

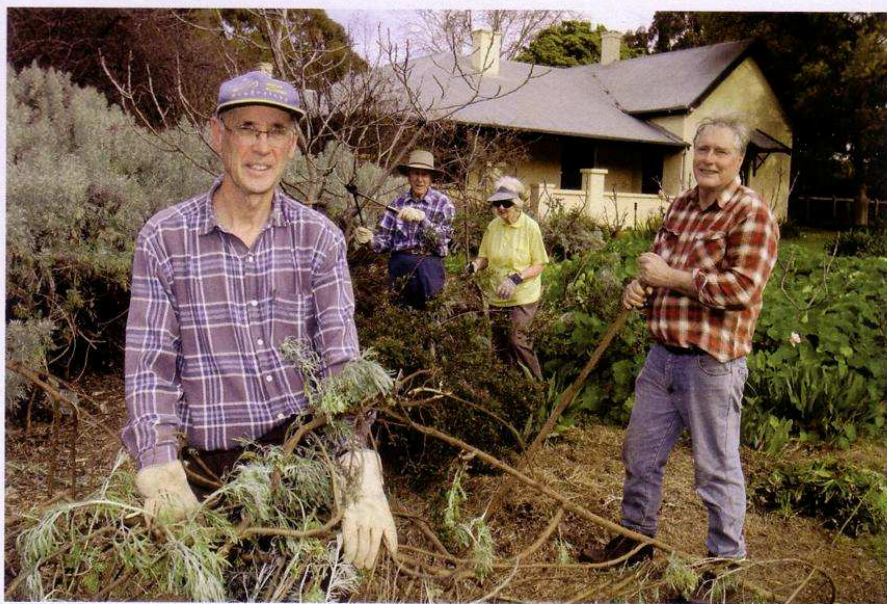
PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC.

— incorporating News from the —

PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) INC.

# newsletter

Issue 103 □ March 2012





# PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC.

ABN 92 596 068 104

—— incorporating *news* from the ——

# PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (NT) INC.

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### PHA (SA) membership fees:

**Professional Historian \$90; Associate Professional Historian \$65;  
Graduate Historian \$55; Historical Researcher \$50; Concession \$50.  
Friend (Newsletter subscriber) \$35**

The Newsletter is published in March, July and November

**The deadline for contributions to the July 2012 issue is mid June 2012**

**Cover:** *Bob Donley working at Fairford House with members of the Marion Historical Society* (courtesy Craig Clarke and Marion Council's City Limits of February 2012)

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Articles, reviews, letters and notices are welcome. Please e-mail copy.

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#### **Disclaimer**

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# **PHA (SA) PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **(February 2012)**

Over the Christmas period my main professional historian preoccupation has been with ACPHA (see report in *Newsletter*). The promotion of professional historians, as well as ACPHA and the State PHAs, is currently a big issue for ACPHA. One outcome is the survey we sent out to all PHA members in December, to which there was a good response – 160 out of a total membership of around 470, including eight from SA. The firm of Zadro Communications in Sydney, engaged by ACPHA to run the survey, among other things, is still crunching the numbers. Thus far, a couple of interesting things have emerged:

- Most of the respondents are in the age 46-65 bracket, with 30% being over 65 and 15% in the 20-35 group. Several questions arise for me out of this, notably the implications of a rapidly changing electronic technology for our ample 'old codgers' segment, and the career prospects for young people as entrepreneurs in professional history.
- Of the respondents, 60% are sole entrepreneurs, not surprising, perhaps. The question is, 'What's the best way of supporting them (or us!), given our constraints of limited time and resources?' Another question is whether it is feasible for several professional historians to combine to set up companies; there are some modest examples of this in Australia, but nothing on the scale of some of the larger American historical enterprises.
- Respondents want ACPHA to do more to promote professional historians, sharing information among members and generally raising the profile of the profession.

Zadro Communications will finish its report on the survey in time for the next ACPHA teleconference in March.

As part of the survey each State PHA was asked to summarise what they had done over the past few years to promote professional historians. The SA Executive Committee drew up a list of our main promotional activities:

- launched upgraded website,
- launched new website as part of the upgrade – Celebrating SA 175,
- letters to editors published,
- actively participated in NAA Consultative Forum,
- actively participated in History Council of SA,

- made a submission to the Adelaide University's review of its BA degree,
- involved in the NAA closure debate,
- involved in State History Conferences and organising the first ACPHA National Conference,
- organised a walking tour during the 2011 SA History Festival,
- produced stationery and bookmarks,
- set up tables at State History Conferences and other events, and
- played a key role in arguing publicly and with government for greater recognition of and funding for SA's 175<sup>th</sup>.

On other local matters, we have been in contact with Sensis, to see whether we can get PHA (SA) listed under 'Heritage Consultants' in the Yellow Pages. At present we're listed under 'Historical Research', but we think we should be listed along with the architects and archaeological companies that do heritage work. We're awaiting a response.

One modest way we can promote ourselves is through traditional tools such as flyers. We're in the process of producing a new flyer – the current one is out of date. We might be looking for volunteers to distribute these to libraries, historical societies, councils, universities, schools etc. There should be some ready for distribution at our next luncheon.

Once again we will be undertaking an historical walk, as our contribution to History SA's 'About Time' project for 2012. Our walk last year along North Terrace was quite successful, with about 25 participants and six presenters. This year we plan to undertake a 'Circle Round Victoria Square' on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Do you have expertise on any of the buildings and sites around Victoria Square? Participants and volunteer presenters are most welcome!

Geoff Speirs



## **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATIONS INC.**

ACPHA is in a sound financial position, with a bank balance of about \$16,000 at December 2011.

The ACPHA website now has a gallery of photos from the national conference. Go to 'Conference' on the website ([www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au)).

PHA (WA) is now hosted by the ACPHA website. Up for consideration is the question of whether SA would like to use the ACPHA website in lieu of its own, an issue currently under consideration also by NSW and Qld. There would be some cost savings to SA, but issues that have arisen in the past about local autonomy would need to be resolved.

