

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### 11th Annual History Lecture

'Evidence and accountability:  
Creating and reading the public record'

Public Historian, Dr Hillary Golder will deliver the History Council of NSW 11<sup>th</sup> Annual History Lecture at Government House to launch Historyweek 2006.

This year's lecture addresses the significant anniversary of 150 years since the people of NSW elected their first Parliament under a system of responsible government. This fascinating lecture reflects decades of research in the government archives, especially those of colonial governments. Dr Golder will explore the relationship between the immediate context of records and the circumstances of society and its values at the time of their creation. The lecture suggests the relevance of bringing an administrative perspective to current issues of ministerial accountability in relation to historical debates about frontier violence and interpretation of evidence.

The evening's program includes the awarding of the History Council's Annual History Citation, which recognises a significant lifetime's contribution to history; and the Max Kelly Medal, presented to a 'beginning historian' for a work of excellence in Australian history.

Friday 15 September 2006  
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm  
Government House, Sydney  
Tickets \$40 or \$35 for History Council & HHT members or concessions

Tickets are strictly limited, bookings essential, contact the History Council on (02) 9252 8715 or email [office@historycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilnsw.org.au)

The History Council has been flat out organising our flagship event Historyweek. Lynda Starkey has come on board as our Event Manager and has achieved much. We have over 130 participating organisations and individuals this year hosting 186 individual events throughout Sydney and regional NSW. The theme, Find Your Place in History, seeks to encourage exploration of all aspects of history whether individual or communal. I'd also like to encourage individuals and groups to identify items in your community which should be saved for the future. Were you involved in a group which no longer meets but you still have the papers? Consider donating them to the local historical or genealogical society so they can be preserved. If you found something on the tip years ago which you now know to be an archival stray, consider returning it to the State Records of NSW where it will be looked after for future generations. This can be your contribution to Historyweek 2006.

Much seems to have happened historically since our last Bulletin. Two national conferences were held recently in Melbourne, the AHA conference was in Canberra in early July, shortly followed by an international Oral History Conference at UTS. The official launch of the ADB online took place during the AHA conference. All entries are now available free to everyone online and the whole Australian Dictionary of Biography can now be searched by key word. So you can search by a work or birth locality, occupation, involvement in wars. Only your imagination will limit the search category. Have a look at <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/> and enjoy this new research tool. Many thanks to all those involved in this fantastic project.

Seven awards were announced at the AHA Conference Dinner on 4 July including the Serle Award presented by the widow

of Geoffrey Serle in his honour to Jessie Mitchell for her ANU thesis; the W.K. Hancock Prize was awarded to Tony Roberts' Frontier Justice; Kay Daniels prize for original research went to Trudy Cowley's A Drift of Derwent Ducks; the Australian Editors Prize to Grahame Davidson and The Ernest Scott History Prize, strongly contended by 54 books was awarded to Joy Damousi for her Freud in the Antipodes. Life membership to the AHA was presented to Robyn Arrowsmith for her devoted service to history and the AHA.

The really exciting news for one of our member organisations, the Society of Australian Genealogists is that they have just about signed a contract to purchase a building. Increasing rents following the sale by the NSW Government of Rumsey Hall at 24 Kent Street forced SAG to search for a long-term sustainable home. As a Vice-President of that organisation I'd like to publicly thank those members who donated money towards this purchase and encourage others to help the SAG. Their collection, while focusing on family history, also contributes to the history of the state and the nation by holding material not available in other collections. The SAG will continue in the historic Richmond Villa while most of the more frequently used library will move to the new premises by the end of the year.

Due to popular demand the History Council is also bringing history to the regions with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Travelling Lecture Series, "Off the Beaten Track". Richard White will present 'The City, the Bush and the Australian Holiday' at the regional centres of Armidale, Dubbo, Broken Hill and Merimbula. Look out for details of this event and many more in the new Historyweek 2006 Calendar of Events.

