PHANFARE

PHA NSW

Cover Picture: Joan Prince, 'The Ruins of Time, Colle di Val d'Elsa, Tuscany', Pen and watercolour on paper. Image courtesy Blacktown Arts Centre and the Artist.

Contents

Cover Picture: *Detail of the stone carvings above the door to the Old Darlinghurst Gaol morgue.*

This edition of *Phanfare* has been prepared by: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow and Terri McCormack

News & Views

Phanfare is pleased to congratulate Terri McCormack on the recent publication of her second hotel history, *Newcastle's Crown Jewel: From Convicts and Coal to the Crowne Plaza*. Commissioned by the owner of the Crowne Plaza Dr Jerry Schwartz, leading cosmetic surgeon and the largest private hotelier in Australia, this book follows her publication on another of Schwartz's developments, *World Square: from Ceremonial Grounds to International Precinct* (2009).

Both these books show Terri's respect for the history of Australia's traditional owners. Her understanding of this subject is reflected in the 2002 NSW Premiers History Award she shared for *Barani*, a digital Indigenous History of Sydney City.

While more of a big picture history than a detailed one, *Newcastle's Crown Jewel* covers a broad range of subjects. The eight chapters discuss the original inhabitants; the convict past; the dominance of coal; the port; the divisive railway; BHP – 'The Big Australian'; and the Honeysuckle Development that transformed the waterfront into a new commercial residential and leisure precinct; before finishing with a detailed account of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The work is thoroughly researched, lavishly illustrated and well written. This careful documentation of the major influences in Newcastle's history makes *Newcastle's Crown Jewel* a valuable addition to the existing works on the subject.

Rosemary Broomham

President's Page

One of the outcomes of the recent Organisational Review in 2011 was the investigation of new social media. To this end, the Executive Committee has set up a Facebook group as a way of encouraging communication between members, especially those who are scattered throughout regional NSW and the ACT. It allows members to promote their work, and to share feedback on exhibitions they have visited or books they have read; it is also is a forum for feedback on PHA NSW events and programs, including our CPD sessions. You can search for the Professional Historians Association NSW page on Facebook, or visit www.facebook.com/groups/198151240277294

Late last year, the PHA NSW Executive set up a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sub-committee in order to plan and coordinate our CPD program for the year ahead. Already this year we've had two CPDs, including a tour of Darlinghurst Gaol led by new member Deb Beck, and the return of the popular session on the Digitised records of the Land and Property Management Authority at State Records.

Our next CPD is on 10 May 2012 and will be held at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Senior Curator Daina Fletcher and Curator of Historic Vessels David Payne will lead a behind the scenes viewing of the museum's collection of watercraft and a display of bark paintings and historical images. Other CPDs planned for this year include a tour of Camden by Ian Willis and a workshop on defamation.

Welcome to our newest member, Dr Jayne Persian. Jayne is the Executive Officer at Australian Historical Association, a researcher and writer at the Migrant Resource Centre at the Powerhouse Museum and a tutor at University of Wollongong.

Members are most welcome to attend the PHA NSW Executive Committee meetings are held every six weeks at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. There will be a number of vacant positions on the committee next year and we are looking for new members to join to carry on the work of the PHA NSW, so you would like to join the committee now in preparation for taking on an executive role in the 2012-13 year, please contact Michael Bennett: secretary@phansw.org.au

And finally, don't forget to mark your diaries for History in July on Monday 2 July 2012 and the Annual General Meeting on 27 August 2012.

Laila Ellmoos, President PHA NSW

Vale Peter Tyler
17 March 1934 – 5 May 2012

Many of us have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of PHA member and former President, Dr Peter Tyler, who died on Saturday 5 May 2012 after suffering a heart attack. A relative late-comer to the history profession, Peter had a long and varied career encompassing roles in local government and the private sector, including adult education, health care and the construction industry. He joined the PHA shortly after completing his PhD in history at the University of New England in 2000. In this second phase of his career, it seemed that Peter was rarely 'unemployed' and he achieved more than most could hope to accomplish in an entire working lifetime, let alone one that began later in life. Specialising in medical, scientific and administrative history, he published a number of books including: *No Charge No Undressing*, a commemorative history of Community Health and Tuberculosis Australia (2003), *Humble and Obedient Servants: The Administration of New South Wales, 1901–1960* (2006) and *State Records NSW 1788–2011*, launched last year. In 2008-9 he achieved the distinction of being the inaugural Merewether Scholar at the Mitchell Library, researching the development of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Peter was an energetic and committed member of PHA (NSW), serving on the management committee from 2003–9, as Vice-President (2005–6), President (2006–8) and Treasurer (2008–9). Among his many achievements were a number of innovative reforms and initiatives, including the now-renowned annual 'History in July' networking function, the President's Newsletter and the production of a simplified professional fee scale. Peter was also instrumental in organising the 'Islands of History' Conference, held on Norfolk Island in July 2010 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the PHA (NSW). The first of its kind initiated by a Professional Historians' Association, this highly successful conference attracted professional historians and academics from every Australian state, New Zealand, New Caledonia and London and was a testament to Peter's passionate commitment to raising the profile and status of public history and professional historians, and to establishing links between the profession, academe and the wider community. Peter's influence also set a new (and perhaps unequalled) benchmark of catering at PHA functions!

Apart from his involvement with PHA (NSW), Peter was also a past President of the NSW Society of the History of Medicine and a long-term, active member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, the Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust, the History Council of New South Wales, and Honorary Historian of the Royal Society of New South Wales. A friend and inspiration to many, he will be greatly missed.