ACPHA has engaged professional consultants Zadro Communications in NSW to work with ACPHA to develop a PR plan. The goal of the plan is to promote professional historians generally, and to educate potential clients about the benefits of using them. A survey about ACPHA was sent to all PHA members. As PHA (SA) ACPHA delegate, and a member of ACPHA's Publicity and Promotions subcommittee, I went to Sydney recently to review the responses to the survey and begin working on a PR plan. A report on the survey will be available in time for the next ACPHA teleconference in March.

Work on the next issue of *Circa* is well under way, and the deadline for copy has now expired. ACPHA has established a prize of \$500 for the article in the next issue judged to be the best. The costs for the 2012 volume will not form part of the current budget, but will appear in the 2013-14 budget.

It now appears that ACPHA won't be teaming up with AHA for the March 2013 conference in Wollongong. The next ACPHA conference is more likely to take place in 2014, whether with another organisation or independently yet to be decided.

A subcommittee is working on a draft set of Continuing Professional Development skills for historians, to be reviewed at the end of February and also for discussion at the next teleconference.

The next teleconference will be in March, again using Skype, which worked very well last time. The AGM will be on 31 August and 1 September 2012, in Perth.

Geoff Speirs  
PHA (SA) Delegate to ACPHA

## President's Newsletter February 2012

Dear Members and Friends of the History Council,

I trust that you had an excellent break over the holiday season, and are now eased back, refreshed and invigorated, into your usual late summer routines. This brief communiqué will give you some idea of what the HCSA's General Committee and Executive have been up to over the past 3 months or so – and also what the next three months hold in store.

### South Australian History Awards

At the end of January we released details of the three new History Council awards which will be presented for the first time this year at a gala reception following our Annual Lecture in early August. Nominations are now open for the following awards:

- South Australian Historian of the Year,
- Young South Australian Historian of the Year, and
- South Australian Life-Long History Achievement Award.

Each award has slightly different criteria and eligibility conditions, with 31 May 2012 as the common closing date for nominations. Further details and nomination forms can be accessed on our website: [www.historycouncilsa.org.au/resources/](http://www.historycouncilsa.org.au/resources/) or you may email any queries to our Secretary, Lauren Gobbett, at [secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au).

We are most grateful to our new sponsors, Wakefield Press, who have generously agreed to supplement each award with a munificent gift of Wakefield books (chosen by each recipient) to the value of \$500.

You will also find there information about a fourth award, the *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History* Undergraduate Essay Prize, which is being relaunched this year under the History Council's auspices. This cash prize will be awarded to the best essay (5,000 words maximum length) on a topic relating to the history of South Australia written by a student enrolled for an undergraduate or Honours course at a South Australian university; entries close in mid-December.

Now it's over to you! Please give some serious consideration to submitting a nomination (or indeed multiple nominations). We have in this State a remarkably vigorous historical community, with a proud tradition of pioneering historical research, teaching and writing, and



concern for the conservation of our built and moveable heritage. We should not be backward in drawing attention to the achievements of our fellow South Australian advocates and exponents of heritage and history.

## **Proclamation Day Message**

Having spent some time dutifully if rather doubtfully drafting a History Council Proclamation Day President's Message, as directed by your General Committee's last meeting for 2011, it was a relief to learn that its appearance in the *Advertiser* on 26 December [yes, two days early, but we might do better this year] did not pass entirely unnoticed. Indeed, my general point about the importance of maintaining our sense of South Australia's distinctive past sufficiently impressed Steve Oulianoff, who runs Stall 72 at the Central Market, to present me with a laminated copy as a keepsake. You may, however, access the text more conveniently on our website, [www.historycouncilsa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilsa.org.au).

## **Strategic Review**

The History Council has now been formally in existence since 2003. Over the past eight years we have managed to establish ourselves as a body with a public presence representing historians and people with historical interests in South Australia (alongside our counterparts in NSW, Vic, and WA). We have had some significant wins, most notably the reversal of the announced closure of the Adelaide National Archives office. But we have also struggled at times to make our voice heard in the face of perceptible downgrading of heritage and history issues by government and policy makers. The question then arises: can we make better use of our limited resources in order to achieve our basic goals? As foreshadowed in my November Newsletter, a special meeting of the General Committee was held on 19 January to discuss this and related issues, with the assistance of Kate Reynolds. Following that meeting, Kate has drawn up a draft Strategic Plan for the History Council, which includes some interesting suggestions about ways in which we might reorganise our activities, essentially by making more use of standing sub-committees. When this document has been discussed by the General Committee at its next meeting in early March, we will put it on our website and invite comments and questions from the History Council membership at large.

## **Coming Events**

This will reach you as Adelaide prepares for a 'Mad March' likely to prove even crazier than usual, with the Festival Writers' Week, Fringe and car races all coinciding on the first weekend of the month. Sane persons might feel inclined to give the whole thing a miss. But that would



probably be a mistake, not at least for historians and those with historical interests, given some of the star turns scheduled for Writers' Week. Do check out the session featuring Bill Gammage and Philip Jones, and also a panel on fiction and history with Kate Grenville and other luminaries. Last, and most certainly not least, there are two appearances by our own Barbara Santich. And it gives me very great pleasure to announce that Prof Santich has agreed to accept an invitation to deliver the Annual History Council of South Australia Lecture, or rather Lectures, for 2012. More on this exciting development in my next Newsletter.

Meanwhile, please keep your diaries free for Thursday afternoon 24 May, when the History Council Forum, a panel discussion addressing *The Future of History* (no less), will be held in the Hetzel Theatre of the State Library of South Australia, as our contribution to About Time, the month-long History Festival organised by History SA. Details of the diverse and lively panel participants, and how to book your place, will appear on our website very shortly.