Perry McIntyre  
President

# Historyweek 2006

Find your place in history

16-24 September

The 10th annual Historyweek celebrations will take place between the 16 and 24 September across the state with 185 events involving over 130 organisations and individuals of the history community. The scope and diversity of the events being staged this year reflects the wide appeal of history and the continuing popularity of Historyweek as a platform for promoting history in our community.

The Historyweek theme is "Find your place in history". It encourages people to explore their own history of family, place and community, discover historical subjects that excite and inspire or simply find a way to engage in history.

Here is just a sample of the many events being hosted during Historyweek.

## Taronga Zoo's 90th Birthday Celebrations

This year marks the 90th anniversary of this Sydney icon. To celebrate its history Taronga Zoo are hosting a range of events and activities throughout Historyweek including displays, 'Fond Memories' community drive and history tours. (refer to "News and Notes" for information on the special offer for members of the History Council).

## Fred Wong: Humanity, Justice and Equality

Fred Wong (b.1906, Cobar), led an extraordinary life crossing normal social and political boundaries to fight for humanity, justice and equality. He was a Sydney Chinatown leader - most active in the 1930s and 1940s. He helped the war effort in Australia, fought against discrimination, and helped those in China suffering from the Japanese invasion. He was heavily involved with the Chinese Youth League, the Australian branch of the Chinese Seamen's Union, the wharfies strike at Port Kembla and the pro-Indonesian movement. 2006 marks 100 years since his birth. The Chinese Youth League of Australia will be hosting a special event during historyweek to celebrate the life of Fred Wong.

## Defence of Sydney – North Head Fortress

A military discovery tour of North Head will be hosted by the National Parks & Wildlife Service, North Fort Artillery Museum & Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. The tour will take in the tunnels, fortifications and museum and will give participants a chance to learn about the North Head defence system and the history of its establishment.

## Learn new skills – family history

There are many activities during Historyweek aimed at developing new skills in the community, such as Marrickville Council's "Family history for beginners" workshop.

See the Historyweek 2006 Calendar of Events for more details on these and many other events. Download the calendar from the History Council website [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au) or contact the History Council on (02) 9252 8715

## Themes for Historyweek 2006

### Mapping Australia

2006 marks the 400th anniversary of the first documented instance of navigators from the outside world visiting and beginning to map our coastline. Commemorative events will be held throughout Australia during the year to recognise these early explorers and also acknowledge those who followed in putting Australia on the map. A key event in 2006 will be an historic 12,000 kilometre Australian coastal voyage from Fremantle to Sydney. This will commemorate Dutch explorer, Willem Janzoon's charting of almost 500 kilometres of the western side of Cape York Peninsula in his tiny 24 metre sailing yacht, Duyfken – 164 years before James Cook!

This commemorative voyage, in a replica vessel of the Duyfken built in Fremantle in 1997 -1999, has commenced from Fremantle on the 6th April 2006, and is scheduled to sail down the NSW coast between September and December 2006.

See the Historyweek Calendar for other events supporting the Mapping Australia sub-theme. For more information about Mapping Australia celebrations visit [www.australiaonthemap.org.au](http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au)

### Power to the People

Throughout 2006, celebratory events will be held to mark two major milestones in NSW government history: Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in NSW. On 22 May 2006 it was 150 years since the first sitting of the first Parliament of the colony of NSW under responsible government. This effectively shifted responsibility from the Imperial Parliament and its colonial representatives, to local decision making by a Legislative Assembly of elected members and a Legislative Council of nominated members.

See the Historyweek Calendar for events in your region celebrating the sesquicentenary; or visit [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/Sesquicentenary](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/Sesquicentenary)

### Centenary of Local Government

Local government in New South Wales reached a significant milestone in 2006 by celebrating its Centenary. In 1906, local government finally gained a compulsory, statewide system of incorporation. By 1908, 134 shires had been created, joining the 190 previously incorporated municipalities, enabling the delegation of extensive powers to local authorities in relation to works and services of a local character, as well as a greater measure of financial independence.

