that your president and other members of the executive know what is going on.

Have a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

■ **PAULINE CURBY, PRESIDENT**

News and Views

PHA (NSW) EMAIL NETWORK

The new look email network has been running since mid October 2003. As has always been the case with the email network it has been used to send out notices of PHA activities and workshops, other events of interest to members and job notices.

The notices in relation to work that have gone out over the network have consisted of: four position advertisements from daily newspapers that were of interest to members; the executive officer position at the History Council of New South Wales; three small research jobs for individuals who directly contacted PHA (NSW); one small research job for a council that directly contacted PHA (NSW); one Department of Lands tender sent to PHA (NSW) for distribution; and two Australian Heritage Commission tenders sent to PHA (NSW) for distribution.

The email network is provided for the benefit of all members and it would be good to see greater use made of it. If members would like to utilize the email network to share information about upcoming events or to ask for assistance or advice from fellow members just send a notice to phaemail@iprimus.com.au and it will be sent out on the network.

■ **KATE WATERS, VICE PRESIDENT PHA (NSW)**

ACPHA MODEL CONTRACT AND CHECKLIST

The Australian Council of Professional Historians Association (ACPHA) conducted its annual teleconference meeting last Friday, the 12 December.

One outcome of that meeting was a decision to make immediately available the ACPHA Model Contract to all members of Professional Historians Associations in Australia. This document also includes a useful 'Checklist' to help guide members in the preparation of contracts. You should be aware, however, that the Model Contract and Checklist are guides only and are not intended to substitute for legal advice.

The ACPHA Model Contract and Checklist is only available to Australia's PHA members, and their commissioning agents. It is also only available in hard copy and on request from your executive committee. It is a document that, I'm sure, will prove useful to many members.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of ACPHA Delegates, to wish all PHA members best wishes for a happy festive season, and a successful and rewarding 2004.

■ **MARY SHEEHAN, PRESIDENT, ACPHA**

If you haven't already requested a copy and would like one, send an email request to the PHA (NSW) executive via the email network: phaemail@iprimus.com.au. For more info on what the ACPHA are up to, see Kate Waters report on pages 27-28.

OUT OF THE LOOP: USING THE RAHS AND VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS

This seminar, run by the Professional Historians Association [PHA] and the RAHS will show the researcher the great use that can be made of the resources of the RAHS and many of the NSW local societies, museums and libraries. The Royal Australian Historical Society has a wealth of treasure for the serious researcher. Local societies and volunteer groups also have often hidden gems. Panellists, from both the RAHS and the PHA, will discuss their experience with using societies, and there will be a tour of the RAHS library.

When: 17 February 2004 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Venue: History House Auditorium

Cost: \$5.50 RAHS or PHA members, \$7.70 non-members

SUCCESSFUL PHA WORKSHOP TO RUN AGAIN

Following the success of the first professional development workshop on the historical documentary held back in November 2003, Sue Castrique has agreed to run a repeat of the workshop. Here's the lowdown:

The Historical Documentary - From Idea to Treatment

When: Saturday 21 February 2004, 10 am to 3pm, Lunch Provided

Venue: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$50 PHA members, \$75 non members

Course Lecturer - Sue Castrique

RSVP president@phansw.org.au Places are limited.

Course Description

This is a one day workshop where participants will be guided through the stages necessary to develop a documentary idea into a fully realised Treatment.

The documentary treatment is the blueprint on the page for the final program that will appear on the screen. It's the proposal that allows producers to decide which program to make. It's also your calling card, a way to let a producer know you have a terrific - and feasible - idea.

There's no better time than now, to dust off your idea for that television documentary and work it into a form that can be presented to a producer.

Participants should bring along a one paragraph Synopsis of their documentary idea.

At the end of the day you should:

- have an understanding of what is required in a documentary Treatment, Outline and Synopsis.
- have developed some techniques to conceptualise and shape the material on the page, including:
 - researching with an eye for the screen
 - looking for the contradiction
 - thinking about characters
 - developing sequences

- developing a story
- be familiar with some of the main documentary techniques.
- be familiar with some of the issues of documentary scriptwriting, including:
 - copyright and presenting your Treatment.

Course Lecturer

Sue Castrique is a scriptwriter, script editor and historian. She wrote and researched the three part historical documentary series, Federation, screened on the ABC and has worked on a number of other historical documentaries including Flowers and the Wide Sea and Witch Hunt.

Sue also has a background in television drama and her short film, an adaptation of Murray Bail's The Drover's Wife, has screened extensively at international film festivals and been acquired by the National Gallery of Australia.

Sue has script edited a number of independent dramas and documentaries and has taught Scriptwriting at UTS, AFTRS, Metro and the Actor's Centre, at Wollongong and Southern Cross Universities. She has acted as a script assessor for the AFC, SAFC and NSWFTO.

Sue's work has been recognised with a number of awards including two AWGIES, an AFI for Best Screenplay, the Greater Union award and the Reuben Mamoulian Award.

SCREENSOUND AUSTRALIA - GOING DOWN THE GURGLER?

Many of you would be aware of the tenuous position of ScreenSound Australia. Just before Christmas a number of job losses were announced, primarily affecting the Canberra office. A swift reversal followed after some dedicated campaigning by historians and others lead to a public outcry.

Comments are invited on proposals for the future directions, policies, activities and organisation framework of ScreenSound Australia as an integrated part of the AFC. Management, staff, external stakeholders and interested parties are invited to provide comments on the proposals in the Directions Paper which is available on the AFC website www.afc.gov.au/ If you wish to provide a written response, please ensure this is received by the AFC before 5pm Monday 16th February 2004. It is preferred that responses are received electronically at discussion@afc.gov.au

PHA member Bridget Griffen-Foley has posted a letter on the H-ANZAU email discussion list encouraging people to comment and suggesting a coordinated campaign. She has offered to co-ordinate comments, so if you want more information, you could contact her at:

Tel: 61 2 9850 8828

Fax: 61 2 9850 6594

bgfoley@hmn.mq.edu.au

POSTCARD FROM ISRAEL

Suzanne Rutland is presently in Israel, completing two major articles. One is on the German Templers, Lutherans who settled in Palestine in the 1860s and built up a number of settlements in Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa and rural areas. They remained German nationals and in the 1930s a number became members of the Nazi Party. The British interned them at the start of the war and in 1941 a group of around 600 was sent to Australia. After the war, the majority received permission to stay in Australia. Her research relates to the story of how they received compensation from Israel for the property they left behind.

She is also researching the campaign to rescue Soviet Jewry from antisemitic policies in the 1950s and 1960s. Australia played an important role in this story but Australian Jewish leaders conflicted with Dr Nahum Goldmann about the correct tactics to follow - quiet diplomacy or open protest. This research took her to the Goldmann archives in Jerusalem.

WEBSITE OF INTEREST: ASHET

ASHET, the Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology, now has a new website at <http://www.ashet.org.au>. It provides up to date information on ASHET events and news of interest to members and others.

If you have comments or suggestions for new material we might include in the website, please email it to web@ashet.org.au

■ IAN ARTHUR, SECRETARY, ASHET

NEW MEMBERS

Pauline Curby mentioned in her report in the last edition of *Phanfare* that a number of membership applications are currently being processed. We'd like to welcome aboard:

Full members:

Laila Ellmoos
Bronwyn Hanna
Mary-Jean Sutton

Associates:

Christopher Salisbury
Susan Shaw



Kung Hei Fat Choy! Happy New Year!

SAYING “KUNG HEI FATE CHOY” (“HAPPY NEW YEAR”) during the Chinese New Year period brings good fortune and prosperity.

