

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

G.P.O. Box 1440, Canberra ACT 2601

Website: <http://www.history.org.au/>

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Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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1) New South Wales *Heritage Act 1977* amendments

Significant amendments to the New South Wales *Heritage Act 1977* are currently before State Parliament and are likely to be debated early in June 2009. Changes proposed threaten the role of the historian in heritage and dilute statutory protection of heritage in a variety of ways.

For the first time there will be no requirement that a historian is a member of the Heritage Council. For the past 32 years the Royal Australian Historical Society has nominated, on behalf of the profession, a panel of three historians from whom the Minister has appointed one to the Heritage Council.

The Heritage Amendment Bill 2009 will be debated again in the Parliament in the first two weeks of June 2009. The Federation has written to the Minister responsible for the Bill advocating the appointment of a historian to the Heritage Council. The possible absence of a historian on the Heritage Council does not allow for the thematic approach to listing outlined in the amendments Bill to be implemented. It would be difficult for such a Heritage Council to assess the relevance of particular items to each theme.

(Source: Royal Australian Historical Society Circular to Members May 2009)

2) Australian Bureau of Statistics funding

Base funding for Australian Bureau of Statistics is being increased by \$15 million per year over the next four years. This overcomes the issues with severe cutbacks in the past couple of years.

(FAHS has encouraged ABS to undertake surveys on historical societies and rural museums. – Editor)

(Source: *Australian Financial Review* 13 May 2009 p.B13)

3) Archives on the Web

The Harvard Business School's business archives site from Baker Library, has an interesting site relating to Lehman Brothers, famously no longer in existence.
<http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/lehman/>

It is interesting to see how archives are presented on the web.

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 22 May 2009)

4) Business regulation in Western Australia 1858 – 1990, Companies Office records in the State Archives collection

The next State Records Office of WA Lunchtime Seminar will feature State Records Office staff member Tom Reynolds who is the State Records Office's Archives Research Officer.

His topic is: Business regulation in WA 1858 - 1990, Companies Office records in the State Archives collection

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2009; Time: 12.30 - 1.30.

Venue: Southwest Room, Ground Floor, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre.

Numbers are limited so please book your place by emailing sro@sro.wa.gov.au or phone 9427 3364

SRO Lunchtime Seminars are designed to inform researchers about the State Records Office, its functions and the collections it houses. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provides a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and Coffee are provided.

(Source: A Mailing List for Australian Archivists – aus-archivists-bounces@archivists.org.au - 25 May 2009)

5) 'Heritage interests out, apartments in' – northern suburbs of Sydney

Residents of the Upper North Shore appear to have lost their battle to prevent their low-rise suburbs which are likely to contain many houses of local or state heritage significance – St Ives, Gordon, Turrumurra, Lindfield, Pymble and Roseville - becoming mini-Chatswoods, states the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 30-31 May 2009 (page 6). A government appointed planning panel votes unanimously to approve a draft local environment plan to allow medium and high density dwellings within a 800 metres radius of each town centre. 'Under the State Government's Metropolitan Strategy, Ku-ring-gai is required to accept at least 10,000 new dwellings by 2031', the newspaper stated. 'When the then planning minister Frank Sartor removed council's responsibility for the town centre plan in march last year, he claimed it was not on

track to meet this target.’, the *Sydney Morning Herald* article further stated. The newspaper article also contained a photograph of the Sydney Archer designed home which the journalist suggested is likely to disappear under the new policy.

(Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* of 30-31 May 2009 page 6, including photo)

6) Local history – Brisbane River Valley – *Caboonbah* homestead

The *Caboonbah* Homestead, heritage listed building and headquarters of the Brisbane Valley Historical Society, between Esk and Somerset Dam, burnt down at 6.20pm on Monday night 11th May 2009. It was built in 1890 by Henry Plantagenet Somerset. The telegraph message indicating the height of the 1893 flood in the Brisbane River was sent from there by Somerset to the Brisbane GPO. (It was not read). The Society had a collection of furniture and museum artefacts and records. They had opened the historical site to the public for inspection since 1989. Surrounding historic buildings survived.

A neighbour saw the flames at 6.20pm and called the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service who attended from Esk and Toogoolawah. The caretaker had tried to put out the flames with a garden hose but was overcome by smoke and heat.

This experience raises the issue of maintenance of historical society buildings around the nation - plumbing, termites, electrical wiring, water supply. Authorities owning these buildings (often shire and town councils) need to have a regular maintenance program.

(Source: ABC Radio News Brisbane 7am & 7pm TV News on 12 May 2009; *Kilcoy Sentinel* 14 May 2009 p.1 including photo)

7) Notice re book publication - cordials

Thirsty Work: story of Sydney's Soft Drink Manufacturers written by David Jones: The culmination of 29 years work, the book details the history of cordial manufacturers and manufactories in Sydney and environs, since settlement up to about 1940, and includes images of nearly all containers used by the local manufacturers. It thus provides a unique data base of chronological, patent information and markings for 1000s of glass and ceramic containers routinely found on Sydney (& NSW) archaeological sites. It is profusely illustrated and runs to 1040 pages. The publication is complete and that copies can only be obtained by order/payment on the website www.thirstywork.com.au. You can also view sample histories and images.

(Source: Australian Archaeology List - aacai@lists.uq.edu.au – 16 May 2009)

8) *The Lysaght® Referee* published by BlueScope Steel Limited

BlueScope Steel Limited have published the 32nd edition of *The LYSAGHT® Referee* in early 2009 to continue the long standing LYSAGHT® tradition and commitment to the steel building products industry.

It can be downloaded to add to your PDF collection - see

<http://www.lysaght.com/go/home/tools-and-resources/referee/current-edition>

(Source: ticcih-in-oz@googlegroups.com – 15 May 2009)

9) Federation of Australian Historical Societies – nominations for Merit Award

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc.) (FAHS) annually calls for nominations for its Merit Awards. Up to five Merit Awards are awarded to individuals. These awards take the form of a Certificate of Merit.

Any individual is eligible for this award who is a financial member of one of the member societies of the Federation, namely the Canberra and District Historical Society, Historical Society of the Northern Territory, History Trust of South Australia, Royal Australian Historical Society, Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and the Tasmanian Historical Research Association **or one of their affiliated societies.**

The Merit Awards are separate from FAHS Fellowships and are awarded according to the following criteria:

- To members of historical societies who are judged to have made a contribution to the work of the historical society movement which has implications or benefits across more than one State or Territory. For example, someone who has been instrumental in developing an electronic cataloguing system that is taken up by many organisations across the country; or a person who has established and maintained best practice in conservation or exhibition of a collection of national importance.
 - OR
- To members of historical societies who have made a contribution to the historical society movement at the federal level (or across a number of States/Territories).

Serving members of the FAHS Committee are not eligible for nomination.

The nominations are evaluated by the FAHS Fellowship Committee and its recommendations will be considered by delegates at the FAHS Annual General Meeting who decide which of the nominees will be offered Merit Awards.

The Merit Awards are announced by the President of the FAHS as soon as possible after the Annual General Meeting.

Nomination documentation must include:

- the name of the nominee, his/her postal address, name of the organisation of which he/she is a financial member;
- the name, postal address, telephone contact number and email address of the individual or organisation nominating the individual for the Award;
- a statement of the nominee's contribution to the historical society movement that meets the Merit Award criteria (see above) not exceeding 500 words.

Nominations close 30 June 2009.

[Download Merit Award Nomination Form](#)

Nominations to be addressed to the Administrative Officer, Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc., GPO Box 1440, Canberra ACT, 2601, or Email: fahs@jedav.net
