

Phanfare

Newsletter of the
Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc

Number 206 May-June 2004

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS ARE NOW
DUE**

SEE LAST PAGE

Phanfare is the newsletter of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc and a public forum for Professional History

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**PHANFARE MAY-
JUNE 2004
No 206**

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New Member
Congratulations to Sean
Brawley**

**President's Report – May
2004**

Activities

Some exciting PHA activities are planned for the next few months. I hope members attend as many of these as possible. On 29 May Dr Mark Tredinnick will present a writing workshop at History House. This should be a day full of learning and stimulation for those of us who want to improve our facility with words. Members and non-members are welcome to attend but need to book and pay prior to the day. Melbourne-based expert Max McMaster was to run an introductory workshop on indexing on 12 June but this has been

postponed until 4 September. It should be noted that it is difficult for these workshops to take place if there are too few attendees, as the PHA Continuing Professional Development program endeavours to cover costs as much as possible.

Other activities in the planning stage include a workshop on internet use for historians and excursions to libraries at the Powerhouse Museum, the National Maritime Museum and the History of Medicine Library at the Royal Australian College of Physicians in Macquarie Street. Our excursion to the NAA at Chester Hill on 13 May that Terry Kass organised was most successful (see separate report).

History House

Over the last few months the PHA has been developing a stronger relationship with RAHS, regularly holding meetings and workshops there. Our filing cabinet has been lodged in History House for some months and soon we will have a phone and answering service there. Although at this stage we are keeping our mailbox, mail will also be able to be sent to 133 Macquarie Street. Members will be informed on the email network when the new phone number is available. The peripatetic PHA library will also soon be lodged with RAHS. This is a significant change that we hope will be convenient for members and result in stronger links being forged with the wider history community. The History Council now has office space in History House and RAHS has also established a close working relationship with the Society of Genealogists.

Public History Review

Recently the PHA executive met with the editors of the *Public History Review*. The executive considers that despite the fact that this is a PHA publication there were certain administrative matters that needed clarification. Soon PHA secretary Virginia Macleod will organise a meeting with representatives of the executive, the editors and Halstead Press, and it is hoped that outstanding matters will be resolved. I have just signed off on an application to the Ministry for the Arts for further funding for the *Public History Review*. Members will be informed if this application is successful.

Considering that the PHA is responsible for this application and the administration of any resulting funds, the executive decided not to apply to the Ministry for the Arts for funding for purely PHA projects this year. Instead we aim to have greater involvement in History Council projects.

Commissioned histories

It with some concern that I return to the topic of commissioned histories – a matter that affects many of us. Briefs are still coming out that do not offer historians sufficient remuneration. Many are also unrealistic in terms of timeframes and what is asked of the historian. From my observation heritage

work and oral history projects (although I have just heard a horror story about one of these) seem to be reasonably paid but commissioned histories - particularly large-scale books – are not. Increasingly the PHA is being asked for advice on briefs and while this is a positive development it will be of little value to the profession if members are content to take on large projects for less than PHA rates of pay.

One small victory has recently been won when, as a result of negotiations on behalf of PHA members, a commissioning body modified a brief. A significant reduction was made in the number of words that was asked for and the requirement that the historian do an index was removed. I repeat: **this was a small victory only**. If our negotiations had led to the payment of more money to the historian we would have been more satisfied. Anyhow it's a start.

It also concerns the executive that some practising historians claim to be PHA members when they are not. We are currently devising a way that potential clients can check this.

Finally on a positive note - plans are afoot to update the PHA's website so keep an eye out for something visually exciting soon.

Pauline Curby President

Celebrating Heritage Week

Launched with music at Blacktown

For the second year in succession, Blacktown City Council launched Heritage Week with a musical evening at The Oaks, a privately owned house in Hyatts Road, Oakhurst, near Mount Druitt.

Built by William Golding for his marriage to Rose Emma Cable in 1895, The Oaks is a two storey house, surrounded by verandahs on both levels, featuring a glass roof lantern and two imposing chimneys. It is built on an early concrete base comprising concrete blocks, with black and white marble tiles in the hallway.

The Oaks is one of more than 140 buildings on Blacktown Council's heritage list, which includes the nearby Woodstock, in Hobson Place, off Woodstock Road. Built in about 1880, Woodstock is an unusual timber house with a rare terracotta pantile roof. The history of both houses is linked to the former cannery in the area.



