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## History in July: Worth Celebrating!



The PHA win the Australian Society of Archivist Quiz Night



**PHANFARE No 219**

**Collective : Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald, Lisa Murray**

**Contents**

President’s Report.....	3
<i>Articles</i>	
History in the Howard Era.....	5
<i>Reviews – Events, Conferences</i>	
News and Views.....	10
<i>Book Reviews</i>	
Remembered Gardens.....	22
Musical Chairs: The Quest for a City Recital Hall.....	26
<i>PHA Reports</i>	
State Records – Community Advisory Committee.....	29
Library Report.....	15
What’s On.....	20
PHA (NSW) Directory 2004-2005.....	31

**President’s Report**



As mentioned in my last report for Phanfare the executive has been considering ways in which we can make PHA (NSW) a more dynamic, lively organisation that supports its members in their professional life and makes a contribution to the researching and writing of history.

A special meeting – loosely referred to as ‘sexing up the PHA’ - was held at the Hero of Waterloo Hotel on 14 June to thrash out some issues and think about where we are heading as an organisation. Discussion was full and frank and as a result it was decided that we should:

- have a presence at the biennial AHA conferences;
- work more closely with the History Council;
- establish links with the Heritage Advisors’ Network;
- advertise our wares in business and architectural publications, possibly also in the archaeologists’ newsletter, National Trust and ICOMOS;

- use PHA website more creatively to showcase members' work by initially highlighting work done by salaried members that may not get wide recognition;
- organise CPD workshops on how to undertake and budget for scoping studies; and
- organise training workshops for professionals/community groups involved in heritage studies on the elements of good historical investigation and writing.

As a result of these decisions I discussed the first two points with History Council president Perry McIntyre. History councils from different states usually meet informally to discuss common concerns at AHA conferences and it is felt that ACPHA representatives could certainly do the same. PHA (NSW) could also investigate other ways of having a presence in our own right at these conferences.

I also discussed with the History Council president and executive officer the possibility of involving PHA members in promotions for History Week. I assured them that members would be eager to take advantage of media opportunities at this time, but also at any time of the year.

I have also begun discussions with Bruce Baskerville of the NSW Heritage Office concerning establishing links with the Heritage Advisors' Network. Other members of the executive undertook to investigate the remaining ideas generated from our meeting. When I receive reports on the progress of these initiatives I will pass the information on to members.

Our 'History in July' networking evening at History House on 19 July was a resounding success. It was great to see so many varied representatives from Sydney's 'history community' there. Peter Tyler and myself have been receiving very flattering emails from some of the 70 or so attendees congratulating us on the success of the evening. Professor Ann Curthoys address, 'History in the Howard Era', was very well received and was a fitting way to celebrate the PHA's 21st birthday. I particularly liked the fact that some of the original members from 1985 were in attendance. Thank you to all who assisted on the night especially key organiser vice president Peter Tyler.

The date for this year's AGM has been set for 2.30 on 12 August at History House, 133 Macquarie Street. Please attend and have your say about a number of issues that will be discussed.

Pauline Curby President

## History in the Howard Era

Talk to Professional Historians Association, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 19 July 2006

### Ann Curthoys

In this talk I outline what I see as the Howard Government's policy on history, look at some ways in which the policy has been implemented, and then make some suggestions as to how historians ought to respond.

### Howard Government History Policy

The most well known statement of Howard's history policy is the one he made when delivering the Sir Robert Menzies lecture on 18 November 1996, when he said we must "ensure that our history as a nation is not written definitively by those who take the view that we should apologise for most of it. .... I believe that the balance sheet of our history is one of heroic achievement and that we have achieved much more as a nation of which we can be proud than of which we should be ashamed. In saying that I do not exclude or ignore specific aspects of our past where we are rightly held to account. Injustices were done in Australia and no-one should obscure or minimize them."<sup>1</sup>

This notion of balance was reiterated in his Australia day speech this year when he noted a social attitudes report which found that fewer Australians are ashamed of this nation's past than a decade ago. "I welcome this corrective in our national sense of self. It restores a better balance between pride in our past and recognition of past wrongs." After acknowledging the mistakes and injustices of our past, especially in relation to Indigenous peoples, he went on to say, "our goal must be to strive for a balance in questions of national identity and cultural diversity".<sup>2</sup>

Why has Howard talked so consistently of balance in history? Why does history matter to him and to the government he heads? What does he really mean?

### Historical Background

To understand Howard's use of history, we need, of course, to go back, to the time of the Hawke and Keating governments, when Howard was in opposition, and from 1985 to 1989 and again in 1995 leader of the opposition. Two historians, Mark McKenna and Sean Brawley, have written excellent analyses of these politician's wars over history, and I'm indebted to both.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Howard, 'The Liberal Tradition: The Beliefs and Values which Guide the Federal Government', Sir Robert Menzies Lecture, 18 November 1996, formerly available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/pmc/pressrel/menzies.html>

<sup>2</sup> Transcript of the Prime Minister the Hon John HJoward MP, Address to the National Press Club, Great Hall, Parliament House, 25 January 2006, available on the Prime Minister's website under 'Speeches'.

<sup>3</sup> Mark McKenna, "Different Perspectives on Black Armband History", Research Paper 5 1997-8, Parliament of Australia, Parliamentary Library. Available on the web at [www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/1997-98/98rp05.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/1997-98/98rp05.htm); Sean Brawley, "A Comfortable and Relaxed Past": John Howard and the 'Battle of History': The First Phase – February 1992 to March 1996", *The Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History*, 1997, <http://www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/articles/brawley.htm>.

Conservative commentators in the late 1980s were becoming especially hostile to Manning Clark, whom they saw as consigning them to the dustbin of history. And indeed Clark did refer to them as “clock back putters” and “money changers”. As Mark McKenna points out, during the 1980s Geoffrey Blainey had countered by developing a criticism of what he would later call the Black Armband view of history. In his 1988 statement, *Future Directions*, Howard said he wanted to see “one Australia proud of its heritage”. In the Hawke years, he said, “people’s confidence in their nation’s past came under attack as the professional purveyors of guilt attacked Australia’s heritage and people were told they should apologise for pride in their culture, traditions, institutions and history”.<sup>4</sup> After the conservatives lost the unlosable election in 1993, there was some concern that Keating had been successful in positioning himself as the inheritor of what is truly Australian, and the conservatives as representing a backward-looking relic of the past, imbued with loyalty to Britain rather than to modern Australia. Howard began to defend both Liberal Party history, and, from the time of his election, Australian history as a whole, as something largely to be proud of, with the negative aspects a very small part of the overall story.<sup>5</sup>

### **Implementing the Policy**

If the Howard government is not unusual in seeking to use history for its own ends, it does so in a particular way, and I think it’s important to recognize that way, to be alert to its subtleties, nuances, purposes, and meanings. What consequences does his policy of emphasizing the importance of history and ‘restoring the balance’ have in practical terms that affect historians? How best can we as professional historians continue our work while living with this government? To what extent should we welcome government policy, oppose it, or ignore it?

We can sometimes see policy better in what a government does than it what it says. Let’s look at Howard’s history policy in four main arenas: teaching history, the funding of public commemorations, and Aboriginal policy. We need to remember of course in this analysis our federal system, and that on many of these issues the states are at least as important as, if not more so, the Commonwealth government.

### **Teaching history**

In his speech just before Australia Day, 2006, Howard said: “I believe the time has also come for root and branch renewal of the teaching of Australian history in our schools, both in terms of the numbers learning and the way it is taught.” He referred to the displacement of history by supposedly more relevant subjects and went on to say history is now taught “without any sense of structured narrative, replaced by a fragmented stew of ‘themes’ and ‘issues’ ..... it has succumbed to a postmodern culture of relativism where any objective record of achievement is questioned or repudiated.... The subject matter should include indigenous history.... (and also) the great and enduring heritage of Western civilization”.

