

*Welcome to the Federation of
 Australian Historical Societies
 eBulletin No. 209, December 2023*

Hon. Editor: Christine Yeats

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President’s Message

Welcome to the FAHS eBulletin number 209.

Yet again we are facing the impact of climate change with fires, heavy rain and flooding. The FAHS has information on Disaster Planning and Recovery on its website for local societies and groups (<https://www.history.org.au/disaster-planning-and-recovery/>).

I am delighted to announce that three fellowships were awarded this year. Fellowships are awarded for an outstanding contribution to the community history and heritage movement nationally and/or in more than one State or Territory. You can read more about the 2023 recipients in this eBulletin.

FAHS Councillor Rosalie Triolo recently conducted a Writing Local History Workshop in conjunction with The Royal Historical Society of Queensland. This was the third of these highly successful workshops and on behalf of the FAHS I want to express our thanks to Rosalie and all those who have supported the workshops.

**Christine Yeats FRAHS
 President**

Federation of Australian Historical Societies

**CLIMATE
 CHANGE
 IMPACTS**

Just three years ago we reported on fires that devastated Genoa and Mallacoota in Victoria’s far east.

The latest storms had Mallacoota isolated after the road was blocked by a landslide during heavy rains and floods.

*Old Genoa bridge decking on fire in 2020.
 Image - Ryley Broome*



SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

What you can do

[Become a Supporter of the FAHS](#) (annual fee \$33)

If you value the work of the FAHS, consider being one of our Supporters! Supporters are essential for the FAHS to be able to carry out advocacy work at the national level.

FAHS Supporters receive the following benefits:

- advice on collections
- representation by the FAHS in appropriate network, advocacy liaison activities upon request
- receipt of FAHS Newsletter and e-Bulletin
- information about history and heritage opportunities
- inclusion of news and information about events and achievements which you may wish to publicise

The first 200 Supporters will receive a #HistoryMattersAU badge. You can register to become a Supporter [here](#).

Make a donation by bank transfer
- BSB 016 281
- Account no. 4052 03711

In the notes/message field please enter your name, and then email the FAHS Treasurer your details: nickdrew@bigpond.com.

Write to your local federal member and write to the Minister for the Environment

Funding for arts and cultural organisations in Australia is at an all-time low. In your letter, urge them to provide more funding for services to the community history and heritage movement across Australia, just as funding is provided for other groups such as sporting clubs.

You can download the flyer 'Historical Societies: Strengthening and Promoting Communities' [here](#) (FAHS Infosheet flyer)

What your society can do

Make your society an [Associate Member](#) (annual fee \$33)

All history and heritage groups, whether formally associated with a state peak society or not, are invited to become Associate Memberships. Associate Members receive the following benefits:

- advice on collections representation by the FAHS in appropriate network, advocacy liaison activities upon request
- receipt of FAHS Newsletter and e-Bulletin
- information about history and heritage opportunities
- inclusion of news and information about a society's events and achievements

To become an Associate Member and/or to make a donation by bank transfer
- BSB 016 281
- Account no. 4052 03711

In the notes/message field please enter your name, and then email the FAHS Treasurer your details: nickdrew@bigpond.com.



FAHS – General

FAHS Annual General Meeting

The FAHS Annual General Meeting was held on 16 October 2023. Bob Nicholson, the delegate from the Royal Western Australia Historical Society, had previously advised the Council that he was stepping down. The Committee expressed their thanks to Bob for his contributions to the FAHS over many years.

All Executive Officers were due for election and the following were elected:

President: Christine Yeats (Royal Australian Historical Society)

Secretary: Ruth Kerr (The Royal Historical Society of Queensland)

Treasurer: Nick Drew (Royal Western Australian Historical Society)

Vice President: Amanda James (History Trust of South Australia)

FAHS Fellowships

Three FAHS Fellowships were awarded at the AGM. The recipients are:

Dr Helen Henderson AM, PhD

Dr Henderson has contributed substantially to the national work and aims of the FAHS through her publications and support of history and the local and national level. She has contributed to Australian historiography and the local history movement through the FAHS across all States and Territories. During her involvement in the world of history Dr Henderson contributed to the advocacy for and teaching of history/heritage at primary, secondary and/or tertiary levels or similar, including teacher training and ongoing professional development. Likewise, she contributed to advocacy for the protection and conservation of movable and built heritage.