All the best,

Wilfrid Prest  
President, HCSA



## **HISTORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **General meeting – 5 December 2011**

*Present:* Wilf Prest (chair), Lauren Gobbett, Daryl Best, Greg Slattery, Jacinta Weiss, Richard Venus, Annette Mills, Peter Brinkworth, Elspeth Grant, Alan Mayne, Norm Etherington, Jenny Stock.

*Apologies:* John Bannon, Hugh Magarey, Margaret Anderson, Adrian Rudzinski, Carol Fort.

A welcome was extended to Norm Etherington as the new National Trust representative.

#### *Business Arising from the Minutes:*

- Historian of the year awards: the Executive has finalised protocols, and announcements will be made in January. Wakefield Press is keen to help with prizes.

- Annual lecture: Barbara Santich has agreed to deliver this, and at a country venue as well.
- 'About Time' 2012: our HC event to be scheduled for a Wednesday afternoon, 24, 10 or 31 May in the Hetzel lecture theatre, SLSA.
- Concern raised re need for more funding for digitisation of SA records and re the long-term future of the Mortlock Wing.

*Membership:* the letter to be sent out in February to lapsed and prospective member organisations is being revamped.

*Member's Report:* Elspeth Grant outlined the history, membership and functions of Museums SA, stressing that it included galleries as well. Elspeth wants suggestions for key-note speakers at the 2012 Museums Australia conference to be held in Adelaide 24-28 September.

*President's Report:* Wilf has had productive meetings with Suzanne Miller of the SA Museum and with Alex Reid, Executive Director of Arts SA. He raised with Alex the fact that there is now no historian on the Board of SLSA and the fate of the Mortlock wing. Arts SA is supportive of our initiatives, especially taking the annual lecture to the country and the Historian of the Year awards. The committee still needs someone to represent the Aboriginal community.

*Treasurer's Report:* Several more organisations have belatedly renewed their membership, and several new groups have joined. Our copyright fee has finally come through, defraying the cost of the 2011 annual lecture.

*Planning Review:* Kate Reynolds is to facilitate this event 4-7pm on 19 January at CBC, followed by a meal at Bocelli's.

*Other Business:* Ageed to Hugh Magarey's emailed request re Proclamation Day. Wilf will draft an opinion piece to the *Advertiser*. (This was published on 26 December, p.26, as 'History offers an identity to treasure'.)

### *Future Meetings 2012*

Exec 6 February, 2 April, and the Committee 5 March and Review meeting of the General Committee 19 January.

### *Update:*

February 2012 - Despite being held on a hot day in the holiday period, some ten committee members attended at CBC and were taken through a rigorous review of the organisation by Kate Reynolds. Members now have copies of Kate's draft Strategic Plan for consideration at the March meeting.

Jenny Stock

# **HAPPENINGS AT HISTORY SA**

## **‘About Time’ History Festival 2012**

From 1 to 31 May 2012 thousands of people will explore our history through events that range from walks to websites, talks to tours, and exhibitions to special events. With close to 500 events on offer there will be plenty of history to participate in, including talks and lectures on many different topics – legal practices, outback explorers, coastal archaeology, Australian bungalows and the history of electricity, to name just a few.

‘Open House Adelaide’ will debut for About Time 2012. Over the weekend of 19 and 20 May more than 30 buildings in the Adelaide metropolitan area will open their doors to the public, showcasing the depth and diversity of Adelaide’s built form.

## **Community museums’ collections in focus**

For anyone with an interest in costume, the Millicent National Trust Museum has recently acquired the collection formerly housed in the National Costume Museum at Lobethal. Millicent Museum is working hard to sort and document the collection, and is planning to incorporate items from the collection into some of the museum’s extensive displays. The collection includes books about fashion, patterns and dressmaking accessories, as well as costume items. Millicent Museum is also home to most of the National Trust of SA’s vast horse-drawn vehicle collection. More locally focused collections centre on social life, businesses and families associated with the town, along with artefacts from the wreck of the *Admella*.

## **South Australian History Fund research grants**

The 2011-12 South Australian History Fund research grants were keenly contested by 17 applicants. Four grants were awarded for historical research projects that will lead to publications representing a diverse and interesting range of history.

- Philip Butterss – \$4,000 – history of Literary Adelaide
- Susan Marsden – \$3,000 – histories in Hill’s ‘Proclamation’ 1836 painting
- Peter Monteath – \$3,000 – the significance of Friedrich Gerstaecker and his writings for the history of South Australia
- Kate Walsh – \$3,995 – social welfare services for women in distress in early 20<sup>th</sup> century South Australia

Amanda James



*Figure 1 - A fraction of the items Millicent Museum has acquired. The cream suit reportedly belonged to Daisy Bates (courtesy History SA)*



*Figure 2 - Message in a bottle time capsule at Crystal Brook Heritage Centre. Found in one of the fireplaces at the museum, a former butcher's shop, the note was written and hidden by the original butcher's daughter (courtesy History SA)*

# NAA CONSULTATIVE FORUM REPORT

June Donovan and June Edwards attended the last NAA consultative forum meeting on 6 December 2011.

Two seminars will be run by the NAA in May as part of the 'About Time' history festival:

- 'What is RecordSearch?' on 7 May 2012 at 12.30 for beginners and advanced researchers; and
- 'Clickity Clack', a joint NAA and SRSA presentation on Railway records on 28 May 2012 at 11am.

At the consultative forum meeting the following issues were discussed:

- Members again asked that the NAA extend its opening hours so they match those of State Records of South Australia. However, NAA reiterated that there were no additional resources for an extended service.
- The question of government budget pressures (efficiency dividend) was raised. The NAA reported that cultural institutions were not being subjected to further efficiency dividend increases, a positive result for the sector.
- Happenings at the Adelaide Office included the Christmas closure period; research seminars for February and May; working on joint events with SRSA; and the digitisation of records statistics for November.
- Questions were asked about the co-location in Hobart and its effect on Tasmanian reading room attendance figures.
- There was nothing to report on the appointment of a new Director-General.

