

FAHS Newsletter

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the high cost of printing and posting this Newsletter to over 1,000 historical societies throughout Australia, the FAHS has regrettably decided that this will probably be the last PRINTED issue that it will send out. The Newsletter will continue to be produced, but only in electronic form, for distribution by e-mail, and for access on the FAHS website www.history.org.au.

If your Society would like to receive it (and the FAHS' monthly E-bulletin) by e-mail, please let us know your e-mail address. You can do this either by

- (a) sending it to us by e-mail to fahs@jedav.net
 - or (b) by post to FAHS, GPO Box 1440, Canberra ACT 2601.
- Please include the name of your Society in the message.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The absence of heritage from the agenda of the Prime Minister's 2020 Summit initiative was greatly disappointing for those concerned with the protection, interpretation and promotion of the nation's heritage. This omission is of particular concern because the knowledge base for the 2020 Summit is embedded in Australia's built, natural and cultural heritage. Australia's moveable, including documentary, and built heritage is a record of the development of our society. This knowledge, accessible through an understanding of the past, provides the best possible guideposts to the future.

Asserting that heritage is at risk in Australia today because governments have abandoned leadership, eroded their independent agencies and reduced funding for heritage leaving places and environments across the country at risk, the Federation is calling for renewed Government leadership on our heritage.

The Federation believes that there is a need for the recognition that heritage is an asset, not a liability. Further, that Australia must have a national heritage policy that is embraced by Government at all levels and integration of heritage as part of mainstream decision-making; it should not be considered as an isolated activity.

Awareness of its heritage is fundamental to building Australia's capacity for a sustainable future. To achieve a sustainable future the Federation supports the establishment by the Australian Government of a national endowment fund for cultural heritage to complement funding for the natural environment.

The Federation has written to the Prime Minister expressing concern that heritage was omitted from the agenda of the 2020 Summit and expressing the views outlined above.

Helen Henderson

REPORTS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

Please note that these reports are largely summaries of the reports presented at the May and August FAHS Teleconference Meetings and some original detail has been omitted for space reasons. ED

CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Canberra and District Historical Society continues with a full program of monthly talks. In February, William Refshauge spoke on "*The Solitary Singer - The life and work of Barcroft Boak*". In March, the Society held its annual Canberra Day Oration at the National Library. with the Hon. Bob Debus, Minister for Home Affairs speaking on the history and planning of the National Capital. In April, Coralie Wood, one of Canberra's best known showbiz personalities gave an entertaining account of her career in the theatre. At the May meeting, Tony Powell, former Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission spoke on "*Canberra and the Ideal City in History*". In June, Canberra Times journalist, Andrew Fraser's topic was "*From Parliamentarians to Politicians: the decline of diversity and the rise of the whitebread MP*". At the July meeting, Jenni Farrell spoke on "*The Caretaker's Cottage of Weston Creek*".

CDHS council members have represented FAHS at two important meetings in Canberra. On May 21, President, Judy Becker attended the Round Table meeting for Peak Bodies in the Collections Sector convened by the Collections Council of Australia at the National Gallery of Australia Canberra and Esther Davies was present as an observer at the meeting of the National Cultural Heritage Forum held in Canberra on 17 June. While finances continue to be of concern, there is some positive news. In April, the Society held its second Open Day which attracted a number of visitors to the premises and raised almost \$1000 from a variety of stalls and the Canberra and District Historical Society has also received a GVEHO grant for \$2,300 for operational costs.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

During April, the HSNT moved into office space within the Girl Guides NT Headquarters on the historic Ross Smith Avenue, the original airstrip for Darwin. The building is in an ideal location on a busy road, a few kilometres from the CBD with off street parking. Our AGM was held at the end of March at Giuseppe's Italian restaurant. The Council for 2008 is Brian Reid (President), David Mearns (Vice President), Janie Mason (Secretary) and Kay Goon (Treasurer), Committee, Rita and Kevin Cluley, Yvonne Forrest (Archivist), Earl James, Bev Phelts, Alan Powell, and Matthew Stephen.