On 5 July 2006, the Minister made a similar statement, and specifically advocating a return to the teaching of history as a stand alone course rather than buried within courses on social and environmental studies. She announced that she would explore ways for the Federal government to encourage State education authorities and all schools to make the teaching of

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<sup>4</sup> McKenna, *op.cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Brawley, *op. cit.*

Australian history a critical part of their jurisdiction's syllabuses.<sup>6</sup> She is calling together a number of historians and history teachers to a History Summit on 17 August, to advise her on these issues. She will be concentrating, she says, on the "sensible centre in the history wars". The summit will, according to the Minister, "identify the basic facts and building blocks of Australian history that every student should have an appreciation of". She has no intention of creating an official history, she says.<sup>7</sup>

In one sense, we can see the statements and the history summit as a delayed response to the Report of the National Inquiry into School History, presented to the government in 2000, commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) in September 1999 and written by Tony Taylor and others. The report made several recommendations, including the holding a national seminar on history in schools, much like the history summit that is now proposed. It also drew attention to the need to upgrade the role of history in schools, give it a stronger focus, allow for more in depth study, and direct resources to teacher training and professional and curriculum development accordingly.

History teachers and historians have reacted variously to Howard's call, many welcoming the call for more attention to history in schools but wary of any suggestion of government intervention in prescribing what kind of history ought to be taught.

### **The Militarisation of History**

A second area where we can see Howard government's history policy at work is in what we might call the militarization of Australian History. Stephen Muecke has pointed out that although the Howard government spokespeople sometimes spoke of forgetting about the past, or about moving on, they meant it very selectively. They were all for remembering the past when Anzac Day was involved, or military commemoration more generally.<sup>8</sup>

Marilyn Lake drew attention to this in a recent paper. She points out that in the last ten years, the federal government through massive funding of the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Australian War memorial has actively promoted public knowledge and understanding of Australia's military heritage and its importance in shaping the nation. DVA now spends million of dollars each year in the "Saluting their Service" program, inaugurated in 2002, which aims to: raise community awareness, educate younger Australians about our wartime heritage and its importance in the development of our nation, preserve war memorials and memorabilia in communities across the country, and ensure national days such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are commemorated in an appropriate manner.<sup>9</sup> The Department has provided education resources to every school in Australia, spent a lot on developing websites, and in 2004, distributed Working the Web: Investigating Australia's Wartime History to all schools.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> "Julie Bishop: Our classrooms need to make a date with the facts", *The Australian* 6 July 2006, <http://theaustralian.com.au>

<sup>7</sup> "Carr tops list for history summit", *The Australian*, 13 July 2006, <http://theaustralian.com.au>

<sup>8</sup> Muecke, Stephen, 'No Guilt with Black Armband', *The Financial Review*, 11 April 1997.

<sup>9</sup> Marilyn Lake, "The Militarization of Australian History", unpublished speech delivered to NSW History Teachers' Association, April 2006. Many thanks for permission to use and cite this paper.

<sup>10</sup> Lake, *op.cit.*

### **Aboriginal Policy**

Perhaps it is in the area of Aboriginal policy where the Howard government's history policy is most evident. I will simply stress what I see as its key elements.

**First:** minimize, but do not do away with entirely, recognition of past injustices towards Aboriginal people. There is in fact room for empathy with the plight of indigenous people in terms of disadvantage. It is on this ground that Keith Windschuttle has been least successful. Conservative commentators including Ron Brunton, Alan Atkinson, and John Hirst, alongside many others of varying political persuasions, have parted company with him for his lack of compassion, his assertion of the point of view of the nineteenth century settler in a battle zone, his refusal to recognise the point of view of the indigenous peoples of the country. Yet if there is room for empathy, it is equally important that the past be separated rigidly from the present; anything bad that happened was long ago, and has little or nothing to do with us now. There is a general command to forget about the past, to get on with it, to move on. There is no sense of reparation.

**Second:** consonant with this minimization is a return to the politics of assimilation and reject more recent ideals of self-determination, autonomy, and the need for a treaty. The assimilationist tradition places white Australia as the true Australians, and includes others only in so far as they adopt the values and habits of white Australians. The history of assimilation policies is itself rehabilitated, paving way for assimilationist policies in the present. The notion of rights is avoided and side-stepped.

My main critique of Howard government policy is that it sees history in national terms only, and is directing funds to those aspects of history that express a very particular, narrow, and conservative national vision. It is a history which values military intervention, even when it may not have been justified, which emphasises sport and European foundations of the nation, which stresses achievements rather than difficulties and problems which have helped make us what we are. It has little time for social history, for women's history, for environmental history, or for Indigenous history when it actually has implications for action in the present.

### **Implications for historians**

Fortunately, historians are not entirely dependent on Commonwealth government policy. They can work with state and local governments, and many do. They also retain a certain measure of independence through their connections with civil society, writing commissioned histories, working in history-based institutions such as museums and heritage sites, teaching in schools and universities, working as film-makers and broadcasters, and so on. All these bear the influence of Commonwealth government policy, but none are entirely defined by it. The growth in the popularity of history in the public sphere, outside schools, has been steady since the 1960s, seemingly little influenced by changes in government and government policies or even by the state of school history. Universities provide a measure of autonomy, too, though dependence on research grants can make historians nervous and anxious to please new orthodoxies. I think we have to all value whatever independence we have, and find new opportunities wherever they may be.

History has very often been the handmaiden of the nation state, organising its knowledge in national terms, and very often explicitly setting out to serve the interests of the nation,

however conceptualised. We need to be aware of our own history and traditions in this respect, and to be careful about being drawn into the undeniable blandishments of national history. It is tempting to be told one is valuable for the nation, and to see one's work as having national value. Let's stand back a little, and look at other entities outside the nation, at the local and the transnational, the public and the private. Let's keep a fearless critical edge when that seems appropriate, and be wary of the excesses into which a discourse of national cohesion can draw us. A more cosmopolitan approach, interested in the intersections of peoples, in what they share and how they differ, in the marginal as well as the mainstream, the quirky alongside the obvious, will help keep us honest, and interesting.



John Docker, Ann Curthoys, Pauline Curby, Kevin Curby and Peter Tyler at the history in July function held at History house.

### ***Animated History in July celebrates 21 years***

Whoever succeeds Pauline Curby as president of PHA will have a hard act to follow. Perhaps her family hospitality team should be passed on with the president's baton at the August AGM! They did a wonderful job in support of her at the association's History in July function at History House, on Wednesday, July 19. Vice president Peter Tyler deserves equal thanks for ensuring generous and high quality catering and the smooth flow of the evening's organisation.

About 70 guests attended including professional historians, academics, librarians, archivists, publishers, book sellers, teachers and representatives of bodies like the History Council, State Library of NSW, National Trust and Arts NSW. Conversation was animated as everyone

enjoyed opportunities to network and meet other professionals face to face, where contact has been only by hearsay, phone or email.

The function was also a celebration of the association's 21st birthday. Several founding members who worked to establish PHA NSW in 1985 were given a special welcome. The association became part of a national structure only 10 years ago with the formation of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations.

In a climate of growing change and uncertainty that has spawned phrases like "history wars", there was a special interest in the guest lecturer's address. Professor Ann Curthoys, who was well known to many PHA members as their former lecturer at UTS, is now Manning Clark Professor of History at ANU. You could have heard a pin drop as she gave her thoughtful analysis of History in the Howard Era.

