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# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ABN 91 000 027 654

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

#### RAHS President Christine Yeats

The strength of the RAHS is its members and supporters, and the Councillors who serve them. Our membership extends across New South Wales and beyond and includes both individuals and the many societies that are affiliated with the RAHS. Our Councillors have worked closely with the RAHS staff members at History House to deliver services and activities throughout 2019.

The RAHS Council continues to comprise a mix of new and longer serving Councillors. This provides an excellent balance, as the Society develops strategies and operational models to better serve its members, and achieve its overall constitutional goal – the advancement of education in the field of Australian history. The contribution of former Councillor Christine Wright, who served on the RAHS Council for seven years, including holding the position of Vice President, is acknowledged with thanks. Although no longer a councillor, we are grateful to Christine's ongoing support. In June 2019, we welcomed a new member to the RAHS Council – Mark St Leon, whose decision to become a member of council is much appreciated.

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 – from traditional lectures at History House, regional outreach programs and an increasingly strong online presence.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of the team at History House - Suzanne Holohan (General Manager), Donna Newton (Librarian), Laura Signorelli (until May 2019) and Phillip Jaworski (Digital Media and Membership Services) and Maryanne Byrne (Grants and Accounts) throughout 2019.

The work of the RAHS continues to be ably assisted by its Volunteer Program. This program provides opportunities for RAHS members and friends to share their skills and research. They, like the members of the RAHS Council, offer their time and expertise to the

Society without financial recompense to assist it in achieving its goals and objectives. Today our volunteers assist in a range of different areas. Many are members of committees, listed later in this report, who contribute to our outreach initiatives, events, publications and heritage advocacy. We also have volunteers who work closely with staff on day-to-day operations and projects at History House and also online.

The work performed by volunteers is varied and stimulating, reflecting the activities of the Society. A selection of the work undertaken by volunteers include: Margaret Scott and Margaret Coleman, who were awarded RAHS Medals in 2018, prepared exhibition displays in the auditorium cabinets; Elaine Phillips managed the online bookshop; Bron Stepowski scanned Sydney NSW postcards from the Kerr collection; Megan Edwards added photographs from the RAHS image collection to our Flickr pages; Maximilian Reid commenced a historiographical project on Cook2020 using materials from the RAHS collections; Mary Sciberras reviewed items donated to the Society and their provenance; Elizabeth Heffernan and Christina King provided Australian History content to our social media platforms; Jan Koperberg produced the RAHS newsletter.

Betty Goodger, one of our longest serving volunteers, retired earlier this year. She will be greatly missed but we have many other wonderful volunteers to follow in her footsteps.

Although our plans to extend the 1970s extension at the rear of History House have proceeded very slowly in 2019, we remain committed to the building project. We are grateful to all those who have made donations towards it. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. I am pleased to report that after reviewing the plans in late 2019 we will be shortly calling for tenders for the work. Members will be updated over the coming months. RAHS Treasurer Kathrine Reynolds provides an update on the project status in her report.

In my capacity as Chair of the Events Committee I discuss the events and seminars in that section of the annual report. Many of these events are carried out in collaboration with local societies, the WEA, the City of Sydney, Sydney Living Museums and NSW State

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Archives. I would like to highlight the Regional Seminars, which are part of the program organised by the Society in conjunction with historical societies and libraries in regional NSW and Western Sydney, with funding provided by Create NSW. In 2019 we presented three regional seminars – at Bathurst on 6 April, Shellharbour on 13 July and Kingswood on 22 November. We draw on Councillors’ knowledge and expertise to present these seminars. I would like to record my thanks to Councillors Carol Liston, Kathrine Reynolds and Judith Dunn, who joined me in presenting them in 2019.

At the 2019 Annual Conference I reported that the project to publish *Playing their Part: Vice-Regal Consorts of New South Wales, 1788-2019* was close to completion. I am delighted to report that the book is with the printer and will be launched in the first quarter of 2020. This has been a collaborative project involving the Royal Australian Historical Society and Mrs Hurley, wife of the previous Governor of New South Wales. On behalf of the RAHS and its members I extend our gratitude to the three editors who have brought the publication to fruition – Carol Liston, Joy Hughes and Christine Wright. In addition, I also want to record my thanks to the State Library of NSW, which supported the oral history component of the project, oral historian Roslyn Burge, former Curator at Government House Ann Toy and all the authors who have contributed their time and scholarship.

Researchers are increasingly turning to technology to assist in their research. Over the past twelve months we have seen the launch of new websites and access to digital resources. RAHS Councillors and members have provided feedback on these new resources, including the new Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) and the recently launched State Archives Collection Search. We welcome the opportunity to receive feedback from our members about their experiences with the operability of these new online resources. During 2019 the RAHS was represented on the Mitchell Library Consultative Committee and the State Archives Advisory Committee. This provided the RAHS with a further opportunity to represent the interests of its members.