Professor David Carment past President, Secretary and FAHS Fellowship recipient retired from his position at Charles Darwin University recently. David's farewell was held at the Mal Nairn Auditorium on 30 April. His function was well attended by society members, work colleagues and personal friends. David still expects to visit Darwin on a regular basis as he still has some post graduate students. Society member, Dr Mickey Dewar has received the Frederick Watson Fellowship from the National Archives of Australia for 2008. Her research will be on Darwin post war and during the 1950s.

Our lecture theme for 2008 is on missions and missionaries in the Territory and lectures will only be held at the beginning and the end of the year. In April, Dr Wendy Beresford-Maning spoke about the Catholic missions in the Northern Territory. Prior to this Kevin Davies had spoken about his time teaching on Elcho Island. FAHS merit award recipient, Pearl Ogden held an historical walk along the Esplanade on the afternoon of 18 May. For our July Camping Trip, the Committee decided to visit Raffles Bay, Cobourg Peninsula which was the Northern Territory's 2nd British settlement (Fort Wellington). The sixth in our series of Occasional Papers by Tim Jones and entitled Ping Que – Mining Magnate has been published. It tells of one of the eminent Chinese miners in the Territory. Currently being printed is Lt. Col. Bobb Glenn's story of his war time travels to Darwin as ADC an American Brigadier, Bobb lives in the USA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29 April 2008. The office-bearers for 2008-9 are: President : Ian Jack, Senior Vice-President: Anne-Maree Whitaker, Vice-President: Alan Ventress.

Special events and functions have included the Australia Day open house in which the Society opened its Victorian public rooms, held a series of 20-minute lectures throughout the day and organised a book sale. Many visitors visited the Society for the first time on 26 January. On 27 February 2008 a well-attended workshop, on grant-applications, was conducted by Mari Metzke. 28 May 2008, to celebrate Information Awareness Month, the RAHS in conjunction with State records NSW held an all-day seminar on Law and Disorder. The speakers were Fabian lo Schiavo from State Records, Fiona Burn from the National Archives and Nerida Campbell from the Justice and Police Museum.

The Society has continued with its very active program of public lectures:

- 2 February 2008: Paul Brunton on the rebellion against Governor Bligh in 1808
- 21 February 2008: Tony Griffith on the Small Arms Factory at Lithgow
- 5 March 2008: Lesley Muir on Sydney's built environment, 1860-1880
- 11 March 2008: Sam Everingham on Cobb and Co.:1, coach transport
- 12 March 2008: Tony Dawson on the Trigonometrical Survey north of Sydney

- 18 March 2008: Sam Everingham on Cobb and Co.: 2, coach-building
- 25 March 2008: Sam Everingham on Cobb and Co.: 3, on the road
- 2 April 2008: Anne-Maree Whitaker on St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney
- 22 April 2008: Gregory Blaxell on the boat-building Halvorsen family
- 29 April 2008: Ian Jack, Presidential Address on the Heritage Crisis
- 7 May 2008: Susan McClean on the pre-1950 preservation movement in Sydney
- 27 May 2008: Tim Smith on the preservation of the Australian submarine AE2 off Gallipoli.
- 4 June 2008: Ken Knight on early colonial pubs and publicans
- 15 June 2008: Bob Irving on the Pymont sandstone quarries - Paradise, Purgatory and Hell Hole
- 17 June 2008: Warwick Abadee on the flying boats which plied from Rose Bay in Sydney Harbour
- June-July 2008: Noeline Kyle, three talks on the writing and recording of family history
- 2 July 2008: Doug Roser on women in the Royal Flying Doctor Service, South Eastern Section.

Excursions for this year have included visits to St John's and St Andrew's College at the University of Sydney, guided respectively by Perry McIntyre and Ian Jack, archivists of the two Colleges, and a tour of the colonial archaeology of Parramatta led by Siobhan Lavelle.