Since the above meeting David Fricker has been appointed and he will visit Adelaide in March. He comes to the Archives from his previous role as Deputy Director-General, Corporate and Strategy with ASIO. He started the New Year as Director-General, following the 22 December 2011 announcement of his appointment by the Minister for the Arts, Simon Crean. Mr Fricker brings management experience in the public and private sectors, as well as extensive experience in government information management and information technology. Mr Fricker's appointment is for five years.

## *Updates from Forum members*

- SRSA (Terry Ryan) – The Collinswood repository lease has been approved and a ministerial announcement expected.

- Flinders University (Peter Monteath) – Conclusion of Public Lecture series for SA 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations Oct/Nov.
- History Teachers Association (Bea Connolly) – Successful National HTA conference held in SA in October. NAA was represented by a trade display.
- Friends of SA Archives (Jack Cross) – Agitation for better access to Supreme Court Records, as access is more restricted here than in other jurisdictions
- History Council SA (Greg Slattery) – HCSA is having a review session in January to assess and evaluate its direction. The City Council of Marion has decided to establish a History Centre.
- Northern Districts History Group (Greg Slattery) – Laura War Memorial has extended its list of names from 23 to 70, thanks to records obtained mostly through the NAA.
- SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society (Dale Johns) – The Society is developing a new website, and will be hosting the 2012 Genealogy and Heraldry Congress.
- Professional Historians Association (June Donovan) June introduced June Edwards who will be replacing her. The first ACPHA conference was held in Adelaide in August 2011, in conjunction with the State History Conference, and was a success.
- History SA (Jude Elton) – Activities include a film on SA Aboriginal Servicemen, the History Festival May 2012 and SA Digital History Project.
- Members resolved to send contacts to Jeremy Sibbald, Archives Officer NAA, to confirm details and compile a list to coordinate cross-promotion of members activities.

Next meeting dates: 17 March, 13 August and 11 December 2012.

June Edwards

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS AT THE STATE LIBRARY ARCHIVES

## Archival groups

The James Bell diary of his voyage out on the *Planter* in 1838-1839 was launched in its Allen & Unwin published version at the State Library in December and has already attracted much publicity in the media. Copies are available for sale at the Library's Copy Centre.

### BRG 64

A business record group comprising the ninety metres of records of real estate business and estate agents Bullock and Wilkinson, incorporating the earlier firms of John Bullock senior, and F.W. Bullock and Company, is currently being processed. The records have been in the State Library for some years, basically undescribed and therefore unknown to researchers. John Bullock arrived in 1839 on the *Moffatt* and became an auctioneer, land agent and a director of the Burra Mine. He died in 1879. His son Frederick William, born 1851, married Harriet Bowen and took over his father's auctioneer and land-agency business, becoming an estate agent and founding the firm of F.W. Bullock & Company. He was Mayor of Adelaide 1891-1892 and died in 1931. His son Royden George Bullock continued the company as Bullock & [Keith] Wilkinson.

This record group will be indispensable to researchers wanting a 'window' into the real estate business in South Australia from the late 1870s onwards, and also into the management of estates and trusts on behalf of clients. (A researcher has already found a wealth of information relating to his Drew ancestry.) Just one example is the valuation books for properties, kept for clients, series 11-14. John Bullock senior was involved with the financial management of the Daly & Stanley Mining Company – H.C. Gleeson was its Managing Director. A box of ore samples had been kept by Bullock for minerals extracted in the mid-1860s, each sample wrapped in brown paper with wax seals, named and dated, with some other rock samples unwrapped showing their copper ore content. (All these have been digitised as series 10/34/1-9.)

### BRG 376

The business and legal records of country solicitor's practice E.J. Tucker & Sons, of Strathalbyn, beginning in 1870, with records as recent as 1985. Access is with written permission from the company's successor, however.



## PRG 1537

A scrapbook and two sound recordings comprises material relating to Brian Penglase's musical career from the early 1950s as a founding member of the 'Penny Rockets'.

## PRG 1539/3

Papers comprise letters to John Hope of 'Wolta Wolta', Clare, from William Colman, manager of Hope's pastoral run 'Keeroongooloo', on the Cooper's Creek, south-west Queensland, with three written by John Costello (connected to the 'Patsy' Durack family) to Hope from Kyabra and Costello's Creek. There are letters written by John Hope in reply to Colman, two from his station 'Para' on the Wentworth and one written from Adelaide; all cover the period 1876-1879. Some of Colman's letters to Hope mention the Aboriginal people in the Cooper Creek area with whom he had altercations, and the very difficult living conditions for workmen and their families. He also mentions his own eyesight problems in late 1877 and early 1878 and the need to see a doctor. (John Hope was based at 'Wolta Wolta', but held extensive pastoral property in other states.)

## PRG 88/28

Catherine Helen Spence's letter dated 11 December 1905, written from North Norwood, with a preamble relating to the ship *Palmyra* on which she travelled to South Australia in 1839; also two sonnets about the arrival date of the ship, and her seeing South Australia again on her return from Melbourne in 1854.

## D 7566(L)

Handwritten copies of letters written by Constable John Mudge to his parents while stationed as a police trooper at Port Lincoln and Mount Wedge, together with typescript transcripts (1857-1860). Also includes an additional letter written to his fiancée, Agnes Mudge, in 1864, with transcript. John Mudge was one of the first police constables at Streaky Bay. On his retirement from the force in 1866 he ran the town's Flinders Hotel. In addition, he acquired a large area of grazing land, which on his death was farmed by his son Thomas, in conjunction with other members of the family.

#### D 8084/4 (Misc)

An addition to the Engelbrecht papers of this Mount Gambier pioneer family is a silver cup belonging to Johann Carl Engelbrecht, who had received it as a gift to celebrate his departure from Germany. The sides are decorated with a chased leaf design, an armorial panel design, and the sentence in German: 'Zur freundl Erinnerung [in friendly remembrance] am 23 April 1845'. Images of the cup are attached to the online record.