The Oaks' present owner, Trevor Garland, has spent a considerable amount of time and money on restoring the house and creating a garden appropriate to the era. Adjacent to the house, but free standing, are a billiard room and what is thought to be the original cottage built of corrugated iron.

A local volunteer guide, dressed in period costume, escorted visitors through the house and garden. She described Trevor's generosity in making his home and its grounds available for community activities.

Last November, after a visit to the house and a talk from Trevor, 170 children from Rooty Hill Public School, raised \$300 to launch The Oaks Restoration Fund. The first project is the replacement of the billiard room's badly deteriorated underpinning.

The Oaks will be open on August 8 for public tours. Phone Hazel Magann on 9628 1598.

Katharine Knight



Parramatta River History launched at MOS

Thomas Keneally was the special guest who launched Gregory Blaxell's new book *The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta*, at the Museum of Sydney, on April 30. He congratulated the author and his publisher, Brush Farm Historical Society on the "high quality and high purpose" of the publication.

The publishers describe the book as the first "devoted entirely to a comprehensive history of the Parramatta River". The names on the journey up river are a chronicle of experiences, characteristics and identities – Sydney Cove itself, Longnose Point, Iron Cove, Hen and Chicken Bay, Cabarita, Mortlake and Duck River, to name just a few. Thomas Keneally grew up in Homebush, which he told his delighted audience was known locally as "Strathfield on Swamp".

Keneally made particular reference to the quality of the index: "You can look up anything there". He expressed pleasure that Parramatta was at least one name of Aboriginal origin retained by the Europeans and described the "tangle of eels" in the river as the origin of the word.

A perusal of the index, a comprehensive bibliography and detailed endnotes to seven major sections comprising almost 300 information packed pages appear to confirm his description. The book is clearly written by a man who has researched and grown to love the river and its stories over many years. It is surprising, therefore, despite Thomas Keneally's observation, to find no reference to the Aboriginal meaning of "Parramatta" or to "Burrumatta", the name often officially recognised as the original form of the word.

When Gregory Blaxell was asked if he was related to the colonial merchant Garnham Blaxcell, he said yes, though the branches of the family would have separated well before the English arrived in Australia. There are many different spellings to the family name, though all have their origin in Suffolk, he said.

Present at the launch was past chairman of the Historic Houses Trust, Jack Munday, who next day launched an exhibition of trade union memorabilia: When Workers Unite – Foundations of Tomorrow, at Braemar Gallery, Springwood.

Copies of *The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta* are available from the Museum of Sydney shop for \$49.95 hard cover, or \$39.95 (10% discount to Historic Houses Trust members), or from Brush Farm Historical Society, PO Box 241, Eastwood 2122, phone 9874 2266. The author has provided a signed copy for the Professional Historians' Association library.

Katherine Knight



Independent Theatre celebrates founding director Doris Fitton

It was no thanks to State Rail and its computer system collapse that I arrived in time to hear only the last five minutes of Doreen Warburton's address to a packed SBW Independent Theatre, on May 2. It was the one I most wanted to hear.

Doreen was one of 10 actors, playwrights, directors, dancers, technicians and entrepreneurs invited to speak under the collective title "Meet the Stars!" It was a celebration of the Independent's 65th year and the work of founding director Doris Fitton.

Geraldine O'Brien provided some interesting background in *Treading the boards for the Independent's day*, (SMH 30/4/2004). Her story opened with the 1948 pursuit by police of "that word" in Sumner Locke Elliott's play *Rusty Bugles* and described the theatre's 1939 launch under Doris Fitton's direction, upstaged by Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

For more than 20 years, Fitton directed a theatre that provided a rich training ground for many of today's theatre practitioners. In a letter from England to the gathering, actor and director Peter O'Shaughnessy described Doris Fitton as "doughty and formidable", while recounting stories of many productions.

Leading theatrical manager John Witham paid tribute to many respected leaders in today's theatrical, film and television worlds, who had their initial opportunities at Doris Fitton's Independent Theatre. He also offered some highly entertaining reminiscences of her style in conducting rehearsals.

On a serious note, he recalled the "perfect marriage" of playwright, actor, director in her memorable performance with Alexander Archdale in *The Visit*.

