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# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

ABN 91 000 027 654

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

#### RAHS President Christine Yeats

It was a great honour to be elected President of the Royal Australian Historical Society at our Annual General Meeting on 17 April 2018. Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, RAHS President for the previous four years, was elected Senior-Vice President. Carol and my fellow RAHS councillors have provided invaluable support during my first year in this role. The combination of having new and long serving councillors provides an excellent balance, as the Society develops strategies and operational models to ensure that it can better service its members, and achieve its overall constitutional goal – the advancement of education in the field of Australian history.

I would like to thank our members and friends for their continuing support and patience for the History House Project. RAHS Treasurer Kathrine Reynolds provides an update on the project status in her report. I would briefly like to highlight how History House, built on the west side of Macquarie Street as a townhouse for parliamentarian George Oakes (1813–81), has also played its role in state political history, which past RAHS Councillor Bruce Baskerville eloquently wrote about in the June 2017 edition of *History* magazine. There has been increasing state government recognition of the historical importance of Macquarie Street East Precinct, which includes Hyde Park Barracks, the State Library, Sydney Hospital and NSW Parliament. We hope that this recognition will extend to one of the very few surviving large townhouses, with its beautiful Italianate façade, that is now headquarters to a community organisation that promotes the history of the places and people of NSW.

My own research interest led me to discover how had it not been for the vigilance and quick action by a police constable in 1880 the building may have gone up in flames—I shared my findings in the article ‘Incendiarism in Macquarie Street’, *History* magazine, December 2016. Luck has played a role in safeguarding History House, and we rely on luck again so that our ageing lift and plumbing will hold out until the construction phase of the project commences, so we and our affiliated societies can continue to host events in a building described as ‘a first class residence in Macquarie Street’ in 2019.

Since becoming President of the RAHS I have a greater appreciation of how the RAHS provides opportunities for members and friends to share their skills and research. Reports summarising the Society’s events, outreach programs, publications, digital projects, and membership services appear further within this report. They provide an insight to the range of activities undertaken by the RAHS and its commitment to promote history through different platforms—including traditional lectures at History House, regional outreach programs and an increasingly strong online presence.

Technology has revolutionised how our members research history. The RAHS Council recognises the importance of historical records. In the second half of 2018 NSW Land Registry Services (NSW LRS) removed the print and save function from all the records available through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) system. The RAHS was advised that this was done to align with the Terms and Conditions delegated to NSW LRS through the concession arrangements (which commenced from 1 July 2017). The RAHS actively advocated on behalf of the history community to have the print facility for selected historic records on the HLRV reinstated. It is continuing to advocate on behalf of researchers for ongoing free access to these important resources on HLRV.

RAHS Councillors and members have also been involved in testing and providing feedback on the new HLRV website, the Trove website and the SLNSW catalogue—and will do this for the State Archives and Records NSW catalogue, once the new system is ready for user acceptance testing.

Thanks to a generous donation from Chris Edye the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* from 1906 to 1954 has now been digitised and is available online through Trove. I would encourage members who cannot access the hardcopies at History House to make use of this resource. As the oldest journal of Australian history, it provides insights into the changing ways we interpret our shared histories.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of those involved in the Vice-Regal Governors’ Consorts Project—a collaboration between the Royal Australian Historical Society and Mrs Hurley, wife of the current

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Governor of New South Wales. The RAHS would like to thank members of the history community who responded to the EOI and submitted articles for peer review; the SLNSW for supporting the oral history component of the project; oral historian Roslyn Burge; RAHS editors Carol Liston, Christine Wright and Joy Hughes. This project will result in a publication that will reveal the often hidden contributions to NSW history of those who performed the role of Vice-Regal Governors' Consorts.

In my capacity as Chair of the Events Committee I discuss the number of wonderful events and seminars in that section of the annual report. I would like to single out the June 2018 RAHS Fellowship and Medallists Presentations. At this event Emeritus Professor David Carment AM and Alfred Brian Maxwell James OAM were awarded with an RAHS Fellowship, and Margaret Coleman OAM and Margaret Scott received RAHS medals.

The strength of the RAHS depends on active councillors and members who work with staff to deliver activities. I would like to thank them for their contribution. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Bruce Baskerville and Phillip Black who served on the RAHS Council. Although no longer councillors, we very much appreciate their ongoing support. I would also like to welcome two new members to Council—Iain Stuart and Graham Shirley, whose decision to become council members during this critical stage in the evolution of the RAHS is much appreciated. In December 2018, Ian and Graham joined fellow councillors for a very fruitful strategic and business planning session, the results of which will be shared with members and friends throughout the upcoming year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Suzanne Holohan (General Manager), Donna Newton (Librarian), Laura Signorelli (Member Services and Digital Media), Maryanne Byrne (Grants, Insurance and Accounts) and our team of volunteers for their commitment and support throughout 2018.

## **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Dr Kathrine Reynolds FRHistS**

It is again with great honour and pleasure that I present my Treasurer's report to the members of the RAHS. In 2018, the Society recorded a loss of \$13,888 after transfers of \$247,038 to its various funds. Our auditors advised us that the Society needs to treat its website as an intangible asset which should depreciate in value

each year. I would encourage our affiliates who are required to prepared audited financial statements to review their depreciation policies.

As RAHS Treasurer, I continue to emphasise that the Society tightly manages its expenses and has strict financial controls in place. Currently all projects are funded by grants or donations, and we continuously review our operating expenses to ensure that we deliver the best services to our members at the lowest possible cost.

I would also like to thank our members and friends for their continuing support for the Society, especially the on-going support for our building project. In 2018, we received \$213,876 in building donations. The RAHS received development application approval in January 2017, and has incurred \$374,475 of project costs as of 31 December 2018. I acknowledge the help so many of our members give, in providing help as volunteers for all our events but also in donating money for our building, library and other assorted needs (one member even donated champagne for the annual Christmas party).

Our focus in 2018 was fundraising. We currently have \$1.7 million in the building fund account and need to raise an additional \$1.3 million before construction can commence. The current construction budget includes a twenty per cent contingency to cover any extra costs that might come up, a very likely scenario when undertaking any type of building works, especially with a building constructed originally more than a century ago. All contributions from members and friends continue to be vital to get us to the final stage of actually building. We continue to look at other sources outside our membership base but this is always difficult, as so many worthwhile causes exist to challenge our needs.