The RAHS continues to publish its *History* magazine. (No. 95, March 2008) and the *Journal of RAHS*, volume 94 no.1, appeared punctually under the editorship of Carol Liston.

Special announcement: RAHS is delighted that its Vice-President and delegate to the FAHS, Alan Ventress, has been appointed Director of the State Records Authority of NSW.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

To address the perennial problems of accommodation and balancing the books, the May AGM agreed to establish a Foundation. As a consequence of recent very careful management, it has been agreed to transfer \$50 000 to the foundation and it is hoped that, in the centenary year, there will be substantial donations to help provide the Society with financial stability. Plans for the celebration of the centenary of RHSV include: the publication of an address book highlighting the history of the RHSV, the range and depth of its collection and some brief reflections on the Society from long-standing contributors like AGL Shaw, Weston Bate and Marjorie Tipping. One of the earliest acquisitions of the Society were the casebooks of Judge Willis in the Port Phillip District, 1841-3. The criminal cases have been carefully transcribed and typed, and Paul Mullaly, a retired judge has written a commentary for a manuscript that we hope to publish as part of the centenary. There will be a conference and exhibition on the RHSV and the 'history movement' in Victoria in May 2009 and papers from that will become the major part of a *VHJ* due out in November.

The usual range of lectures, seminars and workshops is well under way. The monthly Tuesday evening lectures have been Andrew Lemon, 'The History of Thoroughbred Racing in Our Time' in February; Stella Barber, 'Crescendo, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 100 Years' in March; Rosalie Triolo, 'Blackboard to Battlefield: The Victorian Education Department's Teacher-Soldiers' in April; and Alan Gregory, 'George Langley – A Notable Educator and Headmaster' in May. In addition, there has been an excursion led by Marjorie Morgan to view some of John Kenneth Blogg's wood carvings in churches and a school in the Melbourne suburbs of Canterbury and Surrey Hills. The first lunchtime lecture accompanied by onion soup was given by John Murphy, fellow of the RHSV and stalwart Gippsland historian, on 'Onions in Gippsland, 1900-2007', the subject of his latest local history. The History of Victoria Support Group's first seminar on Exhibition Techniques for Local Historical Societies was at Beaufort on 15 March. Val Noone, 'From Charles La Trobe to Charles Gavan Duffy: selectors, squatters and Aborigines' for the annual AGL Shaw Lecture in June; John Lack gave the Fellows Lecture on 'Explaining Alan Moorehead' also in June; Ian McKellar, 'The secret RAAF radar station at Wilson's Promontory during WW2' in July; August brought the joint lecture with the Royal Society by Don Garden on the El Nino Droughts of 1864-69 in the Australian colonies' and later, 'new' historians on Australian political cartoonists in the period 1880s-1920 and on workplace Australian football 1860-1939

as well as Celestina Sagazio on the site of the Queen Victoria Market, once Melbourne's first official cemetery. A workshop on podcasting was held in July. Seminars on funding and indexing are scheduled for late July and late August. The History of Victoria Support Group's next seminar is at Kyneton on 6 September and will focus on the theme of mechanics institutes.

Apart from the centenary publications noted above, *History News* appears regularly. It is now reduced to six issues per year and it is unlikely that it will return to 10 issues in the foreseeable future. It is available on the RHSV website and many members have chosen to receive it by that mode. The bumper first issue of the *Victorian Historical Journal* was published in June with articles covering a wide range of topics: the 1907 Harvester Judgement; pioneer circuses in Victoria; an 1870 murder case against a local Chinese at Castlemaine in 1870; rotary clothes lines in the 19th century; an early 20th century religious community at Kyneton; the wildflower shows of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria; Teresa Wardell, welfare reformer; and Marjorie Lawrence's 1st concert tour. The second issue due out in November is also a large one taking in papers from the highly successful women's suffrage in Victoria conference in late 2007. It is financially supported by government grant.