#### D 8649(L)

A recent purchase of the World War One diary 1916-1919 of Hermann Albert ('Bert') Noll, from Wilmington, in 'D' Company, 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion, provides the State Library with its first war diary of a soldier with (obvious) German heritage; his paternal grandparents had emigrated in 1855 from Tucheim, Prussia.

#### D 8651(Misc)

Papers of Rita Coonan, soprano singer, relating to her musical career and association with Dame Nellie Melba comprise signed sheet music for a song 'Lover's Lane' by English composer Maurice Besly, with a dedication inscription to Rita Coonan, published 1927 by Boosey & Company Ltd, London, to words by Thomas Moulton. The score shows the singer's musical phrasing marks. Also included are a letter and newspaper cutting about Besly the composer, and an *Advertiser* interview with Rita Goyder (her married name) by Marina Craig in 1987, reminiscing about her association with Dame Nellie (not a happy one, she remarked).

#### D 8562(T)

A Riverton High School project by A.E. Mibus in an exercise book (15 pages) describes the businesses that operated in Saddleworth (Mid-North township) during 1937. The essay describes each business operating at the time of writing, and gives all known information about the history of each one. The project scored 89%, with these details on the last page.

(The conversion to small 'stand alone' items etc. of the old collection of former 'A' pieces has now been completed. Online records are available for all.)

Neil Thomas

## **The J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection**

### **OH 962 – Jim Doyle – Allison Murchie**

Jim Doyle is interviewed by fellow Australian Society for the Study of Labour History member and State Library volunteer, Allison Murchie, about his long and interesting life as a shearer and union organiser. Now aged 92, Jim has been a member of the Australian Workers Union (AWU) for 78 years. In recognition of his decades of continuous membership, the Port Pirie AWU Office, opened in July 2011, was named 'Jim Doyle House'. Allison interviewed Jim over eighteen separate sessions, and for nearly twenty hours. Additional documentation deposited with the audio includes: Australian Society for the Study of Labour History 'Member Profile'; digital photographs of the opening of Jim Doyle House, Port Pirie; photograph of Jim Doyle with Australian Workers' Union banner; and ten issues of 'The Plod', a commentary on Australian politics, political activity and labour relations, issued by Jim Doyle.

### **OH 984 – Lady June Porter – June Donovan**

June Perry was born in Western Australia in 1918, had a private school education and joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) when World War II broke out and worked as a nurse in the Royal Perth Hospital. Prior to this she briefly met Robert Porter from Adelaide when he was in Perth for a polo match. Commissioned as a lieutenant at the beginning of the war, he passed through Perth en route to the front and the two met again. He returned briefly to Australia after having served in New Guinea where he was mentioned in despatches, and before becoming ADC to Richard Casey, then governor of a state in India and later Governor-General of Australia. He asked June to visit him in Adelaide, proposed as soon as she arrived and they were married within a week. She later followed him to India and has wonderful tales of the time spent there during the last years of British rule. They later returned to Adelaide and a life in business. Robert Porter served on the Adelaide City Council and as Lord Mayor from 1968 to 1971, with June as Lady Mayoress. Robert was later knighted, the investiture taking place in London. He died in 1983, but Lady Porter continued as a patron and developer of the Arts in Adelaide. She is now 93.

### **OH 987 – Professor Tanya Munro – Peter Donovan – Eminent Australians Oral History Program**

After studying at the University of Sydney and working at the University of Southampton in the UK, Tanya became the inaugural professor of photonics – the science and technology that allows the generation and control of light using glass optical fibres – at the University of Adelaide

in 2005. Her PhD research focused on developing new classes of optical fibres, for which she received the Bragg Gold Medal for the best physics PhD in Australia. In 2006 she was named as one of the top 10 brightest young minds in Australia by national science magazine, *Cosmos*, and in 2008 was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year. Her work in the field of photonics enables the creation of new tools for scientific research, and solutions for problems in areas as diverse as information processing, surgery, health monitoring, military technology, agriculture and environmental monitoring. Tanya is a member of the South Australian Premier's Science & Research Council and regularly serves on a range of key national bodies in the area of science policy and evaluation.

### OH 977 – Anna Guthleben – Allison Murchie

Anna Guthleben has had a varied career path that has included appointment as the Executive Director of the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission (established to rebuild the fledgling legal system after the riots of 2004). She is currently a PhD candidate at Flinders University, investigating 'Law Reform Commissions in Developing Countries', particularly the Pacific Region. Anna's legal life followed another successful career, in South Australia's renowned food and wine industry. After an apprenticeship at Regency Park, she worked with food luminaries such as Bill Sparr, Michael Simons, Cheong Liew and Anne Oliver. She purchased a stall at the Adelaide Market in the mid-1980s, which became famous for its 'exotic' produce and was critiqued in the *New York Times*. This was followed by a high-end produce purchasing business and an exclusive catering firm, 'Anna's Good Eating Company'. Allison Murchie's interview covers Anna's early years, the period of involvement with food, cooking and catering, the decision to return to university and her legal career until 2002. The pair is having a break from recording, but expects to resume interviewing about life and law since 2002, including the Solomon Islands stint, later in the year.

Briefly...

### OH 990 – Andamooka Oral History Project

In November of 2011, OHAA-SA member and experienced interviewer, John Mannion, travelled from his home in Orroroo to the northern town of Andamooka, to conduct a 'how-to' oral history workshop. Since then, John and two workshop participants have undertaken interviews with four Andamooka locals. The project is ongoing, and it is always gratifying to receive contributions to the SLSA heritage collections from more remote regional South Australia.