The adversarial nature of Australia's political system has seen the study and teaching of history subject to identification under Keating with thematic structures and under Howard as requiring narrative and chronology to restore "balance", she said. Professor Curthoys considers this separation largely inappropriate to historians and their work as can be seen in the record of her lecture which follows.

Katherine Knight

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Compiled by Lisa Murray

It seems whenever I'm due to compile this column, the federal government makes some pronouncement about history. On 5 July federal Education Minister Julie Bishop called for a **national history curriculum**. This is a good idea in principle, but I don't like her idea of history. She complained current history curricula focuses too much on politics, indoctrinating the kiddies, and that there were not enough "facts and dates". Julia Baird wrote an excellent opinion piece of the state of things in the Herald (6 July 2006). If you missed it, [take a look](#).

The federal government was also making headlines when it appointed conservative historian **Keith Windschuttle** to the ABC Board in mid-June. I suppose we have to be pleased that an historian is on the board. But there is no love lost between the ABC and this controversial historian. Windschuttle has previously stated the national broadcaster has been "captured" for the last 30 years by Marxists and radicals.

And the state government is also courting controversy, appointing a **new State Librarian** with absolutely no library experience. Regina Sutton, who was head-hunted following the retirement of Dagmar Schmidmaier in April, took up the position on 10 July. In an interview with Steve Meacham in Spectrum (SMH 8-9 July 2006), the engineer confessed that one of her hobbies was reading. And PHA members will be pleased to know that she nominated historical fiction as her favourite genre of books.

But the assault on NSW cultural institutions doesn't end there. Bob Debus, Minister for the Arts, has announced a working party to look at the **amalgamation** of the **Powerhouse Museum** and the **Australian Museum**. The Sydney Morning Herald dubbed it "[Star Wars versus the dinosaur](#)" (SMH 3 July 2006). Who will be the winner? Certainly not scholarship; nor, in my view, the public.

The benefits of the digital age? In a publishing first, **Monash University ePress** has introduced sound bite technology to its online scholarly journal, History Australia [www.epress.monash.edu](http://www.epress.monash.edu). The sound bites are included in an article by historian Julie Holbrook-Tolley published in the December 05 issue of History Australia. To help promote the concept, the ePress has provided free access to the > History Australia article, which can be viewed at [publications.epress.monash.edu/doi/full/10.2104/ha050086](http://publications.epress.monash.edu/doi/full/10.2104/ha050086). The interviews can be accessed using free browser plug-ins such as Windows Media Player or Quick Time. While this is a great benefit of digital publishing, I still prefer receiving a hard copy of the journal.

**Public History Review** has also gone digital. <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/phrj> The second electronic issue went live in June. Unlike History Australia, PHR is freely available bringing scholarship to a wider digital audience. The question on everyone's lips, though, is how will UTS ePress afford to keep it running?

The first electronic issue of PHR featured an article by Michelle Arrow, in which she reflected upon the role and process of being an historian on the short-lived ABC television show, Rewind. Now it seems the ABC TV is re-inventing the show to focus more on historical mysteries in Can We Help? <http://abc.net.au/tv/canwehelp/> The show debuted on Friday 9 June and is in the 6.30pm timeslot. Darren Hutchinson, a researcher on the new historical/investigative program, is seeking potential story ideas. If you have an unsolved historical mystery that you want to promote to the nation contact Darren on [hutchinson.darren@abc.net.au](mailto:hutchinson.darren@abc.net.au)

And while we're on the subject of digital, it's appropriate to note that the Dictionary of Sydney Project website was launched on 14 June 06. [www.dictionaryofsydney.org](http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org) If it happened in Sydney's history, then it will one day feature in the Dictionary of Sydney. But not without your help! Log on to the website to volunteer to write an article or suggest a topic. And while you're there, have a look at the amazing statistics that have been compiled for the whole of Sydney.

A number of other significant websites that will be helpful to professional historians have been launched in the last few months.

The new website of the NSW Migration Heritage Centre features migrant stories through online exhibitions. [www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au)

The Australia Dictionary of Biography is now online. Need I say more?

<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm>

The new Australian media history database is now online and invites researchers to add their project entries. The site aims:

- \*To encourage researchers to contact each other on matters of mutual interest
- \*To avoid duplication in research
- \*To assist postgraduates and recent graduates with research exposure and networking
- \*To assist with developing cross-institutional research partnerships and joint research projects
- \*To assist with easier development of Linkage grant applications and involvement of industry partners.

[www.amhd.org.au](http://www.amhd.org.au)

Don't forget the census is happening on Tuesday 8 August 2006. The Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) has initiated a National Family History week, 30 July to 6 August 2006 (the week preceding the census), to help promote their campaign on Question 60. We are all encouraged to "opt in" by ticking "Yes, agree" at Question 60 - and thereby preserve our personal/household census information for the use of historians in the future. A wide range of family history activities will be held around the country during this special week. [www.familyhistoryweek.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au)

And finally, this years ASA Quiz night was a roaring success for historians, with the PHA table taking home first prize and historians represented on the top four tables. Well done to everyone, and for those of you who missed out What is the collective noun for a swarm of mosquitos?, In which year did Captain Cook die? and Who wrote Chitty Chitty Bang Bang?

## **COPYRIGHTS AND WRONGS**

Fifteen PHA members attended our Continuing Professional Development workshop at History House on 27th May to learn about the intricacies of the copyright law as it affects historians. Our speaker was Zoë Rodriguez, a legal officer with Copyright Agency Limited (CAL). Zoë gave us a comprehensive account of the current position – important to understand because the Copyright Act 1968 is frequently amended, so it is easy to keep thinking about copyright in outdated terms. The recent Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the USA involved changes in copyright provisions, for example. Our whole CPD workshop became highly interactive – a Q and A session – with members plying Zoë with questions, specific problems and personal anecdotes, all of which she fielded with aplomb and evident authority.

Copyright, as we know, is a property right to protect the expression of ideas, not the ideas themselves. In Australia, no registration of copyright is required; it is inherent in any original work. This means that it is not essential to attach the © symbol, but Zoë recommends that it is good practice to do so, because this alerts readers to the fact that somebody has an interest in the work, and that it cannot be reproduced or altered without approval. Copyright holders

can of course assign these rights, either through outright sale or by licensing specific uses such as publication, reproduction, or electronic communication.

CAL is a not for profit 'Reproduction Rights Organisation' that represents more than 8,500 Australian authors, journalists, photographers and publishers. Through an ongoing sampling process in schools, universities and government departments, it assesses which books and journals are being photocopied, either for teaching notes or by students. CAL licenses these institutions to make photocopies; the funds collected are then divided amongst CAL author members in proportion to the volume of their work that is being reproduced. It is big business – millions of dollars are distributed every year, more than \$350 million since CAL was formed in 1989. So it is worth becoming a member of CAL to share in this loot (and it is free to join).

Individual authors or publishers may still manage their rights directly if they wish, but obviously it is more efficient to work through a collective organisation – CAL in the case of printed works, APRA for music, VISCOPY for paintings. Incidentally, through reciprocal agreements with similar organisations in other countries, CAL can track the use of your work overseas, and see that you are remunerated.

By becoming a member of CAL, you authorise that agency to license the use of your works by third parties. You don't grant an exclusive assignment of your copying rights to CAL, so you are still able to give direct permission to certain users, or to market your work in any other way.

In addition to granting reproduction licences to institutions, CAL also manages communication rights such as electronic transmission through emails or on websites. This is becoming a significant growth area for copyright protection, because piracy of original works abounds and is hard to control. Technological protection measures are being introduced to prevent copying of videos and music, but this is more difficult to achieve with the written word. Legislation is being introduced that will make Internet Service Providers liable for copyright infringements through their networks, but it will be difficult to police. If you think your works may appear on the internet, you need to consider pricing them accordingly, so that you receive a higher fee up-front.

