



# Historical Society Matters

The newsletter of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies



History and heritage news from around Australia

## From the President

Collections and catalogues, protests and a plaque, different ephemera and environments, and a symposium and a songstress. In the following, you may find your own examples of alliteration, no doubt you will find inspiring stories. The Federation of Australian Historical Societies does not underestimate the challenges facing groups committed to preserving Australian history and heritage, but prefers through this publication to share reports of success, to affirm or inform the work of readers and to build capacity and resilience nationwide. Each of the following articles is as interesting and valid as it is different.

The History Trust of South Australia leads the national journey. As one example, it demonstrates how heavy objects such as iconic Holden cars 'lightly' travel great distances, courtesy of creative thinking, cleverly selected additional sources and digital technologies. On the other hand, far north of the South Australian border then heading west, the Historical Society of the Northern Territory puts real rubber on its roads (and rocky outback tracks)

for a physically sensory and collegial experience while helping preserve northern Australia's history.

On Australia's east coast, the Royal Australian Historical Society houses and cares tenderly for 'a library of national significance and treasure trove of more than 62,000 items'. These form collections within the collection and RAHS invites your feedback on a test version of its new online catalogue. Much further south and through an in-person site visit, the Tasmanian Historical Research Association explores the University of Tasmania's Special and Rare Collections, learning about critical and little-known defence work in World War II, and the people and places of Tasmania's southern neighbour, Antarctica.

From Western Australia, an opera program over 130 years old helps tell the story of Nellie (Wigglesworth) Ross. The article about Nellie, shared by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, prompts readers to consider how her life was different or similar to other Western Australian women of the time, and why. The program is an item of 'ephemera'. The Royal

## Contents

From the President

1

Sharing South Australian stories digitally (HTSA)

3

HSNT Field Trip to the NT/WA Border:  
the 1927 Kimberley Obelisk (HSNT)

5

Bringing History closer: the RAHS Library  
Collection and new online catalogue (RAHS)

7

Preserving the past and planning our future:  
Kuranda (Njunbay) Historical Society (RHSQ)

9

Historian or Hoarder? RHSV asks questions  
and learns about ephemera (RHSV)

11

University of Tasmania's Special and Rare  
Collections: a visit by THRA (THRA)

13

Nellie Wigglesworth: a Belle of Perth (RWAHS)

14

The Annual ACT and Region  
Heritage Symposium (CDHS)

17

King's Birthday Honours, 2025

19



[FAHS Facebook page](#)

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies acknowledges that the nation of Australia boasts the longest living culture and heritage of any part of the world. We pay tribute to our First Peoples, their heritage and their contribution to our contemporary society. We will endeavour to have First Peoples engage in our historical work and participating as members. We acknowledge the First Peoples as the original custodians of the land on which our societies work and operate.

Historical Society of Victoria explores the beauty and value of ephemera in its many forms for which a 'unit of measure' may well be a banana box, not forgetting that the banana box, itself, tells history.

The Australian Capital Territory and Region Heritage Symposium annually brings together people with deep interest in Australia's heritage, including active members of the Canberra and District Historical Society. The 2025 theme of 'A Future for the Past' explored 'how people might, through positive heritage practice and community participation, plan ahead to reduce or avoid adverse impacts'. Community participation is also a key feature of the article on Kuranda, Queensland. Kuranda has millennia of history and a 'new' historical society. The article for RHSQ offers a wealth of strategies, big and small, on how to start then sustain a society. Readers from established societies might find the latter particularly helpful.

The above reports are followed, befittingly, by the 2025 King's Birthday Honours where only some of the remarkable people who work for what we value are recognised.

#### **Nominations for the FAHS Awards: closing 15 September**

The Federation wishes also to acknowledge the achievements of remarkable people working for Australia's history and heritage. Information on the FAHS Awards has been sent to each constituent president or senior representative for promotion to members. See the FAHS website for details and nomination forms:

<https://www.history.org.au/awards/>

Fellowships are a high level award that need to be nominated by one of the FAHS constituent organisations listed below. Awards of Merit recognise the meritorious work of individuals who are associated with one of the constituents, usually by being members of a local historical society. Readers of this article may

well know someone in their society deserving of an Award of Merit.

Nominations close on 15 September 2025. Please email all inquiries and nominations to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Don Garden: [gardendon@outlook.com](mailto:gardendon@outlook.com) The Awards Committee looks forward to learning about your special people.

#### **The 'New' FAHS website and 'Member Benefits': coming soon**

The Federation is excited about developments 'behind the scenes' to create a new website. Much that is already useful and current will remain and be familiar to regular visitors to the website, but new functions and content will progressively appear. New 'Member Benefits' will also be announced and offered to existing members, and new, when the website 'goes live'.

Enjoy what follows. The Federation hopes that newsletters such as this and the new website will support you all the more in your important work.

**Rosalie Triolo**  
FAHS President

#### **FAHS Constituents**

- Canberra & District Historical Society: <https://www.canberrahistory.org.au/>
- Historical Society of the Northern Territory: <https://www.historicalsocietynnt.org.au/>
- History Trust of South Australia: <https://www.history.sa.gov.au/>
- Royal Australian Historical Society: <https://www.rahs.org.au/>
- Royal Historical Society of Queensland: <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/>
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>
- Royal Western Australian Historical Society: <https://histwest.org.au/>
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association: <https://thra.org.au/>

#### **FAHS Office-Bearers**

The following people were nominated by FAHS State and Territory constituents and elected at the FAHS Annual General Meeting in October 2024 or subsequently co-opted. Across 2025 they will be representing and working for your constituency as well as a stronger Australian history and heritage presence in national contexts.

President and RHSV delegate:

**Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM FRHSV**

Immediate Past President and RAHS delegate:

**Ms Christine Yeats FRAHS**

Senior Vice-President and HSNT delegate:

**Dr Don Garden OAM FFAHS FRHSV**

Junior Vice-President and RHSV delegate:

**Ms Margaret Anderson FFAHS**

Treasurer and RWAHS delegate:

**Mr Nick Drew**

Secretary and RHSQ delegate:

**Dr Ruth Kerr OAM FFAHS**

C&DHS delegates: **Mr Nick Swain and Mr Gary Kent**

HTSA delegate: **Ms Alice Beale**

RAHS delegate: **Dr Mark St Leon**

RHSQ delegate: **Mr Stephen Sheaffe AM**

RWAHS delegate: **Mr Michael Nind**

THRA delegates: **Ms Caroline Homer and Mr Bradley Wood**



## Sharing South Australian stories digitally

### [HTSA Website](#)

### [HTSA Facebook page](#)

#### Introduction

The History Trust of South Australia's current strategic vision has a strong focus on sharing the stories of South Australia using a digital-by-design approach. Since 2023 this principle has guided the curatorial team and, between 2024 and 2025, three new digital South Australian stories have been launched. For this edition of *Historical Society Matters*, we wish to share how each of these offerings came into being and encourage you to engage with these significant pieces of history.

#### Holden and Me

On 20 October 2017 the last siren sounded at the last Holden factory in Elizabeth. The effects of this loss rippled throughout Australia's motoring industry, but perhaps nowhere more so than in South Australia where Holden was born and bred. For many locals, Holden was more than just a job, brand or factory; Holden was an identity.

*Holden and Me* began its life as a physical exhibition at the National Motor Museum in 2021 and was curated around oral histories conducted with former Holden employees. The project was supported by an Australian Research Council linkage grant and undertaken in a partnership between the University of Adelaide, Monash University, National Library of Australia, General Motors Australia and New Zealand and the National Motor Museum. The interviews quickly made apparent that, in addition to memories of their time at Holden, many interviewees also held cherished physical mementos. *Holden and Me: Treasures of a Working Life* placed these beloved objects at the forefront of the employee story.

