

1998 Professor Jill Roe

History for the People: reflections on the changing nature and importance of history in public policy in NSW over the last thirty years

ABSTRACT

"I began by supposing that something has been lost. At first it seemed a matter of idealism...But history can survive without high-mindedness, as in the case of Miles Franklin. What has really happened since the 1960s is that a gap has opened up between history and the people which no amount of breast-beating will close. A more realistic balance of federal-state responsibilities in maintaining essential intellectual frameworks is now needed, as well as much better communication between academic historians and those who teach and promote history in the wider community." Professor Jill Roe

Professor Jill Roe reflects on the changing nature and importance of history in public policy in New South Wales over the last thirty years. She argues that a gap has opened up between the people and history as taught in our public institutions since the 1960s and she suggests a strategy for closing that gap.

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Jill Roe is currently President of the Australian Historical Association. She holds a Personal Chair in history at Macquarie University, Sydney and has served on national reviews of history honours and research funding. Her long term research interest is the life and work of Miles Franklin. She has recently completed research on Australian war brides in the US and long term links with Australia.