Many of these copyright issues need to be resolved at the contract stage when an author is negotiating with a publisher. Who is the copyright owner? Are the rights assigned, or licensed in either exclusive or non-exclusive form? For what period of time are the rights granted – one year, or the full copyright term? In what locality can the rights be exercised – Australia only, or internationally? How can the work be used – publication; reproduction; communication? Should different values be attached to different rights and usages? Finally, make sure you have provided for termination of the agreement and the reversion of rights if things go wrong.

For further information about the functions of Copyright Agency Limited and to become a member, visit their website: [www.copyright.com.au](http://www.copyright.com.au). Another important website for obtaining accurate copyright information is the Australian Copyright Council: [www.copyright.org.au](http://www.copyright.org.au). You will see from this website that the Copyright Council holds regular training/information seminars for authors. To obtain help with preparing a contract, contact the Australian Society of Authors, who run a contract advisory service (for a fee). Their website is: [www.asauthors.org](http://www.asauthors.org).

Peter J. Tyler

## History and Native Title in NSW

Michael Bennett has worked at NSW Native Title Services since 2002, undertaking historical research for connection reports. He addressed a meeting of RAHS members at History House about his work, on Sunday, 9 April.

Native Title recognises prior ownership and occupation of land, Michael said. The system works by demonstrating continuous connection with land and is granted by court process. It varies from group to group, depending on traditional law or custom and may operate in partnership or co-existence with a pastoral lease.

The role of the NSW Native Title Service is to offer legal and research assistance in NSW and the ACT. It performs the function of a representative body under the Native Title Act. Among the best-known examples of Native Title decisions are Mabo – 1992, Wik – 1996 and Yorta Yorta – 2002.

Historians tend to have a subsidiary role to the work of the anthropologist in Native Title and it is important that they work closely together. Anthropologists spend a lot of time with communities and judges have occasionally ruled that they have become too close. The historian's role is more "arms length".

Sources of historical information include Birth Death and Marriage records. Birth certificates were uncommon before 1850. Marriage and death certificates sometimes include identification of Aboriginality. In 1907 a request was made for police reports to include reference to Aboriginality.

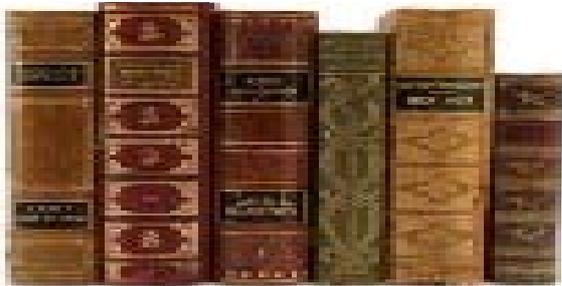
Other sources may include pastoral station records, government records – Commissioners of Crown Lands reports, police and gaol records, blanket returns etc, Aboriginal Protection Board files and newspapers. The service is glad to provide copies of information to families – many of whom have done much research themselves.

Problems with evidence include few sources written from an indigenous perspective, European bias and partiality of indigenous evidence. There are currently about 35 Native Title claims in NSW. The legal situation is complex and the last thirteen years have been a

learning process. Changes made in 1998 added to complexity as legal standards were introduced.

Michael said that social justice intended by Native Title is perhaps elusive, but not without benefits. Lesser mediated agreements may have benefits.

Katherine Knight



## LIBRARY REPORT

Compiled by Terri McCormack.

**Library enquiries: (02) 9810 4421 or**  
terrimc@ozemail.com.au

### PHA PERIODICALS

***EMPHATIC: Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association, Tasmania Inc. No 31, May 2006***

We might all have dreamt of being a paid lecturer on a tropical cruise but PHA (Tas) member John Williamson provides a different take on this fantasy. In January 2005, he stood in for Bob Headland, Senior Curator of the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University, on an Antarctic voyage on the Russian icebreaker *Kapital Klebnikhov*. The voyage went from Christchurch, NZ, to Enderby and Campbell Islands and then into the Ross Sea, returning to Hobart via Macquarie Island. His brief was to give six lectures on Antarctic history and to act as a guide for passengers ashore and at historic sites. Highlights for this Antarctic historian were the emotional day spent at Captain Scott's hut at Cape Evans and the visit to Inexpressible Island where Victor Campbell and party wintered for eight months in 1912. On Australia Day 2005, passengers celebrated with champagne on top of B15K, at that time the world's biggest iceberg. For details of these Ross Sea voyages see [www.quarkexpeditions.com](http://www.quarkexpeditions.com)

***PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa. Vol 12, No 1, April 2006***

New Zealand historians have recently been concerned by Archives New Zealand's decision to temporarily block access to the papers of all politicians since 1939 because classified information was found in David Lange's personal papers. This they see as over-reaction in an open democratic society.

Prostitution in NZ was decriminalised last year. The Prostitutes Collective argues that files on working prostitutes should now be destroyed as they stigmatise former workers. The PHA believes this is a severe form of censorship and that these files will be a valuable record of the country's social history. As editor Michael Kelly says, "Let's hope that opening up the past remains a straightforward matter. Our future depends on it."

***PHAROS: Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc. No 41, May 2006; No 42, July 2006***

Book reviews in the May issue feature Carolly Erickson's *The Girl from Botany Bay*, about highwaywoman and convict escapee Mary Bryant, née Broad, and Dianne Reilly Drury's *La Trobe: the Making of a Governor*. Reviewer Fay Woodhouse regrets that the latter can only be bought as an e-book or d-book. Electronic productions may be cheaper but they are not necessarily better and you have to be aware of Melbourne University Publishing's website at [www.mup.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au) to access them.

The CPD session in May on Copyright and Moral rights for Historians was well attended. Ian MacDonald, senior legal officer with the Australian Copyright Council, reminded members that since January 2005 copyright in a published work lasts for the lifetime of the creator plus 70 years (previously 50 years). A contract should state who owns copyright, otherwise the commissioning body is entitled to use the work for the purpose for which it was commissioned. Interesting to note that an historian may then use his/her own written material for other purposes after consultation, for example a shortened version on a website. And of course an historian may take legal action in cases of copyright infringement or false or faulty attribution but who can afford that? For more information see [www.copyright.org.au](http://www.copyright.org.au)

***PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC Newsletter incorporating the Professional Historians Association (NT) Inc. No 85, March 2006***

Prominent NT historian David Carment is moving to Sydney for personal reasons. He arrived in Darwin in 1981 as Director of the National Trust (NT), has been on the staff of the Charles Darwin University, and was an active member of the Historical Society of the NT and innumerable working groups and boards. He worked tirelessly to further the cause of history in the NT, published widely on the region, and will be much missed.

Susan Marsden, president of PHA (SA), is already alerting ministers to the 175th anniversary of British settlement in SA in 2011. Government departments need this length of time to prepare submissions and commission appropriate historians.

The new glossy magazine *Australian Heritage* is currently being promoted but is it just a resurrected version of the old National Trust's *Heritage Australia*? Carol Cosgrove's review of the first edition (Summer 2005) seems to confirm this. There are well-written articles by established authors but it is a popular publication providing non-controversial heritage topics for the general public. Some articles are accessible at [www.heritageaustralia.com.au](http://www.heritageaustralia.com.au)

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) Inc Newsletter. No 96, May 2006**

A wonderful research source for Western Australian history has been made more widely available. The Batty Library's Western Australian Post Office Directories (1893 to 1949) are essential for WA research. Due to a generous donation from the Bizzaca family and funds from the Maude Shooll Bequest, these have recently become accessible on the library's website at [www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pods/](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pods/) They are not fully searchable but every page, including advertisements, has been digitised with links to each from the contents pages.