John Witham described Doris Fitton as innovative and resolute, whose commitment to continuity, refreshment of professional skills and to performances for children – the future audiences – ensured "keeping the theatre alive."

Katherine Knight

What's On in History

Australia and the Pacific Region

Prepared by Cathy Dunn and Christine de Matos

MAY-JUNE 2004

Exhibitions (General)

'*Strikes, Lockouts and Equal Pay*'. Until March 2004. Venue: **Hyde Park Barracks Museum**.

'*The People's Procession: Popular Australian Movements 1880s-1950s*'. Based on the collections of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, ANU. Until 25 July 2004. **Venue:** Old Parliament House, Canberra.

'*Working Harbour*'. Until July 2004. **Venue:** Maritime Museum.

'*Asylum Women: aged, infirm, destitute*'. Throughout 2004. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'*The Stamp Office*'. Throughout 2004. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'*Italiani Di Sydney*'. History and voices of Italians in Sydney. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'*Convicts: Life at the Barracks*'. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'*Lost City*'. King St of the 1890s. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

'*Fifties Houses: Plus or Minus*'. **Venue:** Rose Seidler House.

'*DRUGS: A Social History*'. **Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.

Events

ACT

21May - 2 June Conference. *'Blasphemy and Sacrilege in a Multicultural Society'*. Old Canberra House, ANU. **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 6125 2434; email: admin.ccr@anu.edu.au; web: http://www.anu.edu.au/culture/n_activities/conferences/sacred03.htm

New South Wales

16 Talk. *'The Wharfies Film Unit'*. Lisa Milner. ASSLH, LHG and Sydney University. **Venue:** Carslaw Lecture Theatre (Room 173), University of Sydney **Time:** 2-4 pm **Enquiries:** Julie Kimber ph:(02) 9557 9231; email: juliekimber@unsw.edu.au OR Rowan Cahill ph: (02) 4861 2323; email: rowcah@hotmail.com

19 Tour. *'The Royal Australian Historical Society and its Collections'*. SAG. **Meeting venue:** 133 Macquarie St Sydney **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$15, mems \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; fax: (02) 9241 4872; email: info@sag.org.au

24 Seminar. *'Accessing the records: The Dutch experience in Australia'*. RAHS and State Records NSW. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 10am-3pm **Cost:** \$16.50 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au

25, 1&

8 June Lecture Series. *'Australian History: Australians At War In The Air, 1939-1945'*. RAHS and WEA. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$45 **Bookings essential:** WEA ph: (02) 9264 2781 or (02) 9267 6988.

26 Fundraiser. *'State Records of NSW Annual Charity Quiz'*. **Venue:** State Records, Level 3, 66 Harrington Street, The Rocks **Cost:** \$20 **Enquiries:** Alan Ventress email: adcity@records.nsw.gov.au

27 Open Day. *'State Records Open Day'*. Kingswood. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

27 Talk. *'Ludwig Leichhardt's Journey'*. Library Society. **Venue:** Dixson Room, State Library NSW **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$16.50, mems/conc \$11 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9273 1770; fax: (02) 9273 1248; email: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au

29 Tour. *'Time Please, Ladies and Gentlemen'*. Tour of pubs in The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$38, mem/conc \$27 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866.

Next Month (all areas)

2 Lecture. *'Cockatoo Island - its history & future'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au

2 Walking tour. *'Sydney Architecture Walk'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Cost:** \$20, mem/conc \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9518 6866. Also 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 28 & 30.

9 Tour. *'National Archives of Australia'*. Chester Hill repository. RAHS. **Meeting Venue:** Chester Hill **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$9.90, mems \$6.60 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au

10 Tour. *'What's at the SAG?'*. SAG. **Venue:** 120 Kent St Sydney **Time:** 9am-10.15am **Cost:** \$5, mems free **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; fax: (02) 9241 4872; email: info@sag.org.au

19-20 Conference. *'Eighth Asian Studies Conference Japan'*. Tokyo, Japan. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~kokusai/ascj/>

20 Tour. *'Eveleigh Workshop Walking Tour'*. SAG. **Meeting Venue:** Bay 8, Locomotive Workshops **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$6.60 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 3953; fax: (02) 9241 4872; email: info@sag.org.au

23 Talk. *'A British Empire First: The Sydney Railway System'*. RAHS. **Venue:** History House **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au