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of two RAHS Fellows and a former Councillor in September 2019. Ian Jack, who died on 6 September, was one of the longest serving RAHS Presidents. He was admired and respected within the academic world and later in his work as a heritage consultant. We will all remember Ian for his support for history at the local level in all its forms. Ian Jack’s obituary was published in the December *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* and December *History* magazine. The well-known architectural and local historian, Dr Peter Reynolds died on 14 September 2019. Peter had been a RAHS member since 1969 and

served as an RAHS Councillor from 1993 to 2009. He was made a Fellow of the Society in 2009. He was also a long-standing member and chair of the RAHS Building Committee. Peter’s obituary was published in the December *History* magazine. Former RAHS Councillor James Macken AM died on 19 September. An obituary was published in the December *History* magazine.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Treasurer’s Report

#### Dr Kathrine M. Reynolds FRHistS

It is again with great honour and pleasure that I present my Treasurer’s report to the members of the RAHS for the last year of 2019. This year the RAHS reported a surplus of \$41,270, including membership donations. The RAHS reported a loss of \$59,145, due in part to the reduction in our income as we anticipated building works, while expenditure increased especially with maintenance of History House. The anticipation of building works restricted forward bookings for events and usage of our premises, seeing a reduction in our income for 2019. The maintenance and repairs to History House continue to increase due to the ageing lift and infrastructure, which highlights the importance of the building project for the long-term viability of the building.

As RAHS Treasurer, I continue to emphasise that the Society must manage its expenses as tightly as it can and I am pleased to report that this is the mantra of the staff who continually review expenditure and look for methods to reduce running costs. As usual, our projects are funded by grants or donations.

Again, I would thank our members and friends for their continuing support for the Society, and the fact that members continue to donate to our building project, which although it has seemed to take an inordinate amount of time, is growing closer to completion. We are actively trying at the moment to obtain quotes so we may finalise our plans, and move towards a Construction Certificate and start building. We are still short of the required amount that we anticipate as being needed, namely \$500,000 but we know this figure will firm when builders’ quotes arrive and we can genuinely determine what the current building costs are likely to be. In 2019, our building donations were somewhat reduced as we received \$72,276 but we are very grateful for these as every dollar brings us closer. Hopefully, once we have final costings, members will again generously contribute to the building to see this project finalised. Currently the building fund has \$2.08 million, most donated by members whose help I gratefully acknowledge. Many types of donations have been accepted from champagne

at our Christmas party to Councillors donating their speaking fees to the building fund. I thank all Councillors who have contributed not just their time but also money to see the building fund slowly creep up. I should add that our current building quote has a 20% contingency built in to reduce the risk of cost-over run when building: we are hoping for the final quotes to be within a ball-park figure that we can accommodate.

Again, I would thank the many people who help the RAHS. We are particularly grateful to our political friends and thank the Hon. Don Harwin, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts Vice-President of the Executive Council, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Trustee of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund, for funding regional community and history projects through the 2019 Cultural Grants Program. Twenty-one projects received financial support, thirteen of which were regionally based.

For five years, the RAHS has successfully run the Transport Heritage Grants Programme managed by Transport NSW and Transport Heritage NSW, which have provided \$180,017 to nine not-for-profit organisations such as the RAHS to run transport heritage projects. Similarly, I would also like to thank the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Member for Vacluse, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage who supported our Heritage Grants Program.

Our raffles continue to generate funds to support various projects. At the 2019 RAHS Conference at Tamworth the Society earned approximately \$1,500 in raffle and book sales from the generosity of our members, which will be used to buy speaker microphones for the auditorium. I would thank Ancestry for their on-going support and generosity in providing two subscriptions as prizes for our Conference raffles. The Affiliated Societies Committee, ably chaired by Lynne Allen, with assistance from Judith Dunn, run the Annual Conference and is to be applauded for making a small profit from the Annual Conference of \$4,146 (not including raffles and book sales). Sincere thanks also go to be our keynote speaker, Professor Martin Gibbs, providing the Lesley Muir address at our annual conference on researching convict sites and the role of professionals as well as the community.

We also had book sales at History House and online book sales on our website, which contributed an additional \$3,431 in revenue, with a further \$4,759 coming from our events, the latter in no small measure generated by the work of the Events Committee and the hard work of the President, Christine Yeats who enthusiastically chairs the events Committee and tirelessly

seeks out speakers who may help us with these events. We are always grateful to receive donations of high-quality history books that we can rehouse to our members.

A special vote of thanks must be given to Suzanne Holohan, our General Manager, and her staff for their hard work. The 2019 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. Sadly we lost some of our volunteers, Trudy Holsworth who moved from Sydney and Betty Goodger who retired after decades of giving. To all who help us at the RAHS, to all affiliated society members who beaver away saving history in their communities, we say, "Thank you".

