

Phanfare

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Phyllis thought she was the only historian preoccupied with her image, but it seemed she was wrong.

Phanfare

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May, Sep: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack

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TO CONTACT THE PHA NSW SEE INSIDE BACK COVER

**PHANFARE NO. 202
SEPTEMBER 2003**

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This issue was produced by the Inner City Collective –
Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa
Ludlow and Terri McCormack

BACK FROM THE BRINK

Once they found their way into the building and located the room, PHA members who attended the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16 August were pleasantly surprised to find a comfortable venue with a conference set-up where people could look each other in the eye. An impressive number of concerned members had been forced out of their lethargy by the realisation that the PHA's back was to the wall.

Amazingly, all the executive positions were filled at the meeting. There were even four nominations for the three committee positions. Wisely, none of these valuable volunteers were disappointed; they have all been accepted for the following year. Congratulations to our new executive – Pauline Curby (President), Kate Waters (Vice-President and ACPHA Rep), Virginia Macleod (Secretary, Rosemary Broomham (Treasurer), Peter Tyler, Rosemary Kerr, Margo Beasley and Sue Castrique (Committee Members).

We also offer our sincere congratulations to our former president Nicole Secomb and the beleaguered Committee which safely steered our organisation through last year and thank them for their hard work in really difficult times.

The meeting was one of the most enjoyable in recent times benefiting from a change of venue and time. Not only did those attending enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea and a great deal of chatter, but they had the additional fillip of an excellent talk by Lisa Murray. You had to be there to see the illustrations presented on PowerPoint but a summary of the talk is reproduced in this issue of *Phanfare* on pages 4 and 5

Working for the City – by Lisa Murray

I started work with the City of Sydney in February 2001. My job was a new position created to provide research and administrative support for Shirley Fitzgerald, the City Historian. I've worked on several major projects and I thought PHA members may be interested to learn of some of the ups (and downs) of working for the City.

I was initially employed to help research the histories of four major projects which Council was involved in under Frank Sartor's leadership: The Capitol Theatre, Cook + Phillip Park, the City Recital Hall Angel Place, and Customs House. These histories were to be a "warts and all" look at how major developments were negotiated and progressed by the city council. Due to both politics and unfinished business, the histories were whittled down to two and Shirley passed over to me not only the task of researching but also writing the two remaining histories.

For a young historian, fresh and starry-eyed from her PhD which was firmly planted in the "safety" of the 19th century, these political histories have been challenging. To be writing about the late twentieth century freaked me out. For a start, there were so many Council files to trawl through. I'd previously been used to a paucity of information - not a surfeit!! Even more worryingly, I had to interview politicians, architects, and corporate heads, massage their egos and try to "find out the goss". In many ways I felt more like an investigative journalist than a historian. I was intimidated by the task. I was conscious of my youth, my inexperience, and my shyness, and it took several prods by Shirley to break my stubborn procrastination and set up my first interview.

The process of writing and publishing the history of *The Capitol Theatre Restoration* has been extremely frustrating. It has been very political, and there have been many delays along the way: difficulties getting interviews, interviews cancelled multiple times, manuscripts languishing on desks, lost files and lost designs. The extent of the bureaucracy in Council added to the difficulties. It never ceases to amaze me just how many people have a say in a project at the council.

I have also found the project rewarding as I have been involved in the whole design process of the booklet, and I've learnt a lot about the publishing game. I am pleased to report that *The Capitol Theatre Restoration* will be launched next month in October, with the *City Recital Hall Angel Place* history (depending upon timing and politics) to be published in the first half of 2004.

While modern city politics and projects have demanded much of my time over the last two years, I have also worked on a number of other significant projects.

One of the tasks passed over to me was the maintenance and further development of the history section on Council's website. An important component of this site is the Indigenous history website. A prototype had been trialled since late 2001. Researched principally by Anita Heiss, the information was placed within the normal publishing templates used on the Council's website. The presentation of the information was cumbersome and unappealing: it was text heavy, difficult to navigate, and did not take advantage of the web's interactivity.

I was involved in coordinating the re-design and enhancement of the site. The City employed PHA member Terri McCormack to research further material for the site - particularly audio and visual sources. The new look Barani website was designed by an Indigenous IT group, Cyberdreaming, and the site went live in March 2002.

The results are spectacular and have dramatically raised the profile of Indigenous history in the city. In July 2003 there were 6,586 sessions on Barani. The excellence of the site was recognised in the presentation to Anita Heiss and Terri McCormack of the Premier's History Award 2002 in the audio visual category. We receive regular feedback from students who utilise the site for assignments - one of the key objectives of the website - another indicator that the website is a

successful history resource. Finally the development of other Indigenous history websites since Barani's debut, such as Awaba (Newcastle) and Cadigal Wangal (People of the Cook's River), can in part be attributed to the success of Barani. I believe that Barani was groundbreaking and helped to encourage and facilitate other Indigenous history projects.

