

*Welcome to the Federation of
 Australian Historical Societies
 eBulletin No. 211, July 2024*

Hon. Editor: Christine Yeats

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President’s Message

Welcome to the FAHS eBulletin number 211.

We have included the following advice and information from the Australia Taxation Office (ATO) ‘From 1 July this year, non-charitable not-for-profits (NFPs) with an active Australian Business Number (ABN) will be required to lodge a new annual NFP self-review return to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to confirm their income tax exemption status.

This applies to around 150,000 NFPs who currently self-assess as income tax exempt.

The new reporting requirement was introduced in the 2021–22 Federal Budget to enhance transparency and integrity in the tax, super and registry system by ensuring only eligible non-charitable NFPs access that income tax exemption.’

The Royal Australian Historical Society and Royal Historical Society of Victoria will be providing advice to affiliates and others about this new requirement and the self review return which has to be lodged by 31 October.

For the media release about this requirement visit the ATO website at: <https://www.ato.gov.au/media-centre/ato-encourages-nfps-to-get-ready-for-new-return>

For more information visit the ATO website at: [ato.gov.au/NFPTaxExempt](https://www.ato.gov.au/NFPTaxExempt)

In this issue we also acknowledge and congratulate the historians who were recognised in the 2024 King’s Birthday Honours for their contribution to history and heritage. Among the recipients are two members of the Federation – Esther Davies OAM from the Canberra & District Historical Society and Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

**Christine Yeats FRAHS
 President**

Federation of Australian Historical Societies

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.



KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

CONGRATULATIONS

Appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Professor Emerita Heather GOODALL
Glebe NSW 2037

For significant service to tertiary education, particularly social science, and to the Indigenous community.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Mrs Esther Valerie DAVIES
ACT

For service to community history, and to education.

Miss Heather Elizabeth GARNSEY
Lane Cove NSW 2066

For service to genealogy.

The late Mr Graydon Read HENNING
Tamworth NSW 2340

For service to maritime history, and to tertiary education.

Ms Shauna HICKS
Bribie Island QLD 4507

For service to community history.

Mr Donald Ross HURLEY
Blackwood SA 5051

For service to model railways, and to rail history.

Ms Elisabeth Mary JACKSON
Brunswick VIC 3056

For service to history preservation organisations, and to the community.

Mrs Margaret Anne O'LEARY
NSW

For service to military history.

Mr Maxwell Arthur SLEE
Tranmere SA 5073

For service to the community, particularly history preservation organisations.

Dr Rosalie Joy TRIOLO
VIC

For service to community and school history, and to tertiary education.

FAHS FELLOWSHIP AND MERIT AWARDS 2024

FAHS is pleased to announce that we have opened nominations for the 2024 Fellowship and Merit Awards to recognise the work of people in the history and heritage movement.

Fellowships are a high level recognition of people who have made a very significant contribution to Australian history and heritage, local history and heritage and the historical society movement in more than one state or territory. They need to be endorsed and submitted by a state or territory umbrella society or equivalent.

Merit Awards are intended to recognise an exceptional contribution to history and heritage by local society members at a more local and regional level, although as we are a national body we seek to find those whose contribution has involved more than one state or territory. Nominations may be submitted by state/territory societies OR any affiliated local society.

Full details and nomination forms can be found at <https://www.history.org.au/awards/>

Nominations close on 15 September. Inquiries and nomination forms should be addressed to Don Garden at gardendon@outlook.com

SELF REPORTING

Most societies will have received advice regarding their annual self-review reporting obligations.

For the current income year, non-charitable NFPs with an active ABN are required to lodge an annual NFP self-review return to self-assess income tax exemption under one of eight categories. You are required to advise the type of exempt category you are self-assessing against. You will need to consider the purpose, activities and any specific eligibility requirement for your category.

The return is due by 31 October for those who have a financial year ending on 30 June, and the review will need to be completed annually to confirm your eligibility for income tax exemption.

You can lodge the return using online services for business, or a registered tax agent can lodge on behalf of an NFP.