23-25 Conference. *'Colonialism and its Aftermath: An Interdisciplinary Conference'*. University of Tasmania. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.leishman-associates.com.au/colonialism/docs/index.php>

23-26 Conference. *'XIIIth International Oral History Conference: Memory and Globalization'*. Rome, Italy. **Enquiries:** Janis Wilton, jwilton@pobox.une.edu.au; web: <http://www.ioha.fgv.br>

25-27 Conference. *'Roadside Memorials: A Multi-disciplinary Approach'*. University of New England Armidale. **Enquiries:** email: jlark1@pobox.une.edu.au

29-

2 Jul Conference. *'15th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia'*. Canberra. **Enquiries:** web: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA/conference>

Upcoming Conferences

'Medicine at the Border: The History, Culture and Politics of Global Health'. 1-3 July 2004, Sydney. **Enquiries:** Dr Alison Bashford, Department of History, University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

'An International Conference on Quong Tart and His Times, 1850 to 1903'. 1-4 July 2004, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/history/quongtart/>

'War and Citizenship in 20th century Australia'. 3 July 2004, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. **Enquiries:** email: m.trinca@nma.gov.au

'AHA Head of History Summit'. 5 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** email: Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au

'Visions: 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Historical Association'. 5-9 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/aha2004>

'Fourth Biennial RHS Conference: Visions in Religion and History'. 5-9 July 2004, Newcastle. **Enquiries:** email: Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au

'Computing Arts 2004 @ Newcastle'. 8-9 July 2004, University of Newcastle. Digital resources and the humanities. **Enquiries:** Hugh Craig ph: (02) 49215175; email: hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au

'Projecting Australia: British Australian Studies Association Biennial Conference'. 2-5 September 2004, Cardiff University. **Enquiries:** Dr Bill Jones ph: (+44) (0)29 2087 6104; fax: (+44) (0)29 2087 4929; email: joneswd@cardiff.ac.uk

'The "Extreme Right" in 20th-Century Australia'. 9-10 October 2004, Sydney. **Enquiries:** Andrew Moore, email: a.moore@uws.edu.au; John Perkins, email: jperkins@hmn.mq.au

'2004 Museum Computer Network Conference: Great Technology for Collections, Confluence, and Community'. 10-13 November 2004, Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Enquiries:** email: mcn2004@igs.net; web: <http://www.mcn.edu>

'Paradigm Shift in Asia: East, Southeast, and South Asia in Comparative Perspective. International Association of Historians of Asia'. 6-10 December 2004, Taipei, Taiwan. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~iaha18tw>

'2005 National Conference of the Australian Historical Association'. 3-9 July 2005, Sydney. Held in conjunction with the International Congress of Historical Sciences. **Enquiries:** A/P Rae Frances email: r.frances@unsw.edu.au

'Trans-Tasman Conference on Missionary History'. 8-10 October 2004, ANU Canberra. **Enquiries:** Email: ianwelch@coombs.anu.edu.au

Call for Papers

'20th International Congress of Historical Sciences'. 3-9 July 2005, University of NSW Sydney. Poster submission deadline **31 May 2004**. **Enquiries:** email: cish2005@incompass.com.au; web: <http://www.cishsydney2005.org>

'The Vietnam War, Thirty Years On: Memories, Legacies, and Echoes'. 14-15 April 2005, University of Newcastle, NSW. 200 word proposals due by **29 October 2004**. **Enquiries:** Dr. Chris Dixon, email: chris.dixon@newcastle.edu.au OR Dr. Nathalie Nguyen, email: Nathalie.nguyen@newcastle.edu.au

'The Japanese Occupation: The Lessons of the Past 60 Years After'. 5-6 September 2005, Singapore. Bio and 200 word abstracts due by **31 December 2004**. **Enquiries:** Kevin Blackburn, email: kpblack@nie.edu.sg; Karl Hack, email: kahack@nie.edu.sg; ph: (65) 6790 3414; fax: (65) 6896 9135

Answers to questions on oral history practice

As a relatively new graduate member of PHA, informal conversations at Christmas parties, discussion groups and Phanfare's north west collective have provided me with valuable contacts and advice.

Among the earliest suggestions was the benefit of membership of the Oral History Association - NSW branch. I had begun a research and writing project, for which an oral history interview had been conducted. My subject had been a willing guinea pig for my first effort and the result was a recording rich in vital information and the personal perspective and experience I was seeking.

