

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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

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

***E-BULLETIN* No. 60 – 22 December 2009**

Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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Please note: The FAHS also publishes an electronic **Newsletter**, which is generally more focused on FAHS activities than is the E-Bulletin and is published less frequently. However, on this occasion the publication dates coincide. Both are available (along with recent past issues) on the FAHS website at www.history.org.au

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2010

1) Google book settlement

Important update

Background

In February 2009 CAL (Copyright Agency Limited) notified members via mail or email of the proposed Google Book Settlement (the Settlement). First announced in October 2008, the Settlement is a negotiated agreement made between Google, the Authors Guild (US) and the Association of American Publishers. This was a class action by those rights holder organisations against Google following its scanning of in-copyright works held in US libraries, and displaying 'snippets' of these works online. A summary of the Settlement can be found on CAL's website. Further information, including the full Settlement agreement, can be located at the Google Book Settlement website.

When public comment on the Settlement was invited during 2009, a number of foreign rights holder groups and government agencies, together with the US Department of Justice, objected to a number of features, including its potential to create a monopoly for Google in respect of 'orphan works'. In response to these criticisms, the Settlement has now been amended. You can find a copy of the Supplemental Notice which outlines changes to the original settlement.

Changes in the Amended Settlement

The most significant change for Australian rights holders is the new definition of Books and Inserts. The draft agreement now only covers Books and Inserts published *before* 5 January 2009, if their place of publication was the US, UK, Canada or Australia; or if they were published elsewhere and registered with the US Copyright Office. This means that Australian rights holders *are still included* in the Settlement.

Therefore, it is important that you read the information provided in this CAL member e-alert. CAL advises that unless you opt out of the Settlement, your works will be affected and you will be bound by the agreement when it is approved by the US District Court at the final Fairness Hearing in February 2010.

There are 20 major changes in the new draft settlement listed in the [Supplemental Notice](#).

The key dates are 28 January 2010 (to opt out) and not have the books digitised or 31 March 2011 to claim a one off cash payment.

Further information is contained on the websites below:

Google Book Settlement official website www.googlebooksettlement.com

Copyright Agency Limited website:

http://www.copyright.com.au/Latest_News/Google_book_settlement_1.aspx

Australian Publishers Association website www.publishers.asn.au

Australian Society of Authors website www.asauthors.org

(Source: CAL Alert – 15 December 2009)

2) Local history : Perth – Kalgoorlie water pipeline award

The water pipeline from Perth to Kalgoorlie has been named a world engineering landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers in October 2009.

The 556 kms pipeline completed in 1902 has been named alongside the Eiffel Tower, Panama Canal, Golden Gate Bridge, Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The engineer in charge was C.Y. O'Connor, Western Australia's Chief Engineer. The pipeline had been Australia's most expensive engineering project at the time. Lack of water had been a major problem on the Golden Mile since its discovery in 1893 until the arrival of the water at the official opening in January 1903 by the Western Australian Premier, Sir John Forrest. O'Connor had been severely criticised for his work but was vindicated by a Commission of Inquiry. He committed suicide at Fremantle soon after as the criticism continued.

Engineering Heritage Australia (a Special Interest Group of Engineers Australia) awarded the 2009 John Monash Medal to Dr Richard Hartley of Perth, a member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the Australian Mining History Association. The award recognises outstanding contributions made by individuals towards increasing the awareness, and conservation, of Australia's engineering heritage. Richard's achievements include several books on aspects of Australian engineering history, as well as many nominations of historic engineering works for listing on the Register of the National Estate. The award has been announced in Engineering E-News 30 November 2009. Richard wrote the book, *River of Steel – A History of the Western Australian Goldfields Agricultural Water Supply 1903-2000*, following his PhD at Murdoch University. The book provides a comprehensive account of the development, maintenance and operation of the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply scheme through its first 100 years of service. During his working life Richard was a civil engineer working as a contractor and, in Western Australia, with Maunsell and Partners.

(Source: *Australian* 21 October 2009 p.3 and *Engineers Australia E-News* 30 November 2009 <http://www.engaustralia.com.au/magazines/enews/301109.html#news9>)

3) Local history : McCrossin's Mill, Uralla

Uralla Historical Society held the official opening of its new function centre on 25 October 2009. The then Heritage Minister, Hon Kristin Keneally spoke about how heritage buildings 'breathe life' in a town. Ms Maisy Stapleton, CEO of Museums & Galleries in NSW, and Ms Meg Larkin, Regional Arts NSW and New England Regional Art Museum Board Chair, both spoke about the constant evolution in use of historic buildings. They saw McCrossin's Mill as a fine example. The new function centre will enable the upgrade of permanent exhibitions and ensure the installation of new exhibitions in the Chaff Shed.

(Source: *Armidale Express* 30 October 2009 p.12)