

# FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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## ***E-BULLETIN* No. 50 – 23 April 2009**

Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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## 1) Mormons' microfilming & digitisation projects

Those interested in family history microfilming & digitizing projects, and access to such records, may be interested in the recent Radio National interview program, The Spirit of Things, concerning the Mormons in this field. It was broadcast on 15 March 2009. The interviewer was Rachel Kohn.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/spiritofthings/stories/2009/2512161.htm>

The transcript is available for download and listening.

The program covers the history of their microfilming projects since 1938, digitization since 1999, their family history website with catalogue, and the services they provide in their world wide family history centres. Australia receives a mention.

(Source: [aus-archivists@archivists.org.au](mailto:aus-archivists@archivists.org.au) – 8 April 2009)

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## 2) MayDay 2009

During the month of May, archives, galleries, libraries, museums, cultural heritage sites and organisations across Australia are encouraged to participate in **MayDay** – a national campaign for the protection of cultural heritage from disaster. Originating in the United States in 2006, the **MayDay** concept is promoted in Australia by Blue Shield Australia.

**MayDay** aims to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and to encourage people to perform at least one disaster-preparedness task in May each year. There are many types of emergency that we can be better prepared for, from the potential impact of faulty electrical wiring in the building next door, to bushfires, cyclones, and internal or external floods.

In 2009, people in cultural heritage organisations are encouraged to print the **MayDay** 2009 flier and post it on a notice board before 1 May.

Use the URL:

<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/thirteenth+announcement+24+march+2009.asp>  
[x](#)

to download your copy of the **MayDay** flier and to learn how you can be involved in **MayDay** 2009.

For more information contact Blue Shield Australia's secretariat at [blueshield@collectionscouncil.com.au](mailto:blueshield@collectionscouncil.com.au), or call (08) 8207 7287.

(Source: Collections Council of Australia )

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### 3) *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections*

The Collections Council is currently producing *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections* and will allocate some free copies. To attract organisation onto their database they are offering some free copies of the publication. Organisations can participate by accessing the following website:

<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=726>

(Source: Collections Council *E-Bulletin* No.38, 21 April 2009)

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### 4) **Red Cross World War I records**

'Piecing together the past' By Robert Hall - BBC News

'Detective work by a British historian has unearthed information that could enable thousands to piece together their family histories.

Peter Barton was commissioned to carry out research into the identities of World War I casualties discovered in a mass grave at Fromelles in France.

He was given access to the basement of the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva.'

See the rest at:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/7940540.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7940540.stm)

(Source: 'aus-archivists@archivists.org.au' List Serv – 20 April 2009)

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### 5) **\$60 million for heritage projects on World Heritage Day**

The Australian government is introducing a new grant program to assist cultural heritage in Australia as part of the national stimulus package. The following press release sets out general aspects of it. The Minister's Heritage Working Group, of which the FAHS is a member, has participated in its development.

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

PG/253 18 April 2009

## **\$60 MILLION FOR HERITAGE PROJECTS ON WORLD HERITAGE DAY**

The Australian Government's investment of \$60 million for heritage projects will help support local jobs and improve heritage infrastructure across the country.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, said the funding under the government's \$650 million *Jobs Fund*, and will support high priority heritage projects while also generating jobs, particularly in regional areas.

"It's my great pleasure to celebrate World Heritage Day today with this announcement of additional funding to support Australia's heritage places, including additional funding for our World Heritage properties.

"This funding program includes a number of separate components focused on protection of National Heritage-listed places, National Trust properties, community heritage projects, including locally significant places, and natural heritage projects.

"The natural heritage component includes at least \$8.6 million for natural heritage places, particularly directed at supporting Australia's World Heritage sites. This is in addition to existing Commonwealth funding provided to ensure these places of outstanding universal value are protected.

"This significant investment in Australia's historic, Indigenous and natural heritage will provide economic stimulus by focusing on projects that have an immediate employment impact as well as ongoing economic benefits. It will also provide much-needed support for community groups and organisations involved in heritage projects across Australia."