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

INCOME	2019	2018
Donations received	7,051	1,527
Specific bequests and donations for History House Project	72,271	213,876
Grants received – Create NSW	65,000	65,000
Dividend and interest received	78,795	103,545
Rental income	154,317	150,295
Subscriptions received	102,778	112,083
Other income	108,153	119,412
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>588,366</b>	<b>767,885</b>
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting and Contract Services	34,237	13,638
Employee Benefit Expenses	237,759	242,417
Grants expended – Create MSW	65,000	65,000
History House expenses	66,065	60,208
Other expenses	70,272	67,508
<i>JRAHS</i> and <i>History</i> Magazine	35,525	28,835
Postage, printing and stationery	25,164	32,934
Depreciation	13,075	24,196
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>547,096</b>	<b>534,735</b>
SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS	<b>41,270</b>	<b>233,150</b>
TRANSFER TO OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
History House Build Project		
Donations	72,271	213,876
Other	28,144	33,161
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>-59,145</b>	<b>-13,888</b>
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
ASSETS		
Cash	2,427,269	2,080,138
Receivable and other current assets	28,247	51,202
Financial assets	779,196	1,007,085
Property, plant and equipment	16,964,817	16,963,462
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>20,199,529</b>	<b>20,101,887</b>



## LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and other liabilities	227,386	244,541
Provisions	22,464	11,048
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>249,850</b>	<b>255,589</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>19,949,679</b>	<b>19,846,297</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	19,074,985	18,912,459
Retained Surplus	874,694	933,838
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>19,949,679</b>	<b>19,846,297</b>

## SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

### RAHS Events and Outreach

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

In 2019, 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 NSW State Archives and Records; City of Sydney; University of Technology; Centre of Applied History (Macquarie University); Workers Education Association (WEA); Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology (ASHET); Oral History NSW (OHNSW); Historic Houses Association Australia (HHA); History Council NSW; Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) – NSW Chapter; Shellharbour City Libraries; RAHS Affiliated Societies, both local and regional.

The 2019 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.

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

Event Type	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Seminars and Workshops*	11	14	18	17	13
Lectures – Day, Evening, Joint	26	24	20	25	29
Excursions and Tours	5	14	8	16	7
Launches/Cocktail Evenings	1	1	4	2	2
Other	4	5	5	6	6
Webinars**	0	0	0	0	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</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 and Western Sydney 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 and community groups.

I would like to thank Create NSW for its continuing support of this program. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of RAHS Councillors Judith Dunn OAM, Associate Professor Carol Liston AO and Dr Kathrine Reynolds for speaking at these seminars and providing online content.

This program also relies on local and state organisations, who provide speakers and logistical support. In 2019, we were delighted to work with Bathurst District Historical Society, Shellharbour City Libraries, and NSW State Archives & Records to deliver this program.

#### Bathurst Regional Seminar – *Digging deeper into our history*

Saturday 6 April 2019, CWA Hall

The RAHS, in conjunction with the Bathurst District Historical Society, presented this one-day seminar. It included the following sessions: *Land title records – RAHS President Christine Yeats*; *Parramatta Female Factory: grim prison or a place of idleness?* – RAHS Councillor Judith Dunn OAM; *Digging deeper into Trove* – RAHS President Christine Yeats.

#### Shellharbour Regional Seminar – *Convicts and crime*

Saturday 13 July 2019, Shellharbour Civic Centre

The RAHS, in conjunction with Shellharbour City Libraries, presented this one-day seminar. It included the following sessions: *Records relating to criminal courts (England, Scotland and NSW)* – Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, Dr Kathrine Reynolds, RAHS President Christine Yeats; *Digging deeper into Trove – RAHS President Christine Yeats*; *Digging deeper into Trove* – RAHS President Christine Yeats; *Organising your research, convicts and others* – Dr Kathrine Reynolds; *Getting to know your local resources (Introduction)* – Janelle Cundy, Information and Learning Officer Shellharbour library; *Getting to know your local resources (Tour)* – Janelle Cundy, Information and Learning Officer Shellharbour library.

#### Western Sydney Seminar – *Researching the history of your house*

Saturday 13 July 2019, Kingswood, NSW State Archives & Records

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The RAHS, in conjunction with NSW State Archives & Records, presented this one-day seminar. It included the following sessions: *House history using the NSW State Archives* – Emily Hanna, NSW State Archives; *Land title research and the new HLRV website* – RAHS President Christine Yeats; *Understanding the history of your home and its interiors* – Michael Lech, Curator, Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS AT HISTORY HOUSE

### Saturday 9 February 2019 – *Australian Lebanese family history workshop*

The RAHS, the NSW State Archives & Records and the History Council of NSW partnered with the Australian Lebanese Historical Society to bring together people interested in Australian Lebanese family history.