The RHSV has initiated a History Week in Victoria commencing 13 October 2008. There have been earlier versions usually organized through the National Trust that have been in abeyance for some time. It is hoped that this revival will build on the strengths of the RHSV regional network of societies and that it will attract funding in future years. The initiative is supported by the History Council of Victoria that has council membership from the major history institutions but very little money. A familiar story!

The RHSV were successful in getting a grant from the multicultural commission of \$2,000 for an exhibition to be held during History Week. This will be curated by Judith Buckrich.

As part of its appeal for funds for centenary projects, the RHSV has launched the **\$100 for 100 years** appeal with pleasing response. It is hoped that the Judge Willis casebooks will be supported from grants.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The Society has been very active in taking new initiatives - History Week, banners promoting the Society, a new editorial team for the *Journal* and design of a new cover for the *Journal*. The Committees have all been meeting and planning exhibitions and promoting the Society. A New Members' Pack has been formulated. Several grant applications have been made for conservation of books and photographs, and arrangements made for the August conference, which was on a Separation theme.

Council decided to hold a History Week in Queensland from 30 May to 6 June 2008. It began with the Book Auction of Australiana on 30th May which was very successful with \$6,000 being raised from the sales. There were 87 pre-auction bids from around Australia and overseas. History Week concluded with the Queensland Day Dinner and Presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Medal to Dr. Judith McKay.

The Society has obtained a \$13,000 grant for new amenities and a sign at the Burke and Wills 'Dig Tree' on Cooper Creek in western Queensland. (The Society is the Trustee for the Reserve.)

The evening and lunchtime lectures continue. The topics this year have been very broad ranging on Queensland history including missions to Melaneseans, mining, Lebanese in Queensland, History of the Eight Hour Day, the Schonells of University of Queensland, the explorer Caroline Creagh from Rockhampton to Darwin. Recent topics have been south Pacific exploration in the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries; the Macarthurs' and Leslies' connections and pastoral properties in New South Wales and Queensland and the first Australian Alpaca industry; history of Brisbane photographers; and Lasseter's Gold and men who believed in the myth. The Clem Lack Oration will be given at the AGM and will be on Sir Thomas McIlwraith, Premier in the 1880s.

A new Editorial Committee has been formed with the appointment of a new Hon Editor together with three Assistant Editors. One of the Society members designed a new *Journal* cover which incorporates the Queensland flag and historical photos and also changes the *Journal* title to *Queensland History Journal*. A new *Journal* of 72 pages has been produced for August.

The Society is substantially upgrading its website in design and content. It is including historical information on Queensland Day, the Society's Awards (Fellowships, MacGregor Medals and the John Douglas Kerr Medal) and our services.

The Museum Committee has been meeting to plan exhibitions promoting the Society and is co-ordinating with the Hon Research Officers Team to complete the research for the exhibitions. The next exhibition will be opened at the AGM on 21 August 2008.

Council has also endorsed a design for banners promoting the Society, to be utilised at public functions and outside the building to attract passers-by.

ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Liaison with other community and government bodies continues. The Lotterywest Feasibility Study Grant of \$20,000 for a *Proposed Community History House* was acquitted in July and future projects with Museums Australia WA are being developed. A Business Planning Consultant was appointed in July to work with the Society to finalise its Business Plan in order to be considered for triennial funding from the DCA, with the assistance of a \$5,000 grant. Meetings have been held with community history and genealogical organisations to acquire the two year Lotterywest funding grant to save historical records at risk in the JS Battye Library. Representatives of RWAHS Council met with the Oral History Association of Australia (WA) and other community history bodies to finalise a \$1million grant submission to Lotterywest for saving the oral historical records at risk in the Battye Library.

Western Australia's Foundation Day Address in June featured a paper by Dr Marion Hercock and Mr Harry Leaver entitled *John Forrest's expedition of 1869 in search of Leichhardt*. Leaver, a member of the 'Follow Forrest 1974 Expedition' retraced the 1869 route.