Tonia Eldridge

# THE ACPHA CONFERENCE – AN INLAND PERSPECTIVE



I attended ACPHA's inaugural conference in August last year with a nervous mixture of delight and trepidation; delight at the opportunity to talk about work with colleagues and trepidation because I had no idea who my colleagues were. Though I have been a member of PHA (NT) since 2009, I had met only three PHA (NT) members; and due to the tyranny of distance, which continues to influence Inland lives, I had never attended a PHA (NT) meeting nor met professional historians from outside the NT.

I loved the conference from the moment it began. Ruth Donovan's history of PHAs was the perfect opener for an inaugural conference by, about and for people curious about how things begin. In the broad sweep of things, the history of Australia's PHAs seemed to broadly replicate Australia's bigger national tale. As I heard Ruth explain it, PHA (WA) was born of requests for commissioned histories, as befits a state with a booming commercial economy; while more 'culturally focussed' South Australians sought freedom from academia. PHA (NT) was formed last, as befits the part of the nation last to be settled.

The uniqueness of PHA development in a world context explained my personal experiences at the World History Conference in Beijing (2011); there I had to explain the term professional historian to every delegate I met, and the only category I had been able to tick on the registration form was 'independent scholar', not the same thing.

Ruth's paper also explained, as I was later to find out, that most PHA members were earning a living in the commercial world. Prior to ACPHA, I hadn't been sure. Though 'freelancers' exist in PHA (NT), government employees and academics appear to dominate. The realisation that most professional historians were freelancers sent me scurrying off to re-write some parts of my own paper. I had thought I would be talking to academics. I am hoping a digital copy of Ruth's thesis is available via the web for me to investigate further.

ACPHA's presidential address undid another of my assumptions, the one that said that ACPHA like AHA, had paid personnel, a discovery which led to more changes to my paper. This time I was rearranging my suggestions about what ACPHA should do to promote professional historians. One does not, I think, ask volunteers and paid staff to do the same things. I loved the idea of finding our USP (Unique Selling Point) though, by conference end, I was not entirely convinced I knew what it was.

I got very excited when Susan Marsden began talking about how historians are the first to be hired and fired in regime change; I had not, until then, thought my theory of 'shooting the messenger' as an explanation for different attitudes to professional historians around the world as anything other than metaphorical!

The post-paper discussion which named teachers as the most important interface between historians and the state, something Susan's excellent paper had omitted, resonated with my own concerns about relationships between school history teachers, academic and professional historians. My sense that, in fact, they don't relate much at all, emerged a couple of years ago when I wanted to attend both the AHA and HTAA (History Teachers Association of Australia) national conferences, only to discover that they were scheduled for the same weekend, one conference in Sydney and the other in Perth. An absence of complaints appeared to indicate that I was the only one who wanted to go to both!

When someone asked, on Sunday morning, where the state's history teachers were, I felt as if my own questions were still justified. Though an official suggested that teachers were at the conference, I hadn't bumped into anyone I knew. It is possible, of course, that we just got lost in those wonderful South Australian crowds.

Both the ACPHA conference and the SA State History Conference were full of excellent papers, too many to describe individually. Amongst *those I really enjoyed* were Bob Preece's humorous description of the events that took place in Darwin when the Commonwealth took over the NT just over 100 years ago. Though I suspect everyone would assume I would know what happened, given that I am a Territorian, and a professional historian, I actually don't. My own recent investigations into the history of radio broadcasting in the NT confirm what most Centralians know but outsiders may not, that Central Australia has a unique history, one much more closely aligned to Adelaide than Darwin, at least until WW II. As far as I know there were no formal celebrations of Commonwealth control in Central Australia in 1911, just as there were no formal celebrations of its centenary last year. If anyone knows anything different please let know! In the same vain of trying to feel more

Territorian and less Central Australian, I am looking forward to reading *The Great Central State* when I get the chance. The launch of this lifetime's work was another thoroughly entertaining and inspiring moment. I loved Jack Cross's emphasis on the value of a good yarn and was encouraged to continue working on the publication of my own research, no matter how long the task takes.

As always when there are parallel conference sessions to attend, I found myself caught in terrible moments of indecisiveness, often making the 'wrong' decision, which felt all the more fraught because no formal published papers were to follow. I wonder, at the next conference, whether papers could be podcast. It's a relatively simple process these days, one that could expand our audiences substantially.

The advent of pod-casting and digital access to academic journals is in fact one of the reasons why I have been able to re-engage with academic history in the last few years and become a professional historian. Prior to the digital revolution I could not, as a resident in a remote single-airline town, afford the transport costs associated with accessing paper based archival and academic materials. As Mandy Paul commented in her talk about History SA's award-winning digital re-enactment of SA's 'first fleet', there are still too many institutional 'pay walls' (and, I would add, bureaucratic ones too!). However, remote access to significant collections is now possible.

Pod-casting might also solve the problems a remote-dwelling solo practitioner like myself has accessing the regular professional development (PD) which members of PHA (Vic) see as an essential next stage in PHA accreditation. It was a lovely sign of collegial concern when someone, not me, asked how I would be able to access PD from Alice. Thankyou! Another possibility would be to make the PD requirements tri-annual, or maybe spread them over 5 years. Though I am currently attending a lot of conferences and, due to a downturn in business, have plenty of time to work up a journal article, it may not always be like this, if the last seven years of professional working life are anything to go by!

The papers describing the historian's role in documenting disaster fascinated. Two things had immediate resonance with my own work. Should one, as Bill Wilson asked, correct the archive when both personal and professional knowledge says it's wrong? To date I have thought it inappropriate. Now I'm not so sure, and thank Bill for raising the point. Second was the question, asked by several presenters on similar themes, 'Can history help re-build communities?' If the answer is 'Yes', then I think we also need to consider the reverse of that coin', which is that history can also help destroy them. We could labour under the misapprehension that plagues so many 'new age' philosophies and



practitioners of herbal medicine that love/herbs do only good, or we could call the negative impacts of our work 'collateral damage', as military men are wont to do, or we could look at history as a complex narrative, with good and bad effects. I'm not sure how clearly my own paper expressed this concern, but it is what I, as a Centralian who daily sees simplistic histories of place being used as an excuse for all sorts of bad behaviour, worry about.

