

# FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

G.P.O. Box 1440, Canberra ACT 2601

Website: <http://www.history.org.au/>

## ***E-BULLETIN* No. 58 – 16 November 2009**

Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

- 1) National Archives of Australia – closure of Darwin, Adelaide & Hobart Offices
  - 2) Comprehensive and flexible insurance cover for historical societies
  - 3) Electronic records – Geoffrey Bolton Lecture at State Records Office of Western Australia
  - 4) Australian Bureau of Statistics – compendium of colonial data
  - 5) Collections Council of Australia funding cessation
  - 6) New South Wales Heritage Act amendments
  - 7) Collections Council – online edition of *Significance 2.0*
  - 8) Libraries – a copyright guide
  - 9) WA Goldfields: CollectionsCare Coordinator
  - 10) Local history – Australian newspaper digitisation
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## 1) National Archives of Australia – closure of Darwin, Adelaide & Hobart Offices

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) had announced the closure of the Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart Branches. This will mean reduced access for researchers, particularly as only a narrow band of more personal records have been digitised.

The NAA's press release

See: <http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/director-general/index.aspx>

refers to the need for \$5 million of savings over the next three years.

Historical Societies and Heritage Groups may contact the NAA to advocate their views about the difficulties that the closure poses for researchers. The Federation is certainly doing this.

(Source: NAA Press Release by Director-General – 13 November 2009)

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## 2) Comprehensive and flexible insurance cover for historical societies

### **Background**

Following requests by some societies affiliated with constituent members of the Federation, a number of insurance schemes providing affordable insurance cover for not-for-profit organisations have been investigated. Unfortunately, most of those proved impractical or unsatisfactory for one reason or another.

However, without prejudice or endorsement, the Federation draws the attention of societies to the Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS) offered through Local Government Risk Services, a division of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd (JLT). The LCIS provides a broad range of insurance products that have been tailored to meet the specific needs of community group clients. This scheme is supported by The Local Government Association of South Australia, Local Government Association of Queensland, Western Australian Local Government Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

### ***Historical societies qualify for cover under the LCIS***

Insurance is available for community and Not For Profit Organisations (NFPOs) who have the following characteristics:

- Provide services to the broader community;
- Have an annual turnover/funding less than \$5,000,000;
- Does not distribute profits to its members;

- Located in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, Victoria or Western Australia;
- Comprises mainly of "volunteer" members; and
- Provide a public benefit or serve a charitable purpose.

The Kalamunda Historical Society in Western Australia is insured under this Scheme and is happy with both the cost and the coverage.

Quotations can be obtained by filling out the online quotation application form. However, if you would like to make enquiries with LCIS about insurance for your community group or are unable to obtain a quote through the online system we suggest you contact them by phone **1300 853 800** or fax 08 8235 6448.

When calling they need to know about your group to understand what you need. If possible please have the following information available.

- What do you do?
- How many members do you have?
- What is your annual turnover?
- Where are you located?
- What is your claims history and who has been your insurer over the past 5 years?

***Before doing this it is recommended that you visit the LCIS website at <http://www.localcommunityinsurance.com.au/profile.aspx> for further details.***

#### IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

Although the Federation of Australian Historical Societies provides the above information in good faith, the Federation expressly **DISCLAIMS** responsibility for liability for any loss or damage suffered by anyone who relies upon the above information. Anyone considering acting upon the information must seek advice applicable to their particular circumstances from their own independent professional adviser.

(Source: FAHS Council – 10 November 2009)

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### **3) Electronic records – Geoffrey Bolton Lecture at State Records Office of Western Australia**

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites all Archivists, Records Managers, Information Managers and Recordkeeping Professionals and interested persons to the 2009 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, to be held at the Government House Ballroom, St George's Terrace Perth, at 6pm on Tuesday 10 November 2009.

The speaker at this year's Lecture will be Professor Lyn Beazley AO, the Chief Scientist of Western Australia.

The topic for this year's Lecture is "The Evolution of Scientific Records and the Challenges in the Digital Universe". Posing the question, 'If Charles Darwin had

blogged On the Origin of Species would we still be talking about it?' the lecture will consider the issues surrounding the challenges of capturing digital information for long term use. There are serious implications for government, science, business and the community if the challenges in identifying, collecting and preserving electronic records, the archival records that bridge the past, present and future are not adequately met.

The Lecture and formal proceedings are expected to conclude at 7pm and will be followed by refreshments.