We are particularly grateful to our political friends who have assisted us in many ways. We thank the Hon. Don Harwin, Member of the Legislative Council, Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council, for funding regional community and history projects through the 2018 Cultural Grants Program – twenty-one projects received financial support, fourteen of which were regionally based. The RAHS was honoured that the Hon. Don Harwin MLC was able to present the Cultural Grants to the successful recipients at the 2018 RAHS Conference and for this we sincerely thank him. We are also delighted that Create NSW confirmed funding for 2019 and 2020 for this Grants Program, as well as our regional and western Sydney seminar program. This enables us to better plan our grant and seminar related activities for the next two years.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Minister for the Environment, Minister for

Local Government, and Minister for Heritage who provided \$27,000 in 2018 to run the Heritage Grants Program. The RAHS also has a contract with Transport NSW and Transport Heritage NSW to administer the Transport Heritage Grants Program, which provided \$184,080 in funding for transport heritage projects to 11 not-for-profit organisations in 12 local government areas and 10 NSW electorates. This is the fourth successful year of running this program, with affiliated societies' projects awarded \$40,000 – more than double the 2017 figure.

A special vote of thanks must be given to Suzanne Holohan, our General Manager, and her staff for this infusion of funds, based primarily on the hard work of Suzanne and her staff to secure these grants for the RAHS.

Our raffles continue to generate funds to support various projects. Unfortunately, for medical reasons, I could not attend the 2018 RAHS Conference at Port Macquarie but was happy to learn that the Society earned approximately \$1,500 in raffle and book sales, which will be put towards the NBN roll-out which requires an upgrade of our phone systems. Special thanks also go to Ancestry for their on-going generosity of donating two Ancestry subscriptions for our conference raffle, and to Port Macquarie Historical Society Group for organising the fruitcake prize, which has now become a conference tradition. Sincere thanks are also offered to Dr Mathew Trinca, CEO, Australian National Museum, Canberra, for kindly agreeing to be our keynote speaker, providing the Lesley Muir address at our annual conference on managing museums and supporting history from the ground up.

We also had book sales at History House and online book sales on our website, which contributed an additional \$3,585 in revenue. All these purchases add up and help support projects that we could not otherwise afford. We are always grateful to receive donations of high-quality history books that we can rehouse to our members. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the RAHS Events Committee, ably chaired by Christine Yeats, our President, who tirelessly extends herself in acquiring speakers for events, and finding challenging events for the RAHS. The RAHS made a profit of \$5,114 on events, which well surpassed the goal of breaking even. Furthermore the RAHS Affiliated Society Committee is to be congratulated as the RAHS Conference made a profit of \$6,670 (excluding raffles and book sales).

As in previous years, the 2018 Annual Report is an opportunity to express gratitude to fellow Councillors, volunteers and members who, with staff, help the RAHS achieve so much with very limited financial resources. Thank you.

## Financial Statement

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations received	1,527	32,012
Specific bequests and donations for History House Project	213,876	464,696
Grants received - Create NSW	65,000	65,000
Dividend and interest received	105,691	85,600
Rental income	150,295	150,294
Subscriptions received	112,083	134,688
Other income	119,412	118,080
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>767,885</b>	<b>1,050,370</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting and Contract Services	13,638	13,180
Wages and oncosts	242,417	264,712
Grants expended - Create MSW	65,000	65,000
History House expenses	60,208	55,454
Other expenses	67,507	67,611
<i>JRAHS</i> and <i>History Magazine</i>	28,835	29,002
Postage, printing and stationery	32,934	32,102
Depreciation	24,196	20,863
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>534,735</b>	<b>547,924</b>
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>	<b>233,150</b>	<b>502,446</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
<b>History House Build Project Donations</b>	213,876	464,696
<b>Other</b>	33,161	33,967
<b>Deficit/Surplus for year</b>	<b>-13,888</b>	<b>3,783</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	2,080,138	1,769,816
Receivable and other current assets	51,202	48,626
Financial assets	1,007,085	1,113,055
Property, plant and equipment	16,963,462	15,023,169
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>20,101,887</b>	<b>17,766,137</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	244,541	178,482
Provisions	11,048	10,047
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>255,589</b>	<b>188,529</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>19,846,297</b>	<b>17,766,137</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	18,912,459	16,818,423
Retained Surplus	933,838	947,714
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>19,846,297</b>	<b>17,766,137</b>

## SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

### RAHS Events and Outreach

#### RAHS President Christine Yeats, Chair of Events Committee

In 2018, the RAHS continued its established tradition of offering its members and friends a dynamic seasonal events calendar. This was made possible by the

commitment of the RAHS Events Committee, RAHS volunteers and staff, and through collaborating with organisations such as State Archives and Records NSW; WEA; Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology (ASHET); Oral History NSW (OHNSW); Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG); Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) – NSW Chapter; RAHS Affiliated Societies, both local and regional.

The 2018 calendar featured seminars and workshops that focused on our key goal to develop historical expertise in the community that supports history and heritage projects. Our popular day lecture series at History House provided an opportunity for members to listen to research findings from new and established historians, many of which were podcast so regional members could enjoy them too.

All events provided a much valued way for members and friends to connect with others who share a passion for Australian history.

Event Type	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Seminars and Workshops*	14	18	17	13	17
Lectures – Day, Evening, Joint	24	20	25	29	28
Excursions and Tours	14	8	16	7	5
Launches/Cocktail Evenings	1	4	2	2	2
Other	5	5	6	6	8
Webinars**	0	0	0	7	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>

\* In 2018, the figures include four regional workshops focusing on the centenary of the 1918–19 pandemic of ‘Spanish’ influenza.

\*\* The RAHS cancelled its webinar program in 2016 as it was not reaching the target number of participants to cover the costs.

## REGIONAL AND WESTERN SYDNEY SEMINARS FUNDED BY CREATE NSW SEMINARS

Regional seminars are an important part of the RAHS outreach program. Seminar programs include skills based training and local history research components, which are designed based on the training needs of local historical societies. We thank Create NSW for its continuing support of this program.

### Western Sydney Seminar – *Taking your research outside of the square*

**Friday, 15 June 2018**

The RAHS, in conjunction with State Archives and Records NSW, presented a one-day seminar at the Western Sydney Records Centre (WSRC), Kingswood. It included the following sessions: *Land Title Records*—Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Convict Women to NSW 1801–36*—Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Women and Leadership: Then and Now*—Dr Penny Stannard; *Getting the most from Trove’s Government Gazettes and Journals*—RAHS President Christine Yeats.