Part of my ongoing role is to keep the Barani website expanding with the regular additions of news and events, as well as resources in the bibliographic database. I also respond to research inquiries and feedback. The Barani website can be found at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani Please go have a look - I'd love to receive feedback from PHA members.

Another part of the website that I have been involved with developing has been the on-line historical exhibitions. The City Archives and History Program had previously (in the early 1990s) produced exhibitions which were exhibited in the Town Hall or Town Hall House. Since the start of 2003 Shirley and I have curated three online exhibitions:

1. *Water, Water Every Where* – a large thematic exhibition which was launched as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival in April;
2. *Quong Tart* – a small exhibition focusing upon Quong Tart's tea rooms which went live in July as part of celebrations organised by the Quong Tart Centenary Commemorative Committee;
3. *Sydney Streets* – this will go live in September as part of History Week.

The exhibitions aim to promote broad public interest in the history of the city and to make the records of the City Archives more widely known and accessible. They can be found at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history Again, feedback is always welcome.

As Shirley and I have learnt, on-line exhibitions have their advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side digital exhibitions:

- make the city's history accessible to a wide audience
- take advantage of current multimedia technology to overlay maps and zoom images
- make fragile archival documents more accessible
- can be cheaper to produce than a physical exhibition
- are not constrained by a room's space
- can stay up for longer, allowing higher visitor numbers over time
- can be added to and expanded over time

But there are some difficulties curating an on-line exhibition when compared to a traditional exhibition. On-line exhibitions:

- are not linear, so it is difficult to direct the viewer in certain directions
- can be hard to juxtapose images and ideas
- cater to web surfers as well as dedicated exhibition goers, so there is the difficulty of balancing content with attention span
- can (potentially) restrict the quality or size of images used due to download times
- can be frustrating when you work with web designers who don't read!
- rely on images and documents in digital format – WARNING: scanning images can be REALLY boring!

Nevertheless, I feel the hard work and the long hours have been worth it. The exhibitions are receiving positive feedback and as the profile of the history section on the City of Sydney website grows, so will use of these fantastic resources.

The final major project I have been working on lately is self-guided walking tours. But I will save telling you about them for another time! Three precinct walks should be printed and launched later this year. When that happens, I'll give you the inside story.

INTERWAR GARDENS

Gardens are often the poor relations of heritage conservation in suburban areas. While some surviving garden remnants of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are recognized and preserved, those of the interwar years are sadly not often recognized as significant and are flattened to make way for subdivisions, swimming pools and pseudo-Tuscan courtyards.

Yet some of Australia's most eminent landscape designers and horticulturists such as Paul Sorensen, Olive Mellor, Edna Walling and Max Shelley worked in the interwar years. They caught the public imagination through their designs and articles in magazines such as *Australian Home Beautiful*, *The Australian Garden Lover* and Brunning's *Australian Gardener*.



In September the National Trust of Australia (NSW)'s Parks and Gardens Conservation Committee is launching a new publication, *Interwar Gardens: a guide to the history, conservation and management of gardens of 1915-1940*. Complete with photographs and plans, it aims to show that the survival of interwar gardens depends on understanding their history and context. The authors are all members of the Committee with different areas of expertise, ranging across horticulture, heritage practice, town planning, architecture and history.

Chapters deal with the tension between the landscape designers with their "interesting" garden plans and the suburban gardeners seeking the achievable; architectural features in the garden; garden plans and period plants. For the well off, the panoply of architectural styles available created limitless scope for garden designs; from Stockbroker Tudor to P & O Moderne to Spanish Mission.

It was in the interwar period that gardening became a popular entertainment, long before "Burke's Backyard". Rising nationalism created a demand for gardening books which dealt with Australian conditions, but native gardens were still a long way in the future. The favourite blooms of the period were eulogized by the gardening writer E.E. Pescott:

"The glory of the autumn garden is the Dahlia! It reigns supreme; it reigns as King! One cannot call it Queen, as we do the Rose."

While the front garden was designed to be on show, the backyard was hidden and it was here that you would find the chook run, the chopping block, the laundry boiler, the rotary clothes line and the earth closet. Yet even here the designers invaded. *The Garden Lover* of 1 July 1930 tempted owners with a design for “a back garden at low cost” with a vegetable garden next to the rose bed.