See the Historyweek Calendar for events in your region celebrating 100 years of Local Government; or visit your local Council website for events and information.

## Off the Beaten Track

The Travelling Lecture Series

Once again the History Council of NSW is bringing a high-quality history experience to the people of regional NSW with its 'Off the Beaten Track' travelling lecture series as part of the Historyweek celebrations. This year the program will be brought to the regional centres of Armidale, Dubbo, Broken Hill and Merimbula.

In a captivating series, Richard White will present a lecture on 'The City, the Bush and the Australian Holiday'. He explores the development of 'the holiday' at the centre of the Australian way of life. He also examines the implications of recent transformations in how Australians work and holiday, on how city and country people understand each other.

Richard White is an author and senior lecturer of Australian history and the history of travel and tourism at the University of Sydney. The topic of this year's lecture is based on his most recent book, a collaborative monograph titled *On Holidays: A History of Getting Away in Australia*.

The inaugural series was launched last year, when a renowned historian, Richard Waterhouse, visited Orange, Kempsey and Wagga Wagga. The response from the regional communities was overwhelmingly positive showing a great demand for these history lectures in the regions.

The program is brought to the community in partnership with local libraries and funding from Arts NSW.

The free lectures are hosted in partnership with regional libraries and will take place in Armidale on 18 September, Dubbo on 20 September, Broken Hill on 22 September and Merimbula on 25 September.

For full details see the Historyweek Calendar of Events or visit the 'What's On' page of the History Council of NSW website  
[www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au)

## The John Ferry Award

Donation Drive

The History Council recently launched a donation campaign for the establishment of the John Ferry Award which will recognise outstanding NSW local and community histories. A special fund to receive donations has been set up through the Australia Business Arts Foundation under the Australia Cultural Fund program. This program allows for donations to be tax deductible for amounts over \$2. It is estimated that \$5,000 will be needed to make the proposal feasible. So far, we have received \$400.

If you would like to make a donation to the John Ferry Award, please contact the History Council for more information or complete the enclosed donation form.

## Max Kelly History Forum

Sydney since the Sixties

History Council of NSW and the City of Sydney presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Max Kelly History Forum titled "Sydney Since the Sixties" on 2 September. The forum celebrated the History Council's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and paid tribute to the late Max Kelly, the inaugural president of the History Council.

Five eminent urban historians participated in a topical forum exploring Sydney's recent urban history. Keynote speaker, Shirley Fitzgerald spoke about how Sydney had reinvented itself and how the way in which its citizens conduct themselves is constantly being renegotiated. Other speakers and topics included Peter Spearritt on 'The Sydney Harbour Bridge: from filthy pylons to adventure tourism', Paul Ashton with 'Bridge on the River Quay': The Cahill Expressway', Graeme Davison spoke of 'Global Sydney, Provincial Melbourne?' and Grace Karskens looked at 'Urban people, urban places, urban resilience: history, sustainability and the future of our cities'

## History Matters

### History Summit

The Federal government held a History summit in Canberra on 17 August 2006 in response to concerns about the decline of history studies in the school curriculum. It was attended by 23 historians, teachers and academics including our own History Council Management Committee Member, Jennifer Lawless.

Prior to the History Summit, the History Council sought and compiled submissions from our members. These submissions have been forward to the Federal Minister for Education. The History Council will soon be considering a summary paper from the Summit and preparing a formal statement.

Additional comment from members is welcomed. These can be forwarded to the History Council via email

[office@historycouncilnsw.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilnsw.org.au)

### Conservation of Historic Heritage Places Public Inquiry

The Productivity Commission Public Inquiry into the Conservation of Historic Heritage Places has concluded and the final report was released in July. A response to the final report prepared by Christa Ludlow of the Professional Historian Association, endorsed by the Heritage Council History Advisory Panel, raised a number of concerns regarding the arguments and conclusions of the Inquiry. Of particular concern is the use of uncorroborated evidence and lack of scholarship which does not provide a realistic understanding of the historical development of heritage.