Although Holden began in South Australia, its position as the manufacturer of 'Australia's own car' made Holden a national icon with international interest. The *Holden and Me* online exhibition was released in May 2025, now with expanded content and the ability to reach wider audiences. The website combines the objects and oral histories from the original exhibition with digitised archival materials to paint a portrait of the legacy Holden has left on South Australian people, place and industry. There is also space to submit your own Holden memory.

Additionally, *Holden and Me* includes curriculum-aligned educational materials for primary, middle school and secondary learners. These resources develop history skills while keeping the Holden legacy alive for younger generations.

[Holdenandme.history.sa.gov.au](https://holdenandme.history.sa.gov.au)

#### The Power of Protest

*The Power of Protest: Young People's Climate Action* is an online exhibition based on a physical display that was in the gallery of the Centre of Democracy from 2023 to 2024. Staff worked with visual artist, Neville Cichon, to develop a display focused on schools' strikes for climate that took place in October 2021. The formally titled School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C) movement in Australia was run entirely by students. The organisers coordinated Friday school strike action around the country in 2021 to allow young people the chance to be heard by policy-makers. The event was part of the international movement that saw millions of

school students around the world take to the streets. Through the strikes, students used people power to have an impact on public opinion and decision makers.

Neville Cichon took photographs of the strikes and set up a table where he collected placards made by student protesters and asked them to fill out a sheet explaining why they had attended the protest and why they had chosen the message for their placard. The online exhibition features some of his photographs of the event on 15 October 2021 and stills of the collected placards alongside the words of the individual protesters.

The aim of the display was to feature a story of youth-led activism to explore the themes of active citizenship and the engagement of young people with democracy. The display was then developed into an online exhibition to increase the longevity and reach of the display and to engage with new online audiences.

<https://powerofprotest.history.sa.gov.au/>

#### On the Move: Adelaide and LGBTQ Migration

During the second half of the twentieth century, individual, public and political ideas about LGBTQ lives were changing radically. Adelaide's reputation as a progressive centre for LGBTQ rights saw hundreds of LGBTQ people migrate from across the state and other parts of Australia.

***"All these really good things that were happening in Adelaide. It just felt like I was meant to be there and meant to stay. So that's how it happened."*** Dinah Cohen





School strike for climate, Adelaide, October 2021.  
Photograph by Neville Cichon.

and objects. Important sources for the materials were the Australian Queer Archives (Melbourne), Vitalstatistix (Port Adelaide), State Library of South Australia, the History Trust of South Australia's State History Collection, as well as participants' private collections.  
[onthemove.history.sa.gov.au](http://onthemove.history.sa.gov.au)

**Authors:** Emma Haddy, Amy Morrison, Birgit Heilmann and Alice Beale – History Trust of South Australia Delegate

*On the Move* weaves together accounts of LGBTQ people who moved to Adelaide between 1950 and 2000. Using stories and objects, the online exhibition explores the many reasons - political and personal - that drew LGBTQ people to Adelaide and reminds viewers of the role LGBTQ people played in the making of contemporary Adelaide.

The research for this online exhibition was supported by an Australian Research Council Linkage grant undertaken in partnership between the University of Adelaide, RMIT University and the History Trust of South Australia.

*On the Move* translates aspects of university research into a tangible, accessible outcome for the public. Oral histories have been the key method of gathering information, providing the opportunity to hear accounts not necessarily found in history textbooks and official statistics. The stories are illustrated with images of photographs

Will Sergeant at the first Proud Parade, Adelaide, 15 September 1973. Courtesy Will Sergeant.





**Historical Society**  
of the Northern Territory inc

## HSNT Field Trip to the NT/WA Border: the 1927 Kimberley Obelisk

A plaque on the Northern Territory/Western Australian border has been replaced nearly 100 years since it was first mounted and twenty years since it went missing. One purpose of this year's 4WD trip was to replace the NT plaque on the NT/WA border obelisk, learned to be 'missing' when members from the Kununurra Historical Society visited the site in 2005.

The story is an interesting one. It was in 1921 that WA/NT border determinations were made by WA Government Astronomer Curlewis, South Australian Government Astronomer Dodwell, along with SA Surveyor Hambidge. The men arrived in the area on the WA State Ship *Bambra* to determine where the border was on the ground. In 1927 the obelisk was erected by a WA Survey crew which included WH Brown and Tom Cleave. More recently, Andrew Barker, President of the Kununurra Historical Society, had regularly visited the obelisk and on the fourth visit in 2015 obtained the measurements so that a replica plaque could be made. Andrew sent the measurements to HSNT Member Earl James who arranged and paid for a new plaque. However, the plaque has waited until 2025 to make the trip.

On 18 June 2025 participants met over dinner at the Northern Territory's Timber Creek Roadhouse. We left early next morning and headed in convoy westward along the Victoria Highway, stopping to visit Auvergne Pastoral Station to see Sam Croker's grave. Samuel Burns Croker (20 June 1852–20 September 1892) was a stockman and drover in Queensland and the Northern Territory. He was known as 'Greenhide Sam Croker' because

of his skill in working with greenhide which is the untanned hide of an animal. He often worked alongside Nat Buchanan and, together, they 'pioneered' the Murrniji Track in 1886. In this, he was a participant in several Aboriginal massacres, eventually being killed by Aboriginal stockman Charlie Flannigan on Auvergne Station.

We arrived at the Duncan/Victoria Highway at lunchtime, after which it was time to tackle the very rough track to the obelisk on the south side of the Hicks Creek fence-line.

The track is extremely overgrown, the scrub cutting some deep scratches into the 4WDs, and the travelling experience is not for the faint-hearted

[HSNT Website](#)

[HSNT Facebook page](#)



Historical Society members, Earl and Wendy James, Lyn Reid and Janie Mason at the obelisk site in 2006. Photograph courtesy Brian Reid.



The plaque to be mounted. Photograph courtesy Bev Phelts.



with much bouncing over blacksoil basalt boulders in places. The convoy had one blow out, one flat tyre and a broken aerial on the track. Even though its distance is only 7kms 'in', the travel one way took a good hour. The easy part was mounting the plaque on the obelisk and Derek Pugh and Ian Anderson made light work of it.

At almost 5.00pm the convoy needed to get going and set up camp on the Behn River, about 37 kilometres and approxi-mately 40-50 minutes south on the Duncan Road. The successful trip was well toasted and we hope the plaque will remain on the obelisk for the next 100 years.

The next morning we all went our separate ways; some returned to Darwin and others travelled to Wolf Creek Crater.

For those interested in obtaining more information, the Kununurra Museum has a permanent display of information and photographs on the history of the obelisk, the people and the region.

HSNT thanks Derek Pugh for organising the trip and Andrew Barker for his 'reccie run' to the site and related historical information.

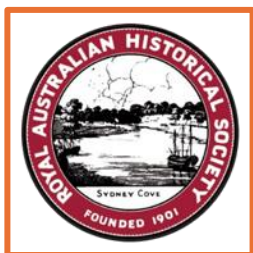
Bev Phelts  
HSNT Secretary



HSNT President, Derek Pugh and Kununurra Historical Society President, Andrew Barker, Derek on the NT side and Andrew on the WA side. Photo courtesy Bev Phelts.