Presenters Alissar Chidiac, Cecile Yazbek, Nola Bramble, Glen Kalem, Emil Dan and Dr Paula Abood gave a brief overview of the different ways they have approached the documentation and telling of Lebanese Australian family histories. Dr Tanya Evans, Dr Jumana Bayeh and Dr Anne Monsour facilitated the workshop.

### Saturday 16 February 2019 – *Flu frenzy: Taming the 1919 influenza pandemic*

RAHS seminar in conjunction with City of Sydney  
This seminar explored how local, family and medical records can help us piece together the intimate impact of this deadly global disease. Speakers included: Laila Ellmoos, historian at City of Sydney; Dr Peter Hobbins, RAHS Councillor; Chrys Meader, local historian in Marrickville; Dr Lisa Murray, City Historian.

### Tuesday 12 February 2019 – *Digitisation workshop: Small collections*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with the Workers' Education Association (WEA)

Presented by Paul Convy

This workshop looked at the issues to consider when planning a digitisation project. Topics covered were: material selection; indexing and describing materials; copyright; conservation; scanning and storing images.

### Saturday 13 April 2019 – *Capturing memories: Oral history in the digital age*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with Oral History NSW (OHNSW)

Presented by RAHS Councillor Pauline Curby and Andrew Host

This workshop equipped participants with the skills to undertake oral history interviews.

### Wednesday 15 May 2019 – *Using criminal records as a source of history*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by RAHS President Christine Yeats

This workshop focused on how various nineteenth and early-twentieth century criminal records available in NSW, can be used by historians and researchers for research into past crimes.

### Wednesday 28 August 2019 – *Recording and preserving precious memories*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by RAHS Councillor Pauline Curby

This workshop explored how the memories of family members and others can be recorded and preserved by drawing on oral history techniques and technology.

### Saturday 19 October 2019 – *Capturing memories: Oral history in the digital age*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with Oral History NSW (OHNSW)

Presented by Janis Wilton and Andrew Host

This workshop equipped participants with the skills to undertake oral history interviews.

### Wednesday 20 November 2019 – *Digging Deeper into Trove: Gazettes, Journals, Diaries, Maps and People*

RAHS workshop in conjunction with the WEA

Presented by RAHS President Christine Yeats

This workshop explored how to make the best use of the Gazettes, Journals, Diaries, Maps and People zones on Trove, the revolutionary free search engine created by the National Library of Australia.

## 2019 DAY LECTURES

Traditionally held 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 6 February 2019 – *Robert Bostock: Australia's slave trader convict and his freed captives*

Presented by Emma Christopher

### Wednesday 6 March 2019 – *The power of the pedal*

Presented by Rupert Guinness

### Wednesday 3 April 2019 – *Where history happened: Warragamba Dam*

Presented by Emeritus Professor Peter Spearritt

### Wednesday 1 May 2019 – *'Make haste and go fetch the coroner!': Death Investigation in Colonial Sydney*

Presented by Catie Gilchrist

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Wednesday 6 June 2019 – *Lookup! Shoptops: The world above the awnings*

Presented by Russell Workman

Wednesday 3 July 2019 – *Australia's maritime frontier*

Presented by Dr Craig Wilcox

Wednesday 7 August 2019 – *Recreating Sydney in 1959 – the making of 'Ladies in Black'*

Presented by Sue Milliken AO

Wednesday 4 September 2019 – *Terror, Insanity, and Suicide in Colonial Sydney*

Presented by James Dunk

Wednesday 2 October 2019 – *The story of Long Bay*

Presented by Patrick Kennedy

Wednesday 6 November 2019 – *Songlines, swaggies and surf safaris: On the road in Australia*

Presented by Dr Rosemary Kerr

Wednesday 4 December 2019 – *The little barbershop of history: A social history of Australian men's hair*

Presented by Dr Melissa Bellanta

## 2019 JOINT AND EVENING LECTURES

Wednesday 27 February 2019 – RAHS /Historic Houses Association Australia (HHA)

*Finding islands of my own: Phillip Parker King, the first internationally renowned Australian* – presented by Paul Brunton OAM, FAHA

Tuesday 12 March 2019 – RAHS/Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA)

*A Walk Through Time and the Archives* – presented by Dr Diane Solomon Westerhuis

Thursday 21 March 2019 – RAHS/Australian Society for the History of Engineering and Technology (ASHET)

*Technology and engineering at the grassroots: 180 years of the development of wire strainers* – presented by Dr John Pickard

Tuesday 30 April 2019 – RAHS/ASHET

*A web of steel and concrete: design and construction of the Anzac Bridge* – presented by Rob Renew