2004 is the Year of the Monkey. Those born in the Year of the Monkey are thought to be fun loving persons, always cheerful and energetic. Inquisitive, they constantly seek new opportunities and their intellect allows them to adapt to any situation. Were you born in the Year of the Monkey? Monkey Years: 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004.

Chinese New Year festivities kick off in Sydney Tuesday 20 January with Chinese New Year on Thursday 22 January. Some events PHA members might be interested in ...

DIXON STREET HISTORY WALK
21 & 28 January 2004

MODERN CALLIGRAPHY AT GALLERY 4A
22 January - 21February 2004

CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE
1 February 2004

For more info visit the webpage www.sydneychinesenewyear.com.au



Historical Papers, Publications and Projects - 2003

PHA (NSW) members work on a diverse range of history projects and are a productive lot! We asked members to share with us what projects have come to fruition in 2003. Not everyone responded – we know there's a lot more going on out there. But this is for starters...

PAUL ASHTON

- “The past in the present: public history and the City of Sydney” pp.1-23 in Tim Murray (ed.), *Exploring the Modern City: Recent Approaches to Urban History and Archaeology*, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales and La Trobe University, Sydney, 2003.

PAULINE CURBY

- *Pittwater Rising The Making of Pittwater Council*, Pittwater Council, 2003.
- “Keeping the Home Going”, *Voiceprint*, no.29, October 2003, 12-25.

PAULINE CURBY & VIRGINIA MACLEOD

Good Riddance, a History of Waste Management in Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah, Warringah, Manly, Mosman and Pittwater Joint Services Committee, 2003.

CHRISTINE CHEATER

- *A Grand Sport Gosford Sailing Club 1932-2002*, Bookbound, Ourimbah, 2003 - 138 pages plus 90 illustrations.
- An oral history of Wyong Hospital is in the pipeline - hopefully!

CATHY DUNN

- web portal www.heritagetourism.com.au. To complement “Going Places” (Tourism White paper) - Developing natural and cultural heritage tourism in Australia, developed by the National Tourism and Heritage Taskforce under the Environment Protection and Heritage Ministers Council
- ‘Heritage Tourism’, paper presented to the Australian Tourism Research Institute’s Tourism Outlook Conference, Sydney, October.
- additions to the Australian National Archives *Bringing Them Home* (BTH) Australian Indigenous Servicemen list. See www.ulladulla.info/history/budawang

LAILA ELLMOOS

- Tim Murray, Penny Crook & Laila Elmoos, “Understanding the Archaeology of the Modern City”, pp.113-135 in Tim Murray (ed.), *Exploring the Modern City: Recent*

Approaches to Urban History and Archaeology, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales and La Trobe University, Sydney, 2003.

- Penny Crook, Laila Ellmoos and Tim Murray, *Archaeology of the Modern City Series*, published by the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, Sydney 2003.

Assessment of Historical and Archaeological Resources of:

Volume 1 - *the Paddy's Market Site, Darling Harbour, Sydney*

Volume 2 - *Susannah Place, The Rocks, Sydney*

Volume 3 - *the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site, The Rocks, Sydney.*

Volume 4 - *the Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney*

Volume 5 - *the First Government House site, Sydney*

Volume 6 - *the Royal Mint site, Sydney*

Volume 7 - *the Lilyvale site, The Rocks, Sydney*

These reports can be downloaded as a pdf from the project website:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/amc/reports.htm>

BRIDGET GRIFFEN-FOLEY

- *Party Games: Australian politicians and the media from War to Dismissal*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2003.

SHIRLEY FITZGERALD & LISA MURRAY

- *Water, water every where: a virtual historical exhibition*
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waterexhibition
- *Sydney Streets* www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/sydneystreets
- Historical walking tour brochures: *Colony, Commerce, Community*
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/hs_history_walking_tours.asp

CHRISTINE DE MATOS

- 'Orientalism versus Ideology: Australia and Labour Reform in Occupied Japan, 1945-1949'. 'Innovation and Resistance': paper presented to the 13th Biennial Conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA), Queensland University of Technology, 2-4 July 2003.

LISA MURRAY

- *The Capitol Theatre Restoration*, City of Sydney, Sydney, 2003.
- 'Modern innovations?' Ideal vs. reality in colonial cemeteries of nineteenth-century New South Wales, *Mortality*, vol.8 no.2, 2003, 129-143.
- Remembered / Forgotten? Cemetery landscapes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, *Historic Environment*, vol.17 no.1, 2003, 49-53.

SUE ROSEN

- *Government House Parramatta 1788-2000: A History of the Governors, their home and its domain Parramatta Park*, Caroline Simpson, Sydney 2003.

SUZANNE RUTLAND

- *'If you will it, it is no dream': the Moriah Story*, Playright Publishers, Sydney, 2003.

PETER J. TYLER

- 'Bunny Bugs - medical responses to the biological control of a pastoral pest.' Paper presented at 8th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine, University of Melbourne, 23 April 2003.
- 'The Celluloid Strip - mass screening for tuberculosis in Australia, 1950-1975.' Paper presented to the Royal Society of New South Wales, The Australian Museum, 3 September 2003. Subsequently published in *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, Vol.136, Pt.4, December 2003.
- 'Tuberculosis Case-finding in New South Wales, 1910-1980.' Keynote Paper for NSW Tuberculosis Nurses' Annual Conference, Macquarie Hospital, North Ryde, 3 November 2003.
- 'Bacteriology in New South Wales', in A.J. Proust (ed.), *A Companion of the History of Medicine in Australia 1788-1939*, Canberra, 2003.
- *No Charge - No Undressing*, Community Health and Tuberculosis Australia, published in conjunction with The Watermark Press.

DIANA WYNDHAM

- 'Verse-making and Lovemaking - W B Yeats' "Strange Second Puberty": Norman Haire and the Steinach Rejuvenation Operation', *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, vol 39 (1), Winter 2003, pp. 25-50.
- 'Eugenics in Australia: Striving for National Fitness', London: Galton Institute, 2003.

LINDA YOUNG

- *Middle Class Culture in the Nineteenth Century: America, Australia and Britain*, Basingstoke, UK, Palgrave, 2003.

Download ch.1 at:

http://www.palgrave.com/catalogue/catalogue.asp?Title_Id=0333997468 ;

Read Institute for Historical Research Review at:

<http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/lowersonJ.html>

GONGS

Suzanne Rutland who is currently head of the Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies at The University of Sydney has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Peter Tyler was appointed Editor of *Medical History Australia*. Elected as President, New South Wales Society of the History of Medicine, September 2003.

Shirley Fitzgerald was reappointed for a second term as Chair of [State Records NSW](#).

Bridget Griffen- Foley has been made an editorial advisor to the [Australian Book Review](#). Also reappointed for a second term as a member of the Library Council of NSW.

There must be more ... tell us!!!!

Footnote: Norfolk Island

As a footnote to Carol Liston's interesting article on Norfolk Island in Phanfare no. 203, I might draw attention, for the historical interest of readers, to information from the Norfolkers themselves - see their Web site at:
http://www.pitcairners.org/site_contents.html

Proceeding to the page 'Norfolk and Australia' and thence to the page 'Bloodless Genocide' you will see that, not only do the Norfolkers not consider themselves part of Australia, but there are strenuous legal doubts as to whether Australia actually rightly possesses Norfolk Island. (Which didn't stop Australia laying claim to Norfolk's 200 mile economic zone because of the potential riches - animal and mineral -under the water.) And this is also why God Save the Queen is their national anthem - because they consider that their line of rule from HM QE2 bypasses Australia. Even the United Nations Association has had something to say about this, but I guess it is not controversial enough in the international scheme of things to go further.