From left front: Ian Anderson, Jim Leach, Derek Pugh, Bev Phelts, Andrew Barker, John Krumbeck, Ian Archibald, Allan Mitchell. At back: Harry and Roy Pugh, Jared Archibald. Photo courtesy Derek Pugh.



## Bringing History closer: the RAHS Library Collection and new online catalogue

### [RAHS Website](#)

For over a century the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) has been a cornerstone for those passionate about New South Wales history. At the heart of this effort is the RAHS Library – a library of national significance and treasure trove of more than 62,000 items dedicated to preserving and sharing the histories of local communities across NSW. It offers a wealth of written and pictorial resources for all researchers and history enthusiasts researching the people, places and events that have shaped local communities state-wide. From rare manuscripts and maps to press clippings, photographs, journals and ephemera, the collection spans decades and helps to bring the past to life in remarkable detail.

#### **A new chapter in accessibility**

The implementation of Liberty, an Integrated Library Management System, has been the main focus of the library's activities over the past few years. Liberty was selected to replace the various Filemaker databases that were previously used to manage: acquisition; cataloguing (monographs, journals and newsletters); indexes to the RAHS Journal and *History Magazine*; part of its image collection; press clippings; ephemera; maps; journals and newsletters in a series of separate databases.

This single streamlined and accessible platform marks a significant milestone in modernising the way RAHS manages and shares the information about its holdings and we are delighted to announce that a test version of the new online catalogue is now live. With public access to over 25,000 searchable

records – approximately 40% of the total collection is online. The test version includes books, articles from the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* and *RAHS History Magazine*, conference papers (1964-1995), affiliated society newsletters, and other serials. Researchers and history enthusiasts can now explore these resources from anywhere, gaining insights into the people, places and events that have shaped local communities state-wide. New records are being added weekly as we continue to make more of our collections searchable online.

To visit the test version of the catalogue go to:

<https://www.rahs.org.au/library-catalogues/>

#### **A Word on historical language**

As a repository of historical materials, some items in the collection reflect the language and perspectives of the time in which they were created. While these terms may no longer align with contemporary understanding, they are preserved as part of the historical record. The RAHS encourages users to approach such materials with sensitivity and awareness of their context.

#### **Not yet online but just as valuable**

While the online catalogue continues to grow, several key collections remain accessible only through the library's internal systems. However, the RAHS Librarian is available to assist researchers with in-depth searches upon request.

### [RAHS Facebook page](#)

#### **Manuscripts Collection**

The Manuscripts Collection is one of the highlights of the library, encompassing original works and research notes from historians and antiquarians such as Hazel King, Charles H Bertie, Douglas Mawson, Arthur Hyman and Norman Selfe. They explore a wide range of subjects – ranging from family and local history to major historical figures and events – and often focus on specific regions including Berrima, Broken Hill, Lismore, Port Macquarie, Windsor and Gulgong.

Other items in the collection include diaries, correspondence, lecture notes, drawings and unpublished theses. Many of these are irreplaceable primary sources for understanding Australia's historical narrative beyond a purely colonial lens.

#### **Press Clippings Collections**

There are two significant Press Clipping Collections: the James Watson and Foster Collections. These offer unique windows into the social and cultural history of NSW from the 1880s to the 1930s. The collections preserve not just newspaper articles but also memorabilia such as postcards, booklets and records of RAHS excursions. They are a goldmine for historians looking to understand public sentiment, community life and the everyday stories often overlooked in official records.



### More about the Foster Clippings Collection

Josephine Ethel Foster (1870–1955) and Arthur George Foster (1861–1924) were among the founding members of the Australian Historical Society – today's RAHS – in 1901. They shared an interest in photography and Australian history. They dedicated themselves to capturing Sydney's changing landscape, using photography to record buildings and sites before they were demolished. Their dedication was formally recognised with RAHS Fellowships in 1921 (Arthur) and 1924 (Ethel).

The Fosters are best known for their documentation of Sydney's Devonshire Street Cemetery following the Government's 1901 announcement that the cemetery would be cleared to build Central Station. Over two years they spent their weekends photographing graves, sketching monuments and transcribing headstone inscriptions. In 2019 the State Library of NSW drew heavily on their material for its *Dead Central* exhibition which examined the cultural impact of the cemetery's removal.

### More about the Watson Press Clippings Collection

The Watson Press Clippings Collection offers a unique window into early NSW history and the development of historical scholarship in Australia. Assembled by Captain James Henry Watson, the collection reflects his wide-ranging interests and dedication to preserving the past. It includes 230 glass lantern slides, 32 volumes of press clippings, 20 manuscripts, and 80 photographs of the Sydney region and of RAHS excursions. Highlights include rare books such as a first edition of David Collins' *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (1798). Watson's 193-page excursion journal (1924–1926) further captures how early RAHS members explored and documented history.

### Glass slide Collection

Long before PowerPoint, early members of the RAHS used glass lantern slides to bring history to life in public lectures. Today, this Glass Slide Collection provides a striking visual archive of NSW landscapes, town centres, and buildings from

the 1890s through to the 1930s. These images remain a key resource for those researching architectural or regional change in areas including Sydney, the Illawarra and the Riverina.

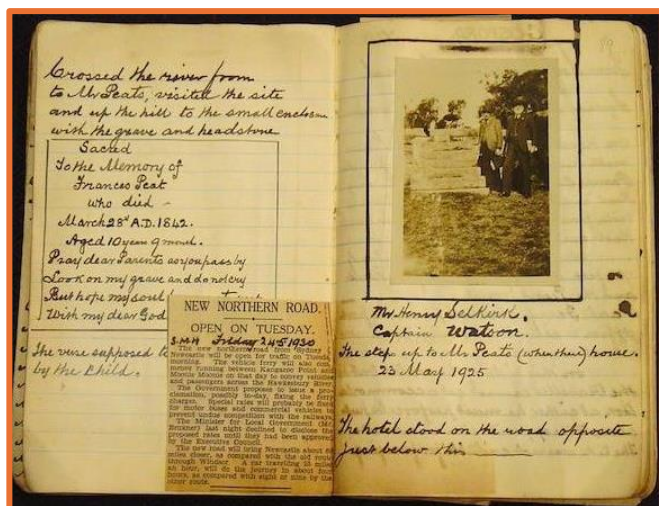
### Photograph Collection

The RAHS Photograph Collection features thousands of images documenting both urban and rural life across NSW from the early twentieth century to the present day. They capture streetscapes, buildings, community events and landscapes. Over 500 of these photographs are now searchable online.

### Help us build the future of historical research

Feedback on the new catalogue is invaluable. Whether you are researching family history, writing a book or just curious about your local area, the RAHS welcomes your comments. Contact the RAHS at [library@rahs.org.au](mailto:library@rahs.org.au) or call (02) 9247 8001.

Christine Yeats  
RAHS Delegate



James Henry Watson's 'Excursion Journal', 1925.  
RAHS Collection.



Mrs A. G. Foster taking photographs in the Devonshire Street Cemetery, c. 1901. RAHS Collection.





## Preserving the past and planning our future: Kuranda (Njunbay) Historical Society

### RHSQ Website

### RHSQ Facebook page

Kuranda is a community of about 3,000 people located in the hinterland from Cairns, far north Queensland. Nestled within the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics, it attracts tourists via the iconic Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and the historic Kuranda Scenic Railway. Completed in 1891, the railway was an engineering feat, blasting the escarpment to make way for its 300 metre incline. Since then, the railway has carried visitors from Cairns to see the rugged natural features, lively markets selling local art, the Kuranda Koala Gardens, Birdworld and the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary. Indigenous culture is also on display with live performances and artwork. The residents also enjoy these attractions as well as living in Kuranda's cooler climate.