A Giant Annual Second hand Book sale, organised by volunteers, was held in March raising over \$10,000 on the day. The 54th Pioneers Memorial Service at East Perth Cemeteries on 24 May commemorated 150th anniversary of Bishop Hale, first Church of England Bishop of Perth and three clergy buried in the Cemeteries, HH Parry, E Hughes and JB Wittenoom.

The annual program of General Meetings continued. In March, Gerard Foley presented a paper, *St James's Square or Western Australia? - Thomas and Anna Leonowens 1853-57*; in April Dr David Phillips presented *TH Miller & Sons and their Melville Bakery*; in May The Rev'd Fr Edward Doncaster presented a paper about Local Saints Venerable John R Wollaston Archdeacon and Rev'd Canon Edward M Collick.; in June Dr Pamela Statham-Drew and Mrs Ruth Marchant James presented *The Site of Clarence*; in July Ms Sue Hart presented *Remarriage in 19th Century Western Australia*. In August, the *History in the City* program featured a talk by Jo Pearson and Kate Papierniak *Focus on Fans from the collection and their conservation*.

RWAHS held an April Bus Tour to meet members of the Canning Districts Historical Society, Museum, visit Cannington Maritime Museum and *Woodloes c1874 Homestead*, a *Tour behind the scenes* of the newly built ABC head office in June and, in August, a *Tour to Beverley and Brookton, east of Perth*.

The RWAHS Newsletter; *History West*, was published monthly in March through August 2008.

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

(also reporting on History Council of SA, SA Historical Society, National Trust of SA.)

History Week was a runaway success once again, with 288 events in the program and an enthusiastic response from both the community and media. We estimate from the evaluation forms returned that about 55,000 people participated in an event and are confident that interest is growing steadily. Many are already planning their events for next year. We find that while some community organisations participate every year, others tend to dip in and out. This year was the fifth successive History Week and we plan to continue as long as there is community interest. We hope that 2011, which the 175th anniversary of European settlement, will be a bumper year. The State History conference was held in Port Adelaide on 1-3 August this year, with papers loosely organized around the general theme of 'Changing Places Changing Lives'. Prof. Mark Peel of Monash University was the key-note speaker, on the topic 'History, change and the future'. There were 26 papers over the weekend, with Saturday afternoon given over to seven tours. About 160 attendees registered. The conference program is on our web site if anyone is interested (www.history.sa.gov.au) and we will post the papers later as we receive final versions.

Exhibition highlights include the launch and tour of *Off the Beaten Track: A Journey Across the Nation*. This exhibition, curated by Allison Russell of the National Motor Museum, re-traces, as closely as possible, the route taken by the first motor vehicle to cross the nation from south to north in 1908. The Motor Museum has the vehicle, a 1908 Talbot, and has constructed a special trailer-cum-exhibition to tow it. The Talbot is in working order and was driven out of the Torrens Parade Ground to begin the tour. It visits some 22 locations along the way, including Alice Springs, calling in at communities and schools with an education program and public talks. As you can imagine, the exhibition has excited much community and media interest. We received two grants from the *Visions of Australia* program to develop the exhibition and take it on tour. There is a blog of the tour on the web-site.

Issues of political concern in SA in this period include on-going attempts to ensure the preservation of heritage areas in Port Adelaide. The SA History Council has also lobbied government in association with the National Trust. The History Council, the History Trust (HTSA) and the Professional Historians' Association continue to lobby government to provide funding for a program to commemorate 175 years of European settlement in 2011. The support of the FAHS on both issues is appreciated. There may be some progress in Port Adelaide. Certainly government is concerned at the extent of community disquiet.

New temporary exhibitions developed by the HTSA include *Blue Jeans & Jungle Greens: revisiting the sixties and seventies*, curated by Mandy Paul (in the History Trust Gallery); *To Have and to Hold: an Australian love affair*, curated by Allison Russell, (at the National Motor Museum) and *Hope: the imagination of young people on the margins* (at the Migration Museum).