Never thought Australia could be in the same boat as Saddam Hussein and Hitler? Look at this fascinating Web site for a great historical inversion.

■ TONY PRESCOTT

Australia ICOMOS Annual Conference 2003

Telling Tales: Interpretation in the conservation and design process

On the weekend of 28–29 November last year, Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) held its annual conference at the former artillery school at North Head in Sydney. The topic of the conference was, Interpretation in the Conservation and Design Process, a subject that drew a wide variety of speakers, although few historians; Shirley Fitzgerald, City Historian and PHA member being the welcome exception.

In 1999 amendments to the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter incorporated interpretation as an essential part of the conservation process. And as those of us working in the heritage industry would know, the requirement for interpretation of sites through interpretation plans and strategies has become more common in the past four years or so. The question is then, what is interpretation and who is doing the interpreting?

The interpretation of cultural and heritage sites can come in just about any form, media or direction you can think of. Everything from the standard static signage display, to installation art, soundscapes, film, museums, tours, re-enactments and new architectural design. All these techniques have been used in interpretation projects, large and small, recently. The point of the exercise being to convey a message about the place to the public and to allow them to explore the site's place in the world. All manner of professionals are employed as part of the interpretation process, architects, graphic designers, archaeologists, park rangers and interpretation specialists. However, on historic sites, archaeological sites or heritage buildings, these projects are often undertaken without a historian on the team.

To be able to interpret a site, one must first have a clear understanding of the significance of the place, be it a large industrial area, a converted warehouse or a removed site such as any number of redeveloped archaeological sites. When dealing with a largely uninterested public, badly researched or poorly understood interpretation displays capture even less attention. Sydney is no stranger to poor interpretation projects.

In speaking at the conference, Fitzgerald addressed the role of historians in the interpretation process. As historians we can bring an understanding of the historical process, beyond dates, to the interpretive process and tease out a clearer understanding of the significance of place. This is especially true when the sites significance may be in what is not there or what has been taken away. Historians need to be involved in the growing number of interpretation plans and strategies, particularly for historical sites. The role of history is all too often sidelined in the process of interpretation in conservation, often because our skills are not well understood. As historians we might just need to promote them a little more.

The conference also included a number of site visits, of which the most spectacular was a harbour cruise on a vintage ferry to some of the great industrial and defence sites on Sydney Harbour. Of course most of these are no longer operational and stand silent as their future is decided. Places such as Cockatoo Island, Chowder Bay, Fort Denison, the Quarantine Station and Garden Island all serve to remind the visitor of a

time when Sydney Harbour really was a working Harbour and to further emphasis the great loss of character that threatens this space. And for those of us who live in Sydney but haven't spent time on the harbour late in the afternoon on a ferry somewhere, I urge you to go and have a look. Its amazing how much you will have missed it.

■ **MARK DUNN**

Book Launch @ the Capitol

Lisa Murray's book, *The Capitol Theatre Restoration*, was launched in the upper foyer of this magnificent old theatre on the evening of 13 October. Lord Mayor ('I'm not a Liberal') Lucy Turnbull and former independent Lord Mayor and now Labour Minister, Frank Sartor launched this interesting and smartly produced publication. The highlight of the evening, in the unbiased eyes of this observer, was Lisa Murray's spirited speech in which she outlined the 'planning saga to rival Blue Hills' that finally led to the restoration of this splendid building.

I was thrilled the next morning when I saw the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*— a lovely colour shot of Lord Mayor Turnbull seated in the Capitol Theatre foyer. But alas the article was all about Malcolm Turnbull's political ambitions. There was no mention of Lisa's book which is a pity because this would have been great publicity.

The Capitol Theatre Restoration was commissioned as part of the City of Sydney History Program. It tells the story of the planning issues, the political manoeuvres and the philosophical battles waged leading up to and in the course of the theatre's restoration. The work has been described as an 'important case study of urban heritage politics', and should be of interest to historians, architects and planners.

■ **PAULINE CURBY**



Alan Ventress looking bashful with some lovely ladies on stilts

The Sydney 'Trig' Survey Digitisation

A boon for historians

Cooperation between State Records and the City of Sydney Archives has led to the digitisation of a vital set of Sydney records.

The Trigonometrical Survey are a set of plans showing Sydney from Redfern north to Port Jackson, and from Elizabeth Bay to Pyrmont – the original boundaries of the City of Sydney. They were created by the Engineer's Department of Sydney Council under the supervision of the City Surveyor.

The plans were begun in 1854, around the time of the gold rushes. People were arriving in Sydney in large numbers, resulting in a good deal of chaotic and unplanned growth in the town. Quite suddenly things like the state of the water supply, sewerage and street alignments seemed more urgent than they had before. The government decided to sack the City Council and appoint three commissioners to whip the place into shape. These plans were part of that.

The digitisation project took over two years to come to fruition. The plans were working documents and they were showing their age. Most of the 56 plans had creases or tears, along with accumulated dirt. Each plan, which measured up to three metres in length, was carefully conserved by State Records Conservator Emily O'Reilly before being digitised by the Department of Land & Property Information.

Financial support was provided for this ambitious project from industry partners: the Department of Information Technology and Management, Sydney Water, the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Godden Mackay Logan (heritage consultants) and Tropmans (architects). The project team are now turning their attention to other historical plans of Sydney. "In the long term we aim to make available a digital cartographic history of the city", said City Archivist, Mark Stevens.



The CD-Rom was launched in September 2003 Reference copies of the CD are available in the research rooms of both [State Records](#) and the [City of Sydney Archives](#). It is also available at State Records regional repositories and community access points across NSW.

Shirley Fitzgerald, Chair of State Records and City Historian, remarked at the launch, "As an historical record they provide us with a fantastic ground plan of Sydney in the 1860s: the outlines of buildings, the size of things, the shape of things. Colour coded buildings indicate the type of building material used in construction. The drainage and pipe lines might appear as just lines on a map, but they tell us much about the state of the city, its public health, the good places to live and the bad."

■ *This article has been plagiarised from a longer version in Vital Signs, the magazine of State Records NSW.*

PHA Reading Group

After a gap of three months, the PHA Reading Group met at History House, on December 10 for discussion under the leadership of RAHS executive officer David Lewis. David had proposed two 40 year old texts variously described as “golden oldies” and “old and mouldy” as topics for discussion, each with an additional chapter written since 2000 by Richard J Evans¹.

Though both were published in the 1960s by “ivory tower” academics at Cambridge, they are still used in academic history courses today. Carr and Elton wrote at a time when their professional field was small, they could still choose their own topics for lectures and had leisure to discuss the philosophy of history writing and historiography. By contrast, the contemporary professional historian is told what to research, what the funding limits and sources or correct teaching loads and is then required to tender for the job. There is little time for detailed archival research.

Alternative ways of reading and interpreting texts have developed in areas like construction, deconstruction and postmodernism and new theories continue to emerge. Now questions of marketing and sales impact on projects undertaken. Nonetheless, both texts remain important for their discussion of issues like “what is fact” and for their clarity, especially Carr’s, in expressing ideas. Much of what they discussed in their writing is taken for granted today.

In the 60s, Australian professional historians were small in number – names like Manning Clark, Geoffrey Blainey and Russell Ward dominated history writing. Now, there are more books and more publishers and it is difficult to keep pace with reviews. In response to a reference to Sydney University Press in Evans’ “afterword”, a participant advised that SUP was taken over by Oxford University Press in about 1980.