Mr Garrett said one of the key criteria for assessing projects for funding would be that they create jobs - both now and into the future, with projects required to provide ongoing social and economic benefits to the community, for example by boosting tourism, or by improving access to, and use of, a community heritage place.

"In both the immediate and long-term, this will benefit urban, regional and rural communities, by enhancing and taking greater advantage of the social and economic value of our heritage places.

"Local businesses will also benefit by providing not only the specialist technical skills but also the materials required to undertake these heritage works.

"The program will commence immediately, with \$6 million of the total \$60 million for heritage to be spent in the 2008/09 financial year, ensuring an immediate benefit to communities.

"Importantly, the program will include both public and targeted calls for proposals. This will ensure that nationally significant projects can commence immediately, while also providing local communities with access to funding to support locally significant heritage projects that are ready to commence and provide immediate local employment opportunities.

"This funding provides a unique opportunity to enhance our existing and irreplaceable heritage assets and help secure a stronger, more resilient economic, social and environmental future for our country," Mr Garrett said.

For details on the Jobs Fund visit [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au)

For more information about Australia's heritage visit [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)'

(Source: Minister's Office website)

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## **6) Edwin Davey Flour Mill next to Western Distributor on approach to Anzac Bridge in Sydney**

The 113 year old heritage listed flour mill building is owned by Mike Boulos, a prominent Pymont landholder and technology entrepreneur. He bought the building and the 3100 square metre site in 1996 for \$3.38 million after the mill was decommissioned in 1995. The flour mill typified the industrial working class suburbs of Ultimo and Pymont in the early 1900s. A proposed commercial and residential development proposal failed in 1996. Mr Boulos gave much of the machinery in the flour mill to the Powerhouse Museum in 1996 and they also photographed and videoed the mill's final days. He is now holding what he described as 'productive informal discussions with council officers' about a new commercial development proposal.

(Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 April 2009 p.4 including photograph)

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## **7) Black Saturday bushfires and recording of routes of timber tramways and timber mill sites**

The Light Railways Research Society of Australia (LRRSA) (P.O. Box 21, Surry Hills Vic 3127) is planning to undertake site surveys of timber tramways and timber mill sites in the area of the disastrous Victorian bushfires. LRRSA volunteers undertook valuable site surveys of tramways and mill sites after the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983. The 2009 surveys will conform to requirements of land manager, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and also with Heritage Victoria. The work will be concentrated in the area around Wandong, the Black Range north of Toolangi, and around Warburton. Field notes will be collated, maps drawn and electronic images collected. These will be kept as a permanent record and copies will be lodged with Heritage Victoria and DSE. Both departments have given strong support for the project. The contact is Email: peter@peterevans.com.au.

(Source: Announcement enclosed with *Light Railways* April 2009, No. 206)

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## **8) Grants for rebuilding after bushfires**

On 15 April in Marysville, the Victorian Premier John Brumby MP and Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, on Bill Shorten MP, announced that a further \$4.5 million from the Commonwealth and State governments Community Recovery Fund would be set aside to:

- Protect community history by recording bushfire history through the collection and collation of photographs, artworks, artefacts and other relevant historical memorabilia;

- Create recreation and entertainment activities for young people living in bushfire-affected communities;
- Produce community information, including newsletters, newspapers and publications that keep the community informed about recovery and rebuilding efforts;
- Regenerate community spaces to re-establish community meeting and gathering places;
- Support proposals from bushfire-affected communities for community recovery initiatives; and
- Community Development Officers to work with individual local councils on community recovery plans.

The Premier stated that recording the history of the 2009 bushfires was important in the recovery process and also vital to ensuring that the state's history is captured and remembered.

The link to the joint press statement is:

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/premier/community-recovery-fund-to-support-communities-to-recover-and-remember.html>

For more information and to apply for grants through the Community Recovery Fund please visit [grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au).

(Source: Website: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/premier> - 15 April 2009)

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## 9) CCA concern at limited uptake of the 2020 Summit's good ideas

The Collections Council of Australia has today expressed disappointment at the lack of recognition for collections in the Government's response to the *Australia 2020* Summit.

Use this URL:

<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=544&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=126>

to read the CCA's news item and media release.

(Source: Collections Council of Australia )

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