In 2017 interested Kuranda residents formed a working group to explore the idea of Kuranda hosting its own historical society. They were keen to find a permanent home for items of historical interest where they could be collected and preserved for small displays, exhibitions or future events to tell Kuranda's own stories. Collectively, the Traditional Owners, settlers, timber cutters, railway workers, alternative life stylers, artists and scientists have told the stories of the 'the village in the rain forest' to over one hundred years of tourists.

Yet, another part of the Kuranda story is its natural heritage, including unique plants, animals and the spectacular Barron Falls. In 2018 The Kuranda Historical

Society (KHS) was incorporated, with the objective 'To receive and preserve historical items from, or relevant to, the Kuranda region and display them appropriately to as wide an audience as possible.'

Before opening up its membership drive, the KHS was able to secure a location for its operations with the assistance of the Mareeba Shire Council. The old Visitor's Centre was renovated and is now known colloquially as 'HQ' although it has not existed without its hiccups. Preserving historical items is a challenge anywhere but in the tropics the problems are legion. With constant heat and high humidity, heavy rain in the wet season and a thriving ecosystem of geckos, bugs, spiders and mould, HQ served its initial purpose. The facility is now used for community get-togethers, such as the centenary of the first car crossing of the Kuranda Range from Cairns. A trip that takes about 15 minutes now took nearly four hours in 1922, albeit with a stop for lunch along the way. The KHS also had interpretive story boards made up which are housed at HQ to attract interest and enhance community knowledge about local history. These have also been opportunities for membership recruitment and fund raising activities.

One of the first projects of the KHS was to apply for grants to help learn to digitise the archives. That meant a 'call out' for photos sitting in private collections to enter into the KHS's images library for a searchable, publicly-accessible repository. Setting up 'The Collecting Bug' has

been a major achievement, and the collection manager has been processing images of Kuranda artists' paintings and authors' books and an assortment of artifacts such as the old Kuranda Bowls Club memorabilia. However, these items needed their stories to belong with them and gathering that information and entering descriptors and key words has been an ongoing process.

The collection was moved to its current premises in March 2024 and is now housed in a building fit for an historical society. With a long-term agreement with the Council, the KHS now has a secure, large area to work in, with storage space, tables, desks and additional space to set up printers and scanners. The reference library is also growing, and a map drawer was recently donated. The office of the KHS is open each week for volunteers to help with cataloguing the collection. These moves have marked a significant milestone in the Society's ongoing efforts to safeguard the Kuranda District's heritage while making it more accessible to the community.

But part of the commitment to the collection's stories is the active seeking of community engagement. To recognise the great value that oral history plays in the personal memories and lived experiences of the community, the KHS is currently providing education to those who want to participate through its monthly column in *The Kuranda Paper*. The KHS recently purchased recording equipment and back-up storage to conduct interviews with long-time residents who have added to Kuranda community quirkiness.

Plans are underway to invite elders, community leaders and individuals with unique local experiences to become a vital part of the collection. The KHS was also involved in the inaugural Far North Queensland Heritage Expo in Herberton, along with the ten other societies in the region. This was an opportunity to build networks and learn from the other societies.

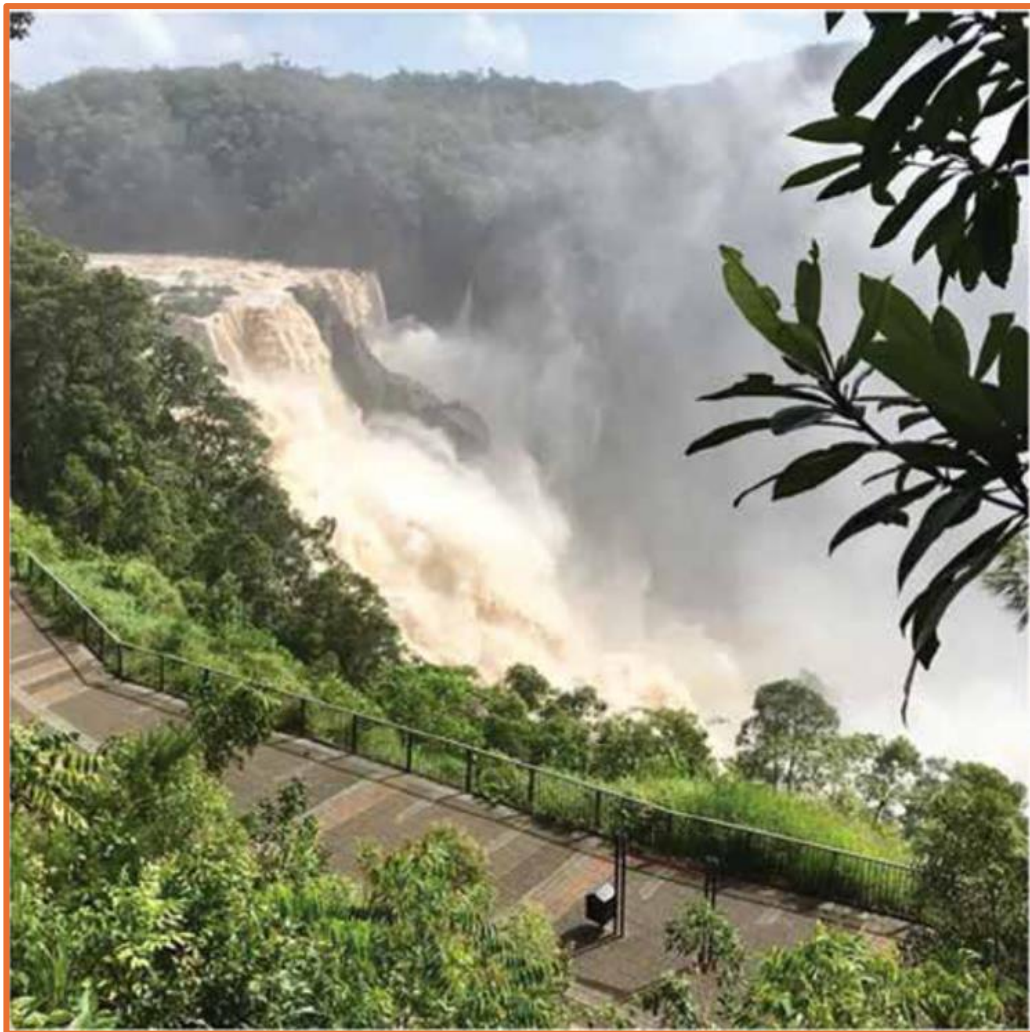
Other current projects include a walking trail app which includes a history trail, nature trail, public art trail and a welcome from the Djabugay Traditional Owners. An iconic tree register is also a project

waiting to be completed. Because some parts of Kuranda were inaccessible to bullock teams that could not ascend the steep terrain, there are trees still standing that predate the first itinerant timber-getters.

The KHS is now in its sixth year of operation. For the fourth year in a row, it has held its successful annual quiz night. This year's theme was 'Here Come the Hippies' and was well attended by many original alternative life stylers. The KHS managed to raise funds for the year ahead. In addition to the quiz night, elections have been oppor-

tunistic days to hold raffles for further fund raising. The Kuranda businesses have been very supportive with a laptop computer and donations for two marquees. This wider local support has helped progress the KHS very well, and the society is committed to ongoing engagement, preservation and education to ensure that Kuranda's shared histories continue to inspire.