Elton described accuracy as a duty, not a virtue, but was selective in his choice of historical “fact”. He considered all government archives to be fact and information from other sources irrelevant. Group members pointed to the frequency of restriction on government archives these days on the grounds of “commercial in confidence”, but the availability of alternative sources to provide the same information. Since the 1960s, new considerations of “state” have emerged and the recognition of multiple perspectives on the same events and topics.

Members described their own experiences of bearing many of these issues in mind as they research and write. Have we discarded fact? No, but often we need to reconsider facts. The “History Wars” should always be in the minds of Australian historians. How many statistics do you collect or graphs should you provide? Sufficient evidence is needed to support facts and the availability of facts and existing research will often guide the identification of priorities in writing. “Immerse yourself in what there is.” Maintain few preconceptions and allow the facts to guide direction. Having too strong a theory beforehand can distort the selection of material and writing. “Writing is both an art and a science.”

¹ *What is History?*, EH Carr; with a new introduction by Richard J. Evans, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.
The Practice of History, G. R. Elton; afterword by Richard J Evans, Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

Encyclopaedia Britannica emerged at a time when it was thought possible for all facts to be captured. Now it is only available by subscription online where it is updated every two weeks. In bureaucracies, the problem of having to limit the archiving of records can make difficulties for subsequent researchers. “Teach scepticism with archives and a sense of humour,” said one. “Keep focus on the overall project.” Refuse to be daunted by 30,000 km of archives at Kingswood. If research is paid, historians have to learn to work “at a million miles an hour”, constantly trying to determine “what’s important to me”.

Commissioned research can also be influenced by myths held dear by the commissioning body. Claims to being the “first in Australia” is a favoured myth in a new and often unrecorded history. Should we dispose of the myth in history writing? Since this is usually impossible it is preferable to acknowledge the myth, while providing facts in support of a more accurate story e.g. in “first continually licensed pub”, “first surf club”.

Propaganda as a form of myth making raises issues of morality and interpretation. Consider a later history of war in Iraq 2003 and Japanese and US records of Hiroshima.

Histories of hospitals and the use of patient records raise issues of confidentiality, especially within small communities. Part names – Freda Z – may be an appropriate compromise. During the last census there was a campaign against it as an invasion of privacy. One group member remarked that political correctness can be pernicious in stifling the telling of history. Audience sensitivities can induce undue self-censoring.

Reference was made to a letter from Elton to Professor C B Macpherson, who reviewed *The Practice of History*, in which Elton says: “I suppose all I really ask for is less reverence towards theorists, whatever their theories.” One participant mentioned being intimidated by theorists, or becoming disconnected, so that like Windschuttle, one doesn’t move on in developing arguments. Another quoted from a review of theories, developed by Professor Samuel P Huntington in *The Clash of Civilisations?* about the need to recognise cultural and civilisational differences as fundamental to international conflict post-Cold War (and its recording). Two, with PhD qualifications, referred to maintaining an awareness of theory, while it was not explicit in their work. Another likes theory but doesn’t find it very useful in practice.

David recommended Umberto Eco’s *Kant and the Platypus* – rough notes for his next novel – as an interesting reference. There is now a second generation of those interpreting history. It is better to get a few précis of theory, rather than a lecturer in historiography who is pushing one theory.

In summing up, David said that as historians it behoves us to go back 40 years to see what has changed and what has stayed the same.

■ **KATHERINE KNIGHT**

Book Reviews

Another Tyler Triumph!

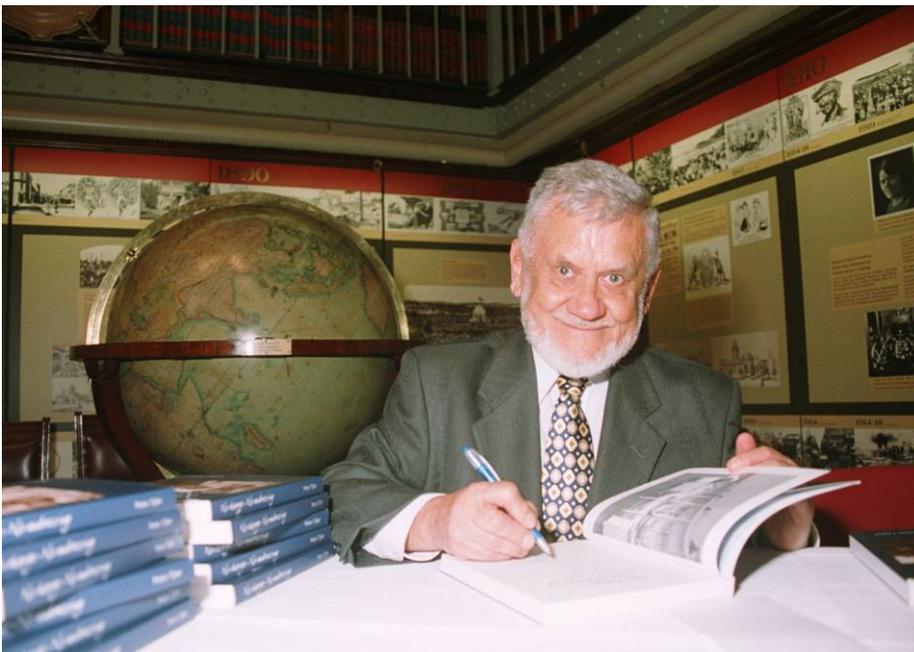
NO CHARGE – NO UNDESSING. Peter Tyler. Published by the Community Health and Tuberculosis Australia (CHATA) with The Watermark Press, Sydney, 2003.

Peter Tyler, a member of the PHA Executive, had his book "*No Charge - No Undressing*" launched by the State Governor in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House on Monday, 1st December 2003. The book is a beautifully presented, well researched and written, commissioned history of the charity known as Community Health and Tuberculosis Australia (CHATA). It was commissioned to celebrate their ninetieth anniversary.

Most (older) people know CHATA as the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of NSW, which between 1950-1980 had mobile X-ray units in caravans located in suburban and regional shopping centres as part of the compulsory national tuberculosis survey. Everybody over 14 had to have a chest X-ray every two years. The Association was the pioneer of mass health screening in Australia, and other States later set up programs based on the NSW model.

The Association also performed X-ray screenings in offshore territories, such as Christmas Island and Nauru, under contract to the Commonwealth government. These are believed to be the first examples of a health survey of an entire population. The Association still works in a number of Pacific Island countries where TB is endemic, such as Kiribati, and also funds a number of research projects in respiratory medicine.

Peter's book is a thematic history rather than a chronological narrative, and a history of the organisation, not the disease. However, changing treatment practices are discussed and CHATA is placed in its international context. A major theme is the role



of voluntary organisations in providing health care, and the reluctance of governments to become involved or to maintain any ongoing commitment.

The Governor did her usual superb job launching the book. It was mentioned that every Governor since 1912 has been Patron of the organisation. About 120 people

attended, including medical practitioners, historians, former staff and patients. At least one of those present, whose father had managed a tuberculosis hospital, had flown from Queensland just to attend the launch. He was not disappointed.

The book has 244 pages, with appendices, index, bibliography and many fascinating illustrations. ISBN 0 646 42731 8 It is available from CHATA, PO Box 200, Rose Bay 2029. Telephone: 02 9371 7952. website: www.chata.org.au The cost is \$50-00 plus postage.

■ JUDITH GODDEN

Not on the nose!

GOOD RIDDANCE. A HISTORY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MANLY, MOSMAN, PITTWATER AND WARRINGAH. Pauline Curby & Virginia Macleod. Published by the Joint Services Committee of Warringah, Manly, Mosman & Pittwater Councils, 2003.