Thursday 9 May 2019 – RAHS/ISAA

*Milton in stained glass* – presented by Beverley Sherry

Wednesday 22 May 2019 – RAHS/HHA

*Darlinghurst Gaol* – presented by Richard Whitaker

Thursday 20 June 2019 – RAHS/ASHET

*The Apollo moon landings: From challenge to achievement* – presented by Kerrie Dougherty

Wednesday 14 August 2019 – RAHS/HHA

*Paddington: A history – the terrace house* – presented by Robert Griffin and Robert Brown

Thursday 17 September 2019 – RAHS/ASHET

*The three wireless men* – presented by Jo Harris OAM

Wednesday 16 October 2019 – RAHS/HHA

*Mapping the massacres* – presented by Professor Lyndall Ryan AM FAHA

Thursday 31 October 2019 – RAHS/ASHET

*Early history of electricity generation in Australia* – presented by Debbie Rudder

## 2019 SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 16 May 2019 – RAHS/National Archaeology Week Lecture

*Judy Birmingham and the origins of Australian Historical Archaeology* – presented by Andrew Wilson

This evening lecture was a pre-launch event for National Archaeology Week 2019.

Sunday 8 September 2019 – RAHS/OHNSW History Week Lecture

*'Everywhere you look is a loss': Memories bushfire in a transformed suburban landscape* – presented by Dr Scott McKinnon

In 2003, the Australian Capital Territory experienced a devastating firestorm in which four people were killed and hundreds more injured. To coincide with History Week and its theme of 'Memory & Landscape, Dr Scott McKinnon examined the interweaving of memory, space and recovery in the years after the fire.

Wednesday 13 November 2019 – RAHS/UTS 'History is Hot' series

This series provides graduates the opportunity to present their research into Australian History. Topics includes: *Australian broadcasting's female 'pilgrims': A history of women and work in the post-war ABC* - Kylie Andrews, Australian Centre for Public History, UTS; *Sore feet, tears and seeds: Dingoes and people on K'gari (Fraser Island)* - Rowena Lennox, UTS; *The Sonnenorden/Sun Cult: Turning up the heat in historical fiction* - James Worner, Australian Centre for Public History, UTS.

## 2019 EXCURSIONS

Monday 11 March 2019

RAHS Excursion – *State Theatre* co-ordinated by RAHS Councillor Graham Shirley

Saturday 15 June 2019

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

**Saturday 27 June 2019**

RAHS Excursion – *RAHS walking tour: Gladesville Hospital* co-ordinated by RAHS Councillor Graham Shirley

**Thursday 8 August 2019**

RAHS Excursion – *Guided Tour of Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park* co-ordinated by RAHS Librarian Donna Newton

**Thursday 17 October 2019**

RAHS Excursion – *Royal Australian Navy's Garden Island Heritage Tour* coordinated by RAHS Librarian Donna Newton

## 2019 LAUNCHES, COCKTAIL EVENINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

**Saturday 26 January 2019**

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

**Thursday 14 March 2019**

RAHS new members' evening

**Tuesday 16 April 2019**

RAHS Annual General Meeting.

**Tuesday 21 May 2019**

RAHS/Thredbo Historical Society – Cocktail Evening and Talk

**Tuesday 10 December 2019**

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.

Collection Item	2019	2018
Books	24,857	24,839
Journal/History/Conference	4099	4,045
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>61,943</b>	<b>61,871</b>

The RAHS Library collection increased slightly compared to the previous year. We continue to deaccession duplicate items and those that do not meet our collection policy criteria.

The following table provides additional key library statistics.

Measure	2019	2018
Number of registered visitors – 80% RAHS members or affiliated societies' members	231	228
Number of visitors to RAHS library web pages	3716	4,682
Number of publications added to Books and More Database	*149	212
Number of other items added to Books and More Database	**50	
Entries added to <i>JRAHS</i> , <i>History</i> and Conference Database	54	53
E-Newsletters from affiliated societies submitted	300	301
<i>JRAHS</i> article requests	42	43
Articles submitted to <i>JRAHS</i>	17	16
Requests to use images from the RAHS collection	34	43

\* Publications contained in the database also include: items held in our Rare Books Room; the reference collection; directories and yearbooks

\*\* Other items in the database include: souvenir programs, pamphlets and brochures; bibles; maps; newspaper clippings; CDs/DVDs and microfilm/microfiche resources.