### Regional Seminar – *Women, place and your community*

**Saturday, 1 December 2018**

The RAHS, in conjunction with Berrima District and Family Historical Society, presented a one-day seminar at the Henrietta Rose Room, Bowral Municipal Library. It offered participants practical advice on assessing key record sources, followed by a range of case studies on applying this to research projects. The seminar included the following sessions: *Land Title Records*—Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Getting to know the local studies collection at the Wingecarribee Public Library*—Billie Arnall (Library Information Services Officer, Wingecarribee Public Library); *Female Convicts Transported to NSW between 1801 and 1836*—Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Linked by a silken thread: Silk Growing in NSW in the late nineteenth century and the Southern Highlands connection*—RAHS President Christine Yeats.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS AT HISTORY HOUSE

### Saturday 24 March 2018 – *The History of psychiatric care in NSW*

RAHS seminar, in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine (ANZSHM).

This seminar explored the history of psychiatric care in NSW and provided insights into changing attitudes towards mental illness and its treatment. It included the following sessions: *Early Mental Health Nursing in NSW and Australia’s First Mental Health Nurse Martha Entwistle*—Dr Toby Raeburn; *Wrongful Confinement, Irresponsible Government and the Dangerous Lunatics Act 1843*—Dr James Dunk; *Moral Treatment and Therapeutics in NSW Psychiatric Hospitals During the Era of Frederick Norton Manning (1867 to 1898)*—Dr Richard White; *NSW Nurse Theorists from 1963 to Deinstitutionalisation*—Dr Greg Clark.

### Friday 4 May 2018 – *An introduction to oral history*

RAHS workshop, in conjunction with Oral History New South Wales (OHNSW).

Presented by Dr Scott McKinnon.

This workshop introduced historians of all kinds to the possibilities and pitfalls of ‘making memories’ or doing oral history interviews with people about their experiences of the past.

### Wednesday 9 May 2018 – *Online photographs from the past*

RAHS workshop, in conjunction with the Workers’ Education Association (WEA).

Presented by Kerry Farmer.

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This workshop aimed to help family historians bring their history to life with historical photos that helped them see things as their ancestors saw them. It explored websites such as Historypin, Flickr, Trove and Pinterest.

**Wednesday 25 July 2018 – *Writing a life: key elements in historical biography***

RAHS workshop, in conjunction with WEA.

Coordinated by RAHS Councillor Dr Peter Hobbins.

This workshop provided an introduction to the biographical process. It examined various approaches and historical sources, offering practical suggestions on researching and writing your own biographical project. Speakers included Dr Peter Hobbins, Dr Lesley Potter and Dr Chris Cunneen.

**Wednesday 14 November 2018 – *What does it say? The art of deciphering handwritten documents from the late eighteenth century***

RAHS, in conjunction with WEA.

Presented by Gail Davis, State Archives and Records NSW.

This workshop helped researchers learn how to read and interpret handwritten documents, beginning with examples from the late eighteenth century and continuing into the twentieth century.

**Saturday 17 November 2018 – *Military Medicine: then and now***

RAHS, in conjunction with ANZSHM.

This seminar explored aspects of military medicine and provided insights into how technological developments have transformed medicine on and off the field. It included the following sessions: *Trained Nurses in World War I: the Australian Experience*—Clare Ashton; *The Organisation of Medical Services in World War II*—Ben Skerman; *Technology (A witness paper)*—Major Robert Waller.

## **SEMINARS AT RICHMOND VILLA, SYDNEY**

**Wednesday 11 April 2018 – *Women in history***

RAHS, in conjunction with the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG).

This seminar explored topics from women's history and techniques for researching women in history. It included the following sessions: *Women convicts in NSW: reassessing the evidence*—Associate Professor Carol Liston AO; *Damsels, "old dames", reprobates and recidivists: women of Hyde Park barracks*—Mrs Joy Hughes; *The dark side of nursing: mythologies, murder, malpractice and mistakes*—Emeritus Professor Noeline Kyle; *Chasing the ubiquitous "Mrs" in family history: wives, mothers, sisters and aunts in nineteenth and early twentieth century NSW*—RAHS President Christine Yeats.

## **WORKSHOPS AT PORT MACQUARIE**

The following seminars were organised as additional components to the 2018 RAHS Conference at Port Macquarie:

**Friday 19 October 2018 – *From Governors' Wives to Sydney Harbour Bridge Builders: Amplifying the State Library of NSW sound archive via open source and the machine***

Presented by Jenna Bain, Digital Media Leader State Library of NSW.

**Monday 22 October 2018 – *Researching and commemorating the Spanish Flu***

Presented by RAHS Councillor Dr Peter Hobbins.

## **RESEARCHING AND COMMEMORATING THE 'SPANISH FLU'**

Over October and November 2018, RAHS Councillor Dr Peter Hobbins undertook a 'roadshow' that focused on the centenary of the 1918–19 pandemic of 'Spanish' influenza. Funded by the Australian Historical Association's Allan Martin Award and the Department of History at the University of Sydney, the tour encompassed presentations at five regional centres. In addition to workshops encouraging local research into the pandemic's impact, a 28-page A4 research guide was prepared for distribution to participants. The roadshow attracted local and national media attention, and has led to numerous speaking invitations through 2019. All these events will be listed on a dedicated page to the flu pandemic on the RAHS website.

## **2018 DAY LECTURES**

Traditionally on the first Wednesday of each month, this series is an opportunity for RAHS members and the wider community to hear speakers discuss their research interests on a wide range of Australian history topics.

**Wednesday 7 February 2018 – *The Poisoned Chalice: Peter Hall and the Sydney Opera House***

Presented by Dr Anne Watson.

**Wednesday 7 March 2018 – *The First Foreign Delegation to Sydney (1793)***

Presented by Chris Maxworthy.

**Wednesday 4 April 2018 – *The Legacy of Jack Munday: Half a Century after Kelly's Bush Presented by James Colman.***

**Wednesday 2 May 2018 – *Rayner Hoff: A sculptor's life revealed***

Presented by Deborah Beck.

**Wednesday 6 June 2018 – *Where Australian***

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***Collides With Asia: The Epic Voyages of Joseph Banks, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace and the Origin of 'On the Origin of Species'***

Presented by Ian Burnet.

**Wednesday 4 July 2018 – *Conjuring India: Strange Tales of Magic and Mystery***

Presented by John Zubrzycki.

**Wednesday 1 August 2018 – *Returning Home with Glory: Cantonese Villages and Australia before 1949***

Presented by Dr Michael Williams.

**Wednesday 5 September 2018 – *Sandgate Cemetery 'Unearthed'***

Presented by Terry St George. This RAHS day lecture was included in the History Week 2018 program—the 2018 theme was 'Life and Death'.

**Wednesday 3 October 2018 – *Pigs Behaving Badly: Animal Agency in the Hunter Valley, 1840–1860***

Presented by Dr Nancy Cushing.