Nonetheless, it raised more questions than it answered.

What were the ethics of recording personal information and with the subject's knowledge, using it in publication?

How much could I guide the discussion and how much should I let my interviewee continue to talk spontaneously?

In typing up a transcription, should the subject be given a copy?

If I use authentic speech styles in writing the story, won't that be irritating to read?

In this era of constantly changing technology, what is the best recording equipment to use and can I afford it?

I joined the Oral History Association, whose president Rosie Block is also curator of the Oral History Program at the State Library, and attended my first seminar.

Diane Armstrong gave an absorbing description of her research and writing of *Mosaic* and *The Voyage of Their Lives*, which relied heavily on oral history interviews. Questions and lunch were followed by a practical seminar conducted by Rosie.

It wasn't long before I discovered that my first effort had effectively broken most recommended guidelines. The interview wasn't wasted, but here were the answers to my questions and many more.

Workshops regularly include:
introduction to oral history
nature and reliability of memory
interviewing techniques
equipment
documentation
ethical issues, ownership and copyright
transcription and logging
listening to tape excerpts

The Oral History Association of Australia was formed in 1978, since when its members have been exploring, developing and promoting the practice, ethics and technology of

oral history. There are many publications available and conferences and events at which new research, perspectives and experiences are presented for critical discussion.

I have now conducted my second oral history interview, working within the framework advised by the OHA. The benefits were immediate and the results of great value to my own research and hopefully to others who may subsequently have access to the tapes through the State Library.

The next seminar is on Saturday, July 31, Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library, from 10am to 4pm, when the topic will be “Alternative Views: Interviewing in Multicultural Communities”. Lucy Porter of the Aboriginal Support Circle of the Older Women’s Network, will present their award-winning project dedicated to the progress of reconciliation.

Dr Heather Goodall will speak about *Songlines*, her oral history project with the Vietnamese community and Roslyn Burge, Centre for Public History, will present *The Tamils and their Neighbours* commissioned by Strathfield Public Library. Rosie Block will conduct a practical seminar on oral history practice and technique in the afternoon.

Cost: \$48, \$42 (Friends), \$38 (OHA members), includes lunch. Morning or afternoon sessions \$18 each.

Enquiries about OHA NSW membership and seminars to Rosie Block (02) 9273 1697. Subscriptions paid now will be valid to June 30, 2005.

Katherine Knight

Surplus Copies – Statistical Publications

State Records of New South Wales holds a number of duplicate copies of late nineteenth and twentieth century publications from the NSW Bureau of Statistics. It already holds a number of good quality copies of these publications.

These are surplus to the requirements of SRNSW. In order to economise on space, SRNSW is willing to let any historian who is interested take away as few or as many of these publications as they want.

A list of available titles and their dates of publication is available. If you are interested, phone Coral Searle at SRNSW, Kingswood, 9673 1788 or e-mail recoff@records.nsw.gov.au.

PHA National Archives Tour 13 May 2004

Fiona Burn, Assistant Director, Public and Reader Services, Sydney Office, conducted an interesting and informative tour of the National Archives, commencing with an introductory overview of the context in which the archives operate and a demonstration of online searching processes. We were given a brief outline of the long term decentralised nature of the organisation, the types of inquiries received and the nature of the records held.

There are more than 30 million items stored in the National Archives' collection and more than 5 million of these items are available online at www.naa.gov.au through the collection database, known as 'RecordSearch', providing access to 60 000 series, details of 9 000 creators and depositors and descriptions (and in some cases digital copies) of record items. Items are constantly being added to the records database.

The profile of the National Archives has been raised through its expanded services, online access, publications and travelling exhibitions. Fiona explained the archives' role, archival theory and management and public access, under the provisions of the 1983 Archives Act. While the 30 year limit on public access determines which records are on open access there are Special Access, Official Access and Discretionary Access provisions, the former being the most applicable for professional researchers. Special Access is available through completion of application documents and is determined on an individual basis where researchers can demonstrate expertise and provide evidence of historical research and previous publications. The resulting manuscript must be submitted to the relevant agency and it is then approved by the minister and submitted to the Prime Minister. It is necessary to demonstrate that the research has a community benefit and is of significance in understanding Australia.