Rosemary Kerr

Captivity, Creativity and Craftsmanship
'National Art School/Old Darlinghurst Gaol'
CPD February 2012

How often do historians have the opportunity to gain an insight into the operation of two completely different institutions at the same time on the one site? On Thursday 9 February 2012, a group of about a dozen PHANSW members were able to do that when they were taken on a conducted tour of the National Art School (NAS) which occupies the site of the Old Darlinghurst Gaol behind the Court House at Taylor Square in Sydney.

Expertly guided by NAS lecturer, archivist and PHANSW member, Deborah Beck, we were able to view most of the buildings which once housed prisoners from 1841 until 1912. During extensive alterations carried out between 1921 and 1922, many of the cell blocks were converted into classrooms, studios, offices and workshops for the East Sydney Technical College and the National Art School.

Now a life drawing studio, the centrally located Circular Chapel, with its beautiful stained glass window, friezes, domed roof and external walkway was one of the highlights of the tour. The Cellblock Theatre, with the remnants of an earlier padded cell in one corner, was another. The 1920s alterations were most evident on the site of the former Female Warders Quarters where a timber framed top floor had been added to the stone building along with extensive areas of glass to let in natural light.

Continuing Professional Development participants view the former chapel of Darlinghurst Gaol. Photo Margaret Blundell

As most of the buildings had been constructed using locally quarried sandstone, the tour provided us with a chance to appreciate the stonemasons' skills. An elaborately carved head was a feature above one external doorway while more unusual items such as a skull and crossbones and an hourglass were evident over the door to the former morgue. A stone arch in front of the basement entrance to the Deputy Governor's Quarters was, curiously, covered with a pattern resembling a seething mass of worms.

With the National Art School still in recess and many studios empty except for a small moveable platform and lots of easels and drawing boards stacked against the walls, the former penitentiary was a more dominant presence. This was reflected in the information about the site on the printed flyer we were all given, most of which featured the history of the former gaol. For those of us who had friends or family who had studied at the Technical College or Art School, visiting Deborah's office and temporary archive, near the end of the tour, gave us a chance to gather a few bits of vital information and make plans for further research.

As the history of gaols can be more fascinating to some historians than that of art schools, it might be interesting to know if the students ever reflect on the former use of the site as a place of captivity. After all, hidden tunnels, attempted escapes, botched executions, a love letter lost, then found – all ideal topics for creative writers – might inspire artists as well.

Margaret Blundell

The upper floor of this building at the National Art School was added in the 1920s to accommodate female warders. Photo Margaret Blundell

The O in MONA

Christa Ludlow

When I last worked in museums the internet and the IPhone were unimaginable to the average person. (Come on, it's not *that* long ago – it just seems like it). But even in those distant days museum curators were told they had to embrace technology to remain relevant. Computer based exhibits would attract more customers and guarantee audience "interaction". Unfortunately they had a tendency to become obsolete and break down with too much use.

When you visit MONA (the Museum of Old and New Art recently established by gambling millionaire David Walsh) you are given a device similar to an Ipod. It is called the O. The O is your guide as you descend into the earth to tour this bizarre, unique, confronting and amusing gallery of art and antiquities set up by one man's whim. There are no labels. The information is in the O. There are optional headphones so you can listen to audio about the art if you want to. The technology is your lifeline.

Inside the Museum it is often dark. (You are advised to descend 3 levels below ground to start your tour.) Almost the first thing you encounter is a bar. Yes, the kind that serves drinks. Comfy velvet covered chairs are arranged along a wall cut from the naked sandstone. Finally, a museum that caters to the inner tourist.

When you are ready to look at the art, there are the grandiose statements such as Bitfall by Julius Popp – digital words from information sites on the internet "translated" into drops of water that fall from the ceiling above you into a trough at your feet. There are amazing antiquities, from Egypt, Anatolia, Central America and Rome. I was transfixed by a case of silver coins from the Greek colony of Syracuse in Sicily, from the fifth century BCE.

There is art by Damien Hurst, Sidney Nolan, and Fiona Hall (loved her toys knitted from the tape of videos of war movies). There are paintings, sculptures, installations, media works, and Wim Delvoye's Cloaca (aka "the poo machine").

I read somewhere that the theme of MONA is "sex and death" and there is a lot of that, but for all the hype and even with the O it is an old fashioned museum, because it's all about the objects. People come to look at the art. They fiddle with their O, they read about the art, they look at it again, they look around for their companions to show them what they have seen or read. They can "love" or "hate" the art and see how many other visitors did the same.

I loved the O. It searches for the art that is nearby. It tells you what it is, it shows you a picture, it gives you access to "art wank" – curatorial or academic commentary – and "gonzo" – often comments by the owner himself which may have nothing to do with the art at all.

Best of all, you can save your tour on the O and access it later on the MONA website. I am reliving my tour as I write this. I can see a 3D model of MONA and the route I followed, with pictures and information about the artworks I viewed. This is fabulous! I am a convert. *MONA is just outside Hobart and accessible by ferry (book in advance if possible). You can also book tickets on line ($20 for non-Tasmanians).*

Book Review

Beverley Earnshaw, *The Shipbuilders and Ships of Georges River and Botany Bay 1810-1900,* Kogarah Historical Society, 2011 pp. 48 $10

The history of ship building industries, like much history of the greater region of Sydney, have tended to focus on the harbour city. The early efforts to build ships in Sydney Cove and then the growth of yards particularly around Balmain and on the north shore, have seen a deal of historical attention.