Under stormy Sydney spring skies on Thursday, 20 November 2003, a large crowd of civic dignitaries, friends and well-wishers gathered at a marquee in the car park of the Kimbriki Waste Disposal Centre in Terrey Hills for the launching of this new book written by two members of PHA NSW. Although the weather was inclement, the refreshments were generous, the jazz band entertaining (if a bit loud for us members of an older generation), and the speeches informative and not too protracted. The honour of launching the book fell to Richard Conolly AM, the first director of the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority of NSW.

Our President, Pauline Curby, and Secretary Virginia Macleod have individually written on aspects of the history of the northern beaches peninsula, and with this work they have extended their reputation by collaborating to provide a revealing account of the development of rubbish disposal practices in the adjacent local government areas of Mosman, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater. Not a very promising topic, you may think. As long as it is 'Not In My Backyard', most people are happy to ignore what happens to the household garbage that they are generating in ever-increasing quantities. The old remedy was to burn it, or dump it anywhere out of sight, preferably in a pristine bushland valley or a beachside wetland usually described as a "swamp". And that was the official response - many individuals and industries just threw it on the nearest vacant block of land down the road. Only in recent years has growing environmental awareness made this behaviour unacceptable.

Local councils and State government agencies have much to answer for in the first three-quarters of the twentieth century. Public health and amenity were given a low priority by generations of decision-makers who were obsessed by the need to minimise costs to ensure their short-term political survival. Pauline and Virginia have used careful research into official records as well as extensive interviews with residents and former employees to bring together a balanced narrative under fifteen thematic headings, beginning with the shell middens left by the original inhabitants of this superb landscape. Kimbriki started as a typical uncontrolled rubbish dump in 1974, but has now become something of a model for other authorities to emulate.

Applause is also due to the client that commissioned this history - the Joint Services Committee. Not only does this body show an enlightened approach to recording its vicissitudes, but it has also ensured that the resulting publication is a book that everybody can feel proud to place on their shelves. It is not just another municipal hagiography, but a serious work of scholarship presented in an attractive format. There are copious illustrations, a useful bibliography, detailed endnotes, and a helpful index. Good work!

pp224+vii, paperback, \$30. Available from Kimbriki Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre, Kimbriki Road, Terrey Hills NSW 2084.

■ PETER J. TYLER

Exhibition Reviews

Drugs: A Social History

Justice & Police Museum

25 October 2003 to 10 October 2004

The exhibition, *Drugs: A Social History* currently running at the Sydney Justice and Police Museum sets out to explore the social history of drugs in Australia. In doing so it seeks to examine society's response, its politics and acceptance or lack thereof, of the drug phenomena.

Drugs have played their part in the European history of Australia since the arrival of the first boatloads of convicts. Many of Sydney's earliest commercial ventures were paid for in alcoholic rations, Governor Macquarie's hospital was known as the Rum Hospital for just such a reason, while smoking paraphernalia are common artefacts on many Sydney archaeological dig sites. Historically, Sydney was a drug taking society and as this exhibition points out, it still is.

A history of drugs exhibited could never be anything but a social history. Their existence can only be for their usage, be that for good or bad. For many, the word 'drugs' conjures images of ill-lit back streets of Kings Cross, dodgy deals or smokey opium dens. But what of the 1950s suburban housewife's kitchen, the writers' café or the local pub. As the catalogue states, everything from sly grog to safe injecting, Bex to BUGAUP, opium den to rave nation is covered.

The exhibition space covers the first two rooms of the museum. Entering the first room you encounter the backbone of the exhibit. The material is presented in well lit, psychadelically coloured cabinets, squared to separate text and artefacts. Each section deals with an individual drug, outlines a history of its appearance in Australia, its use, derivatives and society's response to them. Although this space is tight, the arrangement of the display allows for easy flow through the exhibit, with seats for viewing of the video displays. And for those who like their artefacts, the exhibition has plenty to offer. Cigarette cards from Nazi Germany, opium pipes from Sydney's dens,

cannabis bongs from student households, glass syringes that look like they came straight from Sherlock Holmes' front study (at least that's what I thought), packets of Bex, copies of Oz magazine, examples of BUGAUP's work, court evidence, patent medicine bottles and drug induced art works are all there to ogle at, examine or marvel.

But the story of drugs is not just one of how they are consumed. The exhibition makes the point that the attitude to drugs is not static, but instead it moves and flows. Community opinion has played a major role in the drug culture. Was it the dangers of opium or the society's attitude to the mostly Chinese users that saw it become the first drug to come under prohibitive legislation in Australia? Is it curious that the cocaine problems that plagued the returned Anzac's in the 1920s, Sydney's snow storm, isn't a well known aspect of the legend? You be the judge.



Right: Bessie Love as a suicidal morphine addict in the film Human Wreckage, US 1923. Director and co-star Dorothy Davenport made the film after the morphine-related death of her own husband. (Image courtesy of BFI Stills / Historic Houses Trust of NSW)

Flowing on from the front room, the multi-media section is located in the smaller, Room Two. Underneath the mirror ball, the visitor can relax on the couch and watch the ABC's 4 Corners exploration of the rave dance scene, or listen to Timothy Leary's call to Turn On, Tune In and Drop Out. While a handy collection of album covers allows the mind of a hep cat to wander back through some groovy times. *Cool...*

The exhibition doesn't preach the virtues of drugs, nor does it attempt to provide answers to problems associated with them. Instead it examines the social context of drug use, the changes in society's attitudes and the directions that drug policies have taken and are heading.

Drugs: A Social History, challenges the viewer, and dare I say it, leaves one with a craving.

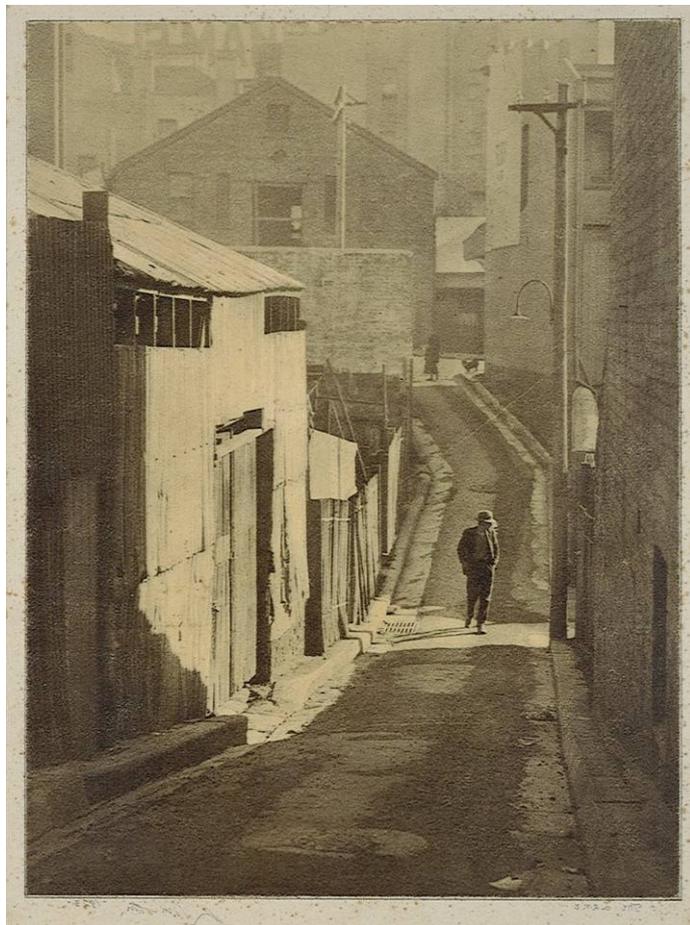
Indulge yourself, go and see it.