Library users included interstate researchers as well as international visitors from Switzerland, Wales, Canada and United States of America. We also managed many online research queries on a wide-range of topics. While many researchers focused on local, family and biographical interests, other examples included: resources on the Great Strike of 1917 for a HSC student's History Extension major work; early colonial fishing industry in Sydney; Louis de Freycinet and the Uranie shipwreck in Falkland Islands 1820; Australian American Civil War veterans buried in Rookwood Cemetery; murders in the Coonabarabran / Warrumbungle shire area involving the Chinese Bushranger Sam Poo; research into families associated with the Rev. John D Lang in colonial Sydney; material on the Astor apartments and its concrete construction for an anniversary publication; Indigenous languages of Sydney and surrounds; early stock exchanges that operated on the goldfields during late 1800s; early pastoral runs of the Wide Bay and Burnett region NSW/QLD; information required on artist Joseph Wolinski's Archibald Prize portraits of RAHS Councillors Aubrey Halloran in 1927, Captain James Henry Watson in 1928 and Karl Reginald Cramp in



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1938 for the ARCHIE 100 PROJECT; a request from Parliament NSW's Office of the Clerk seeking information on the location of graves and memorials for the Presidents of the Legislative Council for projects in the lead up to the bicentenary of the establishment of the Legislative Council in 2024.

Using photographs and showcasing other resources in the e-Newsletter and on social media continues to be a successful way for 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 2019, permission to use RAHS images was granted to: State Library of NSW; the new IGA store in Marulan; Network Communications QLD for the new store in Orange; Macquarie University; Sydney Harbour Federation Trust; The Rocks Walking Tours; National Trust Australia; NRMA; Tropman & Tropman Architects; Mittagong RSL Sub-Branch; Hector Abrahams Architects; Automotive Historians Australia; St Luke's Anglican Church Liverpool and from several RAHS affiliated societies.

The Anzac Memorial Hyde Park borrowed the RAHS 1919 influenza workers badge from our manuscript collection for display in their exhibition relating to the 1919 centenary of WW1.

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

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

### **Phillip Jaworski, RAHS Membership Services/Digital Media**

We hope our members found the publications we produced in 2019 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 2019 included: the women in Governor Arthur Phillip's life; histories of the Chinese in regional NSW; the impact of the 1820 influenza outbreak on Indigenous and settler populations; the role of the *Endeavour* on James Cook's first Pacific voyage; and vice-regal consorts Lady Enid and Lady Elaine de Chair.

*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 2019 were President of the Camden Historical Society Ian Willis (March) and RAHS Councillors Pauline Curby (June), Peter Hobbins (September), and Graham Shirley (December). Topics covered in 2019 included: style and fashion in 1950s Australia; developments in the silk industry in the 1890s; the spread of the 'Spanish flu' pandemic to regional NSW; and mapping convict sites in Tasmania.

The RAHS e-Newsletter continues to serve as an effective way to communicate relevant news, information and events to our members and friends. Over 2,600 people are subscribed to our e-Newsletter, with twenty issues circulated in 2019. Some of our top stories included: reporting on the changes to Historic Land Records Viewer (HLRV); An Intimate Pandemic: The Community Impact of the 1919 Influenza; new inscriptions added to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register; the 2019 RAHS Conference at Tamworth; and the digitisation of the Australian Joint Copying Project. 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 5,820 followers on Facebook and published 141 posts throughout 2019. Our most popular post for the year was a blog post about the supposed disappearance of two schoolgirls and their teacher at Hanging Rock on Valentine's Day 1900. The post was written by RAHS volunteer Elizabeth Heffernan and examined the historical veracity of Joan Lindsay's novel *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. We also saw a steady 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 39,547 users throughout 2019 (up from 33,531 in 2018) – an increase of 15.22% since 2018. Our users were predominantly from Australia (80.52%), with others from the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, India and Canada. 93 posts were added to the RAHS News page in 2019, 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 2020 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

The Affiliated Societies Committee is made up of representatives of local and specialist societies from the city and country who give freely of their time to support the valuable work of the RAHS. 2019 was another busy and productive year with the ASC organising the annual state conference and assessing the Cultural Grant applications. Jan Garaty, of Marrickville Heritage Society, has stepped down from the ASC and I want to thank her for her contribution.

The 2019 RAHS Annual Conference, with the theme Illuminating the Past, was hosted by Tamworth Historical Society and was launched in fine style with a welcome on the Friday night at Calala Cottage, a wonderful echo of Tamworth's past which is the society's home. Those who attended were treated to personally guided tours of the complex and a fascinating overview of the history of the site by Melinda Gill.

Delegates from twenty-eight historical societies, as well as individual RAHS members and friends attended the conference and were treated to two days of stimulating presentations in a collegial atmosphere. Local Kamilaroi man Len Waters gave the Welcome to Country, enthralling those present as he spoke through stories and the local indigenous dialect of the impact of drought and the importance of respecting the environment. Len's passion set the tone for the conference. This rousing welcome was followed by Professor Martin Gibbs the Lesley Muir addressee, who spoke passionately about his 'Landscapes of Production and Punishment' project which combines the work of both professional or community-based historians, archaeologists, sociologists and genealogists, to take a fresh look at convicts and their place in the Australian landscape. Over the next two days the attendees were entertained, challenged and informed by all the speakers, who covered a myriad of theoretical and practical topics and welcomed enthusiastic questioning from the audience.