If you wish to attend this free public event you must RSVP to [events@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:events@sro.wa.gov.au)

(Source: [aus-archivists@archivists.org.au](mailto:aus-archivists@archivists.org.au) – 11 October 2009)

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## 4) Australian Bureau of Statistics – compendium of colonial data

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently digitised an important compendium of Australian and New Zealand colonial data, [A Statistical account of the seven colonies of Australasia](#). It is being progressively loaded to the ABS Website. ABS summarised the project as follows:

*'A Statistical account of the seven colonies of Australasia (and its later title, Statistical account of Australia and New Zealand) was compiled between 1890 and 1904 by the New South Wales Statistician, Timothy A. Coghlan. The eleven volumes bring together statistics for each of the colonies of Australia and New Zealand and are complemented by analysis and commentary. The publication also includes chapters on political divisions, areas and boundaries, climate, parliaments and defence much like in the current Year Book Australia.*

Coghlan's expressed aim, as stated in the Preface to the first volume, was to 'exhibit at a glance the position held by each Colony individually, and by the country as a whole, with regard to all matters connected with its moral and material welfare'.

The scanning process allows full-text searching capability once downloaded.

This title adds to a range of historical data which ABS has been progressively adding to our Website, including [Demography bulletin](#) which includes detailed population and vital statistics data for the period 1900 - 1971 and *Labour reports*, covering the period 1911 - 1997. See the [full list of titles](#) already available, as well as those which will be available later in 2009.

Robyn Cammack, Library Services, National, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT 2617, Ph: 02 6252 6612 ‘

(Source: [aliaaglin@lists.alia.org.au](mailto:aliaaglin@lists.alia.org.au) – 28 September 2009)

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## 5) Collections Council of Australia funding cessation

The following announcement regarding the Collections Council has been distributed by its CEO, Margaret Birtley.

The Cultural Ministers Council has advised that it will cease its funding of the Collections Council.

Following its meeting on 9 October 2009, the Cultural Ministers Council has verbally advised the Collections Council of Australia (CCA) that it will:

- cease funding the CCA
- provide funding to the CCA for a 'transitional' period (the details of which are subject to further discussion)
- establish a working group that would consider any future approach to matters relating to the collections sector

Established by the Cultural Ministers Council in 2004, the CCA has worked to bring the collections sector – archives, galleries, libraries and museums – together and to provide advice to Ministers on the long term sustainability of, and issues facing, the sector. Last month, the CCA released plans to develop and promote a new model for sustainable scientific and cultural collections in Australia.

The CCA's operations over four and half years with its four person staff have been supported by the Cultural Ministers Council and the Australian Government with grants totalling \$2.1 million.

Further information:

Click here:

[http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=65&DMXModule=543&EntryId=2106&Command=Core\\_Download](http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=65&DMXModule=543&EntryId=2106&Command=Core_Download)

to read the CCA's Media Release about the Cultural Ministers Council's decision.

The Media Release incorporates:

- The Cultural Ministers Council's terms of reference for the CCA
- The CCA's proposal for a new Model for sustainable collections

Click here:

[http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/CCA%20achievements%20and%20projects\\_8%20October%202009.pdf](http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Portals/0/CCA%20achievements%20and%20projects_8%20October%202009.pdf)

to read the Collections Council's achievements, 2005-2009.

Released by: Margaret Birtley, CEO, Collections Council of Australia Ltd, PO Box 263, Rundle Mall SA 5000, AUSTRALIA

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Email: [ceo@collectionscouncil.com.au](mailto:ceo@collectionscouncil.com.au), Website: [www.collectionscouncil.com.au](http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au)

(Source: Collections Council – 13 October 2009; [aus-archivists@archivists.org.au](mailto:aus-archivists@archivists.org.au) – 13 October 2009)

## 6) New South Wales Heritage Act amendments

The Amendments to the New South Wales Heritage Act under the *Heritage Amendment Act 2009* have now commenced. For the commencement proclamation see:

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/epub>

The amended Act may be found on the same website:

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

Use the Search tab to search Acts and Regs 'IN FORCE' and enter 'Heritage Act' and tell the search to look in the Title.

(Source: [secretary@asha.org.au](mailto:secretary@asha.org.au) – 19 October 2009)

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## 7) Collections Council – online edition of *Significance 2.0*

The Collections Council of Australia has announced that the online edition of *Significance 2.0* is now available via the [Significance](http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au) website:

<http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au>.