However as Earnshaw shows, the shipbuilders of Georges River and Botany Bay were not insignificant throughout the nineteenth century. Smaller ships had plied the river and bay carrying timber, shells, lime and produce to Sydney in the early 1800s. During the Macquarie period (1810-1821) the growing township of Liverpool was the head of navigation for vessels up to 50 tons.

Many of the veritable 'armada of small vessels servicing Botany Bay, Georges River and Port Hacking in the early 19th century' were not registered and their details largely unknown. At first, the British East India Company's monopoly on shipping meant many shipbuilders stuck to smaller river trade sloops, sometimes nipping out from the bay to Port Jackson.

After the monopoly ceased in 1813, more attention was given to larger ocean going vessels – with a growing coastal and then Pacific trade. This required registration if the protection of the British flag was needed – though many ship owners still conducted relatively safer coastal trade without registering their vessels.

By the 1820s the first registered ships were being built on the Georges River by William Iken at Liverpool. Iken's 35 ton sloop *Charles* was intended for 'the New Zealand trade', but like many ships in the risky business of shipping, it was lost soon after in 1832. The scale of shipbuilding in the district is seen in Thomas and John Coutts 1832 *Lady Leith* of around 150 tons and built on the banks of the Cooks River.

Earnshaw brings alive the energetic ventures of small-time shipbuilders at a time when the bay and rivers south of Sydney were bustling hives of shipping and trading activity. Lighters, schooners, ketches and brigs, as well as the odd larger vessel and later steam ships were the lifeblood and hub of these areas - until the railways arrived. But with the railways came tourists and many shipbuilders turned their hands to boat building as the heady days of steamer excursions to picnic and row-boat trips on the Georges River began in the late 1800s.

Many of these shipbuilders dreams of expanding fleets plying the Pacific were to remain as dreams. Some few succeeded such as James Merriman – not a shipbuilder, but an investor who ultimately owned a small fleet of pearling schooners operating in Torres Strait in the 1860s - far from his home on the Georges River. In fact, Earnshaw's work reminds us of the importance of maritime trade and transport in the 19th century and the vast global exchange that often had its roots in the small workshops and yards of amateur shipbuilders on local waterways.

The names of vessels such as the *W.C. Wentworth, Fanny Merriman, Taufahau,* and *My Idea* all resonate with intriguing stories. Earnshaw's meticulous work is an excellent – if all too brief – account of the long gone, but once significant shipping and shipbuilding of southern Sydney.

Stephen Gapps

Book Review

Linda Groom, *A Steady Hand - Governor Hunter & His First Fleet Sketchbook*, National Library of Australia. March 2012

A Steady Hand traces the extraordinary life of John Hunter, First Fleet sea captain, colonial governor and artist, complemented by full-colour reproductions of every painting in John Hunter's First Fleet sketchbook.

Throughout the years of the First Fleet, Hunter kept this sketchbook which is now part of the Collection of the National Library. Its pages contain some of the earliest artistic impressions of birds, flowers and fishes and the people found in and around Sydney and on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands.

Author and Art Curator, Linda Groom take us back to the early days of John Hunter in the Royal Navy, his first journey to NSW with the First Fleet in 1788, being ship wrecked on Norfolk Island in March 1790 and his eventful journey when returning to England in 1792.

Hunter's highly skilled seamanship is discovered on the pages of *A Steady Hand* along with his love of nature, art and music. John Hunter returned to New South Wales in 1795 as the colony's second governor bringing with him 'four dozen black lead pencils . a box of Reeves watercolours with pencils'.(p.87)

A Steady Hand provides not only a rare insight into the private life of a major colonial figure but illustrates one of the most important items we have from the First Fleet era and includes many other paintings of early Sydney and Norfolk Island. By his death in 1821 in England, John Hunter was an Admiral and was regarded as a respected adviser on colonial affairs.

Funding for the research into the publication was provided by the Gordon Darling Foundation. Linda Groom was Curator of Pictures at the National Library of Australia and is the author of *First Fleet Artist: George Raper's Birds and Plants of Australia*.

Cathy Dunn

History as a Vehicle for Truth
Adelaide Writers' Festival 2012

History as the vehicle for truth was a theme running through the 2012 Adelaide Writers' Week, with several prominent authors talking about how they combine fact and fiction to get to the essence of things.

The conversations, held under the shade trees of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens and in the neo-Gothic Elder Hall, were gentle and reflective. This was no continuation of the controversy that accompanied the publication of Kate Grenville's *The Secret River*. She was back though, talking about the latest in her trilogy, *Sarah Thornhill,* which she described as an illustration of what can happen when people wallpaper over the past. An American novelist, Ron Rash, reminded the audience of William Faulkner's epigram, 'the past is not dead, it's not even past'. He went on to discuss the challenge of not imposing contemporary attitudes, for example those towards violence against women, when creating historical characters.

Javier Cercas, a leading Spanish author, who started life as a journalist, is concerned about the relationship between the past and the present. He writes to remind his readers that historical events, for example the Spanish Civil War, continue to have a presence in Spanish life.

David Marr's lecture on Patrick White was a *tour de force*. He spoke about Adelaide's place in the writer's life and in particular White's ambitions as a playwright. Look out for Marr's essay, a piece filled with historical research, analysis, humour and emotion.

An Italian author – who writes first in English – Andrea di Robilant posed an important question for historians. What do we do about mistakes? His subject, the Zen brothers, who were 14th century merchant navigators, created maps of the north Atlantic. The errors they made have been passed through the centuries and become realities, even certain types of truths.