The tour then gave us a glimpse of some of the 185 kilometres of records storage, the systems of location, retrieval and return and the priority of records preservation through storage methods. Robert French, National Director, Audio-Visual Preservation, outlined the problems encountered in storing and copying film and sound archival records and the methods through which restoration is achieved. Digitisation of film and sound items and documentation of these items in a database are part of the technological solutions, which preserve records and make them available for public access.

The PHA group found the tour both informative and of practical use in understanding record access and the services available through the National Archives.

Liz Adams

Heritage Council History Advisory Panel Meeting, 19 February 2004

The following matters were discussed:

Preparation of a guideline for SHR Criterion A “important in the course or pattern of history” – update and discussion of draft

Panel members discussed draft ‘Meeting the criterion: the method’, and the text was amended and adopted as the final version.

Worked examples were to be provided by members of the Panel

Place Names policy

Members considered the report and draft policy as tabled and decided to await further submissions.

Review of *State Records Act 1998*

Members considered the tabled report.

NSW sesquicentenary

Members discussed this matter

Re-appointment of members and filling of vacancies

Members discussed this matter and resolved to advise the Heritage Council of suggested amendments

Review of Terms of Reference

Members considered the current terms of reference adopted in 1998

National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List

Members asked that nominations for the new National and Commonwealth heritage lists be included as a new agenda item on future agendas

Terry Kass

National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum Meeting 20 April 2004

The following matters were discussed or noted:

1. Tour of Chester Hill repository has been arranged for PHA members for 13 May and for RAHS for 9 June.
2. NAA education programmes. These were mainly targeted at teachers at the secondary and tertiary levels in order to inform them about NAA so that they could then direct their pupils to NAA. Tours of the Canberra office are arranged. Kits have been prepared as well as exhibitions. Professional development courses for teachers are also arranged.
3. The disposal authority of the Department of Finance and Administration is now almost complete.
4. It is proposed to seek authority to initiate a preservation project for large format items such as maps and plans so that they would be more accessible to users.
5. The preservation vault for audio-visual items, which was being built at Chester Hill, is now almost complete.
6. A large preservation project for audio-visual material is underway.
7. On 30 April, the NAA will present a copy of the oldest document held at Chester Hill, a title deed for the GPO site, to the Westin Hotel, which now occupies the building.
8. The new address for the Melbourne NAA centre is now 99 Sheil Street, North Melbourne.
9. Applications are now open for Community Heritage grants with the closing date being 30 June.
10. Applications for the Frederick Watson Scholarship are open until 25 June.
11. A new award the Margaret George Award is now available for emerging historians. It totals \$10,000 for three months full-time or for up to 12 months part-time.
12. The Ian Maclean Award was given to Bruce Smith, working on business archives in Australia.
13. In response to an inquiry by a PHA member, Terry Kass brought up the matter of the sale of the aperture card plans created by the Commonwealth Department of Works to Gutteridge Haskins and Davey, after the Department was “downsized”. Since no originals of many these plans survive nor were aperture cards sent to NAA, these records

are now only available to researchers willing to pay a fee to GHD. Colin McTaggart from NAA will investigate this matter and will report to future meetings.

14, The NAA is considering reviewing the structure of charges for copying documents and will be seeking people to participate in some brief focus sessions on the matter.

Terry Kass

Launch of Isabel Flick, the Many Lives of an Extraordinary Aboriginal Woman.

This autobiography – the ‘story of an Australian hero’ - was launched at UTS on 5 May by Linda Burney MP. Work on the book, a collaboration between Isabel Flick and Heather Goodall, began some years ago when Isabel, born in 1928 at Goondiwindi, decided to tell the story of her extraordinary life including her years growing up on the riverbank at Collarenabri. After Isabel’s untimely death in 2000 Heather with the support of the Flick family completed the work.

The launch was a moving occasion with many of Isabel’s family and friends present including babies and lively youngsters who kept their parents occupied. Isabel’s niece Barbara chaired proceedings as numerous speakers paid tribute to an Aussie ‘battler’. The highlight for me was when a senior woman – Isabel’s sister Auntie Rose - addressed the gathering in an Aboriginal language (probably Gamilaraay or Yuwalaraay) as well as in English.

Heather Goodall, who some of us - when doing the Public History course at UTS - remember as an inspirational teacher, spoke passionately about her, and her family’s, long relationship with Isabel Flick and her ‘mob’ at Collarenabri. I’m looking forward to reading this book which I’m sure will be – as the cover blurb promises – a story of ‘love, humour and courage’ and one that promotes a ‘profound sense of justice and understanding’.