The authors of *Interwar Gardens* all donated their time and expertise to produce this publication, and it is hoped that councils and planning and heritage consultants in particular will find it helpful in identifying and preserving our interwar garden heritage.

Christa Ludlow

Interwar Gardens: a guide to the history, conservation and management of gardens of 1915-1940 can be ordered from the National Trust via its website after 18 September www.nationaltrust.org.au or by email mbarnes@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au or telephone (02) 9258 0123. It is available at the special price of \$20 for a limited time (usual price \$30)

TOYNE'S ALL-METAL ROTARY CLOTHES HOIST

WOMAN'S JOY NEW CLOTHES HOIST

WASHING DAY is usually one day in the week when domestic life glows about the hoist and the laundry, and it does it all from under that cheerful white canvas canopy which is set securely above it. When a few bits of clean clothes come down to the wash, all a man needs to do is turn the handle, which is provided with an automatic stop, and the clothes are automatically raised above the sun, and are allowed to rest the day of wash of its clothes in the shelter in which it has already been washed.

With this rotary hoist, it is possible to wash the clothes and see the laundry in a hoist, by just the movement of the hand. One of the reasons of the rotary clothes hoist is the clothes are so mounted in the hoist, and the hoist is so built, that practically any family requirements.

The same hoist can be used with clothes, and when the hoist is used the hoist is mounted in a hoist, with the hoist hanging in the wind, the drying of the clothes is expedited.

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WHAT'S ON

Prepared by Christine de Matos

September 2003

Exhibitions

- 'Kings Cross - Bohemian Sydney'**. Until 21 September. **Venue:** Elizabeth Bay House.
- 'Crimes of Passion'**. Until October. **Venue:** Justice and Police Museum.
- 'Strikes, Lockouts and Equal Pay'**. History of the Industrial Commission of NSW and its industrial relations cases. Until October. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.
- 'Italiani Di Sydney'**. History and voices of Italians in Sydney. From 30 August. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.
- 'Max Dupain's Australians'**. Photographic exhibition. Until 8 February 2004. **Venue:** State Library of NSW.
- '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.

Events

- 7 & 21** **Tour.** *'Colonial Colours in the Rouse Hill Garden'*. HHT. **Venue:** Rouse Hill estate
Time: 9.30am-12noon **Cost:** \$15 **Enquiries:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 10** **Tour.** *'Collection Close Up'*. Focuses on collections not usually available to public. HHT.
Venue: Rouse Hill estate **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$15, conc/mem \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9627 6777.
- 11** **Lecture.** *'Israel Chapman: Celebrity with a Dark Past'*. Presented by Grace Karskens.
HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum **Time:** 3pm **Enquiries:** ph: 9518 6866.

HISTORY WEEK 13-21 SEPTEMBER: *Minding the Past* – See
<http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au>

- 13** **Tour.** *'Time Please Ladies and Gentlemen Pub Tour'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$38, conc/mems \$27 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 14** **Walk.** *'Living Inner City'*. Walking tour of Leichhardt. HHT. **Time:** 2-3.30pm **Cost:** \$20, conc/mem \$15 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 15** **Lecture.** *'8th Annual History Lecture: White Slaves/White Australia: Prostitution and the making of Australian Society'*. Presented by Dr Rae Frances. History Council of NSW.
Venue: Museum of Sydney **Time:** 6 for 6.30pm **Cost:** \$40; mems (History Council & HHT) \$35, conc \$30 **Bookings essential:** ph/fax: (02) 9385 1070; email: office@historycouncilnsw.org.au

- 16 **Symposium/debate.** *'The Attractions of the Unattractive: The Heritage Challenge of the Ugly Building'*. Discussions on critical issues that face heritage professionals, architects, developers and environmental planners. **Venue:** History House Reception Rooms **Time:** 6.30 for 7pm **Cost:** \$7.70, RSA Fellows and RAHS mems \$5.50 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9527 7212; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 18 **Symposium.** *'Historians at Work'*. Find out what historians do for a living! Co-sponsored by the PHA and RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 5.30 for 6pm **Cost:** \$7.70, mems (PHA & RAHS) \$5.50 **Bookings:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 19 **Tour.** *'Barracks after Dark'*. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 7-9pm **Cost:** \$15, conc/mem \$10, family \$35 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 20 **Tour.** *'Five Dock Tales and Tastings with Joanna Savill'*. Social history and food. HHT. **Time:** 11am-5pm **Cost:** \$58, conc/mem \$53 **Bookings:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 20 **Symposium.** *'Witness: A Photography Symposium'*. Explores basis of the photograph's status as a document and witness to the world. **Venue:** Elisabeth Murdoch Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne **Time:** 10am-5.30pm **Cost:** Free **Enquiries:** June McBeth email: jmcbeth@unimelb.edu.au
- 21 **Tour.** *'Not the Promised Land'*. Trace the lives of Jewish convicts. HHT. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks **Time:** 2pm **Enquiries:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 21 **Tours/Open day.** *'Wisteria Day 2003'*. HHT. **Venue:** Vaucluse House **Time:** 10am-5pm **Cost:** Free.
- 27 **Open Day.** *'Made in Italy'*. An afternoon of coffee and culture, auto and art from Italy. HHT. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney **Time:** 1-5pm **Cost:** Free **Enquiries:** ph: 9251 5988.
- 27 **Tour.** *'Digging up the Neighbourhood'*. Explore the archaeology of The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$15, conc/mem \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 28-1
Oct **Conference.** *'The AHA Regional Conference'*, Mildura. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.theaha.org.au/index.html>.