And what about the unknowns? How does the historian or biographer deal with these? In the case of Martin Edmond, who wanted to understand the dark night New Zealand artist Colin McCahon spent lost in Sydney, did so by retracing might have been McCann's wanderings through eastern Sydney. Here imagination and observation take the place of historical evidence.

That, as Edmond observed, is the power of the writer, to be able to explore the intrigue of places and events that can never be known.


Francesca Beddie

Moreton Telegraph Station Cape York:
an important link in early Queensland communication

Anne Smith

From Cooktown to Somerset on the tip, Aboriginal people have inhabited the Australian mainland for more than 40,000 years. "They live in a tranquility which is not disturb'd by the inequality of condition. The earth and sea of their own accord furnishes them with all things necessary for life, they covet not Magnificent Houses, Household-stuff …, they live in a warm and fine climate and enjoy a very wholesome Air …"[1]

The first European settlement in Cape York Peninsula was proposed by Sir George Bowen, the first Governor of the Colony of Queensland. He hoped that as an administration centre, it would encourage the growth of commercial activity and provide a settlement that maintained friendly relationships between settlers and Aborigines. Mr John Jardine was appointed as Government Resident and established the settlement of Somerset ten kilometres south east of Cape York in 1864.[2] Into this world, and in particular the domain of the Northern Kaanju, the traditional inhabitants of the upper Wenlock River, rode J R Bradford, Inspector of Lines and Mail Route Services in 1883. "I never saw a more wretched country anywhere I have been'.[3]
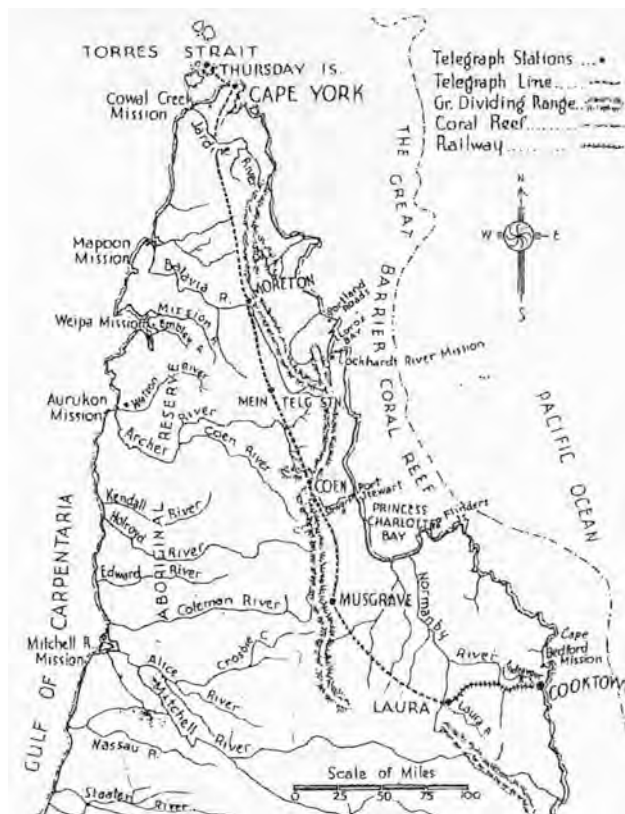
Old Telegraph Track (Map courtesy J. Moreton Richards, *Telegraph Station: 1902 The Native Police on Cape York Peninsula.* Griffiths University Queensland Paper. 1999

The need for effective and efficient communication with the rest of the world had seen the Queensland government instruct Bradford to survey a route along the Cape York peninsula to Thursday Island for the construction of an electric telegraph line. This expedition was destined to be carried out mostly on horseback and on foot, and to cover 644 kilometres in three months.

Bradford and six others set out from Cooktown in June, 1883, with 36 horses and supplies. He noted the areas that were well timbered, well watered and suitable for setting up camp along the route. After three gruelling months the expedition reached Somerset. Most of Bradford's expedition then returned to Cooktown, while Bradford and another member of his team continued on to Thursday Island.[4]

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[1] Journal of Lieutenant James Cook, 1770
[2] Cape York Sustainable Futures web page www.cysf.com.au
[3] Journal of J R Bradford: Cape York Peninsula Expedition, 1883. NAA:J1, Q366/1/28
[4] Extract from the Australian National Archives Newsletter 'Memento', Number 21, September, 2002

Following Bradford's report, the Queensland Government moved quickly to have the line built. The Post and Telegraph Department report of 1885 includes the following:

> Extension to Cape York (Thursday Island) – Tenders are now called for and will be received up to 13 July next for this line, which has been divided into two sections 200 miles each more or less. The iron poles requisite have been ordered by wire from England, and will no doubt arrive here before the acceptance of tenders is decided upon.[5]