In NSW, we still await the day when Sands Directories are fully available online rather than on microfiche. However, some editions of this valuable research tool can be found on the Internet History Resources site ([www.ihr.com.au](http://www.ihr.com.au)) and for the Newtown area on the City of Sydney Archives site at [www.sydneyarchives.info/Sands\\_Directory](http://www.sydneyarchives.info/Sands_Directory)

**NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS*****CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY: Newsletter. No 28, June 2006***

Like the PHA (NSW), the Centre celebrates its 21st birthday in 2006. In its 21 years, it has produced or had published 23 books, 38 heritage reports, and five major oral history archives.

And the final review of entries is underway for the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia. This mammoth project is the centre's main current project.

The Centre is also writing 26 pieces on 'Great Moments in Australian History', being published as full page articles in each Saturday's West Australian until September.  
HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office & Heritage Council of NSW. Vol 13, No 1, Autumn 2006

Recent listings under Frank Sartor's stewardship of the State's heritage include Rathmines WW11 seaplane base, the rural town of Braidwood, and the former Lidcombe Hospital heritage precinct. And earlier in the year Sydney Opera House was nominated for the World Heritage List. The results will be known in July 2007.

Two burial sites of great significance to the Wiradjuri people have been more widely recognised by their listing on the State Heritage Register. Windradyne was a warrior who resisted white settlement in the Bathurst region in the 1820s and is buried on the Suttor property at Sofala. Two cultures meet at the burial site near Molong for Yuranigh, Major Mitchell's guide and friend. Four trees carved in the traditional Aboriginal way face the grave with its European memorial headstone.

In a piece of bureaucratic déjà vu, the Heritage Office has become, yet again, a division of the Department of Planning. No doubt new stationery will be required but at least they will stay at their HQ at Parramatta and retain their contact details.

***INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales.***  
**No 47, Winter 2006**

Guest Curator Howard Tanner provides an overview of his new exhibition - Thoroughly Modern Sydney - at the Museum of Sydney from July to October 2006. In the relaxed post-war era of the 1920s, style-conscious Australians were looking to America for new ideas. Sydney Ure Smith's Home magazine set design standards with articles on the architecture of Hardy Wilson and Leslie Wilkinson illustrated by such luminaries as Thea Proctor, Margaret Preston, Adrian Feint and Harold Cazneaux.

Modernism was taken much further by Harry Seidler whose influence on Australia's urban landscape was immense. At his Memorial Service at Sydney's Theatre Royal on 6 April 2006, Historic Houses Trust Director Peter Watts gave a eulogy applauding Seidler's extraordinary generosity in gifting the Rose Seidler House to the HHT.

***HISTORY AUSTRALIA: Journal of the Australian Historical Association. Vol 3, No 1,***  
**June 2006**

This issue reflects the transnationalism of last year's Sydney Conference of CISH (Comité International des Sciences Historiques). It includes papers on sport in Fascist Italy, British volunteers in the Russo-Finnish war, drunkenness in the writing of Aristophanes, Rabelais and Hašek, and transexuality in the Italian-Australian community in the 1960s.

The remaining articles are as eclectic and informative as ever. There is a particularly interesting piece on the Network of Concerned Historians, co-ordinated by Dr Antoon De Baets at the University of Groningen since 1995. In the same way International PEN protects writers, NCH campaigns for human rights for censored or persecuted historians. By maintaining solidarity with our colleagues we protect our global right to free expression and the integrity of historiography. To lend your support, see details of NCH campaigns and publications at [www.let.rug.nl/nch](http://www.let.rug.nl/nch)

History Australia is published online at [www.epress.monash.edu/ha](http://www.epress.monash.edu/ha) While you're there, look at the 2005 article 'Gustav got the winery and Sophie got the soup tureen' with its recorded interviews of women in the Barossa Valley. This sound bite technology in an academic history journal is a publishing first for Monash University Press.

***MEMENTO: News and Events from the National Archives. No 31, Winter 2006***

National Archives remembers International Women's Year (IWY) in 1975 with a look at some of the Government funded projects to encourage women's creativity and reduce discrimination. Joan Long's script for *Caddie*, about a Sydney barmaid, received funding of \$50, 000 and was regarded as the first Australian Women's Lib feature film.

Some 687 requests were made for IWY funding. A poignant one came from the Mountain Districts Co-operative concerned about suburban neurosis in outer Melbourne. The group sought to alleviate the isolation, boredom, and despair of housewives trapped alone in their well-equipped and spotless homes with daytime TV.

Another IWY funded initiative was the *Women & Politics* conference in September 1975, organised by Elizabeth Reid, first adviser to the Prime Minister on women's affairs. There were some heated responses. Many were incensed at the colourful language used by visiting black American civil rights campaigner Flo Kennedy. One woman thought the delegates behaved like 'degraded low-type prostitutes in pubs'. A group of invitees to Parliament House were castigated for complying with the dress code and wearing lounge suits. Some of us can still recall with horror this era when women were brought up to be dependent, brainless, compliant, and lady-like.

***VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 34, April 2006***

Those who benefited from his expert help will regret Mark Cranfield's retirement from the National Library. For 25 years he was Oral History Curator. As Margy Burn, Assistant Director-General, said in her farewell tribute, he was largely responsible for the Library's superb oral history collection. This invaluable research source contains more than 37,000 hours of interviews. There are interviews with Australians from all walks of life, from Nobel prize winners and indigenous leaders to drovers, refugees, Polish migrants, and selected former Library staff members. Mark also championed folklore in Australia, giving the Library a presence at the National Folk Festival and contributing to a resurgence of academic interest in folklore.

There is another article by Lesley Jenkins who writes more about her experiences as a Churchill Fellow in Oral History, this time in America. She attended the Summer Institute in Oral History at Columbia University in New York, the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, and the Digital Storytelling Centre in San Francisco. She also had contact with the Association of Personal Historians, an organisation for people producing life stories through books, oral histories, audiotapes, videos or DVDs. This popular and rapidly growing group encourages newcomers and has international branches but there is no accreditation system. Skills vary widely, causing dissent among members.

In November 2005, Helen Klaebe, a PhD candidate from the Creative Writing Department at Queensland University of Technology, spoke at the OHAA seminar at the State Library of NSW. Her topic, 'Public History and Partnerships', addressed the many problems encountered working on a history of Outward Bound Australia and is reproduced here.

This newsletter precedes the *Dancing with Memory* Oral History conference in July 2006, a successful event which will no doubt provide material for future *Voiceprints*



## WHAT'S ON

by Christine de Matos

JULY/AUGUST 2006

### Exhibitions

'*Convicts: Sites of Punishment*'. Until 15 July 2007. **Venue** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.'

'*Thoroughly modern Sydney: 1920s and 30s glamour and style*'. 1 July-15 October 2006.

**Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'*City of Shadows*'. Until October 2006. **Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.