The full report can be viewed at [www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/finalreport/index.html](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/finalreport/index.html)

## NEWS & NOTES

### Taronga Zoo 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

History Tours Special Offer

To celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Taronga Zoo will be hosting history tours and offering a special deal to History Council members. The guided history tour will explore Taronga's rich 90 year history including architectural and historical points of interest, fascinating Zoo trivia, entertaining animal stories with a small informal group.

September 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 and October 4, 11 (1.5 hours), Twice daily 10.30am and 2.30pm

\$22 for History Council members (includes Zoo entry, guided tour and special history guidebook) Bookings are essential as places are limited, contact Taronga Zoo on (02) 9978 4782.

### National Film and Sound Archive

Call for establishment

The History Council supports a joint statement calling for the National Film and Sound Archive to be established as a statutory authority separate from the Australian Film Commission. The joint statement was made by Australian Historical Association, Archive Forum, Australian Society of Archivists and Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive. The full statement can be found on the ASA website: [www.archivists.org.au](http://www.archivists.org.au).

### History Book Review

'Remembered Gardens: Eight women and their visions of an Australian Landscape', Holly Kerr Forsyth, The Miegunyah Press, University of Melbourne, 2006

This book looks at over 150 years of gardening by significant female figures with the view that there is an increasing awareness of gardens as revealing much about society and there have been changes in the way we read history and study gardens.

Kerr Forsyth gives an impression of eight women's lives including Elizabeth Macarthur (d.1850), Georgiana Molloy (d.1843), Louisa Meredith (d.1895), Una Falkiner (d.1948), Winifred West (d.1971), Beatrice Bligh & Edna Walling (both d.1973) and Kath Carr (d.1999).

She examines ideas, thwarted creative expression and influence of each of the women in a reflection of her era, social attitudes and the place. Themes develop 'From the reluctant settlers to pastoral privilege: 1788-1900, Empire triumphant: 1900-70 and Towards an Australian style: 1945-2000'. (Review provided by Stuart Read)

### Writing History Festival

The NSW Writers Centre Festival is hosting an exciting festival focusing on the nature of writing history, whether for the more traditional non-fictional writing or for the historical fiction. The day includes a panel session with some notable writers.

Saturday 23 September

10am-5pm

NSW Writers' Centre, Callan Park, Rozelle

Tickets \$20/\$15 conc.

Contact the NSW Writers Centre for a program on (02) 9555 9757 or visit

[www.nswwriterscentre.org.au](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au)

### State History Conference

The Royal Australian Historical Society will be holding its State History Conference titled 'Roads, rates and records: Governing the neighbourhood'.

14 to 15 October 2006

The Acacia Room, Hornsby RSL

Contact the RAHS on (02) 9247 8001 or email [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

### Your living history in New Idea

The *New Idea* has started a new history column titled 'Your Living History' where stories of ordinary Australians who have lived extraordinary lives will be told. *New Idea* is looking for subjects and stories from members of the History Council. Contact Chelsea Clark at *New Idea* for more information [chelsea.clark@pacificmags.com.au](mailto:chelsea.clark@pacificmags.com.au).

### Premier's History Awards

The winners of the 2006 NSW Premier's History Awards will be announced by the Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Bob Debus MP, on Friday 6 October, 2006 at a luncheon at Newcastle City Hall.

Awards of \$15,000 each will be presented to the winners of the Australian History, General History, Community and Regional History, Young People's History, and Audio/Visual History Prizes, and to the winner of the State Records NSW - John and Patricia Ward History Prize.

The annual History Awards Address will be given by the distinguished historian Stuart Macintyre. Tickets for the event (\$60 per person) are available from Jean Moylan, Arts NSW: ring (02) 9228 4351 or email [jean@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jean@arts.nsw.gov.au) for bookings and enquiries.



### The 2006 Management Committee of the History Council of NSW

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