Janine Evans  
For RHSQ



The Barron Falls (Din Din in Djabugay) in flood in 2018. Courtesy of *The Kuranda Paper*, 2018.





## Historian or Hoarder? RHSV asks questions and learns about ephemera

### RHSV Website

### RHSV Facebook page

If you happen to collect items that are not supposed to have a long life, how would you describe yourself, and why? Or, might there be no such dichotomy in different situations, locations and people's hands (and minds)? In Rare Book Week (24 July–2 August), the Ephemera Society of Australia's President, Amanda Bede, presented on the above questions to a large RHSV audience about 'ephemera', showcasing what some commentators might describe as examples of the sublime to the mundane. Ultimately, Mandy explained that 'history' can be equally well collected (kinder word than 'hoarded') and reported to others through a drawer of loose papers, a scrap book or a carefully-curated and preserved personal or institutional collection.

Attendees were fascinated – and many felt validated! No surprise that those who attended had their own collections of different kinds. A further observation was that many of RHSV's former- History teacher members were in the audience, being exactly the ones who had seen the value in collecting and sharing rich primary sources with their students in place of textbook or website summaries, especially without visuals.

To help answer the question, Mandy offered some key definitions. Ephemera is printed, not manuscript; is often paper-based but not always; is intended to have a limited life-span (not be kept); is publicly distributed; if sold, is usually modest in price (as in the case of a postcard); and, items are sometimes published as a set (such as by a distributor, an example being by Rose Series). There are, however, exceptions.

Collectors will define and create their own collection. Collectors are neither necessarily 'historians' nor 'hoarders', but most have 'a foot in both camps',

inclining more to 'historians' if *defining* their collection. ESA defines a collection as more than three items connected by subject, for example, three football collectables. But a collection can also be more than three items which are connected by format, for example, three metal football badges. And there may be other nuances, such as for 'year 1987 only', or for 'X Football Club only'. The collector has the autonomy - and delight - to choose.

Collectors need not be adults; many are children, whether or not the children know to call themselves such. Some collectors operate on a theory of numbers, that is, collecting anything relevant and 'the more, the better'; others are more selective. Many try to 'fill gaps'. Collectors are then able to remind other collectors, the general public, educators and professional and tertiary historians of whole histories or parts of histories that might otherwise have been overlooked. Some collectors have built, and use or make available to others, very important, nuanced and one-off collections. Mandy added that collectors, private or institutional, are sometimes 'the giants on whose shoulders official historians stand'.

A convenient short-list of what constitutes ephemera can be found on an advertisement for Victoria's ESA September 2025 fair:

<https://ephemerasociety.org.au/the-next-ephemera-fair-2/>

early comics, board games, postcards, advertising material, memorabilia, posters, vintage footy cards and magazines, Olympics, badges, letterheads, local history, swap cards, cigarette and trade cards ... biscuit tins, photographs, cricket collectables, kitchenalia, wine labels, packaging.

As for some of the rich visuals Mandy used in her presentation, tasters can be found on a July 2025 ESA blog:

<https://ephemerasociety.org.au/hoarder-or-historian-what-is-a-collection/>.

And an August 2025 'swap meet' advertisement was also warmly broad and inviting: 'Bring a banana box worth of material to exchange or sell; [e]njoy a relaxed, informal evening browsing ephemera and chatting with fellow enthusiasts':

<https://ephemerasociety.org.au/swap-meet-this-friday-15-august-6pm/>

Perhaps the ephemera event appealed to me for personal reasons. I will not labour 'why', but I have for many years collected ephemeral items associated with Victoria's Education Department, 1870s-1970s. I also collect World War I ephemera. In summary, I possess (and preserve most professionally) items that I have been unable to find in existence anywhere through my visits in-person to private and institutional collections as well as extensive online searches. Some brief illustrative examples follow.

Following news in Australia of the 1915 'Gallipoli Landing', Ballarat High School teacher Jeannie Jobson wrote a letter on 12 May 1915 to Australian soldiers convalescing on Malta. According to EC Buley who reproduced part of her letter in his *Glorious Deeds of Australasians in the Great War*, Andrew Melrose, London, 1915, pp 151-52, Miss Jobson's words were 'cabled all over the world'. The letter was reportedly found on Malta and published in the *Times* and many Australian newspapers. The Department promptly made use of a letter by 'one of its own' to encourage teachers to enlist, and I possess extracts of the letter not only in Buley but in the Department's wartime *School Paper* (pupil magazine, for compulsory use by teachers) and *Education Gazette*

(essential teacher reading), 1915-18. The now scarce, much-thumbed, paper items in my collection have proven invaluable to my niche research interests.

While numerous other historians have quoted from Miss Jobson's letter, I seem to be the only entity anywhere to possess a second set of her exhortations released as a pamphlet in 1917 and circulated with firm national intention of encouraging men to enlist when the known horrors of war had led to declining enlistments. There is no record of the neat pamphlet anywhere.

How did I obtain the pamphlet? I was rummaging through a sheet music collection in an antique shop nearly 20 years ago, looking for World War I items, when the pamphlet (that probably had no other appropriate 'paper' home in the shop), complete with Miss Jobson's name, stood out like a beacon. I was not expecting to see her - but there she was. Ephemera collectors love these stories.

The majority of the Department's teacher-soldiers who returned from World War I, if not too bodily disfigured to place in front of children,

returned to Victoria's classrooms. Many were emotionally and physically affected by their experiences; not always in overtly distressed ways, I add (although many were) but in other ways, such as committing to being better citizens in their communities. But how do I know?

I know these realities from standard World War I research sources such as war service records, as well as published histories, sometimes biographies. But I have also learned a great deal from school and 'back to' histories from the 1920s-70s, which I have also collected. Some items are professionally published; others are simple Roneo or Gestetner machined foolscap papers of typing or hand-writing, held by rusted staples. While such documents are considered by some commentators to be the work of amateurs, the very items share rare past-pupils' recollections of 'Mr X who went to the war' or Mr X's words by himself. I have found 'gems' not available in other records. To me, they are as accurate, or inaccurate, as every other might be.

Finally, I recently bought a painting of a beagle determined by the auctioneer

to be c1900. I have since taken great pleasure in showing family and friends my purchase, and everyone has looked at me askance; I like dogs, but my home belongs to cats. I then take pleasure in presenting the frame's backing-board, being a thick cardboard advertisement from probably the late C19th-early C20th for an award-winning Melbourne-made brandy by Joshua Brothers Pty Ltd, established 1884. You may care to research the brand's history, including its recommendation not only to pre-World War I authorities (and possibly drunk during the war) but also for use in hospitals! In my home, *the advertisement* is on show.

Mandy Bede concluded in July that, 'for whatever reason, ephemera form part of the remarkable commonwealth of documents that record our past'. Hoarder or historian: do you have a collection? ESA would enjoy knowing you.

Rosalie Triolo  
RHSV delegate

(with thanks to Mandy Bede, ESA  
President:

<https://ephemerasociety.org.au/>)



A painting of a beagle. Artist unknown (c1900).  
Rosalie Triolo Collection.



Boomerang Brandy advertisement, Joshua Brothers Pty Ltd  
(late C19th-early C20th). Rosalie Triolo Collection.





## University of Tasmania's Special and Rare Collections: a visit by THRA

[THRA Website](#)

[THRA Facebook page](#)

In early July the Tasmanian Historical Research Association held an indoor excursion to the University of Tasmania to visit its Special and Rare Collections and to view objects from the Waterworth Optical Collection at the John Elliott Classics Museum. The latter was a real highlight because these objects are not usually on display and many in the THRA group were completely unaware of an extraordinary contribution by Tasmania to the war effort of the 1940s.