Malcolm Sainty AM

In 1980s Malcolm devised the Joint Copying Project between the National Library of Australia, the State Library of NSW and the Society of Australian Genealogists to microfilm Parish Registers in NSW and the ACT. In 2006 Malcolm with Keith Johnson established the Biographical Database of Australia with the

purpose of putting indexed historical records onto the internet to help researchers working in Australian history. Malcolm's technical expertise underpinned this development and his continuing work in identifying historical records and making them available online to national and international audiences helps all historians in this field.

Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine

In 2015 the RHSV created a Heritage Committee and chose Councillor Emeritus Professor Charles Sowerwine as chairperson. Professor Sowerwine, who taught French History at the University of Melbourne from 1974 to 2010 was chosen for this role due to his passionate interest in Melbourne and Victoria's heritage and the policy of heritage protections for almost 50 years. Charles Sowerwine quickly engaged with Melbourne's history and heritage joining the National Trust on his arrival in Australia in 1974. His 1996 Wandering Scholar's Guide to Melbourne has been through seven editions.

The FAHS Council congratulates the recipients of the Fellowships.

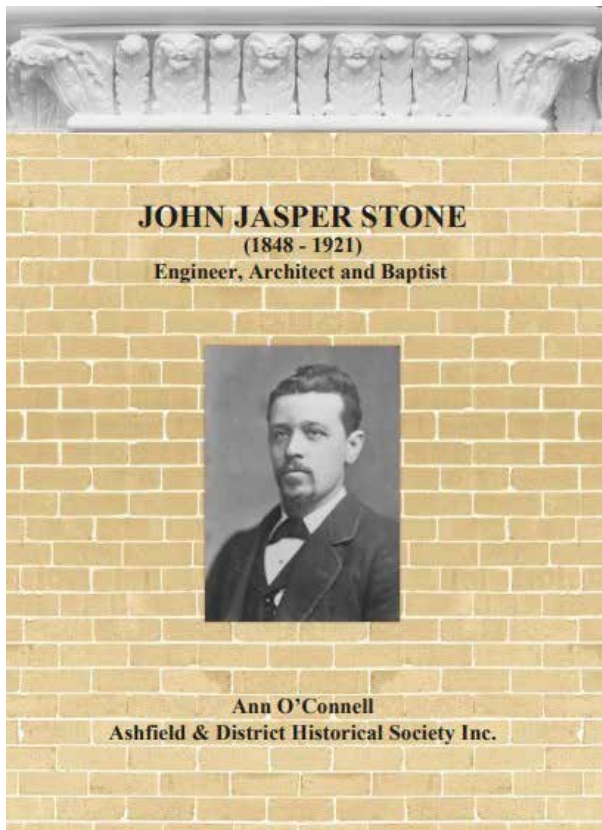
History News

Celebrating 2023 – Ashfield & District Historical Society Inc.

Retrospectively, 2023 has been an extraordinary year for the Ashfield & District Historical Society! The Society has remembered its 50th anniversary with a happy celebration attended by members, guests and dignitaries, many of whom 'dressed up', wearing their 'flairs', pantsuits, psychedelic patterns and hippy gear.

The successful year has been due to our dynamic Committee, (all seventeen of them) who have worked together cohesively and supportively, as well as our large membership are interested in their local history and heritage, attending interesting activities and receiving their newsletters and publications.

It was a record year with two books and one bumper journal being published. The books were biographies; one about *Frederick Clissold Esquire, of Glentworth* and the other on *John Jasper Stone, Engineer, Architect and Baptist*.



The books are the only published works on these men, both of whom contributed to the history of Sydney.

Most importantly, Ashfield History Journal No. 23 was launched in November on the topic of 'Houses of the Ashfield District'. It contained articles written by our regular researchers, but more importantly there were several new authors, who produced some outstanding, thoroughly researched, well-written stories – certainly a great reason to celebrate a fantastic year.

Ann O'Connell
Ashfield & District Historical Society

News from FAHS constituent societies

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CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS) held its AGM on 12 September. The constitution required a change of President as it imposes a three-year limit on holding that office. Outgoing president, Allen Mawer, became the Immediate Past President and one of two Vice Presidents (the other being Esther Davies).

Our new president is Dr Richard Reid who brings a significant interest in the Irish diaspora in Australia as well as considerable experience with history education.