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. The handout is available on the RAHS website. If you missed the conference, please take advantage of this handout which will assist in the

governance and sustainability of your society. We will soon be announcing the venue for the 2020 Annual Conference and we encourage you to attend.

The 2019 Create NSW Cultural Grants were assessed by members of the ASC. As usual there was great competition for the \$50,000 funding available with \$95,621 requested in grant applications. Twenty-one projects were funded with thirteen of these being Regional NSW history projects. Nine projects were fully funded and twelve were partially funded. Applications will open in April 2020 so start thinking about potential projects and make sure that you have quotes to support your application. I strongly recommend that you access the grant expertise of the staff at History House to discuss your project before starting the application and be guided by their knowledge and experience. They are always keen to assist.

The RAHS wishes to thank Create NSW for continuing to fund the Cultural Grants into 2020 and for supporting the research and dissemination of the history and heritage of our great state.

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

This year there were small increases in our affiliated societies and library subscribers but the growth was not enough to offset the decline in the senior members category.

In November 2019 we introduced online new membership forms and launched a membership subscription drive in December, using our social media platforms. We will continue to introduce initiatives to grow our membership base.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Societies with fewer than 15 members	56	51	55	49	46
Fewer than 30	69	74	75	73	75
Fewer than 50	55	49	53	62	54
Between 51-100	95	94	101	93	101
More than 100	73	73	80	82	71
More than 200	15	20	20	22	24
More than 300	13	13	14	16	16
<b>Total Affiliated Societies</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>387</b>
INDIVIDUAL AND PAIRS MEMBERS					
Individual Members	310	309	303	308	364
Household Pairs (x2)	46	48	47	51	65
Students	6	13	10	15	18

Senior Members	442	493	503	481	435
Senior Pairs (x2)	96	89	93	92	83
<b>Total Individuals And Pairs</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>965</b>
<b>Corporate Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Library Subscribers</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>
Honorary Fellows	5	5	5	5	5
Life Members	17	17	19	19	19
Members 50 years	6	6	6	7	8
Free and Exchange	36	35	36	36	34
<b>Total Non-Subscribers</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total Subscribers</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>1,478</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,544</b>

## RAHS AND THE COMMUNITY

### Representation on History and Heritage Boards

As of the 31 December 2019, the RAHS is represented on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies by Judith Dunn and Christine Yeats; 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, Pauline Curby and Iain Stuart; Create NSW Museums & History Artform Advisory Board by Christine Yeats.

### 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 was distributed to grant projects in 2019.

The following organisations were 2019 Cultural Grant recipients: Albury and District Historical Society; Armidale and District Historical Society; The City of Liverpool and District Historical Society; Eurimbla Precinct History Association; Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group; Lawrence Museum; Lions Club Kiama Inc; Macleay River Historical Society; Manilla Viaduct Rail Bridge Tourism; Mosman Croquet Club; Neutral Bay Uniting Church; New England Regional Art Museum; Old Bar and Manning Point Business and Community Association; Outback Theatre for Young People; Port Macquarie and District Family History Society; Randwick and District Historical Society; Ryde District Historical Society; Shoalhaven Historical Society; South Coast History Society; Sutherland Shire Historical Society; Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society

**The Heritage Grants Program** did not take place in 2019. Funding has been confirmed for 2020.

**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). It aims to help the NSW community rediscover the culture, events and people that shaped transport over the past 160 years, as well as assist with the restoration and conservation of NSW's valuable heritage assets. Recipients were announced at a special ceremony at the National Innovation Centre on Saturday 26 October 2019. The total amount awarded was \$180,108.

The following organisations were 2019 Transport Heritage Grant recipients: Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway; New England Antique Machinery Club; Sydney Tramway Museum; Zig Zag Railway; Sydney Bus Museum; Robertson Heritage Railway Station; The Rail Motor Society  
Illawarra Light Railway Museum; Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-op.

### 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 2019: Elspeth Bradbury – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Unita Fleischer – Lake Macquarie Family History Group; Scott MacArthur – Marrickville Heritage Society.

### RAHS Heritage Committee

The RAHS Heritage Committee consists of Senior Vice-President Carol Liston; Councillors Linda Emery, Graham Shirley, and Iain Stuart; RAHS member Craig McPherson, Senior Heritage Specialist, Sydney Trains; and RAHS member Elaine Phillips.