If a good conference is one where the spaces in between formal proceedings are also enlightening, then the ACPHA conference was a very good conference indeed.

On the social front, I really enjoyed the visit to Government House. It was both a lovely recognition of professional status and a delight for someone like me who, as a young social change activist, spent rather a lot of time being kicked out of such state institutions, not being invited into them. The Governor had a fascinating observation to make about Mongolian reverence for historians (ref: my paper), proffering the theory that such reverence may be connected to Buddhism's love of teachers. It's a possibility I had not thought about, and one certainly worth considering.

I also really enjoyed catching up with History SA's Mandy Paul, one of the conference organisers. We had met when she was historian at the Central Land Council and I was teaching history at the senior secondary college in Alice Springs over a decade ago. I had invited Mandy to speak about her work. It was the first time I had realised that working outside the Academy as a historian was possible. It was a path she encouraged me to take. How lovely to say 'thanks' and exchange historical gossip from our very different Centralian perspectives.

The conference brought to the fore, which is what I guess it was designed to do, some very basic questions about how to promote our profession, confirming that my own ignorance about non-teaching history work was not just the product of living in an isolated town. The revelations from young Victorian professionals, that their entry into professional history was the direct result of a visit to their university by members of PHA (Vic), suggests that visits like this should be part of what we all do. Do they already happen?

A really great idea for promoting the history profession, which would create work for professional historians around the country and improve relations between HTAA and ACPHA and their various state counterparts, came from PHA (NT)'s Sam Wells at the NT's Annual History Colloquium in Darwin. Sam suggested that all schools should be employing 'resident historians' in the same way that they currently employ 'resident artists'. This program should be funded to coincide with the implementation of Australia's 'first' national history curriculum. Should we all start lobbying for this now?

Finally, the ACPHA conference also gave me some useful tips for my professional practice. Perhaps they are obvious to everyone else, but they have not been obvious to me. Tips included: not taking a job if you don't like the client; negotiating expectations at the beginning of a project and being aware that ethical practice is complex, serious and full of fine lines.

I was fascinated by Peter Donovan's observation, in the Q & A session at the end, that most historians are solo practitioners and that it does not have to be this way. It's a novel thought for someone who has found living and working alone a big, though not insurmountable, challenge. Though I have also become thoroughly addicted to the independence of a solo life, I do believe that ideas are better when shared ... though I am still puzzled about how historians would do that, given Cathie Clements' conviction that historians (like artists - my addition), are commissioned for personal voice. I look forward to continuing these and other discussions at another ACPHA event.

Once again, I want to say a really big thankyou to PHA (NT) for spoiling their only Centralian member. It was very, very much appreciated.

Megg Kelham

Alice Springs, February 2012

[meggkel@yahoo.com](mailto:meggkel@yahoo.com)

## VISIT TO ARTLAB

On Wednesday, 23 November 2011, as part of the professional development programme, a small group of PHA members toured Artlab. Our friendly volunteer guide took us through the different areas, including sections working on paper, ceramics, books and textiles, where conservators explained their techniques and procedures of conservation and restoration. Some of the interesting works that we saw being treated included an unusual ceramic bowl, an old motorbike being restored and a family Bible that had suffered significant damage from an over-enthusiastic home repairer! One of the most important items on site was the original Eureka Flag. Unfortunately, it was 'under wraps' and we were unable to see it. After the tour, we continued our discussion in the library café.



*Figure 3 – Caroline Adams, Brian Samuels, Lesley Abell and Alison McDougall during the Artlab Tour (courtesy Caroline Adams)*

Caroline Adams

## **ANNUAL HISTORY COLLOQUIUM HELD IN DARWIN, 29 OCTOBER 2011**

This was another successful colloquium organised by the Professional Historians Association (NT) in conjunction with the Australian National University, Charles Darwin University and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT.

The lively program of topics ranged from the national Australian education curriculum, Aboriginal histories, Territory colonisation and ecosystems, to the culture of African Americans and Mongolians.

An enthusiastic crowd turned up for the energetic and informative talks that held the audience captive and eager with questions.



*Figure 4 - PHA (NT) member Kathy De La Rue speaking on her topic, 'Is Darwin Different? Australian capitals and the typology of towns'. PHA (NT) & ACPHA (NT) representative, Alan Davis, chaired the session (courtesy Bev Phelts)*



*Figure 5 - The only PHA (NT) Member from Alice Springs, Megg Kelham, giving her energetic talk on 'To be Revered or Scorned: reflections on public attitudes to historians in Mongolia & Central Australia'. PHA (NT) president, Dr Steve Farram, was the Chair for the session (courtesy Bev Phelts)*



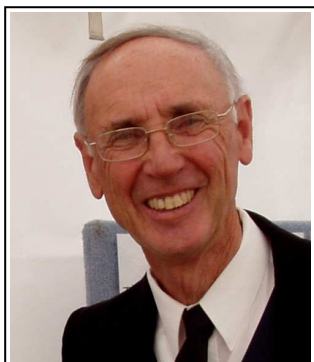
*Figure 6 - PHA (NT) members, Megg Kelham, Kathy De La Rue & Alan Davis (courtesy Bev Phelts)*



Figure 7 - Judy Boland and Penny Baird, with PHA (NT) member, Dr Bev Phelts (courtesy Bev Phelts)

## OBITUARY

### J.R.J (Bob) Donley



Long-time PHA member, Bob Donley, died on Christmas Eve of liver failure, aged 68.

Bob, who had lived in the Marion area for more than 40 years, was a long-serving president of the Marion Historical Society and had chronicled the region in his 2001 book *Marion – A Suburban City 1945-2000*. Friends dubbed him a ‘heritage hero’ who dedicated his life to preserving local landmarks.

