

*Welcome to the Federation of
Australian Historical Societies
eBulletin No. 210, April 2024*

Hon. Editor: Christine Yeats

Contents:

President's Message 1
Support for the FAHS 2

History News

About your Society..... 3
Launceston Historical Society 3

News from FAHS constituent societies 4

- Canberra and District Historical Society
- History Trust of South Australia
- Royal Australian Historical Society
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association
- The Royal Queensland Historical Society
- The Royal Western Australian Historical Society
- The Northern Territory



President's Message

Welcome to the FAHS eBulletin number 210

In late February this year I received an enquiry about the number of museums dedicated to women (or a particular woman) and women's history in Australia.

This was a few days before 1 March – the start of Women's History Month 2024.

I responded to the enquiry with a list of some of the best known examples. These included (to name a few) 'Her Place Women's Museum' in Melbourne, the Women's Museum of Australia (Alice Springs), 'Meroogal' at Nowra in NSW (Museums of History NSW), Miss Porter's House (Newcastle) and 'Nutcote' at Neutral Bay (Sydney).

In responding to the enquiry I also noted that as many local museums across the country have documents, objects and textiles relevant to women's history in their collections.

The chance question has led to more extensive research than first envisaged. We have begun gathering lists of the museums – and heritage sites – in Australia that are dedicated to women and their contribution to our history.

We would love to hear from your group or society if you are aware of museums or heritage sites dedicated to women and women's history in your state or territory. This way we can build up a resource for future historical research.

**Christine Yeats FRAHS
President
Federation of Australian
Historical Societies**

LEFT: Miss Porter's house in Newcastle is one of several house or general museums which focus on telling the stories of women's history through their collections.

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.



History News

What is your Society Doing?

FAHS is planning to include items in future issues of the eBulletin on the work of individual societies across Australia. If you would like to send us an item of up to 300 words, with an image, containing a brief history of your society, or a successful activity that you would like to share or a tribute to one of your members, etc, please contact Don Garden gardendon@outlook.com

Nominations for the Australian Memory of the World Register.

Founded in December 2000, and conducted under the auspices of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, the Australian Memory of the World Program is one of more than 60 Memory of the World programs worldwide. One of the key aims of the Australian program is the development of the Australian Memory of the World Register of inscriptions of documentary heritage items and collections around Australia.

The next round of nominations for the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register opened on Thursday 30 November, with an official launch event at the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Knowledge Centre at the ACT Heritage Library in Fyshwick, ACT.

One subject area which is not well represented in the Register is the documentary heritage of Australia's culturally diverse communities. We are hoping to address this deficiency in this nomination round, and encourage custodians of this documentary heritage to consider submitting nominations.

Completed nominations must be submitted to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee by 30 June 2024. You are welcome to get in touch with us to discuss your proposed nomination, using the Contact Us facility on the website (<https://www.amw.org.au/contact-us>). The nomination form is available for downloading in the How to nominate section of the website at: <https://www.amw.org.au/how-nominate>

News from Launceston Historical Society

The late Patricia Ratcliff OAM was the driving force behind the formation of the Launceston Historical Society in 1988 to recognise the bi-centenary of Australia (1788–1988) and the centenary of the City of Launceston (1888–1988).

Mayor Ananias (Jimmy) Tsinoglou called a public meeting, attended by more than 100 people, at the Town Hall on 25 October, and the newly-formed Society held its first function at the Northern Regional Library (Launceston Library) on 29 November.

Paul Brunton, manuscript librarian at the State Library of NSW, presented a lecture and exhibition on 'The Letters of Newton Fowell 1768-1790'.

The original executive committee members were: President, Dr Charles Fahey; Vice-President, Richard Lewandowski; Secretary and Interim Treasurer, Patricia Ratcliff; and Minute Secretary, Dorothy Rosemann.

Subsequent presidents were Patricia Ratcliff, Dan Huon, Anne Bartlett, Marita Bardenhagen and, since 2012, Marion Sargent.

The Society's headquarters were originally at the QVMAG's Maritime Museum in the Johnstone and Wilmot building on the corner of Cimitiere and St John streets. It now meets on the third Sunday from February to November at the QVMAG Meeting Room at Inveresk with a guest speaker. In November 1988 there were 25 members, and by the end of 2023 there were 182.

The Examiner newspaper generously sponsored the John West Memorial Lecture for 27 years. The inaugural John West lecturer was Professor Henry Reynolds. His paper 'Tasmania's Forgotten Treaty', presented on 16 March 1989, was well received at the then new lecture theatre at the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology, later the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania. Since 2023, this annual event has been held at the QVMAG.

The first symposium, with the topic Launceston in the 1840s, was held on Saturday 18 March 1989 at the Pilgrim Hall.