Touring exhibitions included: *The River: Life on the Murray-Darling*, curated by Bill Seager (currently at the Australian National Maritime Museum); *Gallipoli: the South Australian Story*, curated by Kate Walsh (currently in Sturt); *The Voice of the People: democracy comes to South Australia*, curated by Mandy Paul (currently in Ardrossen); *Vote Yes: the 1967 Referendum*, curated by Mandy Paul (currently at the History Trust for Reconciliation Week). *Off the Beaten Track*, currently in Alice Springs; *Wrecked: Tragedy and the Southern Seas*, curated by Bill Seager, at the Australian National Maritime Museum and several regional centres in Victoria and NSW; *Blue Jeans and Jungle Greens* tour opens in Berri; and *Vote Yes: the 1967 Referendum* in Mannum. Exhibitions in preparation include *Evidence of Survival: Stories of Post World War II Migrants* (Migration Museum, opening mid-August) and *Shades of Green* (an exhibition about the car and sustainability issues at the National Motor Museum, opening late August).

The History Trust & friends of the Barr Smith Library ran a Series on SA in the sixties and seventies from June – September:

12 June Dr Graham Willett Australian Centre, University of Melbourne: 'Duncan's Dead but We're alive: Lesbian and Gay Activism in South Australia in the Seventies'

17 July Prof. Peter Edwards University of NSW and Deakin University 'In the Tradition? Writing our official history of the Vietnam War'

7 August Hon Lynn Arnold 'Vocal Minority meets the Silent Majority: shifts in popular opinion and politics during the Vietnam War.'

11 September Prof. Susan Magarey University of Adelaide 'women's Liberation and Dame Roma Mitchell'

The History Council of South Australia's annual lecture on 29 July was delivered by Prof. Henry Reynolds on 'Wars and History Wars'.

The South Australian Historical Society's monthly lecture series continues:

- 7 March John Mannion 'A largely forgotten Story: Peterborough and Post World War II Migration'
- 4 April Trevor Wilson 'From Phoney War to Battle of Britain, to Where?'
- 2 May Pat Sumerling 'Bert Edwards, King of the West End'.
- 6 June: Pam Tamblyn 'Significant Trees: Spirits of Endurance in the 21st Century'.
- 4 July: Peter Adamson 'Lindsay Hardy's Dossier on Demetrius'.
- 1 August: Dr Angela Heuzenroeder 'Style and Survival, Gardens of the Barossa'.

TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

THRA has continued its programme of speakers, excursions and the publication of THRA P&P (Papers & Proceedings). Five extremely successful excursions have been held, including one to the Anglesea Barracks in Hobart. A number of members - including Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Nic Haygarth - have successfully published books recently. Organisation of the annual THRA conference on 4 October – this year titled, 'Debauch and Outrage? A commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Norfolk Islanders in Tasmania' – is progressing well. It is also developing a new website and is investigating the online publication of THRA P&P. We have had three monthly meetings with speakers.. The annual Eldershaw lecture will be given by Professor Janet McCalman on 9 September and is titled 'Climate Change and World History: the last 10,000 years'.

TEACHING AUSTRALIAN HISTORY – LOCAL HISTORY AND A NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Please note that the following is an abridged version of an article published in the *Canberra Historical Journal*, New Series No. 60, August 2008, pp 18-22.

For the past two years, the teaching of history, especially Australian History, has received considerable attention from governments, the media and the wider public. Following the National History Summit in 2006, the then federal government proposed a national Australian History curriculum including, somewhat controversially, the 'main' events in our history to be studied by all students up to the end of Year 10. The November 2007 election and the subsequent change of government overtook any implementation of these proposals. On the 30th January, 2008, the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced the appointment of Professor Barry McGaw as chair of the government's new National Curriculum Board. This board has commenced its work and, as of June 27, has a website. The Board is charged with devising a national curriculum with four core areas: English, History, Mathematics and Science. Its establishment is excellent news for those who are distressed by the long-term decline of history teaching in schools and universities. It is also potentially good news for local history societies who may look forward to a strengthening of community interest in their work. This article considers the implications of a national History curriculum for the teaching of local history in schools; after all, to paraphrase Milton, 'World History is but Local History writ large'.