October Events

- 1 **Tour.** *'Return to the Scene of the Crime'*. Walking tour of The Rocks and Circular Quay. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Justice and Police Museum **Time:** 6-8pm **Cost:** \$20, conc/mem \$15, family \$40 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 1 **Lecture.** *'The History of Randwick Racecourse'*. Presented by John Ryan. RAHS. **Venue:** History House Auditorium **Time:** 1pm **Cost:** \$7, mems \$5 **Bookings:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; fax: (02) 9247 7854; email: history@rahs.org.au
- 4 **Tour.** *'Digging up the Neighbourhood'*. Explore the archaeology of The Rocks. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Susannah Place Museum **Time:** 10am-12noon **Cost:** \$15, conc/mem \$10 **Bookings essential:** ph: 9518 6866.
- 18-19 **Conference.** *'RAHS State Conference: PARTNERSHIPS'*. Mittagong, NSW. **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9247 8001; email: history@rahs.org.au

Upcoming Conferences

'Transforming Labour: Work, Workers, Struggle and Change. The Eighth National Labour History Conference'. 3-5 October 2003, The College of Art, Griffith University, Southbank, Brisbane. **Enquiries:** ph: (07) 3861 4498; email: conf@labhist2003.com.au; web: <http://www.gu.edu.au/school/mgt/lh2003>

'Zealandia's Great War'. 8-10 November 2003, Wellington. **Enquiries:** Ian McGibbon, ian.mcgibbon@mch.govt.nz; John Crawford, J.Crawford@nzdf.mil.nz; or Stephen Clarke, stephenc@rnzrsa.org.nz

'Australian Media Traditions: When Journalism meets History'. 13-14 November 2003, RMIT University, Melbourne. **Enquiries:** Sybil Nolan, sybil.nolan@rmit.edu.au

'Asia: Images, Ideas, Identities: 15th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference'. 21-24 November 2003, New Zealand Asia Institute, The University of Auckland. **Enquiries:** ph: 64 9 373 7599; fax: 64 9 308 2312; web: <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/conference/ConferenceHomePage.htm>

'XIIIth International Oral History Conference: Memory and Globalization'. 23-26 June 2004, Rome, Italy. **Enquiries:** Janis Wilton, jwilton@pobox.une.edu.au; web: <http://www.ioha.fgv.br>

Call for Papers

'Paradigm Shift in Asia: East, Southeast, and South Asia in Comparative Perspective. International Association of Historians of Asia'. 6-10 December 2004, Taipei, Taiwan. Send proposals for papers by **15 October 2003**. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~iaha18tw>

'Medicine at the Border: The History, Culture and Politics of Global Health'. 1-3 July 2004, Sydney. Send 300 word abstract and CV (hard copy only) by **1 December 2003** to Dr Alison Bashford, Department of History, University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to c.de-matos@uws.edu.au by 20th of the month.

VALE KEN CABLE

The PHA was saddened to hear of the recent death of Professor Ken Cable, formerly of the History Department of the University of Sydney. Many members would have had the benefit of his lectures in Australian history. Ken was a President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, pioneered the teaching of Australian urban history, and was generous with his time to all his students and colleagues. His informative tours of the historic areas of Newtown and Randwick are fondly remembered. He also played a crucial role from the early years of our Association up to the present, advising and supporting members who were undertaking professional projects, and frequently acted as an expert panel member for commissioning bodies. We will all miss his friendship, support and expertise and express our deep sympathy to his widow Leonie and family.

PHYLLIS PHAME TELLS ALL!!