Tasmanian-born Eric Waterworth (1905-1990) had studied optometry for one year but chose to become a practical engineer and inventor. He worked as a consulting engineer in his father's razor blade factory as well as freelancing with his own inventions, including an automatic record-changer, which he patented and sold to Britain. He also started a long association with the University of Tasmania, designing and making innovative equipment for the physics and chemistry departments.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, Australia no longer had access to prisms and lenses previously imported from Germany and England. There was also an urgent need for prisms for artillery sights in local manufacture. Waterworth invented a piece of equipment which could enable a lens to be made in several successive stages with a high degree of accuracy. A meeting was called in Melbourne and while the others talked about plans, Waterworth produced prisms he had already made. Tasmania secured an important role in the Australian war effort.

An annexe was built next to the University to house the equipment, and six final-year female students were recruited from Fahan school to produce the first prisms. The Annexe was soon expanded to employ 200 local women who, with only two weeks training,



produced tens of thousands of prisms and lenses for optical instruments, including rifle sights, binoculars and cameras. Women were employed not because men were away at the war, but because Waterworth believed them better at the precision work required.

A RAAF flight went over Battery Point in Hobart and took photos using a camera with high quality imported lenses and a camera with Waterworth lenses. When the photos were reviewed without identifying which was which, the images taken with the Waterworth lenses were unanimously considered to have better detail.

After the war, the Government decided that there was not enough demand in Australia to continue supporting the Annexe so Eric Waterworth created a new peace-time business making optical equipment for multiple purposes, including film projectors. His best-known design was the robust Waterworth slide projector used widely in school classrooms. This production continued until his retirement in the 1970s. After hearing this fascinating story, the THRA group was able to inspect prisms, lenses and equipment

from The Eric Waterworth Collection.

While at the Rare and Special Collections, the group visited the stacks to learn more about the collection and some of its rare books. Among these are the Royal Society of Tasmania Library Collections and a large Quaker collection held on behalf of the Society of Friends and considered to be the finest collection of Quaker materials in the Southern Hemisphere. There is also a University Records collection and the group was shown samples of interesting photos of the Sandy Bay campus from when it was being built. Various items of interest were on display. There was a print of a meticulously detailed map of the 'Canal Dentrecaesteaux' drawn in 1792 by the French explorers, and a rare book which had a coloured crayon sketch of Ernest Shackleton looking strong and determined.

This was a unique and fascinating opportunity. The excursion was so popular that the waiting list held almost as many as could attend; thus the visit will be repeated.

Ros Escott  
For THRA

Photograph by Imogen Wegman.



## Nellie Wigglesworth: a Belle of Perth

[RWAHS Website](#)

[RWAHS Facebook page](#)

Across Perth in the 1890s, the excitement and whirl of the flourishing amateur entertainment scene put stars into the eyes of many young men and women. As soon as a precocious and talented child was identified as being competent by their aptitude and skills, they were permitted on stage. To have parts filled by children was commonplace, where the child was capable and had the required self-assurance. The remarkable Mary Ellen 'Nellie' Wigglesworth was born in April 1872 in Yorkshire, England, the sixth child of Edward and Anne Wigglesworth. Her Aries birth sign would not be ashamed of claiming Nellie as being 'typical', with great faith in the self and an intense desire to be the best. Her stellar career as an amateur performer was full of flair, fun and high achievement.

Nellie's family moved to Western Australia in 1884, shortly after her twelfth birthday. Edward Wigglesworth had been enticed from England to manage the Perth Gas Company. Nellie arrived in the colony, part of a big family in a household where there were rules and requirements, but also encouragement, inspiration and lessons in practical living. The Wigglesworths provided soundly for their children. Nellie received a decisive education at the progressive Bishop's Girls' College in Perth. She was an outstanding pupil and her musical talent and presentation set her aside. She grew into a confident young woman, who could act and sing, and she possessed charisma. She would become a belle of the Perth theatre.

Nellie Wigglesworth emerged with the Perth Amateur Operatic Company, under the influence of the pulsating

promoter Francis 'Jerry' Hart and his equally energetic wife Lilian. The Harts were gifted performers and leading journalists. Patronised by Governor William Robinson and the prominent Hensman and Onslow musical families, the Perth amateurs rose to accomplishment and distinction. The network of cultured citizens and their daughters and sons, adept in the performing arts, stretched across eminent Perth society. Being taught to play an instrument, recite, sing or act was a vital component of their children's education. The number of stage-struck ladies and gentlemen, of all ages, of varying talents, was measured in scores rather than dozens.<sup>1</sup>

At the Bishop's Girls' College prize night at the end of 1886, Nellie stood out in music and art, as well as in academic ability. Over the next two school years she continued to achieve success in all subjects, particularly the arts, as she developed as a singer with a first-rate voice. The school and its tutors trained her in the acting arts, about the part being played, to project, to sing and to speak. She became a proficient entertainer with not only the voice, but the persona. By 1889, Nellie's formal education at the Bishop's Girls' College had completed. Aged seventeen, she debuted at the Town Hall into the vibrant world of the amateur entertainers, now as a young woman and not as a child. She was a gifted and vivacious talent waiting to be 'discovered'.<sup>2</sup>

The amateur societies and salons, troupes and operatic companies of Perth were a product of the

presiding class, and publicised and promoted by the generous reporting of entertainment journalists. In Perth, the talent pool arose by osmosis. The better class of educated citizens was determined to present their children as a finished product. In vast columns of print, newspapers reported the names of influential Perth people who had any part in a play, recital or concert. The Prinsep family, Mrs Gibbs and her daughter May, the Leakes, judges, public servants and business people enthusiastically joined in producing their own entertainment. Mr FD North, who was a civil servant, served as Aide-de-Camp to Governor Robinson and married into the Hamersley family. FD was a capable singer and he and his wife Flora advanced the appreciation of music, as part of the Amateur Operatic Society. Anybody with aptitude could be an amateur performer.

Key to the enormous momentum was vivid newspaper reporting, led by Jerry and Lilian Hart. They produced column after column of reviews, critical observations and stage-side gossip. The papers were eagerly read by the amateur theatre players of Perth. For youthful men and women, or their elders, being recognised for stage presence created an aura of fame and distinction. The novel world of news transmission brought instant recognition and the daily editions of newspapers were enthusiastically received. Updates and fashions from interstate capitals and London were fitted to an eager readership. The attraction





Nellie (Wigglesworth) Ross and her family and governess from the left: Miss Fernibough, Mollie, Nellie, Don and Charles Ross at 'Glen Lossie', Kojonup, c. 1909. Nellie is 37 years of age. Photograph supplied by Susan Bilney, Kojonup Historical Society.

of the applause and celebrity of the amateur stage reached out across the city.