■ **MARK DUNN**

Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle 1920s – 1940s

Museum of Sydney

20 December 2003 to 25 April 2004



Light, beauty and serenity were hallmarks of the Sydney Camera Circle's photography. This is captured admirably in the new exhibition at the Museum of Sydney: *Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle 1920s – 1940s*.

The Sydney Camera Circle, formed in 1916, was a prestigious group that aimed to promote photography as a medium of artistic expression that responded to the Australian light. Pictorial landscapes, urban environments and portraits were the main subjects of these photographers. Harold Cazneaux, Henri Mallard and Monte Luke were all members of the Sydney Camera Circle.

Left: Kiichiro Ishida, The Lane, bromoil photograph. Collection of The Shoto Museum of Art. (Image courtesy of Historic Houses Trust of NSW)

Kiichiro Ishida (1886-1957) came to Sydney in 1919, a young man posted to the Okura-Gumi trading company's Sydney office. He became interested in photography after meeting Ichiro Kagiya, a Japanese migrant and established professional photographer living in Sydney. Kagiya encouraged Ishida's photography and invited him to join the NSW Photographic Society, where he met innovative photographers like Cazneaux. Ishida was invited to join the Sydney Camera Circle in 1921.

Ishida resided in Sydney for only a short time, being recalled to Japan at the beginning of 1924. As a farewell gift, members of the Sydney Camera Circle presented Ishida with prints of their best work. On his return to Japan, Ishida held an exhibition of his work and that of his friends. It is these images, now held in The Shoto Museum of Art in Tokyo, that form the heart of *Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle*. Many of the photographs are being exhibited in Sydney for the first time.

This is an unusual exhibition for the Museum of Sydney, being more art- than object-based in its presentation. Initiated by The Shoto Museum of Art in Tokyo, the exhibition consists of 105 photographs, with a small number of documents in showcases. Ishida

specialised in the bromoil method of photography development (which allowed for more personal control and manipulation of the image). It is this technique which is exposed and celebrated in this photographic exhibition.

The design of the exhibition space is elegant and simple. The soft focus and sepia tones of the photographs are highlighted against the dark navy walls of the Focus Gallery. Ishida's work in Sydney and back in Japan sit on the outer walls, enveloping the work of the Sydney Camera Circle on the interior wall.

The wall text focuses more upon artistic movements and techniques than social history. And the labels give the barest of information: title, date, photographic technique. The inquisitive will have fun trying to guess the various Sydney locations that feature on the walls. Some are obvious from the titles, others are not. But they capture a charming and romantic view of 1920s Sydney, and the exhibition is well worth seeing from this point alone.

The small section on Kagiya and the expat Japanese community which he photographed sits awkwardly within the exhibition and may confuse some visitors. Indeed the historical context of Sydney's Japanese community in the early twentieth century – the social history stuff - is really incidental to the exhibition. Many will miss this layer as it is presented primarily through the modest yet informative exhibition guide available for \$2 in the gallery.

Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle is a beautiful art exhibition and will be a crowd pleaser.

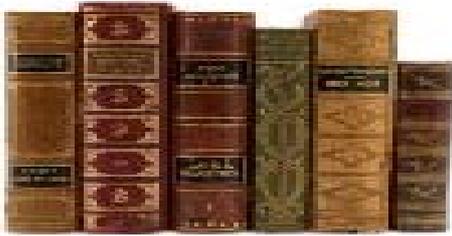
■ LISA MURRAY



You don't always have to be a prominent or famous photographer to take a great photo.

This romantic image of Castlereagh Street was taken by the City Engineer's Department in 1932 prior to the road being repaired. It features in the City of Sydney's digital exhibition [Sydney Streets](#).

LIBRARY



REPORT

■ Prepared by Terri McCormack, Librarian. Library enquiries: (02) 9810 4421 or terimc@ozemail.com.au

PHA PERIODICALS

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand.
Vol 9 No 3, December 2003

Outgoing president David Young reflects on a year dominated by heritage issues both won and lost. He believes that public awareness of New Zealand's unique history is essential for all heritage and cultural decisions. Consequently, this newsletter is devoted to the issue of history and education.

There are articles on the Teaching of NZ history in New Zealand Schools; on School Reunions and the memories and histories they engender; on government responsibility and public heritage buildings; a review of a TV heritage program (in the UK); and 'Our picturesque heritage', commemorating the centenary of the Scenery Preservation Act of 1903. And a website, produced by the New Plymouth Museum and Library, is praised for its stylish and effective contribution to the history of Taranaki province. See www.pukeariki.com/en/stories/default.asp

PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 27, October 2003

In his Presidential report, Philip Bentley reflects on the history of the PHA (Vic). The Association was founded by the graduating students of the first Monash Public History Course in the late 1980s to provide for the interests of the increasing number of freelance historians. Initially, it differed from other Australian PHAs in its less diverse membership and the fact that it operated as a standing committee of the History Institute.

This Issue includes brief biographies of old and new committee members, an update on several Professional Development events, and a brief introduction to the Internet for historians. There are reviews of *Beyond the Ladies Lounge: Australia's Female Publicans*, by Clare Wright, and *Single and Free: Female Migration to Australia 1833-1837*, by Liz Rushen, both by PHA members.

And Helen Penrose reflects on History at the Victorian Writer's Festival. At the Manne vs. Windschuttle debate there was standing room only but little genuine debate and, concludes Penrose, "Windschuttle's attempt to pass himself off as a historian is lame". 'Rattling the Bones' was another session sponsored by the History Council of Victoria and featured Don Watson as chair of a panel of new historians talking of their work both within and outside the academic scene.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) INC. Newsletter.
No 4, September 2003

The PHA (NT) continues to struggle for members and has had to postpone some activities due to lack of interest. The Native Title Workshop conducted by Sam Wells from the Northern Land Council eventually took place and was deemed excellent.

On 9th November, the Barbara James Scholarship was launched by Chief Minister Clare Martin. This memorial fund acknowledges the work of this well-loved NT historian, whose death still resonates through the local historical community.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION
(SA) INC Newsletter
No 78, November 2003**

The cover features the glowing faces of Susan Marsden and Roslyn Russell at the launch of their useful reference book *Our first six: guide to archives of Australia's prime ministers* (National Archives of Australia, 2002). Other photos enhance this 44-page newsletter.

As recently elected President of the SA PHA, Dr Susan Marsden intends to address the declining support for history and heritage in SA and develop a more public profile for the PHA and professional historians.

The need for historical awareness is highlighted by a collection of items on heritage matters, including Susan Marsden's media release on the death of SA history. In this she claims that, despite its reputation for an interest in arts and heritage, "Adelaide is now less 'history-proud' than the much smaller cities of Canberra and Newcastle".

Also included are comments by Dr David Kemp, Minister for the Environment, on the new heritage legislation establishing a National Heritage List. The same Heritage Bills are decried by the ALP's Daryl Melham, who claims that many items will fall between the gaps when the Register of the National Estate is replaced by two new lists, and that the independence of Australia's heritage protection regime will be wiped out, allowing the Minister to dictate heritage places.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION
(WA) INC Newsletter.
No 86, November 2003**

In this issue, Chris Owen of the UWA School of Humanities reviews *Whitewash: on Keith Windschuttle's Fabrication of Aboriginal History* (edited by Robert Manne, 2003). Owen's conclusion is that the nineteen contributors painstakingly and effectively demolish Windschuttle's assertions of mistakes and bias

among historians. These include his belief in an 'orthodox school' of Aboriginal history and his claim that historians have invented facts and made errors. They show how Windschuttle's own work is based on a minimum of primary sources and contains fabrications, filtering, ignorance and prejudice. "It would be truly unfortunate" states Owen, "if Windschuttle's 'whitewashed' version of history were to gain popular currency thus preventing a more mature understanding of our shared past".

**QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN:
newsletter of the PHA (Qld). No 70, October 2003**

At their AGM in August, the Queensland PHA again acknowledged the importance of the Newsletter, particularly for the majority of members who live outside the Brisbane area. The Association continues to grow, with a diverse membership covering a range of educational and employment backgrounds.

This issue continues Dr Loma McDonald's report on Rockhampton's Printing Works, reviews *Redland Museum: the first thirty years* by QPHA member Tracy Ryan, and includes Dorothy M.Gibson-Wilde's article on the display celebrating Townsville's Centenary in 2001.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

**CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
HISTORY: Newsletter. No 23, December 2003**

The Centre's major project is the *Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia* for which some one hundred and fifty eight writers have already been commissioned. The editors are committed to including Indigenous history in the Encyclopedia as there is currently no central resource for information about WA Aboriginal history. Funding is being sought to continue research on the Indigenous history which has currently lapsed.

HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office & Heritage Council of NSW. Vol 10, No 2, Spring 2003

The NSW Heritage Office and Heritage Council are now settled in their heritage premises on the Parramatta River and invite visitors to use the comprehensive resources at the new heritage library.

As always, the newsletter contains interesting articles on all aspects of NSW heritage. These include pieces on NSW ocean swimming pools; heritage values of Nissen huts used at migrant camps; the importance of our culturally-shaped landscapes; the *Centurion* wreck of 1887 near North Head; the heritage of religious organisations in NSW; the archaeological excavation of the former Hawkesbury Hospital at Windsor; and contemporary developments that reflect the character of their heritage settings.

HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW. Bulletin. June 2003

This resurrected Bulletin focuses on the events of History Week 2003, now successfully behind us. It also contains the revised Charter of the History Council of New South Wales and a list of historians who received Centenary Medals and Queen's Birthday Honours. Our congratulations to former PHA office-bearers Bruce Baskerville and Dr Shirley Fitzgerald for their Centenary Medals although whether they are flattered to be in the company of fellow recipient Keith Windschuttle is debatable.

MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 24, September 2003

An article on the second youngest PM, Stanley Melbourne Bruce (1923 to 1929), publicises the National Archives guides to Australia's Prime Ministers and their wives.

A piece illustrated with a Johnny O'Keefe photograph describes the diverse range of films video and sound recordings in the NAA collection. And *From the Steps of Bonegilla*, an exhibition at

Albury Regional Museum, draws on documents and photographs in the vast immigration collection held by National Archives.

Dr Klaus Neumann, 2001 Frederick Watson Fellow, has used files on enemy aliens interned in World War 11 to produce a website [<http://uncommonlives.naa.gov.au/>] and a radio play on the life of the German internee Wolf Klaphake.

Which all goes to prove that the National Archives of Australia hold an amazingly diverse range of original material.

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA: JOURNAL No 25, 2003

This annual journal reproduces the papers presented at the national conference held in Perth in September 2003 entitled *From all Quarters*.

The first paper, Oral History and Heritage Work, is by keynote speaker David Dolan and focuses on the significant role of oral testimony in heritage assessment. Three Latin American oral historians are the other contributors to this first section, which is called Place and Identity. The perennial debate of the place of oral history in historiography is addressed in the next Theory and Authority section, with David Faber producing an interesting piece recalling the Greek origins of oral history called 'Listening to Clio: Towards a Pragmatic Theory of Oral History'.

Section Three, Crossing Borders, examines two projects involving oral interviews where the primary orientation is not necessarily historical: the development of a school curriculum for an isolated Aboriginal community; and the many outcomes from an Australian urban community arts project.

Projects & Context, section four, contains six project reports reflecting the theme of diversity, and the last section, Taming Technology, includes informative articles on interactive museum displays and the establishment of a commercial video oral history interviewing service.

As well, there are reviews of Margaret Park's two books on North Sydney, Alice Bilari Smith's *Under a Bilari Tree I born*, Valerie Hobson's *Across the Board* on WA shearing, and *Saltwater People: Larrakia stories from around Darwin*. There are also obituaries for Jean Teasdale (1928-2002), founder of the Oral History Association of Australia, and NT historian Barbara James (1943-2003).

VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 29, October 2003

PHA connections feature in this issue of *Voiceprint*. Margo Beasley is on the executive of both organisations. Judy Wing, long-time PHA member and former treasurer, has been proposed for Honorary Life Membership of OHAA for her contribution as long-serving secretary of that organisation and I'm sure all fellow PHA members will wish her all the very best. Well-known oral historian Richard Raxworthy has also been proposed for Life Membership.

A History of Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops, an Australian Centre for Public History project first published in *Phanfare*, is reproduced. From her oral history of Ryde, our president, Pauline Curby has contributed an article called 'Keeping the Home Going' about the struggle of a motherless family in the 1930s. Another time and place is recalled in 'It's different here - a Life in the West Kimberley, WA' by Jan Henderson. This provides interesting background to the popular tourist areas of Derby and the Gibb River road from one who was brought up there and loved it, despite the heat and dust.

Report – Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA)

I volunteered for the position of PHA (NSW)'s delegate to ACPHA in July of last year. I attended the annual meeting in August of last year as an observer to Tony Prescott, the previous NSW delegate. The annual meeting is the only occasion on which ACPHA delegates meet face to face. There is one teleconference annually, generally around six months after the annual meeting. The most recent teleconference was held in mid December of last year. It provided an opportunity to discuss and pass formal decisions on a range of motions relating to business carried out in the months following the AGM.

As a new delegate I am still learning about the role of ACPHA and the business it deals with. One thing I quickly learnt is that there is a considerable volume of email traffic generated by ACPHA delegates fairly constantly throughout the year!

To indicate the range of activities undertaken by ACPHA I have listed below some of what has occurred in the five months since I joined the committee in August 2003.

- Advice provided to PHA's on request regarding Extraordinary Applications for membership
- Ongoing development of an Information Package for use by PHA's for new members
- A form letter is being developed to allow for speedy responses to relevant media items to lift the profile of ACPHA and professional historians generally
- The 'Commissioning a History' brochures have been developed and are now available on the website
- An 'ACPHA Model Contract' has been developed and made available to member organisations nationally
- A 'Scale of Fees' is maintained by ACPHA and was revised in mid 2003
- A 'Records Disposal Policy' has been developed for the use of ACPHA and as a useful base document for PHA's archive management
- Ongoing attempts to identify opportunities to provide better access to professional insurance

- As a result of the development and adoption of national accreditation standards by all of ACPHA's member organisations a range of processes and by-laws are still being developed. These include those for the Consideration of Extraordinary Applications, Appeals against Accreditation Decisions, and Alleged Breaches to Code of Ethics. This is a complex process as the by-laws and associated processes need to be functional, fair to all involved, and legally compatible with each other and with the infrastructure already in place. The value of much of this work is that it removes a considerable administrative burden from the PHA executives freeing them up to focus on developing their own state and territory organizations

■ **KATE WATERS**

Report - State Records Community Advisory Committee Meeting: 1 December 2003

Matters discussed at the meeting included the following:

1. The Issues Paper relating to the review of the State Records Act 1998 is expected to be released in December. A suggested amendment that state records be automatically open for access after 30 years unless specifically prohibited has been rejected by the Ministry although it still remains in the Issues Paper.
2. State Records have moved all of their original records to Kingswood with the exception of the pre-1856 Colonial Secretary's papers. These will be transferred at the end of January.
3. The State government's review of the Privacy Act has been deferred for 12 months pending changes in the administrative machinery relating to privacy.