Telopea Park School celebrated its centenary as the first school built in the national capital. FAHS delegate Esther Davies was a major contributor to those celebrations which included an exhibition at the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery.

The last members' meeting for the year provided an opportunity for several members to give short talks about their current projects. We heard about old lime kilns, the Women in Science Archive project, and the long involvement of Elizabeth Burness telling wonderful stories about the district's history.

Early December will feature the CDHS annual dinner which celebrates the society's birthday (10 December 1953). We will have been entertained by local historian, Nichole Overall. Most will have gone home with raffle prizes.

Nick Swain
CDHS

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian History Fund (SAHF) Grants Awarded

The History Trust of South Australia has allocated \$136,315 to 35 projects through the annual SAHF grant round.

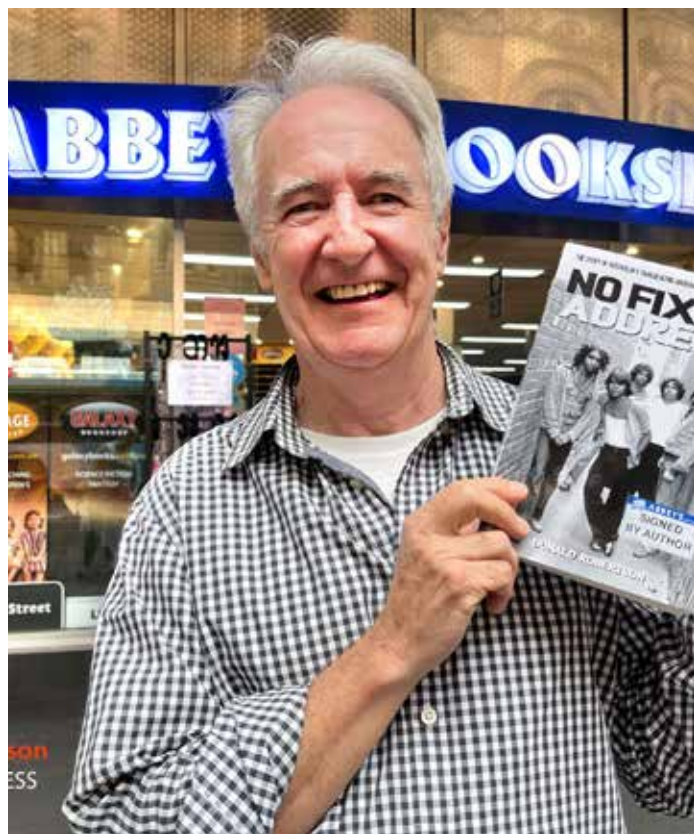
Projects selected for funding reflect a broad scope of South Australian history including social and environmental history, sport, the Holocaust, war, women's and First Nations histories.

An exciting mix of film, digital collections, print and online publications, creation of research

resources and oral history projects will be supported with small grants up to \$5,000.

The SAHF is an important way that the History Trust enables community groups and individuals to capture and share aspects of South Australian history. The list of funded projects for 2023-24 is available here SAHF 2023-24.

Amanda James



The SAHF supports a wide variety of projects including publications. Donald Robertson's book *No Fixed Address* received support from the SAHF in the 2022-23 grant round. *No Fixed Address* is an Aboriginal rock'n'reggae band that formed in 1979 at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music at the University of Adelaide. *No Fixed Address* was the first Aboriginal band to secure a major recording contract, the first to appear on the ABC-TV program *Countdown* and the first to tour overseas when they went to England in 1984. Image courtesy Donald Robertson.

Western Sydney Regional Seminar

On Saturday 18 November a one day regional seminar was held at the Western Sydney Records Centre, entitled *Unveiling the Untold: Crafting Compelling Local Histories*. Supported financially by Create NSW and conducted by the Royal Australian Historical Society in conjunction with Museums of History NSW, the

program aimed to promote the study, writing and dissemination of Australian history.

Four presenters told of their experiences in researching and writing local history to assist in developing historical expertise that could be taken back to local societies or help individual researchers and writers.

Dr Iain Stuart, President of RAHS hosted the day and in his presentation, showed the value and importance of local history in his work as an archaeologist. No digging starts until maps are consulted and local history research is done! Judith Dunn drew on her experience of publishing seven books and many articles, with numerous tips and tricks to assist the unwary first time publisher.