In the June issue of *Phanfare* the President noted that the well known historical identity, Phyllis Phame, had “not been doing much writing lately and had not been able to provide us with her recollections of 200 issues of Phanfare. Perhaps she might put pen to paper soon and delight us with some recent thoughts?” Our reporter tracked Phyllis down and asked her what was the secret of her success.

Our reporter: (breathlessly) What is the secret of your success?

Phyllis: Is there an echo in here? Well, like Our Nicole (Kidman, not Secomb) I know that too much exposure in the public eye leads to over-familiarity, and then contempt. The key to my success has been to tantalise the reader with irregular appearances. Besides, being sprightly “Phyllis Phame, Girl Historian” is hard after 200 issues. I’m beginning to feel my age.

Our reporter: On that subject, what’s your favourite beauty tip?

Phyllis: Try not to squint when reading microfilm. And after that big night out, Berocca cocktails!

Our reporter: Why have you always preserved your anonymity?

Phyllis: No names, no pack drill. My adventures have been an opportunity to stir the possum, a forum for free speech among historians. Perhaps you do recognise that public servant, politician or historian who got savaged. Then again, perhaps you’re imagining it. You can’t be too careful in litigation-loving Sydney. Some perfectly innocent historians have been accused of being me. Such is my fame.

Our reporter: So, when you arrived in Liverpool in 1957 – Oh, sorry, that’s a page from my oral history project. Umm...What are you up to now?

Phyllis: Well, I’m still independent, working my butt off as a freelance historian with a sense of fun. I’m not going to end up in the public service, a museum or academia. I keep up with the latest historical debates, and like nothing better than a nice fat scandal (historical or otherwise).

Our reporter: What do you hope for in the future?

Phyllis: I hope Phanfare continues, of course. Where would I be without it? I hope professional history sponsors and attracts young historians of indigenous background. I hope our heritage is recognised and protected all the time, not just when it becomes an election issue. And I hope historians never lose their love of a good gossip (preferably over a glass of pinot grigio and dinner at Frattini’s).

Our reporter: Yes, well I’m afraid the PHA media budget would only stretch to coffee and a muffin at the State Library cafe. Sorry about that. On another subject, what’s the story between you and E. Phemera? Is there a bit of a romance there?

Phyllis: We’re just friends. He’s losing his hair, anyway. Perhaps I need a new romantic interest. Any suggestions?

Our reporter: Sorry, can’t think of anyone. Perhaps our members can help. Send your suggestions to phanfare@phansw.org.au.

Phyllis: Typical. Anyway, check out my next adventure in a forthcoming *Phanfare*.

HISTORIAN WANTED FOR CITY OF SYDNEY PUBLICATION

A HISTORY OF GLEBE

The City of Sydney wishes to publish a history of Glebe. The proposed format is a work of social and political history that is professionally researched and written, but is pitched at a general readership. It is anticipated that the work will be of about 50,000 words, with generous illustrations.

The City of Sydney has an active History Program committed to historical understanding and the recording of the social life of the places it administers.

The successful applicant will work to the City Historian, and will receive professional support from the City' History Program and the City Archives.

Required:

Appropriate academic qualifications

Eligible for membership of the Professional Historians Association

Proven track record in history writing.

Good oral recording and communication skills.

Desirable:

Sound knowledge of the area.

Familiarity with the book publishing process.

For further information contact Shirley Fitzgerald 9265 9613

Expressions of interest to the General Manager, attention Susan Fletcher, by 8 October 2003, GPO Box 1591, Sydney 2001



View of Darling Harbour. Courtesy National Maritime Museum

Sydney – Working Harbour exhibition

**Australian National Maritime Museum , Darling Harbour
24 September 2003 – 18 July 2004**

An exhibition coming to the Australian National Maritime Museum reviews Sydney Harbour's evolution as a working port, and begs the question: how do we all want it to develop in the future? The museum exhibition *Sydney – Working Harbour* traces its rapid development from the arrival of the first European settlers in 1788 through the eras of intensive passenger and cargo shipping to the present day with its tourist traffic and sight- seeing.

The exhibition highlights the dynamics of development with a series of “then and now” pictorial comparisons and recorded interviews with harbour identities.

It reviews the many vessels which have plied the Harbour (from small ferries and tall sailing ships to the great modern container ships) and focuses on some of the harbourside industries like TS Mort's trading enterprise and CSR which have contributed to Sydney's growth and wealth.

This exhibition will give the National Maritime Museum its first opportunity to exhibit a sizeable selection of photographs from its outstanding Sam Hood collection. Sydney photographer Sam Hood and his studio recorded ships in Sydney Harbour and the city's maritime life from the 1890s to the 1950s. The collection contains 11,000 images of sailing ships, steam vessels, ships crews at work, ship interiors, stevedores and social boating.