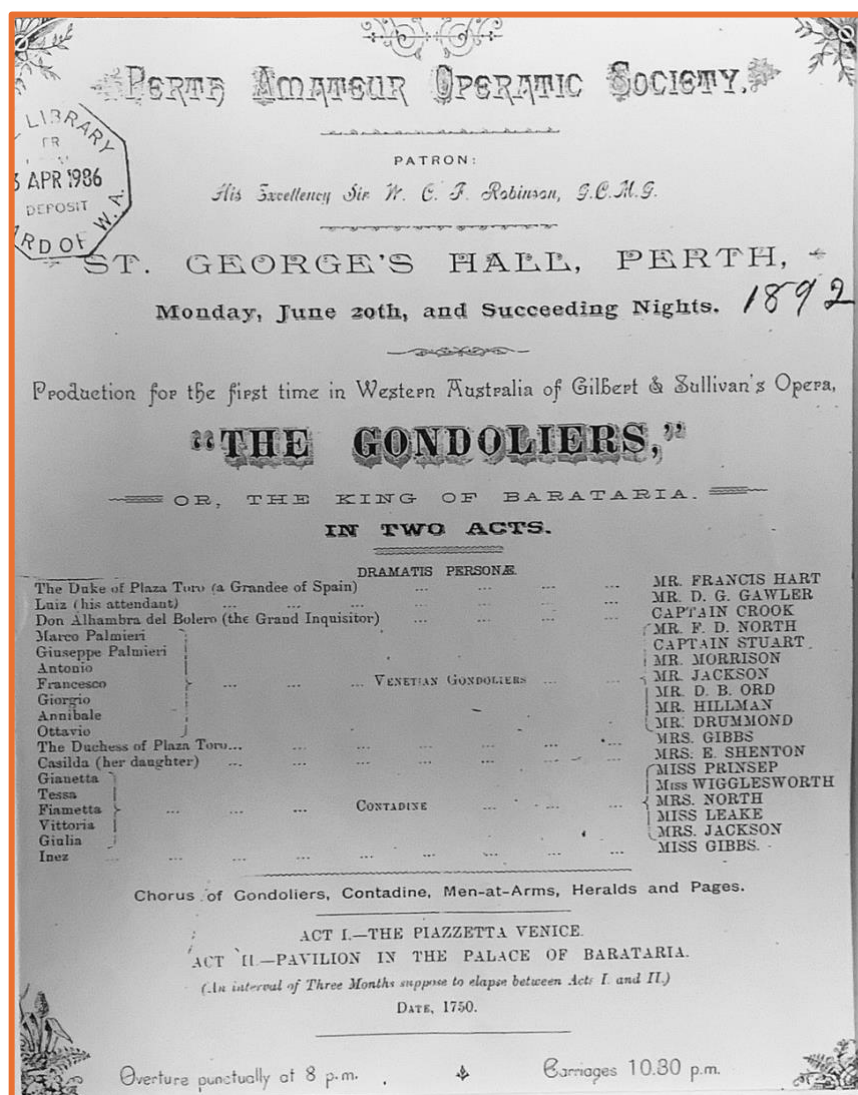
From seventeen to twenty-seven years of age, Nellie became a prominent female player of the amateur theatre that proliferated in Perth. Attractive, not tall, but well-proportioned, with deportment and style, she had abundant self-confidence. Nellie was presented into society, from a respected family, with a degree of sass and flair that would serve to enchant her enlightened era. Western Australian statehood and the fabulous gold rushes created a booming economy, presenting endless opportunities for Nellie to display her musical talents. She acted, sang and performed with the 'who's who' of Perth amateurs, as well as in professional casts. Nellie's

career was enacted in the public eye and her celebrity played out henceforth, sometimes with publicity not within her control.

In 1893 a young man, Bernard Smith, a Perth post-office letter sorter, was committed for trial on a charge of illegally opening a letter addressed by Mr FD North to Nellie. The oversized envelope contained a letter and some promotional photographs. The case was played out publicly in Perth's newspapers. Details of post office management procedures were heavily questioned. Bernie Smith received his own moment of fame, or infamy. For Nellie and her parents, it was perhaps unwanted publicity, because the newspapers carried just a hint of 'the unusual'. From March until after Easter, in

columns of newsprint, the case bounded to and fro, mostly about post office dealings, much to the embarrassment of the bureaucrats. It was a story eagerly followed by chattering Perth. Ultimately the jury retired and, after ten minutes of deliberation, acquitted Bernard Smith. He was discharged from custody, undoubtedly traumatised by the whole experience.<sup>3</sup>

The case may have interposed Nellie's equilibrium for a moment, her prominent family undoubtedly looking on. However, her career was destined to succeed. Nellie's personality among her young peers and approval of the seasoned ladies and gentlemen amateur performers helped her to shine. She reached 21-years-old with remarkable years to follow as a



singer and actor in light opera. Her circle of friends and acquaintances intersected with theatre movers and shakers in the boom of Western Australia. In 1894 her appearance in the show 'The Handsome Ransom', composed by William Robinson with Jerry Hart as librettist, placed her in rare company. Until she married Charles Knox Ross in December 1900, Nellie's career thrived unabated, within a once-in-a-generation group, in an extraordinary time. <sup>4</sup>

Brendan Kelly  
RWAHS member  
With thanks to *Friends of the Batty Library Inc Newsletter*, March 2025,  
No. 182, Perth, pp 26-30.

Program of 'The Gondoliers',  
Museum of Performing Arts, His  
Majesty's Theatre, 1892.  
Courtesy Ivan King.

#### SOURCES

1. Article - *The West Australian*, Saturday 18 December 1886, p. 5
2. Classified Advertising - *The West Australian*, Monday 27 May 1889, p. 3
3. Article - *Western Mail*, Saturday 8 April 1893, p. 40
4. Family Notices - *The West Australian*, Friday 28 December 1900, p. 4

#### REFERENCES

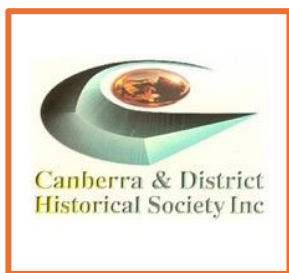
ANCESTRY – incl. 1881 England Census [database on-line], retrieved January 2023

B. Kelly, 'Francis Jerome Ernest Hart', *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*, No 102, RWAHS, 2019

B. Kelly, 'Gerald Raikes – A Discreet Silence', *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*, No 106, RWAHS, 2022

B. Kelly, 'CORA – A Presswoman of Repute', *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society* 107, RWAHS 2023





## The Annual ACT and Region Heritage Symposium

### [CDHS Website](#)

### [CDHS Facebook page](#)

The Australian Capital Territory and Region Heritage Symposium has been held annually since 2011 (except during COVID and in 2023). The Symposium brings together people in and around the ACT with an interest in heritage.

The Canberra and District Historical Society is one of the Symposium's partner organisations. The other partners are the Canberra Archaeological Society, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Australia, and the National Trust of Australia (ACT) whose President, Gary Kent (also a CDHS councillor), convened the event.

The Symposium annually aims to address contemporary issues and events. As examples, the 2013 Symposium celebrated the centenary of the naming of Canberra; the 2021 Symposium, held after terrible bushfires in the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria, had as its theme 'Heritage in times of crisis: saving, sustaining and sharing.'

The 2025 Symposium was held on Saturday 2 August at the Forestry Building at the Australian National University. The theme was 'A Future for the Past', the objective being to explore how people might, through positive heritage practice and community participation, plan ahead to reduce or avoid adverse impacts. In particular, discussions entailed:

- How we ensure the preservation and celebration of our special places and objects, including educating and developing 'the next generation' who will care for the past;

- How we identify culturally important places, objects and more which we wish to protect;

- Are the current ways of seeking to achieve the above 'adequate' – are we missing certain types of heritage in this process, such as modern or local heritage and connections (stories / memories) to places and objects - are the protection mechanisms effective?;

- Are there better or complementary ways of protecting what we want to keep for future generations other than heritage listing, for example through adaptive reuse and heritage promotion?;

- What lessons can we learn from the rest of Australia and the world?
- The Symposium was opened by the ACT Minister for Heritage, Chris Steel, MLA, and attended by Fiona Carrick MLA, another member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, who is developing effective links with the Canberra heritage community.