4. The Protocols relating to access to Indigenous records is expected to be finalised by the end of 2003.

5. The Colonial Secretary re Lands records have been re-sorted. They will be re-filmed at a future date. An enhanced listing (including eg dates) will be added to the State Records website (www.records.nsw.gov.au) in early 2004.

6. Probate records are now available after 30 years. They are progressively being transferred to State Records. Current holdings cover c1800-1941. An index compiled by the Supreme Court will be available on the website in due course. The records are located at Kingswood. People wishing to consult the records are advised to pre-order them; to do so it is necessary to know the relevant case number.

7. The Trigonometrical Survey CD-Rom is available in both Reading Rooms, selected libraries and the community access points throughout NSW.

8. The second annual John and Patricia Ward History Prize has been awarded to David Kent and Norma Townsend for *The Convicts of the Eleanor*.

9. Website update: (1) Selected series of photographs can now be searched on the website using Photo Investigator. Basic searches can be made by subject, keyword and series; there is also an advanced search facility. Photographs can also be ordered via the website. (2) An on-line index is now available for Volume 1 of the Randwick Asylum records; indexing of Volume 2 is in progress. Indexing work is also continuing on the Gaol photographs and the Ticket of Leave passports. (3) A number of significant transfers of Local Government records are now recorded on Archives Investigator; they comprise records transferred from the Mitchell Library and from councils.

10. The published sources (eg Government Gazettes, Police Gazettes and Parliamentary Papers) available for the use of State Records researchers will be the subject of a future Archives in Brief.

11. State Records is now a registered institution for the receipt of donations under the Cultural Gifts Program.

12. Work on the implementation of the new content management system for the State Records website is expected to be completed by March 2004.

13. The State Records website contains relevant information for people wishing to travel to the Western Sydney repository at Kingswood by public transport.

14. State Records will be holding an Open Day at Kingswood on 28 May 2004.

Roslyn Burge will be the PHA's CAC representative from the next meeting in March 2004.

As this was my last meeting as the PHA representative I would like to thank the Association for the honour and privilege. I believe that government records are a vital part of our cultural heritage and, as professional historians, I believe that we have a responsibility to be involved in their preservation.

■ BAIBA BERZINS
1 DECEMBER 2003

Report - NAA Consultative Forum 15 December 2003

The following matters were noted,

1. Dept of Works drawings.

These are large and bulky and now belong to another department (the Dept of Finance Administration?). NAA has decided to retain the bulk of them, particularly the plans for major buildings and heritage properties. Even the plans for minor additions and alterations have, at this stage, been given a 100-year retention period. Due to the reduction in storage space in repositories in a number of other states, NSW now has the plans for many of the other states, such as South Australia.

2. The Brisbane office has shifted, but is still within the same group of buildings it previously occupied. Its address is now changed to Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill, 4170.

3. A minute dealing with access to ASIO files was tabled (see copy reproduced following report).

4. Under the 30-year rule the 1973 cabinet papers will be released from 2 January 2004 onwards. Selected images will be on the NAA website. Some personal records from Gough Whitlam will also be released at the same time.

5. Under the 50-year rule, the cabinet notebooks will be released for 1953.

6. New Guides have been published. One entitled *Australia in Focus* deals with photographic records at NAA, and includes numerous images from the collection. (This is a real bargain at only \$10.00). The guide titled *Collections in Melbourne* has also been updated and released, also at \$10.00. Both may be purchased from the NAA website or at NAA offices.

7. Under the "work for the dole scheme", Chester Hill has been using people for data entry, notably alien registrations. Although NAA cannot retain the same people for a long period of time, they

are all trained and their work is checked after completion. This initiative has been highly successful since it allows NAA to undertake work, which would not otherwise have been done.

8. Terry Kass (PHA representative) suggested a "behind the scenes" tour of Chester Hill, on the lines of the successful recent tour of State Records at Kingswood, would be an appropriate activity. Negotiations will proceed in the New Year to arrange this

9. The changes purposed for ScreenSound were also discussed.

■ **TERRY KASS**
PHA REPRESENTATIVE

Access to ASIO records under the Archives Act

The National Archives of Australia makes ASIO records publicly available once those records are over 30 years old.

Whilst ASIO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, it is subject to the access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*. This means that, once an ASIO record reaches 30 years, it is eligible for general public release, subject to the exemption of any information that might remain sensitive beyond 30 years.

In response to applications from members of the public, ASIO transfers copies of its records to Archives custody. Its indexes are not publicly available because they contain current information. However, staff of the National Archives and the Public Research Section in ASIO work cooperatively to ensure requests for public access are met as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

Once a record has been requested and publicly released, its title is entered on to the Archives online catalogue, RecordSearch, where the public can browse the titles and request access to any record of interest to them.

Almost 8,000 ASIO records are listed on RecordSearch. There are also records of ASIO's predecessor agency, the Commonwealth Investigation Service, dating to about 1951, collections of war-time security files, and records of the 1954/55 Royal Commission on Espionage (the Petrov Royal Commission).

ASIO records date from the creation of the organisation in 1949. More recent records from the early 1970s that have been publicly released cover topics such as the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, the Draft Resisters Union and demonstrations against the South African Rugby Team tour of Australia. Personal case files on people such as Eddie Mabo and John Halfpenny are also available.

For the public, the process of applying for an ASIO record is straightforward.

They should first check RecordSearch to see if the record they want has been requested previously and is already in Archives custody. If searching the catalogue fails to identify the record they want, reference staff can submit an application for the ASIO record on their behalf.

The application is forwarded to ASIO, where staff in the Public Research Section search its indexes for relevant material. If a record is located, a copy is sent to Archives, with information of continuing national security sensitivity restricted. Access staff in the Archives then examine the record for other possible sensitivities, and the expunged copy is made publicly available.

Whilst ASIO records almost always contain some information that has been restricted from public release, a high proportion of available information on the file is fully released to the public.

The main ASIO record series are:

Title or description of records	Date	Series No.	Approx. no. in NAA custody
Personal case files	1949–ongoing	A6119	3,300
Subject or organisation files (e.g. <i>Marxist Workers Party</i> , or <i>Records of conversation and correspondence between the Director-General of ASIO and the Prime Minister 1954-1976</i>)	1949–ongoing	A6122	2,300
Microfilmed files of diverse origin and content, created by ASIO or inherited from predecessor agencies.	1920 - 1967	A9108	690
Microfilm copies of inactive files	1920 –	A6126	1,200
Film and sound recordings, e.g. <i>May Day March - Melbourne 1963</i> , or <i>Skripov Case - Secret writing demonstration</i>	1949–ongoing	A8703	95
Photographic material, e.g. <i>ASIO surveillance photograph of James Frederick Hill, former Department of External Affairs diplomat</i>	1949–ongoing	A9626	200

More information on access to ASIO records and on some of the security and intelligence records held by the Archives can be found on our website in the following Fact Sheets:

- Fact sheet 52 *Exempt information in ASIO records*
- Fact sheet 53 *Personal information in ASIO records*
- Fact sheet 33 *Security intelligence records held in Canberra*
- Fact sheet 173 *Security intelligence records held in Melbourne*
- Fact sheet 69 *ASIO files on writers and literary groups*
- Fact sheet 28 *Australia First Movement*
- Fact sheet 49 *D Notices*
- Fact sheet 183 *New Guard Movement, 1931–35*
- Fact sheet 130 *Royal Commission on Espionage, 1954–55*

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Publications

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

PHA

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