In the closing decades of the last century, the Cape York Overland Telegraph line - a series of repeater stations and an underwater cable link - began to take shape between Cooktown and Thursday Island. Thus allowing Brisbane to communicate beyond the Australian mainland and opening the way for settlement and development of The Cape.
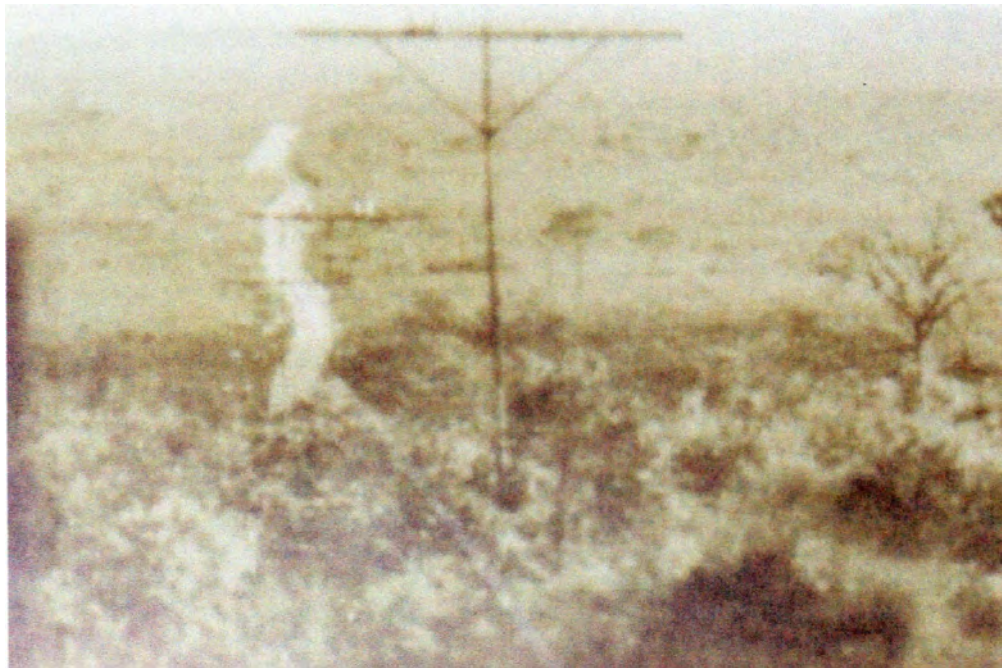
The original telegraph track near Moreton in the mid 19th century. Photo courtesy Cairns Historical Society

The 'electric telegraph' which now came into being, consisted of a single wire, mounted on the apex of a steel pole and strung between poles, which connected to telegraph and repeater stations. The poles used were known as "Oppenheimer" types. Messages were sent as electrical pulses along the wire. Combinations of long and short pulses were code for letters of the alphabet and operators tapped out the code message using a Morse key. It was received either by a sounder or by a printer which reproduced the code as dots and dashes embossed on a paper tape. Batteries provided the power to run the telegraph and repeater station, which re-transmitted the signals to the next station. Stations were required every 100 to 170 kilometres.

The work started at Fairview, near Laura, with a gang of 47. The line consisted of one wire mounted on the apex of a steel pole. Only 35k of line was built and 200k of clearing completed when Mein Station was delayed by the wet season, as was the supply of telegraph equipment. Frank Jardine, son of the aforementioned John Jardine, was given the job of arranging delivery of materials to work gangs along the line; the wire was 400 lbs weight to

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[5] 100 Years of The Telegraph in Queensland. GPO Publication. 1986. p10

the mile, galvanized iron.[6] The gang finally completed the section to Mein by October 1886. Musgrave, the second station, opened for business on 23 December 1886, followed closely by Coen on 29 December 1886.

Linesmen between Moreton and McDonnell Telegraph Stations with the single conductor. Photo courtesy Cairns Historical Society

Meanwhile, work commenced at Paterson Station on the northern section but, also delayed by wet weather and transport difficulties, it progressed slowly. Nevertheless the laying of the cable from Paterson to Thursday Island was completed in November 1886. When the wet set in and work stopped in November 1886, only 25 miles of line south from Paterson had been completed. However the Station at Paterson and the next repeater south at McDonnell were ready.[7]

Following the wet season, work continued south to Moreton. 'We have nearly two hundred miles to cover: but now that we have reached a point where no other motor-car has ever been seen. A great place Moreton, with its beautiful mango-trees, oranges, lemons and bananas'.[8] The engineering logistics to achieve the feat of completing this overland telegraph included competing not only with the Cape York wet season, but with mosquito infested swamps, swollen rivers, flooded plains and termite riddled sand ridges.

The final gap between the two sections was between Moreton and the next station south at Mein. For a short period a 'pony express' operated between the two until the final connection was made. Mein Telegraph Station opened on 14 July 1887 followed by the official openings of the McDonnell, Paterson and Thursday island Stations on 25 August, 1887, and finally Moreton on 1 September, 1887.

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[6] Imperial pounds (181.18 kg)

[7] Op cit 100 Years of The Telegraph in Queensland. Pp5-11

[8] Wilkins, Sir GH (Undiscovered Australia: being an account of an expedition to tropical Australia to collect specimens of rarer native fauna for the British Museum, GP Putnam''s Sons, London. 1929. Ch2

There seems to be some contention as to how Moreton was named. One school believes Moreton is named after the Hon Matthew Moreton, one of the partners in the construction company. However the more accepted version says that it was named after B B Moreton who was Postmaster General in 1885. These two were actually brothers, B B being the elder of the two, and they were the younger sons of the old Earl of Ducie.[9]

Moreton, located on the Batavia (now Wenlock) River, became one of this chain of fortified overland telegraph stations 'ingeniously built to resist attack' with iron exteriors and a series of loopholes around the walls. In the 1920s a visiting naturalist, Captain Sir GH Wilkins, noted that the rifles and revolvers were still hanging near the loopholes.[10] All the stations were built like forts to protect staff and equipment from the so called 'wild blacks'.[11] Buildings were constructed of heavy gauge galvanised iron and on two diagonally opposite corners a protruding 'turret' was built with gun ports allowing each an uninterrupted view along two side as well as forward. All windows were fitted with iron shutters which could be bolted from within.