As the following case studies from ACT high schools illustrate, addressing national history through the prism of local history can enthuse student and dispel perceptions of Australian history as boring or irrelevant.

Case study 1 - The Canberra High School War Memorial

At Canberra High School, in 1985, an entire class researched the history of the 43 ex-students whose names appeared on the War Memorial plaque in the foyer of the school. At that time, before the advent of the Internet, this was quite a formidable task. The students were divided into groups of two or three, researching three or four names respectively. With the assistance of an education officer at the Australian War Memorial, a *Canberra Times* journalist, the president of the Canberra and District Historical Society, and other local people, they were finally able to piece together the stories of each of the men who had died in this conflict. They compiled two memorial albums which were presented to the school at a ceremony attended by many of the relatives of the deceased servicemen, including two mothers. This brought them face-to-face with the reality of war and its consequences. The students were almost unanimously excited and enthusiastic about this project and wrote glowing comments in their class evaluations. At least two went on to study history at postgraduate level. The albums are still in the school over 20 years later and are used as the basis of Anzac and Remembrance Day celebrations. What could be seen as a local history study, provided the students with an in-depth study of the areas in which Australians fought in World War II, as well as a glimpse of the effects of the war in Australia. It also equipped students with valuable historical research skills. Today of course, some of this material could be obtained from databases such as the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour database. However, it is still important for students to meet with family members and to visit local sites associated with the subjects of their research.

Case Study 2 – In Flanders Fields –Study kit

In another example, a study kit, developed by a teacher and an education officer from the Australian War Memorial, focused on the story of a local soldier killed in World War I and commemorated on his sister's grave in a local cemetery and on the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres, Belgium. This study had far reaching consequences, including a reunion of the soldier's extended family and the placing of a memorial headstone on his parents' grave. At least one family member has visited the Menin Gate Memorial as has the teacher. The study unit was enthusiastically received by students and one former student recently explained that her main aim in visiting Belgium had been to find the soldier's name on the Menin Gate. She was anxious for her teacher to know the impact of the story on her life. The kit itself was used in many New South Wales and ACT schools. Similar projects could be done using the names on local war memorials and local history resources throughout Australia. .

However, in spite of such individual success stories and a plethora of resources in local and national museums and in historical societies, the decline in numbers of well-trained history teachers matches the decline in history student numbers. In recent times, teachers with other qualifications were often pressed into teaching history while others with History qualifications were driven to retrain themselves into other disciplines when course numbers declined. Consequently there is an urgent need for professional development and retraining in all areas of History teaching. Further, because of the decline in past history courses, many young teachers have a very limited historical background.

A new national History curriculum will offer a splendid opportunity for local history societies to provide resources and assist in the professional development of teachers. As the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) wrote in its submission to the national *History Teaching in Schools* enquiry in 2000:

In order to encourage excellence in history teaching, state and Commonwealth governments should support more effective, locally delivered, sustained and affordable professional development specifically aimed at history teachers. Incentives should be given for professional associations and local historical societies to assist with the provision of professional development.

Representing FAHS in March 2007, the two authors and Dr Ruth Kerr met with Dr Declan O’Connell of the then federal Department of Education Science and Training. In that meeting we outlined the vast historical resources available in historical societies and museums in regional and urban Australia. We also presented the case for involving historical societies in providing access, for teachers and students, to their collections and in providing local professional development for teachers. In March 2008, the authors again met with Dr O’Connell and also with Dr Marie Hird from the restructured and renamed department of education—the new Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. We learned that the new national History curriculum—devised by Professor McGaw’s board, will be wider and include all fields of historical study. With new curricula in English, Mathematics and Science, the History curriculum is scheduled for implementation in 2011. Professor McGaw will hold public consultations during the curriculum development phase and we hope local history societies will form part of that consultation. The implementation phase will be managed by the federal department with support from the State and Territory Departments of Education. Again we promoted extensive teacher professional development with the implementation phase.