Pauline Curby

Report on History Council Meeting – 26 March 2004

I attended a meeting of the management committee of the History Council on 26 March 2004 held at History House, as the PHA representative Anna Wong was unable to attend.

Prior to the meeting proper Irina Dunn of the NSW Writers' Centre at Rozelle outlined the program for the forthcoming Writing History Conference to be held on 19 September and asked for the support of the History Council for this venture. Some of the sessions to be held include:

Research: fiction as history
People's history/history in a dominant culture
Indigenous history
Constructing history – piecing together history from fragments
History v Journalism
Writing the City: Heritage writing/local/urban history
Forgotten history – women/migrants
How is writing personal history different from writing public history?
The Gatekeepers – publishing history panel

This program is not set in concrete. PHA members are encouraged to submit possible speakers' names and suggestions for talks/discussions.

Some of the matters that were discussed at the meeting proper were:

The need for the History Council to nominate a representative to the History Advisory Panel. As it was considered that a professional historian would be the most appropriate representative, a member of the PHA may like to volunteer for this role.

Jennifer Lawless, the representative of the HTA, outlined changes pending in the NSW Years 9 & 10 History Syllabus, especially the fact that the Year 9 syllabus is no longer tied to an external exam. She emphasised the need teachers had for access to good resources especially for the study of 'culturally diverse' local history.

The History Council's submission to the review of the State Records Act 1998 was discussed.

It was decided to hold a workshop in early May to consider ideas for proposals for Ministry for the Arts grant funding.

Pauline Curby

New Member Biography – Ron Ringer

I was born in the UK and educated at King George V Grammar School, thereafter the universities of Nottingham and Liverpool where I studied for a degree in economic and social history and a graduate diploma in education, respectively. My interest in history was sparked by the war (WW2) which was a very recent memory for my father and mother. Family dinners were enlivened by descriptions of the London blitz (my mother was bombed out of two houses) and aerial dogfights between the RAF and Luftwaffe over the Surrey countryside. My father seemed to have had an atypical experience of war – I think he enjoyed his time as a tank driver. Can't think why, but he fondly remembered the wonderful camaraderie. Then there was the Cold War and the likelihood of a nuclear attack, which provided a constant talking point in the early 1960s.

Teaching disadvantaged children in a run-down Liverpool school was an eye opener, but a great way to make history come alive through story, drama and field work on the estate of Lord Derby. Actually, it was trespass, but the ruins of former outhouses and brickpits were fascinating and impossible to ignore.

Thence to Australia, about the time Margaret Thatcher was elected. I did a short stint as a research assistant in history at UNSW, completed a masters, and continued working as a teacher within the Catholic and independent systems. I left the profession in 1989, having served as Head of History at Barker College, and written a number of senior history texts for educational publishers. More writing and other history books followed as an adjunct to my work in corporate communications with a large financial service provider. Striking out on my own, I set up a company and continued to develop my writing, my interest in history, and opportunities in the business world. I was approached by an industrial company to research, write and publish their history, and am currently working on another industrial history, as well as pursuing numerous projects with academic clients and tertiary institutions. Does that make me a professional historian? Time will tell.

Congratulations to Sean Brawley

PHA member Sean Brawley was honoured with an award for teaching excellence at a graduation ceremony held at UNSW on 23 April and at the conclusion of the ceremony he delivered a very well received occasional address.

Sean's 'outstanding and innovative' teaching and his 'holistic whole-of communities approach' to his teaching was cited. He was also commended for his commitment to incorporating best practice into the 'pedagogy' of his courses. His use of innovative teaching methods and materials was acknowledged and the fact that he 'invests time and energy in the academic and professional development of each student, creating a rich and engaging learning environment'. Makes you want to go back to uni, doesn't it? Congratulations to Sean from the PHA.

Pauline Curby

PHA (NSW) Directory 2003-4

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

Professional Historians Association (NSW)

Membership Renewal Form 2004-5

Membership fees are due on 1 July. Membership is terminated if payment is not received by the Association's Annual General Meeting

Tax Invoice receipt

ABN 53 012 141 720

Please complete and return this form with your payment to:

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Have any of these details changed? Y N

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GST included	

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