The keynote address - *A Future for the Past: Archaeology and the enhancement of Significance* - was delivered by Dr Amy Mosig Way. Amy is a research archaeologist in a jointly held position between the Australian Museum and the University of Sydney. She works closely with First Nations peoples, specialising in the archaeology of social change, with particular expertise in stone artefact analysis and technological adaptation to socio-cultural and environmental shifts.

Amy's talk, well-illustrated with photographs and charts, captivated the audience and set the scene for

the rest of the day. It focussed on her work investigating an ancient Blue Mountains Cave known as Dargan Shelter which, at 1073m elevation, is believed to be the oldest occupied high-altitude landscape in Australia.

The archaeological team unearthed hundreds of stone artefacts dating from the ice age through to the recent past. Until now, researchers thought the Australian high country was too difficult to occupy during the last ice age. However, the new archaeological results provided the first evidence of repeated human activity and adaption to periglacial environments on the Australian continent.

Eleven papers were presented at the Symposium on a wide variety of heritage-related subjects, including specific heritage sites and places in Canberra and elsewhere, family history and heritage, and mid-twentieth century modernist architecture.

A new feature of this year's Symposium was the participation of students from the University of Canberra who presented two papers. This was a very welcome development upon which we hope to build in future years. Their papers dealt with 'What a telescope taught me about adaptive reuse and interdisciplinary work' and 'Preserving SRA Australian Stories from the 1970s-80s', dealing with the Science Research Australian Legend Series first published in 1972.

CDHS FAHS delegate Nick Swain, a regular Symposium participant, presented a fascinating paper on

the heritage of inner south Canberra's Mugga Lane precinct, which forms the subject of his forthcoming book.

The President of Family History ACT, Dr Michele Rainger, gave a thoughtful address on the need to preserve memories of the people associated with historic places, not just the places themselves. Karen Sorensen, a PhD student, presented an excellent paper on how working creatively with the objects of deceased individuals can reconfigure personal memory and connections to the past.

Canberra is home to one of Australia's finest collections of mid-century modernist architecture, which formed the subject of papers presented by Dr Anna Wong, Director, ACT Galleries, Museums and Heritage, and Virginia Rigney, Senior Curator, Visual Arts, Canberra Museum and Gallery.

The mid-century period was a defining era in Canberra's growth, marked by ambitious planning, population expansion, and architectural innovation. In 2024 the National Trust (ACT) released *Modernist Houses in the Australian Capital Territory: Thematic Heritage Study*, a key recommendation of which is the establishment of a formal program to document Canberra's modernist heritage—not only as built form, but as a lived experience.

Dr Wong spoke of the Museum's program of capturing the intangible aspects of mid-century homes—the original interiors, fittings, soft furnishings, and the personal stories embedded in private domestic life—using as an example the documentation of a Canberra residence designed by the renowned architect Enrico Taglietti in 1965 - including the residence, its interiors, and the personal histories of the occupants. The paper illustrated 'the value of building archival collections that integrate oral histories, visual



Amy Way with Symposium Convenor Gary Kent.

records and material culture to support future research, interpretation, and community engagement with Canberra's modernist legacy.'

The thesis of Ms Rigney's paper was that Canberra's mid-century architectural heritage is the most significant period of Canberra city's history, but also the most under threat. She focussed on two major heritage-listed examples of Canberra's mid-century heritage which have national and international significance but 'are effectively fading in plain sight.' These are Enrico Taglietti's Cinema Centre (1969) and John Andrew's Callum Park Offices (1981).

She noted comments by the former Chair of the Australian Heritage Council, the Hon Ted Baillieu, in his 2024 Canberra Heritage Oration that heritage listing alone is often not sufficient to ensure a positive future for the listed place, and she referenced examples of mid-century modernist architecture in Canberra that have been saved through adaptive re-use.

Other papers focussed on exciting developments on the treatment of mould in the preservation of paper-based heritage collections, archaeological work at the site of the

Sydney Opera House and the perceived divide between natural heritage and cultural heritage and 'how perceptions have been moving towards more balanced attention to the two.'

Max Bourke, the first director of the Australian Heritage Commission and one of the giants of Australian heritage, presented a stimulating paper on how to learn from the past to encourage contemporary and future generations to recognise the importance of preserving our heritage.

If the positive comments of attendees was any measure, the Symposium was hugely successful, and augurs well for next year. The wide variety of disciplines covered is indeed part of a strategy to grow the Symposium to ensure that it targets everybody in the ACT and surrounding region interested and/or practising in heritage.

Here is a link to the Symposium, including CVs of the various presenters:  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Symposium-Program-2025- V2.2.pdf>

Gary Kent  
CDHS Delegate



# King's Birthday Honours, 2025

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies acknowledges the magnificent contributions of the following people in research, preservation or promotion of Australia's history and heritage. (The names and details of those listed have been supplied by FAHS constituent delegates.)

## Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division

**Dr Beverley Rhonda Kingston**, Woy Woy NSW  
For significant service to community history, and to tertiary education

**Dr Henry Lee Gardiner**, Tura Beach NSW  
For significant service to the community through a range of organisations, and to education (includes Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Inc).

## Member of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division

**Mr Paul John Anderson**, Crookwell NSW  
For service to the community of Crookwell (includes Crookwell Historical Society)

**Mr Alan John Ashton**, Picnic Point NSW  
For service to the Parliament of New South Wales, and to the community (includes Bankstown Historical Society)

**Mrs Marjorie Jessie Barker**, South Perth WA  
For service to the community through history preservation

**Miss Edith Monica Collingridge**, NSW  
For service to the community of Hornsby (includes Hornsby Shire Historical Society and Australian Catholic Historical Society)

**Miss Winsome Mary Collingridge**, NSW  
For service to the community of Hornsby (includes membership of the Hornsby Shire Historical Society, Australian Catholic Historical Society and Royal Australian Historical Society)

**Ms Carol Ann Duncan**, Hamilton NSW  
For service to the community of Newcastle (includes Newcastle Family History Society)

**Mr Owen Fitzgerald**, Tumbarumba NSW  
For service to the community of Tumbarumba (includes Tumbarumba Historical Society)

**Mrs Margaret Phillippa Middleton**, Lindfield NSW  
For service to the community as a volunteer (includes Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)

**Mrs Kathleen Margaret Smith**, Lurnea NSW  
For service to history preservation (includes The City of Liverpool & District Historical Society)

**The late Mr Stanley Victor Sullivan**, Mount Eliza VIC  
For service to the community through a range of organisations (including National Trust of Australia, Mornington Peninsula Branch)

**Mrs Margaret Leonie Tucker**, Griffith NSW  
For service to veterans, and to the community of Griffith (includes Griffith Genealogical and Historical Society)

**The late Mr Reginald Andrew Watson**, TAS  
For service to history (many community groups)

**Mrs Gillian Whan**, Carss Park NSW  
For service to the community of the St George region (includes Kogarah Historical Society).

## FAHS Newsletter September 2025, No. 59

Editor: Dr Rosalie Triolo OAM FRHSV

Design & Production: Craige Proctor

Federation of Australian  
Historical Societies (Inc.)

Postal address:

PO Box 315, Curtin, ACT, 2605, Australia

[admin@history.org.au](mailto:admin@history.org.au)

ABN: 89 217 386 291

---

Opinions expressed in **Historical Society Matters** are those of the individual contributors and no responsibility is accepted for them by the Federation of Australian Historical Societies or member constituents.