Alfred Coleman Bonner, 'Launceston from Trevallyn',
12 March 1890.
Launceston Library, LPIC 21, NTCC Album 6, No 171

The Papers and Proceedings, published from 1989 until 2011, included the John West lecture and the papers from the symposia. John West lectures can now be accessed through the Society's website.

The first presentation of honorary life memberships, in December 1995, were to eminent Launceston historians, Sir Raymond Ferrall, Jack Branagan, Hawley Stancombe, and Dennis Hodgkinson. In February 2017, Anne Bartlett and Marion Sargent received life memberships in recognition of their services to the Society.

After *The Examiner* sponsorship funding ended in 2015, the Society experienced some financial difficulties. Since April 2018, a raffle has been held at the monthly meetings and there is a charge of \$5 for non-members to attend. The Society is now in a strong financial position.

Today the Launceston Historical Society is a vibrant and active community group providing entertaining talks, the John West Memorial Lecture, excursions, history walks, archaeological digs, and history prizes for primary and university students.

The Society's 'Our History' series of articles and photographs, contributed by members and published in *The Sunday Examiner* since 3 December 2017, and on its Facebook page, has spread to a wide audience, keeping the history of our region alive.

Patricia Ratcliff's vision of "bringing together people with an interest in history" continues.

**Marion Sargent, President
Launceston Historical Society**

News from FAHS constituent societies

Canberra and District Historical Society	4
History Trust of South Australia	5
Royal Australian Historical Society	5
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	6
Tasmanian Historical Research Association....	7
Royal Historical Society of Queensland	8
The Royal Western Australian Historical Society	8
The Northern Territory	8

CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS) is continuing to have a large number of its photographs digitised and uploaded to its website. Another 412 were uploaded recently and another batch delivered for scanning.

The annual Canberra Day Oration was delivered on 12 March at the National Library by Dr Mathew Trinca, former Director of the National Museum of Australia.



'Duntroon Estate: Work with all your might'

<https://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/duntroon-estate>

His talk was titled 'Representing Nation in the National Capital: The National Museum of Australia and Canberra.' The text of his talk will be published in the September edition of the Canberra Historical journal.

The ACT Heritage Festival runs from 13-28 April and CDHS will, of course, be participating. We will be holding a sale of history books as part of the festival and will also be joining with the National Trust (ACT) for an open day at the Yarralumla Woolshed.

Speaking of Woolsheds, CDHS had loaned its 1912 Duntroon Station Tally book for a display at the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery. The focus is on Duntroon before it was taken over to become the Royal Military College. The Tally Book records the last season of shearing at Duntroon Station. You can view the display at: <https://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/duntroon-estate>

Nick Swain
CDHS

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The History Trust of South Australia has published its 2022-23 highlights. These can be downloaded at: <https://stories.history.sa.gov.au/highlights-book-2022-2023/index.html>

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan is also available to download from the Trust's site, <https://www.history.sa.gov.au/> as is the program for the 2024 History Festival which runs from 1 - 31 May.



RAHS and Central Coast Family History Society Regional Seminar (CCFHS) - 2 March 2024 (From left: Carol Liston, Christine Yeats, Margaret Ertnier, CCFHS)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) was unable to raise sufficient funds for the proposed extension to the rear of the building, the Council has resolved to use the funds to carry out much needed conserving and preservation work on the original heritage building. This was a difficult decision for the Council but it means that the RAHS remains debt free. It also means that the Society is able to ensure that the building will be protected for the future.

The events 2024 program is in full swing. There was one Day Lecture and there were four events in March. They included the first regional seminar for the year, which was held at Gosford (NSW Central Coast) in collaboration with the local family history society.

The seminar was well attended, with 67 attendees. In conjunction with the seminar, the RAHS added a booklet titled 'Getting started with Trove: The virtual Library at your Fingertips' to the website

<https://www.rahs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Getting-started-with-Trove-20240304.pdf>



Christine Yeats

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Supporting Victoria's Historical Societies and Networks

One of RHSV's sub-committees, the Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC), has initiated two activities in 2024 which other peak bodies might wish to adopt.

A resource for societies and their networks looking for speakers

In 2023, HSSC contacted its network leaders within Melbourne, its suburbs and across Victoria, with two lists of speakers and topics that the leaders might draw upon for professional learning at their network events. The thinking was that networks would know 'the big issues' in their locales and that most members would then attend and value hearing from people whom they might not usually encounter. The offerings were of two kinds:

- Societies' management, operations, succession-planning, and skills associated with preservation, presentation, publication and promotion
- Historical content relevant to a region or theme.

While there was good take-up of the offers and valid professional engagement and learning both ways, none of the volunteer speakers reported being overwhelmed by requests.

Consequently, in 2024, HSSC, with the permission of the speakers, emailed updated and bigger lists to not only the network leaders but to the main contact in each of RHSV's approximately 350 member historical societies.