On this website:

[Read](#) *Significance 2.0* on screen and print by the page:

<http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/online-edition>

- [contribute](#) comments to an Open Forum on any aspect of this project, including suggestions towards *Significance 2.1*

<http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/forum>

[print and download](#) PDF files of *Significance 2.0* – the book

- <http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/downloads>
- [access](#) the full version of 'Part 6 – Significance in action – applications' <http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/online/848>
- [purchase](#) hard copies of the book for AUD \$29.95 plus postage and handling, while stocks last (email: [info@collectionscouncil.com.au](mailto:info@collectionscouncil.com.au))
- [subscribe](#) to the Collections Council's e-Bulletin that will include *Significance* updates <http://collectionscouncil.com.au/e-bulletin.aspx>

(Source: Collections Council E-Bulletin No.46, 19 October 2009)

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## 8) Libraries – a copyright guide

A completely new and up-to-date practical guide for people working in libraries and archives in the non-profit, government and corporate sectors. The information in the previous and very popular publication B110 Libraries & copyright will be thoroughly revised and updated, with details about section 200AB (the <sup>3</sup>flexible dealing<sup>2</sup>, or <sup>3</sup>special case<sup>2</sup> exception) and information on how copyright applies in corporate libraries.

Visit <http://www.copyright.org.au/b136> for:

- \* sample page and table of contents
- \* pricing, including discounts for book packages for libraries
- \* how to order

AUD \$40 (including GST and delivery in Australia) Discounts for purchasing as part of a package.

Buy online at  
<http://shop.copyright.org.au>

(Source: [aliaaglin@lists.alia.org.au](mailto:aliaaglin@lists.alia.org.au) – 1 November 2009)

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## 9) WA Goldfields: CollectionsCare Coordinator

**Consider working at the frontier of community heritage development in regional Australia.**

### **COLLECTIONSCARE COORDINATOR**

We are looking for a self-motivated and enthusiastic individual to coordinate Australia's first CollectionsCare Regional Hub in the WA Goldfields.

This position involves identifying and building relationships with collecting organisations across the WA Goldfields region, including but not limited to archives, galleries, libraries and museums. You will work with such organisations, their staff and volunteers, encourage collaboration and networking across the region, and facilitate access to professional development opportunities, funding opportunities and resources.

Key responsibilities include strategic planning, stakeholder relationship management, policy and procedures development, planning and coordination of training, meeting facilitation, and communication with Reference Group and project partners.

The WA Goldfields CollectionsCare Regional Hub is a demonstration project initiated by the Collections Council of Australia, the WA Department of Culture and the Arts and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The position will be based at the City of

Kalgoorlie-Boulder but will involve travel within the WA Goldfields region. Applicants should respond to the selection criteria in the position description, available from the [City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder website](http://www.kalbould.wa.gov.au/JobSearch.asp?SID=121&MID=5&ID=146) <http://www.kalbould.wa.gov.au/JobSearch.asp?SID=121&MID=5&ID=146> or on request by telephone.

*If you would like to find out more about this exciting employment opportunity with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, an employer of choice, visit the City's website [www.kalbould.wa.gov.au](http://www.kalbould.wa.gov.au) or contact Eric Plet, Manager Leisure and Community Development on 08 9021 9678*  
*For inquiries about CollectionsCare, please contact the Collections Council on 08 8207 7280 or <mailto:projects@collectionscouncil.com.au>*

Applications must be received by **30 November 2009**.

**Alexis Tindall**  
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[www.collectionscouncil.com.au](http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au)

**Sign up to the CCA's e-Bulletin here to keep up to date with the latest news from the Collections Council** <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/e-bulletin.aspx>

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## 10) Local history – Australian newspaper digitisation

### *Sydney Morning Herald*

The first digitised issues of the *Sydney Morning Herald* are now available. We have started from the first issue 1831 and are making our way forwards to 1954.

The first 20 years (18,000 pages) are now available as follows:

*Sydney Herald* 1831-1842  
*Sydney Morning Herald* 1842-1852

Issues from 1852 - 1954 will be made available each week from now on through til early 2010. In early 2010 *The Sunday Herald* 1949-1953 will also become available.

The National Library acknowledges the financial contribution of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation who have given \$1 million dollars towards the digitisation of this title.

***The Argus*** (Melbourne)

*The Argus* (and its previous title the *Melbourne Argus*) from 1846 - 1945 are now completed and available. The remaining 10 years (1945-1954) of the Argus will be made available in 2010 (mid to end of year).

Please circulate this message or its contents wherever appropriate.

To access the Australian Newspapers service:

<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/>

(Source: [ticch-in-oz@googlegroups.com](mailto:ticch-in-oz@googlegroups.com) – 10 November 2009)