> The buildings were erected on special steps and under the building was protected by iron also. There was a set of stairs leading down from inside the house as well as externally. The buildings comprised a number of rooms surrounding a closed verandah area with an open verandah at the front. They were officially described as eight roomed and housed the Telegraph office as well as living quarters for the staff.[12]

The only transport at this time was by horse, so Electric Telegraph Stations were strategically placed close to water. Moreton could draw on water from the Wenlock River. Most water tanks were built inside the station to protect them from the threat of being punctured by poisoned spears. An 1888 report requested a police station in the Moreton area because of 'increasing Aboriginal problems'.[13] Detachments of native police had been required to protect the workers during the construction of the line and then remain to guard the line. According to a petition signed by Coen residents in 1891, the indigenous people had stolen 'miles of wire' to make 'weapons of the most deadly kind'; and newspapers at Cooktown had spoken of the 'State of Open Warfare' that had existed on Cape York Peninsula for the previous fifteen years.[14] This was a time when outlying cattle stations relied on the telegraph line and the dedication of the linesmen for news and information. Frequent attacks on homesteads and the line itself had meant constant work to maintain the flow of information through the Cape.

By 1899 the situation had calmed and the fortifications were gradually phased out. Inspector Roth, the Northern Protector of Aboriginals,[15] wrote in his Report as for 1899 that as well as work carried out by Missions and Stations, the government had established various food-relieving centres in different parts of the Northern districts of the colony.[16] The 'Moreton Electric Telegraph Office' was one of these centres. It had a regular monthly expenditure of five pounds, distributed by post and telegraph officials.

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[9] The Australia Directory of Biography Volume 5 (1851-1890)

[10] Op cit Wilkins, Sir G H p.71

[11] 100 Years of The Telegraph in Queensland. GPO Publication. 1986

[12] Ibid

[13] Anderson, D & Killingray, D. *Policing the Empire*, Manchester University Press. 1991 ch 1

[14] Richards, J. *Moreton Telegraph Station: 1902 The Native Police on Cape York Peninsula*. Griffiths University Queensland Paper. 1999

[15] Note: The Office of the Northern Protector of Aboriginals was abolished on 25 March, 1904 and Walter E Roth was appointed Chief Protector of Aboriginals on 30 March, 1904.

[16] Queensland State Archives Agency ID142, Northern Protector of Aboriginals Office

In the 1920s the 'electric telegraph' was gradually replaced by a new telephone system. Over the years this system was upgraded from a three to a twelve channel capacity. And although as early as 1939 Australia was ranked 7th in terms of telephony traffic, Cape York was still very much disadvantaged in relation to communication. Mail was still being delivered by pack horse until after the end of the Second World War, and a lineman's job required him, 'to cut the undergrowth from beneath the line. We'd cut a chain each side of the line using an old brushhook. We rode horses and had a packhorse which carried all our tucker'.[17] Yet the line served Australia well for almost 60 years until the outbreak of World War 2 when better communications were required in the face of the threat to the northern coastline. In only four months during 1942, 1200 US Army Signal Corps members and 70 Australian Post Master General staff added cross-arms and an additional four lines to the existing poles.

Moreton Telegraph Station C. 1890. Photo courtesy Cairns Historical Society

The last message was sent along the line in 1962, when communications were upgraded to microwave repeater towers. The line was eventually closed in 1987. Residents throughout Cape York were finally able to communicate through dial-up telephones through a modern microwave system with multiple channels. Today, underground optic fibres are gradually making their way up north.

So after more than 100 years of service. Tenders were called initially, for removal of the wire and later, for removal of the poles and cross arms but it was too late! Insulators, wires and even poles had been removed, many for use in stockyards, gates and sheds. Nevertheless, these remain a testimony to the durability of the galvanized poles, which were reused without further coating, even though they were by this time 110 years old.[18]

In the 1970s the Cape York Development Road took over as the main thoroughfare through the Cape but for many years the telegraph service track was the only access to Cape York.

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[17] Cairns Historical Society information in Coen Museum
[18] Moreton Telegraph Station History website www.moretonstation.com.au/history

What remains is the remnant of the track which was constructed in the 1880s and even now, a few of the original Oppenheimer poles can still be seen, mostly fallen over and almost obliterated by vegetation, along the remnant track, particularly near Eliot Falls in Cape York.

Currently the Moreton area is particularly significant to traditional owners as a number of focal Kaanju ancestors were born at the Station. There are also spiritual sites in the vicinity of Moreton that are under strict management by traditional owners due to their cultural significance.[19] Unfortunately, all that remains of the original Telegraph Station building today is a concrete 'footprint' at the back of the toolshed, and a support post known as the 'flood marker', two of the later galvanised poles on what is now the airstrip, and remnants of Oppenheimer poles dotting the camping area. The homestead and the guest house buildings on the property were built in 1960 for PMG employees.

Since 1994 individual tour operators have rescued, resuscitated and restored facilities at Moreton. Between them they have established 'the first nature based, low impact sustainable tourism station, with basic accommodation and camping services, north of the Wenlock'.[20]

However, the spirit of the old Telegraph Station is still very much alive. The marked and unmarked grave sites on the property and the stories and artefacts from Moreton's 'electric' past, which both keep Bradford's dream alive and create the ambience of this historical one square mile for its many visitors.

Note: Moreton Telegraph Station is now an eco-resort where Anne Smith has been working for a few months. The present owners are very aware of Moreton's history and she became so fascinated she wrote the article and sent it to *Phanfare*. Anne is hoping to be 'back on the scene' with PHA when she returns to Sydney at the end of 2012 after three years on the road around Australia.