For more information go to ato.gov.au/NFPtaxexempt

You can prepare to lodge online by making sure the organisation's address, associate and authorised contact details are up to date either using the Online services for business or the *Change of registration details* form available for NFPs at ato.gov.au/NFPnotifyofchanges

Check the organisation's main purpose and governing documents reflect its activities and are consistent with requirements to self-assess as income tax exempt.

Your associate will need to register and link their myGovID to the organisation's ABN.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRIORITIES

(Adapt as required to your needs)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

- Establish a strategy to increase revenue
- Establish a strategy to increase membership
- Establish a strategy to recruit volunteers
- Establish a succession plan
- Establish clear systems of acquisition, cataloguing, digitising, etc, that are volunteer friendly
- Activate volunteers by identifying skills and allocating projects appropriately
- Update website and activate Facebook (regular posts including upcoming events)
- Update collateral – information brochure, membership forms
- Ensure all computer systems are accessible and volunteers on duty know how to use them
- Medium term – engage with other Societies and organisations

PLACE

- Create a workable, friendly space for volunteers and visitors
- Create a PowerPoint option for continuous looping of historical images in society window or prominent public place

PRODUCT/ACTIVITIES

- Hold a series of events:
 - a. Quarterly walks – for groups of 10-12 @\$10 per head. Possibility of an

- a. “after walk” social event
- b. Quarterly lecture/talk/members' meeting. Extend to non-members – possibly members free; non-members \$10
- c. Introduce a monthly series of small group “discussion circles” - \$5 per head with tea and biscuits/ scones

- Identify opportunities to take the photographic display to locations in the district.
- Book sales – review holdings and update price lists (including on website) if necessary
- Identify opportunities for external presentations

PEOPLE

- Implement Attendance sheet to be signed by all volunteers using the Rooms
- Emergency contact form for each volunteer to be completed and filed in the Rooms (confidential for use in the event of an emergency)
- Volunteers' Afternoon tea to enable staff to get to know each other
- Update member lists – remove unfinancial members
- Update mailing lists
- Create a “Corporate Member” category

News from FAHS constituent societies

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CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

King's Birthday Honour. We were delighted that Vice President Esther Davies was awarded a thoroughly deserved Medal of the Order of Australia for her services to community history and to education.

Talks delivered at monthly meetings of members.

Topics included:

- a significant collection of letters written by Nancy Metcalf that provide a intimate insight into life in post World War 2 Canberra.
- an area of considerable historical significance that is under threat from urban development - Mugga Lane and Narrabundah Lane on Canberra south-east edge.
- the life of Albury based Dr Arthur Andrews, local historian extraordinaire, collector of early Australian tokens and promoter of Albury as the capital of the Commonwealth.
- the challenging life of the brides of soldier settlers who returned from WW1.

The March edition of the Canberra Historical Journal carried articles about the reporting of the opening of the Provisional House of Parliament in 1927, the Duntroon Reservoir Camp, soldier settlers in the Woden Valley, the design of a pool at University House, and the fate of Rosenberg's goannas in the region.

During the ACT Heritage Festival CDHS ran a very successful sale of history books. We also had a stall at the National Trust open day at the historic Yarralumla Woolsheds. The stall featured a display of photographs of sheering sheds in the district taken by Charles Kerry in 1890. Below is a photograph he took of loading wool at Micalago Station.

Nick Swain
CDHS



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) held seven events between April and June. They included a joint RAHS/Australian Railway

Historical Society (ARHS) Workshop, which was conducted as part of the ongoing collaboration with the WEA. The RAHS Workshop How to Conduct Guided Historical Tours was presented by Judith Dunn. The feedback was very positive and it attracted representatives from historical societies from across Sydney.

The current mix of online and in-person events which the RAHS is now offering since History House has reopened appears to be working well. The Zoom option means we can attract speakers from across the country and, on one occasion, from overseas. The future option of holding hybrid events in History House will provide both remote and Sydney-based members with the opportunity to take part in the events program.