Most local societies could, with some assistance, offer basic training in the use of local history resources or even host local history seminars as professional development opportunities for teachers. If possible, local societies should be involved in developing units linking the new curriculum to the local historical environment. At the very least, all historical societies should endeavour to be aware of the topics being taught in Australian History courses in their local schools. They should also be prepared to offer support and access to their collections for students researching these topics. In the past, many local societies have willingly provided such support as well as offering knowledgeable speakers for history classes. However, all of these initiatives depend very heavily on the enthusiasm and goodwill of historical society members. This, in turn, depends on societies receiving adequate financial support from local, state and federal governments.

While there certainly is concern about the current state of history teaching in Australia and apprehension about future directions, we believe there is a very real opportunity to revive worthwhile and valid history teaching. There is also an opportunity for local historical societies and museums to play a vital role in this renaissance and to enhance their own role in the community. Educators, historical societies and the wider community must unite to ensure that the necessary resources are provided to ensure that this happens.

Authors: **Esther Davies** is a member of the FAHS Council, a Past President of the ACT History Teachers Association and the Canberra & District Historical Society. From 1999 until 2005 she was the ACT Coordinator of the National History Challenge. **Julia Ryan** has over 30 years’ experience as a classroom teacher of history. She has held office in the ACT History Teachers Association and is a councillor of the Canberra & District Historical Society.



HERITAGE TOURISM IN AUSTRALIA A GUIDE FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Dianne Snowden

In May 2008 the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) published its most recent guide for members of Australian historical societies. Unlike previous guides, this 'book' has been published exclusively on the web and is available to everyone free of charge.

It is *Heritage Tourism in Australia: a guide for historical societies*. It is available on the FAHS website <http://www.history.org.au>

The FAHS commissioned Tasmanian author and genealogical researcher Dr Dianne Snowden to write the book. It was published with financial assistance from the New South Wales **Heritage Council**. (Department of Planning Heritage Branch, New South Wales, under its Heritage Incentives Program).

This publication reflects the growing interest in heritage tourism in Australia, and the vital role that the nearly 1000 local historical societies already play in facilitating access to local heritage, and will increasingly play in the future. Historical societies are major repositories of local knowledge and memory and through their collections, museums and advice do a great deal to make history and heritage available to both locals and visitors.

This guide is intended to assist them to work in partnerships with local authorities and tourist groups to develop local heritage in the promotion of tourism, and in the use of tourism to promote heritage. It includes bibliographical sources, where possible or appropriate.

This publication offers guidance and instruction on the following aspects:

- Developing recognition that heritage has become a major part of tourism in many regions of Australia
- Sourcing materials, information, expertise and guidance from other historical societies with special mention of *My Connected Community*
- Guidance to sensitising local societies to their capacity to contribute to local heritage tourism, such as publications, museums, heritage walks (both guided walks and pamphlet guides), heritage tours, signposts and plaques etc
- Working with local councils, tourism authorities etc to promote local heritage Devising heritage walks and other heritage activities for visitors
- Promoting the heritage of the local community and region
- Running historical museums and preparing heritage displays
- Publishing pamphlets and other heritage materials for tourists
- Producing heritage signs.

PUBLISHING HISTORY: A GUIDE FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

"Publishing History - a Guide for Historical Societies", published by the FAHS in 2006, which has hitherto been available only in hard copy form, can now be downloaded free of charge from the FAHS website www.history.org.au. The printed book is still available and can be purchased by writing to the FAHS at PO Box 1440, Canberra ACT 2601 and enclosing a cheque for \$12.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the high cost of printing and posting this Newsletter to over 1,000 historical societies throughout Australia, the FAHS has regrettably decided that this will probably be the last PRINTED issue that it will send out. The Newsletter will continue to be produced, but only in electronic form, for distribution by e-mail, and for access on the FAHS website www.history.org.au.

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