Exhibits include a kit of tools used to maintain the early gas lighting on navigation buoys, the switch that turned on the power at Ultimo Power Station in 1901 and a stylish turnstile from the sadly departed Hegarty's Ferry Wharf.



Loading wheat at White Bay: Courtesy Australian National Maritime Museum

STATE RECORDS COMMUNITY ADVISORY MEETING

The following matters arose at the State Records CAC meeting on 1 September 2003:

City office accommodation: Because of a need to cut costs, State Records will be consolidating all its City office accommodation into one floor. This will necessitate moving all original material (including Colonial Secretary's Office material which has not yet been copied) to the Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood. The timing of the move is not yet certain.

Review of the State Records Act: The draft Issues Paper prepared about review of the State Records Act went to the Ministry in early July and is still being considered. The proposed consultative process will occur once the Paper has been approved.

Website update: Recent additions to the www.records.gov.nsw.au website include:

- . Additions to Archives Investigator include listing of subject files, 1876-98 (Dept of Education Series 3830); listing of photographs relating to schools, 1850-91, collected by the History Unit (Dept of Education Series 15051); Teacher career card series, 1908-45 (Dept of Education Series 15320) and listing of photographs of doctors, 1890-1927 (NSW Medical Board Series 9873)

- . The QuickSearch portal allows access by surname to selected census, convict, court, gaol, naturalization and immigration records

- . Indexes being added to include: Index to Schools and Related Records, 1876-1979 (details re types of records); Naturalization Index, 1834-1903 (country of origin); Convict indexes (Index to convict exiles, 1849-50)

Trigonometrical Survey: A CD-Rom of the 1865 Trigonometrical Survey of Survey has been developed jointly with the City of Sydney Archives. Copies of the CD-Rom will be distributed to libraries and access centres.

Colonial Secretary's Project: The series Colonial Secretary – re Land has now been prepared for re-filming. An updated list for the series has also been prepared.

Indigenous researchers: Protocols for the provision of service to Indigenous clients and for the handling of Indigenous material are being developed.

Getting to the Point: A joint student activity project for Year 9 students has been developed in conjunction with the Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre. It focuses on Life in the Rocks and Millers Point in the early 1900s.

History Week: State Records is trialling its new training program for the Archives Resources Kit at Bega, Lake Macquarie and Goulburn. A family history session has also been organised in conjunction with the Society of Australian Genealogists, Births Deaths and Marriages and the School of Arts

Metadata Search Project: State Records and the State Library of NSW have mounted a joint project to develop improved access to their various databases.

Ephemera Fair: The Royal Australian Historical Society is holding at Ephemera Fair and Talk Fest at History House on 29 November 2003, 10am-4pm.

The next meeting of the CAC will be held on 1 December 2003.

Baiba Berzins

LIBRARY



REPORT

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

PHA PERIODICALS

EMPHATIC: Newsletter of the Professional Historians Association of Tasmania
No 22 January 2003; No 23, May 2003

The big event for the Apple Isle, historically speaking, will be the Bicentenary in 2004 and celebratory plans are well underway. Project funding is available for Heritage, Community and Cultural Projects. Consultation with Aboriginal communities is an integral part of the program and an Aboriginal Advisory Committee has been convened by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

Aboriginal concerns also surface in the May issue with the publication of Cathie Clement's article on 'The Battle over Aboriginal History'. Cathie's informed responses to Keith Windshuttle's assertions are also noted below.

For those with an interest in early convict history - or criminology, the Escape conference at Strahan in June would have been appealing. Hosted by the International Centre for Convict Studies and the University of Tasmania, it focused on the convict experience and the myriad ways to escape.

PHANZINE: Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand.
Vol 9 No 2, August 2003

Interesting times for the NZ PHA whose public stance on planned changes to the National War Memorial in Wellington has been disputed by some members, with one actually resigning over the issue. President David Young presents the case for the PHA's involvement, claiming that, since the Historic Places Trust failed to act, PHANZA was the only group opposing partial demolition of one of New Zealand's premier historic places and was justified in intervening. Having no mandate to commit members' funds to legal action, PHANZA supported the formation of a separate incorporated society 'Serious About Heritage' (SAH), including some PHANZA members, which took Wellington City Council to court. The latest is that the Ministry for Culture and Heritage is now obliged to go through a public notification process and commission a conservation plan for the entire memorial.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) INC. Newsletter. No 3, 2003

The Native Title Workshop held in June is now over. We in the major metropolitan centres often fail to realise how pivotal native title claims are to so many aspects of life in the Territory and WA so we hope for an enlightening report in the next newsletter.