Christine Yeats

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

On 6 June 2024 The Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ) held a dinner to celebrate the 165th anniversary of the establishment of Queensland as a separate colony. The Society holds this dinner annually.

Together with the Professional Historians Association (Queensland) (PHAQ) the award of the John and Ruth Kerr Medal for distinction in research and writing Australian history was made.



The John and Ruth Kerr Medal of Distinction, The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland), 6 June 2024

From left: Dr Ruth Kerr OAM; Ms Anna Marsden, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, guest speaker; Dr Dan Morgan, President RHSQ, Professor John Pearn AO RFD; Professor Maurice French OAM; and Ms Christina Ealing-Godbold PHAQ

Two medals were awarded this year. It is unusual but has occurred twice before. Professor John Pearn AO RFD who is a highly respected member of both RHSQ and PHAQ and Dr Alison Alexander of Hobart, Tasmania received the John and Ruth Kerr Medal. Both have made outstanding contributions to the research and writing of Australian History – John in local, medical, military and scientific history and Alison in Tasmanian local, convict and women’s history.

The John and Ruth Kerr medal was presented to John at the dinner and the medal will be presented to Alison in Hobart on 10 December 2024. Congratulations to both of them.

Last year’s winner, Professor Maurice French of Toowoomba also received his medal in person at the dinner.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Strengthening Australia’s historical societies: Activities which you might choose to attend

One excellent service of FAHS is its harvesting then sharing of the best ideas and activities of its peak bodies and individual historical societies Australia-wide. If any of us in our different states and territories can learn from the work of peers to enhance what we do individually – yet, I hasten to add, what we do and can achieve collectively - and boost the public presence and overall public perception of Australia’s historical societies, then why would we not do so?



Victorian history teachers 'learn interstate' with RHSV. National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 2024.



Victorian Year 12 History teachers at a RHSV professional learning project, Canberra, 2024

For that reason, I am subscribed to the websites of State and Territory peak bodies or visit them regularly to see what I can zoom into or personally travel to attend. What I learn by doing so more than rewards my time and costs.

With this in mind, RHSV is happy to alert you to its upcoming events, often zoomable and, particularly, those of its Historical Societies Support Committee (HSSC) of which I have written about previously.

A visit to RHSV’s ‘What’s On’ reveals a celebration of diverse work. In-person or zoom attendance, with the former being preferable where possible, also facilitate collegial dialogue: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/>

No two RHSV offerings are the same. The next HSSC opportunity for professional learning and collegial discussion for all local and family history enthusiasts will be at Leongatha, Gippsland, 17-18 August: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/regional-seminar-weekend-in-leongatha-korumburra-utilising-your-historical-research/>

In mid-October, HSSC plans also to run a ‘Strengthening your Historical Society’ day at RHSV’s central city base of the Drill Hall, also to be zoomed for those unable to travel.

Quite simply, keep checking RHSV’s ‘What’s On’ for something relevant to you while remembering to follow and support what your own peak body or individual society is doing. Local and family history can only be the beneficiaries.

Rosalie Triolo
RHSV Vice-President

Other History News

The Camperdown **Robert Burns Celtic Festival 2024** History Talks Program was held on Saturday 22 June at the Killara Centre, Camperdown (Victoria)

The Association of Eastern Historical Societies (Victoria) held a full day seminar **The Value of Local History Into the Future** on Saturday 29 June 2024

About your Society

OVER 60 YEARS: A Brief History of the Albany Historical Society

A group of alarmed Albany residents met in early 1962 to discuss their concerns about the destruction of Albany's built heritage. The late Mrs Judith Gleeson, one of the group, was chosen to write a letter to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society outlining the group's concerns about what was happening in their town.

The reply to Judith's letter led to a meeting of around 40 local residents on 4 June 1962 at 8pm in the Country Women's Association Hall in Serpentine Road, Albany, with Mr Charles Johnson, Mayor of the Town of Albany, in the Chair.