After an honours degree in History at Adelaide University, Bob began his teaching career at Port Pirie High School in 1967, returning to Adelaide where he subsequently taught history at Plympton, Christies Beach and Brighton High Schools and at Temple College. He retired from teaching in 1997 after having been a senior master for 23 years and helping set the history curriculum.



Bob Donley was the author of several other substantial histories, not all well known to our members – *The Rise of Port Pire* (1975), based on his thesis, *Victims of Justice: the Australian convicts* (1967), *Conquerors of the Bush: the Australian Squatters* (1979), and *The Golden Harvest: a history of the Southern Vales* (1986).

Bob's interest in local heritage began in 1970 when he moved to Seaview Downs and began teaching local history at three local high schools. He was elected to Marion Council in 1991, serving for 12 years during which he became Deputy Mayor. Marion Historical Society committee member, Heather Latz, credits Bob with having played a key role in preserving local and state-heritage listed buildings. 'Bob's integrity, gentle tenacity and respectful use of contact he made through his teaching, research and work on council has left a legacy for the City of Marion.'

He spent years pursuing the goal of establishing a history centre in Marion, chipping away with letters, meetings, articles in the local newspaper and a DVD entitled 'Why Marion Needs a History Centre', which he sent to every elected member of council. His efforts were rewarded in November last year when Marion Council voted to consider the initiative in the next budget.

He was also the driving force behind the highly successful 'Closed Schools of Marion' exhibition last year, which featured photographs and artefacts of schools that once existed in the city. As an active member of the Brighton Church of Christ he fostered its archival collection and produced a DVD to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Bob's work was recognised at the 2010 South Australian Heritage Heroes Awards, with the presentation of a Minister's Award by Environment and Heritage Minister Paul Caica.

A keen cricket coach, cyclist, community gardener and follower of Port Power, Bob is survived by his wife Liz, sons Craig and James, and their families. He will be missed and honoured by the local community and by his fellow historians.

Jenny Stock

Compiled, with permission and thanks, largely from material in the obituary written by Craig Clarke and published in Marion Council's *City Limits* of February 2012 and from the one published in the *Advertiser* on 18 February 2012.



# **CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS IN AUSTRALIA**

## **1. PREAMBLE**

The Code has been formulated to embrace the practice of all members of Professional Historians Associations in Australia. The Code is intended to consolidate high standards of professionalism, integrity and scholarship. It provides standards by which historians may measure the propriety of their conduct in their relationships with colleagues and the profession; their relationship with clients; and their responsibilities to the community. Adherence to the Code is a condition of membership of all Member Associations of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA).

## **2. GENERAL CONDUCT**

- 2.1 Members are obliged to accept the standards, endorsed by the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations, and to accept the self imposed disciplines of their profession.
- 2.2 In their professional role, members should at all times be courteous and considerate to others.
- 2.3 Members are entitled to expect that their personal choice of style, approach, evaluation of evidence and interpretation will be respected by their colleagues, and that any grounds for disagreement with their conclusions will be fairly stated.
- 2.4 Members should not publicly question the integrity or competence of their colleagues. Complaints of this kind should be directed to the Executive of their Professional Historians Association.
- 2.5 Members who make statements and recommendations, express opinions and give evidence, should do so objectively and truthfully, and on the basis of adequate research.
- 2.6 Members should take care to know of, and comply with, all legal requirements affecting their work.

## **3. RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES AND THE PROFESSION**

- 3.1 Members are expected to follow scholarly practice, including the acknowledgment of the work, ideas and methods of others. ACPHA Code of Ethics and Professional Standards 2
- 3.2 Members should, whenever appropriate, assist in the work and professional development of colleagues and students.
- 3.3 Members should keep themselves informed of developments within their profession and be committed to continuing their professional development.
- 3.4 Members should avoid discrediting their profession by attempting work beyond their level of competence
- 3.5 Members should avoid placing themselves under an obligation to any person or organisation if so doing could undermine their professional integrity.
- 3.6 Members should acknowledge help from informants. They should respect an informant's request for privacy, except where compulsion of law requires disclosure.

#### **4. RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLIENTS**

- 4.1 Members should carefully plan and adhere to a firm and achievable date for the completion of a project.
- 4.2 Members should not misrepresent the requirements, findings, problems or possible consequences of a project.
- 4.3 If a conflict of interest between a member and client becomes apparent, it should immediately be disclosed to the client.
- 4.4 Members should seek and receive appropriate fees for their services.
- 4.5 When undertaking a commission, members should abide by the agreed fee, conditions and timing of payment, unless the contract has been re-negotiated.
- 4.6 Members should inform clients immediately, and in writing, of any unforeseen circumstances which may require renegotiation of the contract.
- 4.7 Members should not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.
- 4.8 Financial arrangements with clients should always be restricted to matters concerning professional fees, ie. work should not be done in exchange for services.
- 4.9 Members should advise the client when a project requires the expertise of other professional disciplines and, if possible, recommend a contact.
- 4.10 Members must not use confidential information to the advantage or disadvantage of the client, nor disclose such information except where required by law.

#### **5 RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY**

- 5.1 In their professional role, members are responsible both to those employing them and to the wider community. Any conflict between the client's interests and that of the community should be immediately brought to the attention of the client and every effort should be made to resolve it. ACPHA Code of Ethics and Professional Standards 3
- 5.2 Members must not suppress, distort or misuse evidence that they consider relevant to their work.
- 5.3 Members should respect the historical resources and material available to them with a view to their conservation as well as immediate use. Members should encourage the gift, loan or copying of source material to be held in the appropriate public repository.

#### **BREACHES TO THE CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS IN AUSTRALIA**

If a member is alleged to have acted unethically or unfairly, the member's PHA will decide, after making appropriate inquiries, whether action should be taken against the member. The PHA may, at its discretion, seek advice on such matters from ACPHA.

ACPHA: [www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au)