### Events July

- 6-12 Conference.** '*Performers, Practitioners and Audiences in American Studies: Biennial conference of the Australia New Zealand American Studies Association (ANZASA)*', University of Tasmania. **Enquiries:** Tom Dunning, email: [tdunning@utas.edu.au](mailto:tdunning@utas.edu.au); web: <http://www.anzasa.arts.usyd.edu.au>
- 12 Walking tour.** '*Sydney Architecture Walks*'. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at [www.sydneyarchitecture.org](http://www.sydneyarchitecture.org)
- 12 Talk.** '*A Night on the Town: Prominent citizens talk about Sydney: Bob Carr*'. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 12-16 Conference.** '*Dancing with Memory: Oral History and its Audiences: XIVth International Oral History Conference*'. Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: [IOHA@uts.edu.au](mailto:IOHA@uts.edu.au); web: <http://www.ioha.fgv.br/>
- 15 Walking tour.** '*Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon*'. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at [www.sydneyarchitecture.org](http://www.sydneyarchitecture.org)
- 15-16 Practical tours.** '*Design of the Times: Art Deco*'. Learn from the experts about furnishings, maintenance, re-creation and restoration of historic interiors. HHT. **Cost:** \$295 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266; email: [members@hht.net.au](mailto:members@hht.net.au)
- 19 PHA Function.** '*History in July*'. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** free **Bookings:** email: [secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)
- 28-29 Conference.** '*Rethinking the Past: Experimental Histories in the Arts*', University of Technology, Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: [Tara.Forrest@uts.edu.au](mailto:Tara.Forrest@uts.edu.au); web: <http://www.hss.uts.edu.au/rethinking/>

**31, 7 Aug & 14 Aug Lecture Series.** *'Women in the Professions: Challenging the Myths and Stereotypes'*. RAHS & WEA. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$60 for all 3 **Bookings essential:** ph: WEA (02) 9264 2781.

### Events August

- 2 Lecture.** *'The History and Future of the Centennial Parklands'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)
- 2 Walking tour.** *'Sydney Architecture Walks'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at [www.sydneyarchitecture.org](http://www.sydneyarchitecture.org)
- 5 Walking tour.** *'Sydney Architecture Walks: Utzon'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$25, mem/conc \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211. Full pgm at [www.sydneyarchitecture.org](http://www.sydneyarchitecture.org)
- 12 PHA Function.** *'PHA AGM'*. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 2-5pm
- 17-19 Conference.** *'Walter Benjamin and the Architecture of Modernity'*. University of Technology, Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: [walterbenjamin@uts.edu.au](mailto:walterbenjamin@uts.edu.au); web: <http://www.dab.uts.edu.au/walterbenjamin/>
- 19 Tour.** *'Archaeology in The Rocks'*. HHT. **Venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 19-20 Practical tours.** *'Design of the Times: Gothic Revival'*. Learn from the experts about furnishings, maintenance, re-creation and restoration of historic interiors. HHT. **Cost:** \$295 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2266; email: [members@hht.net.au](mailto:members@hht.net.au)
- 22 Lecture.** *'Being Modern: under the influence of Sydney Ure Smith'*. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$15, mems/conc \$10 **Bookings essential:** 8239 2211.
- 25-27 Conference.** *'2nd Biennial ANU Missionary History Conference. Asia-Pacific Missionaries: At Home and Abroad'*. Australian National University, Canberra. **Enquiries:** Dr Ian Welch, email: [ian.welch@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.welch@anu.edu.au)
- 27 Special Event.** *'Fifties Fair'*. **Venue:** Rose Seidler House **Time:** 10am-5pm **Cost:** \$12, mem/conc \$6, family \$27 **Enquiries:** 8239 2211.

### Upcoming Conferences

*'Seize the Day: Exhibitions, Australia and the World'*, 19-20 October 2006, Melbourne Museum. **Enquiries:** email: Elizabeth Willis, [ewillis@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:ewillis@museum.vic.gov.au)

*'World Without Walls: International Conference of the Oriental Society of Australia'*. 3-7 December 2006, University of Sydney. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/conference/OSA2006/>

### Call for Papers

*'Indian and Pacific Crossings: Perspectives on Globalisation and History'*. 12-15 December 2006, Fremantle, Western Australia. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.ecu.edu.au/ses/iccs/conference2006/callforpapers.pdf>

*'Media: policies, cultures and futures in the Asia Pacific region'*. 27-29 November 2006, Curtin University Perth. Abstracts of 250 words due **31 July 2006**. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.MediaAsiaConference.humanities.curtin.edu.au>

*'Historicising Whiteness Conference'*. 22-24 November 2006, University of Melbourne. Abstracts of 25 words due by **31 July 2006**. **Enquiries:** email: [lboucher@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lboucher@unimelb.edu.au); web: <http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au/>

*'Landmarks in Legal History: The 25th Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society'*. 8-10 December 2006, University of Tasmania. Abstracts of 300 words to be submitted by **31 August 2006**. **Enquiries:** email: [stefan.petrov@utas.edu.au](mailto:stefan.petrov@utas.edu.au); web: [http://www.utas.edu.au/history\\_classics/Conferences/ANZLHSConference.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/history_classics/Conferences/ANZLHSConference.html)

**To include an event in *What's On* email to Christine de Matos at [cdm@uow.edu.au](mailto:cdm@uow.edu.au).**

#### **Book Review for 'Reflections' by Stuart Read**

**Remembered Gardens – 8 Women & their visions of the Australian Landscape**, Holly Kerr Forsyth, The Miegunyah Press, University of Melbourne, 2006, 273pp.

Australian women are a marvellous genus, and deserve all the attention they are belatedly getting. Silent and unsung heroines behind 'great' men, they are emerging from history's gender bias into the light.

*'An awareness that gardens reveal much about a society has increased dramatically over the last decade. In Australia, the ways we read history...have also changed...and we study gardens'* (p.246).

I long knew of the gestation of this book and eagerly awaited it. Who would be featured? Intriguing for anyone loving Australian gardens, and aware of how instrumental women have been and are in their making, and care. And what influence: imagine the National Trust without Annie Wyatt, the Women's or Garden Committees? Imagine the Australian Garden History Society without women! Not to denigrate the men – but a key plus to joining both, are the wonderful women you meet, quietly making things happen.

My 'in' list was partly right (and fun to contemplate), but the book has some new to me. Not or scarcely here are Governesses Macquarie, Brisbane and Franklin, Georgiana McCrae,

Mrs Rolf Boldrewood, Jean Galbraith, Olive Mellor, Jocelyn Brown or Betty Maloney. Some have already been the subjects of monographs and rightly so. A second book on Brown is in gestation. All merit closer attention.

Elizabeth Macarthur (d.1850), Georgiana Molloy (d.1843), Louisa Anne Meredith (d.1895), Una Falkiner (d.1948), Winifred West (d.1971), Beatrice Bligh & Edna Walling (both d.1973) and Kath Carr (d.1999) are here. Macarthur, Molloy, Meredith and West already have biographies. Walling ditto: if anything I think she has been overstudied, with a new major book out soon adding to the oeuvre. Five of the eight have entries in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Five are also covered in the *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (2002) – though West, Carr and Falkiner are not. These three I particularly enjoyed discovering.

Once you read this book it is clear why those chosen are. Each in some way reflects her era, social attitudes (albeit limited to the middle-upper classes) and place. Not here are voices of working class women, with little time for diaries, letters or records. Too broad a scope of course makes a book impossible to finish. Kerr Forsyth, hopefully well known to readers of her garden column in the *Weekend Australian*, and other books, has based this on her PhD thesis, and clearly has put thousands of hours into travel (notably England, as well as Australia), photography and detailed, new research.

Thematic histories are a post-modern product: seeking to portray large subjects using small examples – human, personal. An approach suited to an electronic age of short attention spans - television, the internet, sound bites. Miegunyah Press should be celebrated for their recent crop of such works, for instance Paul Cox's *Clearings – six Colonial Gardeners and their Landscapes*, 2003, focussing on a selection of key influential men. Another is *Green Pens*, 2004, edited by Katie Holmes, Susan Martin and Kylie Mirmohamadi, a collection of Australian garden writing, much of it by women.