It was resolved at that meeting to form the Albany Branch of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. This had been one of the options for the group outlined in the letter received from the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

One of the new group's prime concerns was to ensure the safety of the little cottage on Duke Street. This building was to become known as



Patrick Taylor Cottage 1962, Albany Historical Society Collection P88.241

'Patrick Taylor Cottage' and, although deserted and run down, it was luckily being cared for, to some extent, by next-door neighbours, Bonnie and Adeline Hicks, a mother and daughter, who would feature large in the recording of Albany's history with many writings and publications to their credit. These ladies had for many years shown interested people around the little old house. However, they and others were concerned that the cottage was living on borrowed time and the wrecking ball was moving ever closer.

The cottage also held a very important secret that very few people knew about, in that it was the oldest surviving dwelling in Western Australia, being built in 1832 by early settlers, the Morley Brothers, who sold it to Patrick Taylor on his arrival in Albany in 1835.

The cottage was soon to open to the public with generous donations of articles, photographs and artifacts from the townspeople, not to mention the tireless work of the members of the newly formed group. Albany now had its first museum and tours were conducted by arrangement led by keen members of the group, and of course the Hicks ladies.

Within a short period of time, the new branch of the RWAHS Albany had started to attract attention as a proactive group that would not sit idly by and allow the historic built-heritage of the town to be redeveloped without challenge.

It would be fair to say they were not well thought of by some developers who proposed the bulldozing of old buildings. These people saw them as a thorn in their sides, to say the least. On 11 May 1967 at 8.10pm the Albany Branch of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society ceased to exist, as the incorporation of the Albany Historical Society had been approved under the Incorporations Act.

At 8.30pm on 11 May 1967, the Albany Historical Society (Inc) was born, with the transfer of all assets and office bearers (including the membership of the Albany Branch of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society), to the new body, from hereon known as the 'AHS'.

On the 31 May 1968, the society now known as the Albany Historical Society (Inc) received the title, under a management order from the crown, of the Old Albany Convict Gaol. Along with the

excitement of this major asset for the society, came the huge responsibility of somehow repairing this almost derelict building and turning it into a folk museum.

In July 1970, an event occurred that would cement the future of the Albany Historical Society as one of longevity and strength. On this date, the society's long-serving vice-president, the late Mr Homer White, was elected president of the AHS. This event would ensure the next 16 years were ones of stability and growth. For many years Homer had always been there to clean the gutters, mow lawns, wash floors, and even clean toilets, as well as attend to the more presidential roles of his office. Over much of the 1960s, he chaired meetings in the absence of the president, the late Father Newbold.

Homer and his wife the late Ethel White, (the society's secretary for many years) had taken a mortgage on their home to replace the roof on Patrick Taylor Cottage, as society funds could not cover the cost of the new roof. One might have argued that the AHS may have had more money available if it had not sent invitations to monthly committee meetings to committee members, on gold-embossed invitation cards. These invitations outlined the place, time and date of the meeting, along with what would be available for supper, as well as advising members of the expected dress code of lounge suits for men and evening wear for ladies.

The mid-1970s saw the AHS introduced to Professor Donald Garden, OAM FFAHS, FRHSV, who worked in our archives for many months while researching for his book, *Albany A Panorama of the Sound from 1827*. This book remains to this day, the most complete history ever written about Albany and the district. We continue to have a warm relationship with Don, who has always taken a keen interest in matters concerning the city and the AHS. He has been a great friend to the society over many decades and was awarded life membership by the society in 2010. His recent help in supporting us to save an important heritage property was critical to the positive outcome.

1990 saw the start of a project to restore the Old Gaol to its former glory, with the late Mrs Joan Blight, the society's first female president, overseeing the restoration. The society had secured a grant from the National Estates Grant Program along with its own funds. The

work was divided into four stages and saw a major overhaul of the entire site. The work was completed in 1994. The AHS will always be most thankful to Joan, and everyone involved in seeing this restoration to its completion. Their attention to detail and tireless work have given Albany an outstanding Convict Gaol Museum.

In the early 1990s, the society managed to achieve the acquisition of its third property, with the lease from the City of Albany of the Old Westrail Barracks on the Corner of Frederick and Spencer Streets. This building had been built as the P&O Co-operative Store in 1870 and had seen many and varied uses over the subsequent years.