Using information from the public domain, sizes of books, binding methods, how to project the required size of a print run were some of the many items discussed. Dr Matthew Stephens gave a lively talk on unfolding the real story of an interesting historical character. The family narrative was not always the same as some deeper research showed and negotiating what to write of the story while not offending descendants could prove quite tricky. Emily Hanna, Lead Archivist at Museums of History guided attendees on ways to research local history using the State Archives collection. Her vast knowledge of the collection revealed the depth of information that could be gleaned from research at the archives.

A question and answer panel with all four presenters rounded off the day and produced many interesting questions to illuminate points made during their talks or to develop a point even further. The day was well attended and showed there is an appetite for workshops to assist and support history and heritage projects.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

From the national to the local:

Readers of this eBulletin know that Australia's history, if understood well, embraces diverse peoples, places and perspectives. Fewer readers know that Victoria is the sole Australian jurisdiction offering a wholly dedicated Australian history course at Year 12. The reasons are complex and beyond the space available here for adequate explanation,

however, the RHSV and the National Capital Educational Tourism Project are collaborating to take another 20 past and present VCE Australian History teachers, historians, textbook authors and curriculum officials to the national capital's leading institutions. Through a 4-day intensive in January 2024, RHSV and NCETP are determined to ensure a dynamic and ongoing Australian History presence in Victoria, which includes helping build a collegial network with the confidence to speak out should Victoria's course come under threat: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/canberra-resources-immersion-program/>

Closer to home, Melbourne's lanes and arcades are a treasured heritage feature. In 1994, Weston Bate wrote his acclaimed *Essential but unplanned: The story of Melbourne's lanes*. It detailed inner Melbourne's rapid growth and, in particular, the laneways' transitions from, crudely put, reviled repositories of rubbish to sites of cosmopolitan couture and cuisine. In 2024, to mark 30 years since Weston's publication, RHSV is producing a new book of the lanes' and arcades' stories, tracing their transitions into a new century along with professional photographs of their current life.

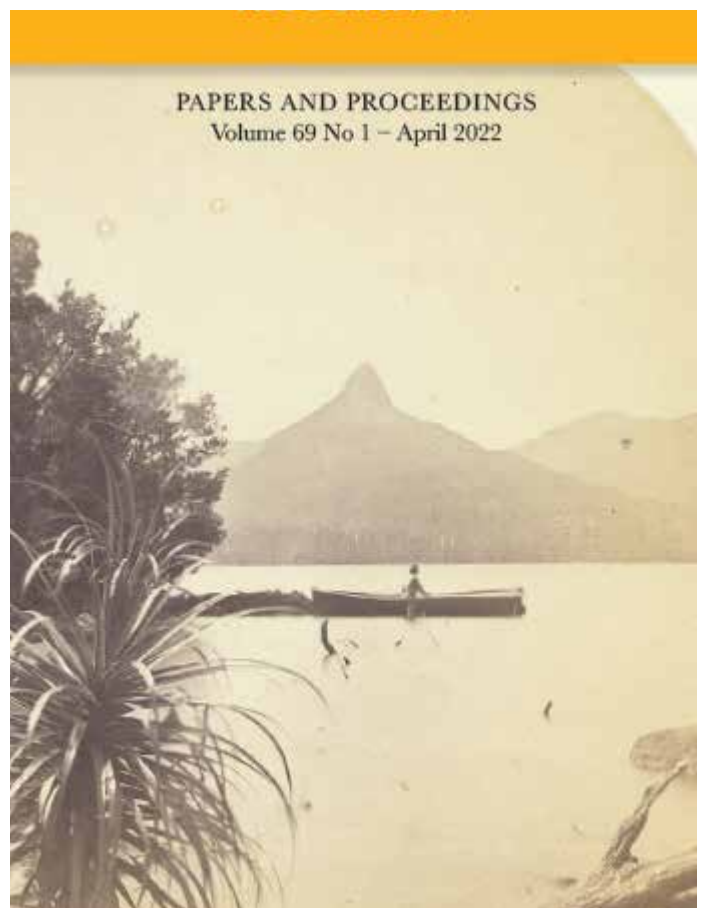
Rosalie Triolo
RHSV Vice-President

TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Tasmanian Historical Research Association (THRA) has launched a digital Archive of the journal *Papers and Proceedings*. Spanning over 70 years 1951 – 2022, the Archive consists of digitised copies of 269 issues of the journal, containing over 500 papers along with indexes to the first 60 volumes.