What this book does well is give you a delicious rich impression of 8 women – lives, ideas, otherwise thwarted creative expression emerging through garden making and their influence over others, intended or inadvertent. What it does not have space to do is give great depth on any – perhaps not its aim. This is more to show their contribution singly or as part of social trends: homesickness for England, familiarising a strange foreign land, wealth and seclusion, growing nationalism, independent careers, environmentalism. It does this beautifully, and whets your appetite for more on each. Cunning publishing ploy!

Section headings give a synopsis of themes: From reluctant settlers to pastoral privilege: 1788-1900; Empire triumphant: 1900-70; Towards an Australian style: 1945-2000. This long time scale is intriguing and you can't help wonder about direct or indirect influences between subjects and from them to others, over time: the *legacy* of these women & gardens.

Luscious and plentiful photographs throughout make it easy to pick up and leaf and richly illustrate the text's points, including places of origin, gardens influential on open minds, gardens left behind and favourite flowers.

NSW is over-represented via Macarthur, Meredith, West, Faulkner (whose huge Merino stud *Boonoke* in the Riverina I'd not heard of), Walling (who while better known in Victoria did a number of 'jobs' in NSW), Bligh and Carr. So is the country garden over-represented – perhaps because so many survive, little-changed – as records. Urban women such as Mellor, Brown, Maloney and the Governesses might tell a different story.

Like any good book it raises ideas, leads you to questions bearing more discussion – perhaps the lack of records on some women precludes any answers?:

- Was West influenced by Walling, given their close origins and contemporary lives?
- Was the Arts & Crafts movement earlier than the stated 1900 (it was in England)?
- the Spanish Mission style was in Australia from the 1920s, not the stated 1950s;
- Walling may have been but one and not the first to promote native plants: Richard Aitken has noted a much earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century succession of one-off examples and proponents, including a suburban Melbourne native garden in the 19-teens; Marion Mahony & Walter Burley Griffin were pre-Walling; Jean Galbraith an exact publishing contemporary; and Maloney & Walker's earliest native gardens would parallel Walling's in the 1950s;
- What of the influence of leading men on these 8 women? While men are not the focus, except from mention of Walling's reading, there is scarce mention of knowledge or influence of Von Mueller, Moore, Maiden, Griffin, Sorensen on these women – Macarthur had some powerfully influential male gardener allies, Molloy corresponded with Mangles and Lindley in England, etc – surely this was influential?
- What about non-English influences on these women (plants, publications, letters) – for instance the huge range of plants from California and the Americas available and the ease with which 'tender' material could be grown in the open here – cf under glass – surely this increased palette meant more daring, bolder character? Few of the country gardens described or photographed are without Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) or Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) shelterbelts – both indispensable imports from California over much of Southern Australia – while their colour and density may seem 'English', neither are typical farm trees there!;
- What about 1920s+ influences from USA publications such as magazine photographs; the influence of Hollywood and the movies, 'outdoor living' and 'gardens of the sun'; layout/arrangements favoured in non-English places boats stopped, friends wrote from...?;
- The first Horticultural Society in Australia was not in the 1850s as stated but in 1822 in Parramatta – albeit short lived – a second batch got underway in the 1850s.

The book's layout and typesetting make it visually slick and 'jumpy', but to my eye, over styled, some pages split in subject with two sets of parallel content jostling, some in brown ink, hard to read; others seeming wasting space with blown up close-ups of flowers, or blurred shots from a car window. Direct quotes are highlighted by both capitalising and colour change – rather shouting - and I think better in simple italics. Botanical names are in all-capitals, which again makes them jump, needlessly.

Despite the global reach of the photographs, some are pointedly absent – there is not one landscape shot of the WA places Georgiana Molloy lived, nor Falkiner’s Boonoke, Widgiewa or Zara, alas. Single photographs of each woman are tiny, tantalising, compared to large close ups of flowers, some repeated in large and small format – are flowers more marketable?

But these are minor ticks in a work that is a major treat – I commend this book to readers, and lovers of Australian history, garden-making, and women. Seek it out.



Frensham, Mittagong, from the secret garden: Winifred West’s idyllic ‘quiet, beautiful’ setting to educate generations of girls from 1913 until she retired in 1938. It continues today.



Kath Carr’s Goonawarra, Riverina, an example of her relaxed style influenced by Edna Walling and one of her many Australian country gardens.

## Book Launch

### **Musical Chairs: The Quest for a City Recital Hall by Mark Dunn**

Wednesday 31 May 2006 Recital Hall

PHA member and Sydney Historian, Dr Lisa Murray, launched her latest book, *Musical Chairs: The Quest for a City Recital Hall*, on the last Wednesday night of May. The launch was held in the upstairs foyer of the Recital Hall, complete with the accompaniment of a quartet playing, canapés and drinks, and the recital hall open for inspection. The book was officially launched by Lord Mayor Clover Moore, with other Councillors in attendance. The Lord Mayor praised the work of Dr Murray and spoke of the competing interests in the development of the recital hall and the grand result of the final product for Sydney. Dr Murray followed the Lord Mayor, explaining the background of the project, the history of the site from the Tank Stream valley, early colonial development, foundation of its musical roots and time as Palings store and the politics of its development as a recital hall. Built under the direction of the previous Lord Mayor, Frank Sartor, the project was a classic Sydney development full of competing interests, politics and egos. Among the thanks from Lisa was one to the staff of the City of Sydney Council Archives, an invaluable resource for any research based on the City of Sydney.

The book is the second written by Dr Murray, the first being *The Capitol Theatre Restoration*, published in 2003. Read together they provide a fascinating insight into the movements and machinations of large scale development in the city and the creation of two of Sydney's prized cultural spaces.



Dr Lisa Murray with the Lord Mayor Clover Moore at the launch of *Musical Chairs: The Quest for a City Recital Hall*

**Eora: Mapping Aboriginal Sydney 1770 -1850**

The exhibition draws on the collections from the State Library and of other collecting institutions here and overseas. With the exception of some traditional objects relating to Indigenous economy, it is an exhibition of European representations and ideas. The richness flows from the colonists' enthusiasm to record in minute detail the strange world into which they had inserted their own realities. There are documents - diaries, letters home, official investigations, maps, some powerfully evocative European artefacts such as Queen Gooseberry's little rum mug and breastplate artefacts. And above all, there are images.

Many of the images are familiar, some are less so. The sheer number and repetition gives unexpected depth. Compare the stylised engraving of Bennelong by James Neagle, with the more intimate sketch by William Westall, 'possibly Bennelong'. Or measure Augustus Earle's famous 1826 image of Bungaree, resplendent in red jacket, against Phillip Parker King's ink and watercolour, depicting a leaner, less triumphant man. The cumulative effect of image upon image provides not only a growing sense of understanding of economy and of ceremony, but also of a community of people, interacting with each other and with the European newcomers.

Much of the success of this splendid exhibition flows from the excellent curation, which organises the works geographically, rather than chronologically. The word 'mapping' has not been included lightly in the subtitle. This exhibition demonstrates the results of new research that has scoured the written record to arrive at a positioning of the Indigenous people in the landscape in time specific, historically precise detail. Standing in the centre of the generous exhibition space, the viewer is surrounded by Indigenous presence, to the south and to the east, north and west. Standing at the centre of Eora land, watching the retreat of an invaded people.

Real people. From a powerful and brooding Bulkabra, (Charles Rodius, pen & wash), to the haunted eyes of Rickety Dick, (Charles Meryon, charcoal and pastel), whose geographic trajectory mirroring the marginalisation of the Eora is encapsulated in the sad information of the caption '.... of the Woolloomooloo tribe'. Later recorded as 'Chief of the Rose Bay Tribe' and finally as 'the last of the Sydney Tribe'. This man ended his days living in a bark shelter in front of The Cottage, 'belonging' to Sir Daniel Cooper at Rose Bay, picking up sixpences that invaders travelling on the South Head Road threw to this unofficial collector of tolls. Present day descendents of the Eora will dispute the correctness of the recorded information, but this does not detract from the significance of the story.