Enthusiastic responses from societies are already coming in. Not overwhelmed yet, the invitation expresses up front that some topics will possibly be more popular than others, and all speakers are volunteers with some still in regular employment or with other responsibilities. Thus, if a speaker is unavailable (and speakers retain that right for any reason), the societies and networks are reminded that they might negotiate another date or seek another speaker on the same or a different topic.

Where a significant travelling distance is involved, the offer of accommodation and/



Collegial discussions can be rich sources of inspiration: Chris Manche, Margaret Connor and Rosalie Triolo examine primary source materials and local history publications.

or petrol reimbursement for the speaker is described as likely 'appreciated'. Depending on resources, Zoom might also be possible if distance is an obstacle.

Networking the networks

The members of HSSC who travel across Victoria have learned that there are four sets of experiences common to societies and networks in Melbourne as well as in regions. In rough terms, they are the necessities of:

- Attracting more visitors, members, volunteers and leaders
- Writing successful grant applications
- Effective and efficient communication across networks, big and small: Network newsletters
- Successful events management

Consequently, RHSV will be inviting the state's network leaders and one or two of their executive members, if the leaders wish, to meet in Melbourne in late July for a day of professional learning on the above. If enough people are interested, including distant travellers staying centrally on the Thursday night, a group will meet for dinner somewhere 'city-central' for an earlier welcome.

HSSC has a small budget that will be able to reimburse to a certain extent its network leaders for petrol and/or accommodation if the leaders do not have somewhere else to stay.

Country train and bus fares are presently inexpensive in Victoria and the idea of 'making a long weekend in Melbourne' for out-of-town leaders has been part of the marketing

Aside from the professional learning, some over-arching significant intentions of this event are to bring together network personnel who have probably never personally met but who

might be able to 'put names to faces' and learn about and from, people in far distant parts of Victoria.

All will be able to celebrate and learn from others' successes, discover that leaders are not alone in challenges for which there can be solutions, make them feel appreciated – and, simply to have a day of networks 'networking'!

RHSV will keep you updated on the success of the above.

For all other RHSV opportunities, including many by Zoom and open to anyone interested, visit 'What's On':

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/>

Rosalie Triolo
RHSV Vice-President

TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Forty-six THRA members enjoyed a wonderful excursion to Patterdale, the northern Tasmanian property of renowned colonial landscape artist, John Glover, in February. Already a successful artist in England, the 64 year-old Glover migrated to Van Diemen's Land with his

family in 1831 and built Patterdale on a large and remote grant in 1832. Many of his famous colonial landscapes were painted within walking distance of the house.

Restoration of the derelict house was commenced in 2016 and is now complete. The owners also rebuilt Glover's adjacent artist's studio.

On the excursion members were treated to a talk by conservation architect, Graeme Corney, who oversaw the work, a tour of the house by guide Jeanette Gatenby and the studio by owner and THRA member, Carol Westmore.

Following the tours we enjoyed lunch in the restored garden and some members walked to Glover's painting sites. After lunch we inspected the nearby Nile Chapel at Deddington where Glover is buried. Here former National Trust of Tasmania Chair, Nicholas Heyward, opened the chapel and outlined its history and conservation.

Thanks to Carol, Jeanette, Nicholas and Graeme for providing members with a wonderful day's excursion. More information about Patterdale can be found at

<https://www.glovercountry.com.au/index.html>.

Caroline Horner
THRA



THRA visited John Glover's home, Patterdale. Image: Ian Terry

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland has a great Wednesday lunchtime Lecture series.



'The Moreton Bay Settlement 1824 Bicentenary Perspective' is presented by Professor John Pearn on 10 April (*above*).

In June, Dr Edward McArdle will give a talk on 'Sir William Glasgow: Soldier Statesman and Diplomat in Queensland' (*below*).

The lectures are held at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Other upcoming events are listed at: <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/events>



THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Do you have a wedding dress, christening gown or other textile treasure tucked away at home? Fabric items need particular care if you want them to survive to become family heirlooms that can be passed to the next generation.

Royal Western Australian Historical Society will present a workshop on 'Safely Storing Heirloom Textiles' on Friday 10 May.

The workshop will provide the opportunity to learn how to best store and care for treasured garments and textiles.

Presenter Wendy Lugg has a Certificate in Museum Studies including textile conservation. As a textile artist with 50 years' experience and museum volunteer with the Royal WA Historical Society for 15 years, Wendy has extensive experience of handling, packing and caring for costume and textile items.

The venue is Stirling House, 49 Broadway Nedlands (Cost \$40 and bookings essential).

For more information go to: <https://histwest.org.au/events/safely-storing-heirloom-textiles/>



Northern Territory

'Twenty to the Mile', the documentary of Derek Pugh's study of the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line, marked the 150th anniversary of the completion of this major engineering project which connected Australia to the world.

As well as screenings along the route of the Port Augusta to Darwin telegraph line, including Darwin's Deckchair Cinema, the film was shown at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville, Melbourne last month.

See <https://www.twentytothemile.com.au/>