When the NSW Heritage Council advises RAHS of proposed changes to the State Heritage Register, the Heritage Committee reviews the proposals and responds to them. Consultations have included:

Cobb & Co Coach (Bathurst Visitors Centre);  
Toll Cottage (former Rose Cottage, Newcastle);  
Lindfield Learning Village (formerly William Balmain Teachers College);  
The Binishell Collection (three concrete futuristic bubble domes popular in the 1960s and 1970s);  
Segenhoe Flats, Newcastle;

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Yanko Station Store, Jerilderie;  
Regent Theatre, Mudgee; and  
Thomas Dick Photographic Collection, Australian  
Museum and Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences.  
The Heritage Committee this year sent a total of ten  
letters to the Heritage Council.

## **RAHS PEOPLE**

### **The Council**

In 2019, the Council comprised:

#### **President**

Ms Christine Yeats, BA, DipLib, DipArchAdmin

#### **Senior Vice President**

Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO, BA (Hons),  
PhD, FRAHS

#### **Vice President**

Dr Christine Wright, BA (Hons), PhD to 16/04/19  
Mrs Lynnette Aileen Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip  
Local, Family & Applied History from 16/04/19

#### **Treasurer**

Dr Kathrine Reynolds, BA, MSc, PhD, FRHistS

#### **Executive Member**

Mrs Lynnette Aileen Allen, MA, DipEd, Grad Dip  
Local, Family & Applied History to 16/04/19  
Mrs Linda Emery, BA from 16/04/19

#### **Councillors**

Ms Pauline Curby, MA, Dip Ed  
Ms Judith Dunn, OAM, FPDHS  
Dr Peter Hobbins, BA, BSc (Hons), M Medical Hum, PhD  
Dr Mark St Leon BEc, GCertTQM, MBus, MA  
(Hons), PhD, CA  
Mr Graham Shirley  
Dr Iain Stuart, BA (Hons), M.Env Sci, PhD  
Associate Professor Richard White, BA (Hons), Dip.Ed.  
In 2019, eleven RAHS Council meetings were held at  
History House.

## **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 as  
at 31 December 2019.

### **Affiliated Societies Committee**

Ms Lynne Allen (Chair), Ms Judith Dunn (Vice  
Chair), Associate Professor Carol Liston AO

(Councillor), Ms Samantha Friend (Bathurst), Ms  
Lorraine Neate (Wollongong), Ms Angela Phippen  
(specialist), Mr Graham Shirley (Councillor).

### **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), Ms Lynne Allen  
(Vice President), Dr Kathrine Reynolds (Treasurer),  
Mrs Linda Emery (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), Associate Professor  
Richard White (Historian/Councillor).

### **Heritage Committee**

Associate Professor Carol Liston AO, Dr Iain Stuart,  
Mrs Linda Emery. Mr Graham Shirley, Mr Craig  
McPherson, Ms Elaine Phillips.

### **Editorial Board for the *JRAHS***

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

### **History House Working Party**

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

### **Constitution Review Working Party**

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

## **Volunteers**

The RAHS would like to thank all of its volunteers for  
the incredible contribution that they make. Our 2019  
volunteers included: Margaret Coleman, Margaret  
Dalkin, Megan Edwards, Betty Goodger, Elizabeth  
Heffernan, Trudy Holdsworth, Christina King,  
Noelene Kyle, Jan Koperberg, Elaine Phillips, Wendy  
Platt, Maximilian Reid, Mary Sciberras, Margaret  
Scott, Bron Stepowski and Jan Thomas.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of



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our two retiring volunteers: Betty Goodger who volunteered for thirty-one years and Trudy Holdsworth who volunteered for seven years. The RAHS greatly appreciated their work and dedication, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

As well as volunteers, the RAHS would also like to thank two students who completed their work experience at the RAHS.

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### Daniel Non

A year 10 student from Wollemi College, Werrington, Daniel undertook a World War I research project, prepared social media posts and performed library tasks as part of a fourteen-day work experience placement.

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### Oriana Mitchell

Undertaking a Master of Archaeology and Heritage Management at Flinders University, Oriana completed her ten-day professional experience placement for her Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Practicum subject recording, researching and sorting the RAHS artworks, decorative arts, silver and museum objects in the basement.

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## 2019 Certificate of Appreciation

The RAHS introduced Certificates of Appreciation in 2014 to honour the contribution made by RAHS volunteers. The 2019 Certificate of Appreciations were awarded to Elizabeth Heffernan and Christina King.

## 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) to 9 May 2019

Membership Services/Digital Media: Phillip Jaworski BA (Hons) from 29 May 2019

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.

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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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Alfred Brian Maxwell James, OAM

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Keith A. Johnson, AM, FSG, FSAG

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Associate Professor Carol Liston, AO

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Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington

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Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, FRHistS

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Dr Ian Jack passed away on 6 September 2019. He was the longest serving president of the RAHS, and was an active professional historian and consultant until his death. On 14 September 2019, the architectural and local historian Dr Peter Reynolds OAM died. They will both be remembered for their contribution to the RAHS and the broader history and heritage community.

## 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.

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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

## 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.

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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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