There can no longer be any justification for any Sydney book that acknowledges the Eora to begin with just a few cursory and generalised comments. There is a history.

The exhibition is based on the meticulous research of Keith Vincent Smith. Curated by Smith and Ace Bourke, with support from the State Library's Richard Neville, Shirley Walker, and

in liaison with its Aboriginal advisors, Melissa Jackson and Ronald Briggs. At the State Library of New South Wales until August 13<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Shirley Fitzgerald

“PUTTING SKIRTS ON THE SACRED BENCHES”

On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June the National Foundation for Australian Women launched the Australian Women’s Archive Project *Women Candidates for the NSW Parliament*. This is a comprehensive internet website that lists the 753 women who have stood for election to the NSW Parliament, with biographical details of many of these. It notes their significant contributions and achievements despite their lack of success in most cases. The list can be browsed alphabetically by name, by year, by seat, and by party.

The project is one of the many that has been completed this year with funding from the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government Committee. Research was carried out by the mother and daughter team of Dr Emma Grahame and Dr Rachel Grahame. The title is based on a quotation from Millicent Preston-Stanley, who in 1925 became the first woman in State Parliament. She wrote that “the heavens won’t fall because a woman’s skirts rustle on the sacred benches.”

Your intrepid (male) reporter attended this event in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House, hosted by the President of the Legislative Council, Dr Meredith Burgmann. The project was launched by Her Excellency the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, in her customary warm and knowledgeable manner. The website can be found at <http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html>.

Peter J. Tyler  
Vice-President, PHA NSW

**REPORT: State Records Community Advisory Committee**

State Records Tel: 9673-1788, fax 9833-4518 - [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

The Community Advisory Committee of State Records met on 8 June 2006 and the following issues were discussed.

- ◆ **Sesquicentenary Seminar, 24 May 2006** – papers from Seminar on the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government 1856-2006 will be published on State Records' web site.
- ◆ **100th Anniversary of the Local Government Act** – an Archive in Brief has been prepared on local government records.
- ◆ State Records is now part of the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation but has retained its separate identity and status as a statutory authority. Financial constraints continue with recurrent appropriation reduced and pay increases imminent.
- ◆ **Proposed State Records Foundation** - a foundation will not be established. Instead State Records was advised to focus on its status as a recipient of tax-deductible cultural gifts, under which it can accept cash donations and bequests. Initially funds will be used for the purchase of estrays.
- ◆ **In Living Memory** - an exhibition of surviving photographs from the records of the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board (1919 to 1966) will open in September at the Sydney Records Centre in the Rocks.
- ◆ **Archives Resources Kit (ARK) lending service** - State Records is launching an ARK lending service from 1 July. Because of the cost only one ARK is available for interlibrary type loan by country libraries.
- ◆ **Online copying services** – from 1 July 2006 online copying fees will be \$25.00 for most orders (and further fee for additional copies). Copying Probate Packets and Divorce Case files – fee will remain at \$45.00 per file. No increase in the charges for the self-service reader printer copies and photocopy orders placed in the reading rooms.
- ◆ **Convict Guide** – has been published and not be available on the Web site initially although some lists from Appendices available in due course. (*The Guide to NSW State Archives relating to Convicts and Convict Administration* - \$59.95)
- ◆ **Website updates**
  - New/updated pages: In regional NSW (includes ARK loan service); Immigration (flowcharts for immigration research, downloadable worksheet, links to resources on immigration from countries other than UK or USA)
  - *Colonial Secretary Correspondence Guide* now online – part of bigger project to sort and copy Colonial Secretary's correspondence and to provide online finding aids – first index online is Colonial Secretary Letters re Land – also searchable database of Main Series of Letters Received 1826 – 1982 (mention also made of project of transcribing correspondence registers from 1826 and amalgamating them with skeleton registers to enable tracking of individual correspondence items).
  - New *online index to Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour 1914-1919*
  - New AIBs: (1) explaining process of basic research using ARK resources (or assistance for librarians at Community Access Points who have trouble assisting ARK users) and (2) AIB 106 local government and (3) AIB 105 French migration and settlement and AIB 107 Polish migration and settlement.
- ◆ Conversion of *Concise Guide* to *Archives Investigator* is progressing.
- ◆ **Cataloguing of the ARK at Community Access Points** - in some places reel numbers have been removed and replaced by Dewey numbers, making it difficult to use the ARK finding aids.

- ◆ **Review of General Retention and Disposal Authority (GDA4) for imaged records -**  
GDA 4 currently authorises destruction of original (paper) records that have been imaged (digital or microfilm) subject to certain conditions. An important condition is that the records are not required as State archives (there are some exceptions to this for local government records). The new draft retention & disposal authority will change this condition to allow original records that have been imaged to be destroyed even if they are required as a State archive. The copy will be required to be kept as the State archive. Important conditions will again apply, including that the records have been created since 1 January 2000. This will bring greater consistency between paper records that are imaged & used in business processes with 'born digital' records used in same processes.
- ◆ **Issuing of single documents from original bundles** – concern expressed about researchers being issued single letters divorced from their correspondence bundle (file). State Records is looking at the practice of issuing correspondence.
- ◆ **UNESCO Memory of World Register** – may take another year to learn if convict records will be included.
- ◆ **Records of Western Lands Commission** – some records are already held as State archives and others are stored by the GRR. Access is possible with special permission from the agency.
- ◆ **Hospitals and universities records** – continue to be subject to 110 year closure of patient-identified health care records. Committee discussed preference for 80 year limit.
- ◆ **Lands Department** – Original plans are no longer issued. Discussion re the high cost of copies. Original plans are to be moved to Bathurst for digital copying.
- ◆ **Digitisation of The National Archives UK (TNA)** which has just signed an agreement with 1837online.com to copy records of emigration from the UK, initially from 1920 and then back to commencement of records in 1890. Discussion of possible convict records index project by the State Library of Queensland in partnership with TNA – and problems with lack of coordination between all of the indexing projects.
- ◆ The *Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations* has an index of indexes on its web site.

*Now & Then*, 20 June 2006

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/staterecords/nowamp;then\\_20\\_8996.asp](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/staterecords/nowamp;then_20_8996.asp)

- ◆ *For the Record*, June 2006

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/recordkeeping/june\\_2006\\_issue\\_9755.asp](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/recordkeeping/june_2006_issue_9755.asp)

*Roslyn Burge*  
**Representing PHA**

## PHA (NSW) Directory 2005-6

Postal Address

Telephone

Email

Website

GPO Box 2437 Sydney NSW 2001

Australia

9252 9437 (message)

[secretary@phansw.org.au](mailto:secretary@phansw.org.au)

[www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

For specific enquiries see list below

## PHA (NSW) Officers 2005-6

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Pauline Curby Tel 9527 7214

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Rosemary Kerr Tel 9327 3706

Virginia Macleod Tel 9977 4950

Ron Ringer, Michael Tyquin, Kate Waters

Ron Ringer, Tel 9362 1055

Michael Tyquin Tel 9698 6745

Pauline Curby

Virginia Macleod Tel 9977 4950

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## Representatives on other bodies

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Kate Waters Tel 9518 0139, Peter Tyler

Peter Tyler Tel 9363 5242

Roslyn Burge Tel 9810 7324

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Terry Kass Tel 9749 4128

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The Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc is the organisation representing qualified historians in NSW and ACT who are professionally employed or commissioned to undertake historical work

## Publications

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[www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

available on line

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PHA (NSW) Register of Historic Places and objects

Phanfare indexes

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