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[19] Op cit www.moretonstation.com.au/history
[20]Moreton Telegraph Station & Cape York O.T.L Est 1887. Unpublished paper. 2007 held at Moreton Telegraph Station

The Newcastle Waterfront

These before and after images show one of the seven rejuvenated areas on the Newcastle waterfront resulting from the twenty-year Honeysuckle Development Project.

Left: Abandoned cargo sheds and derelict railway structures line the southern shore of Newcastle Harbour in the early 1990s. A contentious railway line separates the CBD from the waterfront.

Below: By May 2005, the five star Crowne Plaza Hotel and nearby Breakwater Apartments have replaced the cargo sheds and railway workshops.

Source Terri McCormack's, Newcastle's Crowne Jewel.

LIBRARY REPORT

Compiled by Terri McCormack, Honorary Librarian
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INTERSTATE & NZ PHA NEWSLETTERS

PHA goes digital – or does it?

Phanfare, the newsletter of the PHA (NSW), has been produced digitally since 2003 but nineteen hardcopies are still produced and posted out to reciprocal organizations, including seven interstate PHAs. NSW is now considering producing digital copies only. To achieve some consistency nationwide, ACHPA also needs to consider this proposition. Several interstate PHAs and other organisations already produce their newsletters in electronic form but some are more accessible than others. Others are still publishing hard copies and/or digital copies. The ideal would be for all newsletters to be accessible online for all PHA and ACPHA members. A summary of the current range of production formats and accessibility follows.

New Zealand (electronic)

The Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa has a most impressive and informational website at www.phanza.org.nz/content/e-journal. This provides access to their e-journal as well as their newsletter *Phanzine*.

Northern Territory (electronic)

Northern Territory news items are included in the Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association of South Australia (see below). The most recent issue for March 2012 is accessible via their website. Curiously, it is not currently accessible on the South Australian PHA website where it is only available by subscription. Details of current NT events can be found at www.historians.org.au/phant

Queensland (electronic - restricted)

The irregular newsletter of PHA (Qld) has been temporarily suspended, pending a search for an editor. The main medium for disseminating information is their regular *eBulletin,* available

to members only. The latest received by PHA (NSW)was 25 October 2011. Further information is available on their website at: www.qldhistorians.org.au

South Australia (electronic - restricted)

The Newsletter of the PHA (SA) incorporating news from PHA (NT) is available by subscription ($35) or with membership. Hardcopy is provided to PHA(NSW). Note, however, that an electronic copy is currently available on the PHA (NT) website (see above) but not on the PHA (SA) website at www.sahistorians.org.au/

The latest hardcopy of the SA Newsletter received by PHA(NSW) is No 102 November 2011. The latest electronic issue is February 2012 which, as noted above, is only available on the PHA (NT) website. This gives details of the sterling efforts of PHA (SA) to promote the profession as well as the activities of other SA history organisations. Megg Kelham of Alice Springs recounts her 'delight and trepidation' at attending the ACPHA conference in August 2011, her first encounter with fellow Australian historians en masse. At the World History Conference in Beijing (2011), she found the term 'professional historian' was meaningless so she was relieved to find others do exist.

2011 was the 175th anniversary of European settlement in South Australia. PHA (SA)'s major contribution to the anniversary is the website *SA 175: Celebrating South Australia*. Both South Australian and interstate historians will find interesting and useful material at www.sahistorians.org.au/175/index.shtml
Another interesting project, established by History SA, is the website blog *Bound for South Australia* tracing the journeys of the nine ships carrying 546 free settlers that arrived in South Australia in 1836. Check it out at http://boundforsouthaustralia.net.au/

It's also worth noting that the History Council of South Australia's new(ish) website has gone live at http://historycouncilsa.org.au/

Tasmania

It is some time since a copy of *Emphatic*, the newsletter of the PHA (Tas), has been received so it may have been discontinued. Meanwhile, news of the latest doings of the Tasmanian professional historians can be accessed at: www.historians.org.au/phatas

Victoria (electronic – restricted)

Pharos, the bi-monthly newsletter of the Victorian PHA, is still produced in hardcopy for distribution to members and reciprocal organisations. The latest issues are available online at www.phavic.org.au to Victorian members only. The latest issue (hardcopy) received by PHA (NSW) is No 73 February 2012.

In 2011, PHA (Vic) started a media release service for members, promoting their work in a 'Just Finished' segment to local and national media outlets. As well as books, the entries include exhibitions, projects, significance assessments, and interpretative installations, showing the variety of work that historians produce. The Victorians also have a regular PHA

Member Profile. Earlier attempts by *Phanfare* collectives to include regular members' biogs and recent work have lapsed but maybe it's time to give it another go.

The second edition of *CIRCA: the journal of Professional Historians*, published by PHA (Vic), was launched at the first ACPHA National Conference in Adelaide in August 2011. A lot of work has gone into this wide ranging annual journal. Divided into three parts – Explorations, Discoveries and Reflections – this issue contains illustrated high quality articles refereed by a nine member panel that all deal in some way with historians' practice of their craft.