**Wednesday 7 November 2018 – *River Dreams: The People and Landscape of the Cooks River***

Presented by Emeritus Professor Ian Tyrell.

**Wednesday 5 December 2018 – *Why weren't we told about the Sydney Wars?***

Presented by Dr Stephen Gapps.

## **2018 JOINT AND EVENING LECTURES**

**Tuesday 27 February 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*Nuclear Energy: Australia's Proud History*—presented by Martin Thomas.

**Thursday 22 March 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*Photographing Sydney's Water History*—presented by Jeanette Komli and Phil Bennett.

**Thursday 5 April 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*The Stone to Dress the Bridge*—presented by John Gibson.

**Thursday 22 May 2018 – *RAHS/HHA Evening Lecture***

*Art Deco Sydney: A Persistent Presence*—presented by Claudia Chan Shaw.

**Thursday 29 May 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*Saving the World: Australian Innovation in Solar Heat and Power*—presented by Debbie Rudder.

**Monday 18 June 2018 – *RAHS/HHA Lecture***

*Jorn Utzon's Sydney Opera House: Architecture and the City*—presented by Dr Peter Kohane.

**Thursday 30 August 2018 – *RAHS/HHA Evening Lecture***

*Surry Hills: From Riches to Rags and Back Again*—presented by Richard Whitaker.

**Thursday 20 September 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*By Muscle of Man and Horse: Building the Railway under Sydney 1916–32*—presented by Bill Phippen.

**Tuesday 25 September 2018 – *RAHS/ISSA Lecture***

*Charles Dickens and his Performed Readings*—presented by Isabel Deeble.

**Thursday 20 November 2018 – *RAHS/ASHET Evening Lecture***

*The Vital Link: NASA Space Tracking Facilities in Australia*—presented by Kerrie Dougherty.

## **2018 SPECIAL LECTURES, EXCURSIONS AND EXHIBITIONS**

**Tuesday 15 March 2018 – *RAHS Lecture***

*Lucy Osburn: A woman who made history*—presented by Elinor Wrobel OAM. This lecture marked the 150th anniversary of Lucy Osburn's arrival in Sydney.

**Wednesday 21 March 2018 – *RAHS Excursion***

*Scared Spaces Tour to Mark Harmony Day* with RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM.

Coinciding with the United Nations International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Harmony Day is a celebration of Australia's cultural diversity. Organised by RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM, highlights of this tour included: Marugan Hindu Temple, Ming Yue Chinese Buddhist Temple and various places of worship of other cultures and religions.

**Tuesday 10 April 2018 – *RAHS Lecture***

*Pompey Elliott at War: In his own words*—presented by Dr Ross McMullin. This lecture was included in the Seniors Festival Program.

**Monday 9 July 2018 to Wednesday 11 July 2018 – *NAIDOC Week Walking Tours: This is where they travelled, in conjunction with Dr Paul Irish and researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community.***

To celebrate NAIDOC Week, the RAHS hosted the exhibition *This is Where they Travelled: Historical Aboriginal Lives in Sydney* at History House.

Researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community in Sydney created an exhibition, together with historian Paul Irish, which mapped the lives of a number of Aboriginal people with connections to the coastal part of Sydney in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In conjunction with the exhibition, guided walking tours were available to visit some nearby parts of Sydney with interesting and unexpected Aboriginal connections.

#### **Tuesday 4 September 2018 – RAHS Lecture**

*Archives: Living Beyond the Grave*—presented by Emily Hanna, State Archives and Records NSW.

To coincide with History Week and its theme of ‘Life and Death’, Emily Hanna discussed how the NSW State Archives collection provides an insight into the lives of the departed.

### **2018 EXCURSIONS**

#### **Wednesday 21 February 2018**

RAHS Excursion – *Tour of Justice and Police Museum* with RAHS Librarian Donna Newton.

#### **Monday 18 June 2018 – RAHS/HHA Tour**

RAHS/HHA Excursion – *Jorn Utzon’s Sydney Opera House: Architecture and the City* with Stephen McAuley.

#### **Wednesday 20 June 2018**

RAHS Excursion – *Guided Tour of the Reserve Bank of Australia Museum* with RAHS Librarian Donna Newton.

#### **Wednesday 22 August 2018**

RAHS Excursion – *Guided Tour of Parliament House* with RAHS Librarian Donna Newton.

#### **Saturday 25 August 2018**

RAHS/Friends of Callan Park (FOCP) Excursion – *Walking Tour of Callan Park* with FOCP tour guides.

#### **Sunday 28 October 2018**

RAHS Excursion – *Tour of Yaralla Estate* coordinated by RAHS Councillor Graham Shirley.

Sunday 28 October 2018

RAHS Excursion – *Walking Tour of Curlew Park* with RAHS Fellow Emeritus Professor David Carment AM.

### **2018 LAUNCHES, COCKTAIL EVENINGS AND OTHER EVENTS**

#### **Friday 26 January 2018**

History House Open Day: *Pot Luck History* and RAHS Book Sale.

#### **Wednesday 14 March**

RAHS new members’ evening.

#### **Tuesday 17 April 2018**

RAHS Annual General Meeting.

#### **Tuesday 15 May 2018**

RAHS/Thredbo Historical Society – Cocktail Evening and Talk.

#### **Thursday 28 June 2018**

RAHS Fellowship and Medallists Presentations.

#### **Thursday 6 December**

RAHS Christmas Party.

### **RAHS Library**

#### **Donna Newton, RAHS Librarian**

The RAHS Library is recognised by the National Library of Australia as being a culturally significant collection. It is a key research resource for RAHS members and the broader history community, with over 60,000 items on Australia history. The table below provides an overview of the collection.

<b>Collection Item</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Books	24,839	24,978
Journal/History/Conference	4,045	3,985
Serials and selected contents index	3,689	3,689
Photograph Collection	11,432	11,432
Glass Slide Collection	7,614	7,614
Manuscripts	1,058	1,058
Press Clippings	7,255	7,255
Walker Slides	1,939	1,939
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,871</b>	<b>61,950</b>

The RAHS Library collection declined by 0.1% compared to the previous year as we are deaccessioning duplicate items or those that do not meet our collection policy criteria.