This issue carries a tribute from Kathy De La Rue to well-known NT historian Barbara James who died on 31 March, aged 59. Barbara had befriended and helped me when I was researching in Darwin in 1998. I was there again in July 2003 and was on the verge of contacting her when I heard the sad news. She was generous with her research and advice and her absence is deeply felt in the NT Library, NT Archives, and the National Archives. Both personally and professionally,

Barbara made a major impact on the practice of history in the Territory. Her publications include the award-winning *No Man's Land: Women of the Northern Territory*. She will not be easily forgotten and the 'Friends of Barbara James Steering Committee' is considering establishing an annual grant in her name for research into Northern Territory history.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS
ASSOCIATION (SA) INC Newsletter
No 77, July 2003**

The minutes of the PHA (SA) AGM in July indicate that the organisation has had a busy year. There were four seminar events, an annual Dinner and a Christmas BBQ as well as well-attended monthly luncheons. The Association has 50 financial members and the new sub-committee structure is successfully relieving the Executive's workload.

Retiring president Bernie O'Neil throws out a challenge to the other PHAs by stating that the South Australian PHA Newsletter contains more information and has a better production standard than its interstate counterparts. It's hard to argue with this as it looks good and is always full of interesting items. However, Bernie also points out that, as well as having an excellent editor in Bridget Jolly, the South Australians have a designer who provides a free service and a printer who gives reduced rates. We should all be so lucky!

In this issue, Jenny Tilby Stock's obituary for political historian John Playford (died April 2003) is reproduced from the *Advertiser*. There's also a detailed report on the 12th State History Conference - *History, Community and Environment* - held at Renmark in May. And several books are reviewed including Brian Dickey's *Giving a Hand: a history of Anglicare SA since 1860* and John Lewis Gaddis' *The Landscape of History: How Historians map the Past*.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS
ASSOCIATION (WA) INC Newsletter. No
84, June 2003; No 85 August 2003**

The Heritage Council of Western Australia presented the Heritage Award for 2002 to Dr Cathie Clement, prominent PHA member as well as ACPHA committee member and Accreditation Secretary. This is an acknowledgment of her significant contribution to the conservation of heritage in the Kimberley region over many years. Her determined efforts to save the Old Hall's Creek Post Office included fund raising to provide appropriate shelter for this unique mud-brick and spinifex edifice. Drawing on her extensive experience in Native Title work in north-west Australia, Cathie is currently challenging Keith Windshuttle's claims about the fabrication of Aboriginal history. Look out for her chapter in *Whitewash*, edited by Robert Manne, and in the *Australian Historical Association Bulletin*. No 96 (see below).

The Inaugural Meeting of the History Council of WA held on 19th March was attended by 70 people. Dr Jenny Gregory was elected Chairperson with a Council of 17 members. She gave an overview of the History Council and its role to the PHA (WA) after their AGM on 13th August.

At the June PHA meeting, when the SARS virus was still a global threat, Dr Criena Fitzgerald gave a timely talk to the PHA entitled 'Kissing can be Dangerous'. Based on her thesis on the history of tuberculosis in Western Australia, it examined one of the first public health campaigns in the State.

Guildford, WA, was the venue for this year's Oral History Association National Conference, held from 4th to 7th September. This year the Association celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

**QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL
HISTORIAN: newsletter of the PHA (Qld).**
No 67, May 2003; August 2003

There is more to the Queensland newsletter than a sleek new design. The May issue contains an informed article on the restructure of the Queensland Museum by Dr Margaret Kowald, Head of Cultures & Histories. The new cultural heritage program takes an integrated approach across disciplines and incorporates previously separate areas into priority themes. A series of meetings have resulted in seven select themes: Selling Queensland; The Tropical Experience; Rural Queensland; Distance; Innovative Queensland; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Experience; and Peopling Queensland. Input from the PHA is being actively sought.

And there's more on museums from Brian Crozier, Senior Curator, who questions the role of historians in museums. He suggests that museums aim at creating an historical sensibility, at placing people in an environment where they can experience history. For historians in Museums, it is essential to define this audience and to identify the medium in which they work. Evidence is still important but it needs to be combined with imagination.

The August issue contains a long excerpt by the indefatigable and prolific Central Queensland historian Dr Lorna McDonald on an aspect of the history of Rockhampton, celebrating its centenary this year.

When I grew up on the Sunshine Coast, it seemed that all the interesting history had happened elsewhere. Now there are four research projects underway in the region. One of these is on Indigenous families and two deal with the story of spiritual centres on the Sunshine Coast, topics that would have been unthinkable in my youth in this red-neck area. *Soul Havens* by Ray Kerkhove is, according to the author, the first multi-faith history of an Australian region.