With financial support from ACPHA, *Circa* is being distributed to every accredited professional historian in Australia. Note that this journal is a national initiative. Editor Katherine Sheedy hopes that the current edition will inspire fellow historians around the country to send in their contributions to the third edition. PHA (NSW) members should now have received their copy. If not, contact the NSW Secretary at phanswsecretary@gmail.com

Western Australia (electronic – restricted)

For some time now, PHA (WA) has been publishing newsletters in PDF form but they are not publicly available on their website. They are issued quarterly and distributed to WA members, interstate PHAs, newsletter subscribers and to like-minded organisations such as the History Council of Western Australia. The latest PDF issue received by PHA (NSW) is April 2012. See the updated version of the PHA (WA) website at www.phawa.org.au/

This is a busy year for PHA (WA). They are hosting the 2012 ACPHA Annual General Meeting, a significant and rare event because of the costs involved in flying delegates from the east. In 2007, ACPHA decided on a fifteen year rotation schedule whereby NSW, Victoria and South Australia host three AGMs, Queensland and Tasmania host two, and the Northern Territory and Western Australia each host one. The West Australians are also hosting a joint seminar with the OHAA (WA) to follow the PHA AGM in August. On top of all this, the Management Committee is reviewing the constitution and reassessing membership fees to increase the administrative efficiency of the Association.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. Newsletters **(electronic)**
For newsletters, awards, prizes, conferences, resources, etc, go to the AHA website at http://www.theaha.org.au/

HERITAGE NSW: Quarterly Newsletter of the NSW Heritage Office. **(electronic)**
This well-illustrated newsletter is available on the Heritage Office's website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au which also contains an index to past issues. It is also still produced in hardcopy and you can subscribe for a free printed copy by emailing the Heritage Branch heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au.

HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW. Bulletin. Spring 2010. (electronic)
The *HC Bulletin* is posted to members three times a year although PHA (NSW) has not sighted a hardcopy for quite a while. Earlier issues are available as online as downloads. For recent news and events, go to the History Council's website at www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW.   No 69, Summer 2011
This hardcopy issue contains articles on Aboriginal connections to Vaucluse House and Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney's 'Underbelly' in photographs at the Justice & Police Museum, and W.C. Wentworth's collection of classical sculptures at Vaucluse House. Rouse Hill House at Baulkham Hills has had a tumultuous history so the recent donation of a rare collection of documents relating to its founder, Richard Rouse, is, as Megan Martin reports, of great value. The newsletter is available to members only but there is a lot of other information on their website at www.hht.net.au

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) Newsletters (electronic - restricted)
The National Trust Newsletter is available as hardcopy or digital to members only. For latest news, events, awards, Heritage Festival, National Trust Register etc, go to www.nationaltrust.com.au

NOEL BUTLIN ARCHIVES CENTRE (ANU). Newsletters (electronic - restricted)
Selected articles from current issues of the newsletter *ABLative* are available online. Copies of the full editions are available from the Centre. For news, events, and details of collections, see www.archives.anu.edu.au/nbac/html/

THE SITE GAZETTE: Friends of the First Government House Site (Inc).
Vol 17, No 3, Winter 2011
The latest issue of this slim irregular newsletter contained a feature article on Governor Arthur Phillip & the unlikely selection of this 'ailing man of low birth' to found a new nation. The choice was based on his naval experience, linguistic ability, farming experience, his service in the Portuguese Navy, and the patronage of George Rose, Treasurer of the Navy.

VOICEPRINT: Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia. No 45, April 2010 (electronic - restricted)
Voiceprint is now produced in PDF format. Editor Joyce Cribb has appealed for contributions that are easy to read online. It is supplied to members and reciprocal organisations but is not on their website at www.ohaa.org.au . As well, the OHAA produce their informative and frequent *Oral History Network News* in PDF format.

The Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History Award in 2011 went to the prodigious oral historian Frank Heimans while Life Memberships were awarded to Diana Ritch (Hazel's daughter) and Joyce Cribb.

This issue contains a series of reports showcasing the diverse work being done by oral historians all over the state and beyond. There is also a pertinent article on copyright and where to seek the latest information to keep up with changes in technology. The information sheets produced by the Australian Copyright Council are a good start. See www.copyright.org.au

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PHA (NSW) Directory 2011-12
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Telephone: 02 9252 9437
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Website: www.phansw.org.au

For specific enquiries see list below

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President: Laila Ellmoos president@phansw.org.au
Vice President: Zoe Pollock vicepresident@phansw.org.au
Secretary: Michael Bennett secretary@phansw.org.au
Treasurer: Christine Yeats treasurer@phansw.org.au
Executive Members: Emma Dortins, Stephen Gapps, Anne Claoue-Long
Minutes Secretary: Michael Bennett
Membership Secretary: Emma Dortins
Public Relations: Laila Ellmoos
Public Officer: Emma Dortins
Website: Christine de Matos

Representatives on other bodies:
Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA): Pauline Curby & Virginia Macleod (Alternate)
ACPHA Appeals Committee: Emma Dortins
ACPHA Advice Committee: Judith Godden
Phanfare Co-ordinator: Michael Bennett
Honorary Librarian: Terri McCormack
History Council of NSW: Mark Dunn
State Records Community Advisory Committee: Michael Bennett
National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum: Terry Kass
History Advisory Panel to the NSW Heritage Office: Jodi Frawley
RAHS Council representative: Susan McClean
RAHS Archives & Records Management Committee: Terri McCormack

Professional Services
Library: Terri McCormack
Employment Network: Laila Ellmoos
Professional Development: Laila Ellmoos, Zoe Pollock

Publications
Phanfare: phanfare@phansw.org.au
Editorial Collectives: See list at front of *Phanfare*
Other PHA publications: Secretary

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
PHA (NSW) web site www.phansw.org.au
Available on line

PHA (NSW) Register of consulting historians
List of financial members
PHA (NSW) brochure
Professional fees
PHA (NSW) Annual Reports
Phanfare archive & indexes
Information about professional development

Monograph
Historians & Native Title
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Address orders to
PHA (NSW) GPO Box 2437 Sydney 2001

National web site
www.historians.org.au

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