The following table provides additional key library statistics.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of registered visitors – 70% RAHS members or affiliated societies’ members.	228	185
Number of visitors to RAHS library web pages	4,682	5,824
Entries added to Book Database	212*	418
Entries added to <i>JRAHS</i> , <i>History</i> and Conference Database	53	28
E-Newsletters from affiliated societies submitted	301	249
<i>JRAHS</i> article requests	43	54
Articles submitted to <i>JRAHS</i>	16	16
Requests to use images from the RAHS collection	43	31

\* 351 entries deleted due to deaccessioning of library materials

Research interests of RAHS Library users were varied, and we had a number of interstate and overseas visitors. This included individuals from Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland. The research queries were also diverse, some examples include: the origins of Sydney schools and how Australian history was taught in the early 1900s; the history of the Salvation Army's People's Palace in Newcastle; research into Australian entrepreneurs in the nineteenth century; and advice concerning a studio portrait of an Aboriginal family in the Tipperary Archives, Ireland.

Using photographs and showcasing other resources in the e-Newsletter and on social media, continues to be a successful way in promoting the vast collection we hold at the Library. This results in an increase of requests from a variety of organisations/institutions to use particular items from the RAHS Library. In 2018, permission to use RAHS images was granted to: Channel View Publications (Bristol, UK); an aged care facility in Turrumurra; Eureka Heritage; Alfred Hospital Nurses League Inc. Nursing Archive; Barangaroo Delivery Authority; and Fremantle Media for the *Great Australian Railway Journeys* for the BBC. We also received numerous requests for items in our photograph and glass slide collections from our affiliated societies. These images were used for personal research, publications, exhibitions, websites, teaching aids, television programs, displays, calendars and heritage panels.

In 2018 funds raised from the 2017 Conference in Cowra enabled us to purchase a new Epson V800 scanner for the Library. We can now digitise photographs, postcards and glass slide material, and make these available online using a number of different social media platforms.

Members' subscriptions and donations continue to greatly assist the RAHS Library. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support, in particular all the RAHS volunteers.

## **RAHS Publications, Website and Digital Media**

### **Laura Signorelli, RAHS Membership Services/Digital Media**

We hope our members found the publications we produced in 2018 enjoyable and insightful. This included two editions of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)* and four editions of *History* magazine.

The *JRAHS* is the oldest journal of Australian history – first published in 1906. It contains original, previously unpublished non-fiction scholarly articles, reviews and

images. The content is submitted by both academic and community scholars. Topics covered in 2018 included: reactions to the plague in Sydney in 1900; women transported for forged bank notes; French Captain du Petit-Thouars' visit to Sydney in 1838; James Ralfe and the early surveys at Port Macquarie; and Australia in Joshua Slocum's circumnavigation.

*History* magazine evolved from the Society's newsletter, and its current format was first introduced in 1988. *History* provides articles of general historical interest, developments in historical research, book notes, forthcoming events and other relevant news. Each issue of *History* is produced with a guest editor who has the responsibility for sourcing articles from a range of potential contributors. The editors for 2018 were RAHS President Christine Yeats (March and September), RAHS councillors Peter Hobbins (June), and Linda Emery (December). Topics covered in 2018 included: women sculptors and World War I memorials; war heroes and AIF recruitment in 1917; John Oxley and the accidental discovery of Port Macquarie; and Westpac Group Archives.

The RAHS e-Newsletter continues to serve as an effective way to communicate relevant news, information and events to our members and friends, particularly with those in regional areas. Over 2,470 people are subscribed to our e-Newsletter, with seventeen issues circulated in 2018. Some of our top stories included: reporting on the changes to Historic Land Records Viewer (HLRV); the Windsor Bridge Parliamentary Inquiry; proposed changes to the Notice of Intended Marriage form (NOIM); the Roxy Theatre in Parramatta; the launch of the podcast History Lab; and *Amplify*—a platform launched by the State Library of NSW for the delivery and transcriptions of its oral history collections. The RAHS is very grateful for the news stories and other contributions made from our individual members and affiliates, as it ensures our content is current and covers a diverse range of historical interests.

The RAHS has an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and Instagram. We now have over 5,150 followers on Facebook and published 167 posts throughout 2018. Our most popular post for the year was the advertisement for a seminar on using historical maps, hosted by the State Library of NSW. The advertisement was accompanied by an image of a subdivision plan for Emu Plains which generated a large amount of interest. We also saw an increase in our followers on Twitter and Instagram, as we made a greater effort to add more content on these ever-expanding platforms.

Our website was accessed by 33,531 users throughout 2018— an increase of 13.77% since 2017. Our users

were predominantly from Australia (82.67%), with others from the United States, United Kingdom, France, New Zealand and Canada. 137 posts were added to the RAHS News page in 2018, which primarily included information about upcoming events, newly published books on Australian history, advocacy stories, and other relevant information/updates.

The Society looks forward to new opportunities in 2019 to increase our presence on our digital platforms, and connecting with various individuals and organisations, particularly with those in regional areas whose contact with the RAHS may be limited by geographical distance.

## RAHS Affiliated Societies

### RAHS Councillor Lynne Allen, Chair of Committee

2018 was another busy yet fulfilling year for the members of the Affiliated Societies Committee who are here to represent you. In 2019 please take advantage of their expertise and eagerness to support your society.

Assessing the Create NSW Cultural Grants is a task undertaken each year by the Affiliated Societies Committee. In 2018 there were 28 applicants, requesting a total of \$90,789.90 with only \$50,000 available. Twenty-one applicants were successful with 6 projects receiving full funding and 15 receiving part funding. These awards were presented by the Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for the Arts at the 2018 Annual Conference.

Please discuss with your society any projects which fit the grants criteria and be prepared for the opening of the 2019 grants program. Remember to monitor the RAHS website for the 2019 announcement and discuss your project with the wonderful RAHS staff at History House who will guide you through the process.

Over a hundred people gathered at Port Macquarie to celebrate *Surveying the Past, Mapping the Present*, generating a buzz that was palpable. Port Macquarie Historical Society members were gracious hosts and treated attendees to a wonderful evening under the stars on the Friday night at their exciting museum. The tone for the conference was set by Dr Mathew Trinca, Director of the National Museum of Australia, with an inspiring exhortation to bring history alive using grass roots storytelling. As usual, the speakers over the two days stimulated, informed and entertained those present and many old friendships were renewed, and new friendships kindled, in the atmosphere of cooperation and of passion for the heritage and history of our great land. Once again, the Business Session on Sunday morning provided a lively forum for the dissemination and exchange of ideas on matters affecting our affiliated societies.

A number of attendees availed themselves of the excellent workshops offered on Friday and Monday. On Friday, Jenna Bain led attendees through Amplify, the NSW State Library's platform for delivering audio material online which afforded a wonderful opportunity to have 'hands on' experience. On Monday Dr Peter Hobbins conducted a workshop, *Researching and Commemorating the Spanish Flu*, at which attendees were given an overview of the topic and then were encouraged to connect the topic to their local area and exchange ideas.

