

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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***E-BULLETIN* No. 61 – 25 January 2010**

Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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1) Swan development plans, Perth

The Western Australian Premier, Hon Colin Barnett MP has unveiled plans for development of Swan River foreshore in Perth. It covers a three hectare inlet and will include a swinging pedestrian bridge, cable car and indigenous art and cultural centre. The state government has committed \$250 million and is seeking funds from the Commonwealth government, private sector and the City of Perth Council.

(Source: *Australian Financial Review* 14 December 2009 p.6)

2) Observations re historical societies and their role in the community

This month on the Archivists' ListServ a school archivist, Greg Slattery of Immanuel College at Novar Gardens in Adelaide, had very encouraging comments concerning employment and voluntary work with Historical Societies.

He observed that he was "Very interested to read [person's name] comments re involvement with a local historical society. Not only are such groups normally welcoming of anyone with skills to offer, but the reverse benefit can be enormous. Historical societies usually represent the coal face of local history where there are enormous resources in terms of very practical knowledge and attitudes too often disregarded by professionals, whether they be academics of any discipline, historians, archivists or record managers. I say to anyone, go get involved at local level and reap the benefits"

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 7 January 2010)

3) Sustainability Reporting Indicators – research report published

The Collections Council of Australia and Ms Eleanor Adams are pleased to announce the publication of *Towards Sustainability Indicators for Museums in Australia*.

Authored by Ms Adams as part of her Master of Arts in Curatorial and Museum Studies at the University of Adelaide during 2009, this report is the culmination of twelve weeks' research into sustainability reporting indicators, with a particular focus on collecting organisations. It contains a set of pilot indicators that relate to the 'four pillars of sustainability' – environment, society, culture and economy. The author and publisher encourage people to consider and adapt the indicators for their own needs.

The report is available from the Collections Council's website via this link:
<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=802>

(Source: Collections Council of Australia Announcement on 17 January 2010)

4) Final Report of the Review of the EPBC Act available online

The Final Report of the Independent Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) – ‘*The Australian Environment Act: Report of the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*’ was released on 21 December 2009.

The Report addresses a broad range of issues across the entirety of the EPBC Act’s operation, and is available in PDF form on the Review website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review/index.html>.

(Source: ICOMOS Email News – 15 January 2010)

5) Further convict records online

Ancestry.com has announced the publication of further lists of British convicts transported to Australia.

New records of more than 55,000 convicts transported to Australia in the 18th and 19th centuries have gone online for the first time.

They contain details of people who were shipped to Australia and were subsequently pardoned or served out their sentences.

Family history website Ancestry.co.uk said the records could be accessed for free for seven days from 24 January 2010.

The convict registers of conditional and absolute pardons 1791 to 1846, and the New South Wales certificates of freedom 1827 to 1867 have been launched online.

Ancestry.co.uk stated that the publication marked the completion of a four-year project and the launch was to coincide with Australia Day on Tuesday.

[New records of UK convicts sent to Australia go online](#)

BBC News

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 25 January 2010;
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8477482.stm)

6) Local history – Inverell District Family History Group – fire at premises

On the evening of 23 January 2010 a fire destroyed the large two-storey building which the Inverell District Family History Group occupied in Evans Street, Inverell. There were 12 tenanted flats upstairs. There were no injuries, but only the street facade remains intact and the tenants, like the Family Historians, have lost everything. The building, designed by John Spencer of the Strand Arcade in Sydney, was quite significant in its own right. It is owned by an absentee landlord: the insurance position, like the cause of the fire, remains to be known. The Family Historians are adequately insured but many of their collections are not easy to replace. Fortunately their newspaper research project was being conducted at the home of one the members, Mrs Hodgins, so that has not been affected. The group members are very positive and are seeking new premises.

The Royal Australian Historical Society and Mr Graham Wilson, Heritage Adviser to Shire Councils on the New England Tableland, are assisting the Society in practical ways.

The incident illustrates the risks inherent in aged buildings and the needs for Disaster Plans, storage of computer-backups offsite, and insurance (mindful that insurance of items difficult to replace is not really possible).

(Sources: Sydney TV News 24 January 2010; Report from RAHS President – 24 January 2010)