The Society intended to utilise this building as a storage and display museum. However, it would not see this building open to the public until 2010. While the AHS had for many years used the upper floor for office and meeting space, the lower floor was full to overflowing with our collection that was unable to be displayed at either the Gaol or the Cottage. Regrettably, the AHS no longer has this building in our portfolio as it was returned to the City of Albany at the end of our lease in 2013 due to some inappropriate and underhanded acts by certain people.

In late 2002, Andrew Eyden joined the AHS as an attendant at the Albany Convict Gaol. Within a short period, he had become the society's secretary, a role he still fulfils. In 2007 Andrew was also appointed the inaugural Chief Executive Officer. This position was created to ensure the smooth administration of the society's daily management. The membership felt that a monthly committee meeting was no longer enough to manage the AHS on a day-to-day basis. Under Andrew's leadership, the society has become enlivened and has matured to higher levels of professionalism for a voluntary organization of this type. We are seen as a major player in the tourism industry of Albany on top of the normal functions of a historical society.

During 2005 Andrew successfully acquired from the State Government the management order for the old police sergeant's house on Duke Street. This building is located opposite Patrick Taylor Cottage. The order also covers what was a vacant block of land to the side of the cottage, where the Hicks family home once stood.



The Old Gaol Museum 2024. Photo Andrew Eyden

With the aid of several grants, we were able to renovate the Police House, as it is known, into our administrative offices. In 2008 we successfully obtained a grant from the Federal Government for \$121,000 to redevelop the unused block of land into Albany's first botanical park.

Today the society has 65 active volunteers spending more than 12,000 man-hours per year in service to our community through their contribution to the AHS.

Looking to the future, the society is currently working on Norman House, a substantial Georgian home that is of historical importance. Built in 1858, it was the home of Albany pioneer and early entrepreneur George Cheyne, and his wife Grace.

After a recent campaign by the AHS to save this most important historical property from demolition, the building's owners have decided to gift the building to the society in a remarkable turn of events. This incredible gift will see the AHS working on a restoration project for the immediate future as the building does require restoration works to return it to its former glory.

We have plans to utilise the property as offices, as well as to showcase some of our collection that is currently in storage along with much-needed office space. This restoration work will also form part of the society's bicentennial projects.

In late 2023 the society introduced our new website which has been an incredible success. We believe that, along with social media, the website has seen the community expressing a renewed interest in the role the AHS plays in our community. It also confirms our view that an active internet and social media presence is vital

for groups such as ours to remain relevant.

After our recent success with Norman House, the AHS is now taking a far more proactive role in concerning itself in the development of Albany.

This is something we have regrettably become a little lax about over the years. With some regret, the last 30 years have seen us become so immersed in the management of our assets and collection, that we have to some extent lost sight of the major issues that confront Albany, in relation to the development of its built heritage. From its inception, the AHS was a very loud and proactive voice in ensuring that Albany retained its historical significance as the first settlement in Western Australia.

It is now more imperative than ever before that a watchful eye is kept on the development of this, the most special of places. We have once again begun our campaign to save our community's historical and built history by taking a far more vigilant role.

With Albany's bicentenary fast approaching, we are currently working to ensure that 2026 will be an opportunity to showcase our community and its European and Indigenous history. This bicentenary is a first for Western Australia, and as such is a great opportunity to showcase Albany and the region, with its rich history as the first European settlement in Western Australia.

It is an incredible opportunity to tell the story of the region's Indigenous peoples and their history dating back tens of thousands of years. We have several events planned over 12 months. More information regarding our contribution to the bicentenary can be found at our website www.historicalbany.com.au

To end this brief history, the AHS would like to pay tribute to the many hundreds of people who have in previous years and to this day, given so freely of themselves to make the organization what we have become. Every one of them should be proud of what they have contributed to the AHS. We hope the society will continue to prosper for another 60 years and evolve to be the benevolent educator, guardian and protector of Albany's amazing history and heritage.

Grant Peake
June 2024