Researchers can browse or search individual issues or search across the whole Archive, making it an invaluable research tool. Members can download the free Archive via the THRA website.

Some noted authors over the years include KM Dallas, AGL Shaw, George Rudé, Lloyd Robson, Geoffrey Blainey, Michael Roe, Joan Kerr, Manning Clark, Ken Inglis, Marilyn Lake, Henry Reynolds and Marjorie Tipping.



*THRA has launched a digital archive of the journal *Papers and Proceedings**

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

On 4 December 2023 Dr Ruth Kerr, Hon Secretary and a past president of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland visited Herberton to present a Centenary Medal to the Herberton Mining Museum History Association (HMMHA) and Ivan and Mary Searston.

The Centenary Medal is awarded by The Royal Historical Society of Queensland to those who, in the opinion of the Council of the Society, have contributed exceptionally to the history and heritage of Queensland, for service to the discipline of history in its many forms with particular reference to the research, Preservation and promotion of the history of Queensland.

Herberton townspeople led by Ivan and Mary Searston have created the Herberton Mining Museum and Visitor Centre. Ivan Searston was instrumental in advancing the development of a museum on the Great Northern Freehold property when he was a Councillor on the Herberton Shire Council.

In 1999 the Herberton Shire Council purchased the Great Northern Freehold property, which

had been the major mine in Herberton since its discovery in 1880. The closure of three tourism-oriented businesses in Herberton in 2001 provided the impetus to establish a mining museum and start a visitor centre.

In 2002 a formal feasibility study was conducted into developing a Visitor Centre with publicly owned museum. The first developments on site occurred in 2003. The Herberton Mining Centre was constructed in 2005, consisting of building of two wings. The mineral collection was moved from the School of Arts. Funds were obtained in 2006 to rebuild the two sheds with haulage plant on the Great Northern property that had been badly damaged by cyclone Larry.

Following shire amalgamations ownership changed to the newly formed Tablelands Regional Council in 2008. Increased public demand for research into the collections and the families of the mineral fields led to the development of a proposal of a building for research, archives and storage. The third wing was built in 2010 with a Commonwealth government grant. In 2020 the Herberton Mining Museum History Association was incorporated and took over the archives room for research and storage.

The mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council and four Councillors, together with a large number of the museum volunteers attended the presentation function.

(<https://herbertonminingmuseum.com/>)



Dr Ruth Kerr, Mr Ivan Searston and the president of the HMMHA, Sherrie-Ann Cockell (absent Mary Searston).

Zoom presentation on writing local history

On 4 November 23, Rosalie Triolo presented a workshop by Zoom to Queensland (15 Persons) and Tasmanian (2 persons) Historical Societies on the writing of local history. The Queensland participants came from all over Queensland, mostly from Brisbane but others from as far north as Cooktown.

I knew most of these attendees and they were keen to impress to me how highly they regarded the presentation and how much they gained from it. All the funds collected for this event were received by the FAHS. A very positive initiative. At the beginning Rosalie introduced a guidebook to the first time authors, titled: A Guide to writing and publishing local history.

All the issues raised were thought provoking. She emphasised the concept of understanding and embracing diverse perspectives. It is impossible to highlight the many issues discussed during the day in only 200 words.

To begin with and to encourage thinking she asked what three animals, plants and man-made machines influenced your local communities human and environmental history and to what extent are these issues incorporated into the histories you are writing about.

Always think about the nationality and cultural background of the people in your project. What are the contributions of nationality to your local area. Though it is important that more of an individual's culture and background is not seen, what you see is only the surface culture.

Also, global perspectives must be examined. Every aspect of our daily lives has an international flavour. For example, when we jump out of bed, the structure of the bed, the bed clothes, the clothes you dress in, what you eat for breakfast, your house structure, type and shape are influenced by different histories from different parts of the world. The bed and its shape are European in character, your shirt is made from cotton from somewhere else and your jumper possibly from wool from the back of Australian sheep, your car is from Japan built from steel made from Australian iron ore. Every aspect of our community has a historically global flavour.

Stephen Sheaffe AM