NON-PHA PUBLICATIONS

**ARTS BULLETIN: a monthly newsletter
from the NSW Ministry for the Arts. No 71,
August 2003**

We receive these newsletters spasmodically, usually when one of our members has distinguished themselves. This time it's Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley whose latest work *Party Games: Australian Politicians and the Media from War to the Dismissal* is publicised here.

**AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN. No 96, June
2003**

As one would expect, this Bulletin is full of meaty articles. These include several challenging pieces on the researching, writing, and teaching of history and on history and archives in the 21st century,

Particularly pertinent is Cathie Clement's article: 'The Impact of denial: an interrogation of evidence relevant to massacres at Mistake Creek'. Keith Windshuttle has described the Mistake Creek event of 1915 as 'a killing of Aborigines by Aborigines.' In June 2001, Governor-General Sir William Deane participated in a remembering ceremony at Mistake Creek. His statement that the massacre occurred in the 1930s rather than 1915 enabled Windshuttle to accuse him of fabricating history. Unable to understand Kriol or the local Aboriginal language, Windshuttle misinterpreted the testimony of Gija elder Peggy Patrick and reinforced his belief in the unreliability of oral history. Clement provides a clear analysis with detailed references of all the available evidence, leaving the reader in no doubt that a massacre did occur at Mistake Creek in 1915. It was probably perpetrated by Mick Rattigan but this can be neither proven nor disproven. Clement also includes an emotive statement from Peggy Patrick who is deeply hurt to be branded a liar. Clement begins and ends her

piece with an apt quotation from her colleague Lyndall Ryan: 'Windschuttle demands an impossible standard of forensic evidence for claims of massacre, and no standard at all for denials.'

Unlike Keith Windshuttle, the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU acknowledges the significance of Aboriginal history, having launched the Australian Centre for Indigenous History on 28th March 2003. The Inaugural Director is Professor Ann McGrath. The Centre recognises that Australian Indigenous history is central to Australian colonial and national history and seeks to promote its study. Their first major publication *Counting, Health and Identity* by Gordon Briscoe was launched at the Sydney Writers Festival in May.

BRISBANE HISTORY GROUP

The Brisbane History Group has published several interesting papers, available at P O Box 12, Kelvin Drove DC, Q4059:

- *Our Federation: Brisbane: Patriotism, Passion and Protest*. Brisbane History Group Papers No 18, 2001
- *Brisbane: Moreton Bay Matters*. Papers No 19, 2002. Edited by Murray Johnson. This volume comprises 12 papers covering such themes in Moreton Bay history as convicts, Aborigines, missionaries, whalers, fisherfolk, and developers.
- *Our Federation 1901: Brisbane through the news*. Brisbane History Group Sources No 10, 2002 - a volume presenting Brisbane through newspaper extracts.
- *Our Federation 1901: Brisbane Heritage Trail* - 110-page guide to 94 significant sites relating to Federation. Brisbane History Group Tours No 22, 2001
- *Brisbane's Commercial Heritage 1900-1940*. Three walking tours of the CBD. Brisbane History Group Tour No 23, 2002

CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY: Newsletter. No 22, June 2003

The Historical Encyclopedia of WA is still the major project and a website is under construction. *History and Native Title* edited by Christine Choo and Shawn Hollbach has just been released as No 23 in the series *Studies in Western Australian History*, available on the UWA Press website:
<http://www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au>

INSITES: Newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. Winter 2003; Spring 2003

In the Winter issue, Dr James Broadbent receives recognition for his latest, and final, exhibition at the Museum of Sydney - *India, China, Australia: Trade and Society 1788-1850* - and also for his significant contribution to the Trust over many years. He began his curatorial career at Elizabeth Bay House in 1976 as the first professional curator of a house museum in Australia.

The current exhibition at Elizabeth Bay House (until 21 September) reflects the later history of this once-illustrious mansion. Curated by Scott Carlin, *Kings Cross - Bohemian Sydney* portrays the life of the artists, writers, intellectuals and non-conformists who lived here and elsewhere around cosmopolitan Kings Cross from the 1930s to the 1970s.

The Spring issue tells us that two 1848 oil paintings by George Edwards Peacock, *The Governor's House and Fort MacQuarrie* and *A View in Middle Harbour*, have been returned to Australia and will be hung in Government House. Other acquisitions are the Neville Locker collection of early police, convict and prison artefacts and seven panoramic photographs of Sydney's diverse nationalities by Anne Zahalka.

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Information for members on professional development and practice is also available on both Web sites

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