A big thank you to Port Macquarie Historical Society, the staff of History House and the other members of the Affiliated Societies Committee for ensuring that the conference was a great success. The 2019 RAHS Conference will be held in Tamworth on 21-22 September 2019 and the RAHS and the local historical societies would love to welcome you to the area and encourage you to extend your stay.

Olga Sedneva and Jan Koperberg—who, of course, edits the RAHS e-News—have both stepped down from the ASC and I want to thank them for their enthusiasm and sage advice. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Jan Garaty (Marrickville Heritage Society) who has joined the ASC.

Remember, the Affiliated Societies Committee is your committee, established to support your society in its valuable role as preserver and protector of the nation's heritage.

## RAHS Membership Data

In recent years there have been small increases to our membership numbers. However, this year there was a three per cent decline, primarily in the library and affiliated societies with a number of libraries and affiliated societies amalgamating in 2017.

Part of our membership services strategy in 2019 involves online new membership renewal forms, and developing additional member-only services on the RAHS website. We will also have growth targets for individual/pairs members, many of whom join after attending an RAHS event, to offset the decline in our library subscriber base.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fewer than 15	51	55	49	46	45
Fewer than 30	74	75	73	75	75
Fewer than 50	49	53	62	54	52
Between 51-100	94	101	93	101	101
More than 100	73	80	82	71	68
More than 200	20	20	22	24	24
More than 300	13	14	16	16	17
<b>Total Affiliated Societies</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>382</b>

## INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS

Individual Members	309	303	308	364	347
Household Pairs (x2)	48	47	51	65	64
Students	13	10	15	18	28
Senior Members	493	503	481	435	506
Senior Pairs (x2)	89	93	92	83	85
<b>Total Individuals and Pairs</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,030</b>
<b>Corporate Members</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Library Subscribers</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>127</b>
Honorary Fellows	5	5	5	5	6
Life Members	17	19	19	19	19
Members 50 years	6	6	7	8	9
Free and Exchange	35	36	36	34	35
<b>Total Non-Subscribers</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Total Subscribers</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>1,546</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,615</b>

## RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

### Representation on History and Heritage Boards

The RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies by Judith Dunn and Ian Jack; the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales by Terry Kass; the History Council of New South Wales by Christine Yeats, the State Records of NSW Community Advisory Committee by Christine Yeats; the National Archives Consultative Forum by Peter Hobbins and Pauline Curby; the Roads and Maritime Services Heritage Committee by Ian Jack; the History Panel of the Heritage Council of NSW by Ian Jack.

### RAHS Administered Grant Programs

The Cultural Grants Program is a Create NSW developed funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government. This program assists historical research and publication of local community and regional history projects. \$50,000 (ex GST) was distributed to grant projects in 2017.

The following organisations were 2018 Cultural Grant recipients: Adelong Alive Museum; Albury and District Historical Society; Armidale and District Historical Society; Berry and District Historical Society; Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations; Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society; Colo Shire Family History Group; Convict Trail Project; Cowra Family History Group; Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society; Gynea Community Aid and Information Service; Jindera Pioneer Museum and Historical Society; Landcare NSW;

The Orange and District Historical Society; Port Macquarie Historical Society; Richmond River Historical Society; Royal NSW Bowling Association Ltd; Shoalhaven Historical Society; Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society; The Woodford Academy.

**The Heritage Grants Program** is one of the Community, Youth and Senior Heritage projects administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. This program assists local history and archives projects and is open to individuals and organisations. In 2018, \$23,400 (ex GST) was distributed to projects under this program.

The following organisations and individuals received a 2018 Heritage Grant: Dr Jess Jennings; Pamela Harrison; Royal NSW Bowling Association; The Sydney Children's Hospital Network; Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest Family Research Group; The Trustee for Newtown School of the Arts; Patrick Wilson.

**The Transport Heritage Grants Program** is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society with the support of Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW). This grants program assists with sustainable projects to restore and conserve rail, tram and bus heritage assets (which are not eligible for other government funding), to educate the community about NSW transport heritage and for innovative digital research and print interpretation. In 2018, \$184,080 was distributed to eleven not-for-profit organisations in twelve local government areas and ten NSW electorates.

The following organisations were 2018 Transport Heritage Grant recipients, grouped by category:

#### **Category 1: restoration, reconstruction or preservation of a heritage transport asset**

Glenreagh Mountain Railway; Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway; The Omnibus Preservation Group; The Rail Motor Society; Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op; Shoalhaven Historical Society; Sydney Tramway Museum; Zig Zag Railway.

#### **Category 2: education, publication or interpretation of an event, item/s or person/s that will promote heritage transport**

Zig Zag Railway; Cooma Monaro Railway; Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-op.

#### **Category 3: study, consultation, report or review that will assist in managing a heritage transport place or item**

Zig Zag Railway; Byron Bay Historical Society.

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## RAHS Certificates of Achievement

RAHS Certificates of Achievement provide recognition to those members of affiliated societies whose contribution is significant and noteworthy to both their society and the community.

The following people were awarded Certificates of Achievement in 2018: Carolyn Dougherty—Berrima District Historical & Family History Society; Philip Morton—Berrima District Historical & Family History Society; Dianne Nolan—Macleay River Historical Society & Kempsey Museum; Pamela Stewart—Marrickville Heritage Society; Robin Knight—Port of Yamba Historical Society.

## RAHS PEOPLE

### The Council

In 2018, the Council comprised:

#### President

Ms Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin from 17/04/2018

Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS to 17/04/2018

#### Senior Vice President

Ms Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin to 17/04/2018

Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons), PhD, FRAHS from 17/04/2018

#### Vice President

Dr Christine Wright, BA (Hons), PhD

#### Treasurer

Dr Kathrine Reynolds, BA, MSc, PhD, FRHistS

#### Executive Member

Mrs Lynnette Aileen Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip Local, Family & Applied History

#### Councillors

Mrs Lynnette Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip Local, Family & Applied History

Mr Phillip Black BSc, Dip Ed (to 17/04/2018)

Mr Bruce Baskerville, BA (Hons), Dip FHS, APHA, FFAHS (to 17/04/2018)

Ms Pauline Curby, MA, Dip Ed

Ms Judith Dunn, OAM, FPDHS

Mrs Linda Emery, BA

Dr Peter Hobbins, BA, BSc (Hons), M Medical Hum, PhD

Mr Graham Shirley (from 25 May 2018)

Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M.Env Sci, PhD (from 31 August 2018)

Associate Professor Richard White, BA (Hons), Dip.Ed.

Ten RAHS Council meetings were held at History House in 2018.

## RAHS Committees and RAHS Working Parties

The Society's committees bring together a wide range of people who have a shared interest in supporting the key activities of the Society. The RAHS committees develop draft policies for consideration of the Council as well as supporting staff with core activities. The RAHS also forms working parties that are dedicated to delivering a specific project.

Below is a list of the committees and their members that were active on 31 December 2018.

### Affiliated Societies Committee

Ms Lynne Allen (Chair), Ms Judith Dunn (Vice Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston AO (specialist), Dr Janice Garaty (Marrickville), Dr Peter Hobbins (specialist), Ms Samantha Friend (Bathurst), Ms Trudy Holdsworth (Cumberland), Ms Angela Phippen (specialist), Ms Lorraine Neate (Wollongong).

### Events Committee

The President Christine Yeats (Chair), Emeritus Prof David Carment, Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Mr Graham Shirley, Ms Margaret Dalkin, Mrs Judith Dunn, Ms Suzanne Holohan.

### Executive Committee

Ms Christine Yeats (President), Associate Professor Carol Liston (Senior-Vice President), Dr Christine Wright (Vice President), Dr Kathrine Reynolds (Treasurer), Ms Lynne Allen (Council Representative).

### Fellowship and Medals Committee

The President Christine Yeats (Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston (Councillor/Fellow), Mr Keith Johnson (Fellow), Professor Geoffrey Sherington (Fellow), Associate Professor Nancy Cushing (Professional Historian), Ms Pauline Curby (Professional Historian/Councillor).

### Heritage Committee

Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, Dr Iain Stuart, Mrs Linda Emery.

### Editorial Board for the *JRAHS*

Associate Professor Carol Liston AO (Chair and editor of *JRAHS*), the President Ms Christine Yeats, Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Dr Christine Wright, Dr Peter Hobbins, Emeritus Prof David Carment AM.

### History House Working Party

The President Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Dr Kathrine Reynolds, Ms Christine Yeats, Suzanne Holohan.

### Library and Archives Working Party

The President Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, Ms Suzanne Holohan and Ms Donna Newton.

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### Constitution Review Working Party

The President Ms Christine Yeats (Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, Ms Suzanne Holohan.

### *An intimate pandemic: community histories of the 1918–19 influenza centenary – Working Party*

Dr Peter Hobbins (Chair), Dr Christine Wright, Mrs Linda Emery, Dr Pauline Curby, Ms Suzanne Holohan.

### Volunteers

The RAHS thanks all of its volunteers for the incredible contribution that they make to the Society. Our 2018 volunteers included Margaret Coleman, Margaret Dalkin, Betty Goodger, Trudy Holdsworth, Mike Jones, Christina King, Jan Koperberg, Elaine Phillips, Wendy Platt, Mary Sciberras, Margaret Scott, Kaitlin Sim, Bron Stepowski, Catherine Stuart and Dean Superina.

As well as volunteers, the RAHS would also like to acknowledge the contribution of work experience students.

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#### Oscar Elwin

A year 10 student who assisted with RAHS events, edited lecture recordings and contributed to the e-Newsletter for a week.

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#### Edward Knowles

Undertaking a Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship) at Charles Sturt University, Edward completed his ten-day professional experience placement at the RAHS Library.

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### 2018 Certificate of Appreciation

The RAHS introduced Certificates of Appreciation in 2014 to honour the contribution made by RAHS volunteers. 2018 Certificate of Appreciations were awarded to Jan Koperberg and Elaine Phillips.

### Staff

#### Full-time

General Manager: Suzanne Holohan, BA (Hons), BComm (Hons)

Librarian: Donna Newton, Dip Lib Inf, ALIA (Tec)

#### Part-time/Casual

Finance/Grants/Insurance Administrator: Maryanne Byrne, BBus, M Events Management

Membership Services/Digital Media: Laura Signorelli BA (Hons)

The Society also paid professional fees for financial services.

### SOCIETY HONOURS

The RAHS Council recognises contributions to the advancement of education in the field of Australian history in three categories, namely Fellow, Honorary Fellow and Medalist.

### FELLOWS

Members of the Society who, in the judgment of the Council, have rendered service in advancing the knowledge of Australian history and in furtherance of the objects of the Society, shall be eligible for appointment as Fellows. Under the Society's regulations, the number of Fellows shall not exceed twenty-five and not more than three Fellows may be appointed in a calendar year.

Dr Rosemary Annable, FFAHS

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Emeritus Professor David Carment AM

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Professor Stephen Garton, FAHA, FASSA

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Robert Irving, OAM

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Dr Ian Jack, FRHistS

---

Alfred Brian Maxwell James, OAM

---

Keith A. Johnson, AM, FSG, FSAG

---

Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO

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Dr Peter Reynolds, OAM

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Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington

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Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, FRHistS

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RAHS Fellow Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher passed away on 18 June 2018. His contribution to the RAHS and Australian history was acknowledged in the June edition of the JRAHS, written by RAHS Fellow Associate Professor Carol Liston AO.

### HONORARY FELLOWS

Persons who, in the judgment of the Council, have rendered valuable service in advancing the knowledge of Australian history, shall be eligible for appointment as Honorary Fellows. Under the Society's Regulations, the number of Honorary Fellows shall not exceed ten and not more than one Honorary Fellow may be appointed in a calendar year.

Emeritus Professor Alan Atkinson, FAHA

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Dr Shirley Fitzgerald

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Dr Dennis Norman Jeans

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Dr Beverley Kingston, FASSA

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### MEDALLISTS

The awards of Medalist for Distinguished Service are made by the RAHS Council to those members of the Society who, in its judgment, have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of the work of the Society.

Margaret Coleman, OAM

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Mr Richard d'Apice, AM, LL.B, FSAG

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Margaret Scott

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# On the Shelf

Donna Newton, RAHS Librarian

Donations to the RAHS library's collections are always welcome. Aside from publications and photographic material, the RAHS still receives other amazing objects of historical interest. Two items received in 2018 are featured below.

The Stinson family from Canada donated the handmade album *Some early iron founders* by architect Jeffery A. Stinson (1933-2008). The album contains information, photographs, plans and news clippings of some of the early Australian iron foundries. It also provides details of the foundries' owners including Richard Dawson, PN Russell, Robert W. Joyner, George Fletcher, John Struth, Juleff Bros, James B Glanch, Pope Maher & Son, Cooke & Webb, and Taylor & Wearing.

*"Some early iron founders", compiled by J. A. Stinson, G.C. Tanner, C.W. Carle and G.C. Crocket, c1950 [RAHS Library Collection]*



*19th century stereographoscope reader [RAHS Library Collection]*



Stinson and his fellow compliers—GC Tanner, CW Carle, GC Crocket—thanked the following contributors to this wonderful album: Mr R Joyner; Mr F Bean; Mr B Taylor; staff and members of the Sydney Municipal Library; the Australian Foundryman's Association; the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences; the Royal Australian Historical Society; and the Mitchell Library.

RAHS member Ken Hall donated a rare nineteenth century stereo graphoscope reader plus three glass slides relating to Anthony Horden's store in Sydney. In the mid to late eighteenth century, this black lacquered stereo graphoscope—probably French—would likely have been used in parlours to entertain guests. The large round magnifying glass allows detailed viewing of photographs, tintypes, ambrotypes, cabinet cards and text. The lower two circle glasses are for the viewing of stereoview cards. The middle layer props up to adjust the height and it cleverly folds into a z-type box. The RAHS would love to receive copies of stereograph postcards or photographs to view with the reader.

If you would like any information, or to view these or any of the other wonderful items in our library collection, please contact Donna.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
14 - 15 September 2019

The 2019 RAHS Conference will be held in Tamworth at the West Tamworth League Club.

The RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee is currently working on the conference program with Tamworth Historical Society.

We encourage you to book your accommodation early as Tamworth is a popular holiday destination.

Images: Murray Views no. 36, Royal Hotel, Tamworth, N.S.W., ca. 1930s [RAHS Photograph Collection]



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# All about the bow: an in-depth look at the fashion of the cover

**Laura Jane Aulsebrook**

When asked to shoot a historical re-enactment for the cover of this issue to tie in with the Dior and David Jones article, it was easy to select an original outfit from my personal wardrobe that met the design brief. Through styling, the photographs depict a living history example of a young stylish women in her Sunday best, out for a day of city shopping, or off to a garden tea party in a country town. However, personally I do not see myself belonging to the re-enactment movement; I wear vintage 1950s clothing and styling as a personal choice because I appreciate the style, cut and fit of the clothing from this era, one defined by attention to detail in all elements of styling, from grooming, dress and accessories through to hair and make-up.

Whilst there are a number of designs that are iconic to the 1950s fashion period, including poodle skirts and shirtdresses, from 1947 to 1962 the Dior New Look would have its impact on women's fashion, defined by nipped-in waists and full skirts, along with highly groomed hair, neat and classic make-up, and perfectly matching accessories. The outfit worn on the front cover of this issue is a completely original 1950s ensemble, including all accessories, and is a typical example of a late 1950s party dress. Made of silk taffeta in the classic 50s silhouette, it contains a cinched waist and full skirt worn with two additional petticoats, a stiff starched ivory one, a soft pink satin, spider-lace and tulle slip, as well as the built-in tulle underskirt in order to give it the New Look fullness. The main composition of the dress is a printed pink design with cascading roses and rosebuds in a repeated pattern on an ivory background. Silk taffeta was a popular choice for party dresses in the mid to late 1950s and, when starched, allowed for a clean line and a sense of elegance. The dress centres around a pink taffeta cummerbund in order to cinch the waist, with the highlight of the dress being a large pink bow, with long tails, emphasising the centre back. To complete the clean lines, matching pink taffeta trims the sleeveless armholes and scooped neckline, with a low back and metal centre back zip. Whilst unlabelled, the finishing on the seams suggests that it has been professionally made, likely by a small fashion label, perhaps an in-

house designer from a department store, or commissioned by a young woman who saw the designs from Dior fashion parades and magazines and requested a custom made dress from a dressmaker. Classified as a party dress, this does not mean exclusively a dress worn to a party, but rather a 'Sunday best' style, appropriate for a party, wedding, or important day event. The colouring and composition allows for it to be styled as both eveningwear, worn with slightly darker pink shoes and a beaded bag, or as a day dress as demonstrated on the cover.

Accessories were an important part of completing a woman's wardrobe and importance was placed on matching shoes and bags. Jewellery was simple and elegant; pink screw-on earrings along with a gold charm bracelet are the only jewels worn. Anytime a woman left the house, hats and gloves were a must. The pink gloves worn on the cover match the pink from the rose print on the dress and the pink bow hairpiece with net overlay perfectly highlights the pink bow on the centre back of the dress and allows for the neat, tightly pin-curled and brushed-out hair to be displayed. Lipstick of this time was either red or pink, as on the cover, which is a replica shade from 1954. Winged eyeliner and perfectly defined brows complete the elegant make-up. Whilst new technology allowed for circular stockings without a seam to be produced, many well dressed women still preferred the seamed tights of the 1940s, drawing attention to the length of the leg. The shoes and bag featured on the cover are a matching set, a coveted piece in the 1950s and a prize for any vintage fashion collector—particularly when they fit!—labelled *Ferantino Rome-New York-Paris*. They are a pointed toe pump, with slender kitten heels and a metal toe tap—allowing for that clear clicking sound when a woman passes by. Made from pink and ivory suede and leather, they are trimmed on the back with centre pink bows, in keeping with the pink bow theme of the outfit. The handbag is composed of the same material in a slimline classic shape, finished with a gold metal hardware clasp. What stands out is the quality; for accessories that are over sixty years old, they have stood the test of time.

The quality of the clothing and accessories of this era, along with the cut and style, is what still endears 1950s fashions to a contemporary audience; well made, they were designed to fit well, to last and can be easily identified to the style that defined their time period, recalling an era with different values and sense of style from today, one that transcends fashion alone. Interestingly, whilst the style and inherent values that

stem from them differ, the influences for the fashion choices of the everyday women are vastly similar in both eras. Icons who provide women of today with their style cues still include Paris designers, young royals, fashion magazines and Hollywood celebrities, yet there is clearly a different style, a different set of values in dressing, and a marked difference in the manufacturing quality that sets the vintage clothing

apart. It would be interesting to see in more than sixty years' time, when today's fashions are considered 'vintage', if we hold the same admiration for clothing of today as we do for the styles of the 1950s. Will the March edition of *History* 2079 display a dress from the 2010s? Only time and fashion appreciation will tell.

*All clothing and accessories are original, authentic 1950s pieces belonging to the personal wardrobe of model and author Laura Jane Aulsebrook sourced from America, England and Australia by Coutura Vintage, Bowral NSW.*

*All about the bow. The elaborate bow forms the centre piece of the back of the original 1950s dress, worn here for an evening dance at Camelot, Kirkham NSW. Note the slightly different heels from the daytime photos. (Model: Laura Jane Aulsebrook @vintage\_camden Photographer: Polly Nissen 2018. Hair